



*Residency week for Jess Rowell, Other Worlds*

# Residencies and Artist Supports 2024

## 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