

## **Artist Liaison Report Final Council.**

### **Matthew Healy.**

As Artist Liaison I had the opportunity to work with some fantastic artists and some very well renowned artist managers over the last year.

My role was to organise the travel arrangements of the artists.

- The UCD Freshers Ball - Acted as direct contact for Cascada and the Raglans, one of the best run Freshers' balls I've worked at.
- The Dominos Ball - So popular it sold itself. Was a blast to help organise the tech requirements for Blue Moose for this sell out ball.
- Little Green Cars - The massive up and coming Irish Band provided a free show for students in October. One of the highlights of the year, this intimate gig wowed the crowd in the Astra Hall.
- The Comedy Festival - Des Bishop definitely one of the best comedy acts that UCD has seen, very easy going talent to work with.
- The UCD Fashion Show - My main role was ensuring that ticket sales were meeting expectations. Definitely one of my favourite events of the year. Run extremely well, hopefully be apart of UCD life for years to come.
- The Sound UCD Needs - I worked with FlicFlac & Zwette for one of the best DJ gigs I've ever seen.

This year UCD Ents goal was diversification of events. Not all events required my to operate within my role as artist liaison. There were many events, especially the non-alcoholic events that Ents ran extremely well that a large cohort of the Ents forum were operating outside of our specific roles to ensure that the events were as successful as possible.

I took no payments and/or benefits in kind on behalf of UCDSU or its parent company. I wish all those who take over these positions in the coming years.

# End of Year Report to Council

Clare O'Connor, External Promotions Officer

Role: Promotion of off-campus events.

This year UCD Ents focused around bringing events back to campus, and thus there wasn't a huge number of events held in off-campus venues.

We did however continue our super successful club night Concrete Jungle every Wednesday in the Palace. This was an over 18s night and was a major hit with first years.

The Domino's Ball was held in the Royal Marine Hotel in October for its second year running. It also sold out for its second year running- this year in record time. The usual promotions were done- postering, flyering, Facebook spamming etc., but I find this event pretty much sells itself- a formal ball where you spend the night eating pizza.

Also currently promoting our upcoming trip to Magaluf or the 'Ents Mallorca Takeover'. Promotion of this is different to our other events as it involves getting groups of people to commit to a 4 day trip- doing this through getting class reps to organise a post-exam class trip.

One aspect that made promotion of our events easier this year was the launch of the UCD Ents app. The app was launched during Orientation Week, and at present has over 3,600 downloads. This played a key role in promotions this year. With the app we could send out push notifications, sell tickets, and give away guestlist spots when we had an upcoming event.

## **Aaron D'Arcy – Non-Alcoholic Events Co-Ordinator**

My aim for the year as the Non Alcoholic Event Coordinator was to provide regular Non Alcoholic Entertainment during the day. Also to sit on the Entertainments Forum and Organise and Execute College events. Below are the events I worked on and some thoughts on the event:

### The UCD Fresher's Ball

The Fresher's ball was on campus this year in the Astra Hall. I worked on ticket sales in the Orientation tent, Promotion and Execution of this event. The event sold out. This gig was organised as a compound event where the bar and smoking area was included in the event area and capacity limit. This resulted in a one in one out system being implemented for the Astra Hall during busy times like when the headline act was playing. Consequently this resulted in people missing the act they came to see and were unhappy with the event. We discussed this in detail at our event de brief and put actions in place so it would not happen again. Other than Crowd Issues I thought that the Fresher's Ball on campus was a great success and that the response from students for an on campus event was brilliant and enjoyed working the event and seeing some the acts.

### Mind, Body & Soul

A 3-day non-alcoholic, well being festival. Over the 3 days there were a range of events to gain students interest and get them involved in the festival including a tea tent, live music and fun games. A lot of promotional work went into this event to let them know that a relaxed fun festival was right on their doorstep. On the Wednesday I organised sumo suits for the green area in front of the stage. They were a great attraction and a good compliment with the rest of the festival. On the Thursday evening at the close of the festival, I set up a non alcoholic cocktail stand, where students could get a non alcoholic refreshing beverage; the stand was received well as the weather was fantastic. The festival had good attendance levels during the day but in late afternoon/evening they fell dramatically resulting in a few of the activities being cancelled. In my opinion I feel that the drop in attendance is hard to predict. But also feel that the festival days were too long and should have finished in the afternoon when students start to go home. The cocktail stand was supposed to accompany a bbq held on the green but was cancelled due to poor attendance numbers throughout the festival. I feel that unrealistic attendance levels were expected for this type of event.

### What's on Wednesday?

What's on Wednesday was the plan to bring Non Alcoholic daytime entertainment to campus once a week. This would be a fun free activity in which students could take part in and enjoy themselves to break up their day. There was only a few successful what's on Wednesday's. There were a number of reasons for this; the weather was a huge factor. Most of the activities we had planned were based outside. Even though we planned at least a week in advance, the weather could change and cause the event to be cancelled. Another reason was space was an issue, we wanted to keep the activity in a place where it would be available to as many students as possible in a well known location. The student centre and its surround were perfect. Some of the weeks we had planned an indoor event; the space in the centre was either occupied or booked out for a later event. Other

events on campus also had a factor on whether the event went ahead, if the campus was not busy or an Ents event was on we did not have an event. Although we had very few what's on Wednesday's as a singular event. Many of our Ents Events were on Wednesday's anyway and we tied some kind of activity into the event during the day in relation to the event. I think that what's on Wednesday could be a very successful event for Non Alcoholic events on campus in the future, a lot of planning is needed. If the right system of organisation and budget is implemented I feel the event will thrive.

#### The Dominos Ball

The Dominoes Ball returned for its second year, Held in the Royal Marina Hotel again. There was a huge demand for the event to return this year again. I helped in the organisation, promotion and execution of this event. The event was a sell out of the dinner tickets and afters tickets. The anticipation for this event around campus was huge. This event is unique and fun, students love the event and I think that the event should be continued in future years.

#### Little Green Cars

We provided a free show to UCD students in the Astra Hall. The up and coming Irish band performed an intimate gig for UCD students. The initial reaction to the event was great from the students. Students could claim their free ticket with use of the UCD Ents App. The App was the perfect platform to distribute free tickets. I felt that the App was perfect for the tickets but that the students were slow to reserve their tickets. I believe this was for two reasons. 1. That the App was still quite new and the students did not know fully how to work the App to reserve their tickets. 2. That because the tickets were free that students thought that tickets would be available at great ease and they could postpone reserving the tickets via the app. In my opinion the free gig on campus was a great event. It promoted the many functions the Ents App and showed it is a platform we can sell tickets off.

#### The Comedy Festival

3 Nights of comedy in the students centre. All three nights went extremely well, a great interest in the comedians. The festival saw top Irish comedians like Des Bishop, Al Porter, Karl Spain and Bernard O Shea. Ticket sales were very good for all three nights. I felt the event was a huge success. Comedy events have always got a good response on campus. There was a worry that 3 nights of comedy would be a push to sell but it proved not to be a problem. I would love to see another event like this in the future.

#### Coffee House Sessions

Coffeehouse sessions were a fortnightly event that I and Pk organised held in the Arts Café on a Tuesday evening. Where people could come enjoy some light entertainment while availing of some free tea and coffee. The acts were mainly comedians, Singer/Songwriters and Storytellers. Attendance levels of the event seemed to fluctuate, the first few weeks of the event attendance was high as there was a lot of people were around campus and had free time. As the year went on attendance seem to slip and became unpredictable as assignment deadlines came near and exam were on the horizon. The event is a good idea and works well when there is a good attendance level. I feel that the event should be taken back to the drawing board and worked into a time where it would be suited better. I would

consider Coffeehouse Sessions my greatest achievement of the year. With the help of Exec and Ents and Paul, the event ran smoothly every week.

#### The Sound UCD Needs

FlicFlac & Zwette, two major chilled house acts known worldwide played to UCD students in the Astra Hall. Many students around Campus knew the two DJ acts from the popular youtube channel. The response to the two acts was good from the students. Tickets were reasonably priced to see the acts. The event was a success in my eyes.

#### The College Carnival

UCD's Event planned for April will be a 4 daylong event to entertain students and finish off the year with fun for everyone. I have helped in the organisation of the event and the promotion. I will help with the event as much as possible.

I have immensely enjoyed my time on the Entertainments Forum over the last two years. I have learned so much about event management from Paul and previous Ents. In my view I feel that I have brought life back into Non Alcoholic events on campus. I have grown close to all members involved in Ents and they are like family. I have met so many nice people from council and have gained friends for life. In the future I will make an effort to still be involved with Ents in any way I can.

**Final Year Report:**  
**ENTS Forum**  
**Production Coordinator**

**Orientation and Fresher's week:**

I helped in the tent during **orientation week** on the Ents stand promoting the Ents crew and selling fresher's ball tickets and at the door signing the new students up to the union emails and to the Ents promoting the Ents app. crew. For next year's forum an early meeting before fresher's week should be a priority along with a pre-planned schedule of who is working the stand as this year it got slightly muddled.

**Fresher's week** I worked the tent again, For next year there needs to be a clearer outline of what people are signing up for at the SU stand as it was tad over kill with sheets this year all representing something different. Helping out during fresher's week, with the ENTS stand in the fresher's tent we put an emphasis on pushing the Fresher's ball and signing first years up to the ENTS crew. Both very successful outcomes. The layout of the tent really worked in our favour and id recommend ENTS take up the same positioning next year.

**The UCD Freshers Ball** - This year, UCD Ents brought the Freshers' Ball back on campus. The fresher's ball as my first official event as Forum was one of my favourite events of the semester. Not only just for Cascada – throwback Thursday forever <3. Having the ball back on campus was a massive pull and the sell out event went down a storm with the first years and set the tone of on campus events for the year. The Only issue was around capacity in the student centre , although this has been addressed and shouldn't be a problem for next years forum.

**The Dominos Ball** - A firm favourite amongst students of UCD. A sell out event that was one of the smoothest run events of the year. For future forums it may be something to look into finding an alternative location to keep the event fresh. The rest of semester two saw events such as the three day **Mind, Body and soul festival**, a non-alcoholic event that focused on students well being. Although the general opinion of those who attended was positive, I believe the event lacked a centre level of management and planning and a lot was left to last minute organisation. The event saw a drop in attendants on the last two days which didn't reflect well on the union or the musicians who were playing. For next year I'd love to see the event return but with bigger promotion and maybe a shorter event spread over one or two days.

Many events graced the Astra hall, **Little Green Cars** visited or a free intimate gig and though the band played fantastic and the event ran smoothly – the offer of free tickets and the bad weather meant that capacity wasn't reached and the event didn't reach its full potential. I think the free gig gave ENTS a really good image amongst students and would love to see similar events next year. **The Comedy fest** saw Des bishop leaving students in stitches, Along with two other nights of fantastic comedians. Again , much like the Mind , Body and Soul festival I think the three days was slight over kill and it resulted in some nights not

reaching the capacity the acts deserve. I love the idea of comedy in college and single nights always go well, Maybe having single comedians in each semester might work more in favour next year.

**ENTS CREW** : at the beginning of semester two the forum individually messaged members of the crew to encourage participation and create a stronger sense of engagement amongst the members , along with holding crew meetings , involving the crew more in the brainstorming of ideas and upcoming additions to the ENTS website. With PK and the forum, we agreed to give keen members of the crew individual roles. These roles include Vice Artist Liaison, Vice Promotions, Vice Production, and Vice Communications. With the new role for next year, I'd like to see the Ents Crew Coordinator vitalise the enthusiasm of the first years, The Ents Crew is of vital importance to the effectiveness of UCD Ents as a whole. First years are the target audience of most ents events, getting a strong presence amongst them will be the most important thing to do next year.

**The Sound UCD needs** saw ENTS bringing in an event reflective of what was popular and current amongst students. A busy day for PK and myself as the forum were busy with their own personal responsibilities. The event as always in Astra hall ran smoothly and saw a new layout with couches and tables. The event however had a disappointing turn out, which I was honestly surprised by. Semester two really saw a struggle of trying to draw people in and a sense of buzz and craic on campus was very evidently missing.

**The UCD Fashion show** – I wasn't involved in this event at all , bar individual online promotion, but as always , the fashion raised a staggering amount for CRY their chosen charity and saw Gavin create a link between people who would be great additions the forum or crew next year.

**The UCD Carnival** – a first for the college is shaping up to be a really collaborative event amongst socs and the union. I'm looking forward to lending a hand on the current ENTS forum last official event.

**The UCD Ball** – A sad year for UCD with no ball. Credit to PK and Fergal who did everything they could to try bring it back. I think they really did break down some walls when it comes to the ball on campus and i'd love to see next year continue in the struggle to get it back.

A final word, I've loved every part of ENTS this year. Credit to my fellow members who made it what it was and to PK who has been the best boss/friend/drinking buddy I've ever had.

## **Gavin Ho**

### **Crew and Communications Co-ordinator**

#### **End of year Report**

As Ents Crew and Communications Co-ordinator, it involves actively recruiting people 1<sup>st</sup>-final years onto joining Ents and creating a link between the crew and forum. Whether that be getting your friends involved with the Ents Crew or talking to people and marketing the UCD Ents brand to whoever you bump into. The job is all about talking, selling and persuading so it does help to train your confidence in speaking to large groups or becoming more skilled in speaking to people on a more personal one-to-one level.

A brief outline of some jobs I was responsible for, but not limited to:

- 1) Sending out bi-monthly emails to ents crew.
- 2) Attending weekly Ents Exec meeting
- 3) Being there at events hosted by Ents and working whatever jobs needed to be done, whether it be ticketing at Dominos Ball, cloakroom at Freshers Ball etc
- 4) Meeting with the Ents Crew and answer their questions, delegate jobs, update them with events happening and how they can be a part of it

#### **What I'd improve on:**

The job itself covers a multitude of things. Wouldn't have much to improve on, but being there is a crucial element for you to have a good experience, to get to know SU people/Ents people/Class reps/know what UCD truly offers/know your college/branch out properly and actually go through this so-called "college experience".

#### **Past events:**

Freshers' Ball	Dominos Ball	Comedy Festival
Little Green Cars Gig	Coffee House Sessions	Blizzard Ball
Concrete Jungle @ The Palace	Christmas Fest	UCD
Fashion Show	The Sound UCD Needs	

#### **My Highlight**

Running a Fashion Show– Possibly one of the best events to get your hands on. This event caters for a huge circle, whether it be for guys, girls, aspiring fashionistas or even just a passer-by in college who wants to know people and experience something. Of course, our other events such as Dominos Ball, Freshers Ball, Comedy Festival, Coffee House Sessions and gigs are all hugely interesting and fun to work with as well, but Fashion Show is the one that did it for me, and possibly the models too. A defining feature and one that sets UCD Ents apart from a regular society.

#### **Review of the experience:**

I thoroughly enjoyed the year as a student whilst, having fun with UCD Ents. I made a lot of contacts from it and met plenty of people. The array of personalities is great and the opportunity to branch out really makes your time in college all the more worthwhile. Of course, the opportunity to work with the Forum members, the Entertainments Manager and members of UCDSU has been hugely positive. Live college live Ents.