



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann

Culture Ireland 2020

Dear all,

We are reaching the end of a year which was challenging for us all and particularly those working in the arts sector across the globe. Culture Ireland remained committed to sharing the work of Irish artists as widely as possible. Owing to restrictions, that meant an online or virtual reach, which we know can never replicate a live experience.

2020 was a year which made us all realise what an important role culture plays in our lives. It is through culture that we remain connected and connectivity has become more important to us than ever.

Please keep in touch with us and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and keep an eye on our [website](#).

We are sharing our 2020 story and links for you to enjoy some online events and details of upcoming activity not to be missed.

Wishing you all health and happiness in 2021 and to times when we can meet again.

Christine Sisk
Director of Culture Ireland

WE WERE ACTUALLY THERE



New York

We started the year with our annual meeting of North American Cultural Centres with the Consul General in New York. This visit included a Culture Ireland showcase of newly created work ready for international touring by *Manchán Magan*, **Arán & Im**, *Margaret McAuliffe*, **The Humours of Bandon** and *Stephen Jones* with *Seána Kerslake*, **Northern Lights**.

The following Culture Ireland supported works were selected as cultural highlights of 2020 by The New York Times.

The Gate Theatre's production of [Hamlet](#) directed by *Yaél Farber* with *Ruth Negga* in the title role which had a sell-out run of performances at St. Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn and

[Hope Hunt and the Ascension into Lazarus](#) (*Oona Doherty*) which played at the 92nd Street Y as part of the Irish Arts Center's programme.



Philadelphia

In January Culture Ireland led a delegation from across the island of Ireland to the [International Performing Arts for Youth \(IPAY\)](#) conference. Focus included showcase performances from *Prime Cut's Removed*, *Branar's How to Catch a Star* and a special one-hour presentation by the entire delegation to over 400 attendees.

New Orleans

Kila, *Slowing Moving Clouds*, *Shane Hennessy*, *Corner Boy* and *JigJam* showcased with Culture Ireland support at the 2020 edition of [Folk Alliance International](#) in New Orleans. This marked Culture Ireland's sixth year of participation at this key industry conference.



LISTEN ...



Ireland Performs

In early April in response to the lockdown, which restricted everyone's travel to within 2 km, Culture Ireland launched [Ireland Performs](#), a series of online performances, presented in association with **FACEBOOK**. The 120 performances which were streamed from spaces including sheds, bedrooms and beaches have now reached over 1 million views.

[YouTube](#)

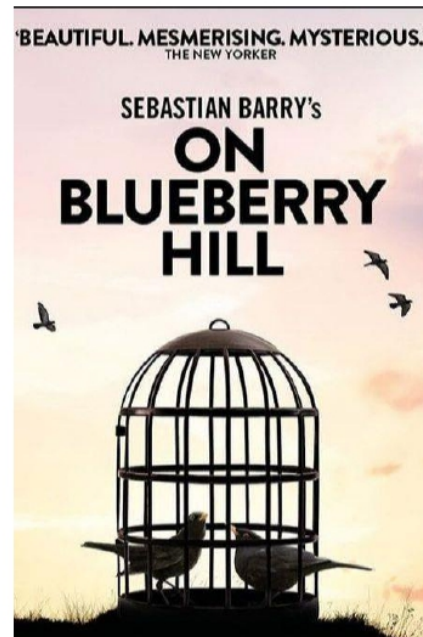


Ireland Performs 2020 Releases CD

Culture Ireland has released a new [CD](#) featuring a selection of the Ireland Performs artists who were supported under the Music Industry Stimulus Package in 2020.

Fishamble On Blueberry Hill

Irish Fiction Laureate and award-winning writer, **Sebastian Barry's** critically acclaimed play [On Blueberry Hill](#) supported by Culture Ireland which reached audiences in Paris and New York in previous years is now available globally on [Audible](#) on 19th November.



Ireland Music Week/Music from Ireland

As well as international music showcases at South by Southwest, Eurosonic, The Great Escape and Primavera Pro, delivered by *First Music Contact*, *Culture Ireland* supported **Ireland Music Week** which presented 50 artists online and attracted over 800 international delegates from across the global music industry, the largest number in the event's history

rte.ie/player



Trad Ireland/Traid Eireann - 2020 Visionaries

Culture Ireland partnered with [Trad Ireland/Traid Éireann on 2020 Visionaries](#), a series of 20 online performances by Irish traditional artists with focus on the source of inspiration which made an impact on their musical journey.

Culture Ireland Stage at Philadelphia Folk Festival

In August, Irish musicians found a new way to the US as [PFF](#) presented 18 artists on a virtual stage with the support of Culture Ireland. Participating artists included *Liam Ó Maonlaí*, *Lisa O'Neill*, *Mick Flannery* and *The Henry Girls*.





Literature Ireland – Talking Translations

A great array of Irish writers read an extract from their work with accompanying translations into various languages, representing a sample of Irish writing which is made accessible to international readers through the [Literature Ireland translation programme](#).



EFACIS Irish Itinerary Podcast

Writers in conversation curated by the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies are available on The Irish Itinerary [Podcast](#)

VISUAL ARTS TRAVEL WIDELY



Previous Ireland at Venice artist **Gerard Byrne** exhibited *In Our Time* as part of the cleverly curated [Busan Biennale](#).



A tour of North America of work by **Brian Maguire** is presented at Museo de Arte de Ciudad, Juarez, Mexico and Rubin Centre, Texas University, El Paso, Texas, followed by *War Changes its Address* at the United Nations Headquarters in New York while the physical exhibition planned at [American University Museum at Katzen Arts Centre](#) in Washington DC was reimagined in conjunction with Solas Nua to include a talk with Maguire.

Performing Arts Showcases Move Online

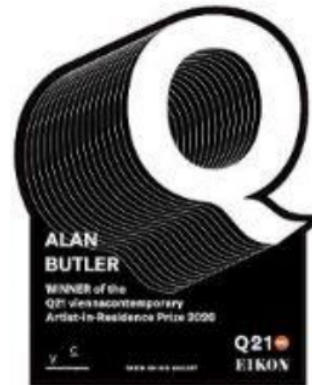
To ensure that Irish artists stayed connected with programmers, presenters and international networks Culture Ireland worked through new digital formats in partnership with theatre and dance companies and resource organisations. Online engagement included **Edinburgh Fringe Marketplace** (August) **Information Toolbox** and **International Theatre eXchange** (Sept/Oct – in partnership with Irish Theatre Institute) and Meet the Artists events at **Dublin Theatre Festival** and **Baboró International Arts Festival for Children**.

Irish artists featured on the [Edinburgh Marketplace](#).

CONGRATULATIONS



Through the engagement of Green on Red Gallery with Art Fairs in Europe, **Alan Butler** was awarded the [Winner Q21 viennacontemporary Artist-in-Residence Prize 2020](#).



Shelley Mc Namara and Yvonne Farrell

Grafton Architects won the [Pritzker Architecture Prize](#) which is presented annually, to honour a living architect or architects whose work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision, and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture.

Pat Kinevane won the prestigious **Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Performer** in a **Visiting Production** with [Fishamble Theatre Company](#) for their presentation of *SILENT* at Solus Nua in Washington DC.



IRELAND'S EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE



Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Programme includes over 500 events this year. Following a series of opening week events the Programme was reimagined to allow for COVID safe delivery into a combination of exhibition, limited physical performance and online delivery. See [here](#) for full details of the cultural programme which includes Galway based *Druid Theatre Company* and *Macnas*. [Savage Beauty](#) the stunning first project to be presented online, pictured above.

HOT OFF THE PRESS



The first ever internationally based specialist [Cultural Officers](#) have been appointed, under the Government's Global Ireland 2025 strategy. Culture Ireland welcomes **Kelly O'Connor** in London and **Nik Quaife** in New York, who will work with Culture Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs to widen and deepen Ireland's global cultural presence and engagement in these priority territories.

LOOKING FORWARD



Venice Architecture Biennale

At the Venice Architecture Biennale, postponed from Summer 2020 to Summer 2021, Ireland will present *Entanglement* by [Annex](#) curatorial team which promises interesting discussion around the implications of data storage and processing and Ireland's current and historical position as a hub in the dissemination of information internationally.





TradFest

January will see the annual [TradFest](#) programme take place online with a special Culture Ireland music showcase.

CHRISTMAS TREATS



Christmas Gifts to View

This Christmas, as a special gift to connect you to Ireland and decades of our great artists, please enjoy a collection of [Christmas Crackers](#), a film season arranged by the **Irish Film Institute** and [Solstice](#), a special programme of Irish film designed to share the light and connection of cinema by **The Galway Film Fleadh**.

