



TYA Ireland

– the national centre in Ireland of International ASSITEJ

Issue: 7, Autumn 2010

TYA IRELAND

TYA Ireland is the national association representing and promoting professional organisations and individual artists whose work primarily focuses on engaging Irish children and young people through theatre. TYA Ireland provides a crucial link between members, the arts sector, the wider community and government.

Mission Statement:

To provide access to high quality professional performing arts experiences to all children and young people in Ireland.

Aims:

- To create a Forum for the Sector.
- To increase the value / profile of the work.
- To promote and foster training and development opportunities for practitioners in the sector.
- To have an International Dimension.

TYA Ireland Committee:

Emelie FitzGibbon, Philip Hardy (Chair), Marc Mac Lochlainn, Emer McGowan.

Members are listed on the webpage below. We welcome and encourage new members from within the sector and from supporters.

Membership application forms are available from:

TYA Ireland, c/o Barnstorm Theatre Company, Church Lane, Kilkenny.
T: 056 7751266
E: assitej.ireland@barnstorm.ie
W: www.barnstorm.ie/assitej.php

Introduction

Greetings to all our colleagues here and abroad. We hope that the economic climate has not impacted too severely on the work of TYA artists, companies and organisations. There is much activity to be reported in this issue of our newsletter which bodes well for our audiences. At the same time with the downturn in the economy venues and schools throughout the country seem to be more reluctant to programme for young audiences - parents have less money to spend!

New Funding Year

The Arts Council is aware of the difficulties that arts organisations face in planning annual programmes. The Arts Council itself is in a similar position as it will not know of its 2011 funding from Government until early December. The Council has decided to change its timeframe for its funding year for organisations in receipt of annually recurring funding. The new funding year will now run from 01 April to the following 31 March. This will allow Council to communicate grant decisions in advance of the funding year, and will afford it more time in considering its funding decisions in light of its own budgetary resources.

A transitional funding period will be required to allow for the orderly introduction of the new funding year (January 2011 to March 2012). This will require that clients make their next grant application (2011) for a 15 month period.

Gathering 2010

This year the Gathering will be hosted by our colleagues in TYA Northern Ireland. Gathering 2010 will be a three-day event in Belfast from 21-23 Oct and will include performances from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland along with national and international speakers and papers/panel discussions. At last year's event it was suggested that TYA Ireland should look to presenting the Gathering every two years and it is exciting therefore to explore the possibility of this important event being shared between the two jurisdictions on alternate years. It promises to be an exciting and memorable Gathering with demand for delegate places - further details are within.

More information about the National Day of Action organised for 17th Sept 2010 by the National Campaign for the Arts (www.ncfa.ie) follows on page 10.

Thank you and best wishes,

Philip Hardy - Chairperson
TYA Ireland

"...The future of the creative economy depends on opportunities for children and young people to participate in arts and creativity being provided today."

Arts Council UK

A Belfast Gathering

In October, Belfast will be the venue for Gathering 2010. This is the first year in its three-year history that this major conference and showcase of theatre for young audiences will take place in Northern Ireland.

The event is being presented by TYA NI in association with TYA Ireland and will bring together producers and presenters from across Ireland. The programme will feature performances by professional companies and organisations from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. As well as sharing best work practice and methodologies, delegates will participate in panel discussions, practical workshops and will hear from a number of distinguished keynote speakers of international standing.

Gathering 2010 in Belfast will build on the previous events hosted by TYA Ireland in Blanchardstown and Cork and will be its first cross-border showcase. As part of this, a number of companies from Ireland will be presenting their work both in finished production and in development.

The city of Belfast is currently experiencing a cultural and social renaissance and the inclusion on its artistic calendar of this important focus on theatre for young audiences is a significant step forward for the ambitions of those working in this sometimes undervalued field.

"Above all, we want to share work and ideas," says Ali FitzGibbon, on behalf of TYA NI and director of Young at Art, one of the consortium coordinating the event.

"Between a selection of high quality performances and works in progress will be panel discussions on subjects such as the value of children's theatre, ways in which children and young people are involved in its development and how practitioners can build collaboration locally and internationally. Our aim is to advance discussion on how best to pool our resources so as to increase accessibility, promote excellence in theatre for young audiences and encourage new and emerging artists in the field."

Among the seven participating companies and host of the majority of the performances is Belfast-based Replay, one of the UK's longest established educational theatre companies. It will

present award-winning Welsh writer Gary Owen's double-hander *Bulletproof*, which addresses the issues of suicide and mental illness amongst teenagers and is targeted at 14+ year-olds. It is directed by the company's former artistic director David Fenton.

In contrast, Cahoots Ni will bring all its skills in visual theatre, magic and illusion to its world premiere of *Leon and The Place Between*, an adaptation by its artistic director Paul McEneaney and musician Ursula Burns of Angela McAllister's beautiful picture book. The production, which is suitable for children aged 5 years and over, will be performed in a large Victorian-style circus tent in the city's Botanic Gardens and will be accompanied by a magical series of open workshops and activities throughout the park over two weekends.

Following its 13th Belfast Children's Festival in May, Young at Art will present *Once Upon a Time*, a new interactive piece for 5 – 8 year olds premiered at the festival by performer/illustrator Patrick Sanders and Mary Jordan.

Each of the participating companies has identified the need to position Ireland and Northern Ireland's theatre for young audiences on an international platform, in the way that previous similar profile events in Scotland and the Republic of Ireland have done. Gathering 2010 will function as both a meeting point and showcase, open to members of the public as well as programmers and directors.

The purpose and main objective of Gathering 2010 is to build the infrastructure of theatre for young people in Ireland, to increase its profile and, in the process, further develop its sustainability. This important event will generate significant short and long term benefits, not the least of which are the creation of excellent locally created work and the fostering of key cross-border links. The attendance of international programmers and producers will offer a rare opportunity to present work to influential figures from all over the world and to take that work onto as broad a canvas as possible.

Gathering 2010, a conference and showcase of theatre for young audiences, will take place from 21 to 23 October 2010. The main venue is the Old Museum Building in Belfast city centre.

Further information from: gatheringtya@gmail.com

Thursday 21st -
Saturday 23rd
October 2010



Spotlight on TEAM

John Breen on his first year with TEAM

I started work as the new Artistic Director of TEAM in April 2009. I'd had a few meetings with Thomas De Mallet Burgess to bring me up to speed with the company's ongoing work. I spent my first weeks in the job reading old scripts, getting to know the board and the staff and meeting with some of the stakeholders including the advisory panel of teachers and principals in schools that TEAM had been performing in for nearly 35 years.

I commissioned Paul Meade to write a play for primary school children which toured at the beginning of this year. It is part of TEAM's calendar that during the Easter break the actors who are on a break because of school holidays come into TEAM HQ and help develop whatever new work is with the company at the time. We spent a very productive week sitting down with Audrey O'Reilly working on ideas for the play that was to become *Skin and Blisters* that autumn.

The summer was spent planning a three year strategy that was innovative and ambitious but respectful of the company's proud history. In August we had bad news from the Department of Education and Science with nearly 30% of our budget evaporating at the stroke of a pen. This put serious strains on our operations and we are still dealing with the fallout of this decision.

In September TEAM brought our production of *Devotion* by Leo Butler to South Africa courtesy of Culture Ireland. We performed in schools at the townships Khayelitsha and Masiphumelele near Cape Town and in Hilbrow in Johannesburg. Performing at these schools in the townships in the midst of what to us seemed like unendurable conditions was a privilege and I was struck by the positive nature of the graffiti on the desks one particular example that I recall was: *I refuse to hate those who oppress me.*

We also hosted performances at the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town and at the Johannesburg City Theatre. Both of these events were attended by officials from the department of education and by leading TIE practitioners. Our visit to Johannesburg coincided with an African ASSITEJ conference and the discussion around the issues raised in *Devotion* (the play deals with the affect of conflict on children) with delegates from as far afield as Egypt, Cameroon and Rwanda were robust indeed. We finished the tour with a reception given by the Irish Ambassador to South Africa, Kevin Wrafter at his residence in Pretoria where we were able to mingle with South Africans of Irish decent and those who had emigrated there in recent years.

We came back from South Africa and went straight into production of *Skin and Blisters*, a play which deals with issues around eating disorders (and many of you would have seen it last year at Fizzfest.) The play toured for six weeks in November and early December; one of the most successful shows we have produced, it received overwhelmingly positive feedback as well as extensive media coverage.

2011 began with rehearsals for Paul Meade's new play *Light Signals* and news from the Road Safety Authority that they would sponsor our autumn show, *Hoons* by Eoin Byrne and Darren Thornton, which will look at responsibility in driving behaviour.

One of the concerns I had coming into the job at TEAM was the lack of control we had over our performing environment. We would often have beautifully designed sets sitting in an environment that was full of distractions. With our next production I am going some way towards eradicating this: we have purchased a Geodesic dome or a giant yurt. This will contain our audience and our set and we will be able to light it and project video onto it, and I think it will greatly enhance our audiences' experience of our work.

Our plans for 2011 will involve the play *Hoons* touring extensively in Ireland and a new experimental work entitled *The School Transformation Project* which will see TEAM present a large scale piece of performance art created by playwright /director Gavin Quinn, composer Andrew Synnott, in collaboration with TEAM and featuring musicians from the National Chamber Orchestra as well as professional actors and specially trained community performers. The piece will explore the wonder of mathematics and is aimed at Junior cycle students.

John Breen

See www.teamtheatre.ie



Cups and Crowns



The latest....

Summer Fever saw us here at Cups and Crowns putting all our creative efforts into making a specially commissioned work for the Galway Arts Festival. Having done an initial brainstorming and devising week back in Feb 2010, we ploughed forward for five weeks in June, the result of which was *The Magnificent Mind of Daisy Dunne*. This is an original story, 'fashioned and mashed together' by Maria O'Leary, Fiona McDonagh and Gillian Kelly. This latest work is devised specially for 7yrs +.

The story tells of Daisy Dunne. The audience meet Daisy, aged 28 years and they are then guided through a series of episodes from her childhood which reveal how she conjured up an 'imaginary friend' Mittens. We see how this imagined character tries to influence Daisy, to perhaps take a different path in life. However she is banished one day when she pushes Daisy too far. Then we see our protagonist searching for 'Mittens' in her adult years as she yearns for the courage to explore life outside the pages of her much loved books.

This show will travel to schools in the west from the middle of September to Jan 2011. We are also delighted to be invited to present it as part of the Clifden Arts Festival in Galway, Sonas Children's Festival in Mayo, Nenagh Spleador Festival, Hullaboolu Festival in Offaly – most of which take place in late October this year.

This show would not have seen the light of day had it not been for the wonderful support of Galway Arts Festival, Galway City and County Councils, Mayo County Council, Clare County Council and Sligo County Council. They have all come on board with enthusiasm – much needed as we were cut completely by the Art Council earlier this year.

For dates see: www.cupsandcrowns.ie

What was then....

Despite our initial disappointment with the Arts Council decision, we can be thankful how our year here at Cups and Crowns has panned out. We were very excited to be invited to present *Blenny, the Waterdaughter* at this year's Kilkenny Arts Festival. It was a 'double whammy' as we got to finally check out Barnstorm Theatre (very lovely) and had a quick catch up with Philip Hardy and all the team. We also had a great experience at the Junction Festival, Clonmel in early July presenting two of the six shows we have in our repertoire – *Grandad Says...* and *Blenny, the Waterdaughter*.

Grandad Says..., the story of the little leprechaun, is a tale of a brother and a sister who embark on a journey to discover the truth behind their Grandad's tall tales. What is revealed to them changes how they view their Grandad forever. This original tale found us, as we spent 4 weeks looking at the idea of 'informal' storytelling and

the importance of the storyteller in Irish culture. Stories are told for many different reasons; to entertain, to teach, to engage or as Joe Brennan says – 'to make the road shorter'. And we never ever leave truth' ruin a good story...' See more about this show on: www.cupsandcrowns.ie/grandadsays

Blenny, the Waterdaughter is a one-woman show. We had one actor, the crude makings of a wooden lighthouse and picture of a fish called a Tom-Pot Blenny. We began the devising process and it was HARD! We found the process employed here was very different from what we experienced with previous projects. Where previously we have always 'worked on our feet', we had to sit and write and re-write and re-write again until a story appeared on the horizon. We sailed to this horizon on a boat manned by Thomas Conway – our wonderful script advisor. The story is about a lonely lighthouse keeper, and a community who struggle to accept difference. Without meaning to be, the piece has a wonderful underlying dialogue about society's need for social inclusion and tolerance. We had agreed from the start that this show would be for older children: 8yrs-12yrs (3rd – 6th). This show will be presented as part of the libraries' 'Social Inclusion' week in October 2010. You can find more information about this show on www.cupsandcrowns.ie/blenny

Well that's it here from Cups and Crowns – with the year we have had, we were thinking of changing our name to 'Ups and Downs' – any comments welcome: info@cupsandcrowns.ie

For further information, visit: www.cupsandcrowns.ie



Baboró

The 14th Baboró International Arts Festival for Children takes place 11th to 17th October 2010. Log on to www.baboro.ie to see entire festival programme, and join us on Baboró Facebook for the latest festival news

Performances

14 companies, 73 performances, presented by 6 Irish companies, 7 European companies and 1 company from Nova Scotia. 2 titles are for children under 3 years, 5 titles are for children 3 to 6+, and 7 titles are for children over 6 years. 43 performances for schools, crèches and nursery schools, and 30 performances for families and general public.

Exhibitions

Visual Arts Exhibitions are for children of all ages and sizes. There will be activities and/or readings at the exhibition venues at selected times. See www.baboro.ie for full details.

- **Enchanted**
An exhibition of artworks by illustrator/authors of children's books Bruce Ingman, Niamh Sharkey, Oisín McGann, Adrienne Geoghegan and Annie West
- **Reminders of Then** - Morgan O'Brien Exhibition
Baboró welcomes back Morgan O'Brien as the artist for the 2010 brochure. This exhibition is a collection of illustrations inspired by the works of Charles Schultz, Bill Watterson, Beatrix Potter and Theodore Seuss Geisel



- **Inscape Visual Arts Exhibition**

Group exhibition featuring artists Christine Mackey, Ann Quinn, Julie Merriman and Marielle MacLeman. This group exhibition explores various ideas of landscape and place; real, remembered and imaginary.

- **Spotlight on... Germany**

The Spotlight On....Series continues this year as Baboró looks at other countries for inspiration in the development of quality programming for children. Germany is in the spotlight this year, featuring Helios Theater from Hamm, and Theater Mumpitz from Nuremberg. Both of these companies tour extensively throughout Germany and Europe. They each have their own theatres in their own community. Come and hear about how they developed as companies and how they approach their work: Thurs Oct 14th 2pm, facilitated by Marc MacLochlainn.

- **Early Years Forum**

- **Meet the creators**

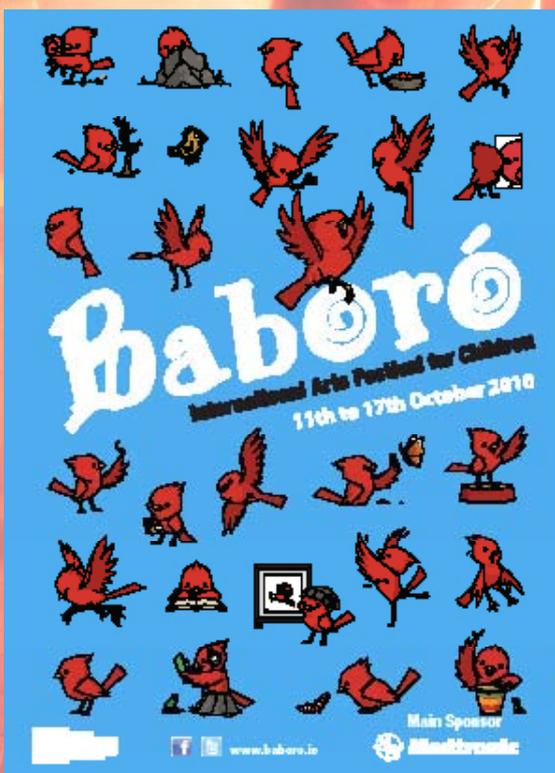
There is a growing interest world wide in the arts for early years. Come and hear what artists/creators from three of the companies presenting at Baboró have to say about creating their work and the response to it. Taking place Oct 15th 5pm, the panel includes:

- Andy Manley 'White' Theatre - Catherine Wheels Scotland
- Sara Lee Lewis and Jim Marrow 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' Puppet Theatre - Mermaid Theatre, Nova Scotia
- Ríonach Ní Néill 'See Saw' Dance - Ciotóg, Ireland

- **Delegates**

Delegate Packages (25) for Arts Professionals - Programmers, Directors, Venue Managers, Creators and Producers. See www.baboro.ie/bookings/delegate for details and to download a request form or email: admin@baboro.ie, tel: +353 91 562 667

For further information, see: www.baboro.ie





Helium Arts

Helium's Seminar/Workshop with Award Winning Children's Theatre Makers Mark Storor and Anna Ledgard, 8th & 9th December 2010

Helium, in partnership with Science Gallery Dublin, presents a seminar with award winning children's theatre makers Mark Storor and Anna Ledgard (UK) and chaired by Tony Fegan, Tallaght Community Arts. This talk and discussion will incorporate Mark and Anna's experiences, methods, and skills in building relationships and understanding between artists/arts practitioners and hospital/medical staff, as well as maintaining authentic engagement and dialogue with paediatric patients. It would benefit those working collaboratively with children and young people and those working in the health and the arts fields. The seminar will take place on 8th December @ 7pm in the Science Gallery Dublin with two way live-streaming to a number of locations throughout the country.

There will also be a day-long workshop with Mark Storor in Rua Red, Tallaght on 9th December. The 4 hour workshop will explore the practice & principles of Mark's theatre making process which uses the themes of identity, personal histories & collective knowledge as starting points. Participants can apply to take part in the workshop from the beginning of October, when further details will be announced. Register your interest at info@helium.ie

This event is supported by the Arts Council through the Travel & Training Inbound Award, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, the Science Gallery, and Tallaght Community Arts.

Co-Mentoring Programme with The Sage Gateshead

Helium Children's Arts and Health will collaborate with Sligo County Council Arts Service, hospitals in the west, Kids' Own Publishing Partnership, and The Sage Gateshead (UK) to implement Sage Gateshead REFLECT Lab Co-Mentoring model in October 2010. This cross-sectoral professional learning opportunity facilitates exchange of perspectives and values with a view to advancing arts and health partnerships which benefit children.

REFLECT co-mentoring is a dynamic, collaborative learning process for people across sectors. People taking part in REFLECT pause, reflect, reconnect, and reappraise their professional practice from a new perspective. The co-mentoring relationship is time limited with a clear, shared focus supported by a learning agreement.

Ten artists, across artforms, with an articulated/demonstrated practice in working with children and young people will engage with ten healthcare professionals from hospitals, community services and Children's Services Committee to share, to reflect and to have focused creative conversations.

The project will run from October 2010-October 2011. We will shortly be announcing the application process details. To register your interest, email info@helium.ie.

This project is primarily funded through the Arts Council's Local Partnership Scheme.

Puppet Portal Project commencing in September

Helium's Puppet Portal Project will start up again this September. The 2nd phase of this project brings high quality collaborative arts experiences to children in paediatric wards around the country using the online web portal Solas. ie Children are connected to their peers both within the hospital and across the participating hospitals through a performing arts exchange, thus countering the sense of isolation that can be felt and improving the experience of health-care for children and their families.

This year's artists are Siobhán Clancy and Emma Fisher, who participated in the 2009 programme, Sally Maidment, David Kavanagh and Niamh Lawlor. The project will take place in Letterkenny General Hospital; University Hospital Cork; The Children's Ark Unit Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick; Beaumont Hospital and Children's University Hospital, Temple Street.

The programme will run for ten weeks across five hospitals and will focus on children in isolation who cannot access gathering areas. A new webportal called Solas has been designed by the Centre for Health Informatics for children who cannot come to the classroom or playroom of the hospital and Helium's artists will be using this tool to connect children in a creative conversation.

The Puppet Portal Project is a collaboration between Helium, the Centre for Health Informatics, Trinity College Dublin and Kids' Own Publishing Partnership.

The project's continuation in 2010 is thanks to an Annual Programming Grant from the Arts Council of Ireland.

For more information on Helium's work, visit www.helium.ie and www.facebook.com/heliumarts



Helium 

Papilio

This year's touring of *Dot*, Theater Papilio's new Early Years show, will finish with two performances at Draíocht Arts centre on 25 Sept.

Performing for children aged 2 to 4 and their carers was and continues to be an exciting venture and learning experience for us, which feeds us with new input and challenging questions. Issues of the space and set-up, of the way the audience is guided in and out of the theatre space and experience, and of the amount of preparation and information given to especially the parents beforehand are themes which inspire new ways of looking at theatre and stress the holistic approach which we feel is especially important when working for an audience with no preoccupations about how a "theatre experience" may look like.

These are some of the audience comments (after performances at the Kinsale Arts Week in July): "Very enjoyable. Kept an 18 months old fascinated. Great to see something for this age group!" / "So simple yet so effective, loved the different ideas and amazed by the kids' concentration" / "My 18 months old girl loved the music in particular and all the hiding behind sets!" / "Very happy & good colours" (from Oisín aged 2 and a half)

Also Theater Papilio's first show, *Amazing Rosamund*, had a comeback this year - it was performed in the course of SAOIRE, the summer event programme of DLR libraries, and was featured at this year's Electric picnic in the SOUL KIDS area on September 3rd, 4th and 5th.

The magical solo performance features storytelling, puppetry, singing and minimal staging in a poetical and playful way. Little hand-crafted textile puppets appear and wander about on the performer's dress, which once represents the dark woods, once a cosy tent or a steep cliff, as the story of an extraordinarily strong and exceptionally tall princess unfolds...

For more info on Papilio, visit www.theaterpapilio.com

Barnstorm Theatre Company

The Grimm Project

Hard times. A famine. And when humans starve we starve. Every scrap, every morsel is guarded. Not even a crumb is left for the birds.

Barnstorm's Acting Ensemble in collaboration with members of Limbik Theatre Company from London continue the process of R&D in the development of a piece of Children's Theatre to be produced in 2011. The company has been looking at how we tell fairytales through narrative, physical theatre and music while exploding the traditional tales.

Having explored styles and methods of telling, this next stage will focus on developing the story, the script and design concepts. Maeve Ingoldsby is writer, with Carol Betera on design, and Ben Samuels on music – the others in the team are Paul Curley, Sarah Johnson, Shane O'Reilly, Will Pinchin, and Philip Hardy.

Jack by Mike Kenny Company of Actors

A play for children aged 4 to 7 years

Times are hard!

Jack has been a great disappointment to his mother.

Now he is about to become the Giant's dinner.

The giant's wife hasn't got it easy either, coping with a demanding and bad-tempered husband.

But between chickens with golden eggs, magic table-cloths and giants that only dance on a Wednesday, this play focuses on the potential for transformation, where even giants can come good, bad-tempered bullies can get their comeuppance and lazy boys can become heroes.

The Ensemble will remount Barnstorm's very successful production of *Jack* by Mike Kenny. The production is touring to Children's Arts Festivals throughout the country and a limited number of venues in the autumn.

Barnstorm's Outreach Department

Since the last issue of the newsletter, the *Townlands* project - a collaborative project with Artist Alan Counihan, Johnswell National School and Barnstorm's Outreach Officer – came to fruition with a performance on St John's Day, the 24th June in Johnswell Community Hall.

Johnswell is a small village nine miles from Kilkenny city. The national school has 59 pupils in total in three class groupings. All pupils were involved, and worked in their existing class groupings. The support, approach and commitment of the teachers and pupils were invaluable to the success of the project.

The overall aim of the drama strand was to re-present local place to local people. To achieve this each class group worked in a different way. The youngest - the junior and senior infants - worked primarily through movement, visuals and group rhymes. They devised around the idea of seasons and what happens to the land throughout the year. Even the children who were challenged by the rules and rituals of theatre became engaged and all pupils performed with confidence and charm.

The largest group with the widest age range was the first to third class group. The children worked through stories that had been written by previous pupils of Johnswell National School in 1937-38. They then chose six of these stories to share with the audience. The stories were presented in storytelling form with a narrator and characters speaking the lines; as well as the whole group working to create a story which they then performed as a Chorus.

The eldest group, fifth and sixth class, were given the most challenging piece to realise. The artist wished to include some of the 400 field names he had collected through his research. The devising process was less pupil-centred. However this did not seem to dampen the engagement of the participants, who gave a committed and mature presentation on the day.

All in all the performance was a success. The challenge of changing an artist's concepts into theatrical tangibles was exciting and inspiring for all involved.

The *Townlands* project was followed by two weeks of drama workshops, *Summer Days at Barnstorm*. From the 5th to 9th July there were morning sessions for 8-12 years and from the 12th to 16th there were afternoon sessions for those 13+ years.

Each group worked towards a short performance that they shared with family and friends on the last day. During the week they looked at skills needed in creating and performing a piece of theatre including acting, voice, devising and improvisation. The end pieces included movement, radio plays, stage fighting and poetry.

In September a new year starts for all our groups with an intake of new members for our Youth Theatre groups; and a new Adult Theatre Club group. The Senior Youth Theatre will concentrate on physicality and stage presence while the Junior Youth Theatre will concentrate on group ensemble work. The Barn Owl Players embark on a busy year of training and productions & projects from September.

Anna Galligan is Outreach Officer with Barnstorm:
anna@barnstorm.ie

Children's Programme @ The Barn

Barnstorm played host to three Children's Theatre productions for this year's Kilkenny Arts Festival in August. The Barn Theatre was a hive of activity with visiting companies, crews, festival staff and Barnstormers transforming the space throughout the week according to needs of each production from Ireland, Spain and Italy.



Blenny, The Waterdaughter presented by Cups and Crowns (IRL)
(7 -12 years)

In a small fishing town off the coast of Ireland, Mack the lighthouse-keeper watches over the town and the ocean, but doesn't feel part of either, not until the day a Blenny Fish follows him home!

Using only herself and the imaginary characters around her, Gillian Kelly brings audiences into Mack's world and spins a magical and captivating tale.



Parapapel presented by De Molecula (ES)
(18 months up to 5 years)

Onstage, there are just two friends and a roll of paper, but together they create a whole world. Dancing and playing, rolling and unrolling, folding and bending and stretching, the performers transform the simplest of props into a magic carpet, a butterfly, a balloon, or a place to hide. Graceful, funny and endlessly inventive, *Parapapel* was a mesmerising show that kept young and old enthralled.



On-Off presented by La Baracca (I)
(1-4 years and their families)

On stage there is an actor, but the main character is light. Music and movement create a dance to the rhythms of the light switches. Lamps, bulbs and cables become flowers, a spoon, a candle, a carousel...

At once a game, a dance, and an enchanting spectacle, *On-Off* helps young children overcome their fear of the dark and discover the language of light.

For more details see: www.barnstorm.ie

National Day of Action

National Campaign for the Arts www.ncfa.ie/

We need to fight back – get out there and push, persuade and convince your representatives (local and national) of the importance of adequate funding for the arts and in particular to the development of provision for children and young people.

On Friday 17 September 2010, arts workers in constituencies around the country met with their local politicians. Amidst a nationwide media campaign, arts workers will be discussing with their local representatives the fundamental importance of the arts to Ireland's economic recovery.

The NCFCA deemed it a hugely successful campaign and thanked everyone's efforts on the day. Check in to see photos, video and reports from constituencies around the country: <http://ncfa.ie/>

But there is more to do!

1. Please continue to email your TDs. Over 3,000 emails have been sent. We can increase this. Personalise your standard email please. It only takes a few seconds.
2. There are 6 eye catching ads with wonderful quotes from artists. Include them on your website and in your brochures and programmes.
3. Fill in the 'We believe' postcards. Get your friends and family to do it too.

For more information contact colgansiobhan@email.com

Fíbín

Tá sé mar aidhm ag Fíbín, drámaíocht den scoth a chur ar fáil do scoileanna na tíre. Beidh deis ag na mic léinn atá i mbun staidéir, briseadh amach as srianta an tseomra ranga agus tuiscint níos leithne a fháil ar an dá saothair seo i bhfóram taitneamhach agus greannmhar. Tuigeann Fíbín an tábhacht a bhaineann le daoine óga a spreagadh ar an gcaoi seo agus is deis ar leith an léiriú seo do mhúinteoirí, dearcadh agus meon a gcuid daltaí i dtaobh na scéalta seo a fhorbairt agus a leathnú.

Tá costas €15 ar na dticéid. Gearrtar ráta speisialta €12.50 ar thicéid a chuirfear in áirithint coicís roimh an léiriúcháin. Baineann Téarmaí & Coinníolacha leis an imeacht seo*.

Amanna: 10:30 & 1:30 Fad 1 uair a chloig

- Suíomh Ghréasáin: www.fibin.com
- Fíbín ar Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Fibin/21021471=806
- Fíbín ar YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/FibinTeorannta
- Fíbín ar Twitter: <http://twitter.com/FibinTeo>



Meitheal na mBeag

Ar an 19 agus 20 Samhain beidh an chéad chomhdháil de Mheitheal na mBeag ar siúl i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh. Is é teideal agus téama na comhdhála ná Ag Tógáil an Tí.

On the 19th and 20th of November the inaugural Meitheal na mBeag conference will take place in NUI Galway. The title of this year's conference is Ag Tógáil an Tí.

We are proud to announce that Ivica Simic of Theatre Mala Scena in Croatia and Secretary General of ASSITEJ International will provide an international element to the discussion and deliver a key note address. His wider perspective and vast experience will enrich the conversations.

In addition, Dr. Fionnbarra Ó Brolcháin, past professor in DCU and NUI Maynooth, and co-author of *Capitalising on Culture, Competing on Difference*, will also deliver a keynote address at the conference. His application of current cultural theory to the specific context of Irish language work for children will help us to locate ourselves more confidently in the cultural and educational landscape.

We will hear submissions from some of the companies working in the field about their influences and their aesthetic motivations. The two day event is intended as an opportunity for all those involved and those interested to participate in the building of this new 'house' together. Meitheal na mBeag is both a network and a resource organisation.

Urraithe ag Foras na Gaeilge agus Ealaín na Gaeltachta.

Beidh an clár iomlán agus eolas cláraithe le feiceáil go luath ar www.meithealnambeag.ie agus is féidir tuilleadh eolais a lorg ó meithealnambeag@gmail.com

Full programme and registration information to be announced soon on www.meithealnambeag.ie For further information contact meithealnambeag@gmail.com

Graffiti Theatre Company

The summer has been a very busy one for Graffiti and it looks like the next year is going to be equally packed. Perhaps we can count this as a good thing in the current climate!

Over the Summer we have been developing *Walking Man* by Jody O'Neill, a new piece which we hope to produce in Spring 2011. Director, Designer, Actor and Production Assistant had a wonderful week working with the text and creating the prototype of the set and puppets. As usual, the Studio was buzzing with so many ideas that the next stage in the process will be to remind ourselves of the storybook simplicity that makes this piece so appealing.

Also in development was the gentle and beautiful *Blátha Bána/White Blossoms* with a week's intensive work with visual, musical and theatre artists. We are lucky to have been awarded a grant from Cork City Council for the development of this piece of Theatre for the Youngest and will be returning to it from time to time up to Christmas. Aside from working in an exciting new area – and having great enjoyment in it – we are using the project as a piece of Practice-based Research and continuing to build our documentation.

We have another project moving into action – BEAG, the Building Early Arts Group. BEAG is supported by Cork City Council, Cork County Council and the HSE. This is the pilot development of an Early Years Arts Team to work with and in crèches in our area. As we write this we have appointed our Project Director, Margaret O'Sullivan, and are completing our team of three artists. BEAG will be training in the Autumn and then moving to crèches in the Spring. We are delighted that our work on *Blátha Bána/White Blossoms* and BEAG is mutually supportive and enriching.

On the other end of the scale, our play for teenagers, *Shape of a Girl* by Joan McLeod is already in pre-production and will go into rehearsal in mid-September. All performances will be in our venue so we'd be very happy to see TYA colleagues in the audiences. Just let us know and keep an eye on the website for dates: www.graffiti.ie

Graffiti as Gaeilge and our colleagues in Irish language work are really looking forward to the first annual symposium of Meitheal na mBeag (19 agus 20 Samhain, i nGaillimh). We are proud to welcome back to Ireland Ivica Simic, Secretary General of ASSITEJ International, as our distinguished keynote speaker. The full programme will be up on the website shortly: www.meithealnambeag.ie Tá súil againn sibh a fheiceáil ansin!

The Outreach teams are also gearing up for a substantial programme of workshops in schools and for the annual inflow of wonderful teens to our three Youth Theatres is about to start.

Apart from all that, will we see you at the National Campaign for the Arts, Culture Night, the TYA Gathering in Belfast, Meitheal na mBeag in Galway and assorted creative consultations and celebrations?

For more info visit www.graffiti.ie or tel: 021-4397111 or email: graffiti@eircom.net



Branar

Branar will present a new show this autumn, *Clann Lir*. The show has been in development since November 2009 and was part funded by a Deis award from the Arts Council. It is a take upon the original or a few different versions of the original ancient story. A father's love for his children is at heart of this beautiful re-telling of the ancient tale of Clann Lir. In this vivid production Branar focusses on the fairytale elements of the story: a father's search for his children; magical transformations; 3 chances to break a spell!; and much more.

Directed by Marc Mac Lochlainn, this magical tale is told with puppetry, vivid imagery and enchanting newly-composed live traditional music. We are delighted to be working with two fantastic traditional musicians, Micheal Chang and Freda Nic Giolla Chathain. The presentation moves fluidly from puppetry to music to storytelling; we are also experimenting with shadow and light in this challenging production.

Opening on the 4th of October, our dates will be on the website.

For further information, see: www.branar.ie





Púca Puppets

Stone Soup for 5-10 year olds with Amy Conroy, Joe Moylan, kitchen implements and talking vegetables, went down well at Boyle Arts Festival. In a special package the children also made a shadow puppet performance sharpening their appetite for the soup shared at the close of the show. The autumn tour will include performances at the Flip Flop festival in the Pavilion Theatre, with further venues next year. A showreel can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MOiLJD8dM>

StoryBear's alter ego *Scéalai Bheár* is just back from packed performances in Cavan Library as part of the Fleadh Ceol. The children responded by drawing their own conclusion to his story. *Scéalai Bheár's* next appearance will be in Ballymun Axis as part of their Borradh Buan festival in October. Puppet *Mary Mary* had a number of consultation sessions with intergenerational groups in the East Wall of Dublin including a cabaret performance in the Seán O'Casey centre where some of the audience took to the stage themselves and drew and wrote in response to her request for information about heaven. A short film of this will soon join her video diaries on You Tube at *Mary Mary Calling Earth*. The VEC and the Seán O'Casey centre will collaborate with Púca on Puppetry sessions for adults, September - November with intergenerational links with the resident creche Daisy Days. This will form part of practical research into Púca's Early Years show in development. As part of Dublin City Council's Artists Panel, Niamh Lawlor took part in the Children's Art In Libraries Summer Programme in Donaghmede and Drumcondra. A short film of the children's shadow puppetry can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wsk8u-Wc9V4>

This work will continue in Inchicore and Walkinstown libraries this autumn. Shadow puppetry will also feature in a series of cross border workshops for Community Connections funded by Peace and Reconciliation. Niamh is also delighted to be joining Helium's Puppet Portal Team in Temple Street Hospital.

For further information, please contact pucapuppets@eircom.net or tel: +353 87 7800931



The Ark in association with Theatre Lovett

So far this year, The Ark has had a lot of theatrical firsts. In January we presented the world premiere of *The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly* in association with Theatre Lovett, featuring our first ever Theatre-Maker in Residence, Louis Lovett. Coming into our third season of Louis Lovett's residency, The Ark in association with Theatre Lovett will be going on tour, both as part of Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival ReViewed (a showcase of successful Irish productions restaged in partnership with Culture Ireland and the Irish Theatre Institute) and on National Tour funded by the Arts Council Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme. The inclusion of a performance for children in the Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival ReViewed programme is another first.

- As part of Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival ReViewed/ The Festival on Tour, *The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly* will be touring to the Civic Theatre, Tallaght; Draiocht Arts Centre, Blanchardstown; and will be returning to The Ark.
- As part of the National Tour *The Girl who Forgot to Sing Badly* will be in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge; Duna-maise Arts Centre, Portlaoise; Glór Irish Music Centre, Ennis; Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray; George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow and Backstage Theatre, Longford.

In addition, The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children and Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival, team up once again to present a season of acclaimed international productions for families. Hear the stories of a little old guinea pig in the sunset of his life; come on magical journeys deep beneath the earth's crust; and lie down in an ocean of mattresses dreaming your wildest dreams. As always, the Family Season, whether you are little or not, will continue to enthrall, delight and entertain.

For more information, visit www.ark.ie

Monkeyshine Theatre

Monkeyshine's latest show *The Paper Princess*, adapted from the book by Elisa Kleven, premiered in the little Glitter Bug Theatre at The Cairde Festival in Sligo. This is a performance for a small audience designed to fit into almost any space.

Children are invited to create a paper prince or princess of their own before they sit down and watch the adventures of one, not quite finished princess, who is blown away on a gust of wind. As she makes her way home, all the paper people become part of the performance. The beautiful story is told using 2D paper puppetry and the show is accompanied by musician Cathal Roche.

The development of this performance was supported by the Arts council and Sligo Arts Services. The show will be touring from October 2009.

Inside Out

Monkeyshine continue to develop their participatory strand known as The Connections Project. In 2009 five young people, aged between 12 and 15, joined the company for a week of collaboration and skill sharing with director Karen Pennefather, performers Eoin Lynch and James Jobson, musician Martin Brunnsden, set designer Rebecca Jobson and projection designer Paul O'Connor. The culmination of this week was a work in progress performance called *Inside Out*.

With the support of Sligo Arts Services the work-in-progress performance will be restaged for Culture Night 2010. The young people will be invited back to collaborate with graffiti artist and lighting designer Andy Furman. The work they create will become part of the large-scale projections used in the show. This is an ongoing endeavour to create outstanding theatre by working collaboratively with young people; we hope that this work in progress performance will become a full scale touring show for teenage audiences.

Artistic director Karen Pennefather is currently working on adapting a number of her original play scripts into illustrated books for children. A group of local school children will be shadowing her process developing their own book and becoming a test audience for Karen's work. This is both a creative endeavour, a way of extending the life span of the work, and an exploration into alternative ways of developing revenue for the company.

This work is supported by the Arts Council.

For more details visit: www.monkeyshinetheatre.com



TEAM Educational Theatre Co

Hoons by Eoin Byrne and Darren Thornton, directed by John Breen: a play about road safety for senior cycle students.

Juliette Burke has a dream; to be a professional dancer and is well on her way to achieving it. Her boyfriend Dorek is new in town; in fact he is new in Ireland. He is from Latvia and is working hard at his studies to get a good Leaving Cert. Inars has a rival for Juliette's love, Ciaran Carnage Carney, who works as a butcher in the town. When Carnage isn't chopping meat he is cruising the streets of his home town in a customized Mitsubishi Lancer with ultraviolet lights under the wheel-arches.

When Juliette and Dorek land themselves in trouble for giving their neighbour's dog alcoholic poisoning they call on Carnage for help. Carnage's help comes at a price; Inars must pass a test. A test involving a fast car, a hump back bridge and a ghost. What follows is a night that no one in their small town will ever forget.

15th to 26th November 2010 - see www.teamtheatre.ie

17TH ASSITEJ WORLD CONGRESS AND PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

VISIONS AND FOCUS

The Performing Arts Festival for Young Audiences is an international festival presenting selected high quality work from all over the world.

PERFORMANCES

The Performing Arts Festival for Young Audiences is an international festival presenting selected high quality work from all over the world. We will bring 25 Performances to Copenhagen/Malmoe during the 10 days of the festival and have 5-6 presentations of each performance. The festival intends to reflect the "here and now" in contemporary children's performing arts. What absorbs performing arts people in different countries now - and what are their artistic answers to the challenges that we - and our children and young people - face? Hence, the festival will focus on new original plays.

WORKSHOP & SEMINARS

Seminars, workshops, masterclasses, lectures, readings, discussion forums etc. will take place during the whole period of the Performing Arts Festival & World Congress. The programme will be comprehensive and varied covering different aspects and interests in the field of children's theatre in the world today. Some events are organised in cooperation with national ASSITEJ Centres, with international organizations and networks.

You can look forward to taking part in events like: Playwrights' Slam and Readings of new plays, as well as Tea-time discussions, Open Space-session and the ITYARN Research Forum on "TYA, Culture, Society" - not to forget the workshops on practical clown technique and the actors' workshops, the seminar on ethnic diversity and much, much more.

In co-operation with ASSITEJ UK we will present a special feature day on disability and the arts under the headline of "Whose Theatre is it Anyway?", and the Next Generation project which was initiated at the 2008 Congress in Adelaide will finish in Copenhagen and Malmoe where the participants will present the work of the previous three years.

Workshop leaders, lecturers and facilitators representing a wide range of specialists from all over the world will secure the quality and diversity of the programme.

ASSITEJ 2011 WORLD CONGRESS AND FESTIVAL PACKAGE

Registration starts January 15th 2011 on www.assitej2011.info

EUR 219 Full Package

Includes 6 International Festival performances, 4 Danish-Swedish Cavalcade performances, Opening Gala, Closing Party (dinner will be additional), ASSITEJ Forums, seminars, lectures (a few selected seminars and master classes will be charged extra), teatime discussions, readings, breakfast discussions, festival bag, dossier, discounts on purchase of additional tickets and various discounts and much more...

EUR 119 First 5 days Package May 20 - 24

Includes 5 International Festival performances, Opening Gala, ASSITEJ Forums, seminars, lectures (a few selected seminars and master classes will be charged extra), teatime, discussions, readings, breakfast discussions, festival bag, dossier, discounts on purchase of additional tickets and various discounts and much more...

EUR 119 Last 5 days package May 25 - 29

Includes 3 International Festival performances, 2 Danish-Swedish Cavalcade performances, Closing Party (dinner will be additional), ASSITEJ Forums, seminars, lectures (a few selected seminars and master classes will be charged extra), teatime, discussions, readings, breakfast discussions, festival bag, dossier, discounts on purchase of additional tickets and various discounts and much more...

Early Bird

Book your congress package before March 1st and take part in the competition for six free packages- 2 in each category.

EUR 179 Student package

Please, contact the Secretariat.

In the near future we will provide a list of hotels in various price ranges included youth hostels. But to give you a rough idea of the costs: a room at a youth hostel will cost around 27 Euro in both cities, although the quality within the cities could differ. A single room with your own bathroom in a standard hotel will cost around 70 - 100 Euro.

TYA IRELAND @ 17th World Congress and International Festival

Please note....

TYAI is planning to send a delegation representing a broad spectrum of TYA in Ireland to this year's ASSITEJ International Festival.

The committee is looking to secure finances to allow up to ten people to participate in this international event that will see theatre productions, papers and workshops from around the globe.

At this stage we are inviting 'expressions of interest' from all members and ask these be made by Fri 01 Oct.

Further information contact tya.ireland@barnstorm.ie or T: 056 7751266

CALL FOR PAPERS "TYA, CULTURE, SOCIETY"

ITYARN, the International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network, is calling for proposals for the Second International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Forum at the 17th ASSITEJ World Congress in Copenhagen-Malmoe May 20, 2011.

This network aims to advance critical inquiry in the field of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) through the exchange and discussion of papers from scholars in and outside of the field of TYA. We intend to bridge the gap in scholarship between theatre for young people and theatre for adults, and between theory and practice, by discussing the field of TYA from multiple historiographical and theoretical perspectives related to the practice and the shifting material circumstances (social, cultural, economic, ideological and political) under which TYA is generated and perceived.

The ITYARN forum will take place over the course of one day, and consist of a keynote, a plenary session and seminars. Seminar proposals should focus on the theme of the conference, "TYA, Culture, and Society" and address material contexts under which productions are generated and perceived. For example, proposals may ask questions, such as how issues of gender, media, or diversity are reflected in content and form? They may inquire about the role of ethnicity and race, the affirmation or rejection of



dominant ideologies in theatre, or reflections of class and local material circumstances in TYA. Proposals may address how the concept of child and childhood is reflected in TYA and what this says about the society in which this theatre has been originally conceived. Proposals could also reflect on the intersection of culture and aesthetics. Or: how do these issues affect perception and the generation of meaning?

Researchers who want to participate in the seminars should submit a 500 word proposals and sample bibliography by email in MSWord. doc. Proposals should include name, affiliation, and email address in the upper left corner. Proposals will be peer reviewed by the ITYARN board in October 2010. Notifications will go out November 2010.

For more information on ITYARN and to join the network go to ityarn.org. For information on the 17th ASSITEJ World Congress and Festival see <http://www.assitej2011.info/>

Please email Proposals by October 1, 2010 to <mailto:post@ityarn.org>.

What is ASSITEJ?

ASSITEJ is a World Theatre Network of THEATRE for CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

ASSITEJ was established in 1965 by a global alliance of professional theatre for children and young people. Today, ASSITEJ links thousands of theatres, organizations and individuals through national centres in more than 70 countries.

The secretariat is based in Zagreb, Croatia.

For more information about ASSITEJ, including its mission statement, activities and resources, visit: www.assitej.org

The next edition of the TYA Ireland newsletter is due Winter 2010.

The deadline for inclusions is 10th November 2010.

Please send all your news and images to: assitej.ireland@barnstorm.ie