

OFFALY ARTS ALERT

Official Newsletter of Offaly County Council Arts Office



Veronica Nicholson, The Guerillas of Love: Light Comes Through #3, 2012
OCC Municipal Collection

Arts in Action - July - Aug 2025 News & Events

Welcome to Issue 14 of Offaly Arts Alert.

The purpose of Offaly Arts Alert is to provide a listing of arts events and opportunities in the County. Offaly Arts Office is a service of Offaly County Council and aims to broaden and deepen access to the Arts in Offaly.

Based in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, you can contact the Arts Office team by emailing arts@offalycoco.ie or calling +353 57 935 7400 during office hours; Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
Visit our website www.offaly.ie and social media [@OffalyArts](https://www.facebook.com/OffalyArts) for further information.

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Offaly Arts Alert

What's On?

July|August
Arts Events

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Mundy - July Fest 2025 Saturday 5 July 7pm

Mundy and his band will tear through the night with pure, unadulterated energy, setting the stage for an explosive summer. We also have some special guests to be revealed who'll be taking the festivities to uncharted territory.

This is your chance to be part of an intimate and electrifying celebration of JULY. Don't miss out on what promises to be the highlight of the summer season.



Living Irish Legends - Frankie Gavin & Noel Hill Sunday, 20 July -8pm

Two titans of Irish traditional music—Frankie Gavin and Noel Hill—are set to grace the stage at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre. Frankie Gavin, a prodigious fiddler who played for JFK at just six years old, co-founded the legendary De Dannan. Noel Hill, hailed as the master of the modern concertina, transformed the instrument's role in Irish music.

Together, Gavin and Hill promise an evening of unparalleled musical mastery, weaving reels, jigs, and haunting airs into a tapestry of Ireland's rich heritage.

SEA WALL by Offaly Drama Project 6 & 7 of August

Set during summer holidays in the south of France, Alex's story unfolds through quiet revelations — from diving trips to the sea wall to the emotional depths beneath. Written by Simon Stephens, the multi-award-winning playwright behind the theatrical adaptation of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time", performed by Gerard O'Shea and directed by Fiona Breen for the Offaly Drama Project.



For a full listing of events, please see www.birrtheatre.com

Offaly Arts Alert

What's On?

July|August
Arts Events

Esker Arts

Exhibition: Marked Lands by David Fox Opening Saturday 5th July

David Fox has become renowned for his compelling connection with the contemporary Irish landscape, where in recent work he juxtaposes the vibrant essence of street art and graffiti within the bustling cities, with the often quiet and overlooked built structures and walls that are seen scattered across rural Ireland.

Runs until Saturday 30th August.



Esker Sessions Volume V: Vincent Woods & Eileen Casey Thursday 24th July, 8pm

Esker Sessions continues with Volume V featuring poets Vincent Fox and Eileen Casey.

Eileen Casey (originally from Birr) is based in South Dublin. Author of six poetry collections (Arlen House, New Island), her poetry and prose is included in numerous anthologies.

Vincent Woods is a playwright, poet and broadcaster. His acclaimed play 'At the Black Pig's Dyke' explored the Irish border territory between Northern Ireland and the Republic;

John Donegan - The Irish Sextet Saturday 23rd August, 8pm

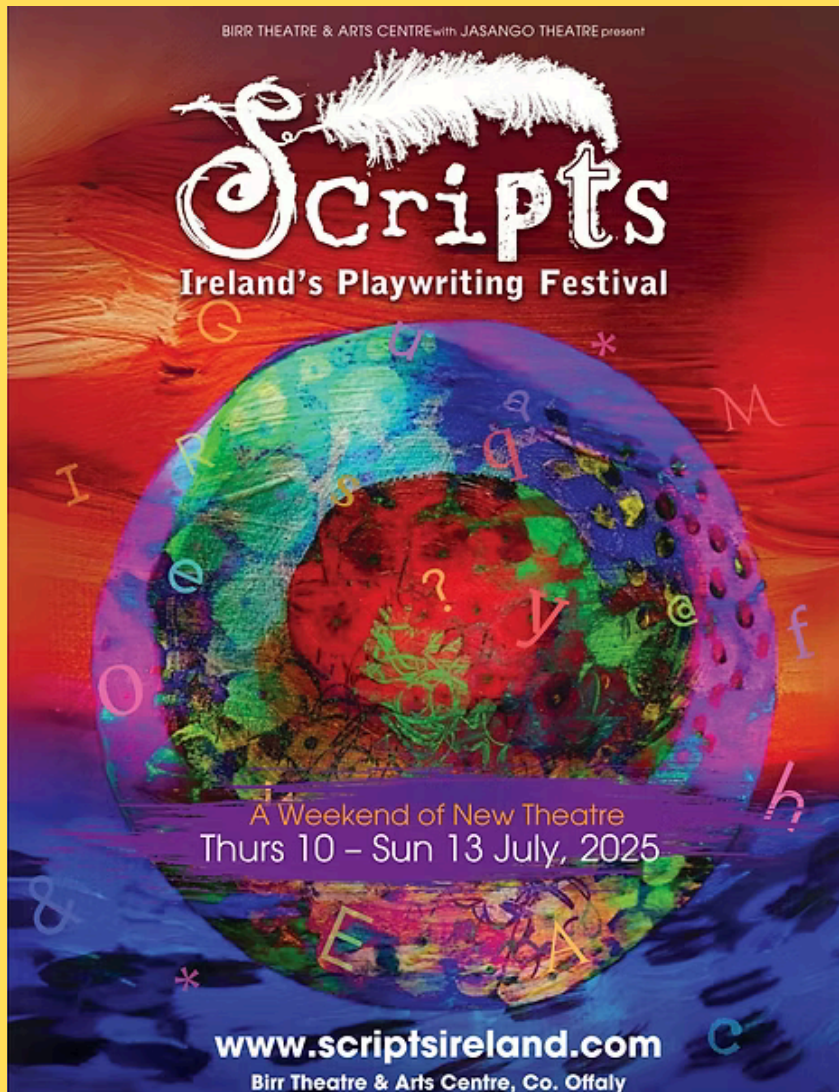
John Donegan, UK based and originally from Cork, is a modern jazz pianist and composer. His music has been featured on the BBC, Jazz FM, RTE and independent radio stations in UK and Ireland.

John has written and arranged more than 20 new pieces which will comprise of two albums of new material for the Sextet. John has written a new suite of contemporary music called Aontacht. This music explores the impact of Irish traditional music and Jazz on his compositional work. It also includes a string quartet on a number of the pieces and adds a classical feel to these works.



There's something for everyone at Esker Arts
For a full listing of events, please see www.eskerarts.ie

Scripts Festival



Scripts Ireland's Playwriting Festival is an annual four-day festival in Birr Co. Offaly dedicated to new Irish plays—the writing of them, the development and nurturing of them.

This innovative playwriting festival features a host of exciting events for lovers of theatre- those who want to create, perform and watch live in beautiful surroundings.

Established in 2013, Scripts continues to create exciting opportunities for playwrights, established and aspiring, to have their work developed and produced.

The picturesque town of Birr, a haven of Georgian elegance and chic, plays host to an ensemble of playwrights, producers, directors, all discussing, presenting and producing riveting new works for stage.

Full programme available here: www.scriptsireland.com

Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival

Now in its 57th year, Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival promises yet another diverse programme of events encompassing visual arts exhibitions, captivating theatre performances, live music and vibrant street theatre, alongside traditional favourites such as the Vintage Sunday Parade. Visitors can expect a blend of national and international artists as well as a host of community events, including the Vintage Week Craft and Food Market, and plenty of family-friendly activities. For more information and booking, visit www.birrvintageweek.com.



Metamorphosis
Saturday 2 August | Birr Castle
Courtyard | 9.30pm

An unforgettable spectacle celebrating the rewilding of our boglands! Experience a fusion of original music by Fiona Linane, inspired by Eileen Casey's poetry, with powerful performances by Cal Y Canto, soprano Maria Matthews, fire artist Eddie Bulfin, and Birr Youth Theatre, all brought to life with stunning projection mapping. A magical evening of music, fire, and light you won't want to miss.. Funded through an Arts Council Spectacle Award. €15 (+ booking fee)



The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)
Monday 4 August
Birr Castle Courtyard | 7.30pm

Presented by PASOS Theatre Company
Three actors present all 37 plays by William Shakespeare in a hilarious evening of theatre. An irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays. Join these madcap actors in tights as they weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter. Perfect fun for the whole family! €15 (+ booking fee)



Tadhg Devery - A Day in the Country
Saturday 9 August | 8pm
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Hailed as a "Comedy Genius" by many online, Tadhg's live show promises to be an unforgettable night of laughter and entertainment. Join us for this exciting and fresh one-man show featuring Tadhg's most popular characters! €26.50 (+ booking fee)



For more information and booking visit www.birrvintageweek.com.



Creative Places Edenderry

is a community based project to connect, create and develop artistic and cultural activities to enhance the community engagement and spirit within Edenderry.

Activities are advertised on the [Creative Places Edenderry Facebook](#) and Instagram pages.

See www.creativeplacesedenderry.ie for further information.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Wednesday 16th of July
2pm - 4pm at Edenderry Library

Please come along if you would like to be involved in the planning, design and delivery of Creative Places, Edenderry

Please register by emailing:
info@creativeplacesedenderry.ie

Logos: Creative Places Edenderry, Creative Lives, Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Phoill, Leabharlanna Libraries, Creative Places Edenderry, Arts Council, Creative Places Edenderry

Eden Fresco

Is a Creative Ireland funded project! It is an exploration of Edenderry's rich heritage through innovative Multidisciplinary Art partnerships!

Mezzotint Demonstration and Printing Workshop
With Caoimhe Dalton

26th of July & 2nd of August

10am - 1pm: Learn about the Process and History
2pm - 5pm: Create and Print your own Print!

12 places available on each date

The Parish Centre, Edenderry

Please register by emailing:
info@creativeplacesedenderry.ie

Logos: Creative Places Edenderry, Creative Lives, Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Phoill, Leabharlanna Libraries, Creative Places Edenderry, Arts Council, Creative Places Edenderry

Monthly Open Support Meeting

FOR COMMUNITY LEAD VOLUNTEERS, GROUP LEADERS, ARTISTS & FACILITATORS

Wednesday 9th of July, 2pm - 4pm on Zoom

Please register by emailing: info@creativeplacesedenderry.ie and we will send you the Zoom link

Logos: Creative Places Edenderry, Creative Lives, Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Phoill, Leabharlanna Libraries, Creative Places Edenderry, Arts Council, Creative Places Edenderry

- Monday Music group with Angi Ward: 2pm - 3.30pm at The Parish Centre
- Eden Fresco - Music and Drama workshop with Angi Ward and Eddie Byrne, 3.30pm - 4.30pm at the Parish Centre, 7th and 14th of July
- ActiviTEA Women's group sessions: Tuesday's, 11am - 1pm at The Cabin
- Visual Art workshop for and by people who identify as disabled with Eleanor Farrelly, 11am - 12.30pm at The Parish Centre
- Monthly support meeting for Community Lead Volunteers, Group Leaders, Group Leaders, Artists and Facilitators on Zoom, 9th of July, 2pm - 4pm
- Community Forum, 16th of July, 2pm - 4pm at Edenderry Library
- Training session with The Wheel, 25th of July, 2pm - 4pm at Edenderry Library
- Artists Collective, 25th of July, 4.30pm - 6pm at Byrnes Bar
- Mezzotint Demonstration and Workshop with Caoimhe Dalton, 26th of July, 10am - 5pm

creative PLACES EDENDERRY Creative Places, Edenderry presents the.....

Artists Collective

Are you an Artist?
Are you living or working in Edenderry?
Would you like to join a collective in order to have peer support/discussions about funding and possible future projects?

FRIDAY 25TH OF JULY, 4.30PM - 6PM AT BYRNES BAR

Please register by emailing: info@creativeplacesedenderry.ie

Logos: Creative Places Edenderry, Creative Lives, Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Phoill, Leabharlanna Libraries, Creative Places Edenderry, Arts Council, Creative Places Edenderry

creative PLACES EDENDERRY Creative Lives

ActiviTEA! Women's Group

Weekly Arts based workshops with Jenny Bergin

Every Tuesday, 11am - 1pm

€5 Cover charge + refreshments provided

The Cabin, Edenderry

PLEASE REGISTER BY TEXTING:
0879447690

Logos: Creative Places Edenderry, Creative Lives, Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Phoill, Leabharlanna Libraries, Creative Places Edenderry, Arts Council, Creative Places Edenderry

Offaly Arts Office: Current Opportunities

**You can contact us by email: arts@offalycoco.ie
or call us on 0579346800**



DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE

Creative
OPPORTUNITY

A 3-day intensive workshop in physical and ensemble theatre with David Glass

8th - 10th August
www.dunamaise.ie



PERFORMING ARTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARY

Offaly Arts Office is funding two bursaries of €200 each for Offaly-based practitioners to participate in this transformative series of workshops and masterclasses in August:

*****Alchemy of the Extraordinary*****

A 3-day intensive workshop in physical and ensemble theatre with David Glass, for performers of all kinds; professional and amateur, directors, dancers, movement practitioners, theatre makers, drama teachers, creative social workers and anyone interested in deepening their understanding of physical and ensemble theatre. No prior experience necessary.

- 8th August, from 2 to 6pm
- 9th August from 10-6pm, and
- 10th August from 10-6pm

Join one of the world's leading theatre makers, David Glass, for a transformative three-day workshop exploring the fundamentals of presence, movement and collective creation.

This Workshop is hosted at Dunamaise Arts Centre, supported by the Arts Council, Offaly County Council, Kildare County Council and Laois County Council.

Further details available from Box Office 057-8663355 or apply via www.dunamaise.ie

Deadline Wednesday 13th July

OPPORTUNITY Culture Night 2025 Marketing Coordinator Call-Out



**CULTURE
NIGHT**

Opportunity!!

**Culture Night 2025 Marketing
Coordinator Call-Out**



**CULTURE
NIGHT**

Offaly County Council Arts Office is seeking applications for the role of Marketing/PR Coordinator for Culture Night 2025 – to coordinate Offaly's Culture Night marketing campaign in 2025, as part of the national cultural celebration on Friday 19th September 2025. For details and to apply click here:

[Culture Night Marketing](#)

Offaly Arts News



Birr Vintage Week Open Submission Exhibition 2025 Call Out

Curated by The Project Twins
“Sign, Symbol, Word”

Submissions deadline: Sunday 13 July | 5pm

[Click here for details](#)

From stone carvings to digital code, people have always used symbols to make sense of the world. This open call invites artists to play with, disrupt, or reimagine the signs and symbols that shape our experience. How do meaning, form, and context shift when language becomes image, or image speaks like language?

Birr Vintage Week are now accepting 2D & 3D works for selection via the link on their page or in person on Sunday 13th July in Oxmantown Model NS (R42 T271).

Exhibition | 1 - 8 August 2025

One of the selected artists will be awarded a solo exhibition in 2026.

Birr Vintage Week Alphabet Soup - Call for Images

A Community Art Project by Naomi McArdle and Andrea Moore

Do you have old photographs of Birr's traditional signs? Shopfronts, murals, hand-painted signs, or even faded lettering in the background of family snaps?

We're on the lookout for images of Birr's visual history as part of Alphabet Soup, a new creative project celebrating the town's unique heritage in typography and signwriting. The final work will be unveiled during Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival 2025.

Traditional signs carry stories of local businesses, craftspeople, and community life. They reflect the town's character and charm. Every photograph will help us rediscover and honour this part of Birr's identity. Even a small glimpse of a sign in a photo could be just what we're looking for.

If you've got photos, no matter how old or worn, we'd love to see them!

Email: projectbirrvintage25@gmail.com



Visit Offaly



Please see the website www.visitoffaly.ie for a comprehensive list of events taking place in Offaly soon. Here you will find all the up to date information on activities and events for the spring and summer season.

Film Offaly News

Our Podcasting Workshops and Smartphone Filmmaking Course took place in June and we're excited about the work produced from the courses' graduates. This represents the first of our training courses organised as part of our EU Just Transition Funding. There are more to come so watch this space!



Documentary Mentorship Programme Call Out for Mentees

We are pleased to announce that our Documentary Mentorship Programme is now looking for mentees. Those accepted will receive training in the essential skills needed for making documentaries, and they will also receive a professional assignment collaborating with local producer Garret Daly on the short documentary *Closed For Lunch*.

Closed for Lunch is a snapshot of the history and people beyond the mass production of the peatlands. Reflection on this period is explored by remembering the good times, and especially the 'lunch times' with co-workers.

This is a huge opportunity for budding filmmakers from the Offaly area and provides vital professional experience for anyone's CV. This is an inclusive project, and anyone is welcome to apply, regardless of their level of experience.

Further details and application forms are available at filmoffaly.ie

Elsewhere, last year's Film Offaly Short Film Award winner, **The Cure**, has wrapped up post-production and will receive its premiere at the Galway Film Fleadh on 11th July. We wish to congratulate the team on getting into the programme. FilmOffaly will also be attending the festival's industry forum day, as well as advertising in the Fleadh's programme. Galway Film Fleadh is a key event in the Irish and international film calendar so we're really looking forward to promoting Offaly on the world stage.



FILMOFFALY LOCATIONS CALL-OUT

We are looking to expand FilmOffaly's database of potential film locations within the county.

We already have a diverse range of unique locations, but we are always on the lookout for buildings or spots that could be the next screen star, whether it's your home, workplace, or local bar.

If it's distinctive or has character, we'd love to hear from you.
For more information please contact filmoffaly@offalycoco.ie

www.filmoffaly.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Tionól Réigiúnach an
Oirthir agus Lár Tíre
Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly



government supporting communities

National News & Opportunities

2025 AIC Scheme Bursary Awards

The objective of the Artist in the Community (AIC) Scheme Bursary Award is to support individual professional artists in any artform to develop their collaborative socially engaged arts practice. There will be two awards of €20,000 awarded in 2025, offering the artists time to reflect on, and develop, their practice. The closing date for applications is 5pm, Monday 21st July.

About the Bursary Award(s)

The bursary award is aimed at individual professional artists who collaborate with individuals or groups/communities (non-arts professionals). Artists must have a track record of making and interpreting art collaboratively with communities.

One of the two bursary awards is specifically for an early career/emerging artist with a track record in collaborative arts practice.

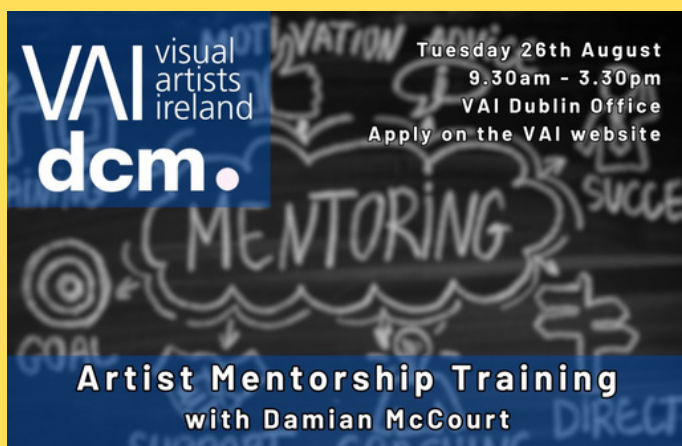


For more information please [**CLICK**](#) here!

Mentorship Training with Damien McCourt

Date: 26th August 2025

Time: 9.30am – 3.30pm



Visual Artists Ireland invites applications from professional VAI members for an exciting Mentorship Training Programme led by Damian McCourt, delivered in partnership with DCM Learning. This one-day training will equip artists with the tools and confidence to mentor fellow visual artists.

This opportunity is ideal for professional artists who wish to share their experience and support the development of peers through mentorship.

Deadline for applications: 15th August 2025 - 5pm

For more information please [**CLICK**](#) here!

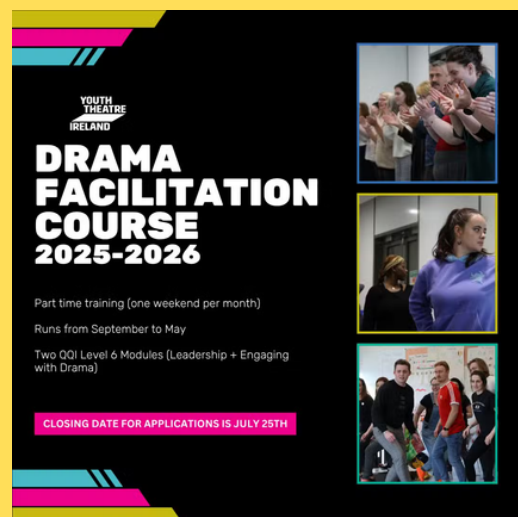
Drama Facilitation Training Course 2025/2026

Applications are now open until the 25th of July

Youth Theatre Ireland are delighted to announce that applications are now open for Drama Facilitation Training Course 2025/2026.

This part-time course runs one weekend per month from September to May in NUI Maynooth, and offers practical, QQI accredited training in Engaging with Drama and Leadership, which give you the skills to work creatively with young people.

[More Info HERE](#)



Jobs, Funding & Opportunities

THE FOLLOWING LINKS WILL BRING YOU TO AN OVERVIEW ON VARIOUS AVAILABLE FUNDING

WWW.VISUALARTISTS.IE

WWW.CULTUREIRELAND.IE

WWW.CREATE-IRELAND.IE

THE FOLLOWING SITES CONTAIN A BROAD RANGE OF ROLES & OPPORTUNITIES CURRENTLY ADVERTISED IN THE ARTS.

WWW.VISUALARTISTS.IE/ADVERTS

WWW.PERFORMINGARTSFORUM.IE/JOBS

WWW.ARTSMANAGEMENT.IE/JOBS

WWW.CREATE-IRELAND.IE/CATEGORY/OPPORTUNITIES

WWW.ARTCONNECT.COM/OPPORTUNITIES

WWW.IRISHWRITERSCENTRE.IE/JOB-OPPORTUNITIES

WWW.POETRYIRELAND.IE/WRITERS/OPPORTUNITIES

**ARTS COUNCIL
FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES**



Project Award 2026, Round 1 - Closing 24 July

Strategic Funding 2026 - Closing 24 July

Irish Language Award - Closing 31 July

Arts Centres Partnership Funding 2026 - Closing 04 September

Partnership Funding - Opening 22 July

Visual Artists Workspace Scheme - Opening 12 August

Artist in the Community Scheme - Opening 11 August

Arts and Disability Connect Scheme R2 - Opening 18 August

SEE WWW.ARTSCOUNCIL.IE/FUNDING FOR AVAILABLE AWARDS WITH VARIOUS STRANDS AND CLOSING DATES

Artists Wellbeing

Screen-Ireland Professional Development

Certificate in Continuing Professional Development in Neurodiversity
(Screen Industry)

This is a Level 6, fully online, university-accredited, part-time course and a continuing professional development certificate. This course is fully funded by Screen Ireland. This course is the first university of its kind globally. Once registered, you will receive the fully confirmed timetable and all the course details.

Click on the link for details:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-ccpdns>



Minding Creative Minds is an organisation established to offer a free 24/7 wellbeing & support programme for the Irish Creative Sector.

For further information on workshops and events visit www.mindingcreativeminds.ie



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