

## Riverbank Arts Centre - Activity Report 2024



*Residency week for Jess Rowell, Other Worlds*

### **CONTENTS:**

- P. 1 INTRODUCTION - WHAT IS RIVERBANK ARTS CENTRE?
- P. 2 PROGRAMME/PRESENTATION - MUSIC, THEATRE, CINEMA, COMEDY
- P. 4 VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMME
- P. 6 FAMILY PROGRAMME
- P. 8 EDUCATION PROGRAMME
- P. 10 OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
- P.11 ARTIST SUPPORT PROGRAMME
- P. 13 LOCAL ARTS PRESENTATIONS & COLLABORATIONS
- P. 13 PRODUCERS/CO-PRODUCERS OF TOURING WORK
- P. 14 TEAM/BOARD & PRESENTING PARTNERS

# INTRODUCTION - WHAT IS RIVERBANK?

Riverbank Arts Centre is the county arts centre based in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, funded by The Arts Council and Kildare County Council. Riverbank Arts Centre works in partnership with international, national and local artists to deliver an accessible and consistently high quality arts programme in an intimate environment. We provide a multi-disciplinary programme which includes theatre, cinema, comedy, music, dance, workshops and visual arts.

With a dedicated children's gallery and programming of high quality theatre and workshops for younger audiences, Riverbank is also committed to promoting early engagement with and access to the arts.

Riverbank Arts Centre is a producer and co producer of new work. We work closely with visual artists and theatre artists to develop and present work, with a particular focus on arts experiences for young people. We commission exhibitions, host residencies and have presented world premieres of work by leading theatre companies including Theatre Lovett, Monkeyshine, Moonfish, Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company, Branar Téatar do Pháistí, Collapsing Horse, and Super Paua.



*Members of KCAT on Riverbank's stage*

In 2024, Riverbank Arts Centre:

⇒ Presented live events including exhibitions & theatre, music, literary and family events for an audience of more than **26,000 people**.

⇒ Co-produced tours of **SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS** and **AN ATTEMPT TO TALK WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD** with Anna Newell Theatre Adventures

⇒ Presented a comprehensive programme for schools consisting of **workshops** and **live events in the venue** which **8,500 school children** took part in.

⇒ **Supported 100+ artists** as part of our **residency programmes**, ranging from Multi-Annual residencies to short term development residencies.

## PRESENTATION - MUSIC, THEATRE, CINEMA, LITERATURE

Riverbank Arts Centre presented a programme of live events from January - December



**MUSIC PROGRAMME:** Max Zanga Presents **Filmore**; Music Network Presents **Niamh Dunne, Bróna McVittie, Cormac Breatnach & Seán Ó Graham; Rónán Ó Snodaigh and Myles O'Reilly; Scullion**; Music Network Presents **Noa Wildschut, Pablo Barragán & Amadeus Wiesensee**; **Glory Days** - A Tribute to Bruce Springsteen; **Sharon Shannon** Now & Then Tour; **Jack Lukeman** - Echo On; Brigid, Gobnait and Sheela-na-Gig with **Edel Meade**; **The Illegals** with **Niamh Kavanagh**; Music Network Presents **Linda**

**Fredriksson; Eleanor McEvoy, Ye Vagabonds; Route 66 Big Band; The Classic Beatles; Seckou Keita; The Druids; The Ennio Morricone Experience; Cathy Jordan & The Crankie Island Song Project; Freddie White; Bruised Orange** - John Prine Tribute Band; **Brazilian Music Night** with **Kasia Eliaz & Her Band**; **Karen Underwood** - The Music of Nina Simone; **ABBA Sensations; Songwriters 'In the Round'**.

**THEATRE PROGRAMME:** Gemma Walker-Farren & Echo Echo Dance Theatre Present **GHOSTS**; Droichead Arts Centre and An Táin Arts Centre Present **Unguarded; Austen's Women - LADY SUSAN**; Mikel Murfi - **The Mysterious Case of Kitsey Rainey**; Once Off Productions Presents **The Hare; Fred & Alice**; Pan Pan's **Cascando by Samuel Beckett; Sightless Cinema**; Paddy Cullivan's **I Can't Believe It's Not Ireland; The Pension Plan; Morag, You're a Long Time Deid; Callings**; Fishamble The New Play Company Presents **Outrage by Deirdre Kinahan**; Púca Puppets Presents **The Holding Bones**.



**CINEMA PROGRAMME:** Napoleon; **The Peasants; Saltburn; Anatomy of a Fall**; Dance First; Ferrari; Poor Things; Fallen Leaves; Next Goal Wins; **The Taste of Things; American Fiction; The Zone of Interest**; The Need to GROW; Priscilla; Banel & Adama; All of Us Strangers; That **They May Face The Rising Sun**; Perfect Days; **Kneecap**; The Teachers' Lounge; Driving Madeleine; Green Border; Food, Inc. 2; Black Dog; Hard Miles; In Flames; Kinds of Kindness; **The Sparrow**; Widow

Clicquot; Thelma; The Crime is Mine; Rose; The Holdovers.

We celebrated the Dublin **International Film Festival** with a day of screenings: Shorts; Toni, en Famille; Mami Wata.



**LITERATURE:** In October Riverbank Arts Centre hosted nine live events over 4 days for **KILDARE READERS' FESTIVAL** including Words and Wonder: An Evening with Mike McCormack; Quickly, While They Still Have Horses: Exploring Short Stories with Jan Carson; Ten Books You Should Read; The Revelation of Ireland with Dermot Ferriter; Reeling in the Queers with Páraic Kerrigan and Anna Nolan; Debut Voices: Niamh Mulvey and Maggie Armstrong; On the Edge of the (other) Worldy: Hagstone; Sunday Sessions: Lives within Families and Belinda McKeown Introduces the Kildare Library & Arts

Services/Maynooth University Writer-in-Residence

**Other talks/events included** Irish Military Seminar; **Eco Lines** -Kildare Libraries' Festival of Climate, Readers, Writers and Changemakers curated by **Kerri ní Dochartaigh**; **Manchán Magan**: Rewilding the Mind: reconnecting to the spirit of the land.



**COMEDY:** Our comedy programme at Riverbank Arts Centre invariably results in sell-out shows and provides an audience development opportunity to place Riverbank Arts Centre on the radar of Kildare audiences seeking a good night out - in addition comedy often brings a younger /first-time audience to the arts centre. In 2024 we presented: **Pat & Faye Shortt** - Knuckle Down; **DirtBirds** - Girls World Tour; **Jarlath Regan** - Yer Man (x2 sold out shows); **Emma Doran** - Dilemma (x2 shows); **Neil Delamere** - Neil by Mouth; **Anne Gildea** - How To Get the Menopause

& Enjoy It; **Gearóid Farrelly**: Gearóid Rage; **David O'Doherty** - Tiny Piano Man; **Enya Martin** - Is It Just Me?; **Deirdre O'Kane** - O'Kaning It.

**WORKSHOPS/SHORT PROGRAMMES for young people included:** Manga Drawing with Amy Louise O'Callaghan; **Make Your Own Ragdoll** with Olga Anacka; **Puffin Rock Workshops**; **Make a Flipbook Workshop** with Joseph Orr; **Easter Art Camp** with Marta Golubowska; **Digi-Creators Camp**; **Intro to Comics** with Kate Escolin (x2); **Crazy Crafts and Whimsical Words** with Greg Sinclair; **Fighting Words**; **Pstryk!**; **Simple Plaster Casting** with Holly Delaney; **Creative Summer Camp** with Kate & Marta; **Creative Writing** with Emma-Jane Leeson; **BrickFlicks Stop Motion Animation Summer Camp**; **Illustration Workshop** with Jo Jo Gannon; **Halloween Art Camp** with Marta Golubowska; **Assemblage Workshop** with Caoimhe McGuckin.



**ADULT WORKSHOPS included:** **Mark-Making Workshop** with Martina McDonald; **Mixed-Media Collage Workshop** with Martina McDonald; **Finger Painting Workshop** with Martina McDonald; **Smartphone Photography with Light Painting Workshop** with Brian Cregan; **Online Poetry Workshop** for Long Haulers; **Sketchbook Club** with Kate Escolin (x10); **Smartphone Photography Skills** with Brian Cregan; **Natural Impressions Workshop** with Marta Golubowska (x2); **Patching Femininity Workshop** with Olga Anacka (x2); **Creating Dance Theatre** with Philippa Donnellan (x2); **Digital Illustration with Procreate;** **Writing Workshop** with Fíona Scarlett; **Simple Plaster Casting** with Holly Delaney; **Painting and Drawing Workshop** with Brianna Hurley; **Becoming Elder;** **Mixed Media Workshop** with Kym Tracey.



## Visual Arts Programme - McKenna Gallery

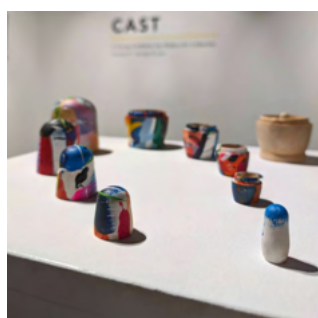


**FEB/MARCH: Patching Femininity** - Artist Olga Anacka explores and challenges visual representations of femininity and the female body in western culture.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Panel discussion featuring Olga Anacka, Michelle McBride, Teresa Buczkowska and Briana Fitzsimons; x2 workshops for adults and x2 workshops for children and LC gallery visit/school tours programme.

**APRIL/MAY: Bullet Points: Who, What, How We Commemorate** - A response to Kildare County Council Decade of Commemorations, highlighting the need to examine how we remember and connect with historical events.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Panel discussion chaired by exhibition curator Paula Barrett with artists Claire Halpin, Dominic Thorpe and Michael Rowley, and local historical reenactor Barry Walshe.



**JUNE: Cast** - Kildare Art Collective, a group exhibition. Founded in 2017, Kildare Art Collective provides a platform and ongoing opportunities for Kildare-based professional artists working across a broad spectrum of disciplines and themes.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Artist Michelle McBride facilitated an audio tour for persons with sight impairment. Holly Delaney hosted a family and adult workshop on plaster casting.

**JULY: Near Faraway Places**, an exhibition by Brianna Hurley and Thomas Barron, is a two person exhibition which brings together the work of artists Brianna Hurley and Thomas Barron to speak to the idea of 'places' that are both close and distant, familiar and unfamiliar, clear and indecipherable. Curated by Dominc Thorpe. Both artists are members of KCAT.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Painting and Drawing Workshop with Brianna Hurley; screening of *The Water Boys*.

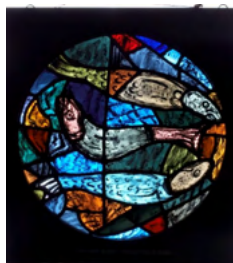


**SEPT/OCT: What's the Occasion?** by Kym Tracey, supported by RAC and Kildare Art Services Emerging Visual Artist Bursary Award, showcases a collection of original paintings, drawings and sculptures, inspired by celebrations, occasions and key moments in time – some of which hold a personal narrative to the artist.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Tours for Culture Night. LC gallery visit/school tours programme. Adult mixed media workshop.

**NOV/DEC: Beer and tea instead of Milk - Saidhbhín Gibson** explores how the shrinking habitats and indifference towards non-human life in Ireland could be seen as a new form of colonialism.

**ENGAGEMENT:** H U D D L E. LC gallery visit/tours programme and engagement materials



#### KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

RAC houses a number of works from Kildare County Council Municipal Art Collection including works by Evie Hone, Robert Ballagh, and Tim Mara. (Image: '3 Fishes' by Evie Hone.)

**VISUAL ART ENGAGEMENT CURATOR:** In March 2023, RAC appointed artist Martina McDonald as our Visual Arts Curator of Engagement, Learning & Participation. This role is to devise and develop an engagement and **creative learning plan** for the exhibitions programme. The Curator prepares materials, resources and exhibition assets for each exhibition in collaboration with the RAC marketing team and exhibiting artists. The curator also implements our EDI objectives and reaches out to new communities and to artists from diverse backgrounds.

#### Cover Illustration - Open Call

Since 2016, we've worked with numerous artists and illustrators by commissioning cover illustrations for our brochure. We offer a commission fee of €500 to three artists each year - in 2024 our cover artists were **Alexandra Craciun, Fiyin Oluokun & Jo Jo Gannon**.

## FAMILY PROGRAMME

Presenting work of excellence for young audiences is a strategic priority for Riverbank Arts Centre. In addition, we work closely with visual artists and theatre/dance artists to create and develop exemplary arts experiences for young people. 2024 was no exception with the following events for families: Selma Daniel Dance- **Befriending My Monster**; Paul Donnelly & Róisín Sheehy - **Yoga Fairy Tales**; Cinema - **Lu Over the Wall**; Cinema - **Puffin Rock and the New Friends**; **The Speks**; Kyle Riley - **Little Folk On The Road**; Cinema - **The Boy and the Heron**; Cinema - **The Smeds and The Smoos & Superworm**; Cinema - **Migration**; Cinema - **Robot Dreams**; Yoga and Poems with Paul Donnelly; Branar - **Ballad of a Bandit**; Cinema - **A Greyhound of a Girl**; **Ta Tum Tum!**; Cinema - **Kensuke's Kingdom**; Echo Echo Dance Theatre - **Winter's Dream**; Cinema - **Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical Sing a Long**.



**Cruinniú na nÓg** took place on Saturday 15th June. A day of free events for young persons, this year it included **Fighting Words Workshops** and **Pstryk!** workshops.



**EARLY YEARS: BabyLovesMusic Presents NightLight** by Eamon Sweeney; **AN ATTEMPT TO TALK WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD** by Anna Newell, in association with the Network for Extraordinary Audiences; **Music & Sensory Play** with Catherine Hartnett.

**OFFSITE:** Anna Newell Theatre Adventures: **Sing Me To The Sea** presented offsite at Enable Hydropool, Naas in July 2024, in collaboration with the Network for Extraordinary Audiences (**EDI**).

Riverbank Arts Centre acknowledges and believes that every person has the right to create, engage with, enjoy and participate in the arts. We are an active member of **The Network For Extraordinary Audiences**, seven Irish venues coming together to commit strategically and in the long-term to programming and developing high quality arts experiences for underserved younger audiences, including babies, Early Years and children/young people with complex needs as a key part of their ongoing year-round programme.



## VISUAL ART FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:

In 2024, Riverbank Arts Centre produced and curated a Visual Arts programme for children, presented in our Children's Gallery and offsite locations including exhibitions:

Jan-March: **Puffin Rock Habitats** - an immersive learning experience which introduces viewers to the rich diversity of plants and animals on Puffin Rock, and the intricate relationships within and between each habitat.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Illustrated talk for schools, family workshops, and numerous school tours.



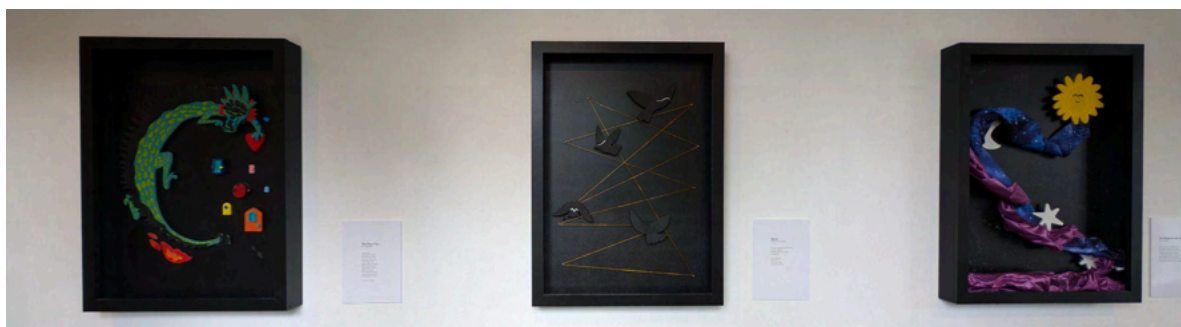
April-June: Greg Sinclair - **Seashells** - invites viewers on a linguistic voyage through the whimsical world of tongue twisters. At the heart of this captivating display is a short video where Greg embarks on a linguistic adventure, reciting tongue twisters in various languages from Arabic to Urdu.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Illustrated talk for schools, school tours.

## ORIGINAL EXHIBITION/COMMISSION

Sept: **I Am the Wind** - illustrated by Ashwin Chacko, poems selected by Lucinda Jacob and Sarah Webb. Based on the children's poetry book of the same name.

**ENGAGEMENT:** School talk, school tours, engagement sheet, recording of Ashwin Chacko creating the exhibition.



Nov/Dec: Caoimhe McGuckin - **Dwelling** - This exhibition explores the art of worldmaking; a process that nurtures agency, belonging and selfhood where household objects are reimagined to reflect the simple yet profound nature of children's daydreams. Co-commissioned with Kildare County Council Arts Service.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Family workshops and school tours

## ORIGINAL EXHIBITION/COMMISSION

## Education Programme at Riverbank Arts Centre



Riverbank Arts Centre works closely with Irish and international theatre companies, artists and co-producing partners, to present work particularly suited to schools.

**In 2024, 6000 children from 42 schools attended events at Riverbank Arts Centre as part of a school trip/programme. A further 2000 children enjoyed events brought to their school by Riverbank, these included visual arts, workshops, live performances and collaborations with artists.**

### Riverbank Arts Centre is committed to providing:

- An exemplary programme for schools across key artforms - Visual Arts, Theatre/Dance, Literature and Cinema
- Arts engagement opportunities that are accessible in terms of artistic content, presentation and pricing
- Classroom resource materials, to enhance the experience for young people and their teachers
- A friendly, welcoming experience for school groups in our venue
- Inclusive events which are welcoming and support the diverse academic, social, emotional, and communication needs of students
- A regular evaluation of our schools programme and individual events - we actively seek feedback from teachers, students and the artists we work with.



*'Riverbank Arts Centre has been so great and supportive of our school and indeed all schools in the locality and beyond. We are blessed to have such a wonderful facility on our doorstep. The standard of programming for children is superb and the effect on our young children is immeasurable!'*  
**Teacher, Scoil Mhuire, Newbridge**

## Summary of Education Programme in 2024



**PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMME included:** Brian Cregan - **Light and Time, A Journey into the invention of Cinema and Photography**; Paul Curley: **The Dig & BAKE!**; Puffin Rock **Habitat Workshops**; Jess Rowell - **Making Waves (EDI)**; Artist Talk with Greg Sinclair; Roisin Whelan - **Galaxy of Occupations**; Selma Daniel Dance - **Fall & Float**; **BullyBully**; **I Am the Wind** Talk with Ashwin Chacko & Lucinda Jacob; Branar Theatre - **Ballad of a Bandit**; WhistleBlast's **A Christmas Carol**; Echo Echo Dance Theatre - **Winter's Dream**; An Nollaig sa Naigín.

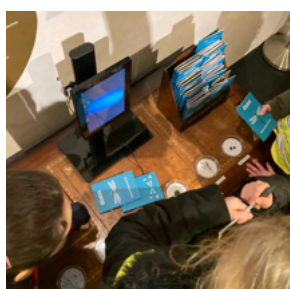
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMME included:** Brian Cregan - **Light and Time, A Journey into the invention of Cinema and Photography**; Dafe Orugbo - **Filmore!**

**Escape Room Experience**; Ger Carey - **A Comic Journey Inside the Teenage Mind**; Kildare Youth Theatre - **King Lear by William Shakespeare**; WhistleBlast Presents **Petrushka & More!**;

Riverbank continued its partnership with **IFI Schools Programme** to present seven screenings of four films: **An Cailín Ciúin** (Ireland, 2022, directed by Colm Bairéad); **La Petite Bande** (France, 2022, directed by Pierre Salvadori); **16 ans** (France, 2023, directed by Philippe Lioret); **Zu Weit Weg** (Germany, 2019, directed by Sarah Winkenstette); **Lola Rennt** (Germany, 1998, directed by Tom Tykwer); **Las Niñas** (Spain, 2020 Directed by Pilar Palomero); **Uno Para Todos** (Spain, 2020, directed by David Ilundain).



Riverbank continues to present an ongoing series of free in-venue and in-school **Fighting Words Creative Writing Workshops** led by Peirina Campbell. These workshops attract schools from across county Kildare including Clane, Kilcock and Celbridge. By the end of 2024 we aim to expand our programme to include students from local secondary schools to act as illustrators during primary school workshops.



In 2024, Riverbank Arts Centre increased its gallery tour programme, both for primary & post-primary TY & LC Gallery visits (with engagement packs) - e.g. we presented in-school workshops, facilitated by local artists, to coincide with Puffin Rock; Paula Barrett presented an exhibition tour of *Bullet Points* to 49 secondary school students; Kym Tracey hosted an exhibition tour to Erasmus students from Spain, Romania and Turkey.

**WORKSHOP FACILITATION PROGRAMME:** In collaboration with Puffin Rock Habitats, we hosted a training programme for artists to enable them to host in-school workshops with primary school students who had visited the workshops. Kate Escolin, Marta Ivanowska and Marta Golubowska availed of the training, which was extended to our Box Office team to provide further education on delivering tours of the exhibition.



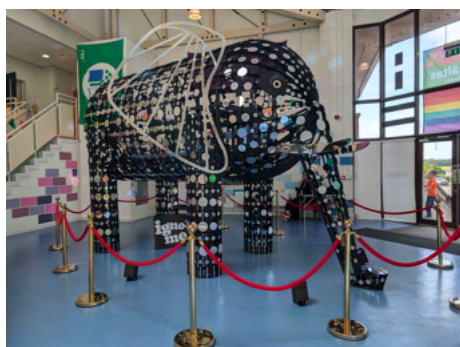
In addition, Riverbank Arts Centre presented outreach/in-school programmes in association with partners including Music Network, Music Generation, Improvised Music Company and continued our **Creative Schools engagement** as Creative School Associate.

## **Outreach & Engagement Activities**

### **Sing Me To The Sea by Anna Newell Theatre Adventures**

Riverbank Arts Centre partnered with Enable Naas to present **Sing Me to the Sea**. **Sing Me to the Sea** is an immersive multisensory adventure for children and young people with complex needs. It is performed in hydropools with 3 audience members per show, each with an adult companion – with everyone in the water!

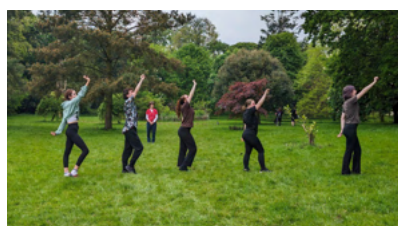
**Sing Me To The Sea** was originally created in 2018 with funding from Wicklow Arts Office. Created in partnership with Enable Ireland and St Catherine's School.



Riverbank brought Paul Curley's pilot project of **The Elephant in the Room** to Newbridge Educate Together in June and to St Mark Special School in September. The Elephant in the Room is a stand-alone installation, designed by Ger Clancy with Paul Curley, that aims to provoke conversation about things that are so apparent but yet we find difficult to talk about. During the period that the installation was resident in the schools, Paul was able to interact with the students gaining valuable insight, further developing this project.

RAC partnered with Music Generation Kildare for the **Teen Spirit Jazz Hub** programme, welcoming young musicians aged 13-18 to develop performance skills and explore jazz. A successful pilot term included workshops with world renowned musicians, including Europe's leading jazz saxophonist Linda Fredriksson, and the *Row E* ensemble performance at SubSounds Youth Music Festival.

Music Generation Kildare is managed by Kildare Local Music Education Partnership, led by Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board in partnership with Kildare County Council and with support from Maynooth University Department of Music and Centre for Teaching and Learning.



**STEPPING THE LAND**, developed in partnership with Kildare County Council Arts Service and Riverbank Arts Centre and funded by the Arts Council/DAR Award, was a culmination to Philippa Donnellan's Kildare Dance Residency 2023-2024. Created with members of the local community and Griese Youth Theatre, it was performed on a farm in south Kildare. An intergenerational dance piece, it gave a glimpse into stories of the land and habitats living and lost.

**A Ray of Hope** featured two large intergenerational community choirs with a special welcome for those living with dementia alongside their carers and wider communities. Past Times Community Choir and Voices of Spring, supported by Kildare County Council Arts Service, came together in Newbridge Town Hall to present an uplifting programme of festive music.

## 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 2024. 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 2024 was percussionist and composer Éamonn Cagney. Along with developing and performing work Éamonn hosted a workshop for Music Generation Kildare students.

**SHORT-TERM RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITIES:** Emerging and established artists and companies were offered short term residency opportunities throughout 2024 (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 2024 include:



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

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

**-Jess Rowell** - developing a new piece of theatre, Other Worlds, for teenagers and young people with additional needs which included a showing at the end of the week.

**-Aoife Raleigh & Maria Corcoran** - research and development of their new show What's Watt?

**Thomas Johnston & Aisling Byrne** - development of a new intergenerational show, 'The Very Curious Céili', co-produced by RAC.

## 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:

- Research and development of new theatre projects including **The Lottery**.
- 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 2024, **A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings** travelled to leading festivals and venues, supported by Culture Ireland, including:

- Stratford Circus (presented by The Unicorn), London, UK
- Auckland Arts Festival, New Zealand
- Surrey, British Columbia, Canada
- Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada
- Vernon, British Columbia, Canada
- Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada
- The Unicorn, London, UK
- Pop Up Festival @ Kulturhuset Stadsteatern, Stockholm, Sweden

## NETWORKS

### Strollers - PROPEL

2024 saw the delivery of cycle 4 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 (year 1 in 2024), and Clare Monnelly (artist selected for 2025).

**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 2024 Nomad announced two recipients for the Nomad Commission Award. They are Deirdre Kinahan and Xnthy (Anthony Keigher). Deirdre's play will focus on exploring Irish societies response to immigration while Xnthy is creating a satirical musical set in a mysterious rural village in the west of Ireland

## LOCAL ARTS



Riverbank Arts Centre has a strong commitment to our local artists and arts organisations, with regular performances from Newbridge Drama Group, Riff Raff Drama Group, The Odd Theatre Company and Newbridge Musical Society. We continue to host a number of events as part of June Fest each year. This year **June Fest** presented Summer Sessions with Your Host Frankie Lane, the success of which led to Winter Medley, and they collaborated with local secondary schools to present School's Out for Summer.

Riverbank held several local art productions on its stage over the course of 2024, including: **Stage Academy** - Sister Act; **Ballymore Eustace Concert Band**; **The Odd Theatre Company** - Sunday in the Park with George; **Newbridge Drama Group** Presents Blithe Spirit (April) & By The Bog Of Cats (November), **Riff Raff Drama Group** Presents Secret Dilemma; **Newbridge Musical Society** - Now That's What I Call Music; **The Odd Theatre Company** - Hamlet & Sunday in the Park with George; **Highly Strung** - All Wrapped Up; **Griese Youth Theatre** - Double Bill & On the Big Screen; **Kildare Youth Theatre** - Back in the Day, King Lear by William Shakespeare; **Crooked House Theatre Company** - Milis (in collaboration with Newbridge Womens Shed) & Fáilte Anseo. In addition, Riverbank offers access to theatre artists/companies and engagement programmes for Kildare-based youth theatre companies throughout the year.

## CO-PRODUCERS OF TOURING WORK

In 2024 we became co-producers of Anna Newell Theatre Adventures, offering financial administration and venue/space and time as required. .

Anna Newell 2024 programme comprised:

- **Sweet Dreams Are Made of This** - A magical show for younger children with complex needs (9 week tour)
- **An Attempt To Talk With The Beginning of The World**- A new immersive dance show for babies aged 3-13 months (4 week tour)

-**A Month of Sundays** bedside performances of **I AM BABA** in children's hospitals in Tallaght, Temple Street and Crumlin.

-**Network For Extraordinary Audiences** development - Riverbank Arts Centre hosted an away-day with key personnel from all of the nine venues to evaluate, dream, plan, collaborate.



**Anna Newell Theatre Adventures** is funded by The Arts Council, An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Co-produced by Riverbank Arts Centre.

## TEAM

**Venue Director** Caroline Williams  
**Programme Manager** Aleksandra Rosiak (up to Sept 2024) Matt Rafter (beginning Oct 2024)  
**Marketing & PR Manager** Helen Whiteley  
**Box Office & FOH Manager** Theresa Davidson  
**Technical Manager** John Mahon  
**Curator for Engagement (Visual Arts)** Martina McDonald  
**Community & Participation Officer** Em Ó Ceallaigh



## BOARD

**Paul Davis - Chair**  
**Maureen Bergin**  
**Holly Carey**  
**Eláine Donnelly**  
**Dr Brenda Donohue**  
**Thomas Hunter McGowan**  
**Teresa Murray**  
**Donnchadh O'Neill**

## NETWORKS

Riverbank Arts Centre is a member of Strollers, Nomad, and the Network of Extraordinary Audiences touring networks.

## RIVERBANK ARTS CENTRE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL PROGRAMME

**PARTNERS:** Fighting Words, access>CINEMA, Europa Cinemas, DIFF, Irish Writers' Centre, Words Ireland, Children's Books Ireland, The National Gallery, Laureate na nOg, Youth Theatre Ireland, First Fortnight, Culture Night, Improvised Music Company, Music Network and Music Generation.

## FUNDERS

Riverbank Arts Centre acknowledges the financial support of The Arts Council and Kildare County Council.

Riverbank Arts Centre CLG Is a registered Charity (20074982) with Revenue Commissioners (CHY 19193)

---

Riverbank Arts Centre, Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare  
 Phone: 045 448327 | Email: [info@riverbank.ie](mailto:info@riverbank.ie) | Website: [www.riverbank.ie](http://www.riverbank.ie)

Riverbank Arts Centre acknowledges the financial support of the Arts Council and Kildare County Council  
 Riverbank Arts Centre CLG Is a registered Charity (20074982) with Revenue Commissioners (CHY 19193)