



Dan Colley Residency by Em Ormonde

Residencies and Artist Supports 2021

Artist Support Programme

Supporting artists and the creation of work is a strategic priority for Riverbank Arts Centre. We offer a variety of artist-centred residency and bursary opportunities including:

- a multi-annual residency and bursary programme to develop artistic practice
- short term residencies (through Open Call)
- and once-off residencies for artists
- commissioning or co-commissioning of new work by individual arts or companies, for ongoing development, presentation, or touring.

These residencies and bursaries provide practical support to artists to make work but also serve to allow the venue to engage creatively with our audiences and wider community through workshops and work-in-progress sharings. In many cases, these residency programmes enable Riverbank Arts Centre and our artists to garner feedback from audiences which can shape the development of the work and enrich our audiences engagement with the artform.

BURSARIES:

In May 2021 we announced the two recipients of the Riverbank Arts Centre Music Bursary - Kildare-based musicians **Eimear Crehan** and **Freya Monks**. The primary objective of this new bursary scheme is to provide opportunities for professional musicians to develop their practice and/or to create and develop new work. The two bursaries awarded as part of this programme comprise a cash bursary (**€5000**) and additional support-in-kind provided by Riverbank Arts Centre (space, mentorship etc). Following an open call in April, 40 applications were received from Kildare-based musicians and music artists. The standard was exceptionally high and Riverbank Arts Centre worked with an independent panel of music professionals (Cathal Synott & Farah Elle) to assess the applications. In addition to the bursaries, Riverbank Arts Centre will present Eimear Crehan in concert in 2021 and Freya Monks in 2022.



COMMISSIONS:



Riverbank Arts Centre has commissioned Fizz&Chips to create ***Never Mind The Weather***, with the support of a commission award by The Arts Council.

Never Mind The Weather is an outdoor performance for schools on the themes of adaptivity and resilience. The company developed the work via ZOOM in March and April. The creative team includes: Performers: LA Feeny & Orlaith Ní Chearra; Director: Martha Fitzgerald; AD & Dramaturg:

Lindsey Woods; Sound Designer: Niall Clarke; Production Designer: Ellen Finnerty; Movement Director: Niamh McGowan; Assistant Designer & Movement Director: Catherine Walsh and Producer: Orla Tubridy. This new theatre work will be performed as an in-progress showing through the classroom windows of primary schools in Kildare.

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Dan Colley - Multi-Annual Residency

Theatre-maker Dan Colley completed a 2-year artist residency hosted by Riverbank Arts Centre and at various locations in Co. Kildare which enabled:

- Research and development of three new theatre projects; **Lossless (now Lost Lear)**, **The Wren** and **Sugar Plum**
- Development of his own artistic practice through research and writing
- Development of the artistic practice of collaborating artists and providing paid employment opportunities for theatre artists and technicians throughout the residency period.

Speaking of his recent work on **Lost Lear** at Riverbank Arts Centre, Dan Colley says:

“The process involves a lot of messing about with the source material in a rehearsal room with actors and musicians. We also have some of the more tactile elements of the design in the room with us; prototype puppets, costume, certain elements of the set and perhaps the video and lighting design. We call it playful exploration. Or serious play. It's a process that produces a lot of material - more than we could ever put in one play. Then, in a kind of parallel part of the process, we gradually hone that playfully created material into the final performance.”

This takes a lot of time and space - and that's what makes the Riverbank residency indispensable to the work. The residency was funded by the Arts Council, Riverbank and Kildare County Council. It buys space for me to do research, run community workshops, and time to work with collaborators on this playful exploration that eventually leads to new theatre being made.”

Images from residency (photos by Em Omonde):



Theatre Lovett – Three-week residency in August 2021

Riverbank Arts Centre supported **Theatre Lovett** in the creation of **The Teddy Bears' Picnic**, a new work for young audiences.

Cast and creative team included in this creation process included:

Writer – Louis Lovett (Joint Artistic Director)

Director – Louis Lovett

Cast – Julie Maguire and John Doran

Producer – Muireann Ahern (Joint Artistic Director)

Set Design – Molly O’Catháin

Lighting Design – Zia Bergin-Holly

Costume Design – Katie Davenport

Composer – Louis Lovett

Sound Design – Carl Kennedy

Stage Graphic Design – Kate Heffernan

Prop Maker – Sue Crawford

Theatre Lovett Associate Producer – Collette Haverty

Company Administrator – Aoife O’Beirne

Production Manager – Lisa Mahony

Stage Manager – Caoimhe Regan

Set Construction – Ger Clancy

Chief LX – Suzie Cummins

AV – Laura Rainsford



Photos by Ros Kavanagh

This residency period enabled the company to undertake a full tech of the new work, document/film the work in the theatre and present extracts live to a test family audience. This work will open at Riverbank Arts Centre in 2022, funding permitting.

Darn Skippy Productions - September



Darn Skippy Productions were offered a short residency period to develop **Waterbirth**, a new play about motherhood and climate change. In addition, Riverbank Arts Centre supported a work-in-progress presentation and creative workshop for audiences to engage with this new work and offer feedback to the artists.

Creative team for **Waterbirth**:

Written & Directed by Roseanne Lynch

Music & Musical Direction by Richard Lennon

Movement Direction by Rachel Ní Bhraonáin

Performed by Fiona Lucia McGarry, Rachel Ní Bhraonáin, Richard Lennon & Roseanne Lynch.