

L'OBRAJOR D'ESTIU
SALA BECKETT

l'Obrador d'estiu 2026
12th – 18th July, Barcelona

PRESENTATION

For the last twenty years, **Sala Beckett / Obrador Internacional de Dramatúrgia** has organised **l'Obrador d'estiu**, an annual international meeting for emerging playwrights from around the world which consists of an intensive week-long programme featuring workshops, seminars, lectures and other activities based around contemporary playwriting and directed by some of today's leading playwrights and theatre teachers.

The increasingly broad international participation in our workshops and the attraction of Barcelona's cultural offer in July make it a thrilling prospect to be able to link two theatrical initiatives such as the Sala Beckett's l'Obrador d'estiu and Barcelona's Summer Theatre Festival GREC, since they mutually enrich and complement each other.



Thus, the nearly 150 professionals, from Catalonia and elsewhere, brought together by l'Obrador d'estiu in the 2026 edition will be able to enjoy the Festival GREC's theatrical and cultural programme once again. It will also help keep this Festival in touch with the new attitudes and youngest sensitivities of European and international playwriting.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYWRIGHTS' MEETING

Seminar coordinated by **Alistair McDowall**

Participation in this one-week seminar is closed. The participating emerging playwrights, recommended by international theatres and centres, will send in advance a short play based on a topic proposed by English playwright **Alistair McDowall** in their native language and in English. These plays will be translated into Catalan when necessary and will then be presented to the public.



Theatres, organizations and cultural centers involved in previous editions are: The Bienal Joven de Buenos Aires (Argentina); Teater Grob (Denmark); Eesti Teatri Agentuur (Estonia); TINFO/Theatre Info (Finland); Théâtre Ouvert, Institut Français and SACD (France); the Festival Theatertreffen and Stuckemarkt of Berlin (Germany), with the support of the Goethe Institut-Barcelona; PAV (Italy); Unge Viken Teater (Norway); Artistas Unidos and Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (Portugal); CEAD (Quebec); Centro Dramático Nacional (Spain); Galata Perform (Turkey); the Royal Court Theatre, Paines Plough Company and the British Council (UK); PlayCo (USA) or INAE (Uruguay).

ALISTAIR MCDOWALL



Alistair McDowall grew up in the North East of England.

Plays include: *all of it*, *The Glow*, *X*, *Talk Show* (Royal Court); *Zero for the Young Dudes!* (National Theatre Connections); *Pomona* (Orange Tree Theatre/National Theatre/Royal Exchange); and *Captain Amazing* and *Brilliant Adventures* (Live Theatre/Royal Exchange).

Awards and Fellowships include: Abraham Woursell Award (2016-2021); MacDowell Fellow (2018); Harold Pinter Commission (2018); Bruntwood Prize Judge's Award (2011).

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
Coordinated by Alistair McDowall
From 12th to 18th July**

**Only the Lonely:
Isolation in the hyperconnected age**

Loneliness has existed for as long as there has been life.

But recent societal shifts have threatened to make isolation our default state. We now spend more time alone than ever before, and the impacts on our mental and physical health are clear.

Existential threats that require communal solutions - the climate crisis, the rise of the far-right - are festering as we choose to live solitary lives in front of screens, which have sold us the illusion of community at the expense of real connection with our fellow citizens.

As we sit alone inside, there is less pressure for our governments to address societal issues, or invest in our communities and public services.

Is theatre, as a communal art form, best placed to speak to our age of isolation?
How?

Is there a road out of our current "loneliness epidemic"?
And if there is, will we choose to take it?

*"Most human beings are inescapably alone,
and therein lies their tragedy."
Richard Yates*

Alistair McDowall