



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

ARTS IN ACTION

2021-22
PART 01.

Ealaíona
faoi lán Seoil





Focal ón Uachtarán

Ealaíona – & Ollscoil

– faoi lán seoil arís

As we emerge, together, from eighteen months of isolation, anxiety and loss, we are grateful for the people and organisations that sustained us during the Covid-19 pandemic. Foremost in our thoughts are the frontline healthcare staff who worked ceaselessly to care for the most vulnerable in society and to those who devised and communicated reliable public health advice to keep us all safe.

We are also grateful for the many other forces for good in society who consoled us, connected us and kept our spirits up during a most challenging time. The arts have always been fundamental to our Irish identity. Over the past eighteen months, we have seen just how important our writers, musicians, artists and performers are in bringing our nation together, telling our stories and sharing our emotions. Throughout the Covid crisis, our arts sector exhibited “a deeply generous and dignified attitude”, as Arts Council Director and NUI Galway graduate, Maureen Kennelly, put it, and we are profoundly grateful to them.

As a university for the public good, NUI Galway is committed to nurturing, supporting and giving a platform to creative talent in the West of Ireland. We respect the defining role that our language, literature, music, dance, theatre and art have in setting this place apart. Rooted in this distinctive culture, we also embrace new traditions and cultures as we look over the horizon to engage openly with the world.

For 15 years, the Arts in Action programme has brought the highest quality artistic events to our community, offering a distinctive academic experience and connecting the arts with our students, staff and friends in an accessible and inclusive way. This was the vision of its founding artistic director and producer, our late colleague Mary McPartlan, who is greatly missed. Mary’s colleagues continue her legacy in bringing us this diverse and engaging programme, this welcome inspiration and entertainment, and this wonderful opportunity for audiences to come together on campus following 18 months of isolation.

Ba é ‘Ealaíona faoi Lán Seoil’ an teideal Gaeilge a thug Mary ar ‘Arts in Action’ agus bhí meas aici riamh ar chultúr uathúil na Gaeltachta agus na n-oileán. Táim cinnte go gcuirfeadh sí fáilte chroíúil roimh an taispeántas de churacha a tháinig i dtír i gCearnóg na hOllscoile le gairid ó ionad ealaíne Áras Éanna ar Inis Óirr agus atá le feiceáil sa chlár seo.

Coinneoidimid orainn, mar sin, faoi lán seoil arís, agus muid ag ceiliúradh chruthaitheacht ár bpobal le meas agus muinín.

Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh,

BCOMM (GALWAY), DIPPRACC (UCD), PHD (LEEDS), FCA (IRELAND)
UACHTARÁN, OÉ GAILLIMH
PRESIDENT, NUIGALWAY



Focal ón Leas-Déan

Coláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh

On behalf of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, I am delighted to welcome you to this semester's Arts in Action programme, a series of events that marks our return to campus – and our return to live performances too. The theme of the programme – 'Ceiliúradh' meaning a celebration – thus seems particularly apt.

When Arts in Action began, its artistic director Mary McPartlan imagined it as a series of events that would bring professional art onto campus – allowing the appreciation of creative art to be integrated into teaching, while also enriching the cultural lives of staff, students and visitors. The long-term impact of that approach is evident in many ways, including in the fact that our campus is now home to hundreds of undergraduate and postgraduate creative artists who are studying subject such as Film, Music, Drama, and Creative Writing – most of which were launched shortly after Arts in Action began, evolving in tandem with it.

Under the new leadership of Marianne Kennedy, this programme celebrates the past and anticipates the future, building on Mary's legacy to allow our College community to imagine the concept of Arts in Action for the changed world that we find ourselves in. During the pandemic, many people turned to the arts for solace and comfort: streaming TV programmes, watching online concerts or plays, reading novels, and so on. Yet simultaneously, many of our artists found themselves without work, without audiences and, in many cases, without hope for the future of their profession. We know that people value the arts – but what action can we take to ensure that we also value our artists?

The programme is also an invitation to imagine ways for the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies to be "in action" in other ways: to work in partnership with and for others, to be a resource for our communities, and to create learning opportunities for our students that will empower and inspire them.

Under the new leadership of Marianne Kennedy, this year's programme expresses our sense of community and commitment. As well as the live performances, the beautiful images of the Currachs throughout this programme are from the 'Curacha' exhibition curated by Dara McGee and Dolores Lyne, which travelled to the Quadrangle of NUI Galway from Inis Oírr, the smallest of the three Aran Islands. The 'Curacha' Exhibition marks the twenty-first Anniversary of Áras Éanna Arts Centre, Inis Oírr, and also a new partnership between Áras Éanna and NUI Galway.

I look forward to celebrating with you all as we engage with these wonderful artists – celebrating the communal experience, celebrating community, celebrating learning, and of course celebrating art. Déanfaimid ceiliúradh le chéile!

Dean Patrick Lonergan,

VICE-DEAN FOR ENGAGEMENT AND STUDENT RECRUITMENT,
COLLEGE OF ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND CELTIC STUDIES.



Nóta ón Stiúrthóir Ealaíne

Thankfully the 2021 academic year is getting underway, with the hustle and bustle of the return of students and staff to the NUI Galway campus. It is my absolute honour to continue the legacy of Mary McPartlan and to be in the privileged position of programming the Autumn/ Winter Season of Arts in Action. The theme of this semester's Arts in Action programme is 'Ceiliúradh' meaning celebration. Arts in Action is delighted to celebrate this with, an in-person, curated programme of film, theatre, song, music and dance that is designed to enrich, inspire and entertain as part of our vibrant university ecosystem.

With Arts in Action:

- We celebrate Mary McPartlan's legacy and indeed all those who have contributed to Arts in Action over the years. Through their efforts in providing opportunities to student body we are all, the university and Galway community, able to witness and experience the very best of the arts on our campus.
- Through Arts in Action we celebrate the diversity of the arts and our artists through this varied and exciting Autumn/ Winter programme.
- We celebrate the opportunity to engage in conversation with artists and their work on the NUI Galway campus.
- We celebrate being able to partake in the communal experience of being in an audience again; of watching, listening and experiencing great artistic moments together.
- We celebrate resilience and healing as we continue to weather the difficulties and hardships brought about by COVID-19.
- We celebrate the community of NUI Galway; staff, students, and alumni and the people of Galway itself who continue to persevere and thrive in our changed reality.
- We celebrate the transformative power of the arts and the insights provided to us by artists who devote their lives to their work.
- Finally, and most importantly, with this programme we celebrate artists and thank them for nourishing our souls since March 2020.

The visual artists whose work we showcase in the beautiful images in this programme, from the 'Curacha' Exhibition from Áras Éanna Inis Oírr, are:

Dolores Lyne, Alannah Robins, Naoise Sheridan, Áine Phillips, Sean O Flaithearta, Margot Quinn, Pat Quinn, Ger Sweeney, Mick O'Dea, Kathleen Furey, Jennifer Cunningham and Tim Acheson, Dara McGee, Breda Burns, John Behan RHA, Sadia Shoaib, Daniel Coleman, Sean Cathal O Coileán, Tom Meskell, Jay Murphy, Cathal McGinelly, and Deirdre McKenna.

Bainigí sult as agus táim ag súil libh a fheiceáil!

Marianne Kennedy,

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE ARTS



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A Small Clue // Leide Beag

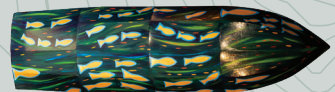
Wed 6 Oct | 1pm | O' Donoghue Theatre

A small clue is a new short film of music, movement and spoken word, featuring a newly composed vocal sextet entitled Leide Beag, commissioned by Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture as part of the Aistriú project in partnership with NUI Galway. Taking its name from a poem by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, together, the companion pieces of a small clue // Leide Beag are both inspired by lived, inherited and ancestral stories of migration.

The event will be introduced by Professor Ríona Ní Fhríghíl, and the premiere of a small clue will be accompanied by a post-show discussion with the performers and creators involved in the project, moderated by Marianne Ní Chinnéide.

The screening and post-show discussion will occur in tandem with the record release of Ian Wilson's four-movement vocal sextet Leide Beag performed by Tonnta, available on Bandcamp from October 6th with all proceeds going to MASI.

Commissioned by Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture as part of the Aistriú project in partnership with NUI Galway. Production supported by Mick Lally Theatre and Smock Alley Theatre.





Far Flung Trio

Wed 13 Oct | 1pm | O' Donoghue Theatre

The Far Flung Trio are Katherine Hunka, violin; Dermot Dunne, accordion; and Malachy Robinson, double-bass. The name reflects their sense of fun and the eclecticism in their programming and performances. They are all leading Irish players, and are drawn to this Trio by the sheer joy generated by playing together. This evident rapport is one of the elements that particularly delights audiences.

They have been warmly received at festivals and in concert series all over the country, delighting audiences with our mix of virtuosity and playfulness, tradition and innovation. A dizzying array of styles characterises Their concerts. They include music by Bach, Biber, Gershwin, Kreisler, Liszt, Offenbach,

Edith Piaf, Piazzolla, Prokofiev, also Klezmer and other folk music — and lots of surprises. The Trio arranges all the repertoire.

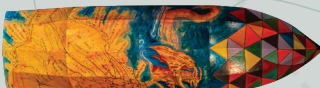
The Irish Examiner in 2014 wrote, “The trio’s enthusiasm and sense of enjoyment in what they were doing simply oozed from the stage and the audience loved it”.

In January 2020 The Trio have proudly released our debut album LIVE AT THE LARGE ROOM which you can find on Spotify and YouTube, as well as for purchase in the usual online stores.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH MUSIC FOR GALWAY



LEIDE BEAG,
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Steve Cooney & Dermot Byrne

Wed 27 Oct | 1pm | O' Donoghue Theatre

Steve Cooney is best known for his development of an influential style of guitar accompaniment to the traditional dance music of West Kerry, for which he won the National Entertainment Award in 1997. He has participated in making more than 250 CD's, either as a guitar or bass player or as producer and engineer. A poet and songwriter, he has worked with many iconic international artists in rock and country music but his primary focus is Irish traditional music, and fusions of that genre. His CD release of solo guitar interpretations of ancient harp tunes won in three categories at the 2020 RTÉ Folk Awards, and he was named TG4 Composer of the Year in 2021. He was awarded a Ph.D. in 2018 for an intuitive musical notation system that he invented for early learners and those with difficulties reading staff notation.

The accordion player for traditional Irish band Altan, Dermot Byrne has taken a fresh approach to the squeezebox tradition of his homeland. The son of a musician, Tomas O'Beirne, Byrne continues to build on his father's legacy. In addition to his work with Altan, Byrne has performed or recorded with such stellar Irish musicians as Seamus and Manus McGuire, the Chieftains, Frankie Gavin, and Dezi Donnelly. His debut solo album, released in 1995, featured accompaniment from guitarist/keyboards player Steve Cooney; double bassist Trevor Hutchinson; and bouzouki, guitar, and bodhran player Donal Lunny. His second solo outing, 2 Worlds United, was recorded with Ontario-based champion fiddler Pierre Schryer, and included French, Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton tunes.





Branar's Rothar

Thu 28 Oct | 1pm | O' Donoghue Theatre

Where can you go when there is nowhere to go?

In the little bike shop at end of town a world of adventure awaits. Two boys and their bikes travel the world in a show that conjures play from the everyday and where anything is possible. Created by Branar and performed by Miquel Barceló and Moisés Mas García, this joyful production celebrates the places your imagination can take you.

Rothar is produced in association with Drama NUI Galway and Baboró International Arts Festival for Children as part of Creative Europe's Mapping Project.

Branar Téatar do Pháistí is one of the leading theatre companies making work for children in Ireland. We create beautiful, innovative, high-quality productions that inspire children and their families.

Miquel Barceló

Performer

Moisés Mas García

Composer &

Performer

Marc Mac Lochlainn

Director

Maeve Clancy

Set Design

Elaine Mears

Costume Design

Ciaran Kelly

Lighting Design

Neasa Ní Chuanaigh

Assistant Director

Joanne Beirne

Executive Producer

Niamh Ní Fhlatharta

Line Producer

Ionia Ní Chróinín

Collaborating Artist

Ciaran Kelly

Set Build

Sorcha Ní Chróinín

Prop Maker

Michael Foley

Company Technician

Noel Minogue

Marketing Assistant

Anita Murphy

Production

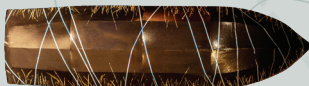
Photography

Baboró

International Arts
Festival for Children



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Anna Mullarkey

Wed 03 Nov | 1pm | O' Donoghue Theatre

Anna Mullarkey is a composer and performer from Galway, weaving electronics with piano and voice. Having grown up in the West of Ireland, Anna draws inspiration from the sea for her compositions.

The Irish Times called her “phenomenal” and Irish Theatre Magazine classified her music as like “if a sultry ménage of Björk/Billie Holiday/Philip Glass got together at the Wickerman Festival.”

She has released four solo electronic/folktronica singles under the Strange Brew label: “Baby Dragon” (2017), “Sometimes” (2019), “Alright” (2020) and “To the island” (2020) to critical acclaim, and an EP “Spéir”, which was funded by Galway 2020. Anna was a leading act at the Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture launch, and has been invited to compose and perform the score for several Arts Council-funded plays. Many of the short films and documentaries

for which Anna has composed scores have toured internationally and won awards, including Best Short Documentary at both the Galway Film Fleadh and the Cork Film Festival.

She is now performing with a trio including Sam Wright on bass and Paul Mc Clure on accordion and bodhrán creating a hybrid folk fusion with electronica.



Laoise O'Brien

Wed 10 Nov | 1pm | O' Donoghue Theatre

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Laoise O'Brien is a musician and producer based in Kilkenny City in Ireland. She divides her time between her music production company and her career-long championing of the recorder. She has spent the past twenty years championing an instrument often unfairly perceived as an instrument of torture. The particular sonority of a mass of small plastic recorders has left an unfortunate legacy on an instrument once known as the 'sweet flute'.

Join Laoise as she embarks on a journey to tell the story of the recorder and its development during the ages. Part historical account, part personal voyage, Laoise will introduce you to the various sizes and styles of recorder, the vast amount of repertoire spanning nine centuries, and the many different uses for which the instrument

was employed; from dances on the village green, to music composed by kings. This interactive presentation will include audio and visual elements, delivered in Laoise's inimitable style.

As a performer, Laoise is in regular demand and has appeared as a soloist and guest musician with numerous ensembles including the Irish Chamber Orchestra, Irish Baroque Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Opera Theatre Company, Resurgam, Sestina, The Irish Consort, and Camerata Kilkenny. She is a member of the early music group, The Gregory Walkers and is one half of the duo, Temenos with clarinetist, Paul Roe. This unusual pairing of instruments has resulted in many new compositions for the duo.



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Caoineadh // Lament - Julianna Bloodgood, Caitlín Uí Chualáin & James Riordan

Wed 17 Nov | 1pm | O' Donoghue Theatre

Vocal lament is a ubiquitous human phenomenon and has been found present in every traditional culture on Earth. Through history, we have seen that these traditional and spontaneous lamentations are potent vehicles for processing grief, one of the most difficult aspects of the human experience.

Join James Riordan, artistic director of Brú Theatre along with vocalists Julianna Bloodgood and Cáitlín ní Chualáin, as they talk about their work exploring lamentation and the performance of grief both here and abroad.

Julianna Bloodgood, is a multidisciplinary theatre maker, vocalist and performer. From 2009 - 2018 she worked with award winning and critically acclaimed Polish theatre company Song of the Goat Theatre (Teatr Pieśń Kozła) becoming a principal performer. She is a resident artist with New York based Theater MITU and Slovakian company Honey and Dust. Julianna is the co-founder of The Great Globe Foundation, a non-profit organisation which utilises the power of creativity to inspire and empower the individual voice and to help build bridges between people and communities. Julianna has a particular interest in the vocal practice of lamentation, giving shape and voice to our pain, which has become a through line in all of her work. She performs, teaches and researches globally.

Caitlín Ni Chualáin is from An Teach Mór Thiar, Indreabhán, Caitlín cites her father, Máirtín Pheaits Ó Cualáin, a winner of Comórtas na bhFear at the Oireachtas in 1944 and 2001, as a major influence. She also draws on the rich tradition of sean-nós singers from the area.

Caitlín won Comórtas na mBan at the Oireachtas in the years 2005, 2008 and 2014, and the coveted Corn Uí Riada, the premier competition for sean-nós singing at the Oireachtas festival in 2016. She is associated with the song Loingseach Bhearna, one that she learned from her father, and Amhrán na Buachaillí Bána is another favourite. Caitlín can frequently be heard on RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, where she also works as a journalist, and at concerts and workshops.



The event will feature some vocal pieces they are working on as part of Brú Theatre's upcoming theatre production Gol this December which is a co-production with Galway Theatre Festival and supported by the Arts Council of Ireland. More info on Gol at brutheatre.com



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The Raines

Wed 24 Nov | 1pm | O' Donoghue Theatre

The Raines are a folk/Americana trio based in Galway on the west coast of Ireland. The band formed in 2019 and consists of three highly regarded folk musicians –Ruth Dillon, Juliana Erkkonen and Yvonne Tiernan. Since the three came together to form The Raines in 2019, they have used their collective experience and influences to create a unique and pure sound, writing strong and melodic songs, in which they weave in and out of vocal harmony and counter melody, interlaced with tender and rhythmic strings.

Having all met on the tiny island of Inis Oírr, off the West coast of Ireland, their mutual love of melody and words was realised and the idea for The Raines was born. There is an unmistakable chemistry between the three. Both Yvonne and Ruth are Irish born, while Juliana is a native of Finland, which makes for a truly original blend of musical styles, and a sound that

connects deeply with the audience.

Yvonne (vocals/banjolele) sings and has toured with the world-renowned Irish band 'The Chieftains', Ruth (vocals, guitar, ukulele) toured and recorded with the legendary vocalist Dolores Keane, is a former member of The Molly Hicks who recorded and played with Mary McPartlan, and has three solo albums of her own, and Juliana (fiddle and vocals) has been at the fore front of the Americana musical scene in Ireland for many years and released seven albums with a diverse range of acts such as Mikey and the Scallywags, Cafe Minor and The Invisible Jug Band to name but a few.

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Rough Beast World Premiere

Sat 27 Nov | 8pm | O' Donoghue Theatre
*In tribute to James Harrold,
outgoing Galway City Council Arts Office*

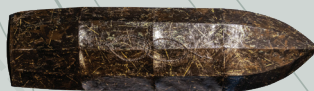
Galway Music Residency (GMR) in association with Contemporary Music Centre (CMC) presents a multi-artform event marking the 1921 Centenary. The event will feature the World Premiere of *Rough Beast*, a new work by Irish composer Rhona Clarke for string quartet and soprano, performed by Galway's ConTempo Quartet and Aisling Kenny. The commission takes inspiration from WB Yeats' poem *The Second Coming*. The evening will also include a fascinating perspective on how the political and societal turmoil of the time was reflected in Art and creativity by Dr. Adrian Paterson, as well as dramatic readings from students of Drama and Theatre Studies and an interview with the composer led by Contemporary Music Centre's Linda O'Shea Farren.

Dublin born Rhona Clarke studied music at University College, Dublin, and completed a PhD at Queen's University, Belfast. Her output includes choral, chamber, orchestral and electronic works. She has received commissions from RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, The Sydney Philharmonia Chorus, and the National Concert Hall, among others. Her work has been performed and broadcast throughout Ireland and worldwide.

Formed in 1995 in Bucharest, ConTempo Quartet is recognised as one of the most exciting and vibrant chamber ensembles performing today. The quartet was chosen as GMR's Ensemble in Residence in 2003 and continues to captivate audiences throughout the city and county with its repertoire of classical, contemporary, folk and traditional music.



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Arts in Action reserves the right to alter any advertised programme if necessary.

Covid-19 Measures

Arts in Action will at all times operate within governmental and university guidelines and ensure the safety of all involved.

Arts in Action are

Producer and Artistic Director

Technical Director/ Production Manager

Administrative Support

Cover Image and 'Curacha' Images

Arts in Action Founder

Curriculum Advisor

Marianne Kennedy

Mike O'Halloran

Karen Walsh/ Anushri Bhowmick

Cormac Coyne

Mary McPartlan

Charlotte McIvor

This programme is made possible by NUI Galway's College for Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies.

Special Thanks

Rebecca Braun

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Aidan Thompson

Anna Lardi Fogarty and Music for Galway

Finghin Collins

John Caulfield

Charlotte McIvor

Patrick Lonergan

Miriam Haughton

Ian Walsh

Emma Brinton

Caroline Kennedy

Lillis Ó Laoire

Barry Houlihan

Paddy, Meabh and Mairéad Noonan

Alex Fernie

Siobhra Quinlan

Robbie Blake

Dara McGee

Barry Houlihan

Ruth Dillon

Maeve Bryan

James Riordan

Jill Murray

Joanne Beirne

Marc MacLochlainn

Niamh Ní Fhlatharta

Áras Éanna Arts Centre, Inis Oírr

Cormac Coyne

Ríóna Ní Fhríghíl

The Aistriú Project team

See Artists' Websites for full biographies.



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