

people **living**

Young, gifted and green

Ever wondered what it would have been like to see Tommy Tiernan performing his very first stand-up? Or Neil Delamare cut his comedic teeth on his opening night? Well here's your chance to check out Dermot Whelan, Aidan Bishop and Eleanor Tiernan, three young comedians, strutting their stuff on the Roscommon stage on Wednesday 14th April at Roscommon Arts Centre and the really great news is that tickets for the event are just €10.

Many will recognise Dermot Whelan from his regular appearances on RTE's hit show *The Panel*. He has also performed at the Kilkenny Cat Laughs

Comedy Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Other TV appearances include Liffey Laughs for RTE television and *One Night Stand-Up* for BBC TV. Dermot also hosts a weekday breakfast show on the hugely successful Dublin radio station, 98FM, and has made radio appearances on BBC's *The Blame Game*.

Native New Yorker Aidan Bishop has become one of Ireland's exciting new acts. He began his comedy career in New York, regularly appearing at New York Comedy Club and *Stand Up New York*. However, since relocating to Dublin he has become one of the hardest

working men on the Irish comedy circuit. As organiser along with his big



Eleanor Tiernan

brother Des, and resident MC of the now famous International Comedy Club,

he has honed his craft in the same room as some of Ireland's most famous comedians. A bright future ahead no doubt, but a solid presence well worth catching.

Roscommon's very own funny woman Eleanor Tiernan is returning to the Arts Centre. Her simple aim is to make people laugh. Since starting comedy she has performed at the Kilkenny Cat Laughs Comedy Festival, the Galway Comedy Festival, in *Best of Irish* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, at the BudLight Comedy Revue and was a semi-finalist in the Paramount Comedy's 'So You Think You're Funny?' compe-

tion. Eleanor has also completed 120 shows as the support act for her cousin Tommy Tiernan's Bovinity Tour, playing to over 120,000 people.

'Young, Gifted & Green' showcases some of the country's most talented and popular young comedians working in the country, many of whom regularly headline shows in their own right. Dermot, Aidan and Eleanor are coming to cut their comedic teeth on the Roscommon audience and you get to see them all for only a tenner! Come and see the future of Irish comedy - today! Booking and information on (090) 66 25824.



arts news

■ With Pauline Scott

Drama in Glenamaddy

Cortoon/Lavally Drama Group present 'Tom, Dick and Harry', in the Town Hall Theatre, Glenamaddy this Saturday, 27th March at 8.30 pm. An entertaining night promised, go along and enjoy a good night's drama, tickets on the door.

'The Mating Season' in Williamstown

Williamstown Drama Society present 'The Mating Season' by Sam Cree in the Sports Complex, Williamstown on Friday night, March 26th at 8.30 pm. This is a joint fundraiser for St. Croan's GAA Club and Williamstown GAA Club. Your support for this event would be greatly appreciated on the night.

Ballyhaunis exhibition

An exhibition entitled 'Reflections' is currently underway at The Friary, Ballyhaunis.

The exhibition by local artists is inspired by the Abbey and its grounds. This is a Group show with work from six Ballyhaunis based artists Ann Burke, Marliese Hertfelder, Frankie Ralph O'Malley, Xanthe Pratt, Mary Smyth and Moira Stratford. It will be open from Saturday 27th March daily from 2-5p.m. including Monday 5th April.



Athlone gig for Cathy Davey

Sramogue native Cathy Davey (above) will play in the Passionfruit Theatre, Northgate Street, Athlone on Friday, 30th April at 8.30 pm.

Cathy has spent her time out of the touring circuit writing and recording in France and Donegal. Her forthcoming album 'The Nameless' was conceived in the rented house in a tiny French town that belonged to a vivacious lady who left photographs of her departed partner taken after his untimely death around the house. As a result the songs Cathy produced in that house were tainted with both an eerie sorrow and a celebration of life. Written mostly on mandolin and drums Cathy's new material sounds like old world laments having the living daylight's beaten out of them.

Tickets for the event are priced at €18 and are available from Carry Out off licence, Baylough, Athlone, or by phoning (086) 3338457.

May date for Declan O'Rourke

Meteor award nominee Declan O'Rourke has announced a forthcoming concert at Roscommon Arts Centre on Saturday 22nd May. Tickets are now on sale through the box office on (090) 66 25824.

Declan has been busy over the past two years since the release of his second record 'Big, Bad, Beautiful World'. While he never stopped touring the length and breadth of Ireland, O'Rourke has been dipping his toes in foreign waters with tours of Australia, parts of the UK, Germany, Italy and more recently the US.

His songs have been recorded by Eddi Reader, Jacqui Dankworth, Brian Kennedy and Peter Joback, and performed by Maura O'Connell. In Ireland, O'Rourke has heaped up multi-platinum sales, Meteor nominations, and a string of sell-out performances. He has toured with Paulo Nuttini, Snow Patrol and last-December Peter Joback. O'Rourke devoted much of his time to songwriting in 2009, which bore the fruit of most of his highly-anticipated third album, due for release in autumn 2010. Don't miss Declan O'Rourke on his first visit to Roscommon this 22nd May, in the lead up to his long-awaited third album.



SiarSceal festival 2010 launched

SiarSceal festival 2010 was launched on Saturday last at an event in Roscommon County Library.

Leitrim poet Mary McGuckian announced the winners of the Hanna Grealy poetry and short story competition. The SiarSceal exhibition, the theme of which is 'painting words', will include work from local groups and schools and will be on show in the library until April. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The Shannon Cruise with Don Baker will take place on Moon River cruiser, on Easter Sunday, April 4th boarding at 4.10 pm. Enjoy the river experience with the world's greatest harmonica player. Don will be singing and playing from his albums, including his new CD 'Rain on the wind'. Tickets for the Don Baker

Cruise are on sale through Ticketmaster and Mul-

vey's, Carrick on Shannon and Eight 'til Late,

The Square, Roscommon. Further details on www.

siarsceal.com or (087) 9876257.



Pictured at the launch of the Hanna Grealy Poetry and Short Story Awards as part of SiarSceal Festival 2010. Left to right: Leitrim poet Mary McGuckian, Gwen Bond, SiarSceal, County Librarian, Riche Farrell, presenting prizes to Catherine Ryan and Geraldine Corr of Ballintubber Writers Group, winners of the local Short Story Award, and Deputy Mayor Jimmy Kenny. Pic: Glynn's Photography.