

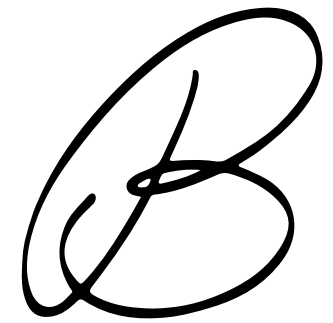


ANNUAL REPORT 2024





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO STATEMENT



2024 promised to be the most exciting year of programming, ambition and growth for Ballet Ireland since its establishment.

Our Bold Moves programme had grown year on year in success and at the beginning of February 2024, we welcomed Yvan Dubreuil to Dublin to stage 'Walking Mad'. Originally created in 2001 for the Nederlands Dans Theatre by Swedish Choreographer Johan Inger, 'Walking Mad' is an iconic work for 9 dancers featuring a 10-metre long wall which is deconstructed in several different ways. Indeed, the dancers dance in front of, on top of, and all around the wall during this incredible work set to Bolero by Maurice Ravel, with additional music by Arvo Pärt. Working with artists of the calibre of the very charismatic stager Yvan Dubreuil is truly a privilege and I know that the dancers of the company learnt a huge amount during their time in the studio with Yvan. Merci beaucoup Monsieur Dubreuil!

The second piece in the programme was a return to the very beautiful 'Stepping Over' by Filipe Portugal. This gorgeous piece is set to the sublime music of Philip Glass. We mounted this work first in 2022 and it was wonderful to have this stunning work return to the stage. As always with the spring season, the aim is to introduce our audiences to a wider range of work which is both entertaining and challenging, work which stretches our dancers and our art form.

In 2023, the Arts Council announced that they were to fund a new full time national dance company. Naturally, we were very excited at the prospect of this and spent months preparing budgets, devising programmes and generally preparing our application. There were three rounds of this for the four shortlisted applicants. Sadly, we were informed in late December of 2023 that it was not to be awarded to Ballet Ireland. So it was a massive blow personally to both myself and my colleague Martin Lindinger to start 2024 on such a low note. We feel strongly this was a huge missed opportunity for both ballet in Ireland, and dance in general in Ireland as the company presents some of the finest quality ballet and contemporary work by some of the most important contemporary choreographers in the world today. This faith in the quality of our dancers has come about due to our reputation and the professional relationships we enjoy internationally.

During the Bold Moves season, we held our annual Fundraising Luncheon at the Merrion. This was once again generously sponsored by Boodles and was a huge success raising over €15,000 - much needed revenue for the company. Our guest speaker this year was Lorraine Barry, chief judge from Dancing with the stars and multiple world champion ballroom dancer. On the morning in question, Dublin ground to a halt with snow, but like the true pro that she is, Lorraine trudged her way through the snow on foot to get to the Merrion. She entertained our guests with her dancing life story which has so many parallels of sacrifice to that of a ballet dancer's.

The summer brought the Summer Intensive which has grown so much in the last three years. This year we ran two weeks and both weeks sold out very quickly. It was a very exciting fortnight watching the cream of young Irish and international talent work so hard under the watchful eye of Irish tutors Niamh O’Flannagain, Ruaidhri Maguire and the return of international tutor Filipe Portugal and a new tutor for BI, Ms. Myrna Kamara. Myrna was a soloist with New York City Ballet for many years and worked with the students sharing with them the work of one of the great American choreographers, George Balanchine.

In August, we began rehearsals for a return to the Electric Picnic Festival which is always such an exciting time for all involved with the company. This year we brought ‘All That Remains’ by Filipe Portugal. It is the first time we have brought a neoclassical work to the festival so we were very curious to see how this would be received by festival audiences. We were rewarded with a hugely positive response and capacity houses. This is such a fabulous event for us to be part of as it really allows us to be ‘discovered’ by a new audience who will hopefully seek us out and continue to attend performances in more traditional settings.

In September, we were delighted to be invited to guest in Melissa Hamilton’s Gala performances at the Grand Opera House in Belfast. We performed alongside principal guest artists from the Royal Ballet company and English National Ballet.

We were back in the studio in October in preparation for our autumn season of ‘Nutcracker Sweeties’. This is a firm audience favourite and of course, so important for the company as it is our main touring season. The tour was a huge success both financially and artistically and we finished the year on a high just before Christmas.

Finally, some thanks to those who have left us and newcomers: Our thanks go to Stephen Brennan, long time Education Officer who left the company in June. Thanks also to Jeanette Keane who has worked with the company in various capacities for a number of years. Welcome to Stephanie Courtney who joined us in September as digital marketing manager. Stepping down from the Board was Christopher Clinton Conway, our thanks to him and a warm welcome to Dearbhalla Baviera who joined the Board.

My thanks to all of the dancers, creatives and crew who make working with Ballet Ireland such a fulfilling experience and a special thanks to my colleague Martin Lindinger for his tremendous hard work and attention to detail that he brings to everything he does. Finally, a huge thank you to our Chair Una O’Hare who has supported and guided us through so much and does so with such ease and care. I am eternally grateful to her and the rest of the Board.




Anne Maher
Ballet Ireland, Artistic Director / CEO



OUR MISSION

To create and present compelling ballet work which inspires, includes, invigorates and educates through its relevance to audiences of today.

OUR VISION

To be an internationally acclaimed, collaborative and inclusive contemporary ballet company.



OUR VALUES



EXCELLENCE

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

EQUALITY & 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.



PRODUCTIONS

37
PERFORMANCES

14
VENUES

14,301
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

36
DANCERS EMPLOYED

4
CHOREOGRAPHERS



BOLD MOVES 2024

This was the final programme in the Bold Moves series. Ballet Ireland started its journey of presenting world-class contemporary work by internationally acclaimed choreographers in 2019. Since then, the company has successfully performed work by Aszure Barton, Christopher Bruce, Marguerite Donlon, Ohad Naharin, Filipe Portugal, Ludovic Ondiviela and Zoë Ashe-Browne.

This year, the company presented Johan Inger's 'Walking Mad'. Set to the well known music of Ravel's Bolero and Arvo Pärt's Für Alina, this intense (and sometimes comical) romp through scenes created by nine dancers and an ever-changing wall was a memorable experience for our Irish audiences.

Set to the Tirol Concerto by Philip Glass, Filipe Portugal's 'Stepping Over' wowed audiences in our 2022 season with its dazzling precision and artistic elegance. It returned to Bold Moves in 2024.

O'Reilly Theatre, Dublin

Friday 22, Saturday 23 March, Tuesday 26 - Saturday 30 March 2024.



ENGAGEMENT:

7 performances reaching 1,381 audience members.

“...impressive in skill and winning in warmth.

- Irish Independent





FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

The 2024 Fundraising Lunch was held on Friday 1 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.

This support is crucial for attracting world-class choreographers and dancers, ensuring that Irish audiences experience outstanding performances.

Corporate supporters for the 2024 Fundraiser included Boodles, Brown Thomas, The K Club, Maples Group, The Merrion, and Silk Prestige. The luncheon 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.

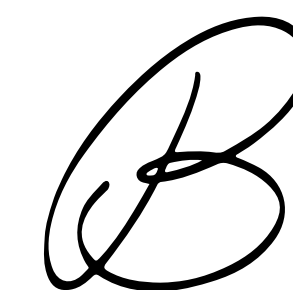


106

Attendees

€15K

Raised





SUMMER INTENSIVE

The Ballet Ireland Summer Intensive took place over two weeks this year from Monday 29 July to Saturday 10 August at DanceHouse, Dublin.

The distinguished faculty included Hayley Cunningham, Myrna Kamara, Ruaidhrí Maguire, Niamh O'Flannagain and Filipe Portugal.

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, guided by renowned teachers.

“ 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



93

Students took part



ELECTRIC PICNIC FESTIVAL 2024

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 All That Remains on Friday 16 & Saturday 17 August.

This year marked the company's third 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.



MELISSA HAMILTON'S GRAND BALLET GALA

Ballet Ireland joined Melissa Hamilton for her Grand Ballet Gala at the Belfast Opera House on Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October.

The programme featured established and rising stars of the ballet world, and showcased excerpts from much-loved ballet classics combined with innovative modern contemporary works. Ballet Ireland performed an excerpt from Filipe Portugal's All That Remains.

This year marked the company's first ever appearance at the Belfast Opera House, providing an opportunity to increase engagement and reach new audiences.

“

To have the opportunity to bring world-class ballet and dance to my home stage in Belfast and celebrate where my passion for ballet began, is an honour. I am thrilled that so many exceptional artists and companies will be joining us for what I hope will be an entertaining and inspirational show for audiences across Northern Ireland.

Melissa Hamilton



ENGAGEMENT

3 performances reaching 3,150 audience members.



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NUTCRACKER SWEETIES



Ballet Ireland, in association with EY Ireland, presented our hugely popular *Nutcracker Sweeties* at 11 venues across Ireland, including five performances at The Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

For people who have never seen a ballet, *Nutcracker Sweeties* is the perfect introduction to this extraordinary art form.

Ballet Ireland is deeply invested in reaching new and diverse audiences by creating ballets everyone can enjoy.

More than any other ballet, the story of The Nutcracker is charming and joyous, and in the creative hands of Ballet Ireland, *Nutcracker Sweeties* is a vibrant, unforgettable ballet. It is inventive, playful, theatrical, incredibly entertaining, and beautifully performed by a world class company.

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 *Nutcracker Sweeties* sent audiences away with delighted smiles and full hearts.



NUTCRACKER SWEETIES 2024 TOUR DATES

Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey Sat 2 & Sun 3 Nov

Town Hall Theatre, Galway Fri 8 & Sat 9 Nov

Gaiety Theatre, Dublin Wed 13 - Sat 16 Nov

Market Place Theatre, Armagh Wed 20 Nov

Solstice Arts Centre, Navan Fri 22 & Sat 23 Nov

Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick Wed 27 & Thur 28 Nov

National Opera House, Wexford Sat 30 Nov

Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray Tue 3 & Wed 4 Dec

Draíocht, Blanchardstown Fri 6 & Sat 7 Dec

glór, Ennis Tue 10 & Wed 11 Dec

Siamsa Tíre, Tralee Fri 13 & Sat 14 Dec



ENGAGEMENT

This ballet was performed in 11 theatres giving 24 performances to 8,878 audience members.





STATEMENT FROM OUR CHAIR

It has been a pleasure to continue as Chair in 2024. It was another exciting and successful year for the company.

Our Spring season featured the world renowned choreographer Swedish born Johan Inger's Walking Mad. The double bill also featured Filipe Portugal's stunning piece Stepping Over.

The Merrion was once again the venue for our annual fundraising lunch. Our guest speaker was Loraine Barry of 'Dancing with the Stars' who entertained us with stories of starting ballroom dance in Dublin at the age of four to becoming World Champion several times.

The company made its annual pilgrimage to the Electric Picnic Festival and the contemporary programme was very well received by festival goers.

In October, the company travelled to the Belfast Opera House to perform with Melissa Hamilton, Principal Soloist with the Royal Ballet. All four performances were sold out as Melissa and the dancers enjoyed a rapturous return to her native Belfast.

The autumn season saw the return of Nutcracker Sweeties. The production was performed in the Gaiety Theatre and visited ten other venues nationwide. We are absolutely delighted with the continued support from EY.

Many thanks to the Arts Council, friends and partners and to my fellow directors for their support and advice.

Finally, sincere thanks to Anne Maher CEO/Artistic Director and Martin Lindinger General Manager and all the team. Their dedication and hard work knows no bounds.

Una O'Hare
Ballet Ireland, Chair

EY IRELAND PARTNERSHIP

In September we were proud to announce our 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.

“

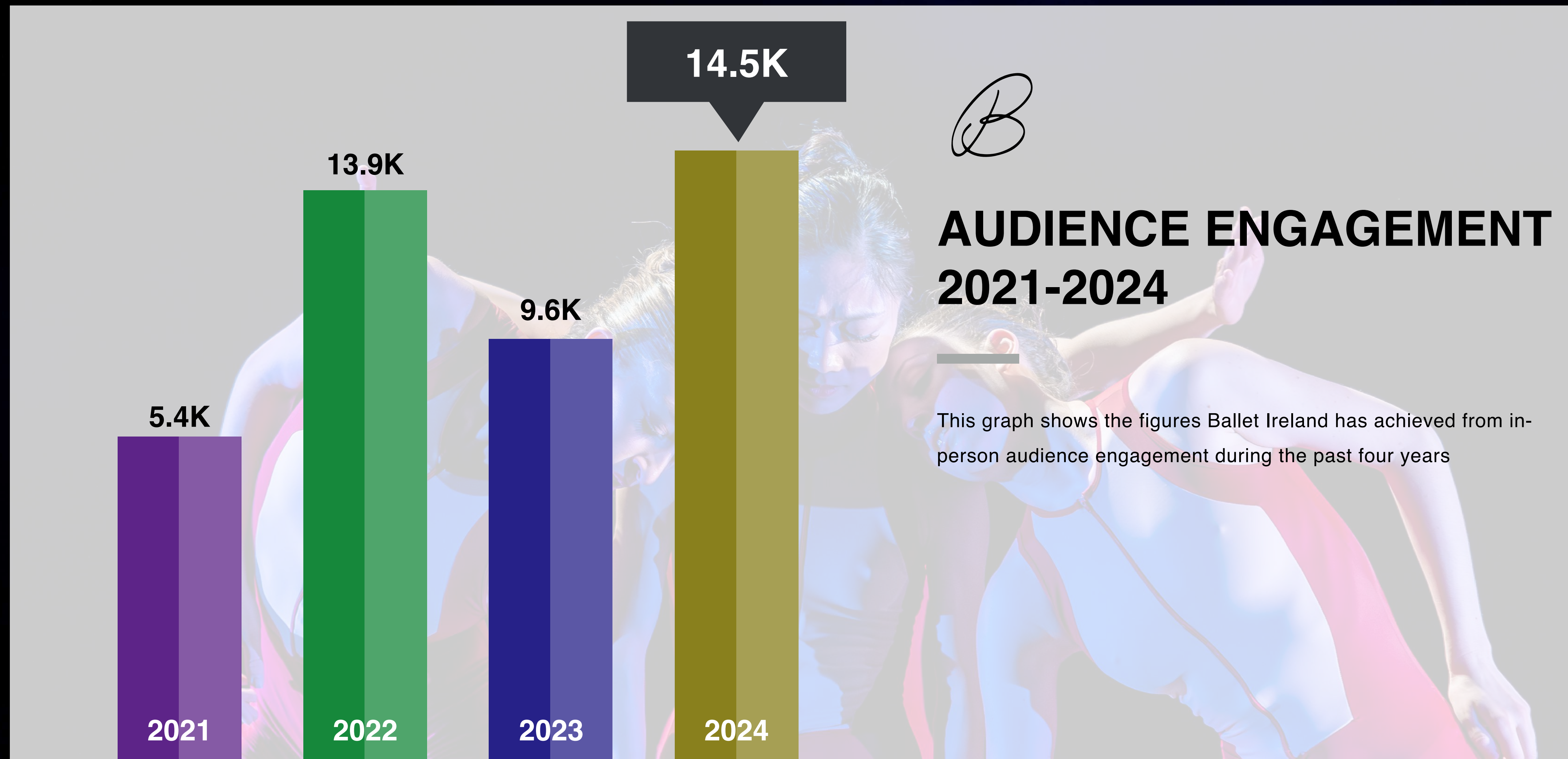
EY Ireland is proud to once again partner with Ballet Ireland, to enable this tour of Nutcracker Sweeties across the island of Ireland. Our partnership is rooted in a shared vision of making the arts accessible, so that they can be appreciated and enjoyed by all. The arts community plays a key role in our cultural landscape, and we are really pleased to be able to support Ballet Ireland's festive tour of Nutcracker Sweeties.

Niamh O'Beirne

EY Ireland Partner and Head of Business and People Consulting

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ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Year end 31 December 2024



9.2K

Facebook followers (2K increase from 2023)

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT 2024 = 126K

7K

Instagram followers (2K increase from 2023)

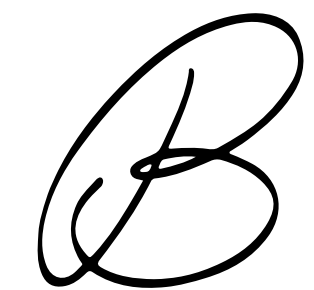
TOTAL ENGAGEMENT 2024 = 300K

3K

Email subscribers

1.2M

Website visitors (110K increase from 2023)



INCOME SOURCES 2024

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



2024

€48K
Members Funds

€1.033M
Total income

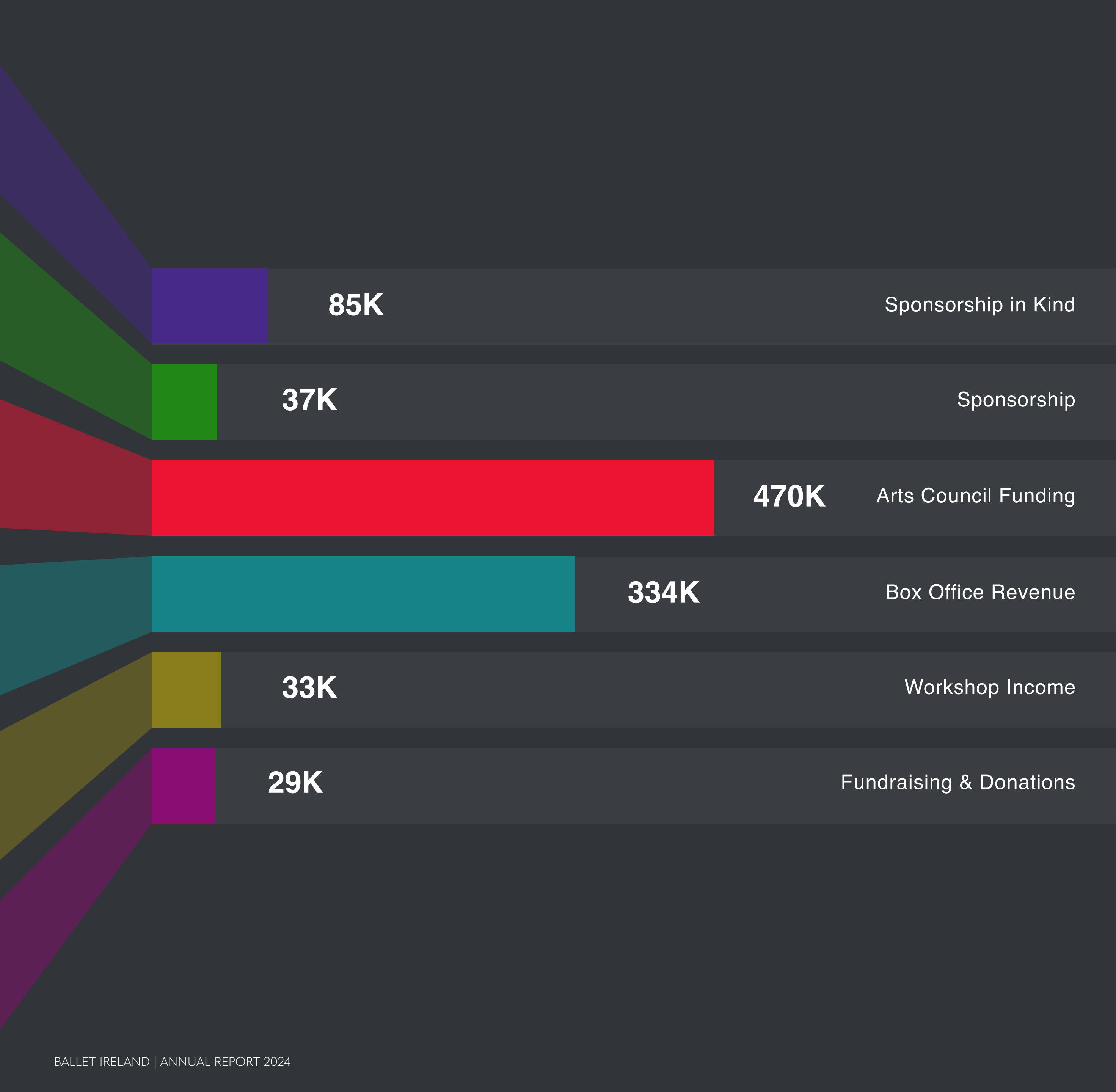
€1.039M
Operating costs

2023

€54K
Members Funds

€871K
Total income

€933K
Operating costs



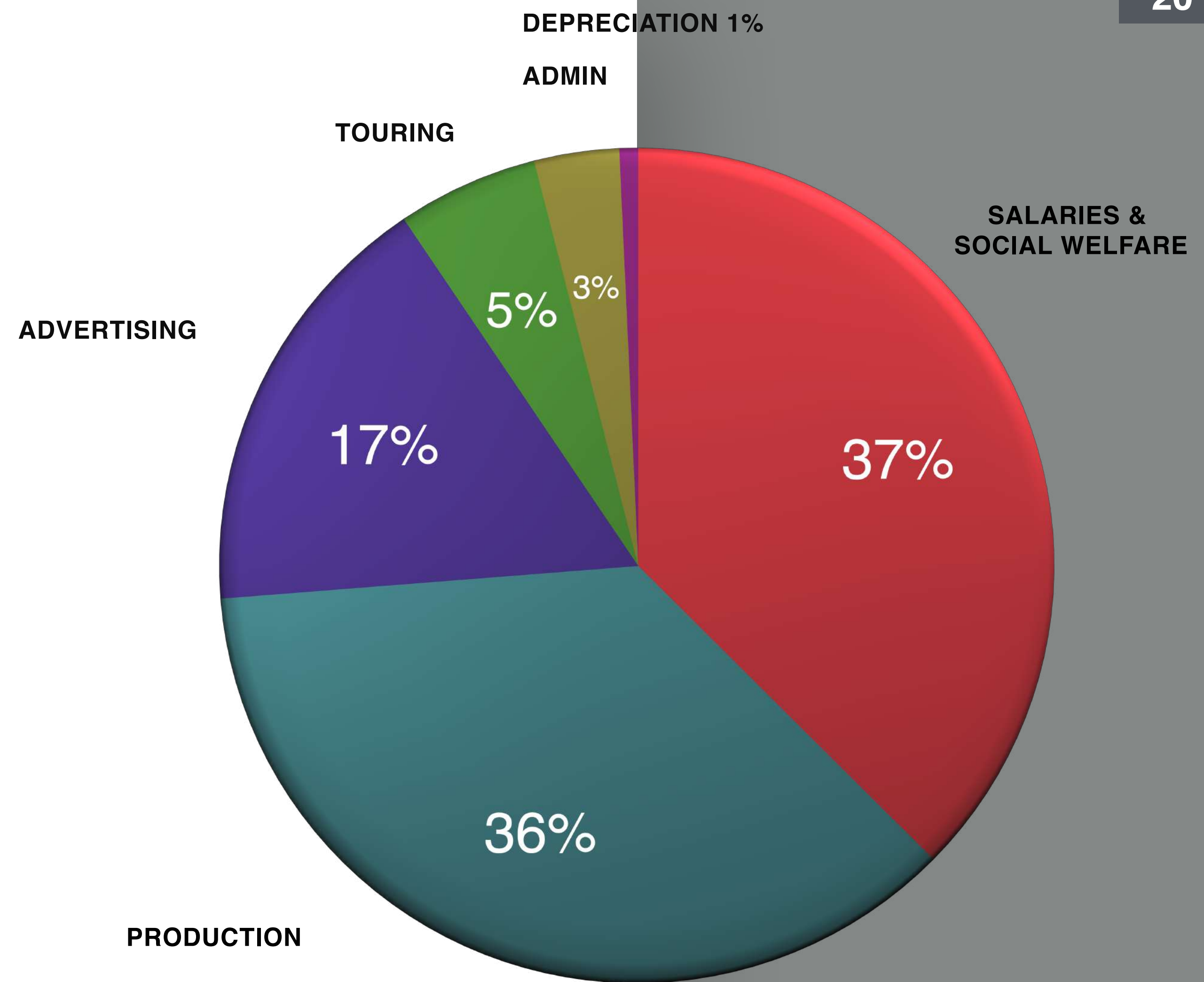


EXPENDITURE 2024

What we spent our funds on



	2024	2023
Salaries & Social Welfare costs	€353,041	€376,677
Cost of touring & production	€362,911	€315,318
Marketing & Promotion	€167,697	€105,278



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
Chair: Una O'Hare
Secretary: Karen Lowey
Dearbhalla Baviera (appointed to the Board April 2024)
Róisín Cahillane
Jeremy Erwin
Leo Moore
Graham Reid

STAFF:
Artistic Director / CEO: Anne Maher
General Manager: Martin Lindinger
Education Officer: Stephen Brennan
Marketing & Communications Manager: Jeanette Keane
Digital Marketing Manager: Stephanie Courtney

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

In 2024, board meetings were held in January, March, April, June, July, September, November & December.

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, allows us to bring productions of the highest international quality to audiences throughout Ireland.



MAIN FUNDER:



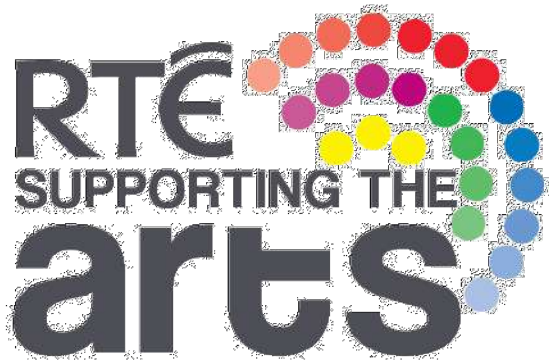
NUTCRACKER SWEETIES
TITLE PARTNER:



ADDITIONAL FUNDING:



MEDIA PARTNER:



FUNDRAISING PARTNER:



SUPPORTED BY:

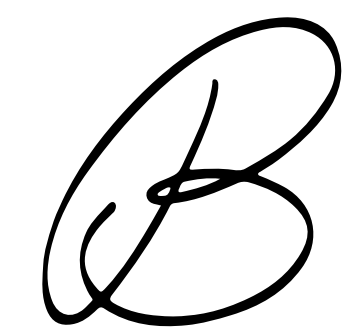


FRIENDS



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
Christopher Clinton Conway
Julian M.
Anonymous



RUBY FRIENDS

Charles Houghton
Eamonn McCusker
Cynthia Ó Dúnlaing F.R.A.D.



EMERALD FRIENDS

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



SAPPHIRE FRIENDS

Max Ditroilo
Emer McKiernan
Dara Pierce
Gillian Wells





In the five years since its creation, Ballet Ireland's 'Bold Moves' has grown from outreach initiative to a showcase of cutting-edge dance from around the world.

- The Irish Times





BALLETIRELAND.IE

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