



COUNTY WICKLOW ARTS CENTRE

Shine the Light

By Colm Keegan

We are Mermaid Arts Centre. We are a space for fun, entertainment and for making art.

We also create the space where these things connect, generating friction, creating communion, always while celebrating our audiences and artists - the heart of everything we do.

We are platforming Theatre, Visual Art, Storytelling, Dance, Music, Opera, Film.

Each work of art we support, a new combination of our principles - Imagination, Inclusion, Collaboration, Excellence, Integrity

We pride ourselves on the support we give to artists because we believe in their work, trusting them to explore who they are at all stages of their careers.

We are Wicklow's arts centre - the conduit through which the whole county sings,

Not just a theatre, a stage, for you, your community, your ideas.

Where you listen with your skin, where you get that electric feeling of being with your people, watching your people and watching them feel the love that you give, there is nowhere else that can do it like this. We are outside the pale and that matters - we see it differently. We are Wicklow.

We know your baby loves music, that your grandparents love when their spirit soars through song, we are where you hold your lovers hand, tears in your eyes before bursting up into a standing ovation, a room full of smiles, gratitude and flying roses and we know you know this, we know you know this place is special.

We are also a charity, funded by the arts council and your local authority, and despite precarious times we are in an exciting position of growth, but we need your help to get to where we want to be, to be as dynamic as you deserve,

We want everyone to know that we are here, creating space and supporting a sense of place where art can happen, not just inside these four glorious walls - but going out into the long grass, to grow with the county as it grows, finding new audiences, new voices.

From Arklow to Enniskerry, from Aughavannagh to Baltinglass, getting to the heart of who we are, regardless of nationality, class, finding the unclaimed, the neglected, the overlooked states of mind where the truth is hiding.

We will take the art to your doorstep if we have to - we know its value.

And where does this all go if it isn't here?

Where then will you roar for the people you love as they shine on the stage, in the gallery? It's important that it stays here and stays vibrant, disruptive, dynamic

We know you care - we want you with us, we want you there for the journey

We are not supposed to be separate in little boxes lost on our phones - we should be in one big box clapping, crying, laughing.

Every child has a fire in them that needs kindling, every artist's spark needs a guiding light

We'll chart a new course, with your support lighting the way.

Be a Lantern - the bright flame that helps us lead the way.

Be a Beacon - stand firm and luminous in your support for creative brilliance.

Or

Be Sirius - Named after the star that shines brightest in the sky - take your place as a guiding light and the ultimate support for the arts in your community.

This support will activate you, us, this place into a new level of creative agency

We all need belief, meaning, and we will provide that, showcasing the arts as a beacon of excellence in your community

We've said it before and we'll say it again. We prize imagination as the well-spring of creativity, this is where we dare to dream. We believe in collaboration and cooperation, we believe in community, we believe in you.

We want to keep doing what we're doing well, and with your help, we can do even more.

Become a friend of Mermaid, shine the light, lead the way.