

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig

RISE ABOVE!

Five Year Strategic Plan 2022-2027



**Approved by
The Board of Directors
The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig,
29 January 2022.**



Sir Tyrone Guthrie and Lady Judith (Judy) Guthrie (née Bretherton), c. 1960s.

[Colour image of Sir Tyrone Guthrie wearing a white shirt, black tie and black suit, and Lady Judith Guthrie (née Bretherton) standing to his right and wearing a dark hat with grey feathers on the top, and a dark coat with a cream and orange patterned scarf wrapped inside the collar. They are both looking at the camera.]

Cover page: Sir Tyrone Guthrie on the steps of Annaghmakerrig House

[Black and white image of a tall, middle-aged, well-dressed man walking down the front steps outside the front door of Annaghmakerrig House]

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View of Annaghmakerrig Lake in front of Annaghmakerrig House.

[Colour image showing a landscape with a lake in the background, and grass in the foreground. There is a path running horizontally through the grass. The hill behind the lake, and the trees to the centre and left of the image are in stark dark contrast to the water, path, and grass. Overhead, a grey cloudy sky is interspersed with touches of pink from sun. A sign, made from black metal on silver legs, and situated in the close foreground, reads 'main office.']

'...my said dwelling – house, furniture, pictures and chattels and the income from my residuary estate to be used for the purpose of providing a retreat for artists and other like persons...so as to enable them to do or facilitate them in doing creative work.'

Last Will and Testament of innovative theatre director, Sir Tyrone Guthrie, died 15 May 1971.

Chairperson's Foreword

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to set out our ambition for The Tyrone Guthrie Centre and to show how we will make a reality of that ambition. This enterprise at Annaghmakerrig began with a radical act of generosity when the Guthries and the Butlers imagined a future for the House as a unique cultural asset for Ireland. Put simply, the ambition we state here is to extend that generosity to a new generation of artists and audiences. We will do this by ensuring that Annaghmakerrig is well run and well resourced, so that it continues to give residents the service they have valued for four decades. It will remain a meeting place for established and emerging artists, a house of stimulation, inspiration, and friendship. And we will build on this tradition by welcoming new artists and art forms. We will be open to our new communities; we will support their creative vision and be excited by their energy and ambition.

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre has always depended on public endowment. The two Arts Councils have funded our annual work programme and the Office of Public Works has maintained the house and grounds. These past two years of pandemic underline our reliance on their timely aid and expertise. We have experienced the best of support, warm-hearted and warm-handed, from these public agencies and we will continue to value them as partners in future. We will also turn more and more to private benefactors, to individuals, companies, and trusts. We will tell them our story of creative achievement and how it has enriched our culture, opening minds and enlarging lives. We see that now is the time for partnerships and joint ventures to conserve the amenity of Annaghmakerrig and build here a model of sustainable living. So, we must look outwards to explore the possibilities.

All our benefactors, public and private, deserve the respect that comes with knowing their contribution is valued and their support is invested well. This strategic plan will be underpinned by high standards of day-to-day operation, management, and governance. And this will be seen not just in our formal accountability (our annual reports and financial statements) but also by innovations in how we give valuable experiences back to our neighbourhood, our region, and to our partners all over Ireland and abroad.

This plan has been made on The Tyrone Guthrie Centre's fortieth anniversary and fifty years after Sir Tyrone Guthrie's death and gift to all Ireland. We present our ambition with confidence and excitement. We do this to honour Guthrie's generosity and the dedication of the many talented people whose efforts have sustained the Centre for four decades. They gave Ireland, north and south, an extraordinary cultural resource. Our inspiration comes from their courage and their determination. Our best hopes spring from their vision and commitment.

Adrian Moynes
January 2022



A writer's desk in our 'Big House'.

[Colour image featuring a writer's desk covered in well-worn red leather situated at an angle in the corner of an unidentified room in Annaghmakerrig House. There is a lamp with a cream shade on the desk, which is switched on, and there is a large book on the other side of the desk. There is a window in the wall to the right, with a slight view of the trees and landscape outside. The window has no curtains, but it retains its Victorian wooden panelled shutters. There is slight view of the wallpaper, to the right foreground of the image, which features large yellow flowers with small green leaves on a cream and gold patterned background. On the cream-coloured wall to the left there hangs a small watercolour painting of a mountainous landscape framed in a thin black frame.]



Sir Tyrone Guthrie c. late 1960s

[Black and white head and shoulders photograph of Sir Tyrone Guthrie looking towards the camera. He is wearing a dark tie, pale shirt, and dark jacket. He is, perhaps, in a museum, or an architectural site with old columns and partial classical sculptures in the background.]

Introduction

Throughout his career, whether confronted by disaster or success, Sir Tyrone Guthrie's celebrated refrain was 'rise above!' We have chosen that title for our new Strategic Plan as a tribute to our initial benefactor and his family, in celebration of our history, and in acknowledgement of the enduring necessity to continually adapt - to 'rise above' - as we envision and plan for the future of the Centre.

Our Present

Funded by The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig opened to artists and ‘other like persons’, on 10 October 1981.¹ Over the ensuing forty years we have continued to offer residential workspace to local, national, and international artists across all art forms, and to maintain our facilities to the highest standards possible. We strive to ensure a physical and psychological environment that esteems, supports, and sustains our residents, while at the same time we value our in-house team, our relationships with our strategic partners, and our various communities and audiences.

We are proud of our standing among the arts community, and our importance to the local, national, and international arts infrastructure. We recognise the necessity for strategic planning, so that we can modify and adapt to our ever-changing multiplicity of environments. To that end, in 2020 our Board of Directors undertook an organisation-wide process to interrogate our Vision and Mission, to evaluate our priorities, and to visualise and enact our ambition for the future, the result of which is formalised in the following pages.



The poetry corner in our ‘Big House.’

[Colour image featuring a blue patterned wooden armchair situated in a corner, with bookshelves to the viewer’s left, and a potted plant to the right. Behind the chair, a window gives a view of the grass and trees in the west garden beside Annaghmakerrig House, otherwise our ‘Big House.’]

¹ We consider ‘other like persons’ to be directors, designers, curators, and critics, and those who support the delivery of the creative work of artists through arts organisations. We also offer residential workspace to academics working in the humanities whose work supports artists and the arts.



The Dance Studio.

[Colour image of a large room in which the floor, walls, and ceiling are lined with pine wood. The south facing wall on the left side is pierced by three tall windows, and a large glass double door. There is a view south, down towards Annaghmakerrig Lake through the windows and door. There is a large set of tall windows in corner of the west facing wall. The floor is covered in black material that is suitable for dancing on, and in the corner made by the south and west facing walls there is an upright piano, temporarily covered against any dust. Although bright, the room is lit by five long ceiling lights, and there are two white electric radiators on the west wall.]

Our Future

As we move into the next phase of development at The Tyrone Guthrie Centre, we have reevaluated our objectives, and renewed our Vision, Mission, Purpose, and Values, while yet preserving the foundational ethos that goes back to Tyrone Guthrie's farsighted vision for his ancestral home.

Aligning with Local and National Arts Policies

While the aims and objectives laid out in 'Rise Above!' give us a guiding document for the foreseeable future, our focus aligns too with the major ambition of the Arts Council of Ireland's ten-year strategy for the arts, 'Making Great Art Work' and with 'Inspire, Connect, and Lead', the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Strategic Framework for Developing the Arts.

We will address the ambitions of the Arts Council of Ireland's 'Equality, Human Rights, and Diversity Policy and Strategy' which stresses the determination to 'respect, support, and ensure inclusion of all voices and cultures that make up Ireland today, from all sections of society, existing and new communities, from all social backgrounds, ethnicities, and traditions', which applies as much to our residents, as to our Board of Directors, and our in-house team.

We will deliver on the ambition of the Arts Council of Ireland's 'Paying the Artist' policy, so that we remunerate artists for their work, and we strategically partner with individuals and organisations that remunerate artists for their work.

Our Purpose and Guiding Principle

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre is a cross-border organisation that offers time away, space to work, and opportunities for collaboration and networking for artists and 'other like persons' that facilitates the development of their practice across all art forms.² Annaghmakerrig House is situated in the quiet countryside of County Monaghan, and together with our self-catering cottages, our studios and performance spaces, as well as our lake and our forests, gardens, and fields, The Tyrone Guthrie Centre is a place where creativity flourishes amid the many pressures and distractions of contemporary life. Providing a quiet environment that esteems, supports, and develops our artists is what we do, but we aim to do it more holistically by creating audiences for our artists where appropriate, and by raising sponsorship towards specific short, medium, and longer-term initiatives that will be of benefit to our artists.

² All art forms as defined by The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the ACNI.



A quiet corner in Annaghmakerrig House.

[Colour image featuring an angled shot to the left of a window in one of our writer's rooms in Annaghmakerrig House. Although flooded with daylight, the angle is such that there is no view of the outside. There is a partial view of a very full bookcase to the observer's left, and on the right, in front of the Victorian shutter on the window, there is a small brass reading lamp on the windowsill.]

Plotting the Course

The following pages of 'Rise Above!' set out our priorities and goals for The Tyrone Guthrie Centre for the next five years, with the anticipation that our actions will have beneficial consequences in the longer term. Our Vision, Mission, Purpose, and our Values, as expressed, justify and make sense of our Strategic Priorities.

Our Vision

We will continue do all in our power to support creativity and to facilitate our artists by making space for them to think, or to create.

Our Mission

We will deliver on our vision by offering an affordable place of openness, with new and exciting points of entry; a place that esteems and sustains practitioners, their time, and their practice.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to esteem, enable, and empower artists by offering space, time, and support, the result of which enriches culture and enlarges lives.

Our Values

Our values underpin our approach to all that we do at The Tyrone Guthrie Centre.

Commitment to Excellence of Creative Endeavour: we are committed to valuing, motivating, supporting, and celebrating excellence in creative endeavour.

Dignity and Respect: towards our artists, the Arts Council of Ireland/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the OPW, our many strategic partners, our local, national, and international communities and audiences, towards our Board of Directors and in-house team and all visitors to The Tyrone Guthrie Centre, and for our reputation as an organisation.

Accessibility and Inclusion: towards all cultural and social communities whether artists, or members of our Board and in-house team, allied with an openness to fresh ideas, new or previously unheard voices, and innovative ways of doing our business.

Integrity, Accountability, and Transparency: in how we administer and select applications, our role as a registered not-for-profit organisation, in appointments to our Board of Directors and in-house team, and in our day-to-day business.

Collegiality: communicating effectively with our artists, our funders, our strategic partners and other stakeholders, and our audiences, allied with reaching out to our local communities to co-create and sustain opportunities for training, whether with the Centre, or within the context of community led projects.

Care of our Environments: of the Guthrie family legacy and bequest, our archive and collections, and of Annaghmakerrig House and its ecosystems, as well as our broader environments encompassing our varied stakeholders.



One of our visual arts studios.



Our print studio showing two of our three presses.

[The top colour image on the previous page shows a corner of one of our visual art studios. The studio is on the top floor of our bank of studios built into an old range of farm buildings. The walls are white, and floor is lined with polished wooden floorboards. There is a skylight in the roof, and the original roof trusses are painted black. There are two wooden easels in the room, one in the far-left corner, and the other against the far wall. There is a long trestle table against the wall on the left, with a chair in front of it, and a long white radiator on the wall behind it.

The second colour image on the previous page shows a view of our dedicated print studio. It is a large white room on the ground floor of our block of studios housed in a large remodelled Victorian farm building. There is a large black framed arched window in the west facing wall that floods the room with daylight and gives a partial view of the garden. To the left mid ground of the studio there is a large old red print press, and on the far right there is a roll type print press. There is a large workbench between the two print presses, and there are various inks and tools hanging on the wall behind, to the right of the window.]



The music room in our Big House

[Colour image showing a partial view of the music room in Annaghmakerrig House. Completed in 1873, the room has a dark wooden roof with the original trusses on view. There is an oval window in the top centre of the left-hand wall, with a very large mirror underneath in which our pink painted harpsichord is reflected. There is a tall twelve paned window, with original shutters, to the left of the mirror. A large blue rug, with a circle of yellow stars, decorates the middle of the floor. The harpsichord is placed on the left corner of the rug, in front of the window, and to the right, a grand piano, covered in its dust cover, is placed near the edge of the rug. There is a Victorian glass doored bookcase in the far-left corner, and a cream chaise longue to the far right, just behind the grand piano. There are various prints hung on the cream painted walls.]

Our Priorities

We have four Priorities for the next five years, envisioned under the headings of: Artist and Arts Practice Development, Creating Audiences for the Benefit of our Artists, Organisational Planning, and Safeguarding.

1. Artist and Arts Practice Development

- 1.1 We will ensure that we constantly review and align our services and facilities with the ambition of artists.
- 1.2 We will develop a communications plan with a focus on inclusivity and accessibility for all artists.
- 1.3 We will achieve a broader engagement with artists and audiences in Northern Ireland by developing new strategic partnerships, while building on relationships that have existed for many years.
- 1.4 We will create new points of entry to The Tyrone Guthrie Centre across all art forms, with a strong focus on diversity and inclusion.
- 1.5 We will collegially review our strategic partnerships with arts organisations, local authorities, and others who support the arts by funding residencies for artists at The Tyrone Guthrie Centre, so that the terms and conditions of such funding align with our aim to be as profoundly open as possible.
- 1.6 We will introduce a data-friendly booking system that will support the implementation of our diversity and inclusion initiatives.
- 1.7 We will establish peer panels to assess our in-house bursary offer, which will ensure equality and fairness of process. We will pay artist panellists for their time and expertise.
- 1.8 We will create a network of advocates to assist us in promoting our new initiatives, while at the same time we will celebrate our artists on our social media platforms and elsewhere.
- 1.9 We will use data analytics to analyse our success or otherwise, and to better describe the significance of The Tyrone Guthrie Centre to artists and the arts infrastructure in Ireland.
- 1.10. As an all-Ireland organisation, we will identify ways in which to formally engage with the Shared Island initiative, through advocacy, and the development of new initiatives at The Tyrone Guthrie Centre.
- 1.11 We will broaden our range of international partnerships and bursaries to create opportunities for artists on the island of Ireland.

2. Creating Audiences for the Benefit of Artist Residents

- 2.1 We will develop a communications plan to engage with and/or to further develop our various audiences.
- 2.2 We will renew our website to make it accessible, and continually update our online presence.
- 2.3 We aim to establish deeper connections with our broad range of local communities, through on-site events, work placements, and direct involvement with community arts activities.
- 2.4 We will make connections with organisations working effectively with socially engaged arts practice to ensure that we support and encourage the creation of work with communities, rather than for communities.
- 2.5 We will develop ambitious partnerships with like-minded organisations to ensure extensive audience engagement with creative work that originated or partly originated at The Tyrone Guthrie Centre.
- 2.6 We will identify opportunities to celebrate our artists and their work online, with the aim of establishing new audiences for their work.
- 2.7 We will establish a bi-monthly newsletter, *The Guthrie Gazette*, with news of our artists, bursaries, and our general activities at the Centre.
- 2.8 We will use data analytics to evaluate our scope and reach among our audiences.
- 2.9 Our statistics will assist us, as well as our stakeholders, in understanding the significance of The Tyrone Guthrie Centre to the arts infrastructure for artists and their audiences on the island of Ireland.
- 2.10 We will retain and strengthen our sector-facing profile, while also developing a public profile that is fully aligned with the spirit of our Vision, Mission, Purpose, and philosophy.

3. Organisational Planning

- 3.1 With our 'Equity, Inclusion, Diversity, and Accessibility' Policy as our guiding document, we will work to ensure diversity of representation among our artist residents, our peer panels, our Board of Directors, our committees, and throughout the organisation.
- 3.2 We will underpin the strength of The Tyrone Guthrie Centre as an organisation by constantly re-evaluating our processes and procedures.
- 3.3 We will set the path to the future by developing succession plans for our Board of Directors, committees, and our in-house team.
- 3.4 We will establish a Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee to work alongside our Audit and Risk Committee and our House and Collections Committee.
- 3.5 We will develop and implement an ethical Sponsorship and Fundraising Policy which will be supported by a masterplan document that outlines our specific short, medium, and longer-term sponsorship and fundraising goals for the benefit of The Tyrone Guthrie Centre and its artists, its activities, its environments, and its audiences.
- 3.6 We will continually ensure that we adhere to the Codes of Practice for Fundraising as outlined by the Charities Regulator.
- 3.7 We will continually ensure that we adhere to the Codes of Good Governance and the Code for Internal Financial Management as outlined by the Charities Regulator.
- 3.8 We will produce our Payment for Artists policy which will be made available on our website.
- 3.9 We will ensure that our Policy Documents are reviewed annually or bi-annually, as applicable, and are made available online.

4. Safeguarding

- 4.1 We will safeguard The Tyrone Guthrie Centre and its activities by creating meaningful strategies and policies that align with the inclusive philosophy evident in the 'National Cultural Policy Framework' (Department of Arts), 'Making Great Art Work' (2016-2025: The Arts Council of Ireland), and 'Inspire, Connect and Lead' (2019-2024: Arts Council of Northern Ireland).
- 4.2 We will continue to develop our knowledge of and engagement with Creative Ireland, local authority Arts Plans, the National Development Plan, the Peace Plus Programme, and the Shared Ireland initiative for the benefit of artists and audiences of The Tyrone Guthrie Centre.
- 4.3 We will uphold and celebrate Sir Tyrone Guthrie, and the Guthrie family legacy to artists on the island of Ireland.
- 4.4 We will establish The Tyrone Guthrie Centre as a valuable resource by creating work experience and internship opportunities in arts administration and environmental management, for young people from our diverse local communities and our diverse communities on the island of Ireland.
- 4.5 We will take care of our house, cottages, studios, performance spaces, and our gardens, forests, fields, lands, and Annaghmakerrig Lake, by establishing best practice in recycling, climate control, conservation, biodiversity, land management, and environmental sustainability.
- 4.6 We aim to establish strategic partnerships and sponsorship to assist us in our intent to run our business in the most environmentally friendly ways achievable.
- 4.7 We plan to establish strategic partnerships to assist us in creating educational opportunities in land, building, and collection management and conservation.
- 4.8 We will report annually on the work we are doing to reduce our impact on the environment by reference to the UN Sustainable Development Goals outlined for Health and Wellbeing, Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Responsible Consumption and Production.

Setting Achievable Goals

'Rise Above!' is our guiding document for the next five years, during which time we aim to establish a direction that will take The Tyrone Guthrie Centre into the next forty years and beyond. The Board of Directors will oversee the implementation of the objectives associated with our four priorities by setting achievable goals at the beginning of each year. We will ensure to evaluate our success or otherwise, and we will adapt as required, so that we meet our goals in a collegiate, respectful, and inspiring manner.



Purple lupins in the gardens of The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig.

[Colour image of three purple lupin flowers in full bloom amid a group of their leaves which feature eight or nine long individual leaves that form a star shape. There are several small, yellow-coloured flowers dotted between the greenery.]

Resident Director's Summary

The four priorities that flow from our Vision, Mission, Purpose, and Values were collaboratively convened, carefully thought through, and intended to encompass and adapt to the continually changing environments in which we operate. Tyrone Guthrie's initial vision is fundamental to ours, which combined with and aided by support from the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the OPW, and all our strategic partners, makes The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig a unique place. It is a place wherein we nurture and esteem the intrinsic value of our residents: that which makes you artists and 'other like persons' in the first instance; that which drives and sustains your imagination and motivation; that which urges the creation of whatever it is that is to be created; that which necessitates time to think, to work out, to plan, and to evolve, out of which great art emerges, wending its way into books, theatres, galleries, cinemas, televisions, comics, computer games, and the like, in Ireland, and across the world.

We at The Tyrone Guthrie Centre acknowledge that all creativity is in search of something, and at the same time, we must be practical, organised, and focused so that the Centre is presented and run to its very best. We will establish actions to achieve our Priorities as laid out in 'Rise Above!', and we will continually assess risk, and monitor and evaluate what we are doing, not because it is a necessity to do so – we know that it is – but because we truly want to, so that we can ensure that The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig retains its ethos, and yet enhances and maximises its relevance and significance as an enabling and empowering resource to artists and the arts infrastructure on the island of Ireland for the next forty years and beyond. In doing so, with care and attention to detail, we will honour and do justice to the legacy given to us by Sir Tyrone Guthrie and his family, as well as to the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the OPW, and others who invest in us, those who reside with us, and those who support us in so many other ways.

I am privileged to work with a collegial and engaged Board of Directors, and with an equally collegial in-house team each and all of whom are absolutely dedicated to Sir Tyrone Guthrie's initial vision, and to our pathway to the future. As we begin our journey into the next five years and beyond, we are guided by our strategy document, inspired and motivated by our artists and their quest for creative excellence, and excited for the future.

Dr Éimear O'Connor HRHA, BA, MBA, PhD
Resident Director
January 2022



A winter morning at The Tyrone Guthrie Centre.

[Colour image showing the façade of Annaghmakerrig House on a crisp, frost morning. The cream façade glows against the frosty grey landscape in the morning sun. Up behind the house, to the viewers left, our Dance Studio and Ulster Garden Performance Space are just in view, shaded by a tall group of leafless trees.]

Appendix

Our Past

Brian Friel said of Sir Tyrone Guthrie that he was 'a marvellous man ...the greatest. A great man in every way...'

Regarded in his day as the 'enfant terrible' of British theatre, Sir Tyrone Guthrie (1900-1971) was to become one of the best-known theatre directors of his era. Show business and the arts, as well as social responsibility and community service were in his DNA. His grandmother, Martha Moorhead (d.1890), of Annaghmakerrig House, was an accomplished pianist and organiser of lacemaking and embroidery classes for girls from the locality, which were held in the house. Martha married William James Tyrone Power (1819-1911), Commissary-in-Chief of the British Army, the eldest son of Waterford-born theatre actor, Tyrone Power (1797-1841).

Of Martha's five children, her eldest daughter, Norah, married Dr Thomas Guthrie, a Scottish Presbyterian, whose grandfather was the Reverend Thomas Guthrie D.D., founder of the 'Ragged Schools', and a popular preacher in Scotland. The couple had two children: Tyrone (known as Tony) (1900-1971), named after his maternal grandfather, and Susan Margaret (1906-1997), who were both born in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, but spent holidays at Annaghmakerrig House. Norah inherited the house on the death of her father in 1911, and it became the Guthrie family home. In 1930 Susan Margaret Guthrie married essayist, Hubert Butler, and moved to Kilkenny. The couple had one daughter, Julia. Susan, as she was known, was passionately engaged in promoting the arts and was a founding member of Kilkenny Arts Festival. In 1932 Tyrone married amateur opera singer and keen pianist, Judith (Judy) Bretherton (1906-1972), and the couple made their home in London where they quickly established themselves as celebrated hosts on the arts scene.

Meanwhile, Tyrone Guthrie had become a highly regarded theatre director, playwright, broadcaster, and author. He specialised in the works of Shakespeare and was the founder of the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, USA, and the founding artistic director of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada. Guthrie's work in London before and during the Second World War included productions with Sir John Gielgud, Orson Wells, Vivien Leigh, Laurence Olivier, and Alec Guinness. The range of his achievements was formidable; ninety-six productions, not including those he did for the Scottish National Players and the Cambridge Festival Theatre between 1926 and 1930. He directed operas, and several works for radio, and he authored several plays and books. Fellow Theatre Director Peter Hall wrote of Guthrie that 'Among the great originators in British Theatre... [he] was a towering figure in every sense. He blazed a trail for the subsidised theatre of the Sixties. He showed how to run a company and administer a theatre and he was a brilliant and at times great director...'

As the eldest, Tyrone Guthrie inherited Annaghmakerrig House after his mother's death in 1956. He and Judy made the house their permanent home wherein they hosted a continual stream of exciting and inspiring guests, many of whom were luminaries from the world of theatre, literature, music, and the visual arts. The conversation around the dinner table must have been exhilarating.

Tyrone and Judy Guthrie did not have children, and inevitably, the question arose about what to do with Annaghmakerrig House. With the encouragement of Susan Margaret, and her daughter, Julia Crampton, Tyrone Guthrie made a bequest of Annaghmakerrig House to the Irish State for the use of artists and 'other like persons.' It was a progressive decision, but not a surprising one in consideration of the life-long connection of Annaghmakerrig House with the arts, and with artists. His stipulation that resident artists should meet at 7pm for dinner around the large dining table makes sense too, in the context of the previous life of the house. Sir Tyrone Guthrie died in 1971, followed some months later by his wife, Lady Judith, after which the bequest to the Irish State became official.

Funded by the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig opened in October 1981, a model of cross border cooperation in an era of unrest. As if to associate the history of the house and its former occupants with the vision of the future for what then became The Tyrone Guthrie Centre, the opening speech was delivered by dramatist and author, Brian Friel (1929-2015), friend of the Guthries; another 'great man in every way.'



Annaghmakerrig House, now known colloquially as our 'Big House', c. 1900.

[Sepia coloured photograph of the front of Annaghmakerrig House, about 1900. The house is covered in ivy, and has twelve windows and an arched front door, with a decorative roof, large chimney pots. The grass to the front is well manicured, and there are a group of evergreen and deciduous trees to the left of the house.]

In making such a generous bequest of his ancestral home for the use of artists and ‘other like persons’, Tyrone Guthrie’s idea was visionary, and sincere. Not only are we building on the achievements of forty years since the Centre opened, but we are augmenting a creative legacy that goes back to the Moorhead and Power families and their connection with Annaghmakerrig House.



Martha Power (née Moorhead) of Annaghmakerrig House and her husband, William James Tyrone Power (1819-1911), Commissary-in-Chief of the British Army, the eldest son of Waterford-born theatre actor, Tyrone Power (1797-1841).

[Two sepia-coloured photographs, featuring, to the left, a head and shoulders image of Martha Power (née Moorhead), the only daughter of John and Susan Moorhead of Annaghmakerrig House. The date of the image is unknown. Martha is wearing a decorative head cap, long earrings, a decorative dress and a necklace. To the right, Martha’s husband, William James Tyrone Power, is shown full length, in full British army uniform, with medals on his chest and around his neck, and his ceremonial feathered hat held in his right hand. William is white haired, with white sideburns and a large white moustache. He stands beside a decorate knee high wooden stool to his right.]



Norah Guthrie (née Power), Sir Tyrone Guthrie's mother.

[Sepia coloured image of a young Norah Guthrie (née Power), one of five children of Martha and William Power, and the mother of Tyrone and Susan Margaret Guthrie. Norah is wearing a late Victorian or early Edwardian dark dress with buttoned over jacket. She is wearing a cameo brooch at her neck, and from the viewers perspective, a thick gold chain, possibly a key or watch chain, between her right waist and a button on left side of her jacket. Norah's hair is worn with a fringe, with the suggestion of a ponytail at her back. She faces the camera but looks away from the viewer.]

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge and thank the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon for a Capacity Building Grant (2021) that enabled us to develop our Strategic Plan.



Sunrise over Annaghmakerrig Lake.

[Colour image of a sunset over Annaghmakerrig Lake. Three quarters of the images is taken up with a grey sky dotted with white clouds. Across the middle of sky, as it hits the landscape below, there is a burst of yellow, orange, and pink from the rising sun. The light is so strong that the surrounding landscape is cast into shadow.]