



Roseanne Lynch Residency Week - Development of Waterbith

Residencies and Artist Supports 2025

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 2025 is Patrick Stefan. As part of their residency Patrick presented the debut of a new audio-visual piece that weaved live improvised guitar playing to bird song recorded by Ornithologist Sean Ronayne, drawing connections between the musical path of migrating birds, stories of emigration, and to Patrick's own time spent in Mali.

SHORT-TERM RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITIES: Emerging and established artists and companies were offered short term residency opportunities throughout 2025 (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 2025 include:

Roseanne Lynch - development of Waterbirth

Dafe Orugbo - development of Am I The A**hole ahead of the show's premiere at Dublin Fringe Festival

Johnny Tierney - studio time in McKenna Gallery ahead of his exhibition for First Fortnight 2026. Johnny engaged with members of the team to learn more about what hosting his first exhibition would entail.

Paul Curley - development of DOTS

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

Dan Colley - Multi-Annual Residency

Continuation of multi-annual residency with theatre-maker Dan Colley, hosted by Riverbank Arts Centre.

Residency activity:

- Research and development of new theatre projects including **The Maker** which will be premiered at Dublin Theatre Festival 2025.
- 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 2025, **A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings** travelled to leading festivals and venues, supported by Culture Ireland, including:

- Sydney Opera House, Australia
- Canberra Theatre Centre, Australia
- ŽiguŽajg Arts Festival, Valletta, Malta

Lost Lear was invited to participate in the 2025 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where it received outstanding reviews and was honoured with a prestigious Fringe First Award.

Financial Times ★★★★★

"An astonishing piece of theatre ... one of the shows of the festival"

Edinburgh Festivals Mag ★★★★★

"Supremely Powerful Piece of Work" (In isolation)

"The most brilliant creative twist" (With Others)

The Scotsman ★★★★★

"a wonderfully unexpected experience"

Fringe Review ★★★★★

"Outstanding Show"



NETWORKS

Strollers - PROPEL 2025 saw the delivery of cycle 5 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** (2021-3); **Shane O'Reilly** (2022-4), **Choy-Ping Clarke-Ng** 吳彩萍 (2023-5), **Clare Monnelly** (2024-6), and **Ultan Pringle** (2025-7).

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 - Nomad has two new works under commission, from an open call process which was held in 2024. The recipients of the Nomad Commission Award are Deirdre Kinahan and Xnthyony (Anthony Keigher). Deirdre Kinahan's play **ADRIFT** will focus on exploring Irish society's response to immigration while Xnthyony is creating a satirical musical set in a mysterious rural village in the west of Ireland. The network supported a rehearsed reading of **ADRIFT** in 2025 and plans to premiere and tour this work in collaboration with **ONCE OFF** productions in 2026.

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)