CULTURE IRELAND

Promoting Irish Arts
Edinburgh 2015
Culture Ireland at Edinburgh

Over the past ten years, Culture Ireland has supported the performing artists below as well as over 100 writers to present their work at the Edinburgh Festivals. Culture Ireland thanks all these artists and applauds them on their successes, consistently attracting awards and critical acclaim and generating international tours.

CoiSéim Dance Theatre
Corn Exchange Theatre Company
Galway Arts Festival
Druid Theatre Company
Rough Magic Theatre Company
The Performance Corporation
Raw Theatre
Inis Theatre Society
Barabbas
Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company
Karen Egan
Spanner in the Works Theatre Company
Flipside & Spacecraft
Pasados Dance Company
Ransom Productions
Playgroup
Abbey Theatre
Djinn Productions
Dragonfly Theatre Collective
Fishamble: The New Play Company
Greenstick Productions
Madcap Theatre Company
Sole Purpose Productions
Catapult Dance
Legitimate Bodies
Fearghus Ó Conchuir
ponydance
Rex Levitates Dance Company
Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre
Gúna Nua & Civic Theatre
Making Strange Theatre Company
calipo
Dylan Tighe
Gare St Lazare Players Ireland
ciotóg
Daghdha Dance Company
Kevin Volans
Maria Tecce
John Gerrard
Muirne Bloomer & Emma O’Kane
Irish Modern Dance Theatre
Siamsa Tíre
Camille O’Sullivan
Jack L
Tumble Circus
Luke Murphy
Liz Roche Company
Gate Theatre
Gulliver’s Travels
Aoife McAtamney
Maria Nilsson Waller
brokentalkers
Pan Pan Theatre
Landmark Productions
Dead Centre
TheEmergencyRoom and Galway International Arts Festival
Niamh Shaw
Wide Open Opera
Celtic Dialogues
Welcome

As Culture Ireland celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, the Edinburgh Festivals remain as important a platform for Irish artists to garner world attention and achieve new global opportunities as ten years ago.

Over the past decade Edinburgh has been home to many Irish artists for the month of August and we are grateful to our hosts, Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Edinburgh International Book Festival and the many venues, especially Traverse and Dance Base for the warmth of their welcome and their committed partnership. Over these years Irish artists have been honoured with coveted awards, new audiences and further global touring opportunities.

The rewards which Edinburgh Festivals offer artists, presenters and audiences alike make an annual trip to Edinburgh compelling. And so this year Culture Ireland is again supporting a fantastic programme of dance, theatre, music and literature. Established and emerging artists are presenting new work designed to excite and enthral. I am delighted that many of these artists will feature in our Centenary Programme for Ireland 2016, commemorating the birth of our nation. I hope you enjoy and congratulate all involved in this year’s annual showcase.

Aodhán Ó Riordáin, TD

Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
CORN EXCHANGE THEATRE COMPANY in assoc. with CUSACK PROJECTS LTD.

A Girl is a Half-formed Thing
by EIMEAR MCBRIDE adapted for the stage and directed by ANNIE RYAN

Thursday 6 –
Sunday 30 August
(80 minutes)
Previews 6 & 8 August
Traverse Theatre
10 Cambridge Street
(see schedule for times)

BOOKING:
www.traverse.co.uk
T: +44 131 228 1404

CONTACT:
Lucy Ryan
Executive Producer
E: lucy@cornexchange.ie
T: +353 86 330 2745
www.cornexchange.ie

The Corn Exchange returns to Traverse with this astonishing portrayal of an Irish girl trying to make sense of her fractured childhood based on the award-winning novel by Eimear McBride. Rebellious and unrelenting Aoife Duffin performs with an urgency and honesty that is electrifying.

★★★★★ The Observer
★★★★★ The Guardian
★★★★★ The Sunday Times

‘One of the best adaptations of a novel you are likely to see’ The Sunday Times

‘Aoife Duffin’s powerhouse performance is a festival triumph’
The Observer’s Top 20 Performances of 2014
**Fishamble: The New Play Company**

**Little Thing, Big Thing**

*by Donal O’Kelly*

**Thursday 6 – Sunday 30 August**
3.40pm (80 minutes)
Previews 6 & 7 August
Assembly George Square Studios - Two

**BOOKING:**
T: +44 131 623 3030
www.assemblyfestival.com

**CONTACT:**
Jim Culleton
Artistic Director
E: jim@fishamble.com
T: +353 1 670 4018
www.fishamble.com

A darkly comic thriller from Fishamble by Donal O’Kelly, both double Fringe First winners. An ex-con and nun are chased across Ireland for a roll of film – why the bleedin’ fuss? Sorcha Fox and Donal O’Kelly play Martha and Larry, who take a high octane jump into the world of international energy skullduggery, awakening passions they thought were dead.

★★★★ ‘Director Jim Culleton’s enjoyable production can effectively do no wrong...Fox and O’Kelly’s winning double act...structured like an old-fashioned caper...charmingly hokey narrative’ *Irish Times*

★★★★ ‘inventive thriller...funny and madcap...finely executed’ *Sunday Business Post*
ROUGH MAGIC in association with SOHO THEATRE

How to Keep an Alien

By SONYA KELLY

Thursday 6 –
Sunday 30 August
(75 minutes) Preview 6 Aug
Traverse Theatre
10 Cambridge Street
(see schedule for times)

BOOKING:
T: +44 131 228 1404
www.traverse.co.uk

CONTACT:
Diego Fasciati
Executive Producer
E: diego@roughmagic.ie
T: +353 1 671 9278
M: +353 87 782 0916
www.roughmagic.ie

Sonya Kelly (The Wheelchair on my Face, Fringe First Award 2012) is back with a tearfully funny, tender memoir about securing an Irish visa for her Australian partner. They met. They fell in love. Now they have to prove it to the government. Join her madcap odyssey from the stony townlands of Ireland to the leafy depths of the Queensland bush.

★★★★★ ‘Exquisite’ Irish Times

★★★★★ ‘Inventive and delightfully magnetic theatre’ The Herald (Dublin)

Winner Best Production
Dublin Fringe Festival 2014
FISHAMBLE: THE NEW PLAY COMPANY

Underneath
Written and Performed by PAT KINEVANE

Friday 7 –
Saturday 30 August
7.30pm (90 minutes)
Previews 7–9 August
Dance Base (Venue 22)
14–16 Grassmarket

BOOKING:
T: +44 131 225 5525
E: dance@dancebase.co.uk
www.dancebase.co.uk/Festival15

CONTACT:
Marketa Dowling Producer
E: marketa@fishamble.com
T: +353 1 670 4018
www.fishamble.com

Following the international success of Forgotten and Silent (winners of Fringe First, Herald Angel and Argus Angel awards), Fishamble presents Pat Kinevane’s solo show Underneath, directed by Jim Culleton. This stunning new play is a blackly comic, rich and vivid tale of a life lived in secret, a testament to the people who live on the fringes. It explores the surface, and what lies underneath.

★★★★ ‘Brilliant ... striking ... excellent’ Irish Times

‘Charming ... engaging ... a virtuoso performer ... delightful’ Irish Independent

‘Ireland’s terrific Fishamble’ The Guardian
To Space
by NIAMH SHAW

Monday 10 –
Sunday 30 August
5pm (60 minutes)
Preview 10 August
Summerhall
1 Summerhall

BOOKING:
T: +44 131 580 1581
www.summerhall.co.uk

CONTACT:
Joanna Crawley Producer
T: +353 86 453 8792
E: joanna.derkaczew@gmail.com
www.tospace2014.com

To Space is your telescope into a future and capsule that will preserve the past. Scientist and performer Dr Niamh Shaw has dreamed of space travel from the age of eight. After a year of interviewing astronauts, astrophysicists, space industries and potential future colonists of Mars, she’s discovered that what was once her childhood dream may soon become a reality. In a multimedia immersive performance that buzzes with new technologies, she explores the beauty, darkness and humanity of Space. What is our attraction to Space? What are we chasing – or escaping from?

‘Funny, honest, moving & uplifting’
The Sunday Times
Irrepressible ponydance returns to Edinburgh with a gallop to present their biggest show to date, in collaboration with the brilliant and prolific musician Donal Scullion and his band. Whilst retaining their usual love for comedy and chaos, this show delves into love, sex, relationships and more costumes from Primark. The show performed to standing ovations at both the Dublin Dance Festival and the MAC, Belfast. With a cast of 11 performers including six musicians, playing original – and completely unoriginal – music, expect athletic choreography, near nudity and a dash of genius from the irrepressible champions of comedy dance.
The Last Hotel
DONNACHA DENNEHY / ENDA WALSH

Saturday 8 – Wednesday 12 August
Preview Friday 7 August
8pm (80 minutes)
Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh
Grindlay Street

BOOKING:
T: + 44 131 473 2000
www.eif.co.uk

CONTACT:
Anne Clarke / Fergus Sheil
E: anneclarke@landmarkproductions.ie
fergus@wideopenopera.com
T: +353 87 649 3895 /
+353 87 238 6207
www.eif.co.uk/lasthotel
www.thelasthotel.ie

The Last Hotel unites two of Ireland’s most fascinating artists, multi award-winning playwright Enda Walsh and composer Donnacha Dennehy in a new chamber opera about life, death, duty and guilt. Walsh’s reputation as a chronicler of the darker side of the Irish psyche has been forged through such works as The Walworth Farce, Misterman and Ballyturk. Dennehy is a composer of urgent, searching music that combines post-minimalist overtones with a very Irish sensibility. The 12-strong Crash Ensemble is conducted by André de Ridder with a cast that includes baritone Robin Adams, sopranos Claudia Boyle and Katherine Manley and renowned actor Mikel Murfi.
Celtic Dialogues
Old, Historical and Modern Traditions

Sunday 9 August
8pm
(2 hours approximately)
Usher Hall
Lothian Road

Jordi Savall – Viola da gamba/Viol
Martin Hayes – Fiddle
Dennis Cahill – Guitar
Andrew Laurence-King – Irish Harp & Psaltery
Frank McGuire – Bodhrán

BOOKING:
T: + 44 131 473 2000
www.eif.co.uk

Early music pioneer and viola da gamba virtuoso Jordi Savall has devoted his career to breathing fresh life into historical musical masterpieces, and he recently turned his attention to the musical traditions of Ireland and Scotland. Likewise, Irish fiddle legend Martin Hayes and his regular collaborator, American guitarist Dennis Cahill, have been revered for their fresh, distinctive explorations of traditional Irish music. Joined by harpist Andrew Lawrence-King and bodhrán player Frank McGuire, they come together for a provocative performance exploring the shared roots of Celtic and early music, and celebrating the modern traditions they themselves are continuing.
Culture Ireland is proud to continue its support of the Edinburgh International Book Festival and its programme. The following is just a selection of the many events featuring Irish writers.

**Paul Murray**
*(with Stephen Kelman)*

**Saturday 15 Aug 10.15am / The Spiegeltent**

Paul Murray is the author of two previous novels, *An Evening of Long Goodbyes* and *Skippy Dies*, one of the most successful Irish novels in recent years. Based in a fictional boarding school in Dublin, the novel achieved widespread international acclaim including shortlisting for the 2010 Costa Book Awards and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. It was also cited by *Time* Magazine as one of the top ten fiction titles from that year. He returns with a highly anticipated follow-up, *The Mark and the Void*, described as a funny, ambitious novel about art, love and commerce.
Mary Costello  
(with Han Kang)  
Sunday 16 Aug 7pm /  
Baillie Gifford Corner Theatre

Mary Costello’s debut novel *Academy Street* has been described as “heartbreaking” and “packed with emotional intensity”. The novel won the Eason Novel of the Year at the 2014 Irish Book Awards. Her previous work, *The China Factory*, a short story collection was published in 2012 and was nominated for the Guardian First Book Award. Her stories have appeared in *New Irish Writing*, *The Stinging Fly* and in several anthologies including *Town and Country*. Originally from Galway, she now lives in Dublin and, along with South Korean writer Han Kang, is making her first appearance at Edinburgh.

Belinda McKeon  
(with Wayne Price)  
Monday 17 Aug 10.15am /  
The Spiegeltent

*Tender*, Belinda McKeon’s new novel, is a masterful and moving examination of human relationships that confirms the Irish novelist as a major international talent. Her debut novel, *Solace* (2011), was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. Her essays and journalism have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Irish Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The Guardian*, *A Public Space* and elsewhere. She lives in Brooklyn and is Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Rutgers University.
Christine Dwyer Hickey (with Gill Hornby)
Wednesday 19 Aug 10.15am / The Spiegeltent

The ties that bind small communities are at the heart of Christine Dwyer Hickey’s new novel The Lives of Women. Recalling a 1970s childhood where women are isolated and men depart every day for the outside world, this is her seventh novel. In addition, she has published a short story collection The House on Parkgate Street and other Dublin stories and her first play Snow Angels was published in February 2015 by Little Island. She was a previous winner of the Observer/Penguin Short Story Award.

Colm Tóibín
Wednesday 19 Aug 1.30pm / Baillie Gifford Main Theatre

Nora Webster takes place in Colm Tóibín’s home town of Wexford and it’s a novel he describes as ‘so close to me’ that it took more than a decade to finish. The result may well be his masterpiece: fellow novelist Jennifer Egan described it as ‘a novel in which everyday life manages to approach the mystical’. For his appearance at Edinburgh, Tóibín discusses the creation of Nora with acclaimed writer and biographer Hermione Lee.
John Boyne

**Monday 24 Aug 7pm / The Spiegeltent**

Author of multi-million bestseller *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas*, John Boyne is about to release his next book for younger readers, *Stay Where You Are and Then Leave*. It tells the story of a boy’s search for his father during the First World War. For older readers, Boyne looks closer to home with *A History of Loneliness*, a fiction about the priesthood, his first novel set in Ireland. He is also a regular book reviewer for *The Irish Times* and has been a judge for both the Hennessy Literary Awards and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

Minotaurs and Monsters with Shane Hegarty

**Wednesday 26 Aug 5pm / Baillie Gifford Imagination Lab**

Meet Shane Hegarty, Ireland’s latest literary export and creator of Darkmouth, the land where young Finn is searching for monsters whose greatest wish is to tear him apart. Can he survive a succession of near death experiences, avoid getting drowned and defeat a Minotaur? Or will he fail and plunge to his doom? There’s only one way to find out.

Lisa McInerney (with Emily Mackie)

**Friday 28 Aug 5pm / Writers’ Retreat**

Scotland-based Emily Mackie joins Lisa McInerney - each writes prose that is biting, moving and often darkly funny. Mackie’s second novel *In Search of Solace* has already been longlisted for this year’s Folio Prize, while McInerney’s debut *The Glorious Heresies* has prompted *The Irish Times* to call her ‘the most talented writer at work today in Ireland’.
Anne Enright
Saturday 29 Aug 11.45am / Baillie Gifford Main Theatre

Anne Enright was announced as the inaugural Laureate of Irish Fiction in January 2015, a new role established to promote Irish fiction on the national and international stage. Her previous work includes *The Wig My Father Wore* (1995), *The Forgotten Waltz* (2011) and *The Gathering* (2007), which was awarded the Man Booker Prize. Her new novel, *The Green Road*, tells the story of Rosaleen Madigan, a woman living in Clare whose children have left for various parts of the world. As she decides to sell the family home and divide the proceeds, her children return for one last, fraught Christmas.

The Wonderful Imagination of Oliver Jeffers
Saturday 29 Aug 12:15pm / ScottishPower Foundation Studio

Writer and illustrator Oliver Jeffers’ work is a definite favourite on bookshelves the world over. *Lost and Found, How to Catch a Star* and *The Incredible Book Eating Boy* are en route to modern classic status. Join him to hear all about his latest off the wall tale *The Day the Crayons Came Home*. A very funny, joyfully illustrated story that shows crayons have feelings too so don’t lose, break or melt them!
Eoin Colfer
Saturday 29 Aug 1.30pm / Baillie Gifford Main Theatre

Bestselling author of *Artemis Fowl*, Eoin Colfer returns with the second book in his WARP series: *The Hangman’s Revolution*. Trapped in a nightmare future, Agent Chevie and boy magican Riley must return to Victorian London and change the course of history or millions will die. Discover whether Chevie can dodge those pesky psycho warrior-nuns to save the day. Eoin is currently Laureate na nÓg, the Children’s Laureate, who undertakes a special range of activities to encourage young people’s engagement with literature and reading.

Darren Shan: Zom-B Bride
Saturday 29 Aug 3.45pm / ScottishPower Foundation Studio

Does true love lurk in the darkest of places? Join Darren Shan, the Master of Horror, and hear about his penchant for zombies, demons, vampires and everything else dark and disturbing. Meet the Zom-B Bride, his latest gruesome character from the bestselling Zom-B series. Darren Shan is a regular visitor to the Edinburgh International Book Festival. His books, for both adults and children, have been translated into over 30 languages and are available in 39 countries.
Deirdre Madden
Saturday 29 Aug 5.30pm / ScottishPower Foundation Studio

The wealth of Irish literary talent at this year’s Festival is encapsulated by *All Over Ireland: New Irish Short Stories*, the collection featuring work by young and established authors such as Colm Tóibín and Belinda McKeon. Led by the collection’s editor, renowned novelist Deirdre Madden (*Molly Fox’s Birthday* and *Time Present and Time Past*), this event celebrates the unique charm of Irish short fiction.

Derek Landy: Demon Road
Sunday 30 Aug 1.30pm / Baillie Gifford Main Theatre

Derek Landy joins us to launch the first in his brand new and exciting trilogy, *Demon Road*. It features 16 year old Amber as she makes her way across America hotly pursued by demons. Derek’s popular *Skulduggery Pleasant* series was packed with brilliant characters and a wry, dark sense of humour. Expect more of this plus pacey adventure and some unpleasant baddies.

Sara Baume (with Ian Stephen)
Sunday 30 Aug 3.30pm / Writers’ Retreat

Poignant, perceptive and powerfully lyrical, Sara Baume’s *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* is an exquisite debut novel in which Baume captures a unique love story in four seasons. Having been born in England, she grew up in Cork. In 2015, she was named the Hennessy New Irish Writer at the Hennessy Literature Awards. She has also won the 2014 Davy Byrnes Short Story Award. She is joined by fellow debut novelist, Ian Stephen, whose book sees a man reflecting on his life and times in his native Stornoway.
David Bolger CoisCéim Dance Theatre
T: +353 86 814 7967
E: info@coisceim.com
www.coisceim.com
David Bolger is the Artistic Director and co-founder of CoisCéim Dance Theatre. Over the last two decades, David has directed and choreographed over 20 original productions for the Company, including the acclaimed *Swimming with My Mother, Missing* and *Agnes*. His new work for families, *The Wolf and Peter*, will premiere at the Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, Galway in October and his exploration into non verbal communication, *Body Language*, is planned for 2016. His work for film includes the multi award-winning *Hit and Run* (CoisCéim/ Saffron Pictures) and *Deep End Dance* (Wildfire Films). David has received numerous choreographic commissions for theatre and opera worldwide most recently co-directing *Midsummer* with Joe Dowling for the Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis) and as Director (Movement) on *DruidShakespeare*.

Jen Coppinger Freelance Producer
T: +353 87 905 1511
E: jencoppinger@gmail.com
Jen works as Producer for a number of artists and companies including, Paul Curley, TheEmergencyRoom, HotForTheatre, Kellie Hughes, Shane O’Reilly, Emma Martin Dance, Seán Mac Erlaine, Raymond Scannell and Dylan Tighe. She has toured work extensively in Ireland and internationally. She has worked on partnerships, commissions and co-productions with Cusack Projects Limited, Dublin Dance Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, International Literature Festival Dublin, The Irish Traveller Movement and Poetry Ireland. Currently, Jen is Project Manager for the Laureate for Irish Fiction (Anne Enright 2015–2018) for the Arts Council of Ireland. Jen sits on the boards of RADE (Recovery through Art, Drama and Education) and NAYD (the National Association of Youth Drama). She is the Independent Producer in Residence at Rough Magic and Manager of Rough Magic SEEDS.
Tom Dowling  
**Bigger Picture Projects**

**T:** +353 86 2505665  
**E:** biggerpictureprojects@gmail.com  
**www.biggerpictureprojects.com**

Bigger Picture Projects is a theatre & events production company set up by Tom Dowling in 2013. Tom has been working in arts management for almost two decades, and holds a degree in Project Management. Most of those years he spent working in high end film productions such as *Michael Collins, Becoming Jane, Omagh, Adam and Paul* and the TV series *Ballykissangel*. In 2012 he was project manager on *Everything Can Be Done in Principle* at Visual Centre for Contemporary Arts, Carlow, which *The Irish Times* described as one of the top arts events of that year. Bigger Picture Projects has established itself a successful, innovative, and high-quality touring company, currently touring *Charolais* by Noni Stapleton and *Small Plastic Wars* by Pat McGrath. Recently Tom was appointed as venue manager at Nenagh Arts Centre.

Lara Hickey  
**Abbey Theatre**

**T:** +353 86 884 2090  
**E:** lara.hickey@abbeytheatre.ie  
**www.abbeytheatre.ie**

Lara Hickey is Associate Producer at The Abbey Theatre, Ireland’s national theatre, established in 1904 by WB Yeats and Lady Gregory. The Abbey produces an annual programme of diverse, engaging, innovative Irish and international theatre and invests in and promotes new Irish writers and artists. The Abbey Theatre places the writer and theatre-maker at the heart of all that it does, commissioning and producing exciting new work that actively engages with and represents Irish society and Irish artists. International touring plans for 2016 include: *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* by Frank McGuinness, *The Plough and the Stars* by Sean O’Casey, *Quietly* by Owen McCafferty, *The Rising*; a new musical by the Rubberbandits and a world premiere of a new play by Mark O’Rowe.
Megan Kennedy Junk Ensemble
T: +353 86 160 4442 / E: megan@junkensemble.com
www.junkensemble.com

junk ensemble is an award-winning Dublin-based dance company founded by joint Artistic Directors and twin sisters Megan Kennedy and Jessica Kennedy. Previous Artists in Residence at Tate Britain, their productions are often created in collaboration with artists from other disciplines to produce a rich mix of visual and performance styles that seeks to challenge the traditional audience performer relationship. This approach has led to productions being created in non-traditional or found spaces as well as more conventional theatre spaces. junk ensemble are Project Artists, an initiative of Project Arts Centre. Their UK tour of Bird With Boy is part of Culture Ireland’s 2016 Centenary Programme. Productions include Dusk Ahead (NYC La MaMa Moves Festival 2015/National Tour 2015/Dublin Theatre Festival 2013/Kilkenny Arts Festival 2013), The Falling Song (8-venue UK & National Tour 2014/Belfast Festival 2012/Dublin Dance Festival 2012), Bird With Boy (Dublin Theatre Festival 2012/Dublin Fringe Festival 2011), Sometimes We Break (Tate Commission 2012).
Culture Ireland

Culture Ireland – a division of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – creates and supports opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present their work at international festivals, venues, showcases and arts markets including the Edinburgh Festivals, Celtic Connections (Glasgow), the Venice Art and Architecture Biennales, WOMEX World Music Expo, South by South West (in partnership with First Music Contact), Frankfurt Book Fair (in partnership with Ireland Literature Exchange) and Tanzmesse (Dusseldorf).

Culture Ireland runs a regular funding scheme to support the international presentation of work by Irish artists and companies. Applications are accepted from both participating artists and from international presenters. Culture Ireland also operates See Here, a scheme to support the inward travel to Ireland of international presenters, curators and promoters to see new Irish work available for touring.

In addition, Culture Ireland supports a number of artform showcases in Ireland including Re-Presenting Ireland (a mixed bill programme of Irish contemporary dance presented during the Dublin Dance Festival in partnership with Dance Ireland), and Hard Working Class Heroes (a weekend showcase of Irish music produced by First Music Contact).

Next year, as part of Ireland 2016, Culture Ireland will curate and present a vibrant programme of international activity to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising. Through this initiative, Culture Ireland will support a range of Irish events of high quality to celebrate this period of commemorations across key locations (including the UK, the US, Canada and Australia) showcasing the strength and diversity of contemporary Irish arts and enhancing further Ireland’s reputation for cultural excellence.