

# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

## Diary Dates

### Theatre

**Summerhouse** - Druid Presents the premiere of award-winning playwright Robin Glendenning's new plays, from Wednesday, April 20th, at Druid Lane Theatre. Now booking.

**Riders to the Sea** - Revelations Theatre Company present the third of their Synge productions at The King's Head from Wednesday, April 20th until Saturday, April 30th, daily (excluding Sundays) at 1.10 p.m.

**The Factory Girls** - Heads or Harps present their new production of Frank McGuinness's powerful play about a strike in a Donegal shirt factory until Saturday, April 16th, at An Taibhdhearc. The show is directed by Gerardine McDermottroe, Artistic Director of the London Bridge Theatre Company, and then transfers to the Battersea Arts Centre, London, for five performances, April 19th to the 23rd.

**"Ta tu ag imeacht Johnny"** - A new Irish language play about the travelling Community, written by Galwegian Mick McGee and directed by Bearta O Flaithearta, will run for four nights only, April 18th to the 21st, nightly at 8 p.m. in Aras na Gaeilge, UCG.

**"Doug, Dog, Mig and Mug"** - You can catch the last two performances of Cathal Browne's unusual comedy, nodding in the general direction of Beckett and Synge, in the IMI Theatre, UCG, until Friday, April 15th, nightly at 8 p.m.

**"The Proposal"** - Clockwork Theatre Company's delightful show returns to The King's Head by popular demand for one week only until Saturday the 16th, daily at 1.10 p.m.

### Exhibitions

**Exhibition of Handmade Dolls & Puppets** - A wonderfully imaginative exhibition featuring the magical creations of Czech-born but now Galway-based artist Helga Pikal is currently running at The Geoghegan Gallery, The Bridge Mills. This exhibition will be followed on April 22nd by an Exhibition of Paintings by Rita Wobbe, which will be the final exhibition before The Geoghegan Gallery, which has served the Galway arts scene well, closes. Ave atque Vale!

**"Legends"** - An exhibition of paintings by Peggy Dooley, in oil, water colour and pastel, is running at the Bank of Ireland, 19 Eyre Square, until the end of the month.

**Exhibition of Work by John Lyons** - A series of paintings, drawings and art objects exploring the legends, folklore and myths of the artist's native Caribbean culture will run during Cuirt at The Arts Centre, 47 Dominick Street.

**Sara Susan McNeill** - An exhibition of new paintings by the Belfast-born artist is currently running at The Kenny Gallery, Middle Street.

**"Just Purple"** - An unusual and stimulating joint exhibition by brothers Alan Murray and Ivan Murray is currently running in the Salthill Hotel until the end of April. Alan Murray colourful paintings are well complemented by Ivan Murray's Bog Oak sculptures. It's an exhibition well worth visiting.

**Artspace Artists** - An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artists of the Artspace Studios continues at the House of James until the end of the month.

### Music

**Sean Ryan & Alec Finn** - Two superb musicians join forces tonight for a gig at Riabhog Folk Club, Upstairs in Richardsons, Eyre Square, starting at 9.15 p.m.

**Concert by Ivan Zenaty** - Acclaimed Czech violinist Ivan Zenaty will give a concert in the UCG Aula at 8 p.m., Monday, April 18th. Accompanying him on piano will be the distinguished Czech pianist, Josek Hala.

### Dance

**Stars of the Bolshoi Ballet** - Leisureland is the venue for a very special show featuring dancers from the prestigious Bolshoi Ballet Company, on Friday and Saturday, April 22nd and 23rd. The Bolshoi's renowned Prima Ballerina, Anna Pavlova, will be making a special Galway appearance for the shows.

### Launches

**"Fr. Griffin, 1892-1920"** - Dr. James McLoughlin, Bishop of Galway, will launch a new book by Fr. Padraic O Laoi (who wrote the first life of Nora Barnacle, James Joyce's Galway-born wife) in The Kenny Gallery tonight, April 14th, at 6 p.m.

### Festivals

**Kinvara's Fleadh na gCuach** - A major traditional music festival will run over the Bank Holiday, May Weekend, in Kinvara, from Friday the 29th to Monday the 2nd. More details next week.

**Budweiser Rhythm, Roots and Country Festival** - Galway is in for a feast of top-class music and song for what could become another annual Galway Festival. Featuring artists like Mary Black, Townes Van Zandt, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Sharon Shannon, Chris Meehan and Mairtin O'Connor, it runs from Friday, April 29th through to Sunday, May 1st.

**The A.T. Cross Cuirt International Festival of Literature** - April 19th to the 25th (see adjoining box for details).

## The A.T. Cross Cuirt International Festival of Literature

### Tuesday, April 19th:

Festival Launch by Bernard Loughlin, Director of Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annamakerrig - 6 p.m., 47 Dominick St.  
Denise Levertov & Eavan Boland Reading - 9 p.m., Nun's Island.

### Wednesday, April 20th:

William Trevor & Alasdair Gray Reading - 9 p.m., Nun's Island.

### Thursday, April 21st:

Tom Kilroy & Hugo Hamilton Reading - 1 p.m., 47 Dominick St.

Katie Donovan & John Lyons Reading - 4 p.m., 47 Dominick St.

Joint Booklaunch: John F. Deane & Michael Gorman's "Mayo Anthology" - 6 p.m., Kenny's Bookshop.

Roger McGough & Brendan Cleary Reading - 9 p.m., Nun's Island.

### Friday, April 22nd:

Matthew Sweeney & Pat O'Brien Reading - 1 p.m., 47 Dominick St.

Boat Trip to Annaghdown, with Tony Whilde, Nora Duggan & John O'Donohue - 2.30 p.m. departure from Waterside Quay, Woodquay.

Poet's Platform - 3 p.m., Nun's Island.

C.K. Williams & Cathal O'Searcaigh Reading - 8 p.m., Nun's Island.

Maguire & McBride - 10 p.m., Nun's Island.

### Saturday, April 23rd:

Roger McGough Reading with Galway Youth Theatre (aimed at children, but anyone welcome) - 11 a.m., 47 Dominick St.

"Emergent Voices" (Four Previous Poet's Platform poets reading) - 1 p.m., 47 Dominick St.

Nick Horby Reading - 2.30 p.m., Nun's Island.

Robert Fisk (The 2nd Annual George MacBeth Lecture): "The Writer's Lot: How Image Dominates Reality or How the Rooster Lost its Call" - 4 p.m., Nun's Island.

Book Launch: "Ruined Pages" - Padriac Fiacca's Selected Poems - 6 p.m., Kenny's Bookshop.

Roddy Doyle Reading - 7.30 p.m., Nun's Island.

Linton Kwesi Johnson & Jean 'Binta' Breeze Reading - 9 p.m., Nun's Island.

### Sunday, April 24th:

Bardic Breakfast - 12 noon, Bewley's Cafe.

An afternoon at Drimcong with Sujata Bhatt & Medh McGuckian - 4 p.m., Drimcong House, Moycullen.

Micheal O'Suilleabhain in Concert - 9 p.m., Nun's Island.

### Monday, April 25th:

Nobel Prize winner Derek Walcott Reading - 9 p.m., Nun's Island.

## Shell Shocked in Setanta!

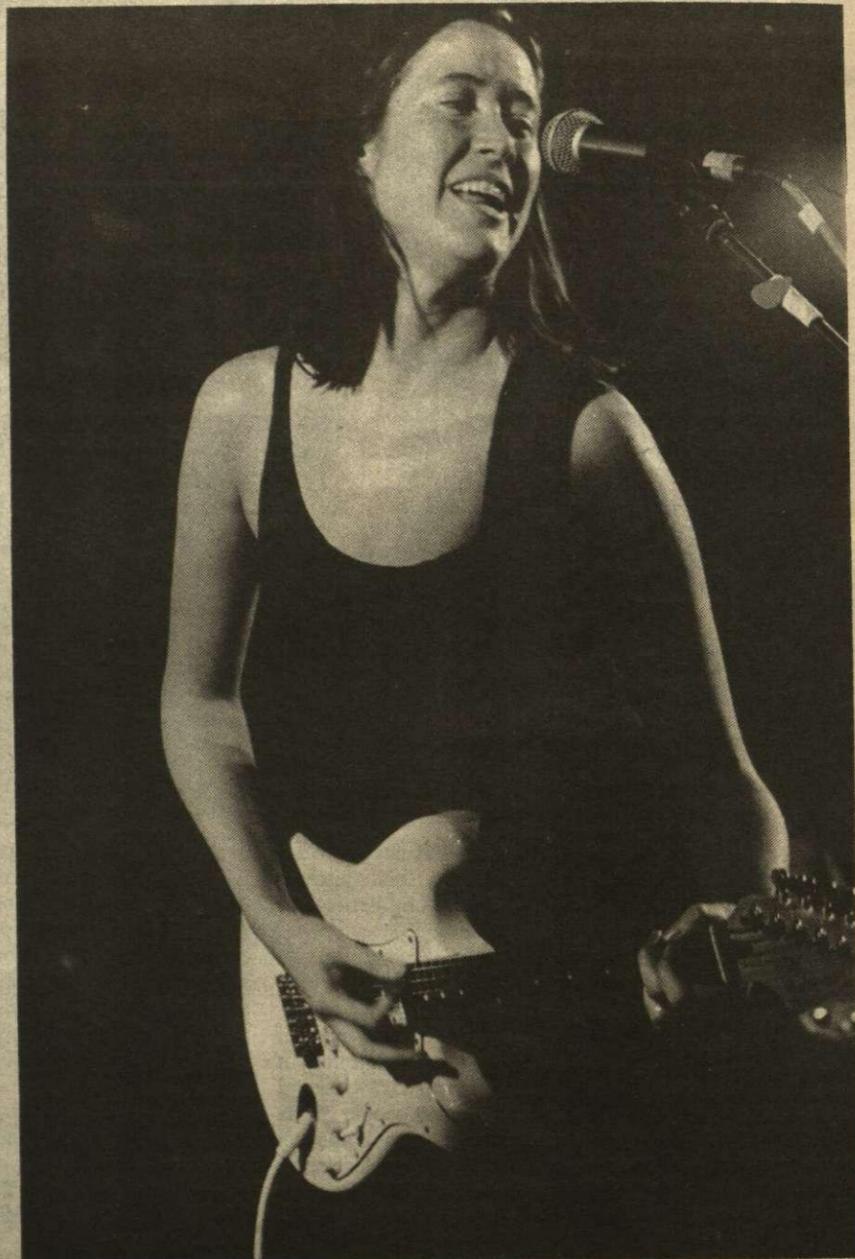


Photo: Mike Shaughnessy/Solargraphic

On Monday night the brilliantly talented Michelle Shocked played what many people are already saying is so far the gig of the year in Setanta. Playing with energy, passion and great good humour, the singer delighted a large and enthusiastic audience with versions of her songs, especially those taken from her terrific "Arkansas Traveller" album.

## Brendan O'Carroll's Wobbly Bits

Leisureland was pretty well packed to the rafters on Easter Monday to see this gig by Gay Byrne's favourite comedian. Brendan's backing band attempted to warm up the audience with a pretty unimaginative set of cover versions, such as you'd hear in any one of a million pubs any night of the week. Why, for goodness sake? Couldn't they have done something funny? Well, no actually, as was painfully demonstrated by the cringingly witless Waterboys parody with which they closed their set. Entitled "A Bang Up Your Rear", it made the most abysmal student rag-mag look like vintage Flann O'Brien in comparison. But enough about the support, what about the Main Man, the "cheeky little scamp", as the programme describes him?

As his show's title "How's Your Snowballs?" would suggest, O'Carroll's humour is largely based on sexual innuendo. More than that in fact, as much of the material is quite explicit, with plenty of effing and blinding to vindicate the "Outrageous" tag of which he and his band seem so proud. Except that none of this stuff is really outrageous at all, is it? It's all rather predictable and tedious. Why spend £8.50 for a lot of curses and dirty jokes - old dirty jokes at that - when you can get both for free most nights in your local pub?

A truly "outrageous" comedian would be someone like

Lenny Bruce in his prime, who confronted and exposed his audience's prejudices and peccadilloes, while being simultaneously hilarious. Comedy is often a kind of truth-telling. That's why we laugh at a punchline - we recognise its truthfulness. And really good comedy can make us laugh at truths about ourselves which would normally make us uncomfortable.

O'Carroll is too often content to take the lazy option, playing upon the most predictable kind of audience response. And yet when he drew his material from personal observations of the quirks of human behaviour, as

he did occasionally, he showed flashes of real wit and originality. A pity he wouldn't develop this side of his act more. But then why should he, so long as he can pack out the likes of Leisureland with his present material? Not so much "How's Your Snowballs?", more a case of "Never Mind the Bollocks!"

C. McB.

## Puppeteering Workshops at An Taibhdhearc

A six week series of Irish language "Henson-Style Puppeteering" workshops will be held in An Taibhdhearc, beginning on Saturday, April 23rd. The course is aimed at ages between 14 and 17 years. If you're interested in attending, contact Deirdre at An Taibhdhearc for more information (091 62024 or 63600) before April 21st.

## Far Canals/Far Out!



Last Monday night in Monroe's Tavern, at the top of Dominick St., saw a large and enthusiastic crowd gather to launch "All Fluffed Up", a 4-track release by Galway group Far Canals, a "taster" for the band's debut album "If You See K" which is set for a Summer release date. Wild and wonderful, the E.P. gives the listener an idea of Hot Press meant when they said that "Far Canals are to live music what Circus Archaos is to circuses."