



TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

**AN COMHCHOISTE UM THURASÓIREACHT, CULTÚR, EALAÍONA, SPÓRT
AGUS MEÁIN**

Tuarascáil Taistil: Amharclann na Mainistreach

30 Samhain 2022

HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON

TOURISM, CULTURE, ARTS, SPORT AND MEDIA

Travel Report: Abbey Theatre

30 November 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media undertook a travel episode to the Abbey Theatre on 30th November 2022.

Members in attendance

- Senator Malcolm Byrne
- Senator Shane Cassells
- Senator Micheál Carrigy
- Senator Fintan Warfield

Secretariat in attendance

- Calum Fabb, Policy Advisor to the Joint Committee

Members of the Joint Committee were welcomed by the Abbey Theatre's Co-Directors, Caitríona McLaughlin and Mark O'Brien. Also in attendance were the Chair to the Abbey Theatre Board, Dr Frances Ruane, Board members Mairéad Delaney, Michael Owens, Owen Travers, and Michael Wall, alongside Gus McNamara (Director of Finance and Operations), Christine Monk (Director of Communications and Marketing), and Róisín McGann (Communications Manager).

Members received a tour of the current Abbey Theatre campus, a presentation on artistic and strategic plans for the Abbey Theatre and on its redevelopment plans, and the opportunity to peruse items from among the Abbey Theatre's archives.

TOUR OF ABBEY THEATRE CAMPUS

Members toured the Abbey Theatre campus, led by the Abbey Theatre Co-Directors. Members discussed audience participation and involvement, general limitations on number and quality of productions, matters relating to capital investment in the theatre campus, accessibility of the theatre campus, in addition to various health and safety topics.

REDEVELOPMENT

Members received a presentation on the Abbey Theatre's redevelopment plans. Members discussed matters relating to timeframes and resources for the Abbey Theatre redevelopment, cultural space infrastructure, technical audits, and the status of co-productions and national theatres touring in Ireland.

CONCLUDING MATTERS

An emphatic point made during the course of the Committee's visit to the Abbey Theatre was that the development of a new theatre as an establishment of cultural and national significance should be a key priority within the coming years to facilitate exchange and reflect the changing Irish identity.

The attending members thanked Co-Directors Caitríona McLaughlin and Mark O'Brien, as well as the Abbey Theatre staff in attendance, for the invitation to the Abbey Theatre and for the presentations that they had made to the Committee.