

## Episode 4: How can we access the ancients today? Bringing Classics to the public sphere

By Lisa Doyle

In this episode, I spoke to Dr. Bridget Martin (UCD, director of the Access Classics outreach programme) and Helen Meany (arts writer and curator of the ClassicsNow festival). We discussed the benefits of learning about the ancient world and the importance of introducing more people, including young students, to the subject. In addition to talking about the practicalities of setting up their two projects, and their reasons for doing so, we explored the timely and compelling nature of myths and literature from antiquity, and why everyone should be able to engage with the themes and questions posed by these stories.



Image from <https://www.classicsnow.ie>

**ClassicsNow Festival:** Taking place 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.

Twitter: @ClassicsNowFest

<https://www.classicsnow.ie>

Tickets for the in-person events can be purchased on [classicsnow.ie](https://www.classicsnow.ie) as well as the website for each host venue:

<https://www.abbeytheatre.ie/whats-on/persians-the-podcast-unplugged/>

<https://ifi.ie/film/ifi-classics-now-akalas-odyssey/>

<http://www.hughlane.ie/all/3433-a-fox-fest-for-all-the-family-theatre-lovett-in-classics-now-festival>

The 2020 ClassicsNow Festival took place online and the videos can be found on YouTube [here](#).

### **Access Classics**

Information about the programme and resources including the Transition Year syllabus can be found on the website:

<https://accessclassics.ie>

Contact: [access.classics@ucd.ie](mailto:access.classics@ucd.ie)

**Classical Association of Ireland:** <http://www.classicalassociation.ie>

### **Referenced in the episode**<sup>1</sup>:

Daisy Dunn, 'Don't cancel the Classics': <https://unherd.com/2021/02/dont-cancel-the-classics/>

Charlotte Higgins (2021), *Greek Myths: A New Retelling*, Vintage.

Bridget Martin (2020), *Harmful Interaction between the Living and the Dead in Greek Tragedy*, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press.

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<sup>1</sup> In the teaser for this episode, we included clips from the following: 'Barbarians' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojC-zTXSAsY&t=1s>); 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4q6eaLn2mY>).