

## **Q&A with Natasha Mac a'Bháird**

Q. Did you ever go to a Drama Club?

A. I did speech and drama lessons which I loved. I was never in a club like Star Club, but I did have great fun putting on shows with my sister and brothers.

Q. Singing, dancing, acting – if you could only do one, which would it be?

A. Definitely acting! If I wasn't a writer I would have loved to be an actress.

Q. What's your favourite movie?

A. I think it would have to be *The Sound of Music*, it's got so many of the things I love – the pre-war setting, family relationships, songs and dancing, and of course romance.

Q. Favourite song?

A. Anything by ABBA!

Q. Favourite book?

A. It's incredibly difficult to pick one, but since you're making me, I'll go for *Tom's Midnight Garden* by Philippa Pearce. I've read it dozens of times and it still makes me cry.

Q. If you could meet any famous 'star', who would it be and what would you say to him or her?

A. I would love to meet J.K. Rowling. I would probably be too starstruck to say anything at all, but if I was able to speak, I'd just tell her how much I love her books.

Q. When did you start writing?

A. The first story I remember writing was when I was eight. I always loved writing stories as a child and wrote my first full-length book when I was twelve. Of course it was never published, but I think I still have it in a drawer somewhere!

Q. Do you have any advice for young writers?

A. Read as much as you can, and as many different types of books as you can! And write as much as you can too, whether that's writing fiction, factual pieces or just writing in your diary – it all helps you develop those writing muscles!

Q. And finally, any advice for those who are too shy to step into the spotlight?

A. First of all remember that there's nothing wrong with being shy. I was a very shy child and I found drama was a great way to come out of my shell a bit. It helps you develop confidence. So don't be scared, don't let your shyness stop you from making the most of opportunities – grab your courage with both hands and enjoy the moment!