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Liverpool Irish Festival

17 October - 2 November 2008

Supported by

Celebrating the
links between
Liverpool and
Ireland



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Proud sponsors of the **Liverpool Irish Festival 2008**



WELCOME

...to the Norfolkline Liverpool Irish Festival 2008 - the sixth annual Festival celebrating the unique links between Liverpool and Ireland.

This is a special year for us as it is for Liverpool. With events taking place all year round the Festival has grown in popularity and reach as we spread our wings over the whole of the city with events in new venues including The Silvestrian Centre off Scotland Road, The Picket off Jamaica Street, St Bride's on Catherine Street, and The Cornerstone Campus as well as St Michaels Irish Centre in West Derby and our regular city centre venues. We also welcome new supporters, particularly Norfolkline, whose ferries are the embodiment of links between Liverpool and Ireland.

Once again our Festival offers a range of cultural activities that are unique to the Liverpool/Ireland mix; from late night pub music sessions to readings from James Joyce, from the blood and thunder of Gaelic football to the more measured passion of Christy Moore and from the contemporary theatre of Fishamble to the city-wide Heritage Walks and Coach Tour – it is all there, a celebration of Liverpool and Ireland, past and present.

John Chandler

Chair, Liverpool Irish Festival Society

Jake Roney

Festival Director

A TASTE OF LIVERPOOL IRISH CULTURE

The Festival has joined forces with the **Everyman Bistro**, 5-9 Hope Street 0151 708 9545 and **Raven Irish American Bar**, Britannia Pavillion, Albert Dock 0151 709 7097 to offer an Irish menu during the Festival period.

SAMHAIN

Samhain is the Irish word for November and the major Celtic festival of Féile na Samhna was held on the evening of October 31 into the following day.

Lá den saol, bhain an tSamhain le deireadh obair an fhómhair and tús an gheimhridh, leis na hoícheanta dorcha agus an drochaimsir ag druidim linn, bhain sé le teagmháil idir sinn agus ár sinsir, idir an domhan eile agus an domhan seo.

This was a seasonal festival, but also a time when people felt closer to those that had gone before them. Having the Liverpool Irish Festival at this time of year continues a tradition that is thousands of years old. In Ireland, Oireachtas na Samhna, the major celebration of Gaelic culture, is also held at this time.

Tony Birtill

Conradh na Gaeilge,

Liverpool Irish Festival Board Member

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

With thanks to:

All our Board members
Norfolkline Ferries
The Liverpool Daily Post and Echo
Robert Cains Brewery
The Philharmonic Hall
St Michaels Irish Centre
Paver Smith Associates
Liverpool University Institute of Irish Studies
Liverpool Community College
Cornerstone Campus at Hope University

...and special thanks to...

Tricia Lacey at Greenbank Primary School, Greg Quieri, Claire Chandler, Derek Culley, Fis 2008 and all those organisations and individuals who have done so much to make the Festival a success.

LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL - YEAR ROUND

January

LIF hosts the aftershow party for the band 'Moving Hearts' at Hope Street Hotel with traditional music and dancing

February

Rehearsed reading of Liverpool Irish play 'Walton Lock', Hope University

March

'Children of Lir' education workshops exploring this Irish myth in schools across Merseyside in a fortnight-long celebration surrounding St Patrick's Day

May

Liverpool Irish Festival is invited to represent Liverpool Irish culture during the Queen's visit to open the Echo Arena

June

Liverpool Irish Festival is represented at the Lord Mayor's parade for the first time

June

Liverpool Irish Festival supports The Three Fellas, Irish comedy event at the Echo Arena

July

Liverpool Irish Festival presents the Liverpool Irish Culture Project at Chesterfield High, Crosby

July

Liverpool Irish Festival supports the FIS 2008 Exhibition, a display of Irish art in Liverpool

August

Liverpool Irish Festival begins an ongoing project with the Irish traveller community at Tara Park

September

Liverpool Irish Festival presents an open air ceili in association with the Hope Street Feast

September

Liverpool Irish Festival Schools Project takes place in Merseyside Primary Schools

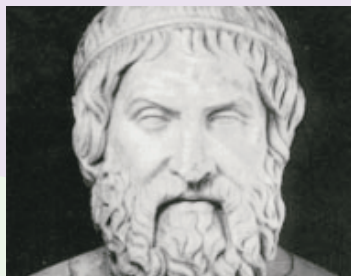


Liverpool Irish Festival

17 October - 2 November 2008



Burial at Thebes



supported by



Friday 17 October

7.30pm

Philharmonic Hall

£10, £15, £20, £25, £30



The Manning Camerata

Derek Walcott director

Peter Manning conductor

The world premiere of a modern opera and the first time that Irish Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney has exposed his version of Sophocles' *Antigone* to musical interpretation.

Based on the concept that Greek stories can be used to investigate modern politics and cultures, in *The Burial at Thebes* the victorious leader Creon is forced to choose between his public responsibility and personal concerns when faced with Antigone's disobedience. All too late, Creon realises the fatal consequences of personal inflexibilities that have wiped out his family.

Trinidad-born composer Dominique Le Gendre will use the orchestra, soloists and chorus to recreate the action in the epic poem with narration by the poet Anthony Joseph. It is a groundbreaking approach to a 1,000 year-old tragedy with universal and contemporary resonance.

www.liverpoolphil.com

Band on the Boat

Friday 17 and Sunday 19 October

A treat for all those travelling on the Norfolkline Ferry to Dublin tonight as a group of young musicians from the Liverpool branch of Comhaltas, the Irish arts organisation, serenade you during the crossing. If you are making the crossing to Liverpool on Saturday, you can catch them on the way back!

Did You Know



James Thornton, composer of *Sweet Sixteen*, was born on Kew Street in Liverpool to Irish parents, he moved to America as a child where he started to write songs.



Traditional Music and Singing Sessions

Once again, at the heart of our Festival is a set of FREE Sessions featuring some of the best session musicians from Liverpool and Ireland.

This year we are at The Blackburne Arms on Catherine Street and just around the corner at Peter Kavanagh's on Egerton Street, with extra sessions at The Casa on Hope Street, bring your instruments and voices and join in or just come along for the craic!

There will be a raffle held at each live session. Prizes include a two way trip to Dublin, and tickets to Solas.

Running throughout the Festival period starting with:

The Blackburne Arms

Friday 17 October, 10pm – 2am

'In my Liverpool Home' Merseyside folk clubs celebrate their Irish roots with a repertoire of popular songs – come down and join in the fun.

Peter Kavanagh's

Friday 17 October, 10pm

'The Liverpool Sessions' featuring musicians from 'The Edinburgh' and other regular Liverpool sessions.

The Blackburne Arms

Saturday 18 October, 10.30pm

(after Christy Moore)

The Liverpool Irish Sessions.

Peter Kavanagh's

Saturday 18 October, 10.30pm

(after Christy Moore)

Irish Singalong Night.



The Casa

Sunday 19 October, 2pm onwards

While away a lazy Sunday afternoon in the company of the Festival's great session musicians.

The Blackburne Arms

Friday 24 October, 10pm

The 'Craic Weekend' revisited. Before The Liverpool Irish Festival came to life there were a couple of mighty 'Craic Weekends'. Veterans of those halcyon days once more cross the water to our fair city.

The Blackburne Arms

Saturday 25 October 10pm

The 'Craic Weekend' continues
- with a Sunday lie in to follow!

See website for latest information.

Leg of Lamb

**Friday 17 and Saturday 18
October 7.45pm**

Cornerstone, Hope University,
Everton Campus
(between Shaw Street and Islington)
£7 and £4 (concessions)

As Liverpool comes together to celebrate its status as European Capital of Culture with street parties all over the city, Maggie sits at home waiting for the party to start. For her, though, the real celebration is getting her family back together again under one roof. As sibling tensions begin to surface this once proud and close Liverpool Irish family begins to tear itself apart.

'A Leg of Lamb' is written by emerging local writer, Stella Melia, who lives locally in Everton, and this will be the first time her work has been staged professionally. The play is performed by Thunderstruck Theatre Workshop, a newly formed company of experienced and passionate local artists.

The Chapter & Verse Literature Festival

Saturday 18 October
The Bluecoat, School Lane

The first Chapter & Verse Literature Festival at the Bluecoat will be taking place on 9-19 October 2008 and will host an exciting range of local, national and international authors. To celebrate the Liverpool Irish Festival, there will be a feast of contemporary Irish literature on Saturday 18 October 2008. Poetry, in English and Irish, fiction and scriptwriting will all be part of the programme and featured authors will include Galway poet Rita Ann Higgins, from County Longford, Vona Groarke, and from Belfast, Ronan Bennett, one of Ireland's finest novelists ('Havoc, in its Third Year' and 'Zugzwang').

If you wish to receive a festival programme, please contact Phil Olsen, Marketing Officer, the Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX phil@thebluecoat.org.uk or 0151 702 7789.

Celtic Folk Roots Battle of the Bands

**Heats on 3rd, 10th, 17th, and
the final on 24th October 8pm**
The Pilgrim, Pilgrim Street, £2

This year's Battle of the Bands is different: we've gone acoustic! The bands will be unplugged, putting away the Strats and dusted off their bazoukis. Some of Liverpool's best up and coming bands explore their own and their music's Irish roots. As usual there are big prizes to be won including a trip to Ireland (courtesy of Norfolklines) and an opportunity to play at the St Brides concert on the 25th.



Liverpool Irish Heritage Walking Tours

Finding the Liverpool Irish
- North city centre walking tour

Saturday 18 October

1pm until 3pm

Meet at St Luke's Gardens, Leece Street
(the 'bombed out church').

We will be finishing at The Bluecoat in time to see the Gaelic poetry film *Nead an Droilin* (The Wren's Nest). (£7 and £5 (concessions). Guides: Greg Quieri (Liverpool Great Hunger group) and Dr. Ian McKeane (Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool).

On this walk, rambling from St Luke's across to Scotland Road, you'll discover the Irish connection with some well known sites and be surprised by other hidden gems. For further information and bookings contact Greg Quieri on 07854415721 or Ian McKeane on 0151 794 3075 (voicemail). Or just turn up on the day.

James William Carling - Street Artist Competition

Saturday 18 October

All day


Ropewalks Square (Top of Bold Street)

Open Culture, Urban Canvas, The Big Draw and, Scottie Press, with the support of Bold Street traders celebrate the life of one of Liverpool's great artists with a competition on the very pavements that he was banned from drawing on 150 years ago. James went on to illustrate Edgar Allen Poe's 'The Raven' but was buried in a pauper's grave in Walton Park cemetery.

To take part please contact Urban Canvas
www.merseyworld.com/interfest.

Mick Hanly

**Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 October
2.00pm**

Rodewald Suite,
Philharmonic Hall 
£10

Christy Moore's former colleague in Moving Hearts entertains us with a brace of afternoon concerts. Mick is one of Ireland's very finest singer songwriters.

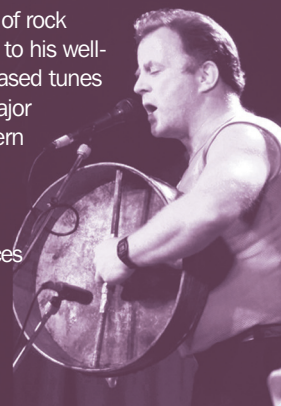
Christy Moore and Declan Sinnott

**Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 October
8.00pm**

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall
(Tickets: £26.50, £27.50, £32.50 (boxes)
Box Office 0151 709 3789
www.liverpoolphil.com

World star and Liverpool Irish Festival favourite Christy Moore returns to the city. With a successful recording career spanning over 35 years Moore is one of contemporary Irish music's best-loved singer-songwriters. His stature and influence in folk music is unparalleled. Starting out on the folk circuit in the 60s, Christy founded 70s folk band Planxty, and Moving Hearts in the 80s. Moore is now best-known as a solo folk singer-songwriter, guitarist and bodhran player.

He adds elements of rock and popular music to his well-crafted, tradition-based tunes and has been a major inspiration to modern such as U2, Sinéad O'Connor and the Pogues. Christy's performances are riveting, with a passion and fearlessness that burns ever bright.



Liverpool Irish Heritage Walking Tours

Finding the Liverpool Irish

- South city centre walking tour

Sunday 19 October

2pm until 4 pm

Meet at St Luke's Gardens, Leece Street (the 'bombed out church').

We will be finishing at The Bluecoat in time to see the Gaelic poetry film. (£7 and £5 (concessions). Guides: Greg Quiery (Liverpool Great Hunger group) and Dr. Ian McKeane (Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool).

Centred on Hope Street, this walking tour will astonish you with the wealth of Irish characters and events linked to the South city centre area.

For further information and bookings contact Greg Quiery on 07854415721 or Ian McKeane on 0151 794 3075 (voicemail). Or just turn up on the day.



Liverpool Comhaltas presents Youth of the North



Sunday 19 October, 5pm to 7pm
The Casa

Our friends from Comhaltas showcase some of the best of Liverpool's young traditional musicians. Bring the family, and inspire the kids.

Dermot Bolger & Sebastian Barry read from their recent work

Monday 20 October
7.30pm

Cornerstone, Hope University,
Everton Campus

(between Shaw Street and Islington)

£6 and £3 concessions

Two of Ireland's finest contemporary writers read from and discuss their work

Dermot Bolger has published nine novels including 'The Woman's Daughter', 'The Journey Home', and most recently 'The Family on Paradise Pier'. Dermot's debut play, 'The Lament for Arthur Cleary', received The Samuel Beckett Award, his last play 'From These Green Heights', received the Irish Times/ESB Prize for Best New Irish Play of 2004. He is the author of seven volumes of poetry, and devised the best-selling collaborative novels, 'Finbar's Hotel' and 'Ladies' Night at Finbar's Hotel'.

Multi award-winning Sebastian Barry's plays include 'Boss Grady's Boys', 'The Steward of Christendom', and 'Our Lady of Sligo'. Sebastian has also published several works of poetry and fiction, including the novels 'The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty', 'Annie Dunne' and 'A Long Long Way' which was short listed for the Booker Prize. His latest novel is 'The Secret Scripture', which has just been placed on the The Booker long list. Sebastian Barry's most recent play 'The Pride of Parnell Street' was nominated for an Irish Times Irish Theatre Award for Best Play.



Fishamble: The New Play Company presents Forgotten

Written and performed by Pat Kinevane
Directed by Jim Culleton

**Tuesday 22 and
Wednesday 23 October, 8pm**

Unity 2, Hope Place
£9 and £7 (concessions)

This acclaimed production by top Irish award-winning theatre company Fishamble explores the interconnecting stories of four elderly people. They live in retirement homes and care facilities around Ireland, and range in age from 80 to 100 years old. 1943 was a curious year for this quartet and their lives have never been the same since.

At times, challengingly dark and, at other times, startlingly hilarious, 'Forgotten' is presented in a fusion of European and Japanese Kabuki theatrical styles. Pat Kinevane has worked as an actor in theatre, film, radio and television for the past seventeen years. Credits include 'Black Day at Blackrock', 'A Mother's Love's A Blessing', 'King Arthur', 'Ballykissangel', 'I Keano' and 'The Late Late Show Murder Mystery'. 'Forgotten' was a major hit earlier this year on tour in Ireland, Paris, Prague, Sibiu and Edinburgh.

"Astonishingly realised...a consummate act of storytelling...a striking accomplishment; captivating, moving and yes even unforgettable"

Irish Times

"A piece of theatre not easily forgotten"

Sunday Tribune

"Brilliant & outstanding & a truly extraordinary piece of theatre"

Prague TV

"A highly original piece of theatre ****"

Daily Mail

www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

Box office: 0151 709 4988



fishamble
THE NEW PLAY COMPANY

in association with Pat Kinevane presents

FORGOTTEN

Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann

Dublin City
Baile Átha Cliath

The Irish Times Theatre Awards Nominee

Written and performed by Pat Kinevane
Directed by Jim Culleton
Produced by Marketa Puzman

arts
council
acknowledges
ealaíon

Photos by Ger Blanche and Veronica Forsgren for Irish Theatre Institute

Liverpool Irish Festival Meets The Beatles



A special series of events
with 'The Beatles Story'
at The Albert Dock

Well, you know about Paul McCartney's Irish roots 'cos his grandad was in 'A Hard Days Night' (Old 'Steptoe' Wilfred Bramble actually) but what about the others?

Researchers at The Beatles Story have been beavering away and they have come up with some fascinating facts and put it all together as a special display for the Festival period.

To add to the fun they have made a 'Shamrock Trail' through the exhibition with a prize at the end. With musicians from the Liverpool Irish Festival they are also offering half term **workshops on traditional Irish music:**

**Wednesday 22 October
and Saturday 25 at 2pm**

Free to exhibition ticket holders,
£2 to non ticket holders.

And an early evening **traditional music session** in Starbucks, next door to The Beatles Story: **Friday 24 October 6pm-8pm.**

Oh, by the way if you should find a four leaf clover bring it to the ticket desk and you'll get in absolutely free – lucky or what?!
(Festival period only)

Feargal Keane 'The Penance of Memory'

Wednesday 22 October 6.00pm

The Institute of Irish Studies

Free admission

For tickets please call 0151 794 3837

The BBC foreign correspondent
and columnist.



Celtic Folk Roots Battle of the Bands – Final

Friday 24 October 7.30pm

The Pilgrim, Pilgrim Street
£2 on the door

Three rounds and three bands into the final,
come along and support your local favourites.



LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL at a glance

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Genre
October				
Fri 17	7.30pm	Burial at Thebes	Philharmonic Hall	Music
	7.45pm	Leg of Lamb	Cornerstone, Hope University	Drama
	10pm	Traditional Music Session	The Blackburne Arms	Music
	10pm	Traditional Music Session	Peter Kavanagh's	Music
	Overnight	Band on the Boat	Norfolkline Ferry	Music
Sat 18	All Day	Street Artist Competition	Ropewalks Square	Visual Art
	All Day	Chapter & Verse Festival	The Bluecoat	Literature
	1pm	Heritage Walking Tour	St Luke's Church	Education
	2pm	Mick Hanly	Rodewald Suite, Philharmonic	Music
	7.45pm	Leg of Lamb	Cornerstone, Hope University	Drama
	8pm	Christie Moore	Philharmonic Hall	Music
	10.30pm	Traditional Music Session	The Blackburne Arms	Music
	10.30pm	Traditional Music Session	Peter Kavanagh's	Music
Sun 19	2pm	Heritage Walking Tour	St Luke's Church	Education
	2pm	Mick Hanly	Rodewald Suite, Philharmonic	Music
	2pm	Traditional Music Session	The Casa	Music
	5pm	Youth of the North	The Casa	Music
	8pm	Christy Moore	Philharmonic Hall	Music
Mon 20	7.30pm	Dermot Bolger & Sebastian Barry	The Cornerstone	Literature
Tues 21	8pm	Forgotten	Unity Theatre	Drama
Weds 22	2pm	Children's Music Workshop	The Beatles Story	Education
	8pm	Fergal Keane	The Institute of Irish Studies	Event
	8pm	Forgotten	Unity Theatre	Drama
Fri 24	6pm	Traditional Music Session	Starbucks at The Beatles Story	Music
	7.30pm	Battle of the Bands - Final	The Pilgrim	Music
	7.30pm	Kensington Ceili	St Sebastian's Parish Hall	Music
	10pm	Traditional Music Session	The Blackburne Arms	Music
Sat 25	All Day	Irish Arts Day	The World Museum	Education
	10.30am	The Liverpool Irish Experience	Everyman Bistro	Talk
	1pm	Gaelic Football	Greenbank Park	Sport
	2pm	Children's Music Workshop	The Beatles Story	Education
	8pm	All Star Concert	St Bride's Church	Music
	10pm	Traditional Music Session	The Blackburne Arms	Music
Sun 26	12.30pm	Telling the Story	World Museum	Education
	2pm	Three Course Irish Dinner	St Michael's Irish Centre	Event

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Genre
October				
Sun 26	2.30pm 8pm	Family Concert Ed Byrne	Philharmonic Hall The Royal Court	Music Comedy
Mon 27	7pm	James Joyce - Readings	The Casa	Drama
Weds 29	2pm 7.30pm	Discovering the Liverpool Irish Ceili and Supper	St Michael's Irish Centre St Michael's Irish Centre	Education Event
Thurs 30	6pm 7.30pm 6pm	James Larkin Evening Capital Nights Similarities and Differences	The Casa The Liverpool Playhouse St Georges Hall, Concert Room	Talk Dance Music
Fri 31	8pm 8.30pm	Damien Dempsey + Ian Prowse Traditional Session	The Picket St Michael's Irish Centre	Music Music

November

Sat 1	11am 8pm	Heritage Coach Tour Solas + Trad. Disco	St Michael's Irish Centre The Picket	Education Music
Sun 2	3pm 8pm	Comhaltas Afternoon Concert The Leeds/Liverpool Connection	St Michael's Irish Centre The Silvestrian	Music Music

Events Around and Throughout the Festival

October

Fri 3	8pm	Chris O'Malley and Sam Proctor	St Michael's Irish Centre	Music
Thurs 16	1pm	Afternoon Tea Dance	St Michael's Irish Centre	Event
Throughout		Mike Absalom: Exhibition	The Everyman Bistro 3rd Room	Exhibition
Throughout		Brewery Tours at Cains Brewery	Cains Brewery, Stanhope St	Event
Throughout		Reflecting Liverpool and Ireland	Editions Gallery	Exhibition
Throughout		The Beatles Story	Albert Dock	Exhibition
Throughout		Paul McGrath - Potter	James William Carling Gallery	Exhibition
Throughout		Finbar Coyle: Artwork	The Casa	Exhibition
Throughout		The Art Of Sound	Contemporary Urban Centre	Exhibition

Kensington Ceili



Friday 24 October 7.30pm

St Sebastian's Parish Hall, Holt Road
£3.50

Live music, a performance by the Bolger Cunningham School of Dance, a raffle and buffet plus a DJ; all put together by local volunteers - a great night out at this great annual event

For further information and bookings
call Tim O'Shea on 07842 796132.

Irish Arts Day at The World Museum 'Uncovering Ireland in Liverpool'

**Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October
12-4pm**

World Museum, Liverpool
FREE

Liverpool Irish Festival has joined with the World Museum, Liverpool to present a weekend of participation and celebration of the Irish in Liverpool. These events run alongside the Liverpool Irish Journey taking place at Philharmonic Hall.

**Do you know when the first Irish names
were recorded in Liverpool?**

**Why does the name James Michael Whitty
sound familiar?**

**What is the difference between a jig and
a reel?**

Come and have your curiosity well and truly satisfied joining in with free workshops in theatre, crafts, dance and others suitable for all ages.

Meet famous Liverpool Irish woman Kitty Wilkinson and uncover the great impact her discovery had on the city.



The Liverpool Irish Experience - A Talk

Saturday 25 October, 10am

Everyman Bistro, 3rd Room

Free admission

'Mike Absalom in Liverpool'

A chance to hear the artist from Co. Mayo talk about his work and see his Liverpool 2008 show.

'Liverpool's 'Irish' Buildings.'

Dr. Ian McKeane from the Institute of Irish Studies talks about Liverpool Buildings that have an Irish resonance.

Liverpool Irish Festival's All Star Concert

A Family Folk-Up presentation

Saturday 25 October, 8pm

St Bride's Church, Catherine Street

(entrance in Percy Street)

£5 and £4

Family Folk-Up have held a series of highly successful folk and roots concerts in the atmospheric and historic St Bride's church over the last year – now it is the turn of the Irish! The prodigiously talented Zoë Conway, John McIntyre, Aaron Jones, and Claire Mann will be supported by Liverpool roots band 'The Random Family'. They and some of the Liverpool Irish Festival's top traditional musicians come together in this unique venue to lift the spirits and sooth the soul.



The Random Family

Gaelic Football Exhibition Match

Saturday 25 October from 1pm

John Mitchel's Ground,

Greenbank Park

John Mitchel's Gaelic Football Club, Liverpool, would like to invite you to come along and see first hand one of the oldest and most exciting games in the world.

The newly re-formed club are the reigning British champions in both ladies & men's competitions... so you will be treated to the best football in the Capital of Culture!

Over the afternoon you will be able to see games featuring male, female and underage players and perhaps, even to have a go yourself!

Gaelic Football can be described as a mixture of soccer and rugby, although it predates both of those games and easily matches them for skill and excitement.

For more details visit

www.johnmitchels.com

or call Danny Mc Donagh – 07754 149859

or Fiona McConnell on 07709 181249.



Telling The Story

Sunday 26 October, 12.30pm

Treasure House Theatre,
World Museum
Free admission

Irish Travellers have been present in Liverpool for over 30 years. 'Telling the Story' is a project devised by LIF to explore the Liverpool Irish Travellers' way of life influenced by tradition, situation and future hopes. Arts facilitator Carmel Cleary enables families from the Tara Park settlement in Oil Street to tell their stories while film maker David Williams will work alongside Carmel and the Travellers to capture this 6 week process in a ten minute film.

Please join us at this free event to view the premier of Telling the Story where the Tara Park children will discuss their experiences and answer your questions about the film.

With thanks to:

Irish Youth Foundation
Merseyside Film and Video
Irish Community Care, Merseyside
World Museum, Liverpool



Traditional three-course Irish dinner

Sunday 26th Oct • First sitting 2pm

St. Michael's Irish Centre
£12pp advance bookings only
from Maureen on 0151 263 1808.

A chance to enjoy a traditional Irish home cooked meal either before or after sampling some of the other festival events of the day. In previous years this event has proven very popular so early booking is strongly recommended.

Liverpool Irish Family Concert 'A Liverpool Irish Journey'

Sunday 26 October, 2.30 pm

The Philharmonic Hall



Tickets £12, £9, £7 and £5 (Children)

Irish music, dancing, songs and stories, revealing Liverpool's Irish heritage. Geoff Hughes (TV's 'Onslow', 'Twiggy', 'Bandy', and 'Eddie Yates') will bid you a *cead mile failte* ('hundred thousand welcomes').

Come with us on a journey through the music that has swept the world, from 'Riverdance' to 'Lord of the Dance'. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra will be joined by Liverpool Irish Festival traditional musicians and a host of local young Irish talent.

Come dressed up in your Irish dancing costumes, in National or County team colours, or as fairies, giants, swans, ghosts, or indeed anything green!



Phil McIntyre Entertainment by arrangement
with Vivienne Smith Management Present

Ed Byrne - Different Class

Sunday 26 October

Royal Court, Liverpool

Book tickets at Royal Court Liverpool,

1 Roe Street, Liverpool, L1 1HL

Box Office: 0870 787 1866

www.royalcourtLiverpool.com

Half toff, half pikey... All comic!

This Irish comedy favourite returns with a new blisteringly funny one man show about marriage, class, the youth of today and anything else that strikes him as humorous. It hard to say any more than that as this blurb had to be written in April when the new show was barely taking shape. He might end up doing an hour about going to the Opera for all I know. Oh no, he's done that.

"A stunningly
original piece
of work - a
comedy
star"

Irish Times



An Evening With James Joyce Readings from his Writings

Monday October 27 • 7pm

The Casa, Hope Street • Free

A performed reading by Nora Connolly and Co.

'In a time when the world was illuminated by the softer light of the gas lamp, and the film industry was still in its flickering infancy, James Joyce was busy scrutinising his surroundings, collecting images and constructing a pathway with his words which was to alter the course of writing and thinking about writing.....'

The show celebrates 'Bloomsday', June 16th 1904, the day on which James Joyce met Nora Barnacle and the day on which his book 'Ulysses' is set. Nora Connolly and Co. bring this story to life - with extracts from 'Ulysses' and the occasional song.

Discovering the Liverpool Irish

Wednesday 29 October • 2pm

St Michael's Irish Centre

£2

The festival has been working in individual Merseyside schools exploring the historical Liverpool Irish characters Kitty Wilkinson, Michael James Whitty, Father Nugent and Agnes Jones in this month long theatre project.

Today all schools come together for the first time to combine their work and perform on stage at the St Michael's Irish Centre, the heart of the Irish community in Liverpool. Come and support the hard work of these children and gain a new understanding of the influential characters who shaped our city.

Irish Ceili and Supper

Wednesday 29 October • 7.30pm

St Michael's Irish Centre

Admission £2 (door); all ages welcome

St Michael's monthly 'Supper Ceili' is a chance for everyone to get stuck into some ceili dancing and work up an appetite for the Irish stew. Dancing is from 8:30 to 11pm with live music provided by local traditional musicians. All levels catered for from beginners to those who know what they're doing.

James Larkin Evening with Francis Devine & Friends

Thursday 30 October • 6pm

The Casa, Hope Street

Admission free

Two of the 'founding fathers' of the Dublin and Irish labour movements were Liverpool-born James Larkin and Thomas Johnson. Instrumental in the setting up of the Irish trade union movement and highly influential in the Irish Labour Party. Larkin and Johnson contrasted revolutionary socialism and syndicalist trade unionism with Labourite parliamentarism.

Francis Devine, a Tutor in SIPTU College, is author of the forthcoming 'Organising History: a Centenary of SIPTU', a work covering the history of ITGWU, WUI and their amalgamated union SIPTU.



Merseyside Dance Initiative presents Capital Nights

Thursday 30 October • 7.30pm

The Liverpool Playhouse

Box office 0151 709 4776

Capital Nights is a new festival exploring European influences in contemporary dance, highlighting companies from previous European capitals of culture.

From Ireland, Rex Levitates Dance Company present 'Shared Material on Dying' (choreography by Liz Roche. This piece was made with the support of the Dublin Dance Festival, the Arts Council of Ireland, Dance Ireland and Culture Ireland.

Please contact MDI for further information at info@mdi.org.uk and order your brochure for further details.

Similarities and Differences

Thursday 30 October • 6pm

St George's Hall Concert Room

£4



Merseyside Black History Month and The Liverpool Irish Festival join up to present a musical event that explores the story of these two vibrant Liverpool communities, their histories and their struggle to overcome prejudice and to change perceptions. The event will feature artists from both communities collaborating on a set of songs both traditional and specially written, accompanied by the spoken word and images of a not so distant past.

Damien Dempsey with special guest Ian Prowse

Friday October 31 • 8pm

The Picket, Jordan Street
£12 unreserved

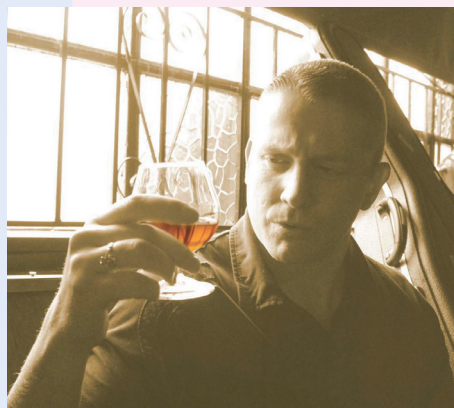
Or, £10 per ticket if you purchase tickets for
Damien Dempsey and Solas

The first of two great events at Liverpool's legendary venue 'The Picket', set up in the 80's with the support of Elvis Costello, Pete Townsend, Joe Strummer et al, trends have come and gone but 'The Picket' is always there, nurturing and supporting the Liverpool music scene. Now moved out of the town centre to the up and coming alternative arts quarter around Jamaica Street, The Picket is a superb venue for live music.

Damien Dempsey was recently voted Best Irish Male and Best Traditional/Folk Singer at Ireland's prestigious Meteor Awards and is surely the No.1 singer and songwriter of his generation - let his peers speak:

"To hear him sing is to realise the magnitude of his astounding voice and heart. The songs are true, and his is the best and often the saddest voice of his generation." **Morrissey**

"He sees the beauty that is Ireland and that is Ireland's past and that can be Ireland's future. He's similar to me as a songwriter - it's angry, it's humorous. It's great music. It's great lyrics." **Shane McGowan**



Did You Know



Michael James Whitty,
Liverpool's first Chief Constable and founder
of Liverpool Daily Post, was born in the
parish of Duncomrick, Co. Wexford in 1795?

Traditional session

Friday 31st October • 8.30pm

St Michael's Irish Centre

Free admission; all ages welcome

St Michael's monthly traditional session is hosted by Cornhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and often attracts musicians and singers from across the North West. A chance to hear and play with some of the musicians who have shaped Irish music in Liverpool over the last few decades, as well as those musicians who will influence it for decades to come.

Coach Tour of Irish Heritage Sites in Liverpool

Saturday 1st November 2008

St Michael's Irish Centre

£7 and £5 (concessions)

Special rates for families with children

(the tour is not suitable for very young children)

The Tour will be led by Greg Quierly (Chair, The Great Hunger Commemoration Committee) and Ian McKeane (Institute of Irish Studies) starting at 2pm arriving back at approx 4pm for tea and coffee. Call 0151 794 3075 after September 30th to reserve seats.

Solas + Irish Trad Disco!

Saturday 1 November 8pm

The Picket, Jordan Street

Unreserved seating and standing

£12 unreserved seating

Or £10 per ticket if you purchase tickets
for Damien Dempsey and Solas

Since its birth in 1996, Solas has been loudly proclaimed as the most popular, influential, and exciting Celtic band to ever emerge from the United States, with The Philadelphia Inquirer saying they make "mind-blowing Irish folk music, maybe the world's best." The New York Times praising their "unbridled vitality", and the Austin American-Statesman called them "the standard by which contemporary Celtic groups are judged."

The Solas sound today is anchored by founders Seamus Egan, flute, tenor banjo, mandolin, whistle, guitar and bodhran, and fiddler Winifred Horan. They are two of the most respected and imitated musicians anywhere in acoustic music. Mick McAuley from Kilkenny plays accordion and concertina, while Eamon McElholm, is on guitar and keyboards. The line-up is completed by their newest member, vocalist Mairead Phelan.

Comhaltas Afternoon Concert



Sunday 2nd November • 3pm

St Michael's Irish Centre

Admission £3; all ages welcome

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann brings together some of the best traditional musicians from across the north of England. All Ireland champions along with the stars of tomorrow come together for an afternoon of the highest quality music, song and dance.

Festival Closing Event



The Leeds / Liverpool Connection

Sunday 2 November, 8pm

The Sylvestrian Centre, Sylvester Street
£5

As the 2008 Festival draws to a close we pass the baton on to our friends from the Leeds Gathering which runs from 7 - 18 November. It is fitting that we should hold this event at The Sylvestrian in the heart of the old Scotland Road area and just up the road from the Leeds to Liverpool canal. Expect the unexpected, with musicians from Leeds, Liverpool and Comhaltas all contributing to a rich musical stew. Bring your dancing shoes, it's time to celebrate!

• Solas



Events Around and Throughout the Festival

The Art of Sound

**Thursday 16 October to
Saturday 8 November**

Contemporary Urban Centre, Greenland Street



A photographic and multi-media exhibition, produced by The Contemporary Music Centre, Dublin, looking at new music making from the first idea through to the final performance. The creative process usually takes place behind closed doors, but this multi-media exhibition brings it to life through striking photographs of the composers and images of their work.

The Art of Sound features photographer Eugene Langan's dramatic and perceptive photographs of Irish composers and their work. An audio guide narrated by Eamonn Lawlor (RTE, Lyric FM), brings to life the personalities of the composers and the music that is displayed.

The exhibition is in the superb gallery space at C.U.C. just along the road from The A Foundation's Greenland Street Gallery and just around the corner from The Picket.

Pre Festival Gig Chris O'Malley & Sam Proctor (Accordion & Fiddle)

Friday 3rd October • 8pm

St Michael's Irish Centre

Tickets £5 from St Michael's on 0151 263 1808

Two of the hottest tickets on the Irish traditional scene at the moment, Chris and Sam make a welcome return to Liverpool. On this occasion they are joined by bodhran ace Dan Griffin from London and, the superb Mike Galvin (Frankie Gavin Band) on guitar. The lineup is completed by the very talented Geraldine Flannery on vocals.

St Michael's Afternoon Tea Dance Thursday 16th October, 1pm-3:30pm

Admission 50p (door)

St Michael's Irish Centre

Especially for all those who remember the dance hall days; St Michael's brings you the chance to make new friends and renew old friendships while dancing to country and Irish favorites performed by North West musician Nicky James.

The Liverpool Irish Experience by Mike Absalom

17 October - 2 November

The Third Room, Everyman Bistro

Free Entry (During Bistro opening hours)

This is County Mayo artist and musician Mike Absalom's second Liverpool Irish Festival appearance presenting a series of paintings created especially for 2008.

Brewery Tours at Cains Brewery

Stanhope Street

Cains has long supported the Liverpool Irish Festival. If you enjoy a drink take a look at how they make it at Cains historic brewery.

Tours Cost £7.99 per person.

(not suitable for the less agile due to being a Victorian Brewery and the number of stairs) Please telephone Cains Sales office Mon-Fri 0151 709 8734 - or email: tours@cains.co.uk
All tours must be pre-booked.

Reflecting Liverpool and Ireland

Artist Stephen Collet at Editions Gallery, Cook Street

A series of paintings depicting the links between Liverpool and Ireland.

The Beatles Story

Britannia Pavillion Albert Dock

A display looking at the Irish origins of the Fab Four.

Pottery Exhibition

Paul McGrath - Irish potter, James William Carling Gallery, Bold Street.

Belfast-born Paul studied at Liverpool University before becoming one of the country's leading makers of handthrown porcelain and stoneware.

The Edinburgh Sessions

Sandown Lane, Wavertree

9pm, every Monday throughout the Festival. Free.
Great little pub, great beer, great music!

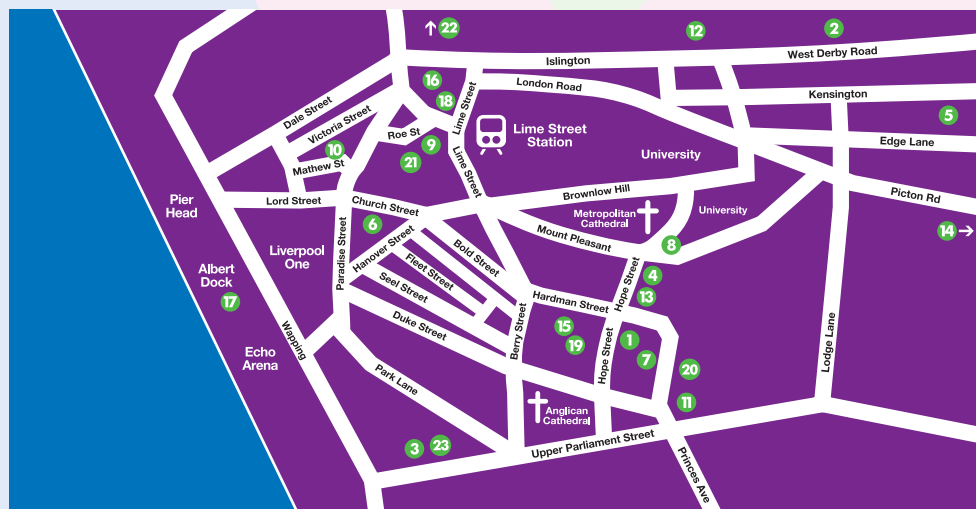
Art Exhibition

Finbar Coyle, Artwork, at the Casa, Hope Street.

VENUES AND BOOKING INFORMATION

All tickets for Liverpool Irish Festival Events are available from Liverpool Philharmonic Hall unless otherwise stated.

- 1 Liverpool Philharmonic Hall**
Hope Street, L1 9BP. Box Office 0151 709 3789
www.liverpoolphil.com
- 2 St Michael's Irish Centre**
6 Boundary Lane, West Derby Road, L6 5JG
0151 263 1808 www.stmichaelsirishcentre.org
- 3 The Picket**
Jordan Street, L1 0BW. 0151 708 6789
- 4 The Everyman Bistro**
Hope Street, L1 9BH. 0151 708 9545
- 5 St Sebastian's Parish Centre**
Lockerby Road, Fairfield, L7
For information call Tim O'Shea on 07842 796 132
- 6 The Bluecoat**
School Lane, L1 3BX. 0151 709 5297
- 7 The Blackburne Arms**
Catherine Street, L8 7NL
- 8 University of Liverpool**
126 Mount Pleasant. 0151 794 2536/3075
- 9 The Royal Court**
1 Roe Street, L1 1HL. 0870 787 1866
www.royalcourtLiverpool.com
- 10 View Two Gallery**
23 Mathew Street, L2 6RE. 0151 236 9444
www.viewtwogallery.co.uk
- 11 Peter Kavanagh's**
2-6 Egerton St, L8 7LY. 0151 709 3443
- 12 The Cornerstone, Hope University**
Haigh Street, L3 8QB. 0151 291 3578
- 13 The Casa**
Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9BQ. 0151 709 2148
- 14 The Edinburgh**
4 Sandown Lane, Wavertree, L15 8HY. 0151 475 2648
- 15 The Unity Theatre**
Hope Place, L1 9BG. 0151 709 4988
- 16 The World Museum, Liverpool**
William Brown Street, L3 8EN. 0151 478 4393
www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
- 17 The Beatles Story**
Albert Dock, L3 4AD. 0151 709 1963
- 18 St George's Hall**
William Brown Street. 0151 709 3789
www.liverpoolphil.com
- 19 The Pilgrim**
34 Pilgrim Street, L1 9HB. 0151 709 2302
- 20 St Bride's Church**
Catherine Street L8 7NG
- 21 The Liverpool Playhouse**
Williamson Square, L1 1EL, 0151 709 4776
- 22 The Silvestrian Centre**
Silvester Street, L5 8SE, 0151 330 0222
- 23 Contemporary Urban Centre**
Greenland Street, 0151 708 3510



Festival Chair: John Chandler
Vice Chair: Simon Glinn
Festival Director: Jake Roney
Education Director: Anna Gilbert
Musical Director: Terry Coyne
Development Associate: Christine Howarth

Huge thanks to the Festival's Administrative
Volunteer: Michelle McCoy

Website, built designed and
managed by Shey Crompton

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Festival Hotline: 07804 286 145
www.liverpoolirishfestival.com

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Brochure Design and Print: Andrew Dawson
www.andrewdawson.tv

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"The link between Liverpool and Ireland
is in the culture, in the history and in
the blood. The Liverpool Irish
Festival explores and celebrates this
link; ensuring that a vibrant cultural
exchange continues in to the future."
Lizzie Nunnery, playwright

Dion



LOTTERY FUNDED