

May 2026
WHAT'S ON



**PICKS OF
THE
MONTH**

Festival Of Fools

The 2026 programme is jam-packed full of incredible performances, local legends, interactive games and a clown or two, with a focus on celebrating female performers.

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Hit the North Street Art Festival

Seedhead Arts are proud to bring the Hit the North Street Art Festival back for its 13th edition

Read More on Page 4



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FESTIVALS

Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival

**venues across Belfast
Until 10 May**

The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival (CQAF) is an annual festival of music, comedy, theatre, art and literature that takes place in Belfast. Now highly regarded for its socially inclusive agenda and its eclectic programming blend of 'big names', emerging acts and fringe performances, The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival began life in May 2000 attracting an audience of just over 5,000. The Festival now regularly attracts over 60,000 people to over 100 events in Belfast's city centre.

► [Click here to see more](#)

City of Derry Jazz Festival 2026

**Over 50 venues across Derry ~
Londonderry
Until 4 May**

From Wednesday 29th April to Monday 4th May, the Walled City will once again come alive with the sounds of jazz, blues, swing and soul, welcoming more than 100,000 music lovers to experience world-class performances across the city.

► [Click here to see more](#)



**BALLYSCULLION
PARK
BOOK
FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY 16th and SUNDAY 17th
MAY 2026**

Join us for a celebration of writing, music and art in the beautiful historic surroundings of Ballyscullion Park in the heart of Seamus Heaney country.



The festival is proud to announce a charity partnership with NI Children's Hospice.

Ballyscullion Park, Bellaghy, Co Derry-Londonderry BT45 8NA
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028 7938 6235 07729 856504
instagram: ballyscullionparkbookfest

Ballyscullion Park Book Festival

**Ballyscullion Park
16 - 17 May**

A celebration of writing, music and art in the heart of Seamus Heaney country. Listen to writers talking about their work, discover new reads, meet the authors, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Ballyscullion Park with top quality food and market.

► [Click here to see more](#)

FESTIVALS

FESTIVAL OF FOOLS

Festival of Fools

Across Belfast
2-4 May

Festival of Fools returns to Belfast during the May Bank Holiday weekend. The 2026 programme is jam-packed full of incredible performances, local legends, interactive games and a clown or two, with a focus on celebrating female performers.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Ballyscullion Park Children's Festival

Ballyscullion Park
17 May

Join us at Ballyscullion Park for a fun-filled day of storytelling, books, and creativity for kids of all ages. Let your imagination run wild as we explore the magical world of books together. Don't miss out on this exciting event that promises to spark imagination and inspire young minds.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Northern Ireland Mental Health Arts Festival

Various
8-15 May

This year the Northern Ireland Mental Health Arts Festival will run 8-15 May, centring on the theme of Belonging: a feeling or sense of being accepted, valued, and connected to people or place.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Hit the North Street Art Festival

Union St/Kent St
3 May

Seedhead Arts are proud to bring the Hit the North Street Art Festival back for its 13th edition. HTN brings some of the world's finest artists to Belfast for a unique gathering on Union Street and Kent Street. This year's event will feature 50 local, national and international artists with an array of styles and techniques on show as onlookers watch the artwork develop throughout the day and with refreshments available from nearby Sunflower Bar. Free to attend.

► [Click here to see more](#)

PICK OF
THE
MONTH

FAMILY FRIENDLY



Taking Flight Join the Murmuration

Templemore Baths 2 May, 11am - 1pm

Come along to Templemore Baths on Saturday 2nd May between 11am-1pm to a free public workshop to learn the basics of copper embossing and make a starling. This workshop is part of our 'Taking Flight' project, collaborating with seniors groups across East Belfast to create an installation inspired by the beloved starlings at the Albert bridge.

This is your opportunity to create a starling that will be added to the final artwork, bringing together people from all across the East to form our own murmuration. Open to all ages.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

The Spongebob Movie: Search for Squarepants

Ulster Museum 31 May 3pm

Cinemagic in partnership with South Belfast Foodbank bring you this family favourite. Desperate to be a big guy, SpongeBob sets out to prove his bravery to Mr. Krabs by following the Flying Dutchman, a mysterious swashbuckling ghost pirate, to the deepest depths of the deep sea. Cert PG.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Nick Cope's Family Show

Downstairs at the MAC 31 May

Nick Cope's live performances are legendary! He has a fanatical army of little and not-so-little fans from all over the world. Nick Cope's Family Show is a one-hour acoustic, seated performance. Nick sings his uniquely crafted songs while playing his guitar accompanied by a backdrop of Nick's beautifully animated projections. Nick has a way of reaching into people's hearts with songs of the everyday, igniting children's imagination in an organic, unpatronizing, educational and fun way. The show appeals to children and adults alike. If you haven't heard his songs or seen his shows before, come along and find out what you've been missing.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

The Whistle II

The Mac (Upstairs) 4 May, 1.30pm & 3.45pm

A subversive game played by three unruly players. The Whistle II invites the audience to participate by following a simple rule: When you hear the sound of a whistle, close your eyes. When you hear it again, open them. This simple rule quickly becomes a playful experiment in perception. Three performers, each playing their own game, invite the audience to co-create the piece through rhythmic "edits" of seeing and not-seeing. Between each blink of darkness, new worlds emerge: poetic, absurd, and hilariously unpredictable. A unique, multi-disciplinary performance that explores rhythm, rules, and power (of the imagination). Age 10+

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

SEE A SHOW



Image: Tea in a china cup at the Lyric

Miss Saigon

Millennium Forum 26 - 30 May

Michael Harrison in association with Cameron Mackintosh presents the spectacular new production of MISS SAIGON as Boublil and Schönberg's legendary musical is reborn. The soaring score features hit songs including; "The Heat is On in Saigon", "The Movie in My Mind", "Last Night of the World" and "The American Dream". Embarking on a major UK and Ireland Tour, this epic production arrives at the Millennium Forum in May 2026. In the last days of the Vietnam War, 17 year-old Kim is forced to work in a Saigon bar run by a notorious character known as The Engineer. There she meets and falls in love with an American GI named Chris but they are torn apart by the fall of Saigon. For 3 years, Kim goes on an epic journey of survival to find her way back to Chris, who has no idea he's fathered a son.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Tea in a China Cup

Lyric Theatre Belfast 2-30 May

Funny, tender, and deeply moving, this is a story of women's voices often left untold, voices that echo through generations. Step into the vibrant heart of Belfast with Christina Reid's moving drama, Tea in a China Cup, where memory, family, and tradition intertwine. Set across three turbulent decades, from the Second World War to the height of the Troubles, we follow Beth's journey from adolescence to womanhood. Set in a working-class home, Beth reflects on the powerful women who shaped her life. Through her memories, we encounter a community marked by division, religion, politics, and class, yet held together by the familiar rituals of everyday life: shared stories, careful appearances, and the simple act of pouring tea. With sharp humour and heartfelt honesty, Reid celebrates the resilience of women who kept families and communities together through times of uncertainty and sacrifice. Both tender and deeply affecting, Tea in a China Cup captures the strength, humour, and endurance of ordinary people living through extraordinary moments in history.

► [Click here to see more](#)

SEE A SHOW

Noises Off

Millennium Forum 6 May

Fast-paced, physical, and brilliantly choreographed, Noises Off is a masterclass in comic timing and theatrical mayhem. A celebration of everything that can go wrong in live theatre, it's an unmissable night of laughter from start to finish. Noises Off by Michael Frayn, brought to you by the same creative team behind the recent successful productions of The Snapper and The Ferryman.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

CQAF: Sam Blythe: Method in My Madness (A One-Man Hamlet)

The Mac (Upstairs) 3 May

Hailed for its intensity, clarity, and inventive storytelling, Sam Blythe's compelling solo reimagining of Shakespeare's Hamlet. Using physical theatre, vocal precision, and a razor-sharp grasp of the text, Blythe conjures the entire world of Elsinore alone on stage—shifting seamlessly between prince, ghost, king, and court. This stripped-back Hamlet cuts to the emotional core of the play, exploring grief, power, and moral uncertainty with urgency and dark humour. Audiences and critics alike have praised the production for making Shakespeare immediate and accessible without sacrificing complexity. Whether you know the play inside out or are encountering it for the first time, Blythe's performance offers fresh insight and sustained dramatic tension.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

John Kearns: Tilting At Windmills

Downstairs At The MAC 6 May

Tilting at Windmills is the brand-new stand-up show from Taskmaster alumni and double Edinburgh Comedy Award Winner, John Kearns. A fragmented, digressing portrayal of a 38-year-old man's life, alluding to books he hasn't read, touching on the modern condition. Plus VAT! More allusive and bleak as ever, it is unreal the comedian you become. And for who? Decent craic with the right crowd. A show for those who have read about but not committed to the Guinness Nitrosurge.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Anyone For Marriage?

Belvoir Studio Theatre 22-23 May

Step into laughter and delight with Theatre 3 Newtownabbey's charming family comedy, Anyone For Marriage? Perfect for an evening out with family and friends, this witty and heartwarming play brings family dynamics, quirky characters, and hilarious twists to the stage—guaranteed to have you chuckling from start to finish.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

SEE A SHOW

Image: 'Every Body Knows' at the Lyric Theatre



Every Body Knows

Lyric Theatre Belfast 20 - 31 May

"I hope I'm the last generation of women in Ireland to feel the way I felt." Maria's sister Bernie has organised a birthday party for her. It's supposed to be a surprise, but Maria ends up getting the (second) biggest shock of her life. As secrets emerge and cover-ups are revealed, Maria, Bernie and Maria's daughter Suzanna have to navigate a new world of choices and consequences. What is the cost of a lifetime of silence and who will pay the price when Maria finally speaks up? In her latest play, IMRO Award-winning playwright Nuala McKeever goes deep into the heart of family dynamics. With her trademark wit and compassion, she explores the challenges and the unexpected joys of trying to heal the past to create a better future.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Jimeoin

Millennium Forum 31 May

A not-to-be-missed, hilarious evening with one of live comedy's universally acclaimed true masters – we are absolutely delighted to welcome the stand-up legend that is Jimeoin back to the Millennium Forum with his brilliantly funny new tour 'Pandemonium'.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Belfast Operatic Company presents Guys & Dolls

Grand Opera House 12-16 May

Broadway's biggest musical comedy, Guys & Dolls, rolls into town in a new production brought to you by Belfast Operatic Company. Set in the lively streets of New York, this much-loved musical follows a cast of gamblers, showgirls and dreamers in a story full of romance, humour and unforgettable songs. Featuring classics like Luck Be A Lady and Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat, this vibrant, entertaining show is not to be missed. Known for high-quality productions, BOC returns to the Grand Opera House stage this May.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Get Involved

Creative Workshops

The Duncairn

- **21 May - 11 June: Watercolours with Patricia Campbell (afternoon course)**
- **23 May: Watercolour Painting with Natural Inks with Kristen Robb (one-day workshop)**
- **24 May: Stitch a song with Eimear Magee (one-day workshop)**

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Arts & Older People Workshops

Golden Thread Gallery Every Tuesday

Are you over 60? Enjoy conversation, a cuppa, and some creativity? Golden Thread Gallery invites you to take part in 'Then, Now & Could Be', a series of free art workshops for older people, supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Arts & Older People programme. Come along to celebrate the history and heritage of our city's buildings, streets and communities, and share your own memories and stories. No art experience is needed! Guided by artist Cony Ortiz and the GTG team, the sessions are a fun, easy and welcoming space to meet new people and chat with friends.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Seedlings Circus Classes

In Your Space Circus, Derry Saturdays

The training team works sensitively and creatively with our Little and Bigger seedlings to ensure they have a whole heap of fun while learning the beginnings of circus skills and performance. Each term finishes with a show for friends and family, giving the children a chance to shine! Skills we teach include (the beginnings of): Juggling, diabolo, flower sticks, tumbles, trampette, stilt walking, hula hoop and lots and lots of clowny performance! Our classes also incorporate positive mental health messages and encourage resilience, happiness and confidence across all areas of the childrens' lives. We nurture creativity and provide a space for each child to feel safe in exploring and expressing the amazing person they are! Class times are Saturdays - Little Seedlings (age 4-5) 10am-11am then Bigger Seedlings (age 6-8) 11.30am-12.30pm.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Creative Workshops for Teens and Adults

Golden Thread Gallery second Saturdays

Our free creative workshops for teens & adults take place in our Community & Engagement Hub on the second Saturday of every month.

Get Involved

Stitch a Song with Eimear Magee

The Duncairn 24 May

Drawing inspiration from the creativity and resilience of Irish linen mill workers, during this workshop, participants will explore embroidery and song, paying tribute to the rich heritage of historical linen mill culture. In this two hour workshop you will explore linen aprons and hackling. Aprons: You will create small stitched aprons from scrap materials and images of mill workers with hand and/or machine embroidery. Hackling: Exploring the harsh process of hackling flax, through fabric layering, tearing and mending, participants will pull, stitch and rebuild textile surfaces - reflecting the physicality of linen work. Participants are asked to bring their own materials and a sewing machine if you have one available, so check the website for all the details.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Accidental's Talk to the Professionals Programme

Accidental Theatre Various until June

Accidental's Talk to the Professionals Programme empowers artists and technicians to thrive within today's fast-changing creative industries. As digital innovation, hybrid performance models, and new production technologies reshape how work is made and shared, creative practitioners need future-focused skills that combine technical capability with bold artistic thinking. Click the link below to see the full programme.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Mental Health Arts NI: Art Is a Trade

Moat Park, Dundonald 11 - 13 May

Art is a Trade presents a hands-on clay workshop and exhibition by ceramic artist and facilitator Andrew Cooke, created for the Mental Health Arts NI Mindset Festival. The workshop invites participants to explore how working with their hands can support mental health, grounding, and emotional wellbeing, with a particular focus on men who often lack safe, practical spaces to express themselves. Through making, conversation, and shared experience, the session encourages slowing down, reconnecting with instinct, and discovering the therapeutic value of tactile, physical work. Alongside the workshop, an exhibition of Andrew's sculptures and objects traces his journey from tradesman to ceramic artist and facilitator. The work reflects lived experience, labour, dyslexia, and the realities of navigating the arts sector from a working-class perspective. Together, the workshop and exhibition highlight creativity as a tool for resilience, identity, and honest connection.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Get Involved

CQAF: Mary Ann, The Forgotten Sister: a theatrical walking tour

**Leaves Clifton Cemetery, Henry St
Thurs-Fri 2-17 May, various times**

Revolutionary, educationalist, businesswoman, feminist, social reformer and abolitionist, Mary Ann McCracken was one of the people that shaped the rapidly growing city of Belfast but was largely written out of history because she was a woman. This powerful theatrical walking tour charts the life and times of this remarkable woman and her effect on Belfast during her 96 years. More than a beloved sister to Henry Joy but a sister to Belfast. Beloved of Belfast. By knowing her story you'll know her, and by knowing her, you'll better know Belfast.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Hit the North: The Pre-Block-Party Party

**The John Hewitt, 51 Donegall Street, Belfast
2 May, 8pm-1am**

It's become a tradition at Hit the North that we get the whole gang together the night before the big event in the John Hewitt Bar. This year the Belfast Groove Collective will return and provide the tunes. Free to attend.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Level 2 Photography: Develop your skills

**Belfast Exposed
23 & 30 May**

This practical, hands-on course is designed for beginners, those wishing to refresh previous knowledge, and those who have completed 'Level 1: Introduction To Your Digital Camera'. You will learn new camera settings and develop your photography skills, focusing on how to use white balance, metering, bracketing, focusing, histogram and more. This course will also enable you to apply a practical and theoretical knowledge to help you use a digital camera effectively and creatively.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)



VISUAL ARTS & LITERATURE

Maura Johnston Writing Workshop: "A Place of My Own"

Ballyscullion Park
3 May

Join us for a Writing Workshop at Ballyscullion Park with local poet Maura Johnston: A Place of My Own. This in-person event is a fantastic opportunity to hone your writing skills in a picturesque setting. Whether you're a seasoned writer or just starting out, Maura's expertise and guidance will help you take your poetry writing to the next level. We will explore concepts of place and identity through exercises and discussion and with reference to established writers.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MAC Galleries

The MAC
24 April - 5 July

Upper Gallery - Michelle Williams Gamaker: Strange Evidence. Tall Gallery - Kwok Tsui: Many Moons Ago. Sunken Gallery - Dawn Richardson & Chad Alexander: Dungannon Tropicana.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)



**LATE
NIGHT
ART**

Late Night Art

**Various galleries across Belfast
first Thursday of the month**

On the first Thursday of every month, many of Belfast's galleries and studios stay up late so that audiences can enjoy after-hours access to some of the finest visual art that the city has to offer. A great post-work social activity to enjoy by yourself or with friends and family, embrace the atmosphere of Late Night Art and immerse yourself in Belfast's art scene. Participants can expect to see media from across the visual arts, including painting, sculpture, photography, illustration, craft, video, and performance, and no two Late Night Art experiences are ever the same!

▶ [Click here to see more](#)



VISUAL ARTS & LITERATURE

A Hand in Nature

Craft NI Gallery **7 May - 26 June**

'A Hand In Nature' is an exhibition of new contemporary art metalwork and jewellery that honour the elements and ecosystems that make their existence possible. Through use of materials, design aesthetic, function or underlying narrative these objects tell a story about the ecological and cultural impact of their development. Participating makers: Stuart Cairns, Eimear Conyard, Clodagh Molloy, Cecilia Moore, Cara Murphy, Cólín Ó Dubhghaill, Angela O Kelly, Rauni Higson, Sandra Wilson.

▶ [**Click here to see more**](#)

The BIEN Project

Belfast Exposed **until 23 May**

The BIEN (British? Irish? Either? Neither?) Project is a collaboration between Belfast Exposed and the Office of Inclusion and Cultural Expression. BIEN asks not what label we carry, but how identity is formed, expressed, negotiated and lived through culture, language, memory and everyday experience. The exhibitions on display and the concurrent programme of free events invite us to consider that perhaps identity in Northern Ireland is strongest when it is allowed to be multiple, fluid and creative.

▶ [**Click here to see more**](#)



VISUAL ARTS & LITERATURE



A House of Play - Exhibition

Lyric Theatre Belfast Until 8 Nov

An Exhibition and Programme of Events to Celebrate a Landmark Anniversary. To celebrate our 75th anniversary, the Lyric presents this new exhibition that showcases our rich history. A history which includes an art gallery (The New Gallery, 1963–1969), a literary magazine Threshold (1957–1990), a dance centre, a drama school, Belfast’s first music academy, and of course, a theatre. A House of Play spotlights co-founder Mary O’Malley alongside the many creatives who built the Lyric from its beginnings in 1951, including Helen Lewis, Seamus Heaney, Brian Friel, John Hewitt and many more. Curated by Kim Mawhinney, the exhibition features artworks by Jack B. Yeats, Alice Berger Hammerschlag, Basil Blackshaw and others associated with The New Gallery. Extending the legacy into the present, this exhibition houses two new pieces from two extraordinary artists, one by Colin Davidson and one by Neil Shawcross. It also features rare editions of Threshold, free archival documentary screenings and a recreation of the original theatre set up from the O’Malley’s home in the 1950s. To access the exhibition please book your free pass via the book now button. Pass includes free entry to the exhibitions and screenings. Please collect your ticket and free exhibition brochure on arrival from Box Office.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Mental Health Arts NI: Belonging

Eden Place Arts Centre, Derry 11 - 22 May

Belonging is a solo exhibition of painting, printmaking and ceramics. For Gillian, Belonging is rooted in lived experience, family, community, compassion, and healing. It is found in everyday acts of care and in the support we offer one another, through change, loss and difficulty. Working from observation and then moving into abstraction. What begins as something seen, becomes something felt. This exhibition reflects on safety and kindness. On creating spaces where vulnerability is met with care, and where people feel seen, supported and able to heal together.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MUSIC & DANCE

CQAF: Guy Davis

The Crescent Arts Centre 7 May

Guy Davis is a two-time, back-to-back Grammy nominee for Best Traditional Blues, a musician, actor, author, and songwriter. Guy uses a blend of Roots, Blues, Folk, Rock, Rap, Spoken Word, and World Music to comment on, and address the frustrations of social injustice, touching on historical events, and common life struggles. His storytelling is sometimes painful, deep, and real, an earthy contrast to modern-day commercial music, meant to create thought, underlined by gentle tones from his guitar or banjo fingerpicking. When asked about his experience as a performer, Guy has replied, "There is no tale so tall that I cannot tell it, nor song so sweet that I cannot sing it".

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Ríoghach Connolly & Honeyfeet

The Duncairn 31 May, 2pm & 7pm

Ríoghach Connolly & Honeyfeet move with ease and confidence between swampy jazz, raucous brass, fractured funk, blues balladry, and gorgeous folkloric textures. Honeyfeet Presents: The Heads, Hearts and Hooves Tour, a bold and celebratory chapter in the journey of one of the most electrifying and genre-defying live acts performing today.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Your Roots Are Showing Belfast 2027

Applications now open for 23 – 28 February 2027

Each year Your Roots Are Showing brings together international artists, festival programmers, agents, labels, media, and cultural organisations for five days of performances, panels, and industry exchange. Official Showcase Artists perform for an audience of global music industry professionals while participating fully in the YRAS conference community. Applications are now open to artists from Ireland and around the world. Apply for an Official Showcase — it's free. Get more information on the website.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MUSIC & DANCE

Ulster Orchestra concerts

Ulster Hall May programme

1 May: Classical Adventures, Beethoven, Mozart, Prokofiev and Antje Weithaas.

15 May: Reimaginings, Schubert, Stravinsky and Alpesh Chauhan.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

The Irish Rock Tribute Show

Belvoir Studio Theatre 16 May 2026

Get ready to rock with The Irish Rock Tribute Show — an electrifying night of iconic Irish rock anthems, brought to life by the powerhouse band Black Rose! Black Rose are renowned for their authentic and passionate tribute to Ireland's legendary rock legends and always bring a high-energy live performance. This event is Bring Your Own Bottle.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Ulster Orchestra: Symphonic Queen, It's a Kind of Magic

Waterfront Hall 16 May 2026

Get ready for this epic evening of rock like no other as the Ulster Orchestra and West End singers pay tribute to one of the world's most iconic and successful rock bands of all time. Experience an unforgettable celebration of the greatest hits of Queen with a playlist including Bohemian Rhapsody, Radio Ga Ga, We Will Rock You, Don't Stop Me Now, Somebody to Love, We are the Champions and many more. The legend of Freddie lives on.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Ulster Orchestra Season Finale: Soul Music

Ulster Hall 29 May

"Here is enshrined the soul of..." This mysterious note, scribbled by Elgar opposite the title page of his Violin Concerto, sets the tone for an unforgettable end to the Season. Journey from the deeply introspective beauty of Elgar's concerto to the playful charm of Vaughan Williams's Wasps Overture and the sweeping grandeur of Strauss's Viennese gem Der Rosenkavalier. This concert is a celebration of life's full emotional spectrum — joy, sorrow, love and everything in between.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

MUSIC & DANCE



Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble presents Beijing to Belfast

**Harty Room, Queen's University Belfast
30 May**

Beijing to Belfast is supported by the British Council's Connections through Culture programme and aims to highlight cross-cultural exchange between Hard Rain and Beijing Modern Music Festival. Following our performance at BMMF, we have furthered our collaboration in 2026, through new works composed for Hard Rain SoloistEnsemble by eminent Chinese composers. These works are presented here in a specially curated concert and we are delighted to host BMMF Artistic Director Xiaogang Ye and Executive Director Guo Haiou.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

PM Big Band

**Belvoir Studio Theatre
15 May**

Step into an unforgettable evening of jazz and swing with the PM Big Band featuring the amazing singers David Hamilton and Ceara Grehan. This laid back, cabaret-style show is the perfect chance to enjoy classic big band tunes and soulful vocals in a relaxed, friendly setting. Perfect for music lovers seeking a night of elegance and energy, you're welcome to bring your own bottle to enhance the relaxed, convivial atmosphere.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

Volunteering & Opportunities

Volunteer with Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society

Have you ever wanted to get behind the scenes of the glittering world of the theatre? Or maybe onstage taking the applause? Belvoir Players is the busiest amateur drama group in Northern Ireland and always has opportunities for volunteers backstage with sound, lights, sets, costumes, performing and Front of House at Belvoir Studio Theatre. Just fill in the contact form on our website and our dedicated volunteer staff will arrange for you to come down and say hello.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Join the Void Derry Volunteer Team

Void Art Centre, Derry

As a charity, Void Art Centre relies on our wonderful team of volunteers to help keep everything running smoothly. We are always open to enquiries for our Front-of-House volunteer roles, and we also often need a helping hand at civic-engagement events like workshops, talks, screenings, exhibition openings and performances. If you have a few hours a week (or more) to spare and would like to join the Void volunteer team for a few months please get in touch.

► [Click here to see more](#)

Volunteer at the Ballyscullion Park Book Festival

Ballyscullion Park Book Festival

Volunteering at the Ballyscullion Park Book Festival is a rewarding opportunity to be part of a vibrant cultural event celebrating literature, community, and creativity. The festival attracts authors, readers, and visitors from all over, offering volunteers a chance to engage with a diverse crowd and be at the heart of an inspiring atmosphere. Roles include greeting guests, assisting with event setup and logistics, supporting authors and speakers, managing ticketing and seating, and helping at book stalls or children's areas.

► [Click here to see more](#)



NoticeBoard

Book your Christmas staff night out at Cahoots

Cahoots Theatre, Cityside Retail Centre
4- 24 Dec 2026

Are you looking for something a bit different to treat your staff this Christmas? Bored of the same old bowling night? Ever secretly wanted to see one of your colleagues disappear? The award-winning team at Cahoots will once again be opening the portal to The Secret Bookshop, with even more magic to discover than ever before. Fresh off the back of its acclaimed debut in Christmas 2025, this stunning interactive experience will be returning to Cityside Retail & Leisure Park in Belfast this festive season. Audiences of all ages will once again be invited to step into this secret world of magic, where not all stories stay on the shelf! This year, you will choose a whole new set of stories - coming to life before your very eyes. This breath-taking production features Cahoots' signature blend of mind-blowing illusion, world-class performance and heart warming original music to ignite the wonder of storytelling for children, young people and adults alike. We are offering a limited number of corporate packages, creating an unforgettable experience exclusively for your staff which they will be talking about for years to come. Enjoy a full theatre experience all to yourselves, with refreshments and treats for your staff and their families.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)

How To Write A Survey

University of Atypical
14 May, 10:30 - 12:30

How to Write a Survey is a training session offering guidance on writing, designing and sending your audience survey. We'll chat through survey layout, how to make sure you're asking the right questions, and the dos-and-don'ts of writing your survey. We'll also discuss different ways of distributing your survey and share some tips on getting the response levels you need. There will be opportunities to try out new techniques and test out what you've learned throughout the session.

This session is for you if you:

- want to survey your audience, but you're not sure how best to get started
- have an audience survey already, but you're not convinced you're getting the most out of it
- have experience collecting surveys, but you could do with a refresher on best practice, or maybe just some new ideas

You'll leave better informed on how best to write and distribute your audience survey.

▶ [Click here to see more](#)



Arts & Business NI TRAINING & EVENTS 2026



**FOR MORE
TRAINING AND
EVENTS**



Creative Networking North West

**Derry~londonderry
10 June, 12pm - 2pm**

JOIN US AT CREATIVE NETWORKING

Looking to expand your networks, bring fresh ideas into your organisation, and connect with the local creative community? Come along to our upcoming Creative Networking event for arts and business professionals who work in or have activity in the North-West area. Free to attend.

What's Creative Networking?

What to expect?

In a friendly, no-pressure 'speed networking' format, you'll have the chance to speak one-on-one with up to 8 local arts organisations or local businesses. Each short conversation (around 8 minutes) is a chance to discover upcoming creative projects, explore opportunities to work together, and spark new ideas. A light lunch will be included.

Book here



Fundamentals of Arts Board Membership (Online)

**Thu, 28 May, 12:00
Online
BOOK HERE**

Fundamentals of Arts Board Membership (Belfast)

**Wed 23 Sept, 10:00
East Belfast Network Centre
BOOK HERE**



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Arts & Business NI TRAINING & EVENTS 2026



Financing Creativity: Models for arts and culture 21 May, 9:30am - 1pm

Explore the diverse ways creativity is financed today. From public funding and philanthropy to earned revenue, crowdfunding, and impact investment, this event examines both traditional and emerging models shaping the creative sector.

[Book here](#) 



**Arts Member 1:1 Support
Clinics**
Portadown - Wed 5 August
Derry - Thu 7 May
[BOOK HERE](#)

Arts & Business Bites
Membership That Matters:
The Black Box
18 June
[BOOK HERE](#)



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WHO WE ARE

Arts & Business NI is a creative membership network bringing together cultural and commercial businesses, helping them grow stronger together through the power of partnership. We advocate for the value of arts, invest in innovation, and ensure that the NI arts and cultural sector has the confidence, capacity, and skills to achieve creative freedom through financial independence.



JOIN OUR MEMBERS HUB

Thanks to support from The Foyle Foundation, we've built an online space where our members can connect, collaborate and learn at their own pace. Inside, you'll find self-guided toolkits, webinars and networking spaces designed to complement our in-person training and support.

If your organisation is an A&BNI member you can access this space for free.

[Find out more here.](#)