

# *Culture Ireland*

**Newsletter 2014**

macnas in moscow



**As 2014 draws to a close** Culture Ireland wishes to sincerely thank all the Irish artists supported through our programmes and our international presenting partners who made opportunities for Irish artists globally. Without you, none of what we do would be possible. 2014 was a successful and memorable year with Culture Ireland supported Irish artists winning high profile awards and critical recognition, generating 3 million audience members and a further 6 million television viewers. Many international contacts were made and contracts for future events for the years ahead were concluded.

The Culture Ireland team wish you every happiness and success for the year ahead.

# Looking Back

Culture Ireland in 2014 supported over 300 events involving Irish theatre-makers, musicians, singers, writers, dancers, visual artists, film-makers and more, presenting their work to audiences right around the globe.



ceiliúradh in royal albert hall

A highlight of the year for audiences, artists and the Culture Ireland team was the presentation on 10 April at the Royal Albert Hall, London of *Ceiliúradh*. This concert, celebrating Irish culture and marking the contribution of the Irish community in Britain and the collaborative creativity between Ireland and Great Britain, coincided with the first ever official state visit by the President of Ireland

to Great Britain. The evening enthralled over 5,000 audience members who were joined by viewers worldwide online and over 4.7 million television viewers in Ireland and the UK.

The St. Patrick's day period continues to be a key time for Irish artists as many of the world's iconic buildings turn green and open their doors to Ireland's creative talents. In 2014 Culture Ireland supported a diverse international programme with more than 70 events in locations from Australia across Europe to West Coast USA. Highlights included Altan in the Forbidden City, Beijing and Shanghai, Macnas in the St Patrick's Day Parade in Moscow, Mayor Of London's St. Patrick's Festival, Trafalgar Square, London and Irish Book Day in New York where thousands of Irish books are distributed by volunteers on the streets of the city.

# Architecture

Ireland's exhibition at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2014, a Government initiative led by Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council, opened on June 5th in Venice. *Infra – Éireann*, curated by Gary A. Boyd and John McLaughlin, chronicles the iconic and landmark structures which have formed the backbone of an emerging and developing Irish nation over the last 100 years and mirrors the story of Irish nation-building. The exhibition was seen by over 200,000 visitors in Venice and will tour in Ireland in 2016 with support from the Arts Council.

*infra-éireann in venice*



## Theatre and Literature

Building on Ireland's year on year success at the annual Culture Ireland showcase at Edinburgh, 2014 saw Olwen Fouéré win the Herald Archangel award for outstanding contribution to theatre and the Stage award for Acting Excellence for her performance in EmergencyRoom's production of *riverrun* and Dead Centre's *Lippy* win a Herald Angel Award, a Scotsman Fringe First and a Total Theatre Award for Innovation, Experimentation and Playing with

Form. Minister Heather Humphreys attended both shows in Edinburgh and addressed the many international presenters at the Culture Ireland networking event who were seeking to programme work over the coming years. Both shows have already been programmed for New York venues and *riverrun* will travel to Australia in early 2015 while *Lippy* will be presented in London's Young Vic.

minister humphreys and olwyn fouere



A further award went to Paddy O'Kane at the UK Theatre Awards 2014 for Best Performance in a Play for his role in *Quietly* by Owen McCafferty an Abbey Theatre production on tour, following its multiple award winning run at Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2013.

Following its successful run at the Barbican, London, the Landmark Productions presentation of Mark O Rowe's *Howie the Rookie* with Tom Vaughan Lawlor opened in New York to fantastic reviews. Presented as part of BAM's 2014 Next Wave Festival along with PanPan's *Embers* and the EmergencyRoom's *riverrun*, this hugely successful Irish programme has been described at the "Next Wave" of Irish theatre.

Through Culture Ireland's partnership with Ireland Literature Exchange, grants were awarded in respect of translations of works by Irish authors into 20 languages, Irish publishers were represented at London and Frankfurt Bookfairs, and Irish writers were supported to perform at festivals in India, China and Europe.

# Music

Ireland was the focus country at Festival Interceltique de Lorient, France in August. There were many highlights including a special tribute to Seamus Heaney with readings by Doireann Ní Bhriain at The Glanmore Concert with Liam O'Flynn, Micheál O Súilleabháin, Paddy Glackin, Neil Martin, which was attended by President Michael D. Higgins and a concert with Lúnasa and orchestra in a double bill with Liam O'Flynn performing *The Brendan Voyage*.

Twelve Irish bands showcased at South by Southwest, the world's leading music industry event, in Austin Texas in March, an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with Music from Ireland. This marked the tenth year that Ireland has showcased Irish bands at this key music industry platform and features Ireland's strongest emerging favourites Heathers, Hozier and The Strypes.



we banjo 3

Culture Ireland led a delegation who manage key Irish bands to WOMEX World Music Expo which has become the most important international professional market for world music. Those who attended the international market in Santiago de Compostela, Spain in October made

many valuable contacts, while We Banjo 3 continues to reap the benefits of their successful showcase at WOMEX in 2013 with the band fully booked for 2014 and tours for 2015 in Belgium, Japan, Norway and the US.

## Film & Visual Arts



Following its presentation at the Venice Biennale in 2013, Richard Mosse's exhibition *The Enclave* was awarded the much coveted Deutsche Börse 2014 photography prize. A measure of this exhibition's success is its significant international touring

profile – *The Enclave* has already been shown by Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Unsound Festival, Krakow, Poland & Riga, Latvia, Frankfurt B3 Biennial, Germany, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, COFA Galleries, University of New South Wales, Sydney, FOAM, Amsterdam, The Vinyl Factory, London, Centro Atlantico Arte Moderna, Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, FOMU, Antwerp, DHC-ART, Montreal, Portland Art Museum, USA.

Ireland is the feature country at Les Arcs Film Festival in France this December supported by Culture Ireland in partnership with the Irish Film Board. 12 feature films and a short film programme will be presented with Irish film directors and talent in attendance.

Through our partnership with Irish Film Institute International by the end of 2014, 111 film events will have been presented in 40 countries throughout the world to over 28,000 viewers.

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## Dance

Culture Ireland supported the Irish dance company Iseli-Chiodi to present the full length production of *Fit/Misfit* as part of the curated programme at Tanzmesse. A selected delegation of dance companies was also supported to build up a network of contacts which will lead to future dance work opportunities for these talented Irish artists.

Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre toured its double bill *The Rite of Spring/ Petrushka* to ten UK venues with generous support also from the Arts Council of England while *Rian* continued its extensive global touring in New Zealand and Europe. Junk Ensemble was also recognised by the Arts Council of England with support for their eight venue UK tour of *The Falling Song*, which attracted five star reviews.



*fit/misfit* at tanzmesse

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# Currently

president higgins at forbidden city, china

In December to mark the State visit to China by President Higgins, Culture Ireland arranged an evening of poetry, music and dance in the Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing featuring Sharon

Shannon and her band with guest vocalist Monica Brennan, Irish Dance Performers from Riverdance and poet Paula Meehan.



This month also sees virtuoso musicians Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill tour in India and perform in collaboration with some of India's finest musicians from Delhi to Mumbai until 20 December.

## Special Mention

The Irish Arts Center in New York and Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, Ireland's two international arts venues, continue to offer artists a significant international platform in cities renowned for artistic excellence. Camille O'Sullivan performed to packed houses every night in New York, which also hosted a strong offer of Irish theatre and dance, including Brokentalkers touring with *Have I No Mouth*, and *Swing* produced by Fishamble. While in Paris at the Centre Culturel Irlandais a year long programme of events had special highlights in June at Fête de la Musique and the year will conclude with a Paul Seawright exhibition and presentation of Pat McGrath's *Small Plastic Wars*.

Key to Culture Ireland's international reach during the year is Ireland's Embassy network. This support is greatly appreciated by all who were welcomed and supported by Embassy staff in 2014.

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