

Press Release 23rd April 2008



THE **Tyrone Guthrie Centre**  
AT ANNAGHMAKERRIG

**Northern Ireland lawyer Brian Garrett is elected  
Chairman of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig**

The Board of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig Co. Monaghan is delighted to announce the appointment of Brian Garrett as Chairman of the Board to succeed Barbara Sweetman FitzGerald.

Speaking of his appointment, Brian Garrett says, "I'm very conscious of the important role that the Centre plays in the artistic life of Ireland, and I am pleased to be part of that and in the development of the Centre's future."

A lawyer by profession, Brian Garrett is currently a Deputy County Court Judge in Northern Ireland and a qualified arbitrator. He served as President of The Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations, was former Chairman of the Northern Ireland Labour Party and spent a period as Visiting Associate Fellow (International Affairs) at Harvard University. For many years he presented BBC Radio Ulster's programme 'Behind the Headlines' and is the literary executor of Belfast playwright Sam Thompson. He is also a Board Member of Men Against Cancer Foundation – a charity in Northern Ireland responsible for the creation of a diagnostic clinic for men's cancers at Belfast City Hospital. Amongst his various directorships Brian is a member of the Governing Committee of Ulster Garden Villages, Northern Ireland's largest charity.

The Director of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre says, "Brian Garrett is a very charismatic and warm man who will be an able and dynamic ambassador for Annaghmakerrig. I anticipate some exciting times ahead!"

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, family home of Sir Tyrone Guthrie, theatre director, impresario, playwright and philanthropist, is a workplace and retreat for creative artists from the island of Ireland and from overseas. It operates within the remit of the

will of Sir Tyrone Guthrie and with the continuous support of An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Now in its twenty-seventh year The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig provides living proof of the strength of the artistic community throughout Ireland, and it remains a flagship project and shining example of cross-border co-operation.

In the past year some 440 individual artists from all disciplines and many locales stayed at Annaghmakerrig availing of its comfortable accommodation, warm atmosphere and excellent facilities.

Since the outset every effort has been made to rotate the Chairmanship of the Board between Board members from the North and the Republic. The last Chairman from Northern Ireland was Seamus Hunt, former Chairman of the Grand Opera House, Belfast. From the outset the Board of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre has maintained a balance of membership from Northern Ireland and the Republic.

The nine-member Board of the Centre represents a broad range of skills, experience and expertise from the island of Ireland. Currently the membership includes:

- Prof. Michael Alcorn, a composer and Director of Sonic Arts Research Centre Belfast
- Suzanna Crampton, an Art Photographer and grandniece of Tyrone Guthrie
- Peter Fallon, poet, Director of Gallery Press and member of Aosdána
- Barbara Freeman, painter, print-maker and sculptor
- Former Chair Barbara Sweetman FitzGerald, Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations
- Petria McDonnell, Circuit Court Judge and President of Irish Maritime Law Association
- Glenn Patterson, award-winning writer and member of Aosdána, and
- Marcus Patton, architect, artist and director of HEARTH.



For more press information please contact Kate in Kate Bowe PR on 01-6713672 or [kate@katebowepr.ie](mailto:kate@katebowepr.ie)