

DRAÍOCHT

Artist in Residence 2011/2012

LIAM HALLIGAN

More Information

This residency in Draíocht is a rare and exciting opportunity for me to have the time to truly play and to explore different approaches as to what theatre can be.

I want to attempt to make a piece of theatre, about an hour in length that is different, striking and visually interesting.

The overall theme is to discover how our lives have changed over the last couple of years. For example, we will ask questions about...

How the current employment situation has personally affected you?

What has happened to the notion of 'family', of 'community', of being 'Irish'?

Do we have faith in anything, in our politicians, in our priests or in our banking system?

Who do we put our faith in now?

Who do we believe?

Who do we trust?

Who do we look to for inspiration?

How do we recover? How do we see our futures panning out?

I don't know the answers!

But I do know that drama and theatre has the ability to bring people together, that it can be great fun, that it can build confidence and that we can collaborate and inspire each other to create something that matters.

I want to meet lots of individuals who live in this part of Dublin. I want to meet grandparents, young mothers, young fathers, teenagers, people who have siblings, people who have no siblings, people who don't want to have children, people who can't have children, people who never thought that they would end up living in Blanch, people who wouldn't live anywhere else...

***Important Note**

This project is aimed at individuals with some, little or no experience of acting or theatre. Drama improvisation and theatre games will be used in the workshops where emphasis will be on participation and the sharing and exploring of ideas and how we might present them in a theatre piece. The focus of the Project isn't about teaching

you how to act or making you a professional actor (though of course acting will be involved); it's about working with a group of people who want to give it a go, who want to share their experiences, hopes and ideas and who want to use drama/theatre to do that.

Stage 1.

Sourcing: November 2011 - February 2012

In cooperation with Draíocht and Fingal County Council I will research, consult and interview interested individuals drawn from the Dublin 15 area. This will also involve meetings with community, drama and youth groups. I will discuss the plan and the working process and people will self select or be invited to take part.

I hope to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds with a good mix of age and gender. So, the intention is to form about 5 groups of 8/10 participants each. Particular groups will be targeted and encouraged to participate, for instance, a group of people over 60 years of age, a group of teenagers, a group of young mothers, a group of lesbian and gay people.

Stage 2.

Workshops: March to May

Each group will be offered a series of 4 workshops spread over the 8 week period. All these workshops will take place in Draíocht.

All the workshops will have the same focus:

- Creating a group awareness and dynamic.
- Acquiring some very basic skills in confidence and physical awareness.
- Creating an imaginative response to the theme through reminiscence and improvisation.
- Recording the work and gaining feedback for the overall assessment.

Stage 3.

Composition: June to August

This stage will involve working with a group of approximately 15 individuals i.e. roughly 3 people drawn from each group.

Basically, it is hoped that this final group will naturally select itself, depending on everyone's availability and their commitment to continuing with the project from September to 1st December.

This final group will attend 2 evening workshops over a 3 week period probably in June (to be decided depending on group availability). This will be an opportunity for this diverse group to develop confidence, to create a group dynamic and to explore the emerging themes in more depth.

I will then take all this material and work on my own to compile a scenario/script based on what has evolved from the workshops and improvisations, perhaps integrating song, music and bits of other appropriate texts.

Stage 4.

Rehearsal & Presentation: September to November 2012.

This stage will require commitment from the participants to complete the project until 1st December.

The 7 week period will begin with 2 evening sessions per week.

***19th to 24th November – this is the last week of rehearsal.**

I hope to have 3 evening sessions this week. A professional lighting designer and stage manager will be taken on board.

***26th Nov to Sat 1st December - this is Production Week.**

Participants will be needed each evening from approximately 6.30pm. The week will involve a 'get-in', a technical and dress rehearsal, a preview on Wed 28th Nov followed by 3 public performances in Draíocht on Thurs 29th, Fri 30th and Sat 1st December.

Documentation and Evaluation

I will document and evaluate the project.

This will be based on detailed schedules; notes from interviews, meetings and workshops; DVD footage of every stage; all the information drawn from the participant's Feedback Forms, from the audience, from Draíocht and from Fingal County Council.

Liam Halligan September 2011