



**Cork  
Midsummer  
Festival**

*TIME TO PLAY* JUNE 12-21

# HOW TO BOOK

## ONLINE

From 30 April  
[www.corkmidsummer.com](http://www.corkmidsummer.com)

For box office enquiries contact  
[tickets@corkmidsummer.com](mailto:tickets@corkmidsummer.com)

## BY PHONE

From 5 May (Mon-Fri)  
 From 8 June (daily)  
 +21 4215159

## EARLY BIRD, LIKE

Want the best ticket prices? All events have a limited amount of early bird tickets available for certain performances at €10 – these are likely to sell out fast so to confirm your festival line-up at the lowest prices, book early!

## PARKING

We have partnered with Q-Park to provide an exclusive discount at their safe and secure car parks in Cork. Pre-book online and use promo code CMFEST15 to receive 15% discount on the online prices. Pre-book online at [www.q-park.ie](http://www.q-park.ie).

Booking fees apply on all tickets online or by phone through the festival box office (€1, some exceptions may apply for productions in venues with venue-specific booking fees). Ticket concessions are available for children (18 years and under), students, senior citizens (65 years and over only with identification) and registered disabled/unwaged (available with appropriate ID).

See [www.corkmidsummer.com](http://www.corkmidsummer.com) for full terms and conditions. For venue specific terms and conditions, please see the venue websites.

## ACCESS

This year the festival is providing access details about its sites and venues:



All venues are wheelchair accessible other than The Pav, Swimming Pool at The Metropole, The Savoy and Fugit.



Events in Cork Opera House auditorium use an Assistive Listening System.



The following events will have ISL interpretation:  
*Dignity*  
*Stimphony*  
*Cúinní an Ghiorria*



Ear Defenders are available to borrow at most venues.



Accessibility Kits with sensory fidgets are available to borrow. See [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com) for details.

The brochure includes the symbols above for relevant shows and events. If you need any further assistance regarding accessibility, please contact Susan Holland, Head of Participation and Engagement at [susan@corkmidsummer.com](mailto:susan@corkmidsummer.com). The festival brochure is also available as a PDF which can be used as a large print version – contact [info@corkmidsummer.com](mailto:info@corkmidsummer.com) for a copy.

# WELCOME TO CORK MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

## We're thrilled to be back in 2026 with an open invitation to everyone: Time to Play.

Play has always shaped Cork Midsummer Festival. Every year, the city becomes the stage where artists from all corners of Cork, Ireland and the world offer bold new encounters. Play is where ideas begin – where risk and experimentation are encouraged and celebrated. Play opens us up, everything feels a little lighter – more hopeful, warmer, kinder – and inspiration starts to appear in places we might otherwise overlook.

Irish artists are offering plenty of inspiration right now, producing shows and art that stands alongside the very best in the world. Here you'll experience new work before it travels internationally, you'll connect with artists presenting at the festival for the first time and discover site-specific pieces that may never be seen again, or at least not in the same way.

Our international programme features award-winning artists presenting work never before seen in Ireland in unique and unexpected places across the city. From Australia's jaw-dropping Gravity and Other Myths to France's legendary Isabelle Huppert, UK's Sh!t Theatre to Spanish based Kamchatka – the city is their playground.

In our participation programme, a citywide trail of child only dens and spaces designed by kids for kids will pop up all over the place. The Midsummer Parade will weave down Oliver Plunkett Street and we'll still be dancing our socks off at the Solstice Céilí at Elizabeth Fort as the longest day of the year turns to night.

Thank you to our collaborators and friends in the city's arts organisations and cultural institutions who produce, present and develop work for the festival and to everyone across Cork who open their doors to festival artists and enable them to present shows in all sorts of places and spaces.

Thank you to our core funders The Arts Council and Cork City Council and to all of our programme funders, sponsors, partners and friends for their invaluable support.

Thank you to the Board of Cork Midsummer Festival for their expert guidance and support and to the festival team who make extraordinary things happen every year from operations to production, communications to artists support.

To the artists and community participants, thank you for allowing the festival to be a home for your incredible work and ideas.

Huge thanks to everyone who will attend a festival event this year. You are so welcome, we are so happy you are here.

Come play with us.

**Lorraine Maye**  
 Director, Cork Midsummer Festival

Cork Midsummer Festival would not be possible without the generous support of:

PRINCIPAL FUNDERS



FUNDERS



EVENT FUNDERS / SPONSORS

A grid of logos for event funders and sponsors. The logos include: arts council funding the arts, arts council funding circus, arts council funding dance, arts council funding music, arts council funding theatre, arts council funding visual arts, arts council funding architecture, Amazon, Australian Government, Creative Australia, Bus Éireann, cley, cetb, CHAMAL EON, Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí, Cork City Council, Arts Ealaíona, Cork County Council, Culture Ireland, CreateSA, Cultúr Éireann, digital arts studios, ecclesiastical, GLUTTONY, HE, La Strada graz, HEINEKEN, MAC METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE, RTE TOY SHOW APPEAL, UCC, and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

MEDIA PARTNERS



PROGRAMME PARTNERS

A grid of logos for programme partners. The logos include: ABBEY THEATRE, ART, cork child friendly city, CORK THEATRE COLLECTIVE, CORK ARTS THEATRE, CORK MIGRANT CENTRE, CORK OPERA HOUSE, COTTER & NAESSENS ARCHITECTS, Cork College of Art, Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí, DANCE CORK FIRKIN CRANE, Édn Éilise Elizabeth Fort, THE EVERYMAN, GLUCKSMAN, GRAFFITI: BEAG, gravity & other myths, Irish Architecture Foundation, Mairéad Market, MUJIN, MTU, NATIONAL SCULPTURE FACTORY, ONCE OFF, DAVILLIOT, PLUGD, SAINT FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL - CORK, SOLAS NUA, ST PETERS CORK, TEAC DAMSA, Théâtre de la Ville, Sample-Studios, TEST SITE, triskel, UCC, UCC School of Film, Music and Theatre, ymca cork, and YOUTH THEATRE IRELAND.

PARTICIPATION PARTNER

LITERATURE PARTNER



ACCOMMODATION PARTNERS

Logos for accommodation partners: HAYFIELD MANOR, M Coleman Court, THE RIVER LEE, UCC CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION, and vugo.

OFFICIAL BEER SPONSOR

LAUNCH SPONSOR

TRANSPORT

LEAD ACCOMMODATION

Logos for beer sponsor (Heineken), launch sponsor (THE RIVER LEE), transport (Cogans), and lead accommodation (UCC CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION).

# A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD

Welcome to Cork Midsummer Festival 2026.

We are delighted to present this year's programme, bringing together artists, audiences, and communities across Cork city to share in a vibrant and varied celebration of the arts.

As ever, the festival reflects the energy and character of the city - a place shaped by creativity, collaboration, and a strong sense of connection. On behalf of the Board of Cork Midsummer Festival, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the festival team, led by Director Lorraine Maye, whose dedication and vision have made this year's festival possible.

From ambitious new work to much-loved performances, from outdoor events that transform our shared spaces to intimate artistic experiences, the programme offers opportunities to gather, participate, and reflect. The festival continues to support artists at all stages of their careers, while creating space for both Irish and international work to be experienced here in Cork.

We are deeply grateful to our principal funders, the Arts Council and Cork City Council, along with our many sponsors, patrons, and supporters. Your continued commitment is essential to the life of the festival.

We hope you enjoy exploring this year's programme and that it brings moments of connection, inspiration, and enjoyment throughout the city.

## Ruairí O'Connor

Chair

# FRIENDS

Cork Midsummer Festival is back, and we need your support to make it happen. Alongside our funders and partners, our Friends and Patrons help bring extraordinary events to life. Your support strengthens one of Cork's key cultural events and gives us a head start on next year's projects. Join as a Friend or Patron to enjoy exclusive benefits, special offers, discounts, and priority booking. Sign up now at [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com)!

## Gold Patrons



## Silver Patrons

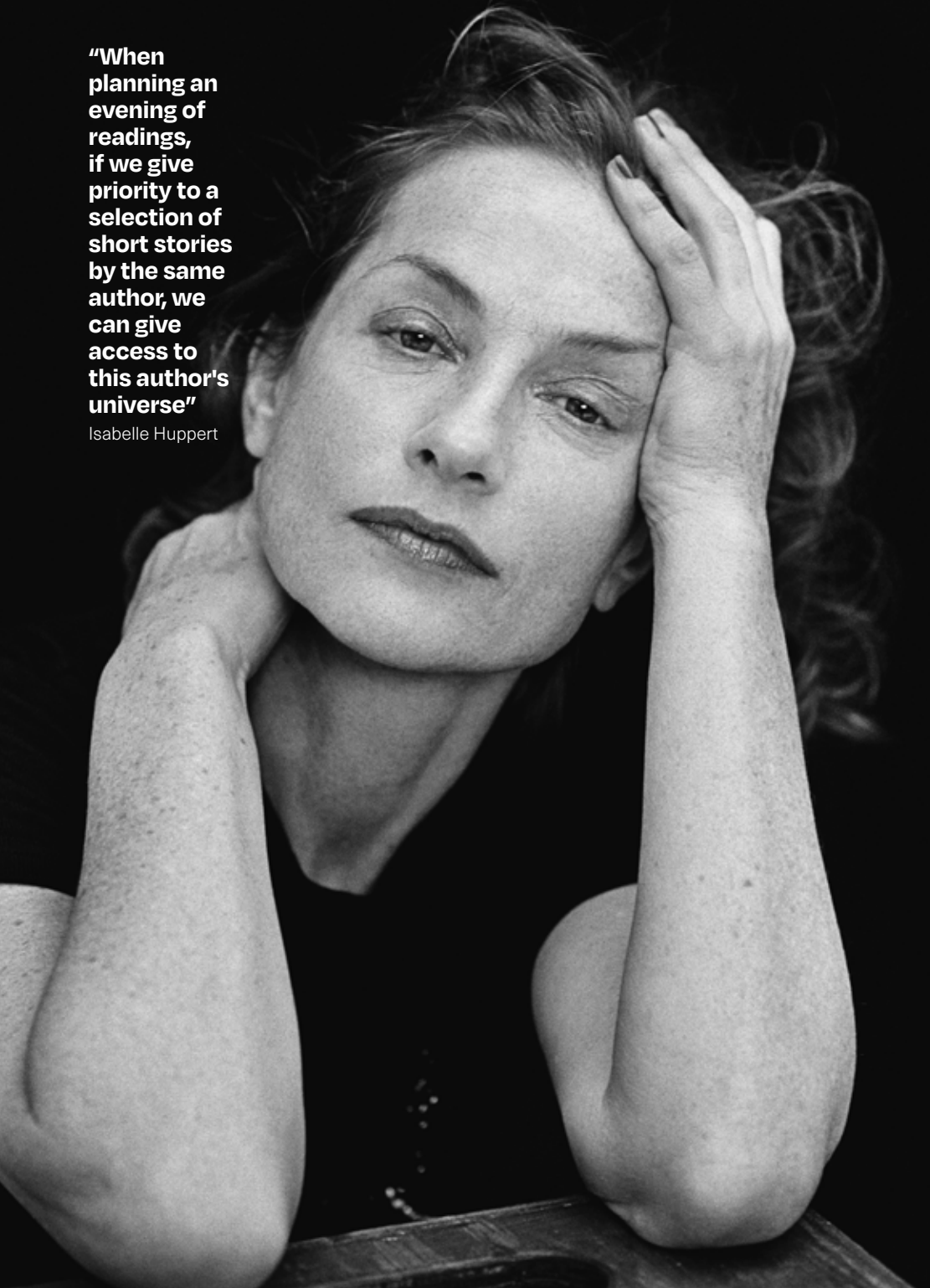
Denise Barnes  
 Tony & Colette Boland  
 Anne Clarke  
 Thomas Creed  
 Andrew Desmond  
 Mark Hassey  
 Kieran Hogan  
 Patrick Leader  
 John Lucey  
 Iain McKee  
 Ruairi O'Connor

## Festival Friends

Marie Baker  
 Helen Boyle  
 Carol Boylan  
 Jean Brennan  
 Cian Cotter  
 Paul Fahy  
 Jane Hyland  
 Marjie Kaley  
 Catherine Kirwan  
 Stephanie Lequin  
 Muireann Ni Shuilleabhain  
 Clare O'Connell  
 Kathy O'Dwyer  
 Brendan Ryan  
 Paul Scannell

“When planning an evening of readings, if we give priority to a selection of short stories by the same author, we can give access to this author's universe”

Isabelle Huppert



## OPENING WORDS

### IRISH PREMIERE

Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork

# ISABELLE HUPPERT READS MAUPASSANT

**One of the great actors of our time, Isabelle Huppert brings her unmistakable voice to a rare live reading of a selection of work from a defining figure of French literature: Guy de Maupassant.**

In Maupassant's short stories, ordinary lives shift suddenly into revelation - moments of irony, cruelty and unexpected tenderness. Whether it's the author's most famous works (*Le parure / The Necklace*) or lesser-known stories (*Le bonheur / Happiness*), Huppert brings her love of Maupassant's naturalistic language, insightful characters, and ingenious plots to the stage in this tribute to what she calls "one of the greatest writers in the history of literature."

This is a rare opportunity to experience this celebrated French writer through the voice of one of the world's most compelling performers.

Collaborating with acclaimed directors across both stage and screen, Isabelle Huppert has garnered numerous awards, solidifying her reputation in the worlds of cinema and theatre. The Venice Festival awarded her a Special Golden Lion Award from the Jury and she was twice awarded Best Actress at the Cannes Festival. She has earned several awards in the US, among which a Golden Globe Award and the Spirit Award for *Elle*, a film for which she was also nominated for Best Actress Award at the Oscars.

Isabelle Huppert has worked extensively on stage, both in France and internationally: she worked under Bob Wilson's direction, Peter Zadek, Claude Régy, she also played the part of Medea by Euripides, staged by Jacques Lassalle, notably at the Avignon Festival. She is the most nominated actress for the Moliere Awards, the premier theatre awards in France.

In 2020 The New York Times ranked her second on its list of the greatest actors of the 21st century.

In French with English surtitles.

The reading will be followed by a discussion with Isabelle Huppert.

Literature programme supported by Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork – partnering to create a unique strand of events that feature cross artform collaborations, performance and conversation

Supported by Hayfield Manor

**Devere Hall, UCC | 14 June | 8pm | €45 | 65 minutes**

**MAIN STAGE EVENT AT CORK OPERA HOUSE**  
**PREMIERE CORK AND PARIS CO-PRODUCTION**  
 Cork Midsummer Festival and Cork Opera House

# 1975 / NAOI DÉAG SEACHTÓ CÚIG

**Teac Dańsa**



**"1975 / Naoi Déag Seachtó Cúig is the most beautiful and sympathetic dance response to traditional Irish music I have ever seen."**

Martin Hayes (The Gloaming, The Common Ground Ensemble, The Martin Hayes Quartet)

**Set to the iconic 1975 album by Irish traditional group The Bothy Band, 1975 / Naoi Déag Seachtó Cúig is a must-see dance and theatre performance ritual where music and movement merge as one.**

In this new dance-theatre work, choreographer Michael Keegan-Dolan brings together seven exceptional dancers to honour, remember and be inspired by a visionary cultural happening in challenging times.

In Keegan-Dolan's world of movement, story and energy, the dancers move from wild expressive freedom to a reflective stillness, their personal histories unfolding within the rhythms of traditional Irish music.

Seven dancers. Seven chairs. Seven sharp suits. And one legendary album.

In *1975 / Naoi Déag Seachtó Cúig*, we recognise the inevitability of change, the goodness that endures and how to carry it with us through the years ahead.

Teac Dańsa (*Loch na hEala / Swan Lake, MAM, How to be a Dancer in 72,000 Easy Lessons, NOBODADDY*), based in the West Kerry Gaeltacht / Gaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne, is internationally renowned for creating powerful dance-theatre ritual rooted in place and community.

Supported by The Arts Council and Údarás na Gaeltachta. Co-produced by Teac Dańsa, Cork Midsummer Festival, Cork Opera House, and Théâtre de la Ville – Paris

**Cork Opera House | 18 – 20 June 8.30pm**

**€20 – €32 | 70 mins**

Post show discussion with Michael Keegan-Dolan following the performance on 18 June.

**Director and Choreographer**

**Michael Keegan-Dolan Dancers Aki Iwamoto, Daniel Myers, Amit Noy, James O'Hara, Rachel Poirier, Jimmy Southward & Holly Vallis**

**Lighting Design Adam Silverman**

**Costume Design Hyemi Shin & Amanda Donovan**

**Additional Sound Design Jelle Roozenburg**

**Videographer Mickey Kelly**

**Photography Emilija Jefremova**

**Recorded Music The Bothy Band | 1975**

**With thanks to Compass Records**

**BIG CIRCUS AT CITY HALL**  
**IRISH PREMIERE**  
Cork Midsummer Festival

# TEN THOUSAND HOURS

## Gravity & Other Myths

An award-winning circus spectacle arrives at Cork's City Hall for one unforgettable run.

Eight acrobats compress 10,000 hours of practice into 60 minutes you'll never forget.

A live drummer keeps the beat and a huge digital clock flashes as the troupe partake in a joyful game of human jenga. Bodies upon bodies. Springing from one pair of shoulders to another. Jump. Spin. Drop. Gasp!

An ode to the countless hours needed to achieve great things. A gravity-defying event for families or groups of friends – for everyone. With moments of playful audience interaction, no two shows and their jaw-dropping moments are quite the same.

From Adelaide, Australia, Gravity & Other Myths have a global reputation for world-class circus shows that place performers and their stories at the heart of the action.

Supported by Cork City Council

Supported by the Australian Government RISE Fund. Gravity & Other Myths is supported as an organisation by Arts South Australia. Ten Thousand Hours has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. Commissioned by Chamäleon Berlin, La Strada, Graz and Gluttony, Adelaide. The Ten Thousand Hours creative development was supported by the Adelaide Festival Centre. With further support from the Sydney Myer Fund.

**Concert Hall, Cork City Hall | 19 – 21 June**  
**(19 June, 7pm / 20 & 21 June, 3pm)**  
**€20 / €18 concession / €10 child | Ages 4+ | 60mins**

Group tickets are available for families and adults:  
€50 (2 adults, 2 children) €60 (2 adults, 3 children) €70 (4 adults)  
Other group rates also available – contact our box office for full details: [tickets@corkmidsummer.com](mailto:tickets@corkmidsummer.com)

Created by: Director **Lachlan Binns** Associate Director **Darcy Grant**  
Set & Lighting Designer **Chris Petredis** Assistant Designer **Max Mackenzie**  
Composer **Nick Martin**, **Shenzo Gregorio** Costume Designer **Olivia Zanchetta**  
Production Manager **Martin Schreiber** Creative Producer **Jascha Boyce**  
Ensemble **Jacob Randell**, **Alyssa Moore**, **Kevin Beverley**, **Lachlan Harper**,  
**Annalise Moore**, **Andre Augustus**, **Axl Osborne**, **Shani Stephens**



★★★★★  
"Nothing short of  
breathtaking"

The List

★★★★★  
"Jaw-dropping"

The AU review

★★★★★  
"Mind-blowing five  
star circus display"

The Scotsman

**Winner Critics Circle Award,  
Adelaide Fringe 2025**

"This may be the ideal festival  
show – it has supreme levels of  
skill [and] humour"

The Guardian



**CLOSING EVENT**

# SOLSTICE CÉILÍ

**Martin O'Donoghue**

**Celebrate the Solstice with sounds and dances inspired by our ancestors, from the neolithic to the neoliberals - in one giant crazy artistic céilí!**

750 generations ago, we first danced together on this island. Around a fire, we celebrated the zenith of the sun's arc in the company of our tribe. Now, 12,000 years later, you are invited to come together, to continue this legacy.

Come dance ecstatically to sound fossils from the past, time traveling through the millennia of movement. To fundamental beats that connect us with the spirit of this place and to the pounding feet of our ancestors. Resonating rhythms will rouse us to move together in time, through time, in a playful ritual that celebrates life, connectivity and our innate creativity.

This year's céilí features Palaeolithic polkas, wacky waltzes and raving to reels, along some of the novel céilí dances we have co-created together. On this, the longest day, come join us for a Céilí like no other, as we close out a festival like no other!

Funded by Cork City Council's Arts Project Scheme and Cork Midsummer Festival.

**Elizabeth Fort, Barrack Street | 21 June | 9pm | €15/€10 | 90 mins**

Céiliographer **Martin O Donoghue**

Damhsa Liomsa ensemble **Frances Curran, Jack O Malley, Peter O Sullivan, Kevin Hegarty, Stephen O Brien, Brian Leach, John Drew, Ken O Donnchú**

Special guests **Justin Grounds, Ali Bastian, Anita Bennis, Cork Midsummer Festival Céilí Dancers**

Creative team **Millie Egan, Sonia Caldwell, Holger Lonze, Paddy McCormack, Steve Isherwood, Thomas McCarthy**

Residency partners **Greywood Arts and Teac Daísa**

**THEATRE & DANCE  
BEYOND THE STAGE**

IRISH PREMIERE

# FUGIT

## Kamchàtka

**Step into a world where the lines between audience and participant blur.**

Having captivated audiences with *Alter* at Cork Midsummer Festival 2024 (Winner – Best International Production, The Arts Review 2024), Kamchàtka return to the Festival, this time with the Irish premiere of *Fugit*.

Awarded Best Street Show at the 2025 Premios Max, *Fugit* is a profound homage to those who've dared to abandon the familiar, leave the unnecessary behind and bravely venture into the unknown. You'll put yourselves in the hands of strangers, traversing the intriguing landscape of Cork city in a daytime journey like no other.

Kamchàtka, renowned for their award-winning outdoor theatre masterfully use silent gestures and evocative storytelling to explore themes of migration and displacement.

This is your chance to be part of something truly special – an immersive, unforgettable expedition that inspires, provokes and ultimately celebrates the human spirit.

**Meeting Point Sent to Ticket Holders**

**19 June 1pm & 5pm / 20 June 11am & 2pm**

Suitable ages 16+ with guardian

€25 / €22 | 90 mins approx.

**Best Street Show,  
Premios Max  
Awards 2025**





**WORLD PREMIERE**

Once Off Productions and Cork Midsummer Festival,  
in association with Pavilion Theatre

# THE HOMECOMING OF JOSEPH GRACE

## Deirdre Kinahan

**A man sits by a body of water. His once good suit hangs loosely now on his bones. It is dawn. The early boat he has travelled on has just docked and his fellow bleary eyed passengers disembark, swarming towards the city. In this near empty place he sits, unwilling or unable to set proper foot on Irish Soil.**

Not just a play of what was, or what is, *The Homecoming of Joseph Grace* by Deirdre Kinahan is a tender, disarming and unexpected new drama. Wrapped in longing and separation, this is a meticulous and devastatingly vivid portrayal of a life lived in extraordinary circumstances.

As we sit with Joseph in an Irish ferry terminal, we sit with every refugee and every citizen of the world who is forced to flee in search of peace, happiness, love, home.

Festival favourite Deirdre Kinahan (*The Saviour 2022*, *Tempesta 2024*, *Songs and Souls 2025*) reunites with leading theatre director Louise Lowe to explore the city's cultural history as a port and place of departure in creating an evocation of place, memory and mind.

Funded by the Arts Council and Meath County Council | Supported by Dublin Port

**Event Room, Marina Market | 13 – 20 June | 9pm**  
**(Preview 12 June / No performance 15 June) | €25 / €20 | 70 mins**

Directed by Louise Lowe Performed by Michael Glenn Murphy Set Design by Owen Boss  
Costume Design by Joan O'Clery Lighting Design by Ciaran Bagnall Sound Design by Carl Kennedy

The Everyman in association with Cork Midsummer Festival

# POOL (NO WATER)

**Mark Ravenhill**

**“I suppose it was one of the happiest nights of my life”**

A group of artists, a trip abroad, an event that distorts everything.

*Pool (No Water)* is a play about the fragility of friendship and the deep resentments that often hide under the surface.

Staged in an empty swimming pool beneath The Metropole Hotel, this new Everyman production of Mark Ravenhill's shocking and savage 2006 play blurs the boundaries between installation, physical theatre and live art.

Directed by Des Kennedy, with movement by Luke Murphy, the work is a sharp, unsettling meditation on jealousy, ambition and the corrosive nature of making art.

Mark Ravenhill is one of Britain's leading contemporary playwrights. His other work includes *Shopping and F\*\*cking*, *Some Explicit Polaroids*, and *Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat*.

**Swimming pool on St Patrick's Quay  
(underneath The Metropole Hotel) T23 YC63**

**17 – 21 June | 7pm**

**(Previews 12 – 14 & 16, 7pm | Matinee 20 June, 2pm)**

€25 (Previews €22) | 70 mins

Additional performances 23 – 27 June

Written by Mark Ravenhill Directed by Des Kennedy Movement by Luke Murphy





**"Political theatre that is true, and hilarious, and horrifying"**

The Independent



**"Funny, furious, daft and anarchic"**

The Stage

**"Cult legends"**

The Guardian

**Winner  
Scotsman  
Fringe First  
Award 2019**



IRISH PREMIERE

# DRINK RUM WITH EX-PATS

**Sh!t Theatre**

**This is a true story.**

It's a few summers ago and a Maltese producer invites Sh!t Theatre out to her island paradise for Valletta European Capital of Culture.

Lads on tour Becca and Louise are paid an inflated fee to make a show about expats, for an audience of expats. To be performed, just once, in Valletta's The Pub.

Easy enough: get drunk with the expats, talk to them about Brexit – and sing it all back to them. Sh!t Theatre loves pubs. They could never have anticipated what happened next...

From one small island in the sea to another small island in the sea, Sh!t Theatre encountered mystery and murder in the fight to be European.

Expect free rum, crowd surfing, sea shanties and a live dog in this rollicking and riotous exploration of immigration and home.

Sh!t Theatre are Rebecca Biscuit and Louise Mothersole. They have been working and drinking together for 15 years. They make politically engaged live performance with a DIY aesthetic using a collage of documentary, song, comedy and multimedia. Awards include Adelaide Fringe Best Theatre Award 2020, Critics Circle Award, Sydney Fringe Best Theatre Award 2024 and two Scotsman Fringe First Awards.

**The Pavilion, Carey's Lane | 12 & 13 June 8.30pm**  
70 mins | Suitable ages 16+ with guardian



WORLD PREMIERE

# CÚINNÍ AN GHIORRIA

## Fearghus Ó Conchúir

Is seanchleachtas feirmeoireachta é cúinne páirce a fhágáint fiáin ionas go mairfeadh plandaí agus ainmhithe éagsúla slán ann. Leis an saothar nua rince seo agus leis na ceardlanna a bheid á reáchtáil, fáiltimid romhat “cúinní nua don ghiorria” a chruthú linn — ag tarraingt ar ár ndúchas agus ar n-aiteacht le todhchaí níos beomhaire a mhúnlú dúinn go léir. Tar is bí ag súgradh linn.

Tógadh Fearghus i nGaeltacht na Rinne agus tá aitheantas bainte amach aige go hidirnáisiúnta as deiseanna a chruthú don éagsúlacht a cheiliúradh trí rince corraitheach, cumhachtach, agus álainn.

*In traditional farming, the hare's corner is ground left wild so different plants and animals can flourish in safety.*

*As we search for more sustainable lives, languages and communities, choreographer Fearghus Ó Conchúir, who grew up in the Ring Gaeltacht, invites you to join him and his award-winning collaborators in creating new “corners for the hare” in the centre of Cork. Before each performance you can experience workshops drawing on the knowledge of Irish language speakers, Irish Sign Language users, ecologists, queer communities, singers, poets and of course dancers. And each performance is followed by an inclusive céilí. Come and play with us.*

Breis eolais faoi na ceardlanna agus ticéid  
 Details on workshop times and bookings at [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com).

**Millennium Hall, Cork City Hall | 20 & 21 June | 7pm | €20 / €18**

Each performance will be followed by a céilí

Performance 60 mins | Ceilí 60 mins (approx)

Á chur i láthair ag Fearghus Ó Conchúir agus ag COBA i gcomhpháirtíocht le Cork Midsummer Festival agus le Dance Cork Firkin Crane; le maoiniú ón gComhairle Ealaíon, ó Ealaín na Gaeltachta, ó Fhoras na Gaeilge, ó Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge, ó Chomhairle Cathrach Chorcaí, ó Chultúr Éireann agus ón tOireachtas; forbartha trí thréimhse cónaitheach ‘Ceist’ ag Dance Cork Firkin Crane agus trí thréimhse cónaitheach sna Déise i gcomhpháirtíocht le Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise.

# PROCESS AT CORK THEATRE COLLECTIVE

**Cork Theatre Collective, in collaboration with Cork Midsummer Festival throws open the doors to the next wave of theatre-makers – *Process* exists to support Cork's artist community; to experiment, gather, and connect with the festival artists who are here with us this summer, raw, bold, and unapologetically in-progress. *Process* is where ideas take their first steps in front of an audience.**

Fresh voices take centre stage through an Open Call welcoming artists who have never shown work at Cork Midsummer Festival – because every great show starts somewhere.

Step off the beaten path with site-specific works-in-progress, turning unexpected corners of Cork into stages.

Get in the room for Nightshift at the CTC Studio – an intimate, charged evening where theatre, dance, spoken word, music, and performance of every kind collides live, in the moment.

Wake up with Movement Mornings, hosted by dance/theatre artist Emily Terndrup – a chance to start your festival day by getting into your body, connecting with fellow artists, and shaking loose something new.

Festival Artists Workshops- hands-on sessions led by the festival's own programmed artists, open to the wider Cork artist community.

Have your say at the Young Critics Forum and dive into the conversation with a Substack Takeover that brings critical voices to the front.

Further info available at [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com) / [corktheatrecollective.com](http://corktheatrecollective.com)

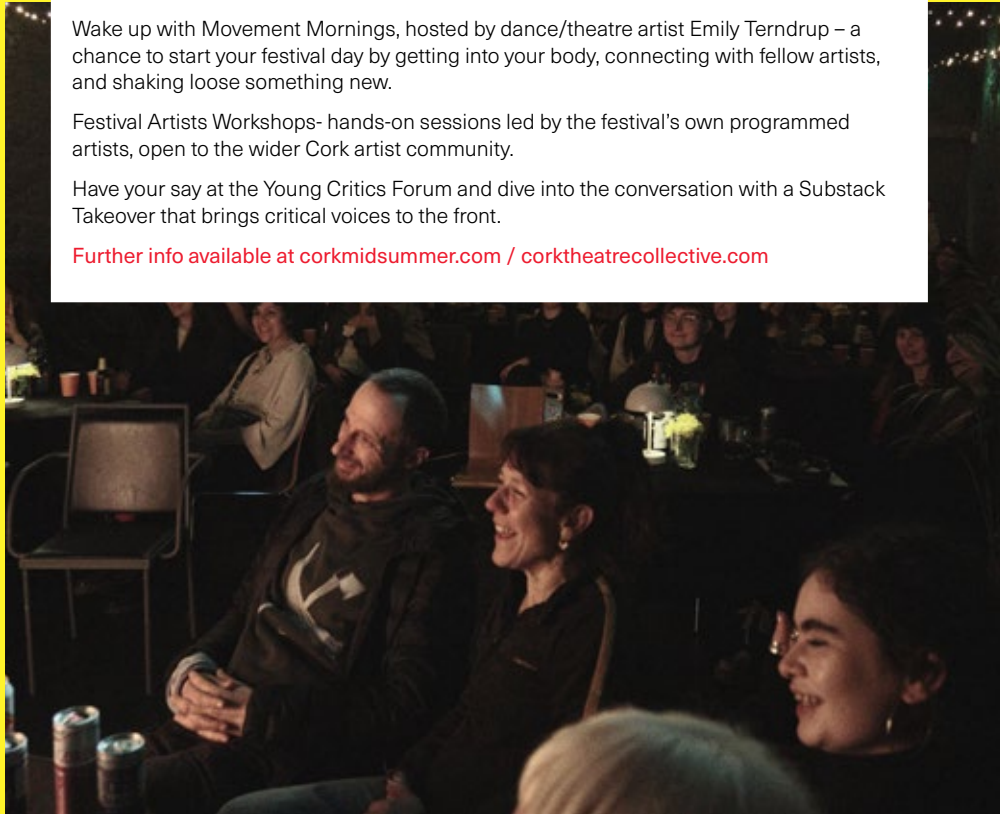


PHOTO: ZÉ BATEIRA

A Luke Casserly, Abbey Theatre, and Solas Nua Production

# DISTILLATION

## Luke Casserly

**A multi-sensory performance that transports audiences to the Irish bog landscape through scent.**

In *Distillation*, Luke Casserly has collaborated with renowned perfumer Joan Woods (Waters + Wild Organic Perfumery) to create a unique essence of the Midlands bog - the place where he grew up - as the starting point for an olfactory encounter exploring our relationship to place. Created in direct response to the cessation of Ireland's peat harvesting industry, *Distillation* is dedicated to the future of our broken landscapes - in the hope that by listening to them, we might be able to better understand them.

The production premiered as part of Dublin Theatre Festival in 2023, and has since toured extensively across Ireland, the USA, and Canada, earning widespread critical acclaim.

A co-production by Abbey Theatre and Solas Nua, commissioned by Solas Nua. Supported by Goethe-Institut Irland, IMMA, Druid FUEL, AXIS Ballymun, and Backstage Theatre. Funded by an Arts Council Theatre Touring Award.

**The Crypt, St. Luke's | 12 - 14 June | €20 / €18 | 50 mins  
12 June 3pm & 6pm / 13 June 12pm and 6pm / 14 June 2pm and 4pm**

★★★★★  
"This ode to our landscape will give you a new perspective on Ireland's bogs. All of the senses are engaged: not just sight and hearing but also touch, smell and even taste"

The Irish Times

★★★★★  
"Casserly's performance is genuinely inventive"

Irish Examiner



PHOTO: FERGAL STYLES

The image features a warm, orange-to-yellow gradient background. On the left side, there is a dark silhouette of a person standing within a dark, arched opening, possibly a doorway or a niche. The person's form is mostly obscured by the dark interior of the arch, with only some highlights on their shoulders and arms. The overall mood is dramatic and artistic.

# **THEATRE & DANCE ON STAGE**

# 0800 CUPID

## THISISPOPBABY

**Nightlife gatecrash, raucous cabaret and musical extravaganza; 0800 CUPID is a genre-defying queer countercultural opus from THISISPOPBABY that fizzies between performance and reality.**

In *0800 CUPID*, Cork-born cabaret star, writer, house music vocalist and actor Emer Dineen teams up with award-winning playwright and director Phillip McMahon to create a form busting, epic and unforgettable musical odyssey through a couple of very strange years in Emer's life. Through her drag persona, crumbling club-kid 'Cupid', Dineen grapples with love in a lonely capitalist paradigm. Hungover, moulting and disorientated, our redundant deity battles modern life, unravelling Emer's true story of navigating loss, crises, chaotic relationships and feeling the sweet sting of meaningful connection where she least expects it.

*0800 CUPID* is an SOS (emergency) response to the swelling social anxiety of a post-pandemic pre-apocalyptic world, a camp catalyst for reconnection. It's a musical march into and back from an existential brink.

Produced by the multi-award-winning theatre company THISISPOPBABY, *0800 CUPID* premiered at Dublin Theatre Festival 2024 with a sold out run, named by The Examiner as the highlight of the festival. Immediately afterwards it transferred to Soho Theatre in London, receiving rapturous audience and critical response in both cities, with five star reviews across the board. Audiences have described *0800 CUPID* as incredible, unmissable, riotous, virtuosic, life-affirming and perfect.

Development supported by Jane Anne Rothwell Award

**The Everyman | 18 & 19 June | 8.30pm | €26 – €32 | 70 mins**

Text, Composition and Lyrics **Emer Dineen**  
 Directed and Developed by **Phillip McMahon**  
 Co-Composer and Musical Director **Tom Beech**  
 Music Producer **Elaine Mai**  
 Choreographer **Carl Harrison**  
 Lighting Design **Sarah Jane Shiels**  
 Set Design **Ellen Kirk**  
 Costume Design **Lambdog1066**  
 Performers **Emer Dineen, Isabel Adomakoh Young, Carl Harrison**  
**Tom Beech** (keys), **Michael McCarthy** (drums), **Osazee Aiguokhian** (bass)  
 Produced by **Daniel Culleton & Carla Rogers**



**"Hilarious, heartfelt theatre by one of Ireland's rising stars" "Entertaining in every way"**

Irish Times



**"A talent this big can't possibly be contained. Dineen is simply phenomenal" "Gorgeously good fun"**

Irish Examiner

Dance Cork Firkin Crane

# OFFSPRING (A MODERN FRANKENSTEIN)

**Emily Terndrup**

**In this visceral reimagining of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Emily Terndrup fuses explosive choreography and razor-sharp storytelling into a fierce, funny and fearless meditation on creation and consequence.**

Part gothic horror, part personal reckoning, *Offspring* is a pulse-racing collision of theatre and dance that grabs its audience by the throat and the heart. At its centre is a woman in her mid-to-late 30s, grappling with desire and dread as she contemplates the closing window to biological creation.

*Offspring* is riotously funny, breathtakingly physical and unexpectedly devastating.

As she plunges into the chaos, the beauty and the terror of creation, the performance becomes the monster itself: volatile, tender, contradictory and profoundly human.

Created and performed by Emily Terndrup, *Offspring* was a triple award-winner at the Dublin Fringe Festival 2025, taking Best Performer, Best Design, and Radical Spirit of the Fringe. It was named Best Production and Best Dance Production of 2025 by *The Arts Review*.

Darkly funny and disarmingly tender, Terndrup's work is bold, intelligent and utterly original. *Offspring* guarantees to spark questions long after the final breath.

Co-presented by Dance Cork Firkin Crane

**Dance Cork Firkin Crane | 12 & 13 June | 7pm**  
**(Preview 11 June 7pm / Matinee 13 June 1pm)**  
 €20 / €18 | 70 mins

**Winner Best Performer  
and Best Design,  
Dublin Fringe Festival 2025**

**Best Production 2025,  
The Arts Review**

★★★★★

**"In *Offspring*, everything is  
touched by genius"**

The Arts Review 5 stars

★★★★★

**"Mixes an easy-going presence  
with expressive physicality and  
on-the-beat comic timing"**

The Irish Times



**WORLD PREMIERE**  
Once Off Productions

# THE LOST TAPES OF LYDIA HOWELL

## Ray Scannell

**A listening party for a forgotten musician.**

Emerging post-lockdown, creatively blocked, Stanley moves into a Victorian split-level in a Dublin square. He discovers a discarded shoebox filled with cassette demos, disposable photos and journal recordings belonging to Lydia Howell (of the also-ran shoegaze trio No!-No!).

As Stanley reconstructs Lydia's unfinished life through her artefacts and solo recordings, preservation becomes collaboration. Haunted by the work that never left the room, he finds an antidote to his own stagnation, culminating in a duet between the living and the dead.

But does preserving an artist's lost work inevitably reshape it — or even steal it?

Following festival hits *Mimic* (2007), *Deep* (2013), and *The Bluffer's Guide to Suburbia* (2019), writer/performer Ray Scannell reunites with director Tom Creed to premiere this new work, featuring the voice of Clare Dunne (*Kin, Herself, Sure Look It, F\*\*k It*).

Funded by the Arts Council

**Stack Theatre, Cork School of Music | 19 – 21 June**  
**(Previews 17 & 18 June, 7pm | 19 June, 7pm |**  
**Matinees 20 June, 5pm & 21 June, 1pm)**  
€25 / €20 (Previews €18) | 75 mins

Written, composed and performed by **Ray Scannell**  
Featuring the voice of **Clare Dunne**  
Directed by **Tom Creed**  
Sound Design and Additional Composition by **Rob Moloney**  
Lighting Design by **Stephen Dodd**

Cork Arts Theatre

# CONSTELLATIONS

by Nick Payne, directed by Al Dalton

**“One drink. And if you never want to see me again you never have to see me again.”**

*Constellations* by Nick Payne is a stirring love story with infinite possibilities. A quantum physicist and a beekeeper meet at a barbeque. They hit it off, or perhaps they don't. They go home together, or maybe they don't. In the multiverse, with every possible future ahead of them, a love of honey could make all the difference.

Directed by Al Dalton (*Misterman*, *The Cure*) and starring Julie Maguire (*The Quare Fellow* – Abbey Theatre) and Aidan Moriarty (*King Lear* – Gate Theatre), *Constellations* is the second in Re:Directing - a series of contemporary plays platforming Cork theatre directors produced by Cork Arts Theatre and funded by The Arts Council.

A tender, and at times, heartbreaking drama about love, free will, and the choices that define us.

**Cork Arts Theatre | 17 – 20 June | 8.30pm**  
**Preview 16 June 8.30pm | Matinee 20 June 2pm**  
 €24 / €20 (Previews €18) | 80 mins

Starring: Julie Maguire & Aidan Moriarty  
 Directed by Al Dalton  
 Set by Aedin Cosgrove  
 Lighting by Dara Hoban  
 Sound by Arran MacGabhann  
 Costume by Valentina Gambardella  
 Movement and Intimacy direction by Cathy Walsh  
 Technical Manager Jamie Feehily  
 Production Manager Joe McNicholas  
 Stage Manager Aoife Byrne  
 Assistant Director Chloe Walsh  
 Assistant Stage Manager Ava Manning  
 Assistant Production Manager Jack Kirby



### The Everyman

# EVERYMAN UP FRONT

Readings of bold new plays on The Everyman forestage.

As part of our commitment to artists and the development of new work, The Everyman has several playwrights under commission. This year, as part of Cork Midsummer Festival, we will present up-close readings of never-before-heard plays by some of these writers.

#### **Comrade** by Bob Kelly

Ireland and Russia. Michael Collins and the Romanovs. The last days of an old country and a state about to begin. *Comrade* is a moving and intimate play about friendship, loyalty and the personal cost of revolution.

Bob Kelly is an actor and theatre-maker trained at the Ecole Internationale de Jacques Lecoq in Paris and has written for Landmark Productions, Blue Raincoat and Hawk's Well Theatre.

#### **Something Borrowed** by Irene Kelleher

It's just a wedding morning, what could go wrong? In *Something Borrowed*, everything. As Simone prepares to marry her "perfect" partner, one simple question cracks everything open. With a house full of clashing personalities and chaos mounting by the minute, this dark comedy tears into the myth of happily ever after with wit, bite and glorious chaos.

Irene Kelleher is a Cork-based playwright and actor whose acclaimed work includes *Mary and Me* and *Gone Full Havisham*, with multiple awards and international presentations.

#### **Double** by Tommy Harris

Cork, 1990. *Double* is about a family reunited as the county chases a historic achievement. Tommy Harris's new play is a comedy-drama about family, fallout and something more important than life or death... sport.

Tommy Harris is an actor and writer from Cork and a nominee for Fishamble's New Writing Award in 2024 for his debut one-man show Happy Capital.

#### The Everyman

**Comrade 20 June | 1pm | 90 mins**

**Something Borrowed 20 June | 4pm | 70 mins**

**Double 21 June | 3.30pm | 90 mins**

€8 One reading | €13 Two readings | €15 Three readings



### WORLD PREMIERE

# HOUSEWORK

## Áine Ní Laoghaire

**A love letter to House and the women who shaped it.**

Beats, memory and resistance — Ireland's club culture, remixed.

Taking its cue from the DJ set—build, drop, rewind, repeat—the piece cuts between verbatim interviews and the pulse of Ireland's 80s and 90s club scene.

Live performance and driving sound weave together the testimonies of female DJs, promoters and singers who carved out space on dancefloors and behind decks. While above ground the country shifted through divorce referenda, reproductive rights battles and the boom years of the Celtic Tiger.

A record of what we've been through – reaching out for a hand on the dancefloor.

*HouseWork* was developed through the Markievicz Award, Blas – an artist development programme run by the Town Hall Theatre, Galway Theatre Festival and theatre maker James Riordan.

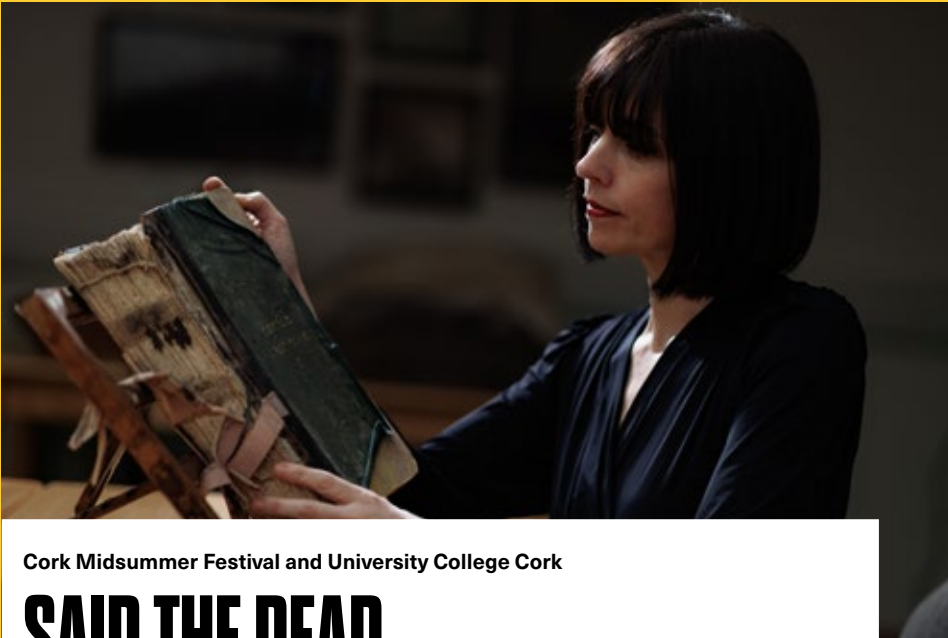
Áine is a Cork-based theatre maker whose work explores participation, identity and collective dynamics across theatre and film. A recipient of the Markievicz Award and Druid Fuel alumnus. Her directorial debut *The Scratcher* was nominated for a Little Gem Award at Dublin Fringe 2023. As an actor, she has performed with the Abbey Theatre, Landmark Productions and *The Everyman*, and collaborated internationally across Europe.

#### CTC Studio at Triskel Arts Centre

**12 & 13 June (Preview 11 June) | 9pm | €20 / €18 | 60 mins**

Created and performed by Áine Ní Laoghaire Director Katie O'Halloran Composer/Sound design HK Ní Shioradáin Lighting Designer Suzie Cummins Producer Leigh Hussey

**LITERATURE**



Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork

## SAID THE DEAD

**Doireann Ní Ghríofa and Linda Buckley**

**A live reading and music performance on the site at the heart of Ní Ghríofa's new book, *Said the Dead*.**

'In Cork city, a derelict mental hospital is being converted into modern apartments. One passerby has always flinched as she passes the place. Had her birth occurred in another decade, she too might have lived within those walls. Now, she notices a sign: FOR SALE. It is the first of many signs. Following them, she finds herself drawn into an irresistible river of forgotten voices, those of the women who knew this place best: insistent, vivid and true. They murmur from archives and old records; they whisper from stairwells and walls. Among them – and in one figure in particular — she may find meaning, solace, rage; her own salvation, perhaps, or her own vanishing?'

Doireann Ní Ghríofa's writing leaps between genres and times, to explore how the past makes itself felt within the present. Her book *A Ghost in the Throat* went on to be translated into 20 languages, was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year and won the James Tait Black Prize.

Linda Buckley is an award winning Irish composer (born in Cork) with a particular interest in working across many disciplines. Most notably film and in the realm of drone and dark ambient music. She was featured by Iggy Pop on BBC Radio 6 as "somebody really special". She has written extensively for orchestra (BBC Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ NSO), was elected to Aosdana in 2021, and is Associate Artist with Chamber Music Scotland.

Literature programme supported by Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork – partnering to create a unique strand of events that feature cross artform collaborations, performance and conversation

**Atkin's Hall (ticketholders will be notified about exact starting point) | 14 June | 3pm**  
Ticket price: €18/€15 | 60 mins

Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork

## HOME ENTERTAINMENT

**Pat McCabe, Michael Lightborne, David Murphy**

**Building on last year's sellout show *Howl On*, Pat McCabe again joins forces with Michael Lightborne and David Murphy to present *Home Entertainment*, a hallucinatory literary soundscape set in the fictional Irish city of Midford.**

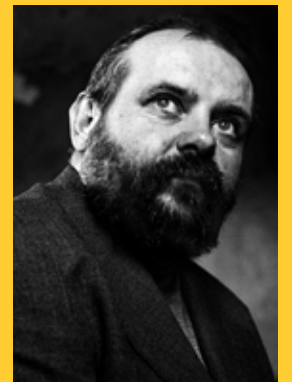
At its centre is Ellen Daly, an elderly woman mourning her son Roger, whose death reverberates through a fractured city populated by damaged lives. The work unfolds as a living transmission, replaying guilt, complicity and buried crimes in a world shaped by catastrophe.

Combining literature, sound and performance into one layered, immersive experience, *Home Entertainment* is a dark, funny and unsettling exploration of modern Ireland, examining how societies archive their sins, how technology reanimates trauma, and how memory refuses to stay buried.

Patrick McCabe is the author of eleven novels, including *The Butcher Boy*, *The Dead School*, *Breakfast on Pluto*, and *Goldengrove*. David Murphy (*Cuimhne Ghlinn: Musical Explorations...*) is a pedal steel guitarist, expanding the instrument's reach in a modern Irish context. Michael Lightborne's (*Dormant Volcanoes of Ireland*) work explores sound, environment, projection and cinema.

Literature programme supported by Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork – partnering to create a unique strand of events that feature cross artform collaborations, performance and conversation

**Granary Theatre | 17 June | 8pm | €18 / €15 | 75 mins**



# BETWEENNESS (ON LOOP)

**Danny Denton, Elaine Howley,  
Niamh Dalton**

*What might the ghosts of life sound like? What might they say if we could tune them in over the static, over the drift of time?*

Showcasing new work by Cork artists Danny Denton (*All Along The Echo, The Earlie King & the Kid In Yellow*) and Elaine Howley (*The Distance Between Heart and Mouth, The Altered Hours, Crevice, HowlBux*), *Betweenness (on loop)* takes the form of a sonic and spoken journey through the tapestry of a burgeoning relationship during a fictional Cork summer, following the days and routines of lovers Kathy and Joe as they etch their connection into the pavements, bars, living rooms and kitchens of our city.

Through live performance and installation, this durational event will unfold over four hours, with audiences free to come and go, or stay with us to experience all the things lovers bring to a relationship in public and private spaces: memories, conversations, hopes, regrets, senses of place and intergenerational identity, and the speeding and slowing of time spent in love, between lovers.

At once looped and live, and featuring set design by Elaine Moore and musical accompaniment by Niamh Dalton (*Trá Pháidín, Ana Palindrome, Crash Ensemble composer-in-residence*), *Betweenness (on loop)* encompasses live score, immersive installation, taped conversations, and layered soundscapes and projections, building to a crescendo that illuminates the moments of new love in an old place, and old love in new ways.

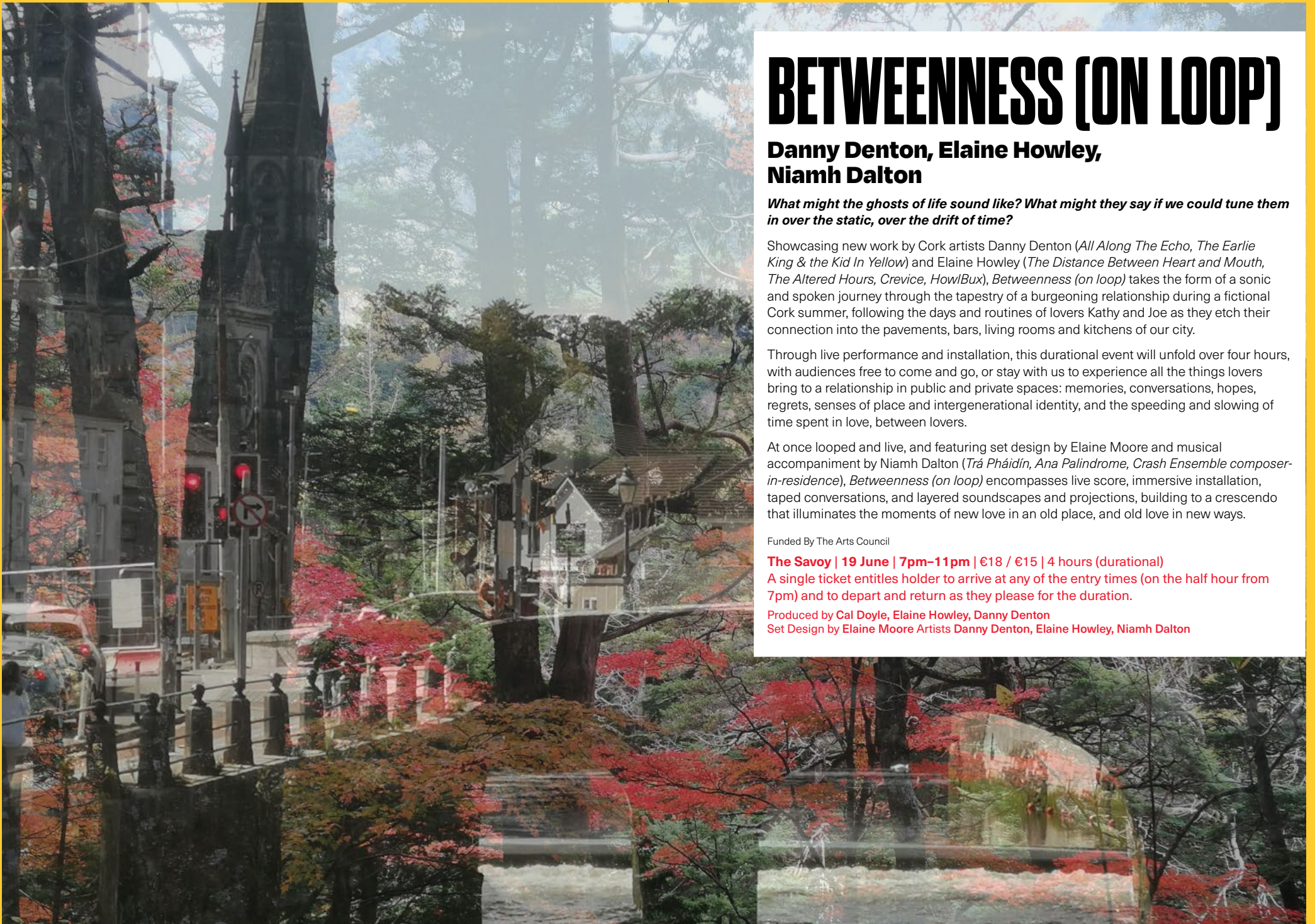
Funded By The Arts Council

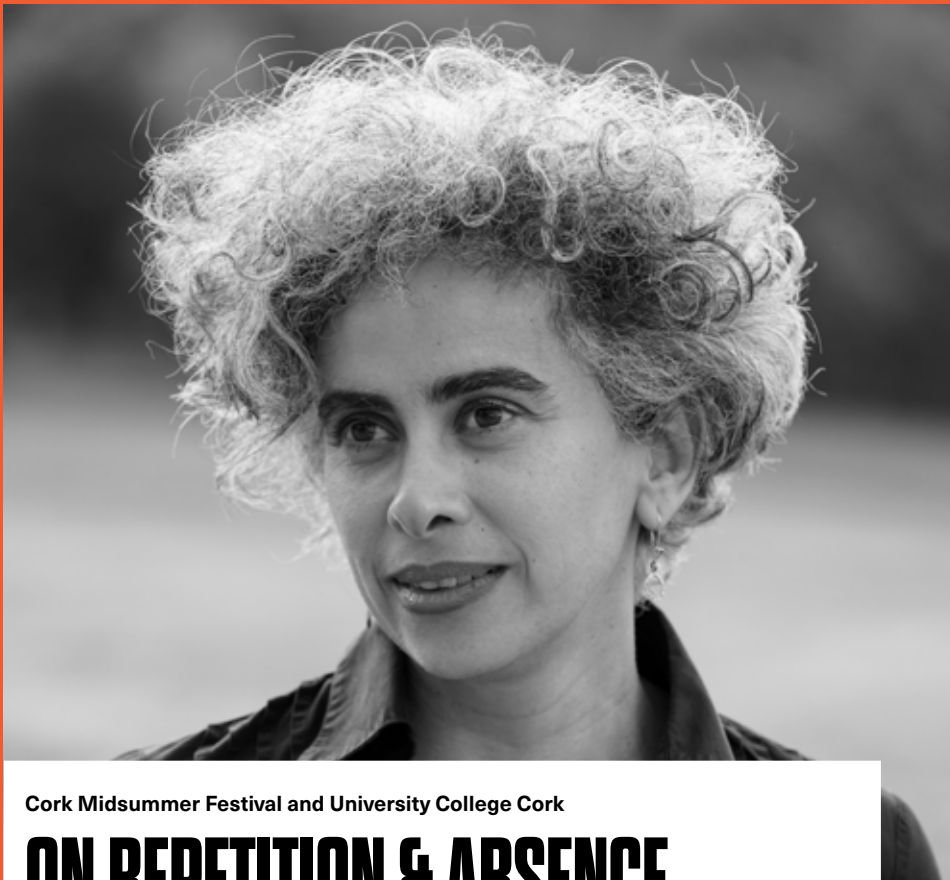
**The Savoy | 19 June | 7pm–11pm | €18 / €15 | 4 hours (durational)**

A single ticket entitles holder to arrive at any of the entry times (on the half hour from 7pm) and to depart and return as they please for the duration.

Produced by Cal Doyle, Elaine Howley, Danny Denton

Set Design by Elaine Moore Artists Danny Denton, Elaine Howley, Niamh Dalton





Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork

## ON REPETITION & ABSENCE

### Adania Shibli

The award-winning author of *Minor Detail*, Adania Shibli delivers an unmissable keynote lecture on repetition and the absence of words.

A profound speaker on war, memory, identity, language and aesthetics, Shibli draws on her work as a novelist and essayist to explore the relationship between narrative, silence and power. Her writing spans novels, plays, short stories and essays, and engages deeply with questions of violence, justice and representation.

*Minor Detail* was a finalist for the National Book Award for Translated Literature, longlisted for the International Booker Prize, and awarded the LiBeraturpreis. Shibli has also received the Qattan Young Writer's Award twice and continues to teach and research in different universities across Europe, as well as at Birzeit University, Palestine (2012-2018), while from 2022–2025 she acted as a co-curator of the Bergen Assembly 2025, Bergen, Norway.

Literature programme supported by Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork – partnering to create a unique strand of events that feature cross artform collaborations, performance and conversation

**Glucksman, University College Cork | 13 June | 4pm | €18 / €15 | 60 mins**

Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork

## THE STINGING FLY X BANSHEE PRESS: THE MUSIC OF WHAT HAPPENS

Join two of Ireland's leading literary presses for a unique call-and-response exploration of the imaginative boundaries between writing and music, and the act of creativity itself. This one-hour, one-off event will feature new writing and improvised music, with writers from *The Stinging Fly* and *Banshee* responding to music by multi-instrumentalist and composer Seán Mac Erlaine. Mac Erlaine will then perform improvised musical responses to the writing – an artistic dialogue that thrives in the ether between different creative forms.

Seán Mac Erlaine's work intersects folk, free improvisation, jazz, experimental and traditional music. His most recent album (with Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh) is *Old Segotia*, and he has been lauded by *The Irish Times* as 'consistently one of the most interesting and adventurous musicians of his generation'. Chetna Maroo is the Booker Prize-listed author of *Western Lane*. Billy Ramsell is the author of three poetry collections, with his latest (*Render*) published by Banshee Press in June 2026. Thomas Morris is the award-winning author of the story collections *We Don't Know What We're Doing* and *Open Up*. Mary Dunne is an emerging writer from Westmeath, whose work can be found in *ROPES* and *Banshee*.

*The Stinging Fly* and *Banshee* are both independent Irish publishers, with literary magazines that publish two issues a year, as well as books. Both publishers have garnered international reputations for publishing the best of Irish and international fiction, poetry and essays.

Literature programme supported by Cork Midsummer Festival and University College Cork – partnering to create a unique strand of events that feature cross artform collaborations, performance and conversation

**University College Cork | 20 June | 5pm | €10 / €8 | 70 mins**  
Artists Chetna Maroo, Billy Ramsell, Mary Dunne, Thomas Morris, Seán Mac Erlaine





**MUSIC**

"celebratory, healing  
and heartening... [with]  
an ability to transcend  
and unite people"

Songlines / BBC World Music



IRISH PREMIERE

# IDRÍSI ENSEMBLE

**Performing to packed houses across the UK and Europe, Idrísi Ensemble make their hugely anticipated Ireland debut at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, presenting a special programme for Cork Midsummer Festival.**

Delving back into the rich history of Mediterranean music, the collective offers up a window into a world gone by. Pioneering a fresh approach to historical performance, Idrísi Ensemble performs medieval repertoire from period manuscripts alongside UNESCO-protected and endangered traditions.

Medieval polyphony and chant will sit alongside living traditions from Corsica, Greece,

Algiers and beyond, moving between intimate solo moments and immersive ensemble

sound in the cathedral's spectacular acoustic, brought to life by a handpicked group of the ensemble's specialist singers and instrumentalists.

Sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance

**St. Fin Barre's Cathedral**  
**13 June | 7pm**  
**€32 / €28 | 105 mins including interval**

Cork Midsummer Festival

# DANCES FOR THE CITY (IN TIME OF ANGST)

**John O'Brien**

*Dances for the City (In Time of Angst)* is a new piece of music for chamber orchestra by celebrated Cork composer, John O'Brien. Immersive performances will take place in city centre communities with the orchestra travelling to community halls, followed by a one night only performance at MTU Cork School of Music.

The piece explores our collective contradictory feelings around how to celebrate the joys of being together and the beautiful things in our lives, whilst also acknowledging the anxiety that most of us feel about current world events, challenges and the stresses of modern living.

A follow on from John O'Brien's 2021 piece *Lullaby for the City (In Time of Pandemic)* which saw an orchestra visit four outdoor city centre locations, this time we will gather indoors, with the audience amongst the musicians.

**Performance at MTU Cork School of Music:**

7pm, Saturday 20 June: An immersive, ticketed public performance will take place in the Curtis Auditorium. Along with *Dances for the City (In Time of Angst)* the programme will also include *Lullaby for the City (In Time of Pandemic)* and a new chamber orchestra version of *towards a new enlightenment...*

**Community performances:**

The orchestra will travel to city centre community halls for immersive community performances of *Dances for the City (In Time of Angst)*. People living, working and studying close to these locations will be directly invited to join for these performances.

Commissioned by Cork Midsummer Festival. Funded by an Arts Council Music Project Award.

**Curtis Auditorium, MTU Cork School of Music**  
**20 June | 7pm | €20/€18 | 65 mins**





# THE WARM UP

## Jane Deasy

***The Warm Up* is a music theatre performance based on a live recording of actors warming up before the opening night of a show.**

Set in a warm up space, four performers prepare their voices night after night. We hear their dreams through vocal virtuosity displayed in their pre-show rituals. At the heart of the piece is a physical quest for one's voice. Witness them at their most vulnerable moments – before they go on.

*The Warm Up* is the second in a series of compositions for theatre by award winning composer Jane Deasy (Opening Night – Best Design, Dublin Fringe 2022 and Cork Midsummer Festival 2025). The piece is performed by some of Ireland's most prominent vocalists and performers of experimental and contemporary music; Michelle O' Rourke, Elizabeth Hilliard, Robbie Blake, and Tom Roseingrave, with an electronic score performed by Jane Deasy.

Funded by The Arts Council

**Curtis Auditorium, MTU Cork School of Music**  
**12 – 14 June | 7pm | €20 / €18 | 60 mins**

Music, creation, and direction **Jane Deasy**  
 Performers **Elizabeth Hilliard, Robbie Blake,**  
**Michelle O' Rourke** and **Tom Roseingrave**  
 Creative Producer **Mags Keohane** Sound Engineer **Andy Walsh**  
 Lighting Designer **Hanan Sheedy** Photography **Helio Leon**

# FINGERPRINTS

**Ioana Petcu-Colan** (violin/viola), **Steve Meyfroidt** (visuals), **Lina Andonovska** (flutes), **Alex Petcu** (percussion), **Ross Lyness** (trombone) and **Davide Marinelli** (dance/movement)

*Fingerprints* is a fully improvised live performance experience, where music, drawing and movement interact in real time. A truly unique experience where nothing is fixed in advance.

Performers move freely among the audience, weaving violin, viola, flutes, percussion and trombone into a soundscape that feels both contemporary and nostalgic. On a large screen: a fluid, hypnotic, bio-digital world is created using custom-built software that responds symbiotically to the evolving music and movement.

Every performance is distinct, and the audience is integral to this shared, multi-sensory creative process where sound, image, gesture and atmosphere emerge in response to the present moment.

*Fingerprints* is part of ongoing collaborative research that explores drawing as a responsive system shaped by sound, movement and live performance. At its core is a custom-built computational drawing system that reacts in real time to acoustic instruments and gesture. Rather than treating audio and video as simple control signals, it is tuned to register nuance (intensity, articulation, rhythm, and texture) so that marks emerge through interaction and improvisation.

The resulting visuals are residue rather than representation - records of interaction over time. In this context, "fingerprints" refers not to biometrics, but to the human specificity of live performance: timing, touch, hesitation and collaboration - traces of decisions made together in the moment.

Supported by an MTU Arts Office Create Le Chéile Arts Project Award.

**Triskel Christchurch | 21 June | 2pm & 7pm | €15 / €12 | 45 mins**



# THE SHUTEEN ERDENEBAATAR QUARTET

**Music Network presents the stunning sounds of the Shuteen Erdenebaatar Quartet. This hard-swinging yet deeply sensitive ensemble is led by award-winning pianist and composer Shuteen Erdenebaatar, hailed by Jazzwise as "one of the most exciting young talents in jazz".**

Born in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in 1998, Erdenebaatar grew up as a classical musician but yearned to explore the world of jazz. A graduate of Munich's Musikhochschule, she has already received numerous accolades, including the BMW Young Artist Jazz Award (2022) and German Jazz Award (2024). Her compositions have been performed by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and major Mongolian ensembles.

She leads three acclaimed projects – her quartet, Duo Lightville, and a 20-piece Chamber Jazz Orchestra. Erdenebaatar records with New York's Motéma Music and her first album with the quartet *Rising Sun* (2023) has earned international praise.

Erdenebaatar blends classical precision with jazz to create highly distinctive music full of melodic beauty that speaks directly to the heart. With her incredible artistry and vision, this pianist of the moment is rapidly emerging as one of the leading lights of the international jazz scene – a performer whose star continues to rise.

**20 June | Triskel Arts Centre | 8pm | €20 / €18 | 80 mins**

**Shuteen Erdenebaatar piano Simon Comté saxophone Nils Kugelmann bass Amir Bresler drums**



# ARCHITECTURE AND VISUAL ART

# AN CASADH (THE TURN)

**Laura Ní Fhlaibhín,  
curated by The Glucksman**

**Commissioned by The Glucksman in partnership with Cork Midsummer, *an casadh (the turn)* is a bio-sculptural installation and live performance exploring ideas of kinship, ritual and nourishment.**

Across the duration of *an casadh*, local earthworms will live within sculptural cocoons processing organic waste into vermicompost. In their interconnected ovoid homes these creatures will turn over the soil to generate rich fertilizer, focusing attention on the ecological co-existence which occurs all around us.

Located at multiple spaces in Elizabeth Fort, artist Laura Ní Fhlaibhín will activate the exhibition through performances that consider the historical significance of the site as a women's convict depot. Ní Fhlaibhín draws upon personal experience of endometrial illness through sculptural assemblage and ritual to consider health, virility and restoration in an environment seeped in the memory of incarceration.

A publication featuring writings by the artist and invited contributors Beulah Ezeugo, Laura Fitzgerald and Emily Steer will interpolate themes of illness, care and ecological entanglement.

Laura Ní Fhlaibhín is an artist from Wexford. She combines myth, personal recollection and oral histories through sculptural elements and writing. Her work often draws upon modes of care – of self and others, humans and animals, objects and materials. *an casadh* is curated by Katie O'Grady, curator of Exhibitions and Projects at The Glucksman and has been developed with biologists at University College Cork's School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, local community gardening initiatives through Cork City Council, intermittent land-use project Test Site and members of Cork Folklore Project. *an casadh* is funded by a project award from the the Arts Council of Ireland, and created for the Cork Midsummer Festival.

**Elizabeth Fort, Barrack Street | 13 – 20 June**

**10am – 5pm (Sun 12pm – 5pm)**

**Performances 13 & 20 June | 2pm | Free | Performances 90 mins**

Artist Laura Ní Fhlaibhín  
Glucksman curator Katie O'Grady  
Writing Contributors Beulah Ezeugo, Laura Fitzgerald, Emily Steer  
Glucksman Assistant Curator Julie Landers



Cotter & Naessens Architects with David Stalling,  
Michelle Delea, Luke Naessens, Alan Meredith

# ASSEMBLY: IRELAND AT VENICE 2025

**To assemble is to gather together as a group of people with a common interest. To assemble is to construct a whole from constituent parts. As both congregation and construction, assembly is at the heart of the architectural process.**

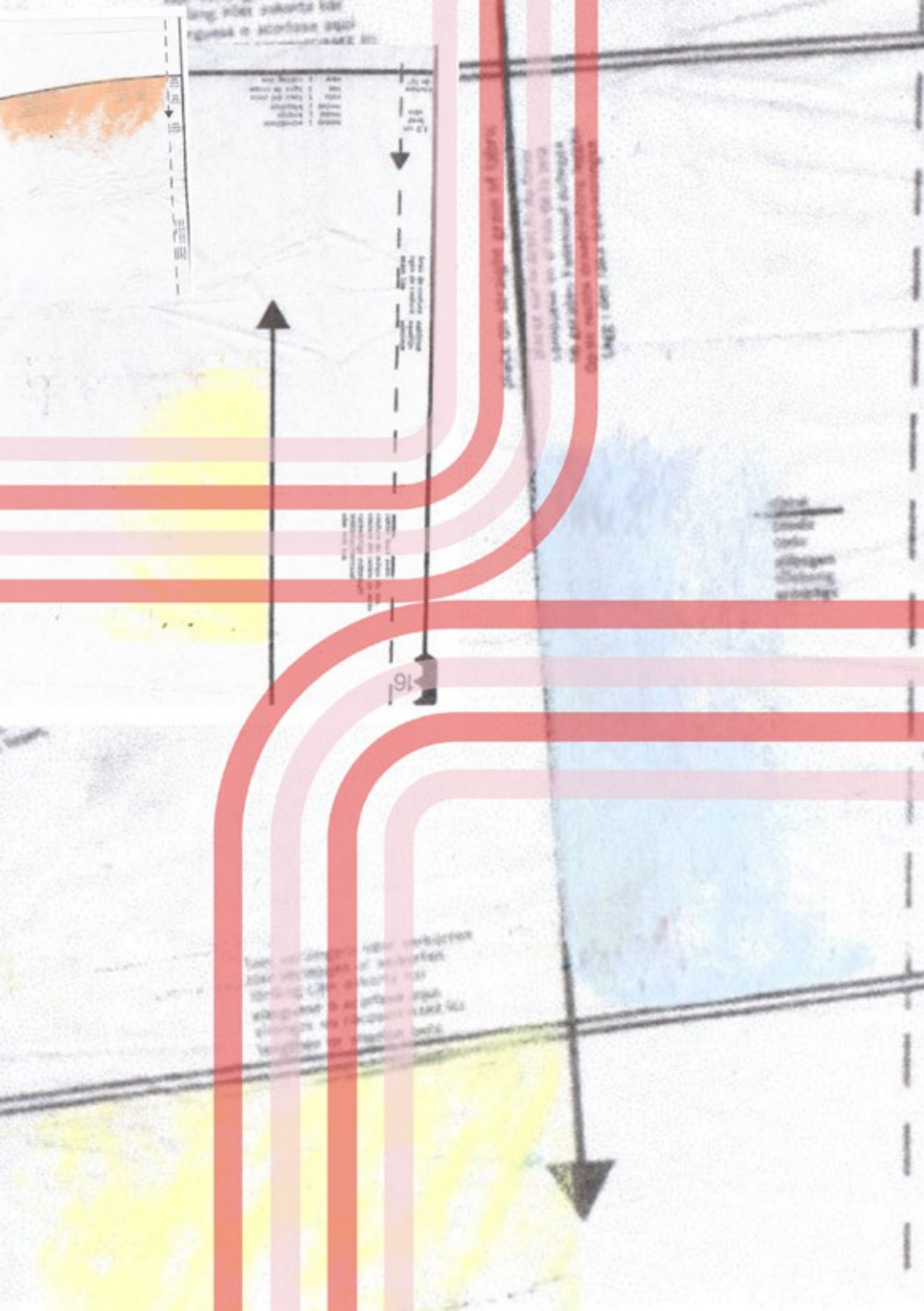
*Assembly* was Ireland's representation at the 19<sup>th</sup> Architecture Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia 2025. Curated by Carlo Ratti, the national pavilions at the Biennale were asked to bring one local solution to the problems facing our world: say, climate change, or the rise of AI, or growing rates of inequality. Ireland's pavilion approached that request from a slightly oblique angle. We cannot just depend on architects, engineers, or other experts to provide these solutions, we argue. They must emerge from, and be tested through, conversations with the widest possible public. All of us have a stake in these urgent problems, and all of us must have a say in how we solve them. This requires people coming together freely to pool knowledge, exchange ideas, and debate proposals for our collective future. It requires, in other words, *assembly*.

*Assembly* is the result of an interdisciplinary collaborative process between Cotter & Naessens Architects, sound artist David Stalling, architect and poet Michelle Delea, curator Luke Naessens, and woodworker Alan Meredith. Inspired by the innovative political model of the Citizens' Assembly, the design is a multi-sensory installation that offers visitors a soundscape to be inhabited and a space to be heard.

Ireland at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council. The national tour of Ireland at Venice is supported by the Arts Council to promote architecture to audiences in Ireland. Supported by RIAI, Cork City Council, Dublin City Council, Jacobs Engineering, Laois County Council, CCAE, United Hardware, Henry J Lyons, and Embassy of Ireland (Italy).

**Banking Hall, UCC Centre for Executive Education, Lapp's Quay**  
**14 June, 4pm–7.30pm | 15–21 June, 12pm–6pm | 17 June, 12pm–8pm**  
**Opening Event: *Assembly Conversations***  
**with Irish Architecture Foundation, 14 June 4pm**  
Free | [irelandatvenice2025.ie](http://irelandatvenice2025.ie)





Cork Midsummer Festival

# SOFT CITY CIRCUITS

**Ciara Rodgers**

***Soft City Circuits* is a site-responsive temporary installation created by Cork based visual artist Ciara Rodgers. In her latest installation for Cork Midsummer Festival, Ciara explores the entanglement of body and building and our physical and psychological experience of space by introducing soft and playful sculptural interventions all across the city.**

*Soft City Circuits* is a participatory walking project that invites us to experience familiar urban routes in new and unexpected ways. Participants will encounter gentle detours, unexpected forms and moments of pause that subtly shift how we move through the city. Accompanied by a guided walk, the project invites you to slow down, notice overlooked details and experience familiar streets as spaces of possibility rather than routine.

Ciara Rodgers is a Cork City based visual artist who works across drawing, installation, performance and photography. Recipient of Cork Midsummer Festival's Jane Anne Rothwell Award in 2026 and a studio member of Backwater Artists Group, Ciara's work has been exhibited widely both at home and abroad, often unfolding through site-responsive research. Her solo presentations include *Folly | Façade* at GOMA, Waterford (2024) and an upcoming exhibition at Pallas Projects, Dublin (2026)

Developed with the support of the Jane Anne Rothwell Award

**Throughout Cork City**  
**Installation 13 – 19 June | All day**  
**Walking Tours 13 & 14 June | 2pm & 5pm**  
Artist-Led Walking Tours Free but ticketed  
Walking tours 90 mins



**PARTICIPATION**



Cork Community Art Link & Cork Midsummer Festival

# MIDSUMMER PARADE

**Out of the Shenanigan Family's Imaginarium comes a unique celebration of the creativity and passion of local communities. Join our marvellous makers and performers, as we create our usual chaos and mirth in Cork's city centre for some Midsummer madness.**

Cork Community Art Link presents a rambunctious parade on the opening weekend of Cork Midsummer Festival. Watch as Community groups and organisations including Corlann Blackpool, Cork Simon, National Learning Network, L'Arche Cork, Joan Denise Moriarty School of Dance and many more, bring energy, passion and creativity to the streets of the city. Three months of collaboration and more than 70 workshops dedicated to creative exploration, will culminate in a joyous explosion of colour, music and performance.

Catch a glimpse of ingeniously engineered floats, stunning costumes and other wondrous contraptions that need to be seen to be believed.

If you want to get involved you're welcome to join our volunteer workshops on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2pm-5pm, or our costume workshops on Thursdays from 6pm - 8pm at The Lido, 71 Watercourse Road.

**Oliver Plunkett Street | 13 June | 3pm | Free | 60 mins**

Cork Midsummer Festival

# PLAYSPACES

**Chris Finnegan**

***PlaySpaces* is a city-wide trail of child-only play pods and cosy dens scattered across Cork City. These are spaces designed by kids for kids. We asked children from Cork what their city would look like if they were in charge. They wanted to play!**

*PlaySpaces* trail leads families on an exploration of secret hideaways and imaginative play installations developed in collaboration with children from across Cork City. Curl up with a book in your own reading pod at Cork City Library, people-watch from a treehouse in Cork Opera House, or let your imagination run wild at the Everyman Theatre.

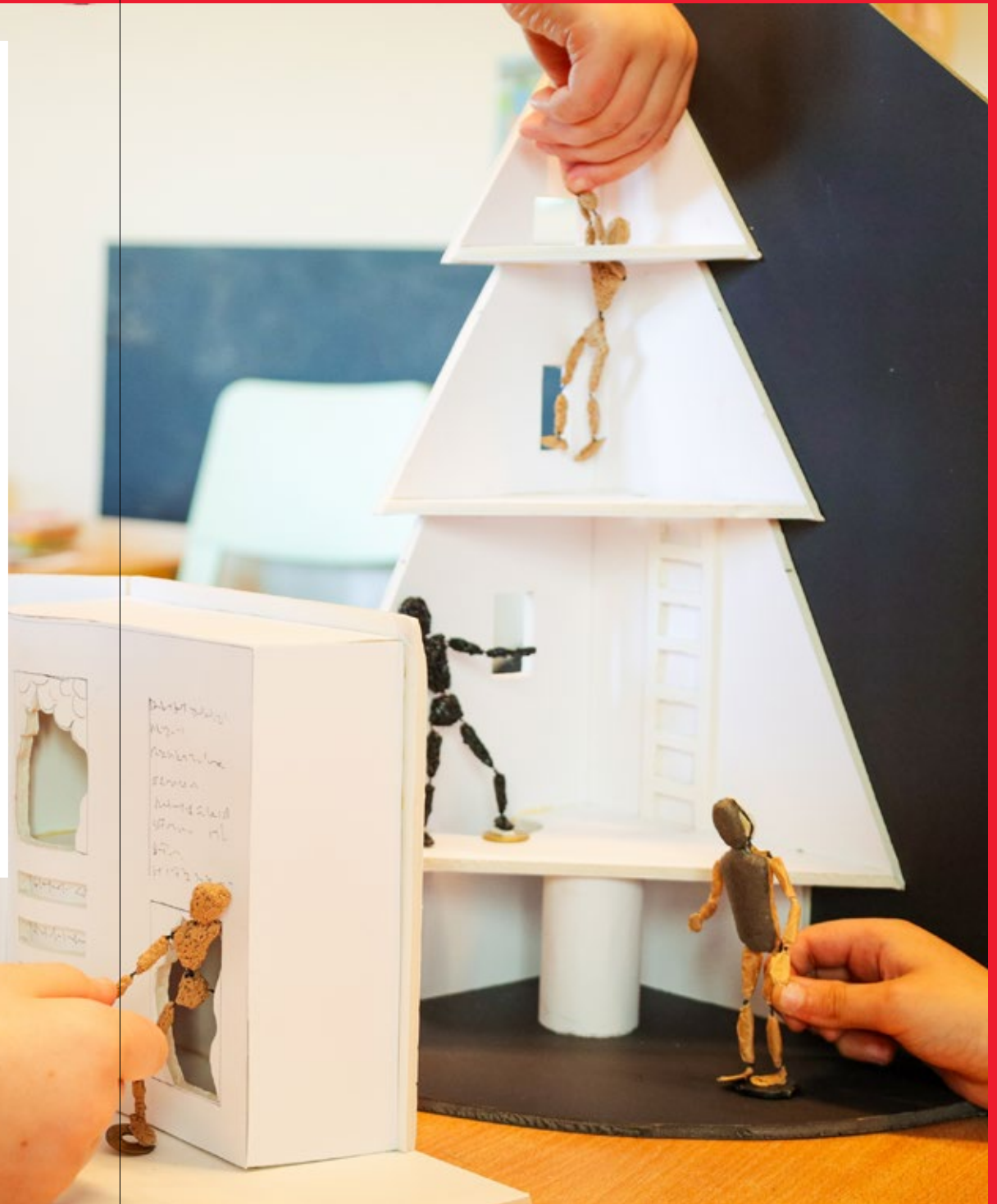
An exhibition at Sample-Studios Gallery The Lord Mayors Pavilion in Fitzgerald's Park will take you behind-the-scenes, sharing insights into the child-led design process. But remember, these are child-only zones where adults can peek in but kids rule!

Chris Finnegan's participatory arts practice explores play as a vital force of imagination, being and empowerment for young people. This project was developed in response to city-wide consultation with young people by Cork Child Friendly City and gives form to the voices of Cork's young citizens. This multi-year community arts project was made with children from settings across Cork City including Múin Afterschool, St. Vincent's Primary School and The Crann Centre.

Funded by the Arts Council's Arts in Early Learning and Childcare Scheme, Arts in Education Portal Documentation Award 2026 and Cork City Council through Creative Communities Scheme.

**Everyman, Cork Opera House, Cork City Library,  
St Peters and The Lord Mayor's Pavillion | 12 June – late Summer  
12pm – 5pm (closed Sun, The Lord Mayors Pavillion closed Mon)  
Check specific venue times on our website | Free  
Download Map from [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com)**

Lead Artist **Chris Finnegan** Producer **Susan Holland**  
Accessibility Support **Donna O'Keeney** Design Consolidation **Olan Wyrnn**





# DIGNITY

## Amanda Coogan with Lianne Quigley, Alvean Jones and the Cork Deaf Community Choir

This brilliant collaboration returns to Cork Midsummer Festival to present their fascination with the work of deaf writer Teresa Deevy. Adapting one of her most enduring radio plays in this centennial year of Radio Éireann.

'Leave your mind free to follow my words', Deevy's 1939 play, invites us to follow her to an unseen world. In *Dignity*, we invite you to experience another invisible world, as you follow our bodies as they reveal what happened out of sight, learning to fit into the world of sound.

We, as Deevy, had to 'listen differently'. We watch and sign – resilient and rebellious – and leave your mind free to follow our visual world, growing increasingly captivated by her work and its transformation into ISL.

Performed in Irish Sign Language, this production brings professional and community artists together to champion the choreographic power of Sign Language.

The company has previously presented *Ode to Joy* and *Possession* at Cork Midsummer Festival. For Coogan, one of Ireland's foremost performance artists, Sign Language is a touchstone. Born hearing to deaf parents, this visual and manual upbringing deeply informs her practice. She explores contested sites and minority narratives, distilling these into urgent contemporary performances.

These works stand at the forefront of some of the most exciting collaborative performances with marginalised communities.

Funded by the Arts Council and Cork City Council Artist and the Community Award.

**The Crypt, St Luke's**  
**19 June, 1pm; 20 – 21 June, 2pm & 5pm**  
€22 / €15 | 60 mins



Cork Midsummer Festival

# STIMPHONY

**Al Bellamy & Aoife King,  
with BenOg Brady-Bates,  
Ruby Hardie-Brown, Fergus  
Hegarty, Sarah Lynch and the  
Inclusive Music Ensemble**

**How does it feel to be us? More importantly, how  
does it sound?**

How do we hear Joy? Fear? Pride? Grief?

There is music in all of us, and melodies come from  
surprising places.

Stimphony explores the music within stimming bodies  
and asks:

What does somatic regulation sound like? How do our  
bodies and brains manage the constant sensory input of  
our world?

We manage through stimming – and we celebrate,  
mourn, rage and soothe through stimming too.

Co-created with disabled adults in Cork and the  
Inclusive Music Ensemble, Stimphony is a new  
theatrical-symphonic engagement with Neurodivergent  
experiences through movements inspired by body-  
memory, emotional regulation and personal growth.

Funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and Cork City Council Artist and  
the Community Award. Supported by MTU Cork School of Music and the  
Inclusive Music Ensemble.

**The Granary Theatre, UCC**  
**12 & 13 June | 2pm & 7pm | €15 / €12 | 60 mins**



# THE WIGGLE WAGON

## Moss Russell

**This feast for the senses sees three colourful beings moving through the space with their wonderful sensory sculpture, while finding unique ways for audiences to enjoy art.**

At first glance, you'll see a vibrant sensory sculpture on wheels, accompanied by colourful performers who use circus skills, gentle interaction, and audience-led approaches to spark curiosity and delight. At its heart, this is a wonderful invitation to audiences to come as they are.

Each moment, the wigglers adapt to the person in front of them, celebrating what they enjoy and desire in real time. The wagon itself is designed to spark curiosity and encourage explorative, gentle, and tactile experiences for young and old.

*The Wiggle Wagon* brings inclusive, low-pressure fun wherever it goes.

Supported by Cork City Council with additional support by Promenade and Circus Factory.

**Bishop Lucey Park | 13 June | 2pm & 4pm | Free | 45 mins**

Created by Moss Russell

Cast Moss Russell, Edeain Samuels, Macha Shewolf, Chloe Pisco, Kateo, Bella Young

Produced by Ciara O Mahony Sculpture by Elisa Gallo Rosso

Concept Development with Jude O'Neil Mentorship Jody O'Neill



PHOTO: DAVID HEGARTY



**Cork Midsummer Festival, Cork Migrant Centre and YMCA**

# SOUNDBURST

## Midsummer Youth Assembly

**Get ready for a fun-filled day at Soundburst – a vibrant, youth-led takeover of Fitzgerald's Park bursting with feel-good summer energy. With young people at the heart, creativity, culture and celebration take centre stage.**

*Soundburst* is a mix of young people from many cultures joining together to showcase creativity that is bursting with joy. Enjoy an energetic mix of live music, DJs, spoken word, and performances from young artists, plus fun workshops where you can try something new.

Whether you're here to perform, participate or just chill, there's a space for you.

Fitzgerald's Park will come alive with youthful beats, colourful markets, interactive games, and a dedicated sensory area for those who need a quieter moment. Young people and families can explore, create and connect in a safe, inclusive space designed by youth, for youth. With delicious street food, playful activities and happy vibes, *Soundburst* is all about togetherness, creativity and celebrating our generation. Come along, bring your friends, and be part of something energetic and full of joy.

A partnership between Cork Midsummer Festival, Cork Migrant Centre and YMCA, in collaboration with Cork City Council. Supported by Regional Creatives Fund, RTÉ Toyshow Appeal with Community Foundation Ireland and Cork LCYP's Creative Network Fund with Creative Ireland and CETB.

**Fitzgerald's Park | 20 June 12pm–5pm | Free**

Under 14's to be supervised

Full schedule on [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com)

Youth Facilitators Zen Tshabangu, David Baldacchino

PHOTO: YMCA



Cork Midsummer Festival, Togher Community Garden & Green Spaces for Health

## GLOBAL GARDEN

**Aoife Barrett & Amal Hope**

**A vibrant celebration of community collaboration through seed stories, forgotten foods, and garden mapping within a haven of nature in the city.**

This creative collaboration builds on the sustainability and inter-cultural ethos of Togher Community Garden, a dynamic community of 75 growers, from 15+ countries. Join us in celebrating the promise of seed, it's magic to grow from tiny beginnings with everything it needs to create a whole plant; discovering nutritious benefits of forgotten foods such as the nettle and dandelion; a plant naming walk; as well as mapping the garden flora by printing plant leaves to find them throughout the community garden.

Aoife has a specific interest in community, horticulture, and through her Print-Van-Go pop-up studio creates space for community dialogue. Over the past 3 years she has developed The People's Garden – Clonoulty, with a rural Tipperary community. Amal's creative practice centres on human connection and identity, exploring empathy and cultural fusion. She facilitates creative wellbeing programmes with communities throughout Cork.

Presented as part of Creative Parks, an annual partnership between Cork City Council's Culture and Creativity Team and Cork Midsummer Festival, collaborating with artists and communities to develop an all-ages creative day within a city park. Supported by Cork City Council through the Creative Ireland Programme, an all-of-government initiative which places creativity at the centre of public policy. Further info on [creativeireland.ie](http://creativeireland.ie)

**Clashdub Park | 13 June | 11am – 2pm | Free**



Creativity & Change and Sauti Studio

## CRUCIAL MOVES

**Crucial Moves Collective**

**The Crucial Moves Collective is a community of young creatives whose families came to Ireland seeking sanctuary, and who navigate growing up here from an intersectional position, working collaboratively to create work that centres their stories and perspectives.**

*Crucial Moves* was conceived by artist Helen O' Keeffe (Creativity & Change), in collaboration with Raphael Olympio (Sauti Studio) and a trusted community of arts and cultural practitioners. Developed through a travelling residency from Cork to Donegal in April 2026, *Crucial Moves* brought together practicing and emerging artists from diverse disciplines and cultural backgrounds to explore connections to self, home, Ireland and community and develop a multi-disciplinary body of artwork reflecting these themes.

At Cork Midsummer, the Crucial Moves Collective present a programme of events in collaboration with local artists, collectives and spaces.

Supported by the Arts Council

**Crucial Space:** Exhibition and art trail.

**The Glucksman and across Cork City 12 – 21 June**  
(Launch 16 June 3pm)

**Crucial Views:** Premiere of the Crucial Moves documentary directed by SwanIGuess and experimental video work by Artem Trofimenko/The Slow Camera Exchange.

**The Pavilion | 17 June**  
**7pm – 9.30pm | €5**

**Crucial Sounds:** Hear the Crucial Moves Mixtape, with poetry by O'Bhéal go Béal and experimental sounds by the collective.

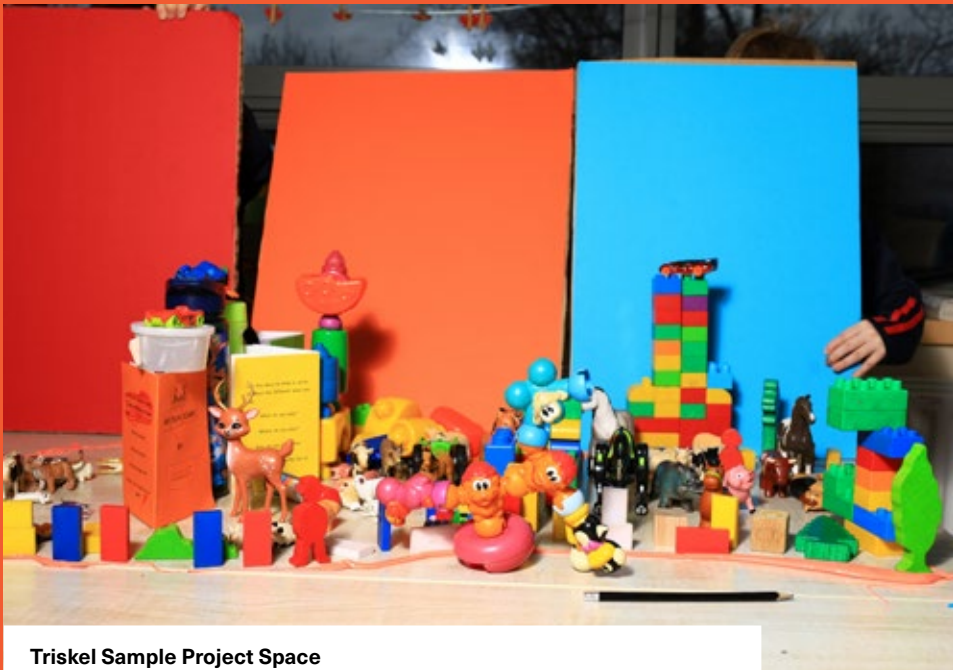
**Plugd Records | 18 June | 7pm – 10pm**

**Crucial Studio:** Creative workshops for young people by the Crucial Moves Collective at *SoundBurst*.

**Fitzgerald's Park | 20 June | 12pm – 5pm**

**Crucial Vibes:** Block party with the Crucial Moves Collective and surprise guests.  
**TEST SITE | 20 June | 7pm – 9pm | €5**

Look out for more pop up events throughout the week. Keep informed at [crucialmoves.com](http://crucialmoves.com), [@creativityandchange](https://twitter.com/creativityandchange) and [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com)



Triskel Sample Project Space

## PLAY THIS WAY

**Chris Finnegan**

*Play This Way* transforms a gallery into an interactive play space for early years children (0-6). Taking inspiration from child-centred pedagogies such as the Montessori and Reggio Emilia approaches, as well as Simon Nicholson's loose parts play theory, children are invited to interact with the space and materials - exploring, playing, imagining and having fun.

Unique custom-made materials, games and playable sculptures have been developed by Chris through research and testing with children in early years settings in Cork City.

As the space changes and evolves as a participatory installation, Chris will document the results of the children's play, with this photographic documentation accumulating in the space in varied formats throughout the exhibition.

Part of the Triskel Sample Project Studio Programme. Supported by Arts Council Children and Young People's Arts Bursary Award 2025

**Triskel Sample Project Space | 12 – 21 June (Closed Mondays)**  
12pm – 5pm | Free

## ...WHERE SOUNDS GROW...

**Natural Creators / Karen Power**

*...where sounds grow...* is an immersive and interactive sound installation for our youngest ears. Inviting children into a world filled with living recorded sounds of nature.

A multi-sensory experience for early years children, rooted in sound and listening. This world contains some of the most beautiful natural sounds from ecosystems near and far, which have been composed into an immersive and interactive environment for children to explore.

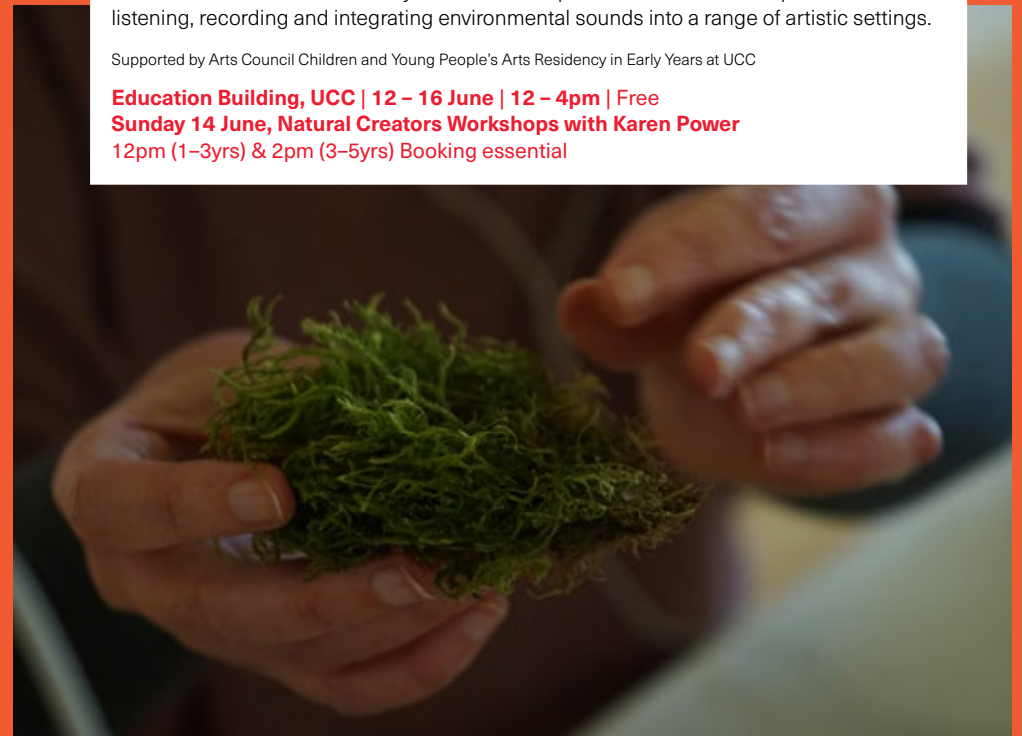
Featuring a range of safe and natural objects that become musical instruments, *...where sounds grow...* encourages interaction and play to evolve organically. The tone of this space is soft, calm and is suitable for every child to engage with in their own way.

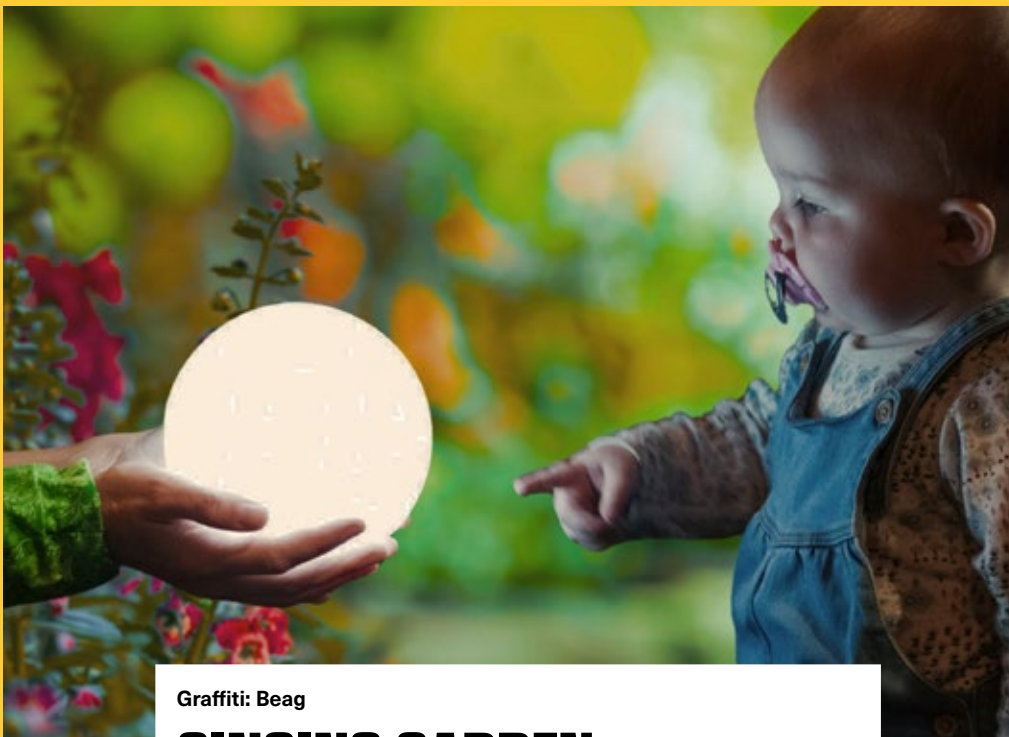
We welcome you to *...where sounds grow...* where there is time and space to listen to our world.

Natural Creators is a Music/Sound Program that harnesses natural creative exploration in our youngest ears. Developed by Irish composer Karen Power, the NC aesthetic creates a holistic learning and development environment through guided multi-sensory activities, improvisation and non-bias exploration, which are all guided through the act of listening. Karen Power is an internationally renowned composer/sonic artist who specialises in listening, recording and integrating environmental sounds into a range of artistic settings.

Supported by Arts Council Children and Young People's Arts Residency in Early Years at UCC

**Education Building, UCC | 12 – 16 June | 12 – 4pm | Free**  
**Sunday 14 June, Natural Creators Workshops with Karen Power**  
12pm (1–3yrs) & 2pm (3–5yrs) Booking essential





Graffiti: Beag

## SINGING GARDEN

### The African Queens

***Singing Garden* is an immersive, multi-sensory experience created especially for babies (0–18 months) and their important adults.**

Led by Graffiti:BEAG artists in collaboration with The African Queens – a Cork-based South African all-female a cappella ensemble – this gentle and engaging experience invites participants to explore lullabies, music and sound, alongside colours, textures and elements of nature. Using soft, playful materials, *Singing Garden* creates a calm and nurturing space for connection, curiosity and early sensory discovery.

BEAG is a pioneering early years arts programme run by Graffiti since 2010 – delivering high-quality creative experiences for children from birth to three years of age.

Supported by The Arts Council, Cork County Arts Office, Cork City Arts Office and HSE South.

**Graffiti Theatre | 18 June | 11am | 60 mins**  
 €10 (per baby with parent / guardian)

## YOUNG CRITICS PANEL

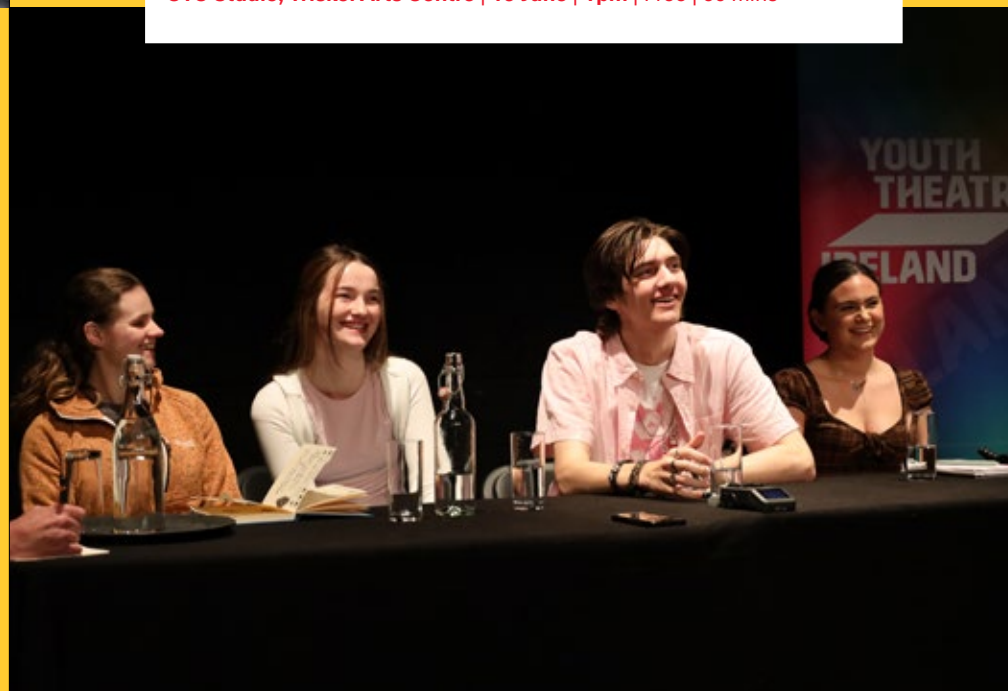
### Youth Theatre Ireland

**The Young Critics are coming to Cork! One of Youth Theatre Ireland's most popular and innovative programmes, the Young Critics recruits 14 young people from youth theatres across the country.**

Guided on their journey of critical discovery by expert facilitators, they learn about how and why theatre is made, see incredible shows and voice their opinions. Over the course of the festival, the Young Critics watch a selection of productions and present their critical responses at this special event. Chaired by Dr. Karen Fricker, The Young Critics Panel is always lively and informative as the young people share their views with humour, passion and eloquence.

Established in 1980, Youth Theatre Ireland is the national development organisation for youth theatre. We are unique in our commitment to youth-centred drama practice and know that youth theatre is a place to develop young artists and young citizens. We promote youth drama opportunities that focus on the artistic, personal and social development of young people, and support almost 60 youth theatres nationwide.

**CTC Studio, Triskel Arts Centre | 19 June | 1pm | Free | 60 mins**



# FÉASTA

Produced by Goldfish Events as part of this year's Cork Midsummer Festival, the festival food and craft market will be a vibrant celebration of local creativity and flavour.

This curated market brings together a diverse mix of artisan makers, craft producers and the best of local food stalls, offering everything from handmade gifts, freshly prepared street food and indulgent sweet treats!

Set within the lively pavements of Patrick's Street, the market creates a space for locals and visitors to gather, explore and connect with the people behind the amazing products on offer.

Meet the makers, taste something new and soak up the buzz of the city over the two Sundays of the festival.

**Patrick's Street Pavements | 14 & 21 June | 11am – 7pm**



**There'll also be plenty of food and special events at this year's festival!**  
Below is a taster of some of what's in store.  
Full details at [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com)

## TIGER BALM CLUB X CORK MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

Great ready to ignite your taste buds! This year, Cork Midsummer Festival teams up with Tiger Balm Club for some high energy pop up food events. Join us as we embark on this exciting journey that blends the magic of Midsummer with the revitalizing essence of Tiger Balm, making Cork the ultimate destination for food lovers and festival-goers alike.

Tiger Balm Club is your favourite supper club. Corkonians Mark Ahern & Sunshine Primo chase spice with a few small beers and lots of mischief. Reflective plates in deep bold flavours of their past lives abroad - creating high-energy dining experiences, pairing spicy, salty, sour, and sweet plates with natural wines.

Pop up events will include Festival Opening Night at The Pavilion, Carey's Lane and a pre-theatre menu at Cork Opera House for the opening night of 1975 / Naoi Déag Seachtó Cúig.

## ISABELLE HUPPERT PRE EVENT DINNER AT HAYFIELD MANOR

Join us at the Hayfield Manor for an elegant pre-event dinner before the highly anticipated Isabelle Huppert Performance at UCC on Sunday, 14 June 2026.



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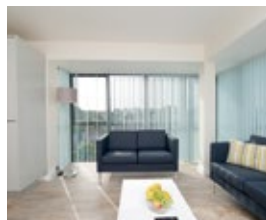
[irishexaminer.com/artsandculture](http://irishexaminer.com/artsandculture)

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All the world's a stage,  
and all the men and women merely players  
they have their exits and their entrances,  
and favourite cafe, where they  
eat many lunches...

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**LOCATION:** English Market, Cork  
**WEBSITE:** [www.farmgatecork.ie](http://www.farmgatecork.ie)  
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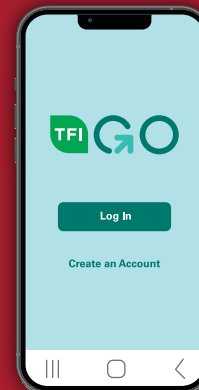
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**LUNCH:** 12:00 -15:30



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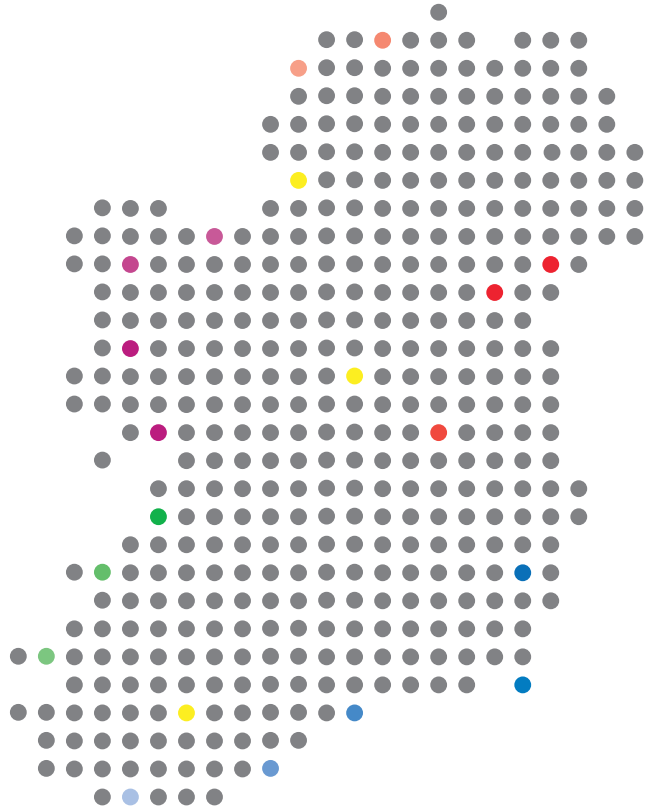
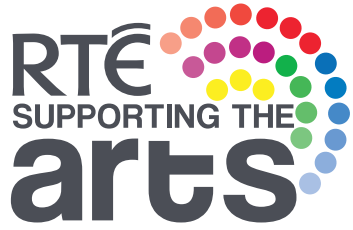
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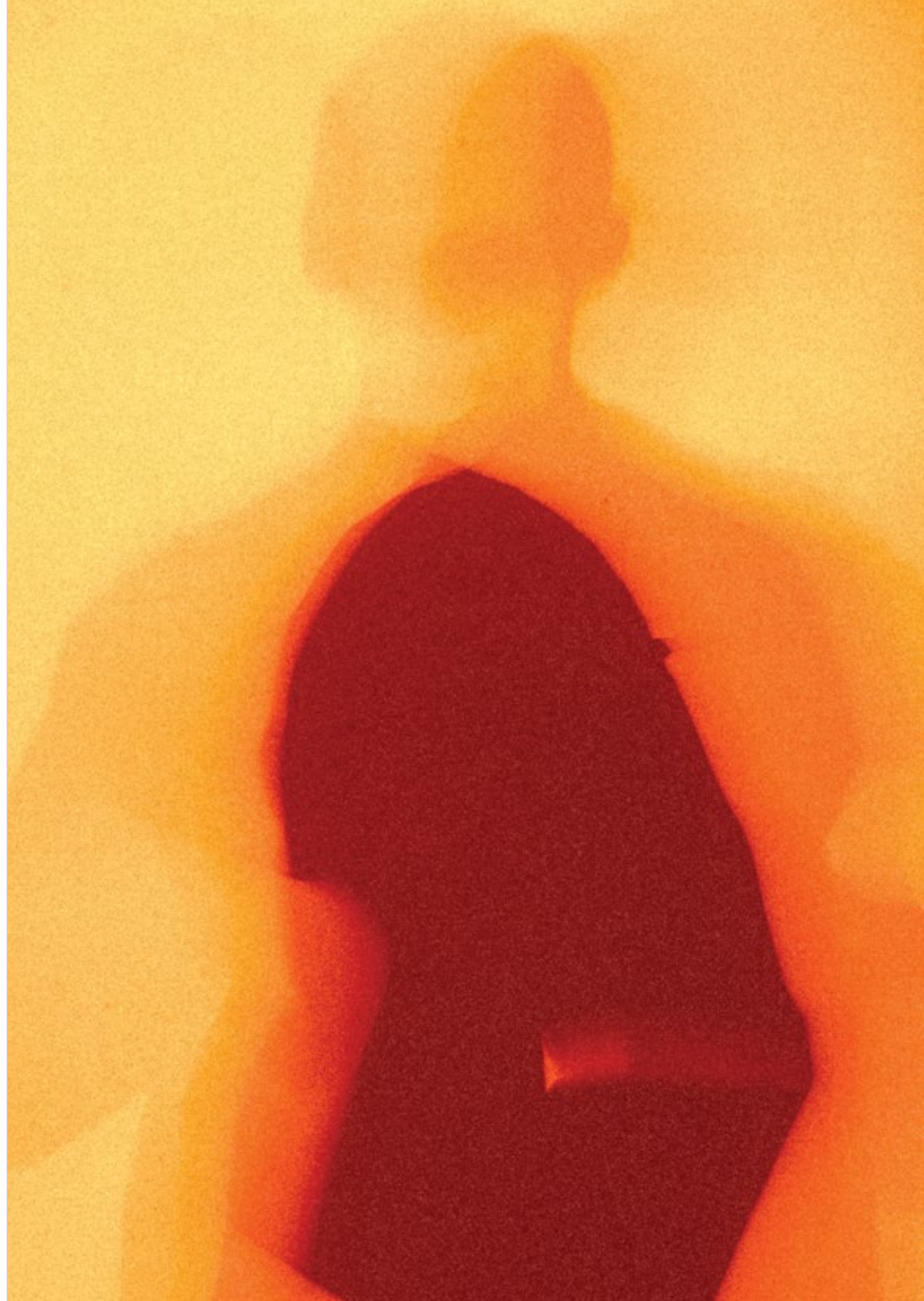
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# Map / Venues

- 1 UCC
- 2 Cork Opera House
- 3 Cork City Hall
- 4 Elizabeth Fort
- 5 Event Room, Marina Market
- 6 Swimming pool on St Patrick's Quay
- 7 The Pavilion
- 8 Triskel Arts Centre
- 9 The Crypt, St Luke's
- 10 The Everyman
- 11 Dance Cork Firkin Crane
- 12 MTU Cork School of Music
- 13 Cork Arts Theatre
- 14 Atkin's Hall
- 15 Granary Theatre

- 16 The Savoy
- 17 The Glucksman
- 18 St Fin Barre's Cathedral
- 19 UCC Centre for Executive Education, Lapp's Quay
- 20 Oliver Plunkett Street
- 21 Cork City Library
- 22 St Peter's
- 23 Bishop Lucey Park
- 24 Fitzgerald's Park
- 25 Clashdub Park
- 26 Plugd
- 27 Test Site
- 28 Graffiti Theatre
- 29 St Patrick's Street





| EVENT  | PAGE | VENUE   | FRI 12             | SAT 13    | SUN 14    | MON 15   | TUES 16                | WED 17          | THURS 18        | FRI 19   | SAT 20              | SUN 21    |
|--|------|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| <b>Music</b>                                 |      |   |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| Idrisi Ensemble                              | 50   | St Fin Barres Cathedral   |                    | 7pm       |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| Dances For The City<br>(In a Time of Angst)  | 52   | The Curtis Auditorium,<br>Cork School of Music                          |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          | 7pm                 |           |
| The Warm Up                                  | 54   | The Curtis Auditorium,<br>Cork School of Music                          | 7pm                | 7pm       | 7pm       |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| Fingerprints                                 | 56   | Triskel Christchurch  |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     | 2pm & 7pm |
| The Shuteen Erdenebaatar Quartet             | 57   | Triskel Christchurch  |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          | 8pm                 |           |
| <b>Architecture and Visual Art</b>           |      |   |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| An Casadh (The Turn)                         | 60   | Elizabeth Fort  | 10am–5pm           | 10am–5pm  | 12–5pm    | 10am–5pm | 10am–5pm               | 10am–5pm        | 10am–5pm        | 10am–5pm | 10am–5pm            | 10am–5pm  |
| Assembly                                     | 62   | The Banking Hall,<br>UCC Centre for Executive<br>Education, Lapp's Quay |                    |           | 4pm –7pm  | 12pm–6pm | 12pm–6pm               | 12pm–8pm        | 12pm–6pm        | 12pm–6pm | 12pm–6pm            | 12pm–6pm  |
| Soft City Circuits                           | 64   | City Wide   |                    | All Day   | All Day   | All Day  | All Day                | All Day         | All Day         | All Day  |                     |           |
| Sofy City Circuits – artist-led tours*       | 64   | City Wide   |                    | 2pm & 5pm | 2pm & 5pm |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| <b>Participation</b>                         |      |   |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| Midsummer Parade                             | 68   | Oliver Plunkett Street  |                    | 3pm       |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| Playspaces*                                  | 70   | (Check Times and venues<br>for opening)                                 | 12–5pm             | 12–5pm    |           | 12–5pm   | 12–5pm                 | 12–5pm          | 12–5pm          | 12–5pm   | 12–5pm              |           |
| Dignity                                      | 72   | The Crypt at St Lukes   |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 | 1pm      | 2pm & 5pm           | 2pm & 5pm |
| Stimphony                                    | 74   | The Granary Theatre, UCC  | 2pm & 7pm          | 2pm & 7pm |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| The Wiggle Wagon                             | 76   | Bishop Lucey Park   |                    | 2pm & 4pm |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| Soundburst                                   | 77   | Fitzgerald's Park   |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          | 12–5pm              |           |
| Global Garden                                | 78   | Clashdub Park   |                    | 11am–2pm  |           |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| Crucial Moves*                               | 79   | Glucksman and Citywide  | 11am–5pm           | 11am–5pm  | 11am–5pm  |          | 11am–5pm<br>Launch 3pm | 11am–5pm<br>7pm | 11am–5pm<br>7pm | 11am–5pm | 11am–5pm<br>7pm–9pm | 11am–5pm  |
| Play This Way                                | 80   | Triskel Sample Project<br>Studio  | 12pm–5pm           | 12pm–5pm  | 12pm–5pm  |          | 12pm–5pm               | 12pm–5pm        | 12pm–5pm        | 12pm–5pm | 12pm–5pm            | 12pm–5pm  |
| Where Sounds Grow                            | 81   | Education Building, UCC   | 12–4pm             | 12–4pm    | 12–4pm    | 12–4pm   | 12–4pm                 |                 |                 |          |                     |           |
| Singing Garden                               | 82   | Graffiti Theatre  |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 | 11am            |          |                     |           |
| Young Critics Panel                          | 83   | CTC, Triskel Arts Centre  |                    |           |           |          |                        |                 |                 | 1pm      |                     |           |
| Féasta                                       | 84   | Patrick's Street<br>Pavements   |                    |           | 11am–7pm  |          |                        |                 |                 |          |                     | 11am–7pm  |
| Tiger Balm Club X<br>Cork Midsummer Festival | 85   | The Pavilion,<br>Cork Opera House                                       | 10.30–<br>Midnight |           |           |          |                        |                 | 6pm–8pm         |          |                     |           |

\* Check website for full schedule

**TIME TO PLAY  
DANCE  
LAUGH  
CONNECT**

**YOU BELONG HERE,  
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.**

## THE TEAM

Director  
**Lorraine Maye**

Producer  
**Rose-Anne Kidney**

Communications  
and Development Manager  
**Conall Ó Riain**

Production Manager  
**Aidan Wallace**

Operations Manager  
**Aisling O'Riordan**

Head of Participation and Engagement  
**Susan Holland**

Digital Marketing  
**Emer Casey**

Health and Safety  
**Joe Stockdale**

Literature Programme Co-curated by  
**Danny Denton and Lorraine Maye**

Additional programming –  
see programme partners section

PR  
**Sinead O'Doherty**

Graphic Design  
**Gareth Jones**

Website  
**Path**

Copy Editing, Consultation and Cover Design  
**3B1**

Auditors  
**KSi Faulkner Orr**

Bookkeeper  
**OOC Associates Limited**

Solicitors  
**TJ Hegarty and Sons**

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