



17th May 2018

**To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council**

**Report on recommendations : Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2018**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

At the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, a report on the Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2018 was presented by Ms. Sheila Deegan, Culture and Arts Officer.

Ar moladh Cllr J. Loftus,  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Collins, agus glacadh leis:

“That the recommendations of Limerick Theatre Bursary Awards panel be brought to full Council for approval.”

Grant Recipient	Strand	Municipal area (where activity will take place)	Grant Awarded
Joanne Ryan	1	Limerick Metro	€2,500
Mike Finn	1	Limerick Metro	€2,500
WildeBeest Theatre Company	2	Limerick Metro	€5,000
Bottom Dog Theatre Company	2	Limerick Metro /Kilmallock	€5,000

Is mise le meas,

Sheila Deegan  
Culture and Arts Officer



The following report details the outcome of the 2018 round of the Limerick Theatre Bursaries application process. Limerick based theatre practitioners were invited to submit applications for the following bursaries:

**Strand 1 - Limerick Theatre Research & Development Bursaries of €2,500**

**Strand 2 - Limerick Theatre Production & Presentation Bursaries of €5,000**

There were two grants available in each strand. These Bursaries are offered with the aim of supporting professional Limerick-based theatre practitioners, growing the sector and backing the development strategy for theatre in the immediate to long term.

The objectives of Limerick Theatre Bursaries are informed by the Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016 – 2030 and are to:

- Support Limerick theatre and build capacity in the sector through recognising the need to support the making and development of creative work as well as its presentation;
- Allow theatre practitioners the time and the financial ability to work creatively and develop their ideas;
- Allow theatre practitioners to travel for research and networking;
- Encourage development of quality new work in our city and county and promotion of regional and national interest in Limerick's theatre scene;
- Make it possible to hire cast and production team to bring work to the next level of development;
- Continue to foster dialogue and build strong relationships between LCCC and the cultural sector through partnerships and collaboration.

### **Assessment criteria**

The purpose of these bursaries is to support theatre projects at all stages, whether in the initial phase of research and development or at the later stages of production, given that they:

- Are professional theatre practitioners;
- Are based in Limerick;
- Are submitting an original proposal or development work in relation to an existing piece.

All eligible applications submitted within the deadline were considered by an independent selection panel of experienced theatre professionals, appointed by Limerick City and County Council. Limerick Theatre Bursaries are assessed in a competitive context, the criteria for



assessment are informed by the Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016 – 2030 and are as follows:

- Artistic merit of proposed project and relevance to Limerick’s artistic programme (max.35 marks);
- Applicant’s track record and relevant experience (max. 20 marks);  
Impact (max. 15 marks):
  - Stimulating public interest;
  - Promoting interest and knowledge in arts, culture and creativity;
  - Providing professional development;
  - Promoting the highest standard in creativity and excellence in all aspects of cultural activity;
- Originality/Innovation (max.30 marks).

### **The Panel**

The selection panel meet to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications. The Limerick Theatre Bursaries 2018 panel met on the 25th April 2018. They were;

- Jim Culleton is the Artistic Director of Fishamble: The New Play Company. For Fishamble, he has directed productions which have toured throughout Ireland, UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US, including 7 productions which have transferred to New York
- Orla Flanagan – newly appointed Director of Glor in Ennis, and was Theatre Producer for the Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival in the UK for nearly five years
- Nollaig Healy – Director of the Clonmel Junction Festival, previously marketing and communications manager at the Kilkenny Arts Festival.

The panel welcomed the high quality of the applications and made the following recommendations:

### **Strand 1 - Limerick Theatre Research & Development Bursaries:**

1. Joanne Ryan for *In Two Minds*
2. Mike Finn for *The Rising of the Women* (working title)
3. The panel commended the application of Anne Blake for *Blood Harmony* and recommended funding it if additional funding can be made available for this strand.

### **Strand 2 - Limerick Theatre Production & Presentation Bursaries:**

1. WildeBeest Theatre Company for *Red Army*
2. Bottom Dog Theatre Company for *No Small Parts*



3. The panel commended the application of Call-back Theatre for *Sonia* and recommended funding it if additional funding can be made available for this strand.

### **Strand 1:**

The successful applicants for the Strand 1 Bursaries will both receive €2,500 towards the research and development costs of an original work or production. The recommendations by the panel for the awards are:

#### **Joanne Ryan**

Joanne is an independent Limerick-based actor, playwright and producer with a track record of producing quality, ambitious and socially-engaged work.

This bursary will give her the vital financial support required to collaborate with an exemplary team of local and national artists and experts to create a rehearsal-ready script and design concept for a full production of *In Two Minds* in autumn 2019.

*In Two Minds* is a new piece of ambitious, affecting and socially-engaged theatre set in Limerick City that investigates Bipolar Affective Disorder (BPAD) and its effects on sufferers and those close to them through the prism of a mother/daughter relationship.

#### **Mike Finn**

Mike is a playwright, screenwriter and actor and has worked professionally in theatre and television for thirty years. He has been instrumental in setting up numerous arts organisations in Limerick including Island Theatre Co, The Umbrella Project, Limerick Writers' Centre, Bottom Dog Theatre Co and The Gaff. In 2000 he received a special award from Limerick City Council for "outstanding contribution to the cultural life of the city."

He is currently developing a play with the working title of *The Rising of the Women* inspired by real events in Limerick. It is in order to conduct background research into these events that he is applying for this bursary and the research undertaken will lead to a script which will be produced in Limerick.

### **Strand 2:**

This strand makes available €5,000 in order to meet cast, production and venue costs in order to bring work to the next level of development. The panel recommends the following;

#### **WildeBeest Theatre Company**

Wildebeest is an award winning Theatre Company based in Limerick, which has toured nationally. Its director, Marie Boylan is an established Limerick theatre maker and writer with experience in both theatre and film production. Red Army is a celebration of women and sport. The production comes from the very heart of Limerick and is created with a Limerick audience in mind, an audience who will immediately understand the story being

told and relate directly to its characters. It's the story of community, family, team and club, all defined by the red jersey of Munster.

For Red Army, Wildebeest is collaborating with local and national theatre makers and artists with the view of presenting quality work to the same standard as previous productions.

### **Bottom Dog Theatre Company**

Bottom Dog Theatre, who mark their landmark 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, is a company of theatre artists based in Limerick. Through a process of consistent collaboration within their ensemble of proven writers, actors and directors, they produce dynamic work with a particular regional resonance.

Bottom Dog Theatre will commission a comedy to mark the company's 15th main stage production as the centerpiece of their landmark 10th anniversary season. This bursary will be an ideal opportunity to produce an audience friendly comedy of circumstance, with a feel good factor and a central message of triumph over adversity.

### **Recommendation**

There were three applications under strand 1 and four under strand 2 of the bursaries. The successful applicants were as follows and your recommendations are requested;

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