



PROCESS AND PRACTICE: ADAPTATION CONSIDERED AS A COLLABORATIVE ART

3-4 October 2014, University College Cork

Confirmed Key-Note: Thomas Leitch (Delaware)

John Banville will speak in interview about adaptation in the context of his work.

In a landmark essay of 2003, Thomas Leitch claimed that “several fundamental questions in adaptation theory remain unasked, let alone unanswered. Everyone knows, for example, that movies are a collaborative medium, but is adaptation similarly collaborative, or is it the work of a single agent—the screenwriter or director—with the cast and crew behaving the same way as if their film were based on an original screenplay?” Rather than returning to reductive but seemingly never-exhausted debates such as the fidelity issue, this conference takes Leitch’s question as its starting point, approaching adaptation from the point of view of the processes and practices involved. Looking at the debate from this perspective makes issues such as authorship, originality, genius, even appropriation less important than questions of collaboration, ensemble, engagement etc. which now become the critical factors in the consideration of an artwork. A focus on the “how?” of adaptation dismantles a hierarchical view of adaptation that is caught in the gravitational field of originality, fidelity and marked by such concepts as primacy and secondarity. Instead the artist is always understood to be in relation.

This conference invites contributions that focus therefore on the creative processes and practices involved in adaptation across the entire spectrum of genres and media. Contributions might consider adaptive processes and practices in terms of:

- The identity of the adapter? The roles of the writer, screenwriter, dramaturge, director, actor, translator, composer etc.
- Collaborative processes
- Audience and Reception
- Devising
- Re-contextualisation
- Re-mediation
- Adaptation in the “second degree”: adaptations of adaptations
- Transfer of knowledge (including adaptation in the context of “practice as research”)
- Brokering between idioms: communication between collaborators in the adaptive process

Abstracts of no more than 300 words for papers of 20 minutes should be submitted to the organizing committee at adaptconf2014@ucc.ie together with a short CV by Friday 28 February 2014.