



# BRANWEN

A resource for groups  
undertaking multi-lingual and  
multi-cultural arts projects

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## WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

This project brought three groups of young people together to produce a multi-lingual drama, dance and musical production based on a story from Welsh mythology.

This project brought three groups of young people together to produce a multi-lingual drama, dance and musical production based on a story from Welsh mythology. We hope that by telling you as truthfully as we can the story of our experiences throughout, we might be able to offer some help to others. It was a successful and hugely rewarding enterprise, but a complex one and it had some very dark moments, so after filling you in on the basic facts what we're going to do is tell the story in two main parts. First, we'll trace the history and progress of the project, then we'll return to consider some of the major issues thrown up more fully. These include questions of **ownership, communications, contrasting styles and ideologies, language and culture amongst young people**, and plans for **sustainability and legacy**. We'll flag up the moments these issues first affected us as the story develops, and if you want to, you'll be able to jump across immediately to part two and examine them fully. Or you may choose to follow the narrative as we saw it unfold, before looking back with us. In a final section, we'll concentrate on lessons for the future, as we see them.

# WHO WE ARE

Celtic Neighbours is an independent development agency, working across art forms to support collaborations between groups and communities living their lives and creating culture in the original native languages of these islands – Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh. Developing excellent and rewarding co-productions is very important to us, but equally important is building trust and sustainable relationships between the groups we work with, and thus building up a potent and multi-skilled long-term network. When we can, we also seek and develop contacts with groups doing similar work outside the Celtic world – in other small cultures, and in multi-cultural and inter-cultural situations everywhere.

In this production, we at Celtic Neighbours co-ordinated a partnership between three organisations; CIC (Cwmni Theatr Ieuencid Ceredigion) the youth wing of Theatr Felinfach, a Welsh-language youth theatre, AnnÓg, a youth theatre group based within An Lab, an independent theatre in County Kerry, and Fèisean nan Gàidheal, an organisation supporting Gaelic youth music across the Scottish Highlands and Islands.

**(Insert hyperlinks to websites)** Better than telling you about all those involved, let us show you.





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The voice you'll be hearing most as you read this report is that of Meic Llewellyn, the co-ordinator of Celtic Neighbours and also of this project. Throughout the process, though, we recorded the thoughts and ideas of everyone taking part on a regular basis and in lots of different ways, and we also drew together everybody's responses at the end, so as much as possible we'll try to integrate all these voices into the story too, whenever possible. We'll also attach the considered responses of all the key players in the production, in full, as an appendix.

