



Residencies and Artist Supports 2023

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.

RESIDENCY SCHEMES

Navigator Programme: Riverbank Arts Centre partnered with Improvised Music Company on a 14-day residency for a musician in Autumn 2023. This residency offers a professional musician time and space to develop and perform work, and is an opportunity to grow audiences for improvised music, and also engage with local music artists and audiences. The artist selected for 2023 was Cora Venus Lunny.

Meitheal: Riverbank Arts Centre is a partner of Branar's creative production services pilot programme Meitheal. This initiative, managed by Branar, is designed to support artists creating and producing performing arts for young audiences across Ireland. In 2023, Meitheal's first venue-based Producer-In-Residence was appointed by the Meitheal programme team, hosted and mentored by RAC for 12 months. Funded by Meitheal, with in-kind support by RAC, this producer supported several Meitheal artists' presentations at RAC and touring work by these artists. Caoimhe Whelan was selected as emerging producer in residence by the Branar Meitheal team for 2023.

Run of the Mill: In 2023, RAC supported and hosted 'Connections' a new poetry film from Mark Smith, renowned Irish poet Colm Keegan and Arcade Film, an exclusive screening of the Oscar-Qualifying short film Headspace by Aisling Byrne (film programme & talk) and Samba workshops & performance co-created and performed by The Run of the Mill Community Group and Ta Tum Tum! (Kasia Eliaz, William Kanela and Marcio Tarktarov) EDI

OUR PLACE: a collaborative, socially engaged project by Dr Sinead McCann and AlanJames Burns, with participants from Saint John of God Liffey Service. In partnership with Kildare Arts Service, we will offer a week-long residency and support the artists to develop an accessible, inclusive exhibition at McKenna Gallery, based on their film work of the same title. EDI

SHORT-TERM RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITIES: Emerging and established artists and companies were offered short term residency opportunities throughout 2023 (between 5-10 days in the venue, In-Kind support and mentoring). These residencies 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.

Other artists and companies we offered support to in 2023 include:



-**Susan Connolly** - developing her play *Bring Them In* (based on her time in Goldenbridge) in collaboration with Noelle Brown and Emilie Pine EDI

-**Emma Finegan** - developing a new autobiographical theatre work inspired by queer identity, being a Gaeilgeoir and living on the Curragh.

-**Selma Daniel & Cibele Sabione**: exploring the singing voice & dance movement.

-**Brenda Donohue, Tanya Dean & Lianne O'Shea**: Rehearsed reading of a new translation of a work by contemporary Italian playwright Emma Dante.

-**Lianne O'Shea and Matt Burke**: The role of lighting design in live performance.

-**Fizz&Chips** developing *Juno and the Jetpacks* and a new dance work *Deirfiúr*.

Dan Colley - Multi-Annual Residency

Continuation of four-year residency with theatre-maker Dan Colley, hosted by Riverbank Arts Centre and at various locations in Co. Kildare

Residency activity:

- Premiere of new work **The Wrens**
- Research and development of new theatre projects including **A Nativity Play** and **Coyote** and street/film performance, **A Painted Man**.
- 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.

In addition, Riverbank Arts Centre acts as co-producer for National and international touring work which was created as part of this residency. In 2023, **A Very Old Man With Enormous**



Wings travelled to leading festivals and venues supported by Culture Ireland including:

- STET, The Hague, Netherlands
- Irish Arts Center, New York, USA
- Ottawa Children's Arts Festival, Ottawa, Canada
- Brighton Festival, Brighton, UK
- Imagine, Edinburgh, UK

NETWORKS

Strollers - PROPEL

2023 saw the delivery of cycle 3 of the PROPEL Artist Development Programme. A newly established artist support initiative that utilises the network's existing infrastructure, resources, and wider network partnerships to support the sustainable development of independent theatre makers working within the Irish theatre and dance sector. The programme is delivered over three years, in three graduating cycles (early, mid, final). Supporting a maximum of three artists per year, over a three-year period. The aim of this programme is to strengthen the ecology of the Irish theatre sector by firstly supporting the development of new work by independent theatre makers, and secondly by supporting the long-term sustainable development of artists through capacity building and strategic professional development.

PROPEL Artists: Roisin Whelan (year 2 in 2023); Shane O'Reilly (year 1 in 2023), Choy-Ping Clarke-Ng 吳彩萍(artist selected for 2024).

Network for Extraordinary Audiences - Riverbank Arts Centre is a partner of a network founded by Anna Newell Theatre Adventures which aims to develop, promote and advance work for diverse audiences. EDI

LIVE Network - promotes and explores literature as an artform, discovering new connections, partnerships, formats, and projects that connect RAC with new audiences and make literature a more visible artform within our venue. In addition, the Network seeks to support writers and literary makers in their ambitions to tour, workshop and engage with readers digitally and in person.

NOMAD - In 2023, the NOMAD partners supported a development phase of Livin' Dred's new production of The Playboy of The Western World, directed by Aaron Monaghan among other productions.