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Oct to Nov:
Mon-Sat: 9am – 5.30pm
Sun: 11am – 4pm

Online 24/7 at
belfastinternationalartsfestival.com

BIAF does not pass on booking transaction fees to the customer. Some venues will be selling tickets for events too, who may charge a booking transaction fee. Please note, once purchased, tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded unless the event is cancelled.

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#BIAF19

Volunteering
Find details about volunteering with us online or by contacting Rebecca Boyd rebecca@belfastinternationalartsfestival.com or 028 9521 9745.
FESTIVAL TEAM

Artistic Director & Chief Executive: Richard Wakely
Marketing Officer: Andrew Moore

General Manager: Naomi Conway
Project Manager: Becky Turnock

Marketing Manager: Sarah Kelly
Literary Advisor: Hilary Copeland

Technical Director: Phil McCandish
PR: Vicki Caddy

Event Management & Operations Manager: Georgia Simpson
Design: ASG & Partners

Event Management & Operations Assistant: Rebecca Boyd
Company No: NI 631354
Charity No: NIC 103560

FESTIVAL BOARD

Chairman: Professor Jackie McCoy, SFHEA FCMI

Executive: Jimmy Fay
Louise Johnston
Sandara Kelso-Robb MBE
Paul Keoghan
Ken O'Neill

WELCOME

With a programme that cuts across traditional artform boundaries, Belfast International Arts Festival returns for its 57th edition this October, bringing together today’s leading artists, writers, thinkers and cultural observers for 20 days of talks, readings, exhibitions and performance from home and abroad.

Artists continue to be fascinated with addressing the perceptions and realities of borders on our lives. This year’s programme looks at how artists from across the world are exploring the nature and potential of creative borders. Specialised in merging art forms in new and unusual ways, these artists are uncovering new approaches and techniques, new stories and new ways of telling them, merging the old and the new, the traditional with the contemporary, the audience and the performer, the digital and the physical.

Questions such as ‘what is art’, ‘where does art belong’ and ‘who is it for’ are consequently at the forefront of their practice, which is often located in the fusion borderlands of theatre, dance, music, film and visual arts and more frequently in the intersection where science and arts meet.

The key role that music is playing in the creation of new hybrid works is at the centre of this year’s festival. We are honoured and delighted to play a leading role in two major of this year’s festival. We are honoured and delighted to play a leading role in two major

seasons of Culture and FranceDance UK - Japan–UK Season of Culture and FranceDance UK 2019. The festival opens on 15 October with an artist working at the interface of technology and creative expression. Hiroaki Umeda (Japan) performing his latest work, Median, an astonishing spectacle combining digital projection, sound composition and movement. Later that week, ASUNA (Japan) brings his quirky and immersive sound installation 100 Keyboards to the MAC.

As part of the FranceDance UK programme, which takes place across nine cities including Belfast, [LA]HORDE bring their explosively energetic To Da Bone, a fusion of European street dance and hip-hop sounds, to the Grand Opera House whilst Chloé Moglia’s all-female troupe perform their beautiful and captivating acrobatic work La Spire in Botanic Gardens.

This year’s theatre programme is particularly strong with interdisciplinary performances that include the exquisitely Beckettian flavoured Real Magic, a genuine tour de force piece from Forced Entertainment; the return of the chameleon-like performer, Pat Kinevane with his new work Before taking inspiration from classic musicals; and a new production of that Irish masterpiece, The Playboy of the Western World. Meanwhile, Ireland’s Oscar Award-winning Glen Hansard takes us on a career-spanning journey in two special performances in the Grand Opera House.

Pat Kinevane and Glen Hansard appear alongside other Irish artists, including Timmy Creed with his latest theatre work, Spliced, in In-visible Id-entities, a programme strand supported by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Reconciliation Fund.

Audiences also have the opportunity to be part of thought-provoking conversations as we host an array of literary, artistic and political talent in a series of stimulating talks and discussions. Contributors include Gavin Esler, Michael Rosen, Kerry Hudson, Niven Govinden and the Octavia Poetry Collective amongst others.

In this 57th festival edition, you will find reflections on the world today, with many opportunities to engage with questions about art, culture, community and perspective. Take a look inside and join us this October!

Richard Wakely
Artistic Director and Chief Executive
Belfast International Arts Festival

Book Now belfastinternationalartsfestival.com
Welcome to Belfast International Arts Festival 2019. The Belfast Festival has a long history going back some 57 years. It was re-formed 5 years ago to emerge as the independently constituted Belfast International Arts Festival. This was to reflect the great changes happening in what is a more outward looking, internationally focused Belfast that is also attracting an increasing number of visitors to the region.

Our aims are threefold and embrace principles of equality, excellence and renaissance. They are:
• to widen the reach and impact, by making Belfast International Arts Festival a festival for all the people of Northern Ireland regardless of age, class, creed or ethnic origin;
• to expose Northern Ireland audiences to internationally acclaimed artists and art forms that will stretch minds, challenge perceptions and cause us to question personal, sometimes narrow, world views; and,
• to contribute to the regeneration of Northern Ireland by helping make Belfast an attractive place to live and do business, not just during the month of Festival in October each year but, increasingly, with performances and cultural events peppered throughout the year.

Economic development agencies, charged with supporting indigenous companies and attracting foreign direct investment, are beginning to better understand how the artistic and cultural experiences on offer in a city influence individual and organisational decisions to put down roots or invest. Belfast International Arts Festival is playing an important and proactive role in that decision-making process and forms an integral part of the Northern Ireland package.

Indeed, through its international profile-raising activities and commitment to programming progressive, contemporary, multidisciplinary arts practice, I am delighted to see that Belfast International Arts Festival has been invited to be part of two nationwide celebrations this year: the Japan-UK Season of Culture 2019-20, and FranceDance UK 2019.

All this would not be possible without the generous support of key funders Arts Council NI, Belfast City Council, Tourism NI, British Council and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We owe them and our many other partners and stakeholders a debt of gratitude. Their support enables us to bring leading international artists and work of scale to the City of Belfast to create the cultural experiences sought after by the people of Northern Ireland and others who might be attracted to our region to live and work. Funder support also allows Festival the opportunity to showcase our homegrown, internationally-acclaimed artistic talent, to celebrate their success and to inspire the next generation of Northern Ireland talent by exposing them to the best artistic experiences the world has to offer. The programme has something for everyone!

Professor Jackie McCoy
Chair
Belfast International Arts Festival

Since Belfast International Arts Festival established itself as an independent festival five years ago, it has consistently raised the bar in terms of showcasing leading contemporary arts in Northern Ireland. By the high standards it has set itself, each new programme has much to live up to. I’m delighted to say that this year doesn’t disappoint – quite the opposite. We have here a wide range of art of a truly international quality, carefully curated from around the world, the likes of which we would almost certainly not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy.

This is a festival capable of attracting the best. Bringing over performances as diverse, as exciting, as formidable as La Spire, Beloved Clara, and Median, is not just a boon for local audiences, it also strengthens opportunities for cultural exchange between international artists and our homegrown talent, who are strongly represented through the likes of Oona Doherty, Joshua Burnside and the Lyric Theatre. The ingredients are all here for a major international arts festival that will raise Northern Ireland’s creative reputation at home and abroad.

The Arts Council is proud to be the principal funder of this strategically and artistically important festival. We support it with Public and National Lottery funds. This year the National Lottery celebrates its 25th anniversary, and it is thanks in large part to the National Lottery that Belfast International Arts Festival continues to deliver, for us, a hugely ambitious and inspiring programme of artistic excellence.

Roisin McDonough
Chief Executive
Arts Council of Northern Ireland
Festival Fizz and Food in the City

With the Belfast International Arts Festival in town, soak up the culture and all that Belfast has to offer. Whether it be pre-theatre dining in the Europa or post festival drinks in Grand Central. Where there’s a show, there is food and drink to be had at our City Centre properties! Check out our pre-theatre menus online or pop in for a drink or two. Special menus during the Festival.

Why not make a night of it and stay over?
Special Festival Accommodation Packages available 15 Oct – 3 Nov
Europa from £45 B&B pps
Grand Central from £65 B&B pps

Book Now
Visit: hastingshotels.com
Call: (0044)28 9047 1066 or
Email: marketing@eur.hastingshotels.com
Quote promotion code BIAF
Part of Japan-UK Season of Culture.

**Median** fuses dance, hypnotic sounds and stunning digital visuals into one unforgettable sensory experience.

Pushing the limits of experimentation, the Japanese choreographer draws inspiration from elements invisible to the naked eye. The artist pursues his long-standing belief and fascination that a human body is an intrinsic part of nature, where there is no distinction with other living things.

Exploring the choreography of cells, molecular forms and organic synthesis, Umeda brings this other world of movement, light and sound into human visibility in a wholly spectacular immersive experience.

In **Accumulated Layout**, by intricately designing the strength, brightness, speed and the refracting angle of lights, Umeda skillfully shifts the visual perception of the audience.

In one section, a violent oscillation of arms gain velocity in the serenely fading light. In another, the kinetic movement of the dancer’s body mechanically halts when suddenly exposed to a radiant light.

It is the accumulation of these various states of perception, fragmented and multiple, which gives shape to the work.

Umeda is recognised as one of the leading figures of the Japanese avant-garde art scene. Most often creating solos, he fuses choreographic writing, computer code, sound and visual composition into a form of global language, which enables him to generate new perceptions of space.

**Note:** contains strobe lighting effects, not recommended for photosensitive people.
THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

A Lyric Theatre and Dublin Theatre Festival co-production in association with the Belfast International Arts Festival

IRELAND

TUES 8 OCT – SAT 2 NOV
SAT & SUN MATINEE: 2.30PM
(NOT MONDAYS)

LYRIC THEATRE PREVIEW (08 OCT): £12 – £20
OFF – PEAK (TUES – THURS, MATINEE): £12 – £26
PEAK (FRI & SAT EVENING): £12 – £28

John Millington Synge is one of Ireland’s greatest writers and a key figure in the Irish Literary Revival. Met with controversy when it was first staged at the Abbey Theatre in 1907, his brutally hilarious masterpiece, The Playboy of the Western World, is about life on the margins and the lengths we go to, to create a reality more exciting than the place we find ourselves.

Written by John Millington Synge
Directed by Oonagh Murphy.

Pegeen is fed up. She’s not getting any younger and is desperate to escape the confines of a life stuck in the middle of nowhere. When the stranger Christy Mahon arrives at her father’s shebeen, with a story that sets the village talking, he is welcomed with admiration by the locals, even Pegeen. But all is not as it seems, and soon the playboy’s past threatens to catch up with him.

IRELAND’S CALL

John Connors
IRELAND

WED 23 OCT – SAT 26 OCT
8PM
60 MINS

Follow the lives and family histories of three young men as they grow up in Coolock on Dublin’s northside. What shapes them and entices them to a life of crime?

Examining issues of class, religion and identity, this new play is an unflinching exploration of the Irish psyche, bringing our collective guilts, secrets and flaws to the surface.

John Connors, the award-winning Love/Hate actor, makes his debut as a playwright with this one-man show about three Dublin teenagers being enticed into a life of crime.

Developed as part of Show In A Bag, an artist development initiative of Dublin Fringe Festival, Fishamble: The New Play Company and Irish Theatre Institute, to resource theatre makers and actors.

Written by John Connors.

NEW PLAYWRIGHTS SHOWCASE

NI/IRELAND

THURS 31 OCT – SAT 2 NOV
7PM

The Lyric once again teams up with the Festival to invite you to a series of performed readings showcasing the exceptional talents of new and upcoming writers. Clare McMahon, Annie Keegan, Clare Monnelly, Ross Wylie, Sarah Gordon and Rían Smith were selected from a record-breaking number of submissions to take part in the New Playwrights Programme.

Audiences will have the chance to see these new works for the first time, presented in dynamic double-bill readings on consecutive evenings – an exclusive opportunity to be the first to experience these new voices and talent.
Real Magic creates a world of absurd disconnection, struggle and comical repetition.

To the sound of looped applause and canned laughter, three performers take part in an impossible illusion – part mind-reading feat, part cabaret act, part nightmare game show – in which they are thrown back again and again to moments of hope and defeat.

Caught in a world of second-chances and second-guesses, variations and changes, distortions and transformations, Real Magic takes the audience on a hallucinatory journey, creating a compelling virtuoso performance about big systems, small traps and yearning for change.

Directed by Tim Etchells.

Post-Show Talk:
Tues 22 Oct
THE WORST CAFÉ IN THE WORLD

Big Telly Theatre Company
UK

WED 23 OCT 8.30PM
THURS 24 OCT 6PM & 8.30PM
FRI 25 OCT 6PM & 8.30PM
SAT 26 OCT 7.30PM & 8.30PM
SUN 27 OCT 3PM
1 HR (NO INTERVAL)

THE WORST CAFÉ, HILL STREET, 12+
CATHEDRAL QUARTER
£10/£8

If reality TV had a lovechild with theatre, this is it.

A Big Telly special for Festival, there is just one week to get a table, place your orders and experience the gloriously mad ‘Worst Café in the World’.

Masquerading as a café, tucked away on Hill Street in the Cathedral Quarter, The Worst Café in the World mysteriously appears. Signage cracked, you step into another world. The chef’s a mess and the waiting staff, well, wait.

The food is non-existent and the customers are flies on the wall, watching the story unravel in a feast of reality theatre.

Eat before, or after, because at The Worst Café, there is no food, not even a latte in sight, and nothing is quite what it seems.

With a full menu of twists and turns, stories come well-done or rare, with a range of side orders to thicken the plot. As the service goes into meltdown, the waiters stop waiting and the tables are turned. Customers are perfectly placed to experience this whirlwind hour of reality theatre.

Pure comedy and pathos, this chaotic foodless venue promises a large serving of entertainment for people who like their theatre fresh.

Note: Contains smoke, haze and strobe effects.

BEFORE

Fishamble: The New Play Company
IRELAND

THURS 24 – FRI 25 OCT  7.45PM
1 HR 20 MINS (NO INTERVAL)

THE MAC
£16/£14

Before is a new play with much music, set in Clery’s of Dublin, on the very day this iconic department store shuts down for good. Pontius is inside, trying to choose a gift for his estranged daughter, whom he hasn’t seen for almost 20 years. He will meet her in an hour.

This father’s journey is both beautiful and strange, from the isolation of his Midlands home, to the madness of O’Connell Street. Some folk are impossible to buy for...

From the team behind Forgotten, Underneath and the Olivier Award-winning Silent (which featured in the 2012 Belfast Festival).

Written & Performed by Pat Kinevane
Directed by Jim Culleton.

Post-Show Talk: Thurs 24 Oct – Festival Artistic Director, Richard Wakely in conversation with Pat Kinevane.
TO DA BONE

(LA)HORDE

FRANCE

FRI 25 – SAT 26 OCT  8PM
60 MINS

THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE
£12 - £20
12+
NOTE: CONTAINS LOUD MUSIC

Part of FranceDance UK, a UK-wide festival of contemporary dance presented by the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni.

In a world where revolution happens at night and laws are voted by day; what new shapes can rebellion take?

To Da Bone, presented by French arts collective (LA)HORDE, explores youth culture, identity and expression. In a world in which daily life is increasingly being lived online, this production takes a closer look at a youth subculture called Jumpstyle.

This high energy dance and music scene grew out of the 90’s hardcore techno scene in the suburbs of Belgium and the Netherlands and spread globally over the internet. Young people share their solo routines online, exchanging styles and ideas with each other.

As a result, communities emerge through social media whose members meet for virtual as well as real-life jumpstyle battles.

To Da Bone explores the role of Facebook and YouTube in mobilising crowds and in creating opposition movements.

(LA)HORDE cast 11 jumpers from nine European countries via the internet, to create this pulsing and electrifying performance with powerful intensity and emotion.

Christine and the Queens fans will recognise (LA)HORDE dancers from the video, Girlfriend.

Post Show Talk: Fri 25 Oct: Dr Aoife McGrath talks to the cast.
STAGING SCHIELE

Shobana Jeyasingh Dance

UK

SAT 26 OCT 6PM
50 MINS (NO INTERVAL)

THE MAC £14/£12
SPECIAL REDUCED £8 TICKET FOR AUDIENCES ATTENDING THIS PERFORMANCE AND TO DA BONE

Inspired by the extraordinary work and life of radical Austrian artist Egon Schiele, famous for his unflinching nudes and searing self-portraits, Staging Schiele scrutinises the relationship between male artist and female model; the viewer and the subject.

Schiele, whose work has inspired David Bowie and Wes Anderson among others, was an artist who put the body on display and made it communicate in astonishing ways.

Four dancers inhabit Schiele’s highly-charged world of colour, masterful lines and unusual perspectives, a world that puts the human body on visceral display. Shobana Jeyasingh’s award-winning choreography matches the raw intensity of Schiele, engaging with his anxieties as well as with his supreme self-confidence.

Staging Schiele captures the artist’s own self-conscious framing of himself and his work. Both intimate and formal, it throws light on his brief meteoric rise to fame.

Shobana Jeyasingh has been creating dynamic, fearless and enigmatic dance works for 30 years. 2018’s Contagion was named one of the year’s top ten dance works for The Guardian and Evening Standard.

SPLICED

Chalk It Down Productions

IRELAND

TUES 29 - WED 30 OCT 8PM
60 MINS (NO INTERVAL)

CULTURLANN MCADAM Ó FIAICH 14+
£12/£10

A multi-disciplinary production dealing with the pressures of sport and masculine identity, challenging sporting institutions to broaden their perspectives.

Timmy is contemplating his 21 years playing GAA. He loves it. He hates it. Honest, brave and hard-hitting, SPLICED is a visceral account of his struggle to become an individual outside of the sporting institution that raised him.

"Brave, highly physical, hard-hitting. Reveals a complex relationship with the GAA"
IRISH EXAMINER

He wants to talk about identity, masculinity and mental health in a sports club. From one of Ireland’s exciting upcoming writers comes SPLICED, a hard-hitting, site-specific show with thrilling music and video.

Written and performed by Timmy Creed
Directed by Gina Moxley

Post Show Talk:
Tues 29 Oct - In conversation with Timmy Creed.
LADY MAGMA:
The Birth of a Cult

Oona Doherty & Prime Cut Productions

NI

THURS 31 OCT – SAT 2 NOV
60 MINS (NO INTERVAL)

THE MAC
£16/£14

Closing Event.

Lady Magma is a celebration of female strength, creeping out of a 1970’s burnt orange aesthetic.

The dancers throb, this is the birth of a cult before our eyes. This dance is a ritual, dedicated to desire, to sexual energy, to love and to madness. Through the dance the women connect, and grow stronger, sharing this power and energy with audiences. An ode to femininity, performed by a stunning ensemble of international contemporary female dancers. Lady Magma has the possibility to be shocking, pleasurable and above all needed, in light of the historical oppression of women and sexuality across the island of Ireland and indeed internationally.

Oona Doherty has wowed festival audiences over the past few years. From Artist in Residence 2016, developing Hope Hunt and the Ascension into Lazarus, to the award-winning Hard to be Soft – A Belfast Prayer (2017), we're certain that Lady Magma is set to be a stunning tour de force performance to close this year's festival.

Director/Choreographer – Oona Doherty

Post Show Talk:
Thurs 31 Oct with Oona Doherty and cast.

Music

20 THEATRE & DANCE
ASUNA
JAPAN

THURS 17 OCT – SAT 19 OCT
1 HR 20 MINS

THE MAC
£14/£12

Part of Japan-UK Season of Culture.

Pioneering Japanese sound artist ASUNA presents his landmark work and site-specific listening experience, 100 Keyboards.

A stalwart of Tokyo’s experimental music scene, ASUNA’s playful genre-bending sonic experiments cross from ambient to hip-hop to hardcore punk to low-fi pop and improvisation.

In this captivating performance, ASUNA manipulates 100 battery operated keyboards, generating an undulating sonic harmony both mesmerising and mysterious. Sound waves on the same frequency multiply and bounce off in myriad directions, creating a complex sonic field of interference and reverberation that swells and changes over time. Subtle acoustic variations emerge, hover and retreat based on your location in the performance space.

This event takes place in the round and the audience are encouraged to move around the space. A small number of seats are available.

"ASUNA’s live performances are an experience that blur the lines between art and music"

TOKYO ART BEAT

EVERYTHING STARTED IN CUBA, WHERE SHE WAS BORN IN THE HEART OF AN AWE-INSPIRING MUSICAL CAULDRON. HER FATHER, JESUS ‘AGUAJE’ RAMOS, IS AN EXCEPTIONAL TROMBONIST AND THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB.

YAITE HAS ALWAYS BEEN DETERMINED TO FIND HER OWN VOICE. HAVING STUDIED CLASSICAL FLUTE AT HAVANA’S ESCUELA NACIONAL DE ARTE, SHE MOVED TO PARIS WHERE SHE HAS NOW SPENT ALMOST TWO DECADES BECOMING LA DAME BLANCHE. HER AFRO-CUBAN ROOTS ARE ALWAYS PRESENT AND HER SONGS EXPRESS STORIES OF FEMALE EMPOWERMENT, SANTERÍA SPIRITUALITY, AND LIFE IN THE BARRIO.

THIS IS SURE TO BE ROOF-RAISING PERFORMANCE IN THE EMPIRE!

“LA DAME BLANCHE’s serious musical chops pulls off this stylish hat-trick with outsized swagger and style” 

NPR MUSIC

BRIAN Ó HEADHRA & FIONA MACKENZIE

SCOTLAND

SAT 19 OCT
2 HRS 30 MINS
ÁRAS MHIC REACTAIN 18+
£10

Scottish Highland based Brian Ó hEadhra | Fiona Mackenzie are acclaimed singer songwriters who draw upon their traditional Gaelic roots as well as from other musical genres including Nordic, Eastern European, Americana, Indie and electronics. Their live sound has been described as “ethereal and evocative” whilst their award nominated debut album TÌR - Highland Life & Lore as “sophisticated, ambient and sonically mesmerizing”.

With layered harmonies, innovative interpretation of ancient Gaelic texts and songs as well as newly written material, Ó hEadhra | Mackenzie make music which appeals to audiences seeking quality and authenticity.

Agus comhcheolt a doimhne agus brionna nuadalach a mbaint acu as Gàidhlig ársa agus as seanamhráin, chomh maith le hamhráin nuachumhtha, tainneoidh ceol de chuid Uí hEadhra | Mackenzie le daoine a bhfuil an-aidh acu ar scoth an cheoil agus ar an úrnuacht.

With her explosive mix of hip-hop, cumbia, dancehall and reggae, the Cuban singer, flautist and percussionist Yaite Ramos Rodriguez, a.k.a. La Dame Blanche, delivers a powerful and irresistible mix that summons the spirits and compels the body to dance.

Everything started in Cuba, where she was born in the heart of an awe-inspiring musical cauldron. Her father, Jesus ‘Aguaje’ Ramos, is an exceptional trombonist and the artistic director of the Buena Vista Social Club.

Yaite has always been determined to find her own voice. Having studied classical flute at Havana’s Escuela Nacional de Arte, she moved to Paris where she has now spent almost two decades becoming La Dame Blanche. Her Afro-Cuban roots are always present and her songs express stories of female empowerment, Santería spirituality, and life in the barrio.

This is sure to be roof-raising performance in The Empire!
**TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB**

Northern Irish heroes Two Door Cinema Club return home to play Belfast’s Telegraph Building as part of the UK & Irish tour to support their latest album, *False Alarm*. With three critically-acclaimed albums and a string of amazing live shows under their belts, Two Door Cinema Club have cemented their position as one of Ireland’s finest live indie rock bands.

*Note: strobe lighting and smoke machines.*

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**ALBION QUARTET**

Three free BBC Radio 3 invitation concerts at St Mark’s, Dundela, in association with Belfast International Arts Festival, featuring acclaimed British ensemble the Albion Quartet and leading chamber musician Charles Owen.

Formed in 2016, the Albion Quartet unites four outstanding young string players, brought together by a shared belief in the visceral power of the string quartet. Charles Owen is Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School in London and a passionate chamber music collaborator.

He will join Tamsin Waley-Cohen and Emma Parker (violins), Ann Beilby (viola) and Nathaniel Boy (cello) for a special series of recitals at St. Mark’s Church in East Belfast. Featuring Trios, Quartets and Quintets, as well as solo performances.

To apply for free tickets (available from Mon 16 Sept), visit www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours

*"...vibrant, punchy and impossible not to enjoy"*

THE INDEPENDENT

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**LITTON CROSSES CONTINENTS**

* Ulster Orchestra

*NI/USA*

**FRI 18 OCT**

* 2 HRS (INCLUDING INTERVAL) 7.45PM

* ULSTER HALL £10 – £32

We welcome Andrew Litton, following his outstanding Prokofiev 4 last Season, and guest soloist Kurt Nikkanen, Concertmaster of the New York City Ballet, as two very special American musical envoys to Belfast.

The concert opens with Aaron Copland’s glorious evocation of the American Midwest in his ballet suite *Appalachian Spring*. Samuel Barber sits alongside Copland as one of the great American composers and his Violin Concerto followed hot on the heels of the première of his *Adagio for Strings*. The opening two movements share the Adagio’s beauty and tranquillity, before the piece concludes with a lightning-fast final movement of perpetual motion - a total contrast and a thrilling ride to the end.

The concert moves closer to home for its close. Andrew Litton shares a natural affinity for British music, his recordings of Sir William Walton are ranked among the best. The emotional turmoil of Walton’s First Symphony needs just such a conductor to bring its searing, raw passion to life on the Ulster Hall stage.

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**DARRAGH MORGAN & RUTH MCGINLEY**

* Belfast Music Society

**SUN 20 OCT**

* 2 HRS (INCLUDING INTERVAL) 7.30PM

Making their first outing as a duo, two of Northern Ireland’s favourite classical artists mark the start of this year’s Northern Lights Mini-Fest.

Derry-born Ruth McGinley has performed as a soloist with the BBC Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra. Her long-awaited debut album *Reconnection* was released in 2016 to critical acclaim.

Irish violinist Darragh Morgan is known for his impeccable technique and versatile ability to perform music from baroque to contemporary styles. Their Mini-Fest programme has a strong Irish connection, with folksong arrangements, a beautifully lyrical sonata by Moeran (English-born but of Irish descent), and a new work by local composer Deirdre McKay. The programme finishes with one of the most popular of all violin showpieces, the electrifying Franck sonata.
Garth Knox presents a programme of music for viola d’amore and electronics featuring music by Simon Mawhinney, Olga Neuwirth, Ed Bennet, Marin Marais.

**Full programme:**
- Fantasy on medieval tunes
- Simon Mawhinney – Nendrum
- Olga Neuwirth – Risonanze
- Ed Bennet – Ghosts
- Matthew Whiteside – Solo for Viola D’amore and Electronics
- Marin Marais – Folies
- Garth Knox - Cinq Petites Entropies
- New work by Siobhan Dyson from Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Garth is a specialist in contemporary music performing as a member of Ensemble InterContemporain and the Arditti String Quartet before becoming a pioneer of the viola d’amore, a fourteen stringed baroque instrument.

**The Night With... series is supported by Creative Scotland, PRS Foundation, Hugh Fraser Foundation and The Fenton Arts Trust.**

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**HARD RAIN SOLOIST ENSEMBLE**

**Belfast Music Society**

**NI**

**FRI 25 OCT 7.30PM**

**1 HR 30 MINS (INCLUDING INTERVAL)**

**HARTY ROOM, QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY BELFAST**

**£14/£10**

**£5 (STUDENTS, UNDER 185)**

The Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble is the only professional musical ensemble in Northern Ireland to specialise in the performance of modern and contemporary repertoire.

This concert features four of the ensemble’s key performers, for the classic line-up of violin, clarinet, cello and piano.

Their Mini-Fest programme features two giants of 20th-century music, with works that are haunting and beautiful in equal measure. *Quartet for the End of Time* is one of the iconic pieces of the century, a masterpiece written when the composer was a German prisoner of war for his fellow prisoners to perform. Lasting about 50 minutes, it is the main focus of the concert. Takemitsu’s *Quatrain* was written in response to the *Quartet*, and in homage to its composer.
BELOVED CLARA

Lucy Parham

UK

SUN 27 OCT
1 HR 30 MINS (INCLUDING INTERVAL)
7.45PM

THE MAC
£20/£18

A true story of passion, music and tragedy.

Commemorating the bicentenary of Clara Schumann, Beloved Clara is the compelling and tragic story of the passionate, yet volatile relationship between Robert Schumann, his pianist wife Clara Wieck and Johannes Brahms. Lucy Parham’s original Composer Portrait amalgamates poignant letters and diaries interspersed with solo piano works by all three composers, as well as those by Mendelssohn and Liszt.

Beloved Clara chronicles the sometimes-troubled marriage of Clara and Robert, the arrival in their household of the dynamic, 21-year-old Brahms, Robert’s decline into mental illness and the deepening relationship between Clara and Brahms, the exact nature of which has never been established.

Pianist Lucy Parham, who is internationally known for her Composer Portraits, is joined by acclaimed actors Juliet Stevenson (Truly Madly Deeply, The Politician’s Wife, Atlantis, The Village, Riviera) and Tim McInnerny (Blackadder, Notting Hill, Game of Thrones, National Treasure).

*****

“A lovely entertainment - flawlessly performed”

THE INDEPENDENT

Monjas brings us on a delightful journey through classical favourites.

Tchaikovsky’s Romeo and Juliet Overture is a magical fantasy piece, based on Shakespeare’s famous tragedy. One of the composer’s best-loved works, this beautiful piece is now one of the most recognisable romantic melodies in the world.

The ever-popular and emotive Concierto de Aranjuez is brought to life by guest guitarist Rafael Aguirre Miñarro. Many people’s first encounter with this beautiful Spanish piece may be linked to the 1996 film Brassed Off.

A Classic FM playlist favourite, Pictures at an Exhibition was inspired by a visit to an art exhibition with each of the movements representing one of the drawings or artworks on display.

Festival always takes great pride in promoting the best of local talent and this year is no different. Northern Irish experimental folk songwriter and producer Joshua Burnside is something of an anomaly in local terms.

With a brooding, powerful sound echoing artists of places afar and time long gone, his enthralling craft defies local comparison in striving towards an aesthetic as much visual as it is sonic.

Balanced with a diverse palette of sounds, Burnside deftly blends alt-folk and elements of the Irish folk song tradition with South American rhythms and Eastern European influences, whilst introducing synthetic and found-sounds, synths loops and crunching beats to create a stormy world that shifts and swirls perspective like a lingering lucid dream.

Joshua was the winner of the NI Music Prize 2017 and has chalked up over 10 million streams on Spotify with extensive radio play and support from BBC Radio 1 and 6 Music.

Classical Favourites

Ulster Orchestra

NI / SPAIN

THURS 31 OCT
2 HRS (INCLUDING INTERVAL)
7.45PM

ULSTER HALL
£10 – £32

Monjas brings us on a delightful journey through classical favourites.

JOSHUA BURNSIDE

Shine

NI

FRI 1 NOV
7PM – 11PM

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL
£12

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Book Now belfastinternationalartsfestival.com
The Selecter are a 2 Tone ska revival band from Coventry, England, formed in mid-1979.

Led by their iconic frontwoman Pauline Black and co-fronted by original member Arthur ‘Gaps’ Hendrickson, the anarchic passion that fuelled Selecter gigs during the original 2-Tone era is still there.

Pauline Black is one of very few women in the 2-Tone scene and is often referred to as the Queen of Ska. Not only a crucial figure in the music community, Black is also a published author, gifted actress and a celebrated style icon. The Selecter will be playing an extended, hit-rich set with some added live favourites and surprises. They will also be joined by special guest, vocalist Rhoda Dakar, who will also play a DJ Set to open the night.

Note: strobe lighting and smoke machines.

Kristan Swain and Máire Carroll both began their musical studies at a young age – eight and four respectively – and studied with distinguished musicians on the island of Ireland (Colin Fleming, of the Ulster Orchestra, and John O’Conor, of the RIAM, among others) before continuing their professional training at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Kristan has played with the Philharmonia Orchestra (as Guest Principal Flute), the Nash Ensemble and the London Sinfonietta.

Máire is an international concert pianist who has performed across Europe, North America and Asia. She recently launched her debut solo piano album, ROADS.

Their Mini-Fest programme is a tour de force of flute and piano music, culminating in Saint-Saëns’ exhilarating showpiece.
EMBRACE IS BELFAST INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL’S PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AND IS AIMED AT INVOLVING COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND ACROSS THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME.

The events in Embrace are designed to both encourage active participation in the arts and to enhance audience enjoyment and understanding of specific productions and events presented in the programme. They include free performances and events, and active creative learning activities such as workshops, performance opportunities and artist talks.

At the centre of this year’s Embrace programme are two wonderful and free installations, La Spire in Botanic Gardens and Unique Instruments: Expectant Spaces at the Ulster University. Co-Motion, the first all-island dance conference, which we are co-hosting with our partners, Dance Resource Base, Dance Ireland and Queen’s University Belfast, reflects our continuing commitment to promoting professional development in contemporary arts practice. In addition to these special events, we offer a number of talks and workshops from artists appearing in the festival to connect art with all kinds of people. We hope that you will be one of them.

As an inclusive organisation, we actively encourage and welcome diverse communities of interest and place to access and participate in these programmes.

LA SPIRE

CHLOÉ MOGLIA – RHIZOME
FRANCE

UK & IRISH PREMIERE

SAT 19 & SUN 20 OCT
3PM
40 MINS

BOTANIC GARDENS
ALL AGES
FREE

Part of FranceDance UK, a UK-wide festival of contemporary dance presented by the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni.

Breath-taking aerial acrobatics on an impressive steel spiral sculpture. The all-female cast combine raw strength, tenacity and vulnerability, accompanied by a live musician and special sound machines to create a suspense-filled dreamlike journey into human fragility and power.

Winner of the SACD (Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques) Prize for circus arts, French artist Chloé Moglia studied ceramics before going on to train in trapeze and martial arts. Today, all three elements inform her extensive choreographic practice, which can be seen in this contemplative work in the beautiful surroundings of Botanic Gardens.

Join us from 2pm in Botanic Gardens for pre-show participatory fun with The Raven Sisters, suitable for all the family.
Metaphor, simile and story-telling are at the heart of local architectural practice Hall McKnight’s work. In 2018, for the prestigious 16th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice, La Biennale di Venezia, their work was presented as an ensemble. The large-scale installation cross-referenced a number of their projects including the re-imagining of new civic spaces from a variety of different perspectives. The Festival is honoured and delighted to be able to bring home this major and critically acclaimed installation for a special presentation in partnership with both the Ulster University and the British Council.

This exhibition will be accompanied by free public talks at Ulster University reflecting on the architect as ‘artist’; how Henry James’ preface to The Portrait of a Lady influenced the creation of the installation; and the role of the architect in addressing the unspoken wishes of people they have never met.

In addition, architects Hall McKnight will engage with students and practitioners across various disciplines at Belfast School of Art and Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment to produce and exhibit their own responses to a selected literary quote or translation. Plans are also being made for a free schools workshop led by Hall McKnight.

Please see the festival website for further details or contact enquiries@belfastinternationalartsfestival.com

Featuring keynotes and interviews, panels and roundtables, artist spotlights and public performances from (LA)HORDE (page 16) and Shobana Jeyasingh Dance (page 18), the conference aims to mark a significant moment for dance in Ireland. Confirmed keynote speakers and workshop leaders include: Shobana Jeyasingh (Shobana Jeyasingh Dance), Fearghus Ó Conchúir (National Dance Company Wales), Juan Kruz Díaz de Garaio Esaola & Luc Dunberry (Sasha Waltz & Guests) and (LA)HORDE. Workshops will enable participants to immerse themselves in cutting edge approaches to areas such as Dance Science, Dance and Wellbeing, Somatic Practices, Dance Writing, and Choreography.

Co-Motion is curated by Dr Aoife McGrath, School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen’s University Belfast.

To register for the conference please go to www.danceresourcebase.org
A PUBLIC CONFERENCE ON IRISH LANGUAGE PLANNING AND PROMOTION
ULSTER UNIVERSITY AND CUMANN CULTÚRTHA MHIC REACHTAIN IN ASSOCIATION WITH BELFAST INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

SAT 19 OCT 10.30AM - 5PM
ULSTER UNIVERSITY, YORK ST
FREE

Mar chuid den imeacht, réachtálaír fóram cainte ina ndéanfar clóradh ar an mhórphléan ab fhéidir a chruthú ar son chur chun cinn na teanga, go háirithe in Ultaibh.

Éigse Loch Lao was founded in 2010 by the Ulster University and Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain with the aim of celebrating and advancing Irish-language scholarship and literature in the city of Belfast through an annual series of events both scholarly/literary and social. The name Éigse Loch Lao (‘Literary assembly of Belfast Lough’) invokes the words of a ninth-century Irish poem composed from a vantage point over Loch Lao/Belfast Lough.

LANGUAGE PLANNING
In light of the work being undertaken in the Gaeltacht and in the Irish Language networks to draft and implement language plans, this conference will investigate issues relating to language planning. Among the speakers will be representatives from Foras na Gaeilge and from the lead organisations as well as other key stakeholder groups. As part of the occasion, a discussion forum will be organised to discuss the overarching plan for the promotion of Irish, especially in Ulster.

POST SHOW & EXHIBITION TALKS

NEW SHOW & EXHIBITION TALKS

SHOBANA JEYASINGH
DANCE
STAGING SCHIELE
FRI 25 OCT
GRAND OPERA HOUSE

MORE WORKSHOPS
Running alongside the Royal Ulster Academy of Arts 138th Annual Exhibition will be a series of education and events for audiences of all ages offering a range of opportunities to interact with the artworks and listen to artists talking about the inspirations behind their work see www.royalulsteracademy.org for details.

Dance and movement workshops for young people and schools are currently being designed as follows:

If you would like to get involved by yourself or with a community group in the above activities, please see the festival website for further details or contact enquiries@belfastinternationalartsfestival.com

More information on each of the above Ebrace events and many more are available on the Festival website. Places must be pre-booked in advance through the Festival box office or online.
MIX THE CITY BELFAST
CURATED BY HANNAH PEEL

Become a D.J. sample Belfast's distinct sights and sounds and create your own mix of the city.

#BelfastMusic

Make your own mix of Belfast at www.mixthecity.com/Belfast

Bringing great art within the reach of everyone

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Opera and Irish Chamber Orchestra touring production of ‘Radamisto’, May 2017 / Photo: Christopher Helby
AS MANY REPS AS POSSIBLE

INTERNATIONAL GROUP EXHIBITION

TUES 15 OCT – SUN 1 DEC  11AM – 4PM
(CLOSED MONDAYS)

THE NAUGHTON GALLERY
AT QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY
FREE

As Many Reps as Possible is the Naughton Gallery’s third annual sports exhibition, exploring the relationship between the worlds of art and sport. Featuring photography, sculpture, video and illustration, As Many Reps As Possible includes work by an international roster of artistic talent, showcasing some of the most exciting sports-influenced artworks being made today. Whilst celebrating sport and sports culture, the exhibition also explores issues around gender, sexuality, religion, and politics within a sports context.

SCREEN/PRINT: BRING IT ON
Tues 29 Oct, 6.20pm
1 hr 39 mins | Cert: 12
Queen’s Film Theatre
£6.95/£5.30
£4 Under 16 & Students

ROYAL ULSTER ACADEMY OF ARTS 138TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

FRI 18 OCT – SUN 5 JAN 10AM – 5PM
(CLOSED MONDAYS)

ULSTER MUSEUM
FREE

A long-term partner of the Festival and now in its 138th year, the exhibition provides a unique platform for acclaimed artists and emerging talent to showcase their artwork in the fabulous galleries at the Ulster Museum.

A high-quality education and events programme offers audiences of all ages a range of opportunities to interact with the artworks and listen to artists talking about the inspirations behind their work.

Exhibiting artists include Academy members such as Neisha Allen, Natalia Black, Betty Brown, David Crone, Ian Cumberland, Colin Davidson, Daniel Dowling, Denise Ferran, Julian Friers and Zoe Murdoch alongside artists such as Joy Gerrard (of “Shot Crowd” fame) John Kindness (Big Fish), and Cathy Wilkes (Belfast-born artist currently representing Great Britain at the Venice Biennale).
**Belfast Open Studios**

**NI**

**SAT 19 OCT**  **11AM – 5PM**

**CITYWIDE**  **FREE**

Artists welcome you into their workplaces.

This month, over 250 artists invite the public to visit their studios, see the work they are currently developing and catch a glimpse of the creative process in action.

Belfast Open Studios returns on Saturday 19th October for its sixth annual insight into the tremendous creative activity that is going on all around us, all of the time.

Visitors can expect to see paintings emerge from blank canvases, initial sketches becoming fully realised artworks and sculpture being formed from the raw materials. You will be able to see artworks that have never before been seen in public, as well as ones that have been exhibited in galleries around the world.

Visit belfastinternationalartsfestival.com for more details on participating venues.

**David Sherry**

**NI**

**SAT 19 OCT – SAT 23 NOV  11AM – 5PM**

**EXHIBITION LAUNCH**

**SAT 19 OCT 1PM – 3PM**

**GOLDEN THREAD GALLERY**  **FREE**

The Golden Thread Gallery is delighted to present a new solo exhibition and book by David Sherry. This exhibition of new works features large-scale sculpture, video, drawing and performance.

Creating an interactive experience for visitors, Sherry’s major new works relate to the current social and economic climate, while retaining his signature humour. His fantastical designs and concepts in his large-scale sculptures stretch our assumptions of what sculpture can and should be, and how visitors view and experience sculptural works.

**About the artist:**

Common acts of social interaction and the resulting omnipresent etiquette are central themes in David Sherry’s work.

**Missing Voices**

**NI**

**TUES 22 OCT – FRI 15 NOV  11AM – 4PM**

**ATYPICAL GALLERY, 109-113 ROYAL AVENUE**  **FREE**

Atypical Gallery presents Missing Voices, a participatory photographic project about the lives of young women with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), led by Queen’s University researcher Gillian O’Hagan and photographer Helen Sloan.

Over a five week period, Helen and Gillian worked with a group of nine adolescent girls from four schools across Belfast. Using smartphones, the girls produced a series of 34 photographs, giving a powerful and moving insight into their lives inside and outside of the mainstream school environment.

**EXHIBITION LAUNCH:**

**Mon 21 Oct, 6pm – 8pm**

**PANEL DISCUSSION:**

**Thurs 24 Oct, 7pm**

The panel will look at the importance of creative expression in helping girls with ASD to communicate their experience of the world around them and also discuss the chronic problem of misdiagnosis in female ASD.

**Design & Destroy**

Irish Society of Stage and Screen Designers

**IRELAND**

**THURS 31 OCT – SAT 2 NOV**

**THURS – FRI 5.30 – 7.30PM**

**SAT 12.30 – 2.30 AND 5.30 – 7.30PM**

**7 MINS**

**LYRIC THEATRE FOYER**  **FREE**

VR headsets are not suitable for children under 12.

This new exhibition meets designers and their work within a Virtual Reality world – in their studios, on stage, in 360° visualisations, and during the inevitable destruction of their creations.

Festival goers may recognise Ciaran Bagnall’s set and lighting design for Oona Doherty’s Hard to be Soft – A Belfast Prayer, which was commissioned for the 2017 Belfast International Arts Festival. So too Niall Rea’s set and lighting design for The Belfast Tempest (2016).

Other featured designers include John Comiskey, Peter Power, Katie Davenport, Sarah Jane Shiels, and Catherine Fay.

By using VR, the creators convey the reality that stage design exists for short and beautiful periods of time as well as the struggle to capture the essence of the live experience.

Curated by Jo Mangan, Artistic Director of Carlow Arts Festival.

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Curated by Jo Mangan, Artistic Director of Carlow Arts Festival.
Fifty years after its first release, this 2K digital restoration of Robert Bresson’s first colour film is a testament to the director’s cinematic poise.

Adapted from Dostoevsky’s 1876 short story, A Gentle Creature, and transposed to 1960s Paris, Une Femme Douce (A Gentle Woman) is a tragic portrayal of a young woman’s demise. Recently married, Elle (played by Dominique Sanda in her first screen role) is in a state of crisis, trampled by the impact of her crumbling relationship. In the wake of her sudden death, her husband (Guy Frangin) reflects on their unhappy marriage through a moving sequence of flashbacks.

Returning to the big screen with greater potency than before, as viewed through a contemporary lens of social and cinematic gendered violence, Bresson’s piercing and unforgettable film is the final word on the impact of the male gaze.

Une Femme Douce is presented as part of Cinema Rediscovered on Tour, a Watershed project with support from BFI awarding funds from The National Lottery.

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A crew including musicians Glen Hansard and Brendan Begley, artist Liam Holden, stonemason Brendan Moriarty, and late writer and poet Danny Sheehy embark on a voyage to the Camino by sea.

Together they take their naomhóg, a traditional boat they built themselves, on a gruelling 2,500km modern day Celtic odyssey all the way from Ireland to Northern Spain.

Pulling into coastal towns and villages en route, camping, cooking and nursing their blisters, this eclectic crew forged many new relationships, surprising those they met with the simplicity of their vessel and inspiring them with their courage, endurance, storytelling, music, poetry and song.

Director Dónal Ó Céilleachair’s extraordinarily beautiful film celebrates this expedition which, in the words of the late Danny Sheehy, led to the ‘deepening and renewing of friendships, creativity and spirituality.’

A special 50th anniversary screening, introduced by filmmaker Brian Henry Martin, whose favourite film is Midnight Cowboy, followed by Q&A with Brian and guests.

One of the British New Wave’s most versatile directors, John Schlesinger came to New York in the late 1960s to make Midnight Cowboy, a picaresque story of friendship that captured a city in crisis and sparked a new era of Hollywood movies. Jon Voight delivers a career-making performance as Joe Buck, a wide-eyed hustler from Texas hoping to score big with wealthy city women; he finds a companion in Enrico “Ratso” Rizzo, an ailing swindler with a quixotic fantasy of escaping to Florida, played by Dustin Hoffman in a radical departure from his breakthrough in The Graduate. A critical and commercial success despite controversy over what the Motion Picture Association of America termed its “homosexual frame of reference,” Midnight Cowboy became the first X-rated film to receive the best picture Oscar, and fifty years on, its influence still reverberates through cinema.
West Side Story

USA

SUN 27 OCT
2 HRS 30 MINS

STRAND ARTS CENTRE CERT U

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Royal Opera favourite Bryn Terfel heads the cast for this new production of Donizetti’s comedy of domestic drama across two generations. The witty story of a middle-aged man whose supposed young wife runs rings around him – with her own ulterior romantic purpose in mind - has long delighted and surprised audiences, not least as presented with the sparkle of its music and the virtuoso skill of its performers. Damiano Michieletto’s exhilarating production shows how contemporary the characters still are and how immediate and touching the story remains.

Don Pasquale, a wealthy old bachelor, is outraged when he hears his nephew Ernesto intends to marry the impoverished widow Norina. He determines to marry her himself and disinherit Ernesto. Ernesto and Norina despair, but their friend Doctor Malatesta promises to help them – and teach Pasquale a lesson.

Encore: The Royal Opera

ITALY/UK

SUN 27 OCT
2 HRS 30 MINS

STRAND ARTS CENTRE CERT U

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT

AUSTRALIA

THURS 24 OCT
1 HR 43 MINS

STRAND ARTS CENTRE CERT 15

£8

25th Anniversary Screening

When drag queen Anthony (Hugo Weaving) agrees to take his act on the road, he invites fellow cross-dresser Adam (Guy Pearce) and transsexual Bernadette (Terence Stamp) to come along. In their colourful bus, named Priscilla, the three performers travel across the Australian desert performing for enthusiastic crowds and homophobic locals. But when the other two performers learn the truth about why Anthony took the job, it threatens their act and their friendship.

Directed by Stephan Elliott.

Introduction and live performance before the film by a fabulous local drag act. Presented as part of the BFI Musicals UK-wide celebration.

Hoop Dreams

USA

THURS 24 OCT
6PM

QUEEN’S FILM THEATRE CERT 12
£6.95 FULL / £5.30 CONC. / £4 UNDER 16 & STUDENTS

25th Anniversary Screening and Director Q&A

Hoop Dreams (1994) is the remarkable true story of two American dreamers; an intimate reflection of contemporary American inner-city culture, following two ordinary young men on the courts of the game they love.

Plucked from the streets and given the opportunity to attend a suburban prep school and play for a legendary high school coach, William Gates and Arthur Agee soon discover their dreams of NBA glory become obscured amid the intense pressures of academic and family life, economics and athletic competitiveness. But most importantly, both boys remain focused on their dreams, no matter how hard tragedy strikes or how desperate their situation becomes.

This revelatory documentary continues to educate and inspire viewers, and widely considered one of the great works of American nonfiction cinema.

Directed by Steve James.

Book Now belfastinternationalartsfestival.com

This electrifying musical, co-directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins, sets the ageless tragedy of Romeo and Juliet in the slums of 1950s New York.

Natalie Wood stars as good girl Maria (dubbed vocally by Marni Nixon), who falls in love with handsome Tony, played by Richard Beymer, who happens to be the leader of the gang facing off against the faction led by Maria’s brother. Rita Moreno and George Chakiris complete the principal cast (and both won supporting Oscars).

The real star of the show, though, is Leonard Bernstein's glorious score.

From “Maria” to “Tonight” to “America” to “Somewhere,” West Side Story features one unforgettable tune after another (not to mention song lyrics by a twentysomething Stephen Sondheim).

Winner of 10 Academy Awards on its original release in 1961, no other musical comes close to matching it for sheer energy. Steven Spielberg’s forthcoming adaptation has big dancing shoes to fill.

Presented as part of the BFI Musicals UK-wide celebration.
In 2020, Galway will be European Capital of Culture

It will be a transformative year, where everyone gets the opportunity to experience culture in new and fun ways, in unexpected and surprising places. To keep up to date on what is happening please register for our newsletter at www.galway2020.ie

Hillsborough Castle, Co. Down

More stately scenery

Make sure you visit Hillsborough Castle, one of our most exclusive estates. You’ll love exploring the opulent gardens at this official Royal residence.
SONGS FOR MYSELF: POETRY JUKEBOX - LAUNCH

WED 16 OCT 1PM
C.S. LEWIS SQUARE
FREE

Critically acclaimed poet Alice McCullough curates a new edition of contemporary poetry for our favourite on-street audio installation, Poetry Jukebox. This edition is drawn from a world-wide call for submissions, featuring renowned poets who also self-identify as disabled.

In 2017, Belfast International Arts Festival launched the very first Poetry Jukebox on the island of Ireland. This latest edition integrates specific features to enhance access for those with hearing impairment and people who use wheelchairs. This permanent installation will be available 24 hours a day.

Supported by Arts Council of Northern Ireland, from National Lottery funds, Department for Communities, and Belfast City Council.

THE BIG WEE IRELAND TOUR

With Magi Gibson, Hugh McMillan, Joan Newmann, Seánin Hughes, Abby Olivera and Neil Young

THURS 17 OCT 8PM
THE AMERICAN BAR
£6/£5

Verbal fireworks and lyrical shenanigans from Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Renowned Scottish poets Magi Gibson and Hugh McMillan join a host of homegrown poets. Shankill Road-born Neil Young marks his homecoming with the launch of Shrapnel.

Also joining the evening is the revered Joan Newmann, one of the original members of Philip Hobsbaum’s ‘Belfast Group’ of poets, and the dynamic voices of Seánin Hughes and Abby Olivera.

This is a grassroots ‘Blue to Green/ Green to Blue’ alliance to promote exchange visits, readings and publications by poets from both sides of the Irish Sea, and to build on the shared cultural, social, linguistic and historical roots and influences.

CULTURAL WALKING TOURS OF BELFAST

WED 16 OCT & THURS 31 OCT 1.5 – 2 HRS
CATHEDRAL QUARTER TOUR
£5

FRI 18 OCT & SAT 26 OCT 1.5 – 2 HRS
QUIRKY BELFAST TOUR
£5

SAT 19 OCT & FRI 25 OCT 1.5 – 2 HRS
STREET STATUES & SCULPTURES TOUR
£5

Following on from the success of last year’s Walking Tours, we have again teamed up with the Northern Ireland Tourist Guide Association to bring you a series of cultural and interesting walking tours. The best way to explore the city is by foot and with highly knowledgeable Blue Badge guides leading the way you’ll experience a whole other side to Belfast.

Whether you are a resident of Northern Ireland who wants to know more about our capital or are visiting the city for the first time these tours are a must!

Choose from three unique and interesting tours exploring Belfast and its fascinating history, culture, architecture and quirkiness.

Booking in advance is strongly advised.

Cathedral Quarter Tour: St Anne’s Cathedral (starting point), Writer’s Square, Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church, Castle Place, Custom House Square, Albert Clock, Merchant Hotel, Old Market House, Northern Whig, John Hewitt & the MAC.

Quirky Belfast Tour: City Hall (starting point), Discover the hidden ‘quirky’ gems that you may have walked past many times but never really noticed.

Street Statues & Sculptures Tour: City Hall (starting point). Belfast has an abundance of art scattered around the city and this tour will ensure that you are able to understand and appreciate these wonderful works of art.
MARY COSTELLO & LINDA GRANT

THURS 17 OCT
APPROX 1 HOUR
7PM
NO ALIBIS BOOKSTORE
£6/£5

Two critically acclaimed novelists tackle the search for the meaning of home.

In Mary Costello’s The River Capture, Luke O’Brien has left Dublin for a quiet life by the River Sullane, where the serenity of this riverside retreat in West Cork is soon unsettled.

A Stranger City by Linda Grant is immersed in the clamour and calamity of contemporary London, when a dead body found caught in the chains of HMS Belfast on the Thames begins the search for a missing woman.

Mary Costello’s first novel, Academy Street, won the Irish Novel of the Year Award and Irish Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards.

Linda Grant won the Orange Prize for Fiction in 2000 and the Lettre Ulysees Prize for Literary Reportage in 2006, and was shortlisted for the Man Book Prize in 2008 for The Clothes on their Backs.

Chaired by John Self.

NIVEN GOVINDEN-THIS BRUTAL HOUSE

FRI 18 OCT
APPROX 1 HOUR
7PM
NO ALIBIS BOOKSTORE
£6/£5

Drag ball culture, for years an LGBTQ+ subculture, has come into the mainstream eye through TV shows and drag clubs. Niven Govinden’s This Brutal House illuminates themes of race, gender, and sexual orientation within society through the lens of the vogue ball community.

Govinden asks what happens when a generation remembered for a single, lavish decade has been forced to grow up, and what it means to be a parent in a confused and complex society.

He is the author of four previous novels, including All The Days And Nights, which was longlisted for the Folio Prize, and Black Bread White Beer, which won the 2013 Fiction Uncovered Prize.

Chaired by John Self.

BETH GARDINER - CHOKED: THE AGE OF AIR POLLUTION AND THE FIGHT FOR A CLEANER FUTURE

MON 21 OCT
APPROX 1 HOUR
7PM
UPSTAIRS AT THE MAC
£6/£5

Choked is the landmark book on one of the world’s most urgent health threats – the dirty air that kills more people than AIDS, diabetes and car accidents combined.

Beth Gardiner takes readers from the halls of power in Washington and the diesel-fogged London streets she walks with her daughter to Poland’s coal heartland and India’s gasping capital.

Beth will share the stories of those whose lives are shaped by air pollution – whether they know it or not.

It’s a sobering tale, but one infused with hope, as Choked makes clear that we hold the power to build a cleaner, healthier future.


"By putting a human face on a problem of environmental chemistry, Gardiner shows us the devastation up close, creating a sense of dismay but also urgency to improve lives."

WASHINGTON POST

Book Now  belfastinternationalartsfestival.com
It’s hard to express how much I loved Lanny. Books this good don’t come along very often. It’s a novel like no other, an exhilarating, disquieting, joyous read.

MAGGIE O’FARRELL

“Dead Papa Toothwort is awake.
An innovative hybrid of fairy tale, fable, and myth, Lanny (Faber, 2019) is Max Porter’s hugely anticipated second novel.

There’s a village sixty miles outside London. This village belongs to the people who live in it and to the people who lived in it hundreds of years ago. But it also belongs to Dead Papa Toothwort, a figure schoolchildren used to draw green and leafy, choked by tendrils growing out of his mouth.

He is listening, intently, for a mischievous, enchanting boy whose parents have recently made the village their home. Lanny.

Max Porter’s first novel, Grief Is the Thing with Feathers, was published to widespread acclaim in 2015, winning the Sunday Times/Peters, Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year, the International Dylan Thomas Prize, the Europese Literatuurprijs and the BAMF Readers’ Award. It has been translated into twenty-seven languages and was recently adapted by Enda Walsh into a stage production starring Cillian Murphy.

Chaired by John Self.

THE BLACK BOX
THE OCTAVIA POETRY COLLECTIVE

Max Porter - Lanny

TUES 22 OCT
APPROX 1 HOUR
7PM

Emilie Pine and John Kelly

SAT 26 OCT
APPROX 1 HOUR
1PM

THE OCTAVIA
POETRY
COLLECTIVE

Amina Jama, Sumia Jaama/Juxun and Rachel Long

WED 23 OCT
APPROX 1 HOUR
7PM

LOUNGE BAR, ULSTER SPORTS CLUB

£6/£5

Octavia is a poetry collective for women of colour, founded by poet, Rachel Long in response to the lack of inclusivity and representation in poetry and academia. Octavia are housed at the Southbank Centre, London. Since their creation in 2015, Octavia have read at venues from Tate Britain to Latitude Festival (where Solange touched Amina’s hand). They’ve led workshops at The Poetry School and The Serpentine Galleries, and featured in The Guardian, ASOS Magazine and on BBC’s World Service. Octavia closed Women of the World Festival 2017 with their poetry-film-dance response to Margaret Atwood’s seminal feminist novel, The Handmaid’s Tale.

Hosted by Hugh Odling-Smee.

It’s a novel like no other, an exhilarating, disquieting, joyous read.”

MAGGIE O’FARRELL

BOOK NOW
belfastinternationalartsfestival.com
JOSH COHEN - NOT WORKING: WHY WE HAVE TO STOP

Sun 27 Oct
Approx 1 Hour
2.30pm
Green Room, The Black Box
£6/£5

More than ever before, we live in a culture that denounces inactivity and demonizes idleness. A permanent busyness pervades even our quietest moments. Little wonder so many of us are burning out.

Psychoanalyst Josh Cohen explores the paradoxical pleasures, as well as human necessity of inactivity. Drawing on his personal experience and on stories from his consulting room, Josh punctuates his discussions with portraits of figures whose inactivity was a condition of imaginative freedom - Andy Warhol, Orson Welles and Emily Dickinson.

Not Working gets to the heart of the apathy so many of us feel when faced with the demands of contemporary life, and asks how we might live a different and more fulfilled existence. Josh Cohen is also Professor of Modern Literary Theory at Goldsmiths University of London. A regular contributor to the Guardian, New Statesman and TLS, he is an author of numerous books and articles on modern literature, psychoanalysis and cultural theory.

MEENA KANDASAMY - EXQUISITE CADAVERS

Mon 28 Oct
Approx 1 Hour
7pm
No Alibis Bookstore
£6/£5

Meena Kandasamy combines her love for the written word with the struggle for social justice through poetry, translation, fiction and essays. Her second novel, When I Hit You: Or, The Portrait of the Writer As A Young Wife (Atlantic, 2017), was a work of autofiction lifting the veil on the silence surrounding domestic violence and marital rape in India. Her latest novel, Exquisite Cadavers, is an extraordinary formally-inventive, beautiful at sentence-level novella written in response to the reaction to the reception of When I Hit You, with Meena deciding to write a novel “based on a story as removed from my own as possible…”

When I Hit You, was chosen as a book of the year by The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, Financial Times, and The Observer and was shortlisted for the Women’s Prize for Fiction 2018.

Chaired by Irish News columnist, Allison Morris.

GAVIN ESLER - BREXIT WITHOUT THE BULLSH*T

Wed 30 Oct
Approx 1 Hour
7pm
Conor Lecture Theatre, Ulster University, York Street
£8/£6

From fishing to passports, the backstop and the border, BBC TV veteran Gavin Esler presents a no-holds-barred guide to the most momentous change in the United Kingdom for decades. On the eve of the most recent deadline approved by the EU (at time of going to press), Esler presents his findings in Belfast, with Northern Ireland at the heart of the Brexit negotiations.

Brexit Without the Bullshit is not about the Brexit you were told you were getting. It’s about the one that is arriving.

Gavin Esler is journalist, television presenter and author. He was a main presenter of the BBC current affairs show Newsnight for 12 years until 2014. Gavin was born in Glasgow, and brought up in Edinburgh and Northern Ireland. He worked at The Belfast Telegraph and the BBC in Belfast during some of the worst of ‘the Troubles’. Since 2014, he has been the Chancellor of the University of Kent, a public speaker, and a political commentator and journalist. He is the author of five thrillers and three non-fiction books. In 2019 he stood for Change UK in the London region for election to the European Parliament. He contributes to the New European newspaper.

Chaired by BBC Northern Ireland’s Karen Patterson.

In association with Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, Historic Royal Palaces.
Maureen Boyle won the Ireland Chair of Poetry Prize in 2007 and the Strokestown International Poetry Prize in the same year. Her debut collection, *The Work of a Winter* (Arlen House) was shortlisted for the 2019 Strong/Shine Award.

Moyra Donaldson has published eight collections of poetry, most recently, *Carnivorous* (Doire Press). Her awards include the Women’s National Poetry Competition, and the Cúirt New Writing Award.

Since *Downpatrick Races* was published in 2000, Damian Smyth has published five more acclaimed collections of poems exploring the myths, people and locations of his native town, the most recent of which is *English Street* (Templar Poetry).

Presented in association with Poetry Ireland.

**THE BIG WORLD PODCAST**

A Conversation with Owen McCafferty

**JOHN HEWITT BIRTHDAY READING**

With Maureen Boyle, Moyra Donaldson and Damian Smyth

**KUMI NAIDOO - CLIMATE, RIGHTS AND HUMAN SURVIVAL**

Amnesty International Annual Lecture

**WINTER PAPERS VOL. 5**

Readings from contributors to the fifth edition of *Winter Papers*, an annual anthology for the arts in Ireland and beyond. A deluxe, tactile reading experience, the anthology offers fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography, visual arts, along with craft interviews and in-conversation pieces on film, visual art, theatre, comedy, writing, dance, photography and music. Published, edited, designed and printed in Ireland, *Winter Papers* is edited by Kevin Barry and Olivia Smith.

Kevin Barry is the award-winning author of the novels *Beatlebone* and *City of Bohane* and the story collections *Dark Lies the Island* and *There are Little Kingdoms*. His most recent novel *Night Boat to Tangier* was published earlier this year. Olivia Smith has published widely as an academic.

Chaired by Ian Sansom.

Unfortunately venue is not wheelchair accessible.
Michael Rosen is one of the best-known figures in the children’s book world, renowned for his work as a poet, performer, broadcaster and scriptwriter, and has been involved with over 140 books. Michael Rosen was one of the first poets to visit schools and is committed to the teaching of writing and the reading of literature in schools. As the fifth Childrens Laureate, and a passionate proponent of children reading, he is a powerful advocate for libraries, and the arts in education.

He lectures and teaches in universities on children’s literature, reading and writing.

Michael has been broadcasting on BBC World Service and Radio 4 and 3 since 1987, and hosts BBC Radio 4’s Word of Mouth, the magazine programme that looks at the English language and the way we use it. He visits schools with his one-man show to enthuse children with his passion for books and poetry.

In drawing closely on his own childhood experiences he continues to introduce new generations of children to the delights of poetry. This event, for parents and children of all ages, is an enthusiastic celebration of libraries and why we must fight to save them, and features poems and stories from throughout a career spanning almost 50 years.

Hosted by Festival Artistic Director, Richard Wakely.

Kerry Hudson is proudly working class but she was never proudly poor. The poverty she grew up in was all-encompassing, grinding and often dehumanising. Always on the move with her single mother, Kerry attended nine primary schools and five secondaries, living in B&Bs and council flats. She scored eight out of ten on the Adverse Childhood Experiences measure of childhood trauma.

Twenty years later, Kerry’s life is unrecognisable. She’s a prizewinning novelist who has travelled the world. She has a secure home, a loving partner and access to art, music, film and books. But she often finds herself looking over her shoulder, caught somehow between two worlds.

Lowborn is an exploration of the towns she grew up in to try to discover what being poor really means in Britain today and whether anything has changed.

Kerry Hudson was born in Aberdeen. Her novels include Tony Hogan Bought Me an Ice-cream Float Before He Stole My Ma, which won the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust First Book Award and was shortlisted for an array of prizes including the Guardian First Book Award and the Sky Arts Awards, and Thirst. Lowborn is her first work of non-fiction.

Chaired by Hillary Copeland.
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- **F&VA** Minutes in Motion, Visit Belfast, 42
- **F&VA** As Many Reps As Possible, Naughton Gallery, 42

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T&D Ireland’s Call
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T&D New Playwrights
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T&D Lady Magna
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St Anne’s Cathedral 52

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CS Lewis Square 53

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T&D New Playwrights
Lyric Theatre 11

T&D Lady Magna
The MAC 20

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Ulster Hall 51

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West Side Story
Queen’s Film Theatre 46

F & VA T & I
Poetry Jukebox
CS Lewis Square 53

F & VA T & I
Michael Rosen
Ulster Museum 62

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FESTIVAL 2019 VENUES

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2. The American Bar
3. Golden Thread Gallery
4. The MAC
5. Ulster University
6. The Telegraph Building
7. Sunflower Public House
8. University of Atypical
9. The John Hewitt Bar
10. The Worst Cafe, Hill Street & The Black Box
11. Ulster Sports Club
12. Linen Hall Library
13. Visit Belfast
14. Belfast City Hall
15. Grand Opera House
16. Ulster Hall
17. Limelight
18. Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
19. CS Lewis Square
20. Strand Arts Centre
21. St Mark’s Dundela
22. The Belfast Empire Music Hall
23. Crescent Arts Centre
24. No Alibis
25. Harty Room, Queen’s University
26. Queens Film Theatre
27. The Naughton Gallery at Queen’s
28. Ulster Museum
29. Botanic Gardens
30. Lyric Theatre Belfast
31. Europa Hotel
BOX OFFICE
Visit Belfast Welcome Centre
028 9024 6609
info@visitbelfast.com

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