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# THE WHITE QUADRANGLE



*St. Patrick's Day 2005*

*The Main Quadrangle*

*University College Cork*



half/angel



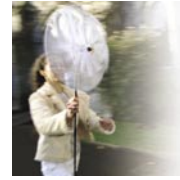


## INSPIRATION

*The White Quadrangle* takes its inspiration from the physical context of its performance – the University College Cork central quadrangle. The work is primarily a visual and choreographic spectacle, but there is a slender narrative thread running through. Performance content is drawn from the Ogham Alphabet, George Boole, St.Finbarre and Queen Victoria

### *The narrative of Fin & Vicky*

Threading its way through the whole piece is a narrative called *Fin & Vicky*. These are a series of scenes in which Queen Victoria and St. Finbarre meet as teenagers in the quadrangle, innocent of their own history. As the work progresses the weight of history begins to make itself felt, as frivolity gives way to foreboding. We make use of two aspects of the St. Finbarre story in particular, *The Shower of Nuts*, and *The Shining Hand*. *The Shower of Nuts*: Finbarre and his elders are on a long journey. They are sitting down, hungry from the journey with nothing to eat. Suddenly the tree they lean against showers them with hazelnuts, even though it's the wrong time for nuts – being spring time: "It was then spring-time; nevertheless, ripe nuts fell from the hazel tree above them, filling their laps with nuts." (Ó Riain: 67) *The Shining Hand*: St. Finbarre once partially ascended to heaven and held the hand of God. Because of this his hand was ever after incandescent, and he wore a glove at all times. *The Queen Victoria Statue*: The *Fin & Vicky* text also makes use of the history of topping the Aula – first Queen Victoria and then by St. Finbarre.



### **CEREMONIAL DANCER**

Omolara Ewuosho

### **DRUMMING CIRCLE**

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David Maloney

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*Researcher*.....Maureen O'Rourke  
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*Asst. Costume Construction*.....Jeannine Storan  
*Prop Construction*.....Ger O'Neill  
*Lighting Operator*.....Mick Hurley  
*Sound*.....Ian Richards  
*Recordist of Boole Recordings*.....Andrew Stevens  
*Projections*.....Corporate Audio Visual Services  
*Rope Safety Consultant*.....Ciaran O'Regan  
*Stage Manager*.....Feena McGrath  
*Deputy Stage Manager*.....Ciaran FitzPatrick  
*Administrator*.....Elizabeth O'Dea  
*Administrative Assistant*.....Margaret Kennedy  
*Workshop Leader*.....Lynda Radley  
*Workshop Facilitator*.....Jo Nicholls  
*Drumming Workshop Leader*.....Fergal O'Connor  
*Drumming Workshop Leader*.....Eamonn Cagney  
*Ballyheada School Director*.....Mariel Twomey  
*Welfare Officer*.....Evelyn Quinlan



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Yossi Zaldman  
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Mary Neylon  
Patsy McCarthy  
Claire Layton



"The Victoria statue meanwhile was not destroyed but placed in an office in the East Wing where eventually its considerable weight proved too much for the floorboards.

Accordingly, it was removed in 1946 and spared for the second time. On this occasion it was buried in the President's Garden whence it was exhumed in late 1994 and displayed at the UCC 150 Universitas exhibition in the old council room." (Murphy: 233-5)

*The Smashing of the Royal Crest:* At the end of January 1939, republican activists broke into the college and smashed the royal crest on the clocktower. This incident is used as part of the Fin & Vicky text.

***Ogham and Choreographies of the Contemporary***

Ogham is the earliest form of writing in Irish. It is found on standing stones, and its use dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> century AD to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. There is a collection of these stones in the north corridor in the UCC quadrangle. The Ogham alphabet is made up of sets of one to five strokes cut diagonally, across or on either side of a central line, or notched on the line itself. The central line is often the edge of a stone. The strokes and notches, according to their number and position, represent the letters of an alphabet of fifteen consonants and five vowels based on the Latin alphabet. The names of each of these letters are the names of trees or shrubs. There is also a myth that Ogham was based upon a secret way of communicating by using the five fingers of the hand. In *The White Quadrangle*, we have drawn on these histories and myths and made a contemporary sign-language / choreography based on the letters of the Ogham Alphabet. These are examples of the ogham translations we use:

Yew	Idad
White Poplar	Edad
Heather	Ur
Gorse	Onn





This sign language is signed by a cast made up of 40 children, 30 students, and 5 people in their 80s.

***George Boole***

There are two sections based on George Boole. In making this work, we were interested in Boole as a mathematician, but also as a man who died when his five daughters were still infants. In these two sections 40 children perform geometric patterns, while a soundscape layers some of George’s writings, with fictional voices related to his life: “Opposite the window of the room in which I write is a field, liable to be overflowed from two causes, distinct but capable of being combined, viz. floods from the upper sources of the River Lee, and tides from the ocean. Suppose that observations made on N separate occasions have yielded the following results: on A occasions the river was swollen by freshets and on P occasions it was inundated whether from this cause or not. On B occasions the river was swollen by the tide, and on Q occasions it was inundated, whether from this cause or not. Supposing then, that the field cannot be inundated in the absence of both these causes, let it be required to determine the total probability of inundation.” (MacHale: 129)

***Bibliography***

MacHale, Desmond. *George Boole: His Life and Work*. (Dublin: Boole Press, 1985): 129.  
 Murphy, John A. *The College: A History of Queen’s /University College Cork*. (Cork: Cork University Press, 1995): 233-5.



**CAST**

***Narrator***.....Brenda Downe  
***Fin***.....Chris Quain  
***Vicky***.....Cathy Walsh  
***George Boole***.....Will Knott  
***Voice of George Boole***.....Tom Greeves  
***Singer***.....Carla Bottiglieri  
***Singer***.....Rosemary Moone  
***Violinist***.....Stella Rodrigues  
***Echo Caller***.....Dave Hogan

***DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES UCC***

Adam McElderry	Louise Browne
Irene O’Mara	Billy Quain
Ruairi Donovan	William Gaulle
Sinead O’Connor	Laura Daly
Eoin O’Doherty	Hazel Cullen
Irene Kelleher	Paula Lynch
Katie O’Farrell	Brenda Downe
Eoin O’Doherty	Jo Quinn
Nicole Dwyer	Laura Harte
Lisa Hayes	Julie O’Leary
Doireann Larkin	Kate O’Sullivan
Alice Wilson	Chris Quain
Cathy Walsh	

***SHARE***

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Joan O’Sullivan	Tim Buckley

***POD PERFORMERS***

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Christina Carty	Karen Collins
Gearoid Maguire	Niall McCarthy
Deirdre Hurlihy	Pauline Nadoulek
Karen Collins	Sophie Pujol
Edwina White	Louise O’Mahony
Aaron O’Dowling-Keane	Morh Cosgrave