

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

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

**Report: Recommendations from the Assessment Panel Theatre Bursaries Award 2024**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

Enclosed is a report and recommendations from the Assessment Panel of the Theatre Bursaries Award Scheme 2024.

**Theatre Bursaries: Total Fund Available = €17,750**

- The Assessment Panel met on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- 9 applications were received
- A total ask of €43,350
- The panel recommended the allocation of funding to 4 successful applicants totalling €17,750

Grant Recipient	Grant Awarded
Emma Fisher	€5,000
Jonathan Hughes	€2,750
Liam McCarthy	€5,000
Valerie O' Connor	€5,000
<b>Total Grant Funding Awarded</b>	<b>€17,750</b>

The Council is requested to approve the allocations outlined amounting to €17,750

Mise le meas,

**Etain McCooey,**  
**Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Co-ordinator,**  
**Limerick City and County Council**

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 an open call was issued inviting applications from professional theatre practitioners who wished to be considered for a Bursary of up to €5,000 for the development of work/professional skills. The bursary closed for applications on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **The Assessment Panel**

The Assessment Panel met on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications, according to the criteria of the award. Members of the Assessment Panel for the Theatre Bursary Award 2024 were:

Hannah Pinkheard, Assistant Arts Officer with Kerry County Council

Megs Morley, Director and Curator at Galway Arts Centre

Marie O' Byrne, Director of Glor Theatre, Ennis, Co Clare

### **Information on successful applications**

The Assessment Panel for the Limerick Theatre Award Scheme 2024 agreed that the following recommendations go forward for approval to full Council.

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### **Emma Fisher**

*Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)*

*€5000*

Emma Fisher plans to experiment with different techniques & research around creating interactive theatre for 2 year olds that gives them agency; To work with mentor Anna Newell to guide them through these experiments; To show their experiments to an invited audience of 2 year olds and their parents as part of the Bualadh Bos Children's Festival.

### **Jonathan Hughes**

*Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)*

*€2750*

BEAR ATTACK is an autobiographical stage comedy exploring male body image and sexuality based on the artist's own struggles in both areas. The play would be a one man show about

JASON who is grappling with being 33 years old, 22 stone and considered a bear by the gay community.

**Liam McCarthy**

*Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)*

€5000

Liam McCarthy plans to develop 'Monkeys in the Garden', an exciting new children's play, through a week of development with director Marc Atkinson, actors Joan Sheehy and Darren Yorke. He will produce a public reading for a Limerick DEIS school at Belltable and will take time to consider future production possibilities within the Limerick Community.

**Valerie O'Connor**

*Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)*

€5000

Valerie O'Connor will work on the development of new writing of a selection of short theatrical monologues based on climate change in the setting of a gardening course. It will involve three characters dealing with loss, prison time and repatriation due to long covid find voice and purpose through growing food, being in a team and power of community.