

18th ANNUAL

Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

September 28 - October 7, 2018

FREE
PROGRAMME



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Presented by Donegal County Council Culture Division



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



CIAR Eire Iddánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



BA MHAITH LINN BUÍOCHAS A GHABHÁIL CHUIG

Ailis McIntyre, Michael Daly, Andrea Kennedy, Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon. Conor Malone, Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey. Martina Ní Dhómhnaill, Aislann Chill Chartha. Margaret Cunningham, Glencolmille Folk Village. Seamus Carbin, Leghowney Hall Committee. Paul Diver, Prop., Sandhouse Hotel, Rossnowlagh.

John Gallagher, Manager, Cathleen's Fall and Cliff Hydro Electric Power Stations, ESB. Tanya Keyes, ESB Archive. Siobhán Sheil, Communications Co-ordinator, Irish Water.

Maura Logue, Dark Daughter Productions. Emer Keon, Erne Enterprise Development Company Ltd. Denise Blake, Literary Programme Curator. Mandy Blinco, Mark Hill, LUXe. Deborah Cunningham, Bluestack Chorale & Donegal Voices. Veronica McCarron, Donegal Choir of Ages. Leslie Long, Blue Wall Theatre. Sean Ó Beirne, Ceol na gConallach/Comhairle Pharóiste Chill Chartha. Rónán Galvin, Tara Connaghan. Amanda Crawford, Christian Carbin, Art Kavanagh, Donegal Drama Circle. Dean Maywood, Ghostlight Sessions. Kevin Lowery. Rab Cherry, Caoimhín MacAoidh, Cairdeas na bhFidléirí. Daniel Brown, Ocean FM. Patsy O'Kane. Tommy Callaghan, Manna Design.

Iga Lawne, Community Tourism Officer, Donegal County Council. Anne Marie Conlon, Donegal County Council Communications Officer. Mairéad Cranley, Donegal County Council Social Inclusion Unit & Donegal Choir of Ages.

Cover: 'Diver At Work, River Erne, Ballyshannon, 1946.' (Copyright ESB Archive). See Fionn Uisce Carnival Parade P. 8.



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RÉAMHRÁ | INTRODUCTION

This is the 18th year of the Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival. We are delighted to support artists and engage communities throughout South and South West Donegal with another packed programme of theatre, music, spectacle, literary, visual and events for children.

New Theatre

The Festival has excelled in recent years as a platform for showcasing new drama in the county. This year, we have three more new works to excite, enthrall and entertain our audiences - Dunkineely writer and composer Leslie Long's new musical, At The End of The Day; Bundoran actor and playwright Maura Logue's adapted radio play, Síle Molloy, and father and son Conal and Rory Gallen's comedy special, Off Your Trolley, which commences its nationwide tour at the Balor Arts Centre on the opening night of the Festival.

Choral Highlights

Reflecting the current popularity and ambition of choral singing in the county, the Festival welcomes the truly inspiring Ceol le Chéile Donegal Choir of Ages, the operatic stylings of the Bluestack Chorale and the wonderful Donegal Voices ensemble, who will be joined by a 15 piece Chamber Orchestra for their performances of Mozart's Requiem, in Ballyshanonn and Stranorlar.

Fionn Uisce Clear Water Carnival

This year's Carnival Project is a celebration of water, its defining relationship with Ballyshannon and its harnessing by the ESB to generate clean energy at its two hydro electric stations there, since the early 1950s. The Festival has enjoyed the invaluable support, access and expertise of the ESB and of Irish Water in the creation of this year's event, and its complementary education programme for local schools. We are extremely grateful to both state bodies as such.

Music

The Ghostlight Sessions complete their first year at the Balor Arts Centre with another intriguing line-up of local and visiting performers. We extend a big Festival welcome also to Derry jazz legend Gay McIntyre, acclaimed Breton duo Jean Michel Veillon and Yvon Riou and to former Leitrim Person of the Year, Eleanor Shanley, surely one of Ireland's finest singers.

Drámaíocht do Pháistí

Tá an Féile thar a bheith buíoch do Éire Ildánach/Creative Ireland i mbliana de bharr an tacaíocht atá tugtha acu dúinn. De thorradh an maoiniú sin, táimid in ann cuireadh a thabhairt don chompántas sorcas le Gaeilge is suntasaí sa tír, Fanzini Productions, teacht go Dhún na nGall ar trus trí lá agus a seó nua Ballet Poulet a chur i láthair do bhunscoileanna fá deisceart an chontae.

WORLD PREMIER!

Off Your Trolley

Written by Conal Gallen and Rory Gallen.

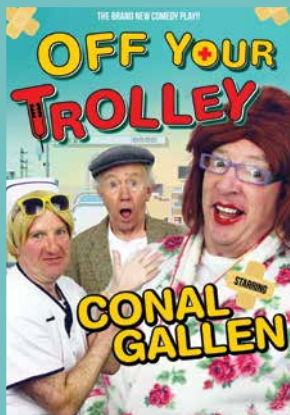
Date: Friday September 28 - Saturday September 29

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €25

In their fourth comic drama together, award-winning Ballybofey comedian Conal Gallen and his son Rory have the Irish health service in their sights in this laugh a minute tale of life in a hospital ward, packed with craic, confusion and constant laughter.

Join Bridie, Willie, Dick, Betty and the infamous Father Big Mad Mick O'Reilly, for these world premier performances as they show us hospital life as it has never been seen before. Maybe laughter is the best medicine after all!



Performed by Conal Gallen, Paddy McMenamin and Jack Quinn.

Conal Gallen is one of Ireland's best loved and most successful comedians. He has also performed his legendary stand-up shows throughout Scotland, England, Australia and the US. In recent years, in a writing partnership with his son Rory, he has taken to producing comedy stage plays which have enjoyed phenomenal success, touring theatres and arts centres the length and breadth of the country.

Suitable Only for 16 yrs +

10 Songs To Die For

Written and Performed by Owen O'Neill

Date: Sunday September 30

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €15

Everyone has a soundtrack to their life, but few are as funny as Tyrone actor, writer and comedian Owen O'Neill's. In an unmissable musical misery tour with laughs, Owen recalls the songs - from Bridie Gallagher to the Rolling Stones to Dr. Hook - that trigger stories of heartache and hilarity, from a wild and reckless time in his life.



Owen O'Neill is one of Ireland's funniest men. He has toured the world with his one-man shows, accumulating a string of awards. Previous performances have earned him three Edinburgh Fringe First Awards, the Edinburgh Critics Award for Best Comedy, the Angel Award for Best One-Man Show and the Time Out Comedy Award. His Edinburgh Fringe theatre shows – Twelve Angry Men, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest and The Odd Couple – broke festival box office records in the early 2000s.

"The stories are funny, but sometimes dangerous, sad or uplifting, all told with the skill of an experienced storyteller." - British Theatre Guide.

"He has the turn of phrase of Roddy Doyle and the darkness of Patrick McCabe." - The Independent.

DONEGAL DRAMA CIRCLE, TWO ONE ACT PLAYS...

It's What We Do

By Pamela Nice.

Directed by Amanda Crawford.

BitterEnders

By Hannah Khalil.

Directed by Amanda Crawford.

Date: Wednesday October 3

Venue: Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Date: Thursday October 4 - Friday October 5

Venue: The Bluestack Centre, Drimarone, Donegal Town

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €12/€10

It's What We Do is a drama adapted from the testimonies of former Israeli army soldiers, their memories of tours of duty in the Palestinian territories. They gave these testimonies to the Israeli NGO (Non Governmental Agency), Breaking The Silence. They tell of a reality they can no longer keep to themselves. With Conor Fiery, Oisín Joyce, Conor Breslin, Amanda Crawford, Christian Carbin, Ryan Doherty, Eileen McGonigle, Martin Callaghan and Faye Gallagher.

Pamela Nice is a Washington based documentary filmmaker, theatre director and playwright.

BitterEnders is a one-act play about a Palestinian family who find themselves having to share



their home with a group of Israeli settlers. This presentation by Donegal Drama Circle is the play's first full length production. With Ciara Boyle, Margaret Timoney, Seamus McHugh and Rachel Reid.

Hannah Khalil is an Irish-Palestinian playwright who grew up in Dubai and the UK, but spent many long, happy summers with her mother's family in Kilkenny.

DARK DAUGHTER PRODUCTIONS

Síle Molloy

Written & Performed by Maura Logue. Music arranged by Niamh Currid. Music performed by Niamh Currid, Rory Corbett, Lisa Murphy, Henry Pierce, James McNamee, Alan Cooke.

Date: Wednesday October 3

Venue: Sandhouse Hotel, Rossnowlagh

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Date: Thursday October 4

Venue: Atlantic Aparthotel Bundoran

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Date: Friday October 5

Venue: McIntyre's Bar, The Mall, Ballyshannon

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Adapted from the award-winning radio play of the same name, Síle Molloy tells the fictional story of a young Irish musician and servant girl, as she navigates a course from The Workhouse to The Big House, to the hustle and bustle of New York City, to the 'Bluegrass State' of Kentucky.



From the late 1800s to the earliest days of the gramophone inspired, Irish music recording boom in America. Síle's was a musical journey and this is reflected in the extensive use of music and song, both live and recorded, throughout the presentation. As the music travels west, it meets and absorbs a variety of styles and influences, yet all the while holding its own, reflecting Síle's own development as a confident, cosmopolitan young Irish woman abroad.

Maura Logue's previous work for the Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival has included last year's tremendously successful End of The Line -O'Carroll's Dancehall 1957 and 2016's Mother Loss, the story of pioneering womens' rights writer and campaigner Mary Wollstonecraft and her daughters Mary Shelley and Fanny Imlay. Síle Molloy continues Maura's exploration through drama of exceptional, though too often overlooked, women in history.

LAKEDAEMON THEATRE COMPANY IN ASSOCIATION WITH THEATRE UPSTAIRS

Hero

Written by Ken Rogan. Performed by Daithí Mac Suibhne.

Date: Thursday October 4

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €14

Starring Daithí Mac Suibhne, best known to Irish audiences for his role as Emmet O'Brien in RTE's Fair City, Hero is one man's hilarious, down to earth odyssey through love, ankle injuries and what happens when you don't know how to lose.

Smithy regales us with anecdotes and observations on his twin obsessions – women and football. He is animated, engaging and high on his own ability.

Life quickly gets more complicated, however, after a chance encounter with the charming Marissa. He soon realises if he wants more from life, then he's going to have to change.



"A truly heroic, one man performance by Daithí Mac Suibhne as the less than heroic, Odysseus loving, lad's lad." - Irish Theatre Review.

"The writing is sharp, incisive, witty and original, with a finely tuned ear for young-man talk, macho talk, street talk, club talk." - No More Workhorse.

"Unusual in its tenderness in this macho world." - Sunday Independent.

BLUE WALL THEATRE COMPANY

At The End of The Day

Music, Lyrics and Book by Leslie Long. Directed by Eddie Mulligan.

Date: Friday October 5

Venue: Foresters Hall, Killybegs

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Date: Saturday October 6

Venue: Halla an Pharóiste,
Cill Chartha / Parish Hall, Kilcar

Time: 8.30pm • **Cost:** €10

www.attheendofthedaythemusical.com

At The End of The Day is a new musical based on a love story from the late 1800s, between Teelin weaver Matthew Lyons and Nuala Green from Oileán Árinn Mhór. They met at the Fair Day in Dungloe and fell in love.

In this new version by Blue Wall Theatre, the story of the star-crossed lovers begins with the infamous Bruckless Bay Drownings. According to local folklore, the tragic events of the night of February 11, 1813 were caused by storms brewed up by a witch, who earlier that day had been refused her regular offering of free fish by local fishermen. It is said that 200 herring boats capsized and up to



80 fishermen, mostly from Teelin, Kilcar and Malinbeg, were drowned in the event.

The parts of Nuala and Matthew are played by Éabha Gallagher and Adam Hannigan, with Catherine Gallagher as witch Biddy Devenney.

Leslie Long is a composer, musician and writer from Dunkineely. His previous work includes a popular and very successful stage musical adaptation of the much loved Séamus Ó Grianna novel, *Caisleáin Óir*.

Fionn Uisce Carnival Parade

A Carnival Celebration of Ballyshannon's Clear Water Heritage

Date: Saturday October 6

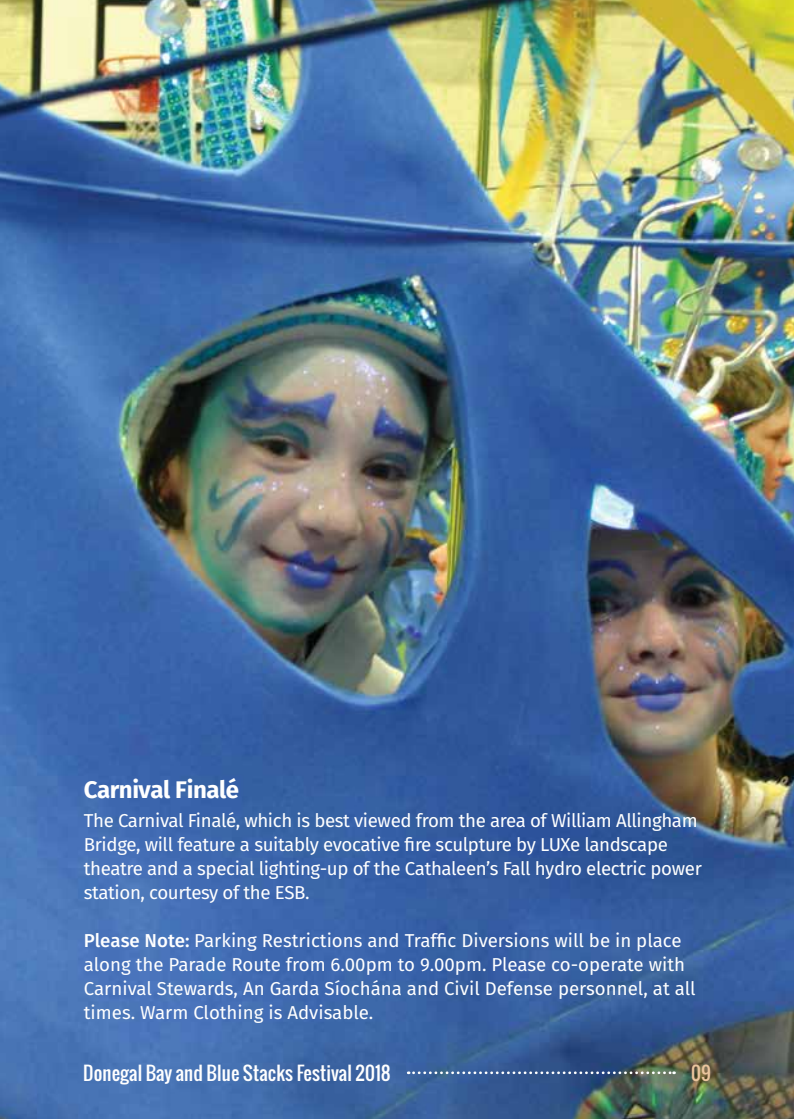
Venue: Market Street, Castle Street, The Port, Ballyshannon

Time: 7.30pm • **Cost:** FREE

To mark European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, this year's Carnival Project takes its inspiration from Ballyshannon's natural and built heritage. Specifically, the clear waters of the Erne River that define the town and the ESB's Cathleen's Fall hydro electric power station which, together with its sister station up-stream at Cliff, has fed clean energy into the national grid continuously since 1951.

The 18th. annual Carnival will be preceded by a special programme of guided tours of the Cathleen's Fall power station for local primary and second level school students, as well as a series of educational workshops hosted jointly by the ESB and Irish Water.

On Carnival Night itself, the streets of Ballyshannon will be brought to life by Dark Daughter Productions, LUXe landscape theatre company, Workhouse Studios, Inishowen Carnival Group and Bundoran's Unstoppable Street Band. They will be joined by up to 200 performers including students from Magh Éne College Bundoran, Coláiste Cholm Cille Ballyshannon and visiting students to Ireland from the Donegal Language School Study Abroad Programme, ID Languages and the Turf 'n' Surf USA Gap Year Students, as well as performers from many local adult community groups including Ernedale Heights Womens Group.



Carnival Finalé

The Carnival Finalé, which is best viewed from the area of William Allingham Bridge, will feature a suitably evocative fire sculpture by LUXe landscape theatre and a special lighting-up of the Cathaleen's Fall hydro electric power station, courtesy of the ESB.

Please Note: Parking Restrictions and Traffic Diversions will be in place along the Parade Route from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Please co-operate with Carnival Stewards, An Garda Síochána and Civil Defense personnel, at all times. Warm Clothing is Advisable.

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON MISCELLANY

Mary O'Donnell and Nuala O'Connor, In Conversation. Music by Niamh Currid

Date: Sunday October 7

Venue: Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon

Time: 3.00pm • **Cost:** €5

This much anticipated event will be a conversation between two very popular writers about their writing craft. Mary and Nuala will also read from a selection of their own work. Music is by known Ballyshannon pianist, composer and arranger, Niamh Currid.



Mary O'Donnell is one of Ireland's best known contemporary authors. Her poetry collections include *Unlegendary Heroes*, *September Elegies* and *Those April Fevers*. She has published four novels including and her best-selling debut, *The Light Makers*, which was reissued last year. Her new collection of stories, *Empire*, was published in September. Mary is a member of Aosdana.

Niamh Currid has composed music for many festival theatre productions over the years, including this year's *Síle Molloy* (by Maura Logue). She has a long association with local Donegal choirs and soloists and has played in many bands, most recently in the original trio, *The Darling Buds*.

Nuala O'Connor's work been shortlisted and nominated for many awards, including the Dublin International Literary Award and the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year. Her story, *Gooseen*, won the UK 2018 Short Fiction Prize. Nuala's fourth novel, *Becoming Belle* - set in Victorian England about a real-life music hall girl who married an Irish viscount - has just been published.

Storm Paintings - Winter in the North West

New Works by Kevin Lowery

Date: Friday October 5 - Sunday October 14

Venue: Buoys and Gulls Atlantic Way Gallery & Café,
Main Street, West End, Bundoran

Opening Reception: Thursday October 4, 7.00pm.

Music, Refreshments. All Welcome

This exhibition of new work by Kevin Lowery continues the artist's exploration of Ireland's coastline, with his response to the unpredictable and ever changing nature of winter time in Ireland's North West taking centre stage.

Storm Ophelia, for example, is featured prominently. The result is a renewed vibrancy and a more confident approach, evident in his strong use of colour and robust brush strokes. With many of the paintings being commenced 'en plein air', and then completed in the artist's studio, this new body of work exudes an immediate sense of time and place.



Kevin Lowery is a seascape devoted painter, living and working in the Ballyshannon-Bundoran area of the North-West of Ireland. Living by the sea all his life has inspired Kevin to paint the rolling surf, oceanic turmoil and the ever changing skies found along the coastline and to do so with an authenticity and a vibrancy that few artists can match. He studied painting at Dublin's National College of Art And Design in the early 2000s, has exhibited extensively and has numerous works in both Irish and international collections. He is also a keen surfer, which affords him an enviable perspective from which to explore the intricacies of Ireland's Atlantic coast.

Songs for an Autumn Evening

*With Deborah Cunningham (Soprano), Paul Martin (Tenor),
Evan McGarrigle (Piano).*

Date: Saturday September 29

Venue: St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Donegal Town

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Drawing capacity audiences for the tenth anniversary of the Mountcharles Opera Festival in July, Deborah Cunningham, Paul Martin and Evan McGarrigle, along with The Bluestack Chorale will bring a selection of favourite pieces from their back-catalogue to Donegal Town as part of this year's festival.



The Bluestack Choral never fail to bring a diverse, challenging and always interesting programme to their audience and this year will be no different. A journey through musical ages and genres spanning Gabriel Faure's Requiem, Carl Orff's Carmina Burana to Eric Whitacre's Seal Lullaby, there's something for everyone at Songs for an Autumn Evening.

For the opera lover, or indeed novice, Deborah, Paul and Evan will delight and entertain with their extracts from Mozart's ever popular The Marriage of Figaro, brought to you in their own inimitable style!

Jean-Michel Veillon and Yvon Riou

Date: Dé hAoine Méan Fómhar 28 / Friday September 28

Venue: The Folk Village, Gleann Cholm Cille

Time: 8.00pm / **Cost:** €10/€8

An evening of traditional Breton, Irish, Scottish music and beyond, from two masters of the tradition.

Jean-Michel Veillon is widely credited with introducing the Irish style of wooden flute playing into traditional Breton music. Born on the north coast of Brittany, he has been an international touring musician since the early 1980s, performing throughout Europe and the US. A regular visitor to Ireland, he has appeared with many leading

Breton ensembles including Kornog, Alain Genty Group and Dan Ar Braz. Jean-Michel also has a great love of jazz and he recently recorded a live show at the San Francisco Jazz Centre with virtuoso tabla player Zakir Hussein and musicians from Scotland, Ireland and India.

Yvon Riou is a guitarist from the Tregor region of northern Brittany. A highly regarded accompanist, with a style that is both sensitive and energetic, he has worked with many Breton Irish musicians including Donegal's own Brid Harper. Yvon is also a member of the Wicklow-based traditional band, Mountain House, with Paul Bradley, Joe McKenna and Ger Fitzgerald.



COISTE CULTÚRTHA CHILL CHARTHA

Gay McIntyre Trio

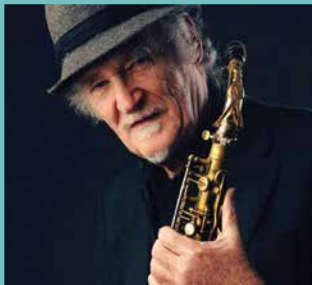
Featuring John Trotter (Piano, Vocals)

Date: Sunday September 30 / Dé Domhnaigh 30 Meán Fómhair

Venue: Aislann Chill Chartha, Cill Chartha / Kilcar

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €10

Derry alto saxophone player and clarinetist Gay McIntyre is one of the living legends of the Irish and UK jazz and big band scene. Hugely admired by the likes of Nat King Cole, Humphrey Lyttleton, Acker Bilk and Kenny Ball, Gay has been performing, touring, teaching and living jazz music for over 60 years.



He got his first professional gig at fourteen – a weekly Sunday night show in Bundoran with John Foley's McNamara's Band, for which he was paid 30 shillings, a very good fee at the time. He later joined the Clipper Carlton showband and played throughout Ireland and the UK. As his reputation grew, he was in steady demand and, at one point, he was a member of both the BBC NI and the RTÉ concert orchestras. Still hugely popular to this day, he is a particular favourite with younger jazz musicians, who relish the opportunity to perform alongside him.

Tonight Gay will be accompanied by his longtime friend **John Trotter** on trombone, violin, accordion and vocals. Also from Derry, John will be well known to showband afficianadoes as a member of the Plattermen, and latterly of Rob Strong and the Rockets.

Ceol le Chéile Donegal Choir of Ages

Choral Director Veronica McCarron.

Date: Saturday September 29

Venue: Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon

Time: 7.00pm • **Cost:** €10/€5

Ceol le Chéile - the Donegal Choir of Ages, is an intergenerational choir made up of older people, children and young people, from all walks of life in Donegal.



An initiative of Donegal County Council's Social Inclusion Unit, the project was conceived earlier this year with the aim of promoting social inclusion and developing stronger relationships between the generations.

Led by charismatic Choral Director, Veronica McCarron, the 80 member Choir of Ages made its first public performance to a full-house at An Grianán Theatre in July. Their programme included material by Ed Sheerin, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen as well as traditional songs - The Homes of Donegal, songs from the shows - Oh Happy Day, and a wonderful rendition of the eight verses of The Beatitudes, after the Monks of Glenstall Abbey. It was a joyous, uplifting and life affirming event and this eagerly anticipated, inaugural performance South of the Gap, promises to be just as good!

Veronica McCarron lives in Cashelard, near Ballyshannon. She studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in music education, most recently at the Presentation Secondary School in Kilkenny. In 2016, Veronica famously led the School Choir to the semi finals of Britain's Got Talent, winning hearts and minds the world over in the process.

The Ghostlight Sessions

*1st Birthday Performance with Our Krypton Son, Nathan O'Regan
Tommy Callaghan & Dean Maywood*

Date: Wednesday October 3

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** €8

Our Krypton Son is the musical vehicle for Derry's Chris McConaghy. His current CD, *Fleas and Diamonds*, is out now on the Derry-based, Smalltown America label.

"Our Krypton Son is one of the best songwriters I've ever heard. The songs blaze with originality."

- Stephen McCauley, BBC Radio Ulster.



Nathan O'Regan was born in Cork and is now based in Bangor, Co. Down. Steeped in music tradition and with voice as gritty as it is delicate, he sings stories of love, hate, light and dark.

Tommy Callaghan has been recording and releasing his own material under various monikers (including *Heads of State*, *Our Native State*) for almost 20 years. He is currently writing and recording new material for folk collective, *The Midnight Session Band*, and for a new solo project.

As the Ghostlight Sessions celebrates its first Birthday, it's appropriate that Sessions Host and MC **Dean Maywood** is finally afforded an opportunity to showcase his own material. His haunting songs will draw you in to tales of love, loss, heartache and joy.

LEGHOWNEY COMMUNITY HALL COMMITTEE

Eleanor Shanley and John Feeley

Date: Saturday October 6

Venue: Leghowney Community Hall, Leghowney, Bearnasmore

Time: 8.30pm

Cost: €20 from Ward's Music Shop, Donegal Town. T: 074 9721313

With a career spanning over twenty years, **Eleanor Shanley** is one of our best loved singers. She is highly regarded for her interpretations of traditional and contemporary folksongs, such as The Parting Glass, Beautiful Dreamer, Seven Spanish Angels and the late Thom Moore's much loved Gorgeous and Bright, from her acclaimed 2015 recording, Forever Young. Whether as a soloist, or a longtime member of Dé Dannan, or her time collaborating with the legendary Ronnie Drew, her wonderful voice rings through with lyrical emotion every time.



John Feeley is Ireland's leading classical guitarist. He is especially regarded for his recordings and performances of the music of Turlough O'Carolan. He has recorded with the Chieftains and with the famous Spanish soprano, Montserrat Caballes. His concerts have taken him around the world and include appearances at the Sydney Opera House, Frankfurt's Old Opera House, L'Arena in Verona and New York's Carnegie Hall.

"A devoted audience rose to its collective feet at both intermission and concert's end." - Washington Post.

"remarkable virtuosity...exquisite playing." - The Wire

Donegal Voices Choir & Chamber Orchestra

Conductor & Musical Director, Andrew Batchelor.

Performing Requiem in D Minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Date: Friday October 5

Venue: St. Patrick's Church, Ballyshannon

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** Donations/Retiring Collection

Date: Sunday October 7

Venue: St. Mary's Church, Stranorlar

Time: 8.00pm • **Cost:** Donations/Retiring Collection

Following last year's tremendous success with their performances of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus and The Coronation Anthems, the Donegal Voices Choir and their director Andrew Batchelor make a very welcome return to the Blue Stacks Festival.

Always looking to surpass their previous achievements, this year the Donegal Voices have put together their very own Chamber Orchestra to join them for one of the best-loved and most important works of the classical, sacred repertoire – Mozart's Requiem in D Minor.

Mozart was commissioned by Count Von Walsegg of Vienna to write the Requiem to commemorate the 1st. anniversary of the untimely death of his young wife Anna, on Valentine's Day, 1791. Mozart himself was in poor health when he commenced the work and he died some months later, in December 1791, before he could complete it. His wife Constanze, however, arranged for several of his composer friends, most notably Franz Xavier Sussmayr, to complete the commission and deliver it, on time, to the grieving Count.





The Donegal Voices Choir was formed in 2015 by Deborah Cunningham and Eileen Carr with Andrew Batchelor as Musical Director. Members are from Dunfanaghy and Letterkenny in the north of the county, from Gort a'Choiceire to the West, and from Donegal, Ballyshannon and Bundoran in the south.

Principal soloists, drawn from the Choir, are Deborah Cunningham, Soprano; Fiona Wasson, Mezzo Soprano; Pat Doherty, Tenor and Paul Martin, Baritone. The Chamber Orchestra will also perform some well known Mozart favourites and, as has become regular feature of Donegal Voices performances, the audience may even be asked to join in. A flash mob for classical music lovers!

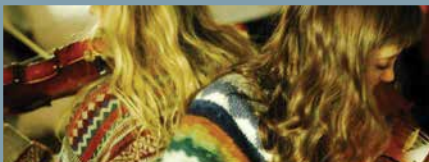
Andrew Batchelor, Conductor and Musical Director, is principally a singer, having been a post-graduate student at The Royal Academy of Music, London. He has performed extensively as a soloist in the UK and Europe and was for many years a member of the world renowned Chorus of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. Now resident in Mountcharles, he devotes his time to vocal training, conducting, teaching and composition.

36th Annual Glenties Fiddlers Gathering

Date: Friday October 5 - Sunday October 7

Venue: The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

www.donegalfiddle.com



This major gathering of fiddle players was established in 1983 and is held annually in The Highlands Hotel, Glenties. The popular event is for anyone interested in fiddle music and the formal programme includes classes, a concert with special guest fiddle players, talks and occasional recitals

Fiddle Masterclass

Date: Saturday October 6 & Sunday October 7

Venue: The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

Time: 11.00am to 12.30pm

Cost: There is no charge but Booking on 071 9852144 or rabcherry1@gmail.com, is advisable.

Illustrated Talk

The Musicians of the Mountcharles Area, by **Rónán Galvin**

Date: Saturday October 6

Venue: The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

Time: 1.00pm

Donegal Fiddlers Concert

Date: Saturday October 6

Venue: The Highlands Hotel, Glenties

Time: 9.00pm • **Cost:** €12

One of the main focal points of the weekend is the Donegal Fiddlers concert. This year, the spotlight will be firmly on the younger generation of players and will feature performances by Aidan O'Donnell, Doireann Peoples, Sinéad and Catriona Kennedy and a very special guest from Scotland, Archie McAllister.

Aidan O'Donnell hails from Dunkineely and is one of Donegal's best known fiddle players. He has a number of highly acclaimed recordings to his credit and is a member of the well known Donegal fiddle trio, Fidil. He won the TG4 Young Musician of the Year award in 2010.

Doireann Glackin is a member of the well known fiddle playing Glackin family of Dublin. Her father Kevin, and his brothers Paddy and Seamus, are familiar to Donegal fiddle music fans.

Sinéad and Catriona Kennedy were brought up in Co. Meath and have been playing music since childhood. They are very familiar with the music of South West Donegal, the home place of both parents.

Archie McAllister hails from Campbelltown on the edge of the Kintyre Peninsula. He is widely known throughout Scotland having played with a variety of bands over the years. He was the featured solo performer at last year's prestigious Neil Gow Fiddle Festival in Dunkeld.

FANZINI PRODUCTIONS

Ballet Poulet

Clár Eitriche Dábhacht
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



Do Bhunscoileanna fá Deisceart is Iardheisceart Dhún na nGall.

Date: Dé Céadaoin 3 Meán Fómhair - Dé hAoine 5 Meán Fómhair

Venue: Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon

Time: 11.00am & 1.00pm • **Booking:** Tel. 071 9851375

This year's Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival touring show for primary schools is Ballet Poulet, a brand new presentation by top Irish comedy circus troupe, Fanzini Productions. Ballet Poulet mixes circus, ballet, chickens (but not real ones!) and slapstick comedy to hugely entertaining effect, which will appeal to children of all ages and to teachers alike. Celebrating 250 Years of Circus, the company will perform in community venues in the Glenties/Ardara/Kilcar areas on Wednesday and Thursday and in Ballyshannon on Friday.



The Ballet Poulet tour is made possible through funding from Creative Ireland.

Cur i láthair nua ó compántas sorcas dhá-theangach, Fanzini Productions, is í Ballet Poulet. Meascann na Fanzinis sorcas, ballet, sicíní agus ard-scléip le chéile, chun seó a chruthú a bhéas ina chraic mhór do pháistí agus do mhúinteoirí araon. Chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh Sorcas 250 beidh an compántas ag taisteal chuig ionaid pobail fá limistéar Na Gleanntaí, Ard a'Ratha, Cill Chartha, ar an gCéadaoin agus an Deardaoin agus i mBéal an Atha Seannaigh ar an Aoine.

MIRIAM LAMBERT PUPPETEER

Goldilocks and The Three Bears

Date: Sunday October 7

Venue: Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey

Time: 2.00pm & 4.00pm • **Cost:** €8 (€27 Family of 4)



Miriam Lambert, is delighted to present Goldilocks and the Three Bears where the story comes alive within her original, two-tier puppet booth. Peek and Boo, Miriam's signature characters guide the children to the tale of a little girl who pays a visit to the home of the adorable baby bear!

Miriam Lambert has been at the heart of the Irish puppetry tradition since her childhood, having grown up with the Lambert Puppet Theatre in Dublin. Trained by her mentor and father, the late Master puppeteer Eugene Lambert, she has played an integral part in the creation of many of the legendary puppet characters and performances in the renowned Lambert productions.

BOOKÁIL | BOOKING

For all Festival events, tickets will be available for purchase at the venue on the evening of the performance. To avoid disappointment, however, please plan to arrive at the venue at least 20 minutes before the advertised showtime. Should you wish, you may also book certain performances in advance, at the venues below.

Tickets and Booking at The **Abbey Arts Centre**, Ballyshannon. T: 071 9851375
Ceol le Chéile Donegal Choir of Ages, Donegal Drama Circle double bill, **Fanzini Productions 'Ballet Poulet', Mary O'Donnell and Nuala O'Connor**, at Abbey Arts Centre.

Tickets and Booking at **The Balor Arts Centre**, Ballybofey. T: 074 9131840
Off Your Trolley, Owen O'Neill's 10 Songs, The Ghostlight Sessions, Hero, Miriam Lambert's 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears', at Balor Arts Centre.

Booking at **Atlantic Aparthotel**, Bundoran T: 071 9841205
'Sile Molloy', at Atlantic Aparthotel, Bundoran.

For **General Information** on The Festival, please contact **The Festival Office / Donegal County Library**, Tel. 074 9153900.

DIALANN LAE | DAY BY DAY

Friday September 28			Page
Conall Gallen 'Off Your Trolley'	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm	02
Jean Michel Veillon and Yvon Riou	The Folk Village, Gleann Cholm Cille	8.00pm	13
Saturday September 29			Page
Ceol le Chéile Donegal Choir of Ages	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	7.00pm	15
Conall Gallen 'Off Your Trolley'	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm	02
Songs for an Autumn Evening	St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Donegal Town	8.00pm	12
Sunday September 30			Page
Owen O'Neill '10 Songs To Die For'	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm	03
Gay McIntyre Trio	Aislann Chill Chartha, Cill Chartha Kilcar	8.00pm	14
Wednesday October 3			Page
Donegal Drama Circle 'Its What We Do'	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	8.00pm	04
Dark Daughter Productions 'Sile Molloy'	Sandhouse Hotel, Rossnowlagh	8.00pm	05
The Ghostlight Sessions	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm	16

Thursday October 4			Page
Exhibition Opening - Kevin Lowery	Buoys & Gulls, West End, Bundoran	7.00pm	11
Dark Daughter Productions 'Síle Molloy'	Atlantic Aparthotel, Bundoran	8.00pm	05
Donegal Drama Circle 'Its What We Do'	Bluestack Centre, Drimarone	8.00pm	04
Daití Mac Suibhne 'Hero'	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	8.00pm	06
Friday October 5			Page
Donegal Voices Choir and Orchestra	St. Patrick's Church, Ballyshannon	8.00pm	18
Blue Wall Theatre 'At The End of The Day'	Foresters Hall, Killybegs	8.00pm	07
Donegal Drama Circle 'Its What We Do'	Bluestack Centre, Drimarone	8.00pm	04
Dark Daughter Productions 'Síle Molloy'	McIntyre's Bar, Ballyshannon	8.00pm	05
Donegal Fiddlers Gathering (informal)	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	10.00pm	20
Saturday October 6			Page
Donegal Fiddle Masterclasses	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	11.00am	20
Rónán Galvin 'The Music of Mountcharles'	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	1.00pm	21
Fionn Uisce Carnival Parade	Streets of Ballyshannon	7.30pm	08
Blue Wall Theatre 'At The End of The Day'	Halla an Pharóiste/Parish Hall, Kilcar	8.30pm	07
Eleanor Shanley & John Feeley	Leghowney Hall, Bearnasmore	8.30pm	17
Donegal Fiddlers Gathering Concert	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	9.00pm	21
Sunday October 7			Page
Donegal Fiddle Masterclasses	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	11.00am	20
Donegal Fiddlers Gathering (informal)	Highlands Hotel, Glenties	2.00pm	20
Goldilocks & The Three Bears	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	2.00pm	23
Nuala O'Connor, Mary O'Donnell, Niamh Currid	Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon	3.00pm	10
Goldilocks & The Three Bears	Balor Arts Centre, Ballybofey	4.00pm	23
Donegal Voices Choir and Orchestra	St. Mary's Church, Stranorlar	8.00pm	19

Fanzini Productions 'Ballet Poulet': Page 22

*Do Bhunscoileanna fá Deisceart agus Iar Dheisceart Dhán na nGall/
For Primary Schools in South and South West Donegal.*

Dáta: Dé Céadaoin 3 Meán Fómhair - Dé hAoine 5 Meán Fómhair

Eolas: Oifig na Féile/Festival Office T: 074 9153900

SANDHOUSE

Hotel & Marine Spa



Sponsors of:

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON MISCELLANY

Mary O'Donnell and Nuala O'Connor, In Conversation. Music by Niamh Currid

Date: Sunday October 7

Venue: Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon

Time: 3.00pm • **Cost:** €5

Rossnowlagh,
County Donegal, Ireland.

T: 071 9851777
E: info@sandhouse.ie

www.sandhouse.ie