

**The UNIMA Research Commission**  
and  
**The Cork Puppetry Festival**  
in conjunction with  
**Drama and Theatre Studies, University College Cork (Cork, Ireland)**  
**Drama and Theatre Studies, Mary Immaculate College (Limerick, Ireland)**  
present:  
**The Broken Puppet: A Symposium on Puppetry, Disability, and  
Health**  
**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2017**

“The emergence of a disability culture is difficult but tremendously liberating. Such a culture enables us to recognize the pressure to pretend to be normal for the oppressive and impossible-to-achieve hurdle which it is. Most importantly, this culture challenges our own prejudices about ourselves, as well as those of the non-disabled culture.”  
- Jenny Morris

“The object offers itself to the individual as an extension of his being in the surrounding universe, and augmented affirmation of his total existence.”  
- Roger Daniel Bensky

The UNIMA Research Commission in collaboration with Cork Puppetry Festival, University College Cork, and Mary Immaculate College, is delighted to announce a two-day symposium exploring the ways puppetry intersects with disability and health. We invite academics and practice-based researchers to propose papers\*, provocations, and particularly discussions about or presentations of practice-based research. Keynote speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

Two grants to assist participation in this event are available to early-career researchers (including those focused on practice-based research). Please note in your proposal if you wish to apply for one of these grants.

**Themes to consider include (but are not limited to):**

- § Embodied puppet practices: breaking the body's borders
- § Methods of inclusivity: participatory puppetry in the context of disability and health
- § The puppeteer's voice: sharing real stories of disability and illness through puppetry
- § Mental health and invisible disease: making the invisible visible
- § Interventions: puppetry in hospitals, clinics, and healthcare settings

*[Selected papers will be published as part of the proceedings of this symposium.](#)*

\*Please note that we ask papers to be written in an accessible style for academics as well as practitioners and community audiences.

Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words and a short biography of no more than 50 words to Emma Fisher, Leslie Burton and Cariad Astles, at [beyondthebarktheatre@gmail.com](mailto:beyondthebarktheatre@gmail.com). Please include your department or affiliation and any access and equipment requirements.

*The deadline for proposal submission is Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2017.*



The UNIMA Research Commission is defined as a theatre research commission which includes research of history, theory, criticism, and practice-as-research in the field of puppet theatre. The aims of the Commission are to cooperate with professional theatre research bodies and individuals, encourage, initiate and co-organise conferences, open a bridge between UNIMA Research Commission and the bodies of IATC and find the ways for common

collaboration to improve the puppet theatre critic, encourage research of theatre related to puppetry and reflect a multiculturalism of puppetry forms, initiate the participation of experienced and young critics in puppetry festivals and writing reflections, and encourage publishing activities of researchers. For more information see:

<https://www.unima.org/en/commission/research/>



The Cork Puppetry Festival is an annual event organised by Dowtcha Puppets. The festival has been running since 2014 and is Ireland's only Puppet Festival. Featuring shows, workshops, film screenings, and puppet picnics, the festival is the perfect way for kids and adults alike to experience the best of Irish puppetry and international puppetry. For more information see: [www.corkpuppetryfestival.com](http://www.corkpuppetryfestival.com)



Since its beginnings within UCC's Arts programme in 1986, Drama and Theatre Studies (now in the School of Music and Theatre) has proudly established itself as a vibrant member of the third and fourth level drama education sector in Ireland. Our staff are practicing theatre artists and academics who are committed to

the highest standards of excellence in teaching and research. We have close links with the Abbey Theatre, Cork Opera House, Everyman Theatre, Corcadorca Theatre Company, and Graffiti Theatre Company, amongst others. For more information, see:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/music-theatre/drama/>



The Department of Drama & Theatre Studies at Mary Immaculate College was established in June 2015. We host a specialist undergraduate programme - the BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies (MI001) and we're currently developing a taught postgraduate programme at MA level. The

department hosts a number of full-time research PhD students. Faculty conduct and supervise research in a number of specific aspects of drama and theatre studies. For more information, see: <http://www.mic.ul.ie/academicdepts/dts/Pages/default.aspx>