

Jo Mangan - Director

*nGnách.*

Of course we all know what more than 2 of these last 3 years entailed. It made it seem an impossible task. Yet here we are, our stunning score brought to life by extraordinary musicians in an immersive world conjured into being from the imaginations of many. This is not my first rodeo and the pony not the tamest, but I know the perseverance of the arts, and artists well and I am really thrilled with what we have all created. We present *Out of the Ordinary/As an nGnách.*

# DIRECTING OUT OF THE ORDINARY/AS AN nGNÁCH



*Out of the Ordinary/As an nGnách* tells the tale of a community forced to flee their barren homeland, which, due to their own actions, can no longer sustain them. Naiva, our main character, builds a boat to take her people on an epic journey to find a new home. But as they begin their voyage, they don't realise they are being pursued. Daol, a powerful force of nature, furious at being released from the leached soil, churns up the seas and causes a huge storm, plunging the boat underwater. Will they learn to live in harmony with nature, or will they repeat the mistakes of the past? And will the destructive energy of Daol find peace, or will she continue to wreak havoc? It's all to play for. Why not climb aboard?

WHAT'S THE STORY?

# OUT OF THE ORDINARY/AS AN nGNÁCH

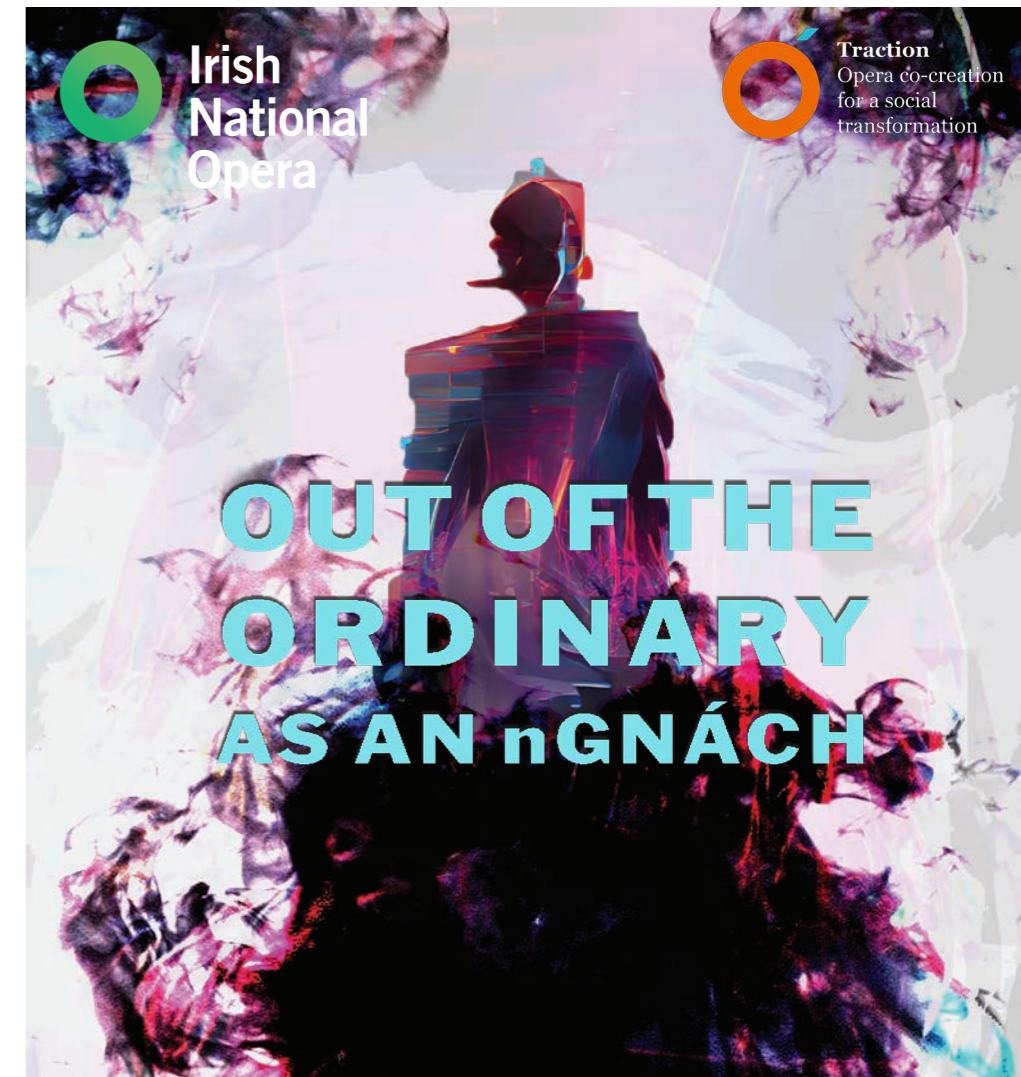
Hello and welcome to *Out of The Ordinary/As an nGnách*: the world's first Virtual Reality Community Opera. This opera has been created for and with communities across Ireland and is the result of an experimental process of co-creation that has taken place over the last 2 years placing our communities at the centre of the opera creation process.

We have been thrilled to work with over 100 creative and passionate individuals from Inis Meáin, Tallaght and South County Dublin and across rural Ireland to create this work.

If you would like to learn more about this process you can find information on our website via the QR code or at [outoftheordinary.irishnationalopera.ie](http://outoftheordinary.irishnationalopera.ie).

We hope you enjoy the opera.

The Out of the Ordinary Team





# COMPOSING OUT OF THE ORDINARY/ AS AN nGNÁCH

It was an honour to be invited to compose *Out of the Ordinary/ As an nGnách*. I also felt some trepidation... what even is a community opera in virtual reality? There were so many unknowns.

The creative process that unfolded was certainly the most challenging – but also the most rewarding – experience of my career. I worked closely with our three inspiring communities across a series of workshops (via Zoom from Manhattan, mid-pandemic) before we finally met in person.

It was humbling to be part of this beautifully collaborative experience. I am deeply grateful to everyone involved and am delighted to finally be able to share this with the world.

**Finola Merivale - Composer**



## CREATIVE TEAM

Community members from Inis Meáin, Tallaght & rural Ireland

Finola Merivale (composer)  
Jo Mangan (director)  
Jody O'Neill (librettist)  
Nil Venditti (conductor)

Lynsey Callaghan (chorus master)  
Mary Claire Ryan (chorus master)  
Molly De Búrca (chorus master)

Patrice Keegan (répétiteur)  
Edward Holly (répétiteur)

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Irish National Opera (Lead Producer)  
Algorithm (Creative Production)  
Virtual Reality Ireland (VR Producers)  
Nuwa (Audio Production)

## PERFORMERS

Naomi Louisa O'Connell (mezzo-soprano)  
Daire Halpin (soprano)  
Larissa O'Grady (violin)  
Gawain Usher (viola)  
Yseult Cooper Stockdale (cello)  
Aura Stone (double bass)  
Susan Doyle (flute)  
Seamus Wylie (clarinet)

Ken Whelan (accordion)  
Lara Villing (harp)  
Aisling Kilkelly (electric bass)

Tallaght Choral Society  
Inis Meáin Community Choir

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Conradh na Gaeilge  
The Civic

Image: Motion Capture Workshop - photo Jeda de Brí



# VIRTUAL REALITY

## A LITTLE MORE ABOUT INO

Irish National Opera is Ireland's newest and most enterprising opera company. It champions Irish creativity in its casting, its choice of creative teams and in its commitment to the presentation of new operas. The company performs large-scale productions of works from the great operatic canon in Dublin, Cork and Wexford and takes touring production to venues of all sizes throughout Ireland.

Discover more at [irishnationalopera.ie](http://irishnationalopera.ie)

## A LITTLE MORE ABOUT TRACTION

This opera is presented as part of TRACTION, a 3-year initiative (2020-2022), funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme under grant agreement No. 870610, bringing together a mix of arts organisations, technology experts, academics and community and participatory art experts to explore new ways to devise and present opera.

Discover more at [traction-project.eu](http://traction-project.eu)



## GET IN TOUCH

We hope you enjoy this new, experimental form of community opera. If you have any questions regarding the opera or any part of the project, you can get in touch at [info@irishnationalopera.ie](mailto:info@irishnationalopera.ie) or if you want to learn more visit our project website [outoftheordinary.irishnationalopera.ie/](http://outoftheordinary.irishnationalopera.ie/)

If you would like to stay up to date with our wider work you can sign up to our newsletter at [irishnationalopera.ie](http://irishnationalopera.ie)

We'd love to know what you thought of this work. If you have 5 minutes, please consider completing our feedback questionnaire.

<https://bit.ly/SurveyOOTO>



#OutoftheOrdinary #TractionEU



# EXPLORE NEW EXPERIENCES