



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Cruinniú na nÓg 2022 – a day of free creative activity for young people

Saturday, 11th June 2022

- ***More than 450 free creative events for young people throughout the country***
- ***Eight live music stages with performances livestreamed on dedicated TV channel***
- ***12 pop up dance performances***
- ***Youth Theatre Ireland to host introductory theatre workshops nationwide***
- ***5,000 juggling balls distributed nationwide, with four circus workshops in Tipperary, Cork, Dublin and Galway***
- ***Four historic houses to host free Cruinniú na nÓg activities***

Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, has today announced details of Cruinniú na nÓg 2022, a day of free creative activity for young people. Cruinniú na nÓg 2022 is a collaboration between the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Creative Ireland Programme, local authorities and RTÉ and is the only event of its kind in the world.

Announcing Cruinniú na nÓg 2022 at Killruddery House and Gardens in County Wicklow, Minister Martin said:

*“Since 2018, **Cruinniú na nÓg** has become a key date in Ireland’s cultural calendar. It has provided wonderful opportunities for Ireland’s 1.2 million children and young people to try something new like circus skills, animation, perform at live music gigs, explore contemporary dance, showcase new work through youth theatre and so much more. All events are free.*

“This year we are delighted that most of the events will be live and in person. Alongside the events planned by our strategic partners - Dance Ireland, Garageland, Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network (ISACS), Nenagh Children’s Film Festival, Youth Theatre Ireland and the Historic Houses of Ireland - we have more than 450 events programmed by local authorities in venues around the country. We are so thrilled that the restrictions of the last two years are behind us and that this year everyone can join together to be creative, express themselves and have fun.”

The Creative Ireland Programme and its strategic partners have developed a number of creative projects, all planned to go live on Saturday 11th June 2022.

These include:

Pop-Up Dance is a Dance Ireland project which aims to connect with young people who want to dance. There will be twelve pop-up performances around the country, developed by local youth dance companies to reflect their own communities and experiences.

Garageland is back! And this year they are going live with concerts in Dublin, Meath, Donegal, Waterford, Tipperary, Kerry, Wicklow, Cavan and Monaghan. Running alongside these live concerts will be GalaxyZ, a dedicated online TV channel which will live stream the concerts, screen pre-recorded performances and host industry chats.

Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network (ISACS) will host open days for young people who want to try their hand at circus skills and street spectacle at their dedicated venues in Cloughjordan, Cork, Dublin and Galway. For those that can’t be there on the day, there will be a full range of online tutorials available and 5,000 juggling balls will be given away so that young people can develop their circus skills at home.

Historic Houses of Ireland will bring the excitement of Cruinniu na nÓg 2022 to four of their gorgeous properties. Activities will include aerial acrobatics at Killruddery House and Gardens in Wicklow and a forest school at Kilmokea House in Wexford. Birr Castle will focus on astronomy and biodiversity and Enniscoke in Mayo will have a full programme of events in their historic gardens.

Nenagh Children’s Film Festival: This year the festival will run June 10th – June 12th with Crúinniu na nÓg at the heart of it. In an exciting development, the festival will collaborate with Foróige, Digital Animation Production TUS and the National Talent Academy for Animation to encourage young people to create and participate. Highlights will include screenings of a commissioned animation dedicated to young audiences and 10 film shorts created in participating schools.

Youth Theatre Ireland will host introductory theatre workshops throughout the country.

This is Art 2022. Creative Ireland and RTÉ's wonderful art competition for young people has returned, and the winning entries will be announced on 11th June 2022. The deadline for entries is 13th May 2022.

TG4 with support from the Gaeltacht division of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, will produce *Cruthaím 33* which will champion the talents of 33 children and young people from every county in the country as well as a representative of our young diaspora. Also included in the programme will be 4 films made by transition year students from Gaelscoileanna around the country.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2022 Ambassadors. This year, Creative Ireland have asked six wonderful young people to represent Cruinniú na nOg 2022 to inspire others with their creative energy and skills.

Faith Leigh Bomah from Letterkenny boasts creativity by the bucket-load! This talented ten-year-old is never happier than when she's immersed in two of her favourite creative hobbies: fashion design and upcycling.

The Barceló Brothers. Part of a music-making Galway family, multi-instrumentalist Gaeilgeoirí Séamus (15) and Míchéal (12) are born entertainers! Despite their youth, the pair are seasoned pros having performed with their dad Miquel at home and abroad since they were very young.

Millie Sheppard (12) and Anouk Baldin-Merer (14) have been members of the Cloughjordan Circus Club since they were just eight years old where they have learnt everything from juggling to unicycling and rola bola to acro dance.

Luke Melvin (17) is the lead guitarist and backing vocalist of INSUBS. Luke first started playing five years ago after saving his confirmation money to buy an electric guitar and start some lessons. "It feels very natural to me when I play guitar, it has become like second nature."

For a full listing of all activities and information on how to join in for *Cruinniú na nÓg* – please go to www.cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie and www.rte.ie.

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Notes to Editor

The **Creative Ireland Programme** is a culture-based, all of Government initiative which places creativity at the centre of public policy, and is designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing. The core proposition is that participation in cultural activity drives personal and collective creativity, with significant implications for individual and societal wellbeing and achievement. It is built around five pillars, one of which is Creative Youth - enabling the creative potential of every young person in Ireland. You can find out more [here](#).

Cruinniú na nÓg is an initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme and is one of the key actions of [Creative Youth](#) – a plan to enable the creative potential of every child and young person. It is delivered through the network of Creative Ireland Coordinators and local authority Culture and Creativity Teams in each of the 31 local authorities and is supported by RTÉ.