

Welcome!



Denis Leonard
Principal

You are welcome to the tenth edition of our college newsletter, the DCFE Tribune, which brings you some highlights of the college year 2020-2021. It was a

year curtailed by Covid but we still managed to fit in many wonderful experiences, trips and achievements. We are delighted that through the hard work of our staff and students, Dunboyne College has always been a safe place to attend each day. Special thanks to everyone that has contributed to this edition and to our editor, Eilish Lavin, who produces and edits this publication.

Dunboyne College is a college with a family

atmosphere which gives students a wealth of learning, enabling, communicating, collaborating, and inspiration each day. We are proud of our staff, our students and their achievements. Dunboyne College, since 2003, has seen thousands of students pass through, gaining qualifications in a diverse range of areas, and progressing either to further studies at higher level, or going directly into the world of work. This year, in September, we welcomed 1,005 students, the first time we went over the 1,000 mark. Many are represented in this edition.

This year has seen record numbers progressing from our college to third level courses and directly to industry. Three hundred and seventy-four (374) students received honours degree, Level 8 offers and two hundred and forty-eight (248) received a Level 7, ordinary degree offer. These figures do not include the many mature students who received early offers and those who took up offers in the UK for Nursing, Law or Sports degrees. In addition to these

students, the majority of the students who studied on the vocational skills courses obtained employment, this is particularly relevant in the service and leisure courses.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and share in the many activities and events of recent weeks. Please keep an eye on our website, www.dunboynecollege.ie, and our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages, which will keep you informed of events as they happen. We will be taking applications right through the year until next September, given the year that is in it, and we hope many students will continue to join in the experiences of Dunboyne College, some of which you will find recorded here.

If you are thinking of coming to us next year, feel free to call in at any stage for more information on our courses and activities.

You can always phone us on, **01 802 6577** or email; dunboynecollege@lmetb.ie; we are delighted to hear from you.

College News and Events

Students Win Scholarships in Second Year of Scholarship Programme

By Irene Togher
Deputy Principal

Eleven DCFE students are the happy recipients of scholarships to reimburse their fees in the second year of the scholarships programme with local businesses and a twelfth student is still to receive an award for attendance at the end of the year.

The scholarships programme matches up a current Dunboyne College student with a company or organisation as that student's sponsor. The sponsor commits to, usually, reimbursing the college fees to the student upon successful completion of the academic year. Basically, each student will

get a cheque at the graduation!

Ten companies took part in the programme this year offering twelve scholarships for which students competed to win. The successful students were:

- Pamela Ryan, Nursing; • Katie Wheeler, Nursing; • Bernie Ennis, Office Accounts;
- Stephen Collins, Graphic Design; • Juan Manual Hernandez Sanchez, Film and Media; • Anastasia Enciu, Journalism;
- Sadhbh Reilly-Tuite, Science; • Ciara Quid, Equine Business Level 6; • Sophie McEntee, Tourism; • Daragh Daly, Music Performance;
- Erin Quinn, Science.

A final student will be awarded a part scholarship for excellent attendance at the end of the year.

The ten companies involved are:

- Alltec Ireland, Dunboyne; • Lyons Financial Services, Dunboyne; • Bluebird Care, Navan;

- Kelly O'Reilly Accounting, Enfield;
- CTK Graphics, Dublin; • Stereosonic, Dunboyne; • Coffee Perfection, Dunboyne; • Shannonside Aviation, Dunboyne; • Synoptix, Celbridge;
- Central Entertainment Bureau, Dunboyne.

The programme offers so many advantages to students like the opportunity to have their fees reimbursed for the academic year; the opportunity to form a relationship with a company or organisation in their vocational area and this may also translate into an opportunity for work experience or an internship and/or a reference for their CV.

Prospective students can find out more about our scholarship programme on our website and new application processes will be flagged in the new academic year.

College News and Events

Embedding a Training and Learning Culture in the Workplace

By Catherine Fox
Deputy Principal

A new type of student has joined Dunboyne College this year. Full-time employees across Meath are now studying in the college.

The employees are enrolled on courses which are funded through a government initiative called Skills to Advance. The courses are offered during the day and at night-time. Employees or employers can have their QQI course funded up to 100% of the course costs through this initiative.

Currently teachers from Dunboyne College are delivering courses online in Training Needs Identification and Design, Care Skills, Spreadsheets, Digital Marketing and Training Delivery and Evaluation.

Among the employers are Johnstown Estate in Enfield, Co. Meath. Investing in the up-skilling of their management team and embedding a learning and development culture were the key motivators for the involvement of the 4-star hotel in the Skills to Advance programme.

Set within 120 acres of parkland in Co Meath, the 4-star luxury resort has used the time during Level 5 restrictions to deliver the Training Needs Identification and Design and Training Delivery and Evaluation Level 6 modules to Heads of Departments in the hotel.

“We opted for both modules after close consultation with Dunboyne College,” says Therese Phipps, Learning and Development Manager, Johnstown Estate.

“We shared with the College our motivation for engaging in the programme and worked on the selection of the courses. At the Johnstown Estate, we are committed to fostering a strong culture of learning and development. LMETB and Dunboyne College have been instrumental in supporting us during this pandemic by providing exceptional learning opportunities for our employees. The experience has been seamless with the development of bespoke training content specific to the hospitality sector. It has been extremely advantageous to the ongoing success of our teams and we look forward to continuing our participation in upcoming courses.”

If you are in employment or employ people and are interested in up-skilling on a part-time basis please contact us in the College.

Daffodil Day Fundraiser

By Susan Clarke
Assistant Principal I

On Wednesday, 24th March this year, DCFE had their first ever online quiz. The quiz was organised by the student union in aid of the Irish Cancer Society and took place through MS Teams. Not only was this the first ever online quiz, it was also our first ever student versus staff event, so things got quite competitive! Over 500 people logged on to take part and raised a staggering €943 for this fantastic cause. Well done to our student union and all involved in this hugely successful event.



Dunboyne College's First Ever Virtual Youth Club

By Eilish Lavin Assistant Principal &
Rose Callan Social Studies Teacher

Our first ever virtual youth club was set up this year, by the, 'Youth and Community Work,' group. The group was set up through an Instagram page which was then followed by many within our student body. This group has been invaluable in a year where learning had to take place predominantly online. The work carried out through the Instagram page has helped to keep students motivated, focused and supported during a particularly difficult year.

The students involved brainstormed planned and executed lots of activities. For example, they ran a lot of activities for

Valentine's Day, coming up with recipes and activities like; make-up (including for guys) and a film night (with different themes). They sent out a survey to ask what the students would like to see on the page and realised assignment pressure and mental health was suffering, due to the isolation and lack of human interaction. Due to this discovery, they decided to focus on mental health supports, such as, the Mental Health Ireland and Jigsaws 5-a-day. They ran an activity for each of the 5 parts including an online meditation.

With a focus on goals, self-care and fun, I think our students would all join in extending a huge thank you to those involved in setting up and running this

fantastic resource. They have been wonderful ambassadors for the college and despite being busy thinking of how to support their fellow students, they still arrived to their online class full of enthusiasm and fun. Particular thanks to Rose Callan, Social Studies teacher and Áine Peppard, Student Union Rep and admin on @dcfeyouthclub.



Animal Care News

By Ashley Rogers

Animal Care Teacher

Following on from our hugely successful Christmas Jumper day and raffle, which raised a total of €630 with €300 of that going to, 'Save Dublin Zoo,' we were delighted to receive a letter and certificate of thanks, pictured below. Once again, it is great to know that the work carried out by our students has made such a difference.

Robert Ballagh Art Competition

By Geraldine Lane

Art and Digital Media Teacher

We were delighted to receive news at the end of March, that three of our students had been announced winners in their category of the Robert Ballagh Art Competition.

Nicole Preece from Graphic Design, won first place for her piece, 'Distorted way we see ourselves,' in the Photography category.

Dylan Kirwan, from Animation, received a Merit 2 for his image, 'Deli,' which was generated in Photoshop.

And finally, Eoin Havern from Animation also received a Merit 2 in the Photography Category for his piece, 'The Baker.'

Huge congratulations to all three students on your fantastic achievement.



Smarter Travel Campus Awards, 2021

By Geraldine Lane

Creative Media Teacher

Clare Blackwell

Art and Digital Media Teacher

Three of our students were nominated for Smarter Travel awards which promotes sustainable travel on college campuses.

Our three nominees are:

Conor Ogedegbe Creative Digital Media
Multimedia-Animation

Cliona Duffy

Graphic Design

Nicole Preece

Graphic Design

And of course, Smarter Travel Campus also acknowledged the fact that these awards can only happen with the hard work, dedication and support shown by lecturers. Therefore, our very own Clare Blackwell received a lecturers' award in the ceremony held in late April. Congratulations Clare!



Virtual Art Exhibition

By Geraldine Lane

Creative Media Teacher

Unfortunately, our traditional, on site, annual art exhibition couldn't take place this year due to Covid19 restrictions. However, this did not stop our fantastic students and teachers from coming up with an alternative. I invite you to feast your eyes and ears on our inaugural online DCFE exhibition of student work from the Computers and Design Department. With a selection of work from the Animation, Architecture, Art Portfolio, Creative Digital Media, Film and Media, Graphic Design, Journalism, Music and Sound and Radio Production Groups, we are very proud of the fantastic work the students have completed this year, and hope you'll enjoy the selection. To view, please follow the link on any of our social media platforms, our website or visit: www.padlet.com/glanedbc/gzr8sgjh44726eh



PROPOSED IDEA OF RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Virtual Learning

As much of our students' year was spent learning online, due to Covid, many of our guest speakers joined us through Teams to impart their specialist knowledge on various subject areas. We would like to say a huge thank you to each and every person who joined us for these important and interesting talks. Here are just some of the topics that were covered:

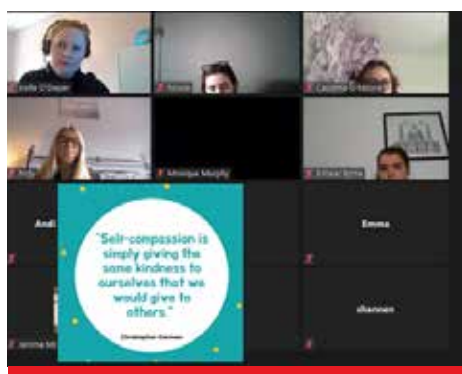
Microsoft & Google Talks

By Maria McDonnell
Business and IT Teacher

Stephen Howell, Education Lead at Microsoft gave a virtual talk via Microsoft teams in December last. The participating groups that attended the call were Computer Systems and Networks 1 and 2 and Online Marketing. The talk centred around daily life at Microsoft, their hiring process and key candidate qualities, as well as, career progression there. There were approximately 20 students present and Deputy Principal, Catherine Fox, gave the opening welcome to Stephen.

In February, after mid-term, Katie Reid, Education Link from Google gave a talk via Google Hangouts to Online Marketing, Computer Systems and Networks 1 and 2, Creative Digital Media, Architectural Technology and Design and Animation. She spoke about their hiring process, a day in the life at Google and also, career development.

Two very inspiring talks for our students.



Pre-University Teaching Workshops

By Aoife O'Dwyer
Pre-University Teacher

The Pre-Teaching students were delighted to welcome guest lecturer Anne Marie Tymlin (M.A. Drama, M.A. Dramatherapy, M.Sc. Bereavement Counselling) for a two-part personal development workshop. The first workshop centred on self-reflection and legacy.

Anne Marie involved the students in personal reflection exercises, examining the, 'Roles,' and their legacy in their own lives and learning journey. The workshop formed part of the learner record assignment for their, 'Concepts in Education and Training module.'

The second work-shop, held in March, focused around the topic, 'Self-care in a caring profession.'

Students participated in self-reflection exercises, explored journaling and planning their own map of strategies for self-care. A very timely experience for the students at a difficult period of disruption to our daily lives and routines.

Crime in Ireland

By Patrice Byrne
Psychology Teacher

Paul Reynolds, Crime Correspondent for RTÉ, joined us in March to deliver a talk on, 'Crime in Ireland.' Both students and teachers found the talk a fascinating peak inside the challenges of reporting on serious crime in Ireland and even got the opportunity to ask Paul some fantastic and relevant questions.



Leadership and Communication

By Patrice Byrne
Psychology Teacher

Carmel Somers, Human Capital Strategist, spoke to our Psychology and Criminology students recently on the topic of Leadership and Communication.

It was a very engaging session, where students got insight into the changes in organisational communication and leadership practices which resulted from Covid19 restrictions.



Skills Demonstrations

Eilish Lavin
Assistant Principal

Thankfully, we received the news in late March that essential end of year skills demonstrations could take place with strict adherence to Covid19 safety measures. We were delighted to welcome some of our students back to campus in subject areas such as, Nursing Studies, Hairdressing, Professional Cookery and Pre-Paramedic, Fire and Ambulance to carry out these skills demonstrations in a safe environment. Take a look at some of the fantastic work that took place here:



Introduction to Restorative Justice

By Shane Woods
Law Teacher

Dr. Ian D Marder was guest speaker for our Pre-University Law, Criminology and Psychology students this semester.

Dr. Marder gave an insightful talk on restorative justice which really got our students thinking!



Green Campus Committee News

Green Week 2021

By Orla O'Dea
Journalism Teacher

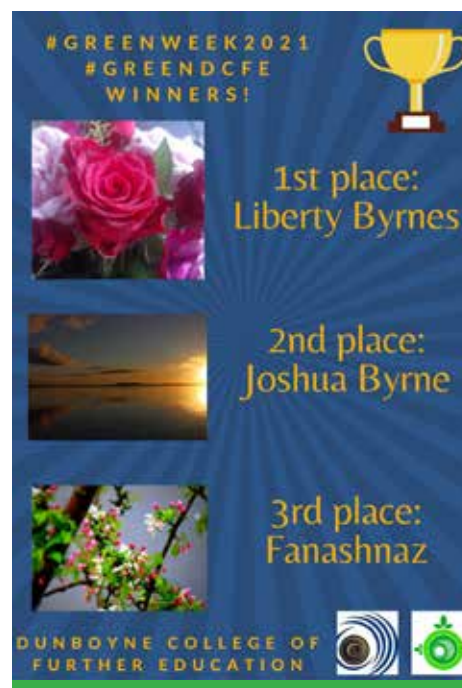
The first of its kind, National Online Green Week, was created by An Tasice in response to the current Covid 19 restrictions on campuses across Ireland. Raising environment awareness went online for one week, 8th-12th March with colleges across the country participating in a variety of exciting initiatives, workshops and competitions.

Here in Dunboyne our week began with a leftover's cookery demo encouraging a reduction in food waste by our Professional Cookery tutor Gillian Duff. This went live on to the college Youtube channel and students were encouraged to get into the kitchen and start cooking!

Informative articles were shared daily offering a variety of insights into going green. Medicinal herbs in your garden, shopping that doesn't cost the

earth, a student survey, eco-friendly businesses and must-see environmental documentaries offered different perspectives on how we can create a more eco-friendly planet.

Students were encouraged to get actively involved with daily challenges uploading pictures to An Tasice's #GreenWeek21 as well as our own Instagram competition #Greendcfe. The focus of the competition was nature on your doorstep and the final winning entries captured some truly beautiful moments of nature close to home. Congratulations to the winners. In first place, Liberty Byrnes, second place Joshua Byrne and third place, FaNasch Naz.



The Young Reporters for the Environment Competition 2021

By Orla O'Dea
Journalism Teacher

The Young Reporters for the Environment is a competition that gives young people aged from 11-25, a platform to research environmental issues and offer solutions through a variety of mediums, from investigative reporting to photography and video journalism. Approximately 275,000 young reporters get involved across 42 countries, entering various categories. This year's entrants from DCFE are both students of Journalism, Digital Media and PR, Máire Brennan and Nathalie Sturzel.

When asked why competitions like this are important, Maire answered, 'I think competitions like this are important because they allow for people to do more research on the topic allowing them to gain more knowledge.' Considering whether young people are tuned in to environmental issues she stated, 'I think young people definitely are tuned into this issue as, on social media you can see an

increase in people spreading awareness. I also think young people understand that they need to be tuned in as it is us that will have to deal with the consequences of climate change.'

Nathalie noted, 'I think that competitions like this are important because it makes people think about the environment and what we can do to protect it. Having a competition is not only an excellent way to raise awareness about the need to protect the environment, but also a great way for students to get involved in something. I think that most young people are tuned in to environmental issues, but many do not fully understand how urgently we need to save our planet and how small individual improvements and changes can contribute to helping to protect the environment.'

We wish both students the very best of luck with their entries!

Dunboyne College Night Classes

By Shauna O'Brien
Director of Adult Education

Our Autumn night class brochure is on the way, with a variety of interesting and enjoyable classes on offer, why not try something new for the coming year. You could take up a new hobby or improve your IT skills by learning the basics of Microsoft Word and Excel in our Microsoft Office or ECDL courses. We will also be offering a suite of online courses too!

Check out our website for our latest night class brochure and see what options we have to interest you.

www.dunboynecollege.ie

Night Class Brochure Autumn 2021 **Apply Now**
Night Courses

Student Voice

Jigsaw Youth Advisory Panel - My Experience

By **Katie Cooney**

Current student of Applied Social Studies/
Youth and Community Work

I first heard of the Jigsaw Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) when we got emailed an information form about the YAP position by our mentor Rose Callan. It was a form all about the YAP volunteer position and what it takes to be a part of the team. I was extremely excited and decided to apply just to see if I got it or not, I did not have my hopes up, as I knew many others would be applying too.

After my application was completed Emma Prunty came in to one of our classes



to speak all about Jigsaw and how they focus on bettering young people's mental health in Ireland. This talk really intrigued me more into learning about the YAP and also pushed me to try and get the position too. I was invited to an online interview, with Emma herself, a few weeks after my application'.

This made me extremely excited and proud of myself, but I was also so nervous as I had never done anything like this before. The interview was on the 7th of April and it was 30 minutes long. I was so nervous and scared that I was going to mess up, but I did it and afterwards I was so proud of myself. I got a call two days later from Emma herself and she informed me that I had gotten the place on the panel.

I was over the moon and could not believe I got the place. I then got emailed forms that I had to fill out to be Garda Vetted for the position. I am extremely proud of myself

and happy I got the placement especially for the job I would like to have in the future, as I would love to go down the route of Psychology. Thank you for the opportunity, I extremely appreciate it.

Many thanks also to Lisa Moroney from YWI Meath, pictured here on a virtual talk with our Social Studies and Youth and Community Work Students and congratulations again to Katie (pictured here), on your success with Jigsaw (YAP).

That would be enough to reverse the effects of climate change.

Many people don't understand why vegans choose to avoid eggs and dairy products, because they are led to believe that eggs and dairy production doesn't cause suffering to animals. The suffering is arguably even worse in the dairy and egg industry. Female animals raised for eggs and dairy are almost always killed once they can no longer serve their purpose, and the male animals are always killed because they are useless in these industries. Labels such as 'free range' or 'cage free' misinforms people about how their food is made.

It may seem difficult to eat plant-based, but surprisingly it can be very simple if you do your research. There are many foods that are secretly vegan. You can go the healthy route and eat a mainly wholegrains diet of rice, bread, legumes, fruits and vegetables very affordably, but for a treat there's also several plant-based readymade items now on the market in most Irish supermarkets. Veganism is on the rise, and with a higher demand there's now more plant-based options than ever before. It's now possible to eat all your favourite food, but made from plants, and you never have to feel guilty because you're not harming animals. Plus, it's made from plants, so it must be healthy right?

Going vegan not only helps the environment and animals, but it can also improve your health and wellbeing. It adds some fun and adventure to your life, you can get creative and experiment with plant-based cooking. Veganism is a huge shift for many people, so even just by reducing our meat, egg and dairy intake, that can still make a massive impact. Once you go vegan, you won't dream of ever turning back!

To find out more information about veganism, documentaries such as 'Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret,' 'The Game Changers,' and 'What the Health,' are very informative if you're interested in learning more.

Veganism

Nathalie Sturzel

Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

Veganism is the practice of refraining from the use of animal products, eating a plant-based diet, as well as not purchasing animal skin, fur and animal-tested products. According to Peta, vegans believe that animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment, or abuse in any other way, (Peta, 2021).

There's no denying that veganism helps our planet. Veganism is the single biggest way that we, as individuals, can prevent further damage to our planet. According to futurekind.com (Williams, 2020), studies show that adapting a vegan diet can cut agricultural greenhouse gases in half. The same studies also found that if everyone went vegan, emissions contributing to global warming could be cut by up to 70% by 2050.

Student Reviews

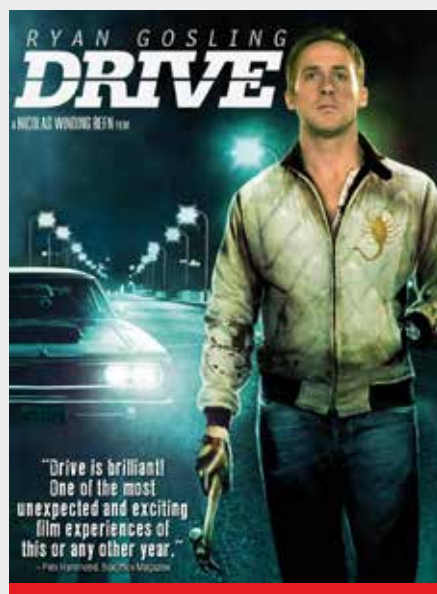
A showcase featuring some of the work our students have produced this semester.

“Drive” Review

Directed by: Nicolas Winding Refn

By Alexandrei Del Socorro
Current student of Media and Film

Rating: 10/10



Now picture this, Ryan Gosling in a suave bomber jacket driving old-fashioned badass muscle cars and fighting bad guys. If that description did not pique your interest, then this movie is not for you! Acclaimed Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn hits it out of the park with his latest film Drive. Known for his other works such as Bronson (2008), which starred Tom Hardy in his breakout role as the titular character of Charles Bronson and Valhalla Rising (2009), starring Mads Mikkelsen as the silent and stoic One-Eye.

Refn has an affinity for peculiar and strange protagonists with no defining ‘good guy’ or ‘bad guy’ qualities also known as morally grey characters. He is also known for his gritty style and artistic violence which some consider gratuitous, but like the great Quentin Tarantino once said in response to an overbearing interviewer on the use of violence in his movies he exclaims, ‘Because it is so much fun.’ Drive is a simple neo-noir story of a Hollywood stunt driver by day and moonlights as a getaway driver for criminals at night. Ryan Gosling’s

character is simply only referred to as, ‘The Driver.’ He has no other name and is a complete mystery from beginning to end. There is no distinction for him between these jobs, the objective remains the same, he drives. He meets Irene, played by Carey Mulligan, and her son who lives in the same apartment complex as him. They become confidants but as their relationship begins to blossom, Irene’s husband Standard played by Oscar Isaac, returns from prison.

To put it simply without spoiling anything, things go awry, and Irene and her son are in danger and, ‘The Driver,’ tries to put a stop to it. ‘The Driver’s,’ backstory is told through his actions rather than his words. We get snippets of who he is and what he is like through facial expressions and the cadence of his speech. I get an impression that his character has been through a lot in the past has formed a sort of barrier that prevents him getting close to people, apart from Irene whom he lets in willingly. ‘The Driver,’ is a brilliant combination of the Sergio Leone’s spaghetti western protagonists: Clint Eastwood’s, ‘Man with No Name,’ and Charles Bronson’s, ‘Harmonica.’ He has no family, no friends and no ambitions.

He is quiet and emotionally unavailable. For what he lacks in social skills he makes for in driving prowess. His idea for a date is driving through the grungy streets of L.A at night. He is so quiet, in fact, that, ‘The Driver,’ only has 116 lines of dialogue throughout the whole film! Despite his silent exterior, Ryan Gosling’s stellar performance together with Refn’s directing and cinematography really brings the character to life and makes for a beautiful story about a character finding purpose amongst a vast ocean of existential dread.

The supporting cast is great too. Bryan Cranston, Ron Perlman and Albert Brooks are fantastic and memorable. But the standout performance belongs to Albert Brooks, who also appears in another neo-noir film, Taxi Driver (1976). He plays the role of the villain in this film and I cannot imagine anyone else

in this role. He is calm and collected but can also inflict malicious cruelty at a moment’s notice. He even went so far as to shave his eyebrows off for the role to give him a more sinister appearance. On paper this film sounds like your run of the mill mindless Hollywood action film. However, look deeper and you find the complete antithesis of that. This movie is basically an 80s grindhouse crime thriller plot, put through an arthouse neo-noir lense. The cinematography is beyond dazzling. From the neon aesthetic to the contrasting colours, this film is a visual marvel and truly a feast for the eyes.

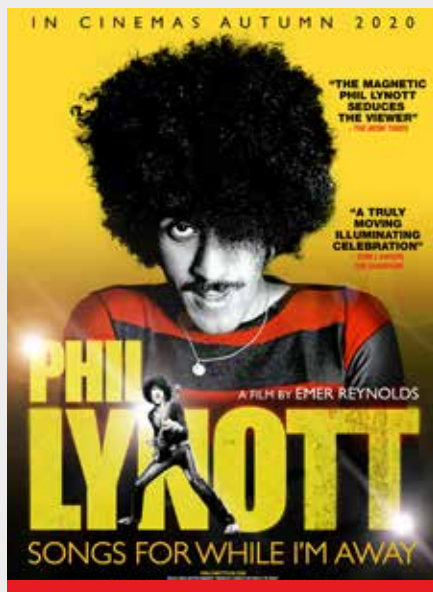
In fact, the cinematography can be an ode to Refn’s colour-blindness in which he cannot see mid-tones which is the sole reason for the intense colour correction in his films. The lighting, the angles, and the framing all serve a purpose. Visual storytelling is a crucial tool in film and this movie is a prime example of it. Because of, ‘The Driver’s,’ silent demeanour, visual storytelling takes centre stage. The neon colours and the electronic music compliments the violence. The film opens with ‘Nightcall’, an enthralling synthwave track by Kavinsky that sucks you in like a Venus flytrap leading a fly to its demise. The soundtrack of this film is as amazing. It is retro and 80’s-esque. Not only are your eyes glued to the screen, but the soundtrack borrows in your ear and refuses to leave. The track, ‘A Real Hero,’ by Electric Youth provides the best song of the film in my opinion and perfectly encapsulates, ‘The Driver’s,’ character arc in such a unique and poignant way. In the end he found purpose and became what he always wanted, ‘A real human being and a real hero.’

Phil Lynott: Songs For While I'm Away

By Laura O'Shea

Current student of Media and Film

Rating: 8.5/10



A new documentary depicting the life of international rock legend Thin Lizzy's Phil Lynott is set to release in January 2021 and may be exactly what we need to kickstart the new year. The documentary titled, 'Songs For While I'm Away,' will give us an insight into the ups, downs and in-betweens of his unique life as a mixed race rock musician in 1970s Dublin, which at the time was a rare sight, but Phil did not allow for that to be a hindering factor in his career. In fact, throughout the commentary in the documentary we hear a fellow musician mention that people would say things about Phil that would, 'Hurt him to the core,' but Phil says he believed the ruthless remarks people would make regarding his differences gave him, 'An edge,' which it most certainly did.

The documentary focuses in on his incredibly successful career starting as a

young boy in a working-class family in the 1950s to international treasure in the 70s and remains so to this day. Throughout the movie we hear both fellow musicians and friends' inputs on the Phil they knew and loved. One comment, in particular, mentions how he would have the crowd in, 'The palm of his hands.' This point is proven greatly throughout, as we see how he had the power to captivate audiences so passionately, not only in Ireland, but all over the globe with his incredible musical talents and Irish charm that he took pride in possessing.

This documentary provides us with both a sweet and sour trip down memory lane as we see the amazing life Phil led that eventually caught up with him in a tragic ending to an amazingly talent and passion filled music career and unique life of an Irishman like no other.

The Dragon Prince

By Neil Hannan

Current student of Media and Film

Rating: 9/10



The Dragon Prince is a Fantasy drama animated series on Netflix originals to watch for kids and all ages alike with its message about friendship, love, racism and war. This show will teach kids there is no good or bad in the world only people who believe in what's right for them and for their people.

The main characters are two princes from the kingdom of Katolis, Prince Callum and Erzan, two brothers and a Moonshadow assassin Elf named Rayla. The three learn that the king's dragon egg wasn't destroyed and are now on a quest to the east side of Xadia to return the egg to the queen to stop all-out war between humans, the elves and dragons.

Callum is voiced by Jack De Sena who voiced Sokka in the Nickelodeon 2005, Avatar, The Last Airbender. As a little treat one of characters is famously voiced by Erik Todd Dellums who, in The Last Airbender, voiced the character of Koh.

All in all, The Dragon Prince is a masterpiece of a show with a good message, fun characters, drama full of heart. In July 2020, Dragon prince fans were happy with the Netflix decision to make four more seasons, but with the pandemic fans will have to wait for news about its release. I'm giving Dragon Prince a well-deserved 9/10.

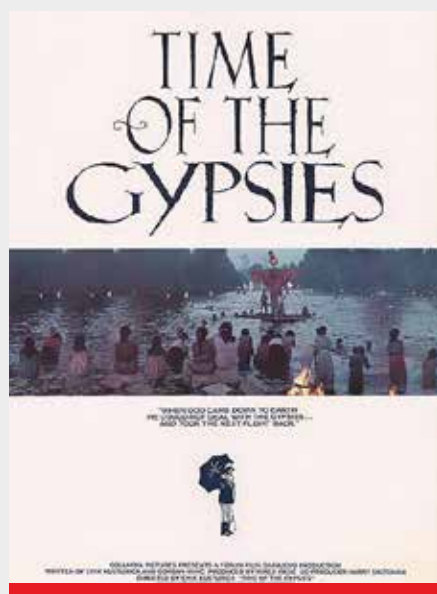
“Time of the Gypsies” Review

Directed by: Emir Kusturica

By Eoghan Murphy

Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

Rating: 10/10



With the cinemas closed and the only new releases consisting of the growing pile of Netflix tat, I think now is an ideal time to watch something new, or at least something watchable. Anyone who’s nostalgic for a surreal, romantic, tragicomedy-crime drama about the life of a gypsy teenager in Yugoslavia before the Balkan wars, is in luck! If not, it’s about time you tried something new anyway.

Virtually unheard of nowadays outside of eastern Europe, Emir Kusturica’s *Time of the Gypsies* (or *Dom za Vesanje*) won Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival in 1989 and received a 5-minute standing ovation. This weird little masterpiece is anything but formulaic and, perhaps, that’s why it has been forgotten by mainstream audiences; it’s a film of deliberate contradictions. It is funny and considered a comedy in the modern sense but a tragedy in the classical way that we watch the rise and eventual downfall of the characters. It’s dreamlike and fantastical like the myths and stories the titular characters hold so dearly but it still realistically portrays the lives of poor Gypsies.

Unlike many films set in Yugoslavia during the 1980s and 90s, practically nothing is said about the country’s troublesome history or decaying political state and instead focuses on Perhan, a naïve teenage

boy with weak telekinetic powers from a Romani community. Perhan’s life is not exciting or miserable; he lives with his grandmother, a kind matriarch and part-time witch doctor, his uncle Merdzan, a jolly but self-destructive womaniser and gambler, and his crippled sister Danira in a shack on the outskirts of Sarajevo. Then he falls in love with a girl whose mother hates him and won’t allow them to marry. Everything changes when, “The Gypsy Sheik,” Ahmed, a local crime boss comes home from Italy and seeing how Perhan’s powers could be useful for crime, offers Perhan the opportunity to make money and win over his mother-in-law as well as pay for the surgery to mend Danira’s legs. But in exchange, Perhan must come to Italy and work for him. What ensues is a comically tragic cautionary tale.

Despite this being a Yugoslav film, the story does not focus on Serbians or Croatians but on a community from one of the former country’s many ethnic minorities, the Romani Gypsies. In fact, it is the first ever film to have all its dialogue spoken in the Romani language. It has a brilliant soundtrack by renowned artist Goran Bregovic that mixes traditional folk song with just enough modern audio mixing to make some scenes feel like a disorienting dream and others like a drunken nightmare.

The people depicted in this modern-day fable are vibrant, passionate and deeply superstitious. The world that is presented to us has a myth-obsessed way of life that relies on superstition to relieve the burdens of poverty. We get a decent insight into the values and folk religion of a race that can’t decide if it’s Christian, Muslim or Pagan in the patchwork of race and faith that was 1980’s Yugoslavia. For example, Perhan’s grandmother, Khaditza (a Muslim name) references the Koran, consumes alcohol, uses magic and believes in pagan spirits all while celebrating the feast of Saint George and this is not considered unusual.

It’s these interesting little insights that make the world of the film a delight to explore without needing a comprehensive history book on the region and its people. Kusturica said what interested him about the Gypsies was the connection he saw between them and the South Americans from the books of Garcia Marquez as they, “Built their art on the irrationality and poverty of their people.” The magic-realism

of the story is reflected in the imagery captured by cinematographer Vilko Filac in hypnotizing scenes like the Ederlezi day celebrations at the river and the ghost of Perhan’s mother following his van. Even with the unfamiliar and foreign way of life, Kusturica’s characters are still human. The bizarre and exciting culture portrayed in the film allows the story to be wild and almost dreamlike and still realistic enough to be relatable.

Most of the actors are unprofessional, (some characters even inherit their name from their actor) giving the performances a grounded familiar feel despite the unfamiliar faces. Bora Todorovic, one of the two professional actors, brilliantly plays Ahmed, a sort of eastern European parody of the Godfather without making his role into a joke. Davor Dujmovic plays a convincing teenage boy who is naïve without being stupid and yearns for adventure while still being a Nana’s boy. Dujmovic, not too unlike his unprofessional counterparts, is a Sarajevo native with a working-class background. Apparently, at a pub near his father’s market stand the then fourteen-year-old caught the eye of Kusturica’s assistant-director for a previous film because of his wit and confidence and was persuaded to become an actor.

The best performance in my opinion is from Ljubica Adzovic who plays Khaditza. I think the fact that she is not a professional actor is what makes her role so memorable. Her disappointment at seeing her grandson drunk, her heartbreak at seeing him leave and even the way she bargains and argues with her neighbours feels so realistic and familiar to the point where you would wonder if she’s acting at all or just reliving her own memories.

Time of the Gypsies is not weird enough to be considered confusing or pretentious but still not normal enough to be easily likened to any Hollywood film. So many parts scream poor filmmaking at first but on closer inspection appear deliberate and effective. Perhan’s story is too strange and specific to be a relatable cautionary tale. The people and their complicated culture should be too much for a foreigner to understand. The hazy dreamy aesthetic should be too unrealistic. But for some reason, maybe the casts convincing performances, maybe the captivating music, everything just works. And it draws you in with it.

“Dear Evan Hansen” Musical Review

By Laura O’Shea
Current student of Media and Film

Rating: 10/10



‘Dear Evan Hansen,’ is a modern, award-winning, stage musical. A five-star rating was given to the musical by multiple magazines and newspapers worldwide, including The New York Times and The UK Independent. The musical was released onto Broadway in 2016, with the premiere performed at the Arena stage in Washington D.C. This show explores contemporary issues including mental health, social media, suicide and the difficulties of being a teenager in the 21st century. The musical is 2 ½ hours long but it is worth every second. It is set in a normal house, in a normal town, with normal American families.... well apart from Evan’s family or so Evan thinks.

The musical focuses on the main character Evan Hansen and his life journey of self-love and discovery, Evan struggles with extreme anxiety and depression and we see the measures he takes and the lies he tells to try and be happy. From these lies we see the consequences of his actions unravel. Evan is a quiet kid in school and doesn’t have many friends and his closest friend is a guy named Gerard who is forced by his mom to be Evan’s friend. Evan writes letters to himself for his mental health starting with “Dear Evan Hansen today is going to be a good day and here is why...”. These are personal letters to himself, but

that all changes when he accidentally prints one off on the school printer. A stoner kid called Conor Murphy finds the letter and talks to Evan and signs the cast on Evan’s arm. Evan believes that he has made a new friend until Conor reads the letter and sees the name of his sister (Zoe Murphy) is typed as Evans crush. Conor takes the letter and storms off and from this moment is where Evans life changes for better and for worse.

The musical has been performed on both Broadway (New York) and Westend (London), with two different yet phenomenal casts. The main character Evan Hansen is played by Ben Platt also known for his Broadway performance of The Book of Mormon and Recipient of a Tony award for Best Actor in a Musical. He is a singer, actor and songwriter. I didn’t believe how well Ben Platt could play the role until I saw Dear Evan Hansen on Westend myself. Sam Tutty was the name of the actor performing as the character Evan. I have never been so blown away by a performance in my life. Sam Tutty has been in a performing arts stage school since a young age, but this was his first experience of playing a professional role. You wouldn’t know by watching this performance that it was his first break because at moments of watching him play Evan, I was convinced that he was the character and that he did suffer with anxiety by the way he spoke and moved. The cast is moderately small but huge in talent.

I have never witnessed such a heart-breaking performance in my life, and I left the theatre speechless. I would highly recommend this musical to any adult or older teen who is a musical lover or not, because it is an incredible show and the performance is aimed at older teens and young adults due to the content of the issues highlighted in this musical. I would not recommend it to anyone under the age of 16, but if a parent was to bring anyone younger than 16 along, they would have to be ready to talk about the issues of this show with their child before and after the performance.

The music is a fusion of pop and rock and as all musicals do, the music tells the most important parts of the story line. You can tell from the songs alone what the main plot of the musical is about. There is adult humour and heart aching moments throughout the show. So, if you’re looking to be taken on an emotional roller-coaster this is the musical to watch.

The staging of the musical is simple yet contrasting furniture moves between each scene to set up the stage for the actors and set the scene. The ceiling, back, sides and floor of the stage are lit all the time as mobile phone screens to emphasise the use of social media for the entire performance. This is clearly saw when the audience is settling into their seats and text message sound effects are heard throughout the auditorium while the stage is lit. Social media is looked at in both a positive and a negative light throughout the musical. If you dare to go and experience this emotional performance be ready to cry endlessly. It is a touching performance and pulls the audience in from the very first moment. “Dear Evan Hansen, today is going to be a good day and here’s why”, this is both the opening and closing line to the musical with a bit of extra dialog added to the end that will make your eyes tear up for the final time. But I will leave that as a surprise for you to find out yourself. I highly recommend taking a weekend away to go experience this amazing performance for yourself for it is an unforgettable musical!

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