



# LOST AND FOUND IN TRANSLATION

DAY-LONG SYMPOSIUM

To register please contact  
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City Wall Space, Wood Quay Venue, Civic Offices

16 October, 2010: 10 - 5pm

**Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival** in collaboration with the **Forum on Migration and Communications (FOMACS)** present a one day symposium, **'Lost and Found in Translation'**, addressing themes of **cultural translation** and the **creative impact of migration**, together with the role and responsibilities of artists and arts organisations in highlighting questions of **social justice** and **equality**.

Our title is drawn from Polish writer Eva Hoffman's autobiography, *Lost in Translation*. For Hoffman, migration signals a profound sense of cultural and linguistic exile: 'The words I learn now don't stand for things in the same unquestioned way they did in my native tongue'. Yet Hoffman eventually learns to balance the 'relativity of cultural meanings on [her] skin' – so much so that she describes how English 'entered my body, has incorporated itself in the softest tissue of my being'.

By adding **Found** to the title we explore both the losses and gains that result from the act of migration – conceived as an ongoing process marked by journeys and dislocations across languages, geographies, identities and social landscapes. Through open discussion and performance the programme forges a link between theatre practice and the pursuit of 'social justice'.

As an organising thematic for the symposium, 'cultural translation' involves complex negotiations of power – personal, institutional, national and international. How, then, can cultural translation, enacted through performance enable the expression of emergent critical voices and generate new content and audiences?

We bring you a range of cross-cultural contributions from actors, critics, theatre and art directors, writers, and curators, who will participate in debate on the day, offering provocative ways of producing/performing/programming work across theatre and the creative arts.

We will present a special lunch time performance featuring Yasmin Alibhai-Brown in her one woman show 'Nowhere to Belong: Tales of an Extravagant Stranger'. **Please indicate at the time of registration if you would like to attend the show.** There will also be a discounted lunch, provided by the Silk Road Café.

Registration: 9:30 am

Welcome: 10:00 am

Keynote: 10:15 - 11:00 am

Panel 1: 11:00 - 12:30 pm

Lunch: 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Performance : 12:45 - 2:00 pm

Performance and Workshop: 2:30 - 4:00 pm

Panel 2: 4:00 - 5:00 pm





REGISTRATION: 9:30 am

Registration: 9:30 am  
Welcome: 10:00 am



**Yasmin Alibhai-Brown** is well known for her regular radio and television broadcasts and columns in the UK 'Independent' and London's 'Evening Standard'. Her books include *No Place Like Home*, an autobiographical account of a twice removed immigrant; *Some of My Best Friends*, a collection of journalistic writing; *After Multiculturalism*, a publication re-assessing the multicultural ideology in Britain; *Mixed Feelings*, a book on mixed race Britons; and most recently *The Settler's Cookbook: Tales of Love, Migration and Food*. In 2003, Yasmin returned her MBE in protest against the war in Iraq.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

Time: 10:15 - 11:00 am

### *Who Do We Think We Are Becoming? Migration, Cultural Contestation and the Making of a Modern National Identity*

**Synopsis:** *The movements of people into established western states unsettles and awakens at the same time. Strong are the imperatives of nostalgia and poignant the cravings for old familiarities but there can be no time travel back, not for incomers and not for the countries they enter, nor indeed for the lands they leave behind. These seismic tremors demand meaningful national narratives and major shifts of thinking and practice not minimal concessions, small adjustments, condescension, peripheral 'multicultural' activities or diversity audits. Publicly funded arts and education have the potential and responsibility to lead the nation to where it is heading.*

## PANEL 1

Time: 11:00 - 12:30 pm

### *The Polish Losers?*

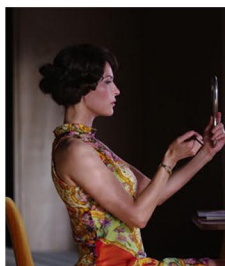
This panel focuses on the inclusion of contemporary Polish productions in this year's theatre programme and will address political, social and artistic developments in Poland: how theatre continues to challenge and interrogate Polish society; the impact of emigration on contemporary Polish culture; and the simultaneous contribution made by young cultural and creative workers in shaping the Polish art scene in Ireland.

The term 'Polish Losers' is a derogatory description of young emigrants, used to denigrate young Poles supposedly 'abandoning their homeland'. The term has since been re-appropriated by those same emigrants as an ironic badge of honour; one such manifestation is the 'Polish Losers Café' in Berlin.

#### Panelists:

Joanna Derkaczew, Polish theatre critic and social commentator; Monica Sapielak, Director, ArtPolonia: LAB for Intercultural Cooperation and Exchange, Dublin; and more. Chair: Sarah Glennie, Director - Irish Film Institute.

## Polski Teatr



## LUNCHTIME PERFORMANCE (optional)

Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm

### *Nowhere to Belong: Tales of an Extravagant Stranger*

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown's poignant and impassioned one-woman show about a Ugandan in Britain. 'Nowhere to Belong' captures with warmth, grit and humour how her experience of playing Juliet as a teenager in '60s Uganda sent shockwaves through her family and helped shape the emotional and political landscape of her life.

Developed with the Royal Shakespeare Company and directed by Gavin Marshall.



## PERFORMANCE/WORKSHOP

Time: 2:30 - 4:00 pm

### *Documentary Theatre, Adaptation, Solidarity and Creative Exchange: Ice and Fire (UK) in performance and dialogue with Sanctuary (Ireland)*

**Ice and Fire** explores human rights stories through performance. A theatre company with a distinct, contemporary voice creating work of excellence across four strands: production, outreach, education and participation. Founded in 2003 by playwright, Sonja Linden, the company sees theatre as the natural medium to communicate stories that make real and relevant the impact of human rights issues on our everyday lives.

Artistic Director, Christine Bacon, and  
Regional Co-ordinator, Clea Langton - Ice & Fire.



© Ice & Fire

**Sanctuary** is a collection of stories of people seeking asylum in Ireland produced by FOMACS in solidarity with **Ice and Fire**, and presented in association with **Storytellers of Ireland** and the **Irish Refugee Council**. In ultra short monologues of under one minute duration, the stories of people who have sought asylum and received refuge in Ireland are performed by Irish based actors and writers.

Film director: Barrie Dowdall; Script: Colin Murphy; Camera: Joe McKeever and Barry MacNeill; Editor: Kevin de la Isla O'Neill.

Casting Co-ordinator, Jack Lynch -  
Storytellers of Ireland



© Sanctuary

**Sanctuary** features Carrie Crowley, Sebastian Barry, Barry Barnes, Geraldine Plunkett, Donna Nickolasen, Yomi Ogunyemi, the late Mick Lally, Yari Jegbefume, Aiden Kelly, Donal O'Kelly, Malcolm Adams, Lorna Quinn, Marian Keyes, Pat Nolan, Olwen Fourere, George Seremba, Jack Lynch, Peter Hanley, Jacinta Sheerin, Luka Bloom, Ann O'Neill, Eileen Walsh, Charlene Gleeson, Dave Farrell, Ciara O'Callaghan, Valerie O'Connor. A selection of performers will attend on the day.

[www.fomacs.org](http://www.fomacs.org)

# Lost & Found in

# Translation

## PANEL 2

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

### *Gate Keepers/Curators versus Bold Innovators*

Drawing on the contributions throughout the symposium, this final panel explores the role and the potential for art organisations to play a dynamic part in developing confident, innovative programming, foregrounding the creative arts as a vehicle for cross-cultural dialogue and social change.

#### Panelists:

Loughlin Deegan, Artistic Director, Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival; Willie White, Artistic Director, Project Arts Centre; Róise Goan, Director, ABSOLUT Fringe, and more. Chair: Áine O'Brien, Director - FOMACS