

Beat: Travel

## **GALWAY 2020 EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF THE CULTURE REINVENT ITSELF**

### **BACK WITH AN EXCITING REDESIGNING PLAN**

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**USPA NEWS** - Despite the ups and downs of an extraordinary year, Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture is back with an exciting redesigned program. From September 2020 to March 2021, over 350 artists from Galway and across Ireland will take part in a series of arts and cultural events celebrating the creativity for which this region of western Ireland is known.

The new program of "Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture" will be both real and virtual, comprising more than 28 projects and hundreds of events still on the original theme "language, landscape and migration". Enough to whet the appetite of culture enthusiasts.

#### **MIRROR PAVILLION (October 11-31)**-----

An installation by Irish artist John Gerrard commissioned by the Galway International Arts Festival for Galway 2020. With three sides and a roof covered with a reflective mirror and a fourth wall featuring a high-resolution LED screen, this remarkable structure is one of the most important ever made in Ireland. Promising exceptional moments and experiences against the backdrop of the Wild Atlantic Way scenery, the Mirror Pavilion will host two different works of art, one on historic Claddagh Quay in Galway (September 3-26) and the other at the spectacular 4000-year-old Derrigimlagh Bog site in Connemara.

#### **MACNAS GILGAMESH (September 1 - November 30)**

Macnas, an internationally renowned entertainment company, will present in Galway a new dramatic interpretation of one of mankind's oldest literary works. The Legend of Gilgamesh is an epic tale from Mesopotamia that follows a young king who sets out on a quest for answers to humanity's fundamental questions about love, power, death and immortality. Gilgamesh's Extraordinary Adventures are set to take place in Galway City, the county of the same name as well as virtually. Macnas will challenge the limits and possibilities of traditional theater and storytelling.

#### **AERIAL / SPARKS, ONLINE & AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON INIS OIRR ISLAND (September 9-27)**

The rugged beauty of Inis Áir, the smallest of the Aran Islands, is the setting of Aerial / Sparks, an invitation to connect live and online with one of the last unknown spaces on earth, the ocean wild. Seven artists, writers and composers from across Europe have produced a series of fascinating works of art for exhibitions and radio broadcasts, inspired by their participation in research expeditions aboard Marine Institute Ireland's RV Celtic Explorer. Virtual program: From September 9 to 11, events organized for Ars Electronica 2020, a world-renowned artistic festival, will accompany the main program through a series of online conversations entitled Garden GALWAY by Aerial / Sparks, between artists and marine scientists. Exhibition: From September 11 to 27, visitors will be able to explore the island on foot and discover sound works installed in a lighthouse, a former handball court, a church as well as in Áras Anna, the most popular arts center in western Europe.

#### **DRUID GREGORY (September 15 - October 17)**-----

Galway 2020 sees the return of the great Irish theater company Druid, which will perform live performances in the fields, woods and gardens of Coole Park, a nature reserve which was the home of Lady Gregory, playwright, folklorist and co-Founder of the famous Abbey Theater in Dublin (also known as the National Theater of Ireland).-----

Performed by a company of 12 actors and musicians, and directed by Garry Hynes, the show, entitled Druid Gregory, offers a tribute to Lady Gregory, comprising six of her one-act pieces as well as an animation on her life and her work. This tribute will be followed by a four-week tour through the towns and communities of Lady Gregory's beloved County, including unique open-air performances at Kylemore Abbey and other iconic sites in the region. Galway 2020's ambitious new schedule goes all out to once again create live experiences for the public in a safe and secure way, while providing those who cannot attend the opportunity to experience memorable moments from home. Further online events are expected to be announced to allow overseas audiences to experience the best of Galway 2020. Source: Galway Capital European

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