

Encore Productions Residency Round Up: Jan – Feb 2020

After a well-earned Christmas break the cast and crew of Encore Productions rolled the wagon way out West and played the final show of 'Courage' to a sell-out crowd at the O'Donoghue Theatre, NUI Galway. The Brecht show had been an epic undertaking by all concerned but the feedback on the show was amazingly positive – the production and performances - the intent and seriousness -the consensus being that we had done Brecht's anti-war vision proud.

Now into our second year of the residency we have begun work on an adaptation of Thornton Wilder's 1931 Pulitzer Prize winning 'Our Town'. Originally set in a small American town, we shall use the plays 3 part structure –Daily Life, Love and Marriage and The Afterlife to reflect upon the experience of living in and around Dundalk in the early 21st century.

We plan to run workshops with diverse community groups to and their voices and perspectives to the work. To this end we have been contacting schools and community groups as well as local media, Libraries and Museums to help us reflect upon contemporary Ireland.

For our first year, we had a cast of 14 actors. In this 2nd year we are adding some new participants to the process to allow them to build up their own theatre skills and assist with the devising and research process.

We are hugely excited about bringing the life of Dundalk to the stage of its own theatre. Look out in local media for ways in which you may be able to add your voice to this production!