



**Press release:**

## **It's lights ON in Newgrange for the Winter Solstice**

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### **What is possibly the oldest clock in the world, is captured in a spectacular new light...**

*The Winter Solstice at Newgrange in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Brú na Bóinne is a phenomenon of epic proportions. In an act of incredible ancient engineering, the passage tomb was built so that every year during the Winter Solstice, on a clear day, the rising sun would illuminate the burial chamber of this over 5,000 year old passage tomb. This ingenious design was constructed approximately 1,000 years before Stonehenge and 500 years before the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt.*

Five millennia later, it hasn't lost any of its wonder, but it's rare that more than a select few can see how it all works without the assistance of CGI... Even those attending on the key days who get the opportunity to be inside the chamber often have to contend with low lying clouds which block the dawn light.

That's all about to change, though, thanks to internationally acclaimed Irish artist and best-selling author, Roisin Fitzpatrick, who has recorded the sunlight beautifully illuminating the megalithic chamber in flawless 4K UHD for the first time. So sit back, and enjoy this ancient light-show...

#### **Personal reflections of my time filming at Newgrange which can be quoted in articles:**

"It's been a joy to capture the Winter Solstice at Newgrange so that everyone can have the opportunity to witness the spectacular solar phenomenon." Roisin Fitzpatrick - Artist of the Light

"To give voice and vision, through the use of modern technology, to the ingenuity of our ancestors who built Newgrange over five millennia ago is a dream come true and has been my greatest joy as an artist."

Roisin Fitzpatrick - Artist of the Light



“The Winter Solstice at Newgrange provides a powerful message of hope when the golden, dawn sunlight pierces through the darkness to illuminate a pathway for the coming year...” Roisin Fitzpatrick - Artist of the Light

**Fast facts:**

- The master video of Newgrange is the first of a wider range of 4K UHD videos created by Roisin Fitzpatrick highlighting the solar illumination experiences at various megalithic sites on the island of Ireland. The purpose of these videos is to share Ireland's unique cultural heritage both in Ireland and around the world.
- The video vignette, which will be online on Friday 20th December, is 16 seconds long with sound-track by Moya Brennan, the First Lady of Celtic Music. It serves as a sample of a longer piece, which will be shown alongside the full exhibition about light and ancient Ireland entitled, inLIGHTin Ireland, which will be launched in 2020.
- The Brú na Bóinne area that is home to Newgrange – as well as Knowth and Dowth passage tombs – is an established UNESCO World Heritage Site in County Meath. Newgrange is considered the jewel in the crown of Ireland's Ancient East.
- After a major refurbishment, the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre reopened in December 2020. The new state-of-the-art centre transports visitors back 5,000 years to the pinnacle of passage tomb building. It also serves as a starting point for all visits to Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth.
- The video's creator, Roisin Fitzpatrick, started her career working for the European Commission, United Nations and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. After a life-changing experience in her mid-thirties, Roisin changed course and has since created a series of artworks - the Artist of the Light collection - that aim to share the beauty of light, as well as inspire people to connect with their own inner light.
- Roisin also authored a best-selling book, Taking Heaven Lightly, which inspires readers to fully embrace and enjoy a more meaningful life.

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