



Broadcasting Authority of Ireland

List of External Assessors for Sound & Vision Round 45

1. Mike Beale

Mike has worked in television production and distribution for over 30 years producing shows all over the world. Currently at ITV Studios overseeing the non-scripted and format development pipeline as MD Global Creative Content. Mike started out in children's TV at TV-am then joined Planet 24 as they launched The Big Breakfast before joining various production companies including LWT, Bunim Murray, Hat Trick, BBC going on to co-found 12 Yard Productions and Alchemy Reality. Mike's global experience from this was also utilised to launch NBCU's move into global production before joining ITV Studios.

2. Peter Browne

Peter Browne worked as senior producer and presenter in RTÉ Radio for over 40 years – on all four stations: Radio One, 2FM, Raidió na Gaeltachta and Lyric FM. He also presented programmes on TG4 and has been a contributor on TG4, RTÉ TV and BBC TV. His work covered many programme areas with music being a central part of that – mainstream, pop, rock, MOR and specialist programmes of music – traditional, folk, world, country, jazz and classical including work with the RTÉ Orchestras. Also, he produced magazine, arts and speech programmes e.g., The Gay Byrne Show, sport and documentaries which won international radio prizes: Deutsche Welle World Music Prize and Celtic Media. Also, he worked on larger scale events like Live Aid, Eurovision, and many outside broadcasts like the Cork Jazz Festival, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann etc... He produced a series of commercial recordings (CD, online) of traditional music from the RTÉ Sound Archive and has been a juror on radio competitions like the Prix Italia and the Celtic Media Festival. His academic qualifications are BA, Diploma Irish Folklore and M MUS and he lectured in music at TU Dublin in the Conservatory of Music and Drama. He is a practicing professional musician and spent c. 10 years as Traditional Arts Advisor to the Arts Council.

3. Agnes Cogan

Agnes Cogan was a senior TV Producer with RTÉ (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. After that Agnes worked as a free-lance TV producer and director on programming for RTÉ, TG4 and others, and worked as originator, scriptwriter and presenter on radio programmes in Irish and English, principally for Lyric FM. Agnes started her career in RTÉ as a PA, subsequently becoming a film editor, then a TV director, a producer/director and finally a senior TV Producer. Agnes is currently Chair of the Royal Television Society, Republic of Ireland Centre.

4. Sheila De Courcy

Sheila is an independent consultant and producer with over four decades of involvement with media, arts and cultural organisations in Ireland, Europe, USA and India. Previous experience includes almost six years working on conservation and exhibitions in the National Museum of Ireland following which she spent over 30 years in RTÉ. There she produced, directed and commissioned programmes for RTÉ Television and Radio across all genres including Arts, Drama, Irish language, Current Affairs, Music, Documentary, Children's and Entertainment. Sheila also led the launch of RTÉjr, RTÉ's third TV channel, across all platforms. An experienced teacher, mentor, board member and facilitator Sheila is currently working on a broad range of creative and practical projects.

5. Niamh Farren

Niamh has over twenty years' experience working in the community and voluntary sector in Ireland. Her background is in the community media sector where she worked as a volunteer, programme producer, manager and community outreach co-ordinator. She is a former member of the Board of Management of Dublin Community Television and a former Chair of Craol, the Community Radio Forum of Ireland. She holds a master's degree in communications and



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Cultural Studies from Dublin City University. Over the past fifteen years she has worked as a communications specialist in the non-profit sector where her work has involved awareness campaigns, training and capacity building, digital content development, stakeholder engagement and advocacy.

6. Francesca Lalor

As Commissioning Editor and Series Producer of the multiple award-winning Documentary & Drama on Newstalk 106-108fm Series, Executive Producer Francesca Lalor was responsible for the development and delivery of a wide range of feature-length radio documentary and drama projects for a national commercial radio station, and related financial/contractual/editorial management. With a background in live radio production, Francesca has overseen the commissioning, funding, production and broadcast of upwards of 250 feature-length documentaries and radio dramas on Irish radio in the past decade, managing a large team of independent producers both in Ireland and abroad. As an Award-winning Independent Producer, Francesca Lalor has produced 21 documentary/drama features and executive-produced many more. She also works as a Consultant to Independent production companies and training organisations, delivering training in radio features production, sourcing funding, and broadcast best-practice. She is an Associate Lecturer in Radio Features Production at master's level at DLIADT and Griffith College. Educated in Brussels, Francesca speaks fluent French.

7. Jackie Neill

Jackie Neill is a radio consultant and producer based in Northern Ireland. As a former Station Manager and Content Editor at BBC Radio Ulster, Jackie worked with some of the UK and Ireland's best presenters and award-winning production teams in comedy, music, magazine & documentary production. Now she is bringing 30+ years of radio production and management experience to the freelance and independents world through her company Headgirl Media Ltd.

8. 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 20 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 colourist 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', 'Monumental' and 'Hector USA'.