



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021

# A look at 2021 & archive through the years



Archive image, looking back over 25 years.  
Valerie Egan & Charlene Kelly in  
*Waiting For Elvis* by Eileen Gibbons  
Galway Theatre Festival 2016

# Theatre

Blue Teapot is a multi-award winning Theatre Company, Performing Arts School and Community Theatre Programme for people with intellectual disabilities at the forefront of arts & disability in Ireland.

# Change

We are committed to high quality theatre, training and the celebration of creativity.

# Makers

We do this by unlocking diverse creative potential, bringing freedom of artistic expression through inclusive theatre practise.

We work to radically transform theatre practices by telling stories through the lens of disability, paving the way for inclusive practices to become the norm.



Archive image, looking back over 25 years.  
Jennifer Cox as Rose in  
Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel  
Town Hall Theatre, May 2018

## MESSAGE FROM CEO

A warm welcome to our 2021 Annual Report, a year in which Blue Teapot reached 25 years. Looking through the substantial delivery throughout the year from the whole company, I am enormously proud of all that was achieved amid such challenging circumstances.

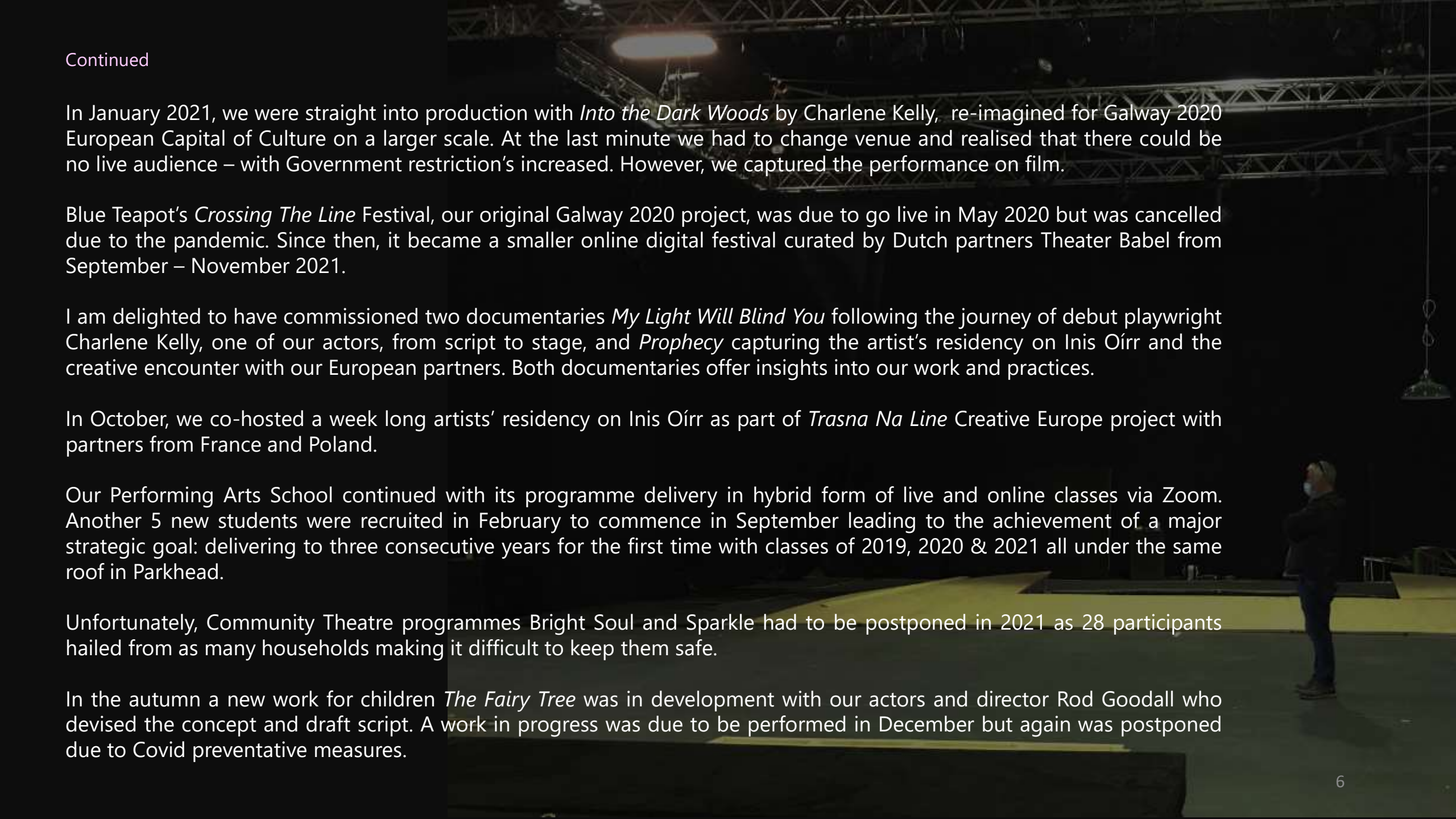
As theatre makers, we were in the unique position throughout the pandemic of being able to continue working; our dual status as a disability day centre meant we were mandated to stay open. This was a blessing, giving everyone a sense of connection, normality and permission to continue creating albeit with rigorous Covid safety protocols in place.

In spite of being unable to go all out in celebrating 25 years of Blue Teapot in live settings, we shared through social media the greatest hits of archived performance images.

Founding members Fiona Coffey, Claude Madec and Catherine Seale visited and spoke about the beginning, early projects and the artists who were there at the start, back in 1996.





A dark, industrial-looking space, possibly a stage or rehearsal room. A person is standing on a raised platform on the right side. The background is dark with some structural elements visible.

Continued

In January 2021, we were straight into production with *Into the Dark Woods* by Charlene Kelly, re-imagined for Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture on a larger scale. At the last minute we had to change venue and realised that there could be no live audience – with Government restriction's increased. However, we captured the performance on film.

Blue Teapot's *Crossing The Line* Festival, our original Galway 2020 project, was due to go live in May 2020 but was cancelled due to the pandemic. Since then, it became a smaller online digital festival curated by Dutch partners Theater Babel from September – November 2021.

I am delighted to have commissioned two documentaries *My Light Will Blind You* following the journey of debut playwright Charlene Kelly, one of our actors, from script to stage, and *Prophecy* capturing the artist's residency on Inis Oírr and the creative encounter with our European partners. Both documentaries offer insights into our work and practices.

In October, we co-hosted a week long artists' residency on Inis Oírr as part of *Trasna Na Line* Creative Europe project with partners from France and Poland.

Our Performing Arts School continued with its programme delivery in hybrid form of live and online classes via Zoom. Another 5 new students were recruited in February to commence in September leading to the achievement of a major strategic goal: delivering to three consecutive years for the first time with classes of 2019, 2020 & 2021 all under the same roof in Parkhead.

Unfortunately, Community Theatre programmes Bright Soul and Sparkle had to be postponed in 2021 as 28 participants hailed from as many households making it difficult to keep them safe.

In the autumn a new work for children *The Fairy Tree* was in development with our actors and director Rod Goodall who devised the concept and draft script. A work in progress was due to be performed in December but again was postponed due to Covid preventative measures.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

Blue Teapot engaged an arts consultant in 2021 to work with the company to develop our first strategic arts plan. At 25 years and acknowledging the growth trajectory of the company, we felt it was important to articulate who we are today. This work will continue into 2022 with the Board due to sign off the plan in May and a formal launch of the 5 year arts strategy in the autumn.

Our Performing Arts School will continue with its programme and have its first graduation ceremony in November since 2019. Blue Teapot will also go through a formal re-engagement process with QQI throughout the year. We eagerly anticipate re-instating our Community Theatre Programme once restrictions have lifted.

The Abbey maintained their commitment to co-produce *Into the Dark Woods* as it was originally intended – live theatre written for the stage. The production is due to premiere in Galway's Black Box Theatre in September 2022.

With many elements of our European partnership *Crossing The Line's* Creative Europe funded project postponed in 2020, we anticipate the final delivery and wrap of this current collaboration by the end of the year. The Blue Teapot actors have indicated that they are keen to travel and work face to face with their European peers.

Praise and respect to Team Teapot: our staff, tutors, creative collaborators and contractors for continuing to deliver excellence whilst taking the utmost care to keep everyone safe.







Archive image, looking back over 25 years.  
St Patrick's Day Parade, Galway, 2011  
Creator/Director: Rod Goodall  
Cast: Company Actors, Performing Arts School,  
Bright Soul and volunteers.



# 2021 PROGRAMMES

We have three programme strands each offering a pathway to a fully realised creative life for people with intellectual disabilities and which meet key objectives stated within the Arts Act 2003, Galway City Arts Plan, *Creative Ireland Vision for County Galway*, Galway City Council Cultural & Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022, *Sustainability Strategy Framework 2016 – 2025* . Arts Council Ireland's *Make Great Art Work*:

## *Creative Ireland Vision : Enabling Creativity in Every Community*

1. Access, Engagement, Participation   2. Equality of Access   3. Environment and Place  
4. Education & Excellence   5. Inclusivity, Empowerment and   6. Arts and Health & Wellbeing.

## BLUE TEAPOT THEATRE COMPANY

We are a professional, intellectually disabled acting ensemble that trains and performs at the highest level, on the main stages of Ireland's leading arts venues and festivals. Artistic scope expanded to the feature film *Sanctuary*.

## PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL

An accredited provider in the West of Ireland of performing arts training with programmes leading to QQI awards at Levels 2 & 3.





Archive image, looking back over 25 years  
Michael Hayes, Eileen Gibbons, Paul Connolly &  
Kieran Coppinger, rehearsing for  
'84' a short film script reading by Len Collin  
Mick Lally Theatre, Culture Night September 2011



# 2021 PROGRAMMES

*Postponed until 2022*

## ***Stimulate public interest in the arts***

*By giving access, engagement and participation in arts and disability organisations:*

**BRIGHT SOUL** – Our long standing, multi-generational community theatre programme (founded 1996), born as a simple creative outlet for adults with more moderate intellectual disabilities. It maintains an ethos rooted in arts participation and social inclusion. Bright Soul encourages arts participation in a fun and programme to those whom find access to a quality arts experience more difficult.

## ***Promote Knowledge, experience and practice of the arts***

**SPARKLE** – A community theatre programme for teenagers with intellectual disabilities. The basis of a future Young Ensemble, an artistically led engagement and pathway for those who want to access more formal training in to our Performing Arts School.





Archive image, looking back over 25 years  
Richard Hickey, Oliver puppeteer  
Oliver Twists directed by Rod Goodall  
Blue Teapot Theatre December 2018



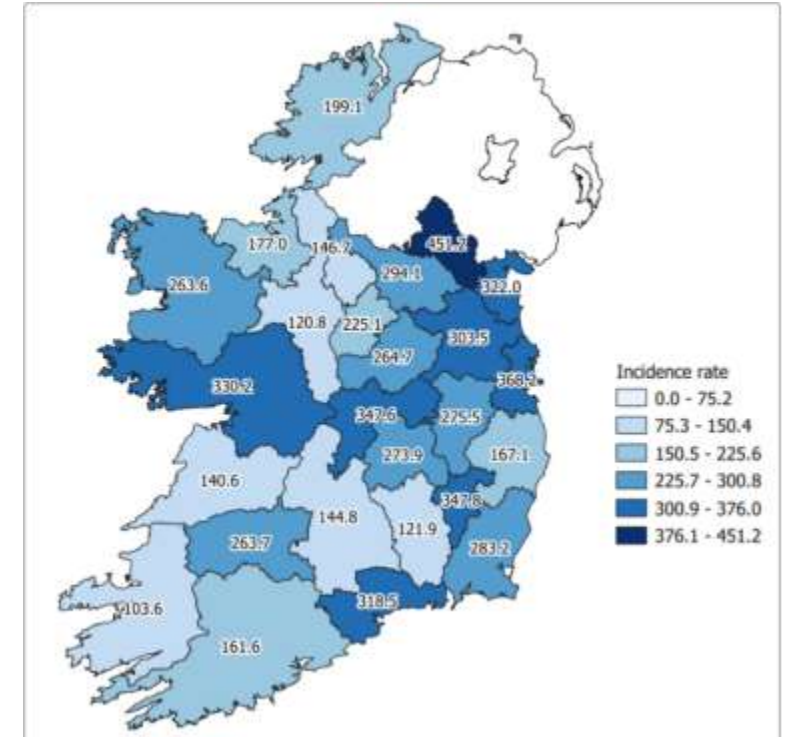
# WORKING AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE DURING LOCKDOWNS

While Covid-19 suspended programmes and put a halt to finding new actors, students, participants, post-pandemic planning continued throughout the first six months of 2021.

We ensured a substantial & fulfilling day service for everyone involved in our day service programme as well a re-imagining & delivering our Galway 2020 project.

## RE-IMAGINING CREATIVE PROJECTS & KEEPING STUDENTS ON TARGET WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING & QQI ASSIGNMENTS

- **Theatre Company** – rehearsing **Into the Dark Woods** 3-5 days per week until Easter 2021 with full production elements & COVID safety supports.
- Day Service for **Performing Arts School** back to 4 days per week
- Recruitment of new Performing Arts School applicants launched January 2021, followed by interviews & auditions.
- 5 new Performing Arts School students enrolled for starting September 2021
- **The Fairy Tree (new play development)**– commenced September with Director Rod Goodall.



**Source: HPSC (2021) Epidemiology of COVID-19 in Ireland – 15th February 2021.**

In the Third Wave, trends have changed towards incidents rates driven by a significant increase in the number of confirmed cases, but this time not so concentrated in the Border, Dublin and East Midlands regions, but also spread to the West and Southeast of Ireland. These changes are likely associated with the roughly synchronised cross-border COVID-19 measures and restrictions. Nevertheless, in mid-February 2021, the highest incidence of COVID-19 per country was found in Monaghan 451.2; followed by Dublin (368.2), Carlow (347.8), Offaly (347.6) and Galway (330.2).



Archive image, looking back over 25 years  
Patrick Becker, Paul Connolly, Charlene Kelly, Frank Butcher,  
Petal Pilley, Scott Williams, Michael Hayes, Emer Macken,  
Kieran Coppinger & Valerie Egan,  
Meisner Masterclass, Blue Teapot Theatre, 2013

# 2021 Programme Delivery 2021

## Blue Teapot Theatre Company

Three day per week programme consisting of classes and training in Drama, Singing, Dance, Circuit training at Train Station Gym, Film Studies, Stop Motion Animation.

From January– April 2021, continued rehearsals and production **Into the Dark Woods** by Charlene Kelly, artist with an intellectual disability, was the focus.

## Performing Arts School (in-class & remote learning)

Four day per week programme focused primarily of vocational training modules leading to QQI Level 3 minor awards – Art & Design, Music, Drama, Event Participation, Puppetry & Drawing. Galway Adult Basic Education Services provided 2.5 tutor hours per week in literacy classes & GRETB 3 tutor hours per week.

Life Skills: Topics that covered Values, self-awareness, decision making, advocacy, problem solving, issues relating to human rights & disability.

## Community Theatre Programmes

Regretfully, we were unable to continue with Bright Soul & Sparkle in 2021. This decision was primarily due to limiting the numbers of people coming on to our premises on a daily basis, social distancing, as well as concerns from participant connections about COVID safety.





# BLUE TEAPOT

## THEATRE COMPANY

### PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL



#### APPLY NOW FOR

3 Year QQI certified training in  
**Performing Arts Skills**

Deadline - 25th February 2021

Enquiries: [training@blueteapot.ie](mailto:training@blueteapot.ie)

087 652 01 46 - [www.blueteapot.ie](http://www.blueteapot.ie)

## It's A Cert, You'll Love Our School!

We enrol new students **every September** but we keep numbers small to ensure every learner gets a high quality learning experience. Recruitment is open ended, but with a publicity campaign from October – February. All applicants are met in person, interviewed, followed later by auditions – this determines the successful candidates who will go on to gain a place. Available places in our Community Theatre Programme may be offered to those unsuccessful.

The three year programme offers access to training in performing arts component modules leading to certification in QQI Levels 2 & 3.

**Year One focus – Core skills** are introduced with a *Level 2 General Learning Major Award* Modules in Drama, Music, Art & Design, Craft, Non Verbal Communication and Pattern & Relationship.

**Year Two – Develop skills:** Foundation Level 3 programme that deepens core skills learnt in year one with inclusion of Drawing, Music Appreciation, Puppetry and Event Participation.

**Year Three – Practice skills:** Continuation in all Level 3 modules. Opportunities to perform are included in the final year prior to graduation.

**Life Skills** programme is a central component of the course, incorporating online safety, health & fitness, interpersonal skills and person centred outcomes. In addition, learners experience dance, theatre visits, singing & vocal classes, film studies and help with IT and general literacy





Archive image, looking back over 25 years  
Kieran Coppinger & Martin Joyce (1990 – 2020)  
QQI Class Level 3 Drama

# ARTISTIC PROJECTS



Emer Macken during rehearsals for  
*Into the Dark Woods* at the  
Black Box Theatre February 2021

# INTO THE DARK WOODS

by Charlene Kelly (pictured)

A GALWAY 2020 project

**Rehearsals & documentary film**

February - April 2021

**Due to the pandemic, the world premiere has been rescheduled twice - May 2020 and again in March 2021.**

**Into The Dark Woods will finally take place on**

**14 -17 September 2022**

**Black Box Theatre, Galway**

**RE-IMAGINED**



# FROM A BLANK PAGE...

## ... INTO THE DARK WOODS

### FROM PAGE

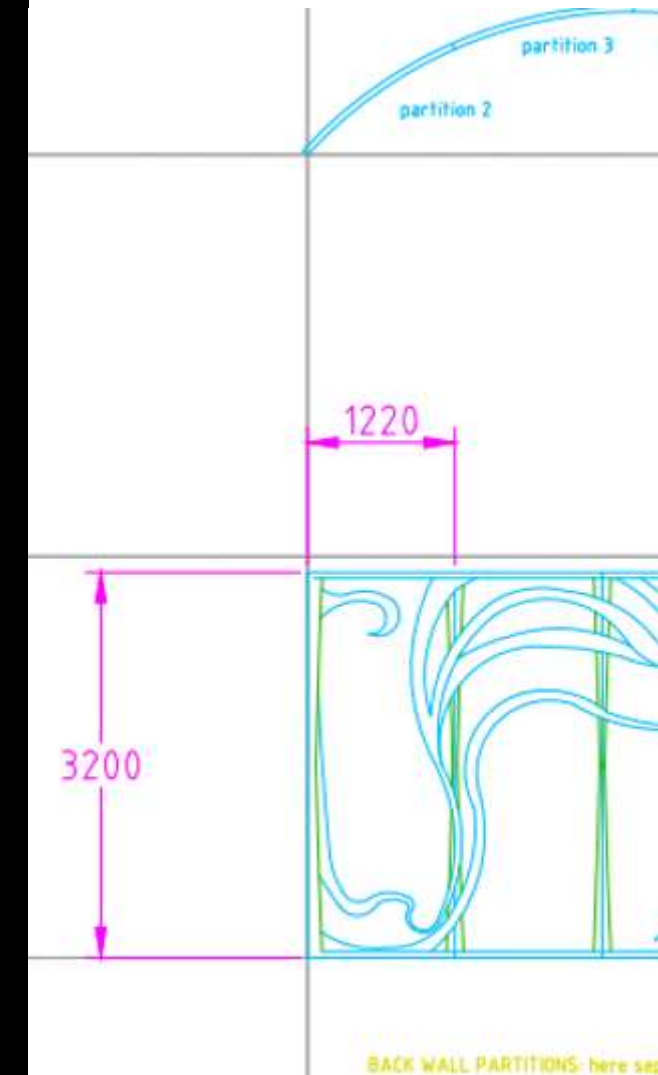
We have worked towards an ambition to stage a theatre production written by an artist from within Blue Teapot. In 2017, a pilot project 'The Blank Page' was initiated to meet this creative desire facilitated by playwright & dramaturg Eileen Gibbons. This driving objective was established with Charlene Kelly being the artist displaying a definite aptitude. Throughout 2019, play development continued of 'Into the Dark Woods' with script explorations in workshops with Blue Teapot's theatre ensemble.

Rehearsals and pre-production suspended due to global pandemic and Irish government lockdown/levels of operation. Dialogue with Galway 2020 ECoC continued to see what could be 're-imagined' as to our continued involvement and future presentation.

With disability day centres permitted to fully re-open, resumption of artistic, production & logistical work began, working under strict HSE & Government guidelines.

### TO STAGE - January – April 2021

Creation of theatre production *Into the Dark Woods* and directed by Petal Pilley. Set, sound, costume and lighting design elements were created and 'audience ready'.







Performing Arts School Graduate  
Alan Keady  
G-Hotel, 2016

# THE FESTIVAL THAT NEVER WAS, THE CELEBRATION THAT IS



Captured above, a still from the digital series - a birds eye view of Galway Harbour.

Over 100 European Artists & Company members \* 11 venues across Galway City \* 32 Events \* 6 European Partners \* 4 knowledge Talks \* 8 Post-Show talks \* Audiences of 4,500 \* 1 Green Field Site \* 1 International Networking Event \* 135 Festival Team Freelancers \* 112 Irish Artists & Arts Workers \* 120 Volunteers \* 32 Festival Ambassadors

## FIVE-PART DIGITAL MINI-SERIES LAUNCHED April 2021

During the prolonged absence of live performance, shut down because of the COVID pandemic, we reflected on the loss, but also achievements of our ambitious Galway 2020 project **Crossing The Line Festival**.

Throughout April, we created a 5-part mini-series, along with videographer Fionn Rogers, that encapsulated the many highlights of Crossing the Line, a network of leading European arts organisations for intellectually disabled artists and our Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture journey from inception of the bid book to present day

Spanning over nine years work, the digital series documented the live and digital work of arts organisations from Sweden, Poland, Netherlands, England, Wales, France and Ireland (ourselves).

Uploaded online each week throughout April, the episodes were made freely available on digital channels – YouTube, Facebook, Twitter & Instagram as well as shared far & wide by many stakeholders across Ireland, Europe and further.





**Episode 1:** From the moment Galway won the bid, we knew that 'Crossing the Line' & 'Galway 2020' could create something brilliant.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zE-O2dj\\_hA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zE-O2dj_hA)



**Episode 2:** With the go-ahead from our partners & Galway 2020 for "preparations and planning were fully underway.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHbz121SCA&t=8s>



**Episode 3:** With 2020 just months away, we launched the programme for our biggest, boldest and most ambitious project to date - Crossing the Line – A Pan-European Theatre Festival

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_lwPkhRe2A&t=15s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_lwPkhRe2A&t=15s)



**Episode 4:** Into the Dark Woods Reimagined. The story of Charlene Kelly's debut play and the journey from page to stage.

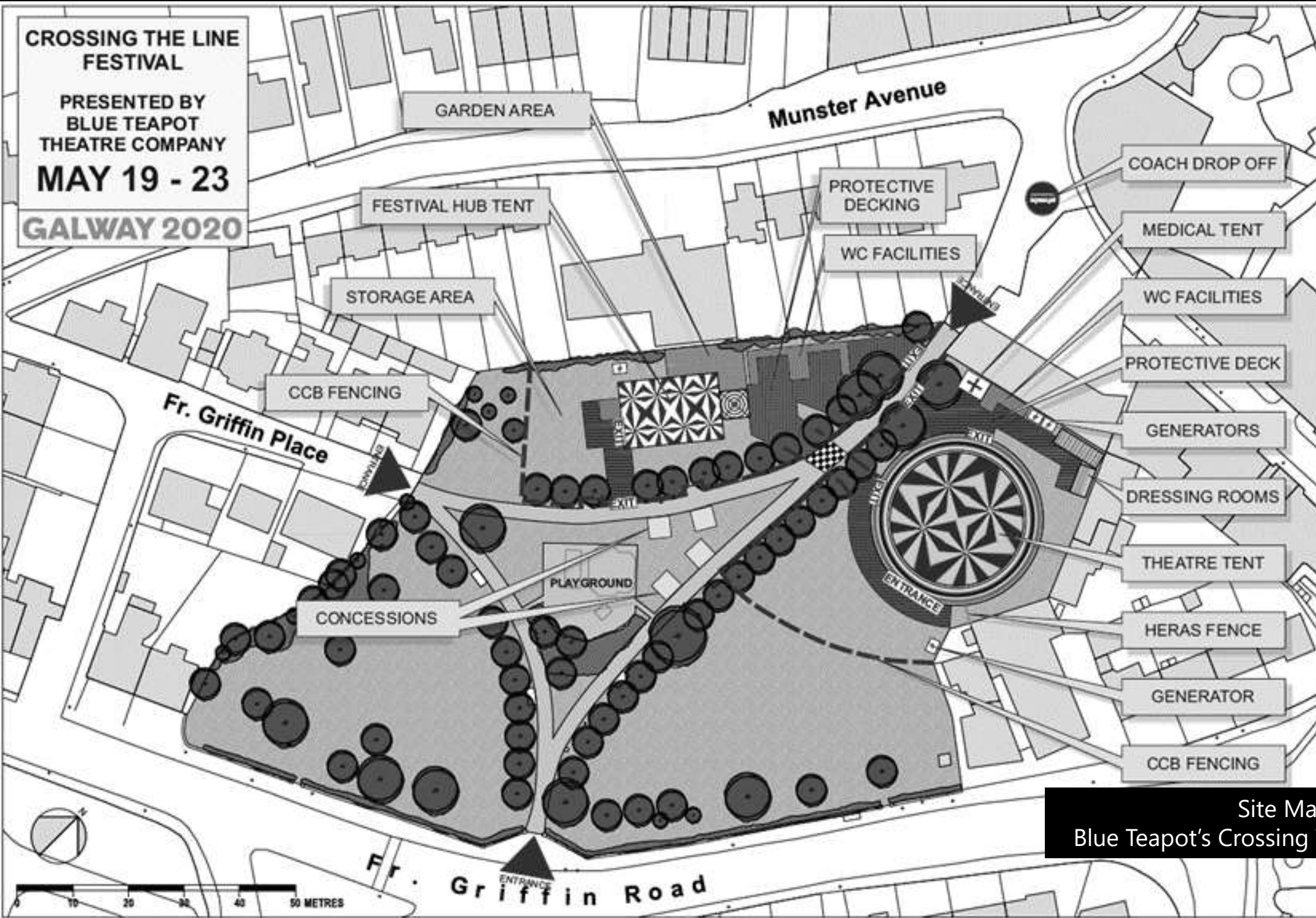
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeweeFtBEdo&t=1s>



**Episode 5:** The European Partnerships continued to thrive. A Crossing the Line Digital Festival was imminent for the autumn and Artists' Residencies in Ireland & Netherlands.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0c6i7iRDqBU&t=1s>

**CROSSING THE LINE  
FESTIVAL**  
  
PRESENTED BY  
BLUE TEAPOT  
THEATRE COMPANY  
**MAY 19 - 23**  
**GALWAY 2020**



Site Map of Fr Burke Park, for  
Blue Teapot's Crossing The Line Festival 2020





Archive image, looking back over 25 years.  
Charlene Kelly & Kieran Coppinger in  
Sanctuary by Christian O'Reilly  
Dublin Fringe Festival, axis: Ballymun 2013

**Minister of State of The Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth with responsibility for Disability Anne Rabbitte**  
visiting as part of Advocacy Training and meet & greet with the company in July 2021.







Archive image, looking back over 25 years  
Global Mystery Tours, December 2014, Blue Teapot Theatre  
Creator/Directors: Rod Goodall & Hillary Kavanagh  
Cast: Performing Arts School, Bright Soul



QQI Level 2 GENERAL LEARNING MAJOR AWARD - *Introduction to Performing Arts*  
**Preparation for External Examination 2nd July 2021**



Artwork by Margherita Londi  
QQI L3 Event Participation



# CONGRATULATIONS

QQI LEVEL 2

General Learning Major Award

6 MODULES

**100% SUCCESS**

FOR ALL 13 STUDENTS





**BLUE TEAPOT**  
THEATRE COMPANY  
**25** YEARS  
1994 - 2019

Archive image, looking back over 25 years.  
Film still of Charlene Kelly & Kieran Coppinger in  
Sanctuary by Christian O'Reilly



# OWNING THE SPACE

## Development of Blue Teapot Strategic Arts Plan With Mary McAuliffe.

Throughout 2021, we have been working with Mary McAuliffe, former Sligo Arts Officer, to produce a Strategic Arts Plan, involving Board, staff & company artists.

Mary is an Arts Advisor & Cultural Planning Specialist with over twenty-five years' experience working in the public sector, where previous roles include, Arts Officer with Waterford Corporation, Head of Arts for Sligo County Council, Project Leader at the Creative Sligo Initiative and Project Manager of Sligo's Cultural Quarter Strategy.

Mary works as a strategic planner for the arts and cultural sector and was appointed as the Arts Council's Public Art Policy and Development Advisor in 2019.

**We're looking forward to launching our 5 year Strategic Plan in October 2022. Bring on the next 25 years!**

### **BTTC Strategy Building Project:**

*Key phases and completion dates.*

**Phase 1:** Engagement with Board Staff & Actors | completed June 2021

**Phase 2:** Research Development and Analysis | completed July 2021

**Phase 3:** Drafting BTTC Strategic Plan | completed August 2021

**Phase 4:** Circulation of strategic plan to Board and Management Team for review and feedback | completed September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021  
Draft accepted by Board Members

**Phase 5:** Circulation of BTTC Strategic Plan incorporating feedback.  
Final presentation to Board for formal adoption. Final presentation to Management Team | To Be Completed February 2022

**Phase 6:** Communications of strategic plan to key stakeholders. PAS Programme Board and Tutor Panel  
| To Be Completed March/ April 2022



**Mary McAuliffe, Arts Advisor & Cultural Planning Specialist**



Archive image, looking back over 25 years.  
ID devised by Scott Williams & the Company  
Blue Teapot Theatre Company  
Galway International Arts Festival 2014



# Welcoming new **Performing Arts School** Students

## September 2021





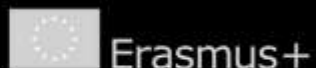
# CROSSING THE LINE FESTIVAL

## Online European Theatre Festival



September 16 - November 25, 2021

Celebrating inclusive art & artists with learning disabilities



**MOOMS**  
TEATERN



**BLUE TEAPOT**  
THEATRE COMPANY

**THEATER BABEL ROTTERDAM**

**MIND THE GAP**

**TEATR 21**

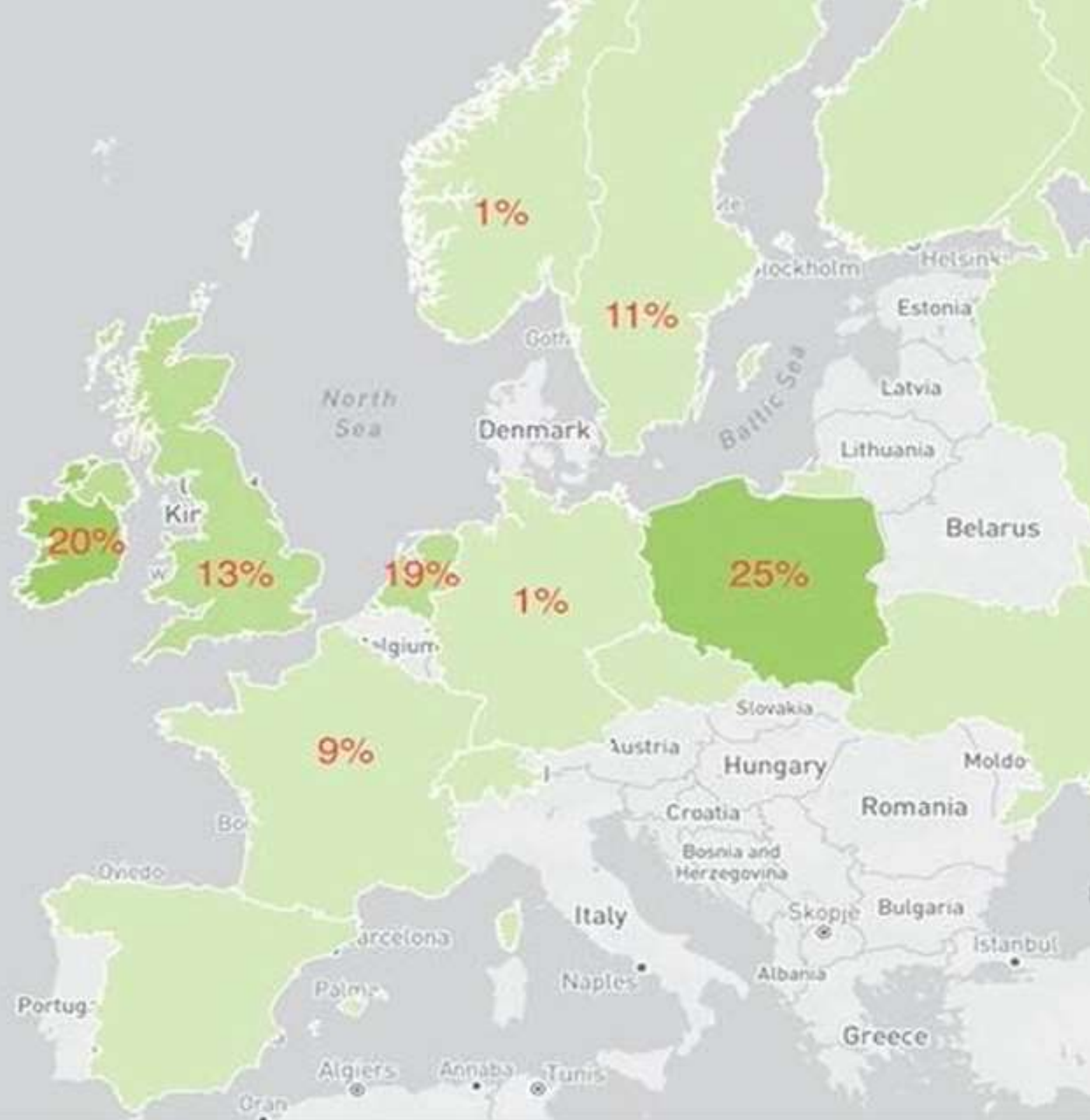
# CROSSING THE LINE FESTIVAL

## Online European Theatre Festival

**September to late November 2021.**

- Crossing the Line Festival brought together the CTL partner organisations for an online theatre festival, celebrating inclusive art and artists with learning disabilities. This was made possible due to the project **Trasna Na Líne**, funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.
- Crossing The Line Digital Festival showcased over 35 events – including theatre performances, documentaries, talks and films from six European companies.
- Our participation was through the presentation of Irish feature film SANCTUARY and short documentary films MY LIGHT WILL BLIND YOU & PROPHECY (pictured) both produced by Blue Teapot Theatre Company.
- Artistically led and committed to meeting the new challenges of producing and touring theatre made by learning disabled and non-disabled theatre makers, the aim is to bring artists together to learn from and with each other; engage with creative and audience development processes; develop connections with a wider network of European theatre companies with a focus on learning disabled artists.





## VIEWERSHIP

Blue Teapot had the second highest overall viewing figures, (2nd only to Poland with a population estimate of 33 million) of the online festival.

## SANCTUARY

### The Festival Highlight

However, our Irish feature film *Sanctuary* garnered the **most viewers** across the entire festival, with over 1000 households across Europe and wider logged on for the 2 free screenings.

POLAND 25%

IRELAND 20%

NETHERLANDS 19%

SWEDEN 11%

UNITED KINGDOM 13%

FRANCE 9%





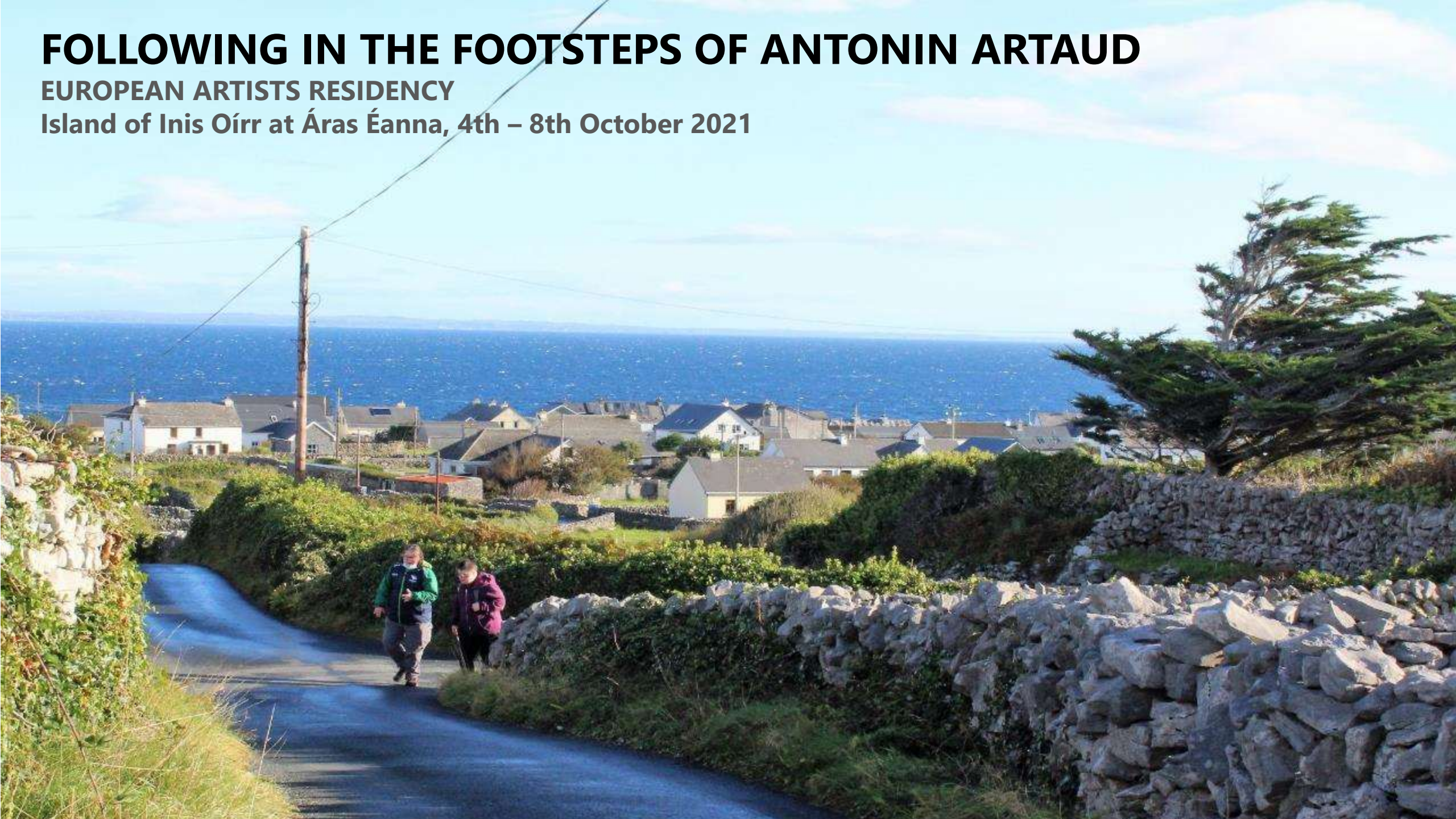
Archive images, looking back over 25 years.  
Bright Soul Community Theatre Workshop members,  
The late Pat Tully, the late PJ Farrell & current member John Fallon  
Mad Hatters Tea Party  
The Walled Garden, Kilcornan 2014



# **FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANTONIN ARTAUD**

**EUROPEAN ARTISTS RESIDENCY**

**Island of Inis Oírr at Áras Éanna, 4th – 8th October 2021**





Zone Poème (France) led a theatre development week with actors from Blue Teapot , Compagnie de l'Oiseau-Mouche (France), and Teatr 21 (Poland) culminating in public showcase at Áras Éanna on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

The inspirational subject matter was Antonin Artaud in Ireland – an exploration of the historical journey of a renowned French dramatist (and creator of Theatre of Cruelty) to the Aran Islands and west of Ireland in 1937.

Being on the Aran Island was integral to the experience for all participants. The environs of Connemara, Aran Islands and Galway were critical to the subject matter being explored.

The encounter of these artists from 3 different countries, speaking 3 different languages from 3 different theatre companies was an intriguing collaboration.

PROPHECY – a short documentary film produced by Blue Teapot & directed/filmed by Fionn Rogers was commissioned for Crossing The Line Digital Festival and screened online for free in November 2021.





few angers can reach  
where my anger will be able





Archive image, looking back over 25 years.  
Michael Hayes as Puck  
Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare  
directed by Petal Pilley  
Brigid's Gardens June 2011

# The Big Day Out

Friday 15 October 2021, Town Hall Theatre Galway

Prior to 2020, we had created a special Outreach project in Tuam, Connemara and Ballinasloe, delivering Stop Motion Animation workshops.

Supported by Galway Rural Development and Galway County Council Arts Office, the project was to culminate with 'A Big Day Out' for participants during *Crossing The Line Festival*, in Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture.

Facilitated by artists Jo Jo Hynes and Jason Scott (*pictured below*), the project involved students from St. Oliver's Special School and Presentation College Tuam, Forum Ability Connemara, Youth Reach Letterfrack and East Galway Youth Project from Ballinasloe.

Each group comprised students with/without intellectual disabilities working together to create short Stop Motion films on subjects such as climate emergency, environmental issues, super heroes and Donald Trump

Stop Motion as a filming technique brings static objects or people to life on screen frame by frame. The students brainstormed ideas, created story boards, characters and chose inanimate objects in which to bring to life.

Assisting the tutors were Blue Teapot's Valerie Egan, Michael Hayes and Performing Arts School graduate Cathal Scott Reynolds.

The Big Day Out finally took place on Friday 15th October in the Town Hall Theatre with the six films screened to a delighted audience of participants and funders.



Pictured above: a screen shot from '**Super Rescue**'.

**St. Oliver's & Presentation Secondary School Tuam**

**Tutor:** Jo Jo Hynes

**Assistant:** Cathal Scott-Reynolds



East Galway Youth Project, Ballinalsoe

## Super Friendly Space Buddies

Tutor: Jo Jo Hynes & Assistant: Valerie Egan







BEFORE



AFTER

Forum Connemara & Youth Reach Letterfrack

**Trump Talks!**

Tutor: Jason Scott & Assistant: Michael Hayes

# **NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT THE FAIRY TREE**

**Devised & Directed by Rod Goodall**

**Script Treatment & Exploratory Workshops  
July 2021**

**Weekly Development Workshops  
September – December 2021**

**Script Draft & Revisions**

**Music Composer Commission  
Stephen Johnston**

**Rehearsal set/props & puppets built/made**

**Supported by  
Creative Ireland**



# NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

## THE FAIRY TREE

Devised & Directed by Rod Goodall

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

We held research S.W.O.T sessions with our actors to inform our next Strategic Plan and to discover what it is they would like creatively to do next. Feedback directly from them was that they would really want to explore the possibility of a story made specifically for children audiences.

### CREATIVE IRELAND

A grant was awarded to co-support this exploratory phase of ideas, form, working on puppetry & performance skills, the workshopping a completed first draft script & casting of characters.

### FUTURE GENERATIONS

We're excited about the possibilities of this development phase, to eventually show artists with intellectual disabilities at work to children with/without disabilities can only be described as ground breaking – we're not aware of any commercial, professionally produced children's theatre that has intellectually disabled artists as the performers.

### OBJECTIVE FULFILLED

By listening to our people and responding effectively to their wishes.









Archive image, looking back over 25 years.  
Crossing the Line Festival Masterclass  
Roubaix France 2017



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white ceramic piggy bank. The piggy bank has a simple, friendly face with two small black dots for eyes and a large, rounded snout. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a person's arm and some indistinct shapes.

2021 turnover was **€625,643** reflecting increased output, significantly due to involvement in **Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture** and other artistic and educational projects.

Included is a net of **€28,725** in the 'Blue Brick', deposit fund for the exclusive purpose of securing or buying a permanent home for Blue Teapot in the future.

Strategic growth for **Performing Arts School** continued with increase in student numbers and expansion of staff team in with restricted income for its continued development. PAS now recruits annually with September intake of students each year.

Local authority & government grants on offer in response to the Covid pandemic were sought to assist with unforeseen expenditure in adapting to remote working & more demand for digital & online content.

Full set of accounts are audited annually by **MK Brazil, Waterford** and published each year along with this Annual Report on our website **[blueteapot.ie/governance](https://blueteapot.ie/governance)**

## 2021 Funders, Fundraising & Donors

We work in a marginalized sector badly impacted by the loss of live performances during the various lockdowns.

Cancellation of *Into The Dark Woods* in March resulted in significant projected loss of box office revenue.

The annual Christmas Swim raised €5,061 by company members & supporters. Two departments within Galway City Council supported artistic practise, strategy & capacity building.

Galway City Council's *Local Community Development Committee* contributed €4,600 for premises upgrades to Parkhead, home of our Performing Arts School.

*Creative Ireland* seed funded €5,000 early stage new theatre development work. Also contributing to programme delivery was the National Lottery via HSE West Community Healthcare Organisation Area 2 , awarding €4,000.

Further information on funders can be obtained from the 2021 Financial Statement published on our website [www.bluetepot.ie](http://www.bluetepot.ie)



# Heartfelt Thank You

*For coming on board!*



Our gratitude goes to every funder & individual who has supported our service provision throughout 2021.

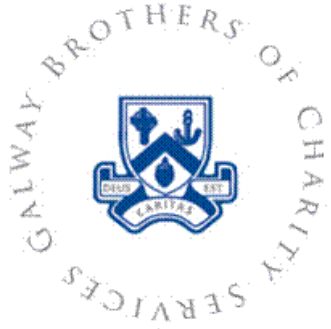
In particular, major funding partners Brothers of Charity Services Ireland -West Region, Ability West, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board as well as a philanthropic funder.

Arts funding is supported primarily by The Arts Council of Ireland for *Into The Dark Woods*, Creative Europe for *Trasna Na Line*, Galway City & County Council Arts Offices and Galway 2020 organisation for funding our Capital of Culture projects.



# 2021 FUNDERS

We greatly appreciate the funding agents, organisations and every individual who chooses to fund or nominate Blue Teapot as a beneficiary. No matter how small or large the donation, we are so grateful. Heartfelt Thank You to all.



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017-2022



# COMPANY INFORMATION

Blue Teapot Theatre Company, Munster Avenue, Galway,H91 FVF8, Ireland.

**CRO: 471758**  
**CHY 18643 / CRN 20071912**  
**REVENUE: 9709656J**

DIRECTORS	Fiona Coffey (Chair), Sean Conneally (Secretary), Carol Browne, Gerardine Lally, Siobhán Ní Ghadhra and Anthony Casey ( <i>appointed 22 July 2021</i> ). <i>Dean Kelly resigned April 2021</i>
CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Petal Pilley
EMPLOYEES	Sonja Brodie, Hillary Kavanagh, Ana Bella Alvarez, Jason Scott, Judith Wolf. Cheryl Hudson ( <i>left in August</i> ) and Dave Donovan ( <i>started September</i> ).
EMPLOYMENT SCHEME	Rueben Parry, Michael Patrick Breen.
VOLUNTEERS	<i>No volunteers in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.</i>
KEY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	Bernie O’Brien (Chartered Management Accountant), Figures Bookkeeping (Payroll), MK Brazil (Auditors), Federation of Voluntary Bodies (Pension).
TUTORS ( <i>freelance</i> )	Charmian Goodall, Rod Goodall, Aine Lawless, James Riordan, Lali Morris, Fiona O’Dea, Rachel Parry, Sinead Hackett, Train Station Gym and Catherine Collins.
COMPANY MEMBERS	Judith Higgins, Lali Morris, Claude Madec, Noelle Burke, Ann Loughney, Michelle Kenny, Eamon Loughrey and Marina Moore.
PAS PROGRAMME BOARD	Sean Conneally, Fiona O’Dea, Paula Breathnach and Cathleen Hartnett



