

## COLM'S MESSAGE

It seems as if this is a year of huge operating landscape changes. Since our last *Shenanigans* new Arts Councils have been appointed in both Belfast and Dublin. Many of the new members have a very direct relationship with the Arts world, to quote some observers "they have to make their living from the Arts!" This bodes well for the development of strong regional and audience focused Arts policy.

The festival movement has a documented role in providing the Arts with new platforms, commissions a lot of new work, provides eager audiences and looks forward to engaging positively with the two new boards as they attempt to deliver on their core mission in difficult times. We wish the new Councils, their Chairs and their executive staff well in the months ahead.

My thanks to those of you who took the time to read through and feedback on our

new Draft Strategic Plan which hopes to provide the Network, the Sector and AOIFE the organisation with a blueprint for development for the next 5 years. It has taken a lot of time and effort from our Secretary General and the Steering Group but should be the document



for this decade as the O'Keeffe Report was instrumental for the latter end of the last.

As the evenings shorten it means that peak festival season is some way behind us and what an interesting season it has been! Certainly those festivals that enjoyed the

unseasonal summer weather got huge support and that great feeling of good vibes! There are some burning issues as the year winds to a close: the undermining of confidence, public sector cutbacks, motivating volunteers, dealing with the growing mountains of red tape, the changing dynamics of the Tourist Market, the growing sophistication of the cultural and leisure sectors, the inconsistency of local authorities in applying aspects of event licensing, insurance problems .....to name but a few! Each issue needs to be examined, thrashed out and solutions proffered.

I can think of no better way to do just that than by attending our three day annual conference in Tralee, with a couple of your festival team colleagues. Why sit at home and try and invent the wheel when some group just like yours has made all the same mistakes, learned from them and are quite happy to share their experience?

For any Festival that suggests they can't afford to send a delegate check out the range of training supports that are available from the plethora of state agencies. Look on the delegate expenditure (which incidentally is very reasonable) as an investment in the people who drive your event - last year eight first time festivals to Conference went away with over €15,000 worth of new fundraising ventures!

In any event it would be great to have as many of our membership as possible come and celebrate 10 years of AOIFE which is something that every member on the island should take some satisfaction from!

If you can't make it please send along to the Office your Posters, Flyers and Programmes for Adjudication in our annual awards - if you're not in you can't win!

Slán agus Beannacht,

Colm

## Arts Council's Small Arts Festivals and Events Scheme 2004

In recent years there has been enormous growth in the number of small festivals and they contribute significantly to Ireland's artistic landscape. In previous years, the Council had a specific revenue funding scheme supporting small festivals and events, but funds from this scheme were only available to a small festival or event if it was multi-disciplinary in nature. This scheme has now been improved. For 2004, the Council's Small Festivals and Events Scheme will provide funding to small arts festivals or events regardless of their theme, genre or profile.

The Small Festivals and Events Scheme 2004 is open to Festivals and Events wishing to apply for between €1,000 and €10,000 only. The Arts Council welcomes applications from new and established small festivals and events with an

emphasis on artistic excellence, targeting audience development and organisational strength.

Grants under the Small Festivals and Events Scheme for 2004 will be made in two rounds, recognising that voluntary committees undertake much of the planning for local festivals. The organisers of small festivals and events should apply under this scheme, on or before one or other of these deadlines, rather than under the annual revenue grant process that is used for larger arts organisations.

The deadline for the first round of grants in this scheme (in the main, for festivals being planned for the earlier part of 2004) will be **Friday 5 December 2003** and the deadline for the second round of grants in the scheme (in the main, for festivals being

planned for the latter part of the year) will be **Friday 12 March 2004**.

Applicants who choose to make an application under this new Small Festivals and Events Scheme 2004 should benefit from this specific focused initiative and will not now need to apply to the Arts Council for annual revenue funding for 2004.

Speaking about this new funding initiative, Andrea Corbett, Arts Programme Manager, Festivals and Events says: "The new deadlines will allow small festival committees to benefit from a longer lead in time for planning, and to provide better supporting information in applying for public funding. We are particularly interested in festivals that promote opportunities for professional artists, new programming ideas,

and show an energetic approach to building audiences."

For further information and an application form for this scheme contact:

Regina O'Shea, Grants Assistant Festivals and Events, Arts Programme Department, The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

T 01 6180 260 or

E [regina@artscouncil.ie](mailto:regina@artscouncil.ie)

Information can also accessed and printed from the Arts Council's website

[www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie) (under grants/awards on the home page, then revenue/capital - click on festivals)



## "Junction 7.03 a resounding success"

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David Teevan, Festival Director wants everyone to know that "the Junction Festival 7.03, which ran over 9 days from July 5<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> was a resounding success and has firmly established the event as a cherished feature of the South Tipperary calendar!"

For one week Clonmel hosted over 100 performers. Some of the visiting performers just came for the one evening and moved on, while others stayed for several days. "The scale of the town and the venues (none being over 300 capacity) allowed for a very intimate happening, where performers both local and visiting can engaged with each other and the public, which created a very special atmosphere" David continued.

Adding to the sense of celebration in the town was the mounting of hand crafted bunting, flags and banners which had been made by local community groups facilitated by Galloglass Theatre Company's Outreach Department. Pride of place among the banners went to the Clonmel Travellers Resource Group whose 7-metre banner which was

mounted on a specially erected 10 metre high scaffolding town outside the Junction Theatre.

Taking centre stage in the theatre programme was the locally produced *Teach a Bloc* playing four performances and the US comedy *Goner*.



The Celtic Fiddlers from Canada

This was the first time the festival ran any show for more than one night and this new departure was very successful particularly for *Teach a Bloc* which was a terrific success and filled to capacity for all the performances.

For more serious theatre lovers Michael Harding with *Talking through his Hat*, his

own one-man show depicting an eventful evening at the house of Dean Swift and the UK production of *Only the Lonely*, a show narrating the life and times of an impersonator of Roy Orbison were also very well received. For music theatre lovers

children's theatre programming offering two shows in for little ones and on the comedy front there was the inimitable Tommy Tiernan who had to be moved to a larger venue to accommodate the demand for tickets!

On the music front there was jazz, rock, blues, world music and trad. Featured entertainers included Teofilo Chantre; a Paris-based Cape Verdian whose five piece outfit treated its audience to a very exotic evening; Rattle the Boards and UK favourites Flook, The Walls and David Kitt, the Dutch six-piece ensemble De Wereldband and Herb Dade and friends.

For the first time The Junction Festival moved out into the streets with free events under the arches of the Main Guard and an afternoon of entertainment in Mick Delahunty Square.

David Teevan concluded his chat with *Shenanigans* by thanking all the artists who participated, the audiences, sponsors, venues and the crew. Last words from a tired but very satisfied Festival Director were "See you next year....second week of July for Junction 7.04".

## 17<sup>th</sup> annual Tyneside Irish Festival

AOIFE's Ambassador-at-Large Paddy Murphy continues to gallivant around Britain spreading the 'good news' of AOIFE to Irish Festivals.



Ambassador-at-Large Paddy Murphy

Among the most recent AOIFE International Members is Tyneside Irish Festival.

Festival Director Tony Corcoran promises another bumper festival from October 13<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>.

A wide range of activities are planned including folk music and ballad sessions, storytellers, Irish music, song and dance, poetry readings, céilís, trad sessions and public lectures on diverse topics including WB Yeats and Brendan Kennelly.

Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> features a major international literary conference with speakers from the University of Manchester, Oxford University, Stanford University USA, Indiana University,

Trinity College Dublin and the University of Staffordshire.

The festival activities are



staged in a number of locations throughout Tyneside including Tyneside Irish Centre, Gosforth Civic Hall, the University of Sunderland, Hartlepool, the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne and Middlesbrough

together with a host of pubs, clubs and a parish hall or two. For more information log on to [www.tynesideirish.com](http://www.tynesideirish.com)

*Shenanigans* is happy to wish all our colleagues on Tyneside a successful and enjoyable 17<sup>th</sup> festival!

**Check out the back page for details of Conference Competitions**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL NOEA CONFERENCE

Our good friend John Barton, General Secretary of The National Outdoor Events Association (NOEA) has provided *Shenanigans* with details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Outdoor Events Conference scheduled to be held at the St. Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick on Wednesday 8th October 2003.

"The planned programme for Conference includes presentations from The Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Down District Council, Northern Ireland Events Company, Northern Ireland

Tourist Board, New World Entertainment Company, Rocket Pyrotechnics, Victor Ryan - Consultant on 'New Event Licensing' and Richard Limb - Symonds Group on "Health and Safety Issues" the enthusiastic General Secretary confirmed.

A buffet lunch will be organised at the conference and tickets may be obtained upon application to NOEA. There is an admission charge that includes hospitality.

Final details of the programme and admission charges are available from John Barton by telephone 020 8669 8121, by fax at 020

8647 1128 or by email at [secretary@noea.org.uk](mailto:secretary@noea.org.uk)

John Barton, General Secretary, NOEA can also be contacted at 7 Hamilton Way, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9NJ.

## NICVA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Teresa Flanagan of NICVA reminds us that NICVA's annual conference will be held on 14 October 2003 in the Armagh City Hotel. The conference focuses on divided societies and offers participants unique insights from outside Northern Ireland.

"The voluntary and community sector has a strong interest in promoting social inclusion and building a socially cohesive society, so what do we need to do to address our divisions, can bridge the gaps and divides, or do we collude with or tolerate the status quo?" is the challenge posed by Teresa. "I am delighted to confirm that Kumi Naidoo and Ted Cattle will engage participants with their insights and experiences" Teresa concluded.

For more information contact Teresa Flanagan on 028 9087 7777 or log on to [www.nicva.org](http://www.nicva.org).



# UK Street Arts: The Next Step Forward

Aimed at promoters and presenters of street arts, this two day conference on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> is produced by The Independent Street Arts Network. The conference will explore the development of larger scale UK street arts and the role of promoters in nurturing and contributing creatively to that development. The conference is to be held at Blackburne House, Falkner Street, Liverpool, in the heart of the city's cultural quarter.

In recent years the UK has seen a growing number of events present street arts as part of their programme. After a heady millennium, this growth is still visible in the amount of small scale work on offer to audiences. However, despite increases in support and funding for UK companies to produce larger scale work, there has not been a concurrent rise in the number of outlets and opportunities for presenting it.

This conference now turns to explore the *development* of larger scale work focusing on two key areas:

- Developing the production of larger scale work in the UK (developing

commissioning and creation practices)

- Increasing the capacity for its presentation in the UK (infrastructure and opportunities)

There will be the opportunity to explore sector wide concerns as well as to seek practical solutions to the perennial issues for the individual promoter or festival.

The programme will be a lively mix of presentations, practical activity, debate, discussion and networking. Experienced speakers and facilitators, including international guests, will lead the sessions, while maximum input will be sought from delegates. Plenary sessions will enable an overall exploration of strategic development for the sector, while break outs will allow delegates to explore specific issues in more depth. The number of places has been deliberately limited to enable detailed discussion.

The content will be weighted

towards the promoter's role in production, including commissioning processes and creation models. Delegates can look at the creative opportunities allowed by larger scale work and the practicalities of engaging with these. Infrastructure issues such as the European networks, funding for touring and development, and creation centres will be explored as well as the potential of major events

and initiatives and ways of collaborating to mutual benefit. How promoters can support and advocate for larger scale work on a micro and national level will be returned to over the course of the event.

Keynote speakers are Angus Farquhar, nva organisation, Scotland; Manuel Vilanova, Xarxa Teatre, Spain and Liz Pugh of Walk the Plank, England

There will also be input from a number of leading British artists, producers and

promoters and international guests. A full timetable will be available on the website [www.streetartsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.streetartsnetwork.org.uk) or by contacting [katy@streetartsnetwork.org.uk](mailto:katy@streetartsnetwork.org.uk)

To reserve a place, please contact Katy Fuller for a booking form. Places are limited and a waiting list will be maintained. Delegate fees are ISAN member £85 + VAT (£99.87) and Non-members £130 + VAT (£152.75). Fees include delegate rates for the conference, daytime refreshments and all meals including the dinner on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Accommodation in a 4\* hotel is to be booked through ISAN to benefit from a special discounted rate of £60 (including VAT) per night and is available for one or two nights.

For further information and booking details contact Katy Fuller, Project Manager, ISAN Independent Street Arts Network, 19 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 9EZ.

T: 0207 633 9330; F: 0207 261 0014; email [katy@streetartsnetwork.org.uk](mailto:katy@streetartsnetwork.org.uk)



The definitive guide to fund raising for the voluntary sector in Ireland, the **Irish Fund raising Handbook** 5<sup>th</sup> Edition has now been launched by CAFÉ Publications/Clann Credo. It contains up to date contact details of 750 organisations and sources that will provide almost €2bn in funding and other support in 2003. For information and sales enquiries email [admin@artsincontext.com](mailto:admin@artsincontext.com) Available from CAFE Publications for just €20 (plus €2.50 p&p).

Voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland can now apply for bursaries to attend the **International Healthy Cities Conference - The Power of Local Action**. The Power of Local Action, to be held from 19 to 22 October 2003 in the Waterfront Hall, aims to celebrate 15 years of the International Healthy Cities movement, but also to debate experiences and draw up goals and strategies for the future. The bursaries available are for delegates who wish to attend the full Conference or attend for specific days. The full conference fee on the bursary is £175 (as opposed to €500) which includes admission to all sessions, lunches, social events and a site visit. The subsidised day delegate fee is £50 per day (as opposed to €195) and includes admission to all sessions on the day, lunch, and the social event applicable to the day. Delegates can attend a number of days using day delegate fees. Application forms and further information are available from Maura Ahern at Belfast Healthy Cities on tel: 028 9032 8811, email [info@belfasthealthycities.com](mailto:info@belfasthealthycities.com) or download an application form from [www.healthycitiesbelfast2003.com](http://www.healthycitiesbelfast2003.com). Completed forms should be returned no later than 13 October 2003. Applicants will be informed of the decision regarding their bursary application within two working days.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and Home Accident Prevention NI have launched a new website [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com) - aimed at reducing the number of **firework injuries** in Northern Ireland. Visitors to the website will find detailed information about how to organise a successful display, as well as general fireworks safety advice, including buying fireworks, setting up a firing sequence, safety equipment needed, the law and what to do if something goes wrong. The site also has a handy week-by-week checklist for the run-up to Hallowe'en. It is now illegal to buy fireworks in Northern Ireland without a licence - fines of up to £5,000 can be imposed for breaking the law. A licence costs around £30 from the Northern Ireland Office and the application form can be downloaded from [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com).

**Professional Event Coordination** by Julia Rutherford Silvers CSEP, a cornerstone of the Wiley Event Management Series, features a comprehensive guide to essential competencies for event co-ordinators. It is a versatile tool that is effective for all types of events and valuable for every professional who works events, including event managers, caterers, event planners, and hotel and food and beverage managers. Professional Event Coordination examines the full event planning process and provides the tools and strategies to effectively procure, organise, implement, and monitor all the products, services, and service providers that will bring an event to life. For more information visit

[www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0471263052.html](http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0471263052.html)

Barbara McGrath advises that registrations are now open for

the **19th International James Joyce Symposium** to be held in Dublin between June 12 and 19, 2004. To register and book accommodation, please click on [www.bloomsday100.org](http://www.bloomsday100.org)

The **voluntary sector is facing a time of great change**. As sources of funding decrease, organisations must take a strategic approach to their survival in an increasingly competitive environment. Participants will have the opportunity to consider options for the future, and discuss practical solutions for the challenges faced by everyone in the sector. Speakers include Mike Whitlam, Solutions for Charity; Nevin Ringland, Praxis Mental Health Group; and Sandara Kelso-Robb, Lloyds-TSB Foundation. PriceWaterhouseCoopers will also present their views on sustainability within the sector.

The conference will be held on 15 October 2003, from 9.15 am to 1.00 pm at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Waterfront Plaza, 8 Laganbank Rd, Belfast. The cost is £35 for ACOVO members/£45 non-members. To book a place, contact Tracey McCreanor at ACOVO on tel: 028 9068 7755 or e-mail: [acovo@nireland.com](mailto:acovo@nireland.com).

The general demand for more realistic and easy-to-use **Starcloths** for the event and entertainment business, made ShowLED by Amelia nv look into the difficulties concerning the present Pea Bulb and Fibre Optic Starcloth systems. "We now found a virtually perfect solution to those problems using the latest LED technology. The **ShowLED Starcloth System** is lightweight, easy-to-use and cost-effective. It offers the brightness and easy maintenance of bluish-white LED's, combined with the amazing twinkling power of a lightweight, 8-channel, DMX-compatible controller" Kenny Janssens told *Shenanigans*. Visit the website at [www.showled.com](http://www.showled.com) or contact them directly by dialling +32 3270 3636 or by emailing [sales@showled.com](mailto:sales@showled.com)

**Dance Grand Prix Europe 2004** features "Barça" Dance Grand Prix 2004 which will be held in Barcelona (Spain) from 8th to 12th April 2004, Prague Festival Dance Prize 2004 which will be held in Czech Rep. during the Easter Time 2004 and Dance Grand Prix "Italy" 2004 which will be held in Italy from 18th to 23th June 2004. These international event competitions are for Ballet, Contemporary, Modern, Hip Hop, Latin, Swing, Folk and Tap Schools/Companies and Dance-Theatrical Educational Institutes. For more information check out [www.dancegrandprix.com](http://www.dancegrandprix.com) or e-mail [dancegrandprix@dancegrandprix.com](mailto:dancegrandprix@dancegrandprix.com)

**Yuri The Storyteller** is a Latvian-born traditional storyteller who lives in Australia. "I have practiced my craft here and overseas since 1982. I'm a professional performer, a collector of world folklore and an accredited Master Storyteller with the Australian National Archive in Canberra" Yuri informed *Shenanigans*. Last year, he visited Ireland and was invited to perform at The Fiddler's Green Festival in Rostrevor, The Whiterock Library, West Belfast and "The Dublin Yarnspinnners" - Teachers Federation, Dublin. He also participated in numerous informal gatherings, including a performance invitation with "The Dubliners" on Rostrevor public radio. "Since, according to my hosts, that visit was such an outstanding success, they have invited me to a return visit. Consequently, I am arranging a tour of selected European and American centres as well. Therefore I am now seeking to link up with other festivals". Yuri the Storyteller can be contacted by email at [yurifolk@telstra.com](mailto:yurifolk@telstra.com) His web-site is: [www.users.bigpond.com/yurifolk](http://www.users.bigpond.com/yurifolk)

Looking for **Spanish bands** to appear at your festival? Actividades Artísticas Relatores S.L. Management, C/ Relatores 20, 28012, Madrid, Spain manage a number of acts including Barahúnda (Galician-portuguese cantigas, Sephardic songs, Castillian jotas, arab-andalusian atmospheres), Tactequeté (Cas-cas, sabar, caxixis, éctar, afuxé, cuica, bansuri, mohoxeño, xafoon, tietsé, djums) and Aljibe (seguidillas, fandangos, torrás, and songs from other parts of Spain, like Galicia and Valencia). Want to know more? Tel. (+34) 91 369 28 27, email [management@relatores.com](mailto:management@relatores.com) or log on to [www.relatores.com](http://www.relatores.com)

Christian Teusner is promoting the new Irish rock band "**Satellite**". The band who are based in Dublin are described by Christian as "exciting live and would be a great draw for the younger audiences to your particular festival" If you feel curious to hear and find out more Christian will forward on a press kit and CD for your listening pleasure. Email [satellite@hotpress.com](mailto:satellite@hotpress.com) for further information.

13-17 October is **European Safety Week**. It's the perfect time to review your festival's safety statement and procedures. For guidelines on preparing your safety statement, log on to [www.aoifeonline.com](http://www.aoifeonline.com)

Are you fed up with receiving **junk mail/spam** on your email? Are you upset by the nature of many of the 'innocuous' offers you receive by email? Do you regularly take the opportunity to 'unsubscribe'? Don't! Professional advice available to us at *Shenanigans* is never respond to these emails or never use the 'unsubscribe' facility. All you are doing is confirming that the email address they used was valid and this can result in even more spam and junk mail. Another piece of advice we always follow: update your Anti Virus protection regularly and if you are in any doubt about the authenticity of an email delete it without opening it or any of its attachments!



Lucy Fahy advises that Loughrea (Co. Galway) is all set for a marvellous weekend of entertainment over the bank holiday weekend, where the 7<sup>th</sup> BAFFLE Festival runs from October 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.

"The core event of the festival as always is the BAFFLE poetry competition" Lucy confirmed, "this year's theme is 'Framed'. It is important to note that a poem can be about anything at all, as long as it is based on the theme 'Framed'". The preliminary heats will be held on Saturday night October 25<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, the festival opens with a reading by Matt Mooney, from his trilingual collection of poems in Irish, English and French. Following which the history project will perform a dramatic representation 'The Trial of Stoney Brennan', on whom this year's festival theme is based. This will be followed by the guest speaker, writer Carlo Gebler. Declan O'Brien, friend to the festival for many years and resident bard on the Gerry Ryan show "is bound to make an appearance also" Lucy

promised.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Moya Cannon will facilitate a poetry workshop, followed by a reading of her work at 3.00pm. Numbers are limited for the workshop, so the advice is to book early to avoid disappointment. The BAFFLE Brunch will feature MC Declan O'Brien and award winning poets Katie Donovan and Gerard Hanberry, who will read from their work. On Sunday night 27<sup>th</sup> the BAFFLE Bard 2003 will be chosen at the Grande Finale where adjudicators are Louis De Paor and Katie Donovan.

Judging by the huge success of previous festivals, this BAFFLE weekend should be great and Lucy urges us not to miss it. "Remember BAFFLE is not just for poets, it's a wonderful spectator sport too, and you are unlikely to find anything else like it anywhere in the country. But if you go often enough, you begin to think "I could do that too!" a laughing Lucy warned. For details log on to [www.baffle.ie](http://www.baffle.ie) or contact Mary Ida Kelly on 086 395 6921 or email [bafflefest@hotmail.com](mailto:bafflefest@hotmail.com)



## From Dundrum to Miltown Malbay ...

National Executive member Kevin Cosgrave was well pleased with this year's Dundrum Arts & Cultural Festival. "We were very pleased with everything. Crowd numbers were good, all the participants enjoyed themselves, the weather was kind to us and the local community are happy at the continuing success of the event. What more can we ask for?" What more indeed! "The festival was originally



intended to foster a sense of 'local community' and it has achieved that. Underlying

everything we do is our commitment to maintaining a broad community involvement" Kevin explained.

And what of his involvement with the National Executive? "It has been very, very interesting. You might say it has put my 20 years of working for our own festival into perspective. So many issues are common to so many of us and it takes the overview you gain from the National Executive to appreciate that".

One particular pleasure Kevin and his wife Christine enjoyed this past year was attending the Willie Clancy Summer School of Traditional Music in Miltown Malbay. "For years Harry Hughes had been inviting us to attend and this year we did. It was wonderful!" Kevin enthusiastically proclaimed, "the music, the musicians, the atmosphere, the crowds, everything was simply great and we want to thank Harry and everyone concerned for the warm welcome we received".

*Shenanigans* takes this opportunity to extend our very best wishes to Kevin and Christine on Kevin's (early) retirement from the ESB. Enjoy!



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Secretary General Nicole Mulholland has been 'in post' for just over a year. *Shenanigans* asked her to share her views of the role of a member of the National Executive. "I would see the key elements as maintaining an overview of the policy and strategic direction of AOIFE, offering hands-on



support to the Secretary General by operating on sub-committees, and providing a point of contact for members. The National Executive takes on the ultimate legal and financial responsibility for all the activities of AOIFE. As such, the role of National Executive members is vital to the efficient running of the organisation" Nicole opined.

"I would see the National Executive member as requiring vision & leadership, being accountable, exercising financial oversight and liaising with the membership. Core personal attributes would be objectivity, honesty and being able to deal with issues of a confidential nature. It goes without saying that National Executive members must be able to devote the necessary time and effort to AOIFE activities!" the Secretary General continued.

We asked Nicole to

expand on some of the qualities and responsibilities and she produced the following listing:

### **Vision and leadership**

- To be committed to the vision, mission and values of AOIFE
- To provide strategic direction for the organisation, including agreeing and monitoring the strategic plan
- To keep informed of the activities of the organisation, and the wider issues that affect its work, including current government policy
- To communicate the work of AOIFE to its membership and other interested parties
- To ensure the work of the organisation is monitored and evaluated
- To work in the best interests and advocate the needs of AOIFE, and not of the individual nominating or employing body

### **Accountability**

- To ensure the organisation complies with its Constitution, Memorandum and Articles of Association
- To ensure the organisation keeps to the law
- To ensure the organisation is a responsible employer, and adheres to legislation
- To ensure the organisation makes efficient use of its resources

### **Financial oversight**

- To understand the financial position of the organisation
- To ensure the organisation's finances are properly managed
- To ensure adequate financial resources for the organisation
- To contribute to fundraising strategies
- To ensure the organisation is properly insured against all reasonable liabilities

### **Membership liaison**

- To ensure the needs and aspirations of all AOIFE members are properly represented at National Executive level
- To ensure contact with all members at least twice a year, and in response to AOIFE activities when required
- To identify new members, and ensure they are aware of the benefits of AOIFE membership
- To attend events, functions and meetings on behalf of the organisation

## **NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the current Member Festivals and current Corporate Members to be held at The Brandon Hotel, Tralee County Kerry, at 12:00 noon on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2003.

The purpose of the EGM is to consider proposals from the National Executive to amend the Constitution of the Association of Irish Festival Events.

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Irish Festival Events to be held at The Brandon Hotel, Tralee County Kerry, at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2003.

Under the provisions of the Constitution only current Member Festivals and current Corporate Members may attend the AGM.

## **THE NOMINATION PROCESS**

The following procedure applies to Nomination for election to the National Executive:

- Any current Member Festival may nominate one or more candidate(s) for election to the National Executive.
- A Nomination must be Seconded by another current Member Festival.
- A Candidate for election must be a member in good standing of the committee of a current Member Festival.
- A Candidate for Election must indicate in writing his/her consent to nomination.
- A Candidate for election must submit a 40-word written 'resumé' which will be made available to those attending the AGM.
- A Candidate for Election must attend the Annual General Meeting in person.

• All Nominations shall be scrutinised by the Returning Officer, appointed by the outgoing National Executive, to ensure that the Nomination Procedure has been complied with in full. The Returning Officer, at his/her sole discretion, may decide to reject any Nomination Form if, in his/her opinion, a Nomination fails to comply with this Procedure.

Nominations may be submitted in advance of Conference. Such nominations must be received by the Secretary General at the AOIFE office in Ballinasloe not later than **12 noon on Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2003.**

Nominations may be submitted at Conference. Such nominations must be received by the Secretary General not later than **1:00 p.m. on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> 2003.**



# Rose of Tralee Pioneers Stewards Training Programme



"All our AOIFE colleagues are aware that operations and safety management play a critical part in an event's success. Neglect this essential area of your organisation and you could be without it the following year!" Rose Supremo Siobhán Hanley told *Shenanigans* when she outlined the pioneering training initiative to enhance the skills of the hundreds of stewards who volunteer for the Rose of Tralee International Festival each year.

"In previous years festival stewards had received general training advice from the Civil Defence" Siobhán explained, "However Kerry Civil Defence Officer Tom Brosnan recognised the need for a formal training scheme and devised the Stewards Accreditation Training Programme, the first of its kind in Ireland. Tom identified an opportunity to formalise the process for this year's festival and for the first time

involve a variety of local emergency services in the training process".

Duties and responsibilities of stewards were agreed with the Gardai to ensure they received a pre-event briefing and were made aware of emergency arrangements and contingency plans. It was reiterated that stewards should know what their duties are, how to carry them out and why they are doing them, especially important in emergencies when it is essential that stewards and their supervisors are fully aware and have experience of the role they are to play.

It was highlighted that stewards with special responsibilities in relation to first aid, fire fighting, crowd control and communications should receive additional training in these disciplines. Tom Brosnan devised the training syllabus with strong input from the Gardai, Kerry County Council, the Southern

Health Board and the Red Cross. The course was completed at the local Civil Defence offices during the weeks leading up to the festival by the volunteer stewards, who gave up their evenings to attend. Areas covered include the basics of stewarding, the operation of crowd control barriers, planning and management of the festival at ground level, crowd management and behaviour, fire precautions

protocol, and manual handling.

The aim was to make the syllabus as interesting and useful as possible to encourage attendance and ensure the success and viability of the course. This was achieved through a mixture of lectures and practical instruction, plus a certificate was awarded to each volunteer on completion of the course.

Last word to Siobhán Hanley "The initiative needs little more endorsement than the fact that there were only a few minor incidents involving festival goers for the duration of the five day event and no major incidents or injuries. The stewards received accreditation for their work that will be useful to them outside the festival organisation and a greater teamwork environment was achieved with the support and co-operation of so many local services".



*CDO Tom Brosnan ensuring participants received certificates!*

and fire safety, emergency medical services, communications and radio

## Festival of World Cultures

This August the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Festival of World Cultures exploded with over 70 events taking place in 30 venues throughout Dun Laoghaire. The Festival showcased three days of inspirational music, art and dance from around the world; through a host of Internationally renowned and Irish based acts including music, film, circus, theatre, dance performances, club nights, markets, exhibitions, workshops and children's activities. With over 70% of the programme free to the public.

Festival Director Jody Ackland confirmed that "the Festival was a resounding success attracting in the region of 80,000 people over the weekend. The highlights are numerous from the energetic/pulsating performance of Mexico's World Music Award winners Los de Abajo, the surprise appearance of Sinead O'Connor on stage alongside Damien Dempsey, the

mesmerising dance performance from Spain's Camut Band and the world premiere performance of Moya Brennan's latest solo album 'Two Horizons'".

The Festival, produced through the Arts Department of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, first evolved three years ago as a response to the changing face of Ireland and in recognition of the rise in popularity of world music, both nationally and Internationally. The Festival seeks to reflect cultural diversity within Ireland and celebrate this diversity through artistic means. "The festival has successfully carried this out in two ways Jody told *Shenanigans*, "In 2003 145 artists/groups took part in the festival, 80% of those were based in Ireland".

Jody is careful to point out that the outreach work of the Festival has been a core element of programming. "This



*Moya Brennan premieres*

year, in addition to an extensive workshop programme, the Festival in conjunction with St Patrick's Day Festival commissioned a site-specific piece by Calypso Theatre's 'Tower of Babel' project. A project working with an inner city Dublin school with a large number of non national students". The Festival's aim is to expand on this area showcasing the work of community, performance and educational groups from around the country who are working in the area of cultural diversity. "The partnerships we have established to date include Oxfam Ireland, Chester Beatty

Library, Tower Records and the British Council".

We asked Jody 'what next?' "The festival has achieved remarkable success in just three years and aims to consolidate this success. This can be achieved by continuing to develop links with marginalised communities throughout the country, fostering the artistic talent of performers living in Ireland, while continuing to maintain a programme of artistic excellence through the development of an integrated workshop programme and sustainable partnerships" a clearly delighted Festival Director enthused.



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All entries must refer to the period 1 November 2002 – 31 October 2003.  
Send your entries to the AOIFE office by 12 noon Wednesday 5 Nov. or bring them to conference.  
All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Friday 7 Nov.