

Delights online and outdoor at Baboró

Baboró International Arts Festival for Children opened in Galway on Monday with a programme of in-person events and a wide range of online activities to enjoy from home, and from school classrooms.

In light of the Government announcement to move to Level 3 of the Plan for Living with COVID-19, Baboró is now unable to present indoor events. However, Baboró's online and outdoor programme will proceed as planned

until 18 October.

This year's festival was designed to acknowledge the bravery and resilience of children. Baboró's programme of exciting online events will also include two recently announced Facebook live performances; one from Paul Noonan, the acclaimed frontman of Bell X1, will now perform a concert on Baboró's Facebook page on Saturday 17 October at 3pm. Meanwhile Galway's very own The Barceló Brothers will perform a

Facebook live concert this Sunday 11 October at 3pm. The original indoor concerts were cancelled under Level 3.

Commenting on the latest Government announcement, Executive Artistic Director Aislinn Ó hEocha said: "Baboró is very much underway and while we are disappointed that we are unable to present live performances under Level 3 restrictions, we invite schools, children and families to engage with our online and outdoor programme. Creativity can help us all to make some sense of this world and that is needed now more than ever. This has been - and continues to be - a very challenging time for everyone and it has always been our determined wish to provide opportunities for children and families to celebrate together. It may be a different kind of festival this year, but the artists and all the team remain committed to sprinkling some Baboró magic.

Some of the online highlights include Mountain Goat Mountain from Australian theatre company Threshold described as "A perfect way to spend an afternoon with children". There's also The University of Wonder & Imagination, a fun, interactive group experience for audiences 7+ that will be broadcast live into homes and schools from Belfast-based Cahoots NI. For all the online events see <https://www.baboro.ie/>

NOW ON: OUTDOORS

Keep your eyes peeled for temporary, nature-based art installations created by Toodlelou Creativity Lab - Colour My Life: Brighten your Day - which will pop up in three Galway city parks; Millennium Children's Park, University Road; the Circle of Life Commemorative Garden, Salthill and Merlin Woods Park, Doughgiska Road. These installations will aim to brighten the day

of those who encounter them and you're also invited to create your own artworks to add to them. 5 - 18 October.

Coming to our TV screens, Scéalta ó Baboró is a series of readings for young children by Irish authors broadcast on TG4, filmed at iconic spots around Galway in a collaboration between Baboró and TG4. Watch on TG4's Cúla4 Ar Scoil at 10am & 4pm from 12-15 October.

Jojo Hynes' exhibition, She Crashes In and Fizzles Out, at Galway Arts Centre regrettably had to close under Level 3 restrictions. A virtual tour of the exhibition is available online from 8 October.

Baboró would like to acknowledge its principal funders The Arts Council of Ireland and Galway City and County Councils and the support of Medtronic, TG4, The Ombudsman for Children's Office, and the businesses and venues of Galway City.

Baboró International Arts Festival for Children runs until 18 October. For full details see www.baboro.ie



Paul Noonan presents 'The Electric Kazoo from The Good Room' on Facebook Live as part of Baboró International Arts Festival for Children on Saturday 17 October at 3pm. The indoor concerts by acclaimed frontman of Irish band Bell X1, were cancelled under level 3 restrictions. Baboró's now on until 18 October with an exciting programme of online and outdoor events to enjoy. See www.baboro.ie for full details.

NOW ON: ONLINE PROGRAMME

SARAH MCGINLEY - BABORÓ AMBASSADOR

This year's Baboró International Arts Festival for Children is now on and the spirit of this year's festival is all about acknowledging the bravery of our incredible children, and about recognising how vital young people are to our communities at this time.

Each year we feature individuals who are passionate about Baboró. This week's Baboró Ambassador is Sarah McGinley, Principal of St. Joseph's Special School in Newcastle.

Sarah is also a member of the Galway Community Circus Wires Crossed project and is an active supporter of the arts in Galway. Sarah strives to provide access to as many extra curricular activities as possible for the pupils at St. Joseph's Special School. She tells us how delighted she is to have Baboró coming to the school this week to present an outdoor show in line with the latest Level 3 guidelines.

One of my favourite Baboró memories is usually arriving at the event and being immediately whisked away into an all-inclusive and all-accepting atmosphere. One of the highlights for me was



Egg-tion Hero in 2018. My class went out to a local cafe before the show and made it a total treat day. Within minutes of watching the show our staff and pupils were rolling around laughing. We laughed the whole way back on the bus and had new "in" jokes from then on.

Baboró is important to Galway because it recognises our children, all of them. It reminds us that we have a city full of children who get to be the centre of the arts world during Baboró. Artists connect with our kids and normalise the occurrence of "thinking outside of the box" activities; they help us explore the world around us. Us adults are reminded away into an all-inclusive and all-accepting atmosphere. One of the highlights for me was

events for children with any additional needs. We always feel welcomed and encouraged to participate, and above all St. Joseph's School pupils feel like honoured guests!

I'm really looking forward to this year's Baboró Festival because this week Baboró is visiting the school with an interactive show called Hear our Voice! by Phillida Eves, where a beautiful new world will be set up in our school orchard. Pupils are experiencing music and drama and they are also at the centre of it; they will make the show. Staff and pupils are being transported to a tranquil environment to explore our senses. It's a dream come true for the school community to have this outdoor and socially distant event in St. Joseph's - especially after such a difficult year for everyone. It's really magic.

Baboró International Arts Festival for Children is now on until 18 October. Since the country moved to Level 3 earlier this week, indoor events will not go ahead. However audiences can enjoy ground-breaking digital experiences. For full details see www.baboro.ie

Onwards and upwards... St Columba's Credit Union launch their new IT system and Online Banking Platform



www.galwaycreditunion.ie



Our new IT system and Online Banking Platform was launched on 1st of October. Pictured above are St. Columba's Credit Union Management Team and Director Phil Grealish with the super Progress System Transfer Team. We are delighted to provide improved IT and Digital Services for members to complement our face to face branch network.

For more information please check out our new website www.galwaycreditunion.ie