

# John O'Donovan

Writer

Represented by:

Jessica Stewart



John is a writer from County Clare, Ireland. He has written pilots for Element Pictures and Wiip/Workshop Pictures. He is currently under commission at the Abbey Theatre and was the winner of the 2025 Adopt a Playwright Award. His debut play *If We Got Some More Cocaine I Could Show You How I Love You* premiered in London in 2016 to critical acclaim before tours and productions in Ireland, Spain and Australia. It is published by Bloomsbury. *Sink* premiered at the 2019 Dublin Fringe, while *Flights* toured Ireland & the UK in 2020. *Flights* & *Sink* are published by Nick Hern Books. In 2020 he wrote the short video-play *Your Hands* featuring Nicola Coughlan for *Dear Ireland* at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. John won the 2022 Phelim Donlon/ITI Bursary, the 2018 BBC Radio/Stewart Parker Drama Award, 2017 IARA award for best playwright and a Vault Festival London award, along with two Peggy Ramsay Awards. He's had stories and articles published in the Irish Times, Verbal Arts, Bare Fiction and Crannóg magazines. He was one of UCD's inaugural Creative Fellows where he occasionally teaches and mentors, and regularly teaches creative writing in Limerick Youth Service. Previous attachments include Royal Court Young Writers Programme, the Old Vic 12, the Orange Tree Writers Collective, BBC Writers Room TV Drama Writers' Programme and the Irish Theatre Institute's *Six in the Attic*.

## THEATRE

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2020	YOUR HANDS	Abbey Theatre	Short play as part of the Abbey Theatre's Dear Ireland series. Cast: Nicola Coughlan
2020	FLIGHTS	glór, Project Arts, Omnibus Clapham	Produced by One Duck Theatre Company. Directed by Thomas Martin. Cast: Colin Campbell, Rhys Dunlop, Conor Madden
2019	SINK	Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin Fringe Festival	Full length, produced by One Duck Theatre Company. Directed by Thomas Martin. Cast: Rachel Feeney.
2018	IF WE GOT SOME MORE COCAINE I COULD SHOW HOW I LOVE YOU	Project Arts, glór, Druid, Vault	Full length, produced by One Duck Theatre Company. Directed by Thomas Martin. Cast: Alan Mahon and Josh Williams. Highly Commended Vault Festival 2018.
2018	NOW AND AT THE HOUR	Bush Theatre	Full length play developed for three days, in association with the Bush. Directed by Sara Joyce. Cast: Eileen Walsh, Aidan Kelly and Doireann May White.
2017/18	THE DIVIDE	Old Vic and Edinburgh International Festival	by Alan Ayckbourn. Wrote lyrics for a selection of songs to be included as part of the play; and dramaturged the development of the play from a two-part seven hour script to a single-part 3-hour play. Music by Chris Nightingale. Directed by Annabel Bolton.

2017	TRIO (Workshop)	National TheatreStudio	Workshop developing new work, in association with the Orange Tree. Directed by Guy Jones. Cast: Eileen Walsh, Ian Lloyd Anderson, Alice Haig.
2017	HY BRASIL	Old Vic	Full length, commissioned and produced by the Old Vic, as part of the Old Vic 12. Presented at the Old Vic 23 June 2017. Directed by Lekan Lawal. Cast: Jamie Beamish, Ash Hunter, Eileen O'Higgins, Ciaran Owens, Josie Walker.
2017	JOHNNY	Orange Tree Theatre	Short, produced at the Orange Tree Theatre, as part of Uprising Festival. Directed by Ola Ince. Cast: Jackie Clune, Finbar Lynch, Danushia Samal.
2017	THE VERTIGO ANGST OF DOUGHMORE BEACH	Arcola Theatre	Short, produced by the Miniaturists at the Arcola Theatre. Directed by Lucy Atkinson. Cast: Alan Mahon, Nicola Coughlan, Greg Patmore.
2016	IF WE GOT SOME MORE COCAINE I COULD SHOW YOU HOW I LOVE YOU	Old Red Lion	Full length, produced at the Old Red Lion by ORL, Sam Julyan and Will Bourdillon. Premiered 30 August 2016. Directed by Thomas Martin. Cast: Ammar Duffus and Alan Mahon. Critics' Choice Time Out.
2016	MONOLOGUE FOR NEW HORIZONS	New Diorama	Short. Commissioned by New Horizons. Directed by Tom Birch. Cast: Anna Spearpoint.
2015	ZUGUNRUHE	RADA	Full length. Rehearsed reading at RADA, produced by Lloyd Trott. Directed by Michael Fentiman. Cast: Tia Bannon, Burt Caesar, Cary Crankson, Gráinne Keenan, Ed MacLiam, Jake Mann, Mairéad McKinley, Denis Quilligan
2013	THE STARVELING	Arcola Theatre	Short, produced by the Miniaturists at the Arcola Theatre. Directed by Sarah Chew. Cast: Darci Debrett, Eoin Geoghegan, Michael Quinlan.

## TELEVISION

PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
CHANCERS	Wiip/Workshop Pictures	Pilot
OPEN COUNTRY	Element / BBC	Writing pilot as part of the BBC TV Drama Writers Programme
UNTITLED	Kudos North	Treatment Commission

## COURSES/AWARDS/ATTACHMENTS

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	PROJECT DETAILS
2025	Adopt A Playwright Award	
2022-23	Irish Theatre Institute Six in the Attic	
2022	Abbey Theatre/Centre Culturel Irlandais International Artist Residency for Theatre-Makers	
2022	Irish Theatre Institute - Phelim Donlon Bursary	

2019–2021	University College Dublin Creative Fellowship	
2020	Peggy Ramsay Award 2020	
2019	Stewart Parker Trust Award: BBC Radio Drama Award Winner	
2018	Peggy Ramsay Award	
2018	BBC Writers Room, Drama Room	
2017	Old Vic 12	Year-long association, plus commission
2017	IARA Award for Best Playwright	
2017	Orange Tree Writer's Collective	Year long association with the theatre
2015	Abbey Theatre Playwright's Hub	
2013	RADA Advances in Scriptwriting	
2011	Royal Court Young Writers' Programme	