

## PREMIS

The Literary Research Seminar of the English Department at Åbo Akademi University  
16-18, Wednesday 27 February in Helikon (A202), Arken

### KEVIN DOYLE

#### Consolidation and Its Discontents: "Let Us Compare Dramaturgies!"

**Kevin Doyle** [IE/US] is a writer and director of interdisciplinary theatre and film currently working as the 2018-2019 **Saari Invited Artist** at the Saari Residence for artists and researchers in Mynämäki, maintained by **Kone Foundation**. The author of twelve plays and screenplays, his texts have been translated into French, Romanian, and Swedish; receiving productions in seven countries. Doyle grew up next to a New York prison and lives in the shadow of unnecessary sports stadiums. He has won several honors for his work including: the Thornton Wilder Fellowship at **The MacDowell Colony**; a USArtists International Award from **Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation**; an Individual Artist Fellowship from the **Asian Cultural Council**; and as Artist in Residence at **The Watermill Center**.

Major global powers and politics figure centrally in his plays, such as **W.M.D. (just the low points)** – a deconstruction of American intelligence failures prior to the Iraq War – and – **when after all, it was you and me (or the genocide play)** – an examination on the history of Western governments' responses to genocide in the modern era. His recent theatre project – **THE ARTS** – investigated the history of public funding for the arts in the United States; and premiered in 2018 at the TONY Award winning **La MaMa Experimental Theatre** in New York City. Doyle writes on intersections between the media, the arts, and politics as a contributing writer at **DIGGIT Magazine** in The Netherlands.

Doyle is one of the few Americans who accurately predicted how and why **Donald Trump** would win the 2016 Presidential Election. Conversely, he also predicted how and why **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** would win her 2018 primary election in New York City. During his lecture at **Åbo Akademi**, Doyle will connect these observations from driving and walking through abandoned regions of the United States and his native New York – to his ongoing theatre and film work with garment workers in **Bangladesh** and Iraqi refugees living in Sweden. Doyle will share aspects of his current research in Finland – ranging from the structural dangers to public discourse posed by social media and superhero movies -- to the failure of contemporary artists to confront consolidation in the arts sector in the face of declining public interest. For more information, please visit: [doylekevin.com](http://doylekevin.com).



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