



# CULTURE IRELAND

## NEWSLETTER 2015

*Season's greetings from the Culture Ireland team and a special thank you to the many Irish artists and global presenters who worked with us in 2015.*



Aisling O'Sullivan and Gavin Drea in *DruidShakespeare*

©Matthew Thompson

## St Patrick's Day

St Patrick's Day continued to offer a unique platform to highlight Ireland's cultural strengths globally and allow Irish artists reach new audiences and engage with the diaspora. Over 50 events took place with Culture Ireland support. Spread

across 22 countries from Australia and New Zealand to China, the United States, Mexico, Russia and across Europe, Ireland's world class artists and musicians lit up many stages, venues and festivals.



*St Patrick's Day, Moscow 2015 ©Irish Moscow Week*

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## 2015 Global Reach

In 2015, Culture Ireland supported over **280** events around the globe involving Irish theatre-makers, musicians, singers, writers, dancers, visual artists and film-makers reaching an audience of over **3 million people**.



*Luke Murphy  
@LukeMurphy*



## A Decade of Culture Ireland



2015 marked the **10th anniversary** of Culture Ireland and we celebrated the many successes of the **4,000** Irish arts events Culture Ireland has supported worldwide as well as special initiatives such as **Imagine Ireland**, a year long programme in the USA in 2011 and **Culture Connects**, the EU Presidency Culture Programme in 2013. A special highlight was **Ceiliúradh**, a concert presented by Culture Ireland at the Royal Albert Hall to mark the President of Ireland's State Visit to Great Britain in April 2014.

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## Ireland at Venice



In Venice, Sean Lynch with his exhibition **Adventure: Capital** represented Ireland at the 56th Venice International Art Exhibition which attracted over 400,000 visitors. The exhibition has been selected for presentation in a number of US venues in 2016.

*Large stone-carving of a river god  
©Sean Lynch's 'Adventure: Capital'*

## Festivals



*Pat Kinevane in 'Underneath'*  
©Patrick Redmond

Culture Ireland supported over 100 performances and readings by Irish artists in a range of venues over the four weeks of the Edinburgh Festivals in August 2015.

A new chamber opera, **The Last Hotel**, produced by Wide Open Opera and Landmark Productions which premiered as part of the Edinburgh International Festival, will travel to New York in January 2016.

The excellence of Irish artists in Edinburgh was recognised through awards which were bestowed on The Corn Exchange's production of **A Girl is a Half-formed Thing**, Fishamble's production of

**Underneath** by Pat Kinevane and Donal O'Kelly's **Little Thing, Big Thing**, which went on to win Origin's First Irish Festival Best Production Award In New York in September.

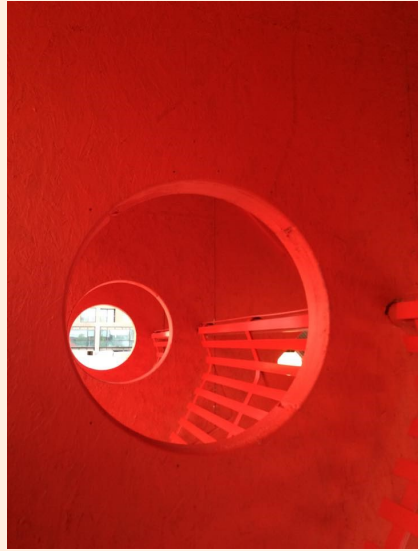
Druid Theatre Company's **DruidShakespeare: The History Plays**, adapted by Mark O'Rowe and directed by Garry Hynes, played at the Lincoln Center Festival, New York City in July 2015 to rave reviews, including that of Ben Brantley in the New York Times who wrote that it was "a marvel . . . ripping entertainment".



*Aoife Duffin*  
in '**A Girl is a Half-formed Thing**'  
©Rich Gilligan

## Irish Design 2015

Culture Ireland was delighted to support some key elements in this special year highlighting Irish Design including **New Horizon - Architecture from Ireland** – at the London Festival of Architecture and Chicago Architecture Biennial, the MART and Pan Pan Theatre Company exhibitions at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space 2015, and the Irish Theatre Institute catalogue of Stage & Screen Design Ireland (Highlights 2007 - 2014).



*Detail from The Red Pavilion in 'New Horizon—Architecture from Ireland'*

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## Our Partners



*Fête de la Musique '15 at the Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris*

A special acknowledgment is due to our partners **Irish Film Institute International, Ireland Literature Exchange** and **First Music Contact** who have ensured Irish film, literature and new Irish bands reached all corners of the globe in 2015, and to the **Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris** and **New York Irish Arts Center** for their continuing excellent programming and facilitation of our artists.

## To the Future

Many of the 100 plus presenters who travelled to Ireland with the support of Culture Ireland to attend Irish showcases and festivals in 2015 have already selected work of Irish artists to travel to Australia, US, Canada and Europe. Culture Ireland will continue to work to create new opportunities through showcasing Irish artists.

We look forward to presenting **I am Ireland**, Culture Ireland's contribution to the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme. The year-long calendar of activity forms part of the Government's Global and Diaspora Centenary Programme and was launched in Smock Alley Theatre in October 2015.



***Launch of 'I am Ireland'  
Programme October 2015***



***For further information, please visit  
[www.cultureireland.ie/iamireland](http://www.cultureireland.ie/iamireland)***



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***Feile Seamus Creagh 2015***

***©Rick West***