

29th July 2020



Culture Night is Back for 2020, Encouraging the Nation to 'Connect Through Culture: In or Out'

Culture Night 2020 launches its National Programme with free online and physical events taking place on Friday 18th of September. Full programme available at - www.culturenight.ie

[Photocall images available on request - niamh@boxroom.ie](mailto:niamh@boxroom.ie)

Culture Night / Oíche Chultúir 2020 today launched its National Programme in Dublin with the unveiling of **the Culture Night Trailblazers**, a group of artists and performers that showcases the scale and diversity of culture in Ireland.

This year, the Culture Night Trailblazers have been chosen from around Ireland and abroad, across numerous disciplines, including music, dance, theatre, Gaeilge and literature, to champion the spectrum of Ireland's artistic offering. **Author and podcaster Maeve Higgins is the inaugural International Culture Night Trailblazer for 2020**, representing the voice of Ireland's cultural diaspora.

The Culture Night Trailblazers this year include:

- **Fehdah (Emma Garnett)** - musician and producer
- **Michael Gallen** - composer and performer
- **The Gardiner Brothers** – World champion Irish dancers and Riverdance members
- **Úna-Minh Kavanagh** - Gaeilgeoir and author
- **Mark Smith** - performer and theatre maker

The Arts Council is the primary funder for Culture Night for the first time ever this year, driving the event's focus on equity for artists and increasing visibility of Ireland's diverse cultural landscape.

In response to the unprecedented challenges of the moment, **Culture Night will share a hybrid programme of digital and physical events**, continuing to champion the Culture Night legacy as a night of shared cultural experiences– making culture free and accessible to all. For the first time ever, audiences of all ages, here and abroad, can seek out culture at home or in their locality.

Newly appointed Director of The Arts Council, Maureen Kennelly said:

“While this year presents new challenges for the cultural sector, we see Culture Night as a fantastic opportunity for artists, arts organisations and audiences to connect, online and offline, and to celebrate the value that the arts brings to our lives.

The Arts Council’s ‘Paying The Artist’ and ‘Equality, Human Rights and Diversity’ policies are key considerations in the planning for this year’s event, and we envisage that Culture Night will be part of our path to return to creativity and culture in new, inclusive and exciting ways.”

This year Culture Night invites audiences to come together apart, as we open a window into Ireland’s shared cultural experience. The programme for Culture Night 2020 is available online today on www.culturenight.ie

A glimpse of what is happening around the island of Ireland and beyond:

Audiences can immerse themselves in culture from visual art, musical spectacles and family friendly delights to film and storytelling, hands-on workshops and virtual tours, there’s something for everyone.

Culture Night In / Oíche Chultúir Istigh

- Hear stories and myth from **Mayo** on a virtual walk through the historical Bango trail at the Wild Nephin National Park in Ballycroy.
- **A musical dialogue** with Antara (Tommy Hayes and Matthew Noone) in **Clare** and New York based pianist, Utsav Lal exploring the **cross cultural pathways between traditional Irish and Indian music**: a discussion with musical interludes.
- **How to make your garden a haven for wildlife**: **Donegal** County Heritage Officer and local experts, will take you through Gardening for Biodiversity with a series of online tutorials and demonstrations as a tool to help people explore wildlife and the natural environment.
- **‘CUMAR: A Galway Rhapsody’** a film by **Aodh Ó Coileáin**, examines the influence of **Galway** City and Connemara on six artists from varied fields. **‘CUMAR’**, will receive its television premiere on **TG4 on Culture Night**.
- Experience the Visual in **Carlow** online with **‘When I’**, a multidisciplinary project showcasing artists such **Katie Holton, Amanda Coogan, Tobi Omoteso, Feli Olusanya AKA Feli Speaks, John Scott, Jessica Traynor, Tom Lane, Tadhg O’Sullivan and John MacKenna to imagine a future in which we all want to live.**
- **Wexford** Festival Opera will present an online performance by the **Wexford Factory Singers** on the stage of the **O’Reilly Theatre of the National Opera House**.
- **Sa Ghaeltacht**, beidh ceol, craic agus scéalaíocht le **Clann Uí Cheannabháin** ar Facebook Live
- Culture Night is also ambitiously **stepping out of Ireland**, to engage with audiences globally, through programming with institutions abroad. Partnerships this year will see programmed online events in **New York, Berlin, Paris and London**.

Culture Night Out / Oíche Chultúir Taobh Amuigh

- Galway International Arts Festival has commissioned Irish artist John Gerrard to create two extraordinary artworks responding to the escalating climate crisis. *'Mirror Pavilion'* will be installed first in **Galway City** and then in **Connemara** as part of Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture.
- The **Kildare** COVID Notebook project will launch insights from 150 Kildare residents– from cocooners to teenagers– showcasing to future generations their experiences during COVID19.
- Experience **Tilt by Croí Glan** in Skibbereen, **County Cork**, an **Aerial Dance Theatre** show centred around a pole that flies, falls and circles, a metaphor for instability and change in an unstable world.
- At **Roscommon** Arts Centre and **King House in Boyle**, view an outdoor visual representation of Douglas Hyde's poem *'A Poem To be Said On Hearing the Birds Sing'*.
- **Iseli-Chiodi Dance Company** and The Source Arts Centre in **Tipperary** present 'Miss Orbit', a durational and swirling in situ dance performance on the boardwalk of the Centre for audiences to witness behind glass.
- Dunamais in **Laois** will host the first of a season of Live Gigs as they welcome back audiences after long months of lockdown.
- Clonbur le Chéile invites you to an interactive **sound walk of Clonbur woods in County Galway**.
- Explore the world of puppetry with the children's theatre company **Branar Téatar do Pháistí** in a special puppet making online workshop hosted by the Model in **Sligo**.

Culture Night In & Out / Oíche Chultúir Istigh & Amuigh

- A public artwork titled **My Generation** in **The Glucksman Gallery** in **Cork City** will share responses from and experiences of growing up as a teenager in Ireland, calling for positive action and change.
- Join the **Kilkenny Arts Office Gallery** for *'~~Less Stress~~ ~~More Success~~'*, a live workshop that asks us **questions concerning our strive to achieve**. What does the concept of success mean? How is it achieved? Must the journey to success be stressful? **Join artist Eimear Murphy to reflect on how we relate to materials and how this mirrors our emotional state**.
- **How do you bring participatory art to those at home?** The French Embassy in association with the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin invites you to **The Live Drawing Project**: a video projected artwork created together, apart. Using your phone as a drawing pad, you can watch as your art becomes a larger than life digital projection which will transform the exterior walls of the **National Gallery and the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris**.
- Drift through SLEEPERTOWN in **Wexford**, Gorey. This programme of sound installations will be imagined as public art, featuring contributions from national and international artists.
- A Dark Matter will be a night of filmmaking, music and literature around the theme of isolation on the bog during COVID-19 at Hough's in Banagher, **Offaly**.
- **The National Circus Festival** of Ireland presents **Fiúntas in Tralee Town Park, Kerry** featuring world-class performances, for both live and online audiences.

Notes to Editor:

As national media partner, **RTÉ will highlight new and specially commissioned content from around the country to showcase the best of Culture Night 2020** in all its colour, excitement and diversity.

Culture Night is brought to you by the Arts Council, in partnership with local authorities and cultural organisations throughout the island of Ireland.

*Join the conversation online @CultureNight on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) using **#CultureNight #OícheChultúir***

For further media information please contact:

Niamh Mongey // Boxroom Productions

niamh@boxroom.ie // 0870534182

Culture Night will take place in the following counties and cities on **Friday September 18th**

An Ghaeltacht / Antrim / Armagh / Berlin / Carlow / Cavan / Clare / Cork City / Cork County / Derry / Donegal / Down / Dublin / Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown / Fingal County / Galway City / Galway County / Kerry / Kildare / Kilkenny / Laois / Leitrim / Limerick / London /Longford / Louth / Mayo / Meath / Monaghan / New York / Offaly / Paris / Roscommon / Sligo / South Dublin City / Tipperary / Tyrone / Waterford / Westmeath / Wexford / Wicklow

- As per government guidelines on COVID19 social distancing measures will be adhered for physical happenings and performances.
- Please note due to COVID19 measures in place booking for online and offline events may be a requirement.
- Venues interested in opening for Culture Night - late admissions are still possible. Visit culturenight.ie/register.
- Be sure to visit culturenight.ie to view the most up to date programming details for 2020 as new events are being added regularly.