

October 19th, 8pm
£8/£6 (concession)

The Pursuit of Diarmuid and Grainne
Big Telly Theatre Company

Following their hugely popular production of *Lovers* by Brian Friel last May, Big Telly Theatre Company returns to Portlaoise with their adaptation of the old celtic myth. When Ireland's most beautiful woman rejects its most powerful leader and forces its most loyal warrior to help her escape, she triggers a chain of events which fast spin out of control. A gritty psychological thriller with a thumping soundtrack, kaleidoscopic masks and high-energy dance routines that exposes the hearts and minds of the three most charismatic characters from celtic myth.

Seamus O'Reilly and Friends
Concert - Laois Arts Foundation

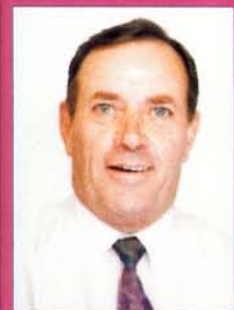
Portlaoise born tenor and multiple award winner Seamus O'Reilly will perform in aid of the Laois Arts Foundation in yet another showcase of local talent. He will be joined by Kieran Hickey (Bass), Olive O'Brien (Mezzo) and Paula O'Brien (Soprano) with accompaniment provided by Danny Ryan and Ensemble. The varied programme will include excerpts from *Oklahoma!*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and an Irish selection.

Twelfth Night
Cwmni Ballet Gwent

Wales' own independent ballet company bring the very first ballet performance to the Dunamaise Theatre, presenting their new full length ballet based on Shakespeare's hugely popular romantic comedy of mistaken identity, love and fulfilment. This company's outstanding reputation in presenting original, entertaining yet challenging work continues to be enhanced in this mesmerising new production. Crisp sets, colourful costumes and exquisite music in a breathtaking evening of the finest classical ballet.



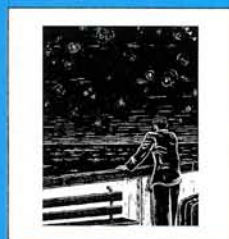
October 24th, 8pm
£8/£6 (concession)



October 28th, 8pm
£10/£8 (concession)



September 13th
October 22nd



Exhibition

The State We're Out
Brendon Deacy

An exhibition of 53 linocut prints which details the story of his father's origins in Bohola, emigration to England in the 1950s and the artist's own return to Ireland in the 1990s. Brendon lives and works in Emo, Co. Laois. He has exhibited widely throughout Ireland and England and is currently a lecturer at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.

**FORTHCOMING HIGHLIGHTS
IN NOVEMBER:**

Opera Theatre Company: Four Note Opera

Druid Theatre Company: The Country Boy

Laois Musical Society: Oklahoma!



Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Box office 0502 63355
Administration 0502 63356
Fax 0502 63357



Dunamaise Theatre assisted by Laois County Council and Fás



Ballet photographs by Peter Rogers - Cwmni Ballet Gwent

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1999



DUNAMAISE
Theatre and Centre for the Arts

BOX OFFICE
Tel 0502 63355

September 15th, 8pm
£8/£6 (concession)




September 20th, 8pm
£6/£4 (concession)




Sept 23rd, 8pm
£6/£4 (concession)




Borrowed Robes by Jim Barrett
Island Theatre Company

 John Barrett's critically-acclaimed play is set against the background of what became known as the Limerick Pogrom. It is 1904, dark forces abound. A Jewish woman takes a young disaffected seminarian as a lodger. It is not long before Father Keane comes knocking on the door with much more in his heart than concern for his priest. First produced in 1998, The Examiner described it as "play of the year" and John Murphy as Father Keane was nominated for Best Actor in the ESB/Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards.

Cran
Music Network / ESB Best of Irish Tour

 The unique approach of Ronan Browne, uilleann pipes, Desi Wilkinson, wooden concert flute and Sean Corcoran, bouzoukist/singer to repertoire, performance and style has earned Cran international acclaim. Beautiful melodies and intricate, palpable rhythms fuse with energy, fun and skill in their electric performances of Irish and Scots Gaelic songs and other music from the Irish tradition.

Maca
Celtic / Trad Music

 Maca, a new vocal group, explores traditional music in a fresh and exciting way. They find their roots in Celtic and Classical music and showcase a finely tuned live performance of close vocal harmony. All former members of Anuna, the group have performed with many fine international musicians including Elvis Costello, Davy Spillane, Sinead O'Connor and The Chieftains, as well as being part of the Riverdance troupe currently touring in Europe. This wealth of diverse experience has nurtured the unique fusion of contemporary and age-old music which creates the magical sound of Maca.

September 28th, 8pm
£7/£5 (concession)



September 30th, 8pm
£10




October 1st, 2nd and 3rd,

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Young Ireland - Then and Now
Keegan Lalor Weekend


Oct. 5th-9th, inclusive, 8pm
£10/£8 (concession)




Alone It Stands by John Breen
Yew Tree Theatre Company / Island Theatre Company co-production


 21 years ago Munster shocked the Rugby world by beating the all-conquering New Zealand All Blacks. A hilarious romp through the events of the day pulling in the players and characters from the sidelines and shoving them into the action on the pitch. A must for all theatre and rugby fans!

The Garda Band
Concert in aid of Laois Arts Foundation

 The Garda Band is a well loved musical institution in this country and plays a unique role in the provision of music at state and other functions, from international rugby matches at Landsdowne Road to the Rose of Tralee Festival. This concert is part of the ongoing fundraising drive by Laois Arts Foundation in aid of the capital costs of the Laois Arts Centre.

 A weekend of lectures, exhibitions, theatre and discussion featuring several well known figures in Irish public life, including Senator David Norris and Professor Joe Lee. Further information available at the Box Office throughout September.

Happy Days by Samuel Beckett
Two Chairs Theatre Company / Civic Theatre Tallaght co-production

 Beckett's hilarious two-act play is a heart-rending affirmation of the indomitable human spirit. It is not so much a monologue (although requiring a formidable feat of memory) as a portrayal of mutual dependency in a marriage. This new production by Colm O'Briain features Nuala Hayes as Winnie and Mick Lally as Willie. Certainly one of the highlights of the autumn programme and not to be missed by any fan of theatre.

October 10th, 8pm
£6/£4 (concession)



October 11th, 8pm
£7/£5 (concession)




October 16th, 8pm
£8/£6 (concession)




Yggdrasil String Quartet
Music Network / ESB Tour

 Prizewinners in the London International String Quartet Competition and the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, the Yggdrasil String Quartet were selected as Sweden's 'Rising Stars' in 1997 with recitals in major European concert halls. Since 1995, the group has been String Quartet-in-Residence in Aberdeen and has won numerous awards for their recordings and live performances. Recent work includes a month in Australia with Musica Viva. Their debut tour of Ireland will be followed by performances in the Netherlands and Austria.

Cell by Paula Meehan
Calypto Theatre Company

 Paula Meehan's powerful new play Cell is a taut, tense and cruelly comic expose of life and death on the inside. Set in prison, Cell traces the day-to-day lives of four women. Delo Roche is boss. Dealing drugs and running the cell, she has the two younger women totally in her power. Into this nest arrives Alice Kane from Leitrim, a widow who carries a grandmotherly charge, but it soon becomes clear that she is not all she seems. Paul Meehan's extraordinary play offers an intimate "insiders" invitation into an ambivalent, dramatic and surprisingly humorous world.

Brian and Sabine McNamara
Concert

 Brian and Sabine are well known performers both as soloists and as a duo. They have won many awards in Ireland and France, from where Sabine hails. They have played at every major Irish festival, at the National Concert Hall in Dublin and also locally with the Portlaoise Singers. Although Brian is from the town, this is their first full recital in Portlaoise and it is fitting that it should take place in the new Dunamais Theatre.