

**PRESS RELEASE -**

**Date: May 1, 2026**

Youth Work Ireland is proud to announce that the Irish Youth Music Awards (IYMAs) National Day 2026 will take place on Saturday, May 9th at the Axis Theatre in Ballymun, Dublin. This flagship event is a celebration of youth creativity and the culmination of months of dedicated work from young artists across the island of Ireland.

The IYMAs National Day brings together participants from 21 regional hubs, each representing local communities and diverse musical talent. The event is not only a platform for live performance, but also a space for learning, networking, and celebrating youth voice and expression through workshops, discussions, and collaborative activities.

This is a day where young creatives come together to share, learn, and most importantly, have fun. When explaining the journey of this year's groups Shane Gately Youthwork Irelands Youth Development Officer, (Arts & Creativity) said "From the first selection gig to our last, we've witnessed extraordinary talent, showcasing everything from powerful solo acts to full-blown face melting metal. Each young artist brings courage, energy, and originality to the stage".

The IYMAs is more than a music programme, it's a youth development programme which offers all young people opportunities for growth, self-expression, and community engagement. It is run by Youth Work Ireland and powered by the passion of local youth workers, hub leaders, and volunteers who guide and support young people on their personal and creative journeys.

"We must acknowledge the unwavering dedication of our youth workers, hub leaders, and support teams," Shane added. "They not only guide young people as artists through the creative process, but also help build confidence, resilience, and self-awareness in a supportive environment."

This event would not be possible without the ongoing support of Youth Work Ireland's funders and partners. The contributions of imro, RTE 2fm and RAAP are very important and legitimise the programme's aspirations. Member Youth Services, and staff at the Axis Theatre have also been of immense support in helping to bring this day together. Their collective efforts help ensure the IYMAs remain a vibrant and sustainable programme for other young creatives in the years ahead.

We look forward to having you join us in celebrating the future of Irish music, youth culture, future advocates and community leaders. As the old saying goes: "There are no strangers here; only friends you have yet to meet."

**Media Contact:**

Shane Gately  
Youth Development Officer, Arts & Creativity  
Phone: 0877356223  
Email: [sgately@youthworkireland.ie](mailto:sgately@youthworkireland.ie)  
Website [www.youthworkireland.ie](http://www.youthworkireland.ie)