



KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

10-20 AUGUST 2023

kilkennyarts.ie

**Celebrating 50 years of
dreams and discoveries
in Ireland's Medieval City**

Echoes of a Festival: Celebrating 50 years of Kilkenny Arts Festival



In 1974, artists and members of the local community came together with the idea of bringing world-class artists from all over the globe to Kilkenny, making the Marble City the centre of the arts world every August.

This year, as we celebrate the Festival's 50th edition, we're looking back, and we're asking you to do the same! Whether you're an audience member, an artist, a volunteer or a member of the local community, we'd love to hear from you. You might have a memory of an unforgettable performance, a story about a meeting an inspiring artist, or simply cherished memories of the Festival's unique atmosphere. Whatever your recollections, we'd love to hear them all.

These memories will be included both in an online display (available from the beginning of August) and in an audio-visual installation accompanying an exhibition of 50 years of Festival programmes and design, running in Shee Alms House throughout the Festival.

Participants can share their memories in various forms: written accounts, voice notes, or video clips. Contributions can be sent via email to friends@kilkennyarts.ie (deadline: 24 July).

To help gather these precious memories, we'll be hosting a special afternoon dedicated to collecting your thoughts at the Smithwick's Experience on Saturday 1 July. Festival-goers and local residents are warmly invited to join us to share their personal experiences and tales from the Festival's past.

More details available at kilkennyarts.ie

Echoes of a Festival is proudly supported by Kilkenny County Council

Booking tickets for Kilkenny Arts Festival 2023

ONLINE

today at kilkennyarts.ie

IN PERSON

from 19 July at the Festival Box Office
76 John Street

BY PHONE

from 19 July on +353 56 775 2175

Weekdays: 10am - 5pm

During the Festival: daily 10am - 7pm

If you have additional access requirements, please contact the Box Office

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SPECIAL TICKET DEALS

For details go to kilkennyarts.ie

Introduction

We’re delighted to welcome you to the 50th edition of Kilkenny Arts Festival. From classical music to contemporary dance, visual art to immersive theatre, this edition of our Festival is designed to thrill, delight and inspire.

Our 50th Festival kicks off with a special audio-visual installation projected on the walls of Kilkenny Castle. Inspired by Damien Harrington (who designed our first logo), *In Good Hands* is a spectacular tribute to the beauty of handmade art and design. Just as spectacular is the new luminarium – a giant inflatable structure designed for kids big and small – that rises in Kilkenny Castle Parklands.

Music has been at the forefront of the Festival from its inception, and this year is no exception. We’re thrilled to welcome back Irish Chamber Orchestra for two concerts in St Canice’s Cathedral, including a collaboration with Radiohead’s Philip Selway. Our classical programme also features Chamber Choir Ireland performing the Irish premiere of Rhona Clarke’s *Requiem*, the return of Barry Douglas, and a collaboration with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra that sees Iarla Ó Lionáird and Ciarán Hinds perform a song cycle based on Seamus Heaney’s *Sweeney Astray*. All this, plus lunchtime concerts from Camerata Kilkenny and the Carducci Quartet, and a late-night performance from viola da gamba virtuoso Lixsanía Fernández.

Other musical highlights include Grammy Award-winner Dumou Sangaré blending Afro-pop, folk rock and blues, the Rollercoaster Sessions with its diverse array of local and international acts, and a terrific line-up for the Marble City Sessions, co-curated by Martin Hayes. Crash Ensemble return for a three-concert residency, while Dave Holland’s *Wicked Little Atoms in The Fragments of the Long Waves* (which KAF commissioned) premieres in Cleere’s. And be sure to look out for the Secret Garden Music series, free each day across special spaces in the city.

We’re excited to work with two local theatre companies. Festival favourites Asylum Productions bring together actors, community groups and professional artists to present *The Local*, an immersive experience set in a pub in 1992. Barnstorm Theatre bring three new plays to benches around Kilkenny. Speaking of benches, we also welcome Tink Flaherty, accompanied by their very own bench, for a multi-sensory show in Cleere’s. Since last autumn we’ve been working with members of migrant communities based in Kilkenny, and the incomparable John Scott of Irish Modern Dance Theatre, to create *Migration Sonata*, a rich blend of movement and song exploring our similarities and differences.

To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the death of Seamus Heaney, we present a three-part series of discussions and readings from the poet’s celebrated translations. Our poet-in-residence this year is the distinguished Kwame Dawes, while acclaimed journalist Ben Judah delivers the 2023 Hubert Butler Lecture and the Hubert Butler Essay Prize is presented in the Parade Tower alongside an exciting line-up of talks.

The Butler Gallery exhibition, featuring a stellar line-up of artists, explores the relationship between art and sport, while the Festival Gallery plays host to the work of fresh new talent Deirdre Frost. From the castle to the cathedral, the Marble City is the place to be this August. See you there!

The Festival Team

Festival Team				Patron
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For 50 years our funders and partners have played an invaluable role in helping Kilkenny Arts Festival to flourish. We greatly appreciate their continuing support!

PRINCIPAL FUNDER



PUBLIC FUNDERS



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Check Out Our Friends!

Help make Kilkenny Arts Festival one of Europe's finest artistic celebrations. As an individual or business, you'll find a range of Friend options and benefits available, from complimentary tickets and discounts to Festival Club membership and special events. Friends membership starts at just €150.

For more information you can call the Festival Office on 056 776 3663, email friends@kilkennyarts.ie or sign up at kilkennyarts.ie/support

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Tynan's Bar Kilkenny
Yesterdays

We also acknowledge those Friends who have chosen to remain anonymous.

Architects of Air's giant inflatable sculpture ... is a great big colourful balloon that you can climb into. It's warm, it's bright, it hums softly to itself: no wonder [it] attracts kids of all ages, wanting to escape to another, better world

The Irish Times

ARCHITECTS OF AIR

Timisien

After a five-year break, Architects of Air make an eagerly anticipated return to the Castle Park with their latest spectacular luminarium, *Timisien*.

A luminarium is a giant inflatable sculpture: a place filled with colour, shape and light and a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet. Imagine wandering inside a giant balloon filled with breathtaking chambers and maze-like passages.

Inspired by many different styles (including traditional Islamic architecture and Gaudi's Palau Güell in Barcelona), *Timisien* is the perfect place to roam, relax and discover your sense of wonder – an experience not to be missed!

The luminarium is wheelchair accessible.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Relaxed hours for people with additional sensory needs:

Sun 13: 10am-11am, Mon 14: 12pm-1pm, Fri 18: 12pm-1pm

Child-free hours: Mon 14: 5pm-6pm, Tue 15: 5pm-6pm

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10AM-6PM	10AM-6PM	10AM-6PM	12PM-6PM	12PM-6PM	12PM-6PM	12PM-6PM	12PM-6PM	10AM-6PM

Kilkenny Castle Parklands

Admission €7 Tickets available on the day only at the Kilkenny Castle gate

PREMIERE

FICTIONS PICTURE COMPANY AND KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL, IN ASSOCIATION WITH OPW

Light Up the Castle: In Good Hands



Light Up the Castle: In Good Hands is a spectacular audio-visual show projecting images onto the walls of Kilkenny Castle, featuring a handmade short film specially created for the Festival by Wicklow-based Fictions Picture Company and directed by Jack Phelan.

Inspired by Damien Harrington (who designed the original Festival logo in 1974), the film celebrates the graphic artists who made everything by hand before computers came along. Projected onto the walls of the castle as night falls, and featuring music from Roamer and Ensemble Ériu, *In Good Hands* is a breathtaking tribute to the beauty of handmade art and design.

Please note: the installation features strobe lighting. Latecomers will not be admitted. Wheelchair users are advised to contact the Festival Box Office before the show. Gates open at 10.15pm at the Parade entrance.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
10	11	12	13
10.40PM	10.40PM	10.40PM	10.40PM

Kilkenny Castle
Admission FREE
Gates open 10.15pm
Duration 20 mins approx.



OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
 Office of Public Works

FICTIONS.

PREMIERE

ASYLUM & KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ONCE OFF PRODUCTIONS & WATERGATE THEATRE

The Local

By Medb Lambert, Clare Monnelly & Emma O'Grady

Directed by Dónal Gallagher



There's 50p on the pool table, Sinéad is ripping up the Pope, Féile's going to get messy and Ireland is on the brink of cataclysmic social change...

The Local is an immersive soap opera. It's 22 August 1992. The pub is the epicentre of Irish culture. Ireland is a drunken teenager.

We're about to grow up and leave home and take responsibility for ourselves. The craic is exponential and the only way is up.

Little did we know we were heading for a crash. We should have seen it coming. Following on from the success of the award-winning *Big Chapel X*, Asylum Productions return with their unique production style bringing local actors, community groups and professional performers and artists together.

Please note: Not suitable for U16's. 16 and 17 year olds need to be accompanied by an adult.

THU	FRI	SAT	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19
8PM	8PM	8PM	8PM	8PM	8PM	8PM	8PM	8PM
PREVIEW								



Sheridan's, Ennisnag, Co. Kilkenny, R95 YT93

Admission Thu 10 August (preview) €15, Fri 11 – Sat 19 August €22/€18

Duration 90 mins approx.



funding
the arts



PREMIERE

BARNSTORM THEATRE AND KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

Bench Tales

Barnstorm Theatre presents an exciting new trilogy of plays that turns the audience into sleuths and spies.

Each play takes place around a different park bench in a different part of the city. The audience is led from one location to the next, eavesdropping on the action from a distance with the aid of earphones and binoculars. Both intimate and distant, high-tech and laidback, the *Bench Tales* trilogy is a fascinating new way to experience live theatre.

Please note: this is a standing event. One ticket covers all three shows.



Pink Makes the Boys Wink

By Julie Sharkey

Pink Makes the Boys Wink is a comic, full-of-heart story about getting old. How time can creep up on us and take us by surprise. A story about three women: one woman's compassion, one woman's fear and one woman's joy in *Hello* magazine.

There is Always Tomorrow

By Joe Bergin

A chance meeting between a young woman and an older man on a park bench may not be all that it seems. Why has Emma come here and what is she looking for? As she attempts to uncover the truth, is she fully prepared for what she might find?

The Last Trip to Tipp

By Gemma Creagh

It's 1994. Lorraine, Emma and Mairead are three friends heading in very different directions. Well, not literally. Right now they're all on their way to Féile, and with a line-up like Crowded House, Primal Scream, The Prodigy, The Cranberries, Björk and Blur the craic will be fierce. With one mouldy tent, ancient sleeping bags and a fine slab of Linden Village cans, they wait on a lift from their flaky friend, Suzanne – who's late as usual.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
11AM, 1PM & 3PM	11AM, 1PM & 3PM	11AM, 1PM & 3PM	11AM, 1PM & 3PM	11AM, 1PM & 3PM	11AM, 1PM & 3PM	11AM, 1PM & 3PM

Venue: ticket holders will be contacted in advance with location details

Admission €20/€17

Duration approx. 60 mins for the trilogy

Writers Julie Sharkey, Joe Bergin, Gemma Creagh
Directors Ellie Pearson, Sally Stevens, John Morton
Artistic Producer Philip Hardy
Producer Anja Terpstra
Production Manager Vincent Dempsey

BARNSTORM
THEATRE COMPANY

arts
council
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Benched

Created and performed by Tink Flaherty

Credits

Also featuring Abra Flaherty

Director Rosana Cade

Mentor Katy Baird

Lighting Designer Marty Langthorne

Production Manager Sorcha Stott Strzala

Sound editing Jo Jackson

Sound mixing Liz Helman

Movement director Frauke Reinhardt

Dramaturgy Daniel Oliver & Libro Bridgeman

Access Support Catherine Hoffmann

Produced by Artsadmin

Commissioned by Cambridge Junction

Benched is a one-person show with a concept so simple it's almost revolutionary. Tink takes a bench to a public location and invites strangers to sit with them, sharing stories and making connections. The stories that arise from these intimate, one-to-one encounters are then woven into their show.

Tink is a queer, non-binary and neurodivergent artist from the north of England, with Irish Traveller heritage. Since 2018 *Benched* has been performed all over the UK to great acclaim, and we're thrilled to welcome Tink to Kilkenny. Sometimes cheeky, sometimes shocking, *Benched* is a multi-sensory show that explores powerful themes of class, gender and neurodivergence with humour and hope.

FRI
18
8PM

Cleere's Theatre
Admission €12
Duration 60 mins approx.





PREMIERE

IRISH MODERN DANCE THEATRE AND KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

Migration Sonata

John Scott's Irish Modern Dance Theatre is one of the most acclaimed dance companies in Ireland, celebrated for developing breathtakingly original new works in collaboration with a wide range of people, from leading Irish and international dancers to refugees and torture survivors.

Their previous shows in Kilkenny (the *Lear Project* in 2014, and *Interventions* in 2018), featuring legendary New York dancer Valda Setterfield, were must-see events.

For this new piece, *Migration Sonata*, which has been workshopped in Kilkenny since October 2022, Scott brings together members of the migrant community in Kilkenny, creating a profound and moving exploration of our similarities and differences through a rich blend of movement and song.

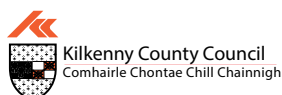
Ireland's dance landscape has been given a splash of colour by iconoclast John Scott, spearheading Irish Modern Dance Theatre, a group which has already become something of a national institution
Tanz Magazine

FRI
11
8PM

SAT
12
2.30PM

Watergate Theatre
Admission €20/€18

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



Philip Selway

with Irish Chamber Orchestra

Philip Selway may be best known as the drummer in Radiohead but, like his bandmates, he has spread his wings in recent years. A multi-talented composer, singer and performer, he's scored soundtracks for film and dance projects and released a string of well-received albums that blend everything from contemporary classical music to electronica.

His latest album, *Strange Dance*, is a collection of intimate songs wrapped around his mellow voice, and St Canice's is the perfect setting for Selway's rich orchestral soundscapes. Joined by a stellar cast of musicians including Adrian Utley, Quinta, Chris Vatalaro, Laura Moody and members of the ICO, Selway shows just why he deserves to take centre stage.

FRI
11
7.30PM

St Canice's Cathedral

Admission

Zone A €35/€33

Zone B €30/€28

Duration 75 mins approx.



Irish Chamber Orchestra

Thomas Zehetmair conductor/violin

Led by violinist and chief conductor Thomas Zehetmair, the Irish Chamber Orchestra presents a wonderfully broad-ranging programme that embraces everything from Linda Buckley's gorgeous *Fall Approaches* (*Hasutid Nalgast*), inspired by Icelandic poetry, to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, featuring the most famous of all symphonic themes.

Programme

Franz Schubert Scherzo
(after his sketches of the
3rd movement of the 'Unfinished',
completed by Thomas Zehetmair)

Felix Mendelssohn
Violin Concerto in E minor, op. 64

Linda Buckley *Fall Approaches*

Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony no. 5 in C minor, op. 67

**A virtuoso technique married to a musical mind that won't take anything for granted.
Zehetmair seems to find answers where other musicians don't even see questions**

Andrew McGregor, BBC Radio 3

FRI
18
8PM

St Canice's Cathedral

Admission

Zone A €35/€33

Zone B €30/€28

Duration 1 hr 35 mins approx. (without interval)



Lixsania Fernández

Jorge Juan Morata tenor

Lixsania Fernández viola da gamba

Eduardo Egüez guitarra barroca

Viola da gamba virtuoso Lixsania Fernández has performed all over the world with leading orchestras and early music ensembles, including Jordi Savall's Hespérion XXI and the Orquesta Nacional de España. For this concert in St John's, Fernández explores the work of José Marín. A Spanish baroque harpist, guitarist and composer, Marín led a turbulent life marked by scandals and murder but remains famous for his *tonos humanos* or 'secular songs'. Concerned almost exclusively with love, sex and longing, the *tonos humanos* are playful, poignant, teasing and tormented, and celebrated for their enduring melodic charm.

TUE St John's Priory
15 Admission €25/€23
9PM Duration 90 mins
approx. (without interval)

a subtle performer with a beautifully fine-grained sound

Limelight Magazine





Sweeney

RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Iarla Ó Lionáird & Ciarán Hinds

Iarla Ó Lionáird vocals
Ciarán Hinds narrator
Neil Martin music

RTÉ Concert Orchestra
 conducted by **David Brophy**

Seamus Heaney performed at our very first Festival in 1974, and this year, to mark the 10th anniversary of his death, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra presents *Sweeney*, a song cycle based on his poem *Sweeney Astray*.

Heaney's poem is a version of the seventh-century Irish saga, *Buile Shuibhne*, a poem about the clash between the natural and man-made world, and the role of race, religion and family, that still speaks to us today.

Composed by Neil Martin and conducted by David Brophy, with vocals from Iarla Ó Lionáird and narration by Ciarán Hinds, *Sweeney* brings Heaney's words to life in a memorable tribute to one of Ireland's greatest poets.

Broadcaster John Kelly will interview Neil Martin before the show begins.

WED
16
 7.30PM

St Canice's Cathedral

Admission

Zone A €30/€27

Zone B €25/€22

Latecomers will not be admitted

Duration 80 mins approx. (without interval)

LUNCHTIME MUSIC SERIES

Camerata Kilkenny

Performers

Zoë Brookshaw soprano

Rachel Beckett flute

Sarah Groser viola da gamba

Maya Homburger violin

Malcolm Proud harpsichord

Since its debut at the Festival in 1999, Camerata Kilkenny has performed all over the world, working with leading international singers and musicians like tenor John Elwes, soprano Julia Doyle and violinist Bojan Čičić. This year, the acclaimed ensemble returns to the Festival for the first time since 2016 to present a pair of lunchtime concerts in St John's. Joined by leading soprano Zoë Brookshaw, the ensemble performs a range of songs and sonatas from the great baroque composers, including Purcell, Biber and Bach.

FRI
11
1PM

SAT
12
1PM

St John's Priory
Admission €20/€18
for each concert

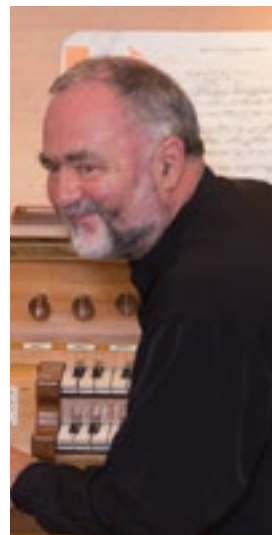
**SPECIAL
DEALS
FOR THIS
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PHOTO: GREGORY COLLETT



PHOTO: MICHAEL HINSELMANN



PROGRAMME I, FRIDAY 11 AUGUST

Johann Sebastian Bach Trio Sonata in G Major, BWV 1038

Henry Purcell 'O let me weep' (The Complaint from *The Fairy Queen*, Z629)

Johann Sebastian Bach Sonata in E minor for flute and continuo, BWV 1034

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault *Orphée*: cantata for soprano, flute, violin and basso continuo
Duration 60 mins approx. (without interval)

PROGRAMME II, SATURDAY 12 AUGUST

Johann Sebastian Bach Trio Sonata in C minor from the *Musical Offering*, BWV 1079

Henry Purcell 'Sweeter than roses', Z585

Henry Purcell 'Lord, what is man?', Z192

François Couperin *La Favorite: Chaconne a deux temps*

Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber Passacaglia in G minor 'Guardian Angel' for solo violin

Johann Sebastian Bach 'Höchster was ich habe' (Cantata BWV 39)

Johann Sebastian Bach 'Auch mit degämpften, schwachen stimmen' (Cantata BWV 36)

Johann Sebastian Bach 'Ei! Wie schmeckt der kaffee süße' (The 'Coffee' Cantata BWV 211)
Duration 60 mins approx. (without interval)



LUNCHTIME MUSIC SERIES

Carducci String Quartet

The Carducci String Quartet's presentation of the complete cycle of Shostakovich string quartets was one of the highlights of last year's Festival and it's a pleasure to welcome them back this year with a very different series of lunchtime concerts in St John's.

This year, the quartet showcases its astonishingly diverse repertoire, performing pieces by everyone from Beethoven, Haydn and Mendelssohn to the contemporary American composers Philip Glass and Caroline Shaw, as well as Astor Piazzolla, whose wonderfully stirring and dramatic Four, for Tango, rounds off the final concert in style.

PROGRAMME I, SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 'THE STUDENT BECOMES THE MASTER'

Joseph Haydn String Quartet in E-flat, op. 33, no. 2 'The Joke'

Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet No. 8 in E minor, op. 59, no. 2

Duration 50 mins approx. (without interval)

PROGRAMME II, MONDAY 14 AUGUST, 'IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE THE DAWN'

Felix Mendelssohn String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, op. 80

Joseph Haydn String Quartet in B-flat major, op. 76, no. 4 'Sunrise'

Duration 50 mins approx. (without interval)

PROGRAMME III, TUESDAY 15 AUGUST '...TO THE NEW WORLD'

Rebecca Clarke *Poem*

Caroline Shaw *Entr'acte*

Antonín Dvořák String Quartet No. 12 in F major, op. 96 'American'

Duration 50 mins approx. (without interval)

PROGRAMME IV, WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST, 'TURNING POINT PARIS'

Philip Glass String Quartet No. 3 'Mishima'

Maurice Ravel String Quartet in F major

Astor Piazzolla Four, for Tango

Duration 50 mins approx. (without interval)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	
13	14	15	16	St John's Priory
1PM	1PM	1PM	1PM	Admission €20/€18
				for each concert

SPECIAL
DEALS
FOR THIS
EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

astonishing intensity

The Guardian

Barry Douglas

Since winning the gold medal at the 1986 Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition, Barry Douglas has enjoyed a stellar international career, performing with leading international orchestras and giving recitals across the globe. For the first time since 2014 Douglas returns to the Festival, bringing an enticing programme that features two of Schubert's 'impromptus' (free-form compositions that sound improvised), the much-praised Piano Sonata in A minor, and Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor, dedicated to Robert Schumann.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Franz Schubert

Four Impromptus, op. 142, D 935, nos 1 and 2

Franz Schubert

Piano Sonata no. 16 in A minor, op. 42, D 845

Franz Liszt

Sonata in B minor, S 178

MON
14
7.30PM

St Canice's Cathedral

Admission

Zone A €33/€30

Zone B €28/€25

Duration 1 hr 40 mins approx.
(including interval)

SPECIAL
DEALS
FOR THIS
EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

Malcolm Proud & Darren Cornish-Moore

World-renowned organist Malcolm Proud has been performing at the Festival ever since it began. For this morning recital, he's joined by cornetto player Darren Cornish-Moore to perform a wonderful programme of Renaissance music from composers all over Europe, including John Dowland and Thomas Tallis.



something of a musical visionary

The Irish Times

SPECIAL
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PROGRAMME

John Dowland *Lachrimae Pavan*

John Dowland 'Tosse not my Soule'

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck *Mein junges Leben hat ein End*

Johann Jeep *Von der Sirenen Listigkeit*

John Bull 'A Gigge – Doctor Bull's my selfe'

William Byrd 'Sellinger's Rownde' (FVB, LXIV & *My Ladye Nevells Booke*)

William Byrd *Callino Casturame* (FVB, CLVIII)

William Byrd 'A Fancie' (*My Ladye Nevells Booke*)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Vestiva i colli

Giles Farnaby three pieces from

The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book

John Dowland *Lasso vita mia*

John Dowland 'Come Again'

SAT
19
11AM

St Canice's Cathedral

Admission €20/€18

Duration 60 mins approx.
(without interval)



Chamber Choir Ireland

Conductor: Paul Hillier

In Paradisum

PROGRAMME

Arvo Pärt, *Morning Star*

Arvo Pärt, *O Holy Father Nicholas*

Rhona Clarke, *Requiem* – Irish Premiere

Caroline Shaw, *How to Fold the Wind*

SPECIAL
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See kilkennyarts.ie

Led by Grammy-winning Artistic Director, Paul Hillier, Chamber Choir Ireland finds light in the dark with *In Paradisum*, a programme of deeply spiritual works. Hillier is one of Arvo Pärt's most celebrated interpreters, and the programme opens with two works by the famed Estonian composer: *Morning Star* and *O Holy Father Nicholas*.

The centrepiece of this programme is the Irish premiere of Rhona Clarke's *Requiem*, a work that embraces redemption, while Caroline Shaw's mesmerising *How to fold the wind* – co-commissioned by the Festival, Chamber Choir Ireland, Carnegie Hall, Ars Nova Copenhagen and Bella Voce, and originally intended as a world premiere at KAFX – is finally performed live for a Kilkenny audience.

TUE
15
7.30PM

St Canice's Cathedral

Admission

Zone A €30/€27

Zone B €25/€22

Duration 70 mins approx.
(without interval)



funding
music

Oumou Sangaré

For all the record's sonic invention ... it's Sangaré's voice that commands attention, a rich, textured instrument that has only grown more nuanced and subtle with age

Uncut on Timbuktu

THU
10
8PM

St Canice's Cathedral

Admission

Zone A €35/€33

Zone B €30/€28

Duration 60 mins approx.

Over the years many Malian artists have graced our Festival stages, but few with the stature of Oumou Sangaré. Since her debut album *Moussoulou* in 1989, Sangaré has become a global superstar and feminist icon, celebrated for making some of the most definitive albums in the history of contemporary African music.

Her latest album, *Timbuktu*, is her 'boldest and most ambitious album to date' (*Uncut*), effortlessly melding the hypnotic rhythms of her native Wassoulou region with Afro-pop, folk-rock and fuzzy blues guitars, all carried by her extraordinary voice. Backed by a seven-piece band, Sangaré's appearance in St Canice's is one of this year's must-see gigs.



Ichiko Aoba with Crash Ensemble



Japanese virtuoso Ichiko Aoba is a uniquely talented vocalist and guitarist whose music sits in a sweet spot between folk, indie, classical, jazz and pop. Since 2010 she has released half a dozen albums, written music for video games, theatre productions and installation art and collaborated with artists as diverse as Cornelius, Mac DeMarco and Ryuichi Sakamoto. But it was her seventh studio album, last year's *Windswept Adan*, that saw her music finally receive the international recognition it deserves. For this gig in the Set, Aoba is joined by a quintet of Crash Ensemble musicians to perform fresh arrangements of her delicate, haunting songs. Don't miss this chance to catch a true original.



an alienated dream-pop masterpiece

FT Weekend on Ichiko Aoba's Windswept Adan

THU
17
8PM
Set Theatre
Admission €25/€22
Duration 60 mins approx.



PHOTO: SHIRAZ ROLLOS & STEVE O'CONNOR

ONCE OFF PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Manchán Magan & Other World *Slí na Samhlaíochta*

Slí na Samhlaíochta (The Way of Imagination) is a lyrical and musical exploration of the realms of Gaelic consciousness that often evade our rational, reasoning minds.


Accompanied by the Other World collective (ambient musicians Myles O'Reilly, Robbie Perry and Simon O'Reilly, with Crosby Dunkley on live visuals), Manchán Magan guides us on a journey into the spiritual expanses of the Gaelic world, exploring myth and mystery, reflecting on insights that the Irish language offers into nature and landscape, and delving deep into the Otherworld. Join Magan and Other World as they seek out the solace and euphoria encoded within our ancient lore and land.

SAT
19
9.30PM
SUN
20
2PM
Watergate Theatre
Admission €20/€18
Duration 60 mins approx.



ROLLERCOASTER SESSIONS



Get the facts. Be **DRINKAWARE** 
Visit drinkaware.ie

Rollercoaster B2B DJs

Grab a drink and gear up for an evening of tunes and dancing with this back-to-back set from Rollercoaster Records stalwarts Davy Holland, Edel Crean and Barry Mullins at the Barrel Yard.

SAT
12
5PM

Smithwick's Barrel Yard

Admission FREE

Duration 2 hrs approx.

This event is for Over 18s. Space is limited so arrive early.



**SMITHWICK'S
EXPERIENCE
KILKENNY**



Dónal Dineen

Dónal Dineen's Backstory

The first weekend of the Festival kicks off in style as Dónal Dineen brings his wildly popular club night to the Set. Conceived in 2015 as a place to gather the sounds he was collecting from all over the world, *Backstory* has become the stuff of legend, a place for discerning dancers to discover the thrill of new music together on the dance floor. Packed with incendiary tunes from South America, Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere, *Backstory* is the perfect way to get the party started. Bring your dancing shoes!

FRI
11
9.30PM

Set Theatre

Admission €10

Duration 3 hrs approx.

*Please note:
this is a
standing gig.*



PHOTO SOPHIA FELDMAN

Katie Kim & Elaine Howley

Katie Kim is that rare thing: a genuine auteur, celebrated for conjuring dark, cinematic landscapes. Kim brings a full band to the Set to perform her latest album, *Hour of the Ox*. This gig is accompanied by an experimental new documentary about the making of Kim's acclaimed album.

Elaine Howley is a singular voice in the Irish underground. Her acclaimed album *The Distance Between Heart and Mouth* recreates the intimacy of a radio show, effortlessly joining the dots between pop and experimentation.

Please note: this is a seated gig.

TUE
15
8PM

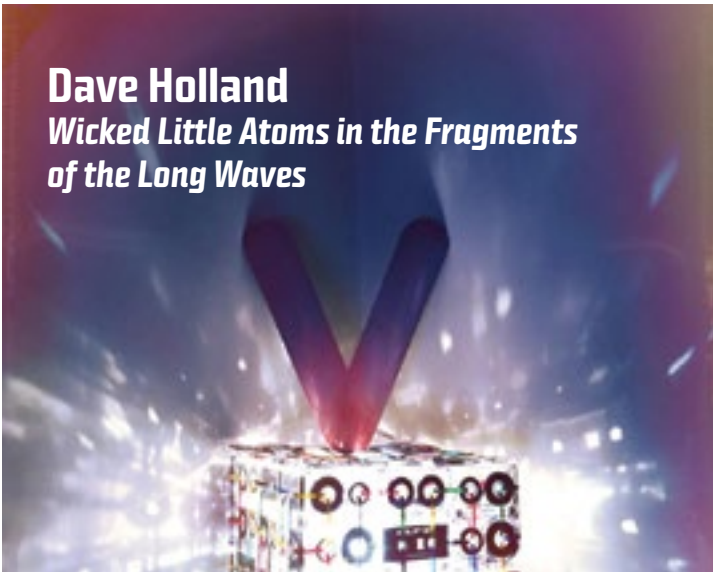
Set Theatre

Admission €20

Duration 1 hr 50 mins approx. (without interval)

Dave Holland

Wicked Little Atoms in the Fragments of the Long Waves



Local guitarist and vocalist Dave Holland's new project, *Wicked Little Atoms in the Fragments of the Long Waves*, is a feast for the senses: the soundtrack to an imaginary road trip, performed by Holland in full 'surround sound' audio, with Jeremy Hickey on drums and percussion.

Please note: this is a standing gig.

MON	TUE	Cleere's Theatre Admission €12 Duration 60 mins approx.
14	15	
10PM	10PM	

Josienne Clarke

sings like a haunted angel

The Financial Times



Indie-folk singer, songwriter, guitarist and producer Josienne Clarke is an artist who follows her own compass. Blessed with a beautiful voice, the BBC Folk Award-winner is equally at home performing a cover of Radiohead or her own compositions. Her latest album, *Onliness*, bears the influence of everyone from The Beastie Boys to Phoebe Bridgers, running the gamut of emotions from euphoria to fury and stretching indie folk in new directions. Her stagecraft has been honed supporting folk legend Richard Thompson and, backed by a full band, she is sure to go down a storm.

Please note: this is a standing gig.

THU	Cleere's Theatre Admission €25 Duration 70 mins approx. (without interval)
17	
9.30PM	

Broken Chanter

David MacGregor cut his songwriting teeth in alt-pop darlings Kid Canaveral. In 2019 he reinvented himself as Broken Chanter with a critically acclaimed solo debut that showcased his songwriting skills and unwavering ear for a tune. His latest album, *Catastrophe Hits*, finds MacGregor kicking back against humanity's apparent slide towards disaster with scathing humour and a rousing chorus or three. For this gig in Cleere's the addition of a full band gives MacGregor a chance to let rip. The apocalypse has never sounded so good!

Please note: this is a standing gig.

a tasty slice of
Scottish indie
avant-pop
The List

SAT	Cleere's Theatre Admission €18 Duration 60 mins approx.
19	
9.30PM	



glanbia



Cormac Begley & Friends

Acclaimed and award winning concertina player Cormac Begley will headline the Kilkenny Arts Festival for the first time on Saturday August 12th 2023.

Cormac's career has gone from strength to strength over the past year; selling out Vicar Street, winning Best Folk Instrumentalist 2022 at the RTÉ Folk Awards and Irish Times Album of the Year 2022, with his second solo album 'B'.

The album 'B' celebrates the bass concertina, a very rare instrument and on this album Cormac uses two Dipper-made Bass concertinas to record all 12 tracks. His bold choice to concentrate solely on the bass and baritone register, the first album of it's kind in any musical genre, has not gone unnoticed for all the right reasons and it has been described as 'Album of the decade' Donal Dineen, 'The musical gift that keeps on giving' *The Irish Times*, seven five star reviews and 'Groundbreaking' RTÉ *Arena*. The album and tracks from the album were nominated over three categories at the RTÉ Folk Awards 2022 for 'Best Folk Album', 'Best Original Folk Track', and 'Best Folk Track'.



SAT
12
8PM

St Canice's Cathedral

Admission

Zone A €30/€27

Zone B €25/€22

Duration 75 mins approx.

The musical gift that keeps on giving
The Irish Times

Iarla Ó Lionáird, Cormac McCarthy & Matthew Berrill

Since an iconic recording of 'Aisling Gheal' introduced his uniquely expressive voice to the world, Iarla Ó Lionáird has defied categorisation. Vocalist with the critically acclaimed Irish-American band The Gloaming, he is equally at home on the classical stage or working with new music composers like Donnacha Dennehy, Kate Moore, Nico Muhly, Linda Buckley, Gavin Bryars and David Lang.

For this concert exploring his rich and varied repertoire, Ó Lionáird is joined by two equally talented musicians whose music effortlessly straddles genres: renowned pianist/composer Cormac McCarthy and acclaimed clarinet maestro Matthew Berrill.

**one of the most dramatic voices in
contemporary music**
The Guardian

SUN
13
9.30PM
Set Theatre
Admission €25/€22
Duration 60 mins approx.
(without interval)

Brìghde Chaimbeul

The Festival has hosted many wonderful uilleann pipers over the years, but Scottish pipers have been rarer, so we're delighted to welcome Brìghde Chaimbeul: an exciting young talent who has devised a completely new way of arranging for the smallpipes (a bellows-blown form of bagpipe). She unveiled her unique sound on her debut album, *The Reeling*, earning five-star reviews and a BBC Radio 2 Folk Award, and since then she's worked with everyone from Lankum's Radie Peat to Canadian saxophonist Colin Stetson. With a new album, *Carry Them with Us*, released earlier this year, Chaimbeul showcases her mesmerizing sound in the haunting surroundings of Rothe House.

simultaneously ancient and modern, profound and direct
The Guardian



FRI
18
5PM
Rothe House
Admission €20/€18
Duration 60 mins approx.



Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh and Dan Trueman

Whether performing solo, in a duo, or in bands like The Gloaming, Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh is celebrated for his restless innovation, taking traditional fiddle playing in new directions. His groundbreaking partnership with composer and fiddle player Dan Trueman made its debut at KAF 2014, where the duo launched their debut album *Laghdú*, and we're excited to welcome them back with material from their new album *The Fate of Bones*.

Both musicians play Hardanger d'Amoré fiddles, a new kind of instrument that sits somewhere between the Norwegian hardanger fiddle and the baroque viola d'amore. Together, they stretch the DNA of the fiddle tradition, creating something new, sparse and stunning.

surely the work of musicians revelling in the moment: a rare find
The Irish Times on Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh and Dan Trueman's *Laghdú*

SUN 20 8PM Set Theatre
Admission €25/€22
Duration 75 mins approx.

FESTIVAL FINALE

Martin Hayes & Friends

Martin Hayes rounds off the *Marble City Sessions* in style with this typically eclectic gathering of leading Festival artists and musicians, including fiddle player Aoife Ní Bhriain, piper Brighde Chaimbeul, dancer Colin Dunne, cellist Kate Ellis and pianist Cormac McCarthy, all celebrating 11 days of musical innovation, collaboration and connections.

SAT 19 7.30PM St Canice's Cathedral
Admission
 Zone A €35/€33
 Zone B €30/€28
Duration 1 hr 40 mins approx.
 (including interval)



Martin Hayes & Kate Ellis

Martin Hayes and Kate Ellis hail from very different musical worlds. Ellis is a cellist and the Artistic Director of Crash Ensemble, perhaps Ireland's most exciting contemporary classical ensemble, while Hayes has been one of the foremost exponents of the Irish fiddle tradition for many years. But they share a passion for bold collaborations that redraw the boundaries of music in thrilling new ways. This evening's concert offers a rare chance to see them perform as a duo, with a programme that showcases the talents of these outstanding musicians and explores the fertile ground where traditional and contemporary meet.

MON
14
9PM Watergate Theatre
Admission €25/€23
Duration 60 mins approx. (without interval)



PHOTO JOHN D KELLY



MUSIC

Crash Ensemble with Andrew Hamilton *Friendly Piece*



PHOTO NUOVA DIGITAL MEDIA STUDIOS

Crash Ensemble join forces with violinist, vocalist and composer Andrew Hamilton to perform his rapturous new work, *Friendly Piece*.

Commissioned in 2019 and written during Hamilton's time as composer in residence with Crash Ensemble, *Friendly Piece* explores themes of friendliness and kindness, asking the question: can music be kind?

The performance of Friendly Piece at 3.30pm is a family friendly performance in a relaxed environment. Sensory sensitive packages will be available during this performance.

Please note: this is a standing event. Under 16s go free but must be accompanied by an adult

FRI
18
3.30PM & 6.30PM The Deanery, St Canice's Cathedral
Admission €12
Duration 60 mins approx. (without interval)



Ryan McAdams conductor
Andrew Hamilton violin & voice

Crash Ensemble
Susan Doyle flute
Leonie Bluett clarinet
Roderick O'Keeffe trombone
Brian Bolger electric guitar
Alex Petcu percussion
Ruth McGinley piano
Larissa O'Grady violin
Lisa Dowdall viola
Kate Ellis cello
Caimin Gilmore double bass

Emma Martin visual collaborator

DOUBLE BILL

Crash Ensemble with Diamanda La Berge Dramm & Sam Amidon

Diamanda La Berge Dramm violin & voice

Sam Amidon guitar, banjo & voice

Crash Ensemble

Susan Doyle flute

Leonie Bluett clarinet

Roderick O'Keeffe trombone

Barry O'Halpin electric guitar

Alex Petcu percussion

Ruth McGinley piano

Larissa O'Grady violin

Lisa Dowdall viola

Kate Ellis cello

Caimin Gilmore double bass

Laura Sheeran visuals

Diamanda La Berge Dramm original arrangements

Barry O'Halpin arrangements for Crash Ensemble

SJ Fowler text

Crash Ensemble kick off their residency at this year's Festival with this eagerly anticipated double bill featuring two extraordinary talents: Diamanda La Berge Dramm and Sam Amidon.

A composer, vocalist and violin virtuoso, Dramm creates music that soars across the boundary between classical and alt pop. *Chimp*, her first album of original material, was released last year to rapturous reviews, earning comparisons with Joanna Newsom and Björk, and for this concert Dramm performs the album in full. Featured alongside Dramm's arrangements are reimaginings of the songs by Barry O'Halpin for Crash Ensemble.

Sam Amidon's appearance with Crash Ensemble was one of the highlights of KAF 2017, and for the second half of this double-bill, Amidon is joined by a quartet from Crash, the perfect foil for his beautifully crafted Americana.

WED
16
9PM
Watergate Theatre
Admission €28/€25
Duration 1 hr 40 mins approx.
(including interval)



SPECIAL
DEALS
FOR THIS
EVENT
See kilkennyarts.ie

an artist of restless curiosity and invention

The Quietus on Diamanda La Berge Dramm

this old music is utterly modern

Pitchfork on Sam Amidon



PHOTO JORI HEINSE



a sublime talent is needed to fashion poems
of such capacious grace and energy

Terrance Hayes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH POETRY IRELAND

Kwame Dawes

POET IN RESIDENCE

Reflections on Voice and Responsibility in Poetry

...so much depends
upon
'the speaker'

FRI
18
6PM

Watergate Theatre
Admission €16/€14
Duration 60 mins approx.

P Poetry
Ireland
Éigse
Éireann

Since *Progeny of Air* won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection in 1994, Kwame Dawes has never looked back. In a prolific career he has published 36 books of poetry, fiction, criticism and essays, an acclaimed study of Bob Marley's lyrics, and 15 plays. His long poem 'Inheritance' won a Pushcart Prize in 2001 and he was awarded the Windham-Campbell Prize for Poetry in 2018. His interactive site LiveHopeLove.com, based on his Pulitzer Center project *HOPE: Living and loving with AIDS in Jamaica*, won numerous awards including an Emmy.

Now a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Dawes comes to Kilkenny to deliver this year's masterclass exploring the murky waters of voice in language. What happens when we remove the 'I' from a line of poetry, or from other lines? What do we gain, and might others lose?

Poetry Masterclass

Kwame Dawes leads this workshop for poets. Participation is by application. Email info@poetryireland.ie for further details. Please note: places are strictly limited.

ATTENDANCE BY APPLICATION



Poetry Ireland

Poetry Ireland is delighted to celebrate the launch of *Poetry Ireland Review* 140, in the company of Annemarie Ní Churreáin, as part of Kilkenny Arts Festival 2023. We

welcome a number of contributors to Kilkenny for a very special event celebrating Ireland's finest poetry journal.

SAT
19
6PM

Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 60 mins approx.



Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet

The *Poetry Broadsheet* gives local writers a platform to showcase their work. Join us at the Parade Tower to celebrate the publication of Kilkenny Arts Office's Poetry Broadsheet #23, launched by Kwame Dawes and Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet Editor Afric McGlinchey.

FRI
18
11AM

Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 60 mins approx.



funding
literature



Fergus Cronin with Kevin Doherty *Night Music*

After a lifetime spent working in literature and theatre, Fergus Cronin did what so many dream of doing and finally put pen to paper. The result is *Night Music*, a collection of short stories that explored the lives of his downtrodden characters with humour, sadness and the occasional ghostly chill. In this special event, Cronin reads from his work, accompanied by singer-songwriter and guitarist Kevin Doherty, whose gorgeous melodies, steeped in Americana, chime beautifully with Cronin's work.

SUN
13
6PM

Parade Tower
Admission €16/€14
Duration 60 mins approx.

a stirring, artful and ultimately beautiful suite of stories
Richard Ford

Heaney Translations

The Testament of Cresseid

Vona Groarke with Olivia O'Leary

To mark the tenth anniversary of the death of Seamus Heaney, we're delighted to present this series of discussions in which leading contemporary poets explore some of Heaney's most celebrated translations. For this first event, Vona Groarke joins Olivia O'Leary to talk about *The Testament of Cresseid*, Heaney's version of Robert Henryson's tragic poem about Troilus and Criseyde, set in the aftermath of the Trojan War.

MON
14
3PM

Parade Tower
Admission €16/€14
Duration 60 mins approx.

Beowulf

Mary Clayton with Olivia O'Leary

Beowulf, the epic tale of a Danish hero and his struggle with the monster Grendel, is the greatest surviving work of literature in Old English, unmatched in grandeur and scope. The task of translating it into modern English was daunting, but Heaney undertook it with relish, and his version was met with widespread acclaim. For this second event in our *Heaney Translations* series, Mary Clayton considers his retelling of one of the masterpieces of world literature.

WED
16
3PM

Parade Tower
Admission €16/€14
Duration 60 mins approx.

The Midnight Verdict

Peter Fallon with Olivia O'Leary

Published by The Gallery Press in 1993, *The Midnight Verdict* was a bold venture that brought together Heaney's translations of passages from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* with excerpts from Brian Merriman's classic eighteenth-century poem, *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche*. For the final event in *Heaney Translations*, Gallery Press founder Peter Fallon – a lifelong friend of Seamus Heaney – delves into *The Midnight Verdict*.

FRI
18
3PM

Parade Tower
Admission €16/€14
Duration 60 mins approx.



PHOTO CONOR MORGAN



Nicole Flattery & Cristín Leach IN CONVERSATION

With her debut novel, *Nothing Special*, Nicole Flattery has established herself as one of Ireland's most exciting and versatile writers. The novel imagines the lives of two young women transcribing events at the Factory, Andy Warhol's studio in New York. Their work was later published as *A: A Novel*, with Warhol's name on the cover, but the names of the women who created it were erased. Flattery joins art critic and broadcaster Cristín Leach to talk about her fascination with the Factory and the challenge of imagining the lives of women written out of history.

A blade-sharp coming-of-age novel

The Spectator

SAT
12
6PM

Parade Tower

Admission €16/€14

Duration 60 mins approx.

Liz Nugent & Úna Mannion

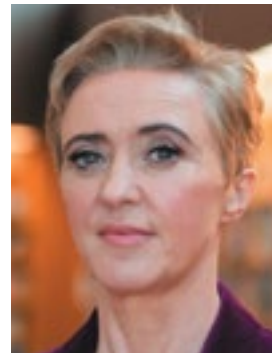
IN CONVERSATION

Chaired by Declan Burke

Join us in the Parade Tower for this 'in conversation' event featuring two leading novelists who create unforgettable female voices.

Since Liz Nugent appeared at KAF 2014 she's established herself as one of Ireland's bestselling writers, winning four Irish Book Awards and the James Joyce Medal for Literature. Her new novel, *Strange Sally Diamond*, is a dark and gripping psychological thriller with a remarkable heroine at its core.

Úna Mannion's debut novel *A Crooked Tree*, about the consequences of one mother's decision, was an international bestseller in 2021. Her follow-up, *Tell Me What I Am*, explores the lives of two women unearthing secrets at the heart of their family.



Strange Sally Diamond
will grip you from first
page to last

Paula Hawkins



PHOTO ROSIN LOUGHREY

**a terrific writer and an
exciting new talent**

Audrey Magee on
Úna Mannion

FRI
11
6PM

Parade Tower

Admission €16/€14

Duration 60 mins approx.

THE HUBERT BUTLER ANNUAL LECTURE

Ben Judah

'I don't trust statistics,' Ben Judah has written. 'I have to see everything for myself.' Over the last decade, Judah has set out to do just that, criss-crossing Russia interviewing mobsters and government officials for *Fragile Empire*, his portrait of Putin's rise to power, and spending thousands of hours listening to everyone from the rich in Knightsbridge to the homeless sleeping in an underpass for his book *This is London*, which was shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize.

For his new book, *This is Europe*, Judah applied the same approach to a whole continent, travelling from Ireland to Turkey and back, listening to the stories of ordinary people. The result is an epic work of compassion that reveals a continent transformed by diversity, migration, war, climate change, Covid and the quest for freedom. For this year's Hubert Butler Lecture, Judah shares his wealth of experiences, asking what it means to call ourselves European today.

The Hubert Butler Annual Lecture was established by the Festival in 2007 to honour the Kilkenny writer, historian and broadcaster whose remarkable consistency of vision and clarity of mind made him unique among 20th-century essayists.



an epic work of reportage

The Guardian on This is London

SUN
20
2PM

St Canice's Cathedral
Admission €20/€18
Duration 60 mins approx.



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL IN ASSOCIATION WITH HEART PRESENTS
The Hubert Butler Essay Prize 2023

Organised by HEART London, the Hubert Butler Essay Prize encourages the art of essay-writing across Europe. Join us in the Parade Tower to discover the winners of this year's competition, who responded to the question: 'How far can we trust science?'

SUN
13
1PM

Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 60 mins approx.

Dumbworld

Dumbworld wowed audiences at KAF 2021 with *Carnival of Shadows: #1 Possible Human*, their installation in the Abbey Quarter skatepark, and we're excited to welcome them back to Kilkenny.



Sat 12 - Sat 19 August

Venue to be announced

More details available at kilkennyarts.ie

Admission €6

Duration 10 mins approx.

A New Topography of Love

A New Topography of Love is an animated video game played on a bespoke arcade console. Paying homage to 1970s video games like *Pac-Man* and *Space Race*, it leads players on a journey through destruction, rebirth, love and hope. Imagine Super Mario Brothers, Mario Lanza, Mickey Mouse, whales, bats, birds and Jeff Bezos all battling it out for the future of our very own Planet Earth!

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

Scorched Earth Trilogy

The *Scorched Earth Trilogy* is a trio of satirical films. Projected onto the wall while the audience watches from the street (and listens via headphones), each film is a unique blend of opera, music, street art and animation that tackles some of our most pressing concerns with humour and wit.

Mon 14 & Tue 15 August 5.30pm & 6.30pm

Venue to be announced

Admission €10

Duration 10 mins per film



Trickle Down Economics

Swollen by champagne and self-congratulation, a gang of politicians relieve themselves against a wall.

Won't Bring Back The Snow

Forced into the city by the disappearance of its natural habitat, two polar bears search through trash for something to eat

Revival

In a dystopian world, children are forced to wear gas masks as they skip and swing. But these same children are at the heart of an ecological revolution...

Join John McIlduff and Brian Irvine – co-artistic directors of Dumbworld – in the Parade Tower on 19 August to discuss their latest project. See p. 34 for details.

Secret Garden Music

The ever-popular Secret Music Series returns for another year, bringing a stellar (but unannounced) line-up of musicians to some of the city's most iconic spaces to perform a series of short pop-up concerts. If you're out and about during the Festival, why not come along and enjoy free performances from leading Irish and international musicians?

Duration 15 mins approx.

Please note: performances are subject to weather conditions.



SAT
12
3PM

WED
16
3PM

Gazebo
Butler House Garden
Admission free



SAT
12
4PM

Lyrath Hotel
Admission free
Special Extended SGM



SUN
13
3PM

Mount Juliet
Admission free
Special Extended SGM



SUN
13
4PM

THU
17
4PM

Stone Circle
Butler House Garden
Admission free



MON
14
3PM

FRI
18
3PM

Heritage Council Garden
Admission free



MON
14
4PM

TUE
15
4PM

FRI
18
4PM

Rothe House Garden
Admission free



TUE
15
3PM

WED
16
4PM

SAT
19
3PM

Kilkenny Castle Rose Garden
Admission free



THU
17
3PM

SAT
19
4PM

SUN
20
3PM

Butler Gallery
Admission free

Ta Tum Tum!

Samba is the sound of Brazilian carnivals and one of the most recognisable kinds of music in the world, famous for its irresistible rhythms. Now you can try it for yourself in this fully interactive music show that enables families to explore samba in a creative and fun way. *Ta Tum Tum!* explores the different rhythms used in Brazilian music and gives children and adults alike a chance to play real Brazilian instruments. Come join the party!

Parents don't need a ticket but must remain with children during the workshop. Suitable for three to six-year-olds.

FRI
18
11AM & 1PM

Barnstorm Studio @ The Home Rule Club
Admission €7
Duration 45 mins approx.



Encounters

Leading artists from across the Festival programme (including the likes of Martin Hayes, Aoife Ní Bhriain and Colin Dunne) embed themselves in locations around the city, offering mini performances for individuals or small groups (up to six people). As concerts go, this is as intimate as it gets, and you won't know who you're going to meet or what they might play! Places are extremely limited so be sure to book early.



TUE
15

WED
16

THU
17

For venues and times go to kilkennyarts.ie
Admission €10 Apply for tickets via kilkennyarts.ie
Duration 20 mins approx.

Aoife Ní Bhriain & Colin Dunne

We've invited two of Ireland's leading artists – fiddle player Aoife Ní Bhriain and dancer Colin Dunne – to Kilkenny for a residency at this year's Festival, where they'll work on a brand-new piece mixing music and dance, and you can catch a sneak preview of the work at these open rehearsals. Don't miss this chance to glimpse a new work in the making!

WED
16
2PM-4PM

THU
17
2PM-4PM

Barnstorm Studio @ The Home Rule Club
Admission FREE



INSTALLATION DISCUSSION



Dumbworld

Where We Bury the Bones: a round-table discussion

In 2021 the Abbey Quarter skatepark provided the canvas for Dumbworld's site-specific work, *Carnival of Shadows: #1 Possible Human*. This year, John McIllduff and Brian Irvine – co-artistic directors of Dumbworld – lead a round-table discussion on the skatepark's past, present and future that will help to develop *Where We Bury the Bones*, a new work for KAF 2024. Join us in the Parade Tower to help shape this exciting new project.

SAT
19
12PM

Parade Tower
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED
Duration 60 mins approx.

THEATRE



Taken for a Ride

Radical Acts and the Banshees

Get ready for a theatrical experience like no other! This work-in-progress takes you on a magical mystery bus tour of Kilkenny, introducing you to a range of fascinating characters who share their secrets and tales.

THU
10
7PM

FRI
11
7PM

Starting point: Bus stop opposite St Kieran's College, College Road, Kilkenny
Admission €5 + booking fee
Duration 40 mins approx.



Deirdre Frost

Big Crush

This body of paintings looks at the phenomenon of desire, considering how it shapes the world in which we live. The work has been made in the context of a daily newsfeed reeling from Brexit, the pandemic, climate change, material and plastic waste, healthcare crisis, housing crisis and war. The artist employs everyday imagery, including buildings and flora, which she imbues with a sense of a larger world in crisis.

Deirdre Frost is an artist based in Cork. Since graduation from the Crawford College of Art and Design in 2020 she has had numerous solo exhibitions and awards, and her work was included in the Butler Gallery exhibition *Generation 2022: New Irish Painting*. Research leading to this body of work was supported by the Arts Council Agility Award 2022.

Deirdre Frost

in conversation

Join Deirdre Frost as she discusses the making of *Big Crush*.

SAT Parade Tower
12 Admission FREE BUT
1PM TICKETED
Duration 60 mins approx.

OPENING
 FRI
11
 3.30PM

Festival Gallery
 St Kieran's College, via New Street
 Sat 12 - Sun 20 August 10.30am-5.30pm



Julian Opie *Running women.*, 2016

BUTLER GALLERY
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

The Art of Sport

Curated by Anna O'Sullivan, Butler Gallery Director

Butler Gallery and Kilkenny Arts Festival are pleased to present a thematic exhibition exploring how artists have captured the spirit of sport in their work conveyed through disparate mediums such as video, photography, painting, print and sculpture. The exhibition features an eclectic fusion of both Irish and International artists that will populate our Main Gallery. A short programme of archive sport films, curated by Irish Film Institute, will be presented in the Digital Gallery and will run throughout the exhibition.

Including works by: Josh Begley, Charles Brady, Paul Carroll, Vincent Cianni, Michael Craig-Martin, Dorothy Cross, Vanessa Daws, Rineke Dijkstra, Andy Fitz, Jona Frank, Marcus Harvey, Nicolai Howalt, Nevan Lahart, Louis le Brocquy, Jeannette Lowe, Colm MacAthlaoich, Colin Martin, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Kenneth O'Halloran, Mandy O'Neill, Tony O'Shea, Julian Opie, Martin Parr, Paul Pfeiffer, Luis Alberto Rodriguez, Amelia Stein, Sarah Walker, Elinor Wiltshire.



BUTLER GALLERY

OPENING
SAT
12
4PM-6PM

Butler Gallery, Evans' Home
+ 353 (0)56 776 1106
www.butlergallery.ie
Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 10am-5pm; Thu 10am-8pm; Sun 11am-5pm until 8 October



The Art of Sport

Artist Panel Discussion

With Andy Fitz, Jona Frank,
Colm MacAthlaoich,
Fearghus Ó Conchúir

Moderated by Anna
O'Sullivan, Exhibition
Curator and Butler
Gallery Director.

TUE
15
1PM

Parade Tower
Admission FREE
BUT TICKETED
Duration 90 mins

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE Spectating Sports

A programme of short
films from the IFI Irish
Film Archive

This programme includes an array of Irish sports captured on film by amateurs and professionals in sound and silent film from the 1950s onwards. It includes many tantalising sequences of Kilkenny sporting heroes from yesteryear.

Digital Gallery



Irish Film Institute



The Dance of Life

A KCAT Trio exhibition

by Thomas Barron,

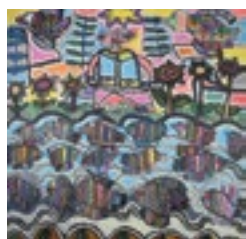
Declan Byrne &

Sinéad Fahey

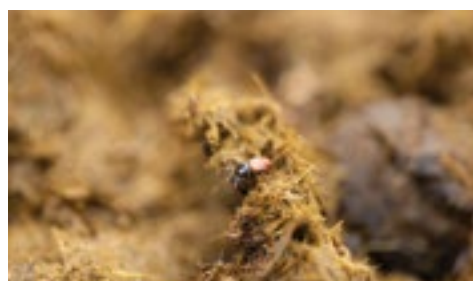
Curated by Sinead Keogh



Established KCAT Studio artists Thomas Barron, Declan Byrne and Sinéad Fahey share similarities in the way the surface of their paintings is broken up into patches of colour. *The Dance of Life* explores these similarities, teasing out the artists' processes and examining how they represent the world around them in their painting.



OPENING KCAT Arts Centre
THU Mill Lane, Callan,
3 Co. Kilkenny, R95 XN35
3PM Fri 4 - Thu 17 August 10am-4pm



Deirdre O'Mahony,
The Quickening [Dung Beetle on manure]
Photograph Tom Flannagan 2023.

Returning to the Earth / Ag Filleadh ar an Talamh

Curated by Shannon Carroll
as part of Kilkenny Arts Office
Emerging Curator Development Programme

Returning to the Earth / Ag Filleadh ar an Talamh is a unique event inviting the public to join selected artists and researchers to explore our relationship with the landscape in Kilkenny, addressing themes of ecology, sustainability and the Irish language.

Join us at 3pm for an afternoon of research presentations, followed by sustainable refreshments provided by a local café and the opportunity for further discussion of the themes explored in the talks.

FRI Rothe House
11 Admission €7
3PM To book go to www.kilkennyartsoffice.ie
Duration 2 hrs 30 mins approx.



DESIGN & CRAFTS COUNCIL IRELAND PRESENTS ***Made in Kilkenny/Made Local:*** ***A celebration of excellence in craft***

Kilkenny is synonymous with craft. The county sparkles with a galaxy of makers working in various mediums. 27 of them comprise the MADE in Kilkenny collective whose work appears in *MADE IN KILKENNY/MADE LOCAL: A celebration of excellence in craft*. Curated by Mary Gallagher, the exhibition features work in clay, wood, metal, willow, textiles, glass, wax and leather.

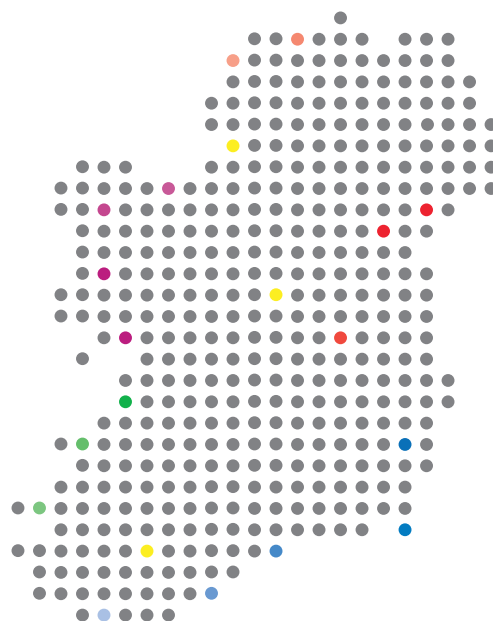
OPENING National Design & Craft Gallery, Castle Yard
SAT Mon - Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 11am-5.30pm
12 until 28 October





RTÉ supports more than
120 arts events nationwide
every year.

rte.ie/about/supportingthearts



WEST CORK CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

28 JUNE – 7 JULY 2024
BANTRY, CO. CORK

featuring

Signum Quartet • Nightingale Quartet • Dudok Quartet • Pavel Haas Quartet / Boris Giltburg • Dana Zemtsov
Fanny Clamagirand • Roustem Saitkoulov • Esther Hoppe • Chiaroscuro Quartet & many more



Chiaroscuro Quartet Photo: Eva Vermandel

For updates and further information visit www.westcorkmusic.ie

GREAT PLACES TO SLEEP



Butler House

056 776 5707
butler.ie



Hotel Kilkenny

056 776 2000
hotelkilkenny.ie



Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel

056 775 0200
kilkennyormonde.com



Kilkenny Pembroke Hotel

056 778 3500
pembrokekilkenny.com

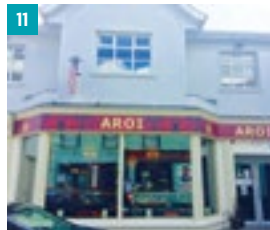
GREAT PLACES TO EAT

Special Festival menus available at select restaurants



Arán Artisan Bakery & Bistro

056 775 6297



Aroi

056 770 3644



Billy Byrne's Gastro Pub

056 772 1783



Butler House

056 776 5707



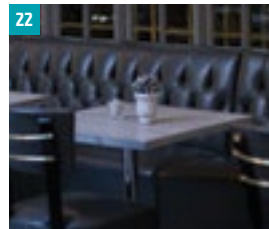
Kyteler's Inn

056 772 1064



La Rivista

056 777 1666



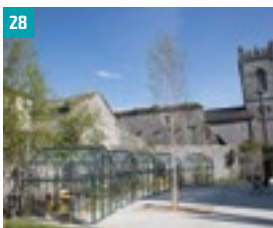
Langton's Restaurant

056 776 5133



Lenehan's Bar & Yard

056 772 1621



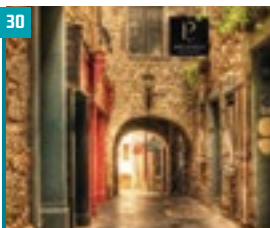
MUSE Coffee + Food

056 774 1169



Pennefeather Café

056 771 5298



Petronella Restaurant & Café

056 776 1899



Rafter's Gastro Pub

056 772 2970



Ristorante Rinuccini

056 776 1575



Langton House Hotel

056 776 5133
langtons.ie



Lyrath Estate Hotel

056 776 0088
lyrath.com



Mount Juliet Estate

056 777 3000
mountjuliet.ie



Newpark Hotel

056 776 0500
newparkhotelkilkenny.com



Butler Court

056 776 1178
butlercourt.com



Café la Coco

056 775 2726



Cakeface Patisserie

056 773 9971



Campagne

056 777 2858



Fennelly's of Callan

086 069 1421



Kilkenny Hibernian Hotel

056 777 1888



Kilkenny Shop Café

056 772 2118



Louie's

056 775 0016



Marble City Bar

056 776 1143



Matt the Miller's Bar & Restaurant

056 776 1696



Paris Texas

056 776 1822



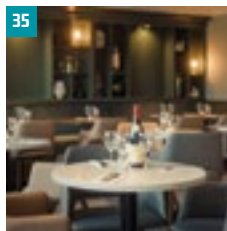
Rive Gauche

056 777 5604



Statham's Restaurant

056 778 3500



The Hoban Hotel

056 778 3100



Victor's at The Club House

056 772 1994

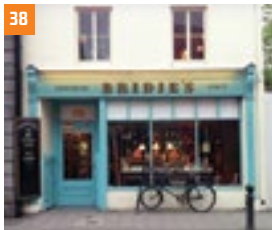


Zuni Restaurant

056 772 3999

GREAT PLACES TO DRINK

38



Bridie's
056 776 5133

39



Cleere's Bar
056 776 2573

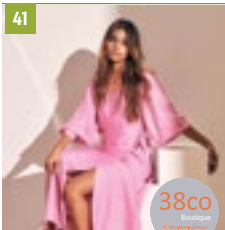
40



Paris Texas
056 776 1822

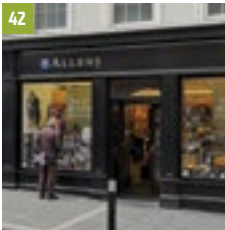
GREAT THINGS TO DO

41



38co Boutique
38 St Kieran's St

42



Allens of Kilkenny & Carlow
95 High Street

43



Annaleen's Boutique
63 John Street

44



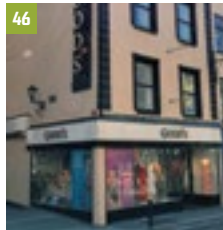
FOOD FOR LIFE
St Kieran's Street,
Kilkenny & Callan

45



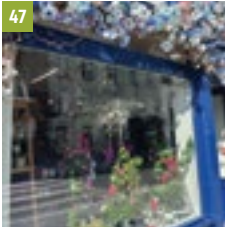
Frank Wall - The Man's Shop
97 High Street

46



GOODS - 4 Floors of Fashion
88/90 High Street

47



Iris Floral Design
18 Parliament Street

48



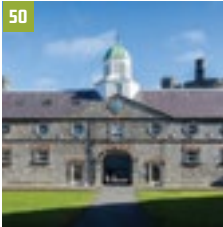
Jurassic Newpark Farm and Adventure Trail
Newpark Hotel

49



Kieran O'Gorman - Hair & Beauty Day Spa
The Butterslip

50



Kilkenny Design Centre
Castle Yard

51



Lamber de Bie
Ormonde Street

52



Pauls of Kilkenny
12/14 High Street

53



Smithwick's Experience
44 Parliament Street

54



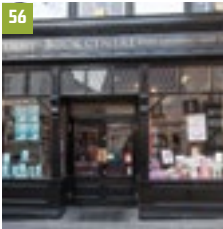
Specsavers Kilkenny
Market Cross Shopping Centre

55



The Book & Coffee Shop
3 William Street

56



The Book Centre
10 High Street

57



The Wine Centre
056 772 2907

58



The Zip Yard
Irishtown

Kilkenny City

- Great Places to Sleep** ■
- Great Places to Drink** ■
- Great Places to Eat** ■
- Great Things to DO** ■

See pages 40-42 for details



2cm = 100m approx.
1 inch = 400 feet approx.

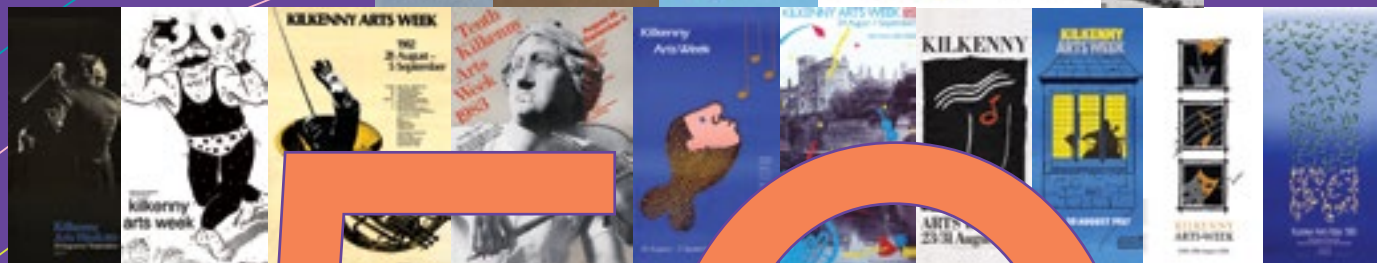
Kilkenny Arts Festival 2023 Schedule

	Thursday 10	Friday 11	Saturday 12	Sunday 13	Monday 14
St Canice's Cathedral	Dumou Sangaré 8pm, p.18	Philip Selway with Irish Chamber Orchestra 7.30pm, p.10	Cormac Begley & Friends 8pm		Barry Douglas 7.30pm, p.16
Kilkenny Castle Parklands	Light up the Castle 10.40pm, p.5	Timisien 10am-6pm, p.4 Light up the Castle 10.40pm, p.5	Timisien 10am-6pm, p.4 Light up the Castle 10.40pm, p.5	Timisien 10am-6pm, p.4 Light up the Castle 10.40pm, p.5	Timisien 12pm-6pm, p.4
St John's Priory		Camerata Kilkenny 1pm, p.14	Camerata Kilkenny 1pm, p.14	Carducci String Quartet 1pm, p.15	Carducci String Quartet 1pm, p.15
Watergate Theatre		Migration Sonata 8pm, p.9	Migration Sonata 2.30pm, p.9		Martin Hayes & Kate Ellis 9pm, p.24
Set Theatre		Rollercoaster: Donal Dineen 9.30pm, p.20		MCS: Iarla Ó Lionáird, Cormac McCarthy & Matthew Berrill 9.30pm, p.22	
Cleere's Theatre					Rollercoaster: Dave Holland 10pm, p.21
Parade Tower		Liz Nugent & Úna Mannion 6pm, p.29	Deirdre Frost in conversation 1pm, p.35 Nicole Flattery & Cristín Leach 6pm, p.29	Hubert Butler Essay Prize 1pm, p.30 Fergus Cronin with Kevin Doherty 6pm, p.27	Heaney Translations: The Testament of Cresseid 3pm, p.28
Sheridan's, Ennisnag	The Local (Preview) 8pm, p.6	The Local 8pm, p.6	The Local 8pm, p.6		The Local 8pm, p.6
Rothe House		Returning to the Earth 3pm, p.38			
Butler Gallery Evans' Home			The Art of Sport Opening 4pm-6pm, p.36 Spectating Sports p.37	The Art of Sport 11am-5pm, p.36 Spectating Sports p.37	
Festival Gallery @ St Kieran's College		Deirdre Frost 3.30pm-5.30pm Opening 3.30pm, p.35	Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35	Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35	Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35
Other Venues	Starting point: Bus stop opposite St Kieran's College Taken for A Ride 7pm, p.34	Starting point: Bus stop opposite St Kieran's College Taken for A Ride 7pm, p.34	Smithwick's Barrel Yard Rollercoaster 828 DJs 5pm, p.20		
Locations/venues to be announced, see website for details			Topography of Love p. 31	Topography of Love p. 31	Bench Tales 11am, 1pm & 3pm, p.7 Topography of Love p. 31 Scorched Earth Trilogy 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p. 31
Secret Garden Music			Gazebo, Butler House 3pm, p.32 Lyrath Hotel 4pm, p.32	Mount Juliet 3pm, p.32 Stone Circle, Butler House 4pm, p.32	Heritage Council Garden 3pm, p.32 Rothe House 4pm, p.32



Tuesday 15	Wednesday 16	Thursday 17	Friday 18	Saturday 19	Sunday 20
Chamber Choir Ireland 7.30pm, p.17	RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Iarla Ó Lionáird & Ciarán Hinds: Sweeney 7.30pm, p.13		Crash Ensemble with Andrew Hamilton (Deanery) 3.30pm & 6.30pm, p.24 Irish Chamber Orchestra with Thomas Zehetmair 8pm, p.11	Malcolm Proud & Darren Cornish-Moore 11am, p.16 Martin Hayes & Friends 7.30pm, p.23	Hubert Butler Lecture: Ben Judah 2pm, p.30
Timisien 12pm-6pm, p.4	Timisien 12pm-6pm, p.4	Timisien 12pm-6pm, p.4	Timisien 12pm-6pm, p.4	Timisien 10am-6pm, p.4	
Carducci String Quartet 1pm, p.15 Lixsania Fernández 9pm, p.12	Carducci String Quartet 1pm, p.15				
	Double Bill: Crash Ensemble with Diamanda La Berge Dramm/Sam Amidon 9pm, p.25		Kwame Dawes 6pm, p.26	Manchán Magan & Other World 9.30pm, p.19	Manchán Magan & Other World 2pm, p.19
Rollercoaster: Katie Kim & Elaine Howley 8pm, p.20		Ichiko Aoba with Crash Ensemble 8pm, p.19			MCS: Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh & Dan Trueman 8pm, p.23
Rollercoaster: Dave Holland 10pm, p.21		Rollercoaster: Josienne Clark 9.30pm, p.21	Benched 8pm, p.8	Rollercoaster: Broken Chanter 9.30pm, p.21	
The Art of Sport: Panel Discussion 1pm, p.37	Heaney Translations: Beowulf 3pm, p.28		Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet 11am, p.27 Heaney Translations: The Midnight Verdict 3pm, p.28	Where We Bury the Bones: a round-table discussion 12pm, p.34 Poetry Ireland Review 6pm, p.27	
The Local 8pm, p.6	The Local 8pm, p.6	The Local 8pm, p.6	The Local 8pm, p.6	The Local 8pm, p.6	
			MCS: Brighde Chaimbeul 5pm, p.22		
The Art of Sport 10am-5pm, p.36 Spectating Sports p.37	The Art of Sport 10am-5pm, p.36 Spectating Sports p.37	The Art of Sport 10am-8pm, p.36 Spectating Sports p.37	The Art of Sport 10am-5pm, p.36 Spectating Sports p.37	The Art of Sport 10am-5pm, p.36 Spectating Sports p.37	The Art of Sport 11am-5pm, p.36 Spectating Sports p.37
Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35	Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35	Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35	Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35	Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35	Deirdre Frost 10.30am-5.30pm, p.35
	Barnstorm Studio @ Home Rule Club Aoife Ní Bhriain & Colin Dunne Open Rehearsal 2pm-4pm, p.34	Barnstorm Studio @ Home Rule Club Aoife Ní Bhriain & Colin Dunne Open Rehearsal 2pm-4pm, p.34	Barnstorm Studio @ Home Rule Club Ta Tum Tum! 11am & 1pm p.33		
Bench Tales 11am, 1pm & 3pm, p.7 Topography of Love p. 31 Scorched Earth Trilogy 5.30pm & 6.30pm, p. 31 Encounters See website for times, p.33	Bench Tales 11am, 1pm & 3pm, p.7 Topography of Love p. 31 Encounters See website for times, p.33	Bench Tales 11am, 1pm & 3pm, p.7 Topography of Love p. 31 Encounters See website for times, p.33	Bench Tales 11am, 1pm & 3pm, p.7 Topography of Love p. 31	Bench Tales 11am, 1pm & 3pm, p.7 Topography of Love p. 31	Bench Tales 11am, 1pm & 3pm, p.7
Castle Rose Garden 3pm, p.32 Rothe House 4pm, p.32	Gazebo, Butler House 3pm, p.32 Castle Rose Garden 4pm, p.32	Butler Gallery 3pm, p.32 Stone Circle, Butler House 4pm, p.32	Heritage Council Garden 3pm, p.32 Rothe House 4pm, p.32	Castle Rose Garden 3pm, p.32 Butler Gallery 4pm, p.32	Butler Gallery 3pm, p.32

1974-
2023



#KAF50