
BELFAST
INTERNATIONAL
ARTS
FESTIVAL

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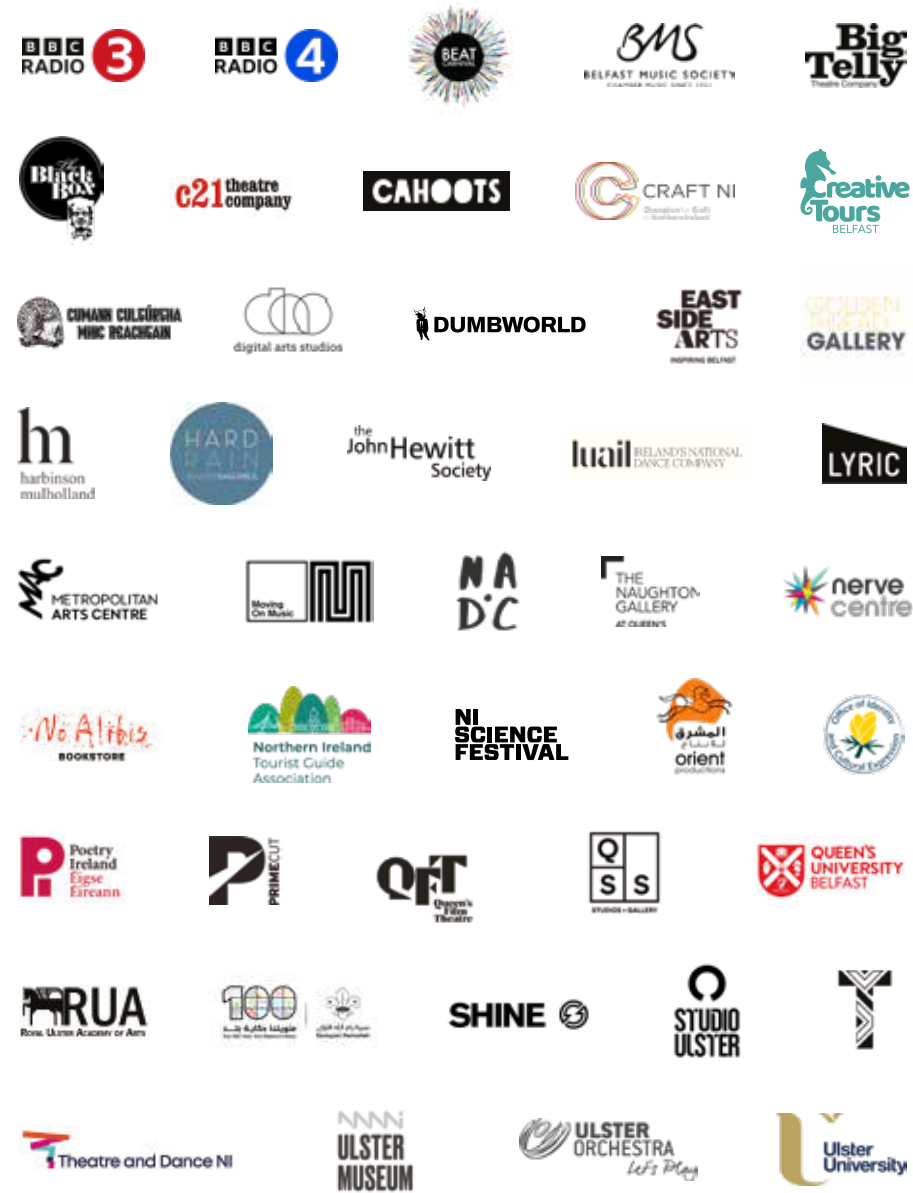
SPIRIT OF FESTIVAL



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DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

It is a tremendous honour to welcome you to our 64th Festival, and to present my first programme as Artistic Director.

Since its inception in 1962, this Festival has brought extraordinary artists, ideas and audiences together, becoming an enduring part of Belfast's cultural life through times of profound change. To now play a part in shaping its next chapter is a privilege, and I am delighted to invite you to join us for another celebration of art in all its boundless and beautiful forms.

Across four weeks, we welcome artists from 19 countries, alongside an exceptional range of work created here in Northern Ireland, presenting work in our theatres, galleries, concert halls, public spaces and some remarkable new venues. Alongside this, our International Showcase will welcome cultural leaders from more than 30 cities, giving them the opportunity to forge new international connections with our artists and companies.

Theatre and dance have always been central to Festival. We are delighted to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our friends at the Lyric Theatre through productions including Brian Friel's *Faith Healer*, *Hello Charlie* and the gloriously unpredictable *Darren Jackson's Wedding*. At The MAC, Tinderbox reimagines Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, while Belgium's internationally renowned Ontroerend Goed present *Thanks for Being Here*, an ingenious celebration of theatre's most essential element: its audience.

The *Our Voice Together Now* project reaches a crescendo with *The Light Within* and *Tá Brón Orm*, bringing together artists from Belfast, Cairo and Palestine through an inspiring international dance exchange. We close the Festival with *Nós*, a landmark new production from Luail – Ireland's National Dance Company – featuring work by Akram Khan, Oona Doherty and Liz Roche.



Music has always been central to Belfast's identity, and as a UNESCO City of Music we are delighted to present an ambitious and wide-ranging music programme. Senegal's legendary Orchestra Baobab opens the Festival, while Radiohead guitarist Ed O'Brien brings his new *Blue Morpho* project to the Ulster Hall. Across the programme, artists including Joshua Idehen, corto.alto, Fergus McCreadie, Henning Kraggerud and many others demonstrate the extraordinary breadth of music being created today.

Our 2026 Artist-in-Residence, Rory Friers, is a remarkable musician whose work crosses boundaries between sound, performance and visual art. Alongside his *HOME* installation at Studio Ulster, Rory will create an ambitious one-night-only performance at The MAC, alongside a variety of special guests.

This year sees the launch of our new Immersive Arts strand. At its heart is a takeover of Studio Ulster, the world's most advanced virtual production facility. Audiences will experience three ambitious immersive works in one of the world's most exciting creative spaces. Highlights include *TAKKUUK*, an extraordinary collaboration with Indigenous artists from Greenland featuring breathtaking infrared cinematography and a hypnotic

score by BICEP; Rory Friers' *HOME*, a powerful audiovisual installation; and *Lost Communications: Underwater*, An-Ting and Ian Gallagher's psychedelic descent into an underwater world. At QUB's Media Lab, Helena Hamilton presents *Becoming*, a deeply personal immersive exploration of the transformation of motherhood. Together, these works demonstrate the exciting creative possibilities emerging at the intersection of art and technology.

Our visual arts programme stretches across Belfast with exhibitions including the Royal Ulster Academy, Craft NI, Golden Thread Gallery, the Naughton Gallery and Queen Street Studios. Our outdoor programme will transform CS Lewis Square in partnership with Beat Carnival and Autin Dance Theatre. Creating space for conversation and new perspectives, our Talks & Ideas strand welcomes writers, artists and broadcasters including Sebastian Barry, Simon Mayo, Jan Carson, Bette Adriaanse and Brian Eno.

As we prepared this year's Festival, we were deeply saddened by the passing of Glen Hansard, who had been due to return to us in November. Glen was an extraordinary artist and a much-valued friend of the Festival. We were honoured to have welcomed him to Belfast in previous years, and his absence will be deeply felt. Our thoughts remain with his family, friends and all who loved him.

No festival of this scale is created alone. My sincere thanks go to our artists, staff, Board, funders, venues, programme partners, volunteers and the many organisations and communities who have helped bring this programme to life.

Most of all, thank you for joining us. I hope this programme encourages you to discover new artists, take a chance on something unexpected and celebrate the remarkable creativity that continues to make this city such a vibrant place in which to live and create.

I look forward to welcoming you this autumn.

CHRIS MCCREERY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& CEO

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Belfast International Arts Festival.

For more than six decades, BIAF has created opportunities for audiences to experience the very best of contemporary arts and culture from Northern Ireland and across the globe. At a time when public discourse can often feel fractured and febrile, the arts matter more than ever. Festivals like BIAF provide spaces where ideas can be explored openly, where we encounter perspectives different from our own, and where communities can come together.

The Festival remains committed to the values that have guided it for generations: creativity, curiosity, inclusion, internationalism and the belief that culture can connect people.

This year marks a new chapter in Festival's story. Following the retirement of Richard Wakely, we are delighted to welcome Chris McCreery as BIAF's new Artistic Director and Chief Executive.

Richard's contribution cannot be overstated. During twelve years of visionary leadership, he relaunched BIAF as an independent organisation, strengthened its international reputation, broadened its reach and established Belfast as a destination for ambitious artistic work. On behalf of the Board and everyone associated with Festival, I would like once again to express our gratitude.

As we look to the future, we are excited by the energy, ideas and leadership that Chris brings to the organisation. He joins Festival at a time of both opportunity and challenge for the arts sector, and his passion for artistic excellence, collaboration and audience engagement will help ensure BIAF continues to evolve while remaining true to the values that have shaped its success.



Belfast International Arts Festival continues to play an important role in the cultural life of our city and region. Through partnerships with artists, communities, venues and organisations, we create opportunities for participation, dialogue and discovery. We remain committed to ensuring that Festival is accessible and welcoming to everyone, and to showcasing a diversity of voices, perspectives and experiences.

We are immensely grateful for the continued support of our Principal Funder, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, together with Belfast City Council, Tourism Northern Ireland, the British Council, the Government of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, and our many partners, supporters and volunteers.

Most importantly, thank you to our audiences. Your enthusiasm, curiosity and support make Festival what it is. I invite you to explore this year's programme and join us in celebrating another extraordinary season of creativity, imagination and connection.

FIONA KANE MBE
CHAIRPERSON

ARTS COUNCIL NI FOREWORD

We are incredibly proud to be Principal Funder of one of Northern Ireland's cornerstone Arts Festivals. In its 64th year, Belfast International Arts Festival continues to be a platform for internationally acclaimed and new talent; a true celebration of local and global contemporary arts.

Just some of the international acts to look forward to include the acclaimed Orchestra Baobab from Senegal bringing Cuban and African sounds to Belfast; and the Northern Ireland premiere of Spectral Evolution from Portugal's Rafael Toral – a celebration of ambient and experimental music.

The exciting launch of the festival's new Immersive Arts strand, within Studio Ulster, platforms boundary-pushing immersive work by BICEP and Earthsonic, Rory Friers, An-Ting and Ian Gallagher. Alongside this, there is a rich variety of visual art exhibits across the city, while the festival's Talks and Ideas strand continues to celebrate Belfast and Northern Ireland's artistic history.

Other highlights include home-grown artists and all-island collaborations of the highest quality, all of whom are welcome additions to this international festival platform. This includes Tinderbox Theatre Company's adaptation of the Tennessee William's classic *The Glass Menagerie*; the world premiere of *Nōs*, a Luail production from Ireland's national all-island dance company; and Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble's *Silence and Sound Waves*, a celebration of composer Jane O'Leary alongside works exploring literature, mythology, landscape, memory and folk traditions. Just some of our incredible Northern Ireland and all-island arts organisations firmly centre stage.



This year also marks a new chapter for the Festival, under the guide of Artistic Director and CEO Chris McCreery. We look forward to enjoying his inaugural programme and his development of the Belfast International Arts Festival with innovative programme curation and as always, the best of international and local artistic talent across all genres.

We wish the BIAF team, local audiences, cultural tourists and artists an inspirational and enjoyable festival and many more to come.

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.

See visitbelfast.com for opening times.

TELEPHONE

+44 (0) 28 9024 6609

BOX OFFICE ENQUIRIES

ticketing@visitbelfast.com

BOOKING FEES

Many of our events incur a small booking fee, this varies from venue to venue and will be applied at checkouts.

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Contact our box office directly for information on access services and free carer tickets. For advice on wheelchair accessibility, contact venues directly.

Details about Accessible Performances, including captioned and signed events, can be found at 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

PROGRAMME CHANGES

Events listed in this brochure may be subject to change. Please check our website or social platforms for the most up to date information and for late additions.

FESTIVAL BOARD

Chairperson:
Fiona Kane MBE

Sharon Doherty

Kim Mawhinney

James McIlroy

Rebecca Russell

FESTIVAL TEAM

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& Chief Executive:
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General Manager:
Susan Picken

Marketing Manager:
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Technical Director:
Phil McCandlish

Operations Manager:
Dermot McGowan

Fundraising Manager:
Karin Jeffery

Finance & Officer
Administrator:
Lynsay Warnock

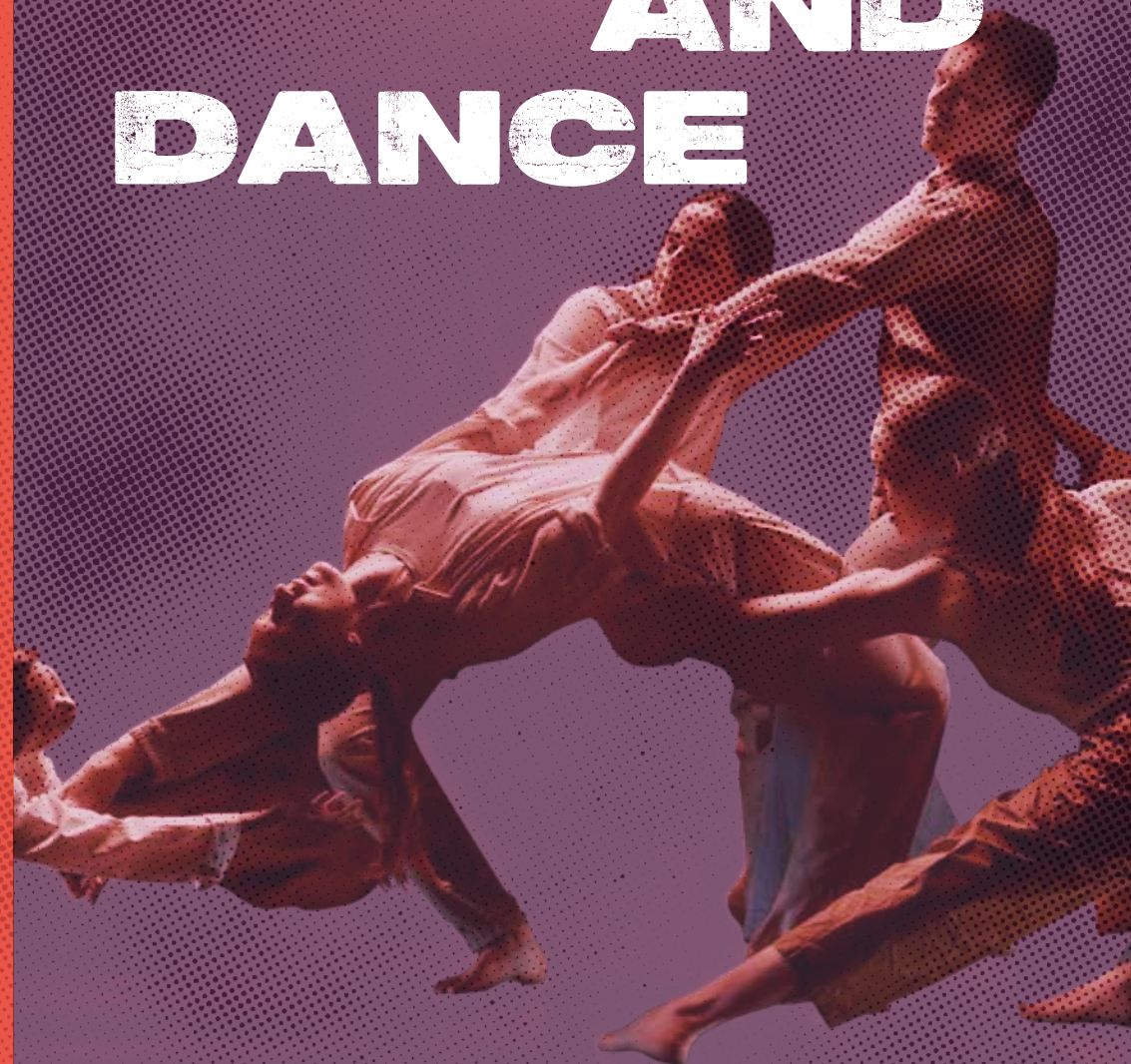
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Becky Turnock

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Programme Design:
Jeffers & Sons

THEATRE AND DANCE



Front Cover Image:
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Company No: NI 631354
Charity No: NIC 103560

HELLO CHARLIE

Written by Caoimhe Farren
Directed by Gina Donnelly
and Seón Simpson

**SkelpieLimmer Productions,
Front and Centre,
& An Grianán Theatre**

Northern Ireland

Lyric Theatre, Naughton Studio
Wed 7 – Sun 18 Oct
8pm (Wed – Sat) | 3pm (Sat & Sun)

£16 - £22

This multi-award-nominated dark comedy by Caoimhe Farren is a courageous and fiercely original portrayal of addiction.

Sisters Maeve and Kate have fled their past trauma in Derry and now live in London. Hedonistic Maeve binge-drinks to oblivion while stoic Kate sees history repeating itself. But as Maeve dodges culpability for her drunken antics, the blame clearly lies with her beloved, inebriated alter-ego: Charlie.

Developed through the Lyric's New Playwrights Programme, *Hello Charlie* was shortlisted for The Women's Prize for Playwriting, and was a finalist for the inaugural Victoria Wood Playwriting Prize for Comedy.

Contains reference to rape or sexual violence, scenes of substance abuse and strong language.

Duration: 2hrs 10mins (incl interval)

14 Yrs+

FAITH HEALER

Written by Brian Friel
Directed by Emma Jordan

A Lyric Theatre Production

Northern Ireland

Lyric Theatre
Sat 10 Oct – Sat 14 Nov
7.30pm (Tue – Sat) | 2.30pm (Sat & Sun)

£16 - £40

As part of its 75th anniversary year, the Lyric Theatre presents a major new production of Brian Friel's *Faith Healer*, starring Conleth Hill.

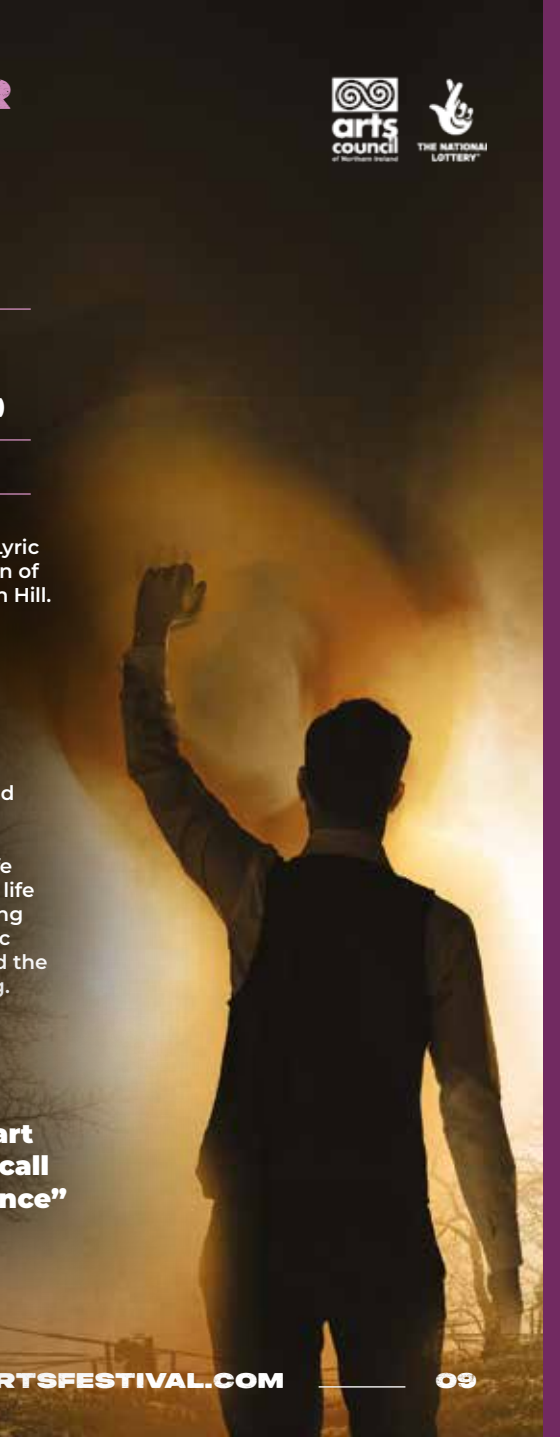
Hailed by The Guardian as one of the greatest plays of the twentieth century, *Faith Healer* has captivated audiences worldwide since its premiere in 1979.

Travelling through the remote villages of Scotland and Wales, Frank Hardy is promising miracle cures to those afflicted with sickness and pain. Part showman, part shaman, his gift is astonishing and dangerously unreliable. As Frank, his wife Grace and manager Teddy recount their life on the road, their stories reveal competing versions of the same events in this poetic exploration of a charismatic conman and the consequences of his creative storytelling.

14 Yrs+

**“one of those rare works of art
audiences are destined to recall
as a deeply personal experience”**

NEW YORK TIMES



THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

Cahoots NI

Northern Ireland

Cahoots - Cityside Retail Park

Sat 10 – Sun 25 Oct

6pm (Thu - Sun) | 2pm (Sat & Sun)

£15 / £12 concession

Family Ticket £40

Once, there was a wooden village, nestled at the edge of a dark and magical forest. It was here that Gunda was born. An ordinary schoolgirl, she didn't yet know the extraordinary power hidden within her. Until one day, Gunda discovers that the Sorcerer is searching for an apprentice.

Sparks fly when she realises she has competition for the role, and she is plunged into an exciting and dangerous adventure to save her family - and her right to become... *The Sorcerer's Apprentice!*

Featuring original music, magic, and mayhem, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* is a spectacular, fun-filled theatrical adventure for the whole family.

Contains loud bangs, strobe lighting, haze effects, and themes of loss and grief.

Duration: 1hr 30 mins

Perfect for children aged 6+

"Mindboggling bag of tricks will make you believe in magic"

★★★★★ THE GUARDIAN

Photo: © Melissa Gordon



See p.66 to learn about exciting creative workshops running alongside this show!

THANKS FOR BEING HERE

Ontroerend Goed

Belgium

The MAC

Thu 15 & Fri 16 Oct | 7.30pm

£22 / £20 concession

In *Thanks for Being Here* your presence is crucial.

Ontroerend Goed, internationally renowned for their ground-breaking work, celebrate theatre's most essential element: the audience.

In this witty and ingenious game of video and viewpoints, *Thanks for Being Here* constantly puts you off balance.

But don't worry, you don't have to do anything. Because Ontroerend Goed have been creating interactive theatre for over 20 years for people who don't particularly like interactive theatre.

Maybe you'll see yourself as part of the audience, or even as a character. Without you, there would be no performance. So, thank you for being here.

Duration: 1hr 15 mins

14 Yrs+

"Funny, accepting and warm-hearted... the perfect festival show"

★★★★★ THE GUARDIAN



Photo: © Kurt Van der Elst

IRISH
PREMIERE



GOD HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

c21

Northern Ireland

The MAC
Wed 14 and Thu 15 Oct | 7.45pm

£10

Award-winning Northern Irish theatre company c21 presents a rehearsed reading of *God Has Left the Building* by Richard Clements, the writer of 2025 festival hit *Ottillie*.

A one-man show about finding your voice and growing up in 1980s Northern Ireland. A play about faith, innocence, and chasing squirrels.

God Has Left the Building takes us back to 1985, as one man's subconscious unlocks memories of BMX rides, summer days spent lying beneath open skies, and dreams of what the future might hold. But darker voices of authority circle, forcing questions that shouldn't yet need answering.

What is beyond those clouds? Is there really any help or are you on your own?

Duration: 1hr | 16 Yrs+



SWALLOW

By Stef Smith

Northern Ireland

The MAC
Sat 17 Oct | 2.30pm

£10

Three strangers. Three breaking points. One chance to begin again.

Join us for Emma Copland's special presentation of *Swallow* by Olivier Award-winning writer Stef Smith — a powerful, moving and darkly funny play about heartbreak, identity and the connections that help us survive.

Part staged-reading, part live theatrical mood-board, this unique event offers an exclusive first look at Emma Copland's developing vision for a future full-scale production.

For anyone who has ever felt alone, angry, lost, or ready to start over.

Contains strobe lighting, strong language, sexual descriptions, and references to self-harm.

Duration: 1hr 15mins | 14 Yrs+

PARADE - THE GIANT WHEEL

Autin Dance Theatre
Featuring Beat Carnival

UK

CS Lewis Square
Sat 17 Oct | 1pm & 3.30pm

Free - no booking required

Renowned outdoor arts company Autin Dance Theatre presents *Parade - The Giant Wheel*, a joyful performance full of movement, rhythm, spectacle and community celebration.

Centred around a striking 12-foot giant wheel, the show combines contemporary dance, physical theatre, procession and playful audience connection.

Five performers move with, around and through the wheel, transforming public space into a living stage of balance, momentum, togetherness and shared imagination.

Parade - The Giant Wheel invites audiences of all ages to gather, follow, watch and celebrate. The work explores how people move together, support one another and create moments of collective joy in public space.

For this special Belfast presentation, Autin Dance Theatre are working with Beat Carnival and BEATnDRUM to bring rhythm, participation and community celebration into the heart of the event.

Duration: 1hr 10 mins per performance

IRISH PREMIERE



THE GLASS MENAGERIE

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Directed by Patrick J O'Reilly
Tinderbox Theatre Company

Northern Ireland

The MAC
Tue 20 – Tue 27 Oct
7.30pm: Tue 20 – Fri 23, & Tue 27 Oct
11.00 AM: Wed 21, Thu 22 & Tue 27 Oct
2.30 PM: Sun 25 Oct

£20 - £24

Award-winning theatre company Tinderbox reimagines Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* — one of the greatest American plays ever written — through a fragmented lens of memory and cinema.

Think *American Beauty* meets Tennessee Williams — a haunting story of family, memory and love.

In a cramped apartment, a family is coming apart. Tom longs to escape. Laura disappears into her glass animals. Amanda fights to hold everything together.

Nearly 80 years on, *The Glass Menagerie* remains as urgent as ever.

This production marks the first professional staging in Northern Ireland in 20 years.

Nine performances only. See it while you can.

Presented by special arrangement with The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee and International Literary Properties.

Duration: 2hr 30mins (incl interval)

13 Yrs+



WORLD
PREMIERE

DARREN JACKSON'S WEDDING

Big Telly Theatre Company

Northern Ireland

St. Bartholomew's Church, Stranmillis
followed by The Lyric Theatre
Wed 21 Oct – Sun 1 Nov
7.30pm (Tue – Sat) | 2.30pm (Sat & Sun)

£16 - £22

After the award-winning whirlwind tour of *Granny Jackson's Dead* (Best Production Off Broadway, The Stage Top 50 Shows), the Jackson family are back – and this time they're hosting a wedding.

Darren's marrying an AI, Susan's up the walls, Ronnie's away with the fairies... and you're invited. Darren may be hopelessly devoted but can this be real love – what if the groom's been groomed and the deep fake is on the take?

Be our guest when the bliss backfires... Dress to impress, hold your peace (if you can), and get set for a celebration you'll never forget... for better or worse.

Service at St. Bartholomew's Church, Stranmillis, followed by a reception at The Lyric Theatre.

14 Yrs+

THE LIGHT WITHIN AND TÁ BRÓN ORM

DOUBLE BILL

The MAC
Sat 24 Oct | 7.30pm

£20 / £18 concession

As part of BIAF's dance exchange *Our Voice Together Now* with Orient Productions in Egypt and Sareyyet Ramallah in Palestine, we present a double bill by choreographers Michael McEvoy and Shaymaa Shoukry.

Funded by a British Council International Collaboration Award.

Duration: 2hrs

15 Yrs+

EUROPEAN
PREMIERE

THE LIGHT WITHIN

Shaymaa Shoukry

Egypt / Palestine

Shaymaa Shoukry's *The Light Within* explores the notion of inner light. How do we continue to shine in dark times?

Three dancers move between light and shadow, drawing on the traditions of Palestinian dabke – a dance rooted in community, resilience and connection to the land.

Set to an original live score by Ahmed Salah that weaves together Palestinian and Egyptian musical tradition, *The Light Within* is a powerful reflection on solidarity and the hope we find in one another.

Performed by Besan Ja'ara, Hanin Tarik, and Nibal AbuDan with choreography assistance from Nowwar Salem.

TÁ BRÓN ORM

Michael McEvoy

Northern Attitudes
Dance Company

Northern Ireland / Egypt

Tá Brón Orm begins in an Ireland that never recovered. In a reimagined reality where The Great Famine erased its people and its stories, we witness the last mythical beings of the island take their final breath.

Drawn from three short tales written by Michael McEvoy, of the Banshee, the Siren, and the Hunger Fields, and inspired by the Children of the Famine trilogy by author Marita Conlon-McKenna.

Performed by Ahmed Ghareeb, Sara Gabr and Shady Abdelrahman, *Tá Brón Orm* traces the remnants of a world on the edge of disappearance.

Set to the contemporary Irish soundscape of ØXN, the piece moves like a story half-remembered: a culture slipping into shadow, a sorrow carried in the body.

**"There are no words,
there is only the feeling
of watching"**

YELYZAVETA KRAVETS

Funded by





Photo: © Lost Lens Cap

SHEDMAN

Keith Singleton

Ireland

The MAC
Thu 22 – Sat 24 Oct
7.45pm (Thu & Fri) | 2pm (Sat)

£15 / £12 concession

ShedMan is a cautionary and comedic tale that is guaranteed (there are no guarantees in life) to have you laughing and maybe SHEDding a few tears.

It tells the tale of John Courtesy. John was born on the island of Ireland, which is a great start in life as it is such a friendly place. But then why is John so lonely? Why is John, a friendly sort who is no trouble to no one, contemplating moving up a mountain so he can escape all that world famous friendliness?

Contains loud bangs and references to suicide.

BSL signed performance: Sat 2pm.

Duration: 1hr

15 Yrs+



ALIENS

Dumbworld & Curious Industries

Northern Ireland / France / Italy

The Black Box
Fri 23 Oct
7pm

£15 / £12 concession

A real-life mother and daughter set out on a road trip from the beaches of Donegal to southern Italy, searching for traces of a forgotten history, and for a way to understand each other.

Blending live performance, documentary film and live electronic music, *Aliens* explores the little-known story of Italian immigrants interned as “enemy aliens” during the Second World War, alongside contemporary stories of migration.

Performed in English, French and Italian with integrated subtitles, it is a meditation on migration, inheritance and those who live in between - the aliens.

Duration: 1hr 20 mins

14 Yrs+



WORLD
PREMIERE

THE THIRTEEN CHAIRS

Cahoots NI

Northern Ireland

Cahoots – Cityside Retail Park
Thu 29 Oct – Sun 1 Nov
6pm, 7.30pm, 9pm (Thu & Fri)
5pm, 6.30pm, 8pm (Sat & Sun)

£15 / £12 concession / £8 student

A forgotten room. Thirteen chairs. A dinner party you will never forget.

Every chair holds a secret, every guest has a choice... and every ghost has a story. Guided by your curious host, your choices shape the night.

Test your nerve and discover the mysterious tragedy of the Family Hoffman. Encounter an eclectic cast of ghosts as the boundaries between living and dead begin to blur.

The Thirteen Chairs is an immersive tale with spine-tingling scares – ‘The Ghost House’ meets ‘The Traitors’.

Are you brave enough to take a seat at the table?

Duration: 30 mins | 13 Yrs+



THE HUMAN VOICE

Prime Cut Productions

Northern Ireland

Lyric Theatre, Naughton Studio
Thu 5 – Sat 7 Nov
8pm | 3pm (Sat)

£16 - £22

Prime Cut Productions present their critically acclaimed new version of Jean Cocteau's *The Human Voice*, by Darren Murphy. Directed by Emma Jordan and starring Nicky Harley, this is “a radical reimagining of Cocteau’s work, an impeccable piece of theatre”.

In this contemporary Belfast story of a woman juggling love and work, demands from a desperate client interrupt her devastating final call with the lover who abandons her. Pushed to her limits, she must negotiate a treacherous path between her private and public worlds. Heartache is not the aching, luxurious business it used to be.

Duration: 1hr | 12 Yrs+

NŌs

Luail – Ireland's National Dance Company

Ireland

The MAC

Fri 6 & Sat 7 Nov | 7.45pm

£20 / £18 concession

Luail presents *NŌs*, a landmark triple bill of internationally acclaimed and defining contemporary dance works by choreographers **Akram Khan**, **Oona Doherty** and **Liz Roche**. Moving from mythic worlds to raw human experience, the works explore transformation, transcendence and togetherness, revealing dance as a shared act of searching and connection.

**WORLD
PREMIERE**

Kaash by Akram Khan (2002), is an internationally acclaimed work rooted in the rhythmic complexity of Khan's classical background. Meaning "if only" in Hindi, the work explores cycles of creation and destruction, black holes and mythological gods. It unfolds within a poetic set design by Anish Kapoor, while a powerful score by Nitin Sawhney responds to the intensity of Khan's dynamic movement language.

Oona Doherty's ***Lazarus*** (2016) is a bold and deeply affecting work from one of dance's most vital voices. Exploring masculinity, socio-economic stereotypes, and rebirth, this reimagining for the Luail ensemble magnifies Doherty's urgent search for hope and connection beneath the masks society asks us to wear.

Completing *NŌs* are two works from Liz Roche's *12 Minute Dances* (2009). Set to music by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe and Ed Rosenberg III, these vivid movement studies are reimagined with set design by Alyson Cummins, lighting design by Sinead Wallace and costume design by Catherine Fay. Inspired by painter Mark Rothko's belief that art "lives by companionship", they invite the audience to complete the picture.

May contain haze, loud music and flashing lights.

Duration: 1hr 15 mins | 12 Yrs+

Photo: © José Miguel Jiménez

MUSIC

ORCHESTRA BAOBAB

Senegal

Mandela Hall

Wed 14 Oct | 7pm (doors)

£30

**“a magical collision
of Cuban and
African sounds”**

THE GUARDIAN

Senegal's legendary dance band Orchestra Baobab return to the festival for the first time since 2002.

Formed as the house band at Dakar's Baobab Club in 1970, they became one of West Africa's defining musical groups, celebrated for their irresistible fusion of Cuban and African grooves.

Their landmark 1982 album *Pirates Choice* is widely regarded as one of the greatest African recordings ever made. Its acclaimed reissue in 2001 introduced the band to a global audience and paved the way for their celebrated reunion.

Over the last 20+ years Orchestra Baobab have toured the world, hypnotising new generations with their infectious hybrid of Mandinka, Wolof and Serer styles with Latin rhythms.

This year's release of *Made in Senegal*, their first new album in almost a decade, reaffirms Orchestra Baobab as one of Africa's most influential and enduring bands.

18 Yrs+

Photo: © Charlotte Steppé





Photo: © Vera Marmelo

NI
PREMIERE

RAFAEL TORAL **SPECTRAL EVOLUTION**

Presented by Moving On Music

Portugal

Sonic Arts Research Centre
Thu 15 Oct | 7.30pm (doors)

£15 / £10 concession

Pioneering guitarist and master of ambient, experimental & electronic music, Rafael Toral, presents *Spectral Evolution* in the incredible acoustic setting of the Sonic Lab at SARC.

Alongside contemporaries such as Jim O'Rourke and Christian Fennesz, Toral reinvigorated the electronic and experimental scenes of the nineties with a series of acclaimed works which beautifully combined guitar with electronics to produce warm, welcoming waves of ambience.

Toral concludes his SARC residency by presenting his acclaimed 2024 album '*Spectral Evolution*' live. This is a chance to immerse yourself in ground-breaking music aimed fully at both the head and the heart.

Duration: 1hr



LIAM Ó MAONLAÍ **& ÚNA MONAGHAN**

Ireland

Áras Mhic Reachtain
Fri 16 Oct | 8pm (doors)

£16

Liam Ó Maonlaí (of Hothouse Flowers fame) currently creates, composes and performs as a solo artist, including his renowned work for radio and television productions (RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta's show, 'Cuan an Cheoil'). His latest album, *Urnaí* was released on Japanese label, Plancton in 2025.

Acclaimed harper and composer Úna Monaghan has released two albums of her own compositions, including *Aonaracht*, a ground-breaking combination of Irish traditional and experimental electronic music.

18 Yrs+



CLARE SANDS

Presented by Moving On Music

Ireland

Empire Music Hall
Sun 18 Oct | 7pm (doors)

£17.50 / £12.50 concession

Sixth-generation fiddle player and bilingual singer Clare Sands is a distinctive voice in Irish folk. Drawing deeply from the music of her ancestors, she weaves traditional Irish roots with contemporary sounds and influences. Her songs are deeply connected to place and inspired by folklore, language, and activism.

Her eponymous debut was named an *Irish Times* Top 5 Folk Album of 2022. She comes to Belfast with songs from her new album, *They Tried To Bury Us* – a collection rooted in Ulster and strident in its resistance to oppression and insistence that love and hope will never be buried.

18 Yrs+



RHYTHMS OF **CONNECTION**

Beat'N'Drum & Tudo Azul

Northern Ireland / Germany

The Black Box
Tue 20 Oct | 7.30pm (doors)

£10 / £6 concession

Coming together in Belfast to celebrate their shared passion for Brazilian music, Beat Carnival's Beat'N'Drum samba band will join forces with Hannover's Tudo Azul for an unforgettable evening of rhythm and music.

The evening will feature surprise guests from the Belfast music scene, providing a unique experience to hear their music brought to life in a new way through the lens of Beat'N'Drum and Tudo Azul's Brazilian influences.

Part of a UNESCO City of Music partnership between Belfast and Hannover, Germany.

18 Yrs+

**'A triumph, personally
and creatively' 9/10**

UNCUT

ED O'BRIEN **AN EVENING WITH...** **BLUE MORPHO**

UK

Ulster Hall

Mon 19 Oct | 7:30pm

£49.50

The renowned Radiohead guitarist Ed O'Brien presents *An Evening With... Blue Morpho*.

Blue Morpho, O'Brien's second solo album, finds him beginning anew. With its moments of hypnotic psych-folk, radiant guitars, beguiling trip-hop and luminous stillness, it reveals an artist moving beyond familiar structures.

The *Blue Morpho* live experience brings together a collective of musicians who performed on the album including musical director Dave Okumu. Rather than simply recreating the record in its studio form, the live show is conceived as a fluid and immersive experience – a celebration of the music in which each performance will evolve and take on a life of its own.

Led by O'Brien as the central figure, the band draws inspiration from the expansive, exploratory spirit of artists such as Sly and the Family Stone, Miles Davis and Phish.

14 Yrs+



Photo: © Steve Cullick

LEVELLERS

UK

Mandela Hall
Thu 22 Oct | 7pm (doors)

£43

Brighton folk-rockers Levellers have been one of Britain's most enduring and best-loved bands for nearly 40 years. And part of that incredible success has been built on the timeless anthems that comprised their platinum-selling, second album *Levelling The Land*, which celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2026.

LEVELLERS will celebrate *Levelling The Land* at Mandela Hall, playing many songs from that album, alongside fan-favourites from their extensive catalogue. It'll be their first show in Belfast for almost two decades!

18 Yrs+



Photo: © Camille Lemoine

FERGUS MCCREADIE FLIGHT PASS

Presented by Moving on Music

Scotland

The Black Box
Thu 22 Oct | 7.30pm (doors)

£20 / £15 concession

Mercury-shortlisted and globally acclaimed artist, Fergus McCreadie performs *Flight Pass* – a new work for classical piano trio.

Inspired by his homeland landscapes and narratives, *Flight Pass* extends McCreadie's musical language into a new chamber setting while retaining the melodic clarity, rhythmic lift and storytelling that defines his music.

Catapulted into the spotlight with 2022 album *Forest Floor*, McCreadie has connected deeply with audiences worldwide, including film maker Spike Lee, who has featured his music in recent works.

18 Yrs+



HENNING KRAGGERUD & FRIENDS

BBC Radio 3 Concerts

Norway

NI
PREMIERE

St. Mark's Church Dundela
Thu 22 & Fri 23 Oct | 7.30pm

Free

Violinist Henning Kraggerud, one of Norway's most distinguished musicians, makes his Festival debut. Henning is Artistic Partner with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and is renowned for his versatility and exceptional programming – which often includes his own works.

He'll be performing alongside starry friends and collaborators: cellist Adrian Brendel and pianist Alasdair Beatson.

Thursday 22 October:
Music for Violin and Piano

Including works by Greig, Svendsen, Schubert, Brahms and Henning Kraggerud's *Romantarcica*.

Friday 23 October:
Music for Piano Trio

Trios by Mendelssohn, Schumann and Dvořák, as well as Henning Kraggerud's *Mithrellas' Choice from Middle-earth*.

Tickets will be available from Monday 21 September – see website.

Duration: 2hrs

12 Yrs+

BBC
RADIO 3

"He possesses the interpretative insight to make the music bristle with character."

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

ULSTER ORCHESTRA BEETHOVEN 200: DANCE MOVES

NI / Germany-Colombia / USA

Ulster Hall
Fri 23 Oct | 7.45pm

£12 - £38

The Ulster Orchestra marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Beethoven with a performance of his Seventh Symphony, led by Chief Conductor Anna Handler.

Opening the programme, a lone clarinet sounds over a bed of shimmering strings and in an instant, Aaron Copland transports us to the wide-open spaces and flowing brooks of the Appalachian mountain range through his music for the tender, hope-filled ballet *Appalachian Spring*.

From the gentleness of the American Mid-West, the chiming of church bells in Errollyn Wallen's Violin Concerto ushers in a personal depiction of memories from the early life of soloist Philippe Quint, before Beethoven takes us back to dance in the riotous rhythm of his mesmerising Seventh Symphony.

Duration: 2hrs



Photo: © Phil Lawson

XENIA PESTOVA BENNETT HANS OTTE: THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Presented by Moving on Music

Northern Ireland

The Crescent
Fri 23 Oct | 7.30pm (doors)

£15 / £10 concession

Marking the centenary of the birth of the elusive German composer and pianist, Hans Otte, virtuoso pianist Xenia Pestova Bennett presents his monumental *The Book of Sounds*, a cornerstone of meditative minimalism and a forerunner of today's "post-classical" movement.

Influenced by Zen Buddhism and the idea of healing through sound – the twelve continuous sections take the listener on an immersive journey. The piece ranges from minimalist to virtuosic - reminiscent of Satie, Philip Glass, Steve Reich and early John Cage.

Duration: 1hr 10mins



Photo: © Thomas Jackson

HARD RAIN SOLOISTENSEMBLE SILENCE AND SOUND WAVES

Northern Ireland

Sonic Arts Research Centre
Sat 24 Oct | 7.30pm (doors)

£15 / £10 concession

Silence and Sound Waves marks the 80th Birthday of one of the most significant composers on this island, Jane O'Leary. Going beyond borders to explore heritage and language, this concert reflects on multi-culturalism and cross-artform connections.

Featuring some of Jane's most atmospheric compositions for Hard Rain, this includes her most recent commission by Access Contemporary Music for their PBS programme *Songs about Buildings and Moods*.

Joining us from ACM in Chicago is Seth Boustead, presented alongside highly talented local composers Elaine Agnew, Anselm McDonnell, Anderinna Gooch and Omar Zatriqi.

Duration: 1hr 40mins

MARY DILLON, DÓNAL O'CONNOR AND NEIL MARTIN

Ireland / Northern Ireland

Lyric Theatre
Sun 25 Oct | 7.30pm

£16 - £27

Following a string of sold-out performances, Mary Dillon, Dónal O'Connor, and Neil Martin launch their long-awaited debut album in this special festival concert.

Breathing new life into timeless Ulster songs and dance tunes, the trio marry Mary Dillon's luminous, evocative voice with the rich, expressive interplay of fiddle, cello, and harmonium. The result is music that feels both deeply rooted and strikingly fresh, a powerful testament to the vitality of Ireland's living tradition.

Together, Dillon, O'Connor and Martin bring a rare depth of artistry and musical connection to the stage, creating an unforgettable live experience.

Duration: 2hrs

"Three of traditional music's best"

THE IRISH WORLD



Photo: © Marshall Light Studio



Photo: © Ebru Yildiz

BBC RADIO 3 CONCERT: BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

Ulster Orchestra,
conducted by Karen Ní Bhríon

Ireland / Northern Ireland

Foyle Foundation Hall
Wed 28 Oct | 2pm

Free - book online

From the familiar contours of folk melodies to the graceful charm of the concert hall, Benjamin Britten and Ethel Smyth showcase two contrasting approaches to musical tradition. Britten's *Suite on English Folk Tunes*, his final orchestral work, is a poignant and nostalgic reflection on traditional melodies, while Smyth's *Serenade in D major*, her first orchestral composition, shines with warmth, humour and passion. The Ulster Orchestra is conducted by Karen Ní Bhríon, one of Ireland's foremost young conductors.

Duration: 1hr



MARGARET GLASPY

USA

The Deer's Head
Wed 28 Oct | 7.30pm (doors)

£17

Margaret Glaspy is an American singer and songwriter based in New York City. In an era of excess and endless distraction, she rejects the noise in favour of something far more essential, and prevails as one of the modern music canon's most formidable songwriters.

Her much-anticipated headline show in Belfast gives fans a chance to hear material from her new album *I Am Both*. Produced by three-time GRAMMY-winner Joe Henry (Aimee Mann, Joan Baez), the album finds Glaspy embracing complexity, clarity and emotional directness in equal measure.

18 Yrs+

SONGS OF JONI MITCHELL

UK / USA

The MAC
Thu 29 Oct | 7.30pm

£30

Following a revered debut at London's Roundhouse, sold-out tours and rave reviews, *The Songs of Joni Mitchell* comes to Belfast for a special festival performance.

The show celebrates the life and work of Joni Mitchell, through the unique voices of the artists she continues to inspire.

Jesca Hoop & Lail Arad, acclaimed singer-songwriters in their own right, will perform intimate interpretations of their favourite Joni songs. They'll be joined by Richard Sears on piano and a very special guest to be announced.

Previous guests have included Kate Stables (This Is The Kit), Vashti Bunyan, Simon Armitage, Lisa Hannigan, and Gail Ann Dorsey.

14 Yrs+

“Such a
stand-out show”

CERYL MATTHEWS



BLACKGATE

Presented by Moving on Music
Ireland / Netherlands

The Crescent
Fri 30 Oct | 7.30pm (doors)

£15 / £10 (concession)

BlackGate is a new project from Irish double-bassist Caimin Gilmore (Crash Ensemble) that explores the worlds of contemporary music, pop, classical, and folk. Their debut album is a genre-fluid gem that could slip into multiple sections of the most considered of record collections.

Performed by renowned cellist Kate Ellis, harpist Lavinia Meijer & Gilmore on double bass, the music is a cross-genre brew that pulls from Gilmore's hugely varied career.

Culminating in *BlackGate*, the programme also includes works by Philip Glass, Lavinia Meijer, Gabriella Smith and Ann Cleare.

Duration: 1hr | 18 Yrs+

TAKUYA NAKAMURA

Presented by Shine
Japan / USA

The Limelight
Fri 30 Oct | 10.30pm (doors)

£18

Takuya Nakamura pushes the boundaries of music, blending his deep jazz roots with cutting-edge electronic production. His dedication to his craft and his ability to transcend genres make him a true pioneer in contemporary music.

Originally from Tokyo, Nakamura moved to the US in 1990 to study under the legendary jazz composer George Russell, before becoming a staple in New York's vibrant Jazz and Jungle scene. His versatility as a musician and DJ has seen him collaborate with artists including Quincy Jones and David Byrne and he's been a member of cult bands such as Jojo's Mayer's Nerve and Cocorosie.

18 Yrs+

BACH UNSEEN

**Belfast Music Society's
Northern Lights Mini-Fest**

Northern Ireland

**Sonic Arts Research Centre
Fri 30 Oct | 7.30pm**

**£20 / £15 (concession)
£5 (student)**

The evening begins with Bach's beloved *Cello Suite No. 1 in G major*, performed by solo cellist David McCann in traditional concert lighting.

As the final notes fade, darkness envelops the room and three cellists emerge within a new work inspired by Bach's suite. Drawing on fragments and resonances from the original music, the performers gradually move throughout the space, altering their relationship to one another and to the audience.

Without a visual reference, sound becomes fluid and unpredictable. Melodies appear at a distance, echoes emerge from unexpected directions, and familiar material is reshaped through movement and perspective.

The work invites listeners to experience music not as a fixed object on a stage, but as a living presence unfolding all around them.

Duration: 1hr 15mins

8 Yrs+



MEMENTO MORI SARAH RICHMOND & IAN TINDALE

**Belfast Music Society's
Northern Lights Mini-Fest**

Northern Ireland

**The Harty Room, QUB
Sat 31 Oct | 7.30pm**

**£20 / £15 (concession) /
£5 (student)**

Join mezzo-soprano Sarah Richmond and pianist Ian Tindale on Halloween night for a recital of haunting songs, wandering souls and dances with death.

From Barber's *The Monk and His Cat* and Britten's *A Charm of Lullabies* to Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* and Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, this evocative programme explores memory, longing and the supernatural.

Saint-Saëns' *Danse Macabre* and Strauss's *Allerseeelen* complete an evening that is playful, mysterious and deeply moving.

Duration: 1hr 15mins | 8 Yrs+



GLASS & BEYOND RUTH MCGINLEY

**Belfast Music Society's
Northern Lights Mini-Fest**

Northern Ireland

**The Harty Room, QUB
Sun 1 Nov | 3pm**

**£20 / £15 (concession) /
£5 (student)**

Renowned for her expressive artistry, pianist Ruth McGinley explores the hypnotic sound world of Philip Glass through works including *Metamorphosis*, selected *Études*, and music from *Glassworks* and *Mishima*, before moving into the lyrical jazz-inspired landscapes of Keith Jarrett and Bill Evans, concluding with Evans's timeless *Peace Piece*.

An Arts Council NI Major Individual Artist Award recipient, Ruth creates immersive performances that are intimate, reflective and deeply moving.

Duration: 1hr 15mins

8 Yrs+

JOSHUA IDEHEN

UK

The Limelight

Sun 1 Nov | 7.30pm (doors)

£22

Poet and performer Joshua Idehen brings his acclaimed new album *I Know You're Hurting, Everyone Is Hurting, Everyone Is Trying, You Have Got To Try* to the festival.

Following the breakout success of *Mum Does The Washing* and appearances at Glastonbury, Green Man and on *Later... with Jools Holland*, *I Know You're Hurting* is an urgent but transcendent collection filled with grief, euphoria and hope.

"a raw, joyous and considered collection that could be as easily appreciated in a rave setting, as it could in a church"

CLASH MAGAZINE 8/10

Created with Swedish producer Ludvig Parment, the album pairs Idehen's spoken word with expansive electronic soundscapes, uplifting choirs and exuberant, sometimes house-tinged beats.

After years of honing his craft, Idehen's live performances combine lyrical precision with the energy of the dancefloor. This is music that is truly arresting – but simultaneously makes you want to wave your arms in the air and dance.

18 Yrs+



I KNOW YOU'RE HURTING
EVERYONE IS HURTING
EVERYONE IS TRYING
YOU HAVE GOT TO TRY



ANDY IRVINE & QUILTY

Ireland / Sweden

The Black Box
Wed 4 Nov | 7.30pm (doors)

£25

Legendary Irish musician Andy Irvine joins forces with acclaimed Swedish folk group Quilty for a concert celebrating the musical traditions of Ireland and Sweden.

Andy Irvine's unmistakable voice, virtuosic bouzouki playing and extraordinary song-writing have made him "a tradition in himself". A founding member of Planxty and Patrick Street, Irvine's latest collaboration continues a career that has expanded the possibilities of traditional music.

Following their hugely successful 2023 tour celebrating Quilty's 30th anniversary, this new collaboration sees Andy Irvine and Quilty expand their shared musical language, blending Irish and Swedish traditions into a rich concert experience.

18 Yrs+



NERINA PALLOT

UK

Empire Music Hall
Thu 5 Nov | 7.30pm (doors)

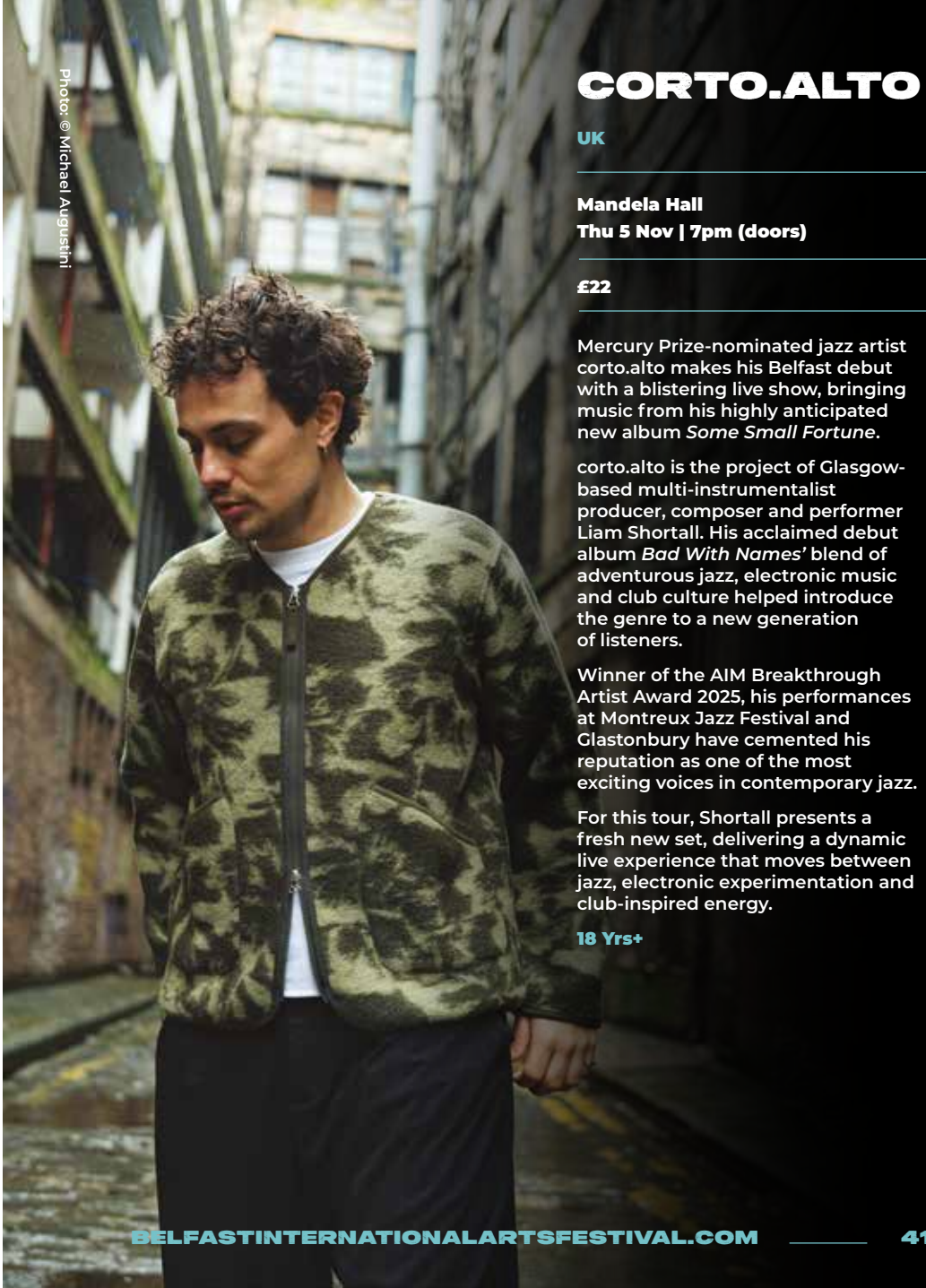
£23

Following her acclaimed Royal Albert Hall performance celebrating 25 years of music, Brit and Ivor Novello nominated singer-songwriter Nerina Pallot strips things back with the *Fire Escape Symphonies* Tour.

Returning to the grassroots venues that have always been at the heart of her career, Pallot performs completely solo, armed only with her songs, stories, piano and guitar. This intimate concert offers audiences a rare opportunity to experience her music in its most direct and personal form.

18 Yrs+

Photo: © Michael Augustini



CORTO.ALTO

UK

Mandela Hall
Thu 5 Nov | 7pm (doors)

£22

Mercury Prize-nominated jazz artist corto.alto makes his Belfast debut with a blistering live show, bringing music from his highly anticipated new album *Some Small Fortune*.

corto.alto is the project of Glasgow-based multi-instrumentalist producer, composer and performer Liam Shortall. His acclaimed debut album *Bad With Names*' blend of adventurous jazz, electronic music and club culture helped introduce the genre to a new generation of listeners.

Winner of the AIM Breakthrough Artist Award 2025, his performances at Montreux Jazz Festival and Glastonbury have cemented his reputation as one of the most exciting voices in contemporary jazz.

For this tour, Shortall presents a fresh new set, delivering a dynamic live experience that moves between jazz, electronic experimentation and club-inspired energy.

18 Yrs+

ULSTER ORCHESTRA FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT - LIVE!

Northern Ireland /
Germany-Colombia / Ireland

Ulster Hall
Fri 6 Nov | 7.30pm

£12 - £38

The BBC Radio 3 institution that is *Friday Night Is Music Night* is coming to Belfast to join the Ulster Orchestra's 60th anniversary celebration!

Conductor Anna Handler leads the festivities at a live broadcast from the Ulster Hall for a celebration of symphonic music with Celtic roots from around these islands and across Europe. Joining the orchestra will be violinist Aoife Ní Bhriain, one of Ireland's foremost traditional fiddle players and a classical violinist of international stature.

The programme includes Bax's *Tintagel*, Saint-Saëns's *Rhapsodie bretonne* and Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture*.

2hrs



Photo: © Christopher Heaney

BELONGING ON STAGE SARC

Northern Ireland

Sonic Arts Research Centre
Sat 7 Nov | 4pm

Free - book online



The team at SARC join with collaborators from Brain Injury Matters and Drake Music NI to present a performance showcase of three projects exploring inclusion and belonging through participatory approaches to sound and music.

Luminous Interfaces (Franziska Schroeder) features three improvisations created with co-designed accessible instruments including VR, AI colour-tracking and adapted game controller technologies.

It Flows with No Electrics (John D'Arcy), explores the lived experience of brain injury through music, sound and visuals.

Touching the Ear (Pedro Rebelo), a performance developed with deaf participants, explores different ways of feeling music.

BSL Signed Performance

Duration: 1hr 30mins

Photo: © Ben Brown

RORY FRIERS

With Michael Keeney,
Arco String Quartet,
& The Fully
Automatic Model

Northern Ireland

The MAC
Sun 8 Nov | 7.30pm

£22

Following last year's sell-out performance at The MAC, Rory Friers returns to transform the venue into an immersive audio-visual world, built around a bespoke spatial sound system that places the audience inside the music.

Created as the culmination of his time as our 2026 Artist-in-Residence, this ambitious one-night-only performance will bring together Friers' live ensemble, award-winning composer and pianist Michael Keeney, Arco String Quartet, and special guests and collaborators.

The music will unfold alongside an extraordinary new visual environment created by Jonny Delaney—aka The Fully Automatic Model—bringing sound, light and image together in an experience conceived specifically for the space. The performance will also unveil the second instalment of Friers' acclaimed HOME project, ahead of a major new release in 2027.

Very Special Guest TBC

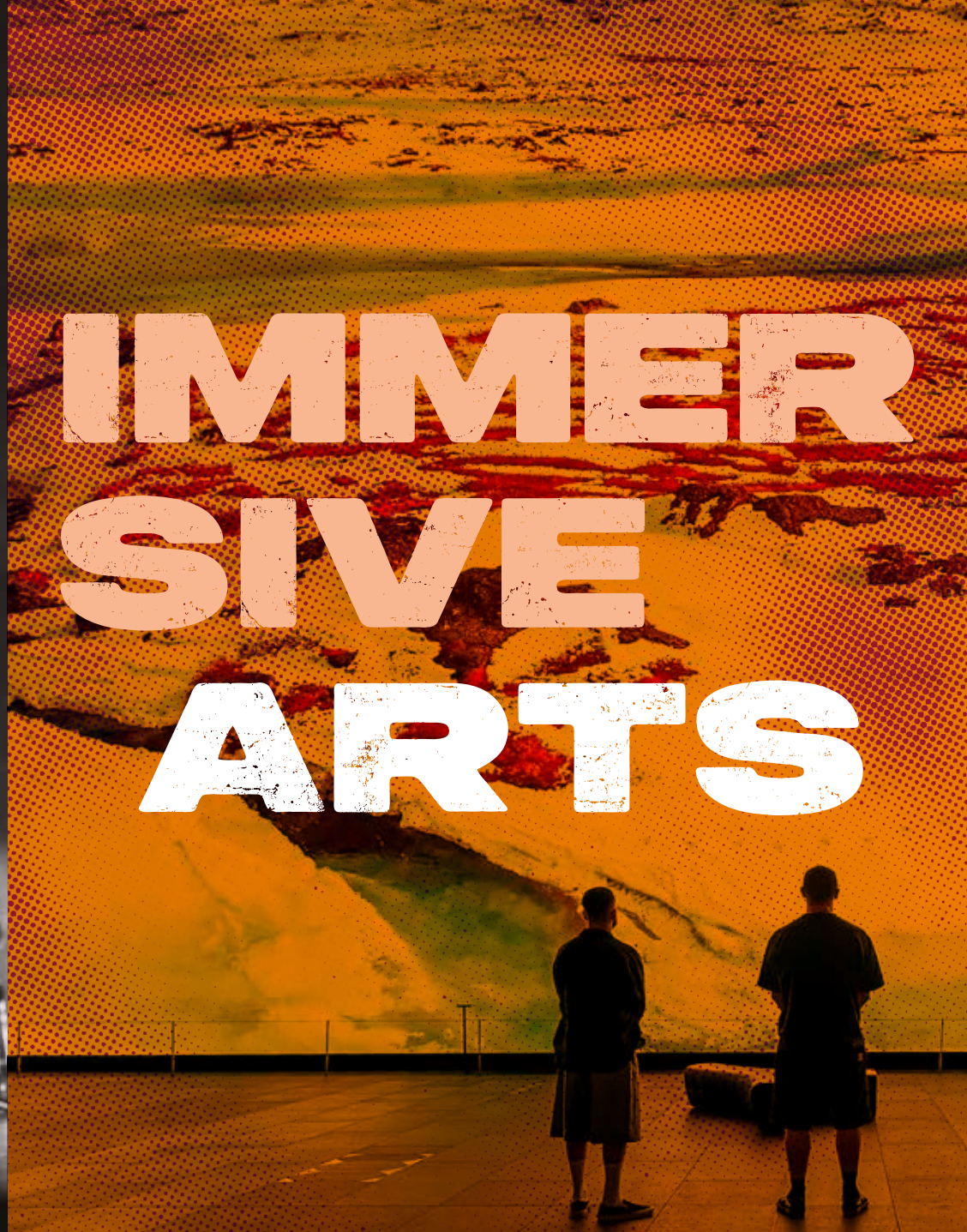
14 Yrs+

ARTIST IN
RESIDENCE
2026

CLOSING
EVENT

Photo: © Graham Smith

IMMER SIVE ARTS





SPACINGS

SARC

Northern Ireland

SARC

13 Oct – 10 Nov | 10am – 5pm (Tue – Thu)

Free

Three immersive works created by SARC artists and researchers. Curated by Pedro Rebelo for the Festival, the show explores ways of engaging with room size projection and immersive sound in an intimate setting.

Tunnel (13 – 20 Oct) by Andrew J Brooks reveals the hidden sound world of Falkirk's Union Canal tunnel.

Vivienne Griffin's *MERCY* (22 – 29 Oct) is a video work in two parts that takes on the problem of explaining complex systems, through visual prompts and metaphors.

On Wanting (3 – 10 Nov) is a sound and moving-image work rooted in artist Helena Hamilton's experiences of early motherhood.



Photo: © Joe Lavery

BECOMING

Helena Hamilton

Northern Ireland

Media Lab, QUB

Thu 22 – Sun 25 Oct | 11am, 3pm, 7pm

£10

Becoming is an immersive artwork by Helena Hamilton, developed with artists Janie Doherty and Aisling McGeown. It explores matrescence, the physical, emotional and psychological transformation of becoming a mother, through spatial sound, moving image, haptic sculpture and spoken word.

Informed by research with mothers across generations, the work holds the complexity of early motherhood, where isolation and loneliness sit alongside resilience, joy, frustration and love.

Sound composition and production are developed with Isaac Gibson, alongside spatial audio and interaction design with Michael McKnight.

Duration: 1hr | 16 Yrs+



LOST COMMUNICATIONS UNDERWATER

An-Ting & Ian Gallagher

UK / Taiwan

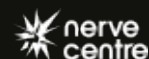
Studio Ulster

Thu 29 & Fri 30 | 6.30pm

Free – book online

Funded by

IMMERSIVE ARTS



Underwater is a psychedelic audiovisual descent into a world that is simultaneously alien and home.

The underwater world feels like a hallucination - yet behind its strange shapes are creatures working, talking and surviving, just as we do.

Electronic musician An-Ting weaves the conversations of coral, seals, and whales into a tapestry of spatial audio and Chinese verse, creating an epic landscape of deep emotion. As the sound swells, Ian Gallagher's real-time 3D point cloud environments shift and pulse in response.

Have you heard that fish talk? What might they reveal about their busy lives — and our place in the universe?

Contains flashing lights and fast-moving visual simulations.

Duration: 45mins

TAKKUUK

Earthsonic / BICEP

Northern Ireland / UK / Greenland / Sápmi

Studio Ulster**Wed 28 – Sat 31 Oct**

Wed & Thu: 5pm, 7pm

Fri: 3pm, 5pm, 7pm

Sat: 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Free – book online

An extraordinary immersive journey into the Arctic, infrared cinematography and a hypnotic **BICEP** score, draw audiences into the powerful stories of Indigenous artists navigating a rapidly changing world.

TAKKUUK, meaning 'look closely' in Inuktitut, was co-created by BICEP, visual artist Zak Norman, filmmaker Charlie Miller, and seven Indigenous collaborators across Greenland and Sápmi, as part of the EarthSonic initiative.

Specially built infrared cameras transform familiar Arctic landscapes into something strange and otherworldly, while the featured artists open up about what it means to hold onto language, land and identity when so much conspires against continuity.

Through sound, storytelling and performance, they show how culture endures under external pressure, including accelerating climate change.

The result is a genuinely collaborative work that sits somewhere between documentary realism and artistic abstraction, giving Indigenous voices the space to speak on their own terms.

Presented within the extraordinary surrounds of Studio Ulster, hailed as the world's most advanced virtual production facility, TAKKUUK brings together cutting-edge technology and Indigenous storytelling in a setting unlike any other.

Programmed in partnership with
Ulster Museum & Studio Ulster.

Contains strobing sequences.

Duration: 1hr 10mins





HOME

AN IMMERSIVE
AUDIO-VISUAL INSTALLATION

Rory Friers

Northern Ireland

Studio Ulster

Wed 28 – Sat 31 Oct | Wed & Thu: 5 – 8pm
Fri: 3 – 8pm | Sat: 11am – 4pm

Free

Over six months, composer Rory Friers recorded conversations, songs and everyday moments with residents and staff at Glendun care home in Cushendun. This scrapbook of voices, memories and shared experiences is woven into an original score for string quartet, piano and guitar.

Created with filmmaker Ross McClean, the accompanying film is projection-mapped onto a suspended scale model of the care home, allowing the building to shift between physical place, remembered space and living image. Together, sound, music and film offers a question; where is home and when are we there?

Duration: 10 mins



KINDRED ASH

Digital Arts Studios:
Gwen Stevenson

Northern Ireland

Digital Arts Studios

Thu 29 Oct – Sat 7 Nov
12pm – 4pm (Tue – Sat)

Free – no booking required

Kindred Ash is an immersive, interactive installation responding to the decline of Ireland's native ash trees.

Visitors enter an atmospheric environment of shifting light, translucent forms and spatial sound, where the landscape responds to their presence. Inspired by the ecological and cultural significance of the ash tree, the work invites reflection on loss, resilience and our relationship with the living world.

Late Night Art launch:
Thu 5 Nov, 6.00–8.00pm

VISUAL ARTS





Photo © Josephine Cornerall

A THIRST FOR SILVER

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH SILVERSMITHS

UK

Craft NI Gallery
Until Sat 31 Oct | 10am – 5pm (Mon – Sat)

Free

Craft NI present an exhibition showcasing silver beakers by over 50 members of Contemporary British Silversmiths (CBS), the UK's leading organisation for contemporary silver.

Exploring the enduring connection between silver, ceremony and ritual, the exhibition celebrates the beaker as both a functional object and a vessel of shared moments, traditions and celebration.

Featuring leading makers including Richard Fox, Rauni Higson MBE, Angela Cork and Northern Ireland's own Cara Murphy, these works highlight the beauty and craftsmanship of contemporary silver.

Artist Talk with Cara Murphy: 22 Oct, 6pm.



JOHN CARSON

NEW WORK

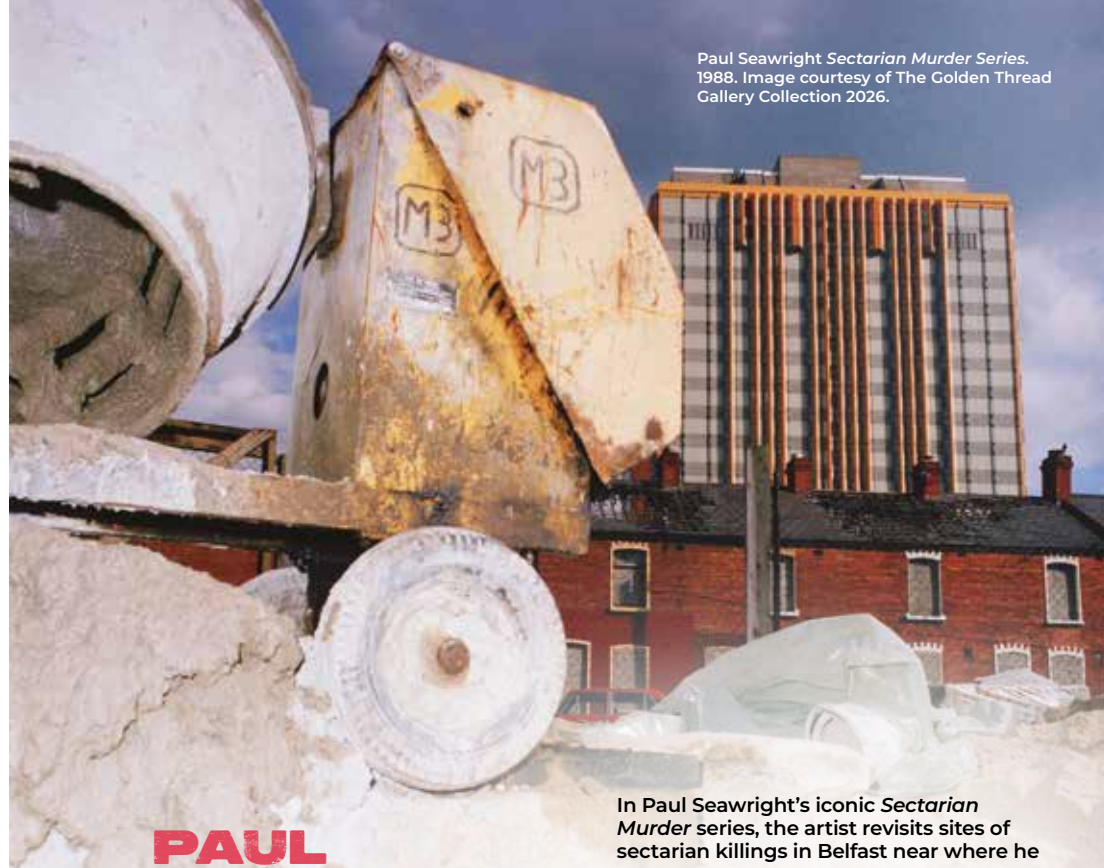
USA / Northern Ireland

The Golden Thread Gallery
Until 31 Oct | 11am – 5pm (Tue – Fri)
11am – 4pm (Sat)

Free

John Carson is a Pittsburgh-based Northern Irish artist, who, over five decades, has found new ways of understanding Irish identity. He has exhibited internationally, working in drawing, photography, printmaking, sculpture, installation, live performance, audio, and video.

This exhibition centres on *Carson Street*, a 19-minute mockumentary which follows Carson's personal investigation into the origins of Carson Street in Pittsburgh. Combining humour and autobiography, the film blurs fact and fiction while examining questions of naming, inheritance and belonging.



Paul Seawright *Sectarian Murder Series*, 1988. Image courtesy of The Golden Thread Gallery Collection 2026.

PAUL SEAWRIGHT

THE SECTARIAN MURDER SERIES

Northern Ireland

The Golden Thread Gallery
Until 31 Oct | 11am – 5pm (Tue – Fri)
11am – 4pm (Sat)

Free

In Paul Seawright's iconic *Sectarian Murder* series, the artist revisits sites of sectarian killings in Belfast near where he grew up.

Pairing quiet, seemingly ordinary photographs with edited newspaper reports documenting the murders of innocent civilians, the work explores the lasting impact of violence, memory, and division during the Troubles. By removing references to religious identity from the texts, Seawright invites reflection on loss beyond sectarian labels. Seawright's work has been exhibited internationally.

This significant series remains a powerful and influential examination of conflict, place, and remembrance.

This work was purchased for the Golden Thread Gallery Collection thanks to support from the Ampersand Foundation.



REUBEN BROWN

**BURRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB!!**

Northern Ireland

Queen Street Studios
Thu 15 Oct – Thu 19 Nov
10am – 5pm (Mon – Thu)

Free

This solo exhibition presents a new body of work by Reuben Brown. Emerging from the ongoing project *club [construction]*, it considers the queer archive as a site of construction, exploring how absence and fragmentation can generate new forms of knowledge.

Join *From the Same Night – DIY Ephemera Toolkit*, a workshop developed as part of the project, on Sat 7 Nov from 1–4pm (book online, 18+). Participants will use reproduced club-culture ephemera to create zines exploring queer memory, nightlife, and archival practices.

Exhibition Launch: 15 Oct | 6-8:30pm



BETWEEN TWO BREATHS

**AN EXHIBITION BY THE
DRAWING JOURNAL**

UK / Ireland

Queen Street Studios
Thu 15 Oct – Thu 19 Nov
10am – 5pm (Mon – Thu)

Free

Between Two Breaths is a collaborative art project by The Drawing Journal investigating the materiality of and relationship between text and drawing and the possibility to translate one through the other.

Join members of The Drawing Journal
for an exhibition walkaround of their
exhibition 'at Queen Street Studios, on
Saturday 8 November, 2 pm.

Exhibition Launch: 15 Oct | 6-8:30pm

Image credit: 'From a group exhibition by The Drawing Journal in the Hyde Bridge Gallery, Sligo. Image courtesy of The Drawing Journal'

145TH ROYAL ULSTER ACADEMY EXHIBITION

Northern Ireland

Ulster Museum
Sun 18 Oct – Sun 3 Jan
10am – 5pm (Tue – Sun) | Closed Mon

Free

The 145th Royal Ulster Academy Annual Exhibition returns to the Ulster Museum, bringing together RUA members, invited artists and artists selected through open submission.

The exhibition spans painting, sculpture, print, photography and craft. A luscious landscape painting by invited British artist Andrew Gifford features alongside work by newly elected Academicians Alana Barton and Stuart Marshall. The RUA also continues its engagement with contemporary craft through its association with Craft NI.

At the heart of the exhibition is the RUA's open submission, offering artists at every stage of their practice the opportunity to have their work selected for one of Northern Ireland's most significant exhibitions.

Alongside the exhibition, the RUA's education programme welcomes thousands of pupils through guided tours, workshops, lectures and encounters with artists.

**Sponsored by KPMG, with support from
Belfast City Council, the Arts Council of
Northern Ireland and Dormant Assets NI.**





BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

Northern Ireland

Queen Street Studios & Creative Exchange
Sat 24 Oct | 11.30am – 5pm

Free (book online for tours)

Step inside the working environments of over 60 artists based at Creative Exchange Artist Studios and QSS Studios & Gallery. This collaborative open day celebrates the breadth and vitality of contemporary art being made in East Belfast.

Explore the studios at your own pace or join a guided tour to hear from a selection of artists about their work, inspirations, and creative processes.

Tours are at 12pm (beginning at Creative Exchange) and 3pm (from QSS), and early booking is advised.



THE STOOP

Various Artists

Naughton Gallery
Thu 29 Oct – Tue 22 Dec | 11am – 4pm

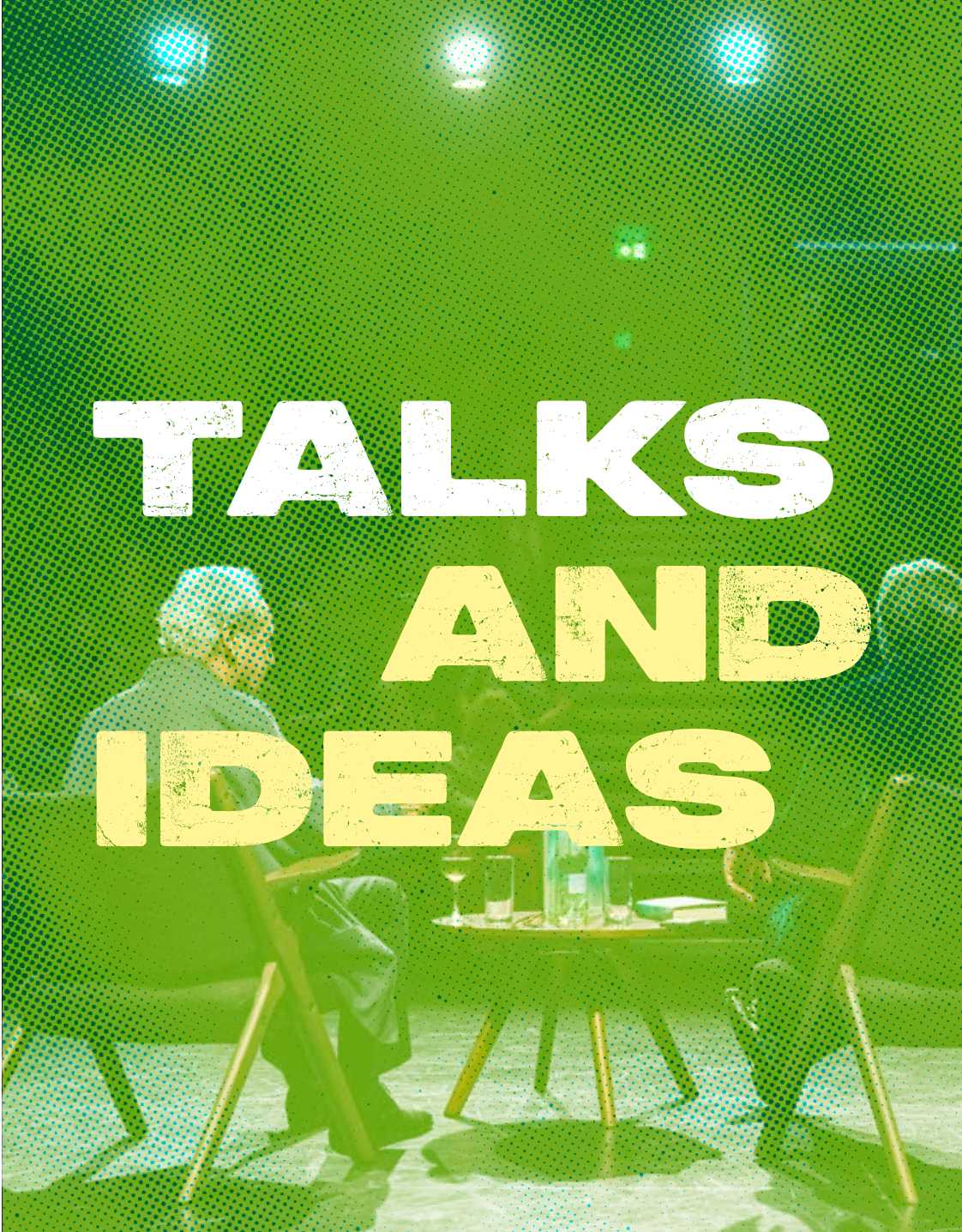
Free

Every community has its stoop – a place where people meet, share ideas, express themselves, and create culture together. Inspired by music scenes, fashion movements, queer nightlife, and everyday spaces of care and creativity, *The Stoop* celebrates the power of gathering and belonging.

Presented as a sister project to the Naughton Gallery's 2025 exhibition *The Big Neighbourhood*, *The Stoop* explores the informal spaces where friendships are formed, identities are shaped, and new cultural movements begin. *The Stoop* is a celebration of connection, creativity, and community.

Opening reception:
29 Oct, 5.30pm–8pm.

TALKS AND IDEAS





THRESHOLD

LYRIC PLAYERS
BELFAST

Launch Event

Northern Ireland

Lyric Theatre
Fri 16 Oct | 3pm

Free – book online

To celebrate the Lyric's 75th anniversary year, join us for the launch of a special edition anthology of *Threshold*, the Lyric and Northern Ireland's premier literary periodical which ran between 1957 - 1990.

Across four decades, *Threshold* was a launchpad for Ulster writers, including guest-editor Seamus Heaney (who published some of his first poems in the journal), Paul Muldoon, Gerald Dawe, John Montague, Brian Friel, John Hewitt (who served as poetry editor for more than 15 issues), Mary Beckett, Medbh McGuckian, John Boyd, Patrick Galvin and Sean O'Casey.

Duration: 2hrs



ANY QUESTIONS?

BBC Radio 4

UK

Ulster University, Birley Building
Fri 16 Oct | 6.30pm (doors)

Free – book online

Any Questions?, the BBC's flagship political discussion programme, comes to the Festival for a special live broadcast from Ulster University, presented by Alex Forsyth.

First aired in 1948, the programme visits a different part of the UK every week, bringing together a panel of leading politicians, policy makers, writers and thinkers to answer questions from the audience on the issues of the day.

Any Questions? is broadcast live on Radio 4 immediately after the 8.00pm news bulletin. Join us for this special edition for the chance to put your question directly to the panel.

Duration: 2hrs



JAN CARSON

With Ciaran Lavery

Northern Ireland

The Harrison Chambers of Distinction
Sun 18 Oct | 4pm

£7 / £6 concession

Award-winning Belfast author Jan Carson joins us to discuss *No Vacancy*, a collection of short micro-fiction inspired by her many hotel stays in recent years.

Featuring readings from the book, Carson shares the stories behind this surreal and playful collection. Whether it's winning ownership of the Isle of Man in a game of pool or decoding the messages of a one-eyed man in Norwich, each story features Carson's ethereal wit, written in her distinct style.

Interwoven with the conversation, acclaimed singer-songwriter Ciaran Lavery performs a series of live songs, bringing together two of Northern Ireland's most distinctive artistic voices in the intimate surroundings of The Harrison.



BECOMING

A Conversation on Matrescence
With Lucy Jones

UK

The MAC
Sun 18 Oct | 2pm

£7 / £6 concession

Lucy Jones, author of *Matrescence*, joins virtually for a live discussion exploring matrescence: the physical, psychological and social transformation of becoming a mother.

Curated by Helena Hamilton, creator of *Becoming*, in partnership with NI Science Festival, the event will bring Lucy Jones into conversation with a specialist working in maternal and perinatal health, bringing cultural, psychological and scientific perspectives to the often overlooked realities of early motherhood.

The event will also include an opportunity to experience selected material from *Becoming* (see p. 46).

Duration: 1hr 30 mins

SIMON MAYO

UK

Queen's Film Theatre
Sat 24 Oct | 6pm

£20 / £18 concession

We welcome Simon Mayo to the festival for a career retrospective celebrating more than four decades on air.

Mayo has been a familiar voice to generations of listeners. His much-loved Radio 1 shows of the 1980s and 1990s helped define an era of broadcasting. He went on to become known for his acclaimed film conversations with Mark Kermode, alongside his work across radio, television and success as a novelist.

Hosted by broadcaster Ralph McLean, the evening features archive clips on the QFT's big screen, conversation, audience Q&A and a book signing opportunity.

Produced by Tim Burden.

Hello to Jason Isaacs



ARTS IN CONTESTED SPACES

Office of Identity & Cultural Expression

Northern Ireland

The MAC
Sat 24 Oct | 5.30pm

Free - book online

In societies shaped by ethno-national, political and religious divisions, artistic expression can both unite and divide. This discussion explores how we can create space for people to celebrate and express their culture, national identity and heritage while recognising the experiences and sensitivities of others.

With contributions from local and international voices, including Brian Dougherty, Dr. Pól Deeds and Deirdre Robb, and chaired by Dr. Katy Radford, the panel considers the role artists can play in reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue.

Duration: 1hr 30 mins



ROSEMARY JENKINSON

Northern Ireland

The Harrison Chambers of Distinction
Sun 25 Oct | 2pm

£7 / £6 concession

Belfast poet, fiction writer and playwright, Rosemary Jenkinson launches her new poetry collection *Let Freedom Fall Upon You*, in conversation with renowned poet Damian Smyth.

This strikingly original collection explores the unmapped spaces of modern love, the epiphanies embedded in the natural world, politics, and the burial of troubled history in bogland.

Let Freedom Fall Upon You follows hot on the heels of Jenkinson's first collection, *Sandy Row Riots*, which was highly commended in the Forward Prizes.

Photo: © Stuart Baillie



Photo: © Mariusz Śmiejek

JANE COYLE

In conversation with
David Grant

Northern Ireland

The Harrison Chambers of Distinction
Sun 25 Oct | 4pm

£7 / £6 concession

A *Better Locksmith* by arts journalist and critic Jane Coyle is a recently published anthology of reviews, interviews and features, covering four decades of Northern Ireland theatre.

It contains a selection of her work for The Irish Times, The Stage, The Sunday Times, Irish Theatre Magazine and other publications, over an exceptionally creative period from 1984 to 2025.

Director David Grant steers a conversation looking back on those times, with readings from plays featured in the book by renowned actors Ruairi Conaghan and Caitriona Hinds.



JOHN HEWITT BIRTHDAY READINGS

Leeanne Quinn & Chandrika
Narayanan-Mohan

Ireland / Northern Ireland

The John Hewitt Bar
Mon 26 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.

Limerick-based poet Leeanne Quinn has published three collections including *Some Lives*, an *Irish Times* and *Irish Independent* Book of the Year. Her latest collection is *Landscape with Question*.

Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan is an Irish-Indian writer and performer, published by *Banshee*, *Stinging Fly*, Poetry Ireland, and others. Her debut poetry collection *The Salt of Something New* was published this year.

Presented in Association
with Poetry Ireland

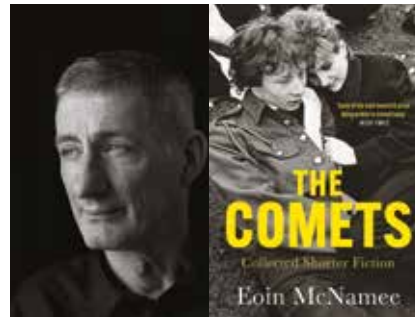


Photo: © James Fraser

EOIN MCNAMEE

Northern Ireland

The MAC
Sat 31 Oct | 2pm

£8 / £6 concession

Eoin McNamee presents his new short story collection, *The Comets*.

The Comets is a richly textured collection of stories, set in Ireland and Northern Ireland, that explore working-class lives teetering on the borderlands between violence and love. McNamee tells these haunted stories with precision and care, cementing again his position as one of the most loved literary stylists of contemporary Irish writing.

The author of eight novels including *Resurrection Man* and *The Bureau*, McNamee has been nominated for the Man Booker Prize, and has won the Kerry Fiction Prize and the CWA Steel Dagger.



CULTURAL WALKING TOURS

Northern Ireland

Various locations across Belfast
Ongoing throughout the festival
11am & 2pm

£14

Extend your festival experience beyond the stage with our cultural walking tours. Discover Belfast's hidden histories, creative spaces and untold stories through guided tours by members of the Northern Ireland Tourist Guide Association.

Tours include:

Queen Victoria in Belfast; Oscar Wilde Walking Tour; Deathless Verse – a Poetic Tour of Friar's Bush Graveyard; Belfast Harp Society Tour; Look Up!; Blue Lights Film Locations; Belfast Literary Tour; and Belfast Statues and Sculptures.

BETTE A. & BRIAN ENO

WHAT ART DOES

Netherlands / UK

The MAC
Sun 1 Nov | 2pm

£8 / £6 concession

Why do we need art? In this special event, artist, musician and activist Brian Eno and writer and artist Bette A. explore the ideas behind their acclaimed book *What Art Does: An Unfinished Theory*.

Through conversation, they examine how art is made by all of us; how it creates communities, expands our worlds and has the power to transform how we see the future.

Bette A. is on stage and joined by Brian Eno via videolink for this fascinating exploration of the vital role of art in our lives.

SEBASTIAN BARRY

Ireland

The MAC
Sun 1 Nov | 4pm

£8 / £6 concession

Regarded as one of the foremost novelists of our time, Sebastian Barry joins Alex Clark to discuss his powerful new book, *The Newer World*.

The author of novels including *Days Without End*, and *The Secret Scripture*, Barry was Laureate for Irish Fiction 2018-21 and is a two-time winner of the Costa Book of the Year Award.

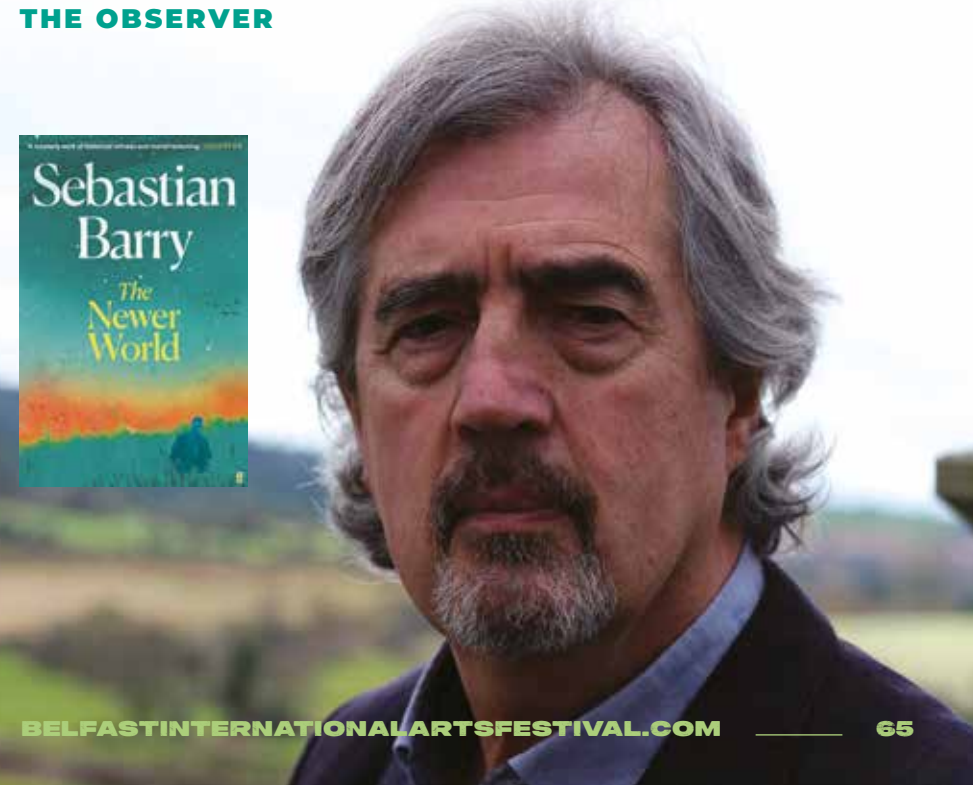
The Newer World follows the life of Tennyson Bouguereau – freed man, devoted brother, nascent singer, conflicted soldier and wanted man – as he journeys to find meaning and belonging in the aftermath of the American Civil War.

‘A masterly work of historical witness and moral reckoning.’

THE OBSERVER



Photo: © Hannah Cunningham



EMBRACE

Get involved with Embrace, our annual programme of free events, workshops and creative learning activities. 2026 highlights include:

IN-VISIBLE ID-ENTITIES 8: THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

Cahoots NI's The Sorcerer's Apprentice is a spellbinding theatre show; our special programme of free community workshops lets young people from across Belfast try out the skills needed for this acclaimed production including puppetry, music and story-telling. Supported by The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Reconciliation Fund.

PARADE - THE GIANT WHEEL

Our annual free outdoor spectacular returns to CS Lewis Sq. on Sat 17 Oct. Presented by Autin Dance Theatre, this thrilling performance features a giant 12ft wheel driven by street performers.

MUSIC AT ST MARK'S

Our partnership with BBC Radio 3 continues with two free concerts held at St Mark's Church Dundela on 22nd & 23rd October, featuring renowned Norwegian composer and violinist Henning Kraggerud.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ART

Enjoy free entry to all of our exhibitions and many of our new immersive arts experiences.

INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE 2026

Now in its third year, BIAF's International Showcase has established itself as one of the most significant opportunities for Northern Ireland's theatre and dance sector to connect with the world.

From 22-24 October, we welcome cultural leaders from more than 30 cities across Europe, North & South America, the Middle East and beyond to experience outstanding work by N.I.'s leading artists and companies. Delegates will also take part in networking events designed to foster international touring opportunities and long-term collaboration. It reflects our belief that the exceptional work being created here deserves to be seen on the world's stages.

Supported by Belfast City Council and Culture Ireland, and delivered in partnership with British Council Northern Ireland and Theatre and Dance NI.

To find out more,
please visit our website.

AT A GLANCE

ONGOING THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

A Thirst for Silver	Craft NI Gallery	3 Sept – 31 Oct	Visual Arts	52
John Carson	Golden Thread Gallery	12 Sept – 31 Oct	Visual Arts	52
Paul Seawright	Golden Thread Gallery	12 Sept – 31 Oct	Visual Arts	53
Spacings	SARC	13 Oct – 10 Nov	Immersive Arts	46
Reuben Brown	Queen Street Studios	15 Oct – 19 Nov	Visual Arts	54
Between Two Breaths	Queen Street Studios	15 Oct – 19 Nov	Visual Arts	54
RUA Exhibition	Ulster Museum	18 Oct – 3 Jan	Visual Arts	55
The Stoop	Naughton Gallery, QUB	29 Oct – 22 Dec	Visual Arts	56

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER

Orchestra Baobab	Mandela Hall	7PM	Music	23
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
God Has Left the Building	The MAC	7.45PM	Theatre & Dance	12
Hello Charlie	Lyric Theatre	8PM	Theatre & Dance	8

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER

Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Thanks For Being Here	The MAC	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	11
Rafael Toral	SARC	7.30PM	Music	24
God Has Left the Building	The MAC	7.45PM	Theatre & Dance	12
Hello Charlie	Lyric Theatre	8PM	Theatre & Dance	8

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

Oscar Wilde Walking Tour	QUB	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Threshold: Lyric Players Belfast	Lyric Theatre	3PM	Talks & Ideas	58
The Sorcerer's Apprentice	Cahoots - Cityside	6PM	Theatre & Dance	10
BBC R4 Any Questions?	Ulster University	6.30PM	Talks & Ideas	58
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Thanks For Being Here	The MAC	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	11
Liam Ó Maolai & Una Monaghan	Aras Mhic Reachtain	8PM	Music	24
Hello Charlie	Lyric Theatre	8PM	Theatre & Dance	8

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

Belfast Literary Tour Walking Tour	Writers' Sq	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Parade - The Giant Wheel	CS Lewis Sq	1PM & 3.30PM	Theatre & Dance	13
The Sorcerer's Apprentice	Cahoots - Cityside	2PM & 6PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Swallow	The MAC	2.30PM	Theatre & Dance	12
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Hello Charlie	Lyric Theatre	3PM & 8PM	Theatre & Dance	8

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

Queen Victoria in Belfast Walking Tour	QUB	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Becoming A Conversation on Matrescence	The MAC	2PM	Talks & Ideas	58
Jan Carson	The Harrison	4PM	Talks & Ideas	59
The Sorcerer's Apprentice	Cahoots - Cityside	2PM & 6PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Hello Charlie	Lyric Theatre	3PM	Theatre & Dance	8
Clare Sands	Empire Music Hall	7PM	Music	25

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

Ed O'Brien	Ulster Hall	7.30PM	Music	26
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TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER

Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Glass Menagerie	The MAC	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Rhythms of Connection	Black Box	7.30PM	Music	25

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER

Glass Menagerie	The MAC	11AM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER

Belfast Literary Tour Walking Tour	Writers' Sq	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Helena Hamilton: Becoming	Queen's Media Lab	11AM, 3PM & 7PM	Immersive Arts	46
Glass Menagerie	The MAC	11AM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
The Sorcerer's Apprentice	Cahoots - Cityside	6PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Levellers	Mandela Hall	7PM	Music	28
Fergus McCreadie	Black Box	7.30PM	Music	28
Henning Kraggerud BBC R3	St Mark's, Dundela	7.30PM	Music	29
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15
ShedMan	The MAC	7.45PM	Theatre & Dance	18

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER

Helena Hamilton: Becoming	Queen's Media Lab	11AM, 3PM & 7PM	Immersive Arts	46
The Sorcerer's Apprentice	Cahoots - Cityside	6PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Aliens	Black Box	7PM	Theatre & Dance	18
Henning Kraggerud BBC R3	St Mark's, Dundela	7.30PM	Music	29
Xenia Pestova Bennett	The Crescent	7.30PM	Music	31
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15

Glass Menagerie	The MAC	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Beethoven 200: Dance Moves	Ulster Hall	7.45PM	Music	30
ShedMan	The MAC	7.45PM	Theatre & Dance	18

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

Deathless Verse A Poetic Tour of Friar's Bush Graveyard	Friar's Bush Graveyard	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Helena Hamilton: Becoming	Queen's Media Lab	11AM, 3PM & 7PM	Immersive Arts	46
Behind the Studio Door	Queen Street Studios	11.30 AM - 5PM	Visual Arts	56
ShedMan	The MAC	2PM	Theatre & Dance	18
The Sorcerer's Apprentice	Cahoots - Cityside	2PM & 6PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15
Simon Mayo	Queen's Film Theatre	6PM	Talks & Ideas	60
Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble	SARC	7.30PM	Music	31
Tá Brón Orm / The Light Within	The MAC	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	16

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

Belfast Harp Society Walking Tour	Assembly Rooms	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Helena Hamilton: Becoming	Queens Media Lab	11AM, 3PM & 7PM	Immersive Arts	46
Rosemary Jenkinson	The Harrison	2PM	Talks & Ideas	61
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
The Sorcerer's Apprentice	Cahoots - Cityside	2PM & 6PM	Theatre & Dance	10
Glass Menagerie	The MAC	2.30PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	2.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15
Jane Coyle	The Harrison	4PM	Talks & Ideas	61
Mary Dillon, Dónal O'Connor, Neil Martin	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Music	32

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

John Hewitt Birthday Readings	The John Hewitt Bar	8PM	Talks & Ideas	62
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TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER

Glass Menagerie	The MAC	11AM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	14
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

Beginnings & Endings BBC R3	Foyle Foundation Hall	2PM	Music	33
Takkuuk	Studio Ulster	5PM & 7PM	Immersive Arts	48
Home	Studio Ulster	5PM - 8PM	Immersive Arts	50
Margaret Gaspy	The Deer's Head	7.30PM	Music	33
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

Blue Lights Locations Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Kindred Ash	Digital Arts Studios	12PM - 4PM	Immersive Arts	50
Takkuuk	Studio Ulster	5PM & 7PM	Immersive Arts	48
The Thirteen Chairs	Cahoots - Cityside	6PM, 7.30PM & 9PM	Theatre & Dance	19
Home	Studio Ulster	5PM - 8PM	Immersive Arts	50
Lost Communications: Underwater	Studio Ulster	6.30PM	Immersive Arts	47
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15
The Songs of Joni Mitchell	The MAC	7.30PM	Music	34

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

Kindred Ash	Digital Arts Studios	12PM - 4PM	Immersive Art	50
Home	Studio Ulster	3PM - 8PM	Immersive Arts	50
Takkuuk	Studio Ulster	3PM, 5PM & 7PM	Immersive Arts	48
The Thirteen Chairs	Cahoots - Cityside	6PM, 7.30PM & 9PM	Theatre & Dance	19
Lost Communications: Underwater	Studio Ulster	6.30PM	Immersive Arts	47
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15
Bach Unseen	SARC	7.30PM	Music	36
BlackGate	The Crescent	7.30PM	Music	35
Takuya Nakamura	The Limelight	10.30PM	Music	35

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER

Kindred Ash	Digital Arts Studios	12PM - 4PM	Immersive Arts	50
Belfast's Statues and Sculptures Walking Tour	Ulster Museum	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Takkuuk	Studio Ulster	11AM, 1PM & 3PM	Immersive Arts	48
Home	Studio Ulster	11AM - 4PM	Immersive Arts	50
Eoin McNamee	The MAC	2PM	Talks & Ideas	63
The Thirteen Chairs	Cahoots - Cityside	5PM, 6.30PM & 8PM	Theatre & Dance	19
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Look Up! Walking Tour	Belfast City Hall	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Bette A. & Brian Eno	The MAC	2PM	Talks & Ideas	64
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Darren Jackson's Wedding	St Bartholomew's Church	2.30PM	Theatre & Dance	15
Sebastian Barry	The MAC	4PM	Talks & Ideas	65
The Thirteen Chairs	Cahoots - Cityside	5PM, 6.30PM & 8PM	Theatre & Dance	19
Joshua Idehen	The Limelight	7.30PM	Music	38

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER

Kindred Ash	Digital Arts Studios	12PM - 4PM	Immersive Arts	50
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

Kindred Ash	Digital Arts Studios	12PM - 4PM	Immersive Arts	50
Andy Irvine & Quilty	Black Box	7.30PM	Music	40
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Kindred Ash	Digital Arts Studios	12PM - 4PM	Immersive Arts	50
corto.alto	Mandela Hall	7PM	Music	41
Nerina Pallot	Empire Music Hall	7.30PM	Music	40
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
The Human Voice	Lyric Theatre	8PM	Theatre & Dance	19

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

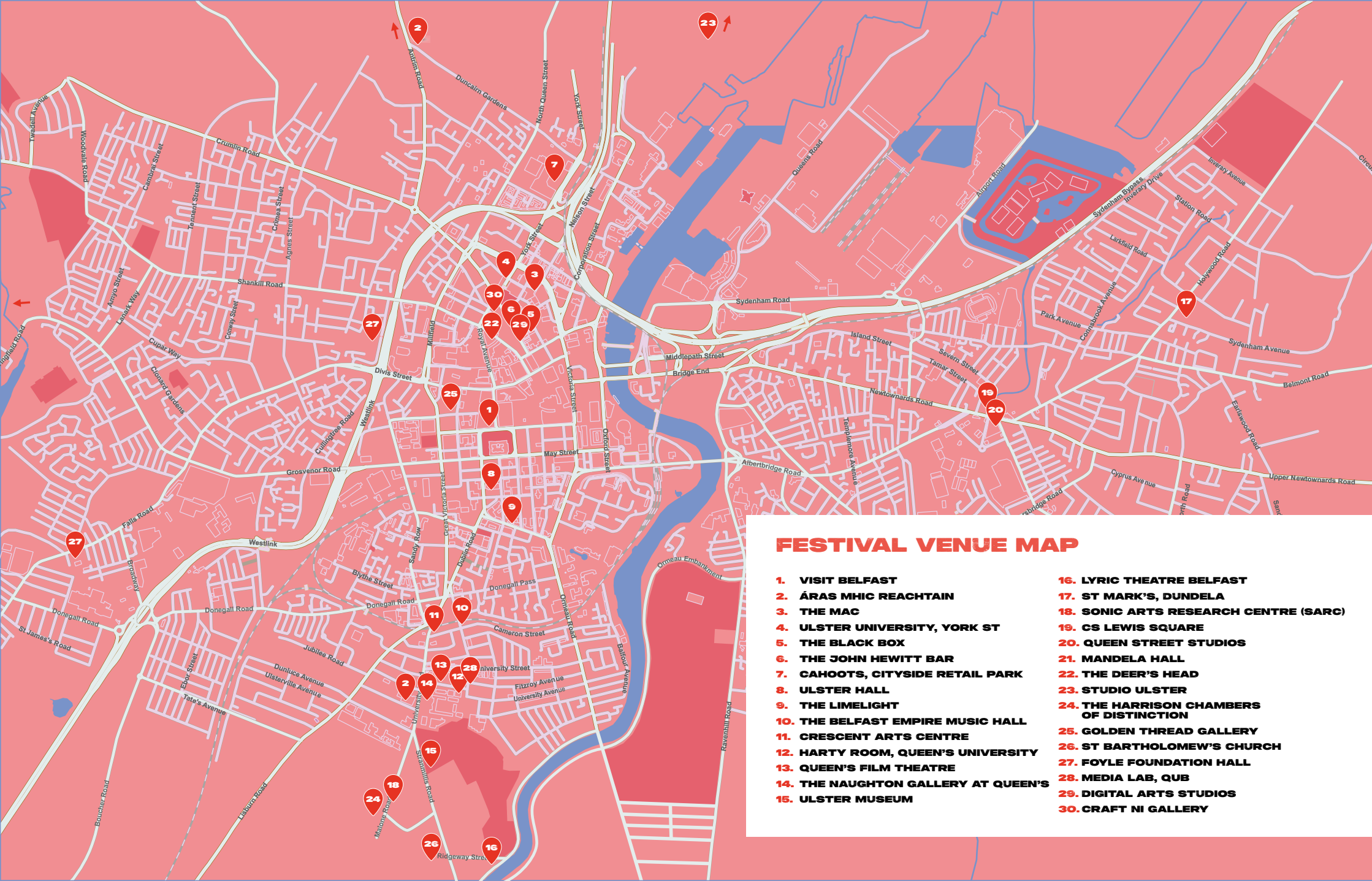
Kindred Ash	Digital Arts Studios	12PM - 4PM	Immersive Arts	50
Belfast's Statues and Sculptures Walking Tour	Ulster Museum, Belfast	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Friday Night is Music Night	Ulster Hall	7.30PM	Music	42
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Nös	The MAC	7.45PM	Theatre & Dance	20
The Human Voice	Lyric Theatre	8PM	Theatre & Dance	19

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER

Kindred Ash	Digital Arts Studios	12PM - 4PM	Immersive Arts	50
Graveyard Drama Walking Tour	Friar's Bush Graveyard	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM & 7.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
The Human Voice	Lyric Theatre	3PM & 8PM	Theatre & Dance	19
Nös	The MAC	7.45PM	Theatre & Dance	20

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Queen Victoria in Belfast Walking Tour	QUB	11AM & 2PM	Talks & Ideas	62
Faith Healer	Lyric Theatre	2.30PM	Theatre & Dance	9
Rory Friers	The MAC	7.30PM	Music	44



FESTIVAL VENUE MAP

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. VISIT BELFAST | 16. LYRIC THEATRE BELFAST |
| 2. ÁRAS MHC REACHTAIN | 17. ST MARK'S, DUNDELA |
| 3. THE MAC | 18. SONIC ARTS RESEARCH CENTRE (SARC) |
| 4. ULSTER UNIVERSITY, YORK ST | 19. CS LEWIS SQUARE |
| 5. THE BLACK BOX | 20. QUEEN STREET STUDIOS |
| 6. THE JOHN HEWITT BAR | 21. MANDELA HALL |
| 7. CAHOOTS, CITYSIDE RETAIL PARK | 22. THE DEER'S HEAD |
| 8. ULSTER HALL | 23. STUDIO ULSTER |
| 9. THE LIMELIGHT | 24. THE HARRISON CHAMBERS OF DISTINCTION |
| 10. THE BELFAST EMPIRE MUSIC HALL | 25. GOLDEN THREAD GALLERY |
| 11. CRESCENT ARTS CENTRE | 26. ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH |
| 12. HARTY ROOM, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY | 27. FOYLE FOUNDATION HALL |
| 13. QUEEN'S FILM THEATRE | 28. MEDIA LAB, QUB |
| 14. THE NAUGHTON GALLERY AT QUEEN'S | 29. DIGITAL ARTS STUDIOS |
| 15. ULSTER MUSEUM | 30. CRAFT NI GALLERY |

**14
OCT
– 8
NOV
20
26**

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