



**Cultúr Éireann**  
**Culture Ireland**

Promoting Irish Arts Worldwide for 20 years

# **EDINBURGH**

# **2025**

# Culture Ireland

Established in 2005, Culture Ireland's mission is to promote Irish arts worldwide.

Through grant programmes and showcase initiatives, it supports and develops opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present their work across the globe. This includes international festivals, venues, galleries and arts markets including here at the Edinburgh Festivals, Celtic Connections, the Venice Art and Architecture Biennales, WOMEX World Music Expo and Frankfurt Book Fair.

Through this work, it builds relationships and networks with arts and cultural organisations, relevant public bodies, state agencies and government departments at home and abroad to advance the global impact of Irish artists. It also ensures that Ireland's cultural excellence is enjoyed by international audiences.

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 on the island of Ireland available for touring.

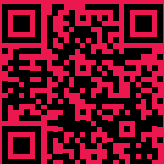
Full details of Culture Ireland's activities and grant schemes are available at: [www.cultureireland.ie](http://www.cultureireland.ie)

Culture Ireland is a division of the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

## Contact

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## Welcome | Fáilte



It gives me great pleasure to introduce Culture Ireland's 2025 Edinburgh Showcase, featuring a range of artists presenting across the Edinburgh Festival season this August.

Marking 20 years since its establishment this year, Culture Ireland has played a vital role over two decades in supporting and showcasing artists as they engage with global audiences. Support for artists presenting at Edinburgh was included in the first round of grants way back in 2005 and it is heartening to see that a visit to Scotland in August has stood the test of time.

For many emerging theatre and dance artists, presenting at Edinburgh continues to be the critical path in terms of their career development. From performances at the Fringe, Irish artists map out international tours and make vital connections that lead to performances and audiences across the world.

Over the following pages, you'll find details of the eight shows featured in this year's Fringe Showcase. I wish them all the best of luck for their Edinburgh season.

You'll also find details of the many Irish writers who will feature at the Edinburgh

International Book Festival. Culture Ireland has developed a close partnership with the Book Festival in recent years, reflecting the current strong profile of Irish writing on the world literature stage. Finally, at billboards across Edinburgh in August, Alice Rekab's *Let Me Show You Who I Am* will feature as part of the Edinburgh Art Festival.

Individually, each project will aspire to audience engagement and future opportunities and collectively, this group once again demonstrate the strong international reputation of Irish arts and culture.

All of these also align with Culture Ireland's mission of bringing Irish arts to a global audience and we are proud to play our part in the artists' careers.

The Irish success at Edinburgh relies on the critical support and commitment of our host festivals and venues. I want to thank sincerely those organisations including the three festivals, as well as key Fringe venues including Assembly, Dance Base, Pleasance, Scottish Storytelling Centre, Summerhall and Traverse.

I also want to acknowledge the Irish Consulate in Edinburgh for their ongoing support of Culture Ireland's work, not only in August but also across the year.

Go n-eiri libh go léir.

**Patrick O'Donovan, TD**

Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport

Dan Colley with Riverbank Arts Centre and Mermaid Arts Centre

# Lost Lear

By Dan Colley and the Company (after Shakespeare)

Following the national and international tour of *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings*, award-winning theatre maker Dan Colley and his company have turned their sights on a very (very) loose adaptation of *King Lear*, examining the self and that part of us that's inaccessible to others.

The incredible moving story of dealing with dementia, told through the familiar lens of Shakespeare's characters, makes its UK premiere after an Irish and international tour.

'Best New Play', 'Audience Choice', 'Best AV Design' and 'Best Supporting Actor' nominee at the Irish Times Theatre Awards

★★★★★ 'Devastating stuff, deftly done...Colley is a theatre maker of remarkable imagination and insight' The Stage

★★★★★ 'Brilliantly conceived and executed...a remarkable achievement' Irish Examiner

**Sunday 27 July – Sunday 24 August**

Various times – see grid for details | 80 mins

**Traverse 1**

Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge Street,  
Edinburgh EH1 2ED

**Booking**

[www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/  
lost-lear-festival-25](http://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/lost-lear-festival-25)

**Contact**

Matthew Smyth *Producer*

E [smythmatthew4@gmail.com](mailto:smythmatthew4@gmail.com)

T +353 86 811 7772



PHOTO: STEWART RYAN



PHOTO: JOHN MCKAYHON

# Branar

## You'll See...

By **Marc Mac Lochlainn** and **Helen Gregg**  
 Director **Marc Mac Lochlainn** Performer **Helen Gregg**  
 Producer **Joanne Beirne** Book Design and Creation **Maeve Clancy**  
 Composer **Michael Chang**

James Joyce's epic story of one day in one city is brought to life in this inventive new show, bringing Ireland's most notorious book to audiences aged 8 and upwards, and to all those who haven't got around to reading it yet. Combining live performance, intricate paper design, an original score and Joyce's odyssey, this is theatre that will excite both young and old.

Commissioned as part of Ulysses 2.2, a collaborative project between ANU, Landmark Productions and Museum of Literature, Ireland. Part of the 2025 Culture Ireland Edinburgh Showcase.

'A captivating adaptation devised for children but enthralling for everyone. Highly Recommended Show' Fringe Review UK

★★★★ The Irish Times

**Wednesday 30 July – Sunday 24 August**

Performances every day except Mondays  
 12:00pm | 45 minutes

Venue 33 **The Green** Pleasance Courtyard,  
 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9TJ

### Booking

[www.pleasance.co.uk](http://www.pleasance.co.uk)

**T** +44 20 7609 1800

**E** [boxoffice@pleasance.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@pleasance.co.uk)

### Contact

**Joanne Beirne** *Branar Executive Producer*

**T** +353 87 206 7946

**E** [joanne@branar.ie](mailto:joanne@branar.ie)

[www.branar.ie](http://www.branar.ie)



Amanda Verlaque

# This Sh\*t Happens All The Time

By Amanda Verlaque

Directed by Rhiann Jeffrey Cast Catriona McFeely

*This Sh\*t Happens All The Time* is a true story about queer love, about tummy flips and hearts skipping beats. But what if your girlfriend's ex-boyfriend responds with murderous intent? This sexy, darkly funny and powerful one woman show exposes homophobia and coercive control to challenge the inequalities faced by the LGBTQ+ community. Who we love should never become a death threat.

'A powerful, provocative monologue... satisfyingly hard-hitting and entertaining theatre' Michael Quinn, British Theatre Guide

'resonates with audiences on a profound level'  
Gary Campion, GNI Magazine

'... ecstatic, beautiful, sexy ...' Jane Hardy, Irish News

**Wednesday 30 July – Monday 25 August**

No shows on 6, 13, 20 August  
1:20pm | 60 minutes

**Assembly**

George Square Studios, Studio Four

**Booking**

<https://assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/1029-this-sh-t-happens-all-the-time>

**Contact**

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PHOTO: SIMON LAZEWISKI

Marty Breen

# BITCH

Written and Composed by Marty Breen

Costume Design by Iseult Deane Set Design by Mae Leahy

We all have a crazy ex, right?

Well, she's here.

Drunk and self-destructing, she's declaring war at an open mic.

She has a lot to say.

Don't they fucking all?

All bark and all bite, *BITCH* is a razor-sharp explosion of cabaret, stand-up, and drag – cuttngly funny, painfully honest and unafraid to ask who's really to blame.

An award-winning performance that 'will likely emotionally eviscerate you' *BITCH* confronts the mess of internalized misogyny, homophobia and self-destruction.

Do bad people make bad things happen?

★★★★★ 'the hairs on the back of your neck rise as Breen bears their soul. Bold, brave, and oft times brilliant, *BITCH* is a blisteringly breathtaking experience. But Breen is even better. Not to be missed.'

Arts Review

**Wednesday 30 July – Monday 25 August**

(no shows Monday 4, 11 and 18 of August)

2.45pm | 65 minutes

**Jack Dome, Pleasance Dome**

1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh EH8 9AL, United Kingdom

**Booking**

[www.pleasance.co.uk/event/bitch](http://www.pleasance.co.uk/event/bitch)

**T** +44 0131 556 6550

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PHOTO: BENNIE McALLISTER

SkelpieLimmer Productions

# Anthem For Dissatisfaction

By Gina Donnelly Starring Simon Sweeney and Emily Lamey

Originally produced in association with

Brassneck Theatre Company

A 'rip-roaring tour de force' from the company and one of the writers behind *Two Fingers Up*.

Winner of Solas Nua New Voices Award at Dublin Fringe Festival 2024.

'Irish Twins' Sarah and Jamie are about to hit 30. But before they do, they're reliving their greatest hits; 'Credit crunch', 'Austerity' and 'Free School Meals'... Benefits Britain never sounded so good! A soundtrack packed with Oasis, Springsteen and Sam Fender in this euphoric, working-class celebration of the power of live music, teenage angst, sibling rivalry and love. An electric and hilarious coming-of-age anthem for anyone who ever wanted more.

★★★★ 'Euphoric, real, brutal, eerily apt' The Reviews Hub

**Thursday 31 July – Monday 25 August**

No shows on 11/18 August

7:35pm | 65 minutes

**Red Lecture Theatre**

Summerhall, 1 Summerhall Place, Edinburgh EH9 1PL

**Booking**

<https://festival.summerhallarts.co.uk>

**Contact**

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E [Gina.r.donnelly96@gmail.com](mailto:Gina.r.donnelly96@gmail.com)

[www.skelpielimmerproductions.com](http://www.skelpielimmerproductions.com)



Jo Morrigan Black

# Carpet Muncher

By Jo Morrigan Black

A solo Spoken Word drag performance celebrating queer resistance. *Carpet Muncher* brings the urban legend of the 'Mothman' to life, using vibrant surrealist costuming to explore themes of queer alienation, metamorphosis, cross-border solidarity and homoerotic hot-hub encounters.

Described as 'unmissable' by GCN and 'a perfect example of what every Spoken Word show should be' by The Reviews Hub (★★★★★), this show invites you to face the pest in your closet. Is it hungry for light? More creature than human? Join this intimate, frenzied call to celebrate the unknowable within us all, in an unforgettable revelry of cloth.

## Friday 1 August – Tuesday 12 August

Friday 1 August (Preview) 8 – 8:45pm

Saturday 2 – Tuesday 12 August 8 – 8:45pm  
45 minutes

## The Scottish Storytelling Centre

George Mackay Brown Library (Upstairs),  
43 – 45 High St, Edinburgh EH1 1SR, UK

## Booking

<https://scottishstorytellingcentre.online.red61.co.uk>

**T** +44 (0)131 556 9579

**E** [reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com](mailto:reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com)

## Contact

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**T** +353 85 130 2615

**E** [eblack.jo@gmail.com](mailto:eblack.jo@gmail.com)

[www.mothpoet.com](http://www.mothpoet.com)



CoisCéim Dance Theatre

# DANCEHALL BLUES

by David Bolger

Ireland's dance theatre vanguards, CoisCéim [kush-came] are back in Edinburgh this summer with *DANCEHALL BLUES* – the award-nominated triumph from Dublin Fringe 2024! David Bolger's 'expertly ingenious' (Irish Times) duet starring Emily Kilkenny Roddy and Alex O'Neill takes you to a surreal dancehall at dusk, where reality and imagination blur. Two performers, with fearless abandon, navigate a world where dreams and nightmares collide. Their powerful movements cut through chaos and ignite hope. A genre-defying experience that captivated sold-out audiences. **Bold, gripping, unmissable.**

★★★★ 'expertly ingenious ... Bolger's dark odyssey.. packs a punch'  
Irish Times

★★★★ 'Outstanding Dance Production of the Year for its irresistible grace and charm ... beautiful, insightful and heartfelt. At moments it looks a little like heaven' The Arts Review

**Tuesday 12 – Sunday 24 August** (no show Mondays)  
2:40pm | 50 minutes

**Assembly @ Dance Base**  
14–16 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2JU

**Booking**  
[www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/  
950-dancehall-blues](http://www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/950-dancehall-blues)  
**T** +44 (0)131 623 3030  
**E** [info@assemblyfestival.com](mailto:info@assemblyfestival.com)

**Contact**  
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**E** [info@coisceim.com](mailto:info@coisceim.com)  
[www.coisceim.com](http://www.coisceim.com)



**Nick Nikolaou**

# Anatomy of a Night

A love letter to the queers, the weirdos, the trailblazers, the fringes and the night-walkers. An exploration of personal identity through a reflection of memories from queer and club spaces. Remembering the energy that can be drawn from these spaces and trying to sustain the sensation while understanding the longevity of a moment in time that is so communally charged.

This show is a storytelling of any night, told through the use of dance, runway show, spoken word and lip-syncing. It is an exploration of gender, queerness and camaraderie of different spaces and the importance of queer joy. Let's dance the night away!

**Wednesday 13 – Monday 25 August**

No show 19 August

10:30pm | Approx. 50 mins

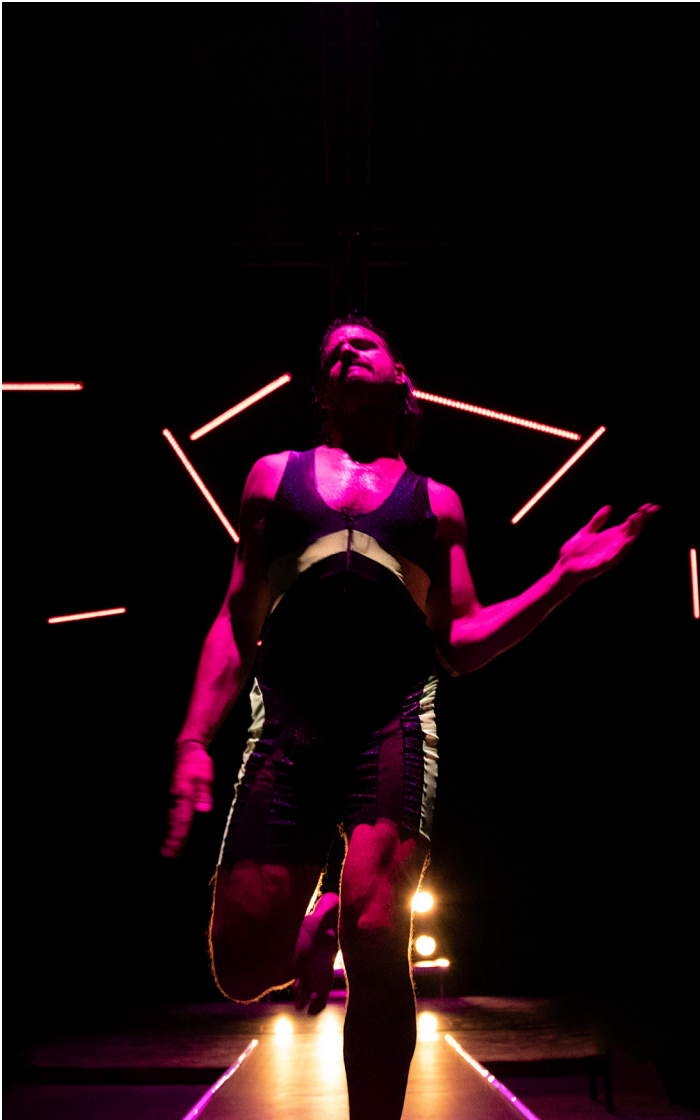
**Tech Cube Zero**Summerhall, 1 Summerhall Place,  
Edinburgh EH9 1PL**Booking**<https://festival.summerhallarts.co.uk>**Contact**Nick Nikolaou *Director/Performer***T** +353 87 359 5654**E** [nick.nikolaou10@gmail.com](mailto:nick.nikolaou10@gmail.com)[www.nicknikolaoudance.com](http://www.nicknikolaoudance.com)

PHOTO: ROBBIE MULLINS

Alice Rekab

# Let Me Show You Who I Am

Created to be shown on billboards, *Let Me Show You Who I Am* delves into themes of diaspora, migration, and Irish and Black identity. The artworks have been created through a dynamic workshop series exploring Black and Irish legacies of community activism and creativity across the UK. Co-presented with Liverpool Biennial 2025, the works reflect on the artist's Irish, Sierra Leonean, and Syrian family histories, creating powerful visual narratives of belonging. As well as in the EAF Pavilion, the artworks will be shown publicly on billboards across Wishaw Terrace and around the city.

Bringing together contributions from local ceramicists, historians, musicians, and dancers, this iteration of *Let Me Show You Who I Am* offers a vibrant platform for young people to engage with histories of resistance, solidarity, and cultural expression.

Co-commissioned with Liverpool Biennial, and supported by JACK ARTS Scotland, Culture Ireland, and Outer Spaces.

**Thursday 7 – Sunday 24 August**

**EAF Pavilion**

Outer Spaces, 45 Leith St, EH1 3AT  
10am – 5pm

**Wishaw Terrace**

EH7 5TR  
View from street, all times

**Drop-In, FREE**  
[edinburghartfestival.com](http://edinburghartfestival.com)



PHOTO: ALICE REKAB LEGACY MATERIALS PERFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND BRENNIA HORRAX

# EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL 2025

For 2025, Culture Ireland is delighted to extend its long established partnership with the Book Festival, now based at the Edinburgh Futures Institute.

This year, in addition to providing support for the attendance of Irish writers, we are also supporting a sustainable travel pilot. The Festival has invited a number of Irish writers to experience possible travel alternatives by making their way to the Festival overland while measuring their carbon footprint and the barriers they face en route.

A selection of Irish writers appearing at the Festival is featured in the following pages.



**Full Festival information is available here**  
[www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)

**Booking**  
[boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@edbookfest.co.uk)



**Rowe Irvin,  
Florence Knapp &  
Roisin O'Donnell:  
Places of Refuge Panel**

**Saturday 9 August**  
Venue NW  
6:45pm – 7:45pm



**Rose Keating &  
So Mayer:  
Beyond Reality**

**Sunday 10 August**  
Venue B  
6:30pm – 7:30pm



**Michael Amherst &  
John Patrick McHugh:  
Growing Up**

**Sunday 10 August**  
Venue B  
8pm – 9pm



**Joseph O'Connor:  
The Ghosts of Rome**

**Tuesday 12 August**  
Courtyard  
12:15pm – 1:15pm



**Wendy Erskine &  
John Niven: Darkly  
Humorous Fiction**

**Wednesday 13 August**  
Spiegel tent  
3:30pm – 4:30pm



**David Keenan:  
Adventures in the  
Underground**

**Wednesday 13 August**  
Spiegel tent  
6pm – 7pm



**Sean Hewitt  
(with Dylan Hardcastle)  
Closed and Open Hearts**

**Sunday 17 August**

Venue B  
8pm – 9pm



**Colum McCann:  
Heart of Darkness at  
the Bottom of the Sea**

**Monday 18 August**

Venue T  
3pm – 4pm



**Mary Costello &  
Elaine Garvey:  
Push and Pull**

**Thursday 21 August**

Venue B  
2pm – 3pm



**Elaine Feeney:  
Writing What  
You Know**

**Thursday 21 August**

Venue NW  
6:30pm – 7:30pm



**Writing Fantasy:  
A Workshop with  
Catherine Prasifka**

**Friday 22 August**

Venue A  
2pm – 3:30pm

**Elaine Castillo,  
Chris McQueer &  
Catherine Prasifka:  
Virtually Reality**

**Friday 22 August**

Venue NW  
5pm – 6pm



**Songs for Ghosts  
with Clara Kumagai**

**Sunday 24 August**

Venue C  
4:30pm – 5:30pm

**EAFF25**

 Edinburgh  
International  
Book Festival



 IRISH THEATRE INSTITUTE

 arts  
council  
ealaíon | funding  
the arts



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Dún Éideann  
Consulate General of Ireland | Edinburgh

SHOW	VENUE	SUN 27 JUL	WED 30 JUL	THURS 31 JUL	FRI 01 AUG	SAT 02 AUG	SUN 03 AUG	MON 04 AUG	TUES 05 AUG	WED 06 AUG	THURS 07 AUG	FRI 08 AUG	SAT 09 AUG	SUN 10 AUG	MON 11 AUG	TUES 12 AUG	WED 13 AUG	THURS 14 AUG	FRI 15 AUG	SAT 16 AUG	SUN 17 AUG	MON 18 AUG	TUES 19 AUG	WED 20 AUG	THURS 21 AUG	FRI 22 AUG	SAT 23 AUG	SUN 24 AUG	MON 25 AUG
<b>Lost Lear</b> Dan Colley with Riverbank Arts Centre and Mermaid Arts Centre	Traverse Theatre - Traverse 1	7:30pm				9:30pm	10:30am		5:30pm	10am	2pm	5:30pm	10am	2pm		1:15pm	4:15pm	7:15pm	10am	1:15pm	4:15pm		7:15pm	10am	1:15pm	4:15pm	7:15pm	10am	
<b>You'll See...</b> Branar	Pleasance Courtyard - The Green		12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm		12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm		12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm		12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm	12pm
<b>This Sh*t Happens All The Time</b> Amanda Verlaque	Assembly George Square Studios - Studio Four		1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm		1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm		1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm		1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm	1:20pm
<b>BITCH</b> Marty Breen & Fiona Keller	Pleasance Dome - Jack Dome		2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm		2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm		2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm		2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm
<b>Anthem for Dissatisfaction</b> SkelpieLimmer Productions	Summerhall - Red Lecture Theatre			7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm		7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm		7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm	7:35pm
<b>Carpet Muncher</b> Jo Morrigan Black	Scottish Storytelling Centre				8pm (Preview)	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm		8pm													
<b>Dancehall Blues</b> CosíCéim Dance Theatre	Assembly @ Dance Base															2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm		2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm	2:40pm	
<b>Anatomy of a Night</b> Nick Nikolaou	Summerhall - Tech Cube Zero																10:30pm	10:30pm	10:30pm	10:30pm	10:30pm	10:30pm		10:30pm	10:30pm	10:30pm	10:30pm	10:30pm	10:30pm
<b>Let Me Show You Who I Am</b> Alice Rekab	EAF Pavilion & Wishaw Terrace										10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	
<b>Roisín O'Donnell</b>	EFI Venue NW												6:45pm																
<b>Rose Keating</b>	EFI Venue B													6:30pm															
<b>John Patrick McHugh</b>	EFI Venue B													8pm															
<b>Joseph O'Connor</b>	EFI Courtyard															12:15													
<b>Wendy Erskine</b>	EFI Spiegeltent																3:30pm												
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<b>Seán Hewitt</b>	EFI Venue B																				8pm								
<b>Colum McCann</b>	EFI Venue T																					3pm							
<b>Elaine Garvey &amp; Mary Costello</b>	EFI Venue B																								2pm				
<b>Elaine Feeney</b>	EFI Venue NW																								6:30pm				
<b>Catherine Prasifka</b>	EFI Venue A																									2pm			
<b>Catherine Prasifka</b>	EFI Venue NW																										5pm		
<b>Clara Kumagai</b>	EFI Venue C																											4:30pm	



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An Roinn Cultúir,  
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt  
Department of Culture,  
Communications and Sport