

CULTURAL AND EDUCATION TRADITIONS OF EMERALD ISLAND

Ireland, the Emerald Island, has culture which is as diverse as stunning. From music and art to theatre and literature, Ireland is teeming with creativity and culture.

The purpose of this article is to analyze and enrich our knowledge about the multifaceted culture of Ireland. Understanding the Irish rich culture allows to appreciate deeper the traditions of this country.

Objectives of the paper:

- to analyze the educational system of Ireland, its current state and prospects;
- to explore musical achievements, dance traditions and national Irish clothing;
- consider the current state of cinema and science.

Nowadays it is widely recognised and accepted that education is a critical driver of economic success and social progress in today`s society. It is world-recognized that the provision of quality education and training is central to the creation of a innovation-based economy that will underpin ongoing and sustainable prosperity. Ireland's longstanding reputation for high quality education is build on a solid foundation of commitment to excellence. Today Ireland has one of the best education systems in the world and an internationally renowned reputation for academic quality. Many aspects of the Irish education system are administered by the Department of Education and Science. The Department sets the general regulations for the recognition of schools, prescribes curricula, establishes regulations for the management, resourcing and staffing of schools and universities. Indeed, Ireland has plenty of experiences to share. This country took unprecedented national measures to modernise its education sector – and against the odds got through a very difficult period.

During the recent economic crisis and the subsequent structural reorganization, it sheltered education from major and far-reaching fiscal consolidation measures. Ireland invests in education. Its budget of 2018 for education and training is very promising. It also intends to focus more on educational infrastructure and higher capital expenditure, in particular with a view to attracting talent from Europe and the rest of the world.

Music, song-writing and dance is in the blood of Irish people. In recent decades Irish music in many different genres has been very successful internationally. Irish music has influenced country, folk, jazz and rock music in North America, Europe, Australia and beyond. An interesting fact is that Ireland has won the Eurovision Song Contest more times than any other country. [3]

Dance itself is another aspect of Ireland's steadfast vitality, love to dance is deeply ingrained in Irish culture. Ireland is famous because of River dance theatrical show consisting mainly of a traditional Irish music and dance. This show has given birth to a renaissance in Irish dance throughout the world.

Ireland's tumultuous history affected every bit of the island's culture, including fashion. Traditional Irish clothing is usually made of wool or linen and is very bright. If you've ever seen a St. Patrick's Day parade, you've probably seen traditional Irish pipe and drum bands with their kilts, short black jackets and knee stockings. But there are other, more recognizable traditional fashions in Ireland. The kilt is one of them. As with so many aspects of Irish culture, many wore a kilts as a sign of solidarity with other people who wanted independence from England. Weather also plays a significant role in the traditional Irish dress. Ireland's ocean climate is generally mild, but the rain is common, as strong breezes. Many natives dress in layers that they can shed or add depending on abrupt changes from hot to cool, wet, and windy.

Contemporary Irish dancers also wear traditional clothes. Female dancers usually wear brightly colored dresses with intricate embroidered patterns, and each school of dancing has its own unique designs. Often, Celtic patterns find their way to these dresses, and some dancers include a Tara brooch (an

elaborate, traditional Irish brooch), partly as a reminder of the artistry of the ancient inhabitants of Ireland.

Unfortunately, not everyone is given the opportunity to grow up and use the power of their own imagination and creative writing skills, but the wild beaches, the strong coastline and the noisy cities of Ireland brought up such people. Famous writers such as Oscar Wilde, Clive Staples Lewis, Samuel Beckett and James Joyce were born here. These people had not only a large number of readers, but also revolutionary influence on English literature, writers and artists in countries and cultures around the world.

Irish cinema exists as well. Irish cinema may never affect the development of other cinemas, but its products continue to find a forum at festivals and, increasingly, on commercial release in theatres around the world. The Irish film industry has grown somewhat in recent years because of heavy tax breaks. Some of the most successful Irish films are «The Wind That Shakes the Barley», «Man About Dog», «Once» and «Notorious». It is interesting that «Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie» holds the record for the biggest gross on the opening day of an Irish film in Ireland. On the other hand, “Notorious” holds the record for highest grossing Irish documentary of all time.[2]

When it comes to technology, achievements are just too numerous to mention. Unfortunately, only few people know that Irish people were behind all these life-changing inventions like the submarine, colour photography, the modern tractor. Technology from Kerry-based Altobridge enabled AeroMobile to make history when they launched the world's first commercial in-flight mobile communications service.

The Irish company *Daon* supplies biometric software to governments around the world, allowing them to establish and confirm the unique identity of billions of people for border control and social security.

Technology from the Dublin company Havok allows some the world's best-known developers to reach new standards of realism and interactivity in games from Microsoft, Nintendo, and Sony.

To sum up, Ireland is a country with a rich turbulent past and a vibrant present. Culture of Ireland is an ancient tale, older than the pyramids of Egypt, full of more turmoil, flutter, and romance than any daytime drama.

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