

# IRISH ARTS CENTER

For Immediate Release  
November 1, 2021

## **IRISH ARTS CENTER TO OPEN \$60M NEW BUILDING IN DECEMBER, CULMINATING A DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION MORE THAN A DECADE IN THE MAKING**

**A New Era for Ireland and Irish America and a New Canvas for the Arts in New York City**

**Facility Includes State-of-the-Art Flexible Theater, Ground Floor Café, and Classrooms to Serve  
Multidisciplinary Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Organization Today Announces Ambitious Inaugural Programming for the 21,700 Square Foot  
New Irish Arts Center, Including Theatrical Performance, Dance, Music, Visual Arts, Literature and  
Education, Beginning with Camille O’Sullivan’s *Where Are We Now?*, Opening December 8**

**Season Features Exhilarating Engagements and New Work from Artists Including Enda Walsh;  
Dead Centre; Lyric Theatre, Belfast; Oona Doherty; Mufutau Yusef; Seán Curran and Darrah Carr;  
Martin Hayes & the Common Ground Ensemble; Jake Blount, Nic Gareiss, Tatiana Hargreaves, and  
Allison de Groot; Enda Gallery, Tolu Makay, Clare Sands, and Strange Boy; Utsav Lal, Sam  
Comerford, Linda Buckley, Ganavya, and Nitin Mitta; Anna Mieke; Pillow Queens; Ye Vagabonds;  
Branar; and More**

**Full Year of Programming Announced Today;  
Tickets on Sale for Events December 2021 – June 2022**

**Irish Arts Center (IAC)**, based in New York City and renowned for presenting dynamic, inspiring, collaborative experiences of the evolving arts and culture of Ireland and Irish America in an environment of warm Irish hospitality, will open the doors to its long-heralded new home, a 21,700 square foot hub for the arts at 726 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with a monumental inaugural season of programming, from December 2021 to December 2022. As the organization approaches this pivotal moment, the culmination of a more than a decade-long transformation into one of New York’s most beloved multidisciplinary cultural institutions, they today announce the year-long program that will bring the landmark new facility to life.

Founded in 1972, Irish Arts Center for decades operated within New York’s Off-Off Broadway theatre landscape, while also promoting Irish culture through classes in traditional music and dance, from the humble three-story tenement at 553 West 51<sup>st</sup> Street in Hell’s Kitchen. As part of the evolution of the neighborhood, in 2006 the organization was given an opportunity to potentially acquire the site of Cybert Tire, on a city-owned property on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, adjacent to Irish Arts Center’s current home. The opportunity inspired fundamental questions, including: What should an Irish Arts Center be in 21<sup>st</sup>

Century New York City? How best to reflect Ireland today? What will best serve New York, artists, and the community?

After surveying the Irish and New York cultural landscapes, Irish Arts Center undertook an ambitious transformation into a vital, inclusive multidisciplinary institution deeply integrated into the cultural ecosystems of Ireland and New York. Over many years, the organization built artistic and financial capacity through high-impact collaborative programming in its 51<sup>st</sup> Street home, partnerships with dozens of New York City cultural institutions, significant special events anchored by longtime Honorary Chairs **Gabriel Byrne** and **Liam Neeson**, and its enduring education programs. In parallel, the organization and project and design team commenced a robust, iterative consultative process with hundreds of artists and stakeholders to establish the scope and program for the new building, while gradually growing the Center's annual budget from \$690,000 in 2007 to more than \$4 million in 2020—and securing more than \$65MM in capital support from the City of New York, the State of New York, the Irish Government, cultural and corporate foundations, and hundreds of private donors.



*Photo by Mac Smith*

In 2020, amid construction of the long-awaited landmark new facility, with the support of its board, staff, and project team, government partners, and community of stakeholders, Irish Arts Center rose to the tumultuous moment of the pandemic, and its ensuing shutdown of construction and the arts in New York, with grace and grit. The Center's staff, teachers, and artists quickly adapted its approximately 40 classes-per-season and multidisciplinary program to an online format to provide modes of engagement and joy from home, and commissioned a groundbreaking series of new works—Grásta: Grace in Uncertainty—to be experienced virtually, reaching more than 400,000 people in 49 states and 123 countries. The building resumed construction in July 2020 and was completed within its \$60MM budget, ensuring the successful opening of a magnificent new cultural amenity for New Yorkers, as the cultural soul of Ireland and New York is restored and enlivened with the receding of the pandemic.

Having moved through hardship with adaptability and an unflinching dedication to its mission, Irish Arts Center is poised for another huge metamorphosis and new beginning.

**Irish Arts Center Executive Director Aidan Connolly** said, “The new Irish Arts Center is a dream realized and a tribute to the broad coalition of people in New York and Ireland who have brought it to life, at a time when we so eagerly need a place to come together with inspiration and hope. But it’s only the beginning. Our opening season is a statement of promise and possibility. We invite artists and audiences of all backgrounds to see themselves in this welcoming new home.”

“This new Center is the result of years of hard work by our incredible staff and colleagues, and the generosity and leadership over the years of our board members, supporters, and many stakeholders,” said **Irish Arts Center Board Chair Shaun Kelly**. “It’s a gift from all of this community to the future, and we look forward to filling it with great performances, arts, and education, and many joyful memories, for generations to come.”

**Ireland’s Prime Minister, An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, T.D.**, said, “When I first visited the old Irish Arts Center in 2009, this new building existed only in the imagination. It was a delight to return to the site this September, in anticipation of its official opening, to see that idea made real - and so excellently executed. The Government of Ireland is proud to have supported this new building, which is a new cultural landmark in New York, a celebration of Ireland-US relations and a platform for creativity, innovation and diversity.”

“We are so excited for Irish Art Center's amazing new home,” said **New York City Cultural Affairs Commissioner Gonzalo Casals**. “We owe New York City's cultural vibrancy to people coming from all over the world to collaborate and create. We're proud of the City’s investment in Irish Arts Center’s new building, which will serve as a major hub for these sorts of creative exchanges between artists and audiences for years to come.”

### **The New Building**

Designed by New York-based architects **Davis Brody Bond** (National September 11 Museum, The Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center), with consultation and support from Ireland’s **Office of Public Works**, the new Irish Arts Center is an historic collaboration between the people of Ireland and New York, signifying a new era in the cultural life of the global Irish diaspora, and providing an important new canvas for the development and presentation of the performing arts in New York City. Reflecting Ireland’s emerging position as a diverse, modern European country, and building on its legacy as a land of poets, the new Irish Arts Center will provide a home for innovation, collaboration, and development in the world’s cultural capital.

The building’s centerpiece is a flexible performance space, designed by Davis Brody Bond with theater design firm **Fisher Dachs Associates** (The Shed, Park Avenue Armory), and acoustic design by **Jaffe Holden Acoustics** (Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Juilliard School), that will serve as a site for theater, dance, music, visual arts, interdisciplinary work, residencies, and special events. The building also includes a new studio for classes, rehearsals, and community gatherings; an intimate, warmly appointed library classroom and patron lounge; and an atrium bordered by the former Cybert Tire building’s interior historic brick façade housing inspiring visual art.

**President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins** said, “For more than four decades, the Irish Arts Center has provided a space to showcase Irish culture in New York. Now the Center begins a bold new chapter, in an impressive building that is a dynamic space for artists. I would like to congratulate all who worked so tirelessly to bring this new space into being and wish them every success.”



*Photo by Mac Smith*

The new building includes a generous ground-floor café operated in partnership with the popular local Hell’s Kitchen establishment **Ardesia**. It is a physical manifestation of the core value of hospitality that is central to Irish Arts Center’s identity and characteristic of Ireland, famously “the land of a thousand welcomes.” The café and lobby furniture is by Irish craft furniture designer **Orior**, using authentic Irish materials repurposed in a modern aesthetic, and the bar/servery counter was constructed using a solid slab from a century-old walnut tree, not only evocative of the warmth of Irish hospitality but also a reminder of the wood paneling in Irish Arts Center’s beloved 51<sup>st</sup> Street theater.

The new Irish Arts Center will be a place for people of all backgrounds to come together to celebrate our common humanity in the environment of Irish hospitality for which Ireland—and this organization—are renowned.

**Architect Carl Krebs, Davis Brody Bond**, said, “The design and materials of the new Irish Arts Center manifest a deep connection to both New York and Ireland. As architects, we embraced the challenge of preserving and incorporating the original brick façade of a relatively unassuming two-story garage, knowing this would seamlessly knit the new building into an intact streetscape of pre-war buildings. Exposing the garage’s rough construction brick on the interior of the building also reveals a connection to the New York tradition of repurposing industrial spaces as incubators for the arts. But the overall character and disposition of the new building’s spaces draw on essential qualities of Irish culture, with an emphasis on hospitality, intimacy, and social engagement. Altogether, the new building is a perfect physicalization of the Irish Arts Center’s identity and a wonderful new home for world-class arts.”

**Irish Arts Center Vice Chair Pauline Turley** said, “When you walk around New York there are so many fine cultural institutions proudly promoting their heritage—Asia Society, Alliance France, Scandinavian House, and the Jewish Museum, amongst many others. To finally have a state-of-the-art home that can stand proudly alongside these great institutions, that will celebrate the evolving Irish and Irish American story, is a dream come true for so many who have labored to make the New Irish Arts Center a reality.”

### **High-Impact Theatrical Performance**

With a versatile, state-of-the-art theater in a still-intimate environment, the new Irish Arts Center can now offer a home for innovative, emotive theatrical work that moves and thrills.

The premiere event for the inaugural season is **Camille O’Sullivan’s *Where Are We Now?*** (December 4, 2021–December 31, 2021; officially opening—and opening the building—on December 8), a dramatic and eclectic offering of music and spectacle from the Cork-born Irish-French cabaret chanteuse who “performs with mesmerizing intensity that threatens to shatter the stage” (*The New Yorker*). From February 16–March 6, 2022, acclaimed Tony-winning playwright **Enda Walsh** returns to New York City with ***The Same***, an emotional-psychological portrait produced by **Corcadorca** and featuring two of Ireland’s most virtuosic actors, **Catherine Walsh** and **Eileen Walsh**, with audiences seated in an immersive setting in the flexible new theater. The new Irish Arts Center bursts onto New York City’s musical theater scene in a partnership with **Lyric Theatre Belfast** that demonstrates the vast potential of IAC’s new space: ***Good Vibrations***, based on the beloved film of the same name, charting the life of punk legend Terri Hooley (July 13–August 14, 2022). **Dead Centre** returns to IAC with ***Chekhov’s First Play***, deconstructing the Russian playwright’s *Platonov* in an “iconoclastic and joyful” work that “returns to the essence of theater” (*Le Monde*), October 19–November 6, 2022.

**Rachael Gilkey, Irish Arts Center’s Director of Programming**, said, “We are deeply appreciative that our artistic community—inclusive of both traditional and contemporary artistic practice, across all disciplines—has chosen to take risks with us, to grow with us. The artists are the heart of the New Irish Arts Center, and our new building is for them.”

### **World-Class Contemporary Dance**

As Ireland’s stature in contemporary dance grows internationally, the new Irish Arts Center provides a launching pad and adaptable artistic canvas for a thrilling new cohort of artists and collaborations reflective of modern Ireland and the Irish diaspora. Kicking off dance programming in the building is ***Hard to Be Soft***, from **Oona Doherty**, winner of the Silver Lion award at the 2021 Venice Biennale, January 13–23, 2022. *The Guardian* named *Hard to Be Soft*, an homage to the artist’s hometown of Belfast, the best dance work of 2019, and wrote that it captures “the carapace of swagger and sass, rage and resilience built up by men and women in a place where the conflict seems intractable and horizons are limited by constrictions of class and religion.” **Mufutau Yusuf** makes his full-length New York debut as a choreographer with ***Owe***, his multimedia meditation on the ritual of archiving ancestral knowledge, intuitions, and value, April 21–24, 2022. IAC’s **Masters in Collaboration** series, catalyzing explosively creative collisions of artistic practices, continues this year with legendary New York contemporary choreographer **Seán Curran** leaning into his Irish heritage to develop a new work with modern Irish American dance-maker **Darrah Carr** (September 28–October 2, 2022).

### **Eclectic Live Music**

Across musical acts that experiment with and gorgeously transform tradition (**Martin Hayes and Common Ground Ensemble**, February 3-6, 2022; **The Bluegrass Situation Presents St. Patrick's Festival** featuring **Jake Blount, Nic Gareiss, Tatiana Hargreaves, Allison de Groot**, March 17-19, 2022; **Ye Vagabonds**, April 7-10, 2022; **Ragas to Reels: Utsav Lal, Sam Comerford, Linda Buckley, Ganavya, Nitin Mitta**, November 17-19, 2022) and encompass the sounds of today (**Anna Mieke**, May 19-22, 2022; **Pillow Queens**, September 12-18, 2022; and **Ireland in Music Live**, a concert bringing together **Enda Gallery, Tolú Makay, Clare Sands, and Strange Boy**, March 10-13, 2022), IAC's new theater will be reimaged and reconfigured to create a range of intimate, impactful, live experiences over multi-night engagements. Prizing and uplifting the eclecticism of music in Ireland, IAC similarly transforms its theater to create the ideal atmosphere for presenting world/traditional fare as well as standing-room, club-style offerings.

### **A Center for Art and Ideas**

In the new building, Irish Arts Center builds on its legacy as a center for ideas, having throughout its recent history convened leading authors, poets, and intellectuals from Ireland, New York, and around the world. Beloved recurring events continue this year, including **Muldoon's Picnic**, curated by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and songwriter **Paul Muldoon**, returning February 7, March 14, April 11, September 12, October 10, and November 14, 2022. The **13th Annual PoetryFest**, curated by **Nick Laird** with guest curator **Katie Raissian**, convenes poets from North America and Ireland, December 1-4, 2022.

### **Visual Arts**

With the new Irish Arts Center, the organization has significantly expanded its capacity for displaying visual art and inaugurates a new, rotating **Curator-In-Residence** program, with **Miranda Driscoll**, former Director of Sirius Arts Centre in Cork, Ireland, and currently Executive Director of Solas Nua in Washington DC, as the first to be appointed to the role for the inaugural season. Driscoll curates the New Irish Arts Center's opening exhibition, **The Space We Occupy**—with work from **George Bolster, Neil Carroll, Colin Crotty, Katie Holten, Fiona Kelly, and Ailbhe Ní Bhriain** (December 4, 2021-May 22, 2022)—and a summer installation of work from **Maud Cotter, a consequence of – a dappled world** (May 27-September 5, 2022) Alongside guest curator **Moran Been-Noon**, Driscoll will help bring to life the dedicated visual arts canvases within IAC's theater, atrium and ground floor gallery walls, and in interstitial spaces throughout the organization's new home.

### **Community and Family Programming**

Between classes and family programming, the organization continues its approach to growing and nurturing community around Irish culture, for participants of any background and every generation. Kids can interactively learn about Irish tradition through **Oíche Shamhna/An Irish Halloween** (October 30, 2022) and engage their imaginations through the vivid puppetry of **Branar Teatar do Pháistí's How to Catch a Star** (May 4-15). IAC's **Open Day** (March 13, 2022) provides an "annual extravaganza...an Irish favorite for kids and parents" alike (*Time Out New York*), while for **Book Day** (March 17, 2022), books for people across ages—offering distinct glimpses into Irish and other cultures—are freely given out by the thousands. Taught by experts in Irish music, dance, language, theater, and storytelling, IAC's classes this year return in-person after moving online during the pandemic, offering open environments in which participants of all ages and skill levels can engage the intricacies and joys of Irish expression.

## **Education**

While the Center has sustained its community education program through online classes since spring 2020, which will continue moving forward, the opening of the new building heralds a return to in-person classes in January 2022, housed largely in the Center's studio and library classrooms, as well as in other spaces throughout their Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. Classes include a range of offerings including music (fiddle, guitar, mandolin, harp, whistle, bodhran and voice), dance, storytelling, theatre arts, literature, and Irish language, taught by the Center's dedicated team of teaching artists. The Center's Winter 2022 eight-week term will commence January 18 and is on sale December 7, with the Spring 2022 term commencing April 11 and a Fall 2022 term commencing September 19.

## **Digital Programming and ALL ARTS partnership**

Irish Arts Center today also announces a new partnership with the New York-based Emmy-winning arts and culture hub ALL ARTS. The organizations will collaborate on a suite of upcoming programs as part of *ALL ARTS Radio Hour*, available on 88.3 WLIW-FM, Long Island's only NPR station, [wliw.org/radio](http://wliw.org/radio), and podcast platforms. The collaboration will begin with the radio premiere of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual PoetryFest and the 12<sup>th</sup> season of Muldoon's Picnic, an evening of music, storytelling, and poetry hosted by Pulitzer Prize-winning Irish poet Paul Muldoon.

This ongoing collaboration follows the fall premiere of *The First Twenty: Afterwards*, written and directed by Enda Walsh in partnership with Irish Arts Center, for the groundbreaking ALL ARTS original series *The First Twenty*, now streaming nationwide at [AllArts.org/TheFirstTwenty](http://AllArts.org/TheFirstTwenty) and the [ALL ARTS app](#).

**ALL ARTS Artistic Director James King** said, "For almost 50 years Irish Arts Center has bridged cultural connections, building community with artists and audiences of all backgrounds. We are very pleased to continue our partnership with the organization and expand the digital reach of its programs, beginning with the radio premiere of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual PoetryFest and the 12<sup>th</sup> season of Muldoon's Picnic on ALL ARTS Radio Hour, available on 88.3 WLIW-FM or wherever you listen to podcasts."

## **Safety**

The New Center includes a number of features designed to help ensure a safe environment for artists, audiences, teachers, students, and staff, including MERV-13 filters to maximize filtration and air flow; bi-polar Ionization and UVGI lighting in its heating and air conditioning units in order to remove harmful particles from the air throughout the building; low- and no-touch surfaces (including faucets and bottle fillers at all water fountains) and sanitizer stations throughout the building to enhance a clean environment; and motion sensitive lighting to lesson high touch areas and reduce the building's energy footprint. The cleaning staff, meanwhile, uses EPA's List N cleaning/sanitizing products proven to kill Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

All artists, audiences, teachers, students, and staff will be required to show identification and proof of vaccination upon entry to Irish Arts Center.

## **Access**

As part of the inaugural season in its new home, Irish Arts Center has also announced a new accessibility program, with a limited supply of front-row seats being made available for every performance for no



more than \$25. Subsidized by the Center's board of directors and private donors, these tickets will be available immediately when shows go on sale, so audiences seeking these tickets can plan early when programming is announced. The Center also announced a new \$50 discounted membership program and the continued availability of scholarships for class fees.

## **PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTIONS AND SCHEDULE**

### **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE**

**Camille O'Sullivan**

***Where Are We Now?***

**December 4, 2021–December 31, 2021 (Opening December 8)**

Camille O'Sullivan captures the madness of our world, and the redemption in our coming together again, with an unforgettable musical and emotional journey to mark this extraordinary moment. Backed by a world-class ensemble of musicians, including longtime collaborator Feargal Murray on piano, Camille's rhapsodic interpretations of an eclectic assembly of songs from iconic New York and Irish songwriters asks—as we turn the page on a new chapter—Where Are We Now?

**Enda Walsh**

***The Same***

**A Corcadorca production**

**February 16-March 6, 2022**

When two women, both called Lisa, meet each other, they come to realize they have more in common than just a name. In a rare U.S. appearance, sisters and celebrated Irish theatre actors Eileen and Catherine Walsh play out Enda Walsh's mind-bending drama in a performance for which the descriptor "tour de force" only scratches the surface.

***Good Vibrations: A Punk Rock Musical***

**A Lyric Theatre, Belfast production**

**July 13-August 14, 2022**

"Glorious...The full-throated spirit of punk is alive and roaring"—*The Irish Times*

Based on the BAFTA award-winning film *Good Vibrations* by Glenn Patterson and Colin Carberry, *Good Vibrations* chronicles the story of Terri Hooley, a radical, rebel, and music-lover in 1970s Belfast. When the Troubles shut down his city and his friends take sides, Terri opens a record shop and becomes the unlikely leader of a motley band of kids who join his mission to create a new community, an alternative Ulster, and bring his hometown back to life.

This thrilling new musical features a cast of twelve and a bounty of anthems from Northern Ireland's punk era, including the Undertones' "Teenage Kicks," the Outcast's "Just Another Teenage Rebel," and Stiff Little Fingers' "Alternative Ulster."

***Chekhov's First Play***

**A Dead Centre Production**

**October 19-November 6, 2022**



“Stand back and watch the theatrical fireworks explode”—*The Guardian*

“A brilliant endeavour. Riveting to watch.”—*The Irish Times*

During the turmoil of the Russian Revolution in 1917, Maria Chekhov placed many of her late brother Anton’s manuscripts in a safety deposit box. In 1921, Soviet scholars opened the box and discovered a play. The title page was missing. The play they found has too many characters, too many themes, too much action. Unstageable. Like life.

The thrilling Irish experimental theatre company Dead Centre have deconstructed the Chekhov text into an explosive and emotionally stirring work—a “wildly playful piece about the elusiveness of meaning” (*The Guardian*)—that has dazzled audiences around the world.

*Chekhov’s First Play* was co-commissioned by Irish Arts Center and premiered on September 23, 2015, as part of the Dublin Theatre Festival.

## **DANCE**

**Oona Doherty**

***Hard to Be Soft: A Belfast Prayer***

**January 13-23, 2022**

“Top Dance Show of 2019...A potent dance of rage and resilience ... A major achievement”—*The Guardian*

Silver Lion award-winner at the 2021 Venice Biennale

Oona Doherty, “the most exciting young voice in contemporary dance” (*The Guardian*), delivers a stunning, virtuosic tribute to the men and women of inner-city Belfast, mining beneath the turbulence and machismo to reveal the human core of her hometown.

Featuring Oona Doherty, Sam Finnegan, John Scott, and the Sugar Army.

**Mufutau Yusuf**

***Òwe***

**April 21-24, 2022**

“When the charismatic Mufutau Yusuf is onstage, it’s hard to look anywhere else”—*The New York Times*

One of Europe’s most electrifying dance artists, seen previously in New York with Irish Modern Dance Theatre at La Mama and 92Y’s Fridays at Noon series, Mufutau Yusuf makes his full-length NYC choreographic debut with *Òwe*—“proverb” in the Yoruba language. Using personal and found archival material as concept, visual design, and soundscape, and with a highly charged amalgam of traditional and contemporary movement, Yusuf seeks to decode his personal identity through the lens of the ancestral.

**Masters in Collaboration: Seán Curran Meets Darrah Carr**  
**September 28-October 2, 2022**

Two choreographers whose lifelong relationships with dance began as children with Irish step and branched in bold, distinct directions, bring together the creative languages they've each cultivated. Carr, whose innovative ModErin style draws from Irish music, step dance footwork and spatial patterns—and Curran, whose acclaimed contemporary works have graced some of the world's most prestigious stages including BAM and the Joyce, merge their knowledges of tradition and invention, culminating in a brand new collaborative dance piece.

**MUSIC**

**Martin Hayes & The Common Ground Ensemble**  
**February 3 – 6, 2022**

“If there's one thing that the Common Ground Ensemble shares with all of Hayes's past projects, it's the purity of the vision: that eternal musical quest”—*The Irish Times*

Martin Hayes' virtuosic interpretations of Irish traditional melodies and eclectic collaborations, including the Gloaming (deemed “contemporary music-making at its best” by *The Irish Times*), have made him one of the most influential and impactful Irish musicians in modern history.

His newest undertaking, the Common Ground Ensemble, debuting this spring at Irish Arts Center in New York and the National Concert Hall in Dublin, once again showcases the enduring language of Irish music in a global context.

Martin Hayes, fiddle  
Cormac McCarthy, piano  
Kate Ellis, cello  
Kyle Sanna, guitar  
Brian Donnellan, bouzouki, harmonium, and concertina

**Ireland in Music Live**  
**A week-long music festival bringing the RTÉ series to life**  
**March 10-13, 2022**

“A fusion of hip-hop and Irish trad. And it *works*.”—*The Irish Times*

“A snapshot of Ireland as filtered through the ears, mouths, hearts and souls of the enlightened”—*RTÉ*

A live companion to the films that captured performances in Ireland's most magnificent sites, this concert series of the same name brings together artists from different corners of the contemporary Irish music landscape—singer songwriter Enda Gallery, soul artist Tolu Makay, fiddler Clare Sands, rapper Strange Boy—for a slate of standing-room only shows emceed by house band Hothouse Flowers.

## **Bluegrass Situation Presents a St. Patrick's Celebration**

**Jake Blount, Nic Gareiss, Allison de Groot & Tatiana Hargreaves, and More**  
**March 17-19, 2022**

Standard-bearing national and international roots music hub Bluegrass Situation presents a three-night celebration of Irish American musical traditions that situates them within our present and future. Headliners include award-winning banjoist, fiddler, singer, and scholar specializing in the music of Black and Indigenous communities in the southeastern United States, Jake Blount; Nic Gareiss, acclaimed for his “dexterous melding of Irish and Appalachian dance” (*The New York Times*); Allison de Groot & Tatiana Hargreaves, whose recent self-titled collaborative release won the Independent Music Award for Best Bluegrass Album; and more special guests.

**Ye Vagabonds**  
**April 7-10, 2022**

Ye Vagabonds (brothers Brían and Diarmuid Mac Gloinn) fluidly combine traditional Irish and European music with American old time and 1960s folk revival influences in an “earthy, intriguing mix, recognizably Irish yet with an energy all its own” (*The Irish Examiner*), revivifying old repertoire and instilling in their own writing these rich sonic histories. Having made their sold-out U.S. debut with the organization two years ago, the young tradition bearers return to a transformed IAC—with its new theater adapted into 3/4 thrust arrangement to create the most intimate possible environment to reflect the quality of the music—for a four-night performance engagement.

**Anna Mieke**  
**May 19-22, 2022**

The Wicklow-born artist, an alum of the influential Other Voices festival and part of the new vanguard of Ireland's folk scene, assembles her band and special guests for a concert series showcasing the tender songwriting and meticulous string instrumentation of her debut album, *Idle Mind*, and a forthcoming new release.

**Pillow Queens**  
**In Residence**  
**September 12-18, 2022**

“One of Ireland's best new bands in a country (let alone a city) not short on them”—*The Guardian*

“Some of the most talented musical prospects to emerge from Ireland in recent years”—*The Irish Times*

*The Guardian's* “most exciting indie rockers” of 2020 helm a mini-arts festival with a headlining concert as part of a curated series of residencies and rock shows by their favorite local artists.

**Ragas to Reels**  
**Utsav Lal, Linda Buckley, Sam Comerford,**  
**Ganavya, and Nitin Mitta**  
**November 17-19, 2022**

The acclaimed Steinway artist Utsav Lal returns to Irish Arts Center for a special presentation bringing together two living musical heritages—Indian classical and Irish traditional. Lal’s genre collisions and collaborations (here, with composer Linda Buckley, flute, whistle and sax player Sam Comerford, vocalist Ganavya, tabla player Nitin Mitta, and poet Sahar Romani) generate a riveting new sound, reflective of the complexities of identity—and connectivity of music—in a fluid world.

## **LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, AND FILM**

**Kia Corthron**

**Moon and the Mars**

**In association with the Tenement Museum**

**January 26, 2022**

“Theo is the lone narrator in *Moon and the Mars*, but her voice is so rich with the locutions and grammatical tics of her joint heritage that it sounds almost choral”—*The Wall Street Journal*

Kia Corthron discusses her new novel examining racism, family, and identity through the eyes of Theo, a young girl growing up between the homes of her Irish and Black grandparents in the Five Points neighborhood of mid-19th century New York City.

**Muldoon’s Picnic**

**February 7, March 14, April 11, September 12, October 10, and November 14, 2022**

“Okay, it’s not actually a picnic but a music-and-literature extravaganza.”—*Time Out New York*

With a name that harks back to a late 1800s New York vaudeville act, this beloved moveable feast of an event—from Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and songwriter Paul Muldoon—combines music, prose fiction, poetry, high commentary, and low comedy, brought to you by an evolving lineup of world-class guests and house band Rogue Oliphant. Presented for the first time in IAC’s adaptable, state-of-the-art new performance venue, the artist-curated omnium gatherum concocted at IAC 11 seasons ago continues to bring its mix of joyful casualness and breathtaking artistry to the NYC arts landscape.

**Manchán Magan**

**Arán & Im**

**April 1–3, 2022**

*Arán & Im* is a theatrical performance/installation in which the writer and documentary maker 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. It is a celebration of language, land and local Irish food, with freshly baked traditional sourdough bread for the audience to slice and spread with butter they churn themselves from Irish cream.

**Féile na Gaeilge/Irish Language Day**

**Feast and Famine/Feasta Agus Gorta**

**April 3, 2022**

IAC's 2022 celebration of the Irish language explores the complex role of food in Ireland's history and culture. Open to Gaeilge enthusiasts of all levels, the day's workshops and feature events include a staging of *Arán & Im*, a theatrical performance/installation by the writer and documentarian Manchán Magan, and an Irish Film Institute co-presentation of the award-winning film *Arracht*, set in Famine-era Connemara. This is a bilingual program. Fluency in Irish is not required.

***Arracht***

**April 3, 2022**

A screening of the award-winning film *Arracht*, set in 1840s Connemara. As famine progresses, a fisherman unable to protect his family is subsumed by darkness until a helpless girl saves him from despair.

In partnership with the Irish Film Institute

**13th Annual PoetryFest**

**Curated by Nick Laird and Katie Raissian**

**Presented in association with Glucksman Ireland House NYU**

**December 1-4, 2022**

"PoetryFest brings together writers (not just poets!) from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss, read from and generally cheer on the enduring poetic community of Ireland." —*Time Out New York*

Brimming with verse and conversation, PoetryFest has for 13 years brought "literary revelry" (*The New Yorker*) to Irish Arts Center audiences and word-lovers across New York. Curated by Nick Laird with guest curator Katie Raissian, the weekend-long PoetryFest is a haven away from our world of fast online verbiage, celebrating the value of sitting and listening to words written with sharpened care, intent, and nuance—by vanguard artists carrying Irish and North American poetic traditions into the future.

**VISUAL ARTS**

***The Space We Occupy***

**George Bolster, Neil Carroll, Colin Crotty, Katie Holten, Fiona Kelly, and Ailbhe Ní Bhriain**

**Curated by Miranda Driscoll**

**December 4, 2021-May 22, 2022**

In a multi-media activation of the public realms of 726 11th Avenue, six artists representing the breadth and depth of contemporary Irish visual art use installation, photography, print and drawing, as well as paint and plaster—the physical materials of the building's renovation—to mark the opening of the New Irish Arts Center and invite the viewer to consider the space we occupy during our short time on Earth.

**Maud Cotter**

***a consequence of - a dappled world***

**May 27-September 5, 2022**

Taking its title from "Pied Beauty," a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins celebrating the diverse and disparate nature of existence, sculptor Maud Cotter's solo exhibition at IAC questions the nature of form

and physical reality, and the place of the human will within such a mercurial mix. Bringing together works developed from 2015 onward, Cotter offers transcendent visions of the materials that she uses, though her primary material is the invisible force-field that holds things together.

## **FAMILY & COMMUNITY**

### **Open Day**

**March 13, 2022**

“Irish Arts Center’s annual extravaganza...an Irish favorite for kids and parents.”—*Time Out New York*

On this year’s annual, free Open Day, visitors can enter a whole new Irish Arts Center: an institution transformed, with their new building, in its capacity to entertain, inform, explore, and amaze, but still to its core the same warm, hospitable center. Join IAC this St. Patrick’s season for this special Open Day, activating its space through live music and dance, crafts, educational workshops, and more—to get a sample of its bounteous new possibilities for celebrating Irish and Irish American culture.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Day**

**March 17, 2022**

IAC is thrilled to honor the cherished tradition of Irish storytelling on St. Patrick’s Day this year with a very special Book Day devoted to James Joyce’s singular, and singularly influential, novel *Ulysses*. Celebrating the tome’s 100th anniversary, and continuing Book Day’s tradition of recognizing the breadth of Irish literature alongside that of other cultures, this year’s event will also honor Jewish authors from around the world, in tribute to *Ulysses’* iconic Jewish protagonist, Leopold Bloom. As always, IAC’s volunteers and staff, sponsors, and supporters—along with its partners at the New York City Council—across all five boroughs will hand out thousands of free books. Books in Spanish and other translation provided by partners Literature Ireland.

### **Branar Teatar do Pháistí**

***How to Catch a Star***

**May 4–15, 2022**

“Visually stunning with a twinkling score”—*The Irish Times*

Once there was a boy who was always looking up. He dreamt of having a star as a friend. This is the story of his adventure.

Based on the beloved book by award-winning Irish author Oliver Jeffers, Branar Teatar do Pháistí’s *How to Catch a Star* combines wondrous puppetry with a score by Colm Mac Con Iomaire for a magical theatre experience that reminds us all to follow our dreams.

For ages 4 and up.

### **19th Annual Dance and Music Festival**

**June 11, 2022**

In celebration of National Immigrant Heritage Month, Irish Arts Center, in partnership with the Center of Traditional Music and Dance, invites dancers and musicians from communities across the city to help the organization throw its annual fête, the traditional kick-off event of NYC's Summer-on-the-Hudson event series. Join IAC in Riverside Park for a free day of performances, sessions, céilís, crafts, workshops, and cultural activities.

**Oíche Shamhna/An Irish Halloween**  
**October 30, 2022**

“At this Irish Halloween celebration, kids can learn about the spooky traditions indigenous to the Emerald Isle.”—*Time Out New York*

In this by-turns spooky and heartwarming evening of folklore and fun, delve into the ancient autumnal tradition of Oíche Shamhna, the eve of Samhain, across which bonfires lit the land orange and our world was believed to open to the realm of spirits, allowing departed loved ones to join the living. Play age-old Irish Halloween games and learn about the origins of Trick-or-treating, dressing in costume, and carving a jack-o'-lantern (originally a turnip)—and do all of the above.

**ABOUT IRISH ARTS CENTER**

Irish Arts Center, founded in 1972 and based in Hell's Kitchen, New York City, is a home for artists and audiences of all backgrounds who share a passion or appreciation for the evolving arts and culture of contemporary Ireland and Irish America. We present, develop, and celebrate work from established and emerging artists and cultural practitioners, providing audiences with emotionally and intellectually engaging experiences—fueled by collaboration, innovation, adventurousness, authenticity, and the celebration of our common humanity, in an environment of Irish hospitality. Steeped in grassroots traditions, we also provide community education programs and access to the arts for people of all ages and ethnic, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. In an historic partnership of the people of Ireland and New York, Irish Arts Center recently completed construction on a fully funded \$60MM state-of-the-art new facility to support this mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**PRESS CONTACTS**

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