

*Feminist Research  
Institute Spring  
Lecture Series Presents:*

A MASTERPIECE AT  
THE ABBEY

MISS DEEVY'S NEW PLAY

My knowledge of Miss Teresa Deevy's previous work had prepared me for a vital and unusual play, but not for a masterpiece. Masterpiece is a word to be used sparingly, but I have no hesitation in applying it to Miss Deevy's "Katie Roche."

*The Deafening Defiance of  
Miss Deevy: Feminism and  
Disability on the Irish Stage*



*Dr. Sarah Townsend  
SUB Cherry/Silver  
March 19, 2018  
12-1pm*

Teresa Deevy was one of the most promising and prolific playwrights of her generation. From 1930 to 1936, six of her plays were produced at the illustrious Irish National Theatre on Abbey Street in Dublin. One was awarded the institution's best play award, and another toured with the company in America. Why, then, did Deevy fall into literary obscurity by the end of the decade? Professor Sarah Townsend explores the archives at Maynooth University in search of answers. Combing through correspondence, notebooks, and manuscripts, she situates the playwright's brief career within the shifting artistic and political landscape of 1930s Ireland. Deevy's unapologetic feminism onstage, her criticism of state censorship offstage, and her status as a deaf unmarried woman all contributed to her marginalization. But the story does not end there. Townsend also discusses the recent resurrection of Deevy's work by a group of women playwrights, actors, directors, and theatre professionals who have resumed the call for a more equitable Irish stage.

