

OFFALY ARTS ALERT

Official Newsletter of Offaly County Council Arts Office



Arts in Action - May - June 2025
News & Events

Welcome to Issue 13 of Offaly Arts Alert.

The purpose of Offaly Arts Alert is to provide a listing of arts events and opportunities in the County.

Offaly Arts Office is a service of Offaly County Council and aims to broaden and deepen access to the Arts in Offaly.

Based in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, you can contact the Arts Office team by emailing arts@offalycoco.ie or calling +353 57 935 7400 during office hours; Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Visit our website www.offaly.ie and social media [@OffalyArts](https://www.instagram.com/OffalyArts) for further information.

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Offaly Arts Office

Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

Offaly Arts Alert

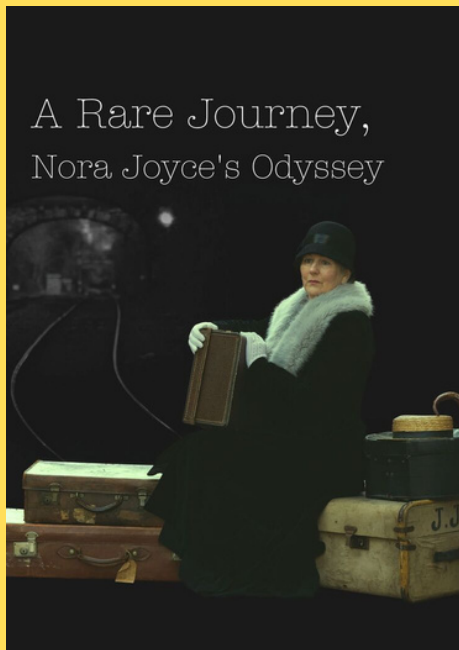
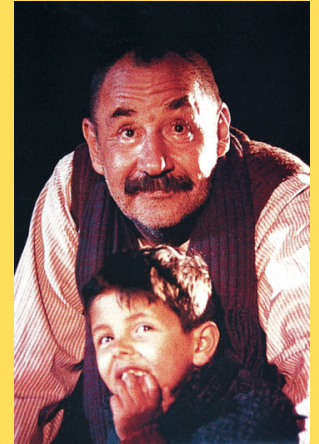
What's On?

May | June
Arts Events

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Cinema Paradiso **Thursday May 15th 8pm**

We are delighted be showing this amazing movie (Cinema Paradiso) as part of the May film tour, of Bealtaine Festival. Winner of the best foreign film OSCAR it's a celebration of youth, friendship and the everlasting magic of the movies and it's FREE



A Rare Journey **Thursday 5th June 8pm**

Witness the life of a truly remarkable Irish woman, Nora Joyce, in a highly entertaining roller-coaster 75-minute play, filled with the music and song the Joyces knew, and delights in Nora's quick and often razor-sharp wit. "A flawless performance from Paula Greevy-Lee"

ANNE GILDEA presents **"Further Adventures in WOMANING"** **Saturday 14th June -8pm**

Anne Comes back to Birr Theatre and explores with her sharp wit the world of the feminine, From 18-hour girdles and Housewives of The Year, to ripped influencer grannies pumping iron on Insta, from the Sunday drive to the spa break, Anne weaves a pant-wetting path through a changing half century of womany stuff. Ladies, this is for you, and don't forget to bring your husbands, partners, Male friends, sons and nephew and watch they squirm as you laugh out loud!



For a full listing of events, please see www.birrtheatre.com

Offaly Arts Alert

What's On?

May-June
Arts Events

Esker Arts

BogSkin - Exhibition

Official opening Saturday 10th May, 3pm

Opening by Patrick T. Murphy, RHA Director

On tour after opening at the RHA in January, BogSkin, an exploration of the bog through painting, video, and sculpture comes to the Croghan Gallery at Esker Arts this Summer. The bog has always occupied a central role in Irish life, in our folklore, history and home life. We are delighted to present BogSkin, a major exhibition examining the relationship of art to the boglands over the past 50 years, curated by RHA Director, Patrick T Murphy.

Exhibition runs until Saturday 28th June



Silent

Fishamble: The New Play Company
Thursday 19th June, 8pm

Written and performed by Pat Kinevane
Directed by Jim Culleton

“Hopeless, helpless, in-the-way person”

SILENT is the touching and challenging story of homeless McGoldrig, who once had splendid things. But he has lost it all - including his mind. He now dives into the wonderful wounds of his past through the romantic world of Rudolph Valentino. Dare to laugh at despair and gasp at redemption in this brave, bleak, beautiful production for which Fishamble and Pat Kinevane won an Olivier Award in 2016.

Plein Air Painting Weekend **at Lough Boora Sculpture Park**

Saturday 28th - Sunday 29th June, 10am - 5pm

Esker Arts is delighted to host a unique plein air painting workshop weekend based in the extraordinary and distinct environment of Lough Boora Sculpture Park.

Over the course of the weekend, artists Geraldine O’ Reilly, Neal Greig, and Jock Nicholls will guide attendees to develop paintings and drawings from the unique vistas available in the Lough Boora Sculpture Park, a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts interested in its unique flora and wildlife. Attendees will have an option of three locations over the course of the weekend based around The Dead Forest, Rhythms of Time, and 60 Degrees sculptures.



There’s something for everyone at Esker Arts
For a full listing of events, please see www.eskerarts.ie



Creative Places Edenderry

is a community based project to connect, create and develop artistic and cultural activities to enhance the community engagement and spirit within Edenderry.

Activities are advertised on the [Creative Places Edenderry Facebook](#) and Instagram pages.

See www.creativeplacesedenderry.ie

for further information.

The poster features a white background with colorful confetti and streamers. At the top left is the 'creative PLACES EDENDERRY' logo, and at the top right is the 'Creative Lives' logo. The main text reads: 'Showcase Exhibition Launch: Celebrating Year 4 of Creative Places, Edenderry!'. Below this, it says 'Friday 30th of May 11.30am Edenderry Library All welcome!'. A registration instruction follows: 'Please register by emailing: info@creativeplacesedenderry.ie'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí Offaly County Council', 'Creative Places Cumas Ceantar', and 'arts council funding the arts'.

Monday Music group with Angi Ward: 2pm - 3.30pm at The Parish Centre

ActiviTEA Women's group sessions: Tuesday's, 11am - 1pm at The Cabin

Visual Art workshop for and by people who identify as disabled with Eleanor Farrelly, 11am - 12.30pm at The Parish Centre

Community Social with Nesrin Elazaly, Friday's 12.30pm - 2.30pm at The Parish Centre

All Inclusive and all abilities Sensory Music and Play sessions for children age 3+ with Danna Davis Daly. Starting 1st of May, Edenderry Library Sensory Room, 12.15pm - 1.45pm

'Looking after the Artist/Facilitator' training session, 21st of May, 2pm - 4pm on Zoom

Community Forum, 29th of May, 2pm - 4pm at Edenderry Library

Artists Collective, 29th of May, 6pm - 7.30pm at Byrnes Bar

Launch of showcase exhibition of celebration of Year 4 of Creative Places, Edenderry, 30th of May, 11.30am at Edenderry Library

Current Funding Opportunities

You can contact us by email: arts@offalycoco.ie
or call us on 0579346800



Offaly County Council Arts Office announces opportunities to be part of Offaly Culture Night taking place on Friday 19th September 2025 across Offaly.

Offaly Culture Night once again promises to be one night for all as venues and public spaces across Offaly plan to open their doors to host a programme of FREE entertainment for Culture Night 2025 – an island-wide celebration of arts, heritage and culture. Now in its fifteenth year, Offaly Culture Night will be putting together a packed programme of events reflecting the broad diversity of the county arts scene. Culture Night is brought to you by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Creative Ireland. For anyone wishing to host a Culture Night event in Offaly, the Arts Office is your first port of call. This year's opportunities are outlined as follows:

Culture Night Commissions

Offaly County Council Arts Office wish to commission a selection of cultural engagement projects/presentations which will form part of the 2025 Culture Night Offaly programme. Professional Artists from or based in Offaly are invited to submit proposals for these commissions. We are open to innovative ideas that are cognisant of the theme One Night for All. Proposals can be an individual expression or work made through a process within the community. Culture Night is a national moment, celebrating culture, creativity and the arts and seeks to actively promote the belief that this rich and varied culture is alive, treasured and nurtured in people's lives, today and every day. The deadline is Monday 26th May @ 5pm.

Full brief here: [Culture Night Commissions](#)

For full details on how to apply for an award for up to a maximum of €1,000 per commission

Please apply via <https://submit.link/3tP>

Culture Night Event Fund

Offaly County Council's Culture Night Event Fund supports the cost of events programmed for Culture Night which takes place on 19th September 2025.

The fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage and cultural groups, venues and societies. Applications by individuals must be in partnership with a community, cultural or heritage group. Assistance shall not be given in respect of commercial activities. The maximum amount of available funding is €600. Funding is at the discretion of Offaly County Council. The deadline to apply is 5pm on Monday 26th 2025.

Full brief here: [Culture Night Event Fund](#)

Please apply via <https://submit.link/3tQ>

All applications relevant to Culture Night go through an evaluation process with an outcome shared by mid-June 2025. Applications should be made on submit.com. This may require establishing an account. Please allow ample time to upload application.

Culture Night is strategically funded by Offaly County Council and the Arts Council and is supported by participating groups & venues in Offaly.

Birr Writers' Residency Award 2025 Call Out



Birr Writers' Residency offers professional writers' accommodation and workspaces for five nights, at Brendan House in the centre of Birr, County Offaly. This Georgian Heritage Town in the midlands of Ireland has a remarkable history and is embedded in a community with a thriving arts culture.

The purpose of the residency is to provide an opportunity for artists to focus on a writing project (current or new) in a tranquil environment which supports and values high professional artistic development. It is open to professional writers of any genre, e.g. literary fiction, poetry, playwrights, journalism or travel writing.

Deadline: Monday 19th May, 5pm

For further information on the residency, the location and to apply visit:

[Birr Writer's Residency 2025](#)

Offaly Arts News

Kenny Lyons Associates Architects win the ICE award for Esker Arts design



Kenny Lyons Associates Architects won the ICE award for Architectural Design Excellence Project €5m to €15m for their design of Esker Arts. The design transformed a derelict, vacant building into a community focused public amenity. The project has acted as a catalyst for the rejuvenation of community and arts in Tullamore and encouraged redevelopment of neighbouring plots. This project acts as an exemplar and depicts the potential of backland infill sites in Irish towns to provide fantastic community facilities in very central locations. The concept of re-use and lean construction were integral components within this scheme. A significant portion of the existing building was retained from a sustainability perspective but this in turn has helped contextualise the Arts Centre within the existing urban morphology. Esker Arts Centre achieves 'design excellence' by harmonising the challenges presented by the site with the client's brief and surpassing their expectations. The architectural design harnesses the inherent beauty of the site, draws inspiration from its' previous life and provides a new public space for the future'

Visit Offaly

Please see the website www.visitoffaly.ie for a comprehensive list of events taking place in Offaly soon. Here you will find all the up to date information on activities and events for the spring and summer season.



Film Offaly News

Midlands Network Event with National Talent Academies

On April the 12th we held a networking event at Esker Arts in Tullamore in conjunction with the National Talent Academies Film and TV and Crew East. There was a panel discussion including Screen Guilds Ireland, together with local filmmakers Gary Hoctor and Maura Foley. The panel explored different career pathways in the screen industry as well as options available for training and gaining vital experience. The networking afterwards was a great success in bringing together screen professionals based across the Midlands- We're already expecting some interesting collaborations because of those chats.



Smartphone Filmmaking Course

We've announced that we are working with the National Talent Academies Film & TV to hold a Smartphone Filmmaking Course in June. This is being run by Póca Productions, who have a wealth of experience in training people to make engaging films using their smartphones. Ideas will be developed, and teams will shoot a variety of different films in Birr and its surroundings. This is a practical hands-on course which will give participants an insight into how they can harness the power of their smartphones and unleash the mini-film studio that is lying in their pockets. Applications for this course are open until the 9th of May and further details can be found on the National Talent Academy's website.

Documentary Mentors

We are pleased to announce that we will soon be launching a Documentary Mentorship program. This will see local aspiring documentarians working together to produce a short film based on an aspect of life in Offaly under the guidance of a professional mentor. We will be announcing details of how to apply soon, but at this stage we are looking for mentors only to run the program.



FILMOFFALY LOCATIONS CALL-OUT

We are looking to expand FilmOffaly's database of potential film locations within the county.

We already have a diverse range of unique locations, but we are always on the lookout for buildings or spots that could be the next screen star, whether it's your home, workplace, or local bar.

If it's distinctive or has character, we'd love to hear from you.
For more information please contact filmoffaly@offalycoco.ie

www.filmoffaly.ie

National News & Opportunities

Funding: Arts Council Festivals Investment Scheme

The Arts Council is inviting applications for Round 1 of the Festivals Investment Scheme 2026, supporting small-to-mid-scale festivals in Ireland. The scheme offers funding for festivals commencing between 1 January and 30 June 2026. Applications must be made by organisations only, with awards available in three bands: Band A (up to €10,000), Band B (€10,001–€25,000), and Band C (€25,001–€45,000).

Eligible costs include artists' fees, venue rental, production, marketing, and access supports. Applicants must register with the Arts Council's Online Services before applying. Supporting documents, including draft programmes, letters of support and strategic plans, are required depending on the funding band.

The deadline for applications is Thursday, 29 May 2025 at 17:30 (Irish time).
For full guidelines and application details, visit [arts council.ie](https://www.arts council.ie).



Limerick Gathering | Cruinniú Luimnigh

For over two decades, our annual Gathering has been a landmark event in the performing arts calendar. In 2025, we're on our way to The Lime Tree Theatre Limerick for two days of conversation, provocation, and inspiration. The event runs over two days (from lunchtime Tuesday 27th to late afternoon Wednesday 28th May)

Tickets are now available! Your ticket includes access to day sessions, a bespoke artistic programme, lunch on both days, and an evening dinner.

Julie Kelleher will curate the Tuesday programme at The Gathering this year. Julie brings a wealth of expertise and a visionary approach to her work in the performing arts and we are excited to see how her creative vision will shape this year's Gathering.



National News & Opportunities

Visual Artists Help Desk with Oona Hyland (Online or on phone)

ONLINE EVENT

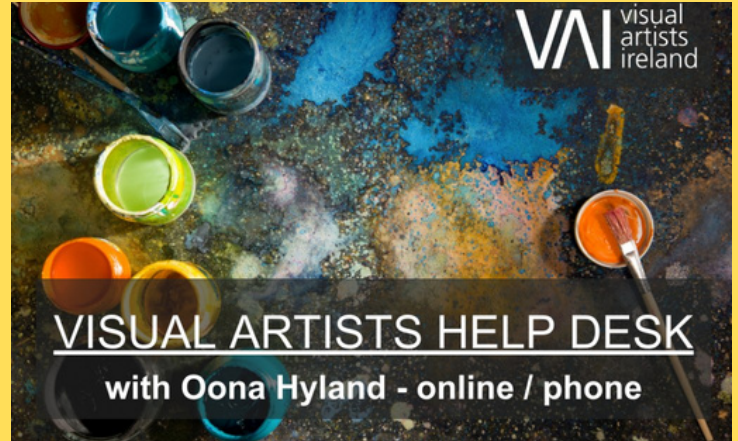
Book a Help Desk with Oona Hyland
(Advocacy & Advice)

Do you have an area in your practice you need help with or would just like some advice on where to go next? Artists can book in for a FREE one-to-one appointment to discuss any aspects of their professional careers.

Help Desk sessions will be held online or on the phone. These Help Desks are free of charge for both Members and Non-Members.

How Can We Help You?

Help Desks can be on any topic related to your practice or even just general advice and support as a professional artist.



Jobs, Funding & Opportunities

**THE FOLLOWING LINKS WILL BRING YOU TO AN OVERVIEW ON
VARIOUS AVAILABLE FUNDING**

WWW.VISUALARTISTS.IE
WWW.CULTUREIRELAND.IE
WWW.CREATE-IRELAND.IE

**THE FOLLOWING SITES CONTAIN A BROAD RANGE OF ROLES &
OPPORTUNITIES CURRENTLY ADVERTISED IN THE ARTS.**

WWW.VISUALARTISTS.IE/ADVERTS
WWW.PERFORMINGARTSFORUM.IE/JOBS
WWW.ARTSMANAGEMENT.IE/JOBS
WWW.CREATE-IRELAND.IE/CATEGORY/OPPORTUNITIES
WWW.ARTCONNECT.COM/OPPORTUNITIES
WWW.IRISHWRITERSCENTRE.IE/JOB-OPPORTUNITIES
WWW.POETRYIRELAND.IE/WRITERS/OPPORTUNITIES

ARTS COUNCIL
FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES



SEE WWW.ARTSCOUNCIL.IE/FUNDING FOR AVAILABLE AWARDS
WITH VARIOUS STRANDS AND CLOSING DATES

Opening in April:

- Touring of Work Scheme 2026, Round 1

Opening 08 April - Closing 08 May

- Festivals Investment Scheme 2026, Round 1

Opening 29 April - Closing 29 May

Opening in May:

- Authored Works

Opening 06 May - Closing 05 June

- Reel Art

Opening 06 May - Closing 05 June

- Bursary Award, Round 2

Opening 20 May - Closing 19 June

Opening in June

- Project Award 2026, Round 1

Opening 24 June - Closing 24 July

- Strategic Funding 2026

Opening 24 June - Closing 04 September

- Arts Centre Funding 2026

Opening 24 June - Closing 11 September

Artists Wellbeing

Screen-Ireland Professional Development

Certificate in Continuing Professional Development in Neurodiversity
(Screen Industry)

This is a Level 6, fully online, university-accredited, part-time course and a continuing professional development certificate. This course is fully funded by Screen Ireland. This course is the first university of its kind globally. Once registered, you will receive the fully confirmed timetable and all the course details.

Click on the link for details:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-ccpdns>



Minding Creative Minds is an organisation established to offer a free 24/7 wellbeing & support programme for the Irish Creative Sector.

For further information on workshops and events visit www.mindingcreativeminds.ie



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