

Tuesday, May 21

Storytelling as Performance

When we attended this performance at the last minute with only two students during the last Maymester, we immediately regretted not booking it for the entire group. It was one of our favorite evenings of the entire trip.



Since then, the event—“An Evening of Irish Folklore and Fairies”—has moved pubs, but we still expect the magic to be there. The Stag’s Head is a traditional Irish pub, and you will be free to bring a drink with you to the event, should you wish. The group is affiliated with a folklore program at a local college, so they weave the stories together with pieces of Irish history and cultural knowledge. The storyteller will likely identify as a storyteller, not an actor or even a performer, but someone who practices a folk artistry.

Storytelling is an oral language tradition that we characterize as entertainment today because so much of what we do is through written texts (for example, you reading this). Traditionally, storytelling was a way to preserve history, teaching the past to the next generation from one teller to the next. Even though it is an oral tradition, the very best storytellers will provide images to their tales with their language. You might be surprised with how much you “see” through these stories.

The crowd will be filled with visitors to Dublin, again from all over, but it will be a different crowd from the one we experienced at Johnnie Fox’s. Think about how you’ll describe the difference when we meet for class again (probably tomorrow on the ferry to Scotland)

#UKinMay assignment:

- Post an image with caption from your time in Ireland that captures a sense of “fairy magic” or otherworldliness.
- Or, post an image with caption from your time in Ireland that captures a story you will want to tell others when you return.

