

March 2026 WHAT'S ON



**PICKS OF
THE
MONTH**

IMAGINE FESTIVAL

Imagine! returns during 23–29 March 2026 in over 50 Belfast venues, bridging the gap between political engagement and vibrant culture.

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Belfast Children's Festival

Belfast Children's Festival 2026 is live, boasting over 100 events and performances to suit everyone, from the youngest to the not-so-young!

Read More on Page 3



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NEW Members Hub

Thanks to support from The Foyle Foundation, we've built an online space where our members can connect, collaborate and learn at their own pace. Inside, you'll find self-guided toolkits, webinars and networking spaces designed to complement our in-person training and support.

If your organisation is an A&BNI member you can access this space for free.

[Find out more here.](#)

FESTIVALS

PICKS OF
THE
MONTH



Walled City Music Festival

**Christ Church, Derry-Londonderry
12 - 15 March**

Derry-Londonderry hosts a musical takeover as Walled City Music Festival returns from 12–15 March 2026 with a bold, accessible programme for seasoned listeners and first-timers alike. Expect powerhouse piano, virtuosic violin and vivid chamber music from world-class artists, set in the warm acoustics of Christ Church Derry. Highlights include Martina Filjak, the debut of the Walled City Music Chamber Orchestra, Kirill and Alexandra Trousov, and soprano Ailish Tynan, curated by co-artistic directors Cathal Breslin and Sabrina Hu.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Belfast Children's Festival 2026

**venues across Belfast
5 - 14 March**

Belfast Children's Festival 2026 is live, boasting over 100 events and performances to suit everyone, from the youngest to the not-so-young! This year the Young at Art team has curated a festival filled with joy, entertainment and magical experiences. The 2026 Festival programme focuses on international talent, accessible performances, Irish premieres and new creations from local artists.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Enniskillen Drama Festival

**The Ardhowen Theatre
6 - 14 March**

Enniskillen Drama Festival is now in its 46th year and welcoming drama groups from across the country to compete with each other for a place in the national finals.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Imagine Festival of Ideas & Politics 2026

**Over 50 venues across Belfast
23 - 29 March**

Imagine! returns during 23–29 March 2026 in over 50 Belfast venues, bridging the gap between political engagement and vibrant culture. The eclectic week-long programme includes talks, workshops, theatre, comedy, music, exhibitions, film, poetry and tours—over 120 in-person and online events. Keynote guests include Mhairi Black, Len Pennie, Adam Kay, Tommy Tiernan and Liam Ó Maonlaí, plus diverse tours, exhibitions, quizzes, live podcasts and expert-led discussions exploring the big issues of our time.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

FAMILY FRIENDLY



BCF26: Festival Family Day Out

venues across Belfast 7 March

Join us for another unforgettable Festival Family Day Out, based this year in the Cathedral Quarter. Enjoy an exciting mix of pop-up performances, exciting workshops, lively walkabout characters, captivating storytelling, circus acts, comedy, music, and so much more. There's truly something for everyone to enjoy. Best of all? It's completely free! Don't miss out.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

BCF26: Aesop's Fables

Clonard Monastery 7 March

The world premiere of Aesop's Fables is a vibrant, family-friendly youth opera presented by Ulster Touring Opera as part of Belfast Children's Festival 2026. Three brand-new short operas reimagine classic fables through music, movement and storytelling, performed by young singers from across Northern Ireland alongside professional musicians. Presented in the stunning setting of Clonard Monastery, this is a joyful first opera experience for families and curious minds aged 6+.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

BCF26: The Little Prince

The MAC, Belfast 7 - 8 March

The Little Prince is an ode to the power of imagination and friendship, which tells the story of the Little Prince as he wanders the universe in search of the true meaning of friendship. Full of magic and entertaining for children and adults alike, The Little Prince is a great adventure to enjoy, make friends, learn things, and notice the most important things in life. Enter a world of endless sunsets, where people are like flowers, and grown-ups are, well, pretty peculiar. They think serious things are silly and silly things are serious. Age 7+.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

FAMILY FRIENDLY

St Patrick's Day Procession

Strabane town centre 17 March

Join us in Strabane this St. Patrick's Day for a vibrant celebration of Irish culture! Enjoy a lively parade, traditional music, dancing, and plenty of festive fun for all ages. From local culture and heritage to family-friendly activities, the town will be buzzing with energy, offering a perfect mix of tradition and community spirit. Don't miss the craic – come and celebrate in Strabane! Procession from Holy Cross College at 2:00 pm, moving through the town centre.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Trad Picnic

Oh Yeah Music Centre 16 March

Bring the family to a joyful Trad Picnic at the Oh Yeah Centre with Cleamairí Feirste / The Belfast Wren Boys, Kids' Céilí with Eimear Magee, Sean nós dance for kids and an open bodhrán circle. A relaxed, interactive celebration of traditional music, rhythm, and dance, welcoming all ages to join in, learn, and have fun together.

► [Click here to see more](#)

St Patrick's Music Festival: Festival Village at Cathedral Quarter

Cathedral Quarter, Belfast 17 March

St. Patrick's Day Festival Village at Writer's Square, Belfast Cathedral, Saint Anne's Square and The MAC, on Tuesday 17th March will host a FREE afternoon of music, dance and food with something for everyone to enjoy across two live music stages, an all-day céilí, a food village, and a variety of family-friendly activities.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Belfast TradFest: St. Patrick's Music Festival

various venues 13 - 17 March

Belfast TradFest is delighted to partner with Belfast City Council to programme and deliver St. Patrick's Music Festival across March 13–17 as part the UNESCO City of Music's St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The programme invites everyone to the city to enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor traditional arts events encompassing a diverse, cross-cultural and cross-traditions celebration in honour of St. Patrick.

► [Click here to see more](#)

**St. Patrick's
Music Festival**
13 - 17 March 2026

FAMILY FRIENDLY

BCF26: By Trial and Error

**Naughton Studio, Lyric Theatre
7 - 8 March**

From a simple black curtain two circus artists emerge, ready to enthrall their audience with a well-practiced routine. But as they begin their first lift, they're hit by uncertainty. Is this the right move? Is this what we rehearsed? Determined to keep going no matter what, the disoriented duo invents new tricks and lifts with hilarious consequences. By Trial and Error is a delightful show of acrobatic lifts, full of humour borrowed from burlesque and silent cinema, where the audience is constantly surprised by the antics, skill and charm of the performers. Age 4+ Duration 45 min.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Ulster Orchestra presents CBeebies Prom: Wildlife Jamboree

**Waterfront Hall
28 March**

Join some of your favourite CBeebies friends to celebrate the natural world at this spectacular Wildlife Jamboree with the Ulster Orchestra and brilliant conductor Ellie Slorach. Prowl with the tigers, stamp in the snow and hear the desert wind, as well as going on an adventure to find one of the tiniest creatures in the world. Duggee, Bluey, the Octonauts and lots more CBeebies friends invite you and the most unusual animal guests, to join in with music, songs and lots of wildlife fun. An unmissable, magical, multi-media event featuring popular CBeebies theme tunes, orchestral treats, live action film and animation with a few surprises along the way!

► [Click here to see more](#)



BCF26: The Unexpected Gift (for ages 7-15 years with additional needs)

**Upstairs at the MAC
7-8 March**

This highly interactive and inclusive dance-theatre performance is made especially for and with children with complex needs ages 7-15 years. Playfulness within the work creates space for live response between the audience and performers, with its adaptable approach allowing the individuality of each child to be celebrated. The Unexpected Gift celebrates the art of play and curiosity, taking ordinary objects and making them extraordinary and magical. Bursting with energy, acrobatic dance, textures, sounds and colour, The Unexpected Gift creates a multi-sensory wonderland from the left-over boxes, ribbons and wrapping. The Unexpected Gift is designed for a small audience to be able to accommodate and engage young people who experience the most barriers to access. Duration 35 min + 15 min Stay & Play.

► [Click here to see more](#)

SEE A SHOW



Consumed at the Lyric Theatre

Miss Saigon

Millennium Forum buy now for 26 - 30 May

Michael Harrison in association with Cameron Mackintosh presents the spectacular new production of MISS SAIGON as Boublil and Schönberg's legendary musical is reborn. The soaring score features hit songs including; "The Heat is On in Saigon", "The Movie in My Mind", "Last Night of the World" and "The American Dream". Embarking on a major UK and Ireland Tour, this epic production arrives at the Millennium Forum in May 2026. In the last days of the Vietnam War, 17 year-old Kim is forced to work in a Saigon bar run by a notorious character known as The Engineer. There she meets and falls in love with an American GI named Chris but they are torn apart by the fall of Saigon. For 3 years, Kim goes on an epic journey of survival to find her way back to Chris, who has no idea he's fathered a son.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Consumed

Lyric Theatre Belfast 24 Feb - 8 Mar

Following a hit tour and a sell-out run at Traverse Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe, Consumed by Karis Kelly comes to the Lyric Belfast. A 90th birthday party that no-one seems to want. Four generations of Northern Irish women, reunited under one roof. A house full of hungry ghosts, with more than one skeleton in the closet. Turn off your phones at dinner. Winner of the Women's Prize for Playwriting 2022, Karis Kelly's play is a pitch-black and twisted comedy of dysfunctional family dynamics, generational trauma and national boundaries. Featured in Rolling Stone's 'Ten stand-out shows of the Edinburgh Fringe 2025' Featured in The National: A show 'that will stay with you for the rest of your life.' CONSUMED is a Paines Plough, Belgrade Theatre, Sheffield Theatres and Women's Prize for Playwriting production. This presentation is co-produced by Paines Plough, Lyric Theatre and Park Theatre.

► [Click here to see more](#)

SEE A SHOW

Group!

Lyric Theatre Belfast 24 March - 4 April

Seven plastic chairs. Seven cups of coffee. Seven souls trying to hold it together. Until tonight. Welcome to Group! In a community centre on the outskirts of Belfast, a support group unravels in real time. The tenuous bond between a group of five melters, and their uptight facilitator is put to the test when a new member joins. But everything's not what it seems, and the new arrival ignites an unforgettable night of hilarious therapy. First staged at the Lyric in 2002, this outrageous musical with a hit Broadway infused score has seen countless productions including New York, Philadelphia, Australia and London. Here, as part of the Lyric 75th anniversary, it comes home to join in the celebrations with a glorious live orchestra and stellar cast. 'If you like Book of Mormon and Avenue Q, you'll love Group' *contains outrageous material.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Swan Lake

Millennium Forum 5 March

Set to Tchaikovsky's delightful score, Swan Lake is one of the most famous and best loved Ballets in the world. The Sofia City Ballet's production of Swan Lake is a magical combination of drama and tragedy and the perpetual battle between good and evil. From the splendour of the palace ballroom to the moon lit lake where Swans glide in perfect formation.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Scratch Special: Marx In Soho

Accidental Theatre & Live Streamed 26 March

This reimagining of Howard Zinn's Marx in Soho seeks to uncover the local and contemporary relevance of Karl Marx's ideas. Through Zinn's sharp wit and passionate writing, we revisit Marx not as a distant historical figure but as a thinker whose critiques of power, class, and inequality still echo today, Our Karl. In this new staging, we explore what has changed since Marx's time — and what has stubbornly remained the same. We ask: where do his theories still resonate in modern society, and where do they fall short? Set against the backdrop of our own communities new and old, this production invites audiences to engage critically with Marx's writings and teachings, reflecting on capitalism, justice, conflict and social change in the 21st century. Blending humour, politics, and performance, this production aims to start a conversation not about what Marx believed, but about what we still believe.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Give My Head Peace

Millennium Forum 6 - 7 March

Your favourite characters from Northern Ireland's number 1 sitcom return with another brand new show. Da, Ma, Cal Pastor Begbie, Sandy, Billy and Dympna will all be on stage for a night of guaranteed laughs. There will be the usual hilarious mixture of character comedy, topical satire, silly plots, top-class stand-up from Tim McGarry, and the odd song or two. For a night of riotous local humour, look no further.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

SEE A SHOW



Dublin Youth Dance at Unanimous 2025

Unanimous 2026

The MAC Belfast 2 April

Unanimous is a powerful, energy-packed youth dance showcase suitable for all the family. The annual performance showcase features ten of the best youth dance groups and this year we are delighted to welcome Derry Dance Collective. It takes place on Thursday 2nd April at 7pm at The MAC Belfast and tickets are just £10 or £6 for Under 16s and concessions.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Al Murray - All You Need Is Guv

Millennium Forum 26 March

Hot on the heels of a sell-out 138 date tour of these green and groovy isles, The Guv will be back, with a brand-new stand-up show for 2026. There's no denying the world's a mess, but there is a glimmer of hope as the globe's favourite Pub Landlord returns with his like-nobody-else Common Sense hot-takes for the masses, offering a much-needed truth tonic (pint for the fella/glass of white wine for the lady) for these whacked out and troubled times. With a fresh and frothing pint to hand, a barrel of laughs to pour from, and a flower in his heart, Guv is all you need.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Get Involved



Talk to the Professionals: Introduction to Live Event Mixing

**Accidental Theatre & Live
Streamed**
7 March (Session 1 of 3)

This course is designed to introduce you to live event mixing in a hands-on, real-life situation, working in a venue with performers, microphones, and a PA system. Whether you're a complete novice interested in a career in live sound, a musician wanting to better understand how to set yourself up on stage, or a DAW-based producer curious about the live side of audio engineering, this course provides a practical and accessible entry point into live audio. (Sessions 2 & 3 will be planned with participants.)

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Talk to the Professionals: An Introduction to Live Streaming

Accidental Theatre & Live Streamed
14 March (Session 1 of 3)

This course provides a practical introduction to live streaming for artists, performers, organisations, and content creators who want to broadcast events professionally and creatively. Participants will learn how to plan, set up, and deliver live streams that are engaging, reliable, and appropriate for different audiences and platforms. The training combines technical skills with creative and production considerations, supporting participants to confidently live stream performances, talks, workshops, and hybrid events. (Sessions 2 & 3 will be planned with participants.)

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Arts & Older People Workshops

Golden Thread Gallery
Every Tuesday

Are you over 60? Enjoy conversation, a cuppa, and some creativity? Golden Thread Gallery invites you to take part in 'Then, Now & Could Be', a series of free art workshops for older people, supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Arts & Older People programme. Come along to celebrate the history and heritage of our city's buildings, streets and communities, and share your own memories and stories. No art experience is needed! Guided by artist Cony Ortiz and the GTG team, the sessions are a fun, easy and welcoming space to meet new people and chat with friends.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Get Involved



Kids Easter Wax Melts

**Millennium Court, William Street
Portadown
28 March**

Join Maria for this Easter wax melts workshop, to create your own amazing wax melts, learn new skills and bring home a collection of your own mad wax melts. This workshop is suitable for kids age 10+.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Sew your own Easter Bunny

**Millennium Court, Portadown
28 March**

In this beginner-friendly sewing workshop, you'll learn how to create an adorable soft bunny toy using the sewing pattern provided and a clear, step-by-step tutorial. All materials will be provided (unless you want to bring your own special fabric). We'll cover the basics as you go: cutting, stitching, and assembling your bunny. This class is suitable for confident beginners and people who have sewn before. Suitable for age 14 plus or over 8 but must be accompanied by adult.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Easter Floral Arrangement

**Millennium Court, William Street
Portadown
28 March**

Join us for a fun and relaxed Easter Floral Arrangement Workshop, where you can get creative with gorgeous spring flowers and soak up all the seasonal vibes. Maria will show you how to put together your own Easter arrangement using fresh blooms and foliage. No experience needed, this is all about having a go, enjoying yourself and getting a bit messy with flowers. All materials are included, and you will head home with a beautiful arrangement.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Puzzle Corner

**Golden Thread Gallery
28 March**

Join us in the Hub from 1PM to challenge your mind with a communal jigsaw, brain teasers, sudoku, puzzles, wordsearches and more. These activities are all self-led with no pressure, so you can come and go as you please! Doing puzzles are a great way of improving memory retention and problem solving skills. They actively challenge your mind and boost your mood! All materials are provided, as well as tea, coffee & biscuits. FREE, all ages welcome. No booking required, just drop in!

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Get Involved

Introduction to Copper Etching - 4 week course

Seacourt Print Workshop, Bangor
Wednesday mornings 11, 18, 25
March & 1 April

Etching is one of cornerstones of printmaking and offers endlessly fascinating possibilities for any artist. An image is etched into a metal plate using acid in this case on copper. The etched areas sit below the surface of the metal plate and hold the ink ready for printing using our beautiful etching press. This course is suitable for complete beginners or those wishing to refresh their knowledge. Penny Brewill will guide you through how to prepare your copper plate, apply wax resist for hard and soft ground line etching, the various drawing and mark-making techniques and tools used to draw image and image correction/stopping out using acid resist varnishes prior to etching the plate. Basic materials including inks and printmaking paper will be provided. Wear something you don't mind getting inky, or bring an apron if you can. No open toed shoes please.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Auditions for youth production of EVITA

Millennium Forum
closing date 9 March

Are you aged 15-21? Interested in acting, singing and dancing? The North West's premier arts venue is looking for you! The Millennium Forum will be holding auditions on Sat 14th and Mon 16th March for its youth production of the hit Lloyd Webber musical, EVITA which will run at the theatre for four nights from 29th July until 1st August. A host of leading roles are up for grabs including Eva Peron and Ché as well as numerous Ensemble roles. The Forum will also be seeking a youth orchestra and technical crew to complete the production (more details to be announced soon). If you are aged 15 – 21 before 1st July 2026 and believe you have what it takes to be onstage in this new production of EVITA at the Millennium Forum, make your way to the Forum for the auditions. Please note that all auditions must be booked in advance. The closing date to book your audition slot is 9th March. To register your interest, click the link:

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

VISUAL ARTS & LITERATURE



Ecopoetics Writing Group

Void Art Centre 6 March

In March, we will begin to host a monthly writing group engaged with ecopoetics, initiated by poet and researcher Dr Katharina Maria Kalinowski. Ecopoetics is an array of creative and critical practices concerned with the environment, place and human-nature interconnections. Echoing Void's interest in local and global ecologies, this group invites participants to explore interactions between language and the physical-material world.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Barbara Steveni, 'I Find Myself'

Void Art Centre Until 4 April

The life and work of Barbara Steveni (1928–2020), who described herself as an artist–activist, embodied an archive and pioneered a diffused art practice that resists clear definition. Invisible threads interlink the various roles she played in the contexts within which she was situated and responding to. As with other women artists of her generation she combined childrearing and managing domestic chores with the production of work, and was frequently overshadowed by her male partner's success.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Arpentage Reading Group: I find myself

Void Art Centre 24 March

Join us for a reading group in the form of an arpentage session, looking at a series of texts responding to the Artist Placement Group, and specifically the integral role of Barbara Steveni within socially engaged practice. An arpentage means to read a book or text in its entirety by splitting it into sections that can be read individually before a collective discussion. This method of reading originated in 19th century workers' circles, and aims to share knowledge collectively amongst a group.

► [Click here to see more](#)

VISUAL ARTS & LITERATURE

Imagine Festival presents We Are Class - The Gathering

**PS2, Property House, 11 Rosemary
Street, Belfast**

24 March

We Are Class is dedicated to amplifying the voices and experiences of working-class individuals within the art and cultural sector in Northern Ireland. The Gathering is hopefully the start of many conversations striving for a cultural sector where all voices are heard and celebrated, regardless of class background. We will focus on reflecting on policy, data and research and hear from real experiences of artists and professionals in the field, question what we can do to change the sector and have a good chance to connect, chat and potential gigs! So join us for the start of a more inclusive and equitable arts landscape for those to have an opportunity to lead, innovate and shape the cultural discourse. This Pay What You Can event is part of Imagine! Festival.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MATERIAL ALCHEMY

**Craft NI Gallery
Until 27 March**

MATERIAL ALCHEMY celebrates the process of fostering curiosity and indulging in play. Intrigued by the parallels connecting the work of an artist and an alchemist, mixed media artist Sarah Cathers explores the art of transformation, documenting the journey of finding a curious object, experimenting with its properties and potential, and working towards a 'eureka!' moment. Alchemy is the process of converting base metals into gold. Similarly, Sarah works with seemingly worthless, discarded materials, altering them to create treasured artefacts. Free entry, no booking necessary.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)



LATE
NIGHT
ART

Late Night Art

**Various galleries across Belfast
first Thursday of the month**

On the first Thursday of every month, many of Belfast's galleries and studios stay up late so that audiences can enjoy after-hours access to some of the finest visual art that the city has to offer. A great post-work social activity to enjoy by yourself or with friends and family, embrace the atmosphere of Late Night Art and immerse yourself in Belfast's art scene. Participants can expect to see media from across the visual arts, including painting, sculpture, photography, illustration, craft, video, and performance, and no two Late Night Art experiences are ever the same!

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

DISASTERS AND INTERVENTIONS

**Until 29 March
The Naughton Gallery Belfast**

The Naughton Gallery presents Disasters and Interventions, a new exhibition by internationally renowned artist Oliver Jeffers. This marks the first time that this collection of works – created sporadically over the past decade and a half – has been exhibited together.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

VISUAL ARTS & LITERATURE



Image: Yara Kassem Mahajena

The Lost Paintings: A Prelude to Return

**The MAC, Belfast
Until 29 March**

This exhibition gathers 53 artists from Palestine and its diaspora across time and borders to reimagine the missing works of Maroun Tomb, a Palestinian Lebanese artist, whose 1947 exhibition in Haifa was lost amid the mass displacement and dispossession of the Palestinians during the Nakba. The works resurrect a moment that was nearly erased until it was discovered in archival documents. Curators: Joëlle Tomb, Rula Khoury, Haidi Motola.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Talk to the Professionals: In Conversation with Shona McCarthy

**Accidental Theatre & Live Streamed
Until 29 March**

Join us for an honest, inspiring, and deeply human talk with Shona McCarthy as she reflects on a life spent working at the heart of the cultural sector, at home and internationally. Shona will share her personal journey through the arts and cultural industries, the opportunities seized, the hurdles jumped, and the hard-earned lessons learned along the way. She will speak candidly about moments of real challenge and despair, balanced with the joy, pride, and purpose that come from delivering ambitious festivals and events that bring people together.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Re-presenting representations of representation: Revisited

**Belfast Exposed
Until 21 March**

Belfast Exposed is delighted to present 'Re-presenting representations of representation: Revisited' exploring the history of performance art through the lens of its documentation. Rather than presenting performance as a fixed or singular event, Peter Richards asks a fundamental question: do we know performance art itself, or do we know its images?

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

VISUAL ARTS & LITERATURE



A House of Play - Exhibition

Lyric Theatre Belfast Until 8 Nov

An Exhibition and Programme of Events to Celebrate a Landmark Anniversary. To celebrate our 75th anniversary, the Lyric presents this new exhibition that showcases our rich history. A history which includes an art gallery (The New Gallery, 1963–1969), a literary magazine *Threshold* (1957–1990), a dance centre, a drama school, Belfast's first music academy, and of course, a theatre. *A House of Play* spotlights co-founder Mary O'Malley alongside the many creatives who built the Lyric from its beginnings in 1951, including Helen Lewis, Seamus Heaney, Brian Friel, John Hewitt and many more. Curated by Kim Mawhinney, the exhibition features artworks by Jack B. Yeats, Alice Berger Hammerschlag, Basil Blackshaw and others associated with The New Gallery. Extending the legacy into the present, this exhibition houses two new pieces from two extraordinary artists, one by Colin Davidson and one by Neil Shawcross. It also features rare editions of *Threshold*, free archival documentary screenings and a recreation of the original theatre set up from the O'Malley's home in the 1950s. To access the exhibition please book your free pass via the book now button. Pass includes free entry to the exhibitions and screenings. Please collect your ticket and free exhibition brochure on arrival from Box Office.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Write Night with Karis Kelly

Seamus Heaney Centre, QUB 10 March

Playwright and screenwriter Karis Kelly (she/they) joins the Drama Department and the Seamus Heaney Centre in conversation with Trish McTighe and Dara McWade to discuss her Women's Prize for Playwriting winning play *Consumed*, opening at The Lyric Theatre after an acclaimed run at the Edinburgh Fringe last year, and her freelance screenwriting work on television series such as *Hope Street* and *The Break*. We'll also be discussing the challenges, and rewards, of making a life, and a living, of writing.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

VISUAL ARTS & LITERATURE



CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

THURSDAY 26TH JUNE-SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026
IN THE SEAMUS HEANEY CENTRE AT QUEEN'S

Conference on Children's Literature 2026

**Seamus Heaney Centre, QUB
26 - 28 March**

A conference on children's literature at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's, hosted by the Children's Writing Fellow.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Insight into the Other

**Golden Thread Gallery
Until 18 April**

Insight into the Other is an exhibition exchange between Belfast and Boston that looks at how place affects how we see art and each other. The exhibition invites people to think about difference, understanding, and shared experience through prints, collage, animations, drawings, sculptures and videos.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Ballyscullion Park Spring Writing Workshop

**Ballyscullion Park
various dates**

Four inspiring writing workshops led by renowned novelists Bernie McGill and Mary Farrell alongside the brilliant poets Niamh McNally and Maura Johnston. Set against the stunning, historic backdrop of Ballyscullion Park, these workshops offer the perfect opportunity to unleash your creativity in the very heart of where the magic happens. Immerse yourself in the world of storytelling and poetry in one of Northern Ireland's most breathtaking settings, near the childhood home of Seamus Heaney which inspired much of his work. There will be a number of writing workshops in the autumn months featuring Byddi Lee, James Murphy, Martina Devlin and Sue Divin. Follow us to keep up to date on programming.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MUSIC & DANCE

Ulster Orchestra: Symphonic Queen

Waterfront Hall
buy now for 16 May 2026

Get ready for this epic evening of rock like no other as the Ulster Orchestra and West End singers pay tribute to one of the world's most iconic and successful rock bands of all time. Experience an unforgettable celebration of the greatest hits of Queen with a playlist including Bohemian Rhapsody, Radio Ga Ga, We Will Rock You, Don't Stop Me Now, Somebody to Love, We are the Champions and many more. The legend of Freddie lives on.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Sestina Music presents Out of Darkness: Musical Reflections at Passiontide

6 March in Christ Church, Derry-Londonderry
7 March in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Belfast

Sopranos Aisling Kenny & Charlotte O'Hare, Tristan Russcher (harpsichord), and Reiko Ichise (viola da gamba) present an intimate and meditative programme of works by Monteverdi, Purcell, Charpentier, and François Couperin's haunting masterpiece *Leçons de ténèbres*, centering on themes of grief, contemplation, and reflection.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

David Kitt with support: Rita Lynn & Josh Sampson, Arborist

The Duncairn
14 March

It gives us great pleasure to welcome David Kitt and his band back to the Duncairn on the approach of the 25th anniversary of his critically acclaimed album, *The Big Romance*. A unique and sincere singer-songwriter and producer with an expert ability to meld inspirations, eras and sounds, platinum-selling artist David Kitt's music glimmers with a sense of timelessness well-earned after over twenty years immersed in music.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Polar Bolero - Singing and Sailing Away EP Launch

The Duncairn
7 March

Live is where their arena is. Getting people onside is what it's all about and Polar Bolero do it with a flair entirely their own. Recent winners of the very first Gerry Anderson Bursary Award at the NI Music Prize 2025, the Derry-rooted band have, since forming in early 2022 as part of a university project at Magee College, carved out a space entirely their own. They are, quite simply, a singular proposition in Irish music right now: a band that folds pop precision, folk storytelling, jazz flair and theatrical sweep into something instinctive and whole, with a sound that feels both completely their own and quietly timeless. "One of the most magnetic live acts on the island." (The Thin Air). "They've been steadily earning praise for their spine-tingling, heartfelt songs, as well as show-stealing performances." (Hot Press). Strictly 18+ BYO.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MUSIC & DANCE



TRADITIONAL MUSIC, STORIES AND POEMS
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

It Goes As Follies: A Family-Friendly Trad Session

Seamus Heaney Centre
21 March

Join us at The Seamus Heaney Centre for an afternoon of traditional music, stories and poems, suitable for the whole family. Bring your children and an instrument along to this informal afternoon of tunes, stories and poems in The Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's. We'll make the tea and provide the biscuits. There is unrestricted weekend parking at the McClay Library, only a few minutes away from the Centre.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Ulster Orchestra: Of Rivers & Mountains

Ulster Hall
20 March

Rivers and landscapes shape the course of this programme, which has its source in Spain and flows to Bohemia. Virtuoso guitarist Sean Shibe depicts the sun sparkling on the river Turia, while Smetana's *Má Vlast* is a beautiful musical tribute to Principal Funder's his homeland.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Tarang Wave of Melodies

Whitla Hall, Methodist College
Belfast
7 March

Beyond Skin presents an evening where rhythm becomes prayer and movement and music turns into meditation. Graceful dance gives way to a whirling dancer accompanied by evocative piano melodies and soulful Iranian music.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MUSIC & DANCE

Ulster Orchestra: Dreams & Visions

**Ulster Hall
6 March**

Dreams are fleeting, unpredictable and all too prone to turn to nightmare – territory ripe for the imagination of a composer to run riot! This concert starts with Debussy in the hazy, half-remembered dreams of a slumbering faun in a Mediterranean forest on a sunny afternoon, before Rebecca Clarke's Viola Sonata takes us to a night where 'the wine of youth... is fermenting in the veins of God'. That fermentation takes things darker still and we visit the nightmarish world of obsessive desire in Berlioz's epic, dramatic *Symphonie fantastique*.

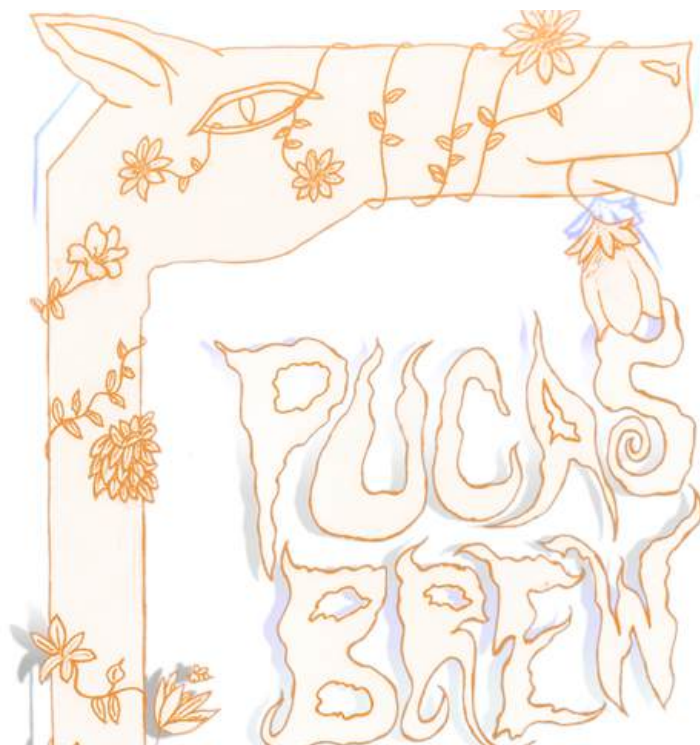
▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble presents Peaceline Perspectives

**Recital Room, Ulster University Derry
6 March**

Peaceline Perspectives features highly evocative pieces from the North of Ireland. The music is interwoven with voices and soundscapes inspired around Belfast's Peaceline, which separates the nationalist and loyalist communities. This performance showcases the work of multiple composers whose musical voices are shaped by their shared Northern Irish heritage. Music by Ian Wilson, Áine Mallon, Greg Caffrey, Ryan Molloy, Úna Monaghan, Elaine Agnew and Eduard Zatriqi. Sound pieces between the works designed and created by Robert Coleman.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)



Púca's Brew

**Accidental Theatre
21 March**

Púca's Brew is bringing together Belfast's finest psychedelic musicians to create a night of specially curated improvisations. The music will feature members of bands such as Electric Octopus, Space Shepherds, Wild Rocket, Unbelievable Lake, Junk Drawer, Back Quarter, The Daisy Chain, Cloakroom Q and many more. The night will be recorded for later release through Camellia Sinensis Records with tapes and other media being available in the near future. Music accompanied by psychedelic visuals from the mind of Lindsay Mead. Artist stalls featuring the art of psychedelic heads; David Younglove, Elsie Graham, James Gleese, and Lara Fox. Live art from Dave Common. Let's welcome the spring with some fresh, heavy mf'n jams!!

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MUSIC & DANCE

Season 2025/26

N.IRELAND'S CUTTING-EDGE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP



Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble presents Young Artist Recital / International Women's Day

**Harty Room, Queen's University
Belfast
8 March**

Hard Rain are proud to present this recital in partnership with Ulster Youth Orchestra. Here our 25/26 Featured Young Artist Charlie Shortt will perform both as a soloist and within the ensemble. Our second half represents our annual celebration of International Women's Day, featuring some of our closest collaborators. With composers from the North, South and West of Ireland, and born some 50 years apart, this programme presents multiple premieres while spanning generations and the geography of our island.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

International Women's Day: Girls with Guts presents: Banshee + guests

**Oh Yeah Music Centre
6 March**

Banshee make their Oh Yeah Centre debut, for their first headline show since 2024, following the release of their debut EP *When They Opened The Sky* in October last year. They will be supported by one of Belfast's fastest rising acts VERA and up-and-coming singer-songwriter Alice Sloan and her band. All proceeds will be donated to Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Volunteering & Opportunities

Volunteer with Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society

Have you ever wanted to get behind the scenes of the glittering world of the theatre? Or maybe onstage taking the applause? Belvoir Players is the busiest amateur drama group in Northern Ireland and always has opportunities for volunteers backstage with sound, lights, sets, costumes, performing and Front of House at Belvoir Studio Theatre. Just fill in the contact form on our website and our dedicated volunteer staff will arrange for you to come down and say hello.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Join the Void Derry Volunteer Team

Void Art Centre, Derry

As a charity, Void Art Centre relies on our wonderful team of volunteers to help keep everything running smoothly. We are always open to enquiries for our Front-of-House volunteer roles, and from January to April we also have opportunities for Invigilator Volunteers for our upcoming exhibition *I Find Myself*, by Barbara Steveni. If you have a few hours a week (or more) to spare and would like to join the Void volunteer team for a few months please get in touch.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Prefer Not To Say: Who's Missing From Demographic Data?

University of Atypical - Ledger Studio 26 March

Are you male or female? Other please specify? What's your religious background? Would you prefer not to say? Not exactly polite dinner party conversation, but questions routinely asked in audience surveys in the name of gathering demographic data. Demographics help governments make policy decisions and help organisations in the arts sector to measure whether they're reaching underserved audience groups. But cultural, social and gender identity are often more complex than a yes/no question can capture – using demographics alone to make decisions could forsake a lot of the nuances that make each audience member different. Are we using a broken tool to fix a broken sector? Our panel discussion will feature voices from across the sector, to tackle whether using demographics to make decisions about the future of the arts in Northern Ireland could do more harm than good. We'll also discuss what alternatives exist and whether they're in the sector's power to achieve.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Belfast TradFest & Belfast Summer School of Traditional Music

13 - 17 March

Join our volunteer team for a fantastic festival week that offers event and festival experience, time to enjoy the festival atmosphere, a Belfast TradFest branded t-shirt, an opportunity to meet like-minded people and more. Register your interest via belfasttradfest.com today.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)



Volunteering & Opportunities

Volunteer with Young at Art - 7 March

Join us for an exciting afternoon of pop-up performances, workshops, music, and so much more, meeting children and their families in venues across the city. Afterwards, enjoy a ticket to a BCF26 performance. No previous experience necessary. All volunteers will receive a full briefing in advance. Benefits: Young at Art T-shirt, free ticket to BCF26 performance, be part of the fun at BCF26 Festival Family Day Out. Find out more/sign up at marketing@youngatart.co.uk

Imagine Festival of Ideas & Politics 2026

23 - 29 March

The Imagine! Festival seeks expressions of interest from new volunteers. With over 120 events from 23-29 March, this is a unique opportunity to: gain tangible behind-the-scenes experience in event delivery; connect with industry professionals and local leaders; support the Belfast arts & culture sector. Whether you are a student, a professional looking to give back, or a creative looking for inspiration, we'd love to have you on board - expressions of interest close 7 March 2026.

Ballyscullion Park Book Festival

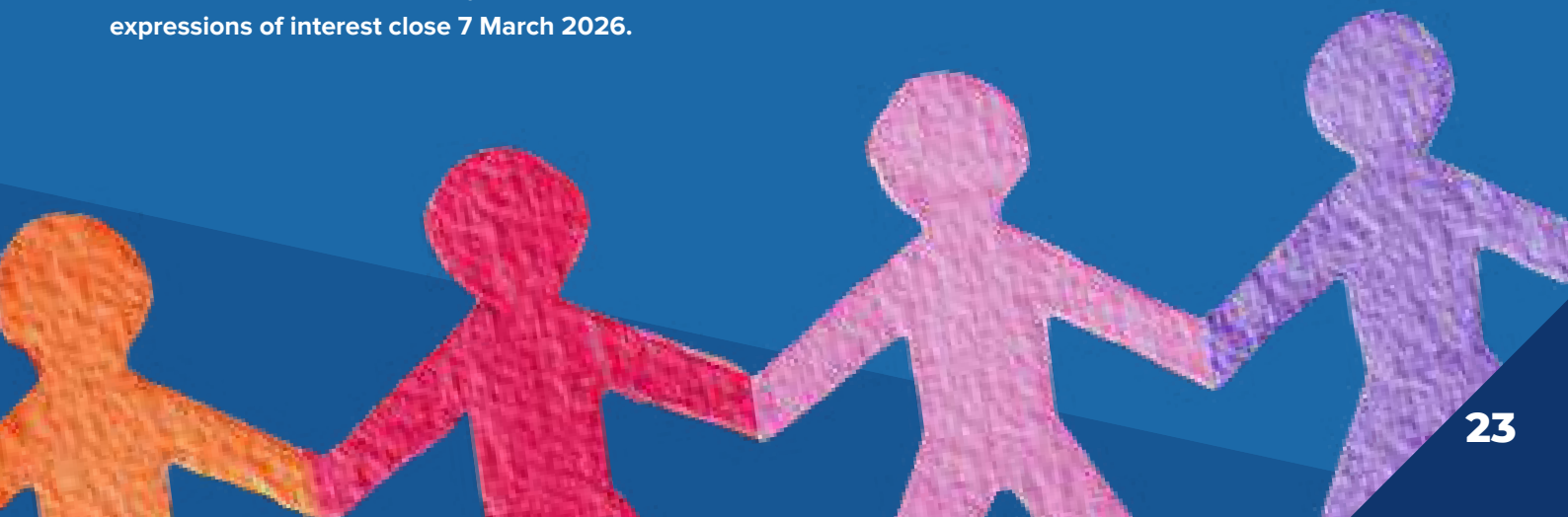
**Ballyscullion Park
16 & 17 May**

Volunteer at the Ballyscullion Park Book Festival 2026! Join us on Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th May and be part of a vibrant weekend of books, ideas, and community! Meet inspiring authors, enjoy engaging talks and workshops, explore our artisan market, and taste delights from gourmet food trucks — all while helping make the festival unforgettable. We need enthusiastic volunteers to welcome guests, assist authors, support events, and help with setup and pack-down. Interested? Email info@ballyscullionpark.com and join our amazing volunteer team!

► [Click here to see more](#)

Volunteer with VOID

We are primarily looking for additional help with the front-of-house, invigilation and welcoming visitors to the gallery, however we also often need a helping hand at civic-engagement events like workshops, talks, screenings, exhibition openings and performances. You may be interested in choosing one particular role, or be happy to participate in everything. For more information email: shakira@derryvoid.com





Arts & Business NI TRAINING & EVENTS 2026



Creative Networking
Derry - June
[BOOKING OPENING SOON](#)

Creative Networking
Belfast - September
[BOOKING OPENING SOON](#)



Fundraising Bootcamp
Monthly sessions April - Oct.
Book as a set or individual
topics.
Crescent Arts Centre
Free for A&BNI Members
[BOOK HERE](#)

Fundraising Symposium
Thu, 12 March, 10:00
St Comgalls, Belfast
[SAVE THE DATE, BOOKING
OPENING SOON](#)



**Fundamentals of Arts Board
Membership (Online)**
Thu, 28 March, 12:00
Online
[BOOK HERE](#)

**Fundamentals of Arts Board
Membership (Belfast)**
Wed 23 Sept, 10:00
East Belfast Network Centre
[BOOK HERE](#)



**Arts Member 1:1 Support
Clinics**
Portadown - Wed 5 August
Derry - Thu 7 May
[BOOK HERE](#)

**Effective Conflict
Management Training**
14th April, 09:30-5pm
[BOOK HERE](#)



**[FOR MORE
TRAINING AND
EVENTS](#)**