

the irish festival

March 11th – 17th 1985



Organised by
Battersea and Wandsworth Irish Committee
in conjunction with Battersea Arts Centre

**Battersea
Arts
Centre**

Old Town Hall
Lavender Hill SW11
Box Office: 223-8413



Battersea & Wandsworth Irish Committee

Battersea and Wandsworth Irish Project was founded in late 1983 with the aim of giving the 'hidden' Irish population of Wandsworth a sense of 'Irishness' and an opportunity to realise their traditional heritage. We have been at 177 Lavender Hill since July, 1984, where there is a 'drop-in' centre on Wednesdays between two and five o'clock; (the kettle is always on the boil!) We are also holding Irish language classes there – and 'learner' Ceili classes – all are welcome.

In the early spring, we hope to establish a regular evening of Irish music and song at the TWO BREWERS, East Hill; details will appear in the local and Irish community press – don't miss it! The fruits of another project will be seen in the summer with the publication of a pamphlet on The Irish in London, the research for which has been done by our Research Worker.

The Women's Group has been active in preparing the Charlotte Despard exhibition and has organised a programme of films and videos made about and by Irishwomen as their contribution to International Women's Day.

We need more members to carry out our projects, social and educational. If you live in Wandsworth – membership forms are available in the Centre – please take one and join us in giving a voice to the Irish in the Borough.

The Battersea and Wandsworth Irish Committee is supported by the GLC.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ticket Prices See under individual events for details.

Membership Full details of our membership scheme are in a leaflet available at the Box Office. All ticket purchasers are required to pay a nominal £1.00 per annum to become an Associate, unless already a full member of the Centre or under 18. All cards (Associate, Full Member, and proof of concessionary status) must be shown when buying tickets – please remember to bring your card.

Concessions Concessionary prices apply to under 18s, students and UB40s. There are special concessions for pensioners, and for party bookings.

Booking Telephone bookings can be made by ringing 223-8413. The Box Office will tell you how and when to pay for your tickets. Or book in person by calling in to the Centre between 12 noon and 2 pm (Mon and Tues) and 10 am-10 pm (Wed-Sun).

Cafe and Bar The cafe is open 7 days a week (lunchtimes only Mon & Tues) selling a delicious range of hot and cold food. The well-stocked bar sells real ale, draught Guinness and a range of wines and spirits.

Bookshop Open Wed – Sun 12noon – 8pm (opens 11am on Saturdays) selling a wide range of general titles, fiction, specialist subject areas, children's books and magazines.

Access The Centre is fully accessible, with a ramp to the front door, a lift to the first floor, hearing induction loops and adapted male and female toilets. Friendly assistance always available.

Travel From B.R. Victoria or Waterloo to Clapham Junction, then 5 minutes walk up Lavender Hill. **Buses:** 45, 77 and 77A stop outside, and nos. 19, 37, 39, 170 and 249 stop at Clapham Junction (5 minutes walk). **Tube:** Clapham Common (20 minutes walk or 45 bus – ask for 'Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill).

BAC Bookshop Battersea Arts Centre's bookshop will be open throughout the Festival, selling a wide range of books of Irish interest.

GLC
funded

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The London
Borough of
Wandsworth

Financially assisted by

Greater
London
Arts Association



the irish festival

Programme

MONDAY 11th

8.00pm
Grand Festival
Opening with
IRISH MIST

TUESDAY 12th

10.00am
Irish Language
Workshop with
SIOBHAN O'NEILL

2.00pm
Sean Nós Workshop
with
BRID DOOLEY

2.00pm
SIOBHAN O'NEILL
continued

7.30pm
Film
MAEVE
+
A FREE COUNTRY

8.00pm
Theatre
SHEILA FLITTON/
RIDERS TO THE SEA/
SHADOW OF THE GLEN

9.00pm
Music/Cabaret
ILLEGAL ASSEMBLY
plus guests

WEDNESDAY 13th

10.00am
Media Workshop
with
LIZ CURTIS

2.00pm
LIZ CURTIS
continued

7.30pm
Film
GET OUT OF THAT
GARDEN +
STRIPSEARCHING -
SECURITY OR
SUBJUGATION

8.00pm
Theatre
SHEILA FLITTON/
RIDERS TO THE SEA/
SHADOW OF THE GLEN

9.00pm
Music/Cabaret
HAIRY MARYS
BOBBY JORDAN

THURSDAY 14th

10.00am
Irish Writers Workshop
with
PETER COX
MELANIE McFADYEAN

7.30pm
Film
TAPES, SLIDES
AND FILM

8.00pm
Theatre
SHEILA FLITTON/
RIDERS TO THE SEA/
SHADOW OF THE GLEN

9.00pm
Music/Cabaret
BRID DOOLEY
TOM O'FARRELL

FRIDAY 15th

10.00am
Irish Dance Workshop
with
THE CLERKIN SISTERS

10.00am
Theatre Workshop with
CHRISTINA REID
plus SPHINX

2.00pm
CHRISTINA REID
continued

8.00pm
Theatre
MACALLA/
RIDERS TO THE SEA/
SHADOW OF THE GLEN

9.00pm
Music/Cabaret
ISOSCELES
BANSHEE

SATURDAY 16th

10.00am
FEIS

Evening
After FEIS
Entertainment

SUNDAY 17th - 7.30pm

ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT CELEBRATION

Monday 11th 8pm

Grand Festival Opening with IRISH MIST

The Irish Festival gets off to a rollicking start with the music of Irish Mist. No strangers to London's Irish community or to Battersea Arts Centre, this lively duo, with their wide range of instruments, will delight you with their excellent performance of traditional Irish music.

£1.50/concs £1.00 + membership



Irish Mist

Tuesday 12th-Thursday 14th 8pm

SHEILA FLITTON performs "BEEZIE"

Irish actress and writer Sheila Flitton performs this solo play about Beezie Gallagher who, for over 60 years, was the sole resident of an island on Lough Gill, County Sligo. In Sheila Flitton's superb portrayal, Beezie returns, telling of her youth, her friendship with the young W.B. Yeats, her brief marriage in middle life and the crisis of her old age; the play, written by Sheila Flitton with her son David, reveals Beezie's robust humour, homely wisdom and fierce independence.

"Sheila Flitton's performance ...ensures success". Festival Times (Edinburgh)

"Sparkling portrayal" Irish Times



Sheila Flitton

PLUS

The Irish Drama & Folk-Ballet Company present RIDERS TO THE SEA and THE SHADOW OF THE GLEN by J.M. Synge

The Irish Drama and Folk Ballet Company is a new company which incorporates Irish music and dance with drama and folk-ballet. The programme at Battersea consists of two of J.M. Synge's contrasting short plays - 'Riders to the Sea' is a tragedy set on the Aran Islands at the turn of the century, whilst 'In the Shadow of the Glen' is a tongue-in-cheek comedy. The contrast between the two plays, promises a marvellous evening's entertainment.

"an enriching and uplifting experience" Kilburn Times

£3.50/concs £2.50/OAPs £1.00 + membership



Riders To The Sea

Friday 15th 8pm

MACALLA

Macalla is a group of over 20 women - dancers, musicians and singers - from Dublin, who are making their first appearance in Britain as part of this Irish Festival.

Double bill with

RIDERS TO THE SEA/ SHADOW OF THE GLEN

Prices as above

Saturday 16th from 10am

CEILI and FIGURE DANCE FEIS

There will be competitions for under 8s, under 10s, under 12s, under 14s, under 16s and Seniors for Two Hand, Three hand, Four Hand and Eight Hand.

There will also be Championships in Figure Dance, Ceili in three age groups - under 12, under 16 and Senior. There will also be music and singing competitions.

The prizes will be presented by the Irish Ambassador, and there will be a prizewinner's performance and celebration in the evening.

Full details and entry forms may be obtained from: 350-0661.

WORKSHOPS

Tuesday 12th 10am or 2pm

SIOBHAN O'NEILL Irish Language Workshop

This workshop, although intended for schools, is open to anyone interested in Irish language. Siobhan O'Neill teaches through drama, and the sessions are intended for beginners as well as those with a little knowledge.

£2.00/concs £1.00 + membership. Special rates for schools

Tuesday 12th 2pm

SEAN NÓS WORKSHOP with Bríd Dooley

workshop on traditional Sean Nós singing, intended mainly for schools, but open to all.

£2.00/concs £1.00 + membership

Special Schools Rates

Wednesday 13th 10am & 2pm

MEDIA WORKSHOP

with Liz Curtis, members of Skyline Radio

A workshop for everyone interested in the media and how they operate.

£3.00/concs £1.50 + membership for the whole day;

£2.00/£1.00 + membership for the morning OR afternoon session.

Thursday 14th 10am

IRISH WRITERS WORKSHOP

Peter Cox: "Up to the Sun and Down to the Centre"
"Garden of England"

Melanie McFadyean: Co-author "Only the Rivers Run Free"

£2.00/concs £1.00 + membership

Friday 15th from 10am

IRISH DANCE WORKSHOP with the Clerkin Sisters

For schools

Friday 15th from 10am CHRISTINA REID + SPHINX

A theatre workshop for everyone. Christina Reid is a Belfast-born writer, whose most recent play, 'Tea In A China Cup' was much acclaimed at Riverside Studios, when it was performed by the all-female theatre company Sphinx. The company and the author will talk about their work.

£3.00/concs £1.50 + membership



Christina
Reid



Sphinx

FILMS £1.80/OAPs £1.00 + membership

Tuesday 12th 7.30pm

MAEVE dir Pat Murphy/John Davies 1981. Story of a young Irish girl who returns after spending time abroad, and the changes she experiences.

plus

A FREE COUNTRY dir Anna Liebschner. A film about Northern Ireland.

Wednesday 13th 7.30pm

GET OUT OF THAT GARDEN dir Anna Liebschner. A film about Northern Ireland.

plus

**STRIP-SEARCHING - SECURITY OR
SUBJUGATION** A film by Derry Film and Video Collective about this highly controversial issue.

Thursday 14th 7.30pm

TAPES, SLIDES AND FILMS A screening of collaborative work by women living and working in London.

There will be a women-only discussion with a speaker after each film programme. Further details on 350-0661.

The selection of Women's Films and the appearance of Macalla are sponsored by the International Women's Day Committee.

Sunday 17th 7.30pm

ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT CELEBRATION

Celebrate in the traditional manner at Battersea Arts Centre, with plenty of music, food, drink and dancing for the whole family. Early booking is essential, as the event has always sold out in previous years. This year's musical attractions include traditional music from members of the Irish Traditional Music Association as well as from the band Fionnuisce from Dublin, who came together two years ago from differing musical backgrounds to play traditional music on a wide range of instruments. Also taking part will be the Fiddler of London, Sean O'Shea.

Dublin Guinness is brought over specially, the bar stocks a range of Irish whiskeys and a baked potato is included in the ticket price. Don't miss it!

£3.50/OAPs £2.00 + membership/under 18s £2.00.

Tuesday 12th 9pm

ILLEGAL ASSEMBLY

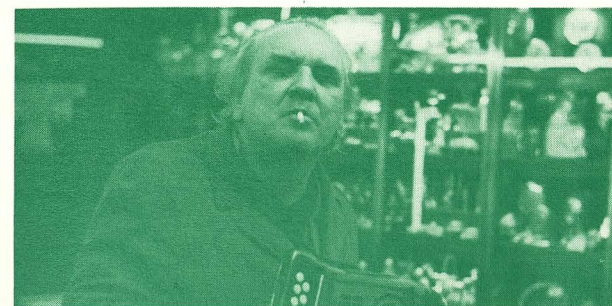
This sparkling group is well known all over London with its repertoire of Irish and Latin American music and song. A highly original evening, not to be missed.

£1.50/concs £1.00 + membership

Wednesday 13th 9.00pm

BOBBY JORDAN

Accordianist Bobby Jordan will be familiar to West London residents, as he often busks in the Portobello Road. Originally from Wexford, he was born blind, and has played the accordion since he was very young. He has recently made a record with the poet Michael Mannin, also well-known in the Notting Hill area.



Bobby Jordan

THE HAIRY MARYS

The Hairy Marys is an all-women group, led by Máire Clerkin, who are paying their first visit to BAC. Within the framework and traditions of Irish step-dancing, they use contemporary music to create an original dance performance.

£1.50/concs £1.00 + membership

Thursday 14th 9pm

BRÍD DOOLEY

Bríd Dooley is a Sean Nós singer and teacher who has done much research into the roots and development of Irish music, and is currently working on several projects with the Irish community in London. Her performances take traditional Sean Nós singing, and place it in a modern context.

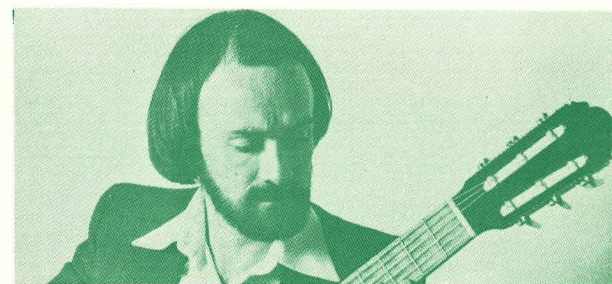
TOM O'FARRELL

is a superb classical guitarist with a very individual style. Almost entirely self-taught, he has travelled extensively, and his repertoire includes music from many different times and places, from the 17th Century to the 1980s, from North and South America, Italy, Spain, Germany, England and Ireland. His own arrangements and original compositions appear in his programme alongside the standard classical guitar repertoire.

"(His) instrumental technique, the quality and variety of works chosen, his perfect mastery of the varied and beautiful sonorities of the instrument, charmed an audience of connoisseurs".

Ouest-France

£1.50/concs £1.00 + membership



Tom O'Farrell

Friday 15th 9.00pm

ISOSCELES

Isosceles consist of Pat Abernethy and Dave Marsden (both graduates of Trinity College, Dublin), who write, produce and perform original and very funny comedy shows. Their most recent show, 'An Evening With The Recession', received excellent reviews from all quarters for its humour, satire and sharp observation. The duo, with their director John Mulligan, have toured all over Ireland, as well as performing in several London venues, visited the USA, and appeared on radio and TV in Britain and Ireland.

"The jokes are good, the acting is good, and the duo's humour is very infectious... you'll enjoy yourself a lot". Hibernia

"Masterful... an evening of consistent laughter" Time Out



Isosceles

BANSHEE

Banshee consists of Sean O'Shea (Fiddler of London), Mary O'Leary (traditional flautist) and Michael O'Connell (accordionist), playing traditional Irish music. All are champions in their own right.

£1.50/concs £1.00 + membership