
BELFAST
INTERNATIONAL
ARTS
FESTIVAL

14TH
OCT
– 9TH
NOV
2025



PRINCIPAL FUNDER



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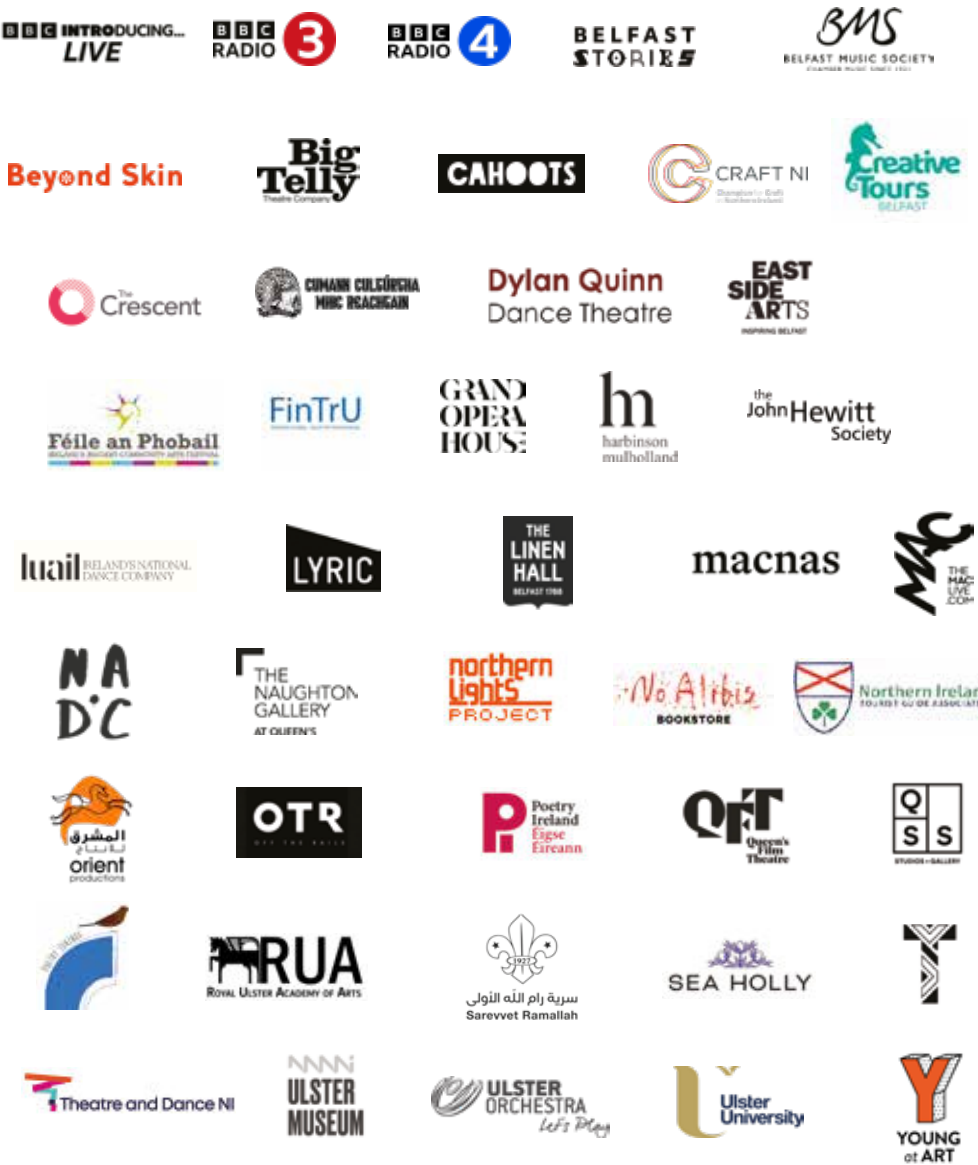
SPIRIT OF
FESTIVAL



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DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Belfast International Arts Festival is an annual celebration of contemporary arts and culture dedicated to promoting new and bold work that regularly cuts across the traditional boundaries of music, dance, theatre and visual art. The Festival brings together artists and audiences from home and abroad in a range of locations and venues across Belfast, highlighting the very best of our city and country.

At the centre of this year's programme are three new projects and collaborations that reflect the importance we place upon our values of global connectivity, cultural diversity, access and participation, community and contemporary arts practice. *Our Voice Together Now* is a

unique dance exchange between Belfast, Cairo and Ramallah with three new works being created and presented over 2025 and 2026. Since mid-March, a group of teenagers from across Belfast and Galway have been working on a project called *Future Parade*, looking at how a new generation might positively animate our streets. This unique collaboration between Belfast International Arts Festival, **Féile an Phobail**, **Eastside Arts** and Galway-based street spectacle company **Macnas** is set to make an appearance during Féile an Phobail's Halloween Parade. Delivered from **Cahoots'** shared community theatre space in North Belfast, *IN-visible ID-entities 7: The Search for Harmony* is a free community engagement programme involving up to 1,200 participants from across Belfast, exploring themes mirrored in Cahoots' productions of *The Musicians of Bremen Live!* and *Unlocking Sherlock*, namely friendship, cooperation, and the value of second chances.

Future Parade and *IN-visible ID-entities 7: The Search for Harmony* are also part of our **Embrace** strand of programming, which is designed to both encourage active participation in the arts and to enhance audience enjoyment and understanding of specific productions presented in the programme. Look out for free events in Embrace including *Anchored in Air*, a ground-breaking and exhilarating aerial theatre show at CS Lewis Square from **Head Over Wheels**, a disabled & non-disabled aerial company, and free recitals by **Charles Owens** and **Katya Apekisheva** as part of our annual **BBC Radio 3** partnership programme.

Theatre fans won't be disappointed with new productions from local companies **Big Telly**, **Cahoots**, **Lyric Theatre** and **Tinderbox**. Making a welcome return to the festival is **Nathan Ellis** with his latest critically acclaimed piece, *Instructions*, where each night a different unrehearsed performer takes to the stage, ready to receive instructions and line-by-line a story unfolds, and a life unspools.

When cookery book author **Atoosa Sepehr** fled Iran for a new life in London, family recipes helped her stave off homesickness. Now her story has been turned into a drama, *My English Persian Kitchen* by Palestinian-Irish writer **Hannah Khalil** – with mouth-watering onstage cooking that Belfast audiences can experience at first hand.

Contemporary dance has been a strong component of my festival programmes and this year is no different. **Luail**, the all-island dance company, present Emma Martin's *Dancehall* at The MAC, and as part of the *Our Voice Together Now* project, Palestinian choreographer **Salma Ataya** presents *Everything* a new work with three Irish dancers at The Crescent in a special double bill also featuring *The Fallen*, a new solo work from our 2025 BIAF Artist in Residence, **Michael McEvoy**. The 2025 edition closes with the unmissable, joyous and life-affirming *The Rest of Our Lives* from **Jo Fong** and **George Orange**.

As always, there is so much more to enjoy including a diverse range of music, with special appearances by **Martin Hayes Trio**, **Lisa O'Neill**, **Ulster Orchestra** and **Michael Gallen**, and South Korea's **Hoola** alongside exhibitions and talks from established and emerging artists and authors.

This is my final festival programme as Artistic Director and I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have helped me on my journey over the last 12 years and most particularly the artists and communities from home and abroad who the festival seeks to serve. My thanks to you all for your support of BIAF and I'm looking forward to personally seeing you at one of our events this autumn.

RICHARD WAKELY
Artistic Director and Chief Executive
Belfast International Arts Festival

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's Belfast International Arts Festival. As Northern Ireland's pre-eminent celebration of the arts, BIAF has always embodied the power of creativity to spark conversation, bring communities together and showcase Belfast as a city of possibility.

This year is especially poignant as we prepare to bid farewell to our Artistic Director and Chief Executive, Richard Wakely, who steps down at the end of 2025. Over the past 12 years, Richard has transformed Festival, reconstituting and relaunching it in 2015 with a bold vision to make Belfast a vital meeting place for artists and audiences from all over the world.

Richard's tenure has been marked by remarkable achievements: from producing the "Wish" installation, an 11-acre land portrait in his first edition in 2013 to bringing the 14-18 NOW programme to Belfast, which included the moving *Poppies: Weeping Window* installation at the Ulster Museum. In 2017, he co-commissioned Oona Doherty's acclaimed *Hard to be Soft – A Belfast Prayer*. In 2020, during the pandemic, Richard led BIAF through its first-ever fully digital edition, keeping the arts alive in people's homes. In 2022, for our 60th anniversary, the dazzling *Cristal Palace* lit up the Titanic Slipways. Most recently, we welcomed over 60,000 attendees to our 2024 Festival with an undoubted highlight being *Touch Hear Feel*, a multisensory piece by Helen Hall, produced by Richard and commissioned for Belfast 2024.

Under his leadership, our city has welcomed an extraordinary array of artists — from Isabella Rossellini and Sally Rooney to Stephen Rea, The Gloaming and Les Amazones d'Afrique — alongside a wealth of Northern Irish talent. Richard's legacy is a Festival rooted in internationalism, diversity and inclusion.

We are deeply grateful to Richard and to the dedicated Festival team and volunteers, whose passion keeps this vision alive. This 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, the Government of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, and our many other partners and supporters.

As we look ahead, the Board is committed to securing a successor to Richard who will honour this legacy and continue to grow Festival's ambition for years to come.

Richard's final programme for our 63rd edition is typically ambitious and wide-ranging. I invite you to explore all it has to offer and I hope you find moments that surprise and inspire you.

FIONA KANE MBE
Chairperson
Belfast International Arts Festival



ARTS COUNCIL NI FOREWORD

Festivals by their very nature are innovative, dynamic events, both capturing and creating a process of change.

As the principal investor of Belfast International Arts Festival, we welcome its 2025 edition, which brings us another versatile celebration of regional, national and international artistic talent.

This is an eclectic programme which showcases significant all-island working with *Dancehall* by Luail, Ireland's national dance company, as well as an exciting fusion of Irish Traditional and classical music in *Bád on Alltár* by Michael Gallen and the Ulster Orchestra.

As ever, the festival also offers an array of international and inter-cultural collaborations. *Music and Movement of Displacement and Belonging*, a contemporary, unique, multi-disciplinary piece from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Iran is particularly pertinent, exploring themes of defending artistic freedom and enabling societal change.

While change is being illustrated on stage, there is change off-stage too. 2025 marks the final programme from the festival's Artistic Director Richard Wakely. We are grateful for Richard's advocacy for, and commitment to, promoting Northern Irish artists and work to international level, as well as importing a broad range of international Arts practice to NI audiences over the years.

We wish Richard well in whatever he chooses to do next and look forward to the next chapter of what the festival can contribute to an ever-evolving cultural landscape in Northern Ireland.

ROISÍN MCDONOUGH
Chief Executive,
Arts Council of Northern Ireland



BBC Radio 4's **Loose Ends** is coming to the Festival for a special live recording on **Friday 17 October**, presented by Clive Anderson. Expect music and conversation from a selection of Festival artists.

See our website to find out how you can be part of the audience.

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

See visitbelfast.com for opening times

TELEPHONE

+44 (0) 28 9024 6609

BOX OFFICE ENQUIRIES


info@visitbelfast.com

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Contact our Box Office directly for info on access services and free carer tickets. For advice on wheelchair accessibility, contact venues directly.

Details about Accessible Performances, including captioned and signed events generously funded by the Foyle Foundation, can be found at our website.

TICKET DEALS

Special ticket bundles available to help you make the most of your Festival experience including 3 for £15 on selected Talks & Ideas events where you see 

For more offers, scan the QR code or visit our website.



COMMUNITY TICKETS

If you work with a community group and want to hear about our scheme on selected events, contact karin@belfastinternationalartsfestival.com

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FESTIVAL BOARD

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& Lauren Irwin

Programme Design:

Jeffers & Sons

Company No: NI 631354

Charity No: NIC 103560

THEATRE AND DANCE



DANCEHALL

OPENING
EVENT

LUAIL – IRELAND'S NATIONAL
DANCE COMPANY

CHOREOGRAPHY BY EMMA MARTIN
MUSIC BY ANDREW HAMILTON,
WITH CRASH ENSEMBLE

IRELAND

The MAC
Wed 15 Oct
7.45pm

£18 / £16 concession

Emma Martin's celebrated 2015 work Dancehall returns, commissioned by Luail – Ireland's National Dance Company with composer Andrew Hamilton.

Dancehall brings order and chaos, obedience and rebellion to the stage. Exploring the primacy of the dancing body, this dance concert embraces the internal desires and external forces that propel us through the world.

“powerful moments, a rich
minimalistic soundtrack and visually
arresting performances – Dancehall
is a stunning achievement”

examiner.com



© Patricio Cassinoni

OTILIE

RATHMORE PRODUCTIONS

NORTHERN IRELAND

Grand Opera House, Studio Theatre
Wed 15 – Fri 24 Oct
7.30pm (nightly) | 2.30pm (Sat only)

£22 - £20

WORLD
PREMIERE

A new one-woman show based on the life of Northern Irish blues singer Otilie Patterson and featuring Jolene O'Hara in the titular role.

After the success of their collaboration on *How to Bury a Dead Mule* (UK Theatre Award Best New Play nominee) at the Lyric and Edinburgh Fringe, actor/writer Richard Clements and director Matthew McElhinney (*Stones in his Pockets, A Christmas Carol*) are back with a new script which takes an imaginative and poetic look at the life of the forgotten First Lady of Irish Blues.

Otilie is the story of a young girl from Comber who rises to stand shoulder to shoulder with the very best before disappearing into relative obscurity. An extraordinary career brought to life in this unique staging.

Supported by Belfast Stories.

Duration: 1hr 20 mins | 12 Yrs+

© Harry Hammond / Victoria and Albert Museum, London

UNRECONCILED

BY JAY SEFTON AND MARK BASQUILL
DIRECTED BY GERALDINE HUGHES

USA

Lyric Theatre, Naughton Studio
Fri 17 – Sun 19 Oct
8pm (Fri & Sat) | 3pm (Sat & Sun)

£20 - £15

Unreconciled is based on the true story of an adolescent actor cast as Jesus in a school play directed by a parish priest. Set in Philadelphia, this solo-show chronicles a survivor's journey to confront his past, navigate a victims' reparations program set up by the Catholic Church, and find his voice.

A poignant and humorous exploration of family, place, and the meaning of reconciliation.

Contains strong language, scenes of a sexual nature and references to sexual violence.

Post-show discussion: 18 & 19 Oct matinees.

Duration: 1hr 20 mins | 16 Yrs+

ANCHORED IN AIR

CRYING OUT LOUD |
HEAD OVER WHEELS

UK

CS Lewis Square
Sat 18 Oct
1.10pm & 3.30pm

FREE – no booking required

IRISH
PREMIERE

Anchored In Air is a ground-breaking aerial theatre show by Head Over Wheels, a disabled & non-disabled aerial company, pushing the boundaries of Circus.

This debut show is a mesmerizing fusion of circus, dance, text and live music, taking audiences on a thrilling journey into a world of flying wheelchairs, integrated audio description, gravity-defying acrobatics, and the captivating challenge of traversing a colossal tower.

As the trio grapple with themes of identity and connection, watch them clamber and tumble as they navigate the ever-changing and difficult world we live in.

Anchored in Air will begin with a Touch Tour - a guided introduction for blind and partially sighted audience members.

Duration: 50 mins approx. incl Touch Tour
Suitable for all ages

© Hugo Glendinning

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INSTRUCTIONS

SUBJECT OBJECT

UK

Lyric Theatre, Naughton Studio
Tues 21 & Wed 22 Oct
8pm

£20 - £15

In each performance a different unrehearsed actor steps onstage, ready to receive instructions. As they follow real-time prompts, a story unfolds, and a life unspools.

This bold new theatrical experiment by Nathan Ellis blurs the lines between human spontaneity and algorithmic control. It premiered at the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe and won a Fringe First Award for its innovative form and urgent themes.

Instructions is a compelling and moving meditation on AI, creativity, and the late-capitalist condition.

Duration: 1hr | 14 Yrs+

“distinctive, exhilarating
and unique”

The Scotsman

IRISH
PREMIERE



DENOUEMENT

A NEW PLAY BY JOHN MORTON

A LYRIC THEATRE PRODUCTION

NORTHERN IRELAND

Lyric Theatre
Tues 21 Oct – Sat 15 Nov
7.30pm (Tues – Sat) | 2.30pm (Sat & Sun)

£34 - £16

“How many times did we think it was
the end?”

It's 2048. Armageddon is coming. In a remote Irish farmhouse, Edel and Liam are living out their final hours, cut off from friends and family with only their memories for company. Liam hammers away on a battered typewriter, desperate to record every detail of their life together, whether anyone will read it or not. Edel, on the other hand, is glued to the outside world, trying to reach their children and loved ones for one last goodbye.

WORLD
PREMIERE



Amid the looming apocalypse, they bicker. With limited time left, Liam and Edel busy themselves through arguing over things that matter and things that don't. This tragic and absurdly funny story shines a light on the relationship of an ordinary couple in extraordinary circumstances.

Denouement is a funny, moving, and darkly comic take on what remains when everything else is stripped away. Edel and Liam's mix of humour, honesty, and decades of shared history shines a light on the resilience of the human spirit, even at the very end.

Intensely provocative and wonderfully witty, *Denouement* is both a glimpse into a dystopian future and a heartfelt portrait of an enduring relationship. Are some things better left unsaid, even at the end?

The Lyric is proud to present the world premiere of *Denouement* by John Morton, starring Anna Healy and Patrick O'Kane. This bold new play will linger with you long after the curtain falls.

16 Yrs+

THE UPSIDE DOWN HOUSE

WRITTEN BY CIARÁN HAGGERTY
DIRECTED BY PATRICK J O'REILLY

TINDERBOX THEATRE COMPANY

NORTHERN IRELAND

The MAC
Wed 22 Oct – Sun 2 Nov
7.30pm (Tues – Sat) | 2.30pm (Sat & Sun)

£15



Think *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* meets *Normal People*.

Heartfelt, hilarious, and wildly imaginative, *The Upside-Down House* is a time-bending story about love, memory, and learning to let go.

When OLDER returns to the abandoned house of his youth, he comes face-to-face with the memory of his first love — vivid, funny, and impossible to ignore. As the house begins to collapse around them, OLDER is swept into a dreamlike maze of the past, reliving the electricity and heartbreak of their hidden romance.

UK Theatre Award-winners Tinderbox return to the Festival after two consecutive sell-out hits: *Rhino* and *Yerma*.

Duration: 1hr 20 mins | 16 Yrs+

WORLD
PREMIERE



MY ENGLISH PERSIAN KITCHEN

SOHO THEATRE

UK

Lyric Theatre, Naughton Studio
Fri 24 & Sat 25 Oct
8pm

£20 - £15

NI
PREMIERE

What would you take if you were forced to leave home with no hope of returning? How would you make a fresh start somewhere completely new? This is the true story about one woman who loses everything.

Written by award-winning Hannah Khalil from the story by Atoosa Sepehr, and starring Isabella Nefar (BBC's *The Gold* and the National Theatre's *Salome*), this life-affirming new play chronicles one woman's quest to start again.

Remembering the tastes and aromas of her mother's kitchen, she recreates the dishes of her childhood and homeland, building a new life and community around food.

Directed by Chris White.

Contains depictions of domestic violence, loud noises and live cooking.

Duration: 1hr 10 mins | 14 Yrs+

"A thoroughly
flavourful
feast of a play"

The Guardian ****

MY GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE

DYLAN QUINN DANCE THEATRE

NORTHERN IRELAND

Secret Venue to be revealed
Tues 28 Oct – Sun 2 Nov
11am, 3pm & 8pm

£20
Only 4 tickets per performance.



Two men. Grandfather and Grandson.
One born 1919. One born 1974.

An intimate physical performance presented within a beautifully constructed 1970's living room transports 4 audience members on an emotionally captivating journey.

Dylan Quinn recalls his grandfather's experiences of fighting in war and his of growing up in a place at war. Revealing shared memories from across this place we call home.

Traversing the innocence of childhood and playful joy, juxtaposed against the chaos of Northern Ireland during the 70's, 80's and 90's, Quinn brings to life his memories and experiences in this engaging immersive experience.

Contains issues related to 'The Troubles'.

Duration: 1hr 15 mins | 16 Yrs+

FAUST-ISH

WRITTEN BY NICOLA MCCARTNEY
DIRECTED BY ZOE SEATON

WORLD
PREMIERE

BIG TELLY THEATRE COMPANY

NORTHERN IRELAND

Lyric Theatre, Naughton Studio
Wed 29 Oct - Sun 9 Nov
8pm (Tues – Sat) | 3pm (Sat & Sun)

£20 - £15



A horror-fuelled fever dream, *Faust-ish* is savage, strange, and darkly thrilling. Delicious shivers and tactical scares abound in this tale of distraction, downfall, and desperate deals struck in the dead of night.

From the team behind *Melmoth the Wanderer* ("anarchic comedy-horror... brilliant, physical work" – The Herald, Scotland) and *Frankenstein's Monster is Drunk*, winner of Best Production at Origin 1st Irish Festival 2025 ("a winsome cartwheel of a show" – The New York Times), comes this fiendishly clever twist on a time-honoured tale.

Brought to life by a razor-sharp ensemble.

Join this wild search party for an absent soul (bring your own torch).

Duration: 1hr 15 mins | 14 Yrs+



THE MUSICIANS OF BREMEN LIVE!

CAHOOTS

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cahoots – Cityside Retail Park
Thur 30 Oct – Sun 2 Nov
5.30pm (Thur & Fri) | 2pm (Sat & Sun)

£15 / £12 child
Family Ticket £40 (4 tickets, max 2 adults)



NI
PREMIERE

Inspired by the much-loved Grimm's fairy tale, *The Musicians of Bremen* features live music, storytelling, song, and plenty of surprises!

Ruffles is a hen with a voice that could stop a freight train. Lost at a crossroads, she meets Mule, Bobcat, and Coyote. Together, they embark on an epic journey across the desert to the big city, chasing a bold dream. Their goal? To become a famous musical band.

But with clashing personalities and unexpected twists along the way... can they make it?

Duration: 1hr
Perfect for children aged 5+



© Gorgeous Photography

UNLOCKING SHERLOCK

CAOLAN MCBRIDE |
CAHOOTS

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cahoots – Cityside Retail Park
Thur 30 Oct – Sun 2 Nov
8pm (Thur & Fri) | 7pm (Sat & Sun)

£15

WORLD
PREMIERE

Check out our website for details of a creative workshop programme exploring the themes of both *Unlocking Sherlock* and *The Musicians of Bremen*. Generously funded by Department of Foreign Affairs: Reconciliation Fund.

Step into the mind of Sherlock Holmes and the hands of a master magician as Caolan McBride reveals the striking connections between deduction and deception.

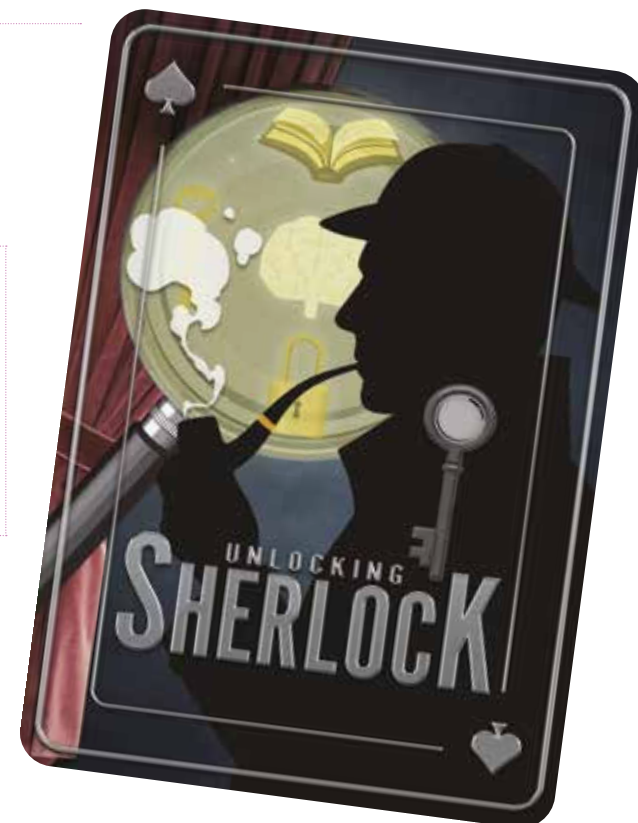
Through sleight of hand, mind reading, and psychological illusion, Holmes' legendary methods unfold before your eyes—but you hold the key to how the mystery evolves.

As the lines blur between magician and detective, one question lingers: what is the cost of such extraordinary skill?

Unlock the mystery. Witness the impossible. Experience Sherlock Holmes like never before.

Contains adult themes.

Duration: 1hr | 16 Yrs+



THE FALLEN AND EVERYNOTHING

DOUBLE BILL

The Crescent
Fri 31 Oct & Sat 1 Nov
7.30pm

£16 / £14 concession

In this special double bill of contemporary dance, we present two powerful new works by choreographers Michael McEvoy and Salma Ataya.

Duration: 2hrs approx.
including post-show discussion

Age: 15+



THE FALLEN

MICHAEL MCEVOY
NORTHERN ATTITUDES DANCE

NORTHERN IRELAND

ARTIST IN
RESIDENCE
2025

The Fallen tells the story of the forgotten fairy of Ireland, one of the Sidhe. Long ago, a godlike race arrived, steeped in magic and wisdom. Captured by a Mortal King of Christian faith, the last fairy was hung for sport. Unable to die, he was stripped of his wings and buried beneath the Hill of Tara, where the first fairy tree grew.

Through poetic movement, BIAF Artist-in-residence Michael McEvoy explores a wingless angel trapped in a prison of broken memory and newfound mortality, seeking a way back to the Otherworld.

Content warning:
a noose is present on stage.

EVERYNOTHING

WORLD
PREMIERE

SALMA ATAYA

BELFAST
INTERNATIONAL
ARTS FESTIVAL

PALESTINE

Funded by



Everything is a new work by rising Palestinian choreographer Salma Ataya. The piece has been created as part of BIAF's international dance exchange project *Our Voice Together Now*, funded by the British Council's International Collaboration Grants (see p.22).

Three dancers search for moments of clarity in a precarious world that never stops moving. They explore what it means to stay alert yet at ease, to rest while in motion, and to find space where there is none. This quiet, powerful piece is both an act of resistance and a reflection on how we survive when everything and nothing happens at once.



OUR VOICE TOGETHER NOW

Our Voice Together Now is a unique dance exchange between **Belfast International Arts Festival**, **Orient Productions** (Egypt) and **Sareyyet Ramallah** (Palestine). Funded by an International Collaboration award from the British Council, the project will result in three new works being presented across 2025–2026.

Palestinian choreographer **Salma Ataya** is developing her piece *Everything* with three local dancers in Belfast. The work will premiere during this year's Festival at the Crescent Arts Centre (see p. 21 for more).

Northern Irish choreographer and BIAF's 2025 Artist in Residence, **Michael McEvoy**, has created his new piece *Tá brón orm* (Irish for 'grief is upon me') with a cast of Egyptian dancers in Cairo. It will debut at the Arab Arts Focus showcase during **D-CAF** (Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival) in October.

Egyptian choreographer **Shaymaa Shoukry** is creating a new piece called *The Light Within* (نور in Arabic) originally planned to debut at **Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival**. However, due to the ongoing crisis in Gaza, the all-female cast is rehearsing in Cairo. Her piece will also debut at the Arab Arts Focus this October, with hopes for a Ramallah performance in 2026.

All three pieces will be seen by audiences in Belfast, Cairo and Ramallah over the next two years.

At its heart, *Our Voice Together Now* is about connection and supporting new talent in dance. Through these new works, artists from Northern Ireland, Egypt, and Palestine come together to create, collaborate, and share powerful stories across borders - a vital act of solidarity in uncertain times.

Funded by



سرية رام الله القلوي
Sareyyet Ramallah



© Shaymaa Shoukry

THEATRE AND DANCE

BPM: BARNEYS, PARTIES AND MELTERS

WORK IN PROGRESS PERFORMANCE

OFF THE RAILS DANCE /
EILEEN MCCLORY

NORTHERN IRELAND

Brian Friel Theatre, QFT
Sat 1 Nov
2pm

£7.50

Join us on the dance floor for a sweat-soaked, beat-fuelled dance-theatre experience.

BPM: Barneys, Parties & Melters is a bold new dance-theatre production that pulses with the energy, euphoria, and chaos of Northern Ireland's 1990s–2000s rave scene.

Driven by a live DJ set, this immersive work in progress blends raw contemporary dance, striking theatrical moments, and the real voices of the era — featuring archival sound bites and interviews with the DJs, dancers, and ravers who lived it.

Contains strobe lighting, smoke and very loud music.

Duration: 20min + Q&A | 16 Yrs+



BELFASTINTERNATIONALARTSFESTIVAL.COM

THE REST OF OUR LIVES

JO FONG & GEORGE ORANGE

UK

The MAC
Sat 8 Nov
7.45pm

£18 / £16

CLOSING
EVENT

IRISH
PREMIERE

“a blueprint for happily
living the rest of our lives”

The Guardian ****

Join Jo and George for a joyful evening
of dance, circus and games.

The struggle is real.
We're only at the beginning of the end.
But we're all still here.

Jo is an old dancer, George an old clown.
They are international artists with 100 years
experience between them. They've reached
mid-way, and now they're looking at the rest
of their lives and wondering, what next?

Jo and George will be armed with a soundtrack
of floor-fillers, a book of raffle tickets and a
sprinkling of eco-friendly glitter. Join them
as they negotiate middle life with humour,
tenderness and outlandish optimism.

Contains middle-aged themes and
strong language.

Duration: 1hr 20 mins | 14 Yrs+

MUSIC





CHRIS SMITHER

SPECIAL GUEST BETTYSOO

USA

The Black Box
Fri 17 Oct
7pm (doors)

£20

A true American original, Chris Smither makes his Festival debut performing music from his vast song catalogue.

Smither is a profound songwriter who melds the styles of his two major influences, Lightnin' Hopkins and Mississippi John Hurt, into his own signature guitar sound. His music draws deeply from the blues, American folk and modern poets and his songs have been covered by Bonnie Raitt, John Mayall, Emmylou Harris and Diana Krall among others.

Smither's 20th album, *All About the Bones* features eight new songs plus renditions of Eliza Gilkyson's "Calm Before the Storm" and Tom Petty's "Time to Move On." Singer-songwriter BettySoo joined Chris in the studio to record the album and is tonight's special guest.

18 Yrs+

© Joanna Chattman



PIAF

CHRISTINE BOVILL

SCOTLAND / IRELAND / FRANCE

Áras Mhic Reachtain
Fri 17 Oct
8pm (doors)

£16

Christine Bovill, Scotland's Little Sparrow and multi award-winning songwriter and performer brings her triumphant show *Piaf* to Áras Mhic Reachtain.

Bovill is the world's best Piaf performer. No pretence. No gimmicks. Simply a voice, pure and majestic, singing of life's triumphs and tragedies. Resisting the temptation of retelling her life story, *Piaf* focuses instead on the music. Not to be missed!

Support from gypsy-jazz quintet, **Manouche**.

18 Yrs+



THE ORB

UK

Mandela Hall
Sat 18 Oct
7pm (doors)

£32

The Orb return to Belfast with a euphoric live show celebrating over three decades of boundary-pushing electronic music in celebration of their recently released new retrospective vinyl album *Orboretum: The Orb Collection*.

In the decades since Alex Paterson lit the touchpaper on The Orb's interstellar space odyssey, he continues to swerve becoming his own tribute act, by never standing still and preparing a cluster of fresh new projects. Now 20 albums into an astonishing career, The Orb are producing some of their most towering work.

18 Yrs+



BOULEZ: ANTHEMS AND DIALOGUES

NORTHERN LIGHTS PROJECT,
HARD RAIN SOLOISTENSEMBLE & SARC

NORTHERN IRELAND

SARC
Sun 19 Oct
7pm

£10 / £8 concession

Join Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble for an evening of contemporary music, featuring landmark works by Pierre Boulez alongside a selection of innovative ensemble pieces at the Sonic Lab at SARC.

Anthèmes 2 (1997), performed by Darragh Morgan, is a virtuosic exploration of space and sound for violin and live electronics. *Dialogue de l'ombre double* (1984), performed by Sarah Watts, is a theatrical and introspective work for clarinet and tape. Both pieces feature live electronics realised by Peter O'Doherty.

These iconic works sit alongside ensemble repertoire that reflects Hard Rain's dedication to adventurous, cutting-edge music.

Duration: 1hr 30 mins

CHARLES OWEN

SOLOIST & COLLABORATOR

BBC RADIO 3 CONCERTS

UK

St. Mark's Church Dundela
Mon 20 & Tues 21 Oct
7.30pm

Free

Charles will bring two programmes to the Festival, first showcasing his skill as a soloist and then as a collaborator, performing duo repertoire with his long-time friend Katya Apekisheva - one of Europe's most renowned and gifted pianists.

On the 20th Charles will perform works by Schumann, Chaminade, De Falla, Ravel and Cheryl Frances-Hoad. He'll be joined by Katya on the 21st for solo and duo performances, including Ravel's luminous *Mother Goose Suite*.

Tickets available Mon 15 September – see website.

Duration: 2 hrs | 12 Yrs+

“One of the finest British pianists
of his generation”

Gramophone Magazine

BBC
RADIO 3

NI
PREMIERE



BELFASTINTERNATIONALARTSFESTIVAL.COM

MARTIN HAYES TRIO

IRELAND

Grand Opera House
Wed 22 Oct
7.30pm

£28 - £17

Martin Hayes, one of the most revered fiddlers of our time, returns to Festival for a special performance alongside Brian Donnellan (bouzouki, concertina) and Conal O'Kane (guitar).

Renowned for his soulful interpretations of traditional Irish music, Martin is the founder of the musical supergroup The Gloaming, The Common Ground Ensemble, and the Martin Hayes Quartet.

Over the past thirty years, Martin has recorded and collaborated with extraordinary musicians in the classical, folk and contemporary music worlds, including Dennis Cahill, Yo-Yo Ma, Sting and Paul Simon.

This is an opportunity to experience the artistry of one of Irish music's true masters.

"An unquenchable affinity with the melody line"

The Irish Times *****



GERARD McCHRYSTAL & CRAIG OGDEN

BELFAST MUSIC SOCIETY'S NORTHERN LIGHTS MINI-FEST

NORTHERN IRELAND / AUSTRALIA

The Harty Room, QUB
Thur 23 Oct
7.30pm

£20 / £15 concession / £5 student

World renowned artists Craig Ogden and Gerard McChrystal present an original and exciting programme influenced by folk, jazz and South American music to showcase the many different styles and variety of sound of these popular instruments.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of their duo and with many works written especially for them, the programme features Latin American rhythms, Celtic energy and Australian reflections together with solo guitar works.

Virtuosic, compelling playing coupled with a relaxed concert presentation have made them firm favourites with audiences.

Duration: 1hr 30 inc. interval | 8 Yrs+





BBC INTRODUCING LIVE

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Limelight
Fri 24 Oct
7pm (doors)

[See website for details](#)

BBC INTRODUCING...
LIVE

BBC Introducing LIVE returns to the Festival for a third year, showcasing unmissable performances from our homegrown music scene's rising stars.

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.

Previous artists to play the BBC Introducing stage include Ed Sheeran, Raye, Sam Fender and Wet Leg, so be sure to come and see your next favourite artist in this most intimate of venues.

18 Yrs+

ULSTER ORCHESTRA

DISTANT SHORES

UK/IRELAND/FRANCE

Ulster Hall
Fri 24 Oct
7.45pm

£38 - £12

Take a step out of the everyday and visit worlds of the imagination.

A new Ulster Orchestra co-commission from Michael Gallen, *Bád on Alltár*, translates as 'Boat From Beyond' and is a fusion of Irish Traditional and classical musics, drawing on the Celtic idea of the 'thin veil' between reality and the otherworld, bringing something new and previously unimagined to change our lives.

In Ravel's *Ma mère l'oye* we look into the world of much-loved fairy tales, while Debussy's Nocturnes draw inspiration from paintings by James McNeill Whistler.

Duration: 2hrs approx.



**UK
PREMIERE**



RORY FRIERS

WITH MICHAEL KEENEY
& ARCO STRING QUARTET

SPECIAL GUEST ÁINE GORDON

NORTHERN IRELAND

The MAC
Sat 25 Oct
7pm (doors)

£20

Internationally recognised composer, producer and immersive artist Rory Friers plays a very special home town performance to mark the launch of his debut solo release *HOME*.

Best known for his emotionally resonant film scores, immersive sound installations, and his award-winning work as guitarist and songwriter in experimental rock band *And So I Watch You From Afar*, Friers blends intricate strings, warm electronica and expressive guitar into deeply emotional musical experiences.

This one-off concert features frequent collaborators; pianist Michael Keeney, Arco String Quartet, and others from his core ensemble, performing new music from *Home* and selections from his back catalogue and film work.



CAMERATA IRELAND

Camerata Ireland, directed by Barry Douglas, celebrates its 25th anniversary with a vibrant one-hour programme.

The concert features Mozart's elegant Piano Concertos in A major (K. 414) and E-flat major (K. 449), performed by Douglas as soloist.

At its heart is the world premiere of *Environments IV* by Belfast composer Greg Caffrey, commissioned with support from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This atmospheric new work showcases flautist Aisling Agnew and reflects Camerata Ireland's ongoing commitment to championing exceptional music from across the island.

Duration: 1hr (no interval) | 8 Yrs+

BELFAST MUSIC SOCIETY'S
NORTHERN LIGHTS MINI-FEST

NI / IRELAND

The Great Hall, QUB
Sat 25 Oct
7pm

£20 / £15 concession / £5 student

M'ANAM

BELFAST MUSIC SOCIETY'S NORTHERN LIGHTS MINI-FEST

IRELAND

The Harty Room, QUB
Sun 26 Oct
3pm

£20 / £15 concession / £5 student

M'ANAM ("My Soul" in the Irish language) is a male voice group whose performances evoke soundscapes rooted in nature and the universality of the human condition. They fuse music from Ireland, with its strong connection to the land, with a diversity of sounds and ideas. These encompass Nordic songs about Viking funeral rites and songs of the Celtic traditions, with ancient chant-like sonic textures that lend a timeless quality to their work.

M'ANAM have headlined Dublin's Tradfest and Glasgow's Celtic Connections and toured Europe to much acclaim. In 2025, they release their second album - an exploration of island people and their connections to the sea and land.

Duration: 1hr 30 inc. interval | 8 Yrs+

MUSIC & MOVEMENT OF DISPLACEMENT AND BELONGING

BEYOND SKIN & FREEMUSE

UKRAINE | AFGHANISTAN | IRAN

The Duncairn
Sun 26 Oct
7.30pm

£15 / £10 concession



Daisy Electra (Ukraine), Taranom Pazhuhan (Afghanistan) and Persian pianist Ali Kazemi perform alongside a diversity of musicians defending artistic freedom to enable change.

Taranom is a young Afghan woman dancer and musician blending expressive movement with Persian and English vocals in an emotionally charged performance.

Duration: 1hr 30 mins | 16 Yrs+



THE DEEP BLUE

UK

The Deer's Head
Sun 26 Oct
7pm (doors)

£17

The Deep Blue play a much anticipated Belfast debut headliner. It follows a summer tour opening spot and guest vocalist duties with The Waterboys including at the city's Waterfront Hall.

The Deep Blue seamlessly blend rebellious lyricism with hypnotic harmonies, captivating audiences since their breakthrough in 2021.

18 Yrs+



WILLY MASON

USA

Empire Music Hall
Wed 29 Oct
7.30pm (doors)

£20.50

Willy Mason is back in Belfast as part of his 2025 European tour.

Since 2020 Willy has toured with increasing regularity, steadily honing his live sound. His band includes Charlotte Anne Dole on drums (Cymbals Eat Guitars) and Farley Glavin on bass (The Lemonheads). The trio have a tight and dynamic sound that allows them to move between all phases of Willy's catalogue, with high energy and care.

Willy's dark yet uplifting songs have endured and evolved for two decades. He is in yet another new phase, emboldened by experience. This tour and accompanying album will be a culmination of his post pandemic work.

18 Yrs+

LISA O'NEILL

IRELAND

The MAC
Wed 29 & Thur 30 Oct
7.30pm

£31.50

Lisa O'Neill brings her singular voice to the Festival for two intimate performances at The MAC.

A raconteur in the truest sense of the word, O'Neill is one of Ireland's most arresting and original songwriters and a five-time BBC Folk Award nominee.

Her acclaimed last album *All of This Is Chance* ranked highly on many critics 2023's Albums of The Year Lists and recent sold out shows at Dublin's National Concert Hall with the National Symphony Orchestra and London's Barbican with the Britten Sinfonia were widely acclaimed.

Lisa's most recent single, featuring vocals from Libertines' Peter Doherty, 'Homeless in the Thousands (Dublin in the Digital Age)' was written in response to the homelessness crisis in Dublin.

14 Yrs+



© Jill Furmanovsky

HOOLA

SOUTH KOREA

The MAC
Tues 4 Nov
7.00pm (Doors)

£15 / £12



Forged in the industrial heart of Daegu, Korea, HOOLA transform the discarded into the divine. With instruments crafted from PVC pipes, paint cans, and shampoo bottles, this electrifying collective reimagines opera arias and EDM anthems through the pulse of upcycled sound.

Their kinetic performances blur the line between street invention and high art, earning acclaim from rock royalty like the Scorpions' Klaus Meine.

Expect a genre-bending set that's equal parts spectacle and social statement — a celebration of rhythm, reinvention, and raw creative force.

As part of a UNESCO City of Music partnership between Belfast and Daegu, HOOLA will be joined by a support act from Belfast.

14 Yrs+



BILLIE MARTEN

UK

Empire Music Hall
Thur 6 Nov
7.30pm (doors)

£26

Billie Marten brings her biggest tour to date to Belfast, in support of acclaimed new album *Dog Eared*. It is a warm, rich and textured record that bristles with confidence and self-belief.

The prolific singer-songwriter recorded the album in New York in Summer 2024 with producer Phil Weinrobe (Adrianne Lenker, Buck Meek, Laura Veirs) and an all-star cast of musicians.

Since the release of her fourth LP, 2023's *Drop Cherries*, Billie's largely spent her time on the road, honing her craft as a deeply instinctual artist and songwriter.

18 Yrs+



TURIN BRAKES

UK

Empire Music Hall
Fri 7 Nov
7.30pm (doors)

£32

Turin Brakes released their 10th album *Spacehopper* in May, their first new music in over 3 years. A milestone for a band whose debut was over 24 years ago - The Mercury Prize nominated *The Optimist LP*.

The 4-piece is made up of founders Oilly Knights and Gale Paridjanian, plus long-term collaborators Rob Allum and Eddie Myer. They followed *The Optimist* with *Ether Song* in 2003, a Top 5 album in the UK which featured the hit single 'Pain Killer (Summer Rain)'.

Turin Brakes understand the art of longevity and 'Spacehopper' is a worthy addition to a rich catalogue of albums.

18 Yrs+





ULSTER ORCHESTRA

ALWAYS CLARA

UK/IRELAND/ESTONIA/ROMANIA

Ulster Hall
Fri 7 Nov
7.45pm



£38 - £12

Clara Schumann was a phenomenally gifted pianist, brilliant composer, editor of her husband Robert's compositions and key supporter of Brahms. Her contribution to the world of music is vast.

The first half of this concert celebrates Clara herself, first in Gabriela Ortiz's *Clara*, a musical telling of the story of her relationship with Robert, and then in her own Piano Concerto, a dancing, dazzling tour-de-force.

The second half features two composers important to Clara, Schubert and Mendelssohn, both writing with a distinctly sun-kissed, Italian flavour.

Duration: 2hrs approx.



BROTHERS MOVING

UK

The Deer's Head
Sun 9 Nov
7pm (doors)

£21

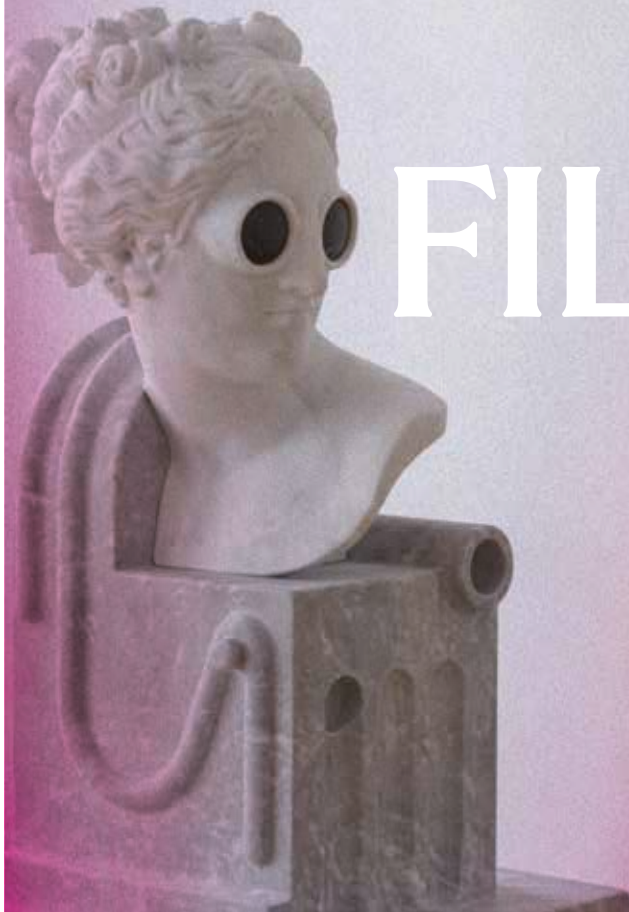
Brothers Moving are known for their raw, acoustic-driven sound that blends elements of folk, blues, and rock. Originally from Denmark, the band gained international attention through their spontaneous street performances, particularly in New York City.

Their live performances are a whirlwind of infectious rhythms, powerful vocals, and tight harmonies, often transforming public spaces into impromptu concert venues.

With their street performance videos amassing millions of views online, they have translated that energy into five EPs and albums, sustaining a loyal fanbase with over 260k monthly listeners on Spotify.

18 Yrs+

VISUAL ARTS AND FILM



HALF BAP WORKERS

CIARAN GALLAGHER

NORTHERN IRELAND

Sea Holly Gallery

Wed 15 Oct - Sat 15 Nov

See website for opening times

Free

WORLD
PREMIERE

Ciaran Gallagher has long turned his attention to the people of Belfast, capturing the city's character through portraiture.

His latest exhibition shifts focus to the Cathedral Quarter—an area layered with history and culture, once known as 'The Half Bap'. Once the industrial heart of Belfast, its cobbled streets now tell a different story, shaped by those who live and work there today.

In these new works, Ciaran continues to document a city in flux, highlighting the individuals who give this evolving district its edge.

Opening reception:

Wed 15 Oct, 7.30pm - 11pm



THE BIG NEIGHBOURHOOD

VARIOUS ARTISTS

VARIOUS

The Naughton Gallery,

Queen's University Belfast

Thur 16 Oct - Sun 30 Nov

11am - 4pm

Free

The Big Neighbourhood explores the rich tapestry of connection and community in our increasingly interconnected world. Through diverse media and perspectives, artists examine how we form bonds through the internet, pop culture, fandom, politics, and shared spaces.

This exhibition reflects on the neighbourhood as both a physical and digital home—where belonging, identity, and engagement take shape. Blurring lines between local and global, it reveals how communities thrive across borders and screens.

Step inside and discover how, no matter the distance, we're all part of one big neighbourhood.

Opening reception: Thur 16 Oct, 5.30pm - 8pm



144TH ROYAL ULSTER ACADEMY EXHIBITION

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ulster Museum

Sun 19 Oct - Sun 4 Jan
10am - 5pm (Tues - Sun) | Closed Mon

Free

Now in its 144th year, the Royal Ulster Academy's Annual Exhibition takes over the Ulster Museum with over 300 works spanning painting, sculpture, ceramics, print, and textile. The free show balances rising voices with established names—Andrew Cranston, Donovan Wylie, Jennifer Trouton, and more.

A Craft NI partnership elevates Northern Ireland's designer makers, while new prizes signal fresh momentum. With artist talks and workshops woven in, it's more than a showcase, it's a snapshot of where contemporary art in Northern Ireland stands and where it's headed.

Sponsored by KPMG. Education programme supported by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland through The Kingsbridge Foundation.

John Rainey, *Oculus Venus* (ed. 2/3), 2023 Photo: Jan McCullough

VISUAL ARTS AND FILM



BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

NORTHERN IRELAND

Queen Street Studios & Creative Exchange

Sat 25 Oct
11.30am - 5pm
Guided Tours at 12pm and 3pm

Free (book online for tours)

Step inside the city's creative engine rooms as over 65 artists open their doors across Creative Exchange & QSS Studios & Gallery. Roam at your own pace or join a guided tour for conversations with artists working across sculpture, ceramics, textiles, painting and more. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Both studios are vital to East Belfast's cultural landscape. It's a rare, behind-the-scenes look at how contemporary art is shaped, shared, and quietly sustained in this corner of the city.



BELFASTINTERNATIONALARTSFESTIVAL.COM



RAW CHICKEN

INDIGO AZIDAHAKA, ÉABHA
CAMPBELL AND CAMERON CLARKE

NORTHERN IRELAND

Queen Street Studios

Sat 8 Nov | 2pm
Exhibition: Thur 9 Oct - Thur 13 Nov
10am - 5pm (Mon - Thur)

Free

Raw Chicken is a riotous, Dada-inflected performance by Éabha Campbell and Indigo Azidahaka, with sound and light design by Cameron Clarke.

Puppetry, costume, and nonsense narration collide as the artists gradually become their own creations—blurring the line between puppet and puppeteer. Clarke manipulates field recordings and harmonium in real time, building an uncanny, immersive soundscape. Loosely riffing on *Metamorphosis*, the piece reimagines transformation not as tragedy but as resistance.

Performed live, this participatory work is anything but passive.

IT USED TO BE WITCHES – UNDER THE SPELL OF QUEER CINEMA

TALK & SCREENING OF APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

RYAN GILBEY

UK

Queen's Film Theatre
Tues 28 Oct
6pm (talk) | 7.25pm (Film)

£13 / £11

Duration: Talk - 1hr
Film - 86 mins

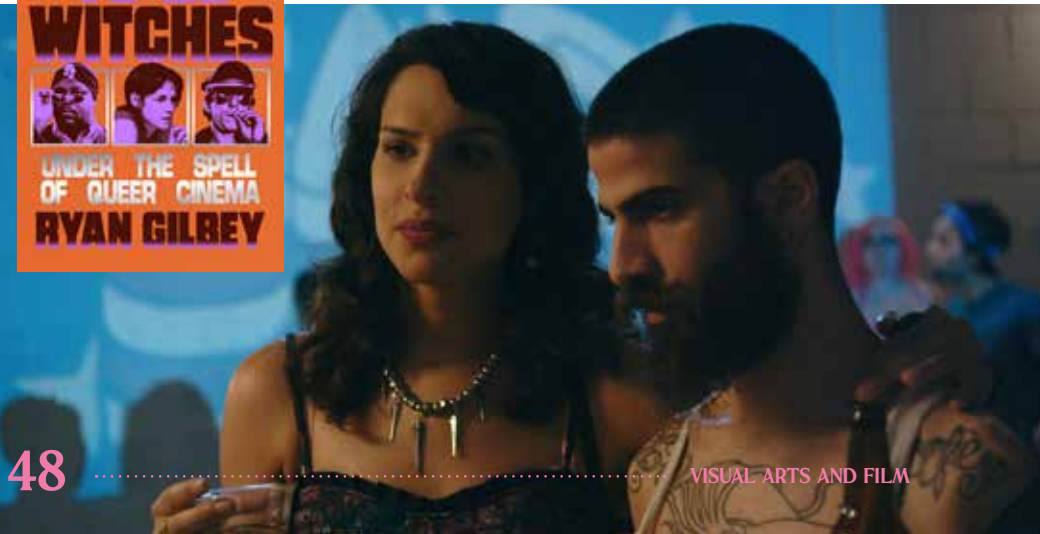
Film critic **Ryan Gilbey** presents *It Used to Be Witches*, his new book mapping a non-linear path through queer cinema history, in a special in conversation with Cian Smyth.

It Used to Be Witches is a playful blend of memoir, criticism and candid interviews with filmmakers from across the LGBTQ+ spectrum. Andrew Haigh, Cheryl Dunye and Isabel Sandoval are among the directors who reveal how queer artists use film to express personal truths—and to challenge a world that would rather they didn't exist.

Gilbey asks whether cinema can be an effective weapon of resistance and celebrates an outlaw spirit which refuses to die.

After the talk, Gilbey will introduce a screening of ***Appropriate Behaviour*** (2014). Writer-director-actress Desiree Akhavan's debut is a witty, Iranian, hipster date movie. After her girlfriend dumps her, Shirin (Akhavan) scrambles to hold her life together in modern-day Brooklyn.

15+



TALKS AND IDEAS

GEOFF DYER & JOE DUNTHORNE

UK

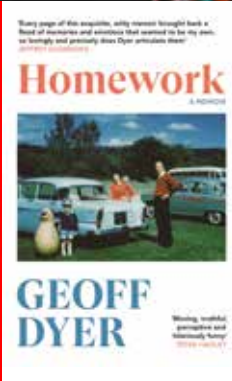
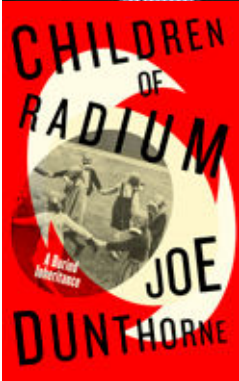
The Crescent
Tues 14 Oct
7pm

£7 / £6

Two of the UK's most original literary voices discuss their acclaimed new memoirs, *Homework* and *Children of Radium*, in conversation with critic John Self.

In *Homework*, Geoff Dyer turns his razor-sharp eye to his own story as the only child of a sheet-metal worker and a school dinner lady in post-war England — from the tribulations of teenage romance to the encounters with books that would transform his life. Tracing the class codes of a divided education system, *Homework* is a subtle examination of a generation and a culture from the award-winning author of *Yoga for People Who Can't Be Bothered to Do It* and *The Last Days of Roger Federer*.

Joe Dunthorne's *Children of Radium* investigates the remarkable life of his great grandfather, an eccentric Jewish chemist who invented a radioactive toothpaste and possessed a troublingly encyclopedic knowledge of poison gases. *Children of Radium* is a searching meditation on individual and collective inheritance from the acclaimed author of the cult classic novel *Submarine*.



TALKS AND IDEAS



CULTURAL WALKING TOURS

NORTHERN IRELAND

Various locations across Belfast
Ongoing Throughout The Festival
11am & 2pm

£12

We've partnered with the Northern Ireland Tourist Guide Association to offer insightful cultural walking tours during the Festival. Led by experienced guides, these tours provide a fresh perspective on Belfast's history and heritage. Whether you're familiar with the city or exploring it for the first time, they offer a thoughtful way to engage with its stories and streets.

Tours include:

Blue Plaques; Rhythm, Verse, Brushstrokes and Ballads; Drs and Diseases; Oscar Wilde Walking Tour; A Royal Tour of Belfast; CS Lewis Walking Tour; Artists, Architects, Authors and Actors; Churches of Belfast; Belfast Anti Slavery; Oats, Ropes and Whiskey - Connswater River; Cathedral Quarter Art Tour.

AN FIA SA CHOILL

SADHBH DEVLIN AND MÁIRE ZEPF

IRELAND / NORTHERN IRELAND

Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
Sat 18 Oct
2pm

Free - booking essential

To celebrate her new book, *An Fia sa Choill* - a beautiful new retelling of the Sadhbh and Oisín myth - Sadhbh Devlin will be joined by Máire Zepf, author of *An Féileacán agus an Rí* in a fun collaborative session exploring the world of Irish mythology and shape-shifters. Listen to Sadhbh and Máire as they share their infectious passion for the weird and wonderful in Irish myths and imagine your own shape shifting characters and stories.

This is an Irish language event in partnership with Young At Art.

6 Yrs+



MINERALS, GREED AND EXTRACTIVE CAPITALISM

PHILIP MARSDEN & LALEH KHALILI

UK / USA

No Alibis Bookshop

Sat 18 Oct
6pm

£7 / £6 /  3 events for £15

Philip Marsden and Laleh Khalili make a timely delve into the deep histories and present-day realities of extraction: of minerals, power, and capital in the age of Ukraine and Trump.

In *Under a Metal Sky: A Journey Through Minerals, Greed, and Wonder*, Marsden blends travel writing, geology and philosophy to explore how metals have shaped creativity and exploitation across human history. Khalili's *Extractive Capitalism* exposes the profit-driven exploitative systems fuelling today's global economy.

Together they offer urgent perspectives on the world's resources and the human and environmental cost of progress. Chaired by Hugh Odling-Smee, this promises to be a thought-provoking evening.



ARTS ACROSS BELFAST

CREATIVE TOURS BELFAST

NORTHERN IRELAND

The MAC (Meeting Point)

Sun 19 Oct
10.25am

£40

Board this festival half-day bus tour with Creative Tours Belfast to explore the best of Belfast's vibrant arts and cultural scene! Journeying north, south, east and west across the city, celebrate the impressive achievements of many great visual artists, writers, actors, directors and musicians connected to the different areas. Discover too, many of the city's arts centres, theatres, art galleries and music venues, see cool street artwork and public sculptures and listen to music and stories along the way.

The tour will make short visits to four arts centres, include a live performance, and a light lunch.

Duration: 4hrs



POETRY JUKEBOX

FRAGMENTS OF SCOTCH POETRY

UK

The Linen Hall

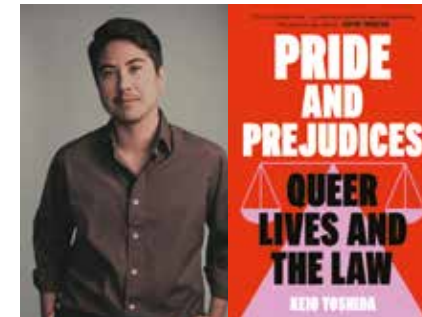
Wed 22 Oct - Fri 30 Jan
9.30am to 5.30pm (Mon-Fri)

Free

For this curation of the Poetry Jukebox, we asked ten poets, including Scots Makar Pàdraig MacAoidh and poets Anne McMaster, Charles Lang and Angeline King, to write new poems in response to Robert Burns and his Ulster contemporaries. All four poets join chair Maria McManus for an afternoon of readings and lively discussion as we explore the rich cultural and linguistic links between Ulster and Scotland.

Launch event: Wed 22 Oct, 1pm, £5.
Booking essential at linenhall.com.

This project is supported by the Department for Communities



QUEER LIVES AND THE LAW

KEIO YOSHIDA

UK

No Alibis Bookshop

Thur 23 Oct
6pm

£7 / £6

In *Pride and Prejudices: Queer Lives and the Law*, internationally acclaimed human rights lawyer Keio Yoshida presents a searing, forensic examination of global LGBTQ+ rights.

Yoshida analyses case law from around the world as well as the bitter debate over self-ID for trans people in the UK and Florida's recent 'Don't Say Gay' bill, and exposes the legal gaps that continue to endanger queer lives worldwide.

Returning to the Festival for a second time, Yoshida makes a timely and powerful case for enshrining LGBTQ+ rights within international human rights law.



JOHN HEWITT BIRTHDAY READINGS

EILISH MARTIN & DEAN BROWNE
IRELAND / NORTHERN IRELAND

The John Hewitt Bar
Mon 27 Oct
8pm
£10 / £8 concession

To mark the birth date of celebrated Belfast poet John Hewitt, The John Hewitt Society presents an evening of poetry in the pub named after him.

Belfast-born poet, translator, and visual artist Eilish Martin has published three collections of poetry including 2024's *! All'arme / ? And what... if not* (Macha Press).

Dean Browne received the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize in 2021 and his pamphlet, *Kitchens at Night* (2022) was a winner of the Poetry Business International Pamphlet Competition. His first collection, *After Party* was published this year.

Presented in association with Poetry Ireland.



CYNAN JONES & ANTHONY SHAPLAND

UK
No Alibis Bookshop
Tues 28 Oct
6pm
£7 / £6

This event brings together two Welsh writers whose finely tuned prose captures the quiet tensions that shape our lives.

Fear, vulnerability and resolve course through *Pulse*, an arresting collection of stories by Cynan Jones. Jones is the author of five short novels exploring the interactions of humans and the land and the winner of multiple prizes including the BBC National Short Story Award.

Anthony Shapland's *A Room Above a Shop*, named one of the Observer's best debut novels of 2025, is a quietly intense debut about forbidden love between two men working together in 1980s South Wales, set against the backdrop of the HIV/AIDS crisis and its accompanying moral panic.

COLIN DAVIDSON & MARK CARRUTHERS

NORTHERN IRELAND
Ulster University
Wed 5 Nov
6pm
£7 / £6

Join renowned artist Colin Davidson and broadcaster Mark Carruthers for an evening exploring *Twelve Paintings*, their acclaimed new book. Structured around a series of deeply personal conversations, the book uses twelve of Davidson's key works – from early Belfast street scenes to iconic portraits of Queen Elizabeth II, Seamus Heaney, and Edna O'Brien – as gateways into wider reflections on art, memory, and place.

On stage, Colin and Mark will discuss the powerful human stories behind these paintings with broadcaster Marie-Louise Kerr, with selected works displayed in the auditorium to accompany their conversation. Rooted in their long-standing friendship, *Twelve Paintings* combines memoir and artistic manifesto, offering a rare glimpse into Davidson's evolving creative process and the convictions that shape his work.

With warmth and candour, this event invites audiences into the world behind the canvas.



CATHERINE AIREY & GURNAIK JOHAL

UK / IRELAND

No Alibis Bookshop
Thur 6 Nov
6pm

£7 / £6 /  3 events for £15

Discover two outstanding new talents in fiction as Catherine Airey and Gurnaik Johal – both shortlisted for the 2025 Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize – join us for a conversation about their novels.

Catherine Airey's *Confessions* is an essential, immersive debut from an astonishing new voice. It traces the arc of three generations of women from rural Ireland to New York City as they experience the irresistible gravity of the past and the beauty and terrible shade of the things we do.

In *Saraswati*, Gurnaik Johal conjures a resurgent river in Northern India and a diaspora of relatives whose lives are upended by its return. Brimming with love, lust, violence and loss, Johal's magisterial debut deftly animates the passions that bind us to our histories, our lands and each other.



BERNIE McGILL

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Linen Hall
Fri 7 Nov
1pm

Free - Booking essential

In 2025, acclaimed writer Bernie McGill donated her literary archive to The Linen Hall. To mark the occasion, Hugh Odling-Smee talks to her in the library about her archive and about her wonderful writing career, from her novels *The Watch House* (nominated for the Ireland European Union Prize for Literature in 2019) and *The Butterfly Cabinet* (2010) through to her most recent publication, *This Train is For*, for which she won the 2023 Edge Hill Short Story Prize.

A selection of items from the archive will be on display at the event.

Supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



SEÁN HEWITT & MICHAEL AMHERST

UK / IRELAND

No Alibis Bookshop
Fri 7 Nov
6pm

£7 / £6 /  3 events for £15

Seán Hewitt and Michael Amherst share their powerful new coming-of-age novels with John Self in this Festival conversation.

With his first foray into fiction, award-winning poet and memoirist Seán Hewitt has created a tender coming-of-age story. *Open, Heaven* is told in gorgeous prose, and traces a summer of awakening between two boys in rural Ireland.

Michael Amherst's debut novel *The Boyhood of Cain* is a poignant story about a boy on the precipice of adulthood, struggling to understand how he might give and deserve love.

JOHN BANVILLE

IRELAND

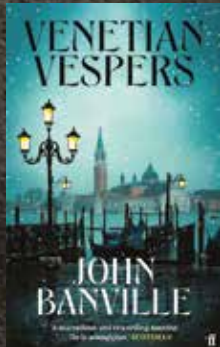
The MAC
Sat 8 Nov
2.30pm

£7 / £6

Step into the ghostly splendour of fin-de-siècle Venice with Booker Prize-winner John Banville as he discusses his beguiling new novel, *Venetian Vespers* with critic and writer Alex Clark.

A master of elegant prose and moral unease, Banville conjures a world of mist, intrigue and crumbling glamour, where a failing writer, a fragile marriage, and a decaying palazzo harbour strange secrets. With echoes of Henry James and a dash of gothic unease, this is Banville at his most intoxicating.

Born in Wexford, John Banville is the author of many novels including *The Book of Evidence*, *The Sea* and more recently the best-selling Strafford and Quirke crime series.



“The most eminent innovator in Irish fiction of the last 50 years.”

IRISH TIMES

ELAINE FEENEY & ALI WATKINS

IRELAND / USA

The MAC
Sat 8 Nov
6pm

£7 / £6

Elaine Feeney and Ali Watkins join Alex Clark to discuss two powerful new books exploring Irish identity, legacy and the enduring shadow of the Troubles.

Elaine Feeney, the bestselling author of the Booker-longlisted *How to Build a Boat*, returns with *Let Me Go Mad In My Own Way* – a darkly lyrical, multigenerational novel set on Ireland's west coast, where family secrets and inherited trauma slowly surface.

New York Times reporter and Pulitzer finalist Ali Watkins' true-crime saga *The Next One Is For You* is the long-buried story of how a ragtag band of Philadelphia gunrunners armed the IRA at the height of the Troubles. A gripping tale of crime, rebellion and the hazy line between them, *The Next One Is for You* is the definitive account of America's hand in the Troubles.



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. It includes 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 OUR 2025 EMBRACE PROGRAMME INCLUDE:

- *IN-visible ID-entities 7: The Search for Harmony* is a free community programme funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Reconciliation Fund. It will engage with up to 1,200 young people across Belfast, exploring themes of friendship, cooperation, and second chances—reflecting those in Cahoots' *The Musicians of Bremen Live!* and *Unlocking Sherlock*.
- A free outdoor performance for all the family in CS Lewis Square on Saturday 18 October of *Anchored In Air*, the ground-breaking aerial theatre show by a disabled & non-disabled company, Head Over Wheels.
- Free recitals at St Mark's Church, Dundela on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 October from our partners BBC Radio 3, featuring classical musician Charles Owen performing duo repertoire with his long-time friend Katya Apekisheva - one of Europe's most renowned and gifted pianists.
- Free entry to exhibitions in our Visual Arts & Film programme (pp. 44 - 47).

There will also be a series of free post show talks and discussions with performers appearing in the programme.

Please visit our website for more information.



FUTURE PARADE

Future Parade is a new Shared Island creative youth project supported by four leading arts organisations: Macnas, BIAF, EastSide Arts, and Féile an Phobail. Designed to bring together young people from diverse backgrounds, the initiative uses the spectacle of parade to explore shared stories, cultural identity, and community connection.

This exchange will culminate in a finale performance as part of Féile an Phobail's Halloween Parade.

Spórtlann, Falls Rd (starting point)
Thur 30 Oct
7pm

Check website for info

Since mid-March, teenagers from across Belfast and Galway have been collaborating on the project, imagining how a new generation might creatively animate our streets.

Participants are working closely with professional artists in sustainable design, performance, storytelling, and placemaking. Through weekly workshops and residential weekends, they're gaining practical skills in spectacle arts while building friendships across geographical and cultural divides.

At its core, *Future Parade* is about self-expression, experimentation, and reimagining shared island experiences. The programme promotes creative dialogue and hands-on learning, encouraging participants to think critically, solve problems, and collaborate meaningfully.

By combining the expertise of established cultural organisations, *Future Parade* offers young people a platform to lead conversations about identity, community, and the future they want to shape together.

Funded by Creative Ireland under Creative Youth on a Shared Island.

INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE 2025

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 delighted to bring back our professional developmental initiative for the second consecutive year under Embrace: a three-day event showcasing the best theatre and performing arts from across NI to international delegates.

Our showcase is generously sponsored by Culture Ireland and Belfast City Council and is delivered in partnership with British Council NI and Theatre and Dance NI.

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 in venues across Belfast from 30 October - 1 November featuring performances from:
Big Telly Theatre Company, Cahoots, Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre, Michael McEvoy, Off The Rails Dance Company, Salma Ataya / BIAF, Lyric Theatre and Tinderbox Theatre Company.



AT A GLANCE

ONGOING THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

Raw Chicken	Queen Street Studios	Thur 9 Oct - Thur 13 Nov	Visual Arts	47
Half Bap Workers	Sea Holly Gallery	Wed 15 Oct - Sat 15 Nov	Visual Arts	44
The Big Neighbourhood	The Naughton Gallery	Thur 16 Oct - Sun 30 Nov	Visual Arts	45
RUA Exhibition	Ulster Museum	Sun 19 Oct - Sun 4 Jan	Visual Arts	46
Poetry Jukebox	The Linen Hall	Wed 22 Oct - Fri 30 Jan	Talks & Ideas	53

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER

Geoff Dyer & Joe Dunthorne	The Crescent	7:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	50
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WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER

Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Dancehall	The MAC	7:45 PM	Theatre & Dance	8

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER

Blue Plaques - Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	9

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER

Rhythm, Verse, Brushstrokes & Ballads - Walking Tour	Albert Clock	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Loose Ends Live BBC Radio 4	Check Website for Details	12:00 PM	Special Event	5
Chris Smither	The Black Box	7:00 PM	Music	26
Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Unreconciled	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Christine Bovill - Piaf	Áras Mhic Reachtain	8:00 PM	Music	27

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

Drs & Diseases - Walking Tour	45 Frederick Street	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Anchored in Air	CS Lewis Square	1:10 PM & 3:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	11
An Fia sa Choill: Sadhbh Devlin and Máire Zepf	Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Unreconciled	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Philip Marsden & Laleh Khalili	No Alibis	6:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	52
The Orb	Mandela Hall	7:00 PM	Music	27

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

Arts Across Belfast - Bus Tour	The MAC (Meeting Point)	10:25 AM	Talks & Ideas	52
Oscar Wilde - Walking Tour	Queen's University	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Unreconciled	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	3:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Boulez: Anthems & Dialogues	SARC	7:00 PM	Music	28

MONDAY 20 OCTOBER

Charles Owen BBC Radio 3	St Marks Church, Dundela	7:30 PM	Music	29
Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	9

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

A Royal Tour of Belfast - Walking Tour	Queen Victoria Bridge	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
Charles Owen BBC Radio 3	St Marks Church, Dundela	7:30 PM	Music	29
Instructions	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	12

WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER

CS Lewis - Walking Tour	CS Lewis Sq	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Poetry Jukebox Launch	The Linen Hall	1:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	53
Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Martin Hayes Trio	Grand Opera House	7:30 PM	Music	30
Instructions	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	12

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

Artists, Architects, Authors & Actors - Tour	Friar's Bush Graveyard	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Keio Yoshida	No Alibis	6:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	53
Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Gerard McChrystal & Craig Ogden	The Harty Room, QUB	7:30 PM	Music	31

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

Churches of Belfast - Tour	Belfast City Hall	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Ottillie	Grand Opera House - Studio	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
BBC Introducing LIVE	The Limelight	7:00 PM	Music	32
Ulster Orchestra - Distant Shores	Ulster Hall	7:45 PM	Music	33
My English Persian Kitchen	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	15

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER

Belfast Anti Slavery - Tour	The Big Fish	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Behind the Studio Door	Queen Street Studios	11:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Visual Art	47
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Rory Friers	The MAC	7:00 PM	Music	34
Camerata Ireland	The Great Hall, QUB	7:00 PM	Music	35
My English Persian Kitchen	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	15

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER

Art of the Celtic Cross - Tour	Belfast City Cemetery	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
M'Anam	The Harty Room, QUB	3:00 PM	Music	36
The Deep Blue	The Deer's Head	7:00 PM	Music	38
Music & Movement of Displacement & Belonging	The Duncairn	7:30 PM	Music	37

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER

John Hewitt Birthday Readings	The John Hewitt Bar	8:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	54
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TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER

Spinning Yarns - Linen Quarter Tour	Ulster Hall	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
My Grandfather's House	Secret Location	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	16
Cynan Jones & Anthony Shapland	No Alibis	6:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	54
Under the Spell of Queer Cinema	QFT	6:00 PM	Visual Arts & Film	48
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER

Oats, Ropes & Whiskey - Tour	CS Lewis Sq	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
My Grandfather's House	Secret Location	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	16
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Willy Mason	Empire Music Hall	7:30 PM	Music	38
Lisa O'Neill	The MAC	7:30 PM	Music	39
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER

Contrasts of Belfast - Tour	Belfast City Hall	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
The Musicians of Bremen	Cahoots – Cityside	5:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	18

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER

Future Parade	Spórtlann, Falls Road (Starting Point)	7:00 PM	Embrace	61
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Lisa O'Neill	The MAC	7:30 PM	Music	39
My Grandfather's House	Secret Location	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	16
Unlocking Sherlock	Cahoots – Cityside	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	19
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER

Rhythm, Verse, Brushstokes & Ballads - Walking Tour	Albert Clock	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
My Grandfather's House	Secret Location	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	16
The Musicians of Bremen	Cahoots – Cityside	5:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	18
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Everything & The Fallen	The Crescent	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	20
Unlocking Sherlock	Cahoots – Cityside	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	19
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Drs & Diseases - Walking Tour	45 Frederick Street	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
My Grandfather's House	Secret Location	11:00 AM, 3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	16
BPM - Barneys, Parties & Melters	Brian Friel Theatre - QFT	2:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	23
The Musicians of Bremen	Cahoots – Cityside	2:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	18
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Faust-is	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17
Unlocking Sherlock	Cahoots – Cityside	7:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	19
Everything & The Fallen	The Crescent	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	20

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER

My Grandfather's House	Secret Location	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	16
The Musicians of Bremen	Cahoots – Cityside	2:00PM	Theatre & Dance	18
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Upside Down House	The MAC	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	3:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17
Unlocking Sherlock	Cahoots – Cityside	7:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	19

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Belfast Anti Slavery - Tour	The Big Fish	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
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TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

HOOLA	The MAC	7:00 PM	Music	40
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Colin Davidson & Mark Carruthers	Ulster University	6:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	55
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

The Man Who Sold Belfast - Tour	Ormeau Park	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Catherine Airey & Gurnaik Johal	No Alibis	6:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	56
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
Billie Marten	Empire Music Hall	7:30 PM	Music	41
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER

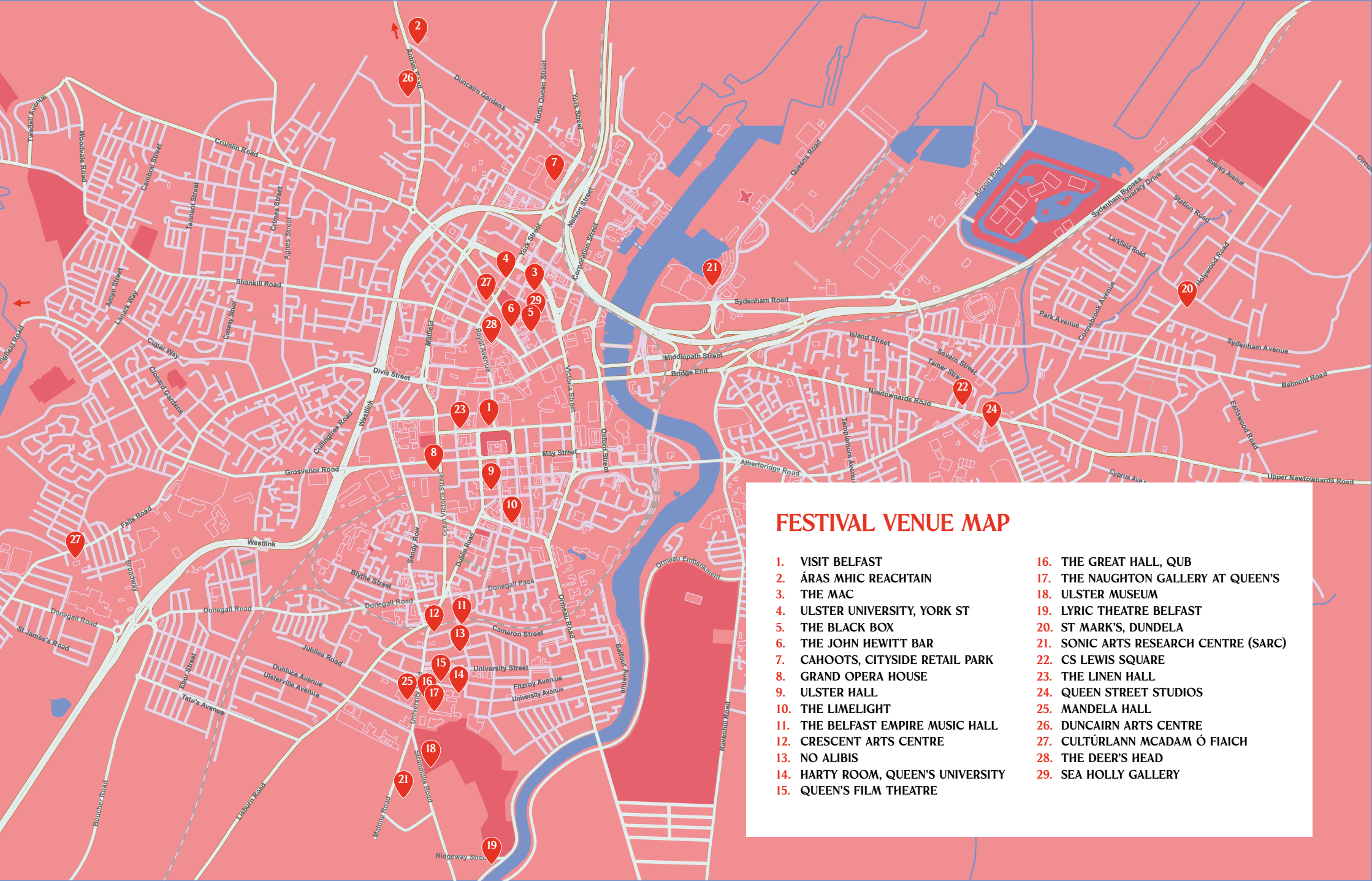
Cathedral Quarter Art Tour	St Anne's Cathedral	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Bernie McGill	The Linen Hall	1:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	57
Seán Hewitt & Michael Amherst	No Alibis	6:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	57
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
Turin Brakes	Empire Music Hall	7:30 PM	Music	41
Ulster Orchestra - Always Clara	Ulster Hall	7:45 PM	Music	42
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Raw Chicken - Performance	Queen Street Studios	2:00 PM	Visual Art	47
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM & 7:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
John Banville	The MAC	2:30 PM	Talks & Ideas	58
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17
Elaine Feeney & Ali Watkins	The MAC	6:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	59
The Rest of our Lives	The MAC	7:45 PM	Theatre & Dance	24

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

Oscar Wilde - Walking Tour	Queen's University	11:00 AM & 2:00 PM	Talks & Ideas	51
Denouement	Lyric Theatre	2:30 PM	Theatre & Dance	13
Faust-ish	Lyric Theatre - Naughton	3:00 PM	Theatre & Dance	17
Brothers Moving	The Deer's Head	7:00 PM	Music	42



FESTIVAL VENUE MAP

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. VISIT BELFAST | 16. THE GREAT HALL, QUB |
| 2. ÁRAS MHC REACHTAIN | 17. THE NAUGHTON GALLERY AT QUEEN'S |
| 3. THE MAC | 18. ULSTER MUSEUM |
| 4. ULSTER UNIVERSITY, YORK ST | 19. LYRIC THEATRE BELFAST |
| 5. THE BLACK BOX | 20. ST MARK'S, DUNDELA |
| 6. THE JOHN HEWITT BAR | 21. SONIC ARTS RESEARCH CENTRE (SARC) |
| 7. CAHOOTS, CITYSIDE RETAIL PARK | 22. CS LEWIS SQUARE |
| 8. GRAND OPERA HOUSE | 23. THE LINEN HALL |
| 9. ULSTER HALL | 24. QUEEN STREET STUDIOS |
| 10. THE LIMELIGHT | 25. MANDELA HALL |
| 11. THE BELFAST EMPIRE MUSIC HALL | 26. DUNCAIRN ARTS CENTRE |
| 12. CRESCENT ARTS CENTRE | 27. CULTÚRLANN MCADAM Ó FIAICH |
| 13. NO ALIBIS | 28. THE DEER'S HEAD |
| 14. HARTY ROOM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY | 29. SEA HOLLY GALLERY |
| 15. QUEEN'S FILM THEATRE | |



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