

Galway International Arts Festival

13–26 JULY, 2026

giaf.ie



Galway International Arts Festival

13-26 JULY 2026



Welcome | Fáilte

On behalf of everyone at the Festival, we warmly invite you to join us for two extraordinary weeks this July, as Galway becomes a stage for bold ideas, creativity and connection. In a time of rapid change, this programme celebrates the power of imagination to offer moments of joy and wonder.

Bringing together artists from home and abroad, this year's Festival spans theatre, dance, circus and opera, alongside music, visual art and conversation. From intimate encounters to spectacular events, it is a Festival of shared experience, where artists and audiences connect and creativity is felt, celebrated and remembered.

We look forward to welcoming you to Galway.

Thar ceann gach duine ag an bhFéile, tugaimid cuireadh ó chroí duit a bheith inár dteannta ar feadh dhá sheachtain iontacha i mí Iúil, tráth a dhéanfar ardán do smaointe uaillmhianacha, don chruthaitheacht agus don chomcheangal de Ghaillimh. I ré ina bhfuil athrú tapa ag teacht ar an saol, ceiliúrtar sa chláir seo an neart atá ag an tsamhlaíocht áthas agus iontas a chur ar dhaoine.

Tabharfar ealaíontóirí le chéile ó bhaile agus ó thar lear, agus cuimseofar i bhFéile na bliana seo amharclannaíocht, damhsa, sorcas agus ceoldrámaíocht, chomh maith le ceol, amharcealáin agus comhrá. Idir theagmhálacha pearsanta agus imeachtaí móra drámatúla, is Féile í seo d'eispéiris chomhroinnte, áit a gcruthaítear ceangail idir ealaíontóirí agus lucht féachana, agus ina mothaítear, ina gceiliúrtar agus ina gcuimhnítear ar an gcruthaitheacht.

Táimid ag súil go mór le fáilte a chur romhaibh go Gaillimh.

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

Contents

Welcome	1
Theatre, Circus, Dance, Opera and Spectacle	4-29
Music	30-57
Visual Arts and Architecture	58-71
First Thought	72-81
Festival Garden, Comedy and Elevate	82-87
Festival Venues and Map	88
Booking, Accessibility and Sustainability	90
Festival Diary	92-95

Festival Team

Chief Executive
John Crumlish

Artistic Director
Paul Fahy

Financial Controller
Gerry Cleary

Administration
Sofia Fasulo, Manager
Emma O'Toole, Assistant
Jacinta Dwyer, Support Administrator

Communications & Development
Hilary Martyn, Communications & Development Manager
Aisling O'Sullivan, Fundraising Manager
Tracey Ferguson, Marketing & Programmes Manager
O'Doherty Communications, Publicity
Mary McGraw, Digital Media
Hannah Morris, Digital Media
Braeden Riehl, Videography

Operations
Declan Gibbons, Operations & Sustainability Manager
John Donnelly, Field & Event Manager

Production
Adam Fitzsimons, Head of Production

Box Office
Ari Bhatti, Manager
Luke McManus Doyle, Manager
Jenny McKenna, Friends

Volunteers & EDI
Elena Toniato, Manager

Merchandise
Vincent Nally, Manager

Selected – University of Galway
Rena Bryson, Manager

Artist Liaison
Liam Parkinson

Programme Consultants
Catriona Crowe, First Thought Talks
Gugai McNamara, Heineken® Big Top
Brendan O'Regan, Traditional Music

Graphic Design
Hilda Reid

Website
Path

Print
iSupply

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

giaf.ie | #GIAF26 | @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



FUNDING AGENCIES



Leadership Partners

EDUCATION PARTNER



DRINKS PARTNER



FESTIVAL PARTNER



TRAVEL PARTNER



CLIMATE ACTION PARTNER



Supporting Partners



Media Support

MEDIA PARTNERS



**Galway
International
Arts Festival**

**Theatre, Circus,
Dance, Opera
and Spectacle**



COLOSSUS STEPHANIE LAKE COMPANY
PHOTO: CARLOS FURMAN



NoFit State

Carnation

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

'Vagabond glamour.'

THE NEW YORK TIMES ON NOFIT STATE

'Once inside the big top, you are enveloped in a world of magic.'

THE GUARDIAN

The revolution is coming and I have nothing to wear.

Carnation, the brand-new show from NoFit State, explodes in a thrilling rush of world-class circus, live music and breathtaking spectacle. Created by Firenza Guidi and NoFit State, the team behind the sold-out Festival sensation *Sabotage* [GIAF 2025].

Daring aerial feats, bold cinematic imagery and jaw-dropping physicality combine in a fully immersive experience that surrounds you from every angle.

Carnation unleashes dazzling skills and heart-stopping moments of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. A powerful reflection on the times we live in and a call to stand up and be heard.

With 40 years at the forefront of European circus, NoFit State continues to thrill, surprise and mesmerise. This is an edge-of-your-seat spectacle. Unmissable.

WHERE & WHEN

NoFit State Big Top

Nimmo's Pier, Claddagh

10-26 July, 8pm

Matinees Saturday 11, 18 and 25 July, 1pm

Sunday 12, 19 and 26 July 1pm show only

No shows Tuesday 14 and Monday 20 July

Tickets €25-€37.50

Seated

Duration 2 hours approx. with interval

First Thought Backstage

Post-show talk with the company

Sunday 12 July

Druid

STRANGE COUNTRY:
IRELAND IN AMERICA

The Shaughraun

by **Dion Boucicault**directed by **Garry Hynes**

'One of the world's great acting ensembles.'

THE GUARDIAN

Druid returns to *The Shaughraun* for the first time since 1982. Written by Dion Boucicault in 1874, it captures a restless, divided Ireland.

At its centre is Conn, the shaughraun—trickster, survivor, and unlikely hero. Moving between worlds, he outwits authority with wit, charm, and defiance. Comedy and spectacle intertwine with questions of land, loyalty, and identity.

Directed by Garry Hynes, with set design by Francis O'Connor, this production features a stellar cast including Druid ensemble members Aaron Monaghan, Marie Mullen, Rory Nolan, and Marty Rea, alongside Jamie Beamish, Megan Cusack, Peter Daly, Fintan Kinsella, Pattie Maguire, and Eileen Walsh, with live music performed by Conor Linehan. *The Shaughraun* is the opening play of Druid's 2026 season, *Strange Country: Ireland in America*. The second play *A Moon for the Misbegotten* by Eugene O'Neill will open later in the year.

WHERE & WHEN

Town Hall Theatre, Courthouse Square

13–25 July, 7pm

Previews 3, 4, 13 and 14 July, 7pm

Matinees 18, 23 and 25 July, 2pm

No show Sunday 19 July

Tickets €24–€36

Duration 2 hours 35 minutes
with interval

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

Captioned Performances

Friday 17 July, 7pm

Saturday 18 July, 2pm



First Thought Backstage

Post show talk with the company

Monday 20 July

Stephanie Lake Company

Colossus

choreography by **Stephanie Lake**

music by **Robin Fox**

'Thrilling. A monumental talent.'

★★★★★

TIME OUT MELBOURNE

'Utterly staggering in its scope and inventiveness.'

★★★★★

TIME OUT SYDNEY

Fifty dancers move as one in the Irish debut of *Colossus* by Stephanie Lake, one of Australia's most electrifying choreographers. Thrilling and powerful, this is dance at its most exhilarating.

Out of darkness, a tidal wave of bodies surges into motion — driving, colliding and reforming with breathtaking force. A single movement sparks a chain reaction, propelling the ensemble from chaos to astonishing precision.

As dancers break from the group and return to it, *Colossus* explores how we shape the crowd, and how the crowd shapes us.

Hypnotic, visually stunning and monumental in scale, this is dance like you have not seen before.

WHERE & WHEN

Black Box Theatre, Dyke Road
21–26 July, 7pm

Tickets €25–€37.50

Duration 1 hour approx.

No interval

First Thought Backstage

Post-show talk with the company

Wednesday 22 July



Pony Cam

Burnout Paradise

created by Pony Cam



'One of the most frenetically uproarious shows you will ever experience'

★★★★★

TIME OUT

'Utter mayhem!'

THE NEW YORKER

Direct from a recent five-month run in New York following sold-out seasons across the globe, Pony Cam's highly original *Burnout Paradise* arrives in Galway as a gloriously chaotic, high-octane theatrical phenomenon.


Five performers take the stage, four of them running on treadmills for the duration, driven by one relentless countdown. What begins as a simple wager between performer and audience spirals into a breathless battle against exhaustion, expectation and time itself.

Part comedy, part endurance feat and part performance art, *Burnout Paradise* skewers the absurd pace of contemporary life with razor-sharp wit and physical daring. The result is euphoric mayhem: a visceral, joyful celebration of our collective urge to keep going, no matter the cost.

WHERE & WHEN

Black Box Theatre, Dyke Road
13-18 July, 7pm
Tickets €25-€35
Duration 1 hour approx.
No interval

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

Audio Described 
Friday 17 July, 7pm

First Thought Backstage

Post-show talk with the company
Wednesday 15 July





'Fishamble ... an unswerving force for new writing.'

THE IRISH TIMES

Fishamble: The New Play Company
in association with **Lime Tree Theatre | Belltable,**
Galway International Arts Festival and **Traverse Theatre**

For Dolores

written by **Eva O'Connor**
directed by **Jim Culleton**

When beautiful worlds collide, it's a smash-up.

Mo [the Scottish one] and Réaltín [the Irish one] have partied, played, and blazed their way through the Edinburgh student dream. Set in Glasgow a few years later, *For Dolores* is a raw and electric story of friendship, motherhood and the cost of the choices we make.

Like twin stars in obsessive orbit, they circle each other — until everything explodes. How far will they go for love? *For Dolores* bursts onto the stage with energy, risk and darkly comic heart.

Written by the creator of *My Name is Saoirse*, *Mustard*, *Maz & Bricks* and *Chicken*, and directed by Jim Culleton, whose productions for Fishamble have won Olivier, The Stage, Fringe First and Irish Times Best Director awards, *For Dolores* charts a relationship fuelled by love, rivalry and risk.

Following its Galway premiere, *For Dolores* will have its UK premiere at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Traverse Theatre.

WHERE & WHEN

The Mick Lally Theatre, Druid Lane
14–18 July, 8pm
Matinee Saturday 18 July, 2pm
Tickets €25–€30
Duration 1 hour and 15 minutes
Age 14+
No interval

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

Captioned Performance
Wednesday 15 July, 8pm



ISL Performance
Saturday 18 July, 8pm



First Thought Backstage

Post-show talk with the company
Tuesday 14 July

Irish National Opera in association with
Galway International Arts Festival

Testament

composer **Tarik O'Regan**
libretto **Colm Tóibín**
director **Rachael Hewer**
conductor **Elaine Kelly**
set design **Francis O'Connor**

An intimate and powerful meditation on memory, grief and truth, adapted from Colm Tóibín's acclaimed novella *The Testament of Mary*, this provocative chamber opera, composed by Tarik O'Regan, unfolds in the final years of Mary, mother of Jesus.

In later life, Mary reflects on the events surrounding her son's death. Living in enforced exile and silenced, the past and present coexist uneasily as Mary moves between two worlds where pivotal moments from their lives emerge and dissolve, tracing the fragile boundary between lived experience and remembered truth.

Testament is sung in English with English surtitles and features the Irish National Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway

24–26 July, 8pm

Tickets €32–€40

Duration 2 hours approx. with interval



First Thought Backstage

Post-show talk with the company

Friday 24 July



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Brú Theatre

Pádraicín

created by **Rodrigo Pardo** and **James Riordan**

THE IRISH TIMES
[ON BRÚ'S SOMNIUM]

WHERE & WHEN

Meeting Point, Festival Garden

Eyre Square

14–26 July, 11.30am and 1.30pm

Previews 14 July 11.30am and 1.30pm

No shows 20 and 21 July

Tickets €20–€22

Duration 1 hour approx.

No interval

Limited capacity

This outdoor promenade show moves from Eyre Square to Spanish Arch

Supported by GIAF's Elevate Bursary.

A new work inspired by the life of Galway writer Pádraic Ó Conaire, *Pádraicín* transforms the city into a living stage.

Audiences gather in Eyre Square and move alongside the performers through the streets to the Spanish Arch. The audience wear headphones as scenes unfold around them, with Ó Conaire's characters and ideas drifting into view. Blending dance, music and text, past and present intertwine in an immersive theatrical experience.

Presented primarily in English, with some Irish.

Galway International Arts Festival

Dressing Room

written and directed by **Enda Walsh**design by **Paul Fahy**featuring the voice of **John Olohan**

'Never less than a triumph.'

THE TIMES [ON ROOMS]

I woke up before she did. The morning pushing through the curtain. My feet on the carpet and lifting me upwards. The brain switchin' on and remindin' me of who I was, and where I was, and what I was waking up into. All in that order they were answered. And there I was. Another day.

A 70 year-old man and coach of the Under 13's Gaelic Football team has his quiet life upended. He walks through their town to the football pitch and the dressing room trying to understand this new future he's been handed.

A new work in the evolving *Rooms* series, this immersive installation draws audiences into intimate interior worlds shaped by Enda Walsh's texts and Paul Fahy's atmospheric design.

WHERE & WHEN

Bank of Ireland Theatre, University of Galway

13–26 July

Sunday to Wednesday from 11am

Every 30 minutes to 6pm

Thursday to Saturday from 11am

Every 30 minutes to 8pm

Tickets €12

Duration 15 minutes approx.

Limited Audience Capacity

'Excellent'



THE SCOTSMAN

'A thrill-seekers delight.'

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

Darkfield

Flight

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Garden, Eyre Square
13–26 July
Sundays–Thursdays
1pm–2.30pm | 5pm–8pm
Fridays and Saturdays
1pm–3.30pm | 6.30pm–9pm
No show Monday 20 July
Tickets €15
Duration 25 minutes approx.
No interval
Age 14+

Touch Tour

Friday 17 July 12.30pm.
Booking Required



Please note there are long moments of complete darkness, sudden movements, and loud sound effects.

Flight is an immersive theatre experience set inside a 40ft shipping container transformed into a realistic Airbus A320 economy cabin. In complete darkness, audiences wear headphones and are guided by 360-degree binaural sound through a gripping narrative that unfolds across two parallel realities — two possible outcomes of the same journey.

Blurring the line between imagination and reality, the experience draws you into a disorienting, sensory world where nothing is certain. Inspired by the 'Many-Worlds' theory, *Flight* asks what happens if more than one version of the present exists at once.

PHOTO: MIHAELA BODLOVIC

Trick of the Light

The Bookbinder

written by **Ralph McCubbin Howell**directed by **Hannah Smith**

'Truly beautiful.'

THREE WEEKS

*They say you can get lost in a good book,
but it's far worse to get lost in a bad one.*

An old man sits down to read the tale of a once-promising bookbinding apprentice. As he speaks, the story starts to spill from the pages into the bindery around him. *The Bookbinder* shifts seamlessly from pop-up book to puppetry, storytelling and live action, weaving a dark and captivating fairytale.

The Bookbinder is a darkly magical, inventive production for adults and older children. The production has been the recipient of multiple awards, including Best Theatre and Best in the Fringe at NZ Fringe and the International Excellence Award at Sydney Fringe.

An epic adventure in miniature awaits.

WHERE & WHEN

The Mick Lally Theatre, Druid Lane
21–26 July, 6pm
Matinees 24, 25 and 26 July, 1pm
Tickets €18–€20
Duration 1 hour approx.
Age 8+
No interval

First Thought Backstage

Post-show talk with the company
Wednesday 22 July

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

ISL Performance
Saturday 25 July, 1pm



IMAGE: RALPH MCCUBBIN HOWELL. PHOTO: PHILIP MERRY



Chloe Loftus Dance

The Air Between Us

'Exudes an energy of connection and power.'

THE AU REVIEW

WHERE & WHEN

Eyre Square
Friday 24 and Saturday 25 July,
1pm and 4pm
Duration 25 minutes
Free

High above the ground, New Zealand choreographer Chloe Loftus joins Belgian dancer Florent Devlesaver for a captivating aerial duet that defies gravity and expectation. Suspended in space, Devlesaver — performing in his wheelchair — moves with Loftus as they spiral skyward, tracing orbits around one another in a powerful exploration of empowerment, interdependence and trust.

Blending strength with vulnerability, this striking work is both visually stunning and deeply moving. Together they bring fierce physicality and emotional depth to this unforgettable encounter in the sky.

This performance has been made possible by the support of Creative New Zealand.



CONNACHT
HOSPITALITY GROUP



'One of the mavericks of British theatre.'

DAILY TELEGRAPH ON JIM CARTWRIGHT

Decadent Theatre Company and Galway Arts Centre

Two

by Jim Cartwright
directed by Andrew Flynn

Behind the bar of their northern pub, the Landlord and Landlady welcome their regulars with open arms, lending an ear to tales of celebration, loss, love and despair. Bickering yet inseparable, they keep spirits high with drink, banter and hard-won humour.

But what is their story? When an unexpected guest arrives, the couple are forced to confront their own past, and, perhaps for the first time in years, truly speak to one another.

Performed by actors Clelia Murphy and Patrick Ryan playing 14 characters, Jim Cartwright's poignant play is deeply moving and funny, and offers an intimate portrait of a community and the lives that shape it.

WHERE & WHEN

O'Connor's Pub, Salthill
10–26 July, 5pm
Previews 10–14 July
Matinees 18, 19, 25, 26 July, 2pm
No show Mondays
Tickets €28–€30
Duration 1 hour and 35 minutes
No interval
Age 14+
Limited capacity
Site-specific seating

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

ISL Performance
Thursday 23 July, 5pm



An Taibhdhearc

SAOIRSE

ceoldráma nua | a new musical

le | by Shauna Carrick

á stiúradh ag | directed by

Muireann Kelly

★★★★

'Hearfelt and heart-warming'

THE ARTS REVIEW
[ON SHAUNA CARRICK WANTS A DOG]

Tá samhradh na saoirse buailte linn. Tá sceitimíní san aer.

Tá Saoirse, Róisín agus Aoife ag dul i ngleic le ceisteanna móra an tsaoil: Cé mise? Cad atá i ndán dom? Cad go díreach atá i gceist leis an Modh Coinníolach?

Leis an gcoláiste i mbaol, tá muintir an phobail ag streachailt lena gceisteanna féin — an féidir leo an fód a sheasamh?

Is ceoldráma nua é SAOIRSE a fhágfaidh ceol i do cheann agus lorg ar do chroí.

First summer of freedom. First time in the Gaeltacht. First loves and losses. SAOIRSE is a new Irish musical by Shauna Carrick.

WHERE & WHEN

An Taibhdhearc, Middle Street

10–26 July 8pm

Previews 10, 11 July

No shows 12, 19 and 20 July

Tickets €20–€25

Duration 1 hour and 30 minutes approx.

Performed in Irish with English language access provided via Sibrwd App.

First Thought Backstage

Post-show talk with the company

Friday 17 July

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

ISL Performance

Friday 26 and Saturday 26 July

John Scott and
Galway International Arts Festival

Human Geography

Human Geography is a community-led dance and storytelling project created with Galway's migrant communities. Led by choreographer John Scott, known for working with diverse casts exploring migration and trauma, and performer Alessandra Azeviche, it brings participants together to share personal stories.

Through workshops, lived experience becomes movement and performance, mapping journeys of arrival, identity and belonging. Blending dance, spoken word and ensemble storytelling, it offers a powerful portrait of a diverse, contemporary Galway shaped by shared experience.

WHERE & WHEN

The Cube, University of Galway

24 and 25 July, 1pm

Free with ticket

Duration 45 minutes approx.

No interval

In partnership with



PHOTO: PATO CASSINONI

Galway Arts Centre's Galway Youth Theatre

The Curious Incident of
The Dog in The Nighttime

adapted by Simon Stephens

from the novel by Mark Hadden

Christopher, fifteen years old, stands beside Mrs Shears' dead dog, Wellington. He has been speared with a garden fork just after midnight, and Christopher falls under suspicion.

Determined to uncover the truth, he begins recording every fact. Brilliant at maths but challenged by daily life, his journey will change everything. Directed by Jarlath Tivnan.

WHERE & WHEN

Galway Arts Centre – Nun's Island Theatre, Nun's Island
13–26 July, 8pm

Previews 13, 14 July, 5pm

Matinees 18, 25 July, 3pm. No show 19 July

Tickets €19–€23

Duration 1 hour and 35 minutes

Age 12+





Unqualified Design Studio

Without Sin

A contemporary confessional for the modern sinner.

You enter alone. Someone else enters next door — a friend, a partner, or a stranger. Inside simple timber booths, guided by light, sound and a series of prompts, you are invited to build a shared story about what we carry, what we hide, and what we hope for.

Here an ancient ritual becomes a quiet, non-judgmental space for reflection, *Without Sin* offers a unique experience which lingers long after you leave.

'I left under a spell of catharsis.'

THE SUNDAY TIMES

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Garden, Eyre Square
17-26 July, from 12 noon
Every 30 minutes to 9pm
Tickets €10
Duration 15 minutes approx.
No interval
Limited Capacity

Guru Dudu

Silent Disco Walking Tours

Join Guru Dudu's Lila la'Diva and Madame Cha Cha for a high-energy silent disco rampage through Galway! With cheeky commentary and feel-good tunes straight to your headphones, 49 fellow dancers follow your Australian motivator from Eyre Square to the Spanish Arch. Expect spontaneous dance-offs, flash mobs, and big hits from the 70s, the 80s, and the 90s! A Festival must-do!

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Garden, Eyre Square
15-26 July
1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 6.30pm and 8pm
No shows 20 and 21 July
Tickets €10
Duration 1 hour approx.



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

Compagnie PPP

The Whale Street

conceived and directed by Yann Guerrero

Compagnie PPP's *The Whale Street* is a thrilling outdoor reimagining of *Moby Dick*, that transforms the city into a vast, moving stage.

Audiences follow Captain Ahab and his crew through a roaming spectacle unfolding across the streets. At its centre are two remarkable creations: Ahab's 15-metre ship, complete with mast for aerial feats, and an 18-metre whale, brought to life with hydraulics and dramatic water effects.

Blending live music, acrobatics and visual theatre, *The Whale Street* captures the imagination of audiences of all ages.

WHERE & WHEN

Eyre Square to the Spanish Arch
via Shop St., Dominick St. and Wolfe
Tone Bridge

Friday 17 and Saturday 18 July, 9.30pm

Free

Duration 1 hour approx.

THE LATIN
QUARTER
WHERE GALWAY COMES ALIVE

**Galway
International
Arts Festival**



Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

Patti Smith Quartet

Patti Smith's live performances have been met with widespread critical praise, hailed for their emotional power, spontaneity, and enduring artistic vitality.

Her groundbreaking 1975 debut album, *Horses* announced a fearless new voice whose influence continues to reverberate across generations.

Across her remarkable career, Smith has released a series of acclaimed albums including *Radio Ethiopia*; *Easter* — featuring the classic *Because the Night*, co-written with Bruce Springsteen; *Dream of Life* — with its anthemic *People Have the Power*, co-written with her late husband Fred Sonic Smith; *Gone Again*; *Gung Ho*; *Banga*; and more.

Smith was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.

For this special GIAF performance, Smith appears with Tony Shanahan on bass and keyboards, her son, guitarist Jackson Smith, and Seb Rochford on drums.



'Patti Smith enthrals on a magic night for the ages.'

HOT PRESS

'A compelling and moving live performer.'

THE GUARDIAN

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Wednesday 15 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €70.70
[incl. booking fee]
Standing

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 25

Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

Cian Ducrot

'Turns personal trauma into musical gold.'

THE IRISH TIMES

'Playful, self-aware and instantly likeable.'

HOT PRESS



WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Sunday 26 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €59.85
[incl. booking fee]
Standing

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 25

Grammy Award-winning Cian Ducrot has captured hearts worldwide with his powerful voice, emotionally rich songwriting and radiant stage presence. From intimate, piano-led moments to soaring, euphoric anthems, his performances are defined by warmth, joy and a deeply felt sense of shared celebration with his audience.

One of Ireland's most compelling contemporary artists, Ducrot's meteoric rise has seen him amass hundreds of millions of streams, score multiple Top 20 singles, and achieve a No.1 debut album in Ireland and the UK with *Victory*. His eagerly anticipated brilliant second album, *Little Dreaming*, released late last year, further showcased an artist of striking emotional honesty.



The Wellermen

Since exploding on to the scene as a viral sensation during the 2021 sea shanty revival The Wellermen have led a new wave of folk music.

Known for their powerful a cappella harmonies the group has captivated millions worldwide, with hits such as *Wellerman* and *Hoist The Colours*. Straddling the UK and USA, they bring fresh life to traditional songs, blending rich vocal textures with energy, humour and rousing choruses that audiences can't help but sing along to.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Monday 13 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €26–€28
Standing
Over 18



Los Mirlos

Pioneers of psychedelic Amazonian Cumbia, Los Mirlos have been shaping the tropical music landscape since the 1970s. Blending hypnotic jungle rhythms with shimmering electric guitars, their music has influenced artists across the globe.

Fresh from major international stages including Coachella 2025, the band return with a new album that reimagines many of their own classic tracks. This is a rare chance to experience a legendary band whose infectious grooves continue to light up dancefloors across the globe.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Wednesday 15 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €28–€30
Standing
Over 18

'A stunning, emotionally-charged performance.'

BUZZ

Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

Emeli Sandé

and

James Morrison

Two of Britain's most acclaimed voices together for one exceptional evening in a special double-bill concert, featuring headline performances from Emeli Sandé and James Morrison.

'James' voice is an incredible thing to hear live.'

LIVEWIRE

Emeli Sandé is celebrated as one of the most powerful and distinctive singer-songwriters of her generation. Her record-breaking 2012 debut *Our Version of Events* remains one of the decade's best-selling albums, featuring hits such as *Heaven*, *Next to Me*, and *Read All About It*. Over the years, Sandé has established herself as a gifted songwriter and commanding performer, renowned for emotionally charged, vocally stunning live shows that leave a lasting impression.

James Morrison brings his soulful, expressive voice and timeless hits, from global breakthrough *You Give Me Something* to favourites like *Broken Strings* and *I Won't Let You Go*. Alongside these classics he performs songs from his 2025 album *Fight Another Day*. With his magnetic stage presence and electrifying vocals, Morrison delivers performances that are intimate, powerful and unforgettable.

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Saturday 18 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €59.85
[incl. booking fee]
Standing

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 25



The Metropolitan Flute Orchestra

director **Paige Dashner**

The Metropolitan Flute Orchestra, directed by internationally acclaimed flautist and composer Paige Dashner Long, brings together a virtuosic ensemble performing across an extraordinary six-octave range.

Since 1998, they have captivated audiences with dynamic programmes spanning classical, jazz, folk and popular music. Touring widely across Europe and the US, with appearances from concert halls to Times Square, their performances showcase the remarkable versatility, colour and expressive power of the flute.

WHERE & WHEN

St. Nicholas' Church
Lombard Street
Friday 17 July, 6pm
Tickets €20–€25
Seated



Gwenno

Gwenno Saunders is a singer, songwriter and producer whose music bridges deep-rooted tradition and imagination. Singing in Welsh, Cornish and English, she transforms folk, pop and experimental sounds into immersive, hypnotic live performances.

Mercury Prize-shortlisted for *Tresor*, Gwenno has scored for theatre and film, and toured with both Suede and the Manic Street Preachers. At once intimate, otherworldly and thrilling, Gwenno's concerts are a must-see live experience not to be missed.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Monday 20 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €20–€22.50
Standing
Over 18



Glasshouse

perform

Sigur Rós

The acclaimed Dublin ensemble Glasshouse reimagine the music of Sigur Rós in a spellbinding live performance with rich arrangements by Robert Reid Allan.

From fragile, whisper-soft moments to vast, surging crescendos, these iconic songs unfold with new depth, intensity and emotional power. A rare chance to step inside the luminous sound world of Sigur Rós and experience it anew — an immersive, intimate and utterly transportive experience not to be missed.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Sunday 19 July, 7.30pm
Tickets €20–€22.50
Standing
Over 18



Femme Fest

with

Shark School

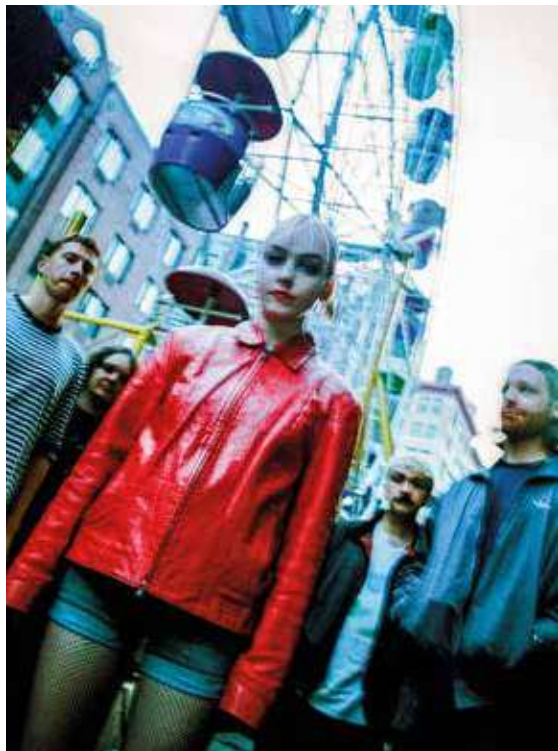
and guests

Led by Galway's riotous Shark School, Femme Fest, is a high-energy showcase celebrating some of the most exciting female-fronted acts in Ireland right now.

Known for chaotic, performance-driven shows that feel like house parties gone gloriously off the rails, Shark School bring their signature wit, noise and energy to the Róisín Dubh. Featuring a handpicked lineup of rising artists, this is a bold, rebellious celebration of live music, community and fierce creative energy.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Friday 17 July, 7.30pm
Tickets €14–€16
Standing
Over 18



Just Mustard

Just Mustard comprise vocalist Katie Ball, guitarists David Noonan and Mete Kalyoncuoglu, bassist Rob Clarke and drummer Shane Maguire. Their heady blend of noise, trip hop, and electronic-influenced music has helped them establish a reputation as one of Ireland's most thrilling bands, both live and on record.

In 2026 they tour their acclaimed third record *We Were Just Here* [Partisan], following recent support slots with The Cure, Depeche Mode and Fontaines D.C. Expect a formidable live set from a band operating at the peak of their powers.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
 Tuesday 14 July, 8.30pm
 Tickets €25–€28
 Standing
 Over 18



David Kitt

The Big Romance 25th Anniversary

To mark the 25th anniversary of *The Big Romance*, David Kitt performs his landmark album in full with a band of friends and collaborators. Widely regarded as a modern Irish classic, the record has soundtracked a generation of listeners.

This special concert coincides with a newly re-recorded release, revisiting beloved tracks alongside new material, offering a rare chance to relive and celebrate a defining album brought vividly back to life.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
 Saturday 18 July, 8pm
 Tickets €31–€33.50
 Standing
 Over 18

Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

Block Rockin Beats

'Tribal infectious energy'

HOT PRESS



Block Rockin Beats is a high-octane fusion of the world's biggest dance anthems and rock classics where rave meets rock in a thrilling live performance featuring a full live band.

Since first taking to the decks in 1995, Dec Pierce has built a reputation for unforgettable performances packed with passion, nostalgia, and crowd energy.

In a show driven by pure energy, expect anthems like *No Good [Start the Dance]*, *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, and Beastie Boys' *Sabotage* brought to life in an electrifying, must-see live phenomenon. Step inside the Heineken® Big Top to experience a unique mix of music and visuals, as classic anthems are reimagined live, louder, rawer, and more powerful than ever.

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
 Fisheries Field
 Friday 17 July
 Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
 Tickets €54.35
 [incl. booking fee]
 Standing

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 25



Chasing Abbey fuse electronic production with Celtic influences to create a sound that's bold, anthemic and built for the dancefloor. Songwriters, producers and multi-instrumentalists, they've racked up hits and built a reputation for high-energy live shows worldwide.

With new releases *Arís is Arís* and *Íorónta* gaining momentum, 2026 is set to be a breakout year, bringing bigger stages, global audiences, and a live set made for late-night festival crowds.

Chasing Abbey

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Saturday 18 July, 8pm
Tickets €30
Standing
Over 18



The Latchikos deliver an electrifying blend of Irish trad, flamenco flair and world rhythms, driven by vivid storytelling, humour and unstoppable energy.

From busking roots on the west coast of Ireland to international festival stages, they bring violin-led trad together with Spanish gypsy guitar and driving percussion. The result is a raw, joyful and high-energy live experience — equal parts dance party and musical whirlwind and communal celebration.

The Latchikos

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Thursday 16 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €21-€23
Standing
Over 18



This concert brings together four extraordinary musicians who have shared their music with audiences for over four decades. Their programme will feature inspired performances of traditional and contemporary material from artists whose collective experience and creativity have left a profound mark on the landscape of traditional Irish music.

An evening of remarkable musicianship, rich storytelling and joyful collaboration that celebrates a lifetime of music making.

Kevin Burke, Dermot Byrne, Noriana Kennedy and Jim Murray

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Thursday 16 July, 6pm
Tickets €22.50
Limited unreserved seating
Over 18



Singer-songwriter Lucy Rose is known for her beautifully honest lyrics, distinctive voice and quietly captivating live shows. First emerging through collaborations with Bombay Bicycle Club, she has since built a devoted following with a string of acclaimed releases.

Blending folk, pop and intimate storytelling, her songs are both tender and uplifting. Expect a heartfelt and engaging live set from one of the UK's most quietly compelling artists.

Lucy Rose

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
Wednesday 15 July, 8pm
Tickets €32
Standing
Over 18

Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

The Flaming Lips

with special guests

Mercury Rev

'One of the 50 bands to see before you die.'

Q MAGAZINE ON THE FLAMING LIPS

Renowned for staging one of the most extraordinary live shows in the world, The Flaming Lips promise another night of dazzling colour, euphoric sound and unbridled joy.

Formed in Oklahoma City in 1983, The Flaming Lips have become one of the most influential and inventive forces in American alternative rock. Their surreal, high-energy performances, complete with giant zorbs, confetti cannons, and kaleidoscopic visuals, have earned them global acclaim.

With their unique blend of creativity, theatricality and heart, The Flaming Lips' return to Galway promises to be one of the most spectacular nights of the summer. Audiences can expect much-loved anthems such as *Do You Realize??* and *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots Pt. 1*, alongside songs from their critically praised albums *King's Mouth* and *American Head*.

Support from one of America's most imaginative and enduring alternative bands Mercury Rev who are celebrated for their kaleidoscopic blend of indie rock, psychedelia, and orchestral pop.

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Thursday 16 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €65.20
[incl. booking fee]
Standing

Under 18s must be
accompanied by an
adult over 25





The Wran

with special guests

Groev

The Wran are four brothers forging a bold new voice in Irish music. Blending trad, punk and a touch of psychedelia, their songs pulse with raw storytelling and live energy. After a breakout 2025 including stand-out performances at Glastonbury and Electric Picnic, The Wran continue to captivate audiences.

Special guests: Groev, the Galway-based indie-folk band known for warm melodies, catchy hooks and heartfelt storytelling.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street

Tuesday 21 July, 8.30pm

Tickets €13.50-€16

Standing

Over 18



Puerto Candelaria

Puerto Candelaria are Colombia's genre-defying musical innovators, fusing tropical rhythms, jazz and world sounds into explosive, high-energy performances.

Their concerts are a riot of colour, rhythm and magic that celebrates the richness and diversity of Colombian culture.

Winners of a Latin Grammy and multiple India Catalina Awards, the band bring 25 years of creativity to the stage in Galway, fusing music, theatre, dance and humour.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street

Wednesday 22 July, 8.30pm

Tickets €32-€34

Standing

Over 18

'Filled with glitz, glamour and loads of dancing.'

HOT PRESS

Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

Sophie Ellis-Bextor

with special guest

Kate Nash

With sold-out headline shows across the globe, pop superstar Sophie Ellis-Bextor's energetic, fun, and glittering live performances have become truly legendary. Over a remarkable 25-year career she has achieved five Top 10 albums and eight Top 10 singles, including hits such as *Murder on the Dancefloor*, *Take Me Home*, *Get Over You* and *Heartbreak [Make Me a Dancer]*. Her recent disco-pop anthem *Freedom of the Night* marked a confident return to her signature glittering sound.

Sophie's latest album, *Perimenopop*, became her sixth Top 10 record further cementing her status as one of pop's most enduring and beloved performers.

Renowned for her electric, joyful and irresistibly fun live shows, she delivers truly unforgettable nights out filled with glamour, energy, and pure pop euphoria.

Joining Sophie as special guest is acclaimed singer-songwriter Kate Nash, whose No. 1 debut album, *Made of Bricks*, and BRIT Award win propelled her to international acclaim. Celebrated for her charismatic, high-energy performances, she brings vibrant, infectious energy to this exciting gig.

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top

Fisheries Field

Wednesday 22 July

Doors 7pm | Show 8pm

Tickets €54.35

[incl. booking fee]

Standing

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 25



Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

James

'Euphoric smash hits.'

GLODEN PLEC

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Thursday 23 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €54.35
[incl. booking fee]
Standing

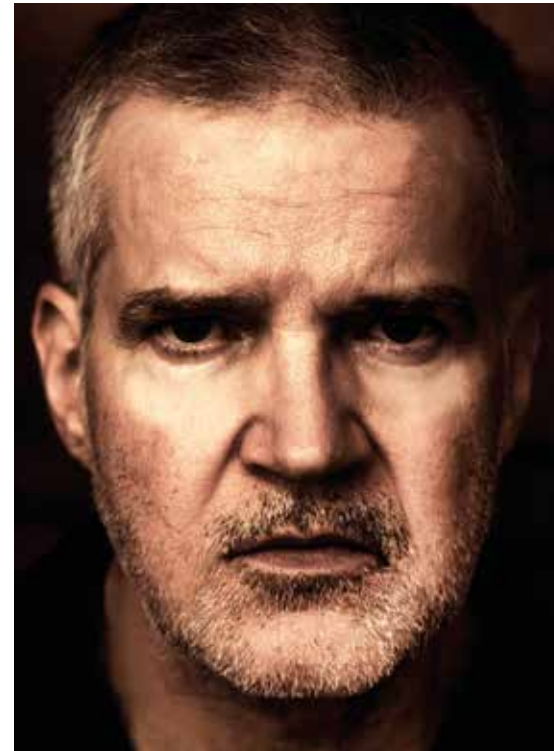
Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 25

Few bands have sustained a career as rich, fearless and celebratory as James. For over four decades, these Manchester legends have created the anthems that have defined generations, from the euphoric *Sit Down* and the ecstatic *Laid* to soaring classics like *Come Home*, *She's A Star* and *Born of Frustration*.

Fresh from their sold-out recent UK arena tour and performances at Glastonbury, Rock in Rio and Vive Latino, James arrive at the Festival in unstoppable form. Led by charismatic frontman Tim Booth, the band continue to prove that their connection with audiences runs deeper and stronger than ever.

Expect a night of transcendence, nostalgia and communal euphoria as one of rock's most enduring and beloved live acts take the stage. A night to sing, dance and lose yourself — together.

Lloyd Cole



Lloyd Cole goes electric for a rare solo performance, injecting new energy to his celebrated catalogue. From his 1984 debut album with the Commotions, *Rattlesnakes*, to his acclaimed solo album *On Pain*, he revisits timeless songs with wit, nuance and power.

With his trusty Telecaster and amp in hand, Cole transforms the intimacy of a solo show into an electrifying experience, celebrating a career of sharp songwriting, enduring melodies, and one of Britain's most distinctive voices.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Thursday 23 July, 8.30pm
Tickets €40–€43
Standing
Over 18

Sprints



PHOTO: DAVID WILLIS

Dublin quartet Sprints return with ferocious new music from their second album *All That Is Over*, pushing their sound into darker, sharper territory. Following their acclaimed debut *Letter To Self* and a relentless year of international touring, the band has emerged stronger, bolder and more assured than ever.

Driving, visceral and emotionally charged, their live shows channel raw energy and fierce honesty, cementing Sprints reputation as one of Ireland's most electrifying acts.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Friday 24 and Saturday 25 July, 8pm
Tickets €25–€28
Standing
Over 18



Bricknasty

Dublin five-piece Bricknasty is one of Ireland's most exciting new acts, blending R&B, neo-soul, jazz and psych into a sound that's entirely their own. Their latest project *Black's Law* channels raw emotion, political edge and lived experience into bold, unpredictable music.

Fresh from standout festival appearances and a run of major support slots, including Kneecap, they deliver an intense, genre-defying live show that's already building serious word-of-mouth.

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
 Friday 17 July, 7pm
 Tickets €22.50
 Standing
 Over 18



Tolü Makay

Tolü Makay is a Nigerian-Irish alternative pop and soul artist known for her commanding voice, emotionally charged storytelling, and powerful live performances. Since her breakout EP *Being*, she's carved out a unique space in Irish music.

Makay has performed across Europe and the US, including opening for Disclosure and Gabrielle in Dublin. Her viral cover of *N17* brought wider recognition, leading to her 2025 EP *People Still Cry in the Summer* further cementing her reputation as one of Ireland's finest contemporary voices.

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
 Thursday 23 July, 8pm
 Tickets €25
 Standing
 Over 18



Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

The Saw Doctors

'Wistfulness, humour and small town nostalgia.'

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Following their spectacular sold-out performances at GIAF 2023 and GIAF 2024 that left fans roaring for more, The Saw Doctors, with their infectious mix of rock, folk, and unfiltered Irish spirit, are set to ignite the Heineken® Big Top once again.

The Saw Doctors bring the kind of atmosphere that transforms every venue into a celebration, where strangers become friends and the audience becomes part of the show. Expect a night of electric energy, huge singalongs and pure, joyful mayhem with fan favourites like *N17*, *Clare Island*, *To Win Just Once*, *I Useta Lover* and *Hay Wrap*.

Having thrilled audiences with their irrepressible energy, The Saw Doctors' return to the Heineken® Big Top promises to be an unforgettable night of music, memories and full-throttle raucous fun!

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
 Fisheries Field
 Friday 24 July
 Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
 Tickets €59.85
 [incl. booking fee]
 Standing

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 25



Cardinals

Cardinals are a rising five-piece pushing Irish indie rock into bold new territory. Their debut album *Masquerade* moves between light and dark, shifting from tender ballads with moments of surging intensity and emotional bite.

Drawing on influences from American folk to post-punk, their sound is both expansive and unpredictable. Forged through friendship and family, Cardinals deliver raw, immersive live shows that match the ambition and urgency of their music.

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
 Friday 24 July, 8pm
 Tickets €22.50
 Standing
 Over 18



Le Boom

Le Boom are two brothers making high-energy dance music that feels like '4am chats with your mates.' Born from underground raves, their live shows are euphoric, loose and built for late-night moments, selling out venues across Europe.

Tracks such as *Orange Glow* and *Class* blend spoken word with shimmering synths, earning the brothers support from DJs including Pete Tong. Expect big drops, bigger energy, and a crowd right there with them from start to finish.

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
 Friday 17 July, 11pm
 Tickets €27.50
 Standing
 Over 18



Badly Drawn Boy

Badly Drawn Boy [Damon Gough] is the Mercury Prize-winning songwriter behind *The Hour of Bewilderbeast* and the beloved soundtrack to *About a Boy*.

Known for his heartfelt lyrics and beautifully crafted melodies, his music has soundtracked our lives for over two decades. Blending wit, warmth and rich storytelling, this live show promises an intimate and uplifting evening with one of the most distinctive voices in British music.

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
 Tuesday 21 July, 8pm
 Tickets €30
 Standing
 Over 18



DUG

DUG [Conor 'Lorkin' O'Reilly and Jonny Pickett] are fast rising voices in contemporary folk, drawing on traditions from both sides of the Atlantic, echoing the spirit of American folk troubadours while channelling the depth of Irish folk.

Their songs weave rich storytelling with banjo, resonator guitar and intricate harmonies, shifting between humour and heart. Fresh from signing to Claddagh Records, they deliver an engaging, foot-tapping live show full of charm and character.

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
 Sunday 19 July, 8pm
 Tickets €22.50
 Standing
 Over 18

Galway International Arts Festival and Róisín Dubh

Bell X1

'As widescreen as Springsteen, as nuanced as The National.'

HOT PRESS

WHERE & WHEN

Heineken® Big Top
Fisheries Field
Saturday 25 July
Doors 7pm | Show 8pm
Tickets €49.20
[incl. booking fee]
Standing

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 25

Expect soaring melodies, sharp lyrics, and that unmistakable musical chemistry when Bell X1 take to the Heineken® Big Top this July. Widely regarded as one of Ireland's most innovative acts, their ever-evolving sound has earned multiple Choice Music Prize nominations and a string of chart-topping albums, with *Merciful Hour* [2023] marking another confident step forward for a band continually redefining what Irish rock can be.

Audiences can look forward to fan favourites from across their acclaimed catalogue, including *Rocky Took a Lover*, *The Great Defector*, *Alphabet Soup*, *The End Is Nigh* and *Flame* — in a set packed with heart, hooks and unforgettable moments.



Paddy Hanna

performs

Burt Bacharach



Paddy Hanna's Burt Bacharach show is a joyful celebration of life, perseverance and the power of pop. Following a lifelong dream, he shared the stage with his hero at GIAF 2019, performing *Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head* for an ecstatic encore.

After setbacks and personal struggles, Paddy persisted, fuelled by determination, love and irresistible songs. Hilarious, heartfelt and uplifting, this joyous tribute brings Bacharach's timeless music to life with wit, charm and infectious energy.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Sunday 26 July, 2.30pm
Tickets €15-€17
Standing
All Ages

Sexy Tadhg

'Theatrical disco at its finest.'

HOT PRESS



Tadhg Griffin, the force behind Sexy Tadhg, brings a provocative, euphoric energy to Irish music. Fusing big band jazz, theatrical soul and dazzling pop, their performances are powered by virtuoso piano, commanding vocals, and groove-rich rhythms.

Blending Irish tradition with queer storytelling, their performances explore gender, sexuality, and mental health, creating a show that is exhilarating, joyous, and unforgettable.

An unmissable celebration of music, personality, and spectacle.

WHERE & WHEN

Róisín Dubh, Dominick Street
Sunday 26 July, 8pm
Tickets €18-€21. Standing
Over 18

PHOTO: KATE LAWLOR



Traditional Music Showcases

Galway International Arts Festival's Traditional Music Showcases bring together some of Ireland's finest musicians, with many joining forces in special collaborations created just for the Festival.

This much-loved lunchtime series takes place at Monroe's Live on Dominick Street, offering a relaxed and intimate setting to catch these exceptional performers in full flight. Led by masters of their craft, each concert is a burst of energy and a perfect way to kick-start your Festival day.

Liz Coleman [Fiddle]
Áine McHugh [Concertina]
 Thursday 16 July, 1pm

Máirín Fahy [Fiddle]
Patsy Broderick [Piano]
 Friday 17 July, 1pm

Maurice Lennon [Fiddle]
Ciara Brennan [Violin]
Chris Dawson [Flute, Bouzouki]
 Saturday 18 July, 1pm

Gerry Hanley [Accordion]
Máirín Browne [Fiddle]
Joe Skelton [Flute]
Carl Hession [Piano]
 Thursday 23 July, 1pm

Tara Connaghan [Fiddle]
Leonard Barry [Uilleann Pipes]
 Friday 24 July, 1pm

Dermot Byrne [Accordion]
Jim Murray [Guitar]
 Saturday 25 July, 1pm

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



MusicConnects

Ag Tarraingt Ón Tobar

Ag Tarraingt Ón Tobar – Drawing From The Well – is a vibrant collaboration from MusicConnects [previously Galway Music Residency], bringing together ConTempo Quartet and Connemara siblings Séamus and Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta.

Featuring *Stolen Hearts* by Bill Whelan and new arrangements of sean-nós songs by Matthew Berrill, this performance celebrates cultural resilience and identity. Blending strings, voice, and traditional sounds, it offers a rich, intimate evening of music rooted in Irish tradition and reimagined for today.

WHERE & WHEN

St. Nicholas' Church, Lombard Street
 Thursday 23 July, 6pm
 Tickets €18
 Duration 1 hour approx.

Simple Things

Simple Things blend folk and pop with a fresh, contemporary edge, rooted in a shared love of Irish traditional music.

Formed by Dylan O'Sullivan and Kealan Cahill, and joined by Shane Kennedy and Seamus Fleming, the band's sound weaves catchy melodies with rich textures and driving rhythms. Their live performances are warm, uplifting and full of energy, offering a modern take on tradition that feels both familiar and new.

WHERE & WHEN

Monroe's Live, Dominick Street
 Thursday 16 July, 9pm
 Tickets €20
 Standing
 Over 18





Visual Arts and
Architecture



Sean Henry

Presence



Sculptor Sean Henry is internationally renowned for his quietly monumental figures, which transform the everyday into something uncanny and deeply human. Working at unexpected scales and with subtly altered proportions, his sculptures capture solitary men and women in moments of pause, vulnerability and reflection, inviting viewers to look closely—and to recognise themselves.

For GIAF 2026, Henry presents a major exhibition of indoor and outdoor works, including new pieces created especially for Galway. Installed across gallery and public spaces, these finely observed figures inhabit their surroundings with disarming presence, blurring the line between sculpture and passer-by.

Known for landmark public works, Henry's practice explores isolation, resilience and the emotional texture of modern life. At once intimate and monumental, this exhibition offers a powerful encounter with the poetry of being human.

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Gallery, William Street;
Eyre Square and Middle Arch,
Claddagh
13–26 July
11am–6pm
Late Opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Gallery talk with the artist
Tuesday 15 July, 11am

Touch Tour
Thursday 16 July, 10am
Booking required

Relaxed Hours
15 and 22 July 11am–1pm



Dolores Lyne

Rebel Kin

To The Letter



Rebel Kin: To The Letter is a deeply personal reflection on the Irish Civil War, drawn from a trove of letters written by a young man on the run, documenting life in hiding during the War of Independence, the Civil War and their aftermath.

Dolores Lyne brings these letters to life through large-scale fold-out canvases that act as meditations on this poignant history, creating an intimate and immersive experience within the gallery space. An original dispatch bicycle, used during the conflict, anchors the work in lived experience.

Continuing her exploration of memory, inheritance and overlooked histories, Lyne's work invites reflection on the personal within the political and the lasting human imprint of conflict.

Supported by GIAF's Elevate Bursary.

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Printworks Gallery
Market Street
13–26 July
11am–6pm
Late opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Gallery talk with the artist
Wednesday 15 July, 2pm



Lorraine Tuck

Limbo

Lorraine Tuck's photography explores the emotional power of the image, shaped by empathy and close observation. With *Limbo*, Tuck returns to the children's burial grounds known as *cillini* – sites where unbaptised infants and others were historically laid to rest. Revisiting work first made in Connemara, she now extends this focus across County Galway.

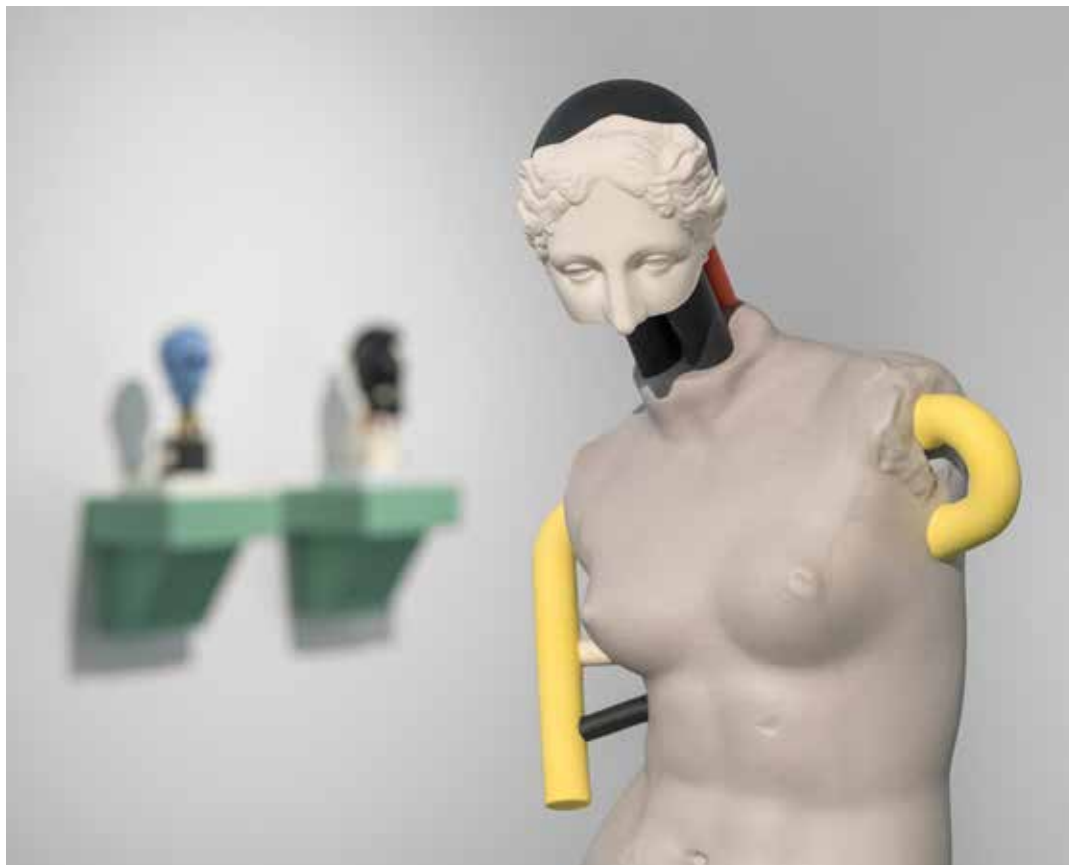
Through large-format photographs of stark, windswept landscapes, Tuck evokes histories of loss and remembrance. Attentive to light and texture, her work presents the land as a quiet witness, holding traces of lives and stories that might otherwise fade from memory.

Tuck, nominated for the Prix Pictet in 2024, lives and works in County Galway.

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Printworks Gallery
Market Street
13–26 July
11am–6pm
Late Opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Gallery talk with the artist
Saturday 18 July, 11am



John Rainey

Deviations

WHERE & WHEN

Galway Arts Centre, Dominick Street
 12 July–16 August, 10am–5pm
 Sunday 12 noon–5pm
 Late opening 9pm Thursday
 Free

Gallery Talk with the artist
 Monday 13 July, 1pm

Curatorial Tour Thursday 16 July, 6pm

Workshop Thursday 23 July, 6pm
 Details galwayartscentre.ie

Working in cast porcelain, metal and marble, Belfast-based artist John Rainey reconfigures the visual language of classical statuary to propose alternative sculptural histories. His forms appear both familiar and strange: bodies shift between states, fragments are grafted or misaligned, and surfaces mimic other materials.

Drawing on an archive of plaster-moulded forms, Rainey assembles composite, mythological figures through processes of recombination, echoing the hybrid characters of Galway's Macnas Parades. Presented as an evolving system, *Deviations* allows familiar structures to drift from their origins, opening new possibilities for form, material and meaning.

Curated by Tom McLean.



Aleana Egan

A Maritime Child

A Maritime Child responds to the layered history and atmosphere of the Interface site at Lough Inagh, Connemara. Aleana Egan's work draws on themes of adaptation, repair and reuse, reflecting the building's past as a salmon hatchery.

Subtle sculptural forms trace a hidden network shaped by its modernist structure, outdoor tanks and systems. Echoing both industrial materials and the surrounding landscape, the exhibition creates a quiet dialogue between site, history and environment.

Curated by Michael Hill. With support from Kerlin Gallery, Dublin.

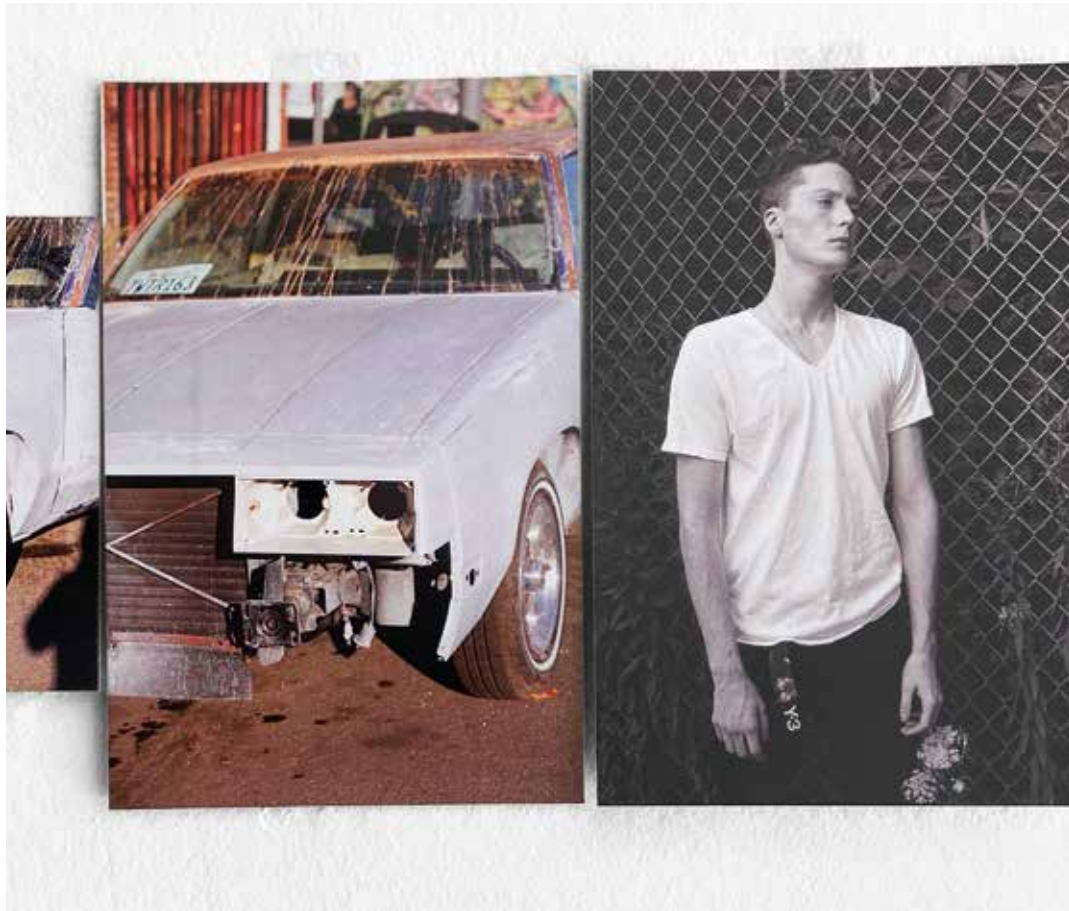
WHERE & WHEN

Interface Inagh, Lough Inagh Valley,
 Recess, Connemara, Co. Galway
 11–26 July
 12 noon–6pm
 Free

Allow 1 hour approx. to drive
 from Galway City

Gallery Talk with Aleana Egan and
 Michael Hill. Sunday 12 July, 2pm

The exhibition continues to 30
 August with reduced opening hours.
 Details interfaceinagh.com



Jackie Nickerson Stateside

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Printworks Gallery
Market Street
13–26 July
11am–6pm
Late Opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Gallery talk with the artist
Thursday 16 July, 1pm

Stateside is Jackie Nickerson’s fragmented visual diary of a decade living and working across the USA. From Chicago streets to Hawaiian military sites, Utah deserts to New York skyscrapers, she captures fleeting, often disquieting moments using whatever camera is to hand.

Rather than defining place, Nickerson traces recurring motifs, chain-link fences, basketball courts, and suburban houses, revealing patterns of control, repetition and unease embedded in everyday environments. Her images are reworked as layered compositions, re-photographed to form an unsettled and evolving portrait of contemporary America.

An American-born British artist, Nickerson lives between County Louth and London.

Stateside is a Highlanes Gallery National Tour presented in partnership with Galway International Arts Festival and the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny.

Gertrude Degenhardt Ómós



Born in New York to German parents and raised in Berlin, Gertrude Degenhardt became an internationally renowned printmaker and visual storyteller, illustrating writers including Bertolt Brecht and Liam O’Flaherty.

First visiting Ireland in the late 1970s, she developed a lasting connection with Galway and the West, where she lived and worked for many years. Her distinctive style combines precise line with theatrical imagination, often depicting musicians, performers, the grotesque, and solitary figures shaped by rhythm and movement.

Presented following her death in 2025, this exhibition celebrates a singular artistic voice rooted in both European tradition and the cultural life of the West of Ireland.

WHERE & WHEN

Kenny Gallery
Liosbán Retail Park, Tuam Road
13–25 July
9am–5pm
Closed Sundays
Free



Outset Gallery

Luke Reidy

The Space Between

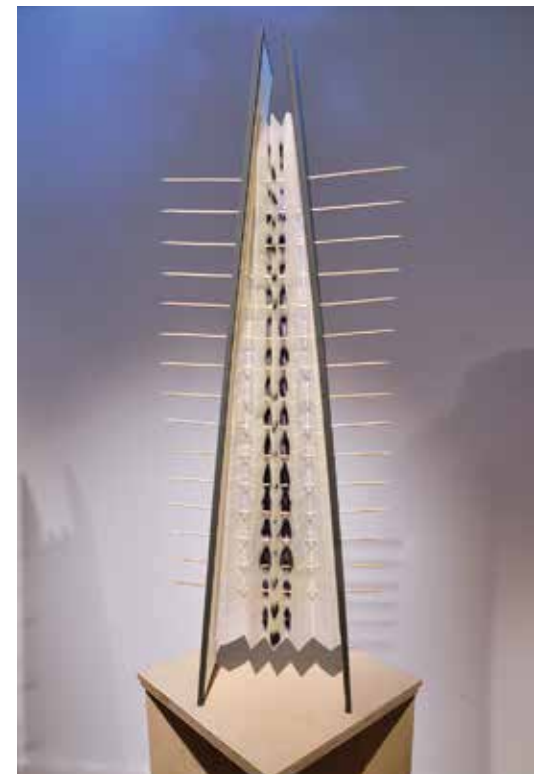
WHERE & WHEN

Outset Gallery, Unit 15,
The Cornstore,
St Augustine Street
13-26 July
Monday-Tuesday 11am-5pm
Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5.30pm
Sunday 11am-4pm

Supported by GIAF's Elevate Bursary.

The Space Between transforms the gallery into an immersive environment where art, architecture and design converge. Developed by painter and printmaker Luke Reidy with Helena Architects, it reimagines contemporary interiors through colour, form and spatial design.

A series of interconnected rooms and transitional spaces unfold Reidy's abstract visual language, as architectural elements interact with paintings and screenprints, inviting visitors to experience how art shapes the spaces we inhabit.



Sioban Piercy

Restless Objects

Sioban Piercy creates delicate sculptural works using the materials and processes of traditional bookbinding and print. Though she calls them 'books', these pieces move beyond the familiar, playfully exploring what books and writing can mean.

Presented at Thoor Ballylee, W.B. Yeats' former summer home, the exhibition resonates with the site's rich literary history. Visitors are invited to experience both the exhibition and the tower in a unique and evocative setting.

WHERE & WHEN

Thoor Ballylee
Gort, Co. Galway
13-26 July
10am-5pm
Free
Allow 45 minutes approx. to drive from Galway City



IMAGE: JAMES WELLWOOD THE QUIET YARD

James Wellwood

As It Darkens

James Wellwood's paintings draw on photographs taken on his phone, capturing quiet, intimate moments from everyday life. Through painting, these scenes are slowed down and re-examined, allowing personal narratives to emerge.

Rooted in places of emotional significance, his work explores memory, isolation and how we experience place, both physically and psychologically.

WHERE & WHEN

Engage Art Studios
Lower Salthill
15-26 July
11am-4pm
Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
Free

Ireland at Venice Assembly

curated by **Cotter & Naessens Architects**



WHERE & WHEN

O'Donoghue Theatre
University of Galway
13–26 July
11am–6pm
Late Opening to 8pm
Thursday–Saturday
Free

Touch Tour

Wednesday 15 July 10am
and 11am
Booking Required



Relaxed Hours

15, 22 July 11am–1pm



Gallery talk with the artists

Tuesday 14 July, 12 noon

Assembly explores how architecture can bring people together. Inspired by Ireland's Citizens' Assembly, this multi-sensory pavilion invites visitors to step inside a space shaped by collective voices.

Handcrafted from Irish beech and woven textiles, the installation combines traditional skills with contemporary design. Within, a chorus of soundboxes creates an immersive soundscape of music, poetry, and voices from participants and makers, reflecting on how we listen, speak, and decide together. Both instrument and gathering place, *Assembly* considers how architecture might support open dialogue and collective action – offering a space to hear and be heard.

The Ireland at Venice 2025 team included Louise Cotter, David Naessens, Michelle Delea, Alan Meredith, Luke Naessens and David Stalling.



Ireland at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council Culture Ireland. The national tour of Ireland at Venice is supported by the Arts Council to promote architecture to audiences in Ireland.

Artspace Studios: 40th Anniversary



Celebrating 40 years at the heart of Galway's visual arts community, Artspace Studios presents an exhibition of work by current and former members. Founded in 1986, Artspace has long supported artists in the city, fostering creativity, collaboration and exchange.

Bringing together a diverse range of practices, this exhibition reflects the ideas and voices that have shaped the studios over four decades, while looking towards its future as a vital, artist-led space.

WHERE & WHEN

ATU Campus, Wellpark Road
13–25 July, 11am–6pm
Closed Sundays
Free

Tadhg Ó Cuirrín Brass Waterbed



Brass Waterbed begins as a reconstruction, from memory, of every bedroom the artist has lived in. Presented as a two-channel video installation, it explores memory, housing and the limits of representation.

Tadhg Ó Cuirrín reveals how the structures around us shape experience, and how memory can both reveal and obscure. Working across painting and digital media, the Galway-based artist approaches autobiography as a reflection on wider social frameworks.

WHERE & WHEN

126 Artist-Run Gallery
15 St. Bridget's Place
13–26 July, 12 noon–6pm
Free



First Thought | England | Ireland

From the Front Lines

Bel Trew
in conversation with **Fintan O'Toole**



WHERE & WHEN
Bailey Allen Hall
University of Galway
Saturday 18 July, 5.30pm
Tickets €10

Bel Trew is the internationally acclaimed foreign correspondent for the London Independent, and a frequent broadcaster. She has reported from the Middle East, Ukraine, and most recently, Minneapolis.

Her documentary film, *The Body in the Woods*, follows attempts by Ukrainians to find relatives of dead victims of Russian war crimes. She will be interviewed by Fintan O'Toole, Ireland's best-known journalist, and winner of the Orwell Prize for journalism in 2017 and the Robert B. Silvers Prize for Journalism in 2024.



First Thought | England | Ireland | U.S.A.



Human Presence

Sean Henry
in conversation with **Paul Fahy**

Step inside the world of acclaimed sculptor Sean Henry as he reflects on *Presence*, his major GIAF 2026 exhibition.

Discover how his quietly powerful figures capture moments of stillness, vulnerability and everyday life, blurring the line between sculpture and reality. Sean Henry will be joined in conversation with GIAF Artistic Director, Paul Fahy.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Wednesday 15 July, 11am
Free



Neutrality: A Rational Conversation

Martin Senn, Conor Gallagher and Lara Marlowe
in conversation with **Dearbhail McDonald**

Irish neutrality is a controversial topic: for some, any attempt to discuss it is seen as betrayal of a sacred trust; for others, NATO membership is now necessary.

To have a practical discussion about how to proceed, we have Professor Martin Senn, expert on Austrian neutrality; Conor Gallagher, Security Correspondent, The Irish Times; and Lara Marlowe, writer on European issues including the war in Ukraine. The event will be moderated by journalist and broadcaster Dearbhail McDonald.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Friday 17 July, 6pm
Tickets €10





Falling Fertility and its Consequences

Rhona O'Mahony and Dearbhail McDonald in conversation with Caroline McGregor

Rhona O'Mahony, former Master of the National Maternity Hospital, sees falling birth rates as a national and international problem. We are turning against migrants just when we need them most.

She is joined by Dearbhail McDonald, well-known journalist and broadcaster, to discuss Ireland's falling birthrate and its implications. Professor Caroline McGregor, Director of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society [ILAS], University of Galway will moderate.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 18 July, 11am
Tickets €10



For and Against a United Ireland

Fintan O'Toole and Sam McBride in conversation with Dearbhail McDonald

The book *For and Against a United Ireland* by Fintan O'Toole and Sam McBride has centred the debate on a potential future united Ireland with impeccable research and started conversations all over the country and internationally.

The discussion will be moderated by Dearbhail McDonald, journalist and broadcaster.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 18 July, 2.30pm
Tickets €10



Drunken Driving

Martina Evans and Theo Dorgan in conversation with Roger Derham

Martina Evans's new long poem, *Drunken Driving*, is the Poetry Society choice for 2026. It touches on marriage breakdown, radiology, British prisons and female struggle.

She will be joined by poet, novelist and broadcaster Theo Dorgan and Dr. Roger Derham, School of Medicine, University of Galway, to talk about these issues.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 18 July, 12.30pm
Tickets €10



A Few Good Men

Theo Dorgan in conversation with Sarah-Anne Buckley

Theo Dorgan's latest novel, *Camarade*, is a remarkable exploration of good, ethical Irish and other men involved in struggles ranging from the War of Independence to the Spanish Civil War to the French Resistance. The opposite to toxic masculinity.

He will be joined by Sarah-Anne Buckley, gender and women's historian at the University of Galway.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 18 July, 4pm
Tickets €10



PHOTO: T. NOLAN

Rory Gallagher's Guitar

Paula Meehan
in conversation with **Caitriona Clear**

Paula Meehan has been commissioned by the Tenement Museum, the National Museum and other institutions to write poems reflecting on 20th century Irish history, lived experiences and iconic artifacts.

She will be interviewed by eminent social historian Caitriona Clear of the University of Galway on how these poems illuminate our complicated past.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 19 July, 11am
Tickets €10

Can Ordinary People Afford to Retrofit?

Sadhbh O'Neill
in conversation with **Jamie Goggins**

There are complaints that government schemes to make our houses warmer and less fossil-fuel dependent are both overly bureaucratic and skewed toward the better off.

Sadhbh O'Neill, lecturer in climate change policy and politics, and climate and energy law at DCU and TU Dublin, respectively, tells her own story and proposes changes. She will be joined by Jamie Goggins, Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Galway.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 19 July, 12.30pm
Tickets €10



The Room Where it Happened

Ben Brantley
in conversation with **Paul Fahy**

Join acclaimed writer and former New York Times chief theatre critic Ben Brantley for a wide-ranging conversation on the craft of criticism, the shifting world of theatre and musicals, and the performances that have defined our time.

Insightful and engaging, this is a rare opportunity to hear from one of theatre's most influential voices. Ben Brantley will be joined in conversation with GIAF Artistic Director, Paul Fahy.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 19 July, 2pm
Tickets €10



Strange Country – Ireland in America

Garry Hynes and **Francis O'Connor**
in conversation with **Patrick Lonergan**

Director, Garry Hynes and Designer, Francis O'Connor reflect on a creative partnership that has shaped the visual and dramatic language of Druid Theatre Company for over three decades. They will also discuss Druid's 2026 season – *Strange Country – Ireland in America* – and reveal the current of influence from Dion Bouicault to Eugene O'Neill.

They are joined in conversation by Professor Patrick Lonergan whose most recent book *Druid Theatre: 50 Years* was published last year.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Monday 20 July, 2pm
Tickets €10





On Friendship

Andrew O'Hagan
in conversation with **Brendan Kelly**

Andrew O'Hagan has written a book about one of the most important human relationships and its joys, rewards, conflicts and sadnesses.

He will discuss the issues with psychiatrist Brendan Kelly, expert on all things human and complicated.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 25 July, 11am
Tickets €10



What Were We Like – The Pope in Galway

with **Diarmaid Ferriter** and **Catriona Crowe**

On September 30, 1979, Pope John Paul II visited Galway during his historic three-day trip to Ireland, celebrating a massive Youth Mass for approximately 300,000 people at Ballybrit Racecourse. During this event, he famously declared, "Young people of Ireland, I love you," a phrase that became a defining moment of his visit. Diarmaid Ferriter and Catriona Crowe will explore this pivotal moment in a live edition of their popular podcast, *What Were We Like*.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 25 July, 2pm
Tickets €10



Partition, Independence, Assassination and Jazz: Ireland in the 1920s

Diarmaid Ferriter, Gearoid O'Tuathaigh and **Ann Dolan** in conversation

Diarmaid Ferriter, Gearoid O'Tuathaigh and Ann Dolan will discuss an underexplored decade which saw a vicious civil war, the birth of a divided state, the growth of Catholic conservatism, fear and trembling at the prospect of jazz, American movies and British tabloids sweeping the country, the beginnings of Fianna Fail and the Great Depression.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 25 July, 12.30pm
Tickets €10



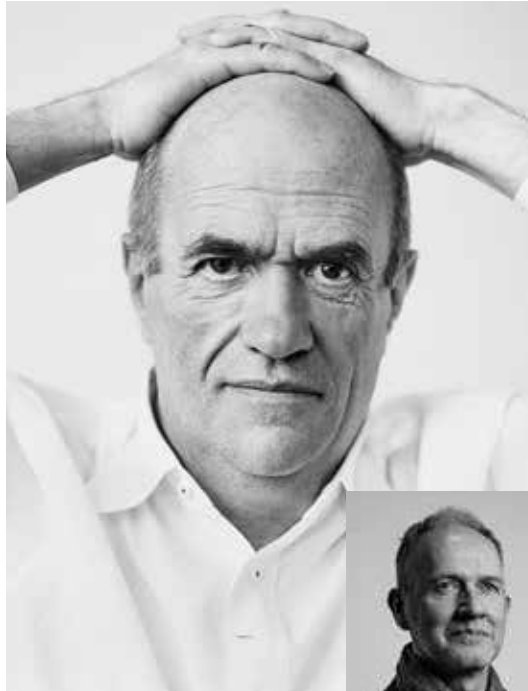
War, Tariffs, ICE and the Price of Gas

Fintan O'Toole and **Marion McKeone** in conversation

Fintan O'Toole and Marion McKeone, two of the best-informed journalists on US affairs, discuss the appalling developments in the US and beyond, Trump's seemingly unfettered onslaught on democracy and human rights, his increasing incoherence and his new-found interest in foreign wars. Can he be stopped in the mid-term elections later this year?

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 25 July, 4pm
Tickets €10



COLM TÓIBÍN

IARLA Ó LIONÁIRD

Singing

Colm Tóibín
in conversation with **Iarla Ó Lionáird**

Novelist Colm Tóibín loves Irish traditional singing. Iarla Ó Lionáird is one of the foremost exponents of the art.

They will talk about singing as art and craft, about Iarla's illustrious singing ancestry and connection with The Gloaming, and Colm's long-term love of the genre and use of it in his fiction. With examples of Iarla's performances.

WHEN & WHERE

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Saturday 25 July, 5.30pm
Tickets €10



AI: So What Happens Next?

Adrian Weckler
in conversation **Elaine Burke**

AI is rapidly reshaping the world around us — expanding capability, accelerating risk, and raising urgent questions about power, control, and accountability. We are building a high-powered technological future within a culture that often struggles to think beyond the present. How prepared are we for what comes next, and who, if anyone, is equipped to set the limits?

To explore these questions, Irish Independent Technology Editor Adrian Weckler joins journalist and *For Tech's Sake* host Elaine Burke for a timely and wide-ranging conversation.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 26 July, 11am
Tickets €10



The Wounds of Palestine, and Love Stories of Conflict

Nick Maynard and **Sally Hayden**
in conversation with **Catriona Crowe**

Dr. Nick Maynard has visited Gaza for several tours of duty during the recent [unfinished] war, with Medical Aid for Palestinians. He has seen atrocious injuries, especially to children, and is a powerful opponent of IDF targeting of children, health facilities and schools.

Sally Hayden is a much-awarded journalist who has been living in Lebanon and writing about attacks on the country. Her new book, *This is Also a Love Story: Searching for Good in a Divided World*, tells inspiring human stories about people affected by war.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
Sunday 26 July, 12.30pm
Tickets €10



Vinyl Hours

Vinyl Hours brings Festival artists into conversation with music maestro Tiernan Henry for a series of lively, music-filled talks.

Spend an hour on an aural journey through treasured tracks and unexpected favourites, as guests share the music that shaped them, from dancefloor anthems to songs of heartbreak and rebellion.

Part talk, part listening session, this is a chance to hear the music behind the artists, and the records that inspired them long before they took to the stage.

See giaf.ie for full guest line-up.
Playlists available on Spotify.

WHERE & WHEN

Bailey Allen Hall, University of Galway
See giaf.ie for details





Festival Garden,
Comedy, Elevate
and Booking



Festival Garden

WHERE & WHEN

Festival Garden
Eyre Square
13-26 July
11am-10pm
Free

The Festival Garden returns to Eyre Square, bringing the beating heart of the Festival right into the centre of the city. A meeting place for artists and audiences alike, it's the perfect spot to gather, pause and soak up the buzz.

Enjoy delicious food, cocktails and refreshing drinks, catch some of this year's garden shows, or simply take a breath as DJs and live sets provide the soundtrack to laid-back days and lively nights. From afternoon hangouts to evening celebrations, the Festival Garden is a welcoming space to connect, unwind and fully immerse yourself in the Festival atmosphere.

Comedy | Ireland

The Laughter Loft

'The biggest laughs in the smallest room.'

THIS IS GALWAY

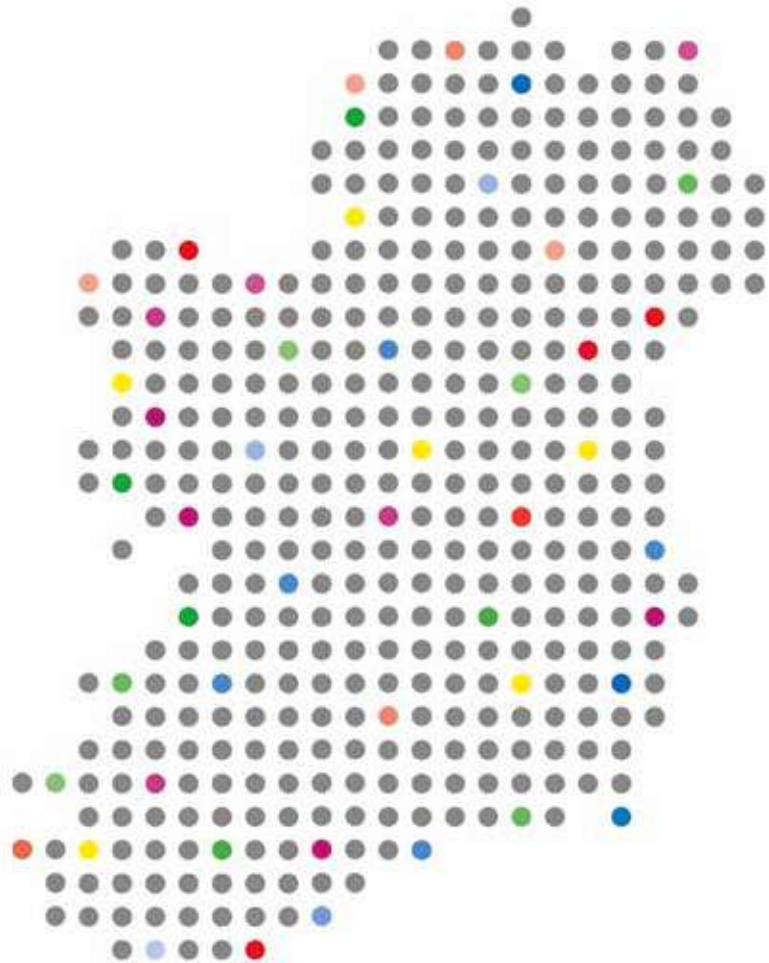


WHERE & WHEN

The Ruby Room
The King's Head, High Street
13-26 July
Doors 12.30pm | Show 1pm
Tickets €17.50 Available on the door only
Unallocated seating

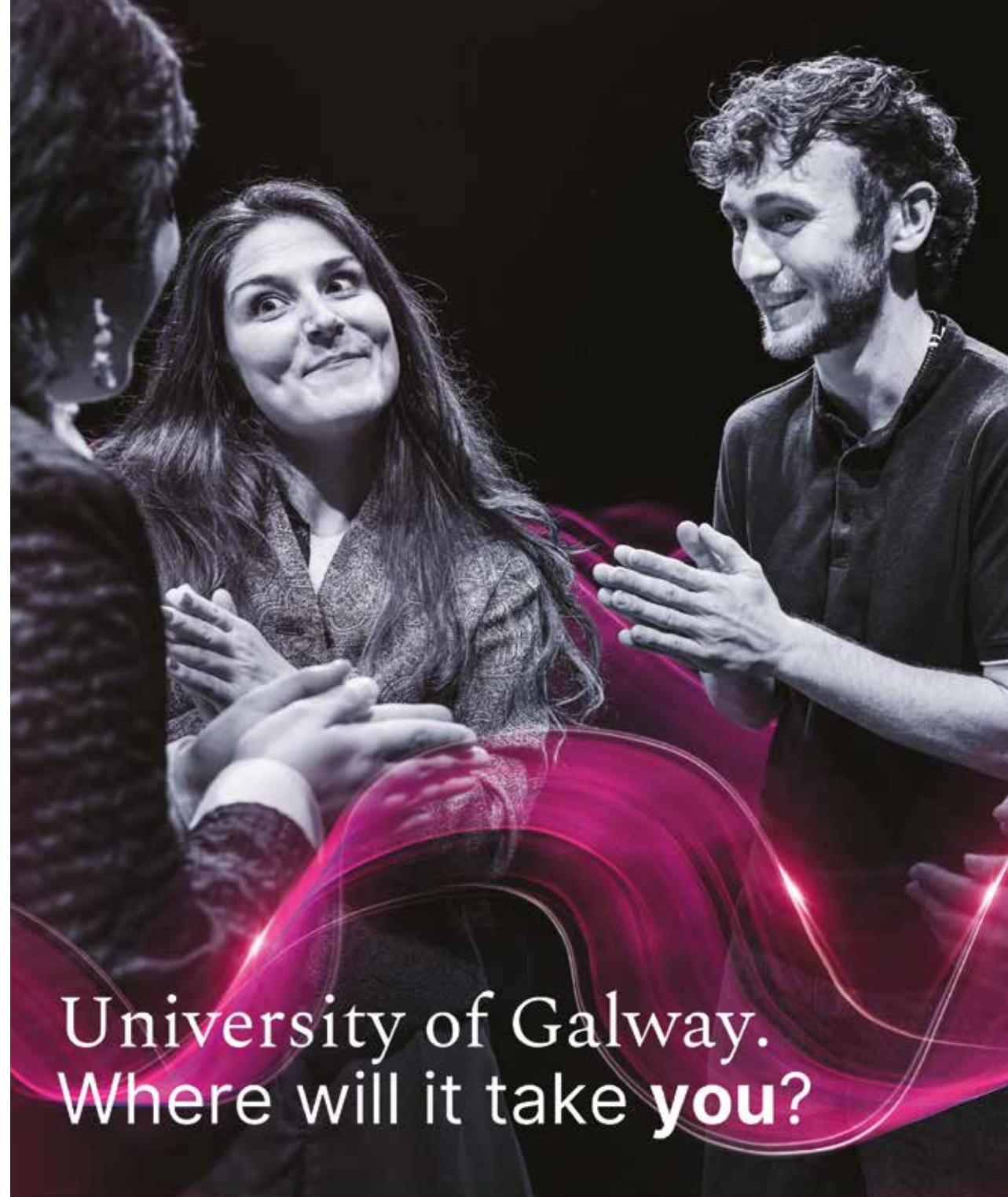
The Laughter Loft returns to the Festival with a veritable who's who of Irish comedy talent. Some of the biggest names in the country take to the stage in this pocket-sized venue, right in the heart of the city.

Featuring Bernard Casey, Emma Doran, Foil Arms and Hog, Chris Kent, Enya Martin, Kevin McGahern, Sinéad Quinlan, Killian Sundermann and many more.



Every year, RTÉ supports more than 160 arts events nationwide.

Apply Now: www.rte.ie/supportingthearts



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



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Start your journey here

Powering Galway's Creative Pulse Ceann Urra Chuisle Chruthaitheach na Gaillimhe



Galway International Arts Festival is proudly supported by Galway City Council.

Faigheann Galway International Arts Festival tacaíocht ó Oifig Ealaíon na Gaillimhe.

Festival Volunteers



Volunteers are central to the success of the Festival, helping to create extraordinary experiences for the city, its people, and its visitors each year.

In celebration of International Volunteer Year 2026, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, GIAF proudly recognises the invaluable contribution of its volunteers, and extends sincere thanks to both returning and new members of the team.



Elevate

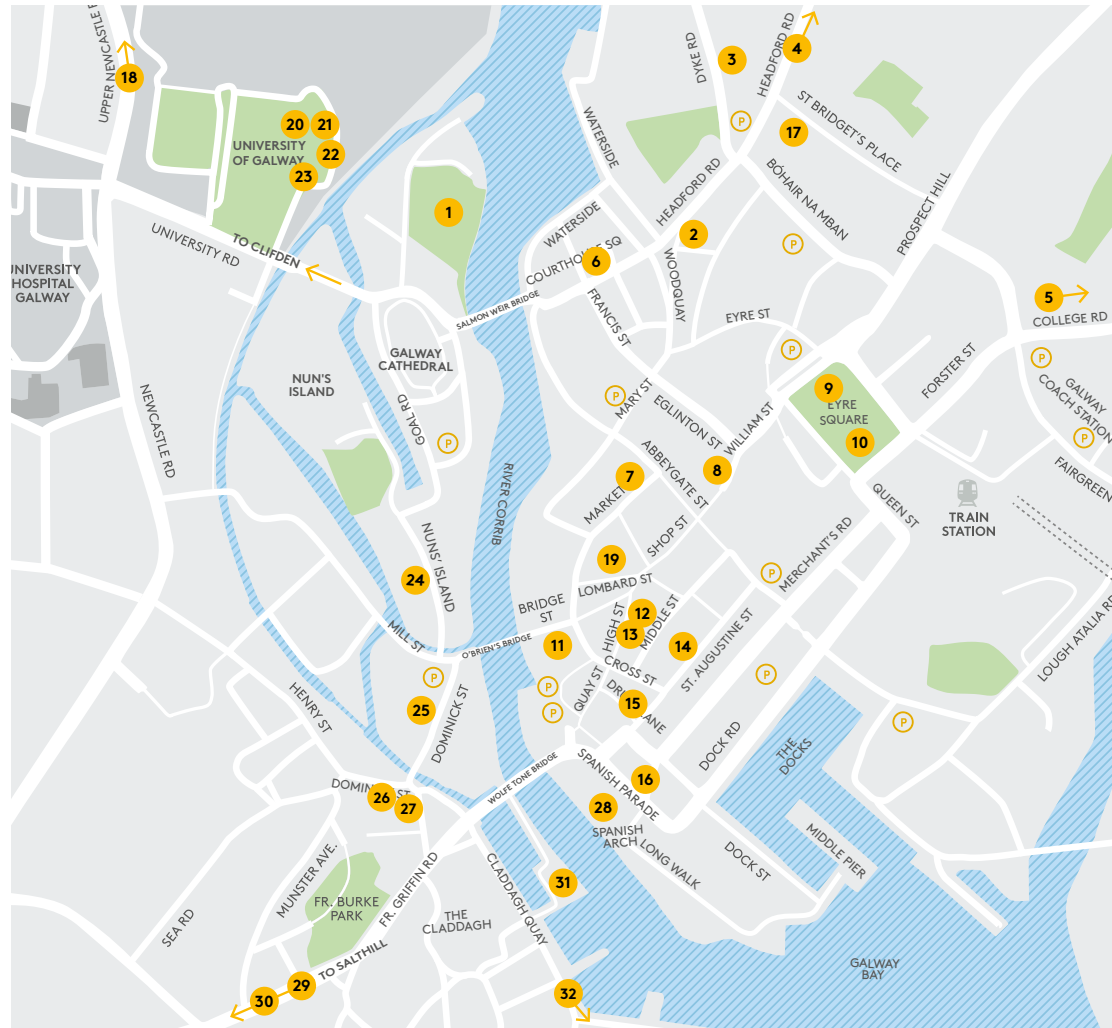


The Elevate Bursary supports individual artists, companies, and ensembles to develop new and innovative artistic projects. Recipients of 2026 bursaries will be announced in May.



Festival Venues and Map

GALWAY CITY



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Heineken® Big Top Fisheries Field H91 D9CV | 17 126 Gallery 15 St. Bridget's Place, Woodquay H91 NN29 |
| 2 Festival Box Office Woodquay Court, Woodquay H91 Y674 | 18 Interface Lough Inagh, Connemara H91 VW58* |
| 3 Black Box Theatre Dyke Road H91 C9PP | 19 St. Nicholas' Church Lombard Street H91 PY20 |
| 4 Kenny Gallery Liosbán Tuam Road H91 N5P8 | 20 The Cube University of Galway H91 RTR6 |
| 5 Thoor Ballylee Gort H91 D842** | 21 Bailey Allen Hall University of Galway H91 RTR6 |
| 6 Town Hall Theatre Courthouse Square H91 H3C2 | 22 Bank of Ireland Theatre University of Galway H91 RTR6 |
| 7 Festival Printworks Gallery Market Street H91 TCX3 | 23 O'Donoghue Centre & Theatre University of Galway H91 RTR6 |
| 8 Festival Gallery William Street H91 AK6A | 24 Nun's Island Theatre Nun's Island H91 H322 |
| 9 Festival Garden Eyre Square | 25 Galway Arts Centre 47 Dominick Street H91 X0AP |
| 10 Eyre Square | 26 Róisín Dubh Dominick Street H91 N4AP |
| 11 Bridge Street | 27 Monroe's Live Dominick Street H91 WD2H |
| 12 The King's Head High Street H91 AY6P | 28 Spanish Arch |
| 13 An Taibhdhearc 19 Middle Street H91 RX76 | 29 Engage Art Studios Lower Salthill H91 YCW9 |
| 14 Outset Gallery St. Augustine Street H91 K8YV | 30 O'Connor's Pub Upper Salthill H91 W4C6 |
| 15 The Mick Lally Theatre Druid Lane H91 N5X9 | 31 Middle Arch Claddagh Quay H91 A616 |
| 16 Galway City Museum Spanish Parade H91 CX5P | 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.
 ** Allow 45 minutes travel time to Thoor Ballylee, Gort H91 D842.

THE MAIN STAGE
 IS COMING TO THE
 MAIN STREET




 EST. 1873
Heineken®
**GREEN
 LIGHT**

 [HEINEKENGREENLIGHT . IE](https://heinekengreenlight.ie)

Get the facts. Be DRINK AWARE  Visit drinkaware.ie

Booking, Accessibility and Sustainability

How to Book

Online: from 8 May, 10am at giaf.ie

Phone: +353 91 566577
from 24 June

In Person: from 24 June at
Galway International Arts Festival Box Office,
Woodquay Court, Woodquay, Galway

Opening hours:
24 June–3 July: Monday–Friday 10am–5pm
6–26 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 7 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.
Contact access@giaf.ie with any queries.

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 the Festival Gallery, Festival Garden
and online at giaf.ie

Leading the development of the arts in Ireland.



Paul Lynch at Write By The Sea
Photo: Victoria Ziborova



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



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





EVENT	PAGE	VENUE	PREVIEWS	MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THURS 16	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19	MON 20	TUES 21	WED 22	THURS 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26
Carnation	6-7	Nimmo's Pier, Claddagh	10-12 July, 1pm 8pm	8pm		8pm	8pm	8pm	1pm 8pm	1pm		8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	1pm 8pm	1pm
The Shaughraun	8-9	Town Hall Theatre	3,4,13, 14 July, 7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	2pm 7pm		7pm	7pm	7pm	2pm 7pm	7pm	2pm 7pm	
Colossus	10-11	Black Box Theatre										7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm
Burnout Paradise	12-13	Black Box Theatre		7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm	7pm								
For Dolores	14-15	The Mick Lally Theatre			8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	2pm 8pm								
Testament	16-17	Bailey Allen Hall													8pm	8pm	8pm
Pádraicín	18	Eyre Square to Spanish Arch	14 July, 11.30am 1.30pm		11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm			11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm	11.30am 1.30pm
Dressing Room	19	Bank of Ireland Theatre		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
Flight	20	Festival Garden, Eyre Square		1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-9pm	1pm-9pm	1pm-8pm		1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm	1pm-9pm	1pm-9pm	1pm-8pm
The Bookbinder	21	The Mick Lally Theatre										6pm	6pm	6pm	1pm 6pm	1pm 6pm	1pm 6pm
The Air Between Us	22	Eyre Square													1pm 4pm	1pm 4pm	
Two	23	O'Connors Pub, Salthill	10-14 July, 5pm		5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	2pm 5pm	2pm 5pm		5pm	5pm	5pm	5pm	2pm 5pm	2pm 5pm
SAOIRSE	24	An Taibhdhearc	10-11 July, 8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm			8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm
Human Geography	25	The Cube, University of Galway													1pm	1pm	
The Curious Incident of ...	25	Nuns' Island Theatre	13-14 July, 5pm	5pm	5pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	3pm 8pm		8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	3pm 8pm	8pm
Without Sin	26	Festival Garden, Eyre Square						12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm	12 noon-9pm
Silent Disco Walking Tours	27	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
The Whale Street	28-29	Eyre Square to Spanish Arch						9.30pm	9.30pm								
Patti Smith Quartet	32-33	Heineken® Big Top				8pm											
Cian Ducrot	34	Heineken® Big Top															8pm
The Wellermen	35	Róisín Dubh		8.30pm													
Los Mirlos	35	Róisín Dubh				8.30pm											
Emeli Sandé James Morrison	36-37	Heineken® Big Top							8pm								
The Metropolitan Flute ...	38	St. Nicholas' Church					6pm										
Gwenno	38	Róisín Dubh									8.30pm						
Glasshouse perform Sigur Rós	39	Róisín Dubh								7.30pm							
Femme Fest - Shark School	39	Róisín Dubh						7.30pm									
Just Mustard	40	Róisín Dubh			8.30pm												
David Kitt	40	Róisín Dubh															
Block Rockin Beats	41	Heineken® Big Top						8pm									
Chasing Abbey	42	Monroe's Live							8pm								
The Latchikos	42	Monroe's Live					8.30pm										
Burke, Byrne, Kennedy and Murray	43	Monroe's Live					6pm										

FESTIVAL DIARY CONTINUES OVERLEAF





EVENT	PAGE	VENUE	MON 13	TUE 14	WED 15	THURS 16	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19	MON 20	TUES 21	WED 22	THURS 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26
Lucy Rose	43	Monroe's Live			8pm				8pm							
The Flaming Lips Mercury Rev	44-45	Heineken® Big Top				8pm				8pm						
The Wran Groev	46	Róisín Dubh									8.30pm					
Puerto Candelaria	46	Róisín Dubh										8.30pm				
Sophie Ellis-Bextor Kate Nash	47	Heineken® Big Top										8pm				
James	48	Heineken® Big Top											8pm			
Lloyd Cole	49	Róisín Dubh											8.30pm			
Sprints	49	Róisín Dubh												8pm	8pm	
Bricknasty	50	Monroe's Live														
Tolú Makay	50	Monroe's Live											8pm			
The Saw Doctors	51	Heineken® Big Top												8pm		
Cardinals	52	Monroe's Live												8pm		
Badly Drawn Boy	52	Monroe's Live									8pm					
Le Boom	53	Monroe's Live														
DUG	53	Monroe's Live														
Bell X1	54	Heineken® Big Top													8pm	
Paddy Hanna	55	Róisín Dubh														2.30pm
Sexy Tadhg	55	Róisín Dubh														8pm
Traditional Music Showcase	56	Monroe's Live				1pm				1pm			1pm	1pm	1pm	
Ag Tarraingt Ón Tobar	57	St. Nicholas' Church											6pm			
Simple Things	57	Monroe's Live				9pm				9pm						
Sean Henry	60-61	Festival Gallery Eyre Sq. Claddagh	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
Dolores Lyne	62	Festival Printworks Gallery	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
Lorraine Tuck	63	Festival Printworks Gallery	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
John Rainey	64	Galway Arts Centre	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-9pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	12 noon-5pm
Aleana Egan	65	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
Jackie Nickerson	66	Festival Printworks Gallery	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
Gertrude Degenhardt	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	9am-5pm	9am-5pm
Luke Reidy	68	Outset Gallery	11am-5pm	11am-5pm	10am-5.30pm	10am-5.30pm	11am-5pm	11am-5pm	10am-5.30pm	10am-5.30pm	11am-5pm	11am-5.30pm	11am-5.30pm	11am-5.30pm	11am-5.30pm	11am-5.30pm
Sioban Piercy	69	Thoor Ballylee, Gort	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm
James Wellwood	69	Engage Art Gallery, Salthill			11am-4pm	11am-4pm			11am-4pm	11am-4pm		11am-4pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm	11am-4pm	
Ireland at Venice	70	O'Donoghue Theatre	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm	11am-6pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-8pm	11am-6pm
Artspace Studios	71	Cluain Mhuire, ATU	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	
Tadhg Ó Cuirrín	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	72-81	Bailey Allen Hall			11am				11am						11am-5.30pm	11am-12.30pm
Vinyl Hours – details @ giaf.ie	81	Bailey Allen Hall														
Festival Garden	82	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	83	The King's Head	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm	1pm

Patrons and Friends



Festival Patrons



Platinum Friends



Supporting the Festival

Become a Friend of the Festival to help support the making of GIAF.

For further information
Contact Aisling O'Sullivan
friends@giaf.ie



Galway International Arts Festival

13-26 JULY 2026

Black Box Theatre, Dyke Road, Galway,
H91 C9PP, Ireland

giaf.ie | [#GIAF26](https://twitter.com/GIAF26) | [@galwayintarts](https://www.instagram.com/galwayintarts)



NOFIT STATE BIG TOP

arts
council
comhairle
ealaíon

funding
festivals