

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT BARNSTORM THEATRE COMPANY

12 October 2020

Name	Date Appointed
MARY CODY	29 November 2010
TONY WALSH	4 April 2011
MALCOLM NOONAN	8 October 2012
CLAIRE O'CONNELL	5 October 2020
MARGARET WHITELY	25 October 2017
GERALDINE KEARNEY	8 January 2018
SEAMUS GREENE	7 November 2018

MARY CODY is a native of Cork city. She moved to Kilkenny in 2005 to take up the position of senior journalist with the Kilkenny People. She has a deep love of theatre and has been involved in amateur theatre since her arrival in Kilkenny. An active member of Barnstorm's amateur acting group, Barn Owl Players, she has performed in several productions including Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*, staged at the Watergate Theatre in 2012.

Mary is involved in other community groups, including Project Women which focuses on what it means to be a woman in Ireland today. She is an active fundraiser for a number of charities, and has completed marathons and other events to raise awareness and funds for a variety of causes.

Mary graduated from University College Cork with an honours degree in Law and has written for numerous publications and media including RTE, The Irish Times, The Irish Independent and The Irish Examiner.

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TONY WALSH has over 30 years of experience in local economic and social development. For most of his career he has worked in Local Government.

For the latter part he has served as Director of Community and Enterprise with Kilkenny County Council. Prior to this he was Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Enterprise Board. Currently Tony is an active member of a number of local development organisations.

In recent years he has joined his wife Mary in the establishment and running of a free-range poultry business. They have three grown-up children and one grandchild.

MALCOLM NOONAN has been a Green Party Kilkenny Borough & County Councillor for 10 years, working hard over that time to help create sustainable communities. He grew up in Kilkenny, one of a large family brought up in a happy crowded house. Having studied Industrial Design in Carlow IT, he worked as a graphic designer in Dublin before returning to Kilkenny to set up a successful landscaping and gardening business. Prior to embarking on a political career, Malcolm was a community and environmental activist, a Director and National Local Groups Coordinator of *Friends of the Earth Ireland*.

Malcolm holds a BA in Rural Development and works as a part-time project development worker with Lifeline Kilkenny Suicide Prevention Forum. He led a participative planning process to develop the County's first Suicide Prevention Strategy. His remaining time is taken up with his work as a public representative and volunteering with local organisations. He is involved in the local arts scene as a musician and illustrator, and volunteers with local festivals. Malcolm has been Chairperson of the St Patrick's Day/Tradfest Committee in Kilkenny.

Malcolm served as Mayor of Kilkenny in 2009 - 2010 and led an ambitious policy-driven agenda, with many notable achievements including leading an EU Heritage Project for Kilkenny and securing the purchase of St Mary's Church on behalf of the people of Kilkenny. In 2011 Malcolm contested the leadership of the Green Party and was appointed Party Spokesperson for Environment, Community and Local Government by Eamon Ryan. Malcolm is married to Jennie, a community and family support worker to the Traveller Community. They have four children.

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CLAIRE (NOONAN) O'CONNELL is originally from Wexford and moved to Kilkenny in 2004. She is a Vice President in the custody department for State Street International Ireland Limited. State Street is a global financial services company operating in more than 100 markets and employs 39,000 people worldwide. Before joining State Street, Claire worked as a manager in Philips Electronics in Dublin. Claire has Higher Diploma in Business Studies from the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business in UCD and an honors UCD degree in Arts (German & Geography); she is also an ACCA Certified Accounting Technician.

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MARGARET (MAGS) WHITELY is originally from Mallow, Co. Cork.

Mags works as a Client Relationship Manager with State Street International (Ireland) Limited, a financial services company in Kilkenny.

She first became involved in theatre as a founding member of the Kilcumney Players, in Goresbridge in 1998. She joined the adult theatre club in Barnstorm in 2012 and subsequently joined the Barn Owl Players, where she has played many roles, including Maggie, in *Big Maggie* in May 2017 as well as being involved with the Curriculum Play Live project as assistant director on Brian Friel's *Translations* in 2016 and taking the role of Bessie Burgess in Sean O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* in 2017.

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GERALDINE KEARNEY is an experienced corporate communications and sustainability professional with over 20 years corporate experience and a proven track record of high performance. She was a member of the Glanbia Plc Senior Leadership Team for 13 years – a global dairy nutrition Group with operations in North America, EMEA and Ireland (*Group Director of Corporate Communications and latterly Group Director of Sustainability*). Prior to joining Glanbia, Geraldine was an Executive Director of Ireland's leading public relations consultancy, Murray.

In 2017 Geraldine established "Authenticity" which provides strategic advice to corporates – including Glanbia plc. She is a graduate of the DIT (*Dublin Institute of Technology*), has completed post graduate studies in sustainability at Cambridge University and is currently studying for a MSc in Strategic Development & Planning at the UCD Smurfit School."

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SEAMUS GREENE (Chair) is from Dublin. He is a solicitor with 20 years' experience working in practice and in-house. He first got involved in theatre in school and then in UCD's Dramsoc. After Barnstorm's Adult Theatre Club, he joined the Barn Owl Players and has been involved in a number of productions with them.