



Blue Teapot

Theatre Company



Annual Report 2022



WELCOME

A bright welcome to Blue Teapot Theatre Company's Annual Report for 2022, a year in which great strides were made towards a long-term future for the organisation. The gradual easing of Covid 19 restrictions, especially towards the latter half of the year, was indeed most welcome. We were finally able to bring theatre back to live audiences and celebrate achievements with wider family members and friends. Projects and collaborations that had been on hold were for the main part released and realised.

Blue Teapot's co-production with the Abbey Theatre of Charlene Kelly's debut play *Into the Dark Woods* performed to sell out houses in the Black Box Theatre in September, no small accomplishment for a first time playwright. The testimonials from audience members and critics reviews were effecting and insightful and demonstrated how well the play was received.

A significant strategic vision was bought to fruition with the purchase of the premises we had called home for many years on Munster Avenue in the heart of Galway's Westend. Owning our own building, a designated artistic home, ensures a sustainable future for Blue Teapot and the many artists we serve long into the future and will enable us to develop a centre of excellence for theatre arts & disability in the Western Region.



With the possibility to travel overseas again, the final chapter of *Trasna na Líne*, the joint Creative Europe funded project with our Crossing The Line partnership, was completed. Our actors travelled to Rotterdam to take part in a week long creative residency with their professional peers from across Europe.

Our Board saw changes with the resignation of long serving Directors Siobhan Ní Ghadhra in February and Carol Browne in June. Both had joined the Board in November 2014. New appointments came in July and October with Mary Seale O'Flaherty and James C Harrold respectively.

In the autumn, we celebrated our graduating Performing Arts School students who had completed their three year training. An in person graduation ceremony was produced, the first one in three years, and it was heart-warming to honour each student and share the occasion with their families. Blue Teapot Theatre Company also achieved QQI reengagement status for our Performing Arts School programme with flying colours after a rigorous whole company process.

We launched our Strategic Arts Plan *Owning The Space* after a year-long deep dive with the Board, team, artists, independent tutors and practitioners. We are pleased to have laid out an ambitious yet achievable plan for the next five years with particular attention given to articulating the space the company occupies at the intersection of Arts, Disability and Education.



Finally, I am delighted to say that Blue Teapot had the opportunity to propose again to a Philanthropic Trust that had previously supported us expanding our Performing Arts School with a three year multi annual funding commitment. This second pitch was successful and the Trust increased their annual funding support by 100% committed over five years 2023 – 2027. This backing is a wonderful validation of the work of Blue Teapot and will go a long way to helping us to achieve key aims set out in our arts strategy.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

Significant milestones were achieved in 2022 ensuring a sustainable future for Blue Teapot. The focus in 2023 will be on expanding the team with the recruitment of an Executive Director - a new role in the company. This appointment will safeguard the high quality artistic output of Blue Teapot by freeing up the current Artistic Director who has held both positions to date, and is critical to the delivery of our strategic aims and priorities going forward.

Performing is the passion that spans all three of our programme strands, theatre is the art-form that unifies the entire company. Next year will be committed to increasing our arts funding and developing projects that will give our actors, students and participants the platforms they deserve to create and contribute to Ireland's rich artistic landscape.

Petal Pilley

Director of Service



We have a strongly held ethos that people with an intellectual disability (ID), with the right supports, can make art on a par with mainstream artists.

We are committed to ensuring that the contribution ID artists make to Ireland's cultural life is recognised, valued and understood.

In 2022, our organisation benefitted 55 ID artists at varying stages of careers or interests – professional actors, performing arts students and community theatre participants - in achieving their individual potential through theatre, arts education and providing a guiding model for accessibility in the arts.

We Are Theatre Game Changers



Theatre
Company





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.

10

Our ensemble of 10 professional actors are inspired by the practices of a diverse range of contemporary artists from Ireland and internationally.

As an inclusive company, we sometimes cast non-disabled artists in our theatre productions including in the 2022 production *Into the Dark Woods*. Casting (non-disabled) guest artists has proven mutually beneficially each time we stage a production with significant excitement, creative innovation and respect on both sides.

Our artists work to achieve their potential through world class theatre, storytelling and providing a guiding model for accessibility in the arts and cultural sector.

We commit to working with the best professional collaborators and by performing in mainstream arts venues.



Performing
Arts School



Performing Arts School

Blue Teapot is an accredited provider of vocational training for people aged 18 and over with intellectual disabilities. Founded in 2010, it was specifically set up to address the needs of those learners who want to gain formal training and certification in QQI creative modules.

Our ethos is to give learners quality arts experience of equal importance to that of required learning outcomes. Tutors are subject matter experts with a wealth of knowledge in creative arts – theatre directors, actors, artists, musicians and designers – along with specialists in advocacy and life skills.



RECRUITMENT & ENROLMENT

We enrol new students **every September**, keeping numbers small to ensure everyone gets a high quality learning experience. Recruitment is open ended, and a focused public campaign from October – February.

All applicants are met in person, interviewed, followed later by auditions. This process determines the successful candidates who will go on to gain a place. Any available places in our Community Theatre Programme Bright Soul may be offered to those unsuccessful for enrolment in the school.

The three year programme comprises component modules leading to certification in QQI Levels 2 & 3 and Life Skills programme.

Year One – Core skills: Introduced with *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 deepens core skills learnt in year one with inclusion of Drawing, Music Appreciation, Puppetry and Event Participation.

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



LIFE SKILLS programme is an integral & complementary component of the course, with subjects such as online safety, health & fitness, help with IT and literacy, interpersonal skills, advocacy and person centred outcomes.

Community
Theatre



We have 2 community theatre programmes that cater for adults (Bright Soul) or youth (Sparkle) who are curious about performance and the opportunity to participate in fun and fearless, creative workshops.

In 2022, we were able to deliver autumn terms of 8-10 weeks each, following two & half cancelled years due to the pandemic.

BRIGHT SOUL

A multi-generational programme (founded 1996), born as a 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. Some of the original members still attend while younger participants have used this experience as a stepping stone in to the Performing Arts School.

SPARKLE

A drama programme for teenagers aged 12 – 17 years and is the basis of a future Young Ensemble, an artistically led engagement and potential pathway for those who want to access formal training in to our Performing Arts School. Tutors focus on group work, concentration and memorization exercises, exploring imagination and creativity.

Both programmes can be a pathway into the more formal training environment of the Performing Arts School.



ARTISTIC PROJECTS & HIGHLIGHT EVENTS 2022





EUROPEAN ARTISTS' RESIDENCY ROTTERDAM

With Covid restrictions lifted, the Creative Europe project *Trasna Na Líne* resumed in June with an Artists' Residency in The Netherlands hosted by Theater Babel. Actors and support staff from Blue Teapot, Teatr 21 and Moomsteatern joined Dutch counterparts in the week-long event culminating in a showcase of works across venues in Rotterdam.

Trasna Na Líne involves 5 partners from *Crossing The Line*, a network of six European partner organisations - Blue Teapot, Moomsteatern (Sweden), Compagnie de l'Oiseau-Mouche (France), Theater Babel (Netherlands) Teatr 21 (Poland) and Mind The Gap (England). All are professional, inclusive theatre organisations for artists with intellectual disabilities.

THEATER
BABEL
ROTTERDAM

THAT'S A WRAP! MALMÖ

In October, three productive days working in Malmö with our wonderful & generous Swedish hosts Moomsteatern concluded 3 years of Trasna Na Líne.

5 partners, 5 countries, 4 artist residencies, 3 partner meetings, 1 digital online theatre festival & what was to be our very own Crossing The Line Festival (May 2020). We Look forward to the next chapter in our European adventures.

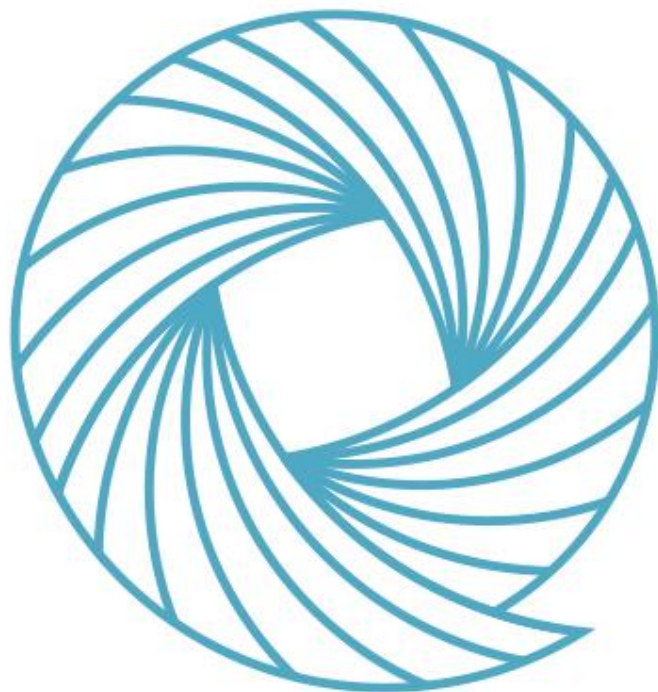
MOOMS
TEATERN



Preparation for External Examination

Mask Making
Theatre Craft QQI Level 2





QQI AWARD

**QQI LEVELS 2 & 3 MODULES
100% SUCCESS**

Examinations took place
15 July 2022

QQI Authenticator:
Paula Breathnach

Level 2

GENERAL LEARNING
MAJOR AWARD

Introduction to Performing Arts

Level 3

GENERAL LEARNING
Component Awards

Foundation Performing Arts Skills



QQI AWARD



CONGRATULATIONS!

A FRESH NEW LOOK

2022 brought about a change in our company identity, brought about in part for a desire to re-fresh our look after 13 years of an evolving company, and ahead of the imminent theatre production, new website and Strategic Arts Plan launches.

New Logo

We engaged the services of Brand Elevation (Dublin) to design the new logos and, in contrast to the black, blue & white logo, we chose a vibrant colour palette of black, turquoise, saffron, red and white which are interchangeable and can be used in a variety of branding ways. Within the logo is a nod to theatre – in the round, rays of light, audience seats. The circle also represents equality.

New bespoke, accessible website

In 2021, we took part in a website accessibility clinic, evaluated by Sharron Rush of Knowability, arranged through Arts & Disability Ireland. Our website had been based on a standard template and had limited scope for accessibility controls.

We were extremely fortunate to receive a grant of €10,000 from the Ireland Funds specifically for the purpose of commissioning a bespoke website that would provide for accessibility controls that give equal access and opportunity for people with various disabilities, as well as multiple language settings.

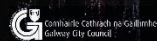
We worked with Hillside Agency (Scotland) to produce the new website, which went live in August and in time for *Into the Dark Woods* world premiere. Still a work in progress in some areas, we are nonetheless extremely happy with the resulting website.



Screen grab of bluteapot.ie

Designed and created by Hillside Agency

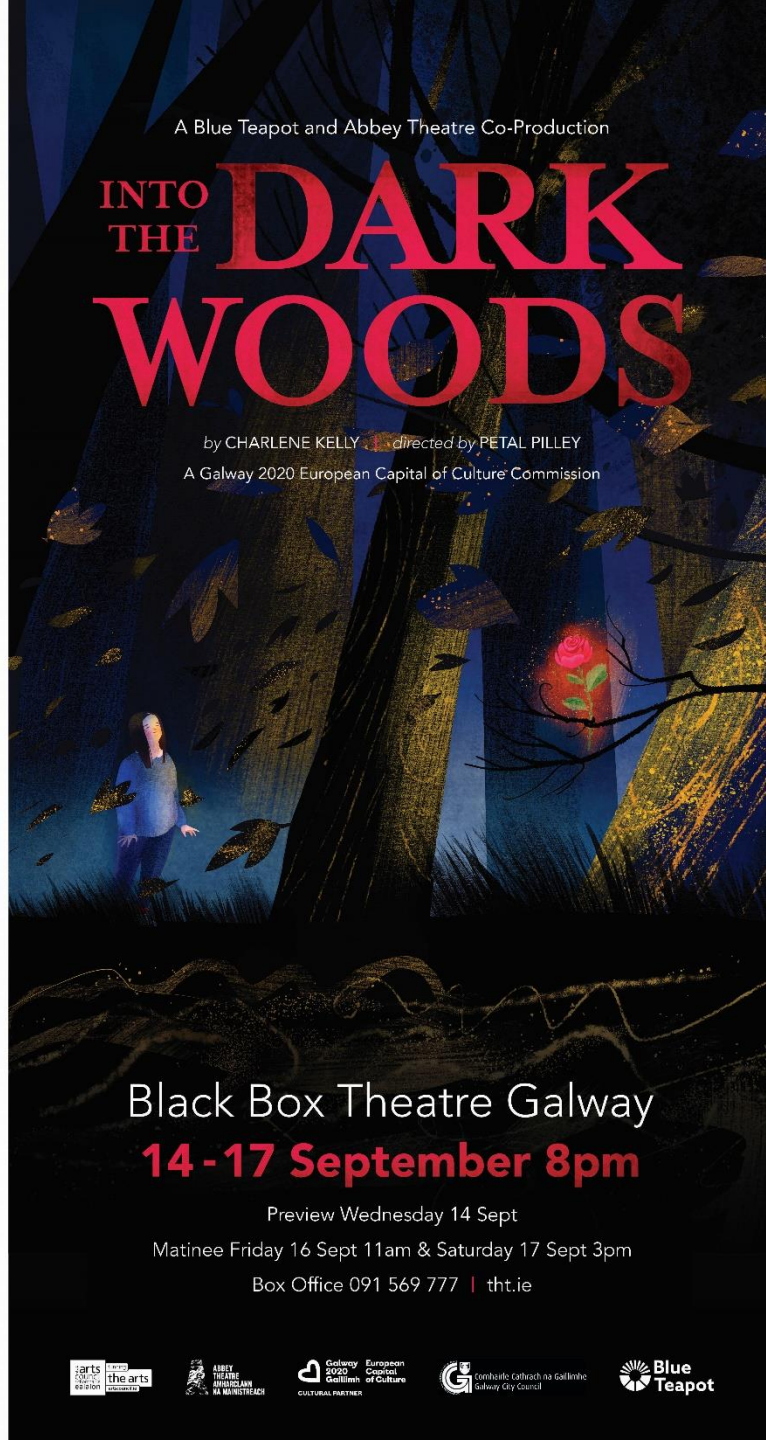




A Blue Teapot and Abbey Theatre Co-Production

INTO THE DARK WOODS

by CHARLENE KELLY . . . directed by PETAL PILLEY
A Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Commission



Black Box Theatre Galway
14 - 17 September 8pm

Preview Wednesday 14 Sept

Matinee Friday 16 Sept 11am & Saturday 17 Sept 3pm

Box Office 091 569 777 | tht.ie





A Blue Teapot & Abbey Theatre Co-Production

Into the Dark Woods

by Charlene Kelly | directed by Petal Pilley

A Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Commission

After two years delay due to the COVID pandemic, the world premiere of *Into the Dark Woods* finally took to the stage. Written by Blue Teapot ensemble member Charlene Kelly, the production enjoyed a sold out run at Black Box Theatre Galway from 14 – 17 September inclusively.

Net Box Office returns exceeded expectation earning €13,482 with 1,234 paying patrons attending over six performances, including a special Audio Described matinee and two free Touch Tours.

Touch Tours facilitated theatre patrons who were visually impaired, on the autistic spectrum or with intellectual difficulties. The Touch Tours were booked out in advance and we were pleased to present the first Audio Described performance in the Black Box Theatre. The matinee shows were also advertised as relaxed performances and Blue Teapot staff underwent training by access specialist Mo Harte to support blind and visually impaired patrons.

We wish to thank The Centre for Disability Law and Policy, University of Galway who funded the Audio Described performance.

A Blue Teapot and Abbey Theatre Co-Production

INTO THE DARK WOODS

A Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Commission

Playwright	Charlene Kelly
Director	Petal Pilley
Script Dramaturg	Eileen Gibbons

Cast in alphabetical order

The Monster/ Tree	Patrick Becker
Footman/Tree	Paul Connolly
Prince Edward/Tree	Kieran Coppinger
The King	Midie Corcoran
Tree	Cormac Crawford
Sharon	Jennifer Cox
Tree	Valerie Egan
Tree	Michael Hayes
The Magical Queen	Emer Macken
Grandmother	Mary Monaghan McHugh
Tree	Grace O'Brien

Creative Team	
Set Design	Sabine Dargent
Costume Design	Charmian Goodall
Lighting Design	Barry McKinney
Sound Design	Jason Scott
Original Composition	Seán Doherty
Under-Song	Mornington Singers
Snow Dance for the Dead	New Dublin Voices
Audio Describer & Touch Tour Facilitator	Mo Harte

Producer	Hillary Kavanagh
Production Manager	Niall Barrett
Stage Manager	Rebecca Malone
Artist Liaison & A.S.M	Tonya Lenhart
Wardrobe	Órla Kelly Smith
Sound Engineer	Ollie Carroll
Head Stage Technician	Keith Newman
Set Carpenters	Peter St. John Nelson, Angus Dewar, Simon Kennedy & David O'Dowd

Scenic Artists	Rachel Towey & Ger Sweeney
Lighting crew & Operations	Shannon Light, Mike Byrne & Órla Kelly Smith
Lighting Hire	QLX Lighting
Stage Crew	Paul (Ollie) O'Connor & Gary Ridge
Backstage Assistant	Angelina Lawless
Set Transport	Killaninn Transport Ltd, Gerry Mallon
Men's Hair	James Gallagher
Marketing Manager	Jane Hanberry
Public Relations	Lisa Regan
Content Writer & Social Media	Sonja Brodie
Graphic Design	Clair O'Brien & Aoife Kelly
Poster illustration	Dermot Flynn
Photography	Andrew Downes - Xposure, Anita Murphy

Blue Teapot	
Artistic Director & CEO	Petal Pilley
General Manager	Sonja Brodie
Producer	Hillary Kavanagh
Actors Coordinator	Jason Scott
Performing Arts School Manager	Judith Wolf
Performing Arts School Co-Ordinator	Ana Alvarez
Programme Support	Dave Donovan
Classroom Assistants	Reuben Parry & Michael Patrick Breen



CHARLENE KELLY

Playwright

"I got inspiration for the story by being in a woods, from the trees, flowers, bees. Just the sense from hearing the birds, what words could come from that to a page, an empty piece of paper? These are the words I found to speak about my disability: considerate, protective, clear and kind. This is how the character of the Prince wants to be treated.

I got a memory of another time I was in a wood, but I was scared. I just didn't know exactly where I was as it was very dark. So I felt like the way a character would be in the story. That's how I got the idea for the character Sharon for the script."

Charlene is best known as an actor with Blue Teapot Theatre Company since 2008, performing in many productions including as Helena in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream (2010), Sophie in the stage and screen versions of Sanctuary (Christian O'Reilly, 2012 - 2016) and Elizabeth in Waiting For Elvis (Eileen Gibbons, 2016).

This experience, working alongside playwrights and directors on commissioned and devised theatre works, inspired Charlene to pursue a long held desire to write. This ambition was developed within a series of creative writing workshops with playwright and dramaturg Eileen Gibbons. It became evident in the development phases that Charlene not only had the aptitude, but an innate sense of theatricality in her story telling.





SUCCESSFUL PR & MARKETING CAMPAIGN

The supporting PR was run by Lisa Regan and our marketing campaign was run by digital strategist Jane Hanberry. Advertising value equivalency on the campaign was valued at €645,000 with 22 separate media articles with a varied spread across regional and national media. This figures does not include social media impacts.



Abbey Theatre @AbbeyTheatre · Sep 16

#IntoTheDarkWoods opening last night 🌙🍷 Bravo to the whole company
@BlueTeapotTC @THTG bit.ly/3HXGQFy

"Debut playwright Charlene Kelly draws from her personal experience to bring forth a tale that is unanimously felt and understood."
Chloe Richardson reviewer,
This is Galway



Seán Doherty @SeanDComposer · Sep 15

Huge congratulations to all at @BlueTeapotTC for the premiere of 'Into the Dark Woods'! I was honoured to hear my music in this beautiful co-production with @AbbeyTheatre!



Galway's Westend @galwayswestend · Sep 15

The whole #GalwaysWestend community is so proud and excited for @BlueTeapotTC who have sold out the first two nights of 'Into the Dark Woods' in The Black Box 🥳🥳🥳 A handful of tickets left for Fri 11am, Sat 3pm and Sat 8pm so get on it quick: tbt.ie/3816/into-the-...



LAUNCH OF STRATEGIC ARTS PLAN 2023-2027

Launched 11th October 2022, *Owning The Space* is our first Strategic Arts Plan and sets out our vision for the next five years. The plan is built on three key priorities of **Production, Progression** and **Provision** and is a response to the positive development of disability arts in Ireland over the last 20 years. Creating the strategy took two years involving company artists, staff, freelance tutors and Board and developed in consultation with arts advisor & cultural planning specialist Mary McAuliffe.

Chairperson Fiona Coffey commented, "The Board of Blue Teapot is delighted to be presenting such a visionary and progressive Strategic Arts Plan. Delivering on its goals and objectives will nurture and progress the skills and talents of the company artists and help inform arts and disability policy in Ireland. We look forward to ambitious and exciting times ahead".

Owning The Space purposely aligns with the Government of Ireland Culture 2025 policy and the Arts Council's 10-year strategy Making Great Art Work. It informs the development and delivery of artistic programmes and shapes Blue Teapot's role as influencers in the longer-term for disability arts across Ireland. The plan is available to view/download at www.bluteapot.ie which includes accessibility controls for the visually impaired.



Our Values

As a theatre company, we operate within a framework of legal and regulatory obligations and a range of codes of good practice. In addition, we are guided by a set of values that include:

A Commitment to Excellence



We promote freedom of thought and of expression to develop new ideas and new work and strive to achieve the highest artistic standards in the work we make and produce

A Belief in Equality



We are committed to equality, cultural rights, diversity in all its forms and the advancement of inclusive theatre practices

Dynamic and Sustainable



We are dynamic and adaptable and will evolve our business model to meet the changing needs of our company

Accountable and Transparent



We are open and accountable in our decision making and communicate respectfully with partners and stakeholders

Environmental Awareness



We will identify and take actions to improve our environmental practices





Strategic Priorities

PRODUCTION	making brave, challenging, intrepid theatre
PROGRESSION	nurturing creativity and talent
PROVISION	developing quality infrastructure





TELLING STORIES THROUGH DOCUMENTARIES

21st – 28th October 2022

A collaborative film making project involving artists and participants with/without disabilities took place over 8 days in Clifden, County Galway. The project was a collaboration between Blue Teapot and Galway County Council Arts Office. Key project personnel were Fionn Rogers (videographer), Paul Connolly (Blue Teapot facilitator), Jason Scott (sound recorder/film editor) Johanne Webb (Clifden project facilitator), and Dave Donovan (artists' facilitator).

We chose this location and project type as we had a prior track record of delivering Outreach arts in the County and we wanted to expand the reach.

Participants initially attended documentary making workshops with one day dedicated to story-boarding, 7 days given to actual film-making. Participants learnt how to film, direct and complete a documentary about a subject of their own choosing.

The project was hugely valuable in terms of skill learning, confidence and team building and that the final documentary will not only be a beautiful film, but an important piece of advocacy for young people in rural areas.

The documentary 'Enquire Within' is due to be screened at Station House Theatre in September 2023 as part of the programme of events for Clifden Arts Festival.



*Thank you Galway
County Council, Arts
Office, Sharon O'Grady
& Clifden Arts Festival.*





Enquire Within

is the resulting documentary filmed in October 2022 that explores the Clifden community participants chosen topic of employment in their area.

Questions were put to people of Clifden to find out their opinions on seasonal work for youths and the work opportunities available for adults with disabilities in the area.

Documentary makers themselves discussed their own experiences and opinions about employment in the area.



CITY TRIBUNE

Landlord's dying wish secures future of Galway's Blue Teapot Theatre



Published 8 months ago on October 21, 2022

By Denise McNamara

PROPERTY PURCHASE

In October, we happily became the new owners of the theatre premises on Munster Avenue that we've inhabited and rented since 2008. The opportunity to purchase the building was initiated as a result of the late Brian Silke's passing in 2020. It was Mr. Silke's wish that Blue Teapot was given first option to buy the property, ahead of it going for sale on the open market and to avoid a bidding war. It was a golden opportunity we had to take.

The Board approved the seeking of a loan from Clann Credo, a non-profit body that provides loan finance for community organisations around Ireland. Application was made in July and the positive determination came in August. We could therefore go ahead with the purchase.

We are thrilled to have a permanent home in the heart of this very special neighbourhood in the City, in the heart of Galway's West End.

Celebrating the truly wonderful news that Blue Teapot Theatre Company are the proud owners of their own building





QQI AWARD

SUCCESSFUL RE-ENGAGEMENT WITH QQI

In 2012, as FETAC dissolved, we became known as a '*legacy provider*' once Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) became the amalgamated agency on the National Frameworks of Qualifications. A protracted re-engagement processes was to happen as early as 2014 but for various reasons known only to the agency, did not happen.

Preparations for formal re-engagement finally took place throughout 2022 in consultation with PAS Programme Board, tutors, staff and an external specialist in education and quality assurance.

In December, a full day of assessment interviews were held by an independent panel (appointed on behalf of QQI). The rigorous process by QQI demands and recognises the high-quality work in developing, enhancing and implementing quality assurance processes. It is a benchmark that has to be achieved by all institutional and independent providers of QQI programmes.

We're extremely proud to say that we met that threshold at first time and were awarded full status of re-engagement with QQI. We are grateful to QQI for this recognition after a long process, along with our Programme Board, external QA consultant, tutors, staff and of course the learners.

Governance and compliance is a major factor in achieving this status but most importantly, quality work and dedication to providing access and provision to vocational arts training is what we're all about.



Greening Blue Teapot

We are making a concerted effort to improve the environment in & out of Blue Teapot in line with one of our core company values of **Environmental Awareness** and in line with the development of a Green Arts Initiative policy.

Some of the way we have identified and improved our practices include:

- ✓ Formed a Green Arts Sub-committee.
- ✓ Creation of a Greener Teapot Charter.
- ✓ Facilitated a variety of Environmental Awareness classes to Actors & Students.
- ✓ Appointed Green Captains amongst the actors and PAS students to champion green arts practices.
- ✓ Banned single-use plastic drinks bottles.
- ✓ Reduced considerably our general waste bin material due to increased recycling.
- ✓ Reduced cost in general waste bin charges.
- ✓ Eliminated unnecessary printing in our theatre production *Into the Dark Woods* by creating a Programme Wall on display in Black Box Theatre foyer, instead of printing individual audience programmes.
- ✓ Created a QR code, displayed in venue directing patrons to the programme on our new website which has accessibility controls for the visual impaired.
- ✓ Composting plain (no ink) cardboard.
- ✓ Changing over to LED lighting (in progress).



BLUE TEAPOT THEATRE COMPANY - CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

A GREENER TEAPOT!

NO TO PLASTIC		REDUCE WASTE & RECYCLE	
✓	NO MORE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES TO BE USED.	✓	LEARN HOW TO RECYCLE PROPERLY. We will show you!
✓	FILTERED WATER AVAILABLE IN THE KITCHEN. NO NEED TO BUY BOTTLED WATER.	✓	BE MINDFUL OF THE WASTE YOU CREATE. REDUCING WASTE BAGS TO LANDFILL
✓	USE YOUR OWN RE-USABLE, RE-FILLABLE WATER BOTTLE.	✓	SAVE MONEY by RE-USING!
✓	CUT DOWN SINGLE USE PLASTIC – Straws, forks, spoons, plastic bags etc.		HAVE YOU ANY SUGGESTIONS?
HEALTHIER LIVES		GREEN ARTS	
✓	CONSIDER BUYING LOCAL PRODUCE	✓	Use environmentally friendly products – cleaning, make-up, toiletries.
✓	FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FOOD and the Environment.	✓	KEEP YOUR SCRIPTS SAFE.
✓	PLANT BASED MILKS AVAILABLE – Give it a try!	✓	Reduce unnecessary printing.

EVERY SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE – YOUR ACTIONS COUNT.



Galway's Westend Sustainable Business Initiative

This initiative is based on creating awareness of the importance of environmental sustainability- waste prevention, food waste prevention, resource efficiency and climate action amongst the businesses in Galway's West End.

(Name of Business)

commits to the following:

(tick what you are planning on doing)

Telling our customers about our good environmental practices

☐

Preventing waste by:

- Reducing our waste amounts*, including food waste
- Reducing our energy consumption*, and tracking our energy use
- Reducing our water consumption*, and tracking our water use
- Getting rid of single-portion condiments like ketchup, sugar, salt, butter, jam, etc.*
- Getting rid of single use items*, such as plastic straws and plastic cups
- Keeping packaging provided to customers to a minimum
- Using reusable, compostable or biodegradable packaging (sustainable packaging)

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Sourcing and using local and seasonal produce*

☐

Using eco-friendly cleaning products*

☐

Supporting schemes like Fairtrade, Conscious Cup campaign, Refill.ie, etc.

☐

Buying local products and services*

☐

Segregating all waste correctly.

* Where possible.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____



POWERED UP BY GENEROSITY

Being a member of Galway's Westend has enabled us to benefit hugely from its **Sustainable Business Initiative** in conjunction with Galway City Council, in a true act of neighbourly kindness and generosity.

Last May, James Hogan from The Clean Technology Centre visited our two Munster Avenue premises to carry out an environmental assessment, primarily on utilities such as heat, light & water consumptions. Among the feedback came the necessity to upgrade lighting fixtures, from retro-fitted fluorescent strip lighting to LED panels and lights.

After an opportunist approach by Galway's Westend Traders Association's Lisa Regan on our behalf, two Galway businesses came together to supply and fund new LED lighting in Parkhead, the Performing Arts School premises. Peter Curran Electrical very generously donated all the required materials, while Bótown on Dominick Street's owner David Fitzpatrick covered our electrician's labour costs.

The difference it's made on site to the visibility for everyone in Parkhead is just incredible. We are so grateful to Lisa Regan and the entire Galway's Westend community for this support.

In 2023, we will be moving, incrementally towards similar upgrades to the Theatre building, utilising capital grants from Galway City Council and the Ireland Funds for infrastructure renovations and future proofing theatre equipment.







FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022



2022 turnover was €566,085 reflecting increased output, significantly due to finally being able to deliver COVID impacted projects such as *Into the Dark Woods* and other 2021 deferred artistic and educational projects.

Strategic growth for Performing Arts School continued with annual intake of new students each September.

As detailed next page, we were blessed to benefit from once off grant awards and external fundraisers that contributed to earned income and surpassed our annual fundraising target.

The original net savings of €28,725 in the 'Blue Brick' deposit account was finally used for the exclusive purpose of which it was intended, securing a permanent home.

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

2022 FUNDERS, FUNDRAISING EVENTS & DONORS

Our gratitude goes to all funders & individual donors who enabled our service provision throughout 2022, in particular major funding partners Brothers of Charity Services Ireland – West Region, Ability West and Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board and a philanthropic Trust. Arts programming was supported primarily by the Arts Council of Ireland, the Abbey Theatre, Creative Europe and Galway City & County Councils.

Three departments within Galway City Council supported artistic practise & capacity building. The Arts Office contributed €5,000 funding towards completion of *Into the Dark Woods* while Local Community Development Committee contributed €2,900 for premises upgrades (replacement, new external steel door). The Environment, Litter & Waste department awarded €2,000 for the commission of a public art mural in Father Griffin Park which was designed and painted by the Performing Arts School students.

Galway County Council project funded the Clifden documentary week with €10,000 towards week long residencies, filming, editing and artist fees. €2,000 from the National Lottery via HSE West Community Healthcare Organisation Area 2 seed funded a new 'Blank Page' project for an individual artist to explore digital art & animation. In addition to arts funding, €3,293 was awarded by the Arts Council under their Capacity Building Scheme. The capital expenditure grant was used for the purchase of digital & film equipment.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Blue Teapot's annual Christmas Swim raised €6,079 by Blue Teapots' families and supporters. An external fundraiser 'ColdVember Challenge' was organised by the Cox family, connections of a Blue Teapot artist. This raised a fantastic €9,822.72 throughout November/December 2022 via GoFundMe (with proceeds due in 2023). Salthill Rotary Club along with United States counterparts Naperville Rotary of Chicago raised €5,000 to put towards performance activities in 2023.





GOVERNANCE

CRO: 471758 / CRN 20071912 & CHY 18643

REVENUE: 9709656J

In 2022, our Board saw changes with the resignation of long serving Directors Siobhan Ní Ghadhra in February and Carol Browne in June. Both had joined the Board in November 2014.

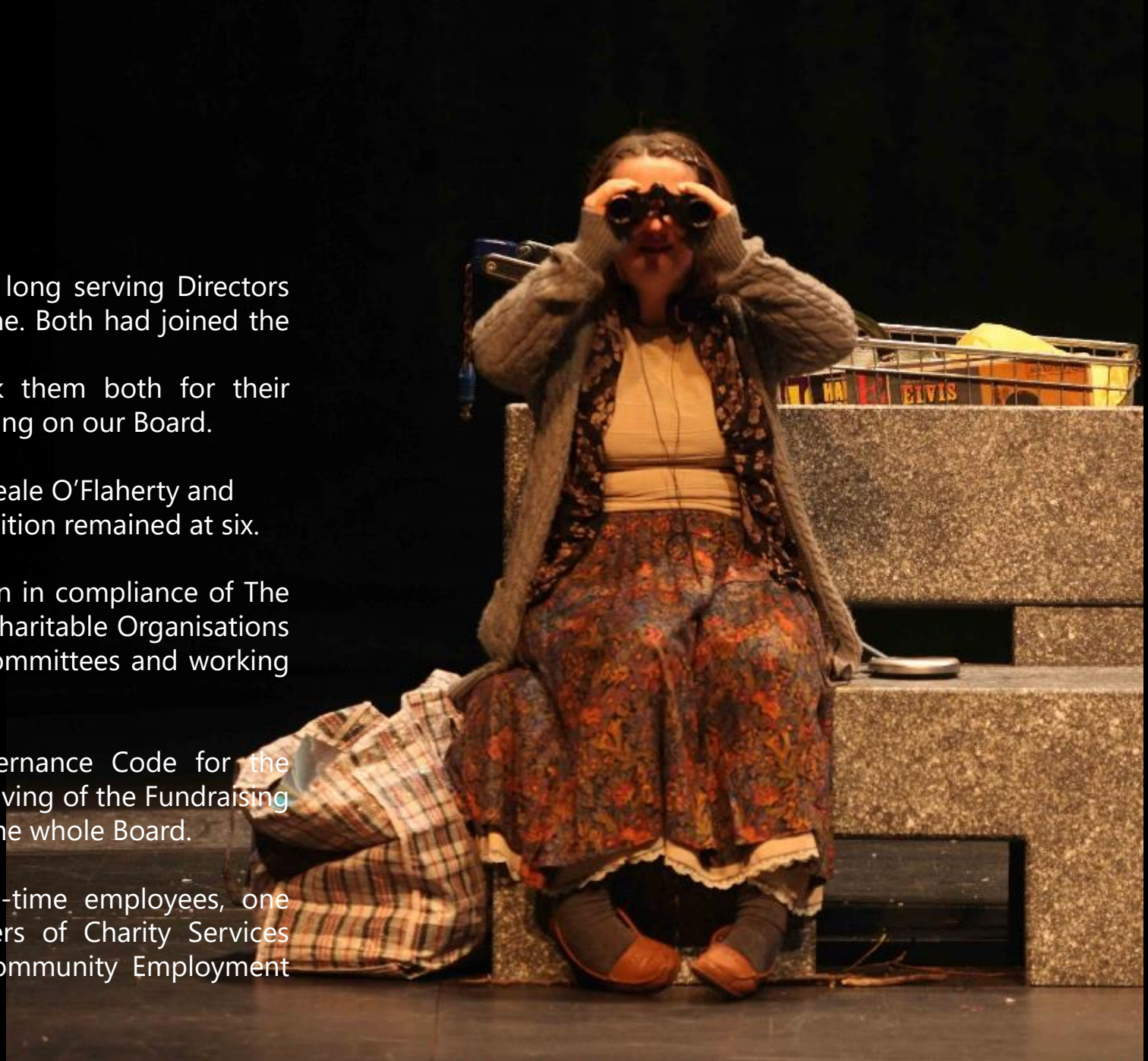
We wish to publicly acknowledge and sincerely thank them both for their commitment, direction and individual expertise while serving on our Board.

New appointments came in July and October with Mary Seale O’Flaherty and James C Harrold respectively. Therefore the Board composition remained at six.

Prior to 2020, the Board’s corporate governance has been in compliance of The Governance Code (2017) for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations whereby company policies, rules of engagements, sub committees and working practices are formally approved.

In 2020, we completed the mandatory Charities Governance Code for the Charities Regulatory with the only change being the dissolving of the Fundraising sub-committee. Fundraising is the on-going concern for the whole Board.

The company maintained a core staff team of 6 part-time employees, one employee (Director of Services) seconded from Brothers of Charity Services Ireland- West Region and supported by 2 part-time Community Employment Scheme workers and project based volunteers.



2022 COMPANY INFORMATION

DIRECTORS

Fiona Coffey (Chair), Sean Conneally (Secretary), Gerardine Lally, Anthony Casey, Mary Seale O’Flaherty (*appointed 13 July*) and James C Harrold (*appointed 6 October*).

Siobhán Ní Ghadhra resigned 22nd February and Carol Browne resigned 2nd June 2022.

COMPANY MEMBERS

Judith Higgins, Lali Morris, Claude Madec, Noelle Burke, Ann Loughney, Michelle Kenny, Eamon Loughrey and Marina Moore.

DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Petal Pilley

EMPLOYEES

Sonja Brodie, Hillary Kavanagh, Ana Bella Alvarez, Jason Scott, Judith Wolf and Dave Donovan.

EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

Michael Patrick Breen and Rueben Parry.

VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS

Teslin Jose, Tonya Lenhart, Oonagh Hassett and Carrie Minagh.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Bernie O’Brien (Chartered Management Accountant), MK Brazil (Auditors), Plato Now (Payroll), Federation of Voluntary Bodies (Pension Administration).

TUTORS (*freelance*)

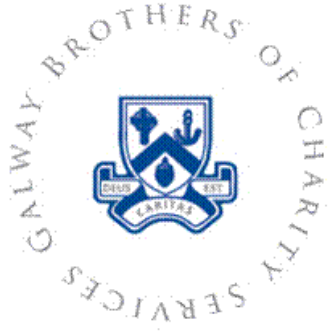
Charmian Goodall, Rod Goodall, Aine Lawless, Lali Morris, Fiona O’Dea, Sinead Hackett, Train Station Gym, Catherine Collins, Debbie Wright, Rebecca Malone, Brendan Savage and Rachel Parry.

PAS PROGRAMME BOARD

Trish Cunningham, Mike Masterson, Sean Conneally and Fiona O’Dea.

2022 FUNDERS

We greatly appreciate the funding agents, organisations and every individual who choses 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.



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



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



Image Credits

- 6 Patrick Becker, *Into the Dark Woods* by Charlene Kelly. Image: Jason Scott
- 8 Sophie Jacobsen, PAS Student, Level 3 Art & Design. Image: Hillary Kavanagh
- 9 Performing Arts School L3 Drama Presentation, *Alice in Wonderland*. Image: Anita Murphy
- 10 Francis Carr, PAS Student, Level 2 Costume Design. Image: Hillary Kavanagh
- 11 Community Theatre Presentation *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* at Kilcornan. Image: Reg Gordon
- 13 Kieran Coppinger & Jennifer Cox, *Into the Dark Woods* by Charlene Kelly. Image: Anita Murphy
- 14 Crossing The Line Theater Babel Residency at Rotterdam. Image: Hillary Kavanagh
- 15 Robert Comer, PAS Student. QQI Level 2 Theatre Craft. Image: Anita Murphy?
- 17 Myles Graham PAS Student. Image: Jason Scott
- 18 Emer Macken & Charlene Kelly, *Into the Dark Woods* by Charlene Kelly. Image: Andrew Downes. Poster Illustration: Dermot Flynn
- 23 Charlene Kelly. Image: Hillary Kavanagh
- 24 Michael Hayes & Valerie Egan, *Into the Dark Woods* by Charlene Kelly. Image: Andrew Downes
- 26 Strategic Arts Plan Cover Photo; Jennifer Cox in *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel. Image: Andrew Downes
- 27 Valerie Egan, *Into the Dark Woods* by Charlene Kelly. Image: Andrew Downes
- 28 Mary Lydon, PAS Student. Level 2 Costume Design. Image: Hillary Kavanagh
- 29 Telling Stories Through Documentaries. Top Image: Jason Scott Bottom Image: Fionn Rogers
- 30 Paul Connolly, Asst. Director, Telling Stories Through Documentaries. Image: Jason Scott
- 32 Ensemble Celebrating. Image: Declan Colohan
- 36 Actors Jennifer Cox, Patrick Becker, Paul Connolly & Kieran Coppinger, on set *Into the Dark Woods* by Charlene Kelly. Image: Andrew Downes
- 37 Sanctuary Film. Image: Russell Gleeson, Director of Photography
- 38 Top; Jennifer Cox and nephews. Image courtesy of the Cox Family Bottom; Cormac Crawford PAS Student, Public Art Mural, Fr. Burke Park, Image: Jason Scott
- 39 Valerie Egan, *Waiting for Elvis* by Eileen Gibbons. Image: Aengus McMahon



**Blue
Teapot**

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