

# MISLEÓR

*Festival of Nomadic Cultures*



*Programme*

**29th September - 1st October 2022**

[misleor.ie](http://misleor.ie)

Presented by Galway Traveller Movement

# MISLEÓR 2022

**Misleór**, which means ‘wanderer’ in the Irish Traveller language Cant (aka Gammon), celebrates and connects nomadic peoples from around the world. In our 4th year of the festival, we explore nomadic identity through the lens of creativity and cultural action for change.

With a vibrant programme of music, theatre, film, poetry, and visual art, Misleór Festival celebrates the diversity within nomadic communities, and showcases nomadic artists and activists who are claiming a space for their culture in today’s society.

Nomadic peoples have survived for thousands of years, practicing their distinct cultures and traditions. Misleór will spark important dialogue about cultural rights, challenging the prejudice and discrimination that continues to impact nomadic communities.

We look forward to welcoming you to this truly unique and inspiring event, Misleór Festival of Nomadic Cultures, 2022.

**Nora Corcoran and Alice McDowell**  
**Co-Artistic Directors - Misleór Festival 2022**





**[www.misleor.ie](http://www.misleor.ie)**

Events are free unless otherwise stated.

Booking advised from [misleor.ie](http://misleor.ie)

For more information contact: [misleorfestival@gmail.com](mailto:misleorfestival@gmail.com)

### **Accessibility**

All venues are wheelchair accessible



Thursday 29th September



## ‘On The Road’

**Festival Opening**  
**O’Donoghue Theatre,**  
**University of Galway**  
**Thursday 29th September: 6pm**

Join us ‘on the road’ as we launch Misleór 2022 and welcome our guest artists, who will share their reflections on ‘nomadic identity’.

*“I didn’t know that  
Traveller women were  
off limits...”*

**Starring** Christine Collins,  
Thomas Connors, and Mary  
McDonagh.

**Producer:** Kate McBrearty  
**Lighting Design:** Cornelius  
Dwyer

Funded by Creative Ireland  
as part of the Cultural Action,  
Cultural Rights: A Foundation  
for Traveller Wellbeing project.

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## Night Shift

The Mick Lally Theatre, Druid Lane

Thursday 29th September - Saturday 1st October: 8pm

Tickets €15/10 from [www.druid.ie](http://www.druid.ie)

Galway Traveller Movement presents the world premiere of *Night Shift*, a new play by Rosaleen McDonagh.

*Noreen is a Traveller. Piotr is not. They are in a relationship which Noreen feels must be kept secret from the rest of the world, which causes tension between her and Piotr. Together they are navigating the societal expectations surrounding their relationship and have some tough decisions to make along the way.*

Directed by Thomas Connors, this contemporary drama is sure to tug at your heartstrings as you follow the two main characters on their journey throughout the play.



**Friday 30th September**

# **Kindred Spirits - Nomadic Dialogue**

## **Nomad-only Dialogue Space**

**University of Galway**

**Friday 30th September, 11am-1pm**

Workshop and dialogue space exploring cultural rights and nomadic identity. Facilitated by Nora Corcoran, Co-Artistic Director of the Misleór Festival, this workshop is reserved exclusively for members of nomadic communities. Registration via email: [misleorfestival@gmail.com](mailto:misleorfestival@gmail.com)

## **Misleór Conversations**

**O'Donoghue Theatre, University of Galway**

**Friday 30th September, 2-5pm**

Public panel discussions featuring guest artists, activists and leaders from nomadic communities around the world. Sharing diverse perspectives on nomadic identity, the panelists will discuss cultural rights and claiming space for nomadism in today's society.



Oein DeBhairduin



Lisa Smith



Veronika Patočková



Alisi Telengut



Hamze Bytyçi

This event will also include the screening of the short film *Reimagining Life On The Road*, which captures the reenactment of a traditional Traveller camp in Ballinasloe during the summer of 2022. The organisers of *Ake Dikhea? Festival of Romani Film* will also present *The Last Nomads*, a documentary about the ‘Drive to Survive’ campaign to stop the Police Bill eradicating Gypsy and Traveller nomadic life in Britain.

Guests include Lisa Smith (Romany Gypsy), Hamze Bytyçi (Roma) Veronika Patočková (RomaTrial), Oein DeBhairduin (Traveller), Alisi Telengut (Mongolian), Vanessa Paszkowska (Roma), Timimie Mäarak (Sámi), Axel Olle Sigurd Andersson (Sámi) and Steo Wall (Traveller). Panel discussions hosted by Galway Traveller Movement.

**Friday 30th September**

## **Nomadic Shorts**

**An Taibhdhearc Theatre, Middle St**

**Friday 30th September, 7.30pm. Tickets €10/5**

This special programme of short films explores the rich diversity of nomadic cultures, and includes the world premiere of *Beoirs Whiden*, made through this year's Misleór Film Bursary. Screening followed by Q+A with filmmakers and a wine reception at the bar.

### **Scrap Directed by Jamie O Rourke**

Ciaran and Michael meet one summer and become quick friends. When school returns and Michael, a member of the Traveller community, attends the same school as Ciaran for the first time, will they stay friends?

### **Samson Travelling Directed by Lowri Rees**

Samson (11 years old) is a Roma. In the summer Samson and his family go travelling, but they have trouble getting into the campgrounds.

### **Tears of Inge Directed by Alisi Telengut**

When a mother camel rejects her baby after a painful childbirth, Mongolian nomads sing to restore the bond. This beautiful hand-painted animation is directed by Mongolian-born artist Alisi Telengut, and narrated by her grandmother.

### **Memories of Appleby Fair Directed by Liza Mortimer**

Appleby Fair is the highlight of the year for many Gypsy and Traveller people. In this short documentary, Travellers Times has dipped into the archive of photos old and new from the fair and asked people to share their memories.





## **Háldi** Directed by Ann Holmgren

Created at the boundary between film and music, *Háldi* evolves around a Sámi underground world, exploring the unity and power of female relations in Sámi tradition and mythology.



## **They Only Take Away The Criminals** Directed by Hamze Bytyçi

In this harrowing yet touching animated short film, a 96-year-old Sinti woman tells of the murder of her daughter and most of her family in the gas chambers, of her struggle to survive, her way back to life and her faith after the genocide.



## **Proud Roma** Directed by Pablo Vega

Inspired by the 1940 film *The Great Dictator* – created by and starring Charlie Chaplin, who unbeknownst to many was of Roma origin – *Proud Roma* reflects the richness and diversity of the Roma nation.



## **Take Us As We Are** Directed by Liza Mortimer

Based on the 1969 BBC archive documentary, *Where Do We Go From Here*, and the family roots of Minty Smith, *Take Us As We Are* cultivates the spirit of freedom of the Gypsy and Traveller community - a nomadic culture still prevalent as ever.



## **Boirs Whiden** Directed by PJ Mongan

Art, history & culture all tied together with tradition. This short documentary explores an extraordinary culture through the stories and memories of local Traveller women.

**Saturday 1st October**



## **Nomadic Placemaking**

**O'Donoghue Centre, University of Galway**

**Saturday 1st October, 11am**

Placemaking is a creative and design practice which looks at how our towns, streets and the public realm are designed, used and managed. When we think about urban design, we can focus on what is fixed and permanent, yet some of the most interesting and well used places are flexible spaces that welcome temporary, pop-up and nomadic uses. The Irish Architecture Foundation, Galway Traveller Movement, Dr Sindy Joyce, Oein DeBhairduin and Grainne Hasset will present a talk which explores how Nomadic placemaking should be studied and celebrated as part of Ireland's urban-design heritage.



Dr Sindy Joyce

## **Black Gate Beginnings w/ Steo Wall**

**O'Donoghue Theatre, University of Galway**

**Saturday 1st October, 1pm**

Talented young musicians from the local Traveller community take to the stage, following a songwriting and performance masterclass. This live concert will also feature a special performance from musical mentor and contemporary folk artist Steo Wall. *Black Gate Beginnings* is the first in a series of youth music events, this event is presented by the Black Gate, in partnership with Galway City Arts Office and Music Generation Galway City.



## **Misleór Youth on Screen**

O'Donoghue Theatre, University of Galway  
Saturday 1st October, 3pm

Misleór Festival is proud to host the world premieres of three inspiring film projects, created by young people from Traveller and Mongolian communities in Ireland.

### **Misleór - Animate - Otorlokh**

Young people from Mongolian and Traveller communities in Ireland explored their nomadic roots to create these colourful and eclectic animations. Produced during the summer of 2022, in a series of 'under camera' stop-motion animation workshops with Mongolian filmmaker Alisi Telengut, these short films have been compiled together for exhibition.



### **CANT Beat**

Be the first to hear this brand new hip-hop track, written and performed by young Travellers from Loughrea during summer workshops with Atmos Collective. Using words in the Cant language to express themselves, these brilliant young artists step up to the mic to rap and sing about what matters to them!

### **Wheel of Dreams**

In *Wheel of Dreams*, 9 inspiring girls from the West Cork Traveller Community (Stronger Together Collective) fearlessly set out to explore their creative talents, passions and ambitions. Working with activist Toma McCullim, behind and in front of the camera, the girls present an intimate and heart-opening record of their journey.

Screening will be followed by Q+A and live performances

**Saturday 1st October**



## **Misleór In Song**

**Róisín Dubh**

**Saturday 1st October, Doors at 7.30pm**

**Tickets: €10/5**

An evening of music, song, and spoken word, performed by artists from different nomadic cultures.

Timimie Märak

## **Romane Chaja**

With a shared passion for music, singing and dancing, Monika Paszkowska and her daughters Vanessa and Alexandra, perform beautiful songs from the rich Romani music tradition.



Romane Chaja

## **Steo Wall**

Steo Wall is a contemporary urban-based folk artist from Dublin. Drawing on his Traveller heritage, Steo mixes folk-inspired melodies with spoken word, bringing the listener on a journey from the first note.



Steo Wall

# MISLEÓR 2022



Axel Olle Sigurd Andersson

## **Timimie Märak**

Timimie is a Sámi poet, indigenous feminist and queer activist, based in Stockholm. Like them, their poetry is a combination of deep roots and connections, read at a big city pace. Timimie will be joined by Sámi musician Axel Olle Sigurd Andersson.



PJ & Annie Mongan

## **PJ & Annie Mongan**

Brother and sister PJ & Annie Mongan are rising music stars from the local Traveller community in Galway. Coming from a rich family tradition of singing, PJ and Annie perform a beautiful blend of traditional and contemporary songs.



Galaxy Band

## **Galaxy Band**

Galaxy Band are a talented and passionate group of young Roma men based in Longford. Performing high-energy traditional Roma music and songs, Galaxy Band will be sure to get you on your feet and dancing!

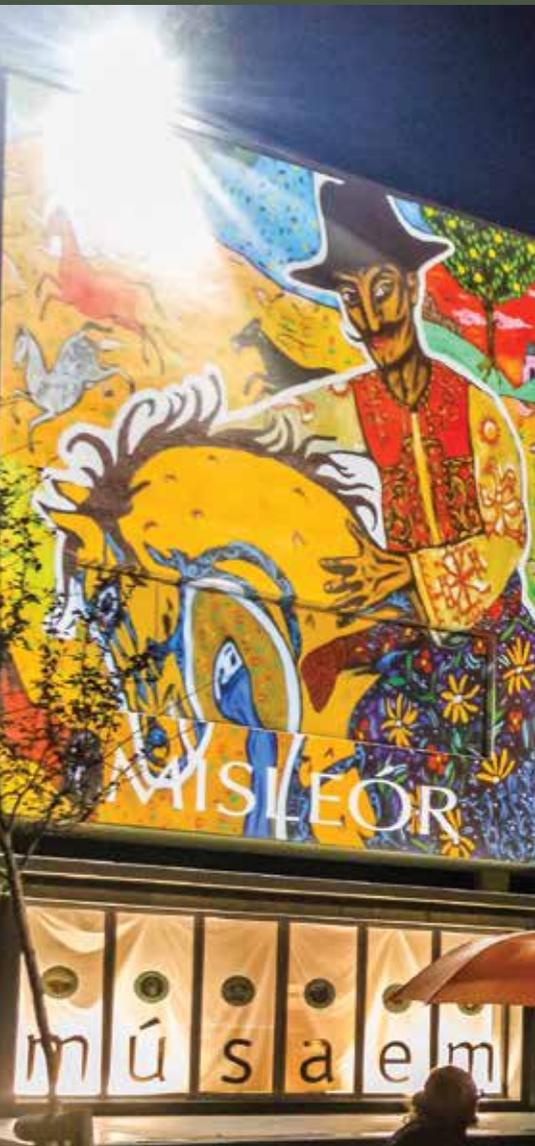


Trish Reilly

## **Trish Reilly**

Trish is a singer-songwriter, who draws inspiration from her Traveller heritage and a strong family musical tradition. She has been involved in Traveller activism for over 30 years.

**Saturday 1st October**



## **Misleór Illuminated**

**Raven Terrace, Galway**

**Saturday 1st October, 7.30pm**

A stunning outdoor visual experience, featuring images from nomadic artists, cultures and communities. Showcasing the local Traveller community, Tibetan nomads, the Bajau (sea nomads) and many more.

### **Extra showings**

Friday 23rd September (Culture Night) - Galway City

7.30pm - Ballybane Community Resource Centre

8.30pm - Westside Library

9.30pm - Claddagh Basin

Monday 3rd October, 8pm  
(Ballinasloe Horse Fair) -  
St Michael's Church

## Nomadic Expression

### Galway City Museum Foyer

The local Traveller community expresses their rich cultural identity through traditional and contemporary displays. Ongoing exhibition - available for viewing during museum opening hours.

## Ballinasloe Horse Fair

As a special addition, Misleór Festival is hitting the road to visit the Ballinasloe Horse Fair, which is celebrating its 300 year anniversary. On Monday 3rd October, an installation of two wooden horses built from recycled materials will be on display in St Michael's Square, accompanied by Tinsmith Tom McDonnell, who will run an interactive Tinsmithing workshop. This installation was developed to celebrate the importance of horses in Traveller and nomadic cultures and was a collaboration with members of both Traveller and Mongolian communities, and local artist Tommy Casby.

## Acknowledgements

**Artistic Directors:** Nora Corcoran and Alice McDowell

**Misleór Steering Committee:** Kathleen Sweeney, Anne Marie Stokes, LeeAnna Ward, Nora Mongan, Margaret O Riada, Ann Lyons, Joanna Corcoran, Martin Ward, Vivienne Ivers, Regina Faherty, Rebecca Leonard and Kate McBrearty.

**Poster and cover artwork:** Rico Zimmer

Artwork by Paul Hitter featured in programme

**Programme Design:** Jessica Reid

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