CREATIVE CALLING

Careers for the curious

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme

CI

Fís Éireann
Screen Ireland
For the Story Makers

the arts
council
schomhairle
ealaíon

Cultural &
Creative
Industries
Skillnet

Coimisiún
na Meán

Information
Pack

Find your calling in…

IRELAND'S CULTURAL & CREATIVE SECTOR

Curation

Immersive technologies

Dance

Audience

Film

Broadcasting

Advertising

Animation

VFX

Design

Craft

Marketing

Journalism

Theatre

Fashion

Music

Radio

Stage Craft

Post production

Art

Architecture

Digital Games

TV

IP

Galleries

Publishing

Performance

Writing

Creative Industries account for:

9.5%
of national employment

Ireland's cultural and creative industries are a **key employment sector,** and contribute billions to Ireland's economy.

There are thousands of different roles across Ireland's cultural and creative sectors.

Recent research indicates that the wider arts sector directly supports almost 55,000 jobs.
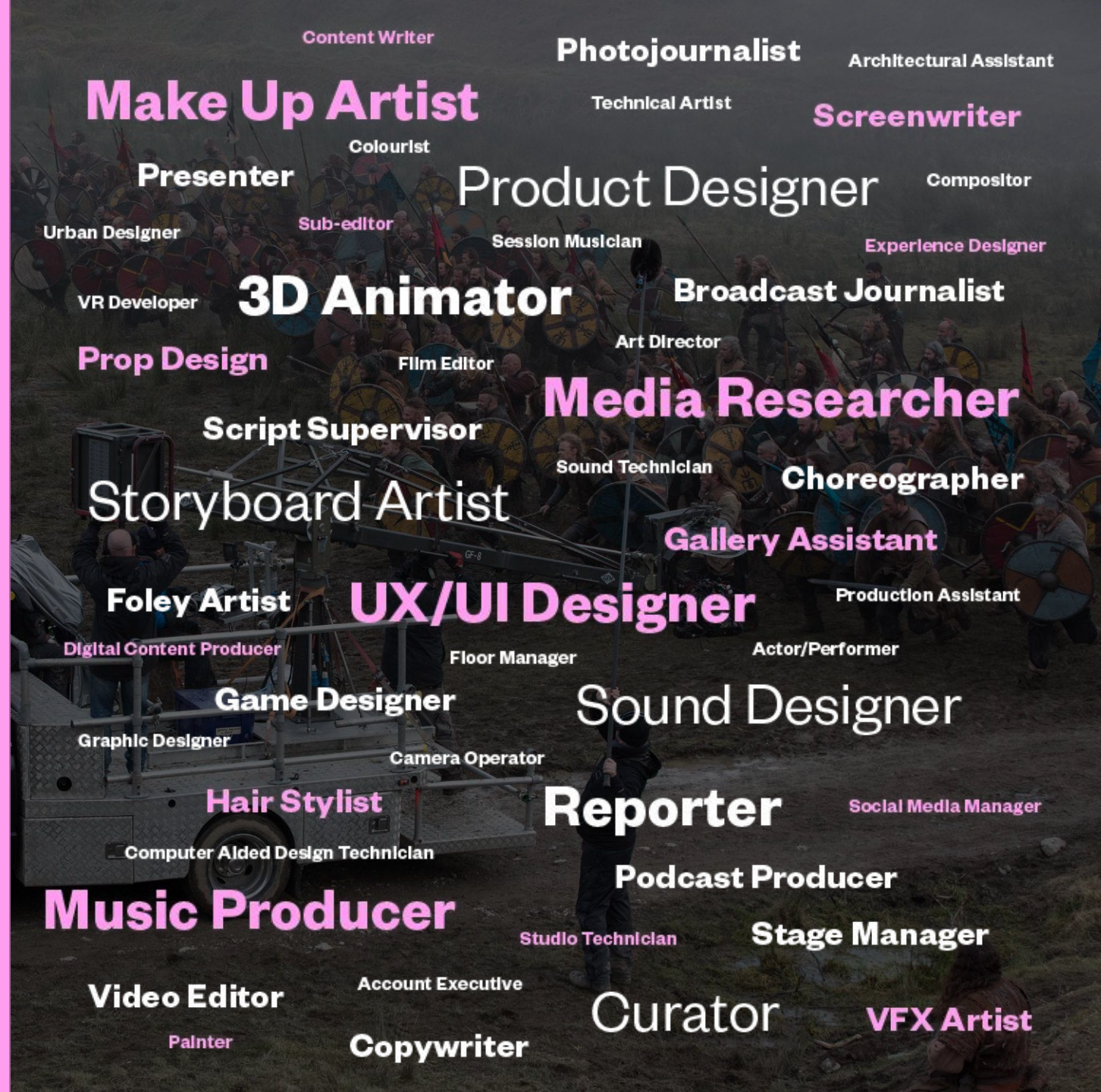
But, you don't have to be "creative" to find a creative calling

the cultural and creative sectors also need…

Benefits of a creative career

A sense of purpose
This is work that is meaningful, fulfilling, and impactful.

A community of innovators
The creative sector is constantly changing and evolving – this work will keep you at the cutting edge.

Something new and different
This work is wide-ranging and requires skills that allow you to move across sectors and between roles.

A chance to lead
Creative industries help shape cultural and national conversations – your work may influence how people think, feel, and see the world.

Finding your tribe
This sector is a community – you will be surrounded by like-minded people.

Future-Proof Skills
Develop the key future skills that employers are looking for across all sectors, like adaptability, resilience, creative thinking, emotional intelligence, collaboration, and communication.

Not your typical "9 - 5"
This work is often freelance, or project-based, which suits those with tenacity and passion, and requires dedication and resilience - all vital skills for the future workforce.

Global opportunities
Work across borders on global projects or develop skills that are applicable anywhere in the world.

Exercise

How do I know what I want to do?

Instead of thinking about *what* you want to do, think about *why* you want to do it

Do what you love – think about what grabs your attention

If you love **stories** - what about radio or film or journalism?

If you love **making things** – what about design or architecture or theatre?

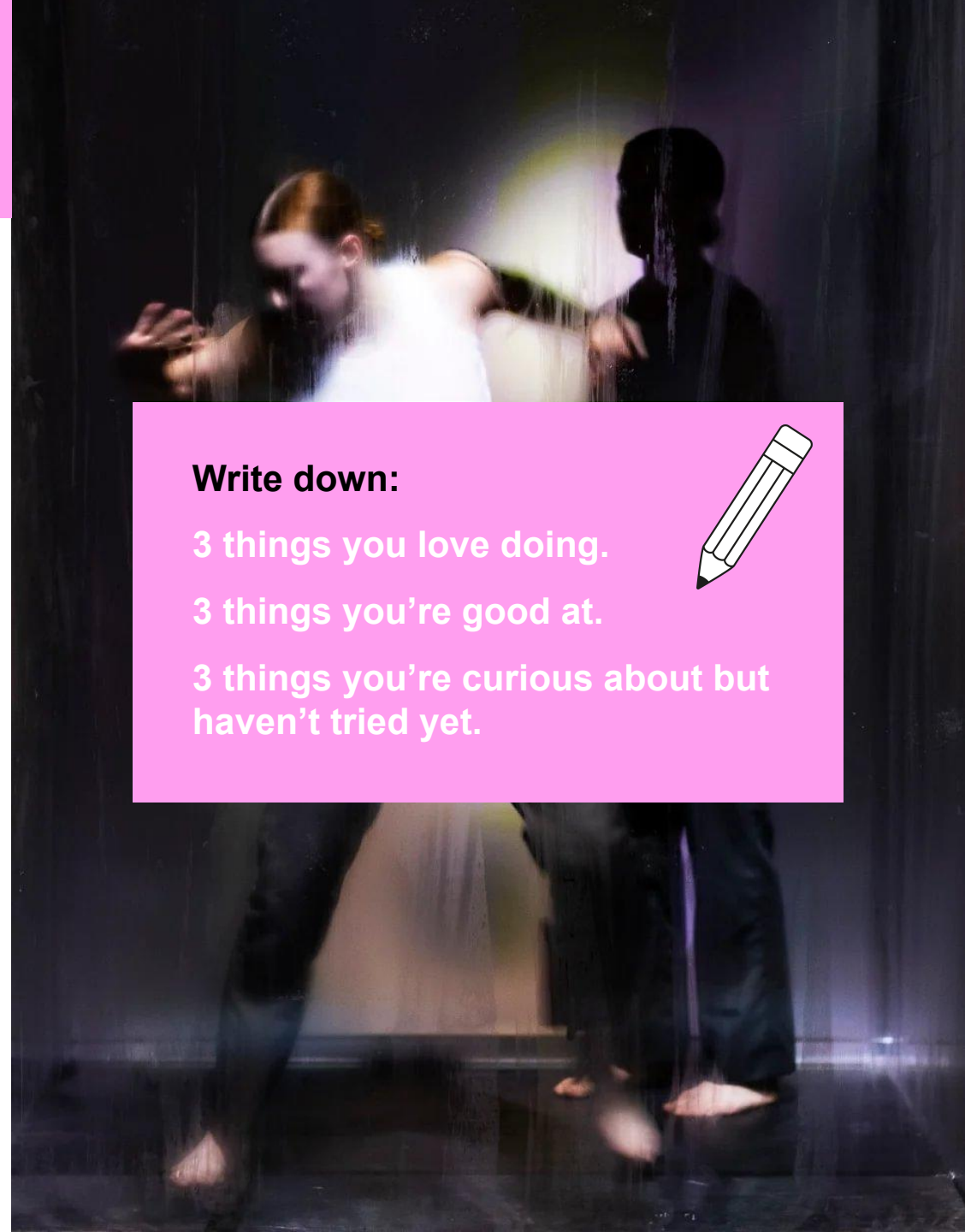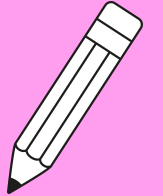If you love **being on a team** – what about music or advertising or television?

If you love **technology** – what about games or VFX or immersive media?

Write down:

3 things you love doing.

3 things you're good at.

3 things you're curious about but haven't tried yet.

How do I find out about the different jobs that exist in the cultural and creative sector?

There is lots of information online – for eg. Use this useful 'careers finder' on **Discover Creative Careers**

If you are interested in galleries and museums, look at the 'about us' section on gallery websites and see who works there!

Check out these **careers talks** from The National Gallery or learn what a curator does **in this pack** from the Crawford Art Gallery (Cork).

If you love design and making things – check out the **'Design your life'** videos from Design & Crafts Council Ireland .

If you love music, check out this website that describes jobs in that sector: **Youth Music UK**

Talk to artists, musicians, performers, architects, writers etc in your area – look at the last page in this pack for more resources and links

How do I find out about the different jobs that exist in the cultural and creative sector?

The next time you watch a movie, keep the credits rolling to see all the different people involved.

Find out what jobs exist in Ireland's screen industry on **https://www.careersinscreen.ie/** and **https://www.screenireland.ie/skills**

Watch this **'Creative Careers'** clip narrated by Colin Farrell

Next steps

1. Education

Across the country you can do courses that will help you to learn the skills needed for your creative calling, from theatre and drama studies to marketing and digital media, and from TV and media production to product design. These courses range from certificate level to degree and masters' levels.

Check out the **'Creative Arts, Fashion & Media'** Sector on careersportal.ie – there are 1,000s of courses listed across the creative industries.

See what is on offer at your *local college* – maybe do an online class or a short-course over the summer. Remember, lots of education is offered *online* now so you could start there!

Check out what PLC courses are available – search by area or by course category on **PLC Courses Ireland**
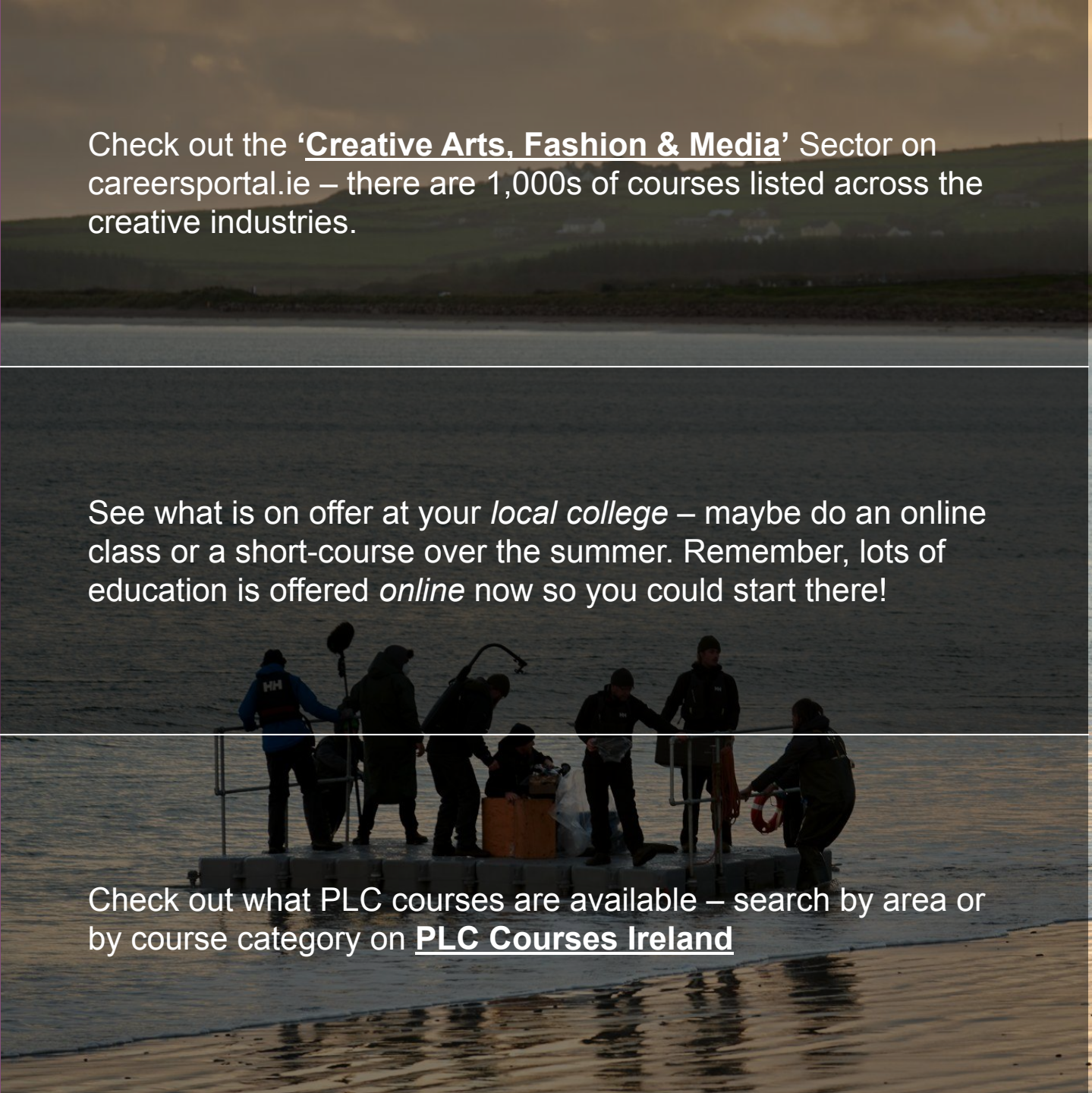
Next steps

1. Education

Check out courses at colleges who specialize in certain areas of the creative sector – such as the **National College of Art and Design**, **National Film School at Institute of Art, Design and Technology Dun Laoghaire**, **Munster Technological University**, **Creative Futures Academy**, **University College Dublin**, **Ballyfermot College of Further Education**, **Technological University of the Shannon**, and on and on….

Search CAO – use key words like creative / media / art / theatre etc to see what's on offer.

Think about your subject choices and what subjects you'll need to do the course you want.
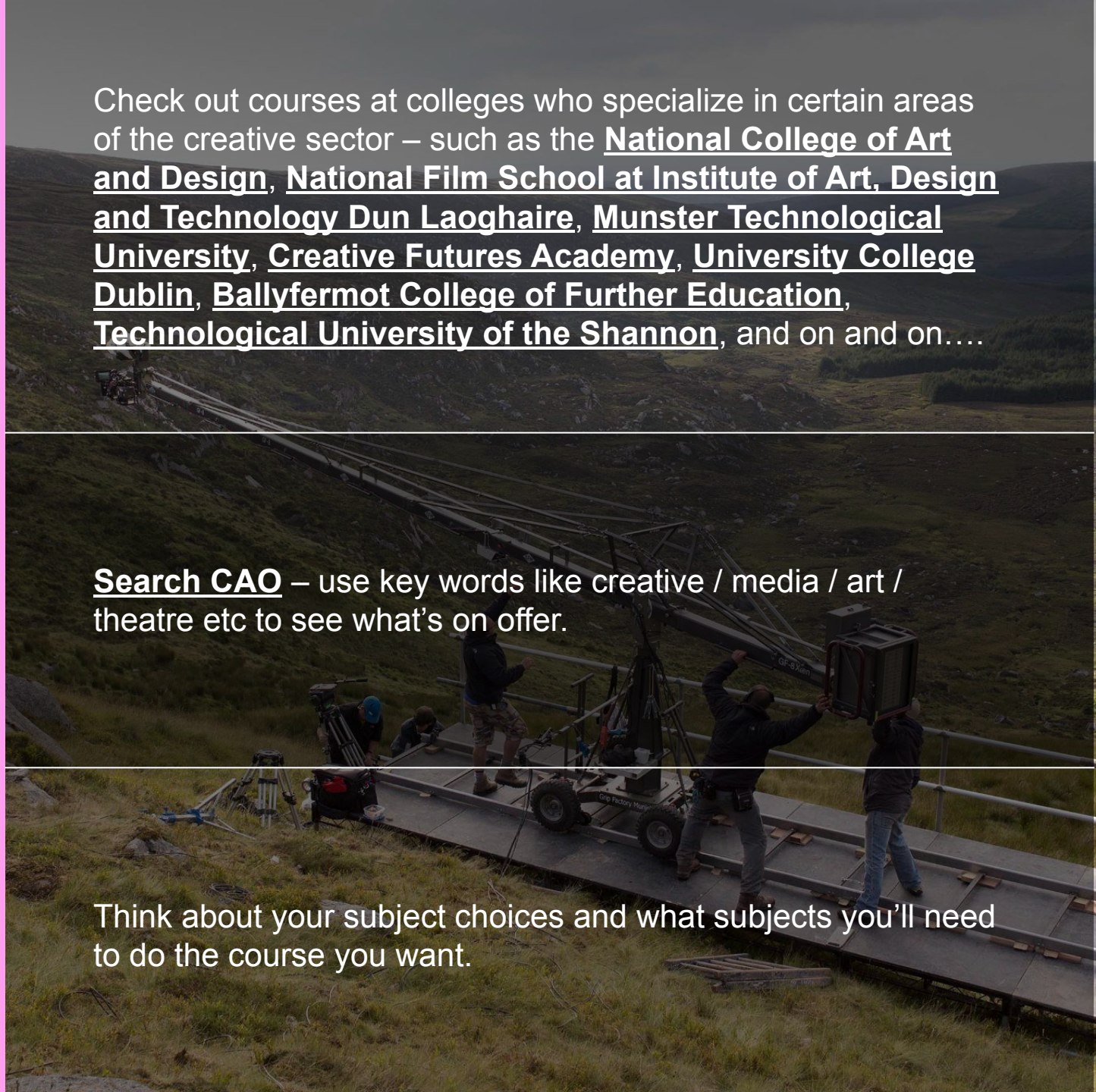
Next steps

2. Learning by doing

Lots of people who work in the creative sector prefer to learn on the job.

An apprenticeship programme can provide hands-on experience and practical skills that can help you stand out and succeed in the field. You can do an apprenticeship in things like CGI, wood manufacturing, digital marketing, stone masonry, hair dressing, Immersive Tech, and tool making. Check out the full range of **Apprenticeships available in Ireland**.

There are also lots of ways to answer a creative calling by doing a PLC course – everything from fashion design and illustration, to theatre production, music production, and journalism. All of these courses are listed on **https://www.plccourses.ie/course-categories/**

Lots of organisations across the creative sector – including radio stations, architecture offices, public galleries, film and animation studios, advertising agencies, and local museums offer TY work experience programmes – search online or make a start using **this portal**.

Next steps

3. Focusing on developing skills

Now is the time to develop your skills! Sometimes you might be learning a new skill without even realising it!

If you volunteer to help with your town's St. Patrick's Day Parade – you are developing key skills of teamwork, communication, logistics and organisation within a creative task.

Experiment with small projects
Try free/low-cost tools online:

Try out Canva – a free graphic design tool

Experiment with editing social media videos

Experiment with free music editing and recording apps like Audacity

The creative sector require lots of skills that can be used across multiple creative jobs – if you are a carpenter, you could work In a theatre, on a TV set, with an interior architect, or with product designers.
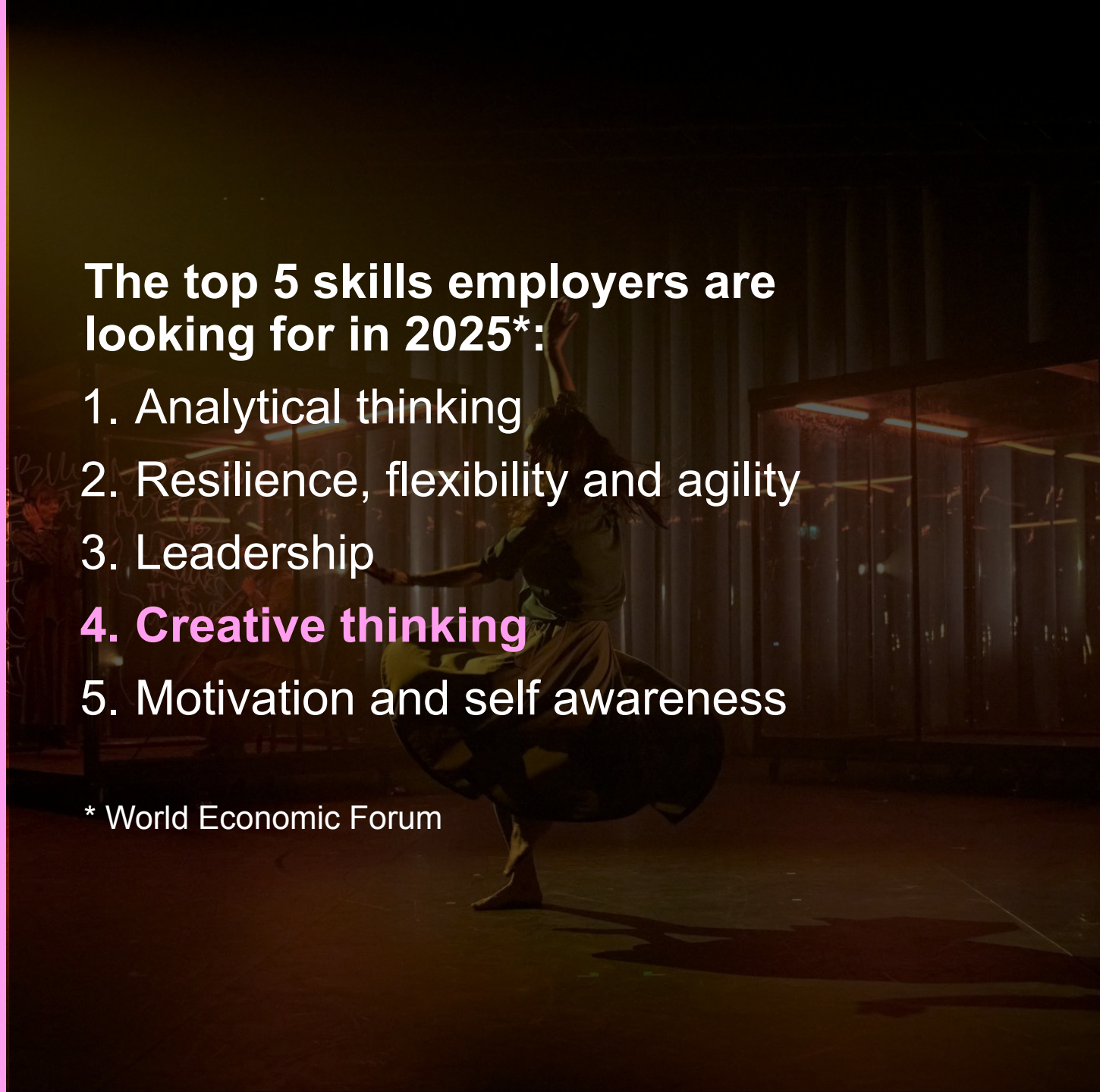
Next steps

3. Focusing on developing skills

The top 5 skills employers are looking for in 2025*:

1. Analytical thinking

2. Resilience, flexibility and agility

3. Leadership

4. **Creative thinking**

5. Motivation and self awareness

* World Economic Forum

Next steps

4. Getting involved locally

Volunteer for student films, community radio, local theatre productions, local festivals, concerts, or small businesses that need creative help (such as social media video).

Find arts near you using this Arts Council Map

Check out what's happening with **Youth Arts** at the National Youth Council of Ireland

Check if your local county council has a youth arts office.

Find out where your nearest arts centre is.

Learn more about:

Youth Theatre Ireland

Irish Association of Youth Orchestras
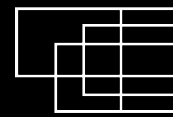
Ireland's Young Film Maker Awards

Young Irish Film Makers

Next steps

5. Keep an eye on what's happening

@creativeireland

Fís Éireann
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Coimisiún
na Meán

@screenireland

@cnam.ie

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an chomhairle
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Cultural &
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Skillnet.

@artscouncilireland

@creativeskillnet

Find more resources online…

The New Now
This is targeted at design graduates, but has information of relevance to career planning

The Irish Design Institute
More information about the Irish Design Institute

The 100 Archive
A good round up of visual communications companies and projects

Flow
A competency framework for design careers

Performing Arts Forum
Job listings across the performing arts

Visual Artists Ireland
Job listings across the visual arts

Irish Museums Careers
Job listings across the museum and heritage sector

Journal of Music
Opportunities across music

Learning Waves Graduate Programme
Pathways into radio

IFI Learn
Activities for Schools at the Irish Film Institute

TG4
Find pathways into the industry as Gaeilge

Young Irish Film Makers
Network for young filmmakers and animators with events – special day-long event on November 1st

Cinemagic Film Festival
Film festival for young people across Northern Ireland

Emerging Limerick Filmmakers
Film making for young people in Limerick

First Cut Youth Film Festival
Youth film festival in Cork

IFI Careers in Screen
Irish Film Institute Careers Day

Nerve Centre
Cultural centre and creative learning in Northern Ireland

Waterford Youth Arts
Youth Arts activities in Waterford

National Talent Academies
Nationwide training and programmes for the screen sector

Gorm Media
Talent development programme for people from diverse backgrounds

Architecture Foundation in Schools
Learn more about careers in architecture

The Big Idea
Creative Thinking in Schools

Open Days and Events NCAD
Some information events at NCAD, including Portfolio Information Evenings and a Product and Interaction Design Portfolio Workshop

Current Opportunities - Irish Writers Centre
Opportunities at the Irish Writer's Centre

Careers in Screen
Overview of all the careers in the screen sector

National Gallery Youth Panel
Join the National Gallery's Youth Panel

Minding Creative Minds Mentorship Programme
Investigate the resources available on Minding Creative Minds

National Concert Hall
Find out what's happening for young people at the National Concert Hall

UCD Creative & Cultural Industries
BA degree specialising in the creative sector

TU Dublin Creative Industries and Visual Culture
BA degree specialising in the creative sector

Minding Creative Minds
Providing support, including mentorships for those working in the creative sector

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