



Residencies and Artist Supports 2022

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 audience's engagement with the artform.

BURSARIES:

In 2021, RAC established a Music Bursary - a cash award to support Kildare-based professional musicians/music artists. 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. In June 2022 we announced four new recipients of the Riverbank Arts Centre Music Bursary - **Jack Colleran, Megan O'Neill, Carrie Haskins** and **Kasia Eliasz**. The four bursaries awarded as part of this programme each comprise a cash bursary (€2500) and additional support-in-kind (space, mentorship etc).



COMMISSIONS:



Riverbank Arts Centre 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 Feeney & 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 was performed in school yards of primary schools in Kildare and Carlow in September, 2022.

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:



Images from residency (photo by Em Omonde)

- Research and development of three new theatre projects; **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.”