

An Cáisc

Pictures by Brendan Farrell

Birmingham Irish Association in collaboration with the Midlands Irish Partnership group

and the Irish community have come together with an abundance of commitment, enthusiasm and pride, to tell the story of The Easter Rising of 1916 and its impact on our Irish culture and heritage in 2016 and beyond.

Melissa Roche (Cultural officer for Birmingham Irish Association) commented "This production is one not to be missed! The production was due to be shown in May of this year, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the date has been amended to Friday 21st October. The cast are from all walks of life and range from the ages of 14 year up to late 70's. An Cáisc 16 is an adaptation of the Easter Rising with a modern twist. This production has been written by Anna McKiernan, a trained actress and script writer and we are very fortunate to have her on board!"

Anna has always been heavily involved in drama and the arts. Born in Belfast, Anna moved to Birmingham as a child

with her family. Since then she has been heavily involved in the arts and the Irish community. After completing a degree in Drama & Creative Writing at Royal Holloway, University of London, Anna went on to move back to her place of birth to take up an acting place as the prestigious Lyric Drama Studio Belfast. Since then, she gained a placed for a Masters in Acting at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Since completing her training, Anna has worked in the performance industry in a variety of projects, predominantly theatre. She is now focusing on setting up her own theatre company, Seanchai. She has thoroughly enjoyed writing this community led project and thinks it is crucial that we celebrate what it is to be Irish in Birmingham, particularly when commemorating the Easter Rising.

Brief synopsis

It's 2016. The Pearse family are having the wake for their grandfather James Pearse. Granny Teresa is getting drunk and Patrick is given a precious journal that belonged to his grandfather, Padraig Pearse. An Cáisc 16 charts the two worlds of 2016 Birmingham, where the Pearse family, like many others commemorate their Irish heritage on a daily basis. The other world, 1916 Dublin is a world of



Some of the cast of the Cáisc 16 production, pictured during rehearsals at St Anne's Community Centre in Digbeth.

yearning and revolutionary ideals. As we shift back and forth between these two worlds we can see the legacy left behind by the generations before us.

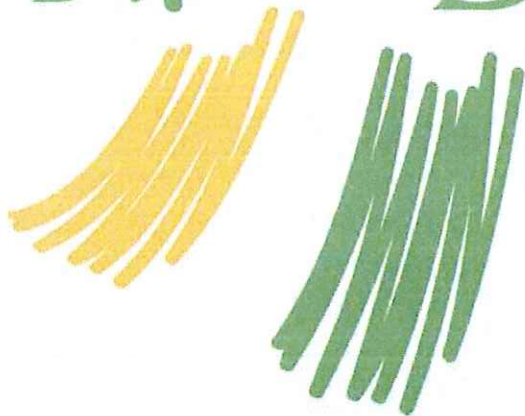
The venue for the play is South and City College Theatre Digbeth Campus. Tickets will be on sale from early September. Contact Melissa Roche at Birmingham Irish Association for further details on 0121 6046111 or email melissa@birminghamirish.org.uk.

Midlands Partnership network includes: SIFA Fireside, Monica's Place, ICAP Birmingham, Birmingham Irish Heritage group, Paddy Benson Boxing Club, Sandwell Irish Society, South and City College, St Anne's Catholic Church, St Patrick's Festival Birmingham.



Anna McKiernan (left) and Melissa Roche. Anna has scripted and produced the play, Melissa from Birmingham Irish Association is co-ordinating the entire project

BIRMINGHAM'S CENTENARY REMEMBRANCE OF 1916 EASTER RISING PLANNED



Càscà '16

The birth of a Nation

As Ireland gets ready to celebrate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising, Birmingham's Irish community is also planning to mark the event with its own theatrical production.

Birmingham Irish Association is joining forces with the Birmingham Irish Heritage group and the West Midlands Irish Support Partnership to stage a performance commemorating the 100th anniversary of the historic event.

The Càscà '16 production will use song, dance and drama to tell the story of a landmark event in Irish history.

With the arrival of 2016, Birmingham Irish Association is now appealing for talented volunteers to come forward to take part in the theatrical celebration.

Melissa Roche from Birmingham Irish Association said: "If you can sing, dance, act or sew, we want to hear from you."

"Auditions will take place in early January for the cast."

Anyone who would like further details, or who is interested in taking part should contact Melissa Roche on 0121 6046111 or email her at Melissa@birminghamirish.org.uk.

The night's events are set to be broadcast on television and other media streams to mark 100 years since the seminal event which triggered a process leading to the creation of the Irish Republic.

Some time back Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny announced a year long programme of events to mark the anniversary of 1916.

"It is important that the Irish people have the opportunity to come together to celebrate and have pride in Ireland's independence and to honour those who gave their lives so that the dream of self-determination could become a reality."

"Easter 1916 was a moment when Irish nationalism joined forces with a revolutionary cultural and language movement to forge an irresistible campaign towards self-determination."

Mr Kenny said: "There are some moments in history when a seed is sown and the old order changes forever."

The programme includes seven strands: State Ceremonial, Historical Reflection, An Teanga Bheo/The Living Language, Youth and Imagination, Cultural Expression, Community Participation, Global and Diaspora.

It calls on the people of Ireland and the Irish Diaspora around the world to remember those that fought for independence and to reflect on the legacy of the last 100 years.

The Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme is led by Heather Humphreys, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Free State in 1922.

lead to establishment of the Irish Partition of Ireland - that ultimately led to the Irish Civil War and the 1916 Easter Rising set off a series of events - the War of Independence.

Amidst the chaos of the First World War, 1916 saw a small uprising by republicans in Dublin take hold of the country.

HOLIDAY REQUEST FORM

Part A – To be completed by the employee

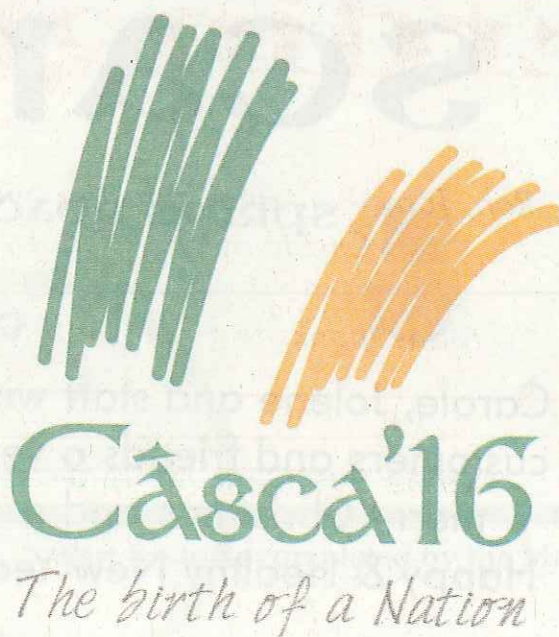
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Approved

Not Approved

Signed

Date

Calling all singers, dancers, actors - would you like to take part in a production commemorating the 100th anniversary of Ireland's Easter Rising of 1916, if so contact Melissa on 0121 604 6111 or email melissa@birminghamirish.org.uk
Auditions early January 2016