

List of Assessors – Round 33

Introduction

In Round 33, 225 applications passed the preliminary stage of assessment and went forward to the qualitative stage of assessment (Assessment Stage 1). These applications were divided into 17 separate panels; 11 radio panels and 6 television panels. Each panel assessed between 10 and 15 applications and was assigned two external assessors from the list below, one internal assessor who is a BAI staff member and a BAI manager. Wherever possible the BAI tried to ensure a gender balance within the makeup of each Panel. All Panels had at least one external or internal female assessor assigned to the Panel.

Applications for each panel were reviewed independently by each external assessor using the BAI qualitative assessment criteria. Following due consideration of applications, each panel met to discuss assigned applications and reach consensus on whether proposals should be recommended for an award of funding or not. The assessment reports which reflect the outcome of each panel meeting were then drafted by the BAI internal assessors and subsequently signed off by each assessor. The final qualitative assessment of each application will be provided to the respective applicants following the ratification of the Round.

1. Máire Moriarty

Máire Moriarty is a barrister and broadcaster. She is a former series presenter with TG4. In tandem with practising at the bar, Máire is an independent researcher, and has worked with various production companies, including researching a factual entertainment TV series for TG4 (Gléasta Chun Féasta TX Oct 2017) and with TV3 (The Pat Kenny Show TX Sept 2017). Máire is currently working in live radio current affairs broadcasting research with Newstalk FM.

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. Elaine McElroy

Elaine McElroy is a freelance Development Consultant and Script Editor in animation and live action. She found her first role in children's animation in 1999, after a chance meeting with Red Kite Animations' MD Ken Anderson. Learning on the job at the coalface of international animation co-production proved invaluable in gaining a real understanding of the business. Elaine went on to specialise in Script Editing, undertaking a range of professional training, including the North by Northwest Script Editing Programme in 2002. Her grounding in animation production overall has led to a wealth of transferable skills and experience of dealing with people and ideas from around the globe. As well as Script Editing, Elaine is Project Manager of the Media-funded ENGAGE training programme for film students and recent graduates. Based at the Screen Academy at Edinburgh Napier University, ENGAGE is a partnership between film schools in Ireland, Finland, Estonia and Scotland. Previous posts include Development Producer at Red Kite Animation; Animation Producer at Super Umami, managing the award winning KNTV; and freelance Script Editor for a variety of public film bodies across the UK and Ireland; and for Red Kite on Emmy nominated comedy education series Ask Lara. She is currently script editing a pre-school series for Lupus Films.

4. Colman Hutchinson

Colman Hutchinson began his TV career with RTÉ before spending 3 years as senior researcher for 'The 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. 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, LMFM, 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. Lorelei Harris

Former Head of Arts and Cultural Strategy for RTÉ Lorelei Harris is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning documentary maker who has worked with RTÉ for over thirty years where she spent many years as a Radio Producer, Commissioning Editor and Editor for Radio 1. She has extensive experience in commissioning into the arts and cultural sector and of related financial/contractual/editorial management. In addition, Lorelei has very significant experience in public engagement and collaborative arts/cultural media projects at national, community and local level.

20. 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.

21. Stephen Plunkett

Stephen Plunkett has worked with RTÉ for the past 22 years as a Commissioning Editor, Producer, Director and more recently Executive Producer with Young People's programmes where he was responsible for over 300 hours of programming a year. He also has experience as a journalist, script supervisor and production manager.

22. Maretta Dillon

Maretta Dillon is an independent film and arts consultant who has long and varied experience of working in the cultural sector in Ireland. Previous work experience includes: Co-Director of Light House Cinema, Director of access CINEMA, Programme Director of Dublin Film Festival. Maretta has knowledge and expertise in film curation, film programming as well as providing evaluation expertise on film and arts projects. She also works as a digital content and social media manager. Maretta is currently acting as Film Adviser to the Arts Council.

23. 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.

24. Dr. Paul Irvine

Dr Paul Irvine held several positions over 28 years in the role of Producer and Director in both Radio and TV in Features, Current affairs, OB Direction, General Programming, Sport, and Light Entertainment for RTÉ, Yorkshire Television, and Ulster Television. He is a former lecturer of Broadcast and TV Journalism in the Dublin Institute of Technology

25. 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 filmmakers, 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 Euroimages, the Council of Europe's pan European co-production fund.

26. Sheila De Courcy

Sheila de Courcy's most recent position held was as Group Head of Children's and Controller in RTÉ Jr where she was responsible for content for young people across all platforms. She also held the position of Commissioning Editor of Young People's Programmes in RTÉ from 2004 -2012. From 1986-2004 she worked as Executive Producer, Producer and Director in varying programmes and series for RTÉ Television in the realm of; Arts, Drama, Irish language, Current Affairs, Music, Documentary, Children's and Entertainment. She also worked as a Radio producer in live programming and documentary. Original voices, fresh ideas, diverse thinking and new approaches to communication has always been at the heart of her work. In December 2017 she left RTE in order to concentrate on her own projects and currently is involved in media consulting and project development, training and mentoring as well as a committed member of advisory groups and boards. Recent involvements include board membership, Great Music in Irish Houses (current) Irish Film Institute Board (2010-2019); Advisory Group, Mary Raftery Journalism Fund (2013-2019); The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children (2007-2016) where she was Chair of the Board from 2011-2016 and Vice-Chair, European Broadcast Union Youth Experts Group (2014-2017).

27. Anne Roper

Anne Roper has a career spanning over 25 years as a writer, TV producer, director & documentary maker. She has held the role of Executive TV producer and was the originator and Head of the RTE TV Documentary Unit. She has also produced radio, published fiction and newspaper columns for The Irish Times, Irish Independent, various magazines and more. She troubleshoots documentary structure, story, editorial and creates and facilitates training courses (such as the RTE Producer/Director curriculum, modules on visual storytelling, story sequencing, ideas to screen, scripting to pictures, multi-platform content, directing, production and documentary making). She has originated/facilitated journalism and media production training courses for the broadcast industry and devised, coordinated and directed the successful RTE training day 'Bring on the Women' which offered media skills for expert women looking to appear on radio, TV and online. She has reported and presented in TV programming and appears on broadcast panels and public speaking events in the area of arts, broadcasting, creativity and women's issues.