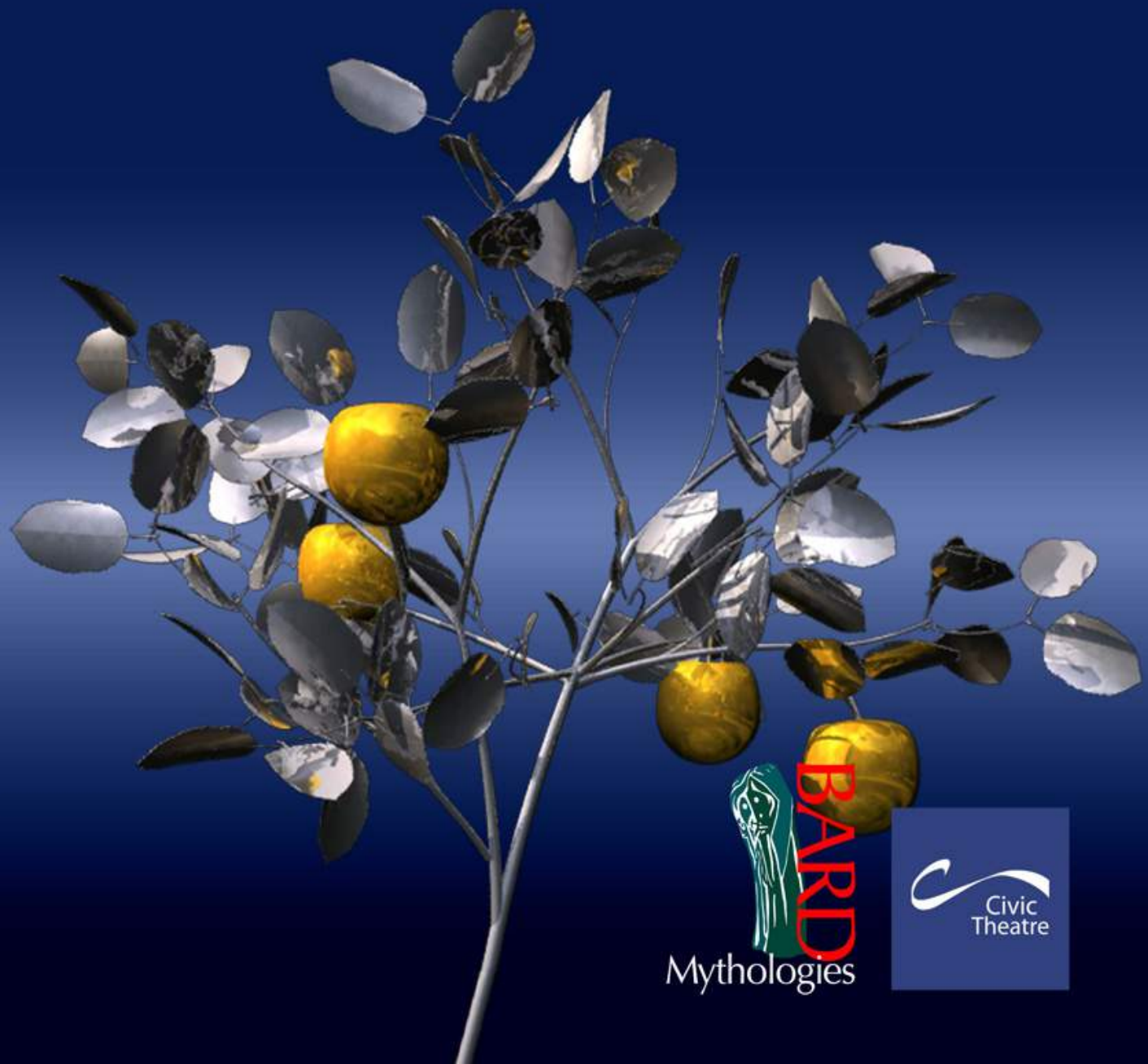


Civic Bard Quest

Collaboration between
Bard Mythologies and the Civic Theatre

Old Stories, New Thinking,
A Call to Awaken



**BARD**
Mythologies



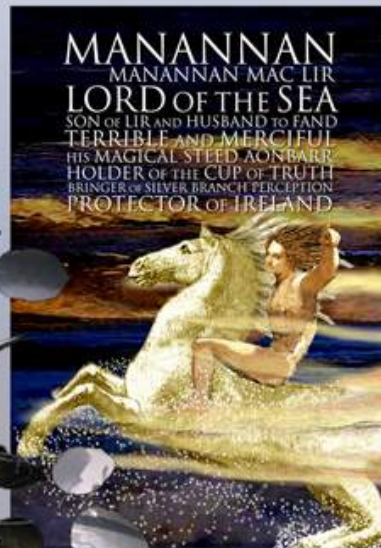


The Civic Bard Quest Old Stories, New Thinking: A Call to Awaken

This coming February 2018, you are invited to the Civic Theatre in South Dublin to a journey of renewal and to rediscover the lost way of the Bard.

In ages past theirs was a most treasured task; guardians of a hoard of priceless tales, Bards helped define who we were and who we could and should be. Their worldview was one that recognised the primacy of myth and its power to shape a shared consciousness from within a culture brimming with contradictions yet, at its centre, still capable of being in harmony with the sacred natural order. The Bard was thus he or she who valued and developed the perceptive skills to see deeply. In Irish myth some named this silver branch perception, the gift of grace bestowed by Manannon Mac Lir, master of the deep.

Using the ancient Gaelic four mythic cycles as our guide: Mythological, Ulster, Fenian and King, we invite thinkers, activists, actors, writers, indeed anyone with a story to discover and the will to tell it - to join with us throughout the course of the year as we dive deeply once more into the great well of stories that have the power to make us see what it is to be truly human.



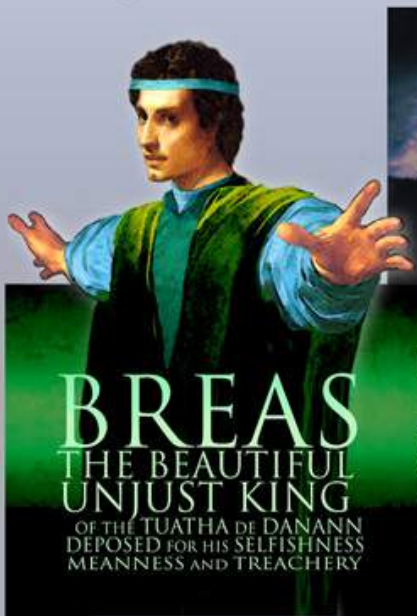
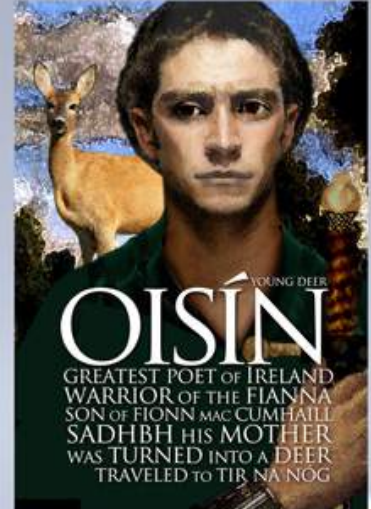
The Coordinators and the Approach

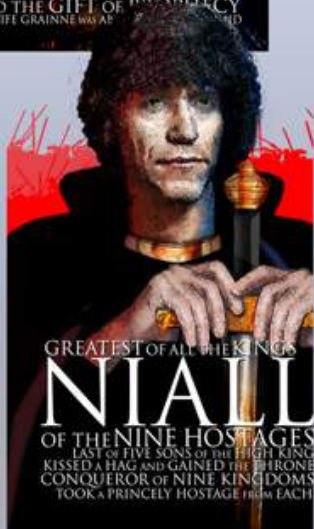
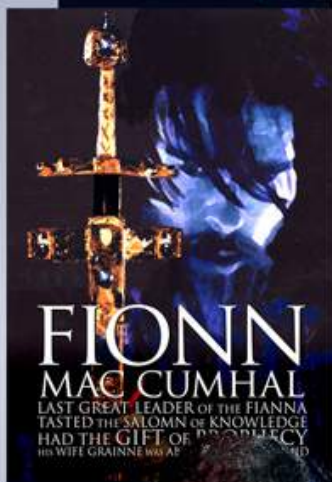
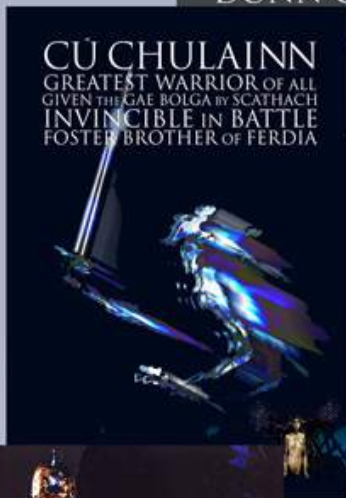
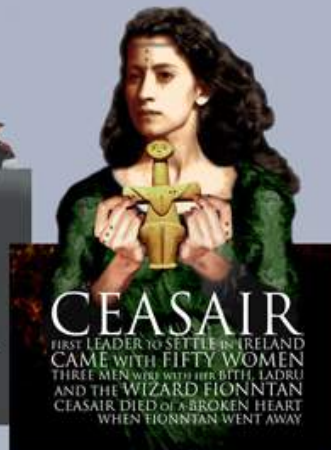
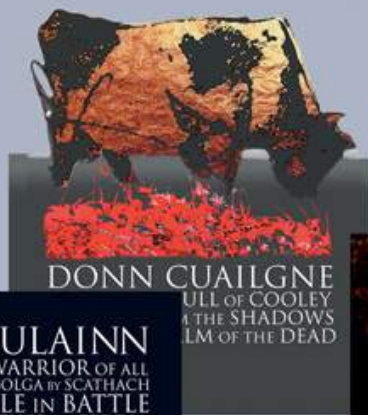
Led by Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop and Sandy Dunlop from Bard Mythologies, and in conjunction with the team at the Civic, this dynamic process will utilise a range of approaches - including group discussion, role play, exploration and experiment. Participants will be facilitated to harrow the myths, through immersion in the world of Irish Myth by journeying as they will from passive listener to active story maker.

Ellen and Sandy have coordinated the Bard Summer School over 20 years. Their careers made considerable use of myth to make sense of modernity in both social and commercial sectors in Ireland and Internationally. They have lived and worked in South Dublin for most of their professional lives.

The Civic

Situated in Tallaght at the foothills of South Dublin County where, among other great legends, the story of Oisín's journey to and from Tir na nÓg begins and ends, the Civic theatre serves as a space where the enquiring mind can seek new ways to bring life to old tales. As a keystone in our ongoing development process, which looks to bring artists, thinkers, poets and other story makers together all under one roof, we look forward to welcoming you onboard the Civic Bard Quest.





What Happens: An Immersion in Myth

Each weekend will be focused on one of the four cycles of Irish Myth: Mythological, Ulster, Fenian and King. We begin with a **telling** of the myth, followed by an opportunity to **immerse** more deeply in the story. As a group we then **analyse** the story before **reflecting** on its contemporary relevance and meaning. Our task then is to think through how we might want to be a teller of the story in whatever form we are comfortable.

Weekend 1: Mythological Cycle.

This cycle outlines the Irish unique Myth of Origin, the Book of Invasions and offer an explanation of where do we come from.

Weekend 2: Ulster Cycle.

This cycle explores the Myth of the Warrior in the epic Tain and offers a basis for exploring the warrior archetype then and now.

Weekend 3: Fenian Cycle.

This cycle looks at the hero outside the tribe in the myth of Fionn MacCumhail and its associated wisdom tradition.

Weekend 4: King Cycle.

This cycle introduces the kings and the inherent insights as to what constitutes a good leader whose land and people will prosper.



Myth in Thought and Action

A) Developing Competence

Participants in an ancient Bardic School would have developed certain ways of seeing deeply into matters social, cultural and political. We call it silver branch perception. These are valuable competences, then and are valuable competences now.

In addition to the Immersions in Myth, we offer additional days to develop these skills:

Analysing Modern Media and Culture

In particular, sharing skills to analyse story, advertising, film and various forms of persuasion.

Making Networks Work

There are critical processí skills to ensure the communities are creative, united and deliver results and that they stay united.

B) Experimenting with Politics, Law and Culture

There is much powerful, radical and progressive thought in Medieval Irish Literature which will be explored during the year in a variety of ways:

- 1) **On Law:** From a legal perspective, medieval Irish laws, the Brehon Laws. This body of law is surprisingly modern in its approach to timeless issues.
- 2) **On Politics:** Irish Myth can also be seen as a 'Mythology of Distributed Power'. Centralising power and establishing hierarchies was not necessarily seen as a good thing.
- 3) **On Culture:** understanding the cultural effects of an on-going dialogue through storytelling and drama with the foundation myths of the culture.





The Journey Calendar 2018

Invitation 1: Imbolc - Mythological Cycle

2nd February 7pm - 9pm
Where do we come from? Irish Creation Myths

3rd February 10.30am - 5.30pm:
Cesair, Fintan and the three wisdoms of Ireland

3rd March 10.30am - 5.30pm:
Analysing Modern Media and Culture



Invitation 2: Beltane - Ulster Cycle

11th May 7pm - 9pm:
Defence of the Realm, Cuchulain, Ferdia, Emer

12th May 10.30am - 5.30pm:
The Tain and re-imagining the Warrior

9th June 10.30am - 5.30pm:
Brehon Law Court: Experiencing medieval Irish Law



Invitation 3: Lughnasadh - Fenian Cycle

13th July 7.00pm - 9.00pm:
The Wisdom of the Outlaw - hero outside the tribe

14th July 10.30am - 5.30pm:
Exploring Fionn McCumhail and the hero outside the tribe along with the Fianna and their heroic code.

28th July 10.30am - 5.30pm:
Building community, building tribe. The Skills to get the network that is a community to work



Invitation 4: Samhain - King Cycle

2nd November 7.00pm - 9.30pm:
Myths of Kingship, Cormac, Conaire, Niall

3rd November 10.30am - 5.30pm:
Re-Imaging leadership in a distributed power world.

1st December 10.30am - 5.30pm:
Re-imagining Politics: Experiencing new forms of collective decision making.

Cost and Booking Options

Our Introductory Costs and Offers:

Cost for each Quarter €125

Special offer for first two cycles * €225

Special offer for the full year * €440

* payable in €220 instalments due by 31st January and 30th July 2018.

Limited spaces available so booking in advance is advised. Bookings available either via the Civic box office on 01-4627477 or via the website at www.civictheatre.ie

BURSARY AWARDS

There are also a limited number of bursary awards covering up to 50% of the fees for artists, writers, actors, and other non-full time employed community activists who are interested in this project. To apply, simply email the reasons you believe you qualify, the amount required (up to 50%) and why you are interested in taking part (maximum of 500 words) plus an up to date CV to marking you email application BARD BURSARY. Closing date for bursary applications is 19th January 2018.





**BARD**
Mythologies


Civic
Theatre