



September – December 2022

Solstice Arts Centre
solsticeartscentre.ie



Programme of Events

September

Sat 20 Aug – Sat 22 Oct	Lucy McKenna: A Dormant Light Resides In The Eye	Visual Arts	22
Fri 9 Sept	ConTempo Quartet	Music	4
Tuesdays 13 Sept – 4 Oct	Connect – Create – Ignite, adult workshops	Learning & Engagement	27
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Wed 14 Sept	Irish National Opera presents: The First Child	Opera	4
Fri 16 Sept	Dirtbirds #NOFILTERS	Comedy	16
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Fri 23 Sept	Culture Night 2022: various workshops & events	Arts	33
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Thu 29 Sept	Little Joe	Film	12

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Wed 12 – Fri 14 Oct	Lullaby LEAF, children & family theatre event	Children & Youth	32
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Fri 21 Oct	Seen-Unseen: Event for the blind and visually impaired	Learning & Engagement	29
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Sat 22 Oct	An Evening With Rory's Stories & Special Guests	Comedy	17
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Sat 12 Nov	Fishamble presents: FORGOTTEN by Pat Kinevane	Theatre	18
Wed 16 Nov	Meath Traveller Workshop presents: Ireland's Call	Theatre	18
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Sun 20 Nov	Ye Vagabonds	Music	8
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Sat 3 Dec	Christmas Craft with Creative Genie, children's workshop	Children & Youth	32
Sat 3 Dec	Virginia Gospel Choir: Reflections of Love and Hope	Music	9
Sun 4 Dec & Sun 11 Dec	Faulty Towers: The Dining Experience	Theatre/Comedy	19
Thu 8 – Sun 18 Dec	St. Mary's Musical Society presents: Little Red Riding Hood	Pantomime	19
Tue 20 Dec	Ballet Ireland presents: Nutcracker Sweeties	Dance	21
Wed 21 Dec	Eimear Quinn live at Solstice	Music	10
Thu 22 Dec	Ivory Sessions with Mark Cahill: Christmas Special	Music	10

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TUE'S & THU'S THROUGHOUT VA EXHIBITIONS Gallery Tours using Visual Thinking Strategies for adults, teen, primary & secondary school groups	Learning & Engagement	26
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MUSIC

ConTempo Quartet

The ConTempo Quartet, resident ensemble of the Galway Music Residency and Ireland's longest established quartet, opens the autumn season with two Irish string quartets, Ina Boyle's lovely E minor Quartet, written in Enniskerry in 1934, and a new piece by Galway's Jane O'Leary. They are followed by Brahms' sunny, uplifting B flat major quartet written in 1875, which became a favourite of his three published quartets.



Fri 9 Sept, 8pm,
€16/14

Irish National Opera presents: The First Child

Wed 14 Sept, 8pm,
€30/27

The triumphant conclusion of Donnacha Dennehy and Enda Walsh's uniquely dark operatic trilogy.

Donnacha Dennehy and Enda Walsh's third opera, *The First Child*, is a narrative that is much larger than the characters themselves. A work that reveals itself incrementally and cuts between the normal and the mythic. Passing through the strange minds of the central characters. Moving sharply from darkness to comedy. Shaped by obsession and an unstoppable quest for revenge.



Neil Ó Lochlainn: Tairseach

Sat 15 Oct, 8pm, €16/14

– a contemporary homage/response to Tommie Potts' *The Liffey Banks*

One of the most radical and unique albums in Irish traditional music is Tommie Potts' 1972 *The Liffey Banks*. The album was, and remains, a powerful musical statement and source of inspiration.



50 years after its release, Neil Ó Lochlainn's 'Tairseach' (meaning threshold) is a new suite of music that continues in the same pioneering exploratory spirit. Drawn irresistibly to a kindred musical adventurer, Ó Lochlainn has used Potts' album not so much for its material as for its approach to music and artistic concept. Taking *The Liffey Banks* as a starting point, this new music for Ó Lochlainn's ensemble, *Cuar*, explores, how and what Potts might be playing today if he were alive. "Some of the musical questions that Potts asks in the *Liffey Banks* resonate with me," suggests Ó Lochlainn, "this is an attempt to ask similar questions in our own time and cultural context. What happens when we stop putting up barriers and stop thinking in terms of boundaries between different forms of musical expression and instead embrace the liminal areas where those terms don't exist? That's where *Tairseach* and *The Liffey Banks* converge."

Commissioned by Solstice, with funding from the Arts Council's Commission Award.

Pirosmani Quartet

Cork violinist Mairead Hickey will lead a star-studded lineup of international musicians.

Beethoven's Op.18 No.3 was by some accounts his first string quartet, and from its lyrical opening to its fleet-footed finale it carries the hallmarks of the master's genius. We lost many of Brahms' quartets through his obsessive self-censorship, but the magnificent 'a minor' quartet is one of the three masterpieces that escaped his fireplace. Sean Doherty's fine 'Night Piece' was written for Mairead Hickey's *Ortus Festival* in Cork in February 2020.



Fri 21 Oct,
8pm, €16/14



Scullion

Sat 29 Oct, 8pm, €25

Scullion's latest release 'Time Has Made a Change in Me', is an album of uplifting and inspirational songs for the head and heart which take to the highway, collapse distance and bring us back together in the halls, front rooms and back rooms of Ireland.

Formed in the mid-1970's, Scullion are revered and feted as one of Ireland's most innovative, original and brilliant live bands. Their new record emphasises the band's musical curiosity and like all of their records, breaks new ground.

Finghin Collins, Sharon Carty & John Finucane: Longing Tour

Thu 10 Nov, 8pm, €18/16



Feelings of nostalgia and longing pervade the music for this attractive programme for clarinet, voice and piano which draws together three of Ireland's most versatile and acclaimed musicians: Sharon Carty (mezzo-soprano), John Finucane (clarinet) and Finghin Collins (piano). From the sensuous opening bars of Debussy's Rhapsody to Mozart's operatic fireworks, the programme also includes deeply passionate German songs by Brahms and Spohr and miraculous settings of Yeats and Joyce poems by Muriel Herbert and Rebecca Clarke. At the centre of the programme is "Music of the Hours", a new work for clarinet and piano by Irish composer Anne-Marie O'Farrell which reflects on the experience of praying during monastic hours.

An Cosán Draíochta

Fri 11 Nov, 8pm, €18/16



Stiúideo Cuan present a commission by Johnny Óg Connolly in memory of his late father, renowned melodeon player Johnny Connolly, produced by multi-award winning writer and director Darach Mac Con Iomaire.

Johnny Connolly was a gentle, kind and warm-hearted musical genius that filled every room with joy and rhythm, lifting spirits and inspiring sean-nós dancers across the globe. An Cosán Draíochta was the name given by the inhabitants of Inis Bearachain to the path which emerged to the mainland during the ebb tide. A liminal space, An Cosán Draíochta was arterial in the life and psyche of the islanders – as was their music.

This high-end work will feature solo and ensemble elements, seamlessly weaving music and the oral art forms of song & poetry. Performers include Ciara Ní Bhriain (fiddle/viola), Clíodhna Ní Choisdealbha (banjo, tenor guitar & Greek bouzouki), Jim Higgins (piano & percussion), Pádraig Ó Dubhgaill (guitar), Johnny Óg Connolly (accordion & melodeon) & Seosamh Ó Neachtain (dancer).

Supported by The Arts Council and Meath County Council Arts Office.



Curtis Stigers

Sat 19 Nov, 8pm, €35

Curtis Stigers burst onto the recording scene in 1991 with his eponymous debut album, which sold 1.5 million copies and spawned several self-penned, pop/soul-flavored hit singles including “You’re All That Matters To Me”, “Never Saw A Miracle” and the worldwide hit “I Wonder Why.” Stigers wrote and sang the Emmy nominated TV theme song on the hit show “Sons of Anarchy”, has written songs with Carole King and duetted with Al Green, Shawn Colvin and Tom Jones.

Don't miss out on this special night!



Ye Vagabonds

Sun 20 Nov, 8pm, €25

Brothers Brían and Diarmuid Mac Gloinn grew up playing music together around their hometown of Carlow. They quickly became a staple of the live music and session scene in Ireland, playing their own originals as well as folk songs from Ireland, Scotland, England and America. Their music comprises of harmony rich folk, influenced by Irish traditional music, Appalachian singing, and the 1960's folk revival, weaving in thoughtful lyrics thickly layered with strings and droning harmonium.

Irish National Opera presents: Donizetti, Don Pasquale

Tue 29 Nov, 8pm, €30/27

Don Pasquale, a grumpy old bachelor. Ernesto, his good-looking young heir. Norina, an attractive young widow. This unorthodox love triangle yields a hilarious and touching masterpiece that takes a riotously entertaining slant on a threat of disinheritance, a mock marriage, and a spendthrift wife who believes husbands should be seen and not heard. Donizetti's most sparkling operatic comedy.



ABBA Forever: The Christmas Show

Thu 1 Dec, 8pm,
€25, groups of 6 or more €23 (contact box
office to avail of group rate)

It's always party time with ABBA, but when it's the Christmas Show, then that's a real excuse for a party! This happy sing-a-long extravaganza, celebrates with a loud and proud fanfare ...and some stunning audio visuals of ABBA's seminal moments. It will lift your spirits!

It's the perfect way to start your Christmas celebrations so come along and join the biggest party in town.



The Lost Brothers

Fri 2 Dec, 8pm, €27.50

The Lost Brothers return for their annual winter performance at Solstice. Most recently Oisín Leech and Mark McCausland released their sixth, highly acclaimed album "After The Fire After The Rain", produced in New York by Tony Garnier (Bob Dylan's long time bassist) and Daniel Schlett. Celebrated internationally for their songcraft and harmonies (with one half of the band being from Navan), this show will be a memorable homecoming event!

Virginia Gospel Choir: Reflections of Love and Hope

Sat 3 Dec, 8pm, €20/15

The theme of this concert is inspired by deceased and much-loved member Thomas Reilly. It will be a night of joyous remembrance where audience and performers alike can celebrate those who love us and give us hope in our lives. The choir will perform Gospel songs that embody the spirit of love and hope, to create an uplifting atmosphere. The programme will also include well-known pop songs guaranteed to make the audience dance, clap and sing along!

Eimear Quinn live at Solstice

Wed 21 Dec, 8pm, €22/20

Following constant sell-out shows, Eimear will return to Solstice for a Christmas Concert, an annual favourite comprised of soothing and uplifting seasonal music. Eimear's soaring voice will combine with the Mamisa String Quartet and Robbie Overson on guitar. A night which will leave you filled with the spirit of Christmas.

Ivory Sessions with Mark Cahill & Guests: Christmas Special

Thu 22 Dec, 8pm, €22/20

Due to overwhelming demand, Mark Cahill & Guests are returning to Solstice for a special Christmas performance. This concert will feature some of Ireland's finest singers from classical to folk! The Ivory Sessions was created in 2020 with performers joining Mark at the piano virtually from all over the globe.

Meath Film Festival

Sat 17 Sept, €10

Solstice Associated Artist Siún O'Connor formed Meath Film Collective in 2021 as part of her residency. This September, Meath Film Collective are delighted to present the very first Meath Film Festival. The festival will portray local and national talent and strengthen the vibrant filmmaking community in the county.

Feature Film: An Cailín Ciúin (The Quiet Girl) and Q&A

Sat 17 Sept, 7:30pm

Irish with English subtitles | Ireland | 94 mins | 2022 | Cert: 12A | Dir: Colm Bairéad



SCHEDULE

- Cinematography 101 with Jass Foley, 10am - 1pm, studio, ages: 16+, €15 *(not included in general festival ticket), limited spaces
- 60 Second Films by young people, 11am - 4pm, studio
- Short Films Screening 1, 2pm - 3:15pm, auditorium
- Shorts Screening 2, 3:30pm - 5pm, auditorium
- BREAK, 5pm - 6:30pm
- In Conversation with Arthur Lappin, 6:30pm - 7:15pm, auditorium
- Screening of feature film 'An Cailín Ciúin' followed by a Q&A with creative team, 7:30pm - 10pm, auditorium

Please check our website for bookings and full details relating to each event.



Individual Tickets: €7.50

Season Bundle (book 4 or more films for €6 each)

Season Pass (book all 8 films for €40)

Nine-year-old Cáit (Catherine Clinch) has a dysfunctional family who send her to spend the summer with an Aunt and Uncle whom she has never met before. The once quiet Cáit blossoms in their care, but in a house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one. An Cailín Ciúin was filmed in Meath. It is a genuine, deeply felt portrait of the bonds that sustain us.

Winner - Audience Award & Best Irish Film at the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival and seven awards at the IFTA's including Best Film, Best Director and Best Actress.

Selected as Ireland's entry for the 95th Academy Awards in the 'Best International Feature Film' category.

FILM

Individual Tickets: €7.50
Season Bundle (book 4 or more films for €6 each)
Season Pass (book all 8 films for €40)



Hit The Road

Wed 21 Sept, 7:30pm
Iranian with English subtitles | Iran | 93 mins
| 2021 | Cert: 12A | Dir: Panah Panahi

A short-tempered father with a broken leg; a boisterous young boy and his older silent brother; a sick dog; and a mother trying to keep the peace. This is a family on a road trip somewhere in Iran.

But where are they going and why? As they get closer to their destination, it slowly emerges that this is no normal journey...

Winner-Best Film, BFI London Film Festival 2021

Brian and Charles

Brian; a lonely, luckless inventor decides to build a robot for company. Enter Charles - Brian's extraordinary masterpiece, an artificially intelligent robot made from odds and ends, with a personality all of his own and a serious case of wanderlust. Brian and Charles is a heart-warming and entertaining tale about friendship, family, finding love, and letting go.



Winner - Audience Favourite Award, Sundance Film Festival, 2022

Wed 28 Sept, 7:30pm
English | UK | 91 mins | 2022 |
Cert: PG | Dir: Jim Archer

Little Joe

Thu 29 Sept, 7:30pm
free screening, booking essential | English | Austria | 105 mins | 2019 | Cert: 12A |
Dir: Jessica Hausner

Against company policy, plant breeder Alice takes home a newly created species as a gift for her teenage son, Joe. They christen it 'Little Joe' but as it grows, so too does Alice's suspicion that her new creation may not be as harmless as their nickname suggests.

This screening is part of the Learning & Engagement programme associated with the exhibition 'A Dormant Light Resides In The Eye'. A tour and talk in the gallery with the artist precedes the screening, see more on pg. 23

Everything Went Fine (Tout s'est bien passé)

Wed 5 Oct, 7:30pm

French with English subtitles | France | 113 mins | 2021 | Cert: 12A | Dir: François Ozon

“★★★★ François Ozon’s witty and powerful drama is based on a true story and poses a dreadful ethical dilemma...but the film is oddly life-affirming, held together by a brilliant performance from Dussollier.”
- Paul Whittington, The Irish Independent

Eighty-five-year-old André (André Dussollier) is a wealthy and successful art-collector, used to doing everything on his own terms. When he suffers a stroke which leaves him unable to continue life as before, he asks his two daughters for help with his assisted suicide. The burden of dealing with this falls to his eldest daughter Emmanuèle, who must navigate the challenging consequences and practicalities of André’s decision.



The Good Boss (El Buen Patrón)

Wed 12 Oct, 7:30pm

Spanish with English subtitles | Spain | 120 mins | 2021 | Cert: 15A | Dir: Fernando León de Aranoa

Básculas Blanco, a Spanish company producing industrial scales in a provincial Spanish town awaits the imminent visit from a committee which holds its fate in their hands as to whether they merit a local Business Excellence Award: everything has to be perfect when the time comes. Working against the clock, the company’s proprietor Blanco (Javier Bardem) pulls out all the stops to address and resolve issues with his employees, crossing every imaginable line in the process.

Winner - Best Film, Best Director and Best Lead Actor, Goya Awards 2022



FILM

Róise & Frank (Special Irish Screening)

Thu 13 Oct, 7:30pm

Irish with English subtitles | Ireland | 115 mins | 2022 |
Cert: PG | Dir: Rachel Moriarty, Peter Murphy

It's been two years since Róise (Bríd Ní Neachtain) lost her husband Frank. Isolated in grief, she has cut herself off from family and community. One day the arrival of a mysterious dog who seems intent on connecting with Róise heralds a huge change, but is it for the better? The dog loves hurling and steaks, has



a favourite armchair and an aversion to their neighbour Donncha. Róise quickly comes to the conclusion that this dog is her beloved Frank, reincarnated. While her son worries that his mother has lost her mind, the local community seem to embrace the idea of Frank's return.

Winner - Audience Award, Santa Barbara Film Festival & Sonoma International Film Festival 2022

Between Two Worlds

Wed 19 Oct, 7:30pm
French with English
subtitles | France | 117
mins | 2021 | Cert: 12A | Dir:
Emmanuel Carrère

Marianne Winckler (Juliette Binoche), a successful author, relocates to the city of Caen to write an exposé on low paying working conditions. Concealing her true identity, she finds punishing work as a cleaner on a hectic ferry route. As genuine friendships blossom with co-workers, inevitably, Marianne must answer for her duplicity. Is lying justifiable when the aims are considered laudable? Based on acclaimed French journalist Florence Aubenas' non-fiction bestseller, "The Night Cleaners" (Le quai de Quistreham).

Winner - Audience Award for Best European Film, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2021



Joyride

Wed 26 Oct, 7:30pm
English | Ireland | 94
mins | 2022 | Cert: 15A
| Dir: Emer Reynolds

When 12-year-old Mully (Charlie Reid) robs a taxi to escape from his selfish father, he discovers two unexpected passengers sleeping in the back seat: a local solicitor named Joy (Olivia Colman) and her newborn baby. An unhappy Joy plans to leave the baby with friends and fly to Lanzarote. However, those plans are thrown up in the air when she and Mully end up on an unexpected road trip across County Kerry.

"There is a lovely chemistry between Colman and impressive newcomer Charlie Reid"
– Screen International



Thu 3 Nov, 7:30pm, €25
(please note: this fundraising
event is not included in the
season bundle/pass) | English |
USA | 130 mins | 2018 | Cert: PG13
| Dir: Peter Farrelly

Navan Rotary Club Fundraiser: Green Book

The Rotary Club of Navan hold their annual fundraising cinema night. This year they are fundraising in aid of Navan Meals on Wheels. The evening includes a pre-screening wine & cheese reception.

Green Book is a comedy where a working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver for an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South.

THEATRE & COMEDY



Fri 16 Sept,
8pm, €28

Dirtbirds: #NOFILTERS

Due to overwhelming demand and constant sell-out shows, Dirtbirds are back! In a world where women are expected to have the patience of Mother Teresa, the social media profile of Kim Kardashian and the BMI of Elle McPherson, the pressure is relentless. DirtBirds, the comedy duo and internet sensation, return with their hilarious show #NOFILTERS which takes a close look at the 'barrage of bullsh*t' that we are subjected to on a daily basis.

It's The Real McCoy

Fri 23 & Sat 24 Sept,
8pm, €25/22

Ten years ago 'It's The Real McCoy' hit the stage for the first time and became a phenomenal success across Ireland, the UK and America. Set in rural Ireland in the cottage of Madge Molly it's simply hilarious! With dozens of funny one-liners and numerous twists and turns, Madge has to contend with noseey neighbours, a gormless postman who wants to marry her only daughter, a priest with a tale of her past and a wayward husband who wants to meet her to explain why he vanished without trace almost 40 years ago. Experience the confusion and comedy as the play comes to Solstice as part of its 10th Anniversary Tour. Written and directed by Tommy Marren.





An Evening with Rory's Stories & Special Guests

Sat 22 Oct (SOLD OUT), 8pm,
€25, Age: 16's+ Only

Join Rory for an intimate evening of comedy and honest conversations with some well-known friends. The evening will be a culmination of everything that he is known for; from his trademark lockdown stories with 3 kids to his a*se, hanging

out on RTÉ 's Hell Week, and of course, conversations with special guests to both motivate and inspire those in attendance. There might even be a few sing songs - a must for any proper Irish night out!



Arán & Im by Manchán Magan

Tue 25 Oct,
8pm, €16

We need to find a way of talking about the Irish language - about the sublime beauty and profound oddness of this ancient tongue that has been spoken on

this island for 2,500 to 3,000 years, and is now slipping slowly from our grasp. Arán & Im is a theatrical performance in which Manchán Magan bakes sourdough bread for 70 minutes while offering insights into the wonders of the Irish language – exploring potent words of landscape, terms of intuition and insight, and the many phrases that bring to life the mysterious glory of our natural world.

Knowledge of Irish is not required.

Fishamble presents: FORGOTTEN by Pat Kinevane

Sat 12 Nov, 8pm, €18/16

'Has no one a skitter o' dignity left?'

A unique collage of Kabuki dance and Irish storytelling, FORGOTTEN has been a huge international success for Fishamble during the past decade. It is a captivating portrayal of four elderly characters living in retirement homes around Ireland. Pat Kinevane's haunting

performance brings to life these sometimes forgotten voices of society.

Fishamble is an Irish theatre company that is passionate about discovering, developing and producing new plays of national importance with a global reach, while championing the role of the playwright.

Wed 16 Nov, 7pm, free, booking required

Written and performed by John Connors,
directed by Jimmy Smallhorne.

Follow the lives and family histories of three young men as they grow up in Coolock on Dublin's Northside. What shapes them and entices them to a life of crime? Examining issues of class, religion and identity, this new play is an unflinching exploration of the Irish psyche, bringing collective guilt, secrets and flaws to the surface.

This play is part of Meath Travellers Workshop Mental Health Awareness programme.



Navan Theatre Group presents: A Night of One Acts

Thu 24 – Sat 26 Nov, 8pm, €16

This November, Navan Theatre Group are delighted to present 'A Night of One Acts'. The audience can expect an evening filled with comedy and drama. The line-up features NTG's entry to the DLI/ADCI One-Act Circuit called 'Dead Man's Bells' by Méabh de Brún. Further details to follow.

Faulty Towers: The Dining Experience

A 3-course dinner experience at The Newgrange Hotel, Navan & The Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim.

Chaos greets audiences as soon as they walk through the door! In this fully immersive experience the audience become diners in the infamous 'Faulty' restaurant and are served a 3-course meal by Basil, Sybil and Manuel. This globetrotting show is truly legendary, selling out at the Edinburgh Fringe and Sydney Opera House, so be warned: early booking is essential!



Sun 4 Dec, 7:30pm, €55, location:
The Newgrange Hotel, Navan

Sun 11 Dec, 7:30pm, €55,
The Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim



St. Mary's Musical Society presents: Little Red Riding Hood

December: Thu 8 & Fri 9, 7:30pm,
Sat 10, 2:30 & 7:30pm, Sun 11, 2:30
& 6:30pm | Thu 15 & Fri 16, 7:30pm,
Sat 17, 2:30 & 7:30pm, Sun 18, 2:30 &
6:30pm | €17 / €60 (family of 4), €15 on
opening night - Thu 8

St. Mary's Musical Society are delighted to be back in action with their latest pantomime: Little Red Riding Hood. Laughter and plenty of silliness in a show not to be missed!

DANCE



Ballet Ireland presents: The Glasshouse

School shows: Fri 7 Oct, 10am &
11:45am, €7 per pupil, teachers free

Family show: Sat 8 Oct, 6pm, €15/10 |
Ages: 6 – 12, duration: 50mins

A ballet by Róisín Whelan for young people.

An earnest young person is determined to keep their last plant alive as the city's smoke and fumes engulf the world's greenery. Along the way, friendships are made with unlikely characters and adventures are had on a mission to keep the world turning. This compelling dance show is about the courage of the human spirit, friendship, and life's determination to survive. Audiences will journey through a tale of transformation and growth, making them question the importance of taking care of precious things. With moments of suspense and joy, exhilarating dancing and a magical original score, The Glasshouse will enthral children and families alike.

Dance Force Academy

Sat 5 Nov, 7.30pm & Sun 6 Nov,
2pm, €15/12

Dance Force Academy will bring you on a journey through the years from the 1950's to the present day, to enjoy all your favourite songs that bring back wonderful memories of youth. Fabulous young dancers will hip hop and jazz their way through the tunes!

Ballet Ireland presents: Nutcracker Sweeties

Tue 20 Dec, 7.30pm,
€25/20, €80 (family
of 4), ages: 4+,
duration: 75mins

It's a magical Christmas Eve. Ciara and her brother Fionn are on a shopping trip to a famous department store in Dublin. They wander off from their parents and the magic of Nutcracker and Christmas begins...

The two are rescued by the Nutcracker doll who comes to life before they are surrounded by a glorious blizzard of snowflakes. The Sugar Plum fairy greets them leading Ciara into the kingdom of sweets where the beautiful Christmas windows come to life.

This production of the festive classic performed by a cast of world-class dancers will appeal to audiences of all ages with its fairy-tale magic, beautiful costumes and a re-imagined Tchaikovsky score. A tale of wondrous adventure that combines to form one of the most delectable Christmas confections imaginable.



Lucy McKenna: A Dormant Light Resides In The Eye

20 August - 22 October

Curated by Brenda McParland

"Synaesthesia is the mental, and sometimes physical, sensory association of sounds, shapes, tastes, numbers, words, times of the year or days of the week with colour. For me, it shows up as coloured letters and numbers. It has always been that way and the colours are constant. I use this superpower as shorthand or sometimes a memory aid." - Lucy McKenna

Solstice is delighted to present Lucy McKenna's largest solo exhibition in Ireland. The exhibition title 'A Dormant Light Resides In The Eye' comes from the book 'Bright Colors Falsely Seen' [Dann, 1998] which navigates the interesting history of synaesthesia up until the modern day.

The quotation 'a dormant light resides in the eye' comes directly from German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in the late 1700's, believing that the eye owed its existence to light.

McKenna's practice is multidisciplinary and explores communication and language, as well as involving research about the universe, and comprehending our place in it. This exhibition comprises a new body of work including drawing, painting, photography, sculptural acrylic and light installations. McKenna developed a new interest in plants and gardening recently, as the world changed tempo and shifted focus. The process of planting, curating by colour, texture, size and time has inspired a new body of photographic works which are featured in the exhibition.

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

Creative Corner

Throughout the exhibition, Tue – Sat, 11am – 4pm. Free, no booking required

To engage our youngest audiences, Lucy McKenna has given us an array of materials to explore. Inspired by her colourful and illuminated artworks, experiment and play with fabric, plastics or paper and create your own artwork to bring home. This area in the gallery foyer on level 3 is self-directed, and must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.

Gallery Tours using Visual Thinking Strategies for adults, teens, primary & secondary school groups continue throughout the exhibition, various dates & times available, more on pg. 26

'Plantae Novae Ursinum Herba Salutaris 2.6',
Lucy McKenna, 2022, digital print, 92 x 69cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

Connect - Create - Ignite

Tuesdays 13, 20, 27 Sept & 4 Oct, 10am – 12:30pm, adults, more on pg. 27

Sensory Connections

Wednesdays: 14, 21 September or 5, 12, October, 10am – 11am, children/young adult groups with additional needs, more on pg. 27

In Conversation with artist Lucy McKenna

Thu 29 Sept, 6:30pm, adults/students, more on pg. 29

Little Joe (2019)

Thu 29 Sept, 7:30pm, film screening, cert: 12A, more on pg. 12

Our Illuminated World

Sat 1 Oct, 10am & 11:45am, families with children aged 4 - 11, more on pg. 31

Light Play – Beyond the Eye

Tue 4 Oct, 9:30am & 11:30am, primary school groups 2nd – 6th class, more on pg. 31

Seen - Unseen

Fri 21 Oct, 11am – 12pm, blind or visually impaired adults, more on pg. 29

Curated by Davey Moor

Inviting artists living in or from County Meath to submit works of all disciplines, Solstice Arts Centre is delighted to announce the eleventh SURVEYOR exhibition. Supporting, valuing and encouraging Meath artists in the development of their practices and creative careers, the exhibition presents an overview of contemporary visual arts practice throughout the county.

This year the work is selected by Davey Moor, independent curator and Registrar for the OPW Irish State Art Collection. The winner of the Solstice Visual Arts Award will be announced at the opening of the exhibition on Sat 5 Nov, with the artist receiving €2,000 for a work of distinction in any medium.

CALL OUT FOR SUBMISSIONS

Online submission deadline: Fri 14 Oct, 5pm

Drop off date to Solstice for adjudication of artwork: Sat 22 Oct, between 4 - 7pm

Collection of unselected artworks: Sat 29 Oct, 11 - 5pm

For more details or to apply please visit our website.



SURVEYOR

5 November – 21 December

Exhibition opening and announcement of winner:

Sat 5 Nov, 2:30pm

'Birthday Reminiscence',
William O'Neill, 2020, Oil on
Canvas, 60 x 70 cm. Courtesy
of the artist.

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

Gallery Tours using Visual Thinking Strategies for adults, teen, primary & secondary school groups
Continue throughout the exhibition, various dates & times available, more on pg. 26

Sensory Connections

Wednesdays: 16, 23, 30 Nov or 7, 14 Dec, 10am – 11am, children/ young adult groups with additional needs, more on pg. 27





The Artist Laboratory Seminar

8 Nov, 2.30pm, free,
booking essential,
location: Solstice

Artists: Rachel Doolin, Cliona Harmey, Maria McKinney, Martina O'Brien, Seoidin O'Sullivan.

The Artist Laboratory is a pilot partnership between Devenish Lands at Dowth and Solstice. It was devised to explore and examine new ways of thinking and co-operation through diverse outputs of art, agri-science and social sciences within a unique heritage site of both environmental and historical significance.

Through 2022, five established artists have researched various elements and shadowed team members of Devenish Lands at Dowth, from the Georgian architecture of Dowth Hall to Lidar technology used on the land. This open session is a culmination of the artists' experiences and observations, presenting their diverse research-based practices explored over the last 6 months on this site, and the discovery of new possibilities of collaboration between art and science through this project.



LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

All tours continue throughout visual art exhibitions. For booking & queries email: deirdre.rogers@solsticeartscentre.ie

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) is an inquiry based method of visual processing - looking, describing and discussing what we see in a work of art. It is about listening to others, responding and expanding thoughts and new possibilities

revealed within group engagement. VTS improves oral and visual literacy, problem solving and collaborative interactions among peers. Suitable for all ages, VTS tours are best with groups of 5 or more.

Group Gallery Tours using VTS

Tuesdays or Thursdays, 11am, adults/teens, groups of 5+ persons, free, booking essential, duration: 60mins

Bring your group to the gallery on level 3 and explore some of the artworks in the current exhibition using VTS; Lucy McKenna's solo exhibition (20 Sept – 22 Oct) or SURVEYOR, a group exhibition of artists with a connection to Meath (5 Nov – 21 Dec). Guided by our learning and engagement coordinator, use VTS to discuss and build a deeper understanding of 'what's going on in this artwork'.

Primary School Gallery Tours using VTS

Tuesdays or Thursdays, various times available, 1st – 6th class, free, booking essential, duration: 60mins

Encouraging peer-to-peer discussion, this is an opportunity for children and teachers to focus and reflect on multiple perspectives using VTS, enhancing the engagement and enjoyment of learning through art. These class tours support cross-curricular links to the Primary School Curriculum as well as learner-centred thinking, oral and visual literacy, problem solving and positive collaborative interactions among peers.

Secondary Schools Junior and Senior Cycle Gallery Tours using VTS

Tuesday - Friday throughout the exhibition, various times available, Junior & Senior Cycle, €2 per student, booking essential, duration: 90 mins

This is an opportunity for students to investigate, analyse and reflect on multiple perspectives. Using cross-curricular links, broadening creative thinking and learning through art, these VTS sessions support the Junior and Senior Cycle, placing students at the centre of the learning process. Upon visiting Solstice, Senior Cycle students will receive specific information that embrace the three strands – Research, Create and Respond (visual and written responses), with particular focus on Content Area 3: Today's World of the New Appreciating Art Visual Studies for Leaving Certificate curriculum.

© Conor Healy Photography



Connect – Create – Ignite

Tuesdays 13, 20, 27 Sept & 4 Oct,
10:30 – 12:30, €60 (for full block)

A beginner's introduction to artistic practice.

Focusing on the expressive qualities of making art, these explorative workshops will suit those who want to meet like-minded people and create with a relaxed approach. Guided by artist Penelope Lacey, participants will use a range of mediums and artistic practices in their 2D and 3D forms, while experiencing their therapeutic qualities through conversation, observation and engagement.

Participants are invited to bring objects of interest to spark their imagination. Visiting the Gallery on level 3, artworks by Lucy McKenna will also be used to ignite thoughts and ideas, to inspire, wonder, question, investigate and consider. Materials used will include clay, paper, charcoal and natural objects.



Sensory Connections

Wednesday mornings: 14, 21 Sept, 5, 12 Oct, 16, 23, 30 Nov or 7, 14 Dec, 10am – 11am, children/young adults with additional needs. Free, advance booking is essential.

This relaxed gallery tour and short workshop for small groups with additional needs, will follow a slower pace of engagement, tailored to individual needs. Exploring artworks in the gallery, participants can engage in a multi-disciplinary, sensory activity that connects to Lucy McKenna's solo exhibition (20 Sept – 22 Oct) or SURVEYOR, a group exhibition of artists with a connection to Meath (5 Nov – 21 Dec). Guidance from teachers and carers may be sought prior to the session. The gallery will be closed to the public for the duration of your visit.



Willow Flower Sculpture Workshop with Creative Genie

Fri 16 Sept, 7pm – 9:30pm, adults, €50

Join Trisha from Creative Genie for an evening of crafting fun! Make a willow flower garden sculpture from locally sourced willow, enjoy the chats and some nibbles over a glass of wine or a cuppa. All materials and refreshments supplied.



Meath Move: Open Practice

Wed 28 Sept, Wed 26 Oct & Wed 30 Nov,
11am - 2pm, free, booking required,
duration: 180mins

Selma Daniel invites artists of all disciplines who are interested in movement. Open Practice is a series of improvised sessions open to professional artists across all art forms, with an aim to inspire and build an arts network within Meath. Artists are invited to bring a selection of materials from their practice, and dancers can bring a movement task. Artists will be offered time and space to reflect and/or work on their personal projects. Open Practice will be led by Selma and a guest dance artist.

In Conversation with Lucy McKenna

Thu 29 Sept, 6:30pm, free,
booking required

Join us in conversation with curator Brenda McParland and exhibiting artist Lucy McKenna to celebrate her largest solo show, 'A Dormant Light Resides In The Eye'. Exploring the artworks on display, Lucy will discuss her research-based practice that embraces the visceral and scientific, sharing methods of investigation and discovery which inform her multidisciplinary practice.

A free film screening of 'Little Joe', (2019) will follow at 7:30pm. See pg. 12

Halloween Prop- Making Workshops with Creative Genie

Workshop I: Thu 20 Oct
Workshop II: Thu 27 Oct,
7pm – 9:30pm, adults, €75 (for both)

Join Trisha from Creative Genie for this two part Halloween prop-making workshop. Wow your friends and family with your amazing props and decorations that will look like they've come from a movie set! Learn how to make realistic creations from scratch and let your creative flair explode! We'll be making an Amityville style haunted house scene, creepy apothecary potions, lotions and more. All you need to bring is a sense of fun and curiosity!

Materials and refreshments included.



Seen - Unseen

Fri 21 Oct, 2:30pm – 3:30pm,
blind or visually impaired adults,
for more information and booking
email: clare@seenunseen.ie

Solstice is delighted to host Seen - Unseen, an event for the blind and visually impaired with artist Clare McLaughlin. Our exhibition of new works by Lucy McKenna is the subject of this sensory experience. Explore a number of artworks, which include drawings, sculptural acrylic and light installations through touch and visual description. Participation in Seen – Unseen is free of charge for the visually impaired community and you can join us in person or virtually online.

Christmas Craft Workshop with Creative Genie

Fri 2 Dec, 7pm – 9:30pm,
adults, €50

Get in the festive spirit with Trisha from Creative Genie! Spend an evening making your own decorations to festoon your tree or gift to someone special! Have a laugh over a glass of wine and some nibbles while you stretch your imagination. All materials & refreshments included, just bring your festive spirit!



Christmas Food & Craft Fair

Sat 3 Dec, 11am - 4pm, Solstice, free entry,
no booking required

Enjoy the festive atmosphere while browsing a large selection of local, high quality crafts and artisan foods. A perfect opportunity to pick up a unique Christmas gift and try some delicious treats!

Our Illuminated World

Sat 1 Oct, 10am & 11:45am,
duration: 60mins, families with
children aged 4 - 11, €5 per child

Inspired by the themes and materials in Lucy McKenna's work, visual artist Órla Kelly will guide families on an exploration of colour and light. Each family will capture these elements within a mobile structure to hang at home. Radiating bursts of colour and shadow, capturing the imagination of young and old, cast your family's hopes and dreams across your world through this magical workshop. Involving drawing, cutting, assemblage and lots of creative fun, parent/guardian engagement is required at all times.

Joe the Magician Live

Sat 1 Oct, 3pm, €15/50
(family of 4)

It's Joe the Magician from RTÉjr! He's bringing his comedy, magic and illusion show to Solstice for one spectacular afternoon of mind boggling fun! The show fuses laugh-out-loud comedy magic with jaw dropping illusions, live on stage. Tables will fly, a friendly ghost will magically appear and Joe will even make it snow on stage. That's just for starters!



Light Play – Beyond the Eye

Tue 4 Oct, 9:30am & 11:30am,
duration: 90mins, primary school
groups 2nd – 6th class, €3 per
student. To book email: deirdre.rogers@solsticeartscentre.ie

In this workshop, pupils will go on a creative and intuitive journey, developing a personal visual language using colours and shapes. Inspired by Lucy McKenna's works in the gallery, explore texture, taste and sound to create miniature light installations using layers of transparent materials. Documenting their cast shadows, which is an important part of Lucy's art-making process, play, experimentation and instinct are the main methodologies within this workshop, developing each child's analytical and psychomotor skills through design and construction.

Links to the visual art curriculum include drawing, shape, colour, construction as well as embracing science, maths, SESE and design.



Lullaby LEAF

Wed 12 – Fri 14 Oct, 10am, 12pm & 2.30pm, free,
booking required

Lullaby LEAF is a captivating, fun-filled, and immersive theatre experience created by Ceol Connected for young children with Down Syndrome and their guardian/carer.

What is it like to live on a giant leaf? Prepare for whooshing winds, gigantic raindrops, busy bugs, and bursts of colourful canopy in this joyful multi-sensory performance. With the gentle unfurling of a leaf, a soothing sensory world is brought to life through music and song, light, smell, movement, and touch.

Supported by Creative Ireland regions Monaghan, Cavan, Louth and Meath, Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan, Baboró International Arts Festival for Children (with support from Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund) and Tradoodle Festival Monaghan.

Christmas Workshop with Creative Genie

Sat 3 Dec, 10am – 12:30pm,
children aged 4+, €25

Get Christmas crafting with Trisha from Creative Genie! We'll be making all sorts of festive favourites from baubles and bells to table and wall decorations, Christmas scenes and sparkling treats. All materials provided, just bring a sense of festive fun!

CULTURE NIGHT



We warmly invite you to celebrate Culture Night at Solstice on Friday 23rd of September! Our programme for the day is filled with visual arts, music, dance and screenings. All events are free, but please note that advance booking is required for the 'Moving Words' event.

Moving Words

When: 5 - 5:45 | Where: Solstice Studio | For: families with children aged 2-6, free, booking required (please book 1 ticket per family)

Celebrate the joy of storytelling and contemporary dance in this inclusive early years family event. Selma Daniel from Little Lion Dance Theatre, together with a dance performer, will guide you in an immersive experience, exploring a picture book in a unique and fun way.

No dance experience necessary. Children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times.

Creative Corner

When: 6 - 7 | Where: Gallery on level 3 | For: families, free, no booking required

Explore the works of Lucy McKenna in the gallery and create your own artwork together from a selection of colourful materials such as paper, plastics and fabric. This area in the gallery foyer on level 3 is self-directed, and must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.

Live Kurdish & Irish Music

When: 7:30 - 8:30 | Where: Gallery on level 3 | For: all ages, free no booking required

Join us for a cultural mix of live, acoustic music in the gallery. Compare the emotional Kurdish sounds of the bouzouki, played by Kurdish-Syrian musician Mohommad Hasan, with a range of traditional Irish instruments played by local musician Ruairi Somers and guest. This relaxed coming together of musical traditions will arouse emotions and introduce the ear to sounds from near and far.

Ronan Leahy – Screenings of 'Shakespeare at Solstice: A year in the making'

When: 8:15pm – 10:30pm | Where: Solstice Studio | For: all ages, free no booking required

Marking 1 year since the premiere of the first sonnet during Culture Night 2021, Ronan Leahy's project concludes with a screenings of all twelve sonnets.

About the project: "It started with a question. Could I vlog Shakespeare on YouTube and get people who are unfamiliar with his poetry interested in his language? This led me to taking a deep dive into the sonnets and I have chosen a number of my favourites. I have approached them like little plays in which the character is trying to communicate an idea to you, the viewer. Learning the new skill of filmmaking has brought some rough and ready results that I've chosen to include as part of the process." – Ronan Leahy

A Dormant Light Resides In The Eye

When: 11am - 10:30pm Where: Gallery on level 3
For: all ages

Lucy McKenna's solo exhibition will be open throughout the day in the gallery on level 3. More on pg. 22



REGULAR CLASSES

Life Drawing with artist Cáit Moloney

Block I: 6, 13, 20, 27 Sept & 4, 11 Oct, 7pm - 9pm, adults, €65
| Block II: 15, 22, 29 Nov - 6, 13, 20 Dec, 7pm - 9pm, adults, €65, bookings on our website or contact Box Office

Guided by artist Cáit Moloney, these relaxed, social sessions are an opportunity to flex your life drawing skills and improve your drawing practice while engaging at your own pace. Each week will focus on a different element of life drawing, with a variation of models and props. Artists of all levels are welcome. Participants are asked to bring their own drawing materials of choice. Chairs, drawing boards and light refreshments provided.

ActOut - Youth Theatre @ Solstice

Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:00pm,
bookings: 087 237 9893 /
ActOutMeath@gmail.com

ActOut is a fresh youth theatre company established in 2017 in partnership with Solstice and under the Artistic Direction of Anthony Kinahan. It is a forum for young people of secondary school age in Meath to learn more about theatre & performance through fun & engaging workshops. The company is guided by the students and involves them as active participants in the running of the youth theatre.

Cub Club

Mondays: 19, 26 Sept, 3, 10, 17, 24 Oct, 7, 14 Nov, 11am, (60min), €10 per class, bookings on our website or contact Box Office

Cub Club is a creative dance and movement workshop, which explores joyful and spontaneous expression. We'll use body movements, inspiring music, our imagination and colourful props to provide a dance experience to all. These movement classes are for young children aged 0 - 4, and their adults; mums, dads, grandparents and childminders are welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and let's explore dance together. For this workshop children must be accompanied by an adult. Tea & coffee available after the session.

Silver Swans - Over 55's Ballet

Wednesdays 10am - 11am & 11am - 12pm, €54 for block of 6 or €10 per class, bookings on our website or contact Box Office

Specially designed for older learners, Silver Swans Over 55's ballet classes will help improve your mobility, posture, co-ordination and energy levels. Classes are led by Royal Academy of Dance licensed teacher Michelle Kehoe A.I.S.T.D. who has been teaching ballet for over 25 years.

Children's Speech & Drama Classes with Penelope Moorhead

Mondays 3pm - 5:30pm (as per school calendar), bookings: 087 289 9404

Penelope Moorhead is an experienced speech, drama and communication teacher who travels throughout Ireland as an examiner and adjudicator of speech and drama. Penelope's classes offer an encouraging, fun and inclusive approach to speech & drama. Suitable for Junior Infants to 6th class.



Information & Booking

Box Office: 046 909 2300

www.solsticeartscentre.ie

Tickets can be purchased in person, over the phone, or online at www.solsticeartscentre.ie

Call our box office on: 046 909 2300 or email: info@solsticeartscentre.ie

Box Office Opening Hours

10am - 4pm, Monday to Saturday and 1 hour before performances.

All card transactions are subject to a €1 booking fee (for in person and phone bookings). All online bookings are subject to a €1 booking fee per ticket.

Refund Policy

Tickets are non-refundable once purchased unless the event is cancelled. If an event was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, you are entitled to a choice of: i.) full refund, ii.) credit note, or (if possible) iii.) a rescheduled date.

Access

The Solstice foyer (Box Office, Café and Bar) is fully accessible with a lift to specially adapted toilet facilities and our Level 3 Gallery.

The auditorium has six wheelchair spaces in row X, which is level access from the foyer. Backstage is also fully accessible for performers with accessibility requirements.

Please contact box office at time of booking if you have any special requirements.

There is an Induction Loop system in place for hearing aid users. To use, please turn your device to the 'T' setting.

Guide dogs are welcome at Solstice. Please let the Box Office know when booking your ticket so that we can arrange an aisle seat.

Supported by



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meath county council

Where to Find Us

Parking is available at the Fairgreen Car Park, off Circular Road or in the old County Council grounds, Railway Street. Please note that you may be required to pay for parking. **PARKING IS PROHIBITED IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA OF ST FINIAN'S TERRACE BESIDE THE CENTRE. PLEASE NOTE THAT GARDAÍ WILL BE ADVISED OF ILLEGALLY PARKED CARS.**

Covid-19 Measures

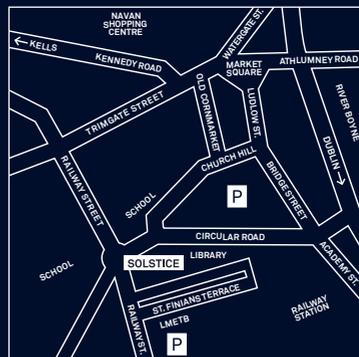
For full up-to-date information about our protective measures, please visit the 'Visitor Info' section on our website. As part of our continued commitment to the well-being of visitors & artists in preventing the spread of Covid-19, we adhere to all Government Guidelines and implement enhanced protocols and procedures. Our staff are here to assist you with a safe journey through the venue, so please ask for assistance if necessary.

Stay In Touch

For the latest news, updates and new event announcements, sign up to our email list and follow us on social media @solsticearts

Contact Us

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