



KAITE O'REILLY

Agent: Conrad Williams

Biography: Kaite is an award-winning playwright, radio film and TV scriptwriter, and dramaturg, based in Wales. Her debut feature film screenplay, *The Almond and the Seahorse* produced by Mad as Birds Films, will be released in 2024, starring Rebel Wilson and Charlotte Gainsbourg. Her awards for writing include winner of Ted Hughes Award, Peggy Ramsay Award, Theatre-Wales Award, Manchester Theatre Prize; she has been a two-time finalist in the James Tait Black Prize for Innovation in Drama and was honoured in International Eliot Hayes Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy.

She is a mentor/creative exec' for transmedia project GALWAD (Unboxed, Sky Arts, October 2022, shortlisted for a 2023 Rose D'Or award and SXSW for innovation), an associate dramaturg for National Theatre Wales and the production dramaturg/narration director for Rambert's Peaky Blinder's dance performance/BBC film *The Redemption of Thomas Shelby*.

A leading figure in disability arts and culture, Kaite's pioneering plays for disabled and Deaf actors are produced internationally, most recently in Singapore, China and South Korea. She gives keynote speeches and leads masterclasses on the aesthetics of access internationally (China, Portugal, Spain, Singapore, Belgium, Germany in 2022-23). Mentee on Women in Film and TV mentoring scheme 2023.

In Development

INVISIBLE	Pilot Episode Script Boom Cymru	Pilot Episode Script for an original TV drama series commissioned by Boom Cymru
THE LAND IS CALLING THROUGH THE BODY	Short Dance Films. Writer/director/dramaturg: Kaite. British Council: Connections Through Culture	Commissioned by British Council: Connections Through Culture, this production features short dance films with Welsh and Indian artists.

Film and Radio Credits

THE ALMOND AND THE SEAHORSE	2023/24	Feature Film Mad as Bird Films	<i>Screenplay by Kaite and Celyn Jones adapted from Kaite's award-nominated play about traumatic brain injury and directed by Celyn Jones and Tom Stern: starring Rebel Wilson and Charlotte Gainsbourg.</i> Theatrical release across US, Australia and UK in 2024.
PRIDE AND PROTEST	2022	Directed by John Norton. BBC Radio 4	<i>Saturday Drama, a powerful examination of disability rights, anger, friendship, and womanhood, featuring an all disabled and Deaf cast. BBC Radio 4's Drama of the Week.</i>

Recent Theatre Credits

THE REDEMPTION OF THOMAS SHELBY	2022-	Dramaturg & Narration Director Rambert	Peaky Blinders Dance production by Steven Knight, directed/choreographed by Benoit Swan Pouffer.
MISSING JULIE	2021	Kaite's new version of Strindberg's 'Miss Julie' For Theatre Clwyd. Directed by Chelsea Walker. Produced by Tamara Harvey	<i>'O'Reilly's text is a lucid and lyrical exploration of the mores of the time, filled with beautiful textual images.... Missing Julie is an utterly contemporary tragedy.'</i> The Guardian <i>'An intense evening...it grips throughout, capturing the audience's attention with ease... a thoroughly worthwhile return to live theatre.'</i> Theatre Review North <i>'O'Reilly deftly handles the complexity of issues at hand. She has created dialogue that is bursting with relevance.'</i> What's On Stage
THE BEAUTY PARADE	2020	Writer, Librettist & Co-Director: Kaite. Wales Millenium Centre Music theatre with visual, sung, projected and spoken	<i>'... O'Reilly is one of Wales' – indeed, the UK's – most accomplished makers of theatre that places D/deaf and disability culture at its core. More visceral than some of her other works, The Beauty Parade might be as affecting as anything she has achieved before...Rousing and affecting. 5 stars'</i> The Stage

		text. Co-director Phillip Zarrilli and composer Rebecca Applin.	<i>“O’Reilly’s creation is everything you could want future Welsh theatre to be.”</i> Wales Arts Review
RICHARD III REDUX OR SARA BEER [IS/NOT] RICHARD III	2018	Co-written with director Phillip Zarrilli for The Llanarth Group	<p><i>Shortlisted for the James Tait Black Prize</i></p> <p><i>‘Very, very funny...O’Reilly’s play and continually intrigues and excites by sparking new synapses between previously unconnected thoughts.... Richard III Redux is an insightful piece of disability art, mixing demonstrably excellent work by disabled people with biting social comment...My best advice is go and see it. You won’t regret it.’</i> Disability Arts Online</p> <p><i>‘...Excellent.... captivating.... confirmed by the loud, loving, standing ovation.’</i> Theatre in Wales Review</p>

Selected Plays pre-2018

COSY	2016	<p>Unlimited Commission, in association with Wales Millennium Centre, South Bank Centre and Tramway, Glasgow.</p> <p>Directed by Phillip Zarrilli.</p>	<p><i>'...simultaneously the most moving and entertaining script I've heard on a Welsh stage in years... O'Reilly's writing is...breathlessly beautiful...'</i> New Welsh Review</p> <p><i>'...a dark dark comedy, a Chekhovian family saga on a mainly bare stage... brilliant and disconcerting comic...'</i> The Arts Desk, ****</p> <p><i>'Kaite O'Reilly proves yet again why she is amongst Britain's best playwrights'</i> Jafar Iqbal, Western Mail</p>
THE NINE FRIDAS	2014	<p>Mandarin premiere directed by Phillip Zarrilli at the Taipei International Theatre Festival with Mobius Strip Theatre Company.</p>	<p><i>Special Commendation, The Jane Chamber Award, USA.</i></p> <p>Transferred to Hong Kong Rep' in 2016.</p>
WOMAN OF FLOWERS	2014	<p>UK tour of Kaite's new adaptation of 'Bloudewydd' from 'The Mabinogion'.</p>	<p><i>'...mesmerising... compelling and intriguing piece of theatre for our times.... Kaite O'Reilly's script sparkles with her trademark wit and use of evocative language... visual, physical and visceral language which truly sings like a caged bird.'</i> Disability Arts Online</p>

		Directed by Kirstie Davis, Forest Forge Theatre Company.	
IN WATER I'M WEIGHTLESS	2012	Produced by National Theatre Wales, directed by John E McGrath. Wales Millennium Centre and London's Southbank Centre.	<p>Shortlisted for inaugural International James Tait Black Prize for Drama.</p> <p>'...sardonically funny....thrillingly vitriolic...' The Guardian</p> <p>'...Kaite O'Reilly's epic final monologue, a paeon to the "gem of the genome", "the glorious freak[s] of nature" who "broaden the scope of homosapien possibilities" [is] worthy almost of Shakespeare in its rhythm and intensity...' The Arts Desk</p> <p>An Unlimited Commission, part of the Cultural Olympiad to celebrate the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics, with an all disabled and Deaf cast.</p>
LEANER FASTER STRONGER	2012	A commission from Chol Theatre in a co-production with Sheffield Theatres. May 2012, Sheffield Crucible Theatre	<p>'...smart new play... engaging (and) eye-opening....Kaite O'Reilly's agile script... bristles with detail gleaned from impeccable research.' Sheffield Star</p> <p>Directed by Andrew Loretto, as part of the Cultural Olympiad.</p>

PERSIANS	2010	<p>Kaite's new version of Aeschylus' 'Persians' for National Theatre Wales</p> <p>A site-specific production on Ministry of Defence land in Brecon, directed by Mike Pearson</p>	<p><i>Winner of The Ted Hughes Award for New Works in Poetry</i></p> <p><i>'This is great theatre... extraordinary, one of the most imaginative, powerful and haunting theatrical events of the year.'</i> The Telegraph</p> <p><i>'This is a theatrical experience like no other.... O'Reilly's version is drenched in bloody poetry.... Unique and unforgettable.'</i> The Times</p>
THE ALMOND AND THE SEAHORSE	2008	<p>Sherman Cymru, Cardiff. Directed by Phillip Zarrilli.</p>	<p><i>Finalist in international Susan Smith Blackburn Prize</i></p> <p><i>'Unmissable drama ... Throughout Kaite O'Reilly's tremendous new play ... extraordinary scenarios are tenderly drawn and powerfully realised in Phillip Zarrilli's beautifully judged production. 5 stars *****'</i> The Guardian</p> <p><i>'O' Reilly passionately believes in the need to stage issues of disability in mainstream theatre. Her award-winning work... stands testimony to this passion. But this play goes far beyond simply providing a platform for the playwright's political agenda: this is a powerful drama, beautifully written, which says as much about the universal themes of life, love, death and devotion as it does about disability.'</i> British Theatre Guide</p>

PERFECT	2004	Contact Theatre, Manchester. Directed by John E. McGrath	<i>Best New Play, Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards</i>
PEELING	2002	<p>The first production of Peeling opened at The Door, Birmingham Rep Theatre, In February 2002, and toured nationally, culminating at the Soho Theatre, London, in April 2002.</p> <p>Graeae Theatre Company</p>	<p><i>Best New Writing Award, Theatre Wales Awards.</i></p> <p><i>'... humorous, sardonic, disbelieving, outraged, foul-mouthed, quarrelsome, defiant ... O'Reilly's dialogue has the punch and sparseness of the late Sarah Kane's suicide play, 4.48 Psychosis...'</i> The Times</p> <p><i>'...strong, eloquent and funny, the piece has a cumulative power...had me, for one, close to tears...'</i> Financial Times</p> <p>The second production opened at The Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, in August 2003, before embarking on a second national and small European tour. Venues include Clwyd Theatr, Cymru; Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff; Theatre Montansier, Versailles, France.</p>
YARD	1998	The Bush Theatre, London.	<i>Peggy Ramsay Award for most innovative play of the year</i>