

FRANCES TOMELTY - Writer

Frances Tomelty is the youngest daughter of the late actor playwright Joseph Tomelty. She was born in Belfast and raised both in the city and on the Antrim coast. She was educated at St. Vincent's Primary School and at Rathmore House Convent. She was an enthusiastic member of Patricia Mulholland's Irish Ballet Company and is still known to dance the odd reel round her kitchen. She left school in the middle of her last term to join the Belfast Arts Theatre as an acting Assistant Stage Manager. She then left for London and after the usual vicissitudes appeared at The Royal Court Theatre in Wilson John Haires "Within Two Shadows" which won an Evening Standard Award and was the first play to deal with the current "Troubles". It was a good showcase and kick-started her career.

She has been a leading member of the Royal Shakespeare Company and has enjoyed extensive appearances on television, stage and film. She greatly enjoys her radio work and is an award winning audio book reader.

CORONATION DAY a short produced by Flying Fox Films and directed by Tony Knox for BBC Northern Ireland's **NORTHERN LIGHTS** strand was Frances' writing debut. Frances also developed a full length script **TWELFTH WEEK (or THE CARNLOUGH DUTCHMAN)**. This mixes sexual awakening for a trio of young girls in a small town in 1960's Ulster with an energetic build up to an Orange Day parade.

Original radio work for the BBC includes several short stories for Radio 4: **CHANGING ROOMS** (part of a season of new Irish writing, spring 2005); **PIZZA MARGHERITA** (Hallowe'en, 2006); **SPARKS** (Valentine's Day, 2008) and a comedy pilot script **JOYCE MISKIMMON** (BBC Radio Ulster, 2006). Frances is also writing a novel **ANOTHER SHADE OF GREY**.

Frances wrote a hugely popular weekly lifestyle column in the Saturday edition of the Belfast Telegraph from February to September 2005 and continues as an occasional guest columnist for the paper.

Frances lives between London and New York.

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