



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022





## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO STATEMENT

In 2022 the company returned to full production activity following the pandemic. With our new strategy in place, Creating Space for Success 2022-2025, the company was well placed to deliver on its plans and begin to implement the new strategy. A partnership with Dance Ireland was forged with Ballet Ireland becoming the first ever 'Company in Residence' in DanceHouse. The company was in the fortunate position to carry over unspent Arts Council funding from 2021, which put us in a position to employ a core group of dancers for significantly longer periods than in previous years.

Our spring programme, Bold Moves was finally presented as it was meant to be experienced, after two years of disruption. This dynamic programme featured the exhilarating choreography by internationally renowned choreographers

Christopher Bruce, Marguerite Donlon, and Filipe Portugal. We are delighted to be the first Irish dance company to be presenting the work of these highly acclaimed choreographers.

With the support of Culture Ireland, we returned to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August to present the work of Marguerite Donlon and Zoë Ashe-Browne over 9 performances. Reviews were very strong with equally strong support from audiences. "A glorious double bill from Ballet Ireland" Kelly Apter, Reviewer for The Scotsman.

In 2019 Ballet Ireland was due to make its debut at the renowned Electric Picnic Festival. This exciting new new performance platform, Theatre Stage at EP, finally came to fruition in 2022. Christopher Bruce's ROOSTER was the ideal work to perform to expand the perceptions of ballet both to press and audiences.

An important development in our year was the commission of a new work, The Glasshouse, by Irish choreographer Roisin Whelan. Created for 4 dancers during May and June, the production was a highlight of the Baboró International Arts Festival for Children and performed in other regional venues during the early summer. This was our first ever full length ballet made for young audiences. It was performed to over 2,000 young audience members who were captivated and inspired by the production which explored relevant themes about the environment.





## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO STATEMENT



As part of our commitment to develop the artform, we continue to work with the IBTA (Irish Ballet Teachers Association) supporting the committee's goals ensuring that dance education has a stronger voice. Our education programme in schools continues to reach more students and inspire dance in the lives of young people. In July, we hosted our Summer Intensive for vocational students. We were pleased to open it up to more students and return to full close contact training which included pas de deux and double work.

Our autumn/winter season was very successful and the company toured Nutcracker Sweeties to 14 theatres nationwide. We were delighted to welcome EY Ireland back onboard as title partner of the production. It is through strong partnerships and by aligning with a company that shares our values that we can grow Ballet Ireland and expand the work that we are doing. EY and Ballet Ireland first partnered for Swan Lake in 2019. Our relationship has grown stronger, enabling us to look forward to the future with confidence and pride.

Over the past 12 months we said goodbye to two of our Board who retired; Heather Kennedy and Louise Carpendale. We thank them for their huge contribution to Ballet Ireland and for their generosity of spirit. Serving on a not for profit Board is a big commitment and we were lucky to have two such hugely talented women working on our behalf. New appointments to the Board in 2022 were Karen Lowey, former Marketing Director at EY and Leo Moore, Senior Director of Strategy & Insights for Europe at Kellogg Company. As our Board goes from strength to strength, we are very grateful for all of the outstanding work done in support of the organisation. We are especially grateful to our Chair, Una O'Hare, for her guidance, support and ambition for the company.



As always our dancers and creatives are our strength and our well. We have had the pleasure of working with some amazing artists and indeed legends this year including Christopher Bruce. It was such a joy to have that privilege and to share that experience with other artists by way of interviews and sharings whilst he was in Dublin. We look forward to welcoming many of them back to work with us again enriching our dancers and audiences.

In line with our strategy, we will continue to develop the artform, supporting our mission to create and present compelling ballet work which inspires, includes, invigorates and educates through its relevance to audiences of today.

A special thanks to the Arts Council for the outstanding leadership and financial support shown to the whole of the Artistic community of Ireland.

ANNE MAHER  
BALLET IRELAND, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO



# 2022 CREATING SPACE FOR SUCCESS



2022 was a year of re-emergence as we fully returned to the studio, stage and schools. This year work began to implement the company's 2022 to 2025 strategy 'Creating Space for Success'.

Over the next four years, we will focus on four strategic priorities to create space to progress the success of the company:

**Artform** and **Engagement** are about our core purpose – why Ballet Ireland exists – and realising our mission and vision.

**Governance** and **Capacity** are about sustainability; how we deliver on our objectives, and how the company can thrive, grow and make decisions in support of our core purpose.

We continue to be led by our values, as they guiding what we do and how we do it:

## **Excellence**

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

## **Equality and Accessibility**

We strive to make ballet accessible to all. We challenge stereotypes, transform attitudes and break down barriers through a diverse and inclusive approach.

## **Creativity**

Uniqueness and originality are central to our creative thinking.

## **Respect**

We work together as a team, treating each other with respect on and off the stage.

## **Integrity**

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



# ARTFORM & ENGAGEMENT

55

PERFORMANCES

6

CHOREOGRAPHERS

5

PRODUCTIONS

36

DANCERS

15,000

AUDIENCE

18

STAGES



# ON FILM: STROKES THROUGH THE TAIL

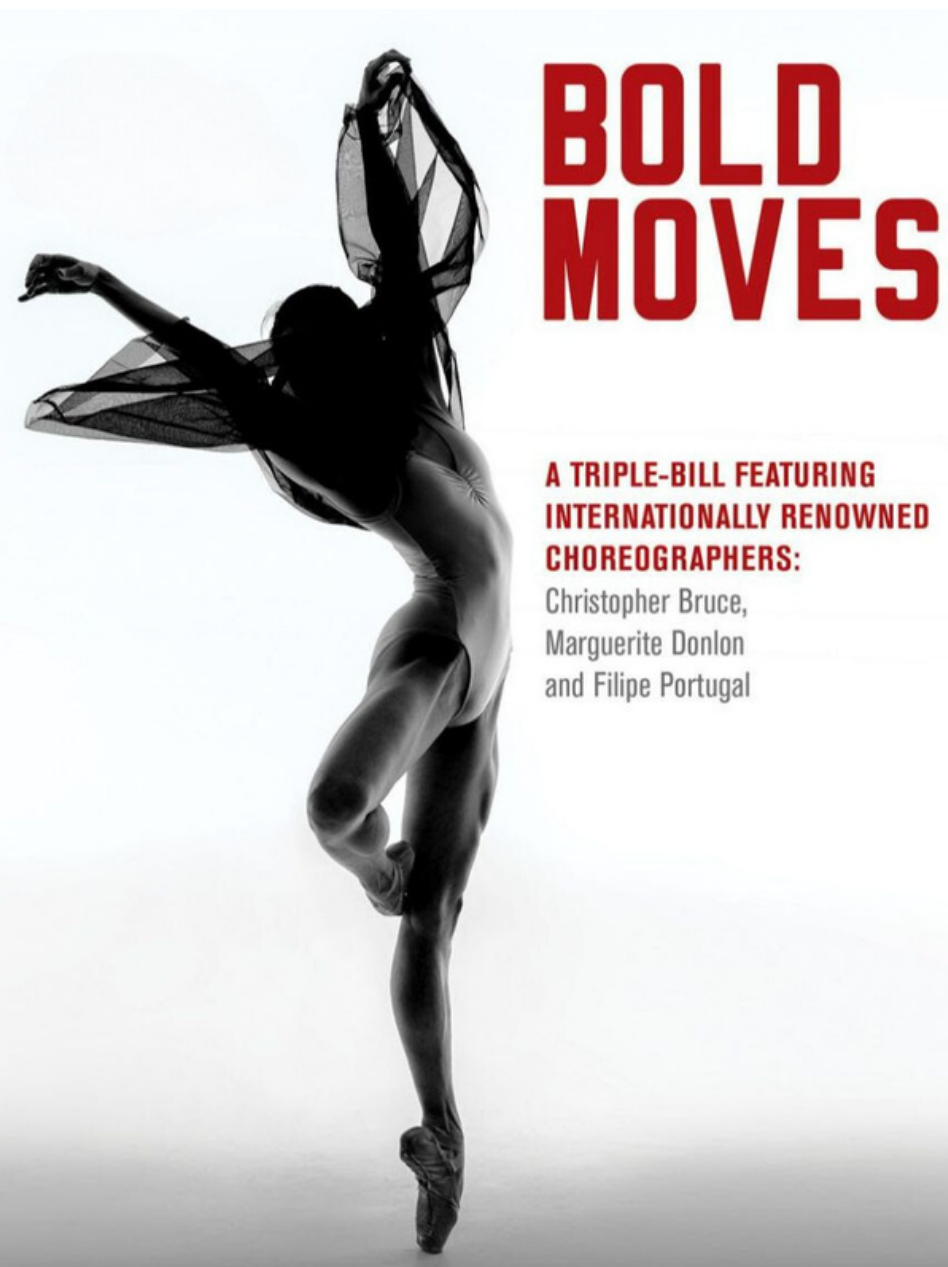
In March 2022, the film version of Marguerite Donlon's 'Strokes Through the Tail' was launched. Filmed in July 2021, this is the company's first On Demand programming, giving viewers access to the work for 7 days.

Finding inspiration in Mozart's Symphony No. 40, six performers combine virtuosic dancing with buckets of humour and a delightful hint of irreverence. "The dancers perform like black-and-white music notes moving in space," she says, "at first clearly personifying the music, but as the piece develops these notes/dancers become six very strong and individual personalities." Critics have raved about the piece's "exquisite choreography performed to timeless music" (Chicago Sun-Times), with the Chicago Tribune remarking, "The whinnying Mozart depicted in Amadeus would have enjoyed a good horse-laugh at Donlon's piece... Donlon is unafraid to go against the grain of the music, creating a counterpoint of delicious, never malicious, irony."

'Strokes Through the Tail' has previously been performed on some of the world's most iconic stages, including the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and at Chicago Symphony Center with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.







# BOLD MOVES

**A TRIPLE-BILL FEATURING  
INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED  
CHOREOGRAPHERS:**

**Christopher Bruce,  
Marguerite Donlon  
and Filipe Portugal**

## BOLD MOVES DUBLIN

Bold Moves 2022 was performed in the O'Reilly Theatre, Saturday 16 April, Tuesday 19 - Saturday 23 April.

This was the company's first Spring programme since 2019 due to the pandemic.

The programme featured a triple-bill of exhilarating and dynamic choreography by internationally renowned choreographers Christopher Bruce, Marguerite Donlon, and Filipe Portugal.

The rock 'n' roll swagger of the Rolling Stones comes thrillingly to life in ROOSTER, Christopher Bruce's electrifying celebration of the swinging sixties. Sharp-suited, snake-hipped men and strong, sassy women perform to some of the Stones' most famous tunes.

Set to Mozart's Symphony No. 40, Irish choreographer Marguerite Donlon's STROKES THROUGH THE TAIL combines buckets of humour and a delightful hint of irreverence.

Mesmerising audiences when it premiered, Filipe Portugal's STEPPING OVER weaves together dazzling precision and artistic elegance as couples move effortlessly, almost melting into place, to Philip Glass' Tirol Piano Concerto.

### ENGAGEMENT

6 performances reaching 1,200 audience members.

# BOLD MOVES EDINBURGH

'US choreographed by Zoë Ashe-Browne and Strokes Through the Tail by Marguerite Donlon from Ballet Ireland may well be the stand-out show at this year's Dance Base Fringe.'

Stephanie Green, Reviewer for Broadway Baby



Supported by Culture Ireland, Ballet Ireland was invited to return to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 5 - 14 August in Dance Base.

The company's Bold Moves programme featured work by female Irish choreographers Marguerite Donlon and Zoë Ashe-Browne.

Marguerite Donlon's STROKES THROUGH THE TAIL was performed alongside Zoë Ashe-Browne's US.

US is a reflection on experiences of emigrating from home to further their professional development, this piece tells the story of the friendships and relationships people form away from home and the significance they can hold for a lifetime.

## ENGAGEMENT

9 performances reaching 580 audience members .







## Electric Picnic

MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Ballet Ireland was invited to perform at Electric Picnic on the Theatre Stage 2 - 3 September.

The company performed Christopher Bruce's ROOSTER following audience's enthusiastic reaction to the work in the spring.

This was the first year the Festival curated a programme of arts and culture performance. This afforded the company to increase engagement, reach new audiences and expand the profile of the Ballet Ireland under the umbrella of this popular festival.

The association increased press coverage for the company in print, online and radio.

### ENGAGEMENT

2 performances reaching 1,000 audience members .

# THE GLASSHOUSE

The company commissioned Irish choreographer Róisín Whelan to create a ballet for young audiences THE GLASSHOUSE. Commissioning new work by Irish choreographers and developing work for young audiences is part of our strategic priorities as we develop the artform and engage with new audiences.

Created on 4 dancers, this compelling work is about the courage of the human spirit, friendship and determination and how small, conscious efforts can help rejuvenate our planet.

The production toured to Solstice Arts Centre (7 October), Draiocht, Blanchardstown (13 October); and Town Hall Theatre, Galway for the Baboro International Children's Arts Festival (20- 23 October).

The school performances were followed by a Q & A with thoroughly engaging interactions displaying a great interest in the production, a desire to find out more about dance and the dancers.

## ENGAGEMENT

10 performances reaching 2,300 audience members .







## NUTCRACKER SWEETIES

Premiering in 2021, Ballet Ireland's Nutcracker Sweeties, by Morgann Runacre-Temple returned with a full touring production of the much loved ballet. The company was delighted to announce EY Ireland as the title partner of this festive classic.

The production is set in a department store in Dublin where Ciara and her brother, Fionn, go on a shopping trip with their parents. They wander off from their parents and the magic of Nutcracker and Christmas begins... The two are rescued by the Nutcracker doll who comes to life before Ciara shakes a snow globe creating a glorious blizzard of snowflakes. The Sugar Plum Fairy greets them leading Ciara into the kingdom of the sweets where the beautiful Christmas windows come to life.

This ballet was sold out in numerous theatres nationwide as audience members made a welcome return to live performances .



## NUTCRACKER SWEETIES 2022 TOUR DATES:

Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey: Fri 4 & Sat 5 Nov

Millennium Forum, Derry/Londonderry: Wed 9 Nov

Market Place Theatre, Armagh: Sat 12 Nov

Gaiety Theatre, Dublin: Wed 16 - Sat 19 Nov

Siamsa Tíre, Tralee: Wed 23 Nov

National Opera House, Wexford: Sat 26 Nov

The Civic Theatre, Tallaght: Tues 29 - Weds 30 Nov

Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick: Fri 2 & Sat 3 Dec

An Grianán Theatre: Tues 6 Dec

Draíocht, Blanchardstown: Fri 9 & Sat 10 Dec

Town Hall Theatre, Galway: Tue 13 & Wed 14 Dec

glór, Ennis: Fri 16 & Sat 17 Dec

Solstice Arts Centre, Navan: Tue 20 Dec

Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray: Thurs 22 8pm & Fri 23 Dec

## ENGAGEMENT

The ballet was performed in 14 theatres giving 26 performances to over 9,500 people.





# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**3,500**

ENGAGEMENTS WITH  
YOUNG PEOPLE

**45**

YOUNG DANCERS

**140**

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

**5**

SUMMER INTENSIVE  
DAYS

**4**

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**270**

PRIMARY PUPILS



# SUMMER INTENSIVE



The Ballet Ireland Summer Intensive took place 18 - 22 July in DanceHouse, Dublin 1.

The faculty was comprised of Anne Maher, Stephen Brennan, Deirdre McKenna and Amelia O'Hara.

The programme attracts young dancers nationwide who are interested in deepening their ballet training. Dancers from the company were also present to enhance training with pas de deux classes.

Students trained with world renowned tutors in ballet, pilates, pointe work and repertoire.

## ENGAGEMENT

40 students





# EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Primary Schools

## SUMMARY:

We continued to develop and promote our primary schools programme throughout late 2022. Our strategy has evolved in close collaboration with schools in the Dublin area.

## SCHOOLS:

Our Education Officer, Stephen Brennan, worked with students in St. Patrick's JNS Diswellstown, Scoil Mhuire JNS Blakestown, St. Catherine's JNS Cabra and St. Patrick's BNS, Newbridge.

## PARTICIPATION NUMBERS:

2,825 students took part in the programme with 113 workshops taking place on school premises.

"Ballet exposes children to many new perspectives and experiences. Whether you decide to pursue sport or any form of dance, ballet is a wonderful preparation. Posture and confidence are the key things we are looking to develop in the school due to so many sedentary lifestyles. We see the confidence in our pupils increase after only a few classes."



# EVENTS & PARTNERSHIPS

A group of women are seated at a table in a dimly lit room, likely a restaurant or event space. The women are engaged in conversation and smiling. In the foreground, a woman with blonde hair is seen from the back, wearing a patterned top. To her left, a woman with blonde hair is wearing a red top. In the center, a woman with long red hair is smiling. To her right, a woman with blonde hair is wearing a black top. The table is set with glasses, bottles, and a small plant. The background shows other people and a lamp.



presents

# Nutcracker Sweeties



## EY IRELAND PARTNERSHIP



In September we were proud to announce renewed partnership with EY Ireland. The company was named as this year's title partner for Nutcracker Sweeties. This relationship has grown over the last years; it is through strong partnerships and aligning with a company that shares values that we can grow Ballet Ireland and expand the work that we are doing.

*"I am very proud of today's announcement of both our Nutcracker Sweeties tour and that of our title sponsor, EY. It is through strong partnerships and aligning with a company that shares values that we can grow Ballet Ireland and expand the work that we are doing. EY and Ballet Ireland first partnered for Swan Lake in 2019. Our relationship has grown stronger over the years enabling us to look forward to the future with confidence and pride."*

Anne Maher, CEO & Artistic Director of Ballet Ireland



*"Ballet Ireland is an incredible company which provides the opportunity for men and women across the island of Ireland to become highly skilled dancers, while also cultivating the future talent of ballet. We are proud to work with them to help make their productions more accessible to audiences everywhere and we are delighted to be supporting such high calibre performers. The arts community is incredibly vibrant on the island of Ireland and we are pleased to celebrate the fantastic contribution that Ballet Ireland makes in this space."*

Niamh O'Beirne, EY Ireland Partner and Head of Business and People Consulting

# FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

Our Fundraising Lunch took place on 8 April in The Merrion to raise funds for the company supporting the company to fulfill its artistic goals. The event also serves as an opportunity to connect with Ballet Ireland, celebrate its achievements, extraordinary dancers, and all the generous patrons and funders who support the company.

In order to maintain our high calibre of performance, we need the support of donors to ensure that we can continue to create the work we are known for. This is essential to our ability to attract world class choreographers and dancers, and for Irish audiences to see exceptional performances.



Corporate sponsors for the 2021 Fundraiser included Boodles, Brown Thomas, Paula Rowan, The K Club, Maples Group and The Merrion.

The luncheon welcomed very special guest speaker Patricia Ward Kelly, widow of legendary dancer, director and choreographer Gene Kelly. This was followed by an elegant luncheon and complimented by a short performance by Ballet Ireland's dancers.





# INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

International Dance Day, 29 April was the final event in a month long series of conversations on what it means to 'transcend borders' in dance.

This event consisted of a round table discussion moderated by Laura Bruña (Rehearsal Director, Ballet Ireland) with Anne Maher, Irish dancer and choreographer Zoë Ashe-Browne, and Brazilian dancer and choreographer, based in Dublin, Anderson de Souza. The guests spoke about diversity and cultural integration, the ability of the art of dance to transcend borders - whether idiomatic or cultural, the connections between dance and other arts, as well as cultural shock and integration.

As part of the conversations, three dancers, Herman Keim (Norway), Ainhoa Segrera (Spain) and Marc Comellas (Spain), were profiled in videos featuring them working in the studio and in conversation with Laura Bruña on life as a dancer and how dance came into their lives.

This event was a collaboration between Instituto Cervantes Dublin, Ballet Ireland, and Dance Ireland.

## ENGAGEMENT:

45 in attendance | Videos have received over 2k views





## 2022 SEASON NUMBERS

17 professional dancers hired  
55 performances took place  
3,500 students took part in workshops  
140 workshops took place  
14,600 social media followers  
2,700 newsletter subscribers  
75,000 website page views



# GOVERNANCE & CAPACITY



# STATEMENT FROM OUR CHAIR



It has been a great honour to continue as Chair in 2022 and a pleasure to report on the great success of Ballet Ireland. Although we began the year with a considered approach with the pandemic still lingering, we were hopeful that artistic programming and education programmes could be fully realised.

With the company's strategy, 'Creating Space for Success' 2022-2025 in place, the board was eager to work and support the executive team to achieve set objectives.

The spring programme, Bold Moves, ensured the return of audiences, eager to see work by international choreographers, Christopher Bruce, Marguerite Donlon and Filipe Portugal.

The success of the company continued through the year with an invitation to perform in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, supported by Culture Ireland. Ballet Ireland also performed at Electric Picnic. The company commissioned a new work, The Glasshouse by Irish choreographer, Roisin Whelan, which was created for young audiences and toured in October. All of this work has attracted enthusiastic audiences, who deepen their connection to the company.

This year's Fundraising Luncheon in The Merrion was very well attended and the occasion was made extra special with the presence of guest speaker Patricia Ward Kelly, widow of legendary dancer, director and choreographer Gene Kelly.

Ballet Ireland gained further support with the announcement that EY Ireland was named the title partner for the company's Nutcracker Sweeties which toured to 14 theatres nationwide. This relationship with EY is a most respected one and built over time with shared values. The continued support of the Arts Council, funders, donors and partners are key to the Ballet's delivery of a long-term artistic vision and its operational sustainability.

Louise Carpendale and Heather Kennedy retired from the board and I would like to thank them for their contribution. We welcome new directors Karen Lowey and Leo Moore.

Artistic Director / CEO Anne Maher and her team are to be commended for delivering a year of dance which engaged audiences and enriched the lives of young people in experiencing dance. With the successes of this past season, Ballet Ireland audiences and supporters can look forward to more world class programming.

I sincerely thank my colleagues on the Board for their time and continued dedication.

  
UNA O'HARE  
BALLET IRELAND, CHAIR



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Balance Sheet	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
Members Funds	€ 116,946	€ 72,091

## Income & Expenditure

Income	€ 1,160,691	€ 717,653
Operating costs	€ 1,115,836	€ 717,653
Interest	€ nil	€ nil
Net surplus / (deficit)	€ 44, 855	€ nil

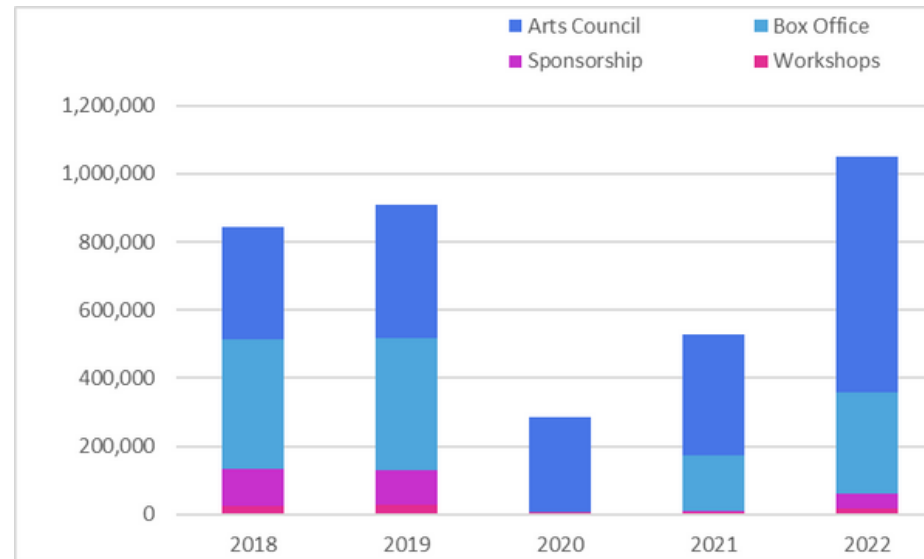


Key financial facts	2022	2021
Touring & Box Office revenue	€ 296,685	€ 164,306
Donations & Sponsorship revenue	€ 43,796	€ 2,818
Arts Council funding	€ 691,115	€ 354,177
Cost of touring & production	€ 443,504	€ 317,377
Marketing & Promotion	€ 155,822	€ 76,055
Salaries & Social Welfare costs	€ 457,247	€ 254,074

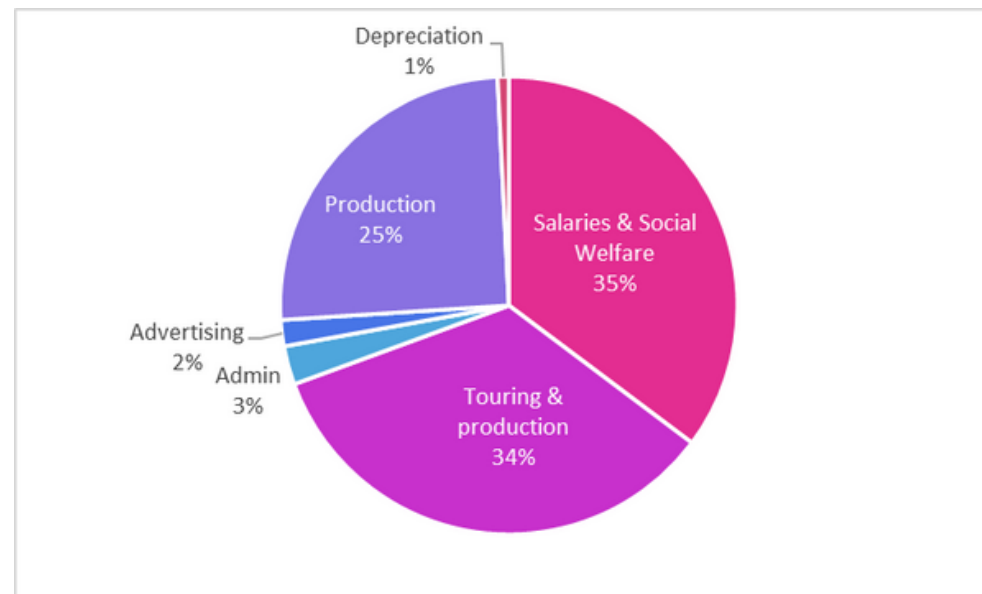


# KEY STATISTICS

## Income sources 2018-2022



## Expenditure 2021

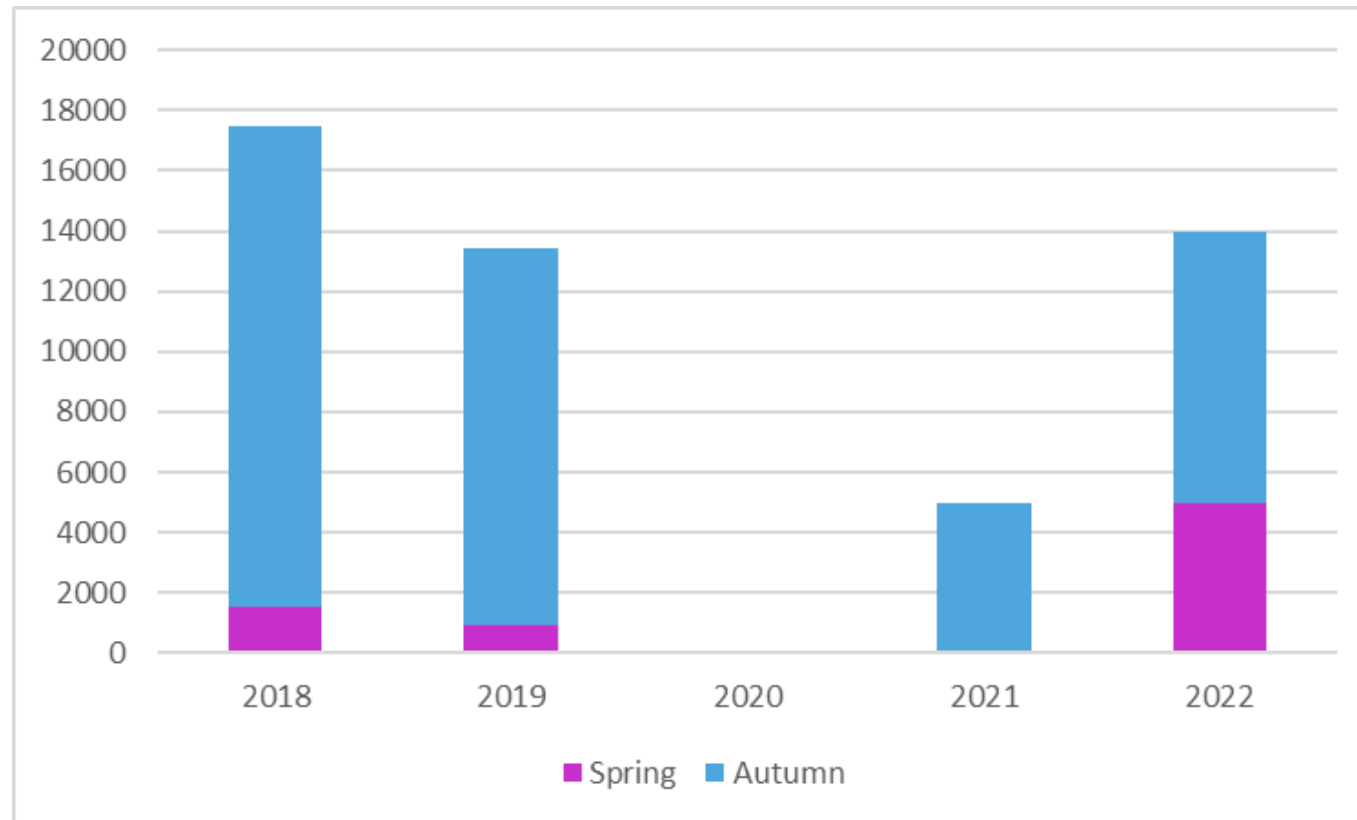




# KEY STATISTICS



Audience Attendance 2018 - 2022



# 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.

## PATRON

President: Michael D. Higgins

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Una O'Hare  
Heather Kennedy (Retired 4 March 2022)  
Simon Henry  
Christopher Conway  
Karen Lowey  
Leo Moore (Appointed 28 July 2022)  
Company Secretary: Karen Lowey (Appointed 12 December 2022)  
Louise Carpendale (Retired 12 December 2022)

## STAFF

Artistic Director / CEO: Anne Maher  
General Manager: Martin Lindinger  
Education Officer: Stephen Brennan  
Marketing Manager: Jeanette Keane

The board's functions are to oversee the organisation's mission, ensuring proper financial management and maintaining good governance.

In 2022, board meetings were held in January, March, May June, 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

SUPPORT FROM OUR FUNDING BODIES, MEDIA SPONSORS AND PATRONS, ALLOW US TO BRING PRODUCTIONS OF THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL QUALITY TO AUDIENCES THROUGHOUT IRELAND.

## MAIN FUNDER



## SUPPORTED BY



## MEDIA PARTNERS



## BOLD MOVES TOUR



## NUTCRACKER SWEETIES TITLE SPONSOR



## CORPORATE PARTNER



## IN RESIDENCE PARTNER



# FRIENDS

Thanks to the generosity of our Friends we are able to present the work we do. Our Friends provide additional support to that already provided by the Arts Council. This ensures that Ballet Ireland can grow artistically and provide an extensive curriculum-based education outreach programme.

## DIAMOND FRIENDS

Christopher Clinton Conway  
Anonymous  
Susanna Braswell

## EMERALD FRIENDS

Gillian Perdue  
Rachel Goode, The Goode School of Dance  
Maria Noonan

## RUBY FRIENDS

David Macken  
Julian M.  
Eamonn McCusker  
Cynthia Ó Dúnláing F.R.A.D.

## SAPPHIRE FRIENDS

Meabh Connolly  
Claire Nolan

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