

## Globalization : A strength for Ireland and its culture.

We have noticed that over the past years, globalization has been an important subject for different countries and cultures. Whether in a good or bad way, however Irish culture managed to use this phenomenon to their own advantage and benefit to spread their culture around the world.

It was at Sénart Theater that MAM occurred on stage on the 17th of December 2024. It was a magnificent performance that dived us into different shades of Irish Culture, mainly in a musical aspect. Therefore, we can wonder ; Is globalization the only thing that inspired the artists to create this show ?

### Behind the scenes

We got the chance to interview Rachel, the choreographic director of MAM. She talked about how the creation of the show took 8 weeks as she, her husband Michael, and Cormac; an Irish musician worked on Ireland's west coast in a house together. Her main inspiration as she said was Micheal's knowledge on Ireland's culture as he and Cormac, who is his friend, both come from there. She also shared that surprisingly, none of the approximately 10 dancers on stage were Irish. Also that the steps were fully improvised and created during their 8 weeks "trip". Rachel also mentioned her paycheck, saying it wasn't high and was more on the modest side, but she said that when she was in Dance School in Switzerland when she was 20 years old, she knew she wouldn't gain a big salary, but she didn't seem to mind. She also mentioned at the end that the little girl in white that performed was actually her granddaughter. And that all the non Irish artists took what they knew from Irish culture and their surroundings in Ireland during their journey to make the show.



### Meaning and metaphors

When asked about the meaning of their creation, Rachel said that it was very abstract and the viewer was free to interpret it in their own words. For example the famous scene where one of the male dancers kiss everyone on stage as they fainted right after. It could symbolize a Farewell before going to war with the context of British colonialism in Ireland. The music at the beginning is really tense, stressful and slow, yet the more we get into it,

the more joyful it gets. The dancers being all dressed in black could be interpreted as a funeral or grief scene and the little girl in white being the one that died or an angel. Again, it's up to the viewer to decide how to interpret it. Also, Rachel mentioned a few folks elements, such as the little girl being married to a goat in Pagan culture in Ireland. She said that the music had no lyrics and was only instrumental so the music was more a free sandbox for the viewer to enjoy it in their own way without having to fit the already made lyrics and make their own story. The purpose of this show was to share different human emotions; sadness, anger, fear, joy, excitement, exhaustion. All of this through dances, mixing traditions and modernity.

### A page in a life

As Rachel said, this show was something meaningful as every of their shows are. Because during the making of this show like the rest of them, some link were made and friendships or even romantic relationships were created, while some others were broken, some people came, some left, some had kids. Which is what made us human. Beside, she and her group traveled a lot and faced a lot of challenges and obstacles. Such as price for rent of the stage to perform, or the houses to sleep when being on tour. They went to Germany, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, London and Madrid for example. In total, they made 70 shows, each of them being unique and being like a page of the books of their lives.

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