

BIAF Programme 2024

16th October - 23rd November

Principal Funder

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Festival Funders

Belfast City Council
Tourism Northern Ireland,
Northern Ireland, Embrace a Giant Spirit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
British Council Northern Ireland

Programme Partners

Arts & Business, Northern Ireland
Belfast: City Of Music
Belfast 2024
Cathedral Quarter Bid
Culture Ireland
Foyle Foundation

Community Ticketing Partner: Belfast
Harbour
Box Office: Visit Belfast
Spirit Of Festival: Jawbox Gin
Wine Partner: United Wines, Marques
de Caceres

Festival Partners:

Abbey Theatre
Áras Mhic Reachtain
BBC Introducing LIVE
BBC Radio 3
Belfast Music Society
Beyond Skin
Big Telly Theatre Company
Bocas Lit Fest
The British Academy
British Council UK/ France Spotlight

Cahoots
Centre Culturel Irlandais
CoisCéim Dance
EastSide Arts
Conflict Textiles
The Crescent
Féile an Phobail
FinTru
Golden Thread Gallery
Grand Opera House
The John Hewitt Society
Kansas City: City of Music
Luail - Ireland's National Dance
Company
The Linen Hall
Lyric Theatre
The MAC
The Naughton Gallery at Queens
Northern Ireland Tourist Guide
Association
Northern Attitudes Dance Company
Off The Rails Dance
Output Belfast
Poetry Ireland
Poetry Jukebox
PrimeCut Productions
Queen's Film Theatre (QFT)
Queen's University Belfast (QUB)
Queen's Street Studios (QSS)
Royal Ulster Academy of Arts
SoLab
Belfast Exposed
Tinderbox Theatre Company
Theatre and Dance Ni
Ulster Museum
Ulster Orchestra
Ulster University

Director's Welcome

Belfast International Arts Festival returns for its 62nd edition this October, bringing together today's leading artists, writers, thinkers and cultural observers for an extended bumper five weeks of entertaining and enlightening talks, readings, exhibitions and performance from home and abroad. Our mission is to bring people together, to promote international understanding, social cohesion, and to celebrate diversity through the creative arts. Together with our many creative and community partners, we work to create, produce and present inspiring artistic experiences that highlight the very best of our city and country.

As in recent years, we invite you to enjoy the special events in our advance summer season; 'Threads of Empowerment: Conflict Textiles' International Journey' at the Ulster Museum and 'Roots', a new outdoor dance performance and audio trail from former artist in residence, Eileen McClory for Off The Rails at the new Black Mountain Shared Space.

Our autumn festival opens on 16 October with 'The Tragedy of Richard III' by Oisín Kearney and Michael Patrick for The Lyric Theatre and continues with new theatre from Tinderbox Theatre Company, Big Telly, Prime Cut and Dominic Montague and our critically acclaimed collaboration with Cahoots – 'The Vanishing Elephant' – which opened last October on Broadway in New York and was a Critic's Choice in The New York Times. Alongside new dance works from Helen Hall and Michael McEvoy, these events also feature in a major showcase for visiting international arts programmers, generously supported by Culture Ireland.

We're delighted to support the Belfast 2024 programme with our own production of 'Touch, Hear, Feel', a new dance performance installation from current Festival Artist in Residence, Helen Hall and co-designed with members of the visually impaired community; 'North Star' an immersive live music performance from new ensemble Solab and inspired by the historic speech given by orator, writer, and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass in Belfast in 1845; and the aforementioned 'Roots'.

We continue to profile important contemporary artists from the Arab world and this year, we are honoured to host a double bill of dance and movement from Palestine – 'Losing It' and 'In Between' – in partnership with Festival and Féile an Phobail and also supported by Belfast 2024 and the British Council. A diverse range of music genres includes concerts from Les Amazones d'Afrique; Ciaran Lavery launching his new album; the return of BBC Introducing; Iron and Wine; and the Ulster Orchestra, who also guest with blues legends Dave Kelly and Paul Jones in a special collaboration at The Grand Opera House.

In a packed visual arts programme, we are particularly delighted to promote Ulster University's celebrations for the 175th anniversary of the Belfast School of Art. Our Talks and Ideas strand welcomes Michael Longley to celebrate his new collection 'Ash Keys', as well as many other acclaimed writers including David Peace, Naomi Alderman, Ingrid Persaud, and Sunjeev Sahota.

As always, we have many free events including exhibitions, workshops and performances, including the spectacular and acrobatic WILD from Motionhouse at CS Lewis Square. We look forward to seeing you at many of our events.

Richard Wakely, Artistic Director and Chief Executive

Chairperson's Foreword

It is with immense pride and a profound sense of responsibility that I write to you as the new Chair of Belfast International Arts Festival. For over six decades, Festival has been a beacon of creativity, resilience, and innovation, and 2024 is no exception.

Reflecting on the success of the 2023 festival, we welcomed 46,156 attendees to experience a vibrant and diverse programme. A highlight was our new partnership with BBC Introducing, featuring a special guest appearance by Snow Patrol. This partnership, which continues into 2024, has broadened our reach and enriched our programme.

Our commitment to inclusiveness continues through our Community Ticket Scheme, providing free tickets to community groups such as people seeking asylum, LGBTQ+ communities, and young people facing homelessness. Supported by Belfast Harbour Commissioners, we were recognised

with the Arts & Business NI's 'Commitment to Diversity Award 2023'. Festival's international appeal is growing, with 9.5% of our 2023 audience being Out-of-State visitors, up from 8% in 2022. This increase underscores the festival's role in attracting visitors to our vibrant city.

From our 2023 Audience Survey, 95% of respondents would recommend Festival to friends and family, and 98% believe that it promotes Belfast and Northern Ireland positively.

Despite serious budgetary constraints, the true spirit of the arts shines brightest in adversity. We are more determined than ever to ensure Festival thrives, exploring new funding avenues, forging partnerships, and harnessing digital platforms to reach wider

audiences. Our mission is to make the arts accessible to all, breaking down financial, social, and geographical barriers.

Festival would not be possible without the generous support of our Principal Funder, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, as well as Belfast City Council, Tourism Northern Ireland, the British Council, and the Government of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs. We owe them, and our many other partners and stakeholders, a debt of gratitude for their unwavering support.

I would also like to acknowledge my predecessors, Louise Johnston and Professor Jackie McCoy, for their professionalism and commitment in recent years, and Richard Wakely, whose leadership and vision have been instrumental in shaping Festival. As we embark on another year of artistic exploration and cultural celebration, I invite you to join us in experiencing the transformative power of the arts. Let us continue to build on our successes and create unforgettable moments that will inspire and uplift our community.

Fiona Kane, Chairperson, Belfast International Arts Festival

Arts Council NI Foreword

As the principal investor in Belfast International Arts Festival, Arts Council is delighted to welcome another wonderful contribution to this great annual celebration of the arts. This is a festival which prides itself on reflecting and responding to contemporary arts and cultures from around the world, in all their richness and diversity, so audiences know that we will be introduced to new ideas, new experiences and new inspirations.

This beautifully curated programme enhances connections between artists and arts made in Northern Ireland, and the wider international scene. Several of our finest local companies are represented here, some returning with work that has already been celebrated far beyond our shores, some with work that soon will be. They are joined by a number of the most exciting and significant artists from West Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America, with whose art Northern Irish audiences may be just a little less familiar. For now.

It's important to both the festival and the Arts Council that all this great art should be available to everyone and that people from all backgrounds have the opportunity to share in these amazing experiences. The Embrace programme, community ticketing incentives and free public events all help to create a truly welcoming, enjoyable and special festival for all.

Roisín McDonough, Chief Executive, Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Box Office

How can I book a ticket?

Book online 24/7: BelfastInternationalArtsFestival.com

Call or visit Box Office at Visit Belfast Welcome Centre:

9 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GB

Telephone: 028 9024 6609

Box Office Enquiries: ticketing@visitbelfast.com

Visit Belfast Opening Hours:

August: Mon - Sat 9am - 6.30pm | Sun 11am - 4pm

September: Mon - Sat 9am - 6pm | Sun 11am - 4pm

October - November: Mon - Sat 9am - 5.30pm | Sun 11am - 4pm

Ticket Deals

Please sign up to our mailing list at belfastinternationalartsfestival.com for exclusive ticket offers.

Free carer tickets available: contact our Box Office for more info and for further details on access services. For advice on wheelchair seats, contact the venue Box Office directly.

Community Tickets

If you work with a community group and would be interested in hearing about our scheme on selected events please contact:

greta@belfastinternationalartsfestival.com.

Company No: NI 631354

Charity No: NIC 103560

Festival Team

Festival Board:

Chairperson: Fiona Kane

Sharon Doherty

Kim Mawhinney

James McIlroy

Artistic Director & Chief Executive:

Richard Wakely

General Manager: Naomi Conway

Marketing Manager: Paul Rice

Fundraising Manager: Karin Jeffrey

Development Manager: Mags White

Technical Director: Phil McCandlish

Festival Operations Manager:

Dermot McGowan

Literary Manager: Alan Simpson

Marketing Officer: Andrew Moore

Project Manager: Becky Turnock

Festival Engagement Officer:

Greta Kelly

Press Team: Orry Robinson & Lauren Irwin

Summer Programme

Roots

Off The Rails Dance / Eileen McClory

Northern Ireland

Black Mountain Shared Space

Sat 10 – Sun 18 August

3pm (Not Sat) & 7pm

No shows Mon 12 & Tues 13.

£13 full, £10 concession

Duration: 1hr 15 mins

Age Guidance: 11+

Step into the newly planted interactive community garden at the Black Mountain Shared Space and experience 'Roots', a unique performance that blends dance, poetry, storytelling, and active participation.

Under the artistic direction of choreographer Eileen McClory, with immersive sound design by Isaac Gibson, dramaturgy by Hanna Slattne, and poetry by Maria McManus, 'Roots' invites you to embark on an extraordinary journey reflecting on our kinship with nature.

You will watch, listen, move, touch, and connect as you journey through the garden and immerse yourself in a vibrant celebration of growth and unity. Created in collaboration with the Black Mountain community, 'Roots' aims to transform a shared but contested space at Belfast's 'million brick' peace wall, that divides the Springmartin and Springfield communities. Join us on the mountain, where art and nature intertwine to rewrite the narrative of Belfast's public spaces.

An Audio-trail only experience continues from 30 August.

Booking required - see BIAF website.

Commissioned by Belfast 2024

Threads of Empowerment: Conflict Textiles' International Journey

Ulster Museum

International

Until Sun 27 April

10am - 5pm (Tues - Sun)

Free

Through textile narrative, people from countries across the world have communicated their experiences of violence and conflict, human rights violations, poverty, oppression and environmental issues. The result is a visual record and a form of artistic expression based on personal, and often very poignant testimonies. This collaborative exhibition presents highlights from the internationally important Conflict Textiles collection, exploring its history, its international diversity and the important themes it addresses.

For the exhibition programme and more info, including details of related talks and events, visit the BIAF website or ulstermuseum.org.

Theatre & Dance

The Tragedy of Richard III

A Lyric Theatre Production

Adapted by Michael Patrick & Oisín Kearney

Directed by Oisín Kearney

Northern Ireland

Lyric Theatre

Wed 16 October – Sun 10 November

7:30pm (Tues – Sat), 2:30pm (Sat & Sun)

£35 - £15

Richard, the King's youngest brother has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and is now disabled. With the war over and his brother on the throne, Richard has no purpose. What will he do with his dying days "but dream upon the crown"? Watch as Richard rejects an ableist society and sets in motion a bloody chain of events that will lead to death and destruction. This adaptation of Shakespeare's Richard III is a timeless tragedy about the hunger for power and the desperate rejection of fate in the face of certain death.

"Since the heav'ns have shap'd my body so, Let hell make crook'd my mind to answer it."

Includes scenes of violence, strong language, flashing lights and smoke or haze effects.

Yerma

Federico Garcia Lorca, Adapted and Directed by Patrick J O'Reilly

Tinderbox Theatre

Northern Ireland

Lyric Theatre, Naughton Studio
Thur 17 October – Sun 3 November
8pm (Tues – Sat) | 3pm (Sat & Sun)
£20 - £15
Duration: 1hr 30 mins, Age Guidance: 15+

Tinderbox presents a dark and seductive telling of Lorca's powerful tragedy set in contemporary Ireland.

Against the shadows of the Cooley Mountains, turmoil lurks beneath a family gathering. As Yerma and her husband navigate a family christening, their strained relationship is laid bare. Will Yerma's yearning for a child drive her to despair, or can she find a way to defy societal expectations?

Experience Lorca's masterpiece of love, loss, and longing in this gripping production by the multi-award-winning Tinderbox Theatre Company.

Contains themes of violence, sexuality, drugs, & fertility.

The Piece with the Drums

David Bolger, CoisCéim Dance Theatre
The MAC
Fri 18 & Sat 19 October, 7.45pm
£18 full, £16 concession
Duration: 50 mins

We vibe, we vibrate, hearts pumping, rhythm jumping,
Drumming up the earth's vibrations,
Infusing our heartbeat, our breath...

Pulsating with theatrical magic, The Piece with the Drums is a joyous, driving dance narrative between dancer and percussion. Directed and choreographed by David Bolger, with music, beats and everything in between by pioneering jazz percussionist Conor Guilfoyle, it's a colourful exploration of relationships, spirituality, and our connection to rhythm, life and the cosmos.

Post show discussion: Fri 18 Oct

Losing It + In Between : Double Bill

Samaa Wakim & Samar Haddad King (Losing It)
Esam Sultan (In Between)

Palestine

In partnership with Féile an Phobail

The MAC

Fri 25 & Sat 26 October, 8pm

£15 full, £13 concession

Duration: 1 hr approx, Age Guidance: 14+

An electric evening of performance from Palestine exploring the trauma of war through movement and sound. In 'Losing It', the Palestinian choreographer and performer Samaa Wakim asks herself how growing up in a war zone has impacted her identity and how the trauma of previous generations manifests in her own body.

Samaa dives into memories of growing up under occupation, exploring the various realities she lives in, and the fantasies she's created in order to survive. As fear overtakes her, her world begins to disintegrate: the floor becomes unstable and the sounds begin to warp; reality and fantasy blur. With a live score by Samar Haddad King and a soundscape featuring field recordings taken throughout Palestine.

Palestinian circus performer, Esam Sultan opens the evening with his latest short creation 'In Between'. 'In Between' depicts an innocent Palestinian born into a life of struggle, who dreams of a better life but battles against alienation and loneliness.

Content warning: Loud sounds/ high frequencies. Themes of war/ trauma.

Post show discussion: Fri 25 Oct.

Part of Belfast 2024.

Supported by the British Council Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Aurora: A Modern Myth

By Dominic Montague, Directed by Emma Jordan

Prime Cut Productions

Northern Ireland

The MAC

Thur 24 October – Sat 2 November, 7:30pm

£25 full, £16 concession

Duration: 2 hrs, Age Guidance: 14+

Cass is on a mission to save her friend. They've been close since childhood and she'll do anything for her mates; even when the mate in question is a tree. She has a plan, an industrial-strength chain, and... well that's enough to begin with.

Set in a fictional Irish village following the opening of a new gold mine, 'Aurora: A Modern Myth' follows Cass' protest as she grapples with what comes next for us and our planet.

Brought to you by the multi-award-winning Prime Cut Productions, this World Premiere of a new work by Dominic Montague is a definite Festival highlight.

Signed performance: Tues 29 October.

Post-show discussion: Wed 30 October.

Wild

Motionhouse

United Kingdom

CS Lewis Square

Sat 26 October, 1pm & 3:15pm

FREE – no booking required

Duration: 45 mins, Suitable for all ages

What is it to be wild? Motionhouse presents its gravity-defying dance circus production WILD, exploring humanity's growing disconnect with the natural world and our impact on the environment.

Showcasing the powerful physicality distinctive to this trailblazing company, this daring show has been a major hit with audiences since its premiere in 2019. WILD creates an urban forest in the everyday of the city as performers move through a forest of tall poles, which form the striking set for WILD.

Watch as the performers move animal-like through the dangerous world of the forest floor, taking refuge high in the canopy. In our modern lives, can the wild still shape human behaviour?

The Vanishing Elephant

Charles Way, Cahoots

Northern Ireland

Grand Opera House

Thur 31 October – Sat 2 November, 7pm (Thur – Sat) | 2:30pm (Sat)

£24 - £22

Family Ticket: £79 (Thur only, 4 tickets, max 2 adults)

Duration: 1hr 40 mins, Age Guidance: 8+

In Bengal, a young boy named Opu dreams of becoming an elephant trainer. When he befriends Janu, an Asian elephant, their friendship is the first step on an adventure so huge, it spans decades and continents.

On their separate paths, they face fearsome encounters, stormy seas and strange new worlds. Years later, Opu, now an old man, learns that world famous magician Harry Houdini will vanish an elephant, live on stage in New York... could it really be Janu?

Cahoots' magical story of friendship, belonging and adventure is brought to life with extraordinary puppetry and astonishing illusions.

"An alluring spectacle" New York Times Critic's Pick

Check online for info on accessible performances.

Visit our website for details on a programme of related creative workshops and activities, generously funded by Department of Foreign Affairs: Reconciliation Fund.

Granny Jackson's Dead

Big Telly Theatre Company

Northern Ireland

47 Malone Road, Belfast

Thurs 31 October - Sun 3 November

Thur: 9:30pm

Fri & Sat: 12pm, 6pm, 8pm

Sun: 1pm & 3pm

£17.50 full, £15 concession

Duration: 1hr, Age Guidance: 14+

'Granny Jackson's Dead'... but her story isn't.

Her family would like to invite all those who knew her to 47 Malone Road, (except the Kelly's from the Glens, anyone from the council, Big Jim, Miss Gilmour, and Brendan - he knows what he did) to pay their respects and give her a good send off. She will be dearly missed by her devoted, adoring, clever, beautiful, hardworking, long-suffering, generous-to-a-fault daughter Susan, and by the rest of the family.

P.S. anyone who would like to connect with her, she will also be streamed across several platforms and mixed realities – Darren Jackson (grandson).

Content Warning: Themes of death, grief. Use of flashing lights, loud noises, fire. This is a promenade performance and audiences will be moving around the space throughout. This performance features immersive technology.

The Gate House

Northern Attitudes Dance Company

Co-produced by Prime Cut Productions.

St Anne's Cathedral

Fri 1 & Sat 2 November, 7:30pm (Fri & Sat), 5pm (Sat)

£15

Duration: 1 hr, Age Guidance: 12+

'The Gate House' will bring you to a Belfast you've never before experienced. Inspired by Michael McEvoy's own personal history as well as that of his father and grandfather, 'The Gate House' shares a young man's love for Belfast and stories of heartbreak and hope passed down from generation to generation.

'The Gate House' is an exploration of the past as a means to inspire the future. Come into the Gate House Pub, sit by the fire and experience the incredible music of Joshua Burnside, as Michael and his cast of 7 dancers take you on a journey through three generations of Belfast stories.

Touch, Hear, Feel

Helen Hall

Northern Ireland

39 Corporation Street

Fri 1 – Mon 4 November

Fri, Sat & Mon: 2.30pm & 6.30pm (doors),

Sun: 12.30pm & 4.30pm (doors)

£5 full, £3 concession

Duration: 45 mins, Age Guidance: 12+

'Touch, Hear, Feel' is both an interactive installation and an immersive dance performance by choreographer and visual artist Helen Hall, BIAF's current Artist-in-Residence.

'Touch, Hear, Feel' reconsiders the way we experience art, pushing the boundaries beyond the visual by engaging our other senses.

The multi-sensory installation invites you to physically engage with the work, breaking down the barrier between observer and art. An accompanying audio narrative, featuring the voices of blind and partially sighted people, provides insights into their experiences of touch.

The installation space is also the stage for a new dance piece choreographed by Helen and performed by herself and two other dancers, exploring the theme of touch and the felt experience of dance.

'Touch, Hear, Feel' was developed in a series of co-designed workshops with the blind and partially sighted community, in collaboration with the RNIB, Open Arts and University of Atypical. Their diverse perspectives and lived experiences form the heart of the project.

Commissioned by Belfast 2024.

For details on accessibility, visit the BIAF website.

Impasse

Mufutau Yusuf, Luail

Ireland

The MAC

Wed 6 November, 7:45pm

£18 full, £16 concession

Age Guidance: 12+

Content warning: This production includes partial nudity.

'Impasse' is a compelling exploration of ethnicity, identity and the experience of the Black diaspora.

In this powerful work, two performers confront the biased narratives etched onto Black bodies throughout history. These narratives, steeped in cultural imperialism, are laid bare with raw physicality and emotional intensity.

By challenging the historical racial projections of blackness – its crudeness, threat, sexuality, rage and immorality – the performance unveils its power, grace, sensuality, tenderness, intelligence and love.

'Impasse' goes beyond mere exploration and invites a reshaping of our sense of self and community. It reclaims our humanity and celebrates the autonomy and self-determination of Black bodies.

This performance of 'Impasse' marks the first presentation of work in Northern Ireland produced with Luail, Ireland's National Dance Company.

Chicken

Sunday's Child

Ireland

Lyric Theatre

Wed 6 – Sun 10 November,

8pm (Wed – Sat) | 3pm (Sat & Sun)

£20 - £15

Duration: 1 hr, Age Guidance: 13+

Don Murphy is a proud Irish man, a hopeless ketamine addict and one of his generation's greatest actors.

He also happens to be a chicken. A Kerry cock to be precise. Across one fateful night, the feathered Oscar winner shares his star-studded story with an intimate audience - from getting his big break, to his first bird on bird sexual experience, to navigating life in the (human-dominated) celebrity spotlight.

But along the way, Don will be confronted with some harsh truths about himself, chicken-kind and humankind.

“as sharp as a wishbone, with just the same potential to catch in the throat.” The Skinny

Music

Rhythm and Romance

Ulster Orchestra

Northern Ireland

Ulster Hall

Fri 18 October, 7:45pm

£37 - £10, £8 concession, £6 Under 16s

Duration: 2 hrs approx

Bernstein's Three Dance Episodes from 'On The Town' start a riotous orchestral celebration that continues with Joe Chindamo's new work, 'Ligeia'. Peter Moore takes on a no-holds-barred virtuoso showcase of all the trombone's sonorities, from its

melodic tenderness to its capacity to bend, growl and swing as if on-stage at Ronnie Scott's or Birdland – it's the party you won't want to miss!

This season, the Ulster Orchestra are also plunging into the romantic melodies and vivid orchestral colours of Rachmaninoff's symphonies, starting with the darkly fiery Symphony No. 1.

Conductor: Alevtina Ioffe Trombone: Peter Moore

Cáis, Ceol, 's Ól

Featuring Cíara Ní Tháth, Lorraine Ní Bhriain & Fíona Ní Mhearáin

Ireland

Áras Mhic Reachtain

Fri 18 October, 6:30pm (doors)

£36 - £15

Duration: 3 hrs, Age Guidance: 18+

A bespoke cultural, culinary evening which includes four dainty, sweet and savoury dishes lovingly prepared by Caifé Ceoil's chef and live traditional accompaniment throughout the evening by acclaimed Irish harpist Cíara Ní Tháth, Lorraine Ní Bhriain (concertina), and Fíona Ní Mhearáin (flute).

Cíara Ní Tháth has played at many prestigious events and venues as a soloist including Slane Castle, Dublin Castle, the National Concert Hall, Dublin, and the Ulster Hall.

The Mysterines

UK

Ulster Sports Club

Sat 19 October, 6:30pm (doors)

£18

Age Guidance: 18+

Fresh from supporting Bloc Party and Arctic Monkeys at massive arena dates, The Mysterines bring their electrifying live show to Belfast this autumn.

Fronted by vocalist, guitarist, and primary songwriter Lia Metcalfe, with George Favager (bass), Callum Thompson (guitar), and Paul Crilly (drums), The Mysterines have been lauded as the first great British rock band of the post-pandemic era.

Their new album 'Afraid of Tomorrows' is the highly-anticipated follow up to their critically-acclaimed Top 10 debut 'Reeling'. Produced by Grammy winner John

Congleton (St. Vincent, Angel Olsen), the album is a deeper and darker foray into their psyche.

Lead single 'Stray' premiered on BBC Radio 1 as Clara Amfo's Hottest Record.

Väsen

Sweden

SARC

Sun 20 October, 7:30pm (doors)

£15 full, £12 concession

Duration: 1hr 30 mins

Swedish folk royalty Väsen present an evening of new and traditional folk music within the immersive sound environment of SARC's Sonic Laboratory, including a new suite by Chris Corrigan for nyckelharpa, electric viola and live electronics.

Väsen are a unique presence in folk music. After almost 40 years of performing together, Olov Johansson and Mikael Marin have perfected their craft, with telepathic interplay creating richly textured music that is at once intense and full of humour.

With SARC-based composer, sound engineer and fiddle player Chris Corrigan, their new suite explores sympathetic resonances between the Swedish and Irish folk traditions.

Iron and Wine

USA

Mandela Hall

Tues 22 October, 7pm (doors)

£34.50

Age Guidance: 18+

Iron & Wine makes a long-overdue return to Belfast, following the release of his seventh full-length album 'Light Verse' earlier this year.

Iron & Wine spearheaded the indie folk revolution of the 00s, thanks to a string of critically acclaimed albums showcasing Sam Beam's hushed vocals and intricate guitar work, including 2007's modern classic 'The Shepherd's Dog'.

'Light Verse' is a lovingly handmade and incredibly self-assured record, with lyrics filled with personal insights, desperate characters and wide-eyed optimists, offering both promise and heartache.

“that distinctive voice is a foundation for towering songs, an album that grows and blooms with epic crescendos” - Spin

North Star

Solab

Northern Ireland

The Telegraph Building

Thur 24 & Fri 25 October, 7pm (doors)

£20

Duration: 1hr 17 mins, Age Guidance: 18+

North Star is an immersive live music performance, inspired by the historic speech given by orator, writer and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass in Belfast in 1845. Douglass, considered a fugitive slave at the time, declared, “wherever else I feel myself to be a stranger, I will remember I have a home in Belfast.”

In response to this powerful moment, Grammy Award winner Kaidi Tatham, award-winning poet Nandi Jola, rising stars Leo Miyagee and Winnie Ama, and special guests Hannah Peel and Colin Salmon, along with nearly 100 pupils from four Belfast schools, have co-created a spectacular showcase of music, art, and literature, deeply rooted in Black cultures.

This ground-breaking show has been commissioned as part of Belfast 2024 and will be delivered in stunning surround sound featuring performance from Arco String Quartet, Joseph Leighton, Ben Flavelle-Cobain, Stephen Davis, Rick Swann, Thomas Annang, and PVN Gospel Choir led by Angela Ifonlaja with arrangements by Jennifer John.

Commissioned by Belfast 2024.

BBC Introducing LIVE

Northern Ireland

Mandela Hall

Fri 25 October, 6pm (Doors)

Age guidance: 18+

BBC Introducing LIVE returns to the Festival for a second year, showcasing unmissable performances from Northern Ireland’s rising stars. This year’s line-up includes Introducing ATL supported artists Le Boom, CHERYM, Dea Matrona, and TRAMP.

Introducing LIVE, BBC Introducing’s flagship music discovery event, is held annually across the UK over the month of October. It features live performances, workshops,

open mic and open deck sessions, as well as feedback centres and networking events to help support emerging musicians and creatives, and inspire the next generation of music industry talent.

Notable artists including Ed Sheeran, Raye, Sam Fender and Wet Leg received BBC Introducing support early in their careers.

Fite Fuaite

Ireland

Áras Mhic Reachtain

Fri 25 October, 8pm (doors)

£15

Age Guidance: 18+

An electrifying evening of experimental, electronica, indie-rock, and traditional music, performed by some of the most innovative modern Irish music collectives.

HHH create cutting-edge contemporary Irish music that can't be conveniently pigeonholed. The collective formed by Rob Mulhern are breaking new ground in modern Irish music.

Belfast's The Shan Vans have generated a huge buzz on the back of their raw, infectious indie-rock coupled with blistering live performances.

Neil Ó Briain is a multi-instrumental composer, arranger, and virtuoso guitarist. Hailing from Cork, he weaves melody, bass and harmony together for compelling performances.

Second floor concert hall with no lift access, we apologise for any inconvenience. No bar facilities, but BYO.

Introducing The Savage Five: Contemporary Art Song for voice and string ensemble.

Northern Lights Mini-fest, Belfast Music Society

Northern Ireland / Netherlands / Germany

The Duncairn

Fri 25 October, 7.30pm

£20 full, £15 concession, £5 student

All 3 Mini-fest concerts: £50 full, £38 concession

Charismatic Belfast-born soprano and jazz singer Suzanne Savage collaborates with string ensemble the Savage Five to create genre-defying songscapes that weave Irish music traditions with a range of dynamic musical styles.

The Savage Five comprise Hugo Smit (Cello), Alwyn Thomas Westbrooke (Violin), Rachel Yates (Viola) and Sven Otte (Double bass). Citing influences as broad as Cole Porter, Björk and Bartók, the ensemble shift from delicately arranged stillness to full-blooded whirling dervish.

Add to this the unmistakable influence of Irish music and Suzanne Savage's distinctive, crystalline voice that speaks of a deep connection to the landscape.

The Fidelio Trio

Northern Lights Mini-fest, Belfast Music Society

United Kingdom / Ireland

The Harty Room, QUB

Sat 26 October, 7:30pm

£20 full, £15 concession, £5 student

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins

All 3 Mini-fest concerts: £50 full, £38 concession

The "virtuosic Fidelio Trio" (Sunday Times) are Darragh Morgan (violin), Tim Gill (cello) and Mary Dullea (piano). Shortlisted for the 2016 Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards, the Trio broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3 and RTÉ Lyric FM.

Since their debut at London's Southbank Centre, they have appeared regularly at the Wigmore Hall and Kings Place and in Ireland at the National Concert Hall and Kilkenny Arts Festival, as well as internationally.

'The performances are absolutely wonderful...stylish virtuosity...instinctive brilliance...'
BBC Radio 3 Record Review

Music and Stories

Northern Lights Mini-fest, Belfast Music Society

USA / Northern Ireland

The Harty Room, QUB

Sun 27 October, 3pm

£20 full, £15 concession, £5 student

All 3 Mini-fest concerts: £50 full, £38 concession

American pianist Dr. Anthony Capparelli and renowned Irish storytellers Liz Weir and Colin Urwin present the first-ever live performance of Philip Hammond's 'Tales from the Sea of Moyle'.

Irish composer Philip Hammond's 'Tales from the Sea of Moyle' blends magical stories from the Glens of Antrim with evocative music, illustrating the powerful relationship between music and storytelling. The concert will also include other piano solos from Hammond, coupled with pieces which illustrate the special involvement of storytelling and music.

A family-friendly concert for an autumnal Sunday afternoon, informal and welcoming for all ages.

BBC Radio 3 presents the Z.E.N. Trio

BBC Radio 3 Concerts

St. Mark's Church, Dundela

Mon 28 – Wed 30 October, 7.30pm

Free

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins, Age Guidance: 12+

The Z.E.N. Trio – pianist Zhang Zuo, violinist Esther Yoo and cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan – met as BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists in 2015 and have since performed together across Europe, China, Canada and the US, and Australia.

While the trio's name, "Z.E.N." is an acronym for the three artists' initials, it also hints at their philosophy to music making - the forgoing of the self for total togetherness.

Their concert performances have been widely hailed, as have their recordings for Deutsche Grammophon – their 2017 debut album and 2020's 'Burning Through the Cold'.

They'll be making their Northern Ireland debut at St. Mark's Church Dundela – the CS Lewis Church in the east of the city – with a repertoire including Rachmaninov's Trio élégiaque No.1 in G minor and Shostakovich's Piano Trio No.2 in E minor, Op. 67. A wonderful opportunity to hear musicians at the top of their game.

"I can think of few finer young piano trios. The Z.E.N. has remarkable sensitivity and intelligence" - Seen and Heard International

Les Amazones d'Afrique

Mali

Mandela Hall

Mon 28 October, 7pm (doors)

£24

Age Guidance: 18+

Les Amazones d'Afrique are a collective of supremely talented female musicians from West Africa, renowned for their blend of traditional African rhythms, and gritty contemporary pop.

Their performances are characterized by vibrant energy, intricate harmonies, and compelling lyrics that address issues of gender equality and social justice.

Les Amazones d'Afrique's two previous albums garnered considerable acclaim including The Guardian's Top 50 albums of 2017 and NPR Music's Best Albums of 2020. Their latest record, 'Musow Danse', released earlier this year, has been described as 'one of the great pan-African consciousness LPs in modern history' by Rolling Stone.

They have performed on Glastonbury Festival's Pyramid stage and featured on flagship BBC music show Later... with Jools Holland.

"you'd be hard pressed to find a single person in the crowd not compelled to dance, cheer or sway along in collective, cathartic celebration." The Skinny

Blues & Ballads

An Evening with Paul Jones & Dave Kelly, Freddie White, and the Ulster Orchestra

United Kingdom / Ireland

Grand Opera House

Tues 29 October, 7:30pm

£25 - £22

Duration: 2 hrs 20 mins

Belfast International Arts Festival presents a very special concert with blues legends Paul Jones and Dave Kelly, the incomparable Irish singer-songwriter Freddie White, and special guests the Ulster Orchestra.

Paul Jones and Dave Kelly are two of the UK's most revered blues musicians. Founders of The Blues Band, the duo have played alongside Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker, and Sonny Boy Williamson. Paul Jones, the original singer with Manfred Mann, is a thrilling singer and harmonica maestro while Dave Kelly's superb vocals and guitar virtuosity elevate him into the highest echelon of blues performers.

Freddie White is a masterful guitar player, singer-songwriter and interpreter of classic songs who has captivated audiences across five decades. A founding member of Scullion, Freddie's career skyrocketed touring with Eric Clapton and the magnetic energy of his live shows resonates with fans old and new.

Special guests the Ulster Orchestra will join Paul Jones and Dave Kelly to perform newly commissioned arrangements of jazz and blues classics including 'Summertime', 'I Ain't Got Nothing But The Blues', 'Georgia On My Mind' and 'A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square'.

Soaring Spirits

Ulster Orchestra

Northern Ireland

Ulster Hall

Fri 1 November, 7:45pm

£37 - £10, £8 concession, £6 Under 16s

Duration: 2 hrs approx.

Music by composers Saint-Saëns, Elgar and Sibelius performed by the Ulster Orchestra with guest conductor Chloé Van Soeterstède and cellist Nadège Rochat.

One of the great masterworks, Elgar's Cello Concerto is a wistful, beautiful piece that falls towards the end of Elgar's composing career, when he wondered if he still had any musical relevance, and there's a sense of solitude – even loneliness – that haunts this work.

Elsewhere, the Ulster Orchestra brass take to the skies, first in the sun chariot of the Greek God Helios in Saint-Saëns's 'Phaeton' Overture and then as a flock of whooper swans in that famous finale of Sibelius's triumphant Fifth Symphony.

Tom McRae

United Kingdom

The Empire Music Hall

Fri 1 November, 7:30pm (doors)

£26

Age Guidance: 18+

The Mercury and Brit nominated artist Tom McRae returned this year with his 9th album 'Étrange Hiver', which features duets with some of his favourite French artists. McRae, who these days splits his time between France and England, collaborated on these 11 new songs as a way of acknowledging his "deep love of French music".

'Étrange Hiver' is a beautiful album with songs, some in English, some in French, some cinematic, some more intimate, that address the important things in life: love, loss, political populism, and climate collapse... written at a time when it feels as if the world may never escape from this long, strange winter.

They Might Be Giants

USA

Mandela Hall

Fri 8 November, 7pm (Doors)

£34.50

Age Guidance: 18+

Following 70+ sold-out shows in the US, They Might Be Giants bring their hugely popular "Evening with" performance of breakthrough album 'Flood' in its entirety to Belfast. How will 'Flood' be presented? Hard to say, as the show evolves every night, but without question, this is a once-in-a-lifetime tour.

They Might Be Giants will play two full sets spanning their entire career, from early favourites to tracks from their current Grammy-nominated album Book, as well as the spontaneous and improvised moments that have made their shows legendary.

No opener! They Might Be Giants' performance starts approximately one hour after doors open.

Fat Dog

United Kingdom

The Empire Music Hall

Fri 8 November, 7:30pm (doors)

£15

Age Guidance: 18+

Fat Dog are one of London's most exciting new bands, conjuring the sort of frenzied live shows not seen in the capital for years.

Their forthcoming debut album 'WOOF' is a brilliant and mind-bending blend of electro-punk, rock'n'roll snarling, techno soundscapes, industrial-pop and rave euphoria, music for letting go to or, in the words of frontman Joe Love, "screaming-into-a-pillow music".

Anyone catching their recent Later... With Jools Holland appearance or any of their FOUR shows at Glastonbury 2024 has already been bitten!

Bridging Beats: From Kansas City to Belfast

USA

The Deer's Head

Sat 9 November, 7pm (Doors)

£15 full, £12 concession

Prepare for a night of genre-defying performances with the phenomenal Kadesh Flow and the enchanting Jasmine "Jass" Couch!

Kadesh Flow is a powerhouse rapper, MBA, and trombone maestro, seamlessly blending jazz, hip hop, blues, and funk with insightful and anime-laced lyrics. He's collaborated with Jidenna and shared stages with Janelle Monae, Rakim, and more.

Jass Couch, a multi-instrumentalist and rising star, captivates with her fusion of soulful R&B and lo-fi pop, honouring Kansas City's musical legacy while forging her own path.

As part of a UNESCO City of Music partnership, the two Kansas artists will be joined by artists from Belfast.

Output Belfast

The MAC (conference), Various Cathedral Quarter Venues (evening showcase)

Tues 12 November

Free

Celebrating its 10th year, Output Belfast is Ireland's biggest annual one-day music conference and showcase, presented by Belfast City Council / Belfast City of Music and programmed by Score Draw Music.

Featuring over 30 workshops, masterclasses, panels and talks across all aspects of the music industry, the conference is designed to equip NI's music community with creative skills such as writing, performing or producing music; as well as business skills like management, marketing and cultivating industry relationships.

Featuring a diverse programme of panels by global music industry leaders.

Visit outputbelfast.com for the full programme of events.

The Persian, Kurdish, Celtic Connection

Beyond Skin

Iran / Ireland / Syria

Duncairn Arts Centre
Mon 11 November, 7.30pm
£15 full, £10 concession
Duration 1hr 30 mins, Age Guidance: 18+

A cultural weave story with the sounds of Persian, Kurdish and Irish instruments and vocals.

A collective of musicians brought together just for this one-off event. Representing Iran santoor player Behnam Ghazanfaripour, setar player Omid Asghari, singer Nasim Heidari and special guest Sara Fotros (daf drum).

Born in France, Sara embraced Iran's rich musical heritage learning Persian percussion at a young age under the guidance of Mohsen Taherzadeh and later with Nabil Yousef Sharidavi. Sara has collaborated with traditional and contemporary Persian music in different ensembles in Iran, the UK, Sweden, Germany, the United States, Austria, Slovakia, India, and Canada.

Joining the ensemble is Syrian Saz/Oud player, singer Swar Ahmed, and representing Ireland singer/songwriter Conor Pelan and Cormac Ó Briain on uilleann pipes.

The event will also feature a special art presentation by Seba Brhom from Syria.

Supported by the Bernard Neville Estate Fund.

Ciaran Lavery: Light Entertainment

Northern Ireland
Lyric Theatre
Thur 14 November, 7:30pm
£22 full, £20 concession
Age Guidance: 16+

Ciaran Lavery invites you to enter the world of “Light” Entertainment in this immersive live music experience. Follow Lavery as he battles against crippling creative self-doubt and the allure of procrastination inducing distractions in a last-ditch attempt to create his next hit record.

Melding music and musical theatre together against the backdrop of a modern dystopian nightmare, come and immerse yourself in a redefinition of the ‘gig’.

More than Mozart

Ulster Orchestra

Northern Ireland

Ulster Hall

Fri 15 November, 7:45pm

£37 - £10, £8 concession, £6 Under 16s

Duration: 2 hrs approx.

An evening in the company of Michael Collins is one well-spent, as he brings his deeply-held musicality and mastery of both the clarinet and the conductor's podium to the Ulster Hall.

This concert opens with Grażyna Bacewicz's vibrant, driving 'Concerto for String Orchestra', before Michael performs Crusell's Second 'Clarinet Concerto', full of exuberance and lyrical grace and Busoni's Concertino, a virtuosic 20th century tour-de-force written in the style of Mozart. And it's Mozart, with whom Michael has a special affinity, that closes the concert; the exhilarating pinnacle of all his symphonic writing, Symphony No. 41.

Gurriers

Ireland

Ulster Sports Club

Thur 21 Nov, 7.30pm (doors)

£15

Age Guidance: 18+

Described as "raw as a butcher's cut, and just as fresh" by the Irish Times, Gurriers have been championed by the likes of Steve Lamacq and Huw Stephens on BBC Radio 6 Music. 2023's debut single 'Approachable' was praised by The Line of Best Fit as "a full-blooded post-punk masterwork," while new single 'Sign Of The Times' was described by Hot Press as "enraged, frenetic and full-blooded".

Gurriers formed during the pandemic and have since honed their incendiary performances and ascended from local venues to European festival stages.

Reverberating guitars, epic melodies and lead singer Dan Hoff's raging, intense vocals are key to Gurriers' sound and make them a mesmerising live tour de force.

Visual Arts & Film

Bianca Xunise: Solo Exhibition

USA

Naughton Gallery, QUB

Opening Reception: Thur 17 October, 5.30pm - 8pm

Continues until Sun 1 December 11am - 4pm (daily)

Free

“When life gives you guitars, smash them!”

The Naughton Gallery presents the first UK & Ireland solo exhibition by American cartoonist Bianca Xunise. In a specially-developed new body of work, Xunise explores the fascinating parallels between the Black and Irish punk scenes from the 1970s to the present, in a thrilling political and musical journey from Belfast to Chicago.

Xunise is an illustrator, writer, and educator based out of Chicago. With two Ignatz Awards under their belt, Xunise is a voice for those who march to the beat of their own drum and hopes that their comics are comforting to those who feel they don't fit in. In 2020, Xunise became the first nationally syndicated non-binary cartoonist when they joined the comic strip Six Chix, as their first Black creator. Xunise has also collaborated with Vogue, The Washington Post, and The Nib.

143rd Royal Ulster Academy Exhibition

Northern Ireland

Ulster Museum

Fri 18 October - Mon 6 January, 10am - 5pm (Tues - Sun), Closed Mon

Free

The RUA's annual exhibition is one of the most eagerly anticipated exhibitions in the Northern Irish cultural calendar, providing a unique platform for acclaimed artists and emerging talent to showcase their artwork in the prestigious galleries at the Ulster Museum.

The exhibition presents work from approximately 80 academy members alongside the work of 200 artists selected via public submission. The full range of visual arts are represented including paintings, sculptures, audio visual, ceramics and textiles.

Claire Morgan: You Will Not Stop Here

Northern Ireland

The Golden Thread Gallery

Sat 19 October – Wed 27 November, 11am – 5pm (Tues – Fri), 11am – 4pm (Sat)

Opening event: Sat 19 October (1pm – 3pm)

Free

The Golden Thread presents new work by internationally acclaimed artist Claire Morgan which has been specially commissioned with the support of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Commissioning Grant 2024.

Claire Morgan raises fundamental questions about the role of humans and their relationship to nature. Complex three-dimensional forms made from artificial and natural materials are a frequently recurring motif and the artist uses taxidermy, waste materials, sculptural wax figures and human hair, to create uniquely beautiful work, that inspires new understanding to the possibilities of the art form.

“The work explores real and imagined relationships between individuals and between species, at a time when devastating environmental and humanitarian emergencies are manipulated for political goals.” C. Morgan

Neil Jordan: A Journey Through Cinema and Literature

Ireland

Queen’s Film Theatre

Tues 22 October, 6:30pm

£8

Join us for an evening with Academy Award-winning filmmaker and novelist Neil Jordan as he discusses his vivid, moving, and strange memoir, ‘Amnesiac’.

Neil Jordan is the creative mind behind films like ‘Angel’, ‘Mona Lisa’, ‘Michael Collins’, ‘The Crying Game’, and ‘Interview with the Vampire’, and novels such as ‘The Past’ and ‘Night in Tunisia’.

Jordan will explore his past and family history: from growing up near an abandoned estate in Dublin, to his passion for music and early productions with Jim Sheridan. Hear stories of his collaborations with Stephen Rea, Jaye Davidson, Bob Hoskins, and Tom Cruise, and reflections on loss, love, creativity, and even the supernatural by one of Ireland’s most unusual artists.

Visit our website for details on special screenings of Jordan’s most celebrated films.

Zara Lyness: Making Time

Northern Ireland
2 Royal Avenue
Tues 22 October, 10am – 5.30pm
Free

'Making Time' brings artwork into the hands of visitors who make time to sit, play and chat.

Join artist Zara Lyness and complete ceramic jigsaws, inspired by locations in Belfast, focusing on themes of recognition, recollection and connection.

Time is one of the most precious gifts we can give, and this event gives visitors the time to share stories and memories and encourages them to remember to keep looking up and around them.

Participants need no special skills to join in at the table, just the ability to slow down and to share with others.

Behind The Studio Door

Northern Ireland
Queen Street Studios
Sat 26 October, 11:30am – 5pm.
Guided tours at 12:30pm, 2pm and 3:30pm
Free

As Queen Street Studios (QSS) marks its 40th anniversary, you are invited to take a look behind the studio doors of some of Belfast's brightest emerging and established artists. Explore the studios independently or join a guided tour to hear artists talk about their processes. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

QSS emerged in 1984 in response to the lack of studio and gallery space in Belfast, and 40 years on, it is thriving with 48 studios and expansive gallery space.

Visitors can also view 'We are QSS at 40', a large-scale exhibition, curated by Eamonn Maxwell, featuring current studio holders and past members.

The exhibition continues until 12 December.

Belfast School of Art 175th Celebrations

2024 marks the 175th anniversary of the Belfast School of Art. To celebrate, Ulster University hosts a programme of exhibitions, workshops and lectures including the following special events:

Colin Davidson The Chancellor's 175th Address

Ulster University, BA Building

Mon 18 November,

6pm

Free

Ulster University Chancellor and Belfast School of Art alumnus Dr Colin Davidson shares insights into his illustrious career. Known for his large-scale portraits, Davidson reflects on his journey from student to acclaimed artist, drawing on his early days at the Belfast School of Art.

Joseph Beuys and the Belfast School of Art

Ulster University, BA Building

Tues 19 November,

6pm

Free

Belfast School of Art Lecturer and Artist, Dr Sandra Johnson and Ulster Museum Curator Anna Liesching reflect on the enduring legacy of German artist Joseph Beuys in Northern Ireland and the impact of his 1974 visit to the School.

Alice Maher and the Legacy of Belfast School of Art's MFA Fine Art

Ulster University, BA Building

Wed 20 November,

6pm

Free

Alice Maher, one of Ireland's leading contemporary artists, Ulster University alumna and ambassador at the Belfast School of Art, reflects on her time attending the MFA Fine Art and the influence of Northern Ireland on her work. A broader panel reflects on the legacy of the MFA.

Mixtape #1 – Phil Collins

Ulster University Art Gallery

Thur 31 October – Thur 5 December, 10am – 6pm (Mon – Sat)

Free

Outburst Queer Arts Festival and Ulster Presents at Ulster University mark the 175th Anniversary of the Belfast School of Art in a new collaboration with one of its most acclaimed graduates.

Phil Collins is a visual artist, filmmaker, cultural organiser, and educator who lives in Berlin and Wuppertal. He is internationally renowned for a socially engaged practice that addresses the intersections of art, politics and popular culture.

This UK premiere of 'Mixtape #1' is an unorthodox overview of Collins' work in moving image. Drawing its title and concept from the 'mixtape' – a devotional form of music compilation – this genre-bending compendium brings together a heady blend of episodes, excerpts, off-cuts, and ephemeral scenes from his extensive filmography.

Presented in Outburst Queer Arts Festival 2024, as part of a BSoA 175 Commissioning partnership between Outburst Arts and Ulster Presents.

Full details will be available in the Outburst programme at outburstarts.com.

Talks & Ideas

Monique Roffey, Kevin Jared Hosein & Safiya Sinclair

Trinidad and Tobago /Jamaica / UK

Crescent Arts Centre

Thur 17 October, 6pm

£7 full, £6 concession

Continuing our collaboration with BOCAS Litfest, we welcome three celebrated writers from Trinidad and Jamaica.

In Monique Roffey's new novel 'Passiontide', four women spark a revolution on a fictional Caribbean island after a young woman is found dead. An activist, a journalist, and a sex worker join forces to speak out in a community where women's voices are often silenced. Roffey, a Trinidad-born British writer, has authored eight books, including the award-winning 'The Mermaid of Black Conch'.

Kevin Jared Hosein's 'Hungry Ghosts', set in the 1940s, tells of a missing elite citizen in Trinidad and his wife's struggle in his absence. She enlists a farm worker for protection, leading to a story of compassion and cruelty. Hosein lives in Trinidad, and 'Hungry Ghosts', his first adult novel, won the 2024 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction.

Safiya Sinclair's memoir 'How to Say Babylon' chronicles her upbringing between her mother's love of books and her father's strict beliefs against the West's corrupting influence. Sinclair, born in Jamaica, saw her memoir shortlisted for the 2024 Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

David Peace

United Kingdom
Crescent Arts Centre
Thur 17 October, 8pm
£7 full, £6 concession

We are delighted to welcome David Peace to Belfast for the publication of 'Munichs', the third novel in his football-themed trilogy following 'The Damned Utd' and 'Red or Dead'. 'Munichs' is an extraordinary novel about Britain, sport and our collective past. It tells the story of how Manchester United rose again after the tragic Munich plane crash of February 1958, when 24 passengers, including eight of the "Busby Babes" players, as well as United staff and journalists, were killed. It is a novel of the crash and its aftermath, of those who survived and those who didn't, of how Britain and football changed. It is a novel of tragedy, but also of hope.

David Peace is the author of twelve novels, including the 'Red Riding' quartet and the *Tokyo* trilogy. He was named one of Granta's best young British novelists in 2003.

"Probably the best novel ever written about sport" The Times on 'The Damned Utd'

Naomi Alderman

United Kingdom
University of Ulster, (BC Building, Lecture Theatre 1)
Fri 18 October, 6pm
£7 full, £6 concession

From the best-selling author of 'The Power' comes a lightning-fast thriller confronting the technology that rules our lives, the few at the top who control it, and our future if we don't fight back.

Winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction and co-creator of the award-winning game 'Zombies, Run!', Naomi Alderman explores the shadowy world of mega-rich tech companies in her new novel, 'The Future'. This heart-pounding tale of power and corruption raises real questions about humanity's trajectory and the systems that keep us captive.

Naomi Alderman, mentored by Margaret Atwood and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, has had her work translated into over thirty-five languages. 'The Power' was recently adapted into a series for Amazon Prime.

"A fabulous, witty writer on the digital world" - Sunday Times

David Park

Northern Ireland

The Linen Hall

Wed 23 October, 6pm

Free - Booking essential

To mark his literary archive becoming part of The Linen Hall's collections, we welcome acclaimed novelist David Park in a career-retrospective conversation with Hugh Odling-Smee.

David Park's work has illuminated Northern Ireland's people and politics since his debut novel 'The Healing' (1992), which described a search for healing against a background of sectarian conflict.

Among his most celebrated novels are 'The Truth Commissioner' (2008), which imagined a South African-style truth and reconciliation process in Northern Ireland; and 'Spies in Canaan' (2022), a masterful exploration of how guilt and memory can resurface in old age.

David Park has won numerous awards including The Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year.

Róise ní Bhaoill

Ireland

An Cultúrlann

Thur 24 October, 7pm

£5

Róise Ní Bhaoill joins us to discuss her award-winning collection of short stories 'Imram agus Scéalta Eile'. The collection, her first, won the Irish Language Fiction Book of the Year 2023 at the An Post Book Awards in Dublin.

Róise Ní Bhaoill's first collection of poetry, 'Idir an Dá Fhearsaid', was published to critical acclaim earlier this year. She is also the author of learning materials for both adult and young learners of Irish, and the editor of collections of bilingual short stories, folklore and cultural essays.

Róise is a member of Northern Ireland Screen and Chair of the Irish Language Broadcast Fund.

The John Hewitt Society Birthday Readings

The John Hewitt Society

Northern Ireland / Ireland / India

The John Hewitt Bar

Wed 30 October, 8pm

£10 full, £8 concession

Age Guidance: 18+

Three critically acclaimed poets read from recent work to mark the birth date of the celebrated Belfast-born poet, John Hewitt, in the pub named after him.

Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe, poet, pacifist and fabulist, was born in India and now calls Ireland home. Her first collection, 'Auguries of a Minor God' was a finalist for the Dylan Thomas Prize and the John Pollard Foundation International Poetry Prize. Her poems have been widely published have been broadcast on RTE Radio 1 and BBC Radio London.

Jane Clarke is the Irish author of three collections of poetry: 'The River' (2003), 'When the Tree Falls' (2019) and 'A Change in the Air' (2023) which was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize 2023, the Forward Prize for Best Collection 2023, and the Farmgate Café National Poetry Award 2024.

David Nash is a poet and translator from County Cork. His pamphlet, 'The Islands of Chile', came out in 2022 and his first full collection, 'No Man's Land' (2023) won the Seamus Heaney Prize in 2024, and was shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize. He lives between Ireland and Chile.

Presented in association with Poetry Ireland.

Medusa's Notebook

The Poetry Dome Quotidian – Word on the Street

Northern Ireland

2 Royal Avenue

Fri 1 – Thurs 7 November

On the hour: 1pm - 4pm (Fri, Sat, Mon - Wed) 1pm – 7pm (Thur) 2pm - 4pm (Sun)

Free

For 100 years, Medusa has cast her unflinching gaze from the Art Deco Bank on Royal Avenue. Now, enter the Poetry Dome and experience Medusa's Notebook, an

immersive digital story offering a unique perspective on Belfast's past, present, and futures.

BAFTA nominee Roisin Gallagher voices Medusa in a vivid narrative poem by acclaimed Belfast poet Maria McManus, a former BIAF Artist-inResidence.

Soundscape by NI Music Album of the Year winner Arborist (Mark McCambridge) and dome animation by Aura Digital, directed by Dee Harvey.

Austin Duffy & Phil Harrison

Northern Ireland Ireland

No Alibis Bookshop

Tues 5 November, 6pm

£7 full, £6 concession

Writing about the turning points of the Troubles and the legacy of masculinity.

Austin Duffy's fourth novel *Cross* is set in a fictional border town in 1994 during the summer of the ceasefire. Characters like republican elder Francie, who orders a policeman's murder, and the Widow Donnelly, mourning her missing son, intersect with psychopath Handy Byrne in a story of loyalty, betrayal, and hope. Duffy is a writer and oncologist in Howth, Ireland.

Phil Harrison's second novel *Silverback* pits two men in contemporary East Belfast against each other: middle-class doctor James Fechner and local hardman Robert Rusting, charged with murdering his father. After the trial, Fechner is drawn into Rusting's world, with astonishing consequences. Harrison is a writer and filmmaker in Belfast.

Michael Longley

Northern Ireland

Seamus Heaney Centre

Wed 6 November, 6pm

£7 full, £6 concession

Michael Longley's status as one of the great Northern Ireland poets of the last century is undisputed. This year we are delighted to welcome Michael to Belfast International Arts Festival for a special event to mark his 85th birthday in 2024, and the publication of his new selected poems collection, 'Ash Keys'.

'Ash Keys' looks back at the extraordinary career of the last surviving member of the triumvirate of poets that rose out of 1960s Belfast. Love, violence, the natural world, psychodrama, family, the Great War, the Homeric past and Northern Ireland's troubled present cohabit in this collection - as do depth, wit and beauty.

Michael Longley will be in conversation with poet and novelist Nick Laird.

Ingrid Persaud and Sunjeev Sahota

Trinidad and Tobago / United Kingdom

No Alibis

Thur 7 November, 6pm

£7 full, £6 concession

Ingrid Persaud's latest book, 'The Lost Love Songs of Boysie Singh', tells the unforgettable story of four incredible women. Her debut novel, 'Love After Love', won the Costa First Novel Award, the Author's Club First Book Award, and the Indie Book Award for Fiction. She was born in Trinidad and lives in London.

'Sunjeev Sahota' joins us to discuss his acclaimed novel 'The Spoiled Heart'. He is the author of 'Ours Are the Streets', 'The Year of the Runaways', and 'China Room'. 'The Year of the Runaways' was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won several awards. He lives in Sheffield and teaches at Durham University.

"Sharp, vivid and true" The Guardian on The Lost Love Songs of Boysie Singh

"Smart and sophisticated" Daily Telegraph on The Spoiled Heart

Jon Savage The Secret Public: How LGBTQ Resistance shaped culture 1955-79

United Kingdom

2 Royal Avenue

Fri 8 November, 6pm

£7 full, £6 concession

One of Britain's best chroniclers of music and social history comes to Belfast International Arts Festival to mark the publication of his new book about LGBTQ influence on popular culture.

In The Secret Public, the award-winning, Sunday Times bestselling author Jon Savage takes an electrifying look at key moments in music and entertainment history between 1955 and 1979, which helped move gay culture from the margins to the mainstream and

changed the face of pop forever. From Little Richard to David Bowie, Andy Warhol to Dusty Springfield, *The Secret Public* is an examination of the fortitude and resilience of the gay community through the lens of popular music and culture, and a reminder of the need to remain vigilant in the face of oppression against marginalised groups.

Toner Quinn: How Ireland Thinks About Music

Ireland

Oh Yeah Music Centre

Sat 9 November, 4pm

£5

Does Ireland have its own way of thinking about music? How might this perspective have developed? And could it explain the current dynamism in Irish musical life? In this illustrated lecture, 'How Ireland Thinks About Music', Toner Quinn discusses these ideas and more.

Toner Quinn is a fiddle player, writer on music, editor of the online publication *Journal of Music*, and lecturer in publishing at the University of Galway. He recently published a collection of his writing, 'What Ireland Can Teach the World About Music'.

Poetry Jukebox

Northern Ireland / Ireland / France

The Linen Hall

Tues 22 October - Fri 31 January

Free

For this curation of the Poetry Jukebox, The Linen Hall, in partnership with the Centre Culturel Irlandais and *Quotidian*, commissioned 10 poets to write a new poem in response to the Robert McAdam Comparative Lexicon and commissioned 10 translations of those poems to create an international curation that spans English, French, Irish and Breton.

The Robert McAdam Comparative Lexicon (c.1885) is a unique handwritten lexicon of the Irish Language and is one of the treasures of Belfast's historic library, The Linen Hall. The Lexicon compares 13,000 Irish headwords with 28 other languages, from Breton to Sanskrit.

Launch Event: Tues 22 October, 1pm, The Linen Hall, £5. Booking essential.

Join poets Celia de Fréine, Gail McConnell, Scott McKendry, James Conor Patterson and others as they discuss McAdam's Lexicon.

Supported by The British Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Cultural Walking Tours

Northern Ireland

Various Locations

Ongoing throughout the Festival, 11am & 2pm

£10

We've partnered with the Northern Ireland Tourist Guide Association for fascinating cultural walking tours. Explore Belfast with knowledgeable guides and discover a different side of the city. Whether you're a local or a first-time visitor, these tours are a must!

Tours include:

- The Linen Yarn (22 October, 5 November)
- Churches in Belfast (24 October)
- A Penny for your Thoughts & 'Sleeping Jesus' (29 October)
- Old Belfast (31 October)
- War & Conflict (7 November)
- Belfast Blue Plaque Tour (12 November)
- Anti-Slavery Belfast Tour (14 & 21 November)
- Talking Heads - Keep Looking Up (19 November)

Visit our website for full listings and starting points of all tours. Advance booking strongly advised.

Embrace

Embrace is Belfast International Arts Festival's on-going programme of public engagement and professional development, aimed at involving communities throughout the city.

Embrace is designed to both encourage active participation in the arts and to enhance audience enjoyment and understanding of specific events presented in the programme. They include free performances and active creative learning activities such as workshops, performance opportunities and artist talks. As an inclusive organisation, we encourage participation from diverse communities of interest and place.

Highlights from this year's Embrace programme include:

- A community engagement programme around [The Vanishing Elephant](#) generously funded by Department of Foreign Affairs: Reconciliation Fund.
- A free outdoor performance for all the family at CS Lewis Square on Saturday 26 October of the acrobatic [WILD](#).
- Free recitals at St Mark's Church, Dundela from 28-30 October from our partners BBC Radio 3, featuring the [Z.E.N Trio](#)
- Free entry to the exhibitions in our [Visual Arts & Film](#) programme
- To coincide with Tinderbox's [Yerma](#), Shirley-Anne McMillan, the Children's Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland, gives a [talk](#) for 16–18-year-olds and school groups, at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's
- Workshops for emerging artists including one led by [Palestinian dance artists](#) Samaa Wakim and Samar Haddad King at St Comgall's on Divis St.
- A major professional development programme including a [showcase](#) of new theatre and dance from NI for a visiting delegation of international arts managers.

There will also be a series of talks and discussions around contemporary arts practice. Please visit our website for more information.

Space Exploration: A workshop for playwrights

The Abbey Theatre

Ireland

Brian Friel Theatre, QFT

Sat 19 October, 10am – 5pm

Free – application details below.

Co-hosted by Tinderbox Theatre Company and BIAF, this free workshop for playwrights based in NI explores how the use of space can shape a play's meaning. Discussions of how space is used in existing plays will be paired with practical 'on your feet' writing exercises. Playwrights will also hit the streets of Belfast to explore how to use existing spaces for inspiration. You will also learn about the work of the Abbey Theatre's Literary and New Work Department.

The workshop is for writers who have written at least one full-length play and want to deepen their practice.

To apply, email new.work@abbeytheatre.ie with "BIAF" as the subject. Include your phone no. and a short biography that introduces you and your writing experience (max 200 words).

Join The Dots

Artists' Walk

The Irish Society of Performance Designers

Sat 2 November

Designers, theatre, dance, and performance makers of all kinds are invited to meet each other while strolling through the city. This informal event will be led by artist and designer Lian Bell, and the aim is for us all to have expanded our network by the time we disband.

Join The Dots is a series of low-stress community-growing events for artists that ISPD is running with Lian, and is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland.

See our website for more details.

BIAF International Showcase

A key aim of Belfast International Arts Festival is to support Northern Ireland's independent performing arts community in their ambitions to explore and create on an international scale.

We are therefore delighted to reveal a new professional developmental initiative under Embrace: a three-day event showcasing the best theatre and performing arts from across NI to international delegates.

Our showcase is delivered by a partnership comprising Belfast International Arts Festival, Belfast 2024, British Council NI, Theatre and Dance NI and is generously supported by Culture Ireland.

Our programme promises an exciting range of performances, pitches, and discussions aimed at fostering collaboration, innovation and exchange between NI's performing arts sector and the international arts community.

The showcase takes place across Belfast from 31 October - 2 November and features performances from local artists and ensembles including Big Telly Theatre Company, Cahoots NI, Helen Hall, Michael McEvoy and Northern Attitudes Dance, Prime Cut Productions, The Lyric Theatre, and Tinderbox Theatre Company.

At A Glance

Ongoing Throughout the Festival:			
Threads of Empowerment: Conflict Textiles' International Journey	Ulster Museum	Until Sun 27 April	Visual Arts
Bianca Xunise Solo Exhibition	Naughton Gallery	Thur 17 Oct - Sun 1 Dec	Visual Arts
RUA Exhibition	Ulster Museum	Fri 18 Oct - Mon 6 Jan	Visual Arts
Claire Morgan - You Will Not Stop Here	Golden Thread Gallery	Sat 19 Oct – Wed 27 Nov	Visual Arts
Poetry Jukebox	The Linen Hall	Tues 22 Oct - Fri 31 Jan	Talks & Ideas
Mixtape No.1 - Phil Collins	Ulster University	Thur 31 Oct - Thur 5 Dec	Visual Arts
Wednesday 16th October			
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Thursday 17th October			
Monique Roffey, Kevin Jared Hosein & Safiya Sinclair	Crescent Arts Centre	6 PM	Talks & Ideas
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
David Peace	Crescent Arts Centre	8 PM	Talks & Ideas
Friday 18th October			
Naomi Alderman	Ulster University	6 PM	Talks & Ideas
Cáis, Ceol, 's Ól	Áras Mhic Reachtain	6:30 PM	Music

The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
The Piece with the Drums	The MAC	7:45 PM	Theatre & Dance
Rhythm & Romance, Ulster Orchestra	Ulster Hall	7:45 PM	Music
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Saturday 19th October			
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	3 PM & 8 PM	Theatre & Dance
The Mysterines	Ulster Sports Club	6:30 PM	Music
The Piece with the Drums	The MAC	7:45 PM	Theatre & Dance
Sunday 20th October			
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	3 PM	Theatre & Dance
Väsen	Sonic Arts Research Centre, QUB	7:30 PM	Music
Tuesday 22nd October			
Zara Lyness	2 Royal Avenue	10 AM - 5 PM	Visual Arts
The Linen Yarn - Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas
Poetry Jukebox Launch	The Linen Hall	1 PM	Talks & Ideas
Neil Jordan	Queen's Film Theatre	6:30 PM	Visual Arts
Iron and Wine	Mandela Hall	7 PM	Music
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance

Wednesday 23rd October			
David Park	The Linen Hall	6 PM	Talks & Ideas
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Thursday 24th October			
Churches in Belfast - Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas
Róise Ní Bhaoill	An Culturlann	7 PM	Talks & Ideas
North Star	The Telegraph Building	7 PM	Music
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Friday 25th October			
BBC Introducing LIVE	Mandela Hall	6 PM	Music
North Star	The Telegraph Building	7 PM	Music
The Savage Five	The Duncairn	7:30 PM	Music
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Fite Fuaite	Áras Mhic Reachtain	8 PM	Music
Losing It & In Between	The MAC	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Saturday 26th October			
Behind The Studio Door	Queen Street Studios (QSS)	11:30 AM - 5 PM	Visual Arts

Wild	CS Lewis Square	1:30 PM & 3:30 PM	Outdoor
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	3 PM & 8 PM	Theatre & Dance
The Fidelio Trio	The Harty Room, QUB	7:30 PM	Music
Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Losing It & In Between	The MAC	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Sunday 27th October			
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	3 PM	Theatre & Dance
Music and Stories	The Harty Room, QUB	3 PM	Music
Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Monday 28th October			
Z.E.N. Trio	St Marks Church, Dundela	7:30 PM	Music
Les Amazones d'Afrique	Mandela Hall	8 PM	Music
Tuesday 29th October			
A Penny for your Thoughts and Sleeping Jesus' - Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas
Blues & Ballads: An Evening with Paul Jones and Dave Kelly, and Freddie White	Grand Opera House	7:30 PM	Music
Z.E.N. Trio	St Marks Church, Dundela	7:30 PM	Music
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance

Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Wednesday 30th October			
Z.E.N. Trio	St Marks Church, Dundela	7:30 PM	Music
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
John Hewitt Birthday Reading	John Hewitt Bar	8 PM	Talks & Ideas
Thursday 31st October			
Old Belfast - Walking Tour	Waring Street (Opposite Merchant Hotel)	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas
The Vanishing Elephant	Grand Opera House	7 PM	Theatre & Dance
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Granny Jackson's Dead	47 Malone Road	9:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Friday 1st November			
Medusa's Notebook - The Poetry Dome	2 Royal Avenue	1 PM - 4 PM	Talks & Ideas
Touch Hear Feel	39 Corporation St	2:30PM & 6:30PM	Theatre & Dance
Granny Jackson's Dead	47 Malone Road	12PM, 6PM & 8PM	Theatre & Dance
The Vanishing Elephant	Grand Opera House	7 PM	Theatre & Dance

The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
The Gate House	St. Anne's Cathedral	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Tom McRea	Belfast Empire Music Hall	7:30 PM	Music
Soaring Spirits - Ulster Orchestra	Ulster Hall	7:45 PM	Music
Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Saturday 2nd November			
Granny Jackson's Dead	47 Malone Road	12PM, 6PM & 8PM	Theatre & Dance
Medusa's Notebook - The Poetry Dome	2 Royal Avenue	1 PM - 4 PM	Talks & Ideas
Touch Hear Feel	39 Corporation St	2:30PM & 6:30PM	Theatre & Dance
The Vanishing Elephant	Grand Opera House	2:30 PM & 7 PM	Theatre & Dance
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	3 PM & 8 PM	Theatre & Dance
The Gate House	St. Anne's Cathedral	5 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Aurora	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Sunday 3rd November			
Touch Hear Feel	39 Corporation St	12:30 PM & 4:30PM	Theatre & Dance
Granny Jackson's Dead	47 Malone Road	1PM & 3PM	Theatre & Dance
Medusa's Notebook - The Poetry Dome	2 Royal Avenue	1 PM - 4 PM	Talks & Ideas

The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Yerma	Lyric Theatre	3 PM	Theatre & Dance
Monday 4th November			
Medusa's Notebook - The Poetry Dome	2 Royal Avenue	1 PM - 4 PM	Talks & Ideas
Touch Hear Feel	39 Corporation St	2:30PM & 6:30PM	Theatre & Dance
Tuesday 5th November			
The Linen Yarn - Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas
Medusa's Notebook - The Poetry Dome	2 Royal Avenue	1 PM - 4 PM	Talks & Ideas
Phil Harrison & Austin Duffy	No Alibis Bookshop	6 PM	Talks & Ideas
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Wednesday 6th November			
Medusa's Notebook - The Poetry Dome	2 Royal Avenue	1 PM - 4 PM	Talks & Ideas
Michael Longley	Seamus Heaney Centre, QUB	6 PM	Talks & Ideas
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Impasse	The MAC	7:45 PM	Theatre & Dance
Chicken	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Thursday 7th November			
War & Conflict - Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas
Medusa's Notebook - The Poetry Dome	2 Royal Avenue	1 PM - 7 PM	Talks & Ideas
Ingrid Persaud & Sunjeev	No Alibis	6 PM	Talks & Ideas

Sahota	Bookshop		
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Chicken	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Friday 8th November			
Jon Savage	2 Royal Avenue	6 PM	Talks & Ideas
They Might Be Giants	Mandela Hall	7 PM	Music
Fat Dog	Belfast Empire Music Hall	7 PM	Music
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Chicken	Lyric Theatre	8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Saturday 9th November			
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Chicken	Lyric Theatre	3 PM & 8 PM	Theatre & Dance
Toner Quinn - How Ireland Thinks About Music	Oh Yeah Music Centre	4 PM	Talks & Ideas
Bridging Beats - From Kansas City to Belfast	Venue TBC - see website	7 PM	Music
Sunday 10th November			
The Tragedy of Richard III	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance
Chicken	Lyric Theatre	3 PM	Theatre & Dance
Monday 11th November			
The Persian, Kurdish, Celtic Connection	The Duncairn	7:30 PM	Music
Tuesday 12th November			
Blue Plaques - Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas

Output Belfast	The MAC	Various	Music
Thursday 14th November			
Anti-Slavery Walking Tour	The Big Fish	11 AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas
Ciaran Lavery - Light Entertainment	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Music
Friday 15th November			
More Than Mozart	Ulster Hall	7:45 PM	Music
Monday 18th November			
Colin Davidson - The Chancellor's 175th Address	Ulster University	6 PM	Visual Arts
Tuesday 19th November			
Talking Heads - Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas
Joseph Beuys and the Belfast School of Art	Ulster University	7 PM	Visual Arts
Wednesday 20th November			
Alice Maher and the Legacy of Belfast School of Art's MFA Fine Art	Ulster University	6 PM	Visual Arts
Thursday 21st November			
Anti-Slavery Walking Tour	The Big Fish	11 AM & 2 PM	Talks & Ideas
Gurriers	Ulster Sports Club	7:30 PM	Music

Accessibility

To request a version of this programme in an alternative format, please email greta@belfastinternationalartsfestival.com.

For more information on accessibility at BIAF, including accessible performances and venue information, visit our website.

[Book Now](#)

