

LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL

18–28
OCTOBER
2018

Bringing Liverpool
and Ireland closer
together using arts
and culture.

WOMEN NEED
FREEDOM TO
CHOOSE!!!

IN:VISIBLE WOMEN: ILLUMINATING DEBATE

liverpoolirishfestival.com

Storytelling, family events, theatre, céilís, music, talks, art, poetry
and literature, seisiúns, heritage, Im, dancing, food and drink

    /LIVIRISHFEST



Liverpool
City Council

LIVERPOOL 2018



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme
An tSeirbhís Leasaithe Éireannacha
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



WELCOME TO IN:VISIBLE WOMEN

FOREWORD

Welcome to *In:Visible Women* - a concept and platform generated by conversations the *Liverpool Irish Festival* has been having with artists, academics, activists and communities about the role of women in Irish society – today and historically. These conversations have shown that (Irish) female existence is continually affected by outside influences and influencers and now is no different. Indeed now it's critical.

Morbidity reports have shown depression, loneliness and suicide is escalating in our 16-24 year old women. As generations age, more and more women will live alone. With more men committing suicide between 25-45 years old, how many women (partners, mothers, daughters, sisters) will have to cope with suicide in their lifetime? Without the confidence, autonomy and positive mental health men are expected to have, how are women being equipped to cope?

At a time when Ireland has chosen to become more progressive with body autonomy, the #MeToo movement is already receiving kickback responses such as #HimToo. When the news and media is full of fightback on it "being a scary time for men" (Trump, Oct 2018) it becomes all the more important to state the case that we need equality in order for injustice to be heard. We cannot afford for air-brushed millionairesses to set the expectation for our young men or women and need to reject idealised versions of womanhood. It has become clear we must build and signpost safe spaces and help people gain access.

As interest feminism/equality rises and equity – between faith, ethnicity, nationality, gender, etc – is continually under debate... as people start employing intersectionality and we start to create laws that support equitable living and parity between relational agendas (same-sex marriage, body

autonomy, adoption, senior leadership) it seems ever more important that women feature. At all. That women are made visible. That female impact on history, welfare, politics and society is brought in to the light. That women's parity is understood and entrenched to replace that of the former, in which "some of us are more equal than others". Enter *In:Visible Women*.

In:Visible Women is just one of many starting points, created to ensure that the *Liverpool Irish Festival* puts its best foot forward and highlights others doing the same. There are women's organisations we need to speak to and artists whose work we must see and share. We are barely scratching the surface, but by beginning we are moving in the right direction. It is not the panacea to solve all ills (patriarchal or otherwise!), but it is a beginning where we can share stories, take/share space (and company) and learn (or affirm) female world ideas and ideals.

In this act of coming together to bear witness to women; in looking at some of today's women and in thinking about what tomorrow's issues are going to be, we are helping to tell the story of womanhood – we are helping to futureproof our young people – and we are collaborating to show that we are here. We are not invisible. We have voices and we are using them to empower women who came before, females here today and voices that will speak for equity in the future.

You are welcome here and we feel certain that you will hear interesting stories, learn new things and take ideas with you that will help you elevate the women in your world. Many thanks,



Emma Smith, Director
Liverpool Irish Festival
In:Visible Women, 2018

CONNECTED EVENTS

Running chronologically through the programme, these events complete the *In:Visible Women* trail in the #LIF2018 programme marked in the brochure with this trail marker.

BERINA KELLY exhibits her beautiful nature inspired jewellery at *Bluecoat Display Centre*.

REPEAL THE EIGHTH RESPONSE is an exhibition at *OUTPUT Gallery* about all it suggests.

IT'S THE TRAVELLING LIFE consists of two exhibitions of photographs from the women of a Liverpool Irish Travelling group and LA based USA artist, Jona Frank looking in on this world.

IRISH BUILDERS OF MODERN BRITAIN: CALLING ALL

NAVVIES AND NURSES is a project to involve individuals from these professions in capturing Irish influence and impact in the UK.



EGGSISTENTIALISM is a play from Limerick about what a woman might do with her body other than giving birth to another human.

NEW VOICES WITH ALEX CLARK is a panel talk with new writers, including Lisa McInernery and Sally Rooney.

THE GUILTY FEMINIST sold out this event (their first podcast trip to Liverpool) in which they discuss the noble goals of feminists today and the paradoxes and insecurities which undermine them.

BAGGAGE takes a look at women, their status, assumptions and friendship.

THE MORNING AFTER THE LIFE BEFORE is a play about the legitimisation of women in Ireland after the same sex marriage vote in a witty play.

INDIECORK: NEW IRISH SHORTS FROM WOMEN

showcases a selection of short films from Irish female filmmakers, possibly alluding to the zeitgeist among them.

TWO PLAYS features *Baggage* and *When Nora met Jim*, about the unlikely paring of working class Nora Barnacle and high status James Joyce.

KITTY is a play about the tireless efforts of Kitty Wilkinson to stem cholera's spread in Liverpool in the 1880s.



TO HAVE TO SHOOT IRISHMEN looks at partnerships, friendships and the ravages of war. Written and produced by local, Lizzie Nunnery, and majority female production team.

COUNTESS MAERKIEVICZ AND THE VOTES FOR WOMEN CAMPAIGN IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

marks the complex political issues tied to ideologies, nationalism and unionism in the 1900s.



FAMILY DAY followed by the **FAMILY CÉILÍ** includes lots of activities for all the family – mums, sisters, nans, daughters and everyone else besides!

IN:VISIBLE WOMEN: ILLUMINATING DEBATES

NOTE ABOUT THE DAY AND SCHEDULE

Any of these sessions could include discussion about 'sinful' pregnancies, shame, arranged marriages, faith crises, institutional abuse, secret adoptions and illegal abortions; many of which retain influence and impact on families and communities today and are highlighted elsewhere in the festival programme. *In:Visible Women* builds relationships with artists, academics and organisations to deliver illuminating talks, films, performances, artworks and written features to start making 'invisible' women's issues visible.

We know this can be emotional and/or contentious. Everyone involved aims to address these matters from an empathetic position, aimed to assist women in gaining equity. It is unapologetically a pro-choice and pro-women day. We expect those present to behave and speak with empathy and mindfulness and hope that, in this way, we can have difficult conversations without creating new wounds or generating aggression.

INTRODUCTION

10.30am: Emma Smith, Director of the *Liverpool Irish Festival* opens the day.

MORNING SESSIONS – TALKS AND INTERACTIVE INQUIRY

WE ARE WOMEN OF THE WORLD

10.40am: Speaker TBC, *WOW Festivals*
Discussing the impact of Jude Kelly's work reaching 2m people worldwide and the need for global conferences, change and receptions to take place, Jessica will talk about the foundations of this remarkable, female driven festival and the specifically about the work they are undertaking in Derry.

MONOLOGUE I: CARRIE BARRETT

11.30am: Carrie performs a self-penned monologue from the perspective of an Irish Traveller.

SHORT BREAK

11.45am: A quick chance for a comfort break, discussion with the speakers and a refresh.



Image: From *It's The Travelling Life*.

MONOLOGUE II: LEEANNE O'DONNELL

12pm: Leeanne takes on the role of a woman who needs to get away.

SAVERER UK: BME COMMUNITIES

AND THE STRUGGLE FOR DOMESTIC FREEDOMS

12.15pm: Afrah Qassim explores the world she works within and the charity she founded to try and assist those she could see were suffering.



THE KNITTING CIRCLE, GREY LADIES AND OTHER 'FORGOTTEN' FEMALE HISTORIES

12.30pm – Creative force, artist and keen project director Julie McNamara takes us through some of the courageous projects she has run with Irish women and the fascinating stories that have emerged.

Image: Celia with Hat © Enna Melati Wee.

SUMMARY AND CLOSE

1.25pm – *In:Visible Women* day closes. Emma Smith will wrap up the day.

All participants are encouraged to attend other **#LIF2018** programme across the day in the hope of seeing you at the *Hooley at O'Neill's* later on!

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

If you have been affected by any of the contents of this document or the *In:Visible Women Day*, please consider consulting one of the services below. This is not an exhaustive list of those available, but a start point for anyone needing counsel, support or information.

ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK – if you (or a loved one) requires access to abortion support services from Ireland, Northern Island or the Isle of Mann, the *Abortion Support Network* may be able to assist: asn.org.uk

To call from Northern Ireland +44(0)7897 611 593; from Ireland +44(0)151 267370 (*calls only, no texts*) and/or from the Isle of Man +44(0)7897 611593 or email info@asn.org.uk If using email, please be mindful of the security of your account and other people's access.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (NCDV) provides a free, fast emergency service to survivors of domestic violence, regardless of race, financial situation, gender or sexual orientation. They work closely with partner agencies and help people apply for an injunction quickly ncdv.org.uk (successfully accessed 10 Oct 2018).

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE runs a freephone 24 Hour a day helpline, run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge. It is a national service for women experiencing domestic violence, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf +44(0) 808 2000 247.

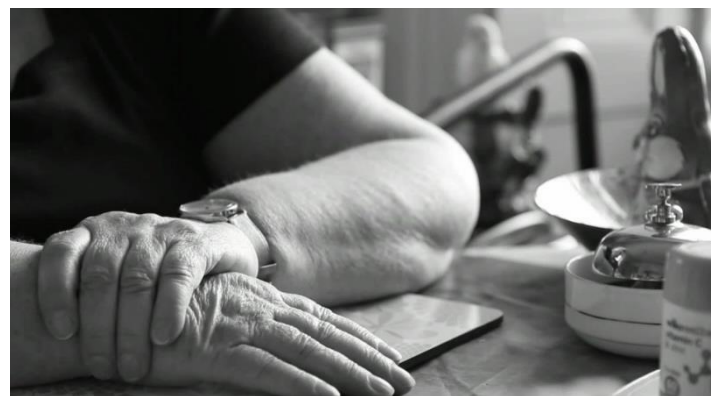
NHS – Sexual assault and violence services are available in most UK cities. To help to locate a service near you, the NHS have a service locator, which you can access using this link (successfully accessed 10 Oct 2018): nhs.uk/Livewell/Sexualhealth/Pages/Sexualassault.aspx

RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE CENTRE (RASA) – this is a Mersey based support service, not a national service +44(0) 151 666 1392 rasamerseyside.org helpline@rasamerseyside.org If using email, please be mindful of the security of your account and other people's access.

VICTIM SUPPORT can offer assistance with how to handle reporting a crime as well as helping you through the legal procedures of pursuing a charge. For more details of how to use these particular services, use this link victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/rape-sexual-assault-and-sexual-harassment (successfully accessed 10 Oct 2018).

If you are supporting someone you know to have survived a violent, sexual encounter, there are some interesting and useful points in this online article, from *The Everyday Feminist* (successfully accessed 10 Oct 2018):

everydayfeminism.com/2013/01/how-to-help-sexually-assaulted-friend/



Gertrude Grey © Zetnep Dagli courtesy of Julie McNamara

To reiterate: this is not a complete list of services available or the resources you can access. You are not alone. If you need support an online search will show you support and resources in your area or a national organisation you can contact.

SPEAKER/CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES



WOMEN OF THE WORLD (WOW) FESTIVAL

The WOW Foundation produces WOW festivals across the world to celebrate women and girls, take a frank look at what prevents them from achieving their potential and raise awareness globally of the issues they face and possible solutions. It is the biggest, most comprehensive and most significant festival dedicated to presenting work by women and promoting equality for women and girls. Set up by Jude Kelly in 2010, the WOW festival has now reached over 2m people worldwide with support from the *Southbank Centre*.

We are sorry to report that Jude Kelly was not able to join us this year (as cited in some listings), but a representative will speak on behalf of *Women of the World*. At the time of printing we were not able to include a speaker profile, but we will provide an overview on the day.

thewowfoundation.com



CARRIE BARRETT

Carrie Barrett has worked in social care for thirteen years. Currently working as a Women's Services Support Worker in *Adapt Domestic Abuse Services* Carrie has received a number of plaudits as a community artist in Limerick City. Passionate about supporting women in crises, Carrie has used her experience to begin articulating the issues by finding and building a body of dramatic work that gives voice to some of the most marginalised in Irish society. She is a founding member of *Moyross Community Drama (MCD)* acting as PR officer, playwright, performer and drama facilitator. After a successful application to the *National Theatre of Ireland's 5x5 project* Carrie wrote a series of 5 monologues (one per day!) called *Five Houses*, which tell five women's stories; including two migrants and one Irish Traveller. Unsurprisingly the women came from differing socioeconomic, cultural and religious backgrounds. Their stories draw on some of the cultural intricacies that domestic abuse can adopt. These monologues have led Carrie to a larger work called *The Underside* which considers the challenges and barriers immigrant women face in accessing support and leaving harmful relationships. Having guest lectured at *Mary Immaculate College*, received a place in the *Top 40 People in Limerick under 40* (specifically for her work highlighting domestic abuse using arts), we couldn't think of a better person to speak at *In:Visible Women*.

[Facebook](#) /[Moyrosscommunitydrama](#)



LEEANNE O'DONNELL

LeeAnne is a founding member of *Moyross Community Drama* and has performed in each of their productions since it was founded in 2014, including featuring in *The Underside* on the *National Theatre of Ireland's Peacock Stage* earlier this year. LeeAnne was a co-writer and performer in the *MCD 2015* production of *Five Houses*.

[Facebook](#) /[Moyrosscommunitydrama](#)

SAVERA UK

'Savera' means 'new beginning or change' in Hindi, which is how the charity views itself. *Savera UK* operates across the UK to provide services to individuals from Black Minority Ethnic (BME) communities who are at risk of domestic and/or honour based abuse, female genital mutilation or forced marriage. The scope of *Savera UK*'s services may vary from area to area, dependent on the funding available within the specific region. Service provision by *Savera UK* aims to promote and carry out research, provide advice and one-to-one support for vulnerable individuals and cooperate with other charities, statutory authorities and agencies to exchange information and advice, encouraging best practices and therefore improve service provision. It also develops and delivers training, conferences and events that raise awareness aimed at tackling domestic abuse and harmful practices within BME communities **and supports** professionals working with survivors of domestic abuse and harmful practices within BME communities.



Founded in Liverpool by Afrah Qassim, *In:Visible Women* attendees will hear about her driving passion, achievements and the issues in the Irish diaspora today. Afrah's 18 year NHS service has seen her specialise in community roles and

especially those in BME communities, working throughout Liverpool. Afrah's work aims to tackle health inequalities faced by women, children and young families. Taking a citywide lead on mental health issues associated with harmful practice, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour based abused, Afrah is a true inspiration. A prominent figure within the *Liverpool Arab Art Festival* and prior Chair of *Merseyside Forced Marriage & Honour Based Abused Steering Group*, Afrah is now Vice-chair of the *Merseyside Harmful Practices Strategy Steering Group*. In 2012, Afrah was honoured for her tireless contributions to women's issues and was recognised as *Merseyside's Woman of the Year*.

saverauk.co.uk



Julie McNamara (detail only) © Mark Davis

JULIE MCNAMARA, ARTIST DIRECTOR OF VITAL XPOSURE

Vital Xposure is a bold, dynamic production company operating under the creative leadership of disabled artist Julie McNamara. As both an artist and activist, she is a lead voice within Disability Arts on international stages. A self-proclaimed 'Mad Woman Made Good', her work is driven by social justice, with a lifelong preoccupation with excluded voices from locked in spaces. Her particular interests are in discourses and representations of madness on stage and writing disability into the heart of theatre with her own unique access aesthetic.

vitalxposure.co.uk

THE LIVERPOOL IRISH FESTIVAL

Liverpool Irish Festival is a registered charity supported by *Liverpool City Council's* cultural investment programme and the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme*. *In:Visible Women* has been supported with festival funding, but also with in-kind support from *Liverpool Central Library*. Thanks go to everyone involved in making this happen, including the Board who have offered this their ongoing, multi-year commitment.

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#InVisibleWomen



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