

# Trailblazers

Trinity has a proud tradition of inspiring those who study and work within its walls to challenge norms and think creatively. Many who have walked through Front Gate have gone on to make a big impact in their disciplines. This is a small selection of those brilliant trailblazers.

## **Ed Guiney B.B.S. (1988)**

Ed Guiney is a producer and co-founder of film production and distribution company Element Pictures. Ed has been nominated for two Academy Awards for Best Picture (*The Favourite* and *Room*) and has won two BAFTAs (*The Favourite* and *Omagh*). Recent productions include *The Favourite*, which won seven BAFTAs and was nominated for 10 Academy Awards, with Olivia Colman winning Best Actress; *Disobedience*, starring Rachel Weisz, Rachel McAdams and Alessandro Nivola; and *Room*, directed by Lenny Abrahamson and starring Brie Larson, which was nominated for four Academy Awards, with Larson winning Best Actress. The film was also nominated for three Golden Globes, with Larson winning a Golden Globe and a Screen Actors Guild award. Previous productions include Yorgos Lanthimos' *The Lobster*, starring Colin Farrell and Rachel Weisz, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. Element's current television productions include *Normal People*, adapted by and based on Sally Rooney's novel of the same name, directed by Lenny Abrahamson and filmed partly in Trinity. Element Pictures operates the Light House Cinema, one of Dublin's premiere art house cinemas, and Pálás, a three-screen cinema in Galway.



Ed Guiney



## **Sally Hayden M.Sc. (2016)**

Sally Hayden is a freelance journalist and photographer reporting on migration, conflict, humanitarian crises and human rights across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. She has worked for outlets including VICE News, *The Washington Post*, *Time* magazine, *Newsweek*, *ELLE* magazine, Al Jazeera, *The Guardian*, Magnum Photos, RTÉ, *The Irish Times*, BBC and CNN. She won first prize in the European Migration Media Awards last year, as well as the Foreign Coverage Award at the Newsbrands Ireland Journalism Awards, for her reporting on Syrian refugee returns, Boko Haram in North East Nigeria, and smuggling routes through Sudan. Sally was also a finalist of the Amnesty International Gaby Rado Award for Best New Journalist and is listed as one of *Forbes* magazine's 30 Under 30 for media in Europe in 2019.



## **Anna Davies M.A. (2005)**

Professor of Geography, Environment and Society at Trinity, Anna Davies won the highly prestigious Irish Research Council Researcher of the Year Award in 2018. She is the director of the Environmental Governance Research Group, Principal Investigator of the ERC project SHARECITY and a Principal Investigator within the SFI Spoke ENABLE. Anna is a Governing Board member of the International Science Council; the European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production; the Future Earth Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production Knowledge

Action Network; and the Rediscovery Centre. She currently advises the Irish Government as a member of the National Climate Change Advisory Council. Widely published, Anna has produced more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, books, chapters, digital media shorts, exhibition installations and policy reports.



### **James Patrice B.A. (2011)**

James Patrice is a presenter and one of Ireland's leading social media influencers, with an online following of over 160,000. James is a regular on our TV screens, appearing as a reporter on *RTÉ Today* each week. After graduating from Drama and Theatre Studies and French in Trinity, James acted in numerous shows and shorts, but it was social media that allowed him to flourish. His popular Instagram and Snapchat channels saw him reach a wider audience and led him to bag the role of backstage reporter on RTÉ One's *Rose of Tralee*. He later nabbed the very same role on the station's highly successful version of *Dancing with the Stars*. James won the hearts of the nation when he appeared on *Celebrity Operation Transformation*, becoming an advocate for body confidence. He recently returned to his theatrical roots by starring in the Olympia Theatre pantomime.

### **Ciara Clancy B.Sc. Ph.D. (2012)**

Entrepreneur Dr Ciara Clancy worked with people with Parkinson's disease for a number of years before founding Beats Medical. Beats Medical is a digital therapeutics company which provides therapies for people with neurological conditions including Parkinson's and children with developmental conditions, in partnership with VHI. Her entrepreneurial work has received international recognition including her selection as the Laureate for Europe in the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards, inclusion in *Forbes* magazine's 30 Under 30, and a finalist in the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.



### **Mark Pollock B.A. (1998)**

Becoming blind in 1998 during his final year at Trinity, Mark became an adventure athlete, competing in ultra-endurance races across deserts, mountains,

and the polar ice caps, including becoming the first blind person to race to the South Pole. He also won silver and bronze medals for rowing at the Commonwealth Games. In 2010, a fall from a second story window left him paralysed. Now he is on a new expedition, this time to cure paralysis by exploring the intersection where humans and technology collide. As a speaker, Mark is best known for his 2018 TED Talk with his fiancée, Simone George, focused on resolving the tension between acceptance and hope. Co-founder of the global running series 'Run in the Dark', Mark has been selected by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader, is a former member of the Global Futures Council on Human Enhancement and is on the Board of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

### **Professor Aljosa Smolic**

Aljosa Smolic is the SFI Research Professor of Creative Technologies at Trinity. Before joining Trinity, Professor Smolic was the Senior Research Scientist and Head of the Advanced Video Technology group with Disney Research and a Scientific Project Manager with the Fraunhofer Heinrich-Hertz-Institut. At Disney Research, he led over 50 industrial R&D projects that have resulted in technology transfers to a range of Disney units, including film studios and TV broadcasters. Professor Smolic was Associate Editor of the *IEEE Transactions on Image Processing*. At Trinity, he is leading V-SENSE, a team of over 20 researchers in visual computing at the intersection of computer vision, computer graphics and media signal processing. They are building a dynamic environment where enthusiastic young scientists with different backgrounds get together to shape the future in fundamental and applied research projects. He has published over 150 referred papers in these fields and filed more than 35 patents.



### **Saint Sister:**

### **Gemma Doherty B.A. (2014) and Morgan MacIntyre B.A. (2014)**

Saint Sister are a duo from Northern Ireland. Since forming in 2014, the band has quickly established itself as one of the most talked about in Ireland. 2015's album *Madrid* was a breakout success, playlisted on BBC Radio 1, RTÉ and across European radio, enabling the band to tour extensively around Ireland, the UK and Europe. Festival highlights at Glastonbury, Electric Picnic and Latitude and support slots with Lisa Hannigan and Hozier have secured their reputation as a phenomenal live band. At home, they were voted the best band in Ireland by the readers of *The Irish Times*. The band released its debut album, *Shape of Silence*, to rave reviews and embarked on a 50-date world tour. Saint Sister was nominated for Choice Music Prize Song of the Year as well as the prestigious Album of the Year. The band completed a month-long tour of the USA with Henry Jamison, during which they filmed an NPR Tiny Desk concert to promote the new single *Is it too early?* (Kilmainham).