



Bealtaine 2008

Celebrating Creativity in Older Age in Venues across Ireland 1st-31st May

Now Strike Your Note

Age & Opportunity is delighted to confirm that in 2008 the Bealtaine festival will be offering audiences a world-class programme by international artists, and collaborating with organisations throughout the country to make the festival as far-ranging and wide-reaching as possible. The theme of this year's festival is taken from Seamus Heaney's poem 'Station Island':

"You've listened long enough. Now strike your note."¹

This theme is proving an inspiration for arts events celebrating the diverse voices and rich experiences of older people and the fact that you are never too old to try something new.

Amongst the artists participating in this year's festival, Bealtaine is delighted to be welcoming back the inspirational **Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (LLDX)**, who will be active in various parts of Ireland as part of the festival. LLDX is an award-winning American company which has opened up an extraordinary world of dance for older people through participation, workshops and performance. For further information see www.danceexchange.org.

Magic Me will be working in partnership with Sligo Arts Office developing an intercultural intergenerational project. Magic Me specialise in running creative projects which bring together young people (aged 9+) and older people (55+) for mutual benefit, learning and enjoyment, and have been described by Gordon Brown as "...a powerful model that is breaking down prejudice, building connections and touching lives." For further information see www.magicme.co.uk.

Further information on the festival will be available to the general public as follows:

- Via local public libraries and County Council Arts Offices
- By telephone to Age & Opportunity on 01 805 7709
- On the web: www.bealtaine.com.
- Via e-mail: bealtaine@mie.ie
- By post to Bealtaine at Age & Opportunity, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9.

For further media information please contact Stephanie Dickenson at Kate Bowe PR Tel: 01 671 3672 E-mail stephanie@katebowepr.ie

¹ Seamus Heaney, From 'Station Island' (Section XII). Faber & Faber Ltd