Association of Irish Festival Events (AOIFE)

AOIFE - the Association of Irish Festival Events - is an all-island voluntary network organisation that brings together organisers of festivals and events in Ireland, suppliers to the festival and event sector and policy-makers and funders

- to act as a forum for the sharing of ideas and
- to resolve common areas of concern and seeks to influence government policies in relation to the sector.

Founded in March 1993, today there are over 400 festivals and events and in excess of 100 corporate, associate and individual members. Member Festivals range from prestigious international events to a host of smaller town and village festivals throughout the island of Ireland.

AOIFE Services

The O’Driscol O’Neil Public Liability Insurance Scheme is a package of insurance policies designed specifically for festivals and events. For the majority of AOIFE members the scheme offers 50% savings on premiums - www.odon.ie. (For more information, access the Members’ section of this website).

AOIFE & Our Partners organise an annual conference with a programme that includes presentations, seminars and workshops on a variety of relevant topics including funding, marketing, insurance, health and safety and sponsorship. A key feature of Conference is the attendance of speakers from European and North American festivals and events to share experiences. Conference takes place annually in November.

‘Festive Expo’ a valuable trade show event, is incorporated into Conference each year. Another feature of Conference is ‘Showcasing’ a feature designed to provide a platform for new emerging entertainment acts to reach the people in Irish festivals who make the decisions on what entertainment to feature.

AOIFE also operates a help desk for members where specific enquiries are dealt with on festival or event matters within 48 hours. Other services include regular networking and training seminars, the production of a range of guidelines and codes of practice which endeavour to ensure the application of ‘best practice’ by festivals and events in Ireland.

AOIFE circulates an electronic fortnightly eBulletin to update Members on topical issues and to allow Members to network acts, facilities and services.

AOIFE also has a very detailed Resource Library of Festival Management Guides which can be issued to Members.

AOIFE is recognised by Fáilte Ireland and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, and by both Arts Councils as the voice of Festivals & Events in Ireland. AOIFE has established strong links with a large number of arts, music, tourism and community development organisations at home and abroad including IFEA and IFEA Europe, the Association of Festival Organisers (AFO), the British Arts Festivals Association (BAFA), Festivals of Wales and other European festival organisations.