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FRANCES TOMELTY

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 is developing 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.

Frances wrote a hugely popular weekly lifestyle column in the Saturday edition of the Belfast Telegraph from February to September 2005 and continues as a guest columnist for the paper. Several of Frances' short stories have been transmitted on BBC Radio 4: **CHANGING ROOMS** was part of a season of new Irish writing in spring 2005, while **PIZZA MARGHERITA** went out in the 2006 Hallowe'en season and her latest story **SPARKS** will be recorded shortly. Other radio work includes a comedy pilot script **JOYCE MISKIMMON** for BBC Radio Ulster. She is also writing a novel about an all girl dance band set in 1920's Ulster **ANOTHER SHADE OF GREY**.

Frances lives between London and New York.

July 2008