Galway International Arts Festival

14–27 JULY 2025

giaf.ie



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Welcome

On behalf of us all at the Festival, we would like to invite you to join us for what will be two great weeks this July where Galway is the backdrop for a programme of great art, performance, and conversation, a Festival stage for great ideas. With so many challenges and uncertainties in the world, we want to present a celebration of the imagination that delivers great Festival experiences.

This programme brings together an exciting mix of homegrown and international talent across theatre, music, visual art, and more. From intimate performances to large-scale spectacles and installations that amaze to thought-provoking conversation at First Thought Talks, there's something here for everyone. In particular, we want to offer our congratulations to Druid as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, we are thrilled to have them as part of our programme once again this year.

This Festival is about the power of the arts, the spirit of collaboration between artists and audiences and between Galway and the wider world.

It is a privilege for us to bring you this Festival, a shared experience which we hope you find thought provoking, moving and inspiring.

Most of all we hope you enjoy it and thank you for being part of it.

John Crumlish, Paul Fahy and all the team at
Galway International Arts Festival

SABOTAGE NOFIT STATE. PHOTO: MARY WYCHERLEY
FRONT COVER: *SABOTAGE* NOFIT STATE. PHOTO: MARK J. ROBSON

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Gugai McNamara, Heineken® Big Top
Brendan O'Regan, Traditional Music

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Festival Board
Patrick Lonergan [Chair], Vivian Chambers, Paul Farrell, Mary McGinley, Caroline Miney, Bernadette O'Mahony, Valerie Rice

giaf.ie | #GIAF25 | @galwayintarts

Donate

Every donation to GIAF, no matter how big or small, supports artists and the wider Galway community. It is a commitment to help create extraordinary — as GIAF has done for almost 50 years — for our collective present and future. If you can, please consider giving online at giaf.ie or adding a donation to any ticket purchase. Thank you for your support!

Funding Agencies and Sponsors

Government Support

PRINCIPAL FUNDERS

The Arts Council An Chomhairle Ealaíon — funding festivals

Fáilte Ireland

WILD ATLANTIC WAY
SLÍ AN ATLANTAIGH FHIÁIN

Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

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Galway
International
Arts Festival

Theatre, Circus, Dance, Opera and Spectacle



DIMANCHE LES COMPAGNIES FOCUS & CHALIWATÉ
PHOTO: MIHAELA BODLOVIC

NoFit State

Sabotage

directed by **Firenza Guidi**
composer **David Murray**

'Exudes an enticingly musky scent of vagabond glamour.'
THE NEW YORK TIMES ON NOFIT STATE

'Utterly magical ... nothing short of awe-inspiring.'
BUZZ MAGAZINE

Sabotage is simply a must-see spectacle. Boisterous, audacious and sexy, it's a roller-coaster ride of jaw-dropping circus skills and stunts where performers utilise every inch of the NoFit State Big Top to deliver incredible feats.

This once-in-a-lifetime, thrilling circus spectacular which has captivated audiences all over the world features outrageously talented performers, breath-taking skills and aerial feats, eye-popping entertainment, live music and stunning imagery.

Nothing in *Sabotage* makes it unsuitable for children, but it was not made specifically for them.

WHERE & WHEN

NoFit State Big Top
Nimmo's Pier, Claddagh Quay
11–27 July, 8pm
Matinees Saturdays 12, 19 and 26 July, 1pm
and Sundays 13, 20 and 27 July, 1pm only
No shows Tuesday 15, Monday 21 July
Tickets €25–€37.50
Seated
Duration 2 hours approx. with interval

PHOTO: MARY WYCHERLEY

50 Druid

Theatre | Ireland

'beautifully executed'
VARIETY ON *DRUIDSYNGE*



Druid

Riders to the Sea

by **J. M. Synge**
directed by **Garry Hynes**

'They're all gone now, and there isn't anything more the sea can do to me'

On the Aran Islands, off the coast of Galway, a woman contends with God and the sea for the survival of her family. J. M. Synge concentrates the lyricism of the West of Ireland and the majesty of the Atlantic Ocean into a short one-act of pure theatre.

20 years on from the formative *DruidSynge* [2005], Tony Award-winners Garry Hynes and Marie Mullen return to the work of one of Ireland's greatest playwrights for this new production of *Riders to the Sea*.

Synge's miniature masterpiece is a swirling tour de force of Celtic paganism, the earthly struggles of life, and the desperate stretch of humanity towards the heavens.

Druid's 50th Anniversary

Druid marks its 50th anniversary season with a double bill of J. M. Synge's *Riders to the Sea* and William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* celebrating five decades of the world-renowned Galway theatre company, which was founded in 1975 by Garry Hynes, Marie Mullen and the late Mick Lally.

IMAGES: GARETH JONES



Druid

Macbeth

'ripping entertainment'
THE NEW YORK TIMES ON *DRUIDSHAKESPEARE*

by **William Shakespeare**
directed by **Garry Hynes**

'Unnatural deeds do breed unnatural troubles'

In medieval Scotland, the ambitious army general Macbeth is visited by three witches who foretell his ascension to the throne.

In pursuit of this prophecy, and emboldened by his wife, Lady Macbeth, he sets out on a murderous path that threatens to sever the ties that bind their minds, their marriage and even the nation itself. This is the Scottish Play like you've never seen it before. Druid bring their visceral and uniquely Irish perspective to one of Shakespeare's fiercest and bloodiest tragedies.

Garry Hynes directs a cast led by Marty Rea as Macbeth and Marie Mullen as Lady Macbeth. This new production of *Macbeth* follows Druid's internationally acclaimed *DruidShakespeare* [2015] and *Richard III* [2018], continuing the company's exploration of the Bard's canon.

WHERE & WHEN
The Mick Lally Theatre, Druid Lane
10–26 July, 7pm
Previews 10–14 July, 7pm
Matinees 17, 19, 24 and 26 July, 1pm
Tickets €25–€35 [Double bill]
Individual tickets for either show are not available.
Duration 3 hours approx. including intervals
Age 12+

Irish Premiere

Les Compagnies Focus & Chaliwaté

Dimanche

written and directed by **Julie Tenret, Sicaire Durieux** and **Sandrine Heyraud**

★★★★★

'Spellbinding and funny … it must be seen.'
TIME OUT

'Gorgeously realised'
NEW YORK TIMES CRITICS' PICK

'A joy to behold.'
DE STANDAARD

Sometime in the near future, it is the end of the world as we know it. In their small city home, a family is about to spend their Sunday together, but the walls are shaking, strong winds and torrential rain rage outside as the storm begins. Amidst this climatic chaos, the family attempts to maintain a normal life.

Meanwhile, somewhere else on the planet, three travelling wildlife reporters are doing their best to document the coming climate apocalypse. They film, with what little equipment they have, three wild animals facing extinction.

Between dreamlike fiction and stark reality, *Dimanche* paints a quietly witty and tender portrait of humanity surprised by the uncontrollable forces of nature in this stunning visual show.



WHERE & WHEN

Town Hall Theatre, Courthouse Square
15–19 July, 8pm
Matinee Saturday 19 July, 2pm
Tickets €30–€35
Duration 1 hour 15 minutes approx.
No Interval

First Thought Backstage
Post show talk with the company
Wednesday 16 July

PHOTO: MIHAELA BODLOVIC



'Murphy is a phenomenal talent.'
IRISH EXAMINER

★★★★★

'Edge of your seat entertainment ...'
THE IRISH TIMES ON *VOLCANO*

Luke Murphy's Attic Projects co-produced with **Dublin Dance Festival** and **Galway International Arts Festival**

Scorched Earth

by **Luke Murphy**
music by **Rob Moloney**

Crime-drama meets dance theatre in a gripping exploration of ambition, land and legacy.

From the creator of the multi-award-winning *Volcano* [GIAF 2020 & 2022] comes *Scorched Earth*, part crime-drama, part psychological thriller.

What right do we have to the land beneath our feet? What are we willing to do to keep it? Or to take it? Inspired by John B Keane's *The Field*, and written, directed and choreographed by Luke Murphy, *Scorched Earth* transports the audience into a stark interrogation room as a detective and suspect unearth the ghosts of a long-unsolved murder.

Blurring the lines of dance and theatre, Murphy weaves a tapestry of compelling storytelling, striking visuals and visceral movement to examine a dark fundamental element of the Irish psyche.

The cast of international performers plunge us into a world of ambition and resentment, culminating in a final chapter that leaves no doubt as to the cost of success, a bold reckoning with the haunting forces that shape our past and define our future.

WHERE & WHEN

Black Box Theatre, Dyke Road
15–19 July, 7pm
Matinees Thursday 17 and Saturday 19 July, 2pm
Tickets €25–€30
Duration 1 hour and 30 minutes approx.
No interval

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

Captioned Performance
Thursday 17 July, 7pm

First Thought Backstage
Post-show talk with the company
Wednesday 16 July

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

PHOTO: MARCIN LEWANDOWSKI



The Abbey Theatre

The Cave

by **Kevin Barry**
directed by **Caitríona McLaughlin**

'We're safe from it all … for a while … when we're up here'

We meet the McRae brothers in a dead zone in the mountains of south county Sligo. Sleeping rough in a cave and in trouble with the law, Archie and Bopper are running out of road. This desperate pair have only each other to rely on as they try to restart their van, their lives and their WiFi connection.

The Cave is an unforgettable black comedy from the pen of one of Ireland's most beloved writers.

This world premiere production, featuring a stellar Irish cast of Aaron Monaghan, Judith Roddy and Tommy Tiernan, is directed by the Abbey Theatre's Artistic Director, Catríona McLaughlin.

WHERE & WHEN

Town Hall Theatre, Courthouse Square
22–26 July, 8pm
Matinees Thursday 24 and Saturday 26 July, 2pm
Tickets €30–€35
Duration 2 hours approx. with interval

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

ISL performance
Thursday 24 July, 2pm

First Thought Backstage
Post show talk with the company
Wednesday 23 July

The King's Head since 1649

PHOTO: ANTHONY CONLON

Copenhagen Collective

The Genesis

'Breathtaking acrobatics'
LA STRADA

Through jaw-dropping acrobatics, The Genesis makes the impossible, possible!

In a world often marked by division *The Genesis* celebrates the strength of the collective and the beauty of interdependence. Powerful and visually striking the Copenhagen Collective's extraordinary first creation, *The Genesis*, an ode to collaboration, brings together 17 acrobats from 14 countries in a breathtakingly beautiful and emotional performance.

Between physical prowess, immersive lighting and a soundscape blending violin, jazz and electronic music, *The Genesis* takes spectators on a powerful sensory journey. A vibrant experience in which the virtuosity of the artists reveals an essential truth: together, we go further.

WHERE & WHEN
Black Box Theatre, Dyke Road
22–26 July, 7pm
Matinee Saturday 26 July, 2pm
Tickets €25–€35
Duration 1 hour and 10 minutes approx.
No interval

PHOTO: LUKE CHADWICK JONES



Theatre | Ireland

World Premiere

Loco and Reckless Productions, glór
and **Galway International Arts Festival**

Oh ...

by **Mikel Murfi**
directed by **Kellie Hughes**
music by **Declan Gibbons**

WHERE & WHEN
Galway Atlantaquaria, Salthill,
8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 26 July, 8pm
Previews 8, 10, 12 July
Tickets €25
Duration 45 minutes approx.
Limited Audience Capacity

First Thought Backstage
Post-show talk with the company
Friday 18 July

Set in the main tank of Galway Atlantaquaria, long time Festival collaborator Mikel Murfi performs his new solo show *Oh ...*

Curious, wry and ultimately uplifting, this unique production pushes the boundaries of traditional theatrical form, using movement, visual effects, and original score to create an atmosphere where reality and the imagination blur.

Using the underwater environment as a poetic space, *Oh ...* reflects on new journeys, partings and the possibility of moving on, inviting you to dive deeper into the human experience, where that which is extraordinary in all of us, is quietly imaginable.

PHOTO: JAMES CONNOLLY

Theatre | Installation | Ireland

World Premiere

Galway International Arts Festival

The Baby's Room

written and directed by **Enda Walsh**
design by **Paul Fahy**
featuring the voice of **Kate Gilmore**

Even in the reverse the days resemble how they were when I lived them goin' forward. It's like I never bothered to wake up – or never started to speak out until now – until whatever the fuck this is!

From a wedding outlet in Dublin's northside — a young woman is pulled back through the minor tragedies of her insignificant life.

This is the world premiere of a new work, the twelfth in an ongoing series of immersive theatre installations. With absorbing and vivid texts by Enda Walsh revealing the highly intimate lives of each Room's character which takes on a quiet poetic force through remarkable storytelling with design by Paul Fahy

Enda Walsh's recent work includes *SAFE HOUSE*; the musical *Sing Street;* and the screen adaptation of Claire Keegan's *Small Things Like These* starring Cillian Murphy. He won a Tony Award for writing the book for the musical *Once*.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall,
University of Galway
14–27 July
Sunday to Wednesday from 11am
Every 30 minutes to 6pm
Thursday to Saturday from 11am
Every 30 minutes to 8pm
Tickets €10
Duration 15 minutes approx.
Limited Audience Capacity

Irish National Opera in association with
Galway International Arts Festival

Mars

composer **Jennifer Walshe**
libretto **Mark O'Connell**
co-directors **Tom Creed** and **Jennifer Walshe**
conductor **Elaine Kelly**

'The most original compositional voice to emerge from Ireland in the past 20 years.'

THE IRISH TIMES ON JENNIFER WALSHE

Four astronauts and an AI software interface are cooped up in the cabin of a space-craft for nine months on a mission to Mars. As they journey across the vast abyss of space, tensions rise, relationships are tested, seasons of *Real Housewives* are watched and re-watched.

Arriving on the red planet, they confront isolation, sinister ideologies, the prospect of alien life, and a vibe-shift toward corporate authoritarianism. *Mars* is an opera about space colonisation, reactionary futurism, pronatalism, the madness of hustle culture, and the unsettling futures encroaching on our present.

Featuring the Irish National Opera Orchestra.

Sung in English with English surtitles.

WHERE & WHEN

Leisureland, Salthill
25–27 July, 8pm
Tickets €32–€40
Duration 2 hours approx. with interval

First Thought Backstage
Post-show talk with the company
Friday 25 July

Commissioned by Irish National Opera, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam and Klangforum Wien.



PHOTO: AL HIGGINS

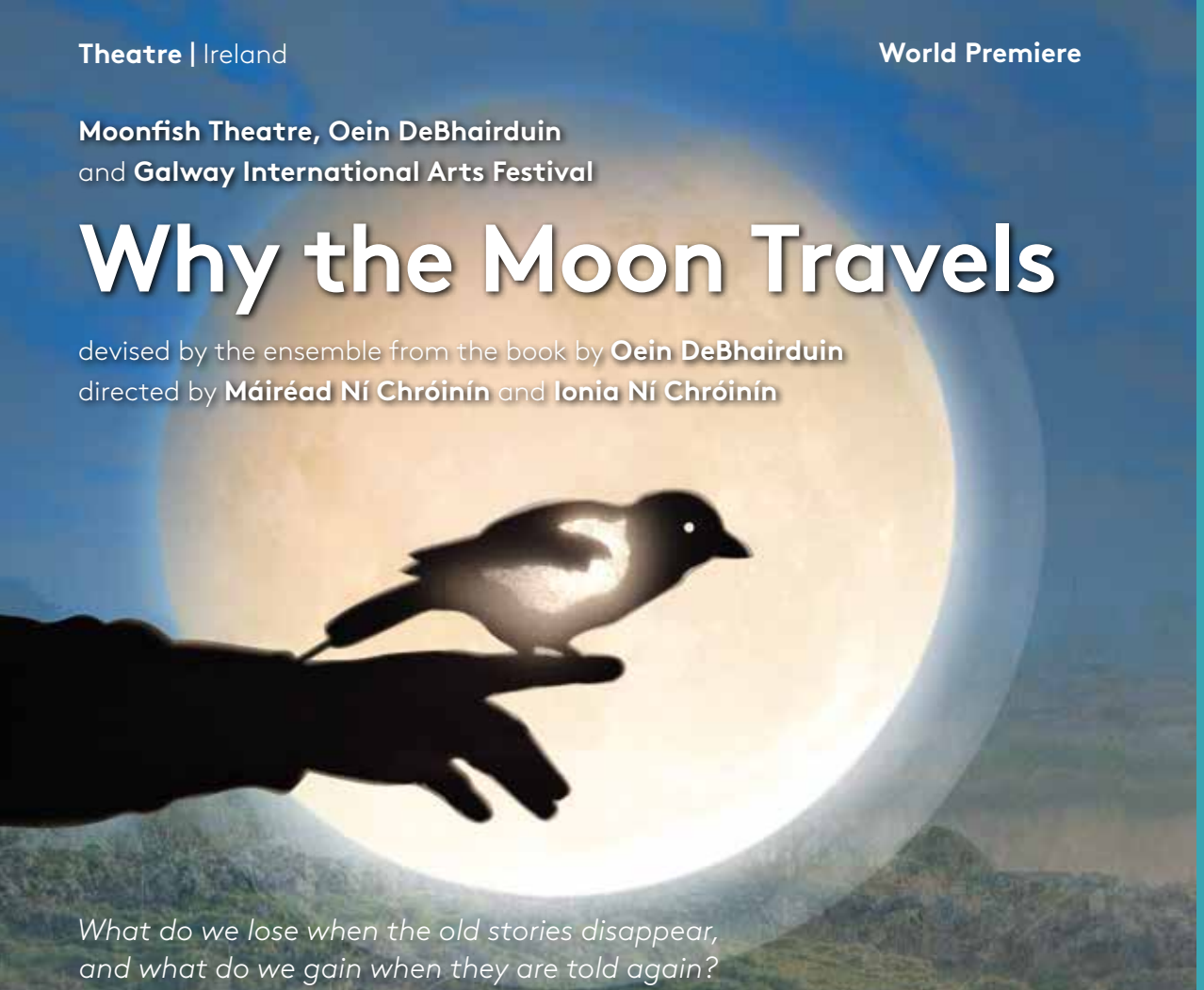
Theatre | Ireland

World Premiere

Moonfish Theatre, Oein DeBhairduin
and **Galway International Arts Festival**

Why the Moon Travels

devised by the ensemble from the book by **Oein DeBhairduin**
directed by **Máiréad Ní Chróinín** and **Ionia Ní Chróinín**



What do we lose when the old stories disappear, and what do we gain when they are told again?

Step into a space where modern Ireland meets an older Éire in a haunting and magical retelling of Irish Traveller folktales.

Devised with an all-Traveller ensemble from DeBhairduin's best-selling book, *Why the Moon Travels* interweaves stories of kind animals, otherworldly beings, and hapless humans with memories and experiences from the performers' own lives, mixing the wisdom of folklore with their own words.

Using oral storytelling, song, and evocative shadow puppetry, *Why the Moon Travels* celebrates the beauty of Irish Travellers' nomadic heritage and gently examines the ways this heritage has been elided in the modern Irish state.

Developed with the support of Galway Culture Company and Galway International Arts Festival's ELEVATE Bursary.

WHERE & WHEN

Bank of Ireland Theatre, University of Galway
14–19 July, 6pm
Preview 14 July
Matinees 17, 18 and 19 July, 1pm
Tickets €22–€25
Duration 1 hour approx. No interval
Age 10+

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

Captioned performance
Friday 18 July, 6pm
ISL performance
Saturday 19 July, 1pm

First Thought Backstage
Post-show talk with the company
Thursday 17 July

IMAGE: MARTA BARCIKOWSKA

Theatre | Ireland

Decadent Theatre and **Galway Arts Centre**

Blue Water and Cold and Fresh

and

Sea Wall

a double-bill of plays by **Simon Stephens**
directed by **Andrew Flynn**
starring **Ian-Lloyd Anderson**

'Extraordinary'
THE GUARDIAN ON *SEA WALL*



In the wake of city lockdown living and the Black Lives Matter protests, one man's journey across London raises difficult truths he has to confront. *Blue Water and Cold and Fresh* explores what it means to be a father, husband and son.

Sea Wall is an unforgettable story about family, fear and the things that can't be undone. Things for Alex are good. He loves his wife, his daughter, his city, his job. But sometimes the force of life can crash against you. Sometimes everything you thought you could always depend on can be taken away.

WHERE & WHEN

Galway Arts Centre – Nun's Island Theatre,
Nun's Island
12–26 July, 8pm
No Show Sundays
Matinees 17, 19, 24 and 26 July, 2pm
Previews 12, 14 and 15 July, 8pm
Tickets €27–€30
Duration 1 hour 35 minutes approx. with interval
Age 14+



An Taibhdhearc | Company SJ

Beckett sa Chreig: Guth na mBan

by **Samuel Beckett**
directed by **Sarah Jane Scaife**

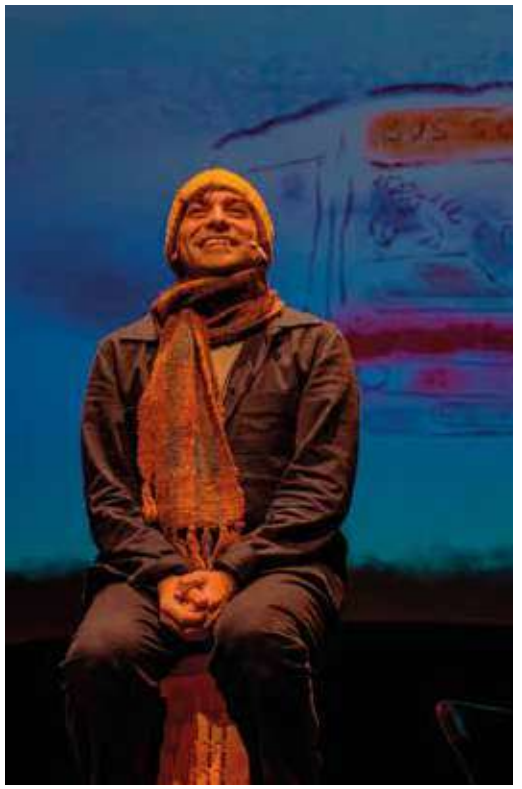
WHERE & WHEN
An Taibhdhearc, Middle Street
11–19 July, 8pm
Previews 11 and 12 July
Tickets €18–€20
Duration 1 hour and 15 minutes approx.
No interval

English surtitles will be provided at certain points in the show.

Cuireann an Taibhdhearc *Beckett sa Chreig: Guth na mBan* i láthair, is é an dara cuid de shraith shaothar Company SJ. *Déanann Coiscéim, Rocabaí* agus *Ní Mé* scrúdú ar thráma mar a mhúnlaítear é trínár stair agus mar a shamhlaítear é go sóisialta trí struchtúr an teaghlaigh. Tá sé seo le feiceáil i nguthanna éagsúla na mban i scríbhneoireacht Beckett. Spreagann ailtireacht bhriste, chráite agus choilíneach na cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath an píosa seo. Le cois sin, tá tionchar ag tírdhreach, teanga agus samhlaíocht Iarthair na hÉireann.

The Irish language seeps into the searing beauty of the Beckettian imagery. Company SJ use the tools of film, site, language, the body and visual art on Beckett's exploration of human relationships and is reflected in the voices of the women in *Beckett sa Chreig Guth na mBan – Footfalls, Rockaby* and *Not I*.

PHOTO: ARCADE FILM



Branar and **Galway Music Residency**

Story of a Day – Scéal Lae

words and illustrator **Mary Murphy**
composer **Tom Lane**
directed by **Marc Mac Lochlainn**

I'm awake I think ... But what was it that woke me? Did my dream wake me?

So begins a music-filled story of one child's day that turns the ordinary into extraordinary with live music, vibrant storytelling and vivid animation. Featuring a live performance by ConTempo Quartet.

WHERE & WHEN
The Cube, University of Galway
14–20 July, 1pm and 3.30pm
Performances in Irish
15, 19 July, 1pm; 17, 20 July, 3.30pm
Tickets €15–€18 [Family of four €50]
Duration 45 minutes approx.
Age 4+

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES
ISL and relaxed performance
Saturday 19 July, 3.30pm



Galway Arts Centre's Galway Youth Theatre

Vernon God Little

adapted by **Tanya Ronder**
from the novel by **DBC Pierre**
directed by **Jarlath Tivnan**

Vernon, a Texan high schooler, faces an ordinary day until his best friend murders 16 classmates. With no alibi, Vernon becomes the target of a witch hunt. Desperate to escape, he flees his small Texan hometown, with America's media on his tail. DBC Pierre's Booker Prize-winning novel is a wild, hilarious, and energetic ride through absurd American life, featuring Texas twang, and a riotous live soundtrack by a live band.

WHERE & WHEN
Galway Arts Centre – Nun's Island Theatre, Nun's Island
14–27 July, 5pm
Previews 14 and 15 July
Tickets €18–€22
Duration 1 hour and 30 minutes
No interval
Age 14+



Landmark Productions and **Galway International Arts Festival**
in association with **Irish Arts Center, New York**

Dating Amber

An alternative love story

based on the film by **David Freyne**
directed by **Des Kennedy**
music and lyrics by **Katie Richardson**

WHERE & WHEN
O'Donoghue Theatre,
University of Galway
Saturday 19 July, 1pm
and 6pm
Sunday 20 July, 1pm
Tickets €20
Duration 1 hour approx.
No interval

Ireland, 1995. Mary Robinson is President, the country is on the brink of a divorce referendum, and sex is something you get taught by the Sisters of the Holy Faith.

17 year old Eddie is shy, sensitive, and seriously stressed. He wants to be in the Army just like his dad. 17 year old Amber is fearless, ferocious and an anti-fascist. She is counting the days until she can escape to London. They couldn't be more different, except for one thing — they are both hiding the same secret.

So Amber and Eddie make an arrangement that will help them impress their parents and silence the bullies. How long can they keep up the pretence? What happens if feelings get in the way? Can Eddie stop having horny dreams about his maths teacher Mr. Sweeney? *Dating Amber* is a teenage queer love story about beards, bodies and learning to be brave.

With an original score packed with punk, pop and 90s grunge, this work in progress sharing is sneak peek at a joyful new musical about coming of age and coming out.

Rosa Productions

The House Must Win

a new musical in development

based on the album ***Evening Train***
written by **Mick Flannery**
directed by **Julie Kelleher**

On the western edge of Ireland, in the 1970s, two brothers live with the odds stacked against them. They take separate paths in a bid to lead the 'good' life, and try to honour the girl who has both their hearts.

The people of this town must figure out how to play the cards they've been dealt, in a world of backroom poker-playing, secrets and bribes, broken families and broken hearts.

The stage adaptation of Mick Flannery's extraordinary and acclaimed concept album *Evening Train* has been in development for a number of years. With music and book by Flannery, and under the musical supervision of Liam Robinson [*Hadestown*, Musical Director], *The House Must Win* is a gritty musical drama that will sweep audiences into the emotional undertow of its story and song.

This is a work-in-progress showing of a new Irish musical.

WHERE & WHEN
O'Donoghue Theatre,
University of Galway
Saturday 26 July, 1pm and 6pm
Sunday 27 July, 1pm
Tickets €25
1 hour and 30 minutes approx.
No Interval



Circus | Canada

Flip Fabrique

SIX°

'Flip Fabrique projects an irrepressible spirit of fun'
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Six° is an amazing acrobatic comedy where mundane turns to magical, and ingenuity is always involved!

Five strangers receive a mysterious invitation that one stormy night leads them to an old, abandoned building in the heart of the forest.

There are just six degrees of separation between us all. And since there are only five people on stage, what if the sixth person — the missing link — was you?

WHERE & WHEN
Eyre Square
Wednesday 16 July, 4pm
Thursday 17 July, 1pm
Free
Duration 1 hour 10 minutes approx.

Diligent

PHOTO: EMMANUEL BURRIEL

Street Art | **Music** | Australia

Guru Dudu

Silent Disco Walking Tours

Guru Dudu's Lila la'Diva and Madame Cha Cha become your charismatic tour guides on a silent disco power-walk through Galway!

Accompanied by hilarious commentary in your noise-cancelling headphones, your Australian motivator will lead you and your 49 fellow dancers through the streets from Eyre Square to the Spanish Arch and Galway's West End. Loved by all who experience this exhilarating tour, it is an unmissable event, full of fun, lots of laughter and filled with Guru's hand-selected mixtape of 70s, 80s and 90s hits.

WHERE & WHEN
Meeting Point
Festival Garden, Eyre Square
16–27 July
1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 6.30pm and 8pm
No shows 21 and 22 July
Tickets €10

THE SKEFF
Late Bar · Kitchen
— Galway's Meeting Place —

Planète Vapeur

Microcosmos

les Insectes Fantastiques

directed by **Pierre Povigna**

Imagine a twelve-meter grasshopper with dazzling eyes, carrying musicians and acrobats on its back! A spinning, water-spewing spider – wild and bewildered!

Mysterious stilt-walkers like curious insects come to life. Let your imagination run wild and step into the Microcosmos.

Galway becomes a dreamscape, a backdrop to art in motion as Planète Vapeur's amazing show *Microcosmos* makes its way through the city centre.

Working with an amazing team of technicians and performers, this company's magical celebration of the imagination brings an unrivalled energy to the city for this Festival spectacular.

WHERE & WHEN

Eyre Square to Lower Fairhill Road
via Shop Street and Bridge Street
Friday 18 July, 9.30pm
Saturday 19 July, 6pm and 9.30pm
Free
Duration 1 hour approx.

The Latin Quarter
Where Galway Comes Alive

Galway
International
Arts Festival

Music



SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR. PHOTO: JORDAN MUNNS

Music | Ireland

Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Amble

'Heartwarming'
HOT PRESS

WHERE & WHEN
Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Wednesday 16 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €39.50
Standing

Amble is Robbie Cunningham, Oisín McCaffrey, and Ross McNerney, a three-piece folk group whose ability to blend introspective lyrics with lush, atmospheric soundscapes saw them rise through the ranks very quickly indeed. The band's meteoric rise is based around a captivating blend of musical storytelling and a powerful live sound that has seen the band complete a phenomenal year of sold-out shows across the UK, Ireland and North America.

As one of the most exciting live acts of the moment this momentum has continued into 2025 with an extensive world tour and the release of a new EP, *The Commons*, which sees a mix of new material alongside some of the band's beloved tracks such as *Lonely Island*.

Music | USA | Peru



Josephine Foster

'A vibrating voice to shake the soul'
NPR

Josephine Foster is a genre-defying American singer-songwriter known for her ethereal voice and eclectic, experimental approach to folk music. Drawing on influences from opera, psychedelia, and early Americana, her music feels timeless yet otherworldly.

With a discography spanning intimate ballads to avant-garde compositions, Foster creates haunting soundscapes rich in poetic lyricism.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Wednesday 16 July, 8pm
Tickets €18–€20
Standing
Over 18



Novalima

'A refreshingly original band'
THE GUARDIAN

Novalima is a Peruvian band formed in 2001 by four childhood friends. They blend Afro-Peruvian rhythms with electronic music, dub, reggae, and global beats, creating a unique fusion that bridges tradition and innovation.

Their acclaimed albums have garnered international recognition and Latin Grammy nominations. Raw and acoustic with electronic touches, their sets feature killer dub basslines with thumping cajon, quijada and conga percussion.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Monday 21 July, 8pm
Tickets €30–€32
Standing
Over 18



Kishi Bashi

Kaoru Dill-Ishibashi who performs as Kishi Bashi, is an American singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, producer and arranger.

Recognised for his playful, highly melodic, romantic songs, his kaleidoscopic sound frequently incorporates looping technology, with repeated segments at various speeds, creating varying degrees of otherworldly musical effects. His songs have featured in various TV shows from *Rick and Morty* to the *DC Titans* series, while he also is a soundtrack composer for TV.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Monday 14 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €21–€23
Standing
Over 18



Richard Thompson

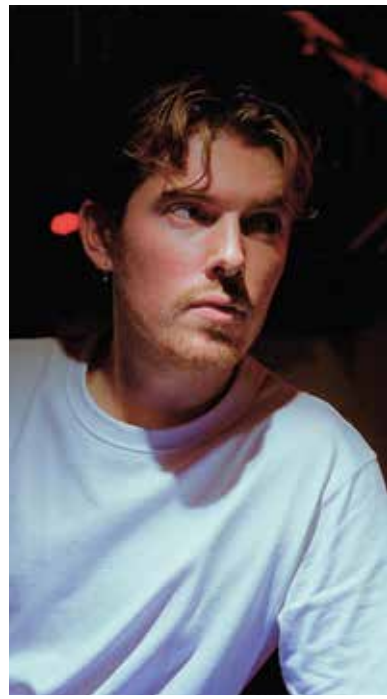
Hailed as the finest rock songwriter after Dylan and the best electric guitarist since Hendrix, Richard Thompson was named by Rolling Stone as one of the Top 100 guitarists of all time. Having co-founded the ground-breaking group Fairport Convention as a teenager in the 1960s and heralded as a pioneer of British folk rock he has gone on to become an important figure in the British music scene in the decades that followed.

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Sunday 27 July, 8pm
Tickets €40
Standing
Over 18







Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Interplanetary Criminal, Shampain and Tommy Holohan

Presented in association with Index

Get ready for an explosive night at the Heineken® Big Top as three powerhouses of the electronic music scene take over for a special Galway show.

Manchester's Interplanetary Criminal [Zach Bruce], co-founder of ATW Records, is a leading force in UK Garage, known for fusing 2-step, speed garage, and breakbeats into high-energy sets. Dublin's Tommy Holohan has carved out his place in the European techno scene with blistering releases and Boiler Room sets, blending UK intensity with thumping European rhythms. Completing the lineup is Galway's own Shampain, G-Town Records co-founder [with KETTAMA], boundary-pushing DJ, producer, and broadcaster, who's helping shape the future of Irish electronic music.

Together, these three will deliver a night of pulsating rhythms, genre-blurring sounds, and serious party energy. Don't miss this powerful showcase of talent — a must for fans of cutting-edge club culture and forward-thinking electronic music.

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Friday 25 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €45
Standing



Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Mogwai

WHERE & WHEN
Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Thursday 24 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €39.50
Standing

Formed in Glasgow in 1995, this critically acclaimed band have captivated audiences for nearly three decades with their evocative, genre-defying soundscapes.

Since their debut album in 1997, Mogwai have released ten studio albums, including the critical and commercial triumph *As The Love Continues* in 2021 which saw them reach No. 1 on the Official UK Album Charts, earn a Mercury Prize nomination and win the prestigious Scottish Album of the Year award. Their latest album, *The Bad Fire*, released earlier this year, garnered more acclaim for the band including 'album of the week' from The Guardian ['A rich enveloping delight'].

Mogwai's unique blend of post-rock is captivating while their enduring ability to innovate continues to deliver truly unique live shows which mesmerise audiences, melting the world away one unforgettable performance at a time.



A Lazarus Soul

'Some of the finest guitar-based songs you'll hear'
NO MORE WORKHOUSE

A Lazarus Soul [Brian Brannigan, Joe Chester, Julie Bienvenu, Anton Hegarty] is rooted in Brannigan's deeply personal songwriting with a unique brand of raw, genuine, unmistakably Dublin inspired story telling.

Brannigan's lyrics frequently address themes of working-class life and socio-political issues in Ireland which have seen the band deliver acclaimed albums such as *Graveyard of Burnt Out Cars* and *Last of the Analogue Age*.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Friday 25 July, 8pm
Tickets €30
Standing
Over 18



Maverick Sabre

'The music is superb throughout'
HOT PRESS

With his distinctive smooth vocals, cut through with lyrics that reflect his time in both Hackney and Co. Wexford, Maverick Sabre has stayed true to crafting soulful, honest music. His new album, *Burn The Right Things Down*, reaffirms his amazing, emotive voice in modern soul, inspired by an urgency about the passing of time.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Thursday 24 July, 8pm
Tickets €30
Standing
Over 18



Music | England

'Disco Queen'

EVENING STANDARD ON SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR



'Gorgeously soulful'

ROLLING STONE ON NATASHA BEDINGFIELD

Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Sophie Ellis-Bextor

with very special guest

Natasha Bedingfield

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Thursday 17 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €49.50
Standing

With sold-out headline shows around the world, pop icons Sophie Ellis-Bextor and Natasha Bedingfield's energetic, fun, timeless hits and glittering live performances promise a night of pure pop joy.

Sophie Ellis-Bextor has enjoyed a 25-year career with five Top 10 albums and iconic hits like *Murder on the Dancefloor*. Recently revived by *Saltburn*, the track hit 11 billion streams. Her latest album *HANA* and Kitchen Disco series continue to thrill fans.

Natasha Bedingfield rose to fame with uplifting anthems like *Unwritten, These Words*, and *Pocketful of Sunshine*, earning Grammy and Brit nominations. *Unwritten* recently re-entered the Top 40 for 20 weeks and joined Spotify's Billions Club after featuring in *Anyone But You*.

PHOTO [TOP LEFT]: BEKKY CALVER

Music | Ireland

Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Mary Coughlan

40th Anniversary Greatest Hits Show

with very special guests

Celebrate one of Ireland's most iconic voices as Mary Coughlan marks 40 years at the heart of Irish music with a spectacular one-night-only Greatest Hits show at the Heineken® Big Top.

Often hailed as Ireland's Billie Holiday, Coughlan's unmistakable voice and raw, emotional storytelling have made her a legend — and nowhere more so than in her native Galway, where her journey began.

Joined by her full band, enhanced with a sweeping string and brass section, Mary will reimagine four decades of her most powerful songs—from the smoky jazz of *The Double Cross* to the heart-wrenching beauty of *Invisible to You*. Expect a night of soul, blues, and fearless honesty from a performer who has lived every note she sings. Don't miss this historic night honouring a true Galway icon.

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Wednesday 23 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €35
Standing

Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

The Stunning

WHERE & WHEN
Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Saturday 26 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €35
Standing

The Stunning are one of Ireland's most beloved rock bands, known for their infectious energy, unforgettable melodies, and electric live performances. Formed in Galway in the late 1980s, they quickly rose to fame with a string of hits that became Irish anthems, including *Brewing Up a Storm, Heads Are Gonna Roll,* and *Half Past Two*.

Their debut album *Paradise in the Picturehouse* went straight to No.1 and remained there for five weeks. Renowned for their powerful stage presence, The Stunning deliver live shows that blend tight musicianship with raw, crowd-pleasing energy.

The band have been together now for 38 years. Their live shows are a testament to their musicianship and a catalogue of songs that have stood the test of time and still sound fresh and relevant today. Support from one Ireland's much loved bands, The Four of Us [Acoustic].



PHOTO: KATHRIN BAUMBACH



Biig Piig

'A winning, psychedelic synth-pop sound'
HOT PRESS

An instantly identifiable, bilingual voice [Spanish and English], merging hip hop, R&B, dance music and stripped back soul into confessional, modern pop, Biig Piig brings her highly anticipated album, *11:11* to life at GIAF. Born in Ireland, Jess spent her formative years in Spain and London, where she co-founded the creative NiNE8 Collective.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Friday 18 July, 8pm
Tickets €30
Standing
Over 18



Notify

'Joyful and evocative'
RTÉ

This six-piece Irish ensemble features Pádraig Rynne on concertina, Tara Breen on fiddle, Davie Ryan on drums and percussion, Adam Taylor on bass, Rory McCarthy on piano and Fender Rhodes, and Hugh Dillon on guitars. Together, they marry Irish melodies with the sophistication of jazz, the energy of post-rock and the worldliness of cinematic sound.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Sunday 20 July, 8pm
Tickets €25
Limited unreserved seating
Over 18

'Electrifying performance'
PURE M MAGAZINE

'Mesmerising'
THE MODERN RECORD

Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Kingfishr

WHERE & WHEN
Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Sunday 20 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €45
Standing

Kingfishr are now one of the most exciting acts in Irish music. Fusing Irish folk with modern influences, their atmospheric sound and catchy melodies have delivered them a large fanbase in a relatively short period of time.

The band quickly gained significant attention via social media and through streaming platforms where they have racked up over 70 million streams and 800,000+ monthly listeners. Recent accolades include winning the Music Moves Europe Award and a nomination for Irish Breakthrough Artist at the RTÉ Choice Music Prize Awards. Their live album, *Kingfishr Live from Dublin*, also went Top 5 in the Irish Charts and UK Folk Albums Chart.

From supporting George Ezra, Dermot Kennedy, The Coronas, Snow Patrol and Bruce Springsteen to selling out recent UK and Irish tours and playing Glastonbury in 2024, Kingfishr's future looks incredibly bright.

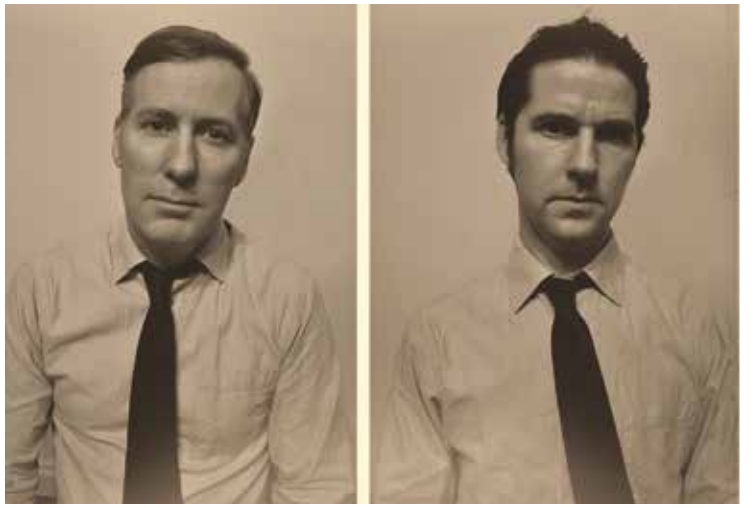


BIIRD

'The Spice Girls of trad'
IRISH INDEPENDENT

BIIRD is a brand new trad super group made up of 11 of Ireland's finest female musicians, singers and lilters. Bursting onto the scene at Trafalgar Square in London in 2024, BIIRD made their debut to ten thousand people, sold out three headline shows and share their love for trad music with a unique collective energy.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Thursday 17 July, 8pm
Tickets €30
Standing
Over 18



The Frank and Walters

Acoustic Set

'Near-perfect new wave power pop'
GOLDEN PLEC

One of Ireland's most beloved bands, The Frank and Walters have a career spanning three decades. With favourites like *After All* and *Fashion Crisis Hits New York*, this pared back and acoustic set showcases a set of well-crafted songs that has delivered an indie rock reputation that saw them share the stage with Radiohead and Suede in their heyday.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Saturday 19 July, 8pm
Tickets €25
Limited unreserved seating
Over 18



Shark School

with **girlfriend** and **guests**

Formed in Galway in June 2023, Shark School blends basement show chaos with performance art flair, trading solos for sarcasm and structure for wild spectacle. Their live gigs feel like house parties gone delightfully sideways.

Their debut single *411* – a tribute to the legendary Knocknacarra bus – dropped via Strange Brew. Shark School is chaotic, clever, and clearly carving their own weird and wonderful path.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Saturday 26 July, 8pm
Tickets €12–€14
Standing
Over 18



Oisín Leech

After 15 years with The Lost Brothers, Irish musician Oisín Leech emerged in 2024 as a striking solo artist with his amazing debut album *Cold Sea*. Recorded beside the North Atlantic, the album features contributions from some stellar musicians, namely Steve Gunn, M Ward, Dónal Lunny, Róisín McGrory, and Tony Garnier.

His songs explore exile, love, and healing through folk-rooted guitar, gentle synths, and strings – creating spacious, intimate, rich soundscapes.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Sunday 27 July, 7.30pm
Tickets €23–€25
Standing
Over 18



Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

The Mary Wallopers

'The punk spirit of Irish traditional music.'
MOJO

With their punked-up versions of traditional Irish songs, wowing audiences in Ireland, Australia, the US and the UK, culminating in a stand out performance at Glastonbury last year, The Mary Wallopers have become a live phenomenon.

Known for their dynamic shows, they effortlessly blend cabaret-style banter, raucous storytelling, high-energy punk, and moments of haunting silence for heartrending songs. While their repertoire is rooted in traditional material, the band brings a raw, unapologetic energy to folk music, reminiscent of the spirit of the great Shane McGowan and The Pogues.

WHERE & WHEN
Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Saturday 19 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €39.50
Standing

PHOTO: SORCHA FRANCES RYDER

Music | Ireland

Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Picture This

WHERE & WHEN
Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €55
Standing

'Explosive yet heart-warming'
HOT PRESS

Picture This has solidified their place as one of Ireland's most exciting musical acts with a string of heartbreaking anthems and upbeat pop bangers over the last number of years.

Renowned for their electrifying live performances, their energetic, emotionally charged live shows have seen them develop a huge fanbase in a relatively short period of time.

Since their debut album, *Picture This*, topped the Irish charts in 2017, the band has continually showcased their ability to push creative boundaries and delivered hit after hit.

Support is provided by Galway singer-songwriter Aimee Carty who first gained widespread attention with her viral hit *2 Days into College*, a poignant and relatable song that struck a chord with people of all ages.



Music | Ireland | England



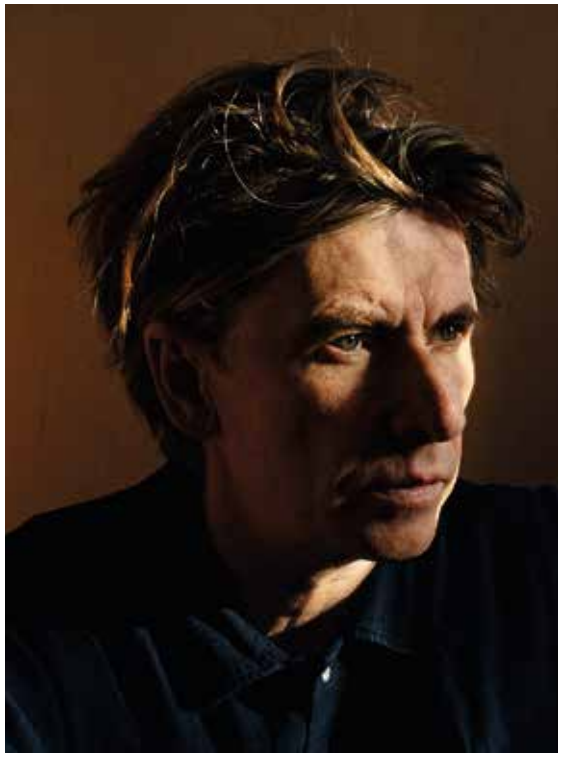
Villagers

Acoustic Set

Conor O'Brien is simply one of Ireland's best songwriters and under the name Villagers has delivered a number of critically acclaimed albums. His celebrated work blends folk, pop, and rock with lyrical depth and emotional resonance that has seen Villagers win Ireland's Choice Music Prize and earn him several Mercury Prize nominations.

Conor O Brien's skill as a songwriter has earned him the praise from Paul Weller, Elvis Costello and Damon Albarn and has seen him receive two Ivor Novello Awards.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Saturday 19 July and Sunday 20 July, 7.30pm
Tickets €34–€36
Standing
Over 18



Bernard Butler

Bernard Butler is a Brit and Grammy Award-winning musician best known as the guitarist and co-founder of Suede, whose 1993 debut won the Mercury Prize. Renowned for his expressive guitar work and production skills, Butler has produced for The Libertines, Tricky, Kate Nash, Texas, Paloma Faith and Duffy, among others.

Butler has performed with legends like Bryan Ferry, Robert Plant, and Neneh Cherry.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Thursday 17 July, 8pm
Tickets €23–€25
Standing
Over 18



Gurriers

'Abrasive, yearning noise-injected punk'
CRACK MAGAZINE

This high-energy Irish guitar quintet are firing on all cylinders and confronting the ills of the modern world on their debut album *Come and See*, a truly thrilling collection of razor sharp progressive punk songs.

Inspired by The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys and The Chemical Brothers, Gurriers' album is an exhilarating statement of intent by five people fed up with tiptoeing politely around the chaos.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Tuesday 22 July, 8pm
Tickets €18–€20
Standing
Over 18



Soda Blonde

'Stylistically daring music ... compelling'
THE LAST MIXED TAPE

Having carved out a distinct space with their self-produced sound, introspective lyrics and arresting visuals, enigmatic alt-pop quartet Soda Blonde has earned nominations for Album of the Year and Song of the Year at the Choice Music Prize.

Their catchy and cathartic pop songs create an ambitious, textured, and multi-layered sound, tied neatly together by singer Faye O'Rourke's distinctive vocals. Expect an evening that captures raw, honest, and unapologetically ambitious musical sounds.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Wednesday 23 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €28–€30
Standing
Over 18

Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Block Rockin Beats

'A cult favourite'
HOT PRESS

Dec Pierce's Block Rockin Beats returns to the Heineken® Big Top following one of last year's most memorable concerts. Block Rockin Beats is a performance of the world's biggest dance anthems, where rave meets rock, featuring a DJ set with a full live band.

2025 marks 30 years since Dec Pierce first began his journey as a DJ in 1995. To celebrate this milestone, Block Rockin Beats will embark on the 95–25 Tour this summer. These gigs will feature dance tracks close to Dec's heart that were massive across those three decades.

So expect a raw, energetic live set with songs such as *No Good [Start the dance]* alongside *Smells Like Teen Spirit* and Beastie Boys' *Sabotage* and tracks from Underworld, Faithless, The Prodigy, Chemical Brothers, and many more!

WHERE & WHEN
Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Friday 18 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €45
Standing



The Blades

'The utterly superb Downmarket is an epic tune'
HOT PRESS

Formed in 1977 at a time when punk ruled Dublin, The Blades, fronted by Paul Cleary, released two 7" singles on Energy Records with *Hot For You* and the classic *Ghost Of A Chance*. The band released their first album *The Last Man in Europe* in January 1985 as well as the singles collection *Raytown Revisited* which is included in the book *101 Irish Albums to hear before you die* by Irish Times writer Tony Clayton-Lea. The Blades reformed in 2013 and since then have released an EP *Smalltime*, the single *Harder Times*, and the album *Modernised*.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Friday 18 July, 7.30pm
Tickets €31–€33
Standing
Over 18



Phil Taggart's The Evolution of Disco

The Evolution of Disco is a live audio-visual DJ Set from broadcaster Phil Taggart. It charts the disco journey from its beginning to modern day. A joyous party experience for people who love disco and want an incredible night out.

Every generation experienced disco differently. Here, all generations come together to celebrate, dance and party to that addictive disco sound.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Friday 18 July, 11.30pm
Tickets €10
Standing
Over 18



Glasshouse

presents
The Velvet Underground

'Among the highest calibre of musicians'
NIALLER9

Following an amazing performance at GIAF 2024, Glasshouse return to Galway this year with an evening featuring the music of The Velvet Underground, Nico, and John Cale.

Dedicated to elevating music through innovative commissions and collaborations, Glasshouse blends sound with visual design to deliver memorable performances.

With special guest vocalists Adrian Crowley and Lucy Rice, this performance promises a unique and immersive musical journey.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Thursday 24 July, 8pm
Tickets €21–€23.50
Standing
Over 18



HousePlants

'Vigorous bouncy electro-pop'
THE IRISH TIMES

HousePlants is the collaborative project of producer Daithí and Paul Noonan of Bell X1. Their 2021 debut album *Dry Goods* was nominated for the Choice Music Prize. Touring as a five-piece, they've performed at major festivals and supported acts like Chic and Leftfield.

Their latest album, *Half Known Things*, released in October last year, builds on their signature sound, an uplifting, rhythm-driven fusion, made for the dancefloor.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Friday 25 July, 8pm
Tickets €23–€25
Standing
Over 18



Skinny Living

'A formidable live band'
GOLDEN PLEC

As their long-awaited debut album, *Day By Day*, soared to No. 1 on the UK Independent Albums Chart, Skinny Living is a band that will resonate deeply with anyone who's ever chased a big dream from humble roots. A story of struggle, resilience, and relentless hard graft, their songs inspire optimism and introspection, gaining 60 million streams worldwide.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Tuesday 15 July, 8pm
Tickets €22.50
Limited unreserved seating
Over 18



The Magic Numbers

'A source of wide-eyed wonder'
ROLLING STONE

Comprising two pairs of siblings: Romeo and Michele Stodart, and Sean and Angela Gannon, The Magic Numbers are a chart-topping UK-based four-piece. Their self-titled debut album was nominated for the Mercury Prize and featured top ten hit singles such as *Forever Lost*, *Love Me Like You*, and *Love Is a Game*.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Wednesday 16 July, 8pm
Tickets €30
Standing
Over 18

Galway International Arts Festival and **Róisín Dubh**

Mari Samuelsen with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra

Renowned Norwegian superstar violinist Mari Samuelsen joins the RTÉ Concert Orchestra for what promises to be an unforgettable evening at the Heineken® Big Top. Known for her dynamic artistry and genre-blurring performances, Samuelsen will perform Max Richter's *Vivaldi Recomposed – The Four Seasons*, a bold reimagining of Vivaldi's classic that has captivated audiences worldwide. Richter's work is both familiar and strikingly new — brought vividly to life through Samuelsen's expressive interpretation and the lush sound of the orchestra.

The programme will also include pieces by contemporary composers such as Bryce Dessner [The National], Hania Rani, and Arvo Pärt, offering a rich and emotional journey through modern classical music. Known for her fearless approach to programming and her breathtaking technique, Samuelsen continues to inspire global audiences with performances that are as daring as they are moving.

WHERE & WHEN
Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Sunday 27 July
Doors 5pm | Show 6pm
Tickets €30–€35
Seated

Programme

Song for Octave – Bryce Dessner
Cambridge 1963 – Jóhann Jóhannson
Glass – Hania Rani
Hammers – Nils Frahm
Fratres – Arvo Pärt
Vivaldi Recomposed – Max Richter



PHOTO: ANDREA GJESTVANG



Traditional Music Showcases

The Traditional Music Showcases bring together some of Ireland's finest traditional musicians, many of whom are joining forces especially for these Festival concerts.

All of the concerts in this lunchtime series take place in Monroe's Live, Dominick Street. All leading exponents of their respective instruments, the Festival's Traditional Music Showcases are a little bit of musical magic to kick off your Festival day.

Mary Staunton [Accordion, vocals]
Holly Geraghty [Harp, concertina]
Thursday 17 July, 1pm

Nuala Kennedy [Flute, vocals]
Tara Breen [Fiddle]
Friday 18 July, 1pm

Ann Kirrane [Vocals, concertina]
Garry O'Briain [Mandocello,Guitar]
Ronan Greene [Accordion]
Saturday 19 July, 1pm

Aine Bird [Fiddle]
Caitlín Nic Gabhann [Concertina]
Anne Marie Grogan [Flute]
Thursday 24 July, 1pm

Caitríona Ní Cheannabhain [Vocals]
Mick Conneely [Fiddle, bouzouki]
David Munnelly [Accordion]
Friday 25 July, 1pm

Floriane Blancke [Harp]
Brendan O'Regan [Mandolin and Bouzouki]
Saturday 26 July, 1pm

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Tickets €10

IMAGE: MICK CONNEELY, CAITRÍONA NÍ CHEANNABHAIN AND DAVID MUNNELLY



Session Americana

With nine records, a hectic touring schedule across the U.S. and Europe, and a hot ticket residency in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Session Americana is an amazing live, joyful, vibrant collective who bring together vintage American roots, from country to jazz to rock, in a rowdy but deft fashion. The band is joined by Eleanor Buckland.

WHERE & WHEN
Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Monday 14 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €22.50
Limited unreserved seating
Over 18



Gonora Sounds

Gonora Sounds is a family band that has been busking on the streets of Zimbabwe since 2004, the band is led by blind singer-songwriter Daniel Gonora, a wizard on the guitar, with his drumming protege son Isaac on drums.

In recent years, the band has extended to include seasoned musicians such as Nelson 'Mr Longman' Mutanda on lead guitar and Malizani Mbewe on bass and their street performances are legendary.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Tuesday 15 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €23–€25
Standing
Over 18

Galway
International
Arts Festival

Visual Arts



DAVID MACH *SPIKE*

David Mach

Burning Down the House



Galway International Arts Festival has commissioned the Turner Prize-nominated artist, David Mach, to create a new site-specific installation *Burning Down the House*.

David Mach is one of the UK's most successful, prolific and respected artists, best known for his dynamic and large-scale collage, and his imposing and provocative public art, sculpture and installations constructed from mass-produced materials including coat hangers, car tyres, newspapers and magazines.

Mach's previous sensational GIAF exhibitions – 2012's *Precious Light* which featured the enormous crucifixion sculpture Golgotha, made from steel and wire coat hangers, and 2018's *Rock 'n' Roll* which saw Mach place a yacht, car and a caravan with multiple other objects and debris within a monumental quantity of painstakingly positioned newspapers; and 2023's *The Oligarch's Nightmare* which featured an exploding Range Rover – enjoyed record-breaking audiences.

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Gallery, An Post, William Street
14–27 July
11am–6pm
Late Opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Touch Tour, Thursday 17 July, 10am
Booking required

Relaxed Hours
16, 23 July, 11am–1pm

Gallery talk with the artist
Tuesday 15 July, 11am

AD TT

DAVID MACH *THE SECOND HOMEOWNER'S NIGHTMARE* [LITHOGRAPH]



Culture Works

Kat Austen

Not Breaking. This Wave Drowns Hate

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall,
University of Galway
14–27 July
11am–6pm
Late opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Not Breaking. This Wave Drowns Hate is an interactive artwork by artist Kat Austen that responds to the crisis of marine microplastic pollution and diminishing ocean health by creating inspirations for a more symbiotic relationship between humans and the marine environment.

Sculptural 'lighthouses' orient the visitor through the installation space suffused with a dynamic soundscape. At its heart is an AI, which has been trained on data gathered with coastal communities from in and around Galway, responding to attendees to produce evolving, generative visuals projected on sail cloth. The installation envisions a future where humans and the ocean nurture each other.

Commissioned within the framework of the S+T+ARTS 4Water II residency programme by ADAPT Centre at Dublin City University and Beta Festival with the support of Port of Galway, Galway Culture Company, Galway City Council, Culture Works and the S+T+ARTS programme of the European Union.



Interface

This Too Will Pass

Thomas Brezing | Luke Casserly | Ceara Conway | Naomi Draper | Aisling Dunne | Richard Long | Darran McGlynn | Katherine Sankey

Inspired by Richard Long's *This Too Will Pass*, this exhibition explores the transient nature of life and the interconnectedness between humans and the Earth.

Through the use of decaying materials, the featured artists highlight the cycles of transformation in nature, emphasizing the fragility and resilience of the environment. The proverb *Bíonn siúlach scéalach*, meaning 'a walk is a story', reinforces the idea that each journey reveals new insights about the world.

The exhibition encourages reflection on sustainability, urging us to adapt to nature's rhythms and act with urgency to address environmental challenges, fostering a hopeful path toward a harmonious, sustainable future.

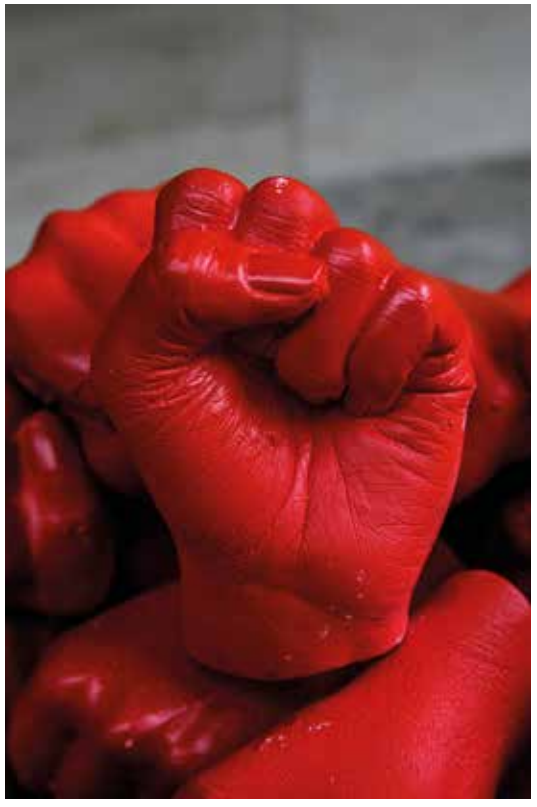
Curated by Valeria Ceregini.

WHERE & WHEN
Interface Inagh,
Lough Inagh Valley, Recess,
Connemara, Co. Galway
12–27 July
12 noon–6pm
Free
Allow 1 hour approx. to drive from Galway City

Associated Exhibition Events
Distillation by Luke Casserly
Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July, 2pm

Incant by Ceara Conway
Sunday 20 July, 2pm

THIS TOO WILL PASS © RICHARD LONG, 2020





Galway Arts Centre and **Galway International Arts Festival**

Laura O'Connor and **Léann Herlihy**
pass the baton

WHERE & WHEN
Galway Arts Centre,
Dominick Street
14–27 July, 10am–5pm
Sunday 12 noon–5pm
Late opening 9pm Thursday
Free

pass the baton is a collaborative exhibition by artists Laura O'Connor and Léann Herlihy that draws on personal histories of competitive sport and performance to interrogate ideas of identity, nationalism and bodily resilience.

O'Connor explores the tension between patriotism and nationalism, influenced by her childhood experiences in a marching band, using durational performance and fragile porcelain structures.

Herlihy's work centres on collective resistance and queer-led self-defence, rejecting traditional notions of bodily resilience in favour of justice, solidarity and collective care. Together, the artists challenge dominant narratives of strength, highlighting the tensions between endurance and resistance through embodied research, sculpture, installation and performance.

LEFT: *HANDS OF PIECE* LAURA O'CONNOR
RIGHT: *WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT* LÉANN HERLIHY



Erin Lawlor
divining

Erin Lawlor's recent work delves more deeply into the idea of place. While she has long seen painting as a space for both imagination and psychological exploration, her process — working horizontally and using a wet-on-wet [alla prima] technique — turns the canvas into a physical ground, shaped by focused, immersive labour.

Each painting captures a layered, evolving process — a moment in time built up through action and intuition — yet each one must ultimately hold together as a complete, cohesive whole.

The title *divining* speaks to both a careful, almost scientific reading of the surface, and an instinctive, emotional response. It also points to the search for something ideal or imagined, a sense of discovery that lies somewhere between the real and the hoped-for.

A Highlanes Gallery National Tour curated by Aoife Ruane.

WHERE & WHEN
Festival Printworks Gallery
Market Street
14–27 July
11am–6pm
Late Opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Gallery talk with the artist and Jennifer Higgie
Wednesday 23 July, 1pm

DIVINING ERIN LAWLOR


COMHAIRLE TEACHTA NA MAC-LÉINN

GRIANGRAF

Uachtarán
M. Ó h-Uiginn

Leas Uachtarán
L. Clancy

Rúnaí On.
B. Mac Eochagáin

Cisteóir
R. Ryan

Fo-Rúnaí
L. Ó Chéileachair

Coiste
J. McCarrick, G. Cloherty, M. O'Donnell, D. Ó Donnchadha, P. Griffith, ~~P. Joyce~~, P. Rivera, J. Purcell, C. Ó Regan, M. Reynolds, M. Ó Tuathaigh.

Member's Signature .....

STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Galway City Museum and **Galway International Arts Festival**

President Michael D. Higgins – Through the Lens

WHERE & WHEN
Galway City Museum,
Spanish Parade
15–27 July, 10am–4.45pm
Sunday 12 noon–4.45pm
Closed Mondays
Free

As we enter the final months of President Michael D. Higgins' 14-year tenure as President of Ireland, this exhibition will celebrate key moments in President Higgins' life — from his early academic and political career to his enduring commitment to social justice, equality, peace, and cultural expression.

Through powerful imagery, the exhibition will explore his advocacy for the marginalised, his defence of the Irish language and heritage, and his unwavering support for the arts. Featuring photographs from press archives, public collections, and the President's own archive, it offers a compelling portrait of a life devoted to dignity and dialogue.

Curated by Paul Fahy and Eithne Verling.



Joe O'Shaughnessy's Druid

WHERE & WHEN
Kenny Gallery, Liosbán
Retail Park, Tuam Road
14–26 July
9am–5pm
Closed Sundays
Free

For 50 years, Druid Theatre Company has been at the heart of Irish theatre, bringing bold, groundbreaking productions from the West of Ireland to stages around the world. Since its founding in 1975, Druid has reimagined classics, nurtured new talent, and toured widely — all while remaining rooted in Galway.

Photographer Joe O'Shaughnessy has captured this remarkable journey from the very beginning. His evocative images document not only performances, but the people, moments, and creative energy behind them.

This exhibition showcases a rare visual archive of Druid's evolution, preserving the spirit of the company through five decades of unforgettable theatre and artistic collaboration.

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD COMPANY, 1982. JOE O'SHAUGHNESSY



Jane Cassidy and **Arts Alive**
Tactile Tunes

WHERE & WHEN
Aula Maxima,
University of Galway
14–27 July, 1pm–6pm
Saturdays and Sundays,
11am–6pm
Free

Group Bookings for services and schools supporting groups with disabilities via giaf.ie
Mondays–Fridays, 10am–1pm

Gallery talk with the artists
Wednesday16 July, 2pm

Arts Alive Galway aims to make the joy of music accessible to everyone, transforming how we engage with sound through inclusive creativity. Tactile Tunes is an interactive musical installation designed to encourage music-making among people of all abilities.

Using sensory-friendly materials and surfaces, it blends sound, touch, visuals, and movement to create an immersive environment. The project celebrates the belief that everyone has the right — and the ability — to make music in their own way.

Tactile Tunes is led by Jane Cassidy, a multimedia artist and educator from Galway. Arts Alive Galway is a community based arts programme for adults with intellectual disabilities under The Brothers of Charity Services Galway.

Developed with the support of Galway Culture Company and Galway International Arts Festival's ELEVATE Bursary, and the Create Artist in the Community Scheme.



Outset Gallery

Hazel O'Sullivan
Atomic

Atomic is a new series by Hazel O'Sullivan exploring retrofuturism through mythology and Galway's landscapes. Her detailed drawings transform into large-scale sculptural forms inspired by insular art and ancient sites like Knockma Hill. Fusing symbolism, myth, and speculative design, *Atomic* reimagines the future of Ireland's mythic past in striking visual language.

Developed with the support of Galway Culture Company and Galway International Arts Festival's ELEVATE Bursary.

WHERE & WHEN
Outset Gallery, 15 The Cornstore, St Augustine Street
14–27 July
Sunday–Tuesday, 11am–4pm
Wednesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm
Free
Touch Tour, Friday 18 July, 11am
Booking required

TT



Eman Mohammed
What Lies Beneath the Rubble

Eman Mohammed is an award-winning Palestinian photojournalist from Gaza and a Senior TED Fellow. Beginning her career at 19, she spent a decade documenting life under Israeli occupation and the ongoing siege. Her powerful long-term photo essays focus on human rights and challenge stereotypes. Rooted in her Palestinian heritage, Eman's work blends personal insight with a deep understanding of complex realities. Drawing from her diverse cultural background, she continues to create compelling visual narratives that give voice to often-overlooked stories.

WHERE & WHEN
Studio 2, O'Donoghue Centre, University of Galway
14–27 July, 11am–6pm
Free

Festival Commission

John Conneely and **Conor Maloney**
Funeral for Ashes

WHERE & WHEN
Festival Printworks Gallery
Market Street
14–27 July
11am–6pm
Late Opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Gallery talk with the artists
Thursday 17 July, 12 noon

Funeral for Ashes is an immersive, interactive experience honouring our Irish ash woodlands which are now faced with the risk of extinction.

This contemplative installation features 3D scans of Irish ash trees and their surrounding habitats. Projected across the walls and floor, the piece fully surrounds viewers, plunging them into a poignant, meditative landscape. Generative music and visuals respond in real time to both ecological data and the physical movement of the audience.

The audience are invited to come together in this act of reverence that is aimed as a farewell, a celebration, and a heartfelt tribute to our native ecosystem.

PACESETTERS

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway



Engage Art Studios

Joan Sugrue
Gold Shift

Joan Sugrue's practice reflects her continued interest in colonialism and power politics. The work is a reflection of her mixed childhood memories as well as newly found research carried out for each body of work. A member of Engage Studios, Joan has exhibited nationally and internationally including in the Marmite Prize V [London], Contemporary British Prize for Painting [London], and the Elysium Gallery [Wales].

WHERE & WHEN
Engage Art Studios
Lower Salthill
16–27 July
11am–4pm
Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
Free



Darran McGlynn
State of Play

State of Play is a solo exhibition by Darran McGlynn, showcasing new work that combines traditional sculpture and text to explore societal, material, and environmental histories. Engaging with personal and collective narratives, the exhibition invites reflection on our place in a globalised world. McGlynn's multidisciplinary practice contrasts contemporary life with deep time, offering a philosophical lens on our shifting realities and shared environments.

Curated by Kate McSharry.

WHERE & WHEN
126 Artist-Run Gallery, 15 St. Bridget's Place
14–27 July, 12 noon–6pm
Free

First Thought
Talks | Vinyl Hours



First Thought | USA | Ireland

Resistance to Trump



Pramila Jayapal
in conversation with **Fintan O'Toole**

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall,
University of Galway
Saturday 26 July, 6pm
Tickets €15

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has represented Washington's 7th Congressional District, which encompasses most of Seattle, since 2017. Having come to the United States by herself at the age of 16, she is the first and only South Asian American woman ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She serves on the U.S. House Budget, Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, and Steering and Policy Committees. She is Chair Emerita of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and a leading opponent of Donald Trump and oligarchic attacks on democracy.

She has spent over 20 years leading organizing and advocacy efforts for women's and immigrant rights and racial and economic justice. She is the author of the Medicare for All Act, the landmark universal health care legislation in the United States, and is a forceful proponent for peace, taxing the rich, and protecting poor and working people.

She will be interviewed by Fintan O'Toole, Ireland's best-known journalist and author of numerous books including *We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Ireland since 1958*.

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway



PHOTO: IAIN HARTE

A Rebel Heart

David Mach
in conversation with **Paul Fahy**

David Mach, the Scottish artist renowned for his large-scale installations, has a strong connection with the Festival for almost 20 years and his new installation *Burning Down the House* features at GIAF this year.

Mach's work often critiques societal structures and power dynamics, reflecting his belief in the necessity of change. Mach offers insight into his creative process, his use of mass-produced materials and the themes that drive his provocative art in conversation with GIAF's Artistic Director Paul Fahy.

WHERE & WHEN
Festival Gallery, William Street
Tuesday 15 July, 11am
Free



Where Are We Now?

Annela Anger-Kraavi

Climate transition is a concept we are all too familiar with. It is simply the biggest challenge facing the planet in the 21st century. It is something we all agree must be achieved and we are all aware of the grave need to progress it quickly. So Where Are We Now and what needs to happen next?

Prof. Annela Anger-Kraavi, who leads the Climate Change Policy Group at the University of Cambridge, will share insights on the current state of play and on what needs to happen next to drive meaningful climate transition.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Tuesday 15 July, 1pm
Free. Booking required

PACESETTERS



PHOTO: LINDA NYLIND

Autism and Talent

Francesca Happé, Lorraine Tuck and **Jody O'Neill**
in conversation with **Jane Conway**

Why are special abilities in music, maths, memory or art so much more common in autism than in other groups? While not every autistic person will have a striking talent, recognising special abilities [in individuals at all levels of support needs] can provide routes to employment, self-esteem, and joy! Professor Francesca Happé will talk about how an exquisite eye for detail, and a mind untrammelled by others' ideas, may contribute to beautiful and original contributions. Followed by a discussion with Jody O'Neill, a writer, actor, and autism advocate, and Lorraine Tuck, an artist whose work explores neurodiversity and family life.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 19 July, 10.30am
Tickets €10



PHOTO: HUGH RUSSELL

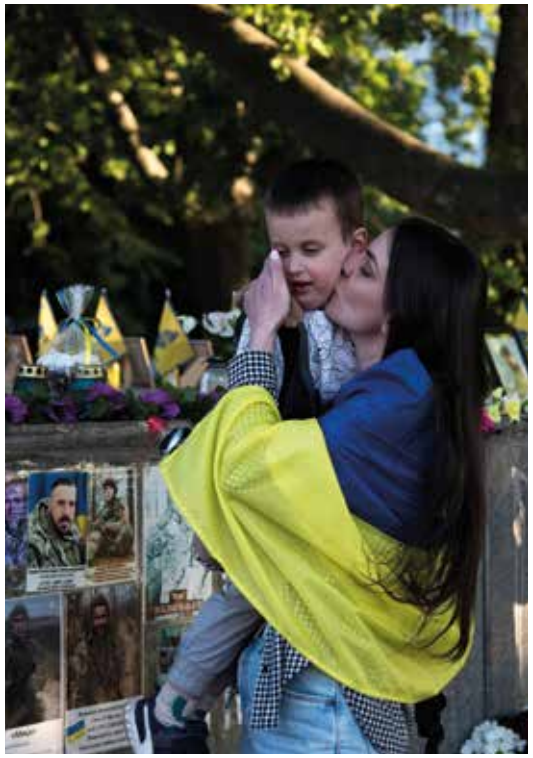
Speaking Truth to Power

Máiría Cahill
in conversation with **Kathy Sheridan**

Máiría Cahill was born into the highest echelons of Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA. She was raped by a republican when she was 16, and subjected to a traumatising "investigation" by the IRA. She was subsequently badly treated by the Northern Ireland justice system. With great courage, she waived her anonymity to tell the story of what happened to her, hoping to empower other women who might have suffered the same fate. She is now a journalist who continues to highlight injustice, regardless of its origins.

She will be in conversation with Kathy Sheridan, Irish Times columnist and investigative journalist.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 19 July, 12 noon
Tickets €10



What is Happening in Ukraine

Phillips P. O'Brien
in conversation with **Lara Marlowe**

Ukraine faces a bleak situation as both Russia and the U.S. appear increasingly aligned against a nation that has bravely resisted an unprovoked invasion for over three years. The conflict carries serious implications for European security, unchecked Russian aggression, and a dramatic shift in U.S. foreign policy influenced by presidential admiration for autocrats.

Historian Phillips P. O'Brien, widely regarded for his expert analysis of the war, will discuss these issues with journalist and author Lara Marlowe, author of *How Good It Is I have No Fear of Dying: Lieutenant Yulia Mykytenko's Fight for Ukraine*.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 19 July, 2pm
Tickets €10



PHOTO: STEPHEN SHANNON

Double-edged Sword

Ciaran Murphy, Paul Rouse
in conversation with **Sinead O'Carroll**

A recent report from the GAA finds a crisis in rural clubs and a surge in their urban equivalents. Are we returning to the grim days of the 1950s when emigration decimated rural GAA teams? Are urban superclubs sucking up resources and providing a less focused service? If so, what can be done about it?

Join Second Captain Ciaran Murphy, sports historian Paul Rouse, and Editor of thejournal.ie Sinead O'Carroll for a well-informed and lively discussion on the future of the organisation which has been the glue of Irish society for many decades.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 19 July, 3.30pm
Tickets €10

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway



PHOTO: © BRET HARTMAN / TED

A Witness with a Choice

Eman Mohammad
in conversation with **Roisin Ingle**

Eman Mohammad is an award-winning Palestinian photojournalist whose work reflects not only the trauma and pain of destruction and constant killing in Gaza throughout its many conflicts with Israel, but also the resilience and ingenuity of a persecuted population. As the first female photojournalist in Gaza, Mohammad's work was met with prejudice from her male colleagues.

She is a dedicated witness to the suffering of her people. Her extraordinary photos are more important now than ever. She will be in conversation with journalist, podcaster and feminist Roisin Ingle.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 19 July, 5pm
Tickets €10



Malignant Narcissism in the White House

Fintan O'Toole
in conversation with **Catriona Crowe**

Over the last 10 years, Fintan O'Toole, award-winning Irish journalist and author, has written some of the best commentary on Donald Trump, mainly in long pieces in the New York Review of Books. He combines astute political analysis with acute psychological observation of this most infuriating personality. He has also looked at the wreckage of the Republican Party, and why people keep voting for Trump. He will be in conversation with Catriona Crowe, curator of First Thought Talks.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 19 July, 7pm
Tickets €10



IMAGE: IIIEVGENLY

Adolescence and Toxic Masculinity

Eoghan Cleary, Debbie Ging and **Patrick Freyne**
in conversation with **Dearbhail McDonald**

The recent TV series, *Adolescence*, brought home the frightening amount of misogynistic poison pouring into young people's phones, and the potentially horrific consequences of doing nothing about it. Teacher Eoghan Cleary has been working with his own adolescent students and publishing vital support material for other teachers for many years. He will be joined by Professor Debbie Ging, DCU, whose research focuses on these phenomena, and Patrick Freyne, Irish Times journalist whose writing presents a very different model of young Irish masculinity. Dearbhail McDonald, journalist and broadcaster, moderates.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 20 July, 11am
Tickets €10



PHOTO: ALAN BETSON

Kindness in our Health Service

Roisin Ingle
in conversation with **Brendan Kelly**

Roisin Ingle, journalist, author and podcaster, wrote a column just before Christmas last year in which she described the kindness she constantly experiences from the staff in the chemotherapy day ward in the Mater Hospital who treat her cancer. The piece had a huge response, and got many people thinking about the therapeutic value of kindness in health care. Roisin will be joined by Professor Brendan Kelly, of TCD and Tallaght Hospital, psychiatrist, historian of mental health and author of many books, including, most recently, *Resilience; Lessons from Sir William Wilde in Life after Covid*.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 20 July, 1pm
Tickets €10

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway



IMAGE: DEVRIMB

Conspiracy Theories

Ciaran O'Connor and **Cian O'Mahony**
in conversation with **Elaine Burke**

Endless conspiracy theories flood our phones every day, straining credulity, but with an increasing number of enthusiastic followers. In the absence of any serious controls by the obscenely rich tech companies who allow this dangerous misinformation to be disseminated, we must equip ourselves with defences against it. Ciaran O'Connor has written a number of reports for the Institute for Strategic Dialogue on Irish right-wing conspiracies and misinformation. Cian O'Mahony is studying new approaches to critical thinking to enable people to distinguish between baseless non-evidential stuff and something approximating the truth.

Elaine Burke, of For Tech's Sake, will moderate the discussion.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 26 July, 10.30am
Tickets €10



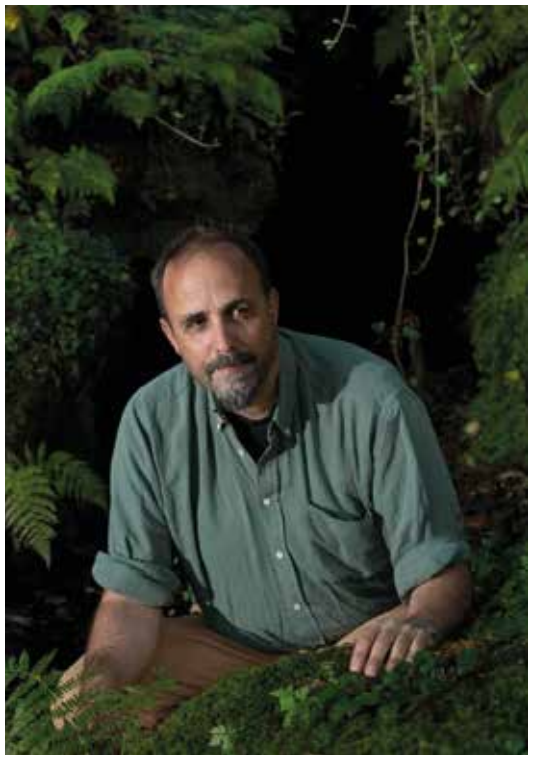
IMAGE: WILD PIXEL

Irish Food, its Joys and Malcontents

Gerry Godley, Norah Campbell and
Ruth Hegarty in conversation

When Gerry Godley [Breadman Walking] last came to Galway, the audience received delicious bread and a bag of organic flour to take home. He's back this year to talk about Irish food in all its glorious and not-so-glorious varieties. He will be joined by Professor Norah Campbell of Trinity College, Dublin and Ruth Hegarty, Lecturer at University College Cork, experts on food policy and development, and there will be grub for the audience again! You won't be getting ultra-processed food, although it will be discussed. Save your appetite for a treat.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 26 July, 12 noon
Tickets €10



The Man who saved an Irish Rain Forest

Eoghan Daltun
in conversation with **Saoirse McHugh**

Eoghan Daltun has written the story of how he saved a dying rain forest in the Beara Peninsula in his book *An Atlantic Rainforest [A Personal Journey into the Magic of Rewilding]*, an enchanting story about a fascinating subject. His observations on this regenerative project have implications for both Irish rewilding attempts and the management of our national parks. He is also a sculptor and conservator.

He will be in conversation with Saoirse McHugh, environmental activist and former Green Party politician.

WHEN & WHERE
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 26 July, 2pm
Tickets €10



Where Did They Draw the Line?

Diarmaid Ferriter
in conversation **Gearoid O'Tuathaigh**

100 years ago, the Boundary Commission, believed by many to be the solution to partition, produced its report recommending very little change to the already established border between Northern Ireland and the Free State. We have been living with the consequences ever since,

First Thought favourites, Professors Diarmaid Ferriter of UCD, and Gearoid O'Tuathaigh of the University of Galway, will enlighten us on this turbulent period and a fateful decision which had many consequences.

WHEN & WHERE
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 26 July, 4pm
Tickets €10

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway



IMAGE: SOLID COLOURS

Cope @ 50

Gillian McNamee and **Michael Smyth**
in conversation with **Elaine Feeney**

Cope, Galway's wonderful service for homeless people, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Members of Cope's team will discuss one of the most pressing problems in Ireland – domestic violence. Gillian McNamee, Head of Cope's Domestic Abuse Service and Michael Smyth, CEO of the organisation, outline the services they provide, what they have learned from their clients, and how they are doing with this most endemic of problems. The voice of the client will be central to this event.

Elaine Feeney, poet and novelist, will moderate the event. Her latest book is *Let Me Go Mad in my Own Way*.

WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 27 July, 11am
Tickets €10



Sea Swimming

Rebecca Braun and **Dee Newell**
in conversation

Rebecca Braun, Executive Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies at the University of Galway, is an enthusiastic sea swimmer, like many people who took it up during Covid and have remained in thrall to the waves. She has translated a book on the subject by a German author, Ulrike Draesner, a novel in which the central character decides to swim the English Channel. She will be joined by Dee Newell, an accomplished sea swimmer who has swum the Galway Marathon and the English Channel.

WHEN & WHERE
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 27 July, 1pm
Tickets €10



Vinyl Hours

Vinyl Hours is a series of talks with Festival artists in conversation with music maestro Tiernan Henry.

Spend an hour on an aural journey of treasured musical memories with special guests, who reveal their go-to playlists, the soundtrack to their lives and explore what exactly it stirs within them; fun, heartbreak and revolution. Playlists available on Spotify.

Guests include singer-songwriter Josephine Foster, 16 July; Faye O'Rourke from Soda Blonde, 23 July; and Nora Staunton from Shark School, 26 July.

WHEN & WHERE
Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
16, 23, 26 July, 6pm
Free
See giaf.ie for full details
Recorded for First Thought Podcast

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway



Festival Garden, Comedy, Club and Booking

Festival Garden

The Festival Garden in Eyre Square is the home of the Festival in the heart of Galway. Enjoyed by tens of thousands of people, the Garden returns this summer with great food, dazzling cocktails and drinks, occasional DJs and live sets from guest artists. The Festival Garden is a great space for artists and audiences alike to come together to enjoy the chilled-out atmosphere and join in the celebration.

WHERE & WHEN
Festival Garden,
Eyre Square
14–27 July, 11am–10pm
Free

The Laughter Loft

'rip-roaring comedy in the middle of the day'
THE INDEPENDENT

WHERE & WHEN
The Ruby Room, The King's Head
High Street
14–27 July
Doors 12.30pm | Show 1pm
Tickets €15
Available on the door only
Unallocated seating

This year, The Laughter Loft will celebrate its 21st anniversary at GIAF and one helluva party is planned! The best and brightest of new comedic talent will be joined by some of the biggest stars in Irish comedy, ensuring that this pocket-sized venue in the heart of the city will be one of the hottest tickets in town this summer.

With a different act each day, among those performing will be David McSavage, Emma Doran, Killian Sundermann, Enya Martin, Bernard O Shea, Aoife Dunne, John Colleary, Kevin McGahern, Gearoid Farrelly and many more.



KEVIN McGAHERN



Aoife Dunne
Good Grief

Galway's Aoife Dunne is one of Ireland's most exciting new comedy voices, known for blending razor-sharp stand-up with painfully relatable storytelling. In just over a year she has quickly made her mark on the Irish comedy scene. *Good Grief* is a show about life falling apart and the hilarious attempts to put it back together.

WHERE & WHEN
Róisín Dubh [Upstairs], Dominick Street
Thursday 24 July, 7.30pm
Friday 25 July, 7.30pm
Tickets €21
Unallocated seating
Over 18



Al Murray
The Pub Landlord

★★★★★
'A supremely polished performer.'
MAIL ON SUNDAY

Standing up so you don't have to take it lying down anymore, *The Pub Landlord* is back to make sense of the questions you probably already had the answers to. You know what they say: there's no school like the old school, with the dodgy overflowing toilets.

WHERE & WHEN
Leisureland, Salthill
Friday 18 July, 8pm
Tickets €30
Unallocated seating
Over 16



LANDMARK PRODUCTIONS AND GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

REUNION

BY **MARK O'ROWE**

Kiln Theatre, London | 11 September–11 October
Gaiety Theatre, Dublin | 21 October–2 November

★★★★★

'A ZINGER OF A PLAY'

THE IRISH TIMES

★★★★ FINANCIAL TIMES

★★★★★ THE ARTS REVIEW

★★★★ IRISH EXAMINER

arts council funding theatre
Cultúr Éireann Culture Ireland
LANDMARK
Galway International Arts Festival
KILN THEATRE
GAIETY THEATRE

RTÉ SUPPORTING THE arts

RTÉ supports more than 150 arts events nationwide every year.

rte.ie/about/supportingthearts

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

University of Galway.
Where will it take **you**?

Start your journey here



Festival Volunteers

Volunteers play a huge role in the success of the Festival each year. Experience the GIAF 'Behind the Scenes' by stewarding, ushering, invigilating, being a Festival or Green Ambassador. Learn new skills, make a network of new friends and have plenty of fun!

Applications close on Tuesday 27 May
www.giaf.ie/support/volunteer | volunteers@giaf.ie



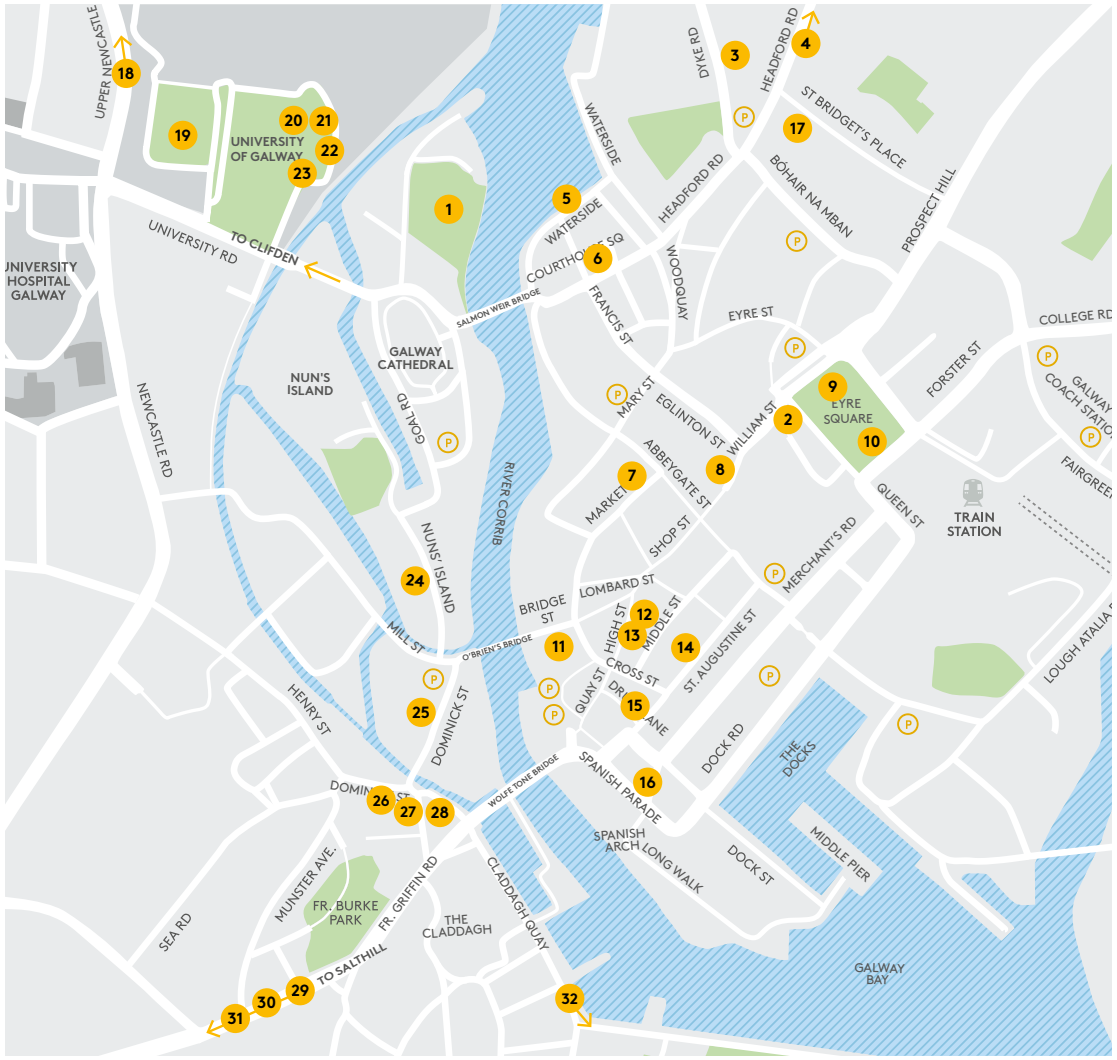
Festival Club

Galway International Arts Festival's legendary Festival Club on the banks of the River Corrib is the perfect place to end your night, post show or Heineken® Big Top gig. With a Waterside deck, great music and even better people, there is no better late-night club in town.

WHERE & WHEN
Festival Club, Galway Rowing Club, Waterside, Woodquay
16–27 July, 10.30pm
Closed Mondays and Tuesdays
Free
Subject to house rules

Festival Venues and Map

GALWAY CITY



1 **Heineken® Big Top** Fisheries Field H91 D9CV
2 **Festival Box Office** 31 Eyre Square H91 P5Y8
3 **Black Box Theatre** Dyke Road H91 C9PP
4 **Kenny Gallery** Liosbán Tuam Road H91 N5P8
5 **Festival Club** Waterside H91 K072
6 **Town Hall Theatre** Courthouse Square H91 H3C2
7 **Festival Printworks Gallery** Market Street H91 TCX3
8 **Festival Gallery** William Street H91 AK6A
9 **Festival Garden** Eyre Square
10 **Eyre Square**
11 **Bridge Street**
12 **The King's Head** High Street H91 AY6P
13 **An Taibhdhearc** 19 Middle Street H91 RX76
14 **Outset Gallery** St. Augustine Street H91 K8YV
15 **The Mick Lally Theatre** Druid Lane H91 N5X9
16 **Galway City Museum** Spanish Parade H91 CX5P
17 **126 Gallery** 15 St. Bridget's Place, Woodquay H91 NN29
18 **Interface*** Lough Inagh H91 VW58
19 **Aula Maxima** University of Galway H91 RTR6
20 **The Cube** University of Galway H91 RTR6
21 **Bailey Allen Hall** University of Galway H91 RTR6
22 **Bank of Ireland Theatre** University of Galway H91 RTR6
23 **O'Donoghue Centre & Theatre** University of Galway H91 RTR6
24 **Nun's Island Theatre** Nun's Island H91 H322
25 **Galway Arts Centre** 47 Dominick Street H91 X0AP
26 **Róisín Dubh** Dominick Street H91 N4AP
27 **Monroe's Live** Dominick Street H91 WD2H
28 **Lower Fairhill Road**
29 **Engage Art Studios** Lower Salthill H91 YCW9
30 **Galway Atlantaquaria** Salthill H91 T2FD
31 **Leisureland Salthill** H91 KT3V
32 **NoFit State Big Top** Claddagh Quay H91 A6Y6

From Galway City Allow 60 minutes travel time to Interface, Lough Inagh Valley, Connemara, H91 VW58.*

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Booking, Accessibility and Sustainability

How to Book

Online: from **9 May, 10am** at **giaf.ie**

Phone: **+353 91 566577** from **25 June**

In Person: from **25 June** at **Galway International Arts Festival Box Office**, 31 Eyre Square, Galway

Opening hours:
25 June–4 July: Monday–Friday 10am–5pm
7–27 July: Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays 12pm–5pm

Group Discounts
Discounts available for most shows to groups of 10+.
Email: groups@giaf.ie or contact the Box Office for details.

Friends of the Festival
Friends Priority Booking from 8 May.
To become a Friend of the Festival phone Aisling O'Sullivan at +353 91 509700 or email: friends@giaf.ie

Gift Vouchers
Available at giaf.ie or +353 91 509700 or from GIAF Box Office.

Administration Charges
Online bookings are subject to administration charges. Bookings in person at the Festival Box Office are not subject to administration charges. See giaf.ie for full details.

Accessibility
Galway International Arts Festival is committed to being as accessible as possible. Please contact our Box Office with any special requirements when booking. Look for access icons throughout the programme for ISL interpreted performances, touch tours, captioning, audio tours and relaxed gallery hours. While we aim to ensure all venues are accessible, some partner venues have limited access. Visit the Accessibility section of our website for full details on venue access, sensory backpacks, accessible facilities, and more. GIAF is proud to be part of the Sunflower Hidden Disabilities initiative.

Sustainability
Galway International Arts Festival is committed to meeting the sustainability needs of our visitors while reducing our environmental impact. Help us in this effort by choosing public transport or carpooling, walking or cycling between venues, and using e-tickets. Please use designated bins, avoid single-use plastics, and bring a reusable water bottle. Our Green Ambassadors are here to support your eco-friendly choices. Together, we can make a real difference.

Concessions
Concessions on selected shows are available for senior citizens [65 +], unwaged, people in receipt of disability allowance, asylum seekers, international protection applicants, refugees, and full-time students with appropriate ID. Concession tickets are available for theatre and circus shows only and can be bought online or at the Festival Box Office subject to availability. Please note customers may be asked for proof of status at venues.

Refunds
Galway International Arts Festival has a no refund or exchange policy on all tickets purchased.

Please Arrive on Time
Please arrive at the venue at least 20 minutes before the show time. Allow time for traffic and parking. Latecomers may only be admitted at the discretion of management.

Programme Changes
Management reserves the right to make essential changes to the programme or theatre casts without prior notice. Free outdoor programme may change due to weather conditions. Please check our website or social media for updates.

Festival Merchandise
Available at Festival Gallery, Festival Garden and online at giaf.ie

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Paul Lynch at Write By The Sea
Photo: Victoria Ziborova


Ahmed Karim Tamu in 'Mespil in the Dark'
by Pan Pan | Photo: Ros Kavanagh


Will Flanagan in 'The Presence of Absence'
by Alchemy Art' | Photo: Marcin Lewandawski

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Galway International Arts Festival Diary, July 2025

EVENT	PAGE	VENUE	PREVIEWS	MON 14	TUE 15	WED 16	THURS 17	FRI 18	SAT 19	SUN 20	MON 21	TUES 22	WED 23	THURS 24	FRI 25	SAT 26	SUN 27
Sabotage	6-7	Nimmo's Pier, Claddagh	11-13 July, 1pm | 8pm	8pm		8pm	8pm	8pm	1pm | 8pm	1pm		8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	1pm | 8pm	1pm
Riders to the Sea | Macbeth	8-9	The Mick Lally Theatre	10-14 July, 7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	1pm | 7pm	7pm	1pm | 7pm		7pm	7pm	7pm	1pm | 7pm	7pm	1pm | 7pm	
Dimanche	10-11	Town Hall Theatre			8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	2pm | 8pm								
Scorched Earth	12-13	Black Box Theatre			7pm	7pm	2pm | 7pm	7pm	2pm | 7pm								
The Cave	14-15	Town Hall Theatre										8pm	8pm	2pm | 8pm	8pm	2pm | 8pm	
The Genesis	16-17	Black Box Theatre										7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	2pm | 7pm	
Oh ...	18	Galway Atlantaquaria	8, 10, 12 July, 8pm	8pm		8pm		8pm			8pm		8pm		8pm	8pm	
The Baby's Room	19	Bailey Allen Hall		11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
Mars	20-21	Leisureland, Salthill													8pm	8pm	8pm
Why the Moon Travels	22	Bank of Ireland Theatre	14 July, 6pm	6pm	6pm	6pm	1pm | 6pm	1pm | 6pm	1pm | 6pm								
Blue Water ... | Sea Wall	23	Nun's Island Theatre	12, 14, 15 July, 8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	2pm | 8pm	8pm	2pm | 8pm		8pm	8pm	8pm	2pm | 8pm	8pm	2pm | 8pm	
Beckett sa Chreig	24	An Taibhdhearc	11-12 July, 8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm								
Story of a Day - Scéal Lae	25	The Cube, University of Galway		1pm | 3.30pm	1pm | 3.30pm	1pm | 3.30pm	1pm | 3.30pm		1pm | 3.30pm	1pm | 3.30pm							
Vernon God Little	25	Nun's Island Theatre	14-15 July, 5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm
Dating Amber	26	O'Donoghue Theatre							1pm | 6pm	1pm							
The House Must Win	27	O'Donoghue Theatre														1pm | 6pm	1pm
Six°	28	Eyre Square				4pm	1pm										
Silent Disco Walking Tours	29	Eyre Square to Spanish Arch				1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm			1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm
Microcosmos	30-31	Eyre Square to Lower Fairhill						9.30pm	6pm | 9.30pm								
Amble	34	Heineken® Big Top				8pm											
Josephine Foster	35	Róisín Dubh				8pm											
Novalima	35	Róisín Dubh									8pm						
Kishi Bashi	36	Róisín Dubh		8.30pm													
Richard Thompson	36	Monroe's Live															8pm
Interplanetary Criminal, Shampain and **Tommy Holohan**	37	Heineken® Big Top													8pm		
Mogwai	38	Heineken® Big Top												8pm			
A Lazarus Soul	39	Monroe's Live													8pm		
Maverick Sabre	39	Monroe's Live												8pm			
Ellis-Bextor and **Beddingfield**	40	Heineken® Big Top					8pm										
Mary Coughlan	41	Heineken® Big Top											8pm				
The Stunning	42	Heineken® Big Top														8pm	
Biig Piig	43	Monroe's Live						8pm									
Notify	43	Monroe's Live								8pm							
Kingfishr	44	Heineken® Big Top								8pm							

FESTIVAL DIARY CONTINUES OVERLEAF









Galway International Arts Festival Diary, July 2025

EVENT	PAGE	VENUE	MON **14**	TUE **15**	WED **16**	THURS **17**	FRI **18**	SAT **19**	SUN **20**	MON **21**	TUES **22**	WED **23**	THURS **24**	FRI **25**	SAT **26**	SUN **27**
BIIRD	45	Monroe's Live				8pm										
The Frank and Walters	45	Monroe's Live						8pm								
Shark School	46	Róisín Dubh													8pm	
Oisín Leech	46	Róisín Dubh														7.30pm
The Mary Wallopers	47	Heineken® Big Top						8pm								
Picture This	48	Heineken® Big Top								8pm	8pm					
Villagers	49	Róisín Dubh						7.30pm	7.30pm							
Bernard Butler	49	Róisín Dubh				8pm										
Gurriers	50	Róisín Dubh									8pm					
Soda Blonde	50	Róisín Dubh										8.30pm				
Block Rockin Beats	51	Heineken® Big Top					8pm									
The Blades	52	Róisín Dubh					7.30pm									
Phil Taggart's The Evolution of Disco	52	Róisín Dubh					11.30pm									
Glasshouse	53	Róisín Dubh											8pm			
HousePlants	53	Róisín Dubh												8pm		
Skinny Living	54	Monroe's Live		8pm												
The Magic Numbers	54	Monroe's Live			8pm											
Mari Samuelsen | RTÉ Concert Orchestra	55	Heineken® Big Top														6pm
Traditional Music Showcases	56	Monroe's Live				1pm	1pm	1pm					1pm	1pm	1pm	
Session Americana	57	Monroe's Live	8.30pm													
Gonora Sounds	57	Róisín Dubh		8.30pm												
David Mach *Burning Down the House*	60-61	Festival Gallery, An Post	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
Kat Austen *Not Breaking. This Wave …*	62	Bailey Allen Hall	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
Interface *This Too Will Pass*	63	Interface, Lough Inagh	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm
O'Connor and **Herlihy** *pass the baton*	64	Galway Arts Centre	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	12 noon-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	12 noon-5pm
Erin Lawlor *divining*	65	Festival Printworks Gallery	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
President Higgins - Through the Lens	66	Galway City Museum		10am-4.45pm	10am-4.45pm	10am-4.45pm	10am-4.45pm	10am-4.45pm	12 noon-4.45pm		10am-4.45pm	10am-4.45pm	10am-4.45pm	10am-4.45pm	10am-4.45pm	12 noon-4.45pm
Joe O'Shaughnessy's Druid	67	Kenny Gallery, Liosbán	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-5pm		9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	
Jane Cassidy and **Arts Alive** *Tactile Tunes*	68	Aula Maxima	1pm-6pm	1pm-6pm	1pm-6pm	1pm-6pm	1pm-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	1pm-6pm	1pm-6pm	1pm-6pm	1pm-6pm	1pm-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm
Hazel O'Sulllivan *Atomic*	69	Outset Gallery	11am-4pm	11am-4pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	10am-6pm	11am-4pm
Eman Mohammed *What Lies Beneath …*	69	Studio 2, O'Donoghue Centre	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm
Conneely and **Maloney** *Funeral for Ashes*	70	Festival Printworks Gallery	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
Joan Sugrue *Gold Shift*	71	Engage Art Gallery, Salthill			11am-4pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm				11am-4pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm	
Darran McGlynn *State of Play*	71	126 Artist-Run Gallery	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm	12 noon-6pm
First Thought Talks	72-80	Bailey Allen Hall		11am | 1pm				10.30am-7pm	11am-1pm						10.30am-6pm	11am-1pm
Vinyl Hours	80	Bailey Allen Hall			6pm							6pm			6pm	
Festival Garden	81	Eyre Square	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm	11am-10pm
The Laughter Loft	82	The King's Head	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm
Aoife Dunne	83	Róisín Dubh [upstairs]											7.30pm	7.30pm		
Al Murray	83	Leisureland					8pm									
Festival Club	87	Galway Rowing Club			10.30pm	10.30pm	10.30pm	10.30pm	10.30pm			10.30pm	10.30pm	10.30pm	10.30pm	10.30pm

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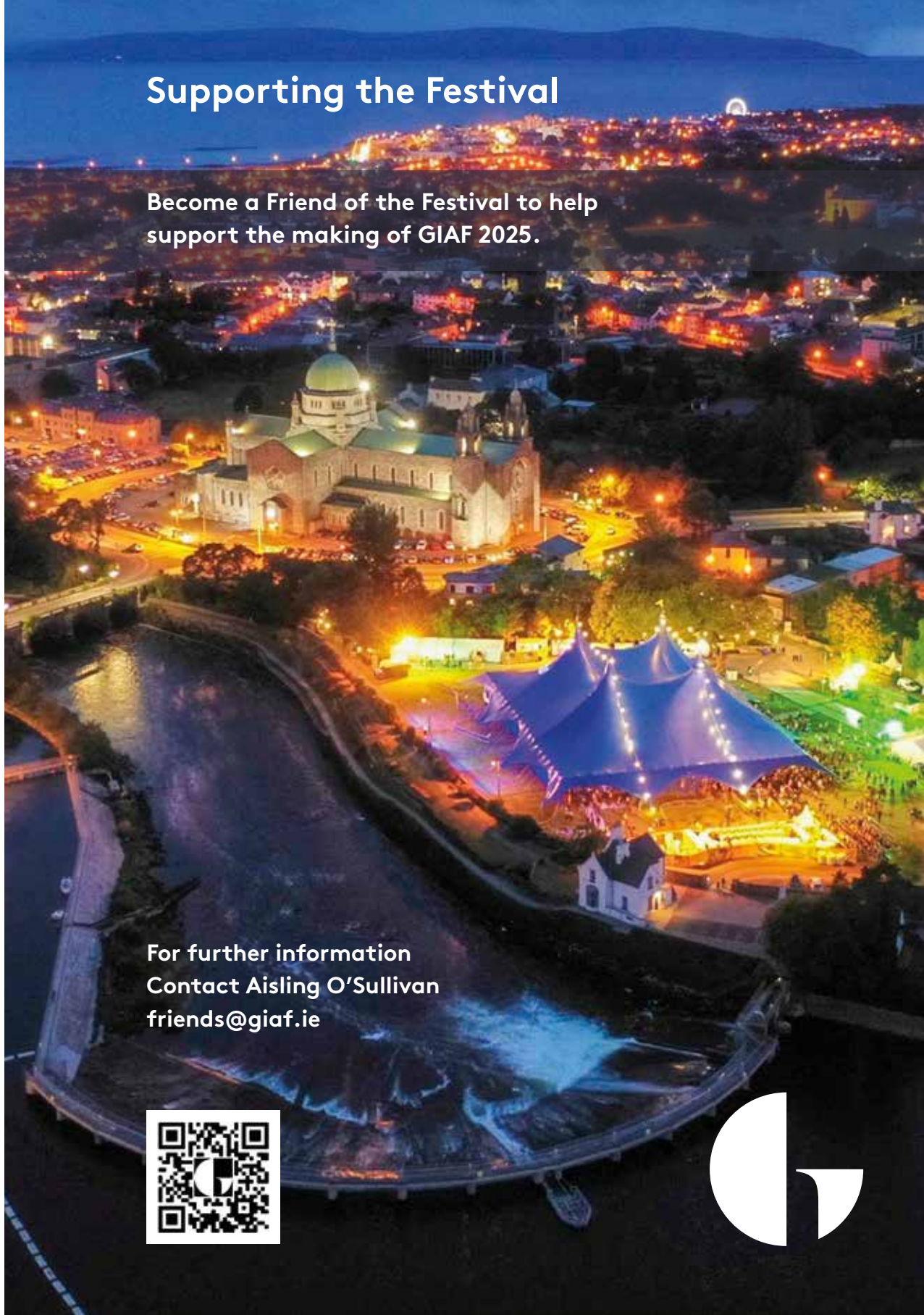
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