

Our Theatre-Project-Week in Dublin

Thursday, 4 October – 5:30 a.m

Innsbruck – The bus picked us up at 5:30 a.m. Everyone was tired and tried to sleep except for Sophia and Isabelle. They had a lot to talk and were very excited. So, everyone was really annoyed by them.

After a two-hour-trip we arrived at Munich airport without any problems. Then our real journey began. The first exciting situation was to find the departure gate. But after solving this problem and packed with some food we finally boarded the plane. Sadly, not everyone had a seat next to their classmates but some of us were sitting next to interesting English-speaking people.

Dublin – After landing, a bus picked us up and took us to our hostel. The Abraham House is a hostel located in the centre of Dublin. The rooms were quite tiny but mostly clean. It was acceptable for a one-week-stay.

The rest of the first day in Dublin we spent with a Dublin tour guide. We were split into two groups. Both guides were very nice. The best part of the tour was when the two guides sang for us a typical Irish song. It was named “Molly Malone”. After this exhausting tour we were hungry, so we went to a Pub named “Harbourmaster”. It looked quite nice but not everyone liked the food because it was made in a typical English way. All in all, it was an exciting first day and we all slept well that night.

Friday, 5 October

On our first morning in Ireland, we visited the EPIC museum, which gave us an overview about the Irish history and took us about 2 hours to explore.

It's located near the river Liffey. With an audio guide we got a lot of information about Irish emigration, reasons for emigrating and background stories. There were many interactive installations to get the information. For instance, people were video-projected on the wall, there were touchscreens, books telling stories when you put them out of the bookshelf, a large screen designed as a book and a lot more.

Furthermore we got a passport which we had to stamp in every room. We also tried to answer the questions we got from our teacher. Although there would have been much more to see, we were running out of time since we had to go to our theater workshop afterwards.

Irish Dancing lesson & dinner at O'Shea's

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven... in two three, out two three... that was the beginning of our unforgettable Irish dancing lesson in the restaurant O'shea's near our hostel.

Our dancing coach taught us three similar dances. We started with some easy basic steps, but soon it was getting more difficult and faster. All of us were really into it, even the teachers had a lot of fun and enjoyed it. According to our dancing instructor all Irish people know how to dance, even little children. It was a pleasure for us to get to know how to do these traditional Irish movements. After that, we had dinner in the same restaurant. We could choose from three meals (lamb stew, pasta and bangers & mash). The food was quite okay except for the water which wasn't that tasty. We enjoyed our dinner all together in a separate room and we were having nice conversations.

All in all it was a great day and we made amazing experiences.

Workshops at the Gaeity School of Acting

group 1: Getting more confident...

During our Trip to Dublin we attended a theater workshop called *English Trough Drama* which was taught by Martina. She is a teacher at the Gaiety School of Acting. This experience lasted three days and we learned to express ourselves.

On our first day we played a lot of games to improve our teamwork skills. For Example, we got the assignment to be a mirror and imitate our teammates' movements.

The theme of the second day was to imagine different situations and devices. In one task we had to move over ice, mud and hot sand.. I guess it looked funny. One of the four lessons the whole class was taught by Charlie.

We spent our last day of the workshop trying to act out different scenes. At the end we watched the little performances from our classmates which were in Charlie's group.

All in all we had a great time with Martina and gained a lot of experience.

group 2: 11 people - 3 days - 2 plays

Lovely - this word describes best how the workshop with Charlie at the „Gaeity school of acting“ was.

At the beginning of our workshop we didn't know what was expecting us. That's why we were a little bit shy. However, we were really looking forward to our play at the end of our 3-day-workshop.

As we were introverted, Charlie showed us several exercises for relaxing.

For example - „Relax your knees“

„Take a deep breath“

„Shake off your body“

In general he motivated us with his positive and casual attitude in every single way. That was the reason why we felt quite comfortable during this workshop.

On the second day we were supposed to choose a costume which we were able to identify with and after we got dressed up we presented our new individual characters to the whole group. Charlie listened to us considerately and due to our characters he built two groups. Those 2 groups had to invent a story on the basis of our characters. The whole day we tinkered with getting to a proper story. On our third day we first went to the amphitheater in the center of Dublin. There we made some vocal exercises and he told us how powerful our voice is and that we should use it. He encouraged us and we went back to the school of acting. We made our daily relaxing exercises and afterwards we completed our play. We practiced our piece and then it was time for performing. Both groups overcame challenges and our two plays were a success. It really was fun!

Concluding we have to say that this workshop was totally worth it and we would do this again any time. We had so much fun in our group and with Charlie. He taught us a lot of practical things concerning acting and we are sure that we will never forget this great experience.

Saturday, 6 October - Journey to Howth & Cliffwalk

Early Saturday afternoon the whole class met at a trainstation to go to Howth, a small fishing village. Unfortunately, some classmates had an incident with two aggressive strangers. After solving the problem with the help of two policemen, we could finally leave Dublin, however, with considerable delay.

Before we reached the cliffs, we had to walk along an esplanade and stopped to listen to two young musicians. On the way up to the cliffs we were impressed by breathtaking views and a landscape which reminded us of scenes of Rosamunde Pilcher. During the three-hour-cliffwalk everyone took a lot of astonishing pictures. Tired and very hungry we returned back to Dublin.

Dinner at the Harbourmaster restaurant

After a little walk to our restaurant, called Harbourmaster, everyone was happy to sit and to get finally the tasty chicken curry. Even though our dinner wasn't very Irish, the restaurant and the hall looked very traditional.

Sunday, 7 October - Sunday evening: cinema

After our theatre workshop on Sunday, we went to the nearby photo gallery, which included pictures of Ireland's fight for independence. One of us bought a photo book and the rest of us some postcards in the shop below the gallery.

Afterwards the group split up to go shopping, and we, the other ones went for a coffee. We had a fun time talking about life and other stuff. On our way back we discovered a make-up store and two of us bought some Korean beauty products. Since we especially styled ourselves for that day, we asked Miri to take some Instagram-worthy pictures of us.

After dinner, we went to the cinema to watch the new movie "A Star is Born". In this new take on the tragic love story, Bradley Cooper plays seasoned musician Jackson Maine, who discovers and falls in love with struggling artist Ally (Lady Gaga). She has just about given up on her dream to make it big as a singer until Jack coaxes her into the spotlight. But even as Ally's career takes off, the personal side of their relationship is breaking down, as Jack fights an ongoing battle with drugs and alcohol.

Our class really enjoyed the movie. A lot of inspiring and touching scenes made the movie amazing. There was also really good music, which all of us downloaded the day after.

Those who didn't want to see *A Star is Born* could watch the movie *Night School* or the Marvel-movie *Venom*. *Night School* is about a man with learning disabilities who needs to get his GED for a new job. Another group watched "Venom", a Sci-Fi-superhero movie which is based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. Overall, it was very funny to watch but we were glad to return to our beds that night.

Monday, 8 October – day trip to the West

We made a trip to the world famous cliffs of Moher. We started at 7:30 am in front of our hostel and took the bus to Moher. The journey was quite bumpy but worth it. After three hours we finally arrived at the fascinating place. We had one hour for ourselves and took a lot of photos. Luckily, it wasn't raining but still windy and cloudy like typical Irish weather. That place doesn't need any sun to be breathtaking. Afterwards, our trip continued to Galway. There, we had one hour to rest, to eat something and the opportunity to discover the centre of Galway. Finally, we went back to Dublin, where we arrived in the evening. All in all, it was a great day although the long bus rides were exhausting.

Tuesday, 9 October - Belfast & Titanic Experience

This time the green Paddywagon tour coach with the famous orange Leprechaun mascot picked us up at 9 am and took us to the Titanic Experience Museum outside Belfast. Luckily, it wasn't such a bumpy ride as the day before and no one got sick. We had two hours to discover all details of the maiden voyage and the tragic history of the Titanic. Then we could spend the afternoon shopping and eating in Belfast. On our way back to Dublin, we made a stop at an ancient site: the Monasterboice Cemetery, most famous for its 10th century high crosses. The site was eery, gorgeous and pensive all at the same time.

Wednesday, 10 October – free time: Dublinia - The museum of vikings and medieval age

Have you ever questioned where the Vikings came from, when they lived or if they were even real? Maybe the Vikings only exist in stories and films?

In Dublinia I found out that the Viking age suddenly began with attacks in 793 and the city Dublin was first settled in 841 by Vikings. Yes, they were definitely real but for example the horned helmets they wore were only used for spiritual rituals and not in battles like we know it from films. This and many more interesting facts can be learned in this museum but Dublinia is not one of the boring kinds of museums, no, you can touch and try out many things, for example, writing your name in runes, dressing up as a viking or playing a popular game from the medieval age! In the museum there is – besides the Viking and medieval exhibition – also a sector which shows you a lot about archeology. You can see there real skeletons and find out when they lived and how they died. My friend and I really liked this museum, especially because we are interested in Vikings and the northern mythology. Apart from the interesting facts we found out, we also had a lot of fun!

Time was flying... At 14:00 we were picked up by our coach to get to the airport in time.

All in all, it was a great experience and we really enjoyed our trip to wonderful Ireland.