



The Ark

Annual Report

April 2013–March 2014



ark.ie

The Ark is a unique, purpose-built cultural centre in the heart of Dublin's Temple Bar, where children aged 2 -12 can explore theatre, music, literature, art, film, dance (and more) with leading Irish and international artists. Our programme of world class performances, exhibitions and creative workshops changes every few weeks so we offer a different experience every visit.

We seek to achieve the highest standards of arts practice for children. Our work evolves through partnerships, touring and research as well as professional development workshops for teachers and artists. The Ark aims to facilitate access to its work for all children.

We believe that children have the same right as adults to a rich cultural life. All of our work is founded on principles of artistic excellence, innovation & social inclusion.

The Ark works with key players and policy makers across society, seeking to influence and share our specialist knowledge. This is our way of helping to ensure that children have access to high quality cultural experiences and that we enable them to make a representative contribution to the cultural life of Ireland.

Director's Summary

Dear Friends,

We are delighted that The Ark's financial year from (April 2013-March 2014) was another year filled with wonderful theatre, music, exhibitions, literature, dance and an abundance of visual arts activities. We also took the opportunity to tour elements of our programmes all over Ireland.

Some of the highlights included:

- **Teddy Bear Story**, a gorgeous exhibition celebrating the success of one of the world's favourite toys with a special collection of well-loved furry faces in a fabulous all-building experience. The V&A is the world's greatest museum of art and design and this was the first time that their Museum of Childhood partnered with a cultural organisation in Ireland.

- **ARK1x1** , a unique partnership project between The Ark and Cavan County Council which not only explored a new approach to visual arts education but also a new way of learning. During the 2013-2014 academic year children in 12 County Cavan primary schools engaged with a visual arts exhibition within their own schools. Each picture was exhibited in a Cavan school for three weeks at a time and then rotated with a different picture. The feedback from both students and teachers was hugely positive.
- **Roll Up! Roll Up!** , a immersive summer experience with four floors of interactive exhibits, bringing to life the awesome, curious and dramatic worlds of circus troupes.
- **Cultural partnerships**, We worked with eight major cultural programmes, including Dublin Writer's Festival and The Bram Stoker Festival. We again curated the family programming for Dublin Theatre Festival, Dublin Dance Festival and Temple Bar Tradfest.
- **Lights, Camera, Music**, with workshops and live musical performances, led by outstanding musicians, we explored the integral role of music as part of film and film making.
- **Annabelle's Star**, we remounted our hugely popular theatre commission for a new generation of children.
- **Continuing Professional Development** for primary teachers In addition to four bespoke CPD events we reintroduced our five-day summer course with a sold out course looking at drama and music in the classroom.
- **New Music Commission**, working with Music Network in a 5 year strategic music partnership to produce quality live music performances, we were thrilled to co-commission Brian Irvine to write A Peculiar Wintry Thing.

We continue to be most grateful to all of our funders, both public and private. We particularly wish to acknowledge the core support of the Arts Council, Department of Education and Skills, Temple Bar Cultural Trust and Dublin City Council without whom The Ark's work would not be possible. We also wish to thank our valued Ark Angels and Family Members. **Please join us, it really does make a difference! See ark.ie/support for details.**

I particularly wish to thank Arthur Lappin who was The Ark's Acting Director until mid-September 2013 while I was away at Lincoln Centre Education, New York as one of Ireland's 2012-13 Fulbright Scholars.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Ark in the coming year.

Eina McHugh
Director

The year in review



Teddy Bear Story

V&A Museum of Childhood came to Ireland for the first time, bringing 10,000 visitors to their exhibition and associated Ark programming celebrating all things teddy.



CPD

5 bespoke Continuing Professional Development courses for teachers

Irish Language Performances

Branar Theatre Company made their debut presentation at The Ark with their Irish language production of Clann Lir



Touring

9 Ark produced events toured to Festivals and Venues all over Ireland in the Summer of 2013



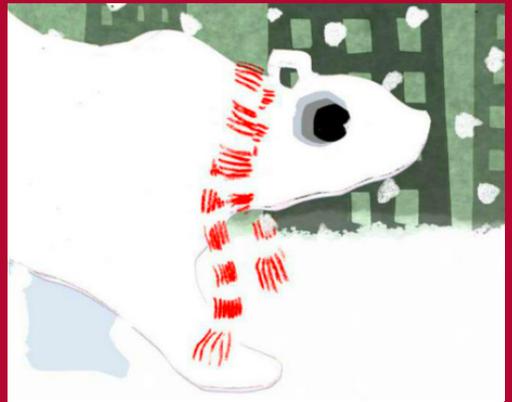
Roll Up! Roll Up!

We presented our hit summer programme bringing circus life to the heart of Temple Bar.



Popular Music Week

Our first Popular Music week launched with Halloween themed music workshops and Gigs in November 2013



Commissions

4 Major New Commissions in Music & Theatre including A Most Peculiar Wintry Thing by Brian Irvine for 2014

Autism Friendly Performances

Our third autism friendly performances with Little Steps as part of Dublin Theatre Festival 2013



International Performances

5 international theatre and dance productions were presented on The Ark's stage from all parts of the globe.



On the Streets of Temple Bar

We hosted workshops and tours with the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus on its European Trip.

World Class Training

The Ark was one of a small number of organisations chosen to participate in the prestigious DeVos Institute at the Kennedy Centre/Business2Arts strategic development programme.

DeVos Institute

OF ARTS MANAGEMENT

at the Kennedy Center

dtf | **dublin
theatre
festival**



**Dublin
Dance
Festival**

City Festivals

We partnered with 8 major festivals in Dublin City enhancing the cultural offering for children and families in our own city.

FACTS
and
FIGURES | **33,806**
Visitors to events at The Ark

4,300
Visitors to The Ark's off-site activities

807
Events for the Public

159
Events for Schools

96

Artists & support staff employed
(in addition to permanent staff of 11)

134

Members

29

Volunteers

1,097

Hours volunteered

112,748

Unique visitors to ark.ie

2,223

Followers on Twitter

103

Teddies made

50

Bodhráns played

6,562

Fans on Facebook



We are grateful to all our funders, programme partners and supporters this year:

PRINCIPAL SUPPORTER



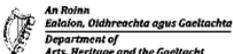
ANNUAL SUPPORTERS



PROGRAMME PARTNERS



PROGRAMME SUPPORTERS



Special thanks to all of our members and in particular to our corporate supporters:

Corporate Guardians - Integrity Solutions. Corporate Ark Angel Gold - A&L Goodbody, Data Solutions, Pinpoint, Prodata. Corporate ArkAngels - CCS, Trilogy Technologies.

Staff

Director:	Eina McHugh
General Manager:	Avril Ryan
Music Programmer:	Aisling O’Gorman
Theatre Programmer:	Maria Fleming
Visual Arts Coordinator:	Aideen Lynch
Finance Officer:	Mary Reade
Marketing Manager:	Al Russell
Development Coordinator:	Tanya Allen
Production Manager:	Mark Rooney
Assistant Production Manager:	Franco Bistoni
Box Office Manager:	Aoileann Ni Riain
Visitor Services Coordinator:	Duffy Mooney-Sheppard

Board of Directors

Sheila De Courcy (Chairperson)

Catherine Byrne, John Coolahan, Brian Lavery. Maire McLoughlin, Maire McLoughlin, Helen O’Donoghue, Donnchadh Ó Madagáin, Gerry Smith.

Full financial statements for 2013/14 are available on ark.ie/about



“We really enjoyed every little minute of it! Your staff are very passionate about their job and I got completely drawn back into my own childhood.”

“The atmosphere created was extraordinary and very imaginative”

“Quality of performance was excellent. Building is beautiful. Friendly and professional staff. Wonderful!”

“We will be back! We didn’t want to leave...”

The Ark

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