

Encore Productions Residency Round up November 2021

Well, we did it! A live show with live actors and a live audience here in Dundalk! The whole cast and crew were delighted with the way all the elements came together in the end. It's always a battle against the clock and the gremlins – bringing lights and video, actors and props, costume and crew together for those sacred 90 minutes communing with an audience ...but over 3 days before a combined audience of over 300 the tale of 'AESOP' was conjured into being.

Feedback from audiences, press and other theatre practitioners was overwhelmingly positive. The sense of normality that seeing something real happening 'in the flesh' was a welcome tonic to many. That the piece happened at all was an achievement in itself, but for it to meet with such praise for its style and substance – the videos and animation – the costumes and acting – the story itself, was an absolute joy.

The tales of AESOP are ancient yet continue to resonate. So many of them have an underlying message of – 'DON'T GIVE UP', 'KEEP GOING' and a reassurance that being fair and kind and true to yourself will get you through in the end. Here's hoping!

Although no doubt in need of a rest, Encore will not sit on their laurels for long and work will soon begin on a new piece to be premiered in 2022. In the meantime we will wind up our exploration into Greek Theatre with some mask making workshops with artist Orlaith Cullinane (creator of the animations in AESOP) and some mask acting workshops with actors from Quintessence Theatre Company.

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