



ANNUAL REPORT 2025





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO STATEMENT



2025 has been a year of creativity, celebration and meaningful progress for Ballet Ireland. Looking back, I feel an immense sense of pride in what we have achieved together — not only in the performances we have shared with audiences, but in the continued growth, resilience and ambition of our company.

At the heart of Ballet Ireland is a belief in the power of dance to move, inspire and connect. Throughout the year, we continued to create and present work that reflects both the beauty and diversity of ballet, while bringing fresh perspectives and renewed energy to the art form. Our dancers, creatives and production teams have once again demonstrated extraordinary commitment and artistry, and I am deeply grateful for the passion and generosity they bring to the company every day.

A particular highlight of the year was Cinderella, our new production by choreographer Loughlan Prior. This imaginative reworking of a much-loved story captured the magic, humour and emotional depth that great ballet can offer audiences of all ages. The response to Cinderella was a powerful affirmation of the importance of commissioning bold new work and of Ballet Ireland's ability to bring distinctive artistic voices to the stage. I am immensely proud of everyone involved in bringing this production to life.

In 2025, we also continued to explore new ways of sharing ballet beyond the traditional theatre setting. Our performances at Electric Picnic were, as always, a highlight of the year for dancers and audiences alike. They offer a unique opportunity to bring our work to people who might not otherwise encounter ballet in a theatre environment. Experiencing dance in that vibrant, open setting is deeply rewarding, and we hope many of those who discovered Ballet Ireland for the first time there will continue their journey with us in the years ahead.

Education and the nurturing of emerging talent remain central to our mission. Our Summer Intensives expanded to two weeks this year, welcoming a growing number of students from Ireland and across the world. These programmes offer an inspiring and rigorous environment for vocational dancers to deepen their training, experience the standards of a professional company, and develop during their summer break. Many of these students will go on to professional careers in dance, and it is a privilege to play a part in supporting that journey.

Beyond the stage, 2025 was also a year of strengthening relationships and building support for Ballet Ireland's future. Our Annual Fundraising Luncheon was a very special occasion, bringing together friends, supporters and advocates of the company. We were honoured to welcome the British Ambassador, Paul Johnston, as guest speaker, accompanied by Nicola Johnston. Their presence made the event particularly memorable, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to them and to all who supported this important initiative.

I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable support of the Arts Council, alongside all our funders, partners and supporters. Their belief in our work is fundamental to everything we do, enabling us to create ambitious productions, support artists and connect with audiences across Ireland. Their commitment provides the foundation on which Ballet Ireland's artistic vision continues to grow.

An important part of our work this year has been looking ahead and shaping the next chapter of Ballet Ireland's journey. We have begun a significant consultation process to inform our new four-year strategy. This has been a valuable opportunity to listen - to our artists, Board, partners, audiences and wider community and to reflect on where we are and where we want to go. The insights gathered will help shape a strategy that is ambitious, sustainable and grounded in our artistic values.

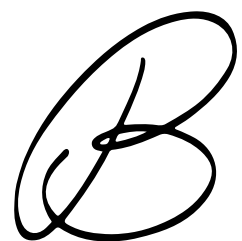
I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors for their continued commitment, wisdom and support. Their guidance is invaluable to the company's development.

I would particularly like to acknowledge our former Chair, Una O'Hare, who stepped down during the year after many years of phenomenal and dedicated service to Ballet Ireland. Her leadership, generosity and unwavering commitment have left a lasting legacy, and we are deeply grateful for all she has contributed to the company.

We are delighted to welcome Karen Lowey as our new Chair at the beginning of 2026. Her experience, leadership and commitment will be central as we continue to build on the strong foundations already in place. I would also like to thank all Board members, past and present, for their continued dedication and service.

Finally, my thanks go to our dancers, executive team, creative collaborators, partners, funders and audiences. Ballet Ireland exists through the shared commitment of many, and every achievement this year is the result of that collective effort.

As we move forward, we do so with optimism and ambition. The work undertaken in 2025 provides a strong foundation for the future, ensuring that Ballet Ireland continues to create inspiring work, nurture artists and share the transformative power of ballet with audiences across Ireland and beyond.



Anne Maher
Ballet Ireland, Artistic Director / CEO



OUR MISSION

To enrich our community by sharing the power and joy of dance - inspiring, connecting with and growing audiences for the highest calibre of artistic excellence.

OUR VISION

To continue to shatter preconceptions and inspire everyone in Ireland to experience the physical and emotional power of modern ballet.



OUR VALUES



EXCELLENCE

We strive for excellence in everything we do. We achieve greatness, lead boldly and bravely with passion and artistic creativity.

ACCESSIBILITY

We strive to make ballet accessible to all and connect everyone to ballet. We continue to challenge stereotypes and outdated preconceptions, transform attitudes and welcome audiences new and old.

CREATIVITY

Bold uniqueness and originality are central to our collaborative approach to creative thinking.

RESPECT & DIGNITY

We work together as a team, embracing equality, diversity, and inclusion, and treating one another with dignity and respect both on and off the stage.

PROFESSIONALISM

We operate with integrity, financial responsibility, are open ethical and transparent in all our dealings, and operate to the highest level of good governance and professionalism.



FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

The 2025 Fundraising Lunch was held on Friday 28 March at The Merrion, to support Ballet Ireland in achieving its artistic ambitions. This event provided a wonderful opportunity to engage with Ballet Ireland, celebrate our accomplishments, honour our extraordinary dancers, and express gratitude to our generous patrons and funders.

We welcomed our guest speaker, His excellency the British Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Paul Johnston. This was followed by a short performance by Ballet Ireland's dancers.

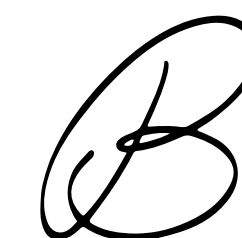
To sustain our high-calibre performances, we rely on donor support to continue creating the exceptional work for which we are renowned. This support is crucial for attracting world-class choreographers and dancers, ensuring that Irish audiences experience outstanding performances.

Corporate supporters for the 2025 Fundraiser included Boodles, The K Club, The Merrion, Floritz Restaurant, Old Ground Hotel Ennis, The Rose Hotel Tralee, Dance World, Brooke & Shoals, Wind Shore, Butlers Chocolates and Pamela Scott.

For the first time this year, we included an auction for a very special prize of two exclusive seats to watch a performance of The Royal Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' from 'The Wings' at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. These seats are held exclusively for very special patrons, donors and VIPs, and as such, are not available for members of the public to purchase.

 **106**
Attendees

€15K
Raised





SUMMER INTENSIVE

The Ballet Ireland Summer Intensive took place over two weeks this year from Monday 21 July to Saturday 1 August at DanceHouse, Dublin.

The distinguished faculty included Hayley Cunningham, Amanda Armstrong, Joel Morris, Pilar Nevado and Filipe Portugal. We were delighted to also welcome Royal Ballet principal dancer Melissa Hamilton to coach the students for a surprise masterclass.

This programme draws aspiring dancers nationally and internationally, offering them the opportunity to enhance their ballet training. Participants benefited from expert instruction in ballet, Pilates, pointe work and classical & contemporary repertoire.

“ I always feel very grateful to have the opportunity to learn from such renowned teachers and always leave the week feeling very inspired.
- Participant

“ I loved how they treated everyone as an individual and gave personal and overall corrections as well as being encouraging.
- Participant

83
Students took part



ELECTRIC PICNIC FESTIVAL

2025

Ballet Ireland returned to perform at the Electric Picnic Festival on the Theatre Stage, where a curated programme of arts and culture performances took place.

The company performed Filipe Portugal's 'Stepping Over' on Friday 29 & Saturday 30 August.

This year marked the company's fourth appearance at the festival, providing an opportunity to increase engagement, reach new audiences, and expand the profile of Ballet Ireland under the umbrella of this ever-popular event.



ENGAGEMENT

3 performances reaching 892 audience members.



8

Electric Picnic

MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL
29-31 AUGUST 2020 STRADGALLY HALL, CO. LAGOS, IRELAND

FRIDAY

HOZIER

CHAPPELL
ROAN

SATURDAY

SAM FENDER

FAT BOY SLIM

SUNDAY

KINGS OF LEON

BECKY HILL

ACROSS THE WEEKEND

AMBLE • BARRY CAN'T SWIM (LIVE) • CONAN GRAY
CONFIDENCE MAN • DAVID GRAY • EWAN MCVICAR • INHALER
JAZZY • KINGFISHER • KNEECAP • LORD HURON • MARC REBILLET
MARIBOU STATE • MONTELL FISH • NILE RODGERS + CHIC
SELF ESTEEM • SUKI WATERHOUSE • THE 2 JOHNNIES • THE CORONAS
THE KOOKS • THE SAW DOCTORS • VIAGRA BOYS
NOEL & MIKE HOGAN (THE CRANBERRIES) WITH RTE ORCHESTRA

ALESSI ROSE • BELL X1 • BIIG PIIG • BLACK COUNTRY, NEW ROAD
FOR THOSE I LOVE • HILLTOP HOODS • I'M GRAND MAM • JOOST • JUST MUSTARD
KHAKIKID • KING KONG COMPANY • MARK MCCABE • MAVERICK SABRE
MUNDY • ORLA GARTLAND • THE ACADEMIC • TOMMY CASH

TERMINUS

AZYR • DJ HEARTSTRING • GIRLS DON'T SYNC • HOLY PRIEST
HORSEGIIRL • JUICY ROMANCE • KIRK • MARK BLAIR • PRETTY GIRL
PUZZY WRANGLER • SIMONE • TARA CASEY

AARON ROWE • ARTHUR HILL • BLAIR DAVIE
ESMERALDA ROAD • LUVCAT • NOFUN! • SUNDAY (1994)

PLUS UNIQUE SPACES INCLUDING

CROI • FREETOWN • MINDFIELD: SPOKEN WORD • SALTY DOG • MOTHER • TRAILER PARK • ART LOT
FISH TOWN & JERRY FISH ELECTRIC SIDESHOW • THEATRE • THEATRE OF FOOD • COMEDY • TRENCHTOWN • SPIKE ISLAND
THE HAZEL WOOD • BERLINHAUS • ANACHRONICA • TRANSMISSION • GLOBAL GREEN ECOVILLAGE • LITTLE PICNIC
SURVIVOR BAR & STAGE • GREENCRAFTS VILLAGE • LAKE SWIMMING

SUBJECT TO LICENCE

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CINDERELLA

Ballet Ireland, in association with EY Ireland, presented our new production of *Cinderella*, choreographed by Loughlan Prior at 13 venues across Ireland, including five performances at The Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

A distinctly Irish Fairytale set in 1950's New York. Set in the iconically stylish and romantic New York of the 1950's. Reimagined as only Ballet Ireland can, this *Cinderella* is a fresh, adventurous telling of this beloved storybook romance. Embellished with fantasy elements, humour, magic and romance, Ballet Ireland's *Cinderella* is an utterly unique, heartfelt view of this cherished story.

Seasoned ballet audiences relished the mastery of Ballet Ireland's dancers. Their impeccable technique and dramatic flair captivated even the most discerning audiences. The joy and wonder of *Cinderella* sent audiences away with delighted smiles and full hearts.

**EY**

CINDERELLA 2025 TOUR DATES

Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey Fri 7 & Sat 8 Nov

Gaiety Theatre, Dublin Wed 12 - Sat 15 Nov

Market Place Theatre, Armagh Tues 18 Nov

Hawk’s well Theatre, Sligo Thurs 20 Nov

An Grianan, Letterkenny Sat 22 Nov

Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick Thur 27 Nov

National Opera House, Wexford Sat 29 Nov

Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny Wed 3 Dec

Draíocht, Blanchardstown Fri 5 & Sat 6 Dec

glór, Ennis Tue 9 & Wed 10 Dec

Siamsa Tíre, Tralee Fri 12 & Sat 13 Dec

Ardhowen, Enniskillen Wed 17 Dec

Solstice Arts Centre, Navan Fri 19 & Sat 20 Dec



ENGAGEMENT

This ballet was performed in 13 theatres giving 23 performances to 9,042 audience members.



STATEMENT FROM OUR CHAIR



It is with a tinge of sadness that I retire as Chair of Ballet Ireland. It has been a great honour and privilege to hold this role over the past five years, a period that has been both rewarding and inspiring in equal measure.

Looking back, I am immensely proud of what Ballet Ireland has achieved during this time. The company has continued to grow in artistic ambition, reputation and reach, bringing world-class dance to audiences throughout Ireland.

Among the many milestones during my tenure, the introduction of the Bold Moves Spring Series stands out as a particularly significant development. This initiative helped elevate the company to a new level, presenting audiences with scintillating, high-energy productions that showcased the very best of contemporary ballet and dance. Through Bold Moves, work including Aszure Barton, Ohad Naharin, Johan Inger, Filipe Portugal and Arthur Pita, to name but a few. Their creativity, vision and artistry enriched the company immeasurably. The reimagining of traditional classical ballets including Nutcracker Sweeties and Cinderella was also very well received by audiences. Ireland had the opportunity to collaborate with some of the world's most celebrated choreographers.

Of course, the achievements of Ballet Ireland are not the result of any one individual. They are the product of the extraordinary commitment and talent of many people. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the CEO/Artistic Director Anne Maher, General Manager Martin Lindinger, the Board, the dancers, choreographers, and all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Their passion, professionalism and dedication have been the driving force behind the company's success.

I also wish to acknowledge the support of our funders including the Arts Council and EY. Their belief in the value of dance has enabled Ballet Ireland to continue creating exceptional work and bringing it to audiences across the country.

As I step down, I do so with confidence in the future of Ballet Ireland. The company is artistically vibrant, organisationally strong and well positioned for continued success. I want to wish the incoming chair Karen Lowey every success for her tenure. I have every faith that Ballet Ireland will continue to inspire audiences, nurture talent and make a significant contribution to the arts in Ireland for many years to come.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair, and I will always cherish the friendships, experiences and memories that this role has brought. While I leave with a sense of sadness, I do so with immense pride in all that has been achieved and with excitement for the next chapter in Ballet Ireland's journey.

Una O'Hare
Ballet Ireland, Chair

EY IRELAND PARTNERSHIP

In September we were proud to announce our renewed partnership with EY Ireland for the fourth consecutive season.

The company was announced as this year's title partner for *Cinderella*. This partnership has strengthened over recent years, and by working with organisations that share our values, we can continue to grow Ballet Ireland and expand the work we do.

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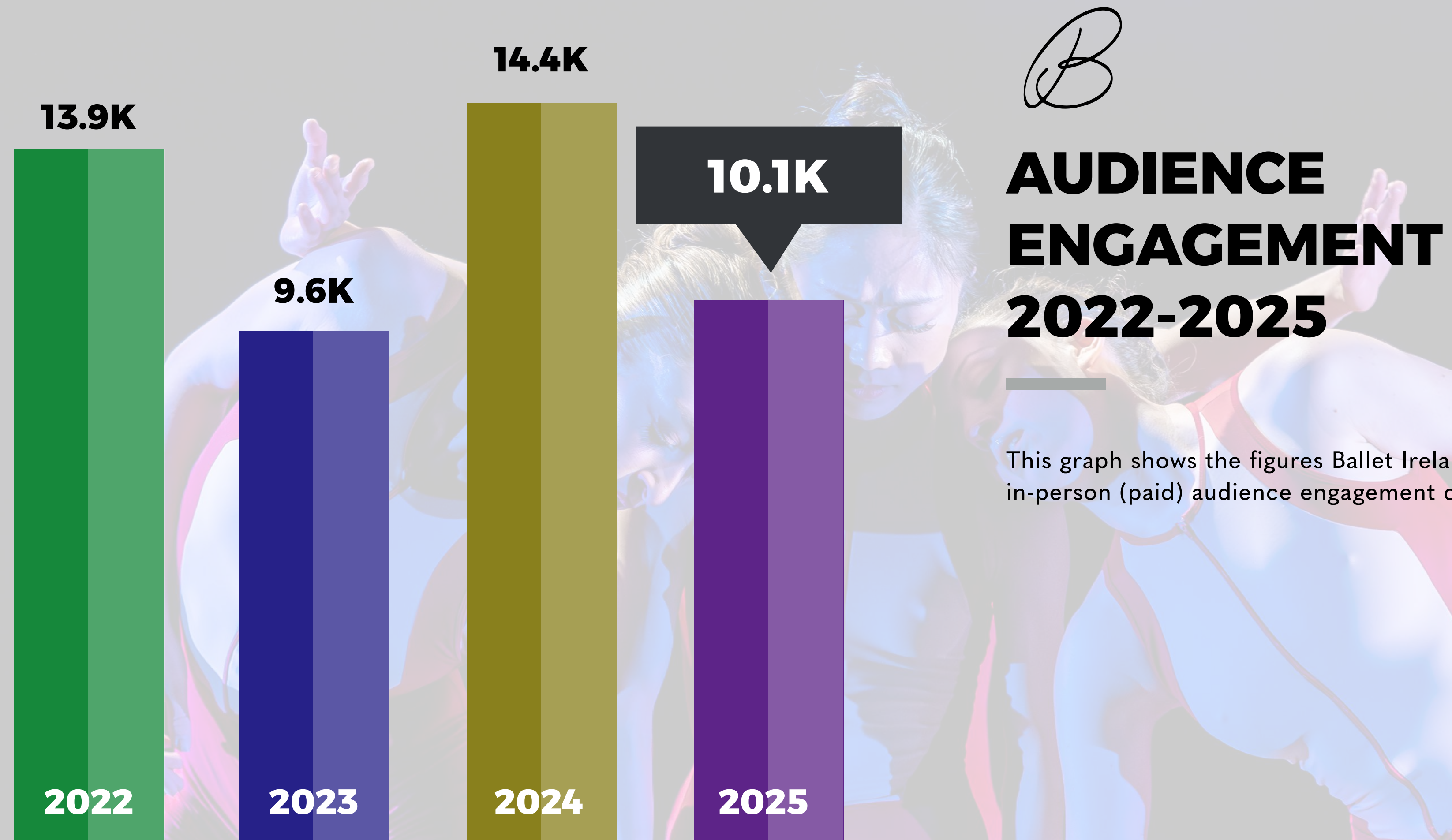
At EY Ireland, we believe in the power of the arts to inspire, connect, and enrich communities. Supporting cultural initiatives like this is one of the ways we help shape a confident and creative future. We hope *Cinderella* will spark imagination and joy, and inspire a new generation to fall in love with ballet, classical music, and live performance. Ballet Ireland continues to lead the way in artistic excellence, creative ambition, and accessibility. We are proud to champion their mission to nurture world-class talent and deliver captivating performances to audiences across the island of Ireland. It is a privilege to play a part in bringing this magical production to life for communities throughout the country.

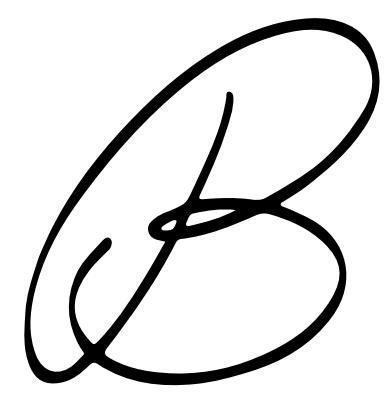
Niamh O'Beirne

EY Ireland Partner and Head of Business and People Consulting

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ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Year-end 31 December 2025



9.2K

Facebook followers (2K increase from 2024)
TOTAL ENGAGEMENT 2025 = 126K

8K

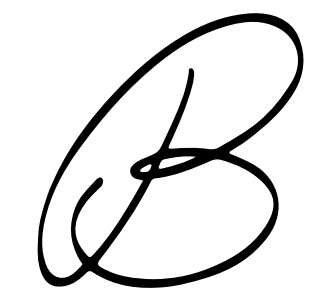
Instagram followers (1K increase from 2024)
TOTAL ENGAGEMENT 2025 = 310K

3.5K

Email subscribers

1.2M

Website visitors (110K increase from 2024)



INCOME SOURCES 2025

This graph shows the income Ballet Ireland has generated over the past year



2025

€191K
Members Funds

€987K
Total income

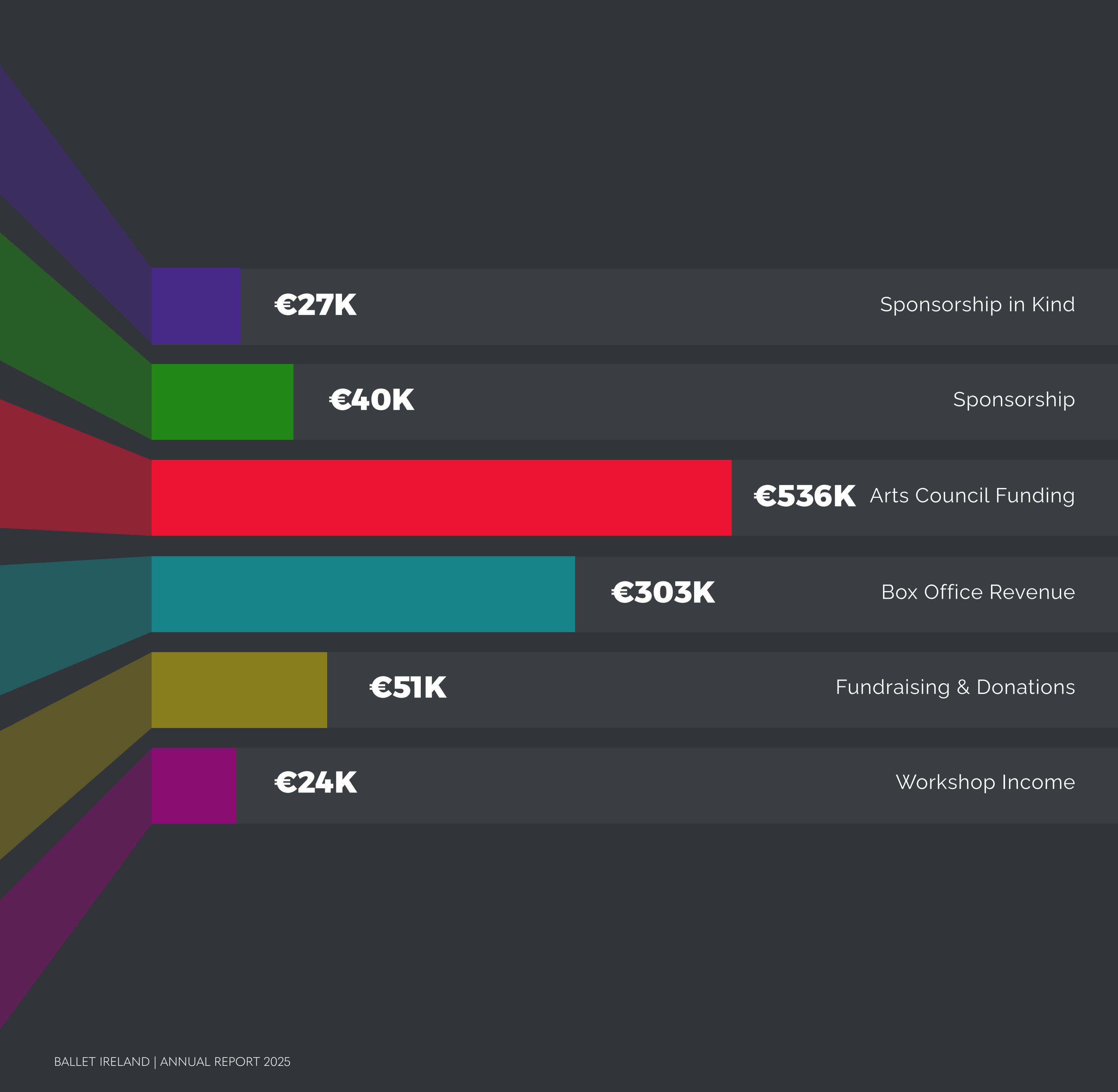
€843K
Operating costs

2024

€48K
Members Funds

€1.033M
Total income

€1.039M
Operating costs



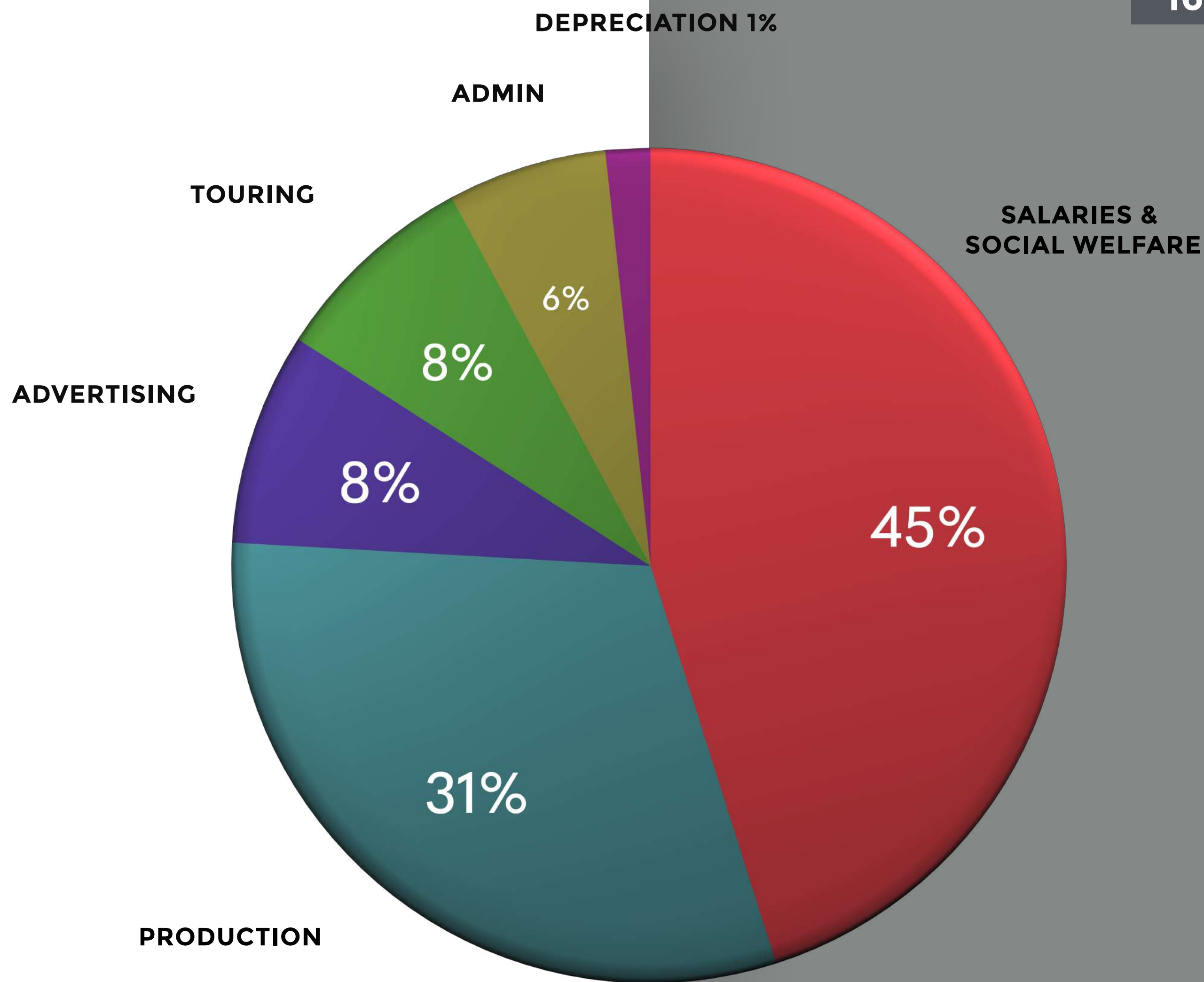


EXPENDITURE 2025

What we spent our funds on



	2025	2024
Salaries & Social Welfare Costs	€373,267	€353,041
Production Costs	€253,717	€362,911
Advertising	€68,596	€167,697
Touring	€66,019	€54,561
Administration	€51,440	€43,329



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MANAGEMENT

Ballet Ireland’s Board of Directors and Executives is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance. Ballet Ireland aims to comply with the Charities Governance Code.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Una O’Hare (retired June 2025)
Secretary: Karen Lowey
Dearbhalla Baviera
Muirne Bloomer
Róisín Cahillane
Jeremy Erwin
Leo Moore
Graham Reid

STAFF:

Artistic Director / CEO: Anne Maher
General Manager: Martin Lindinger
Marketing & Communications Manager: Stephanie Courtney

The Board’s function is to oversee the organisation’s mission, ensuring proper financial management and maintaining good governance.

In 2025, Board meetings were held in January, March, May, June, August & October.

The Board of Directors is a non-executive board, encompassing skills and expertise in marketing, fundraising, legal and financial affairs. Directors are co-opted and endorsed by the board.

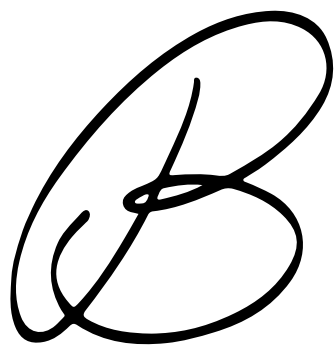
We maintain up-to-date directors profiles on our website:

<https://www.balletireland.ie/the-company/board-of-directors/>

CULTURAL PARTNERS & FUNDERS

We are proud to be an Arts Council Strategically Funded Organisation.

Support from our funding bodies, media sponsors and patrons, allows us to bring productions of the highest international quality to audiences throughout Ireland.



MAIN FUNDER:



CINDERELLA
TITLE PARTNER:



ADDITIONAL FUNDING:



MEDIA PARTNER:



FUNDRAISING PARTNER:



SUPPORTED BY:

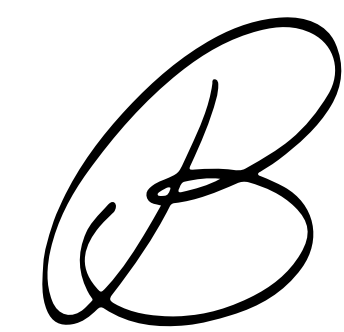


FRIENDS



It is with thanks to the generosity of our Friends, that we are able to present the work we do.

Our Friends provide additional support to that already provided by the Arts Council.



DIAMOND FRIENDS

Susanna Braswell
Julian M.
Eamonn McCusker
Louise Stapleton-Irwin
Anonymous



RUBY FRIENDS

Cynthia Ó Dúnlaing F.R.A.D.



EMERALD FRIENDS

Rachel Goode, The Goode School of Dance
Dara Pierce, The Dara Pierce Ballet Academy
Aideen Stevens



SAPPHIRE FRIENDS

Natalie Butler
Marcella Flood
Andrew J. Hurst
Kristina Mastel
Emer McKiernan





BALLETIRELAND.IE

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