

CULTURE IRELAND NEWSLETTER 2016

Culture Ireland celebrated 2016 with a special Centenary Programme of high quality events across the globe, reaching greater audience numbers than ever before. To all those who participated as artists, hosts and audience members, Culture Ireland extends our appreciation.



In 2016, Culture Ireland:

supported 450 artistic projects across 60 countries
reached a live audience of 4.5 million
had 15.5 million online/tv viewers
and created 260 jobs

These artistic projects included 100 festivals
over 80 theatre/music tours
80 exhibitions and art fairs
123 film screenings
over 40 events in the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris
and 70 performance in Irish Arts Centre, New York

In 2016, Culture Ireland:

supported 160 international presenters to experience Irish work
led six international promotional missions abroad
supported 42 Irish bands to perform at 5 international showcases
and enabled the translation of 99 Irish books into foreign languages

Culture Ireland:

attracted 86,000 website hits in 2016 www.cultureireland.ie
had 20,000 followers on [Twitter](#)
and 10,000 followers on [Facebook](#)



Camille O'Sullivan & Paul Kelly in 'Ancient Rain' © Sarah Walker

Highlights of 2016



Celtic Connections in Glasgow in January marked the first major event of the I Am Ireland programme and featured performances by The Chieftains, We Banjo 3, Arty McGlynn & Liam O'Flynn, Moving Hearts, Altan and Lynched. The opening concert was broadcast live on BCC television.



Macnas showcased a high octane, visually stunning series of boutique processions from a variety of locations around the city of Austin, Texas in March during the South by Southwest Music Week.



Pat Kinevane won the Olivier Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre award for the play 'Silent' at the Soho Theatre in April.



Throughout 2016, *Poetry Ireland* presented programmes with Irish writers to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising in Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Asia including Ireland's most prominent poets and novelists including Paul Muldoon, Anne Enright, Colm Tóibín, Colum McCann, Paula Meehan, Tara Bergin and Danielle McLaughlin.

Highlights of 2016



Imagining Ireland at the Royal Festival Hall, London in April, attended by President Michael D. Higgins, was a musical celebration of Irish artists, both from Ireland and Britain.



Irish Culture in Britain: A Centenary Celebration at Wigmore Hall, London in April featuring many of Ireland's finest classical musicians, was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and on RTÉ Lyric FM.



At the Great Escape Festival Awards in Brighton, *Hard Working Class Heroes* (leading Irish music festival for emerging bands) won the Best City Champion award while *Music From Ireland* was Awarded best Export Office. *Music from Ireland* is delivered by First Music Contact in partnership with Culture Ireland.



Losing Myself, Ireland's exhibition at the 15th International Architecture Biennale Exhibition was launched in Venice, in May. Commissioned and curated by Niall McLaughlin and Yeoryia Manolopoulou, *Losing Myself* focussed on Alzheimer and engaged with audiences via an online website.

Highlights of 2016



Ireland 100 – Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts and Culture opened at the Kennedy Center, Washington DC, in May, marking the beginning of a special three-week festival of Irish arts and culture in the US capital.



Frank McGuinness's seminal play *Observe the Sons of Ulster* was performed in Thiepval, France in June by the Abbey Theatre near the Ulster Memorial Tower dedicated to the 36th Ulster Division.



The Abbey Theatre's production of *The Plough and the Stars* by Sean O'Casey toured North America in Autumn 2016.



The Irish Arts Centre, New York presented over 70 performances in 2016. In addition, a further six special events were supported as part of the I am Ireland programme.

Highlights of 2016



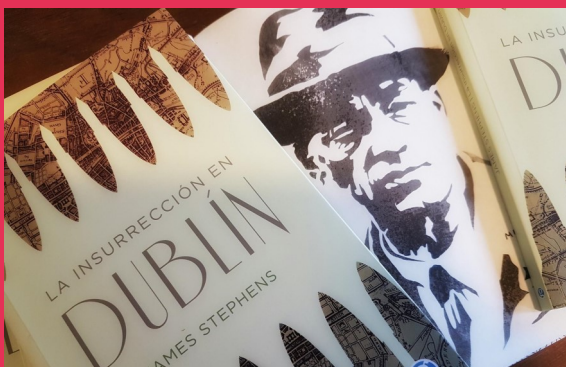
Druid's new production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh toured the United States in November to critical acclaim.



CoisCéim Dance Theatre *The Wolf and Peter* premiered in Birmingham in December marking the first part of its international tour which includes performances in Melbourne, and at the Sydney Opera House, Australia in June/ July 2017.



Michael Keegan-Dolan's production of *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* opened at Sadler's Wells in London in December to critical acclaim.



Literature Ireland translated James Stephens' *The Insurrection in Dublin* into Spanish, Bengali and Tamil., Gerard Whelan's *The Guns of Easter* into Bengali and Lia Mills' *Fallen* into Tamil to mark the centenary of 1916.