MAY 2026

Bealtaine

Ireland's national festival celebrating the arts and ageing.

www.bealtaine.ie

Age & Opportunity

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IFI Irish Film Institute

The Stinging Fly new writers, new writing

Broadcast Partner

RTÉ SUPPORTING THE arts

Thank you to our funders, partners and supporters for your generous support. Your contributions make our festival possible.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Booking details and more information on all events, including the full nationwide programme, can be found on Bealtaine.ie or call us on 01 9133921.

Flagship festival events taking place in Project Arts Centre 28-30 May can be booked directly via projectartscentre.ie or by calling 01 8819613.

A Message From The President Of Ireland

"Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann, may I send my very best wishes to all those who will be participating in this year's Bealtaine Festival.

For over 30 years, Bealtaine Festival has been enabling and empowering people to enjoy the arts and express their creativity as they get older.

Age should place no boundaries on our imagination or our creativity. It is through continuing to express ourselves that we can ensure we retain and build the skills, experiences and exposure that can lead to a rich creative life. In building an inclusive society, it is important that each generation shares their experience and learns from each other's lives.

I encourage everyone reading this programme to find an event that interests them, be it as part of the national programme or at a local level, and to join with their community in continuing to make Bealtaine such an important month in the year.

Congratulations to everyone taking part in this year's events, and enjoy the festivities."

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"Ba mhaith liom, mar Uachtarán na hÉireann gach, rath a ghuigh orthu siúd a bhéas rannpháirteach i bhFéile na Bealtaine i mbliana.

Tá Féile na Bealtaine ag tabhairt deis do dhaoine sult a bhaint as na healaíona agus a gcruthaitheacht a chur in iúl agus iad ag éirí níos sine, le níos mó ná 30 bliain.

Níor cheart go gcuirfeadh aois teora dá laghad leis an tsamhlaíocht nó an gcruthaitheacht. Is nuair a leanann muid ár gcur ár bhféin in iúl a éiríonn linn blaiseadh de scileanna agus taithí éagsúla agus saol saibhir cruthaitheach a fhorbairt agus a chaomhnú. Tá sé tábhachtach, agus sochaí chuimsitheach á tógáil againn, go mbíonn ar chumas chuile ghlúin a dtaithí a roinnt agus foghlaim óna chéile.

Molaim daoibhse atá ag léamh an chláir seo imeacht a spreagann sibh a roghnú; bíodh sé mar chuid den chlár náisiúnta nó go háitiúil; agus tacú le bhur bpobal ag ceiliúradh tábhacht mhí na Bealtaine.

Comhghairdeas ó chroí le chuile dhuine atá ag glacadh páirt in imeachtaí na bliana seo, bainigí sult agus tairbhe as an bhféile."

Catherine Connolly
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland

We hope this Flagship Bealtaine weekend finds you rested and ready for this month of renewal, growth and new beginnings. As we welcome the light after winter, dive into Bealtaine's rich mix of performances, workshops, discussions and exhibitions from Ireland's incredible pool of artists and makers.

Dr. Tara Byrne,
Bealtaine Festival
Artistic Director

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Photo: Hands in Harmony ISL choir

Nationwide Dawn & Dusk Chorus

The Dawn Chorus is a nationwide choral event in which older people come together with a singing group in their locality and sing at dawn to welcome the day and the season. In the final year of our 'Lust for Life' theme, we invite groups to reflect this in their song choices. The nationwide and flagship Dawn chorus events are presented in partnership with Sing Ireland. See bealtaine.ie for an arrangement of 'Lust for Life' for singing groups.

Big Bealtaine Tea Party:
Songs, Words & Welcome

Irish Museum of Modern Art
2pm – 4.30pm | Tickets: €15
ISL provided

This year's Tea Party, curated by our three Citizen Curators, Joe Maguire, Madge O'Callaghan and Peter Clarke, celebrates creativity at every age - spotlighting late-life debuts, reinvention, and practices sustained across decades. Inspired by the energy of Iggy Pop's Lust for Life, the event reframes ageing as vitality, not decline. Featuring debut writer Tom Dredge, storyteller Ruth Marshall and actor Bríd Ní Neachtain, and joined by Bealtaine Dawn Chorus Flagship Choir, Hands in Harmony from Limerick and Terenure College Community Choir. Supported by IMMA. **Writers: find out more about the open mic for this event at bealtaine.ie.**

see bealtaine.ie for more

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Literature /In Conversation

ILFD Le Fanu - Merrion Square
6pm - 7pm | Tickets €14/€12

The 9th edition of this special partnership between Bealtaine and International Literature Festival Dublin celebrating the influence writers have on each other across generations. Entrepreneurial playwright and founder/co-director of THISISPOPBABY Phillip McMahon, is in conversation with writer/director Gerry Stembridge. They will discuss how they met via Dublin Youth Theatre back in 1997 and the 'je ne sais quoi' which inspired Phillip to follow in Gerry's footsteps as a theatre artist.

National Arts in Nursing Homes Day

Nationwide

National Arts in Nursing Homes Day celebrates the creativity of people in nursing homes and care settings and the integral role the arts fulfills in supporting them. It takes place on the third Friday of May each year, as part of the Bealtaine Festival. In partnership with Nursing Homes Ireland.

Won't Be Told

Circus

Throughout May – see calendar on page 23 for dates and venues

Annoying, talented, and stubbornly skilled, Ken and Tina from Tumble Circus present Won't Be Told, a rebellious circus adventure that rages against the dying of the light. Their world is packed with wild acrobatics, absurd juggling, and hysterical comedy, all delivered with the fierce determination of performers who refuse to go quietly. This is circus with attitude, heart, and a glorious refusal to behave.

Each year Bealtaine supports tours which embody the spirit of the festival through open calls.

We Are An Archipelago

Spoken word/Music

Throughout May – see calendar on page 23 for dates and venues

Based on the true story of ninety-nine-year-old Bill, who returns to his island home after eighty years away, We Are An Archipelago explores a unique friendship, homecoming, ageing, and the courage to embrace change at any point in life. Told through poetry and live music, the piece features spoken word poet Erin Fornoff and singer-songwriter Patrick O'Laoghaire (I Have a Tribe), with multi-instrumentalist Oisin Walsh-Peelo (O Deer) and drummer Dominic Mullan.

Éireann and I present 'This Land Bears Our Name'

Showcase

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios @ Studio 6
Opening: 28 May, 11am, Runs 28-30 May, 11am – 6pm

Éireann and I is a community archive and memory work platform dedicated to chronicling stories of Black life in Ireland. Initiated and led by Beulah Ezeugo and Joselle Ntumba, the project creates spaces for migrants to engage with archives and explore practices of memory work through participatory workshops, publications, and installations. This special commission for Bealtaine explores older migrants' relationships with Dublin city with newly produced images made during a sound walking workshop, together with images from participants' personal archives.

Place, Pace & Practice: A lifetime of making

Artist Discussion

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios
12pm – 1.15pm | FREE booking required.

Join us for a conversation between visual artists Laura Fitzgerald, Geraldine O'Neill, filmmaker Pat Murphy; chaired by the writer and visual artist Sara Baume, as they discuss a lifetime of making art and navigating life as an artist across countries, cities and countrysides.

Retired? You Must Be Joking!

Ambassador's Choice

Project Arts Centre - CUBE
1pm - 2.15pm | Pay What You Can - see page 25

Join us for an afternoon of lively conversation on art, ageing, visibility and the ideas that matter now, hosted by Bealtaine Ambassadors, writer and former politician Liz McManus and musician Mike Hanrahan. Marking their final year as Ambassadors, Liz and Mike each invite one of their favourite collaborators and thinkers to the table: Fiction Laureate Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and broadcaster and musician Kieran Hanrahan (also Mike's brother!). Expect thoughtful exchanges, personal reflections, and plenty of wit and style.

Bealtaine Film Retrospective

Screening & Panel

Project Arts Centre - SPACE UPSTAIRS
2pm - 3.30pm | Pay What You Can - see page 25

Another chance to see some of the short films commissioned by the Festival, on the big screen. Featuring Where Do All The Old Gays Go by Cathy Dunne, Over/Pass by Shaun Dunne and Jessica Kennedy, Filmpoem by Anita Groener and Enda Wyley and Pom Boyd's iconic Windy Lady. The films will be followed by a panel discussion with some of the artists and participants.

Captions provided **oc**

Miriam O'Callaghan in Conversation with Susan McKay

Literature/Discussion

Project Arts Centre – SPACE UPSTAIRS
4pm - 5.15pm | Tickets: €15

Bealtaine Festival is delighted to feature one of Ireland's best-loved broadcasters Miriam O'Callaghan talking about her exceptionally honest memoir Miriam: **Life, Work, Everything.** In a reversal of her usual role, Miriam joins award-winning journalist and writer Susan McKay for an intimate chat about her phenomenal career as a broadcaster and shares her remarkable philosophy on how she balances a high-octane career, a family life as a mother of eight, and being a vibrant public persona.

Captions provided

Sex (No) Drugs & Rock N Roll

Music/Discussion

Project Arts Centre – SPACE UPSTAIRS
7.30pm - 9pm | Tickets: €20

Bass players Cait O'Riordan (The Pogues), Barry Devlin (Horslips) and special guest panelist join us for a wide-ranging and revealing conversation about music, showbands, punk, life, addiction, abstinence, tragedy, success plus the highs and lows of the road! Chaired by arts journalist, Nadine O'Regan.

FAICT OR FAICTION
Literature/Discussion

Project Arts Centre – CUBE
1pm – 2.15pm| Tickets: €15

A panel discussion chaired by Conor Kostick on the use of science fiction in literature, and on influential sci-fi or speculative fiction books which have informed real life and continue to spark the imagination. With **AI** becoming more ubiquitous in our daily lives, what does this mean for writers and readers?
Panel includes writers Jan Carson, Joanna Walsh and Derek O'Connor.

Choreographing Autonomy

Dance/Discussion

Project Arts Centre – SPACE UPSTAIRS
3.30pm – 4.45pm | Pay What You can - see page 25

A conversation between dance artist Philip Connaughton and visual artist Marie Brett on their collaboration in the making of Marie's film Yes, But Do You Care? which uses dance as a medium to illustrate dementia experiences. The eleven-minute film will be screened as part of this event.

Johnny Got a Bus Pass

Music / Theatre

Project Arts Centre - CUBE
5.30pm – 6.30pm | Tickets: €15

Little John Nee, one of Ireland's iconic live entertainers, proves that ageing doesn't mean opting out — it means showing up and playing louder where it matters. Funny, heartfelt, musical, and celebratory memoir, state-of-the-nation and masterclass of the joys of being an elder punk.

Paul Cleary - Up Close & Personal

Music/Conversation

Project Arts Centre – SPACE UPSTAIRS
7pm – 8.30pm | Tickets: €20

One of Ireland's most successful singer/songwriters, Paul's legendary band, The Blades, was powered by a rich and memorable songbook including all-time classics Ghost of a Chance, Downmarket, and Revelations of Heartbreak. Fueled by Paul's Ringsend roots, an iconic voice, and heartfelt musical poetry, the band remain as dynamic and relevant today as they continue to attract new fans and packout venues nationwide. Paul is in conversation with broadcaster/musician Tom Dunne (Something Happens).

Captions provided OC

see bealtaine.ie for more

Homerun: Two films from the Bodyverses series by Juana Robles

Screening & Interview

Irish Film Institute, Temple Bar
12pm - 1.30pm | Tickets: €13.50/€10.50

As part of Bealtaine Festival 2026, we are delighted to collaborate once again with the IFI and aemi to present two films from Kilkenny-based artist-filmmaker Juana Robles' ongoing Bodyverses series, begun in 2024 and featuring performance artists Frances Mezzetti and Alastair MacLennan.

Carlo Gébler and Olivia O'Leary in Conversation

Literature / Discussion

Project Arts Centre - CUBE
1pm – 2.15pm | Tickets: €15

Join writer and novelist Carlo Gébler in conversation with journalist Olivia O'Leary discussing his new memoir A Cold Eye: Notes from a Shared Island, 1989-2024. Their conversation will reflect on the impact of the Troubles, Peace Process, Celtic Tiger and Brexit from a personal and structurally compelling point of view, where one diary entry is selected from each of the 35 years in question.

see bealtaine.ie for more

Not Dead Yet: Love, intimacy and dating in later life

Discussion

Project Arts Centre - CUBE
3pm – 4.15pm | Pay What You can - see page 25

Looking for love? You've come to the right place! Chaired by writer/ broadcaster Barbara Scully and featuring writer/performer/ accidental activist, Rory O'Neill/Panti Bliss, singer-songwriter Leslie Dowdall and neuroscientist/health psychologist Sabina Brennan, this discussion will explore the emotional, social, and cultural dimensions of romantic relationships in later life, considering ageism, dating, social mores and representation, delivered with warmth and humour. See pg 17 for our Mix and Mingle event.

6 O'Clock Rock with Sing Along Social

End of festival party

Project Arts Centre – SPACE UPSTAIRS
6pm - 7.30pm | Pay What You Can - see page 25

Inspired by the feel good vibes from 2024's 4 O'Clock Rock with Sing Along Social, we will once again take to the dance floor for the closing event of the festival with a big intergenerational boogie that celebrates our Lust for Life. All welcome!

Poetry S.O.S.

Saturday 30 May, 10 min slots will run 10.30am-1pm
Tickets: FREE, booking essential

Anne Tannam, poet and poetry pharmacist will prescribe a poem for you, designed to help you feel better. Each session is ten minutes long and pre-booking is essential.
In partnership with Poetry Ireland.

The Human Library

Unjudge Someone

Saturday 30 May, 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Tickets: FREE, drop in.

At the Human Library you can borrow books just like any other library. However, the difference with this library is that the "books" are living people with personal stories and experiences from their own life. The Human Library creates a safe space where challenging and taboo subjects can be discussed in the open.

Bealtaine Mix and Mingle

Saturday 30 May, 4.45pm - 5.45pm
Tickets: FREE. Drop in.

Bealtaine will host a relaxed mixer upstairs in the Project bar. DJ Dandelion will provide some atmospheric tunes and host Muireann Ryan will create a welcoming space to come together with friends old and new. Tea and coffee on tap, and the bar will be open. A lovely way to chill and have the craic before we celebrate the end of festival party at 6pm.

see bealtaine.ie for more

Improv Workshop with Michelle Read

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios
Thursday 28 May, 11am – 2pm
Tickets: €12

Join Dublin Comedy Improv founder-member Michelle Read for this practical and fun workshop. For anyone interested in drama, performance and having a bit of craic! Suitable for 16 years+.

Ilu Osu West African Drumming Workshop with Segun Akano

Project Arts Centre
Friday 29 May, 10.30am – 11.30am
Tickets: €12

Join our immersive West African drumming workshop for adults, where you'll learn to play vibrant rhythms from Nigeria and Ghana through hands-on instruction and group ensemble playing. Drums will be provided.

Finding Your Voice Memoir workshop

Project Arts Centre
Friday 29 May, 11am – 12.30pm
Tickets: €12

Join writers Phyl Herbert and Mary Rose Callaghan for an engaging 90 minutes introduction to memoir writing.

Filmmaking on Your Phone with Dublin Smart Phone Film Festival

Project Arts Centre
Saturday 30 May, 10.30am – 1.30pm
Tickets: €12

Use your smartphone to create captivating films in this hands-on workshop designed for beginners.

Golden Grooves with Macushla Dance

Project Arts Centre
Saturday 30 May, 12pm – 1.15pm
Tickets: €12

Aimed at dance enthusiasts 50+. Explore musicality, enhance stamina and coordination, and collaborate to create dance sequences, all in a relaxed, supportive, fun environment.

Lust for Poetry Workshop

Project Arts Centre
Thursday 28 May, 11am - 12.30pm
Tickets: €12

Bring a notebook and your love of poetry to our welcoming and interactive 90-minute poetry workshop run by Poetry Ireland's former and current poets -in-residence, Sean Borodale and Anne Tannam. Open to all.
In partnership with Poetry Ireland.

Beginners DJ workshop with Blkcnvs

Project Arts Centre
Friday 29 May, 3pm - 4pm
Tickets: €12

Have you ever wondered what it is a DJ actually does and how they do it? Learn how to mix and blend music using DJ decks with a hands-on beginner DJ workshop with Blkcnvs (pronounced Black-Canvas).

Still life: Sculpting the Everyday

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios
Friday 29 May, 11:30am - 1pm
Tickets: €12

Join artist Joanne Reid for a 90min workshop - Still life. Sculpting the Everyday. No experience necessary and materials will be provided.

Write So! with The Stinging Fly

5 & 19 May | 10am –12pm
Online. Tickets: €20

An immersive online writing workshop experience with The Stinging Fly and writers Martina Evans and Danielle McLaughlin. Whether you're writing fiction or poetry, these two interactive sessions are designed to provide you with the time and space to write in a fun, supportive environment. Beginners are very welcome as is anyone looking for the inspiration to get started on a new writing project. In partnership with The Stinging Fly.

Exploring Abstract Landscape with Julie Cusack

11,13 & 15 May | 10.30am - 12pm
Online. Tickets: €20

Discover the joy of abstract and expressive landscape painting in this nature inspired three part workshop.

IMMA Bealtaine Programme

See imma.ie for the full programme of in person and online events

This May, the Irish Museum of Modern Art takes part in Bealtaine Festival, celebrating Lust for Life with a programme that invites curiosity, reflection and joyful engagement with the world around us. Through IMMA Horizons - Lifelong Creativity for the Curious - the museum supports engagement with art across the life course, recognising creativity as a powerful force for wellbeing, resilience and social connection.

Photo Album of the Irish

Diverse histories of the Irish reflected in family photo albums

Photo Museum of Ireland, Temple Bar
Friday 29 May 1pm - 2pm

Join us for a free, Photo Album of the Irish talk, which will give an insight into the rich array of histories and photographs contributed to this growing digital archive. The Photo Album of the Irish Project is supported by the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme.

Ageing in Place

Walking Tour of Temple Bar

Meet outside Project Arts Centre
Friday 29 May, 11am - 12pm

The Irish Architecture Foundation is proud to offer a unique guided walking tour on the past and present of Temple Bar, led by Michael McDermott, as part of the Bealtaine Festival. Places are limited, so reserve yours today! This tour may be booked online or by phone on +353 1 874 7200.

TBG+S Exhibition Tour & Chat

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios
Friday 29 May, 2pm – 3pm

Join us for an informal tour of our current exhibition Nostalgism by artist Rebecca Moccia, as well as an introduction to the photograph display created by Éireann and I f for Bealtaine. This event is suitable for all who are new to or curious about contemporary art.

Live Aid | The Global Jukebox Guided Tour

National Photographic Archive, Temple Bar

Friday 29 May, 2pm – 3pm

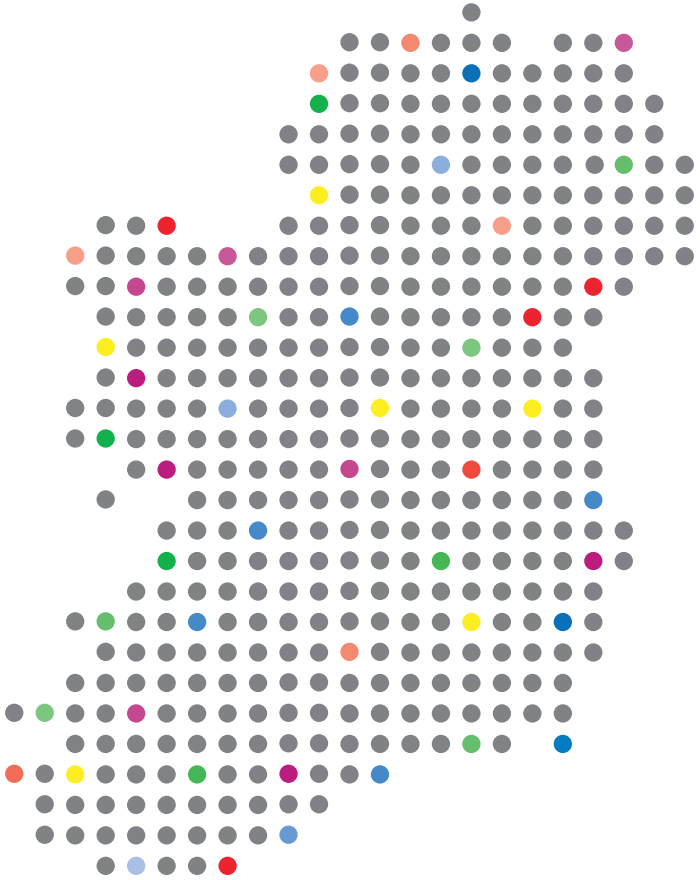
Join us to step back in time to one extraordinary day in 1985 - when music, media and humanity collided on a global scale, described by Bob Geldof, as making him feel that "For a brief, brief moment everything seemed possible."

DAY/TIME	NAME OF EVENT	TYPE OF EVENT	VENUE	PRICE	PAGE
SUNDAY 3RD					
2pm-4.30pm	Big Bealtaine Tea Party	Various	IMMA, Dublin 8	€15	5
FRIDAY 15TH					
All day	National Arts in Nursing Homes Day	Various	Nationwide	N/A	6
6pm -7pm	Standing on the Shoulders of Giants	Literature	ILFD Le Fanu , Merrion Sq, D2	€14/€12	6
THURSDAY 28TH					
11am-2pm	Improv workshop with Michelle Read	PA/Workshop	Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, D2	€12	18
11am - 12pm	Éireann & I present 'This Land Bears Our Name' opening	Visual Arts/ Showcase	Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, D2	FREE	8
11am - 12.30pm	Lust for Poetry Workshop	Literature/ workshop	Project Arts Centre, D2	€12	19
1pm - 2.15pm	Retired - You Must Be Joking!	Visual Arts Discussion	Project Arts Centre, D2	PWYC	9
1pm - 2.30pm	Place, Pace & Practice: A Lifetime of Making	Visual Arts/ Discussion	Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, D2	FREE	9
2pm - 3.30pm	Bealtaine Film Retrospective	Film & Panel	Project Arts Centre, D2	PWYC	10
4pm - 5.15pm	Miriam O'Callaghan in conversation with Susan McKay	Literature/ Discussion	Project Arts Centre, D2	€15	10
7.30pm - 9pm	Sex,(No) Drugs & Rock N Roll	Music/Discussion	Project Arts Centre, D2	€20	11
FRIDAY 29TH					
10.30am -11.30am	ILU OSU West African Drumming Workshop	Music/Workshop	Project Arts Centre, D2	€12	18
10:30am - 12pm	Finding Your Voice - Memoir Workshop	Literature/ Workshop	Project Arts Centre, D2	€12	18
11.30am-1pm	Still Life - Sculpting the Everyday	Vis Arts Workshop	Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, D2	€12	19
11am - 6pm	Éireann & I present 'This Land Bears Our Name'	Visual Arts / Workshop	Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, D2	FREE	8
11am - 12pm	Ageing in Place Tour with the Irish Architecture Foundation	Walking Tour	Meet outside Project Arts Centre	FREE	21
1pm - 2pm	Photo Album of the Irish at the Photo Museum Ireland	Talk	PMI, Temple Bar, D2	FREE	21
1pm - 2.15pm	FAICT OR FAICTION	Literature/ Workshop	Project Arts Centre, D2	€15	12
2pm - 3pm	Temple Bar Gallery + Studios Art Tour & Chat	Tour	Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, D2	FREE	21
2pm - 3pm	Live Aid - The Global Jukebox Tour - National Photographic Archive	Tour	NPA, Temple Bar	FREE	21
3pm - 4pm	Beginners DJ Workshop	Music/Workshop	Project Arts Centre, D2	€12	19
3.30pm - 4.30pm	Choreographing Autonomy Philip Connaughton & Marie Brett	Dance/Discussion	Project Arts Centre, D2	PWYC	13
5.30pm - 6.30pm	Johnny Got A Bus Pass - Little John Nee	Music/Theatre	Project Arts Centre, D2	€15	13
7pm - 8.30pm	Up Close & Personal - Paul Cleary in conversation with Tom Dunne	Music/Theatre	Project Arts Centre, D2	€20	14
SATURDAY 30TH					
10:30am - 1pm	Poetry S.O.S.	Literature/Poetry	Project Arts Centre, D2	FREE	17
10.30am -1.30pm	Filmmaking on Your Phone Workshop	Film/Workshop	Project Arts Centre, D2	€12	18
11am - 12.15pm	Golden Grooves Workshop with Macushla Dance	Dance/Workshop	Project Arts Centre, D2	€12	19
12pm - 1.30pm	Homerun - Juana Robles screening and interview	Visual Arts/Film	Irish Film Institute, D2	€13.50 €10.50	15

DAY/TIME	NAME OF EVENT	TYPE OF EVENT	VENUE	PRICE	PAGE
1pm - 2.15pm	Carlo Gébler in conversation with Olivia O'Leary	Lit/Discussion	Project Arts Centre, D2	€15	15
1.30pm - 4pm	The Human Library	Discussion	Project Arts Centre, D2	FREE	17
3pm - 4.15pm	Not Dead Yet: Love, Romance & Intimacy in Later Life	Discussion	Project Arts Centre, D2	PWYC	16
4.45pm - 5.45pm	Bealtaine Mix and Mingle	Social event	Project Arts Centre, D2	FREE	17
6pm - 7.30pm	6 O'Clock Rock with Sing Along Social	Music/Dance/Party	Project Arts Centre, D2	PWYC	16
ONLINE WORKSHOPS					
15 & 19 May	Write So! With The Stinging Fly	Lit/Workshop	Online	€20	20
11, 13, 15 May	Exploring Abstract Landscapes with Julie Cusack	Visual Arts/ Workshop	Online	€20	20
BEALTAINE TOURS - Won't Be Told					
Friday 8 May	Wexford Arts Centre (outside)	Circus	Wexford	see website	7
Friday 8 May	New Garden, grounds of St John's Hospital, Enniscorthy (via Creative Places Enniscorthy)	Circus	Wexford	see website	7
Saturday 9 May	Market Square, Dundalk (via An Táin Arts Centre)	Circus	Louth	see website	7
Sunday 10 May	Civic Theatre (outside)	Circus	Tallaght, Dublin 24	see website	7
Monday 11 May	Community Centre (via Civic Theatre)	Circus	Tallaght, Dublin 24	see website	7
Wednesday 13 May	Axis, Ballymun (Outside)	Circus	Dublin 9	see website	7
Saturday 16 May	Hawk's Well Theatre	Circus	Sligo	see website	7
Tuesday 19 May	Roscommon Care Centres	Circus	Rocommon	see website	7
Wednesday 20 May	Roscommon Square (via Rosorcas)	Circus	Rocommon	see website	7
Thursday 21 May	Creative Connections	Circus	Tipperary	see website	7
Friday 22 May	Fethard and District Day Care Centre (via Tipperary Arts Office)	Circus	Tipperary	see website	7
Friday 22 May	Showgrounds Shopping Centre, Clonmel (via Tipperary Arts Office)	Circus	Tipperary	see website	7
Saturday 23 May	Mermaid Arts Centre (outside)	Circus	Bray, Wicklow	see website	7
BEALTAINE TOURS - We Are An Archipelago					
Wednesday 20 May	Mount Carmel, Loughrea	Spoken Word/ Music	Galway	see website	7
Thursday 21 May	Salmon Bookshop, Ennistymon	Spoken Word/ Music	Clare	see website	7
Saturday 23 May	Seamus Heaney Homeplace	Spoken Word/ Music	Antrim	see website	7
Thursday 28 May	Listowel Writer's Week	Spoken Word/ Music	Kerry	see website	7
Friday 29 May	Sandymount Community Centre	Spoken Word/ Music	Dublin	see website	7

See bealtaine.ie for more details. *PWYC - see page 25

RTÉ SUPPORTING THE arts



Every year, RTÉ supports more than 160 arts events nationwide.

Apply Now: www.rte.ie/supportingthearts

Booking details and more information on all events, including the full national programme, can be found on Bealtaine.ie or call us on 01 9133921. Festival events taking place in Project Arts Centre can be booked directly via projectartscentre.ie

ACCESS INFORMATION FOR FLAGSHIP FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Project Arts Centre - Venue access information

We are proud to work with PAC as our venue HQ for our flagship weekend of events. Access provision includes:

- Temple Bar Access Guide including video journeys from popular routes
- Assisted listening devices
- Navilens
- Quiet space
- Free companion tickets for those who require a companion to attend

OTHER VENUES

We also have flagship events taking place at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, Irish Film Institute, Photo Museum Ireland.

Please be advised that our walking tours take place in Temple Bar which has uneven ground. Please get in touch with us if you require more information on the route.

FESTIVAL TEAM

Karen Horgan: CEO, Age & Opportunity
Dr. Tara Byrne: Arts Programme Manager & Bealtaine Festival Artistic Director
Bridget Deevy: Arts Programme Assistant Manager & Bealtaine Festival Producer
Sarah Kelly: Arts Programme Administrator, Age & Opportunity
Órla Sheils: Communications Manager, Age & Opportunity
Anne Carroll: Communications Assistant, Age & Opportunity
Bealtaine Curators: Anne Hendrick, Billy McGrath & Valerie Bistany
Bealtaine Citizen Curators: Joe Maguire, Madge O'Callaghan & Peter Clarke
Bealtaine Ambassadors: Mike Hanrahan and Liz O'Donnell
Paridhi Jain: Social Media Volunteer
Graphic design: creatingmomentum.ie

With special thanks to all our invaluable volunteers!

For more information, see Bealtaine.ie for an overview of our access provision for the festival.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN (PWYC)

We have a number of free and low cost ticket options to support access. Our PWYC model allows bookers to choose a €5/€10/€15 ticket on selected events.

We will also reserve a limited number of no cost tickets for every event if cost is a significant barrier. Please get in touch directly to find out more: arts@ageandopportunity.ie

We ask that bookers of free events please notify us if not attending to allow others to book.

Please see selected events for more information on enhanced access provision.

We envision an Ireland where older age is recognised as a time of opportunity and where all older people can be active, visible, creative, connected and confident about ageing.

Age & Opportunity is the national organisation working to enhance wellbeing for older people through participation in sport and physical activity, arts and creative engagement, personal development, community collaboration and active citizenship.

The Bealtaine Festival, an Age & Opportunity Arts initiative, is one of our flagship events. The festival continues to grow with the support and collaboration of our partners and hundreds of organisers throughout the country, as well as all those who attend a Bealtaine event. We are grateful to all those who organised events and look forward to another creative and inspiring year of Bealtaine Festival.

Age & Opportunity

Bealtaine Ambassadors 2026

In their final year with the festival, we are delighted to welcome writer and former T.D. Liz McManus and author, songwriter and Age Friendly Ambassador for Clare, Mike Hanrahan (Stocktons Wing) as Festival Ambassadors.

see bealtaine.ie for more

Meet our Bealtaine Citizen Curators 2026

Over the past year, we have been working with three citizen curators who were interested in finding out more about how the festival programmed events and contributing to the 2026 festival.

Peter Clarke is a poet and workshop participant at the Irish Writers Centre and elsewhere. A Bealtaine Writers' Group member since 2008, he founded MARA Poets in 2023. He holds an MA from Manchester Metropolitan University and has been widely published and shortlisted.

Madge O'Callaghan works in social justice and founded Ireland's first hospital-based youth mental health advocacy service. Her poetry collection Positive Deviance reflects this work. She holds an MA from DCU, won Gold at the New York World Festival of Radio, and is pursuing a PhD at UL.

Joe Maguire, a retired IT professional, volunteers in Galway's arts community. He organises a weekly lunchtime cinema screening and supports major festivals including Galway Arts Festival, Cúirt, Galway Film Fleadh, and TULCA, with strong interests in literature and film.

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An **Age & Opportunity arts** initiative

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