



Kathryn O'Donnell
President of CIOFF UK

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2022 - another fresh start! Before we look ahead to what's in store for this coming year, let's look back on all the exciting events of 2021. Despite a slow start, due to the pandemic, we even surprised ourself with what we managed to achieve!

'World in a Weekend'

Billingham Festival **13th-15th August**

To overcome the restrictions in place for overseas travel during the pandemic, BIFF selected companies from the United Kingdom which specialise in a variety of global dance techniques to create a fabulous festival weekender.



The acts and countries being showcased included Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Company (The Philippines), Absolutely Legless (Ireland), Balbir Singh Dance Company (contemporary western dance and classical Indian Kathak), School Talentos (Colombia), Discovery Highland Dancers (Scotland), Eliot Smith Dance Company (UK), Kartveli (Georgia), *An Iranian Lullaby* by street dancer Bobak featuring Billingham dance-troupe Tapshoes & Tutus and 'Don Taiko' (Japan).

There were also two matinee 'storytelling' performances where the groups performed to animate traditional tales as well as a collaborative version of The Two Frida's. This amazing performance launched the weekend, with the groups displaying their versatility in bringing their style to the stage after one rehearsal!



Storytelling Family Matinee of an Indian Traditional Tale: 'The Magic Bed'



Collaborative performance of 'The Two Fridas' - Colombia, Philippines & Balbir Singh DC



Mask Project in UFA.



We found a way to attend the Folkloriada!

As part of the Mask Project for Folkloriada 2021, Discovery Dance Star Seniors - part of the Discovery Highland Dance Studio - represented the UK by having one of their fabulous images displayed. The picture of masks in dance using traditional Scottish Highland movements depicted the ravens circling the Tower of London, never leaving their confines.

'Global Marathon'

PROGRAM
CIOFF® MARATHON 2021
 CENTRAL, NORTH AND SOUTH EUROPEAN SECTORS
08.08.2021
Dance and Culture from Dawn to Dusk

	Austria	3pm
	UK	4pm
	Netherlands	5pm
	Israel	6pm
	Croatia	7pm
	Romania	8pm
	Portugal	9pm
	Iskele Festival	8am
	Bulgaria	9am
	Greece	10am
	Kosovo	11am
	Estonia	12pm
	Russia	1pm
	Slovenia	2pm

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[UK - CIOFF® IWD Marathon - YouTube](#)

An event that began out of necessity has now become an annual celebration of CIOFF 'Founders Day'. In 2020, CIOFF UK was brilliantly represented by The Walker Family. For 2021, we doubled up and entered two of our member groups to show the world what we can do! The Marathon is an amazing 'round the clock' event where countries from all over the world present workshops over 24 hours. Congratulations to Discovery Highland Dance and Absolutely Legless for representing the UK and for putting these workshops together whilst in rehearsals for their shows at Billingham Festival the following week!



Discovery Highland Dance and Absolutely Legless showcased their talent and shared their unique culture with the rest of the world.



Welcome to our New Members!

Our main aim this year was to enable performers to network and perform after all the restrictions of lockdown. We are delighted to report that our CIOFF UK family has grown considerably in 2021! It has been refreshed and rejuvenated not only by our established, loyal members, but by a string of new groups, individuals and even a festival!. It is so exciting to have such variety to spark creativity for future projects. A huge welcome to: *The Global Creative Arts Festival, James Frost, Magaly Flores, Kartveli Georgia, Don Taiko Japan, Lahing Kayumanggi Philippines and School Talentos Colombia.*





50TH CIOFF WORLD CONGRESS

Budapest: Hungary

[502020 Hungary - Vera Lynn We'll Meet Again - YouTube](#)



In November 2021, the Secretary General of CIOFF® International, Olga Maloney, accompanied by the president of CIOFF UK, Kathryn O'Donnell, attended the World Congress in Budapest, Hungary. It was a wonderful achievement by our hosts to organise this special event, which incorporated the 50th anniversary of CIOFF®. Although the celebrations were delayed a year, due to Covid, it was enjoyed and appreciated all the more because of it. With over 150 delegates representing over 50 countries, it was a huge success!



Olga addressing Congress at the official opening.



Voting at the Assembly



50TH CIOFF WORLD CONGRESS
Culture Day in Százhalombatta



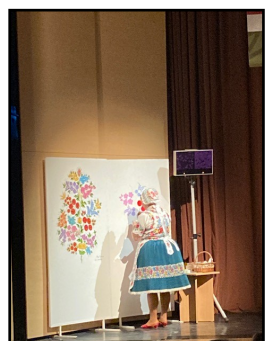
A whole day at Szazhalombatta - home of the 'Rubik Cube' - was dedicated to showing us a selection the wide range of Intangible Cultural Heritage that CIOFF® Hungary has added to the UNESCO list. It really was a case of 'living traditions' as we were treated to falconry demonstrations, traditional 'Matyo' embroidery and textile designs, the notorious 'Boosho' (not unlike our own 'Hoodening' tradition), art-in-action and finally a wonderful choir recital in the unusual but beautiful town church. It was very inspiring and gave us lots of ideas to bring back!



Living Traditions were demonstrated throughout.



Boosho giving her a hand!





50TH CIOFF WORLD CONGRESS Anniversary Celebration



CIOFF® President, Phillippe Beussant with the UK Delegate.

After lots of hard work all week, it was time for the 'CIOFF®50' party. Naturally, there was a 1970's theme to mark the birth of CIOFF in 1970. Following the official speeches and dinner, it was time to make some shapes. After the pandemic, it was a breath of fresh air and even quite an emotional event as people were able to see each other face to face instead of all those meetings on Zoom!



Game for a laugh! Our wonderful Hungarian hosts strike a pose.



NEW FOR 2022...

Getting ourselves noticed!

- ◆ Members can now showcase their latest performances and promote their events on the new CIOFF UK website, which is being launched this month! Check it out on:

<https://cioffunitedkingdom.co.uk/>

- ◆ Check out the 'newly refurbished' social media pages - see below...

Facebook

[CIOFF United Kingdom | Facebook](#)



Instagram

CIOFF United Kingdom



Twitter

@cioffuk



Make CIOFF UK work for you!

Send your promos, photos, videos and posters to Kathy:
kathplacebo@gmail.com

To be added to the 'Events' section of the website.

Alternatively, share / post your events to our social media pages.

As the festival season begins, the CIOFF UK board would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, peaceful and successful summer.

Membership

CIOFF UK National Sector is unique in its membership in that it reflects the broad spectrum of our Intangible Cultural Heritage in the UK. Through Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance (our flagship festival), and other events, we are able to explore and collaborate on projects, including fusion performances, that represent our diverse traditions.

Whether you are already a member or just browsing and looking to join us, here is a reminder of the benefits.



Be part of a community that promotes, safeguards and shares traditional culture through music, song and dance.

To discuss further
Contact:

Olga Maloney

cioff@folkloredirectory.com

MEMBER BENEFITS



MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Get your group accredited by CIOFF with your unique membership certificate



ARTS AWARD

An opportunity to apply for the arts award (for members under the age of 25)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Access to CIOFF's worldwide calendar of events and festivals



UNESCO NEWS

Keep up to date with news from UNESCO



NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity to market & share your news with an international network



DIGITAL NETWORK

Be part of CIOFF's digital community including the website and social media channels



FESTIVAL INVITATIONS

Receive personal invitations to selected international festivals

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COMMUNITY