



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

An Stiúrthóireacht Cheilleagach, Turasóireachta,
Cultúir, Réadmhaointe agus Foirgneamh Corparáideach
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Cé na gCeannaithe
Luimneach. V94 EH90

Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and
Corporate Buildings Directorate
Limerick City and County Council
Merchant's Quay
Limerick. V94 EH90

t: +353 (0) 61 556 000

14th January 2026

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

Ref: Theatre Bursary Awards Scheme 2026 Recommendations

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Limerick City and County Council made available a total fund of €22,500 for the 2026 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 Thursday 11th December 2025. 7 applications were received, representing a total ask of €34,550. The panel recommended awarding 5 applicants as follows:

Applicant	Award Recommended
Joanne Ryan	€5,000
Liam McCarthy	€5,000
Bottom Dog Theatre Company	€4,995
HK Ní Shiordain	€4,505
Isolde Fenton	€3,000
Total Grant Funding Awarded	€22,500

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,



Limerick Theatre Bursary Awards Scheme 2026 Report and Recommendations

Applications were invited by open call on 24th October 2025, with the scheme closing on 26th November 2025. The Assessment Panel for the Theatre Bursary Awards Scheme met on the 11th December 2025 to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications under the award criteria.

The Assessment Panel

The members of the panel were Siobhan Mulcahy (Chair), Ann Davoren and Mary Brady.

Siobhan Mulcahy is County Arts Officer at Clare County Council. Siobhan is an experienced Arts Manager with a demonstrated history of working in local government.

Ann Davoren is Director of Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen, Co. Cork. Ann works with emerging and established Irish and international artists, curators and arts organisations to develop commissions, projects, publications, exhibitions, residencies and symposia.

Mary Brady is an independent Arts and Culture consultant specialising in arts strategy, artist development, and accessibility and participatory practice. Her extensive career spans over forty plus years, working across Ireland, the UK and within Europe. Mary has worked as Arts Officer for Laois County Council and Offaly County Council.

Information on successful applications

The Assessment Panel for the Limerick Theatre Bursary Award Scheme 2026 agreed that the following recommendations go forward for approval to full Council.

Applicant	Award Recommended
Joanne Ryan	€5,000
Liam McCarthy	€5,000
Bottom Dog Theatre Company	€4,995
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Total Grant Funding Awarded	€22,500



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Joanne Ryan

€5,000

This project will build on the success of the recent production *CONNIE*, an immersive theatre experience based on the life of Limerick actress Contance Smyth in Limericks Theatre Royal. Limerick artists Joanne Ryan and Ann Blake will take steps to bring this landmark Limerick work to national and international audiences.

Liam McCarthy

€5,000

This project will see the development of an ambitious, socially significant new play in collaboration with a director/ dramaturge. A team of two actors, designers will spend an intensive development week at Belltable Hub. The work in progress will then be shared with the public/industry peers, to receive feedback.

Bottom Dog Theatre Company

€4,995

Bottom Dog Theatre Company applied for funding of €4,995 to produce their 16th annual rehearsed-reading season, Four Ghost Plays, finally resourcing this long-running series fully after over fifteen years as an annual event. Present classic, Irish, Polish, and comic hauntings each Sunday in September at No. 1 Pery Hotel, showcasing diverse voices, engaging new audiences, and strengthening Limerick's shared storytelling traditions.

HK Ní Shiordain

€4,505

This project will see the development of a non-verbal comedy theatre show aimed at children interested in ecology, through dedicated research on local biodiversity. There will be a script and music written as well as a devising workshop with an actor and producer.

Isolde Fenton

€3,000

'DOUBLE ROOM', (Working Title), is an original theatre piece following two young women whose identities are shaped by them sharing a room for five years. It's a poetic script that blends comedy and vulnerability, exploring themes of co-dependency, narcissism and the pressure of Ireland's rental crisis.

January 2026