

## Encore Productions Residency Round up January 2022

*St Brigid brings the spring...*

With little crosses of rushes and a stretch in the evenings there's a definite sense of renewal. So it is with Encore productions as we look toward our year and our new production of ...A Midsummer night's dream. It may still be a winter moving toward a spring but our thoughts are firmly in the sultry Athenian forests as the romantic runaways, the jealous and jilted, the comical mechanicals and the feuding fairies. The play itself is deliberately confusing – rather than many Shakespeare plays which just *are* confusing – so it took us most of the month to get our head round the twists and turns of the love triangles in the plot. Now, with the cast of characters allocated to the actors we are ready to bring it to life through role play, artwork, creative writing and photography before tackling the script itself.

In the meantime we had a brilliant couple of workshops with Anna from Quintessence Theatre Company looking at the fundamentals of mask work. Powerful and challenging we enjoyed exploring the techniques and will definitely look at how we can integrate these new skills into our practice. Thanks Anna!

Finally, on a note of joy, we were delighted to welcome Oliver Hanratty back to An Tain after his hospitalisation due to Covid. Well done Oliver – welcome back!!!

Encore Productions.