

bealtaine festival

celebrating creativity as we age



**Age &
Opportunity**
Life is for
Living.

Bealtaine 2015

Welcome to Age & Opportunity's 20th Bealtaine festival, celebrating creativity as we age. All over the country, Bealtaine events are running in arts centres, theatres, libraries, galleries, community centres, local halls, care settings, in the main cultural institutions and even out in the open air during May.

The focus this year is on looking at ourselves and our country from the inside and outside.

We are exploring traditions, working with the land, looking at artists who left, at artists who came, at artists who visited and stayed in Ireland and at artists who returned.

Our theme is a quote from Ulysses on his famous homecoming: "Tell me, then, and tell me truly, what land and country is this? Who are its inhabitants? Am I on an island, or is this the sea board of some continent?"

We invite you to look at our country through new eyes, to hear with new ears and to ask 'What land and country is this?'

Cover Image : *Classical Trapeze*, neon sculpture from an installation by Tina Keane, 1990. Courtesy of the artist.



Theatre

Abbey Theatre on Tour – Maeve’s House

After a sell-out run at the Abbey Theatre, Eamon Morrissey’s one man show MAEVE’S HOUSE goes on tour as part of the Bealtaine festival. This beautiful story of brief encounters and shared experiences features extracts from Maeve Brennan’s writing and is a moving portrait of two artists in conversation across generations.



Photo : Ros Kavanagh



engrossing – New York Times

comes close to pure magic – Sunday Independent

Tour dates (see page 18 – 19 for Booking Details) :

Sat 9 – Draíocht, Blanchardstown, 8pm ; *Tue 12* – Hawk’s Well, Sligo, 8pm ; *Thu 14, Fri 15, Sat 16* – Civic Theatre, Tallaght, 8pm ; *Tue 19, Wed 20* – Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda, 8.30pm ; *Thu 21* – Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, 8pm ; *Fri 22, Sat 23* – Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, 8pm ; *Mon 25* – Town Hall Theatre, Galway, 8pm ; *Tue 26* – Linenhall, Castlebar, 8pm ; *Fri 29* – Axis, Ballymun, 8pm ; *Sat 30* – Ramor Theatre, Cavan, 8pm.



Singing The Bird Song Project

THE BIRD SONG PROJECT is a celebration of traditional songs about birds. Devised and produced by Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert, The Bird Song Project is a research and performance project involving 34 older traditional singers. Five concerts will be presented across the four provinces, each with a unique line-up. For lovers of traditional song, these will be unmissable.

There are 15 traditional singing circles from Wexford to Derry also participating by hosting their own bird song night. Visit thebirdsongproject.com for further details.

This project is commissioned for Bealtaine by Age & Opportunity and is supported by the National Library of Ireland and the Irish Traditional Music Archive.

Concert Dates (see page 18 – 19 for Booking Details) :

Wed 6 National Library (Leinster), 7.30pm;

Sat 9 Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, Derry City (Ulster), 8pm;

Wed 13 National Library (Dublin), 7.30pm;

Sat 16 Cúil Na Sméar Hall, Dungarvan (Munster), 8pm;

*Sat 23 St Nicholas Collegiate Church, Galway City
(Connaught), 8pm.*



Singing The Bird Song Project

Leinster: Paddy Berry, Phil Berry, John O'Byrne, Mary O'Brien, Alannah O'Kelly, Gerry Cullen, Pádrigín Ní Uallacháin.

Ulster: John Tunney, Brigid Tunney, Jim MacFarland, Jackie Boyce, Grace Toland, Rita Gallagher, Maurice Leyden.

Dublin: Luke Cheevers, Niamh Parsons, Francie Devine, Tony McGaley, Tom Finn, Eugene McEldowney, Anne Buckley.

Munster: Tim Dennehy, Larry Joy, Senan Lillis, Máire Ní Chéileachair, Ann Mulqueen, Hammy Hamilton, Michéal Marrinan.

Connaught: Tim Lyons, Mary McPartlan, Anne Skelton, Brian O'Rourke, Martin Ryan, Johnny Mháirtín Learaí Mac Donnacha.

Photo : Leon Farrell / Photocall Ireland





Dance / Film / Talk Dublin Dance Trilogy

We are delighted to partner with Dublin Dance Festival for Bealtaine.

FRAGMENTS – VOLUME I by prolific Canadian choreographer Sylvian Émard is a collection of exquisite dances that reach into the soul of human vulnerability, featuring three dancers and older Canadian actress Monique Miller. Intense, surprising and absolutely compelling.

See 'Fragments – Volume 1' in the Project Arts Centre, Dublin on Fri 22 & Sat 23 at 8pm.

BEFORE WE GO is a dance film where three people near the end of their lives meet with choreographers, actors and musicians. Between reality and representation, this multi award-winning film is a tribute to the fragility of the human condition, the tragedy of the body and the freedom of the spirit.

See Before We Go in the IFI on Sun 24 at 5pm.

In response to the issues raised by the film, join us at THE ART OF DYING, a public conversation on *Thurs 28 at 2.30pm* in the Gate Theatre Lab, in association with Create.



Dance / Film / Talk Dublin Dance Trilogy

See page 18 – 19 for Booking Details.
Preview on dublindancefestival.ie.



From *Before We Go* by Rémon Fromont, Jorge León & Thomas Schira



Singing Choral Lab

Wicklow County Council and Bealtaine present the CHORAL LAB in Wicklow throughout May. Choirs from all over the county, with author Joseph O'Connor, Northern Ireland Music Laureate Brian Irvine and composer / musician Neil Martin, will explore new ways of working to create a performance for 2016.



Visual Arts

Emerging Older Visual Artists

There is often an inherent ageism in confining the term ‘emerging’ to younger artists. This year, in association with Irish Design 2015 and the Debora Ando Print Studio, we challenge the idea that only younger artists can ‘emerge’ and that being older has any negative bearing on dynamism, relevancy and impact. For this project, therefore, we have brought together a group of older people who have previously been part of Bealtaine visual arts projects to work with master printmaker Debora Ando. The project will take place over eight sessions and will culminate in an exhibition.



Visual Arts

Professional Development Workshop

Bealtaine, in association with Visual Artists Ireland, is holding a professional development workshop for older artists *on Fri 15*. The workshop will consider practical financial issues as well as other topics faced by artists working in Ireland. Contact Visual Artists Ireland or the Bealtaine festival for more details.



Visual Arts Of Land and Soil

Artist Christine Mackey reminds us that our relationship to the ‘natural’ world can be formed in the humblest of ways. From the potted geranium that our grandmothers may have kept in the window ‘to keep those darn flies away’; to the digging spade used over countless seasons to turn soil made ready for planting seeds; from the shared cuttings of house plants between friends; to the historic migration of seeds between people who made their lives elsewhere.



Detail from ‘Kolmira’ by Christine Mackey, 2014. Courtesy of the Artist.

For the project OF LAND AND SOIL, Christine is developing a project in tandem with Flanagan’s Fields, a community gardening project in Rialto managed by the local Back of the Pipes Residents’ Association with the help of Dublin City Council. Christine is using diverse and interconnected gardening activities in Flanagan’s Fields to generate a collective ‘forum’ whereby people can meet, talk, plant and discuss. *Of Land and Soil* is an Age & Opportunity commission and is supported by Dublin City Council.



Musical Performance

Caitlín and Ciarán Tour

Award-winning musicians Ciarán Ó Maonaigh and Caitlín Nic Gabhann are, in fiddle, concertina & dance, breathing fire into traditional tunes. These outstanding players will be entertaining Bealtaine audiences in the CAITLÍN AND CIARÁN TOUR, including those in care settings.

Preview on www.caitlin.ie.

Tour dates (see page 18 – 19 for Booking Details) :

- Fri 1* *Wexford Arts Centre, 8pm*
- Mon 4* *Discart Chapel, Dingle*
(as part of Féile na Bealtaine), 2.30pm
- Tue 5* *Everyman Palace, Cork, 8pm*
- Wed 6* *St John's Theatre, Listowel, 8pm*
- Thurs 7* *Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick, 8pm*
- Fri 8* *Ionad Cultúrtha, Baile Mhúirne, 8.30pm*
- Sat 9* *An Grianán, Letterkenny, 8pm*
- Thurs 14* *Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, 8pm*
- Tue 19* *Roscommon Arts Centre, 8pm*
- Wed 20* *King House, Boyle, 8pm*
- Fri 22* *Glór, Ennis (as part of Fleadh Nua), 8pm*
- Thurs 28* *Linenhall, Castlebar, 8pm*



Musical Performance Caitlín and Ciarán Tour – Workshop



Photo : Colm Hogan

Ciarán's documentary *Áit i Mo Chroí* about his grandfather Francie Mooney is testament to both Ciarán and Caitlín's belief in the power of intergenerational Irish music.

During the tour, they are running workshops to encourage the generations to play and learn together.

Workshop dates:

Check venues in Cork, Donegal, Kerry, Mayo, Offaly, Roscommon and Wexford for workshop dates and times.



Literature / Photography / Film **I Could Read the Sky**

I COULD READ THE SKY by Timothy O'Grady and photographer Steve Pyke, is our Bealtaine 2015 book.

The book, a photo-novel, subsequently became a film starring author Dermot Healy. It is about landscape and loss in the Irish emigrant experience, set in a Kentish Town bedsit but drifting and stretching towards the Atlantic shores.

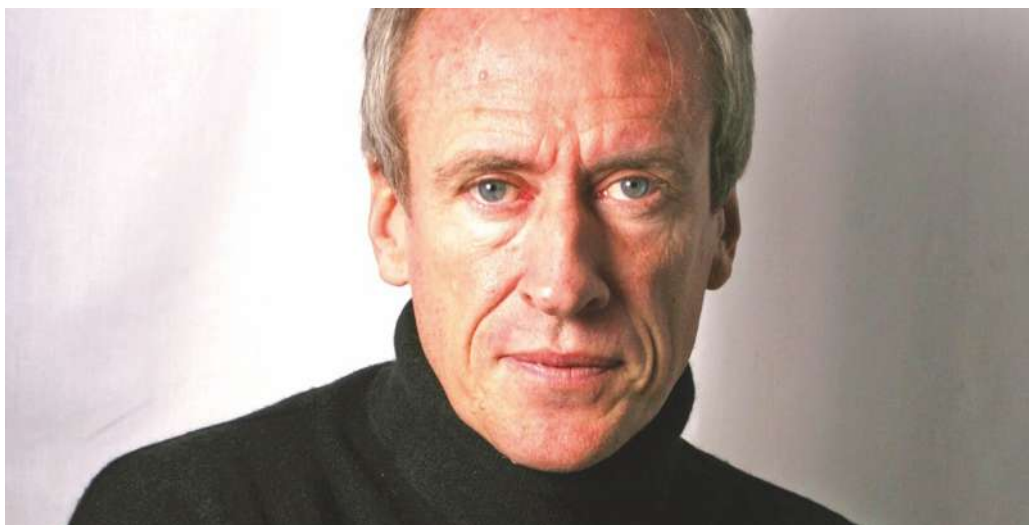


Photo : Renata Iris Lardner

Bealtaine is taking Timothy on a journey of 'writer in residence' workshops, meetings, performances and screenings with groups and individuals across Cavan, Leitrim, Dublin and Mayo in honour of that experience.



Poetry / Talk Paul Durcan

In association with Poetry Ireland, we are delighted to bring you two public interviews with PAUL DURCAN.



In Tipperary, to celebrate Poetry Day Ireland, Paul will be in conversation with Prof Eamon O'Shea, social gerontology academic and Tipperary hurling manager, to discuss the complexities of creative ageing, new work and, of course, his passion for GAA. Organised in partnership with Tipperary Arts Office, Tipperary Libraries & the Source Arts Centre.

In Dublin, in conversation with film-maker Alan Gilsean, Paul will read from his new collection *The Days of Surprise*; a collection of powerful new poems about subjects as various as the joys of retail therapy, wheel-clamping, murder in Syria and the 1916 commemoration.

Event Details (see page 18 – 19 for Booking Details) :

Thurs 7 Source Arts Centre, Thurles, 7.30pm

Sun 10 Gate Theatre, Dublin, 8pm



Theatre Prime – for actors over 55

PRIME is Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for actors over 55. The business of theatre-making in Ireland has seen great change over the past ten years. PRIME is a joint initiative between Irish Theatre Institute and Bealtaine focusing on career supports and training opportunities for professional theatre practitioners aged 55 – 80 years. Discover new ways of collaborating and resourcing your work; hear advice on funding, pensions and financial planning; engage in a programme of physical and mental health supports. *Taking place May – September over 6 days, beginning Mon 18.* Contact the Irish Theatre Institute for more information: www.irishtheatreinstitute.ie



Theatre Theatre Laboratory

Mayo County Council and the Bealtaine Festival present the THEATRE LABORATORY, in Mayo, in which theatre artist Niamh McGrath will work with Raymond Keane, Keith Singleton and local theatre artists (both professional and non-professional) to explore ideas and ways of creating a performance for 2016.



Visual Arts

The Cow House Residency

THE COW HOUSE RESIDENCY brings together three visual artists with different relationships to Ireland – those who left the country, those who remained here and those who made Ireland their home: Tina Keane, Grace Weir and Kevin Atherton.

From Mon 20 April to Sat 2 May, the three artists will have the time and space to consider their practices and the changing contexts of those practices, within the context of both the passage of time and changes in the arts sector.

The artists will work together and separately, making and discussing issues within their work, and engaging in peer-to-peer resource sharing.

On Fri 1, the resident artists will present and discuss their work in the Cow House Studios.

Detail from *Upon Further Reflection*, giclée print by Kevin Atherton, 2013.
Courtesy of the artist.





Dance / Music At the Still Point...

AT THE STILL POINT OF THE TURNING WORLD is brought to you by Age & Opportunity in association with Clare County Arts Office. Artists Maria Kerin and Eleanor Feely celebrate the creativity of concertina player Chris Droney through dance, performance and image. The artists are working on a participatory dance piece based on Chris' hand movements, his connection with the audience and his performance style.

Event dates (see page 18 – 19 for Booking Details) :

*Fri 1 – Courthouse Gallery, Ennistymon
(performance and interview)*

Photo : Michael Walsh





Literature

Bursary for MA in Creative Writing

To celebrate Bealtaine's 20th birthday, Age & Opportunity, together with Listowel Writers' Week and the Creative Writing programme at University of Limerick (UL), are offering a person, aged 60 or over, an opportunity to participate in the MA in Creative Writing.

The bursary of €3,000 (plus a partial fee waiver) will support the successful applicant to undertake the programme.

We hope that this will enable somebody to fulfil a long-held ambition to take a formal writing course, mentored by the MA in Creative Writing programme at UL.

The one-year MA course is taught by internationally successful authors including UL's Chair of Creative Writing, Professor Joseph O'Connor (author of the million-selling *Star of the Sea*) as well as Donal Ryan (*The Spinning Heart*) and Giles Foden (*The Last King of Scotland*).

Contact Age & Opportunity for more details on how to apply.



Visual Arts Seedlings

SEEDLINGS is designed to encourage dynamic and active engagement between fine art students and older communities. Groups of older people in Dublin and Limerick are working with students from NCAD (National College of Art & Design) and LSAD (Limerick School of Art & Design) to develop imaginative and creative projects that tackle critical issues of social and political interest.

As part of this, LSAD artist Maeve Collins will work with the local community on Inis Oírr over the Bank Holiday weekend, taking Brian Merriman's sexually provocative intergenerational 18th century poem *The Midnight Court* as a starting point for discussions on gender relations and equality.

In Dublin, NCAD students Arlene O'Reilly, Ruth Morris and Alice Richard will work with people attending St James' Hospital, as part of Denis Roche's exciting *Creative Life* programme using music, cooking, literature and painting.



Detail from work by Teresa Normile. Courtesy of the artist and LSAD.



Craft Knitted Together

Having won the Age & Opportunity VoltAge bursary, Rialto's F2 Stitch and Bitch Group have been working with Fatima Groups United's artist-in-residence, Sadhbh Lawlor, to create textile sculptures, including a striking model of H and J Block of the old Fatima Mansions flat complex. They make versions of imagined or remembered buildings, like local shops, creating a personal documentation of their lives and their environment.

As part of Bealtaine, they are working on a cityscape where the new collides with the old; the real blends into the imagined and you can get a glimpse into their own personal Dublin.

Visit *Knitted Together* in Dublin's Mansion House on Tue 19 and Wed 20, as part of its 300 Years celebration and Bealtaine.

Detail from *Knitted Together* by F2 Stitch and Bitch Group, 2014



Booking Details

While there are hundreds of organisers in Bealtaine 2015, here is a directory of contact numbers for venues listed in this programme. For website booking, go to bealtaine.com.

Cavan - Ramor Theatre - (049) 854 7074

Clare - Courthouse Gallery, Ennistymon - (065) 707 1630

Clare - Glór, Ennis - (065) 684 3103

Cork - Everyman Palace - (021) 450 1673

Cork - Ionad Cultúrtha, Baile Mhúirne - (026) 45 733

Derry - Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin - (0044) 28 7126 4132

Donegal - An Grianán - (074) 912 0777

Dublin - Age & Opportunity - (01) 805 7709

Dublin - Axis, Ballymun - (01) 883 2100

Dublin - Civic Theatre, Tallaght - (01) 462 7477

Dublin - Dublin Dance Festival - (01) 679 0524 - from Tue 5

Dublin - Debora Ando Print Studio, Temple Bar -
087 416 4192

Dublin - Draíocht, Blanchardstown - (01) 885 2622

Dublin - Gate Theatre, Parnell Sq - (01) 874 4045

Dublin - Irish Theatre Institute - (01) 670 4906

Dublin - National Library of Ireland - (01) 603 0200

Booking Details

Dublin – Visual Artists Ireland – (01) 672 9488

Galway – Áras Éanna, Inis Oírr – (099) 75 150

Galway – Town Hall Theatre – (091) 569 777

Galway – St Nicholas Collegiate Church – 086 389 8777

Kerry – Féile na Bealtaine – 087 346 7632

Kerry – St John’s Theatre, Listowel – (068) 22 566

Kildare – Riverbank, Newbridge – (045) 448 327

Leitrim – The Dock, Carrick on Shannon – (071) 965 0828

Limerick – Lime Tree Theatre at Mary Immaculate –
(061) 774 774

Louth – Droichead, Drogheda – (041) 983 3946

Mayo – Linenhall, Castlebar – (094) 902 3733

Offaly – Birr Theatre – (057) 912 2911

Roscommon – King House, Boyle – (071) 966 3242

Roscommon – Roscommon Arts Centre – (090) 662 5824

Sligo – Hawk’s Well – (071) 916 1518

Tipperary – Source, Thurles – (050) 490 204

Waterford – Cúil Na Sméar Hall, Dungarvan – 087 989 8363

Wexford – Wexford Arts Centre – (053) 912 3764

Wicklow – Mermaid, Bray – (01) 272 4030

Bealtaine Partners

Bealtaine 2015 is made possible by the work of hundreds of partner organisations, groups and individuals every year. A full list for Bealtaine 2015 is on our website bealtaine.com along with information about the thousands of events, classes, workshops, performances, exhibitions and sessions taking place across Ireland.

We would like to acknowledge the following partners in work commissioned by Age & Opportunity as part of Bealtaine 2015:





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 CULTUREFOX

The Arts Council's new, upgraded CULTURE FOX events guide is now live. Free, faster, easy to use – and personalised for you. Never miss out again.



Inglourious Basterds (film note), oil on canvas, by Rose Wylie, 2010.

Courtesy of the artist and UNION, London.

Showing in the Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin until Wed 13 May.

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