

 Waterford Youth Arts: Past Events & Productions

### Saba's Swim (2025)

**A modern youth mystery and friendship drama.**

As part of Connections 2025, WYA performed Danusia Samal's "Saba's Swim," directed by Sinéad Hourigan. On debs' night, Saba's friends follow cryptic clues to find her-but Saba returns a changed person and asks her friends for more than they bargained for.

*Young cast and crew, immersive storytelling!*

### The Lit Festival (2024)

**Three days of literary passion!**

Young people (aged 14–19) celebrated writing, poetry, and creativity across talks, workshops, and performances.

[Check out images in the gallery & learn more at thelit.org](https://thelit.org)

### Under Milk Wood (2024)

**A surreal, lyrical classic by Dylan Thomas.**

Directed by Jim Nolan with professional artists and movement, lighting, and music specialists.

*An immersive, dreamlike journey through a Welsh village over 24 hours.*

### Fowl Play (2024)

**A comedic family mystery for all ages.**

Young actors (ages 9-14) took the stage in this original play by Mary O'Donoghue-a frantic hunt for a missing pet chicken, with rival sleuths and a quirky town!

### Film Premiere: Broken Glass (2023)

**A social history documentary** honoring the craftsmen of Waterford Glass, with personal accounts and community spirit.

Premiered at the Imagine Arts Festival.

### Short Film: Reunited (2024)

**A film about coming home and confronting the past.**

Created by WYA's film workshops, mentored by filmmaker Maureen O'Connell.

*Raw, heartfelt storytelling by teens 15–19.*

### NT Connections 2022: Remote

**A contemporary play by Stef Smith about youth, isolation, and hope.**

Staged at Garter Lane and Belfast's Lyric Theatre, directed by Deirdre Dwyer.

### The Lit Young Writers Festival (2021 & 2020)

**A hive of creative energy-live readings, poetry, interviews, and workshops** with renowned writers and artists from Ireland and abroad.

*Spotlight on young voices and 'Voices from Direct Provision' anthology.*

### Romeo and Juliet (2021)

**WYA's 27th annual summer project.**

A youthful, emotional open-air Shakespeare at Wyse Park.

*Classic tragedy, electrifying performances, and community energy.*

### Young Playwrights Programme (2020)

**Showcasing four new plays** by talented young writers, performed and discussed online during the pandemic.

### **Emerge (2020)**

**A short film exploring disillusionment, identity, and empowerment**, devised and filmed by WYA teens during lockdown.

## **2020**

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Swinging on the Swings
- **St Patrick's Day:** Cancelled (COVID-19)
- **Other Productions:** Resolutions Play

## **2019**

- **Summer Theatre Project:** We Have 11½ Years to Save the Planet but we only have today to save ourselves
- **Works in Progress:** WIP – A Night of Sorcery and Magic, WIP – 2019
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Halloween Event:** HHT – 2019
- **Summer School:** Summer School 2019
- **Festivals:** The Lit Young Writers Festival 2019
- **Other Productions:** The HP Experience

## **2018**

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Animal Farm
- **Seasonal Play:** The Lost Elf
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Halloween Event:** HHT – 2018
- **Summer School:** Summer School 2018
- **Festivals:** The Lit Young Writers Festival 2018
- **Other Productions:**
  - Weird Wacky Wonderful Spraoi
  - Erasmus+ Project with Stella Polaris (Norway) and National Theatre Târgu-Mureş (Romania)

## **2017**

- **Summer Theatre Project:** If The Lights Change
- **Seasonal Play:** The Christmas Wish
- **Halloween Event:** HHT – 2017
- **Summer School:** Summer School 2017

- **Festivals:** The Lit Young Writers Festival 2017
- **Other Productions:** 28 Hours Fundraiser

## 2016

- **Summer Theatre Project:** One Hundred Thousand Breaths
- **Halloween Event:** HHT – 2016

## 2015

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Our Town
- **Seasonal Play:** The Wish Keepers
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:** Between the Lines\*

## 2014

- **Summer Theatre Project:** The Crucible
- **Seasonal Play:** The Christmas Wish
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:** Written in Stone\*

## 2013

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Brothers of a Dream
- **Seasonal Play:** Ring The Bells
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:** Dawn to Dusk

## 2012

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Happy End
- **Seasonal Play:** Who Stole The Grinch
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:** All Aboard

## 2011

- **Summer Theatre Project:** The Key of D
- **Seasonal Play:** A Gleekmass Carol
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:**
  - Diversion 4 The Debs – 9 Short Plays
  - Where did you come from?\*

## 2010

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Dark of the Moon
- **Seasonal Play:** Christmas in Market Place
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:**
  - School Days\*
  - How do you see us?\* (TIEP)
  - This ain't no fairytale\*
  - Vandal\* (TIEP)

## 2009

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Playboy of Sunny South East?
- **Seasonal Play:** Trials and Tribulations\*
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:**
  - Alex in the Wood
  - Act2Link\*

## 2008

- **Summer Theatre Project:** ETCERERA
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Halloween Event:** Diversions?
- **Other Productions:**
  - I Can Hear the Night Birds Sing
  - The Rubbish Pirates (Spraoi)
  - Him, Her, Here, There (Transition Year Touring Production)

## 2007

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Festival
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:**
  - To Leap From Paradise\*
  - 20 Foot High 30 Feet Deep\*

## 2006

- **Summer Theatre Project:** The Outsider\*

- **Works in Progress:** Drama Sharing 12–14
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed

## 2005

- **Seasonal Play:** Is This Life
- **St Patrick's Day:** Entered and Performed
- **Other Productions:** Clem and Ben (Promenade Play)

## 2004

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Snap'd
- **Other Productions:**
  - Two Towns\*
  - Black Veil\* (TIEP)
  - Dead End (March)

## 2003

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Mother Hicks
- **Other Productions:** Instant Mash (exchange with West Lothian Youth Theatre, Scotland)

## 2002

- Fair Play, Fould Play\* (TIEP)
- The Exam – A comic look at the pressures facing Andrew, Bea and Chas as they faced the inevitable state exams. Part of International Connections, celebrating new writing for new actors. Five performances at Garter Lane (March) and Belfast (March 26th, Lyric Theatre).
- 2Heaven – Devised play produced in association with Garter Lane Arts Centre.

## 2001

- **Summer Theatre Project:** The Land Of Stuff
- **Other Productions:** Our Day Out – WYA's first musical theatre production.

## 2000

- Requiem\*
- Moremi – The Goddess\*

## 1999

- **Summer Theatre Project:** The Skin of our Teeth
- **Other Productions:**
  - The Pilgrimage – Part of the BT National Connections 99 project. After presenting the play at Garter Lane in Waterford, it was taken to Belfast and performed at the Lyric Theatre. Later, it became the only production from the Republic of Ireland chosen to appear in London, performed at the Olivier Theatre on July 13th.

## 1998

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Faust
- **Other Productions:**
  - Tales from The Fountain (Play For Schools With Development Issues, TIEP)
  - Dog House

## 1997

- **Summer Theatre Project:** The Dream Season
- **Other Productions:**
  - The War Mongrels
  - Asleep Under The Dark Earth

## 1996

- **Summer Theatre Project:** Dial M for Moonstream
- **Other Productions:**
  - Twist Of Faith – Performed alongside The Star Turns Red at Springboard Festival (Waterford only)
  - The Star Turns Red – Performed in Waterford and Belfast

## 1995

- **Works in Progress:** Zorba, Some Kind Of Love Story and Survival (devised by Younger Workshop Members); The Stick Doll (TIEP)
- **Other Productions:** Alice thru the Oxygen Mask – A new take on the Alice in Wonderland story

## 1994

- Ananse or Cheating Death – An African tale involving magic and legends, written and directed by Ted O'Regan. Presented with devised pieces from younger workshops.
- Harambee – Written and directed by Ted O'Regan, WYD's first attempt at a full-scale production with younger workshop members (ages 9–13).
- Hello Andromeda – Written by Gerry Moran and directed by Liam Murphy.

## 1993

- **Works in Progress:** Agnes of God (by John Pielmeier) – A strange and harrowing tale exploring the birth of a baby to a young novitiate at a convent, its death and the investigation that follows.
- **Other Productions:**
  - Muhur Gozlum
  - Roma and The Bureaucrat
  - The Ancient Mariner

## 1992

Our Town – Every youth theatre eventually gets around to staging this great play. Its simple setting and large cast make it ideal for youth theatre. Explores the lives of 'ordinary' people and helps the audience reflect on their own 'ordinary' lives.

#### **1991**

Mad Forest (by Jim O'Meara) – Deals with Romania's history during the fall of Ceaușescu and the ensuing confusion and anger. WYD's most ambitious production to date, with a cast of 50, including local adults in roles of grandparents, etc. Had a budget of £5000, was well received despite Caryl Churchill's different style, and included a live 'Romanian' wedding band.

#### **1990**

Whale (by David Holman, directed by Ben Hennessy) – Based on a true story about the US and USSR Navies cooperating to save stranded whales in Arctic ice. First large-scale production with emphasis on set and costumes; played for a week at Garter Lane Arts Centre to enthusiastic audiences.

#### **1989**

Play 10 – Marked the first involvement of Jim O'Meara and Kieran Stewart with WYD. Along with Ted O'Regan, they directed ten short plays.

#### **1988**

The Shrew Tamed – A shortened version of Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew, presented for two nights in Mercy Convent Primary School Hall. Featured original music by Grainne Mulvey (WIT student), performed by five music students, with a cast of 21 teenagers.

#### **1987**

Fools Gold – A one-act play written by Bill Malone, a local teenager, directed by Ted O'Regan. Follows a young rock band trying to get their break. First WYA production (then WYD), presented for two nights in Garter Lane together with local rock band Ice Blue Ice.