



OÉ Gaillimh
NUI Galway



NUI Galway
SOCIETIES

SOCsBOX NEWS

Committee Newsletter Vol: 2, February 26th 2021

In this week's edition

Check out previous editions [at this link](#), (it's the purple box on the socs website)

[And our new promo video here](#)

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Alive Certificate

Presidents Award



It's time to start thinking of applying for your [ALIVE Cert](#) for your society volunteering.

Society members and committee members who volunteer at least 10 hours with you can apply for an ALIVE cert. In your dashboard you can reject any applications (but email applicants with a reason) and update their hours - this is done after the individual deadline. You also need to add in a short description of your society and upload a photo. Committee member details are added in automatically to the award section in yourspace.nuigalway.ie

Your ALIVE Cert will be added to your academic transcript.

You can get an ALIVE Cert without the Society Leadership Award but not the other way around.

Individuals: You get your ALIVE Cert by applying in yourspace.nuigalway.ie. If you are on a committee the role and society will automatically be there for you, if you volunteer with a society you need to add this in. You must answer all 8 questions and the sustainability goal question and put in your hours to get the cert.

Societies: You need to go to your society dashboard on www.socs.nuigalway.ie and go to the ALIVE link. Fill in the short society description and check that everyone who has applied to get a cert with your society is entitled to one. There will be about one day once the individual applications are closed to check all your applications and accept or reject them, and to make any adjustments to hours. **You must do this for your members to get the cert.**

You can add [Society Leadership](#) to your ALIVE Cert (It will also include your society and committee position)

There is a **Most ALIVE Award** as part of the society awards, for the society with the greatest ALIVE engagement.

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March *Lunch* Meetups

If you would like to get your society involved in the March Lunch meetups please fill in the Doodle poll below. Hopefully we will get at least one society per event. There is €50 per day for any participating society, if more than one society sign up this will be split to a minimum of €20 per participating society.

Doodle Poll https://doodle.com/poll/rxnt24x8kz4x5p4d?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

In the Student Covid-19 Impact Survey, NUI Galway students told us that one of the many challenges they are facing is a lack of connectedness or a sense of belonging. Many students have not had opportunities to connect, either virtually or in person with others in their course. In response to this need for connection Student Support Services have come together to arrange a series of virtual lunchtime events in March.

March Lunch Meetups is organised by Societies, Student Services, SU, ALIVE and Clubs. It will take place from 1pm - 2pm Monday - Thursday with a different college each day and a different year each week.

The event will include opportunities to meet students and staff in small groups in a fun and relaxed atmosphere with games and opportunities to win prizes as well as chances to find out about supports and general opportunities available to students that you may not be aware of.

The event will be hosted by either Lorraine Tansey or Riona Hughes with tech support from the SocsBox, it is hoped to always have one co-host from the following: Student Services, SU, Clubs and Societies.

Proposed Format

- Intro to the hosts: each says a couple of words, shows a short support services video.

- Set a challenge to the attendees and put them into break out rooms: they will have 2 - 3 opportunities to meet in smaller groups in the break out rooms with various games/challenges to complete.
- End with a short Q & A.

If you have any game/activities ideas please let Róna know at socsofficer@socs.nuigalway.ie

TimeTable

Monday March 8th - Thursday April 1st.

Monday 1pm-2pm	Tuesday 1pm-2pm	Wednesday 1pm-2pm	Thursday 1pm-2pm
March 8th	March 9th	March 10th	March 11th
First Arts	First Biz & Law	First Eng & Science	First Med & Health Science
March 15th	March 16th	March 17th	March 18th
Second Arts	Second Biz & Law	Closed on Tomorrow	Second Med & Health Science/ Second Eng & Science
March 22nd	March 23rd	March 24th	March 25th
Third Arts	Third Biz & Law	Third Eng & Science	Third Med & Health Science
March 29th	March 30th	March 31th	April 1st
Fourth & Postgrads Arts	Fourth & Postgrads Biz & Law	Fourth & Postgrads Eng & Science	Fourth & Postgrads Med & Health Science

Folder with promo material including images and video for social media etc. <http://bit.ly/2P0tnp2>

MARCH MEETUPS *lunch!*

1pm - 2pm
Mondays - Thursdays
March 8th - Apr 1st
on zoom!

Students & Staff
welcome!

NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

Mon: Arts
Tue: Business & Law
Wed: Science & Engineering
Thur: Medicine & Health Sciences
Week 1, Mar. 8th: First Years
Week 2, Mar. 15th: 2nd Years
Week 3, Mar. 22nd: 3rd Years
Week 4, Mar. 29th: 4th Years & Postgrads

COME FOR THE CHAT
HANG OUT OVER LUNCH
MEET YOUR CLASS MATES
HAVE THE CRAIC!
PRIZES + FREE STUFF

Society Awards

Last year we won big at BICS!

- Best Society in a Cultural, Academic or Social Field – Dramsoc
- Best Society in a Charity or Civic Field – Sláinte Society
- Best Event – Akumakon, Anime & Manga Society

This year it could be you!

All the details are now live on your dashboard and at [this link](#)



Kate and Oisín celebrating Dramsocs win at last Years BICS Awards Watch party in the Galway Bay Hotel

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Society Training

If you haven't signed up for training yet check out the list below. Details at this [link](#)

We have two new sessions added since last week, see below.

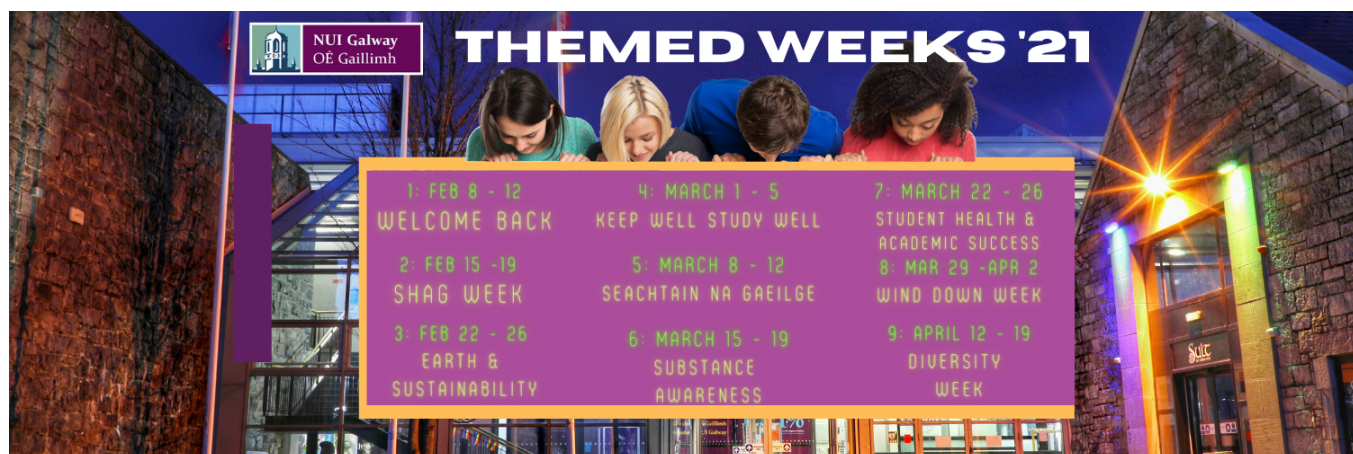
Society Training March 2021				
	Monday 1st	Tuesday 2nd	Wednesday 3rd	Thursday 4th
6.30pm - 7.30pm	PRO: <i>Learn how to market your society, how to improve the visibility of your events and how to and when to create a press release. Facilitator: Carol Devaney</i>	Secretary: <i>Training made specifically for secretaries. Learn all about your duties and responsibilities, and the tools and resources that can help you. Facilitators: Lily O'Connor & Kate O'Mahony</i>	Conflict Resolution: <i>Learn how to deal with conflict and find a resolution that works for everyone. Facilitator: Riona Hughes</i>	Chairperson: <i>Training specifically for auditors and vice auditors or anyone chairing a sub committee on how to be an effective leader. Facilitator: Kate O'Mahony</i>
	Monday 8th	Tuesday 9th	Wednesday 10th	Thursday 11th
6.30pm - 7.30pm	Team Work & Accessibility: <i>What makes a great team, tips on how to make the experience enriching for all involved and how to make your events accessible to all. Facilitators: Riona Hughes & Carol Devaney</i>	AGMs, USCG & Socs Protocols: <i>Learn about how the USCG works, your constitution and effective General Meetings Facilitator: Kate O'Mahony</i>	Funding and Fun Online: <i>Maximising your college grant and ideas for engaging online events for your members. Facilitator Riona</i>	The Dashboard & Online Platforms (Zoom & Discord): <i>Learning how to use the societies dashboard, Zoom, and Discord so that you can maximise the online presence of your society. You will learn how to run events, meetings and collaborations using the online tools available to you. Facilitators: Lily O'Connor & Ronan Gallagher.</i>
	Monday 15th	Tuesday 16th		
6.30pm - 7.30pm	Society Awards <i>How to enter for the Society Awards, what awards are there this year and news on the BICS Awards, Facilitator Riona Hughes</i>	ALIVE Certs, Socs Leadership & Digital Badges <i>How to apply for your ALIVE cert, how to add your Socs Leadership Award and how to get your Digital Badge Facilitator Riona Hughes</i>		

[To sign up for training fill in this form.](#)

Themed Weeks

Congrats Socs! You have loads of events in next week's themed week "Keep Well, Study Well", so keep checking what week is on and add your events to the calendar the previous Wednesday, so we can get them extra publicity. Earth & Sustainability week has gone really well, big rounds of applause to all of the societies who took part and hosted events to do with the themed week. Congratulations in particular to Envirosoc who held five events as part of the themed week!

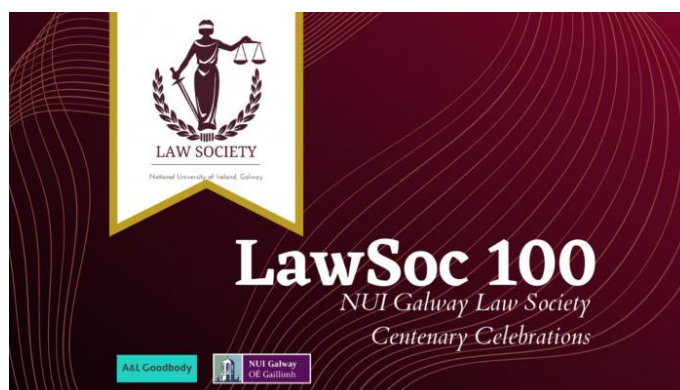
Check out the lineup of upcoming Themed Weeks [here](#)



Societies in the News

Law Soc

Law Soc celebrates 100 years next week! See their article in the [Law Society Gazette](#)! Such a big reason to celebrate and a great lineup of events, the society has been having a spectacular year, a hearty well done to all of the committee! You can take a look at their podcast: The Legal Lens [here!](#)



Mincéirs Whiden Society

Traveller Ethnicity Day takes place on Monday, 1 March and we are marking the day with a series of online events. Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris T.D., Senator Eileen Flynn, children's author Richard O'Neill and US-based academic Professor Sharon Gmelch are among those taking part. March 1 2021 marks five years since the state formally recognised Irish Travellers officially as a minority ethnic group.

To mark the anniversary, the flag of the **Mincéirs Whiden Society**, the only university society for Irish Travellers, will fly above the Quad at NUI Galway and a series of films will be shown including a specially produced short documentary *Travellers in Higher Education: Building a Sense of Belonging*. Other events planned for the day include panel discussions on pathways to education and a career in teaching and what the State's recognition of Traveller ethnicity has meant for the community.

The full schedule of events and how to access them is available at this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/nui-galway-irish-traveller-ethnicity-day-2021-32639303919>

Getting your society in the press

If you have something to shout about and would like to get an article in the papers, draft up a press release, be sure to add in a quote and email it to Riona at socsofficer@socs.nuigalway.ie and Sheila in the NUI Galway press office at sheila.gorham@nuigalway.ie

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Marchathon Socs Challenge

Vote for your society charity



The **Marchathon Step Challenge** is back this March with lots of prizes to be won just by walking!

Socs Bonus for entering

As an extra bonus if you sign up as a team and add your society name as part of the team name we will add in extra prizes for the societies entering. If you already have a team name picked just let us know so we can keep an eye out for you.

Each week the top society team will win a prize and there will be a €25 prize per team member for the overall society team at the end of the challenge. Just be aware that the SocsBox are entering a team and we will be the one to beat! We have a few socs sign ups so far and we will be watching your progress>

The Challenge

So here is the SocsBox Challenge to you, we have a team of five people, Riona, Mary, Mike, Kate and Ronan. If we beat the societies the €125 prize money will go to one of our charity societies. (we are working on a side bet with the sports office as well to add to the charity pot!!)

Vote for which society charity you would like the money to go to! Voting closes at 10am next friday and the winner will be announced in next week's News Letter.

<https://strawpoll.com/q6942cs5g>

Marchthon is a team Challenge, with teams of 3-6 people signing up and aiming to take as many steps as possible during the challenge

Connect with your colleagues and classmates whether you are in the office or working/studying from home this March.

The challenge starts Monday 1st of March and runs until Sunday 28th of March. There will be loads of team challenges with great prizes to be won each week during the challenge.

The SU will also have spot prizes for NUIG teams of SU Keep Cups and reusable Water Bottles. Your first chance to win is the **NUIG best team name competition!**

More information and registration click this link: www.marchathon.ie

Please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested in taking part in the challenge.

Making Societies Videos with Powtoon

[Powtoon](#) is software that you can use to make videos, we have uploaded our latest video to [our youtube channel](#), if making cartoon informational videos to promote your society or for training purposes is something you are interested in, let us know and we will do a training session and share the software with you. **Check out our latest Videos**



[March Lunch Meetups.](#)

[Society Training.](#)

[SocsBox News Promo.](#)

[Society Engagement Award.](#)

Welcome to our New Societies

A big warm welcome to our two newest societies Nursing & Midwifery and ELSA who have been officially established by the USCG. Let's learn a little bit about them!

Nursing and Midwifery



We hope that this society will give you an opportunity to explore the wonderful world of nursing and midwifery while making friends and having fun!

This society will be a chance for students to express their passion and develop their knowledge about the professions while also having a compassionate, caring community to make new friends and have fun! As we all know, Covid has made it very difficult for people to make friends in college, especially in first year, so this could be your chance!

We aim to organise events virtually for the time being but hopefully in the future we will be able to meet for social outings and organise bake sales, pizza evenings, charity fundraisers, and many more exciting events.

Don't worry we can do a lot virtually! We aim to have guest speakers, debates, pilates and yoga, fundraisers, book and movie nights, quizzes, causal zoom nights, meditation and self-care exercises and much more.

ELSA



ELSA NUIG is a local group of the European Law Students' Association which is the largest law student organisation in the world. Our aim is to organise and promote events throughout the semester that will help members develop key skills such as commercial awareness and professional development, offering opportunities to interact with students and legal organisations from all around Europe.

Barry's Section

Barry's Section



“Hello everyone!!!! I hope you’ve all had a great week 3 and have enjoyed all the fantastic events run by societies this week. For those of you that haven’t met me yet, I’m Barry and I’m the new Societies Chairperson on the SU. If you’ve ever confused about what I do, I’ll give you a quick breakdown. I’m basically you and your societies rep for any worries you might have. I represent you on the Students Union and I’m a rep for you on USCG. That basically means, if you have worries you need representing, I’m here.

So enough with the formalities! I’m gonna use this part in the weekly newsletter to share SU news with you, or maybe projects that the SU are working on.

First of all, for anyone who knows me, they know I love my bit of Gaeilge and the next two weeks are Seachtain na Gaeilge!! There’s so much being run this year so make sure to follow @nuigsu on all social media platforms to see all the great stuff planned! Secondly, the SU are doing loads of different competitions and charity events over the next month. First, we have the fabulous Marchathon! Our Marchathon Walking Challenge starts this Monday and runs until 28th March! Sign your team up before Monday to be entered in our Best Team Name competition to win SU Keep Cups. Sign up your team of 3-6 now at www.marchathon.ie ! We’re also running a Hair Fundraiser for our March Charity Challenge! We want you to shave or dye your hair to raise funds for the SU Charities: Galway Rape Crisis Centre, Galway Autism Partnership and Helplink Mental Health. More info and sign up here -

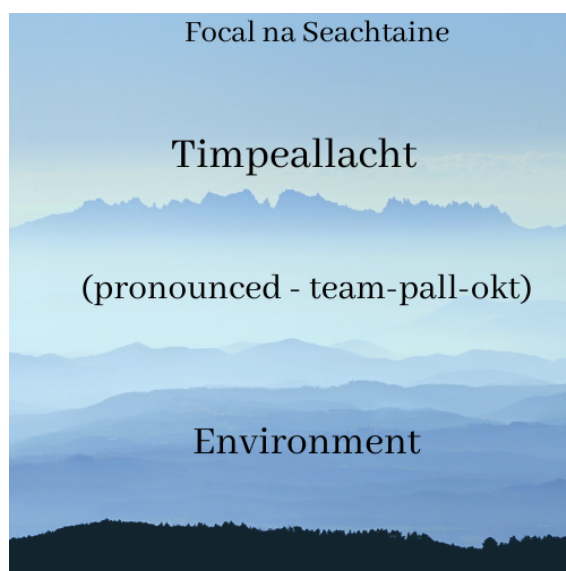
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hrHjE0bEq0qcbZq5u3aBbFbjGLCUgTZPjvEkYhyMCFRURFRPRjVVU1JXNkU4MjITSIE4TzhLTExPUS4u>

[Fill | Hair Raiser Sign-up](#)

Fill out this form to get signed up for the NUI Galway Students' Union Hair Raiser. Dye or Shave your hair for Charity. What's different? People can vote with their money for what colour or if someone shaves their hair. E.G. Person one could have the option of Pink, Blue, Shaved or Mohawk then people can donate € money to the option they want to see. At the end of March, you change your hair to the most voted for! Money raised goes to Galway Rape Crisis Centre, Helplink Mental Health and Galway Autism Partnership.

forms.office.com

Every week I'm gonna leave you with "Focal na Seachtaine," which is the word of the week. This week, the Environmental Society celebrated Earth Week, so I'll leave you with the word "Timpeallacht," (pronounced - team-pall-okt) which means environment!



Have a great week 4 everyone and remember you can always contact me at su.socs@nuigalway.ie.

Slán! "

Q&A:

Last week I held a Societies Forum for all societies to come and ask me questions and I'd get an answer for you. I met with Riona to find out some of the answers, and here they are!

Q: Hey Riona! How are you?

A: Thanks Barry I am in good health and in good form, and very proud of all the great work the societies are doing.

Q: If a Society wants to organise committee bonding, is there money there to do so?

A: Yes Barry under the [schedule of allowances](#) there is €100 , but if your committee is over 10 people you can have an additional €10 per committee member (must be on your dashboard)

Q: Do you think Societies will get to meet in person this semester?

A: I honestly don't know, it's all up to the government guidelines, what I do know is that Mike has been doing great work on our safety documentation, so as soon as it is permissible for people to meet we will have the documentation and advice ready for the societies to organise events. In the meantime adhere to the guidelines, and do pop by the SocsBox Help desk if you would like help with any virtual events.

Q: Is there funding for new online software?

A: Yes the society just needs to confirm the cost by emailing finance@socs.nuigalway.ie and socsofficer@socs.nuigalway.ie, it comes under capital expenses on the [schedule of allowances](#). This also helps us make sure we don't already have a licence.

Q: Are there any more training committees can do?

A: There is a new suite of training being rolled out from next Monday for 3 weeks details here plus there are 15 modules in the e-learning section of the dashboard. Details [here](#)

Socs Week in Review

Musical Theatre Intervarsities

This week we had the pleasure of watching the incredible intervarsity showcase of some of Ireland's Musical Theatre college societies. Our own Galway University Musical Society (GUMS) took to the stage/YouTube in a wonderful celebration of musical theatre alongside Maynooth University Musical Society, Munster Technical University, Cork Musical Society and Trinity Musical Theatre Society. After the heart of GUMS having to cancel the 2020 Intervarsity Competition with just a week to go on March 12th, they came back fighting and wonderfully produced a lovely evening and Adam O'Connor, Noel Minogue and the rest of the GUMS team have us all at NUIG Societies' very proud indeed.

The familiar faces of GUMS brought the lively *Little Shop of Horrors* to zoom with energy and enthusiasm. Alan Menken's *Little Shop of Horrors* tells the story of Seymour and Audrey and their plights with a ferocious man eating plant with notable songs such as *Skid Row (Downtown)* and *Somewhere That's Green*. GUMS staging of this was ambitious, complete with choreography and visual effects which really made it all come alive! Samuel Tuohy and Mary Brookes gave lovely performances as Seymour and Audrey respectively, with detailed characterisations and sweet vocals in the charming *Suddenly Seymour*. Barry Sugrue excelled as the hilarious and villainous Dentist with ear piercing cackles and wonderful physicality, you really loved to hate him. But it was Caoilfhinn Ní Choiligh's sultry performance of the evil Audrey II which really thrilled with her flawless voice and commanding presence. Caolan James Moriarity and Michael Healy were ambitious in their direction and choreography over zoom but it was a definite triumph. Katie Feeny's musical direction was totally flawless, from the execution of the harmonies, the cuts of music and the mixing, she shone as a musical director! Overall, this piece made me just want to see more!!!

Maynooth University Musical Society (MUMS) brought us a delightful and uplifting rendition of *The Addams Family*. Based on the iconic series, *The Addams Family* musical reunites us without old favourites, Morticia, Gomez, Pugsley, Lurch, Uncle Fester and Wednesday and introduces us to the Beinikes, Alice, Mal and their son Lucas, Wednesday's new boyfriend. The only problem is, they're.....normal!!!!!! MUMS patchworked a combination piece of recordings of their pre-pandemic rehearsals with new zoom material in what was just so much fun. The performers looked absolutely perfect for their respective characters. Particularly impressive were Molly Hackett and Colleen Doyle,

whose performances were equally as good as Morticia and Wednesday as was Brian Dalton as the highly charismatic Gomez. I thoroughly revelled in the almost grown up version of Pugsley we got from Lar Bathe. But the standout performance was by Elizabeth Murphy as Alice, who delivered a skillful and stunning performance with brilliant comedy and vocals any professional singer would envy. The ancestors were a delight to watch and gave as much commitment as the leading cast. The enormous crew should all be commended for their excellence, particularly for the fantastic black and white visual effects which brought right into the world of The Addams Family. MUMS ended the piece with a bloopers reel, which honestly put a big smile on face, to see such positivity. This was just everything I needed and I would kill to see a full production of this show from them.

A song cycle of *Dear Evan Hansen* was brought to us by Munster Technical University, Cork. Dear Evan Hansen tells the heartbreaking story of Evan, a teenager battling mental health struggles and the Murphy's, who recently lost their son to suicide. Although dealing with some difficult and saddening stories, there are some lovely uplifting numbers. The strength of this production was it's vocals by musical director and director Andrew Lane, with assistance from Sarah Corcoran. The Piece was very simple and melded interesting arrangements with strong singers. Kayme O'Callaghan and Rian Fitzmaurice Condron gave a stunning vocal performance of Only Us, a romantic duet between Evan and Zoe Murphy, which was my personal highlight of the piece. I do think a little more detail in the production's direction could have gone a long way but Andrew Lane really delivered on the vocals which was clearly the focus. Overall, the vocals were just beautiful, the singers were very pleasant on the ear and a piece that could have been very depressing to watch, was an absolute joy!

Lastly, we went *Into the Woods* with Trinity Musical Theatre Society. This Stephen Sondheim classic follows some of your favourite fairy tale characters like Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack with his Beanstalk, but like you've never seen them before. In what analyses what is good and what is right, nothing in this story is as it seems. Trinity's production was largely staged outdoors at a distance with pieces recorded with a background. This was ambitious. Sondheim is a notoriously difficult composer to sing and one of his most difficult pieces is *Your Fault*. The cast stunned me with this. Their treatment of this fast paced number was admirable. The standout performances came from Alba Walsh Subarin as the Witch and David Hannifin as the Mysterious Man. The choreography by Niamh McDermott ranged from contemporary dance to classical ballet, which was interesting to see in a wooded setting and executed very well by the ensemble. Laura Ryan's design was highly commendable and likely the strongest of the four productions. The skill and the artistry of the piece is undeniable and nothing short of expected from the talented people at Trinity Musical Theatre Society. I would though, have loved to have seen the piece end with the rousing music of the show's finale to send us on our way, back to the doom and gloom of the real world.

By Kate O'Mahony

If you have a review of a society event you would like to share email it to socsbox@socs.nuigalway.ie

RIDDLE ME THIS.....

*'I have a home and a big space, I have keys but I have no locks,
I have lots of letters but I have no mailbox. What am I?'*

Email your answer to socsbox@socs.nuigalway.ie to be in with a chance to win a €10 Gift Voucher!

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SocsBox on Social Media

[TikTok](#) [Snapchat](#) [Discord](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)

[READ MORE ON OUR
WEBSITE](#)



This newsletter will be sent to you every Friday to your society email and NUIG email.

If you have an article you would like to include, send it to socsbox@socs.nuigalway.ie with 'Socsbox News' in the title by Thursday at 1pm. It will also be archived in Socs information link on www.socs.nuigalway.ie in the purple box at the top of the home page.



Link on www.socs.nuigalway.ie