


The fifth annual Laois Festival of Literature. Promoting poetry and fiction, the festival includes local, national and international writers in its programme. Further information available from the Arts Office at Laois Co. Council (0502) 22044.


Readings by


Marsha Hunt | Anthony Cronin | Rita Kelly


Music by

Nóirín Ní Riain | Théotokos

 Marsha Hunt was born in 1946 and grew up in Philadelphia. She has been an actress, singer and more recently, an acclaimed novelist. In April 1999 *The Junkyard - Voices from an Irish Prison*, edited and introduced by Marsha Hunt, will be published by Mainstream Publishing. Hunt's previous titles are *Like Venus Fading* (1998), *Repossessing Ernestine* (1996), *Free* (1993), *Joy* (1990), *Real Life* (1985 autobiography).

 Anthony Cronin is a poet, fiction writer, critic and biographer. His novels include *Life of Riley* and *Identity Papers*; critical works include *A Question of Modernity* and *Heritage Now*. He has also published a biography of Flann O'Brien entitled *No Laughing Matter*, and has just completed a major biography of Samuel Beckett. During his time as cultural and artistic adviser to the Taoiseach he was instrumental in the foundation of Aosdána.

 Rita Kelly is currently the Writer in Residence for Co. Laois. Her work includes poetry, fiction, drama and criticism in both Irish and English and has been translated into German, French, Dutch and Italian. Awards include a Literary Award at Listowel, an Irish Times poetry award and the Sean Ó Riordáin Memorial Award.

 Nóirín Ní Riain has performed extensively in Ireland and worldwide and is well known for her work in spiritual and sacred music, in particular with the monks at Glenstal Abbey. *Théotokos* is an ensemble of singers founded in January of this year specialising in cross-cultural spiritual song. The singers are theological students from the Mater Dei Institute, Dublin.

'Refining the Image' -
publicity, publishing and politics.



Join Terry Prone for an exciting and informative afternoon designed for anyone interested in communicating his or her message more effectively. Whether it is to get that job, publish a book or improve their stance in politics, Terry Prone has the answers.

Terry Prone became Managing Director of Carr Communications Ltd. in 1986. A leading author on public communications, she has written five best-selling business books. She is an award-winning short story writer and was appointed by the Minister for Arts and Culture to Ireland's Arts Council in 1993. Terry Prone takes personal responsibility for several major Carr Communications national and international clients. She has advised many Irish Government Ministers, including several Ministers for Health.

London Baroque Sinfonia /

Sinead Blanchfield

May 17th, 8pm

Opera

£10 / £8 concession



Opera Theatre Company is Ireland's foremost touring opera company and visits Portlaoise for the very first time. This performance features the London Baroque Sinfonia and Sinead Blanchfield with a programme of Bach, Handel and Sammartini. The concert also features Handel's beautiful cantata for soprano and orchestra *Silte Venti*, played by some of the finest UK period players.

'A fine chamber orchestra with a sure sense of style and drama'
The Daily Telegraph

DUNAMAISE

Theatre and Centre for the Arts

The *Dunamaise Theatre and Centre for the Arts* comprises a 218-seat theatre, equipped to the highest specification, two exhibiton spaces, workshop space / meetings rooms, restaurant and bar. The centre aims to provide the region with access to the best in professional arts practice in the various disciplines: theatre, music, dance, the visual arts and film. It is a building which, no doubt, will be a source of great pride for the region and a warm welcome will be afforded to every member of the community, be they artist, audience or performer.



FÁS

Portlaoise,
Co. Laois.

Box Office 0502 63355

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Dunamaise Theatre assisted by Laois County Council and FÁS



DUNAMAISE

Theatre and Centre for the Arts


PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

MAY - JUNE 1999

BOX OFFICE 0502 63355



Agustin Maruri *May 25th, 8pm*
Spanish Guitar £6 / £4 concession

 'Wonderful young Spanish guitarist playing attractive music, a great soloist to discover.' *Diario 16, Madrid*
'Maruri combines refinement and sensitivity with a great sense of drama and passion in his interpretation of the Spanish masters Falla and Torroba.' *Moscow News, Moscow*

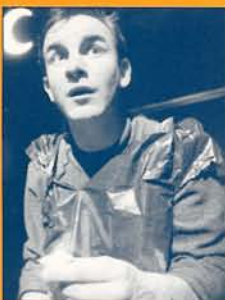
Lovers *May 27th, 8pm*
Big Telly Theatre £7 / £5 concession



 The exams are looming, there's a baby on the way, the prospect of a flat behind the abattoir - the future for Mag and Joe seems less than rose tinted and what does the future hold for Andy and Hanna, courting on the couch and rebelling against the rosary with Saint Philomena on the altar upstairs? This modern classic by award-winning writer Brian Friel is a fascinating and humorous exploration of relationships in 1960's Ireland. The cast includes John Hewitt (recently nominated for an Irish Theatre Award for his part in *Shadowlands* at the Lyric - also directed by Zoe Seaton) Susie Kelly, Helena Bereen, Alva Semple and newcomers, Richard Clements and Eimear Hughes.


Scaredycats *May 31st & June 1st, 11am & 1.15pm*
Barnstorm £4/£3.50 group booking (teachers free)

 Scaredycats follows the adventures of three children over a Hallowe'en weekend as they struggle to deal with their fears, both real and imagined. Packed with fun, thrills and deliciously scary situations, the play explores children's fears, of change, of the unknown and of things that go bump in the night. *Scaredycats* opened in Kilkenny on February 9th and has since been playing to full houses throughout the country. 'Barnstorm's policy of producing one show a year for children is to be highly recommended.' *Irish Times*



Love in the Title *May 7th & 8th, 8pm*
The Abbey £10 / £8 concession

Director Patrick Mason
Designer Joe Vanek
Lighting Designer Mick Hughes
Music Conor Linehan
Cast Karen Ardiffe
Ingrid Craigie
Catherine Walsh


 *Love in the Title*, a moving and evocative new play by Hugh Leonard, is a layered and complex piece of work. As the story unfolds, we find ourselves drawn further into the lives of three extraordinary women, Katie, Triona and Catriona... Cat for short! As their innermost fears and secrets are revealed, it is clear that their stories of love lost and won, of an Ireland growing up, have more in common than they ever would have dreamed. *Love in the Title* is a magical and inspiring new work from one of Ireland's most popular writers.

Hugh Leonard's previous plays include *The Patrick Pearse Motel*, *Summer, Da* (Tony Award and New York Critics Award for Best Play), *The Mask of Moriarty*, *Moving* and *A Life* (Harvey Award for Best Play).

True Believers *June 18th & 19th, 8pm*
Fishamble £8 / £6 concession

A new play by Joseph O'Connor
Director Jim Culleton
Designer Bláithín Sheerin
Lighting Designer Paul Keogan
Performers Enda Oates
Geraldine Plunkett



 *Georgie Best!*
Superstar!
Walks like a woman
And he wears a bra!


In *True Believers*, Joseph O'Connor takes us back - in his own wickedly comic way - to Ireland in the 1970's. To a decade of Cluedo, spacehoppers and, of course, Starsky and Hutch!



Fishamble is one of Ireland's leading theatre companies. *Red Roses* and *Petrol* - Joseph O'Connor's first play - was also directed by Jim Culleton and produced by the same company under its original name Pigsback. It received widespread critical acclaim... 'brilliantly outrageous entertainment' *Irish Times*
'wonderful, painfully funny' *Sunday Times*
'you'd be stupid to miss it' *Irish Independent*



Jimmy Crowley *June 3rd, 8pm*
Folk £6 / £5 concession

 One of Ireland's best loved balladeers comes to the Dunamais Theatre following one of the most successful years in his long career to date. His album *My Love is a Tall Ship*, with the hit song of the same name was one of the best selling folk records in 1998. His all Irish song album with Donal Lunny, *Jimmy Mo Mhile Stor* is due to be re-issued on CD.

Exhibitions

 MAIN EXHIBITION SPACE

Cathy Carmen | Micky Donnelly | Joch Nichol
May 4th - June 5th

Marking the opening of the centre, this group exhibition features three distinguished artists with Laois connections.

 GROUND FLOOR

Louis Le Brocquy *May 4th - May 20th*
The Tain

An Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon touring exhibition of prints by one of Ireland's foremost artists.

Estella Solomons *May 31st - June 30th*
Etchings

A series of etchings from the 1930's by Irish artist Estella Solomons.