

Annual Progress Report 2016

'...encouraging the future development of the social artistic, cultural and educational and economic fabric of Ballymun life' '

ABOUT AXIS

axis is an arts centre and a resource for the community and it's city.

axis identifies artistic excellence in, and provides opportunity for, artistic experience of an international standard in Ballymun.

axis programmes at the point of excellence and inclusion, setting an international standard of multidisciplinary arts practice and arts participation.

Vision

axis arts and community resource centre responds to and facilitates the pivotal role of culture and the arts in the community. Its work with many community, national & international partners has facilitated the development of the quality of arts engagement and practice locally while placing Ballymun as a cultural and artistic destination city wide and nationally. **axis** holds the community at the heart of all that it does and is a change agent for communities, where art makes a difference to people's lives.

'...axis' engagement model is of national significance and an example of excellence in best practice. This developmental approach is at the heart of the success of arts & culture in Ballymun. It is critical that this approach should be maintained and further developed to continue not only excellence in process but also in practice too...' **Green Hat Report**

axis' Programme

Highlights 2016

Axis Production

Axis' in-house production '**Granuaile**' was staged for two weeks in March and received very positive responses from school and family audiences.

We produced **Stor** by Ciaran Taylor which toured to schools and libraries across Dublin for four weeks. This was a tremendous success on all different levels with great feedback from teacher and student alike. This bi-lingual work was commissioned by Dublin City council Arts Office and Children, Arts and libraries

We completed a 2 year development process with Ballymun writer Colm Keegan who has worked with us to develop his first play For Saoirse

Axis venue

Axis hosted **Rebel Rebel** from **Anu productions** as part of its 1916 commemoration programme in addition to '**Maloney's Dream**', a bi-lingual production for young audiences from **Branar Drámaíochta**.

Our family programming also saw a visit from **Miriam Lambert** of Lambert **Puppet Theatre** and a production of **Puss in Boots**.

Axis hosted a special concert from the **Whistleblast Quartet** for the Ballymun Music Programme

Axis developed their partnership with **Colaiste Dhulaigh** leading to a week's performance from their students in the theatre

Our music programme saw visits from the **4 of Us**, **Mary Coughlan** and **Beo Ballymun** – a local trad and ballads festival which saw a host of local performers take to the stage in June with **Moxie** being the headline act. This year also saw The Glasnevin Musical Society perform in Axis for the first time.

Axis' commitment to supporting inclusive arts practice continued with both **Rhythm Room** and **Prosper Fingal** who work with adults with disabilities hosting performances on our stage. Axis also hosted Tourette's Hero with Back stage in Biscuit land in collaboration with Arts and Disability Ireland as part of **Dublin Theatre Festival**. In **Comedy** we had performances from Tommy Tiernan, Jason Byrne, House of Fun, Des Bishop, Al Porter

Silent: Pat Kinevane's Olivier Award winning show 'Silent' returned to Axis for three performances, one of which was a benefit night for local meanscoil, Scoil Chaitríona.

Slice the Thief: Bitter Like A Lemon are a company of young, talented theatre makers. Their production of 'Slice The Thief' by Lee Coffee features Ballymun actor Wesley Doyle and was staged in Axis as part of the programme of celebrations. Bitter Like A Lemon will take up a creative development residency in Axis in 2017.

Damien Dempsey

A favourite of Axis audiences, Damien Dempsey returned for a sold out performance. Dempsey was supported by Australian musician Archie Roach

International: Real Boy:

A key event in Axis' season was a four day project centred around the documentary 'Real Boy'. A series of screenings, youth workshops, talks and creative gatherings were facilitated by Axis and a number of partners including TENI, IADT Student's Union and local youth club BRYR. This event was funded by US Embassy

Gallery Highlights

Concrete People: axis were delighted to host a specially curated exhibition of photographs from Seamus Kelly and the 'Ballymun Concrete News'

People Make Ballymun: As part of our celebrations for Ballymun's 50th we hosted Jim Leonard's extensive collection of photographs captured over the last 3 decades.

The Men's Collection: *The Men's Collection* was born out of an arts development project entitled *Creative Space*; a two year project developed by axis: Ballymun exploring young men, creativity and mental health (2014 – 2016). This series of photographs were taken by Anne Ebeling

Axis as Gaeilge

Axis and NAYD develop a new bi-lingual commission for 2016 in response to the themes emerging from the centenary commemorations. We developed a range of programmes and initiatives around our Borradh Buan programming and festival

Arts Development / Education:

axis ' arts development work provides access to both participation, education and development in all areas of the arts to the community of Ballymun, and through this locale to all who engage with **axis**

Sample 2016 projects

Dublin's Culture Connects

Axis won a commission to roll out 'Press Play' as part of Dublin City Council's The National Neighbourhood programme bringing together the Public Libraries, the area offices, the City Arts Office and Dublin City Gallery. Axis worked with the The Abbey Theatre and The National Museum of Ireland on a series of major community projects in Finglas, Cabra, Whitehall and Ballymun

Ballymun Creative Lab

The Ballymun Creative Lab, which was developed by the National College of Art and Design Access Programme and the Rediscovery Centre, with support from the axis Arts Centre in Ballymun ran in July.

Young Dublin:

Dublin City Council's Arts office embarked on a cool piece of research recently - Young Dublin: Conversations With A Dozen Young Dubliners. The research gives an insight into what art and culture means to them as young people. Some of axis' young people were involved in the research and we've turned the research into an exhibition that's currently hanging in axis' Gallery.

Space to be yourself:

Space to be Yourself was an exhibition of work created by young people from Ballymun Regional Youth Resource (BRYR) working in collaboration with poet Colm Keegan.

Towering above the Rest:

We recently funded 10 mini commissions from our Towering above the rest scheme, these artists are from Ballymun and across the city. These are across art forms and is part of axis development as a resource to artists to seed and develop new work.

Arts and Disability: axis welcomed Kevin Nolan, a new artist in residence under the ADI/Axis playground scheme for artists with disabilities. Kevin is a musician who be developed new material and worked on an album in Axis' recording studio.

Creative Space Our work on this innovative project working with young men continued in partnership with the HSE

Axis 15th / Ballymun 50th / Festivals

The Ballymun Birthday Bash

In partnership with Dublin City Council, Global Action Plan, SuperValu, Sports Across Ireland, BRYR and a host of local performers and volunteers, Axis hosted The Ballymun Birthday Bash to mark the 50th anniversary of the first residents moving in to Ballymun. Over 3000 people attended on the day to enjoy live music, song, magi and dance and were treated to burgers from SuperValu, free ice-cream, games, arts and craft and prizes.

The Chats: As part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of Ballymun, Axis hosted an evening of conversation with residents past and present.

The CamperVan Sessions: Four on-site music gigs and art workshops for communities in Shangan, Poppintree, Sillogue and Coultrey throughout August.

Granuaile: A mini-tour of summer camps to provide a free interactive storytelling show to young audiences in the greater Dublin North West area. This included a free performance in Whiteacre Park.

Birthday Bombs: Over the summer axis staff and some young people have been knocking on Ballymun doors and surprising people with a cake on their birthday.

Axis also was involved in the development of local arts and community festivals such as Otherworld, LiFT youth arts festival and Bealtaine

Employment

In 2016 axis continued to pay particular attention to creative engagement in young people and develop employment opportunities across a number of areas of our organization

Axis is also a major local employer with 35 -40 full / part time staff across our services

Community Resource Centre

Tenants: axis hosts a range of community development organizations, GAP, Ballymun Welfare Rights, Local Drugs Task Force, Ballymun Communications, Young Ballymun, Rehab Integration Services, Hail Housing, all hold office space in axis, all offering a range of services to the wider community.

Café: Open Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm and by special arrangement for Dinner Theatre and other events. Axis also runs the café in the Ballymun civic centre

Crèche: Currently facilitating 43 places between full and part time care. One of the lead locations for HighScope, Siolta training and programme.

Conference centre: Facilitating a broad range of meeting and training requirements in addition to special events such as community gatherings, artist gatherings, storytelling sessions, film screenings, seminars and workshops.

Arts Spaces (Dance Studio, Art Room, Underground Studios): Facilitating a wide range of individual and group classes run by **axis** and other teachers as well as rehearsals and artist studio development time.

Awards

axis won the Dublin Airport Authority award at the Allianz / Business to Arts Award 2016 for 'Creative Space', our Mental Health and creativity project with the HSE.

In April 2016 Axis won the award for best Community Minded Organization at the National Small / Medium Enterprise awards.