

Round 31 - List of Assessors

1. Fran Keaveney

Fran Keaveney returned to Ireland in 1991, having spent four years in Australia, studying Film and TV and working at The Australian Film Studios in Melbourne. She began freelancing on features and commercials and worked in various roles, Production Trainee, Production Coordinator, Locations Assistant, Locations Manager and Production Manager. The following are some of her credits, 'Into The West', 'The Snapper', 'In The Name of The Father', 'Mondance', 'A Man of No Importance', 'Braveheart', 'The Van', 'The Devil's Own'. She moved to Galway in 1996 and production managed 'Ros na Rún' until joining the Irish Film Board in 2000 where she worked as Production Manager initially and then Short Films Executive for the last six years. She has tutored at the Huston School of Film and Digital Media, NUIG, on their MA courses in Arts, Policy & Practice and Production & Direction since 2007.

2. Tomás Ó Síocháin

Tomás Ó Síocháin is a freelance producer, editor and journalist. He spent 14 years with RTÉ, during which time he worked both at home and abroad with RTÉ and TG4 covering news, business and sport on television, radio and online. In 2011, he produced both the General Election Leaders' Debate and Presidential Candidates' Debate for TG4. During ten years as Programme Editor producing and editing news and special event coverage he also produced and presented a number of single camera documentaries on politics, development and aid issues and human rights in Europe and South America.

3. Dusty Rhodes

Dusty Rhodes is an award-winning presenter/producer with 25 years national radio experience. After DJ'ing with the UK's Atlantic 252, and ten years with Irish national broadcaster RTÉ, Dusty established Ireland's most successful syndicated radio company, Digital Audio Productions, which won several PPI awards. These days he is behind dB Digital Broadcasting who operate DAB transmission networks, Global Irish Acts who tour manage Irish bands playing in Australia or the USA, and management company Reservoir MGT who consult radio stations in Spain, France, Cyprus, Scotland and Ireland.

4. Colman Hutchinson

Colman Hutchinson began his TV career with RTÉ before spending 3 years as senior researcher for 'The Late Late Show'. In the late 1980s Colman moved to England and worked as a freelance researcher and associate producer on a wide range of entertainment programmes and produced successes such as 'Blind Date', 'Surprise Surprise' and 'Schofields Quest'. As Head of Entertainment both Hat Trick Productions and Celador Productions he helped develop and executive produce a variety of entertainment shows including 'Whatever You Want', 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire', 'Winning Lines', and 'Passport To Paradise'. He also co-created 'Brainiest', a hit format in the UK for ITV1 and licensed to fifteen territories worldwide. In 2011 Colman set up 'Boxatricks', a format creation/consultancy company and executive produced Primetime game show series 'High Stakes' for ITV. Colman is on the Advisory Board of The Entertainment Masterclass.

5. Seán Geogahan

Seán Geogahan trained in radio production (journalism), worked as a sound recordist for pop promos and broadcast video offline editor. Sean scripted, directed and produced via an independent video production company. He is a NFTS graduate of direction. He worked with BBC/HBO/TG4 and ITV as a director of television drama. He also worked as a BBC commissioned script writer and for Channel Four Films and independents as a script reader. He is an independent Film maker and prize winning short film maker of drama which has been broadcast Europe and US networks.

6. Brendan Gormley

Brendan has a degree in Communication Studies from Dublin City University where he majored in radio production. For the past 16 years he has worked in public service radio broadcasting as a sound recorder and editor as well as in studio production on a wide range of genres including features, documentaries and drama.

7. Mark Story

Mark Story is a graduate in Law from Trinity College Dublin. He is a graduate of Wharton College University of Pennsylvania's Executive Development programme and Manchester Business School's Programme for High Value Managers. Dubliner Mark's broadcasting career spans 40 years and he has worked in Ireland as a producer for RTÉ and Programme Director for Century Radio and in the UK as a senior producer at Capital Radio, BBC Radio One PD at Virgin Radio. More recently he was MD of Radio for Emap/Bauer where he managed both Magic 105.4 which he founded in 1998, and Kiss 100. Four years ago, he started his own Radio consultancy, Radio Story and has in that time worked with clients in 18 countries including NRJ France, Radio City India, Newstalk, Today FM and 98FM in Ireland. Radio Zet in Poland, RTL Germany, Guardian Media Group and Bauer Radio in the UK, and Radio Miraya in South Sudan. In July 2013 Mark was named as one of the 40 people who had made the greatest contribution to UK Commercial Radio during its 40 years. Elected a fellow of the UK Radio Academy in 1998, the highest honour the UK radio industry can bestow, Mark was awarded the UK Radio Industry John Peel award in 2007 for his "outstanding contribution to UK music radio" He was awarded the only Special Sony Gold award ever for organising and chairing the UK Radio Aid response to the Tsunami in 2005. The day of programming, broadcast over 268 radio stations achieved the highest recorded listening for any UK programme and raised £3 million for victims of the Tsunami.

8. Tom Hardy

Tom Hardy has been working in broadcasting since 1976, firstly as a presenter and then in a variety of senior programming roles. Starting his career in offshore radio, Tom worked at Dublin's original 'super-pirates' Sunshine Radio and Radio Nova before moving to the Chiltern Radio Network in the UK. Tom joined Dublin's 98FM in 1988 and programmed the company's first overseas station in Prague. In 1994, he re-launched the UK's Leicester Sound before becoming Group Programme Director at SBS Radio in Scandinavia. After programming 2CRFM in the south of England, he spent over fourteen years as Programme Manager at Today FM. Since the beginning of 2013 Tom has been providing support services to Today FM and Communicorp One and spent eighteen months working on the successful re-launch and re-licensing of KCLR. Tom has been a Learning Waves committee member and a PPI Radio Awards committee member and judge.

9. Vincent Delaney

Vincent Delaney is an accomplished, experienced journalist. He is an RTÉ veteran, having joined the Newsroom in 1979 as a RTÉ Radio 1 Sub-Editor, and recently retiring from the position of Assistant News Editor of Radio News and Head of RTÉ 2FM News. He also served Public Service Broadcasting as a Programme Editor, Editor of RTÉ News on 2FM, and as Chief Sub-Editor RTÉ Radio 1 News. Vincent has had his finger on the pulse of news and current affairs for more than 40 years; quick to spot a news story, good ideas and social developments. He is renowned for his early recognition of broadcasting talent and journalistic ability and his commitment to encouraging and mentoring their development. Earlier journalistic experiences include feature writing, reporter, sub-editor and editor in magazines and newspapers. Vincent enjoyed a period of writing and performing in clubs throughout the UK and in Dublin.

10. Simon Devilly

Simon Devilly is a former senior producer with RTÉ; during his 16 years, there he was producer /series producer of a wide range of current affairs programmes, features series and documentaries. He now teaches journalism and radio production at the Centre for Media Studies at NUIM and in The School of Communications at DCU. He served as a judge on the PPI / BCI annual radio awards for a number of years. He is a former member of the Irish Executive Council of the NUJ.

11. Seamus Hanrahan

A graduate of Communication Studies from DCU, Seamus began his career as a researcher and scriptwriter before becoming a television producer/director. Specialising in education, training and instructional design, he directed many series of distance learning courses broadcast by satellite from UCD. He has over 10 years of experience in

broadcast television programming and one of his programmes was RTÉ's entry for the prestigious Japan Prize. As an instructional designer, he has created multiple media education and training materials for home, school and business use, most designed for delivery over the internet and intranets.

12. Patrick O'Driscoll

A graduate of Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Patrick has worked as a screenwriter and script editor in the Irish film industry for eleven years. During that time, he has authored short films, TV pilots and features for independent producers supported by the Irish Film Board and RTÉ television. As a script editor and development consultant Patrick has provided comprehensive analysis on an extensive range of feature film, TV and documentary projects for writers, producers and funding bodies in Ireland, the UK and the US.

13. Agnes Coogan

Agnes Coogan was a senior TV Producer with RTE (national & international award-winning) for fifteen years until she took early retirement in 2000, working on documentaries, Irish language programmes, Young People's, arts, music, current affairs, religious, agriculture and educational programmes. Subsequent to that, Agnes worked as a free-lance TV producer and director on programming for RTE, TG4 and others, and also worked as originator, script-writer and presenter on radio programmes in Irish and English, principally for Lyric FM. Agnes started her career in RTE as a PA, subsequently becoming a film editor, then a TV director, a producer/director and finally a senior TV Producer.

14. Lawrie Hallett

Lawrie Hallett has a long-established background in professional broadcast radio production and presentation, creating both music and speech-based programmes for local and international broadcasters. Trained as a radio journalist, he spent part of the 1980s working in Ireland and has since worked for both the UK's Community Media Association and Office of Communications, in various policy areas including community broadcasting and digital radio. Now a Senior Lecturer in Radio at the University of Bedfordshire, he teaches radio production and researches broadcast radio policy issues. Based in Norwich, England, Lawrie is currently on the board of the local community-based charity, Future Projects, which runs the city's community radio station, Future Radio.

15. Yvonne Igoe

Yvonne Igoe is a lecturer at the Dundalk Institute of Technology since 2000, where she teaches Radio Production, Film Theory and Media Studies to students in the Section of Creative Media. She has worked as a reporter, producer and researcher on a variety of radio stations and programmes, including RTÉ Radio news, LMF, Raidió na Life, Near FM and Flirt FM. During her tenure as station manager in Flirt FM, she was responsible for training and supervising student volunteers and for hosting the Community Radio Forum at NUI, Galway. Yvonne has written soundtracks for short films produced for Filmbase and the Irish Film Institute. Her research interests include Irish cinema and media, minority language broadcasting and music in film and television.

16. Deirdre Donnelly

Deirdre Donnelly has been working in the media sector for the last 22 years and has extensive experience in print, radio and television. After a number of years working in advertising and sponsorship across a wide range of media outlets, Deirdre started working as a TV announcer on RTÉ One in 1997. She later moved to radio where she was an announcer on RTÉ-Radio One and later a researcher / reporter on some of the station's arts and features programmes. She worked for a number of years with RTÉ-Raidió na Gaeltachta where she presented and produced a wide range of series. She also reported regularly on news, current affairs and a cross section of arts and features topics. She has been an independent radio producer since 2008 and has received nominations for Gradam Cumarsáide an Oireachtais and PPI awards. Most recently she received Simon Cumbers Media Funding to travel to Africa and make a radio documentary for Newstalk. She is also a freelance journalist and over the last two years has contributed as a reporter, panellist, columnist and reviewer on a wide range of programmes across a number of radio stations, including RTÉ-Raidió na Gaeltachta, Newstalk, Raidió na Life and Dublin South FM. In 1990, she

graduated from UCD with a B.A. (Hons.) in Irish and French and then completed a Post Grad in Marketing from DIT. She received her M.A. in European Studies in 2004 completing a thesis on the TV industry in the EU. She also has a diploma in advertising (media buying and planning) from DIT and a diploma in stockbroking investment from the Dublin Business School.

18. Julian Vignoles

Julian Vignoles was born in 1953 and is a native of County Wicklow. He attended University College Dublin, before beginning his working career in Hot Press. He joined RTÉ in 1979 to work as a producer in the new channel, Radio 2. He moved to Radio 1 in 1985 to current affairs and later won three Jacobs Awards for his documentary work. He was series producer of The Pat Kenny Show and Live Line at different stages. He moved to television in 1994 as producer/director, making, among others, the series, Christy Moore Uncovered in 2001. Between 2003 and 2007 he was Assistant Head of Entertainment, before moving to Factual. He was a member of the governing body of The Eurovision Song Contest between 2006 and 2010. He left RTÉ in 2012 to pursue other interests; one of these is a tourist venture, See Dublin by Bike. His first book, A Delicate Wildness - the Life and Loves of David Thomson (1914-1988) will be published by Lilliput Press this autumn.

19. Niamh Farren

Niamh has over ten years' experience in the community media sector, ranging from volunteer programme production, to training and development, community outreach and management. She is a former member of the Board of Management of Dublin Community Television. In 2007, she completed a Master's Degree in Communications and Cultural Studies at Dublin City University, where her thesis proposed a framework for measuring quality in community radio. Niamh is Communications Officer with AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation, a membership NGO which promotes lifelong learning.

20. Cólín Ó Cearbhaill

Cólín is a graduate of Dublin City University and in addition has a postgraduate higher diploma in Applied Communications from NUI Galway. He has over 15 years television experience on over 50 productions across the genres of drama, documentary and lifestyle. He has worked as an online finisher on Irish productions such as 'Kings', 'Raw' and 'Single Handed' and as colorist on 'The Savage Eye' 'Dirty Old Towns' and 'Celebrity Apprentice' amongst others. His work in recent years has been concentrated in the main on editing on productions such as 'Dúshlán', 'Ask Rhod Gilbert' and 'Monumental'.

21. Davy Sims

Davy Sims began broadcasting in 1978 as a presenter on Downtown Radio where he was best known for championing bands from Ireland, North and South. He contributed to the early development of the Youth Programmes genre. In 1986, he moved to BBC Radio Ulster where he founded The Bottom Line (now 30 years on still going as Across The Line). Within three years Davy was working in London for BBC Radios 1 and 4 producing social action programmes and documentaries. As Chief Producer, he led Youth Programmes before returning to Belfast to work in current affairs, religious affairs, magazine and music programmes before becoming the first producer in BBC Northern Ireland Online. From 2001 to 2008 he was Editor New Media leading a team producing web, interactive TV, mobile and community outreach. Since 2008 Davy has worked in media and technology. He spends half of the year in Slovenia where he consults in Digital Tourism. He teaches Radio Production in Dublin Business School. He has won several awards in London, Dublin and New York.

22. Paul Sheehan

Paul has worked for 13 years in independent local radio in Ireland in a variety of capacities – as a broadcaster, journalist, producer, programme controller and CEO. Paul has worked for three years as a producer and programme editor in BBC radio in the UK.

23. Mike Beale

Mike has worked in television production and distribution for over 20 years producing shows all over the world. Currently at ITV Studios overseeing the roll out and production of scripted and non-scripted formats, Mike started out in children's TV at TV-am before moving onto the Big Breakfast and onto LWT and the big entertainment franchises of the 90's. Mike has also worked at the BBC, Bunim Murray and Hat Trick Productions before co-founding 12 Yard Productions.

24. Tracy Geraghty

Tracy Geraghty is a senior member of the cultural team for Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture and has responsibility for programme development and European relations. As part of the winning team during the Bid phase, she worked with cultural producers in Galway and internationally to develop ideas around the main concept and themes for inclusion in the proposed programme. Previous experience as Manager of the Galway Film Centre, saw Tracy working with young film-makers, community groups, primary and second-level schools and young and adult film-making workshops. Tracy was a Project Manager on feature and documentary films for Eurimages, the Council of Europe's pan European co-production fund.