

21st March 2025

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

Theatre Bursary Awards Scheme 2025

Limerick City and County Council made available a total fund of €15,000 for the 2025 Limerick Theatre Bursary Awards scheme. The maximum award under the scheme is €5,000.

A report with recommendations from the assessment panel for the scheme is enclosed.

The Assessment Panel met on Tuesday 11th March 2025. 7 applications were received, representing a total ask of €33,495. The panel recommended awarding 4 applicants as follows:

Applicant	Award Recommended
Joanne Ryan	€5,000
HK Ní Shioradáin	€4,000
Liam McCarthy	€3,000
Liam O' Brien	€3,000
Total Grant Funding Awarded	€15,000

The approval of Limerick City and County Council is requested to award bursaries as recommended.

Mise le meas,



Etain McCooey,
Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Co-ordinator,
Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism
Development Directorate

Limerick Theatre Bursary Awards Scheme 2025

Report and Recommendations

Applications were invited by open call on 20th December 2024, with the scheme closing on 12th February 2025. The Assessment Panel for the Theatre Bursary Awards Scheme met on the 11th March 2025 to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications under the award criteria.

The Assessment Panel

The members of the panel were Brendan Maher and Paul McAree.

Brendan Maher is Artistic Director at The Source Arts Centre, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. He studied at Limerick College of Art and Design (BA in Design) and University College Dublin (Post Grad. Diploma in Arts Administration). He has worked at The Hunt Museum, Limerick, Galway Arts Centre and Galway Film Fleadh and was previously director at South Tipperary Arts Centre and Nenagh Arts Centre.

Paul McAree is Curator/Director at Lismore Castle Arts in Co Waterford, which has hosted solo exhibitions by artists including Gerard Byrne, Anne Collier, Dorothy Cross, Camille Henrot, Rashid Johnson and Wilhelm Sasnal. Previously McAree worked at Breaking Ground, Tate Modern and Ikon Gallery Birmingham, and also runs an occasional commissioning project, FLOOD. He co-founded and directed Colony Gallery in Birmingham from 2007 – 2010. He has curated freelance projects, co-curating Traces at Kasteel Wijkre, The Netherlands in 2018, was curator in residence at Rua Red from 2014-2016, and curator in residence at Temple Bar Gallery, 2012-2013. He has been a peer review panel member for the Arts Council and local authorities, and is a Board Member for both Temple Bar Gallery + Studios and Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh.

Information on successful applications

The Assessment Panel for the Limerick Theatre Bursary Award Scheme 2025 agreed that the following recommendations go forward for approval to full Council.

Applicant	Award recommended
Joanne Ryan	€5,000
HK Ní Shioradáin	€4,000
Liam McCarthy	€3,000
Liam O' Brien	€3,000
Total Grant Funding Awarded	€15,000

Joanne Ryan €5,000

To workshop the script of 'CONNIE', a new work inspired by Limerick-born star Constance Smith, over three days in May 2025. To test new concepts and develop a robust rehearsal draft. To support Limerick theatre artists to make ambitious work of scale, build new audiences and reinvigorate Limerick's performance sector.

HK Ní Shiordáin €4,000

To develop, rehearse with collaborators, and perform a new theatre project 'Lesbian World History' at Limerick Alternative Pride 2025.

Liam McCarthy €3,000

To collaborate with actor Georgina Miller and a team of theatre artists on the development (and work in progress showing) of an exciting new play about family and faith. Two sisters disagree about having a communion day party for their respective daughters. A rational debate descends into savage disagreement.

Liam O' Brien €3,000

To refine 'Seven Deadly Sins', an ambitious play by seven Limerick writers, through a collaborative process with seven actors and a dedicated crew. Following a three-day rehearsal, present a public staged reading at the Gaff community theatre. Prepare a polished script to secure Arts Council funding for a full 2026 production.

March 2025