

Investment in Cultural Inclusion

The Creative Ireland programme at Wexford County Council has invested in a creative partnership between residents of direct provision centres in south County Wexford and The National Opera House Education and Outreach programme. Entitled *Who Am I Now*, the project sees the development of a new music and dance composition that supports the exchange of cultural knowledge, and highlights pathways towards a new and more inclusive expression of modern Irish identity

Through a series of rehearsals and workshops focusing on dance, drama and music, the residents of the Direct Provision Centres will devise and develop a performance that interprets their arrival in Ireland, their experience of seeking international protection, and their hopes for community and togetherness in the future.

Accompanied by a musical score composed and performed by traditional Irish music band Tulua, the performance will be showcased by our new communities as part of the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in August 2024.

Cathaoirleach of Wexford Cllr. Pip Breen says: *'The 'Who Am I Now' project is a great opportunity to enhance communication and understanding between communities and individuals. Cultural expression enables us to tell each other who we are and sets the scene for who we might become. This project not only helps to preserve our cultural heritage, but also highlights the value that cultural diversity will bring to Irish identity now and in the future.'*

'Who Am I Now' will be performed at The National Opera House on Wednesday 7th August at 7.30 pm. Tickets are €10 or €5 concession and can be purchased through the Wexford Arts Centre Box Office (Y35 X5HF), over the phone 053 912 3764 or online from the Fleadh Ticketsolve. For more information about this project please contact elizabeth.howard@wexfordcoco.ie

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