

2night

magazine

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DUBLIN APRIL 2010



The Cocktail Issue

Welcome to the April issue of our magazine. Having spent December pub-crawling, January and February bringing you the low-down on the best overall venues in the city, and March comparing Asian and Mediterranean cuisine, 2night's been pretty active in the last few months. So what better way to unwind than with a creative concoction of well-mixed spirits? Mixing business with pleasure, we've put together a list of 30 great cocktail bars to relax in.

In addition to that, we're previewing the major films coming out this month - there are some real winners, and some serious post-Oscar stinkers - and have an interview with Niall Holohan of Readers Wives, a Dublin indie band generating serious buzz. And if you fancy free stuff, we've got that too: turn to page 11 for a chance to go to the Tripod after-show party of the Black Eyed Peas, Shakespears Sister's long-awaited comeback at The Button Factory, the magnificently misanthropic Mark E. Smith and The Fall, and Oxford indie sensations Stornoway. Between those attractions, our regular round-up of the best events in Dublin this April, and the hundreds of venues we've scouted out in the 'Best of Dublin' section at the back, we hope you'll find this issue as tasty as we do. So kick back and enjoy it - ideally with a fine cocktail in your hand.

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Editor - 2night

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index



04

Special Feature - Mixing it up

A roundup of the city's top places for cocktails.



11

Competitions

Win concert tickets and meals out with 2night!



12

Music - The Naturals

2night chats to Niall Holohan, lead singer of Readers Wives



14

Cinema

A preview of the major films being released this month



16

Events

Your guide to what's on in April



26

Best of Dublin

Where to eat, drink and party in Dublin



AFTER WORK

from after work to late night, find the perfect spot to spend your evening

EVENTS

an events calendar with daily listings of parties, concerts, exhibitions and more, keeping you in the know about what's on in your area

PEOPLE: COMMUNITY

meet other night-life enthusiasts keen on making the most of the night

2night
www.2night.ie

your guide to restaurants, venues and events in your city

MIXING IT UP

2night offers a roundup of the city's top places for cocktails.

Once upon a time in Ireland, a 'cocktail' was a euphemism for the drink made with all the proceeds from a raid on mam and dad's liquor cabinet, or something that rich people had in hotels. Then came unexpected affluence. And the champagne mojito. One of those phenomena has vanished, of course, while the other has stayed with many (somewhat less flashy) friends in tow. Clearly, cocktails are enjoying increasing popularity among Dublin drinkers, as no bar worth its salt now starts up without engaging a mixolo-

gist to devise a menu of signature and classic mixed drinks. There's more choice than ever for cocktail lovers, both in the places opening up to serve them and in the range of interesting recipes on menus. If anything, the choice is a little overwhelming. That's why we've selflessly decided to sift through the many places for drinking cocktails in Dublin and bring you a run-down of the best - whether it's over dinner, in a hip and happening place, or the refined elegance of a hotel bar. Naturally, we're also looking at places to get great value in cocktails and for enjoying creative

drinks late into the night. Between everything, we've got cocktail lovers covered. While we feel this list should help anyone who wants a new drinking experience, we'd love to hear what you think. Give your own take on the venues we've spotted through our site (www.2night.ie), or get in touch to tell us if there's a hidden gem we've missed. 2night is always on the lookout for hot new places for a drink - just so we can share them with you, of course.

have your say
2NIGHTERS AND THEIR NIGHTLIFE



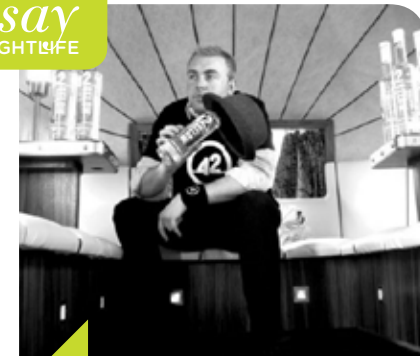
Name: Gareth Lambe
Head Mixologist, Venu Brasserie

What to you are the ingredients for a good cocktail?
The bartender is the most important, second to that is the ice used, third would be fresh ingredients, fourth would be good quality base spirits and liqueurs, fifth would be a lot of love. But, if you have a good bartender, all of the above is second nature.

What's your favourite classic drink?
The Aviation is my favourite at the moment. Actually it depends on my mood. I like a well made Manhattan, a well chilled sazerac or an el Presidente. I would recommend any of them.

What's your favourite cocktail bar to go to?
I don't have a favourite cocktail bar as such. I find cocktail bars are only as good as their tenders, so I try to go where I know that the bartender can mix a good drink. If I had to give an answer, it would have to be the Merchant Hotel in Belfast.

Which of your drinks are you most proud of?
I'm proud of all my drinks - I've put a lot of time and sleepless nights in when creating them. But the drinks that customers repeatedly come back for make very proud. My bloody fantastic is a great variation of the bloody Mary, my baby beetroot, strawberry and balsamic bliss is very good too. The one that obviously sticks out is my dirty wizard - it just won the 2010 World Class bartender of the year vodka heat, and that's made me very happy.



Name: Darren Geraghty
Head Mixologist, The Exchequer

What to you are the ingredients for a good cocktail?
Fresh fruit, herbs, good quality spirits and liqueurs and a healthy dose of crazy creativity - plus lots and lots of Patron Tequila.

What's your favourite classic drink, and why?
Manhattan - dark and stormy, because it's an anytime drink, very easy to drink and contains another of my favourite spirits, aged rum.

Where is your favourite place (aside from The Exchequer, of course) to go for a cocktail?
Lab cocktail bar in Soho, London.

Of the cocktails you've made yourself, what are you proudest of?
Loop the loop. I had always wanted to recreate the favourite flavours of my childhood and, with a little bit of hard work, I have replicated the flavours from my favourite ice lolly and dosed it with a nice measure of alcohol. And anyone that has it agrees it's a drink to behold.

BIJOU RESTAURANT

47, Highfield Road,
Rathgar - Dublin 6
Tel: 014961518



This little suburban temple to the French eating experience (they have a restaurant, a more informal bistro, and even a delicious little corner deli) has recently added another string to its bow by opening an elegant cocktail bar. The décor is faithfully Parisian – understated 1930s cool rather than bordello-esque gauche – and the menu, naturally, consists of classic drinks.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 18:00 to 22:30.

KOH

Millennium Walkway,
Middle Abbey Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 018146777



Koh has brought two things to the northside – high-end Thai food and a hip little cocktail bar that draws in a crowd in its own right. There's an enjoyable atmosphere in the pleasantly gloomy bar and restaurant, particularly when one of the highly-recommended cocktail making classes is taking place, and the pink gin is a speciality drink worth visiting for. Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 23:30 (00:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).

THE EXCHEQUER

3-5, Exchequer Street
- Dublin 2.
Tel: 01670 6787



This gastropub is fun for a bite to eat at any stage, and well worth visiting on a cocktail hunt. Top mixologist Darren Geraghty was poached from the Baggot Inn to craft a concise but exciting menu. The classic drinks are well made, but we'd recommend picking signature drinks like the loop the loop, a delicious (and potent) throwback to your childhood. Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 23:30 (02:30 Friday and Saturday, 01:00 Sunday).

GREEN NINETEEN

19, Camden Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 014789626



It's a friendly, good value restaurant that just happens to have a cool, crisp décor, and to be sitting on the most popular street for gigs in the city. At least that's how owner Steve Murray tells it. All the mains are a tanner, with the cocktails costing €9. Try the Mexican green (with tequila, Maraschino, chilli and bitters) for a bit of spice.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 11:00 (12:00 Sunday) to 23:00 (18:00 Sunday).

SABA

26, Clarendon street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016792000



This place accumulates awards for its Royal Thai cuisine and cocktails like some people collect stamps. Saba's cocktails are considerably tastier, though, particularly the intriguing sake mojito. The flirty and spiced berry fizz are also worth a shout, though we've yet to encounter a cocktail without a certain élan. Saba's décor is tasteful but modern, and the atmosphere is buzzing.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 22:30.

VENU BRASSERIE

Anne's Lane,
Off South Anne Street
- Dublin 2
Tel: 016706755



"We take pride in mixing the best spirits and using only the best ingredients," explains Venu's owner Charles Guilbaud. No kidding. This place has won numerous awards for its cocktails, and has an extensive menu. With considerable skill – and an inspiring collection of different spirits – they can make virtually any drink, and we'd plug their sidecar without hesitation.

Opening hours: Open Tuesday to Saturday from 18:00 (12:00 Saturday) to 00:00.

CAPITOL LOUNGE

2, Aungier Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 014757166



Don't be fooled by the hardwood floors or imposing bouncers: Capitol has cornered the ever-growing market for cheap-and-cheerful drinks: all cocktails are only €5 before midnight every day, with the offer extended all night from Monday to Wednesday. For those prices, there's also an impressive range of drinks. Needless to say, this place particularly favoured by thirsty, cost-conscious students.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 15:00 to late.

TGI FRIDAY'S

Unit B1, Stephens
Green Shopping Centre
- Dublin 2.
Tel: 014781233



An unpretentious American-style restaurant and bar, TGI's takes the same no-nonsense approach to its drinks as it does to food. Cocktails start at €5 and there's a wide selection of them too. Sweeter concoctions – particularly the ultimate mudslide, with baileys, kahlua vodka and ice cream, or the electric lemonade – are your safest bet.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 23:30 (00:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday)

THE BERNARD SHAW

11-12, South Richmond Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 0857128342



As a popular student/clubber spot, The Bernard Shaw inevitably offers cheap booze. As one of many promotions available under their 'ten by ten' offer, you can get two cocktails (choose from a mojito, a Long Island Iced Tea, or a Nina Simone) for a mere tanner. It (probably) beats the pitcher of Buckfast.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 07:30 (09:00 Saturday and Sunday) to 23:30 (00:00 Friday and Saturday).

THE GIN PALACE

42 Middle Abbey Street -
Dublin 2



Don't be put off by the fact that this is named after the Victorian term for a brothel – Gin Palace is a nice little bar with, as the name suggests, a strong emphasis on the clear stuff. Cosmopolitans are available at €6.50, as is the sex on the beach and pina colada. The highlight, though, is a raspberry Collins (€8.50) made with any gin of your choice.

Open seven days a week, from 10:30 (12:00 Sunday) to 23:30 (00:30 Friday to Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).

THE PORTERHOUSE CENTRAL

45, Nassau Street -
Dublin 2.
Tel: 016774180



You can take a name off a bar, but you can't erase years of history – that's what the Porterhouse discovered after taking over Judge Roy Beans, one of the city's most popular places for cheap and cheerful cocktails. They haven't fought to change it, though, and have simply added more mixing panache to the affordable and potent drinks.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 10:30 (12:00 Sunday) to 23:30 (02:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).

THE SUB LOUNGE

Tara Street Station,
Tara Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016716769



Under owner Eddie Ervine, this place has been transformed from a quiet but cozy place into something livelier altogether. The prices are a major part of that – pints for €3.40 and €5.00 cocktails are a guaranteed draw in Dublin today. They're good too – we're big fans of the pink lady and their powerful Harvey wallbanger. Very popular with the post-work crowd.

Open Monday to Saturday, from 16:00 (17:00 Saturday) to 02:00.

LILLIES BORDELLO

Adam Court, Grafton Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016799204



There was a time when mere mortals had to beg, bribe and sneak past the bouncers to get into this little nightclub and member's club. Things have changed, of course, though you'll still probably get tackled if you try to speak to Bono. At least you can enjoy the cocktails, which are definitely a-list quality. Make sure you bring a fat wallet to make a long night of it.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, 23:00 to 02:30.

SHEBEEN CHIC

4, George's Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016799667



If any Dublin bar and restaurant strives for boho cool, it's this one. Cozy reclaimed furniture and a general 'crumbling country house' aesthetic belie the fact that this place has actually caught on. The cocktails help. At a tinner a pop, they've old reliables and some new tastes too. Try the Eclipse, with Jack Daniels, chambord, lime, raspberries and cranberry juice.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week from 12:00 to 22:00 (23:00 Thursday to Saturday).

THE SECRET BAR

3, Fade Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 017645681



Frequently known as 'the bar with no name' or 'the slug place', this bar is actually owned by Kelly's Hotel around the corner, and became the post-work destination of choice for many Dubliners over the summer. They offer a mean selection of cocktails, and are particularly proud of their mojitos. Sure, people are looking around to see who's looking at them, but that's part of the fun.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 16:00 (13:00 Saturday and Sunday) to 23:30 (01:00 Thursday and Sunday, 02:00 Friday and Saturday).

SAMSARA

La Stampa hotel, Dawson Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 0166774444



Samsara's decor is opulent in a classy kind of way and not too packed outside the lunchtime and post-work rush hours. They've recently cut the cost of their high-class cocktails, though, so don't expect it to stay that way for long. The 'eye of the tiger' - a multi-layered rum concoction - is worth buying for the sight of it alone.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday for lunch and all day food, from 12:30 to 23:30 (02:30 Friday and Saturday).

SOUTH WILLIAM

52, South William Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016725946



Having kept the doors open at this spot for longer than several predecessors, the guys behind South William seem to know what they're doing. It's a small but hot little place, with a very mixed music policy and clientele, plus a good menu of cocktails. They do a nice 'Irish' expresso martini, and the bubbly berry martini is also a treat.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 (16:00 Sunday) to 23:30 (02:30 Thursday to Saturday, 01:00 Sunday).

THE SYCAMORE CLUB

9, Sycamore Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 014743942



An exclusive members club with a roof-top bar, this place offers a pampered environment and some interesting evening events too. Naturally, the cocktail menu is pretty lengthy, with classic recipes and a couple of original creations. The chocolate martini and the filthy dirty mother are both recommended. Membership is only open to the over 25s by invitation or referral.

Opening hours: Open Thursday to Sunday, from 18:00 to 02:30.

NUMBER 27

The Shelbourne Hotel, 27, Stephens Green - Dublin 2
Tel: 016634500



Having been on the scene since 1824, this hotel has acquired a certain reputation for luxury. It's also stayed on top of current trends, as the 'Number 27' cocktail bar demonstrates. The dress code is casual, albeit in the Shelbourne sense of the word, and the cocktail menu rests on popular drinks prepared well. Go here for a mean mojito.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 23:00 (00:30 Friday and Saturday).

THE OCTAGON BAR

The Clarence Hotel, Wellington Quay - Dublin 2
Tel: 014070800



This place doesn't do 'hip', 'trendy', or 'sleek' - just understated class. The bar staff are highly skilled, and it shows on the first sip. Well-known cocktails such as the Daiquiri, Mojito and Margarita are perfectly prepared, while the bar's original creations (particularly the Russian Passion, a worthy winner at the 2009 National Cocktail Championships) are a delight.

Opening hours: Open Tuesday to Saturday, from 17:00 until 23:30.

THE MINT BAR

The Westbury Hotel, College Green - Dublin 2
Tel: 016451322



This underground bar is set in a former bank vault, and there's also more than a little hint of 'old money' in the renovated space: a low but graceful vaulted ceiling and granite walls add a timeless feel. Their cocktails are superb - the elderflower Collins in particular has a wonderfully plush flavour.

Open seven days a week, from 12:00 (16:00 Sunday) to 23:30 (02:00 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday). Food served from opening to 22:30.

THE ICE BAR

The Four Seasons Hotel, Simonscourt Road - Dublin 4
Tel: 016654000



With an innovative design by Cantrell & Crowley, The Ice Bar is cosmopolitan, sophisticated, and cool - even the sleaziest guys are relatively high-class. Cocktails are high end, with no less than 58 varieties of vodka available, and this place also has the contemporary twist of sushi - to go the whole hog, grab a deluxe bento box for €45.

Opening hours: Open Tuesday to Saturday, from 17:00 to 23:30 (01:30 Friday and Saturday).

THE MARBLE BAR

The Westbury Hotel, Harry Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016791122



A very plush, laid back little nest just off Grafton Street, the Marble Bar is one of the most luxurious cocktail bars in the city. A black-and-white marble floor, rich shades of red and purple on the walls, and comfy half-moon seating makes it perfect for enjoying quality drinks: we recommend the Wilde, a signature Westbury cocktail. Great nibbly bits complete the package.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to late.

THE MORGAN BAR

10, Fleet Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016437000



The Morgan bar has quite a funky look from the outside and a luxurious interior. The oversized chandeliers are bound to catch your eye, as are the many different mojitos on offer - they clearly feel that rum goes with everything from strawberries to mangos. And they're right. A good tapas menu and a chic atmosphere makes this popular with young 'uns.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 23:00 (00:30 Friday and Saturday).

4 DAME LANE

4, Dame Lane -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016790291



Perhaps they could have been more original choosing a name for this place, but we don't mind: 4 Dame Lane does great cocktails with top-drawer spirits starting from €5. Take a step up to the €8.50 level and the choice is enormous – we love the Catalina margarita with 1800 anejo and de kuyper sec. Cool house music and a consistently packed-out bar complete the happening place.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 17:00 to 02:30 (00:30 Monday, 02:00 Sunday).

RON BLACK'S

37, Dawson Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016728231



Along bar with a modern, minimalist design, Ron Blacks does a handy enough lunch from Monday to Friday but is better known for its cocktails. It's recently cut its prices dramatically too, offering a range of drinks from €5 each. Service is still high end, and the cocktail list has considerable variety to keep you interested all night.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, from 12:00 (17:00 Saturday) to 23:30 (02:30 Friday and Saturday).

SOLAS

31, Wexford Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 014780583



We've come to the conclusion that the staff here are just about unflappable. Under constant assault from a late-night crush of revellers, they'll diligently prepare cocktail after cocktail, putting a rare amount of effort into each individual drink - true heroes of late-night bartending. Their work pays off, we find, with just about every drink on Solas' extensive menu.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 01:00 (03:00 Thursday to Saturday).

CAFÉ EN SEINE

40, Dawson Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016774567



This gigantic café-bar-club can house 1,500 drinkers if needed, meaning you shouldn't want for a bit of elbow room. Naturally, you can grab a cocktail here, with the menu consisting largely of 'old reliables'.

They're done well, though, and the sheer volume of people here on a good night adds a certain buzz. For potent drinks and late-night dancing, this place is still a winner.

Open seven days a week, from 11:00 to 12:00 (03:00 Thursday to Saturday).

SIN

17-19, Sycamore Street,
Temple Bar -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016334232



It's handy to find, open late and well run: little wonder, then, that Sin is pretty popular. Special offers also help, particularly the €50 open bar deal, offering V.I.P. area access and cloakroom facilities, plus all your drinks for the evening (excluding champagne or shots). For indulging in well-made cocktails late into the night to contemporary hits, it's hard to beat.

Opening hours: Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 21:30 to 02:30 (01:30 Sunday).

SPY

Powerscourt Townhouse,
South William Street -
Dublin 2.
Tel: 016770014



A favourite spot among students who want a bit of madness to their nightlife, Spy is the kind of place where you can find cupcakes, screenings of The Room, and indie musicians trying their hands on the DJ decks. In another innovative streak, a hot cocktails menu is on offer till 21:00 (we love the merry berry) while good classic drinks are served all night.

Opening hours: Open from Wednesday to Saturday, 16:00 to 03:00.



COMPETITIONS

WIN FREE TICKETS TO HOT GIGS WITH 2NIGHT

**STORNOWAY
AT CRAWDADDY**

Quite why a Hebridean town on the Isle of Lewis has inspired these Oxford indie-poppers so is beyond us. What's certain is that they've got considerable talent and an innovative approach, incorporating string instruments and keyboards to a typical pop backbone of guitar, drums, and bass guitar. Debut album Zorbing, plus strong sets at Glastonbury and Jools Holland's show, have made a considerable splash, so we're pretty psyched to have two pairs of tickets for their Crawdaddy show on April 16! To win, simply tell us why you want to check out these bright young things in person.

**SHAKESPEARS SISTER
AT THE BUTTON
FACTORY**

When former Bananarama girl Siobhan Fahey hooked up with Marcella Detroit in 1989, few anticipated that the pair would craft pop songs as wonderfully odd as Stay, or the brilliant 1992 album Hormonally Yours. Unfortunately, severe depression and a split followed, with Fahey carrying on the name before packing it in during 1996. She's back in style, though, with new album Songs from the Red Room and a tour that takes in The Button Factory on April 29. We've tickets to show too! To win them, simply tell us why you want to check out Shakespears Sister's triumphant return.

THE FALL AT TRIPOD

After almost 35 years and 26 albums, The Fall are – much to the surprise of everyone concerned – still going strong. Mark E. Smith's penchant for sacking bandmates and general misanthropy is only matched by his dry lyrical wit, and skillful arrangements that have taken them from the post-punk scene to poppier songs and back again, all the time retaining their cult following. They're playing Tripod on April 29, and we've a pair of tickets to give away. To win, simply tell us why you want to see these legends of underground music in the flesh.

**BLACK EYED PEAS
AT TRIPOD**

The Black Eyed Peas are well on their way to selling out the 02, so they've announced two new after-show parties at Dublin's Tripod on May 1 and 2. Tickets normally cost €20, but we've two tickets to give away! To win tickets, simply tell us why you want to go to one of the hottest parties in the city this year.

HOW TO ENTER

Entering our competitions is easy and free – simply sign up for membership, head to the 'free and promo' section of our site (www.2night.ie) and answer the question posed in our competition. We'll select the most passionate, entertaining or original entry, and get in touch with the winner. We'll ask for your contact details to do that, and you can read our personal privacy policy if you're curious. Full terms and conditions are available at www.2night.ie.

THE NATURALS

2NIGHT CHATS TO NIALL HOLOHAN, LEAD SINGER OF READERS WIVES.

Search online for 'Readers Wives' and well, you'll probably have some explaining to do to anyone who checks your web browser's history. But if you're persevering, you'll find a growing buzz on indie music sites and blogs about a band that are refreshingly difficult to categorise: there's plenty of Rock'n'Roll in the sound, certain Pulp influences in Niall Holohan's more-bitter-than-sweet lyrics, plus a hint of electronic tricks and poppy melodies here and there. Add in a willingness to make music about culture and society rather than sticking to 'boy meets girl' songs, and you've the stuff of reviewers' dreams.

Holohan, for one, likes being in a band that's frequently described as a 'melting pot'. "I think that's by virtue of the fact that, like everybody else, I like a lot of music. And when you want to get something across, you want to do something unusual, so you want to stretch your voice across all sorts of different styles. I guess that makes us hard to pigeon-hole. But we wouldn't define ourselves on being hard to categorise – I think that's just an upshot of the work that we want to do," he says.

In the first release by Readers Wives – a well-received EP entitled Secrecy and Sex – the voice of the band was unmistakably Holohan's, which makes sense given their origins. Holohan knocked around for a time as a singer-songwriter, but always wanted to be part of a band. "There's something cool about four people looking in the same direction – that always appealed to me," he explains today. He recorded an album's worth of songs, before circulating it to people who might be interested. The practice, he says, is getting more popular as recording is easier and cheaper to do at home. "It certainly fills out what your contribution's going to be. If you're in a band, that shouldn't be the whole make-up of the band, but it can round off everything you can offer. And then, musicians of a certain calibre can decide if they want to be

part of that," he explains. It attracted a strong line-up and songs like Advertising Heroine are all the better for having a richer, fuller sound than in their acoustic original form.

If that was a strong first step, though, follow-up Victor's Mother Juliet is a sign of a band developing rapidly. As a whole, the EP feels more integrated than before, and there's an even more sardonic streak to Holohan's lyrics. "It's gravitating more towards the band," says Holohan. "Instead of it being my songs where the guys play on them, we've either written the songs together from scratch or the three guys would do arrangements of my songs that suit. When you have four people doing the songs and playing them, all feeling 'it's my band', it tends to make the thing more potent, I think, than one person ordering everyone around. It's just leading towards that whole band sound that makes it more original, more unique."

If Holohan sounds like everything comes naturally, that's because it does – rather than consciously aping the sound du jour, Readers Wives seem determined to simply do their own thing. That freedom, suggests Holohan, explains why the group are able to write songs about other things than love and sex. "It's deeply rooted into the approach to music," he says. "When you're trying to get a band out of the garage, a lot of Irish groups feel it's difficult and tend to look over to England for ideas about what to do, which is very much style over substance – especially if you're not English. I think bands tend to focus on 'can we make the drums sound like that band who are doing well across the water?' whereas, for us, it tends to come much more out of 'who are we as people?'

The music is secondary. When you get so looped into being a musician that standing out musically is more important than getting across something, it can get a bit clouded. I can understand how people like that might not have a lot to say," he says.

That may sound more than a little critical of Ireland's contemporary music scene but, Holohan says, it's a far more pleasant place than when he began. "It's definitely healthier creatively.

"When I started out, following trends was rife. Because Damien Rice's album had done well, everybody wanted to be a singer-songwriter."

When I started out, that 'following trends' thing was rife. Because Damien Rice's album had done well, everybody wanted to be a singer-songwriter. I think they don't get enough credit for it but, at the time when Republic of Loose showed up, it was really unusual: an Irish band doing their own thing. I thought that was

cool, and a lot of bands sprung up after that. I've never heard anyone give Republic of Loose credit for that, but I would. It inspired a lot of people to go and do their own thing," he says. "The suspicion and looking over the shoulder that was common a few years ago, not helping each other out, has changed. There are a lot of nice, cool people who'll help each other out if they can." Count Holohan as one of those people, and Readers Wives as a promising and original prospect for 2010. ■

Find out more

Readers Wives play Phantom First Friday on April 9 at The Academy and the Dublin Rocks Festival on May 13. You can listen to and buy their music online at www.readerswivesband.com. To check out a full transcript of our interview with Niall Holohan, log on to www.2night.ie.

HITTING THE CINEMA

2NIGHT PRESENTS YOUR GUIDE TO THE MAJOR FILMS BEING RELEASED THIS MONTH.

2 APRIL

KICK ASS

This adaptation of Mark Miller and John Romita Junior's comic book begins with a geeky teenager who dresses up in the hopes of becoming a superhero. He runs into a group of vigilantes with similar notions and a target in the local drug baron, kicking off something altogether darker than the typical Marvel flick. It's all the better for that, though.

REMEMBER ME

Twilight Star Robert Pattinson plays Tyler, a rebellious young man in New York City who has a strained relationship with his hotshot lawyer father (Pierce Brosnan) but falls for a willowy student played by Emilie de Raven – whose father (Chris Cooper) happens to be a policeman with whom Tyler's had a run-in. Imagine Good Will Hunting with more navel gazing moments and a heavily focus-grouped script. Not even the always-excellent Cooper can't stop us feeling like a target market.

CLASH OF THE TITANS

A blockbuster remake of the 1981 fantasy, this film is loosely based on the Greek myth of Perseus, born as a god but raised as a man. Having seen his family kidnapped by god of the underworld Hades (Ralph Fiennes, naturally), Perseus (Sam Worthington) volunteers to lead a mission into the underworld to defeat the evil sod. Converted to 3D, this has a bit more depth to it than the typical visual fantasy feast.

7-9 APRIL

SHELTER

Mans Marilind and Björn Stein direct this supernatural horror starring Julianne Moore who discovers that the multiple personalities of one of her patients are all murder victims. She tries to find out what happens, bringing her and her little daughter into danger. Jonathan Rhys Meyers plays the patient, and reminds us just why he's considered a rare talent – otherwise, this is a reasonably straightforward scare-fest.

WHIP IT

Drew Barrymore has roped in Ellen Page (Juno) for her directorial debut, an adaptation of Shauna Cross' novel Derby Girl. Page plays a misfit in her small Texas town. She becomes involved in roller-derbying, a fast-paced, aggressive sport. There are some typical tropes of sports and coming-of-age in this effort, but the uniqueness of the sport itself (scenes are well-rendered and exciting) combined with Page's presence lends it a quirky edge. A sweet, fun tale of serious girl power.

14-16 APRIL

CEMETERY JUNCTION

Ricky Gervais and long-time collaborator Steven Merchant write and direct this comedy about three blue-collar friends in Berkshire that are trying to escape their present lot. Set in the 1970s, this has been plugged as a cross between The Office and Mad Men, but the truth is a bit more mundane than that: it's a simple coming-of-age flick with some worthy moments.

DATE NIGHT

Steve Carrell and Sarah Palin look-alike Tina Fey star in this comedy where a visit to a hot Manhattan restaurant and a case of mistaken identity hurls a staid suburban couple into a series of madcap incidents. Between corrupt cops, mobsters and manic cabbies, the film has plenty of energy and fans of Carrell from the American take on The Office should be more than satisfied with his toe-curling moments. Tina Fey's quirky character also fits, and some original jokes elevate this into worth watching territory.

DEAR JOHN

John Tyree (Channing Tatum), a soldier on leave, falls in love with a student, Savannah Lynn Curtis (Amanda Seyfried), before the September 11 attacks. Motivated by a sense of duty, Tyree stays on in the military, living for Curtis' letters. However, they drift apart over time. Up until the final third, this feels like a by-the-numbers tear-jerker, and the twist in the plot doesn't really give us the sense that we're seeing anything particularly original.

THE GHOST WRITER

Pierce Brosnan and Ewan McGregor star in this adaptation of Robert Harris' The Ghost by Roman Polanski. They play Adam Lang (a fictionalised version of Tony Blair) and a writer who agrees to ghost-write his memoirs. The potentially blockbuster project, takes a darker direction when McGregor's character uncovers evidence linking Lang to war crimes and the CIA. If the plot sounds like a BBC mini-series thriller, that's because it has all the tense scripting the Beeb can muster along with a dose of glamour: McGregor has already won deserved praise for his strong performance, and Brosnan is in his element too.

23 APRIL

REPO MEN

Welcome to a future where humans can prolong their lives with artificial organs bought on credit from a mega-corporation known as The Union. They're pretty pricey, and people struggle to keep up with the payments on a \$700,000 liver. That's where Remy (Jude Law) and best mate Jake (Forrest Whitaker) come in to take back organs. They're doing great, until Remy suffers a heart attack, needs a new ticker, and can't make the payments, meaning Jake has to collect. Allegory-as-sledgehammer. There's a good film in there somewhere, but it's buried beneath clichés, great actors on autopilot, and joyless, brainless gore.

THE JONESES

First-time writer-director Derrick Borte has enlisted strong talent for this send-up of modern consumer culture. Steve Jones (David Duchovny) and his wife Kate (Demi Moore) seem to have the perfect suburban middle-class existence, but there's a twist – they're actually paid actors who insinuate their way into the local community and subtly peddle products to the neighbours that look up to them. This film may not be subtle, but it's nothing if not original, while Duchovny and Moore are compelling.

30 APRIL

IRON MAN 2

Robert Downey Junior returns as Tony Stark, colourful superhero/former weapons manufacturer and every geek's role model. Director Jon Favreau is also back in the saddle, this time telling a tale of Stark facing pressure to divulge his secrets to the military and a powerful enemy embittered by Stark's arms-dealing past. The second film in a planned trilogy features the same high-octane action sequences, sense of fun, and occasionally cringe-worthy dialogue as the original. A guilty pleasure.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ALICE CREED

Two ex-convicts kidnap the daughter of a wealthy businessman in this British thriller written by J Blakeson. However, Alice Creed (played with great strength by Gemma Arterton) isn't the sort to be kidnapped and held hostage, and a three-way battle of wills develops between her, a younger and nervier kidnapper played by Martin Compston, and his tougher comrade (Eddie Marsan). Excellent pacing, plenty of twists, and good acting make this a winner.

THE LAST SONG

Miley Cyrus continues the well-worn path from tween to teen pin-up with this romance. Cyrus plays Veronica Miller, a rebellious and distant child of separated parents, and a former piano prodigy who now passes up music for partying. Sent with her brother Jonah on a visit to her father, she is distant and defensive to everyone, including the handsome and popular Will (Liam Hemsworth) – until she discovers his hidden depths. We've seen this story before, but this is competently done, and Cyrus does at least have a touch of talent.



WHERE TO SEE THEM

For full city centre cinema listings, visit www.2night.ie.

EVENTS

WEEK | 1 - 11 APRIL

BY RURAIDH CONLON O'REILLY



APRIL 7

ADRIAN CROWLEY

This year, widespread recognition finally opened its doors and said "welcome in": Adrian Crowley has won the Choice Music Prize. The Malta-born, Dublin-resident Galwegian has been the focus of critical attention since well before 2007's Long Distance Swimmer. Now that Season of the Sparks has triumphed, he's spending the prize money on a new album. 31 year-old Crowley's style is singer-songwriting, but not in a David Gray way: eschewing the acoustic guitar, and favouring accomplished backing musicians, his vocals tend towards the smoother end of the spectrum, with intricate and pensive arrangements. Signed to Mogwai's Chemikal Underground label, the Scottish link continues: fellow hard-working singer-songwriter James Yorkston is a close friend. A late starter – he played his first gig at the age of 25 – there's a level of maturity that never overwhelms the energy. Support is from At Last An Atlas.

€15, 20:00

Whelan's, 25, Wexford Street - Dublin 2.
Tel: 014780766

LIVE MUSIC | CLUBBING * ONGOING EVENT
EATING AND DRINKING | THEATRE | ARTS

EVENTS / DUBLIN

APRIL 1

P J GALLAGHER

Like an amped up version of those annoying blooper reels you see on Sky One, PJ Gallagher is the reason your ma told you to always wear clean underwear in case you're hit by a car. His show Naked Camera was an exercise in humiliating passers-by and, due to some masochistic streak, many laughed. Your best bet: go about your business quietly and don't attract too much attention.

€28, 20:30

Vicar St, 58, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 014546656

APRIL 2

ERGODOS FESTIVAL

Two days of experimentation and innovation from composers Garrett Scholdice and Benedict Schlepper-Connolly, aka the Ergodos music company: "Even adversity is a source of optimism, perhaps optimism in its most sincere form. We believe that, in spite of the hardships of our time, there is much to celebrate, much that is beautiful, much to give us hope, and much to be done," say the pair. Friday night plays host to Another Generation, an evening of tradition meeting modernity from Bach to John Cage. On Saturday, The Sun Always Rises – a work for film – is presented.

Project Arts Centre, East Essex Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 018819613

APRIL 3

THE HIGH KINGS

Enter a new generation of traditional Irish balladeers: including a son of a Furey and a son of a Clancy Brother, the four piece have collaborated with The Wolfe Tones and gained the backing of Universal Records. Latest offering Memory Lane contains trad classics like The Fields of Athenry and Raglan Road.

€33.60, 19:30

Grand Canal Theatre, Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777999

DANIEL JOHNSTON & THE BEAM ORCHESTRA

An eccentric and damaged musician and artist, for many years Johnston's fame was limited to Kurt Cobain and David Bowie namedrops. That changed four years ago with the release of The Devil and Daniel Johnston, a documentary which contrasted creative genius with mental illness. An exhibition of Johnston's art accompanies the live set.

€30, 20:30

Vicar St, 58, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 014546656

RICARDO VILLOBO

A Chilean-German minimal house lynchpin who has been quiet in recent months. Don't bet against him breaking the silence in style.

€29.50, 23:00

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

CROOKERS

An Easter Sunday party with Italian DJs Phra and Bot. "It felt natural to team up, seeing that we had the same musical tastes ... which isn't that easy here in Milan," say the boys. Second album Tons of Friends was released last month.

€26.20, 23:00

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

APRIL 4

EASTER ALL DAYER WITH VERY SPECIAL SURPRISE GUEST

So far, the only clue is that decks are involved: let's admit it, we're intrigued. Whoever does turn up, it's a good chance to buy into the Bernard Shaw way of doing things: they've been fighting long and hard to make nightlife translate into a Sunday afternoon

context. Whether you've been up all night or just like taking a long run into a night's drinking, the 12:00-00:00 policy has its uses. Free, 12:00

The Bernard Shaw, 11-12, South Richmond Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 0857128342

FREQUENCY 7

A case of compare and contrast from Ben Sims and Surgeon, two UK artists whose styles differ wildly but lead the same place. Support is from Sunil Sharpe.

€20, 23:00

Tripod, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

APRIL 7

MACBETH

Traditionally, saying the name of this play invites disaster: you call it the Scottish play the same way you tell an actor to "break a leg". Shakespeare's classic sees poor Macbeth returning from warfare and stepping straight into three sisters' prophecies. The conniving Lady Macbeth pushes him into power, and we don't need Orwell to tell us how absolute power corrupts absolutely.

It marks another addition to the Abbey's recent Shakespeare offerings – also see Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar and The Comedy of Errors – while director Jimmy Fay has a distinguished list of Abbey credits next to his name. The play stars Aidan Kelly and Eileen Walsh, opens April 7, and runs until May 15. From €18, 19:30

Abbey Theatre, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018787222

APRIL 8

THE RIVER TENORS (APRÉS MATCH)

Turning their attentions from objects of parody like Dunphy, Giles and the Lions tour, Risteard Cooper and his fellow parodists have a new target: singing. If it's anywhere near as funny as Aprés Match, then they're on to a winner. Accompaniment is provided by the RTÉ Concert Orchestra under the less sarcastic baton of David Brophy.

From €15, 20:00

National Concert Hall, Earlsfort Terrace - Dublin 2. Tel: 014700000

JOHN BUTLER TRIO

Still a trio after the drums and bass were replaced, the Australian roots/rock band are here to promote new album April Uprising, which was written after Butler learned how one of his forefathers was swept along by that Bulgarian revolt.

From €30, 19:30

Olympia Theatre, 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

APRIL 9

JEDWARD

All together now: what the f***? Cheeky twins John and Edward claimed their 15 minutes of fame late last year on X Factor, then the clock seemed to have stopped before the alarm went off and, yes: they're still famous. Remember, when the recession hit, how people were saying that it would give everyone back their souls and benefit art and creativity and whatnot? It didn't happen. There are several dates on this nationwide tour, including stops at Vicar St and the National Stadium.

€25.50, 19:30

The Helix, DCU, Collins Avenue, Glasnevin - Dublin 9. Tel: 017007000

WWE

Beloved of hyperactive prepubescent, stoned students and aging Comic Book Guy types, the Wrestlemania Revenge Tour rolls into town for two nights. Friday is Smackdown (Undertaker, CM Punk), whereas Saturday is Raw (John Cena, Triple H and chums).

The 02, North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

PAUL BRADY

Two nights from the veteran Northern Irish singer songwriter, celebrating an astonishing 45 years in the business this year.

From €40.50, 19:00

Grand Canal Theatre, Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777999

FORMAT B

German technoheads Franziskus and Jakob meet while studying sound engineering, wonder where each other's been all their lives, decide not to make a sitcom out of it and go tour the world. Support is from LRB.

€15, 20:00

Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

APRIL 10

LAURA MARLING

London folkster, formerly of the acclaimed Noah and the Whale and now a star in her own right. Second album I Speak Because I Can comes two years after Alas, I Cannot Swim. If there's any justice, the door opened to 2009's breakthrough ladies Florence, Bat For Lashes and La Roux remains open.

€18.50, 19:00

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

DJ FEADZ

The Parisian DJ is signed to Ed Banger Records, home of Justice, and boasts collaborations with Mr Oizo and Uffie.

€10, 23:00

The Button Factory, Curved Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

APRIL 11

ANGELSPIT

Sedition Industries serve up some gothy industrial electro from Sydney duo Destroyx and ZooG. Promoting harsh but catchy fifth album Hideous and Perfect, this is the first date of their European tour.

€15, 20:00

Twisted Pepper, 54, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018734800

LES LIAISON DANGEREUSES

Not a bad night to catch Christopher Hampton's adaptation of Choderlos De Laclos' novel, beginning in March and running until April 24. In a darkly comic take on sex and excess, French aristocrats Merteuil and Valmont view seduction as a game, enjoying the destruction of others in their wake.

From €20, 20:00

Gate Theatre, Cavendish Row, Parnell Square - Dublin 1. Tel: 018744045

EVENTS

WEEK | 12 - 18 APRIL

BY RURAIDH CONLON O'REILLY



APRIL 16

TRINITY BALL

Allegedly Europe's biggest private party, the annual Trinity Ball sees 7,500 tuxedoed types occupy a locked down-Trinity for fine music and heavy drinking. Past names include Supergrass, Jeff Buckley, Babyshambles at the height of the fury and Public Enemy. (Everyone says The Clash played it once, but they only played the Exam Hall.) This year seems a little less epic: London rapper Dizzee Rascaal headlines. Choice Music Prize winner Jape supplies the Ball's indie credentials, with dance stars Digitalism, Japanese Popstars and Delorentos elsewhere on the bill. Mystery Jets, Mr. Hudson and Darwin Deez round things off. Front Square hosts a run of tribute bands and popular club night War, usually resident in Spy, gets its own stage.

Admission is confined to students, staff and graduates plus guests, and tickets have to be sorted well in advance - make peace with your neighbourhood Trinner now.

€78, 22:00

Trinity College, College Green - Dublin 2.

APRIL 12

TRACES

Combining theatre, dance and acrobatics, this French production enjoyed a good showing at 2007's Dublin Theatre Festival, and is back for a six-night run. Five artists just out of circus school introduce urban elements like skateboarding and basketball alongside the more traditional elements of the act. Presented by Les 7 Doigts de la Main.

From €28, 19:30

Olympia Theatre, 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

GOD'S OFFICIAL

It's the opening night of Robert Farquhar's football drama: after a dodgy refereeing decision relegates their team, two fans decide to kidnap the hapless ref and force him into changing his mind. Starring Mick Lally, George McMahon of Fair City and Edwin Mullane. The play runs until April 17.

€20, 20:00

Civic Theatre, Town Centre, Tal-laght - Dublin 24. Tel: 014627477

APRIL 13

ONE REPUBLIC

Slickly-produced Grammy-winning Timbaland-associated Colorado band. Soft rock with a commercial R'n'B feel. Single All The Right Moves was an Irish top ten, and support comes from The Shoos.

€28, 19:00

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

KID KARATE (DJ SET)

The up-and-coming Dublin rock band show up for their first ever DJ set. Nervous, lads? Presented by regular Tuesday night True Stories, with drinks promos a certainty.

The Bernard Shaw, 11-12, South Richmond Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0857128342

LIVE MUSIC | CLUBBING * ONGOING EVENT
EATING AND DRINKING | THEATRE | ARTS

EVENTS / DUBLIN

IN HANDEL'S DAY

Because George Frideric Handel was Irish and not, say, German-English, we get to celebrate the composer on a regular basis. But enough of the cynicism, we have a credible link: Handel debuted the classic Messiah on Fishamble Street in 1742. A day-long programme of events is promised - see www.templebar.ie and www.night.ie for details.

Various venues, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016772255

APRIL 14

HYPNOTIC BRASS ENSEMBLE

These eight brothers come bearing Damon Albarn's collaborative endorsement, are still fresh from successes at Glastonbury and Electric Picnic, and have garnered admirers from David Byrne to Barack Obama. The sons of productive Sun Ra trumpeter Phil Cohran, the band are a major feature of the new Gorillaz album and a serious prospect in their own right.

€20, 19:30

Whelan's, 25, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

THE DARKEST CORNER: NO ESCAPE

Apart from economic and governmental disintegration, the biggest news story of the past year has been the church child abuse revelations contained in the Ryan and Murphy reports. Here's the theatre's reaction: a series of confrontational pieces. No Escape, running until April 24, is documentary theatre compiled by Mary Rafferty, a journalist who brought much information into the open via film States of Fear and book Suffer the Little Children.

From €15, 20:00

Peacock Stage, Abbey Theatre, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018787222

DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA

The magician, mind controller and all-round scary guy returns for a few evenings of tricks and hypnosis. Apparently banned from casinos up and down the land due to Rain Man-like antics, Brown tried to predict the lottery on live TV, leaving viewers scratching their heads. It must be fun being Derren Brown. His show runs until April 17.

€40, 19:30

Grand Canal Theatre, Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777999

PHANTOM MUSIC QUIZ

A long-running music table quiz, this time in aid of Friends of St. Lukes. Here are some posers just to get in the mood: what kept Vienna by Ultravox off the top of the charts? What was Joe Strummer's real name? And can you name any good band that sounded like Talking Heads (we don't count Vampire Weekend, that's too complicated)? No cheating.

€50 per table of five, 20:00

The Sugar Club, Lower Leeson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016787188

APRIL 15

PJ GALLAGHER

More stand-up from the Naked Camera menace.

€28, 20:00

Vicar St, 58, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 014546656

JIM JONES REVUE

Influenced by late '60s hard rock, Jones's old band made waves before a drummer's injury derailed things. Perhaps picking up where Thee Hypnotics left off, this new group offers full-on punky rock and roll mayhem - Bad Seeds and Grinderman loon Jim Scavunos is on hand to capture the energy of the new record.

€13, 20:00

Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

RAIN MACHINE

Kyp Malone of TV On The Radio brings his side project to town. With the day job on a year's hiatus, last year's solo offering was notable for its stripped down, raw rock and childish cover art featuring naked ladies and lions rendered in what looks like Crayola.

€18.50, 19:30

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

APRIL 16

DAVE MCSAVAGE

For many years a staple in Temple Bar, where his street show of stand-up and satirical song took so few prisoners the internet boards rejoiced after he was assaulted in 2008, McSavage graduated to the telly last year. RTE show The Savage Eye was another slice of love-it-or-hate-it confrontation, a fake anthropological documentary on the Irish and our weird ways. Expect many Savage Eye themes to surface in the stage show.

TBC, 20:30

Vicar St, 58, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 014546656

STORNOWAY

An Orford band who nicked their name from a town on a Scottish island, the four piece are gaining momentum following appearances at Glastonbury and on Jools Holland, and a Sunday Times write-up which compared them to British Sea Power. A closer comparison might be found with Fleet Foxes: they share similar folk-based purity.

€14, 20:00

Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

APRIL 17

MYSTERY JETS

The Rough Trade-signed, Arctic Monkeys-supporting Twickenham band follow up the previous night's Trinity Ball shenanigans with a headliner of their own. Album number three is on its way, with production by Chris Thomas (Sex Pistols, Pulp) indicating a coup might be on the cards.

€18.50, 19:30

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

SANDWELL DISTRICT AND RICHTER SINGLES CLUB

Underground techno label Sandwell District DJs are in the basement, while the Richter gang continue their singles club upstairs, accompanied by many guests.

TBC, 21:00

Twisted Pepper, 54, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018734800

ARDAL O'HANLON

Another son of a Fianna Fáil TD (we're looking at you again, McSavage), Ardal O'Hanlon will probably never surpass the level of fame or acclaim gained as Fr. Dougal McGuire in Father Ted. Nor will he ever fully escape Dougal. Not to worry, as there's always stand-up - O'Hanlon was a key figure in the International Bar's comedy scene - and TV exploits such as Val Falvey TD.

TBC, 20:00

Vicar St, 58, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 014546656

WHITNEY HOUSTON

25 years after her debut album, and 11 years after her last major tour, the habitual US chart-botherer is back on the road on the back of last year's comeback album I Look To You. The greatest hits include I Will Always Love You and My Love

Is Your Love, and ms. Houston is in town for three nights.

From €76.25, 20:00

The 02, North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 0181988888

APRIL 18

DAVID TURPIN

Hushed pop fox David Turpin seems to belong in a different time and place to Dublin here and now. 2008's The Sweet Used To Be broke through with some very understated vocals, beats and atmospheric, while new offering Haunted! brought in hip hop and disco elements with a little help from Villagers guy Conor O'Brien and Cathy Davey. Support is from Hunter Gatherer and Sarsparilla.

€12, 20:00

Whelan's, 25, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

JEFF DUNHAM

Massively upgraded from the Olympia (original ticketholders: remember to exchange your tickets from the point of purchase before the show), this enormously popular US comedian is an internet and real-world hit. Dealing with characters and puppets Dunham takes potshots at grumpy old men and Nascar rednecks. Check out Achmed the Dead Terrorist on YouTube for a good example of his humour: it has over 100 million views.

From €44.50, 20:00

Grand Canal Theatre, Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777999

EVENTS

WEEK | 26 - 30 APRIL

BY RURAIDH CONLON O'REILLY



APRIL 28

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT

The son of folk singers Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, the Canadian-American singer, pianist and general showman has been moving further and further towards opera. Perhaps his series of Judy Garland shows prompted the trend: he's even written his own, Prima Donna, which premiered in Manchester last June. "Once you've made your mark and gotten your Rolling Stone piece and your Grammy nomination, they're on to the next piece of meat, and they don't necessarily like to follow the twists and turns of an artistic career. Throwing an opera at them is something they have to notice," he explained last year.

It's back to more conventional musical forms for now: sixth studio album *All Days Are Nights: Songs For Lulu* is in the offing, partly inspired by the death of his mother. As his back catalogue builds up, the limits to his talent have yet to be discovered.

From €40.20, 20:00

Grand Canal Theatre, Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 2.
Tel: 016779999

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EATING AND DRINKING | THEATRE | ARTS

EVENTS / DUBLIN

APRIL 26

THE DARKEST CORNER: THE EVIDENCE I SHALL GIVE

Continuing the Peacock's reaction to last year's child abuse reports, here is a reading of a real curio: the only play written by Richard Johnson, a District Court judge in Kerry, *The Evidence I Shall Give* depicts a day in the life of a judge and was a rare acknowledgment of the abuse that went on. The plot concerns a 13 year-old girl who is transferred from an industrial school to an orphanage because of disobedience. Justice Johnson's son remembers that his father "felt there were things going on he was not happy with." Seeing this play confirms the assertion.

€4/6, 18:00

Peacock Stage, Abbey Theatre, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018787222

JOSHUA RADIN

An Ohio singer-songwriter enthralled to Stax-Motown, the Grey's Anatomy veteran and sometimes Ryan Adams collaborator Radin is still touring 2008's *Simple Times* album.

€19.50, 19:00

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

APRIL 27

JOSH RITTER

Touring his home-from-home Ireland just as new album *So Runs The World Away* drops, Idaho man Ritter has found an enthusiastic audience on this side of the pond. A singer-songwriter in the mould of Springsteen or Dylan, his reputation here was reinforced by regular-as-clockwork visits, recording albums with Frames guitarist Dave Odium and an association with the Whelans singer-songwriter scene back in the day. Next year sees a change in tack: his first novel,

Bright Passage, is due for publication. €36, 20:00

Grand Canal Theatre, Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777999

DAVE PARLE

"Dave Parle is a really crazy bad ass rocker. You can tell by his hair. He has played True Stories a few times and we are excited as ever about him playing again. Mild mannered Dave's set will be interesting and different. So come down." So say the True Stories crowd themselves, also offering their famous 3x10 drinks promos: three selected drinks for a tenner. Bad ass.

The Bernard Shaw, 11-12, South Richmond Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 0857128342

THE WEDDING SINGER

A musical comedy featuring all the necessary '80s hits and more. The show runs into May.

€20, 20:00

The Helix, DCU, Collins Avenue, Glasnevin - Dublin 9. Tel: 017007000

KIND OF KIND OF BLUE

The Sam Kavanagh Sextet - Sam on alto sax and a bunch of Dublin and Korean musicians - reimagine Miles Davis' classic *Kind Of Blue* album in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. Expect new arrangements and original compositions based on modal jazz.

€20, 20:00

National Concert Hall, Earlsfort Terrace - Dublin 2. Tel: 0147170000

APRIL 28

SHAKESPEARS SISTER

It's been a 13-year layoff after splits and depression stalled what seemed an inevitable rise for this group, but former Bananarama girl Siobhan Fahey is back in the game with *Songs From The Red Room*, effectively a solo album begun in or about

2000. Collaborators include Terry Hall (The Specials) and Death In Vegas. The mood is described as "gothic electro". €22.50, 19:30

The Button Factory, Curved Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

RICKY WARWICK

The Norm Iron rocker, after a stint in New Model Army, has spent the years supporting Lynryd Skynyrd, Sheryl Crow, Bryan Adams and fellow nordies Therapy? as well as playing Arms Of Belfast Town at Windsor Park half way through Northern Ireland vs. Hungary. Be sure to punch the air with gusto when he shouts "buckfast tonic wine" during that one. €15, 19:30

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD

Because Australia has contributed so little of international musical worth (apart from stuff Nick Cave's been involved with, of course) and because it's all so far out of the way that few people of note play there, tribute bands are necessary. The Australian Pink Floyd are one of the best, and will no doubt reflect upon how amazing it is that they're playing the O2. €44.50, 18:30

The O2, North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

BASIA BULAT

Canadian folkster signed to Rough Trade, second album *Heart Of My Own* was recorded at Hotel 2 Tango (home to Arcade Fire and other North American alt music royalty). €12.50, 20:00

Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

CRYSTAL ANTLERS

These Californian soul-psych-edelica loons have received ample encouragement from fellow wayward noisemaker, the Mars Volta man Ikey Owens. Tentacles is the latest offering, and support comes from Teeth. €16, 20:00

Whelan's, 25, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

APRIL 29

THE DARKEST CORNER: JAMES X

After a high-profile run a few years ago, things have changed for Ireland and for Gerard Mannix Flynn. The former is half bankrupt and much of its dirty church-state laundry is finally out in the open. The latter has put his money where his mouth is and gone from being an angry outsider artist to an elected Dublin City councillor. Returning to James X, given the times that are in it, the play draws on his own experiences at the hand of the religious-political complex and portrays a man who sues the government. €15-25, 20:00

Peacock Stage, Abbey Theatre, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018787222

CHRISTY MOORE AND DECLAN SINNOTT

Another two stops on the Planxy living legend's never ending tour, following a decent run before and after Christmas, plus a few Haiti charity gigs for good measure. From €39.50, 20:00

Grand Canal Theatre, Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777999

KRAPP'S LAST TAPE

The opening night of what is sure to be a big hit: Michael Gambon plays Krapp, a man who records important and not so important memories on his birthday every year. Does the present come up to scratch? An old recording makes him wonder. Samuel Beckett's classic one-man play is directed by Michael Colgan.

From €25, 20:00

Gate Theatre, Cavendish Row, Parnell Square - Dublin 1. Tel: 018744045

IDLEWILD

The Scottish indie rockers return on the back of last year's Post Electric Blues album - good god, it's their seventh. More solo offerings are in the works from Roddy Woomble and Rod Jones later this year.

€18, 19:30

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

THE FALL

Indie's favourite Scrooge, Mark E. Smith is moving onto his twenty-eighth Fall album, this one on Domino. If previous Irish Fall gigs are to be trusted - lyrics in Spar bags, assaults on bandmates' amplifier settings - this will be ramshackle and fantastic.

From €22.50, 19:30

Tripod, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

THE REVELLIONS AND THE URGES

Two Dublin bands peddling distinctive brands of Brian Jones haircuts/heavy mod (Revelions) and Stooges-like squalid punk dementia (Urges).

Whelan's, 25, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

APRIL 30

MICK FLANNERY AND JOHN SPILLANE

Someone gave Mick Flannery a Meteor award last year but, if reports are to be believed, security still wouldn't let him into the VIP area. He might get a song out of that. The former stonemason is a critical and folk success, and continues his touring and occasional collaboration with John Spillane of Irish Songs We Learned At School fame.

€28, 20:30

Vicar St, 58, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 014546656

THE DUKE AND THE KING

New York soul-folk-glam incubated in the Catskill Mountains (say hello to Mercury Rev, folks) and gaining comparison to some classic '70s acts.

€12.50, 19:00

Academy 2, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

SURFER BLOOD

The lo-fi Florida rockers and Pitchfork endorsees are on their debut album, *Astro Coast*. The Dublin date comes straight after a huge American tour and just at the beginning of a Europe-wide onslaught for the four-piece. Get some sleep, fellers.

€15, 19:30

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

MAGDA - HYPE

This Berlin-resident Pole got her big break courtesy of Richie Hawtin and is currently moving into production, as her accumulated DJ booth gadgetry will testify.

€16, 23:00

Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC CLUBBING * ONGOING EVENT
EATING AND DRINKING THEATRE ARTS

EVENTS / DUBLIN

BY RURAIDH CONLON O'REILLY

MONDAYS

HUGH COONEY DON'T LIKE MONDAYS

The comedian's weekly cabaret and video showcase, with guests playing their music after the show.

Free, 20:00

Pygmalion, 59, South William St – Dublin 2.

TANGO CLASSES AT THE TURK'S HEAD

Ever wanted to try tango? Beginners are welcomed at this weekly series of classes, with entry to the club included – ask dancetango@gmail.com for more details.

€10, 19:30

The Turk's Head, 27, Parliament St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016799701

LIVING FOR SPITE

Alternative bands with Irish instruments play trad, popular rock and indie covers, followed by an indie and mixed house DJ.

Free, 20:00

The Party Kitchen, 34-35 East Essex St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016770945

DUBLIN COMEDY IMPROV

Back to basics stand-up at Dublin's legendary comedy base, The International.

20:30

The International Bar, 23, Wicklow St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016779250

TUESDAYS

BATTLE OF THE AXE

Long running stand-up comedy and singer-songwriter night.

€9/cheaper with flyer, 21:30

Hapenny Bridge Inn, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016770616

THE RUBY SESSIONS

Well-established regular singer-songwriter night and general drinking session, having hosted impromptu sets by household names.

€6, 21:00

Doyle's, 9, College St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016710616

ROCKABILLY SESSIONS

Weekly retro rock 'n' roll with a '50s edge, courtesy of the city's burgeoning rockabilly scene.

Free, 21:30

Leeson Lounge, 148 Lwr Leeson St – Dublin 4. Tel: 0166603816

TRASHED

The indie/electro/cheap booze party that just gets straight to the point.

€5, 23:00

ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre, 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

JUICY BEATS

Indie, rock and electro served up by resident DJs.

€5/8, 22:30

The Village, 26, Wexford St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555

SUGAR FREE

DJ Tone Bee and friends deliver the soul/ska/indie/disco/whatever you're having yourself.

Free, 23:00

Ri Rá, Dame Court – Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220

WEDNESDAYS

ANTICS

Long-established weekly celebration of indie, with cheap booze flowing freely.

€5, 23:00

Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Aidan Killian's comedy night, with sets from new acts and well-known faces.

€5, 20:30pm

Anseo, 18, Lower Camden St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014751321

SWITCH

Student-friendly night promising indie/electro DJs, live music, drinks promotions, theme nights and plenty of surprises. It's €2 cheaper if you have a flyer – print one from their Facebook.

€8, 23:00

ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre, 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

SYNERGY

Classic good tunes in an inviting late bar with a decent menu.

Free, 20:00

Solas, 31 Wexford St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583

COMEDY CELLAR

MC Andrew Stanley presents new and established comics. Don't let the name fool you – it's actually upstairs.

20:30

The International Bar, 23, Wicklow St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016779250

WILD WEDNESDAYS

Dublin's frat party – first drink free, and €2 drinks after that. All American theme, with two rooms: heaven and hell.

€5, 23:00

Twentyone, 21, D'Olier St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016712089

HEAT

A wide range of music and drinks promos at the ultimate student clubbing experience*, every Wednesday.

€8, 22:30

Tripod, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

SONGS OF PRAISE

Nothing like a bit of karaoke on a Sunday evening, and better yet: all performers get a free rum with Coca-Cola, just like in 'Common People'. Yep, that's on the playlist – check out the full thing on www.therescuesquad.com/songsofpraise.

Free, 21:00

The Village, 26, Wexford St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555

THURSDAYS

MR. JONES

Weekly house/electro/urban night with a varying selection of live music, art and performance.

€8, 23:00

Twisted Pepper, 54, Middle Abbey St – Dublin 1. Tel: 018734800

THE PANTI SHOW

Eclectic music/performance/everything show starring Panti, Bunny, and lots of good old-fashioned Connect 4 (the game, not a euphemism).

€6/8, 23:00

Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

THE LITTLE BIG PARTY

Dance along to everything from indie through rockabilly and on towards total cheese, with DJs Boplat and Conal.

Free, 23:00

Ri Rá, Dame Court – Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220

SOUNDCHECK

Weekly indie pop electro fun, with films and table quizzes and stuff if you arrive early enough and drinks promos until late.

Free, 19:00

Spy, Powerscourt House, South William St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016770014

NOIZE

Live bands, indie and electro, with bribery such as bottles of Miller or shots of schnapps for €2.50, or vodka and splashes for €4.

€5, 21:30

ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre, 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

SOUL @ SOLAS

Soulful beats, courtesy of Mr. Razor.

Free, 20:00

Solas, 31 Wexford St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583

FRIDAYS

RE-SESSION

Bring your own booze night at this lefty social centre, run by an anti-capitalist collective. Tea and coffee are provided, and politics flows on tap.

€5, 20:00

Seomra Spraoi, 10, Belvedere Court – Dublin 1. Tel: 018728670

NO DISKO

If you haven't been to No Disko in a while, tonight's the night – Crawdaddy is its new home. If you don't like the indie and electro fare or live guests, you can just pop next door to hear some classic '60s or up-to-date techno.

€6/8, 23:00

Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

FOREPLAY FRIDAY

R'n'B, hip hop, garage and reggae with DJ Frankie Jez and friends.

Free before 23:00 €10

after, opens 22:30

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey St – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

NOW, THAT'S WHAT I CALLED MUSIC!

'80s night with a definite indie edge courtesy of DJs Sinead DeLorean (FM104, ex Phantom FM) & DJ Serena Sloane (ex Phantom FM).

Free before 23:30, €2.50 until 00:00, €5 after 00:00. Doors 23:00

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey St – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

MUD

Guest drum'n'bass, dubstep and hip-hop DJs from home and abroad – these folk really like their bass.

€8/10, 23:00

Twisted Pepper, 54, Middle Abbey St – Dublin 1. Tel: 018734800

WAR

For lovers of glitz and glamour – and €20 buckets of Corona. Free before 10pm, €5 before midnight, €10 after.

Free/€5/€10, 19:00

Spy, Powerscourt House, South William St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016770014

SCRIBBLE RECORDS

Residency from the funk/soul/hip hop label DJs, with weekly guests and live acts.

Free, 20:00

The Bernard Shaw, 11-12, South Richmond St, Dublin 2. Tel: 0857128342

SATURDAYS

DOMINION

The city's ghestiest Saturday night, this long-running alternative club is now back in its usual home after a few years of wandering.

The Cellar, Murray's Bar, 33-34 O'Connell St – Dublin 1. 018787505

PROPAGANDA

The UK indie night that hosted Lily Allen, the Kaiser Chiefs and Zane Lowe makes it across the water, with plenty of visual entertainment too.

€8/10, 22:30

The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey St – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

STRICTLY HANDBAG

Celebrating its fifteenth anniversary with a move from Ri Rá last year, "music with words for your dancing pleasure" is on the cards – a good dose of indie and alternative. Drinks are two for the price of one until midnight.

The Odeon, Old Harcourt Station, Harcourt St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088

POGO

The Bodytonic folk put on a mix of local and guest DJs, with plenty of audiovisual madness across three stages. Celebrating its fifth birthday this year.

€8/10, 21:00

Twisted Pepper, 54, Middle Abbey St – Dublin 1. Tel: 018734800

INTERNATIONAL COMEDY CLUB

Regular evening of laughs at the older statesman of Dublin comedy venues – this night's also on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, with plenty of comedy every other night.

20:30

The International Bar, 23, Wicklow St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016779250

Free, 20:00

The Bernard Shaw, 11-12, South Richmond St, Dublin 2. Tel: 0857128342

SUGAR CLUB SATURDAYS

Pure party music – salsa, ska, Latin, swing and soul.

€15, 23:00

The Sugar Club, 8, Lower Leeson St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016787188

DIZZY DISKO

Techno and electro from Dublin and international acts. "Dressing and/or behaving like an animal encouraged but not essential," they say.

€10, 22:30

ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre, 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

SUNDAYS

12 SUNDAYS

Good drinking, good tunes and good times from noon until Midnight.

Free, 12:00

The Bernard Shaw, 11-12, South Richmond St, Dublin 2. Tel: 0857128342

SUNDAY ROAST

Band showcase hosted by the eccentric Keiron Black, with support coming from tasty roast potatoes.

Free, 20:00

The Mercantile, 28, Dame St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707100

THE GEORGE BINGO

Drag hero/ine Shirley Temple Bar's fun bingo night, followed by cabaret and DJ Karen's late club. Free before 23:00.

Free/€5/€8

The George, 87-89 South Great George's St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782983

THE MAGNIFICENT 7S

Bringing back the glory of the 7" single, Beatfinder Records guru Gerry Molunby crosses every genre just so long as it's a 45. Drinks promos and cheap cocktails.

Free, 20:00

4 Dame Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016970291

WE CALL IT DISCO

DJ Kitty Kat spins disco tunes – there's food served until late too.

Free, 20:00

Solas, 31 Wexford St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583

BEST OF DUBLIN

AFTER WORK

ANSEO. 18, Camden Street Lower - Dublin 2. Tel: 014751321. A very old-school music bar that also features a regular comedy club.

BAR ITALIA. Unit 5a Lower Mayor Square, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 016702887. A great place for a post-work pizza with a beer, this spot is popular with the Docklands office crowd.

BIABAR. 30, Lower Stephens Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014053653. Appealing food, great drinks on tap, and live music make this place a winner.

CAFÉ EN SEINE. 40, Dawson St - Dublin 2. Tel: 016774017. The club/restaurant is as enjoyable as ever - now with added elbow room.

CAFÉ IRIE. 11, Fownes Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725090. Indie-esque coffee shop and sandwich bar which shares a building with lots of intriguing stores.

CAFÉ NOVO. The Westbury Hotel, Harry Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016463353. An elegant restaurant in one of the city's most-loved hotels.

CAPITOL. 18/19, Lower Stephen Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014757166. A popular cocktail bar, particularly with the younger crowd - we think drinks for €5 may have something to do with it.

CENTRE STAGE CAFE. 6, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703390. A lovely little café-cum-pub with lots of atmosphere.

COBBLER'S CAFÉ. Leeson Lane - Dublin 2 Dublin City. Tel:

016785945. Popular lunchtime café. Soups are particularly favoured by office worker crowd.

COSTA COFFEE. Batchelor's Walk - Dublin 1. Tel: 012921422. A great place to buy and savour a coffee on the quays

COSTA COFFEE. South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 012921422. Part of the hugely successful UK chain, this South William Street place is ideal for kicking back over an hour or so.

DANDELION. St Stephens Green West - Dublin 2. Tel: 014760870. A popular club with cheap cocktails, celeb appearances and contemporary music.

DOHENY & NESBITT'S. 5, Baggot Street Lower - Dublin 2. Tel: 016762945. The classic local-for-a-listers is a lot bigger than it used to be, but it still consistently packs out.

DUBLIN TOURISM CENTRE. Suffolk Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 1850230330. An excellent source of information for both tourists and curious Dubliners about the city.

EIYWINE BAR. 22, Ely Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 016768986. Ever-trendy wine bar with a hearty food menu and an impressive range.

ENOTECA DELLE LANGHE. Blooms Lane - Dublin 1. Tel: 018880834. A welcoming and authentic Italian wine bar.

FIBBERS ROCK BAR. 28 Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018722480. A lovely little café-cum-pub with the original Fibber Magees too out of the way or smelly. Great jukebox.

FILM BASE. Curved Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016796716. An intriguing gallery for lovers of film, with an excellent coffee shop upstairs for lovers of food and coffee.

GIN PALACE. 42, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018748881. Obviously a place for some gourmet gins, but you'll find a lively bar and some nice tapas here too.

GRAND CENTRAL. 10/11, O'Connell Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018728658. A Dublin landmark, this place is packed out by post-work drinkers most evenings.

GRIEL. 68, Dame Street - Dublin, 2. Tel: 016707119. Wilfully unpretentious and hearty food. The 'roast in a roll' is a lunchtime treat.

HOGANS. 35, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775904. The former jazz club is beloved by the over-thirties, and rightly so: it's still wonderfully mellow and the service is top-notch.

IRISH FILM INSTITUTE BAR. 6, Eustace Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016795744. The revamped bar and restaurant is a perfect place for a pre-film drink or bit to eat.

LA CUVÉ. Burton Hall, Mayor Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016054912. A renamed and revamped wine bar in the heart of the docklands.

LEON. 14-15, Trinity Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016771060. This brasserie and café has some of the best sweet treats in the area.

LINCOLNS INN. 18-19, Lincoln Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 016762044. A classic old pub that's been redecorated with considerable élan.

LUNCH. 63, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016771546. An unpretentious little café-cum-restaurant. Calzones are highly recommended.

MESSRS MAGUIRE. 1-2, Burgh Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 018041205. A massive pub set on many levels, with a good bar food menu and some excellent Messrs-brewed beers.

METRO. 43, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794515. A coffee shop that feels like it's been here for decades. Lovely espresso, even lovelier leather seating.

MUNCHIES. Millenium Walkway, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018733455. The perfect spot for grabbing a quick and healthy sandwich on your break.

MUNCHIES. 2, South William Street - Dublin. Tel: 018733455. The original Munchies restaurant, this place has recently started serving late night tapas.

O'DONOGHUE'S. Suffolk Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770605. A very popular spot with people who want that 'local pub' feel in Dublin 2.

OLIVER ST JOHN GOGARTY'S. Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016771822. A traditional pub that's very popular with tourists.

PYGMALION. Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014539890. Another expansion to the Bodinyonic empire, this place has taken over Bar Mizuz's prime location, and offers a great atmosphere.

Q-BAR. 1-2, Burgh Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777835. One of the first places to serve good-quality

cocktails at prices to compete with a pint, Q-Bar is still a fun venue.

QUEEN OFTARTS. 3-4, Cow's Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334681. Known internationally for both savoury tarts and sweet treats. This is the larger of the two twinned restaurants, and the original Queen of Tarts is based on Dame Street.

SLATTERYS. 129, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018727971. One of the more traditional pubs on the Capel Street strip, and well known for its early house.

READER'S CAFÉ. First floor, Waterstones, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016791260. Lovely scones and high-quality cooking make this ideal for enjoying a first flick through a freshly-bought book.

SIMON'S PLACE. 22, South Great George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016797821. A bohemian café with lots of charm and delightful cheesecake.

SIN É. 14/15, Upper Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018787079. A very popular music bar and pub, this place unusually comes to life on Sunday afternoons and early evenings.

SOUP DRAGON. 168, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018723277. A great place for hearty and creative soups, as well as some indulgent sweets.

SUB LOUNGE. Tara St Station - Dublin 2. Tel: 016716769. One of the cheapest pubs in Dublin is understandably popular, particularly with the after work crowd.

THE BAGEL BAR. Unit 1, Custom House Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016739923. Great value bagels are served with a smile at this Docklands place.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. Grafton Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 017071811. Good value bagels on offer from an ideal location.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. 19, Merrion Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6766235. A very popular spot for the circular lunch du jour among the office crowd.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. Lower Mayor Street, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016719730. There's plenty of variety in the bagels from here, along with seating room if you want to eat in.

THE BAGGOT INN. 143, Lower Baggot Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016618758. A much-loved older pub that's received a successful renovation in recent years.

THE BANK. 20-22, College Green - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770677. This lovingly-restored bank building now houses a very popular bar and restaurant.

THE BLEEDING HORSE. 24, Camden Street Upper - Dublin 2. Tel: 014752705. One of the oldest pubs in the city, this place is spacious, grand and lively.

THE BRAZEN HEAD. 20, Bridge Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 016779549. Apparently the oldest pub in Dublin, this place does great food and has friendly staff.

THE BULL & CASTLE. Christchurch Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 014751122. A huge gastropub with a great range of craft beers.

THE CLARENDON. 32, Clarendon Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016170060. A stylish bar with some nice grub during lunchtime and early evening.

THE COBBLESTONE. 77, North King Street - Dublin 7. Tel: 018721799. The Northside spot for Irish traditional music. Trust us.

THE FOGGY DEW. 1, Fownes Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779328. A traditional bar that's retained its atmosphere through modernisation. Still great for a singsong on special nights.

THE EXCHEQUER

3-5 Exchequer Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016706787

Who says you can't make a raging success of a gastropub in 2010? Since opening in November, The Exchequer have hit the ground running in style, packing out both the bar and restaurant at the venue on a consistent basis. "It's been a really great success," says co-owner Ian Tucker. Of course, a quick visit will explain why this place has taken off at a time when many places are biting the dust: Along with the intriguing décor, you'll find real substance to what the exchequer offers. For one, they do quality Irish food with that rare combination of creativity and value. The Exchequer has also caught on as a night-time venue with the help of DJs Marina Diniz and Richie Rock doing a mix of upbeat, summery tunes and darker heavy house. And yes, that is a familiar face downing one of top mixologist Darren Geraghty's signature cocktails: the more clued-in celebs have already started to drop in. With all these ingredients, it's little wonder that The Exchequer is getting hotter and hotter as we head into summer.



THE GINGERMAN. 40, Fenian Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016766388. Inspired by the JP Dunleavy novel, this place has a strong literary theme and a warm, moody atmosphere.

THE GLOBE. 11, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220. Also home to the popular student night Ri-Rá, the globe is a consistently-packed bar with a friendly vibe all round.

THE HAIRY LEMON. 42, Lower Stephen Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016797724. An extensive pub with plenty of nooks and crannies for a quiet conversation.

THE INTERNATIONAL. 23, Wicklow Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779250. Home to the legendary International Comedy Club and a very nice little bar in its own right.

THE LOFT CAFÉ. 32, Grafton Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016712803. A very handy little café above a convenience store, with great views of Grafton Street.

THE MARKET BAR. 14a, Fade Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016139094. No piped music, a tapas menu, and a surreal decorative display of used shoes. You can't accuse it of being unoriginal!

THE OLD STAND. 37, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777220. Apparently a favoured haunt of Michael Collins in the day, you'll see why from a visit to this traditional pub.

THE ORMOND WINE BAR. 6, Ormond Quay Upper - Dublin 7. Tel: 018749778. A recently-opened gem, this place has frankly stunning décor and a great range of wines.

THE PORTER HOUSE. 16-18, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016798495. You'll find a breathtaking array of beers at this massive pub/brewery.

THE PORTOBELLO. 33, Richmond Street South - Dublin 2. Tel: 014752715. The canal-side loca-

tion makes this pub a very nice spot on sunny days.

THE PURTY KITCHEN. 34, Essex Street East - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770945. Large pub and club with live music.

THE STAG'S HEAD. 1, Dame Court - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793701. Space is at a premium here but it's worth persevering - once you sit down, this old-school pub is impossible to leave.

THE STREET. The Campshires, North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 016700073. A nice little café for grabbing a quick coffee and watching the Docklands traffic passing.

THE TEMPLE BAR. 2, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725286. A consistently packed tourist pub, this offers live music and plenty of atmosphere.

THE WINDJAMMER. 8-10, Townsend Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016772576. A popular early house and generally welcoming pub at any time.

THE VAULTS. 1, Harbourmaster Place, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016054700. This sprawling venue features a restaurant, bar, and late night club at weekends.

UKIYO. 7-9, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334071. Karaoke, sushi and cocktails may be an unconventional recipe, but it certainly works.

WOLVES. 153, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 1 8749570. This lovely little food and wine store has a cozy feel and plenty of treats.

DINNER

101 TALBOT. 101, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018745011. Fresh and contemporary Irish, continental and African cuisine.

ACAPULCO. 7, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770733. Popular Tex-Mex establishment with quality ingredients.

BAR ITALIA. 26, Bloom's Lane, Lower Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018741000. An unpretentious Italian restaurant with authentic, well-prepared ingredients.

BROADWAY PIZZA PARLOR. Unit 6, Custom House Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016721812. It's always buzzing at this place - taste the pizzas or calzones to find out why.

CACTUS JACKS. Millenium Walkway, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018746198. Fun Tex-Mex spot with an outlet in Galway. Great margaritas.

CAFÉ MAO. 2-3, Chatham Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016704899. An excellent Asian restaurant, with a branch in Dun Laoghaire too.

CAFÉBARDELLI. 12, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016771646. A lively restaurant with a great range of salads, pizzas and other treats.

CAPTAIN AMERICAS. 44, Grafton St - Dublin 2. Tel: 016715266. Long-standing American style cookhouse and bar.

CARLUCCIO'S. 52, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016333957. The first Irish branch of a popular UK chain, this venue blends a coffee shop, foodhall and Italian restaurant.

CHAPTER 1. 18, Parnell Square North - Dublin 1. Tel: 018732266. Quite possibly the best restaurant in this fine city. Top food at very competitive prices.

CHATHAM BRASSERIE. Chatham Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016790055. A new new-york style restaurant with a twist of personality. Ideal for brunch.

CHEZ MAX. 133, Baggot Street - Dublin 4. Tel: 016618899. Max's full-scale bistro is one of the nicest spots on Baggot Street.

CHEZ MAX. 1, Palace Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016337215. A wonderful little French bistro, with an intimate atmosphere.

CORNUCOPIA. 19 Wicklow Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777583. An all-vegetarian restaurant with lots of tricks up its sleeve. Also offers a cookbook for sale if the recipes appeal to you.

DIEP LE SHAKER. 55, Pembroke Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: 016661829. This trendy Thai place is one of the most consistently good restaurants at any stage in the day.

DUNNE & CRESCENZI. 16, South Frederick St - Dublin 2. Tel: 016773463. Popular Italian wine bar and restaurant, with an extensive range.

FALLON & BYRNE. 2, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014721000. A mix of wine bar, gourmet food hall and high-class restaurant, this place is packed with little treats for yourself.

FIRE. Mansion house, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016767200. Fire has food to do its beautiful setting justice. The flatbreads are particularly worth a try.

GOTHAM CAFÉ. 8, South Anne Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016795266. A menu packed with delicious salads, innovative pizzas and other treats ensures Gotham is packed out even on weeknights. A great place for a weekend brunch.

GOVINDAS. 18, Merrion Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016615095. A smaller version of the popular vegetarian restaurant in a great location.

GOVINDAS. 83, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018727463. Vegetarian restaurant with a varied menu. Branches are also on Merrion Row and Angier Street.

GREEN NINETEEN. 19, Camden Street Lower - Dublin 2. Tel: 014789626. Popular good value restaurant. All main courses cost €10.

HARD ROCK CAFÉ. 12, Fleet Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016717777. Dublin's outlet in the popular franchise does well from both tourists and temple bar revellers in need of a relief.

HARRY'S MEDITERRANEAN CAFÉ & WINE BAR. 22, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 012808337. Popular post-work café bar with a branch in Dun Laoghaire.

HAVANA. Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014005990. An unpretentious tapas bar with a Cuban twist.

JADE. 27, Little Mary Street - Dublin 7. Tel: 018874468. This Chinese restaurant is one of Dublin's many 'hidden gems', and uses no MSGs in its food.

JUICE. 73-83, George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014757856. A sit-down vegetarian restaurant with a varied menu and a stylish look.

KOH. 7, Jervis Street, Millennium Walkway - Dublin 1. Tel: 018146777. This Thai restaurant and cocktail bar has a constant hum of activity.

KUDOS. Clarion Hotel, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 014338866. The Clarion's Kudus restaurant has considerable style.

LA CAVE. 28, Anne Street South - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794409. Long-standing wine bar and restaurant with a loyal clientele.

LA MAISON. 15, Castle Market - Dublin 2. Tel: 01727258. A dedicated French restaurant opened where the much-loved Maison des Gourmets once stood.

LAGOONA. Mayor Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 017918928. A burger and a pint from here is an unexpected delight.

LE BON CRUBEEN. 81-82, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 017040126. A stylish and (thank heavens) affordable brasserie, and a welcome addition to the northside.

MONGOLIAN BBQ. 7, Anglesea Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703802. An all-you-can-eat restaurant with fresh Mongolian fare cooked in front of you.

MYO. Lower Mayor Street, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016721031. Create your own wraps, sandwiches or even pizzas from a good buffet of ingredients at this innovative new spot.

NEWYORK GRIND. 5, Excise Walk, Clarion Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 016360110. A pretty good recreation of the classic Big Apple diner, NYG is known for doing a mean brunch and some tasty wraps.

ODESSA. 13, Dame Court - Dublin 2. Tel: 016707634. A mouth-watering menu and a laid back atmosphere makes this a perfect 'unwinding' restaurant.

PACINO'S. 18, Suffolk Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775651. A very lively Italian restaurant and club just off Grafton Street.

PASTA FRESCA. 2, Chatham Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016792402. Good value, fresh Italian food in the heart of the city.

PEOPLE'S WINE BISTRO. 16, St Stephen's Green - Dublin 2. Tel: 016763144. Lovingly decorated restaurant set below a Georgian home. The menu is also packed with variety.

PLAN B. 56, Manor Street - Dublin 7. Tel: 016706431. Ambitious restaurant with a dash of local charm in Stoneybatter.

ROLYS BISTRO. 7, Ballsbridge Terrace - Dublin 4. Tel: 016682611. Another Dublin institution, Roly's is best enjoyed at quiet lunchtimes. However, there's a nice lively feel at the evening sitting.

SABA. 26-28, Clarendon Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016792000. One of Dublin's coolest Thai restaurants, with an award winning cocktail bar to boot.

SALAMANCA. 1, St Andrew's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016774799. A fantastic long-standing tapas restaurant. Doesn't usually take reservations.

SAMSARA CAFÉ BAR. 35, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016774444. Thai food café bar, with a strong cocktail menu.

SOHO. 17, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 017079596. American-style diner food done with a bit of class and creativity.

SUSHI KING. Baggot Street Dublin 2. Tel: 016449836. Cheap - and tasty - sushi will always appeal to taste buds. This smaller Baggot place is ideal for grab-and-go.

SUSHI KING. 13, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016752000. You can grab a seat at this outlet from the increasingly-popular Sushi King.

SWAL. Unit B, The Campshires, North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018561633. A modern Malaysian restaurant set with views over the Liffey.

TOWN BAR & GRILL. 21, Kildare Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016624800. A fun New York style eatery, Town's strong menu and service ensures it packs out most evenings.

THE BAD ASS CAFÉ. Temple Bar Square, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016712596. There are great pizzas to be tasted, along with plenty of unpretentious fare at this spot in Temple Bar Square.

THE CEDAR TREE. 11, St Andrew's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016772121. An authentic Lebanese restaurant with a rich and intriguing décor. An early bird menu also offers good value.

THE CHILLI CLUB. 1, Anne's Lane, South Anne Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016773721. Reportedly Dublin's first Thai restaurant, and still a popular choice.

THE EXCHEQUER. 3-5, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706856. Brilliantly restored hotel bar with a very strong food menu using Irish-sourced ingredients.

THE FARM. 3, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016718654. This organic-themed restaurant also has a pleasant little cocktail menu.

THE MILL STONE. 39, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016799931. An intimate, warm restaurant with some surprisingly creative pizzas.

THE PIG'S EAR. 4, Nassau Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703865. An excellent new little bistro, with hearty fare and charming views of Trinity College.

THE UNICORN. 12, Merrion Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016624757. Established long ago and still going strong, the Unicorn repays Dubliners' continued affection with hearty Italian fare.

THE WINDING STAIR. 40, Lower Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018726576. The restaurant above this well-loved bookshop has gone all upmarket in recent years, with considerable success. Some great value lunch deals are on offer.

THUNDER ROAD CAFÉ. Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794057. A big restaurant with big portions and big rock'n'roll playing.

TOSCANA. 3, Cork Hill Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709785. Authentic Tuscan food served in very-pleasant surroundings.

VENU. 2, Anne's Lane, South Anne Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706755. This brasserie-cum-cocktail bar is nothing if not stylish, with both the food and cocktail menus having plenty of appeal.

YAMAMORI SUSHI. 38-39, Lower Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018720003. Excellent spot for sushi from the same folks behind the George's Street restaurant.

YO'SUSHI. Brown Thomas, Clarendon Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016728950. A sushi bar made unmissable by the charming addition of a conveyor belt carrying the food. It's also quite affordable by Dublin standards.

AFTER DINNER

4 DAME LANE. 4, Dame Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: 016790291. Yummy cocktails and great DJs make this place a winner.

BRANNIGANS. Cathedral Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018725315. An old-school Northside pub with a friendly welcome.

BRUXELLES. 7-8, Harry Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775362. A favoured indie/metal music bar, this place gets packed out by 18:00 most evenings.

CASSIDY'S. 27, Westmoreland Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016708604. Welcoming pub with lots going on most evenings.

DAKOTA. 9, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016727690. This trendy place still packs them in on Fridays - it's just as nice for a lunchtime visit if you don't fancy a crowd.

DAVY BYRNES. 21, Duke Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775217. A literary pub with a great bar food menu.

DICEY'S GARDEN BAR. 21-25, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014784066. The staging point for many a raid into Copper's, this place is a nice drinking den in its own right.

DOYLES. 9, College Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016710616. A traditional bar by day and student mecca by night. Opens late at weekends.

EILY. CHQ, IFSC, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 016768986. Another branch of the successful Ely wine bar chain.

FITZSIMONS BAR AND HOTEL. 21-22, Wellington Quay, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779315. Even if you're not looking for a room, the relaxing bar is a nice place to spend an evening.

JACK NEALON. 165, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018723247. Nealon's traditional pub is a welcome - and welcoming - sight in these parts.

KATE'S COTTAGE. 1, Amiens Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 871315291. A traditional Irish pub with a warm atmosphere.

MADIGANS. 25, North Earl Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018746362. A very casual, laid-back pub.

MCDAIDS. 7, Harry Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794395. A haunt of no less than Brendan Behan in its day, this is one of the oldest pubs in the city and one of the best.

MILANO. 38, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016707744. The first outlet of Milano's (Pizza Express in the UK) to make it over to these shores.

MILANO. 19, East Essex Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703384. A great place for a quick pizza in Temple Bar.

MILANO. 6, Excise Walk, Clarian Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 016119012. A spacious and airy branch of the successful Milanos chain.

O'DONOGHUES. 15, Merrion Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016607194. A legendary trad music pub that was loved by The Dubliners, and is still popular today.

OLESYA'S WINE BAR. 18, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 6724087. Well-stocked wine bar with a mix of Irish and continental fare.

ONE PICO. 5/6, Molesworth Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 016760300. A delightful little restaurant, that knows it's a little bit special. Great French-influenced food.

O'NEILLS. 2, Suffolk Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793656. A sprawling pub with oodles of atmosphere and a mean selection of gourmet beers.

LE CIRK. 2, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016350058. The boutique hotel-cum-cocktail bar and jazz club is nothing if not original, and the décor is plenty interesting too.

LEMON JELLY. 11, Essex Street East - Dublin 2. Tel: 016776297. Delicious crepes and more are available at this trendy café.

LOTT'S BAR. 9, Lower Liffey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018727669. A mixed décor of a traditional and modern café bar, and a trendy crowd.

PANAMA. 30, Batchelor's Walk - Dublin 1. Tel: 018745730. A Panamanian theme lends this Liffey-side pub plenty of character.

PANTIBAR. 7-8, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018740710. The fabulous Panti presides over this popular gay bar.

PRAVDA. 35, Lower Liffey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018740090. A deceptively spacious club with a great range of vodkas.

PROJECT ARTS CENTRE. 39, East Essex Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 018819613. An excellent theatre and general arts space with a consistently interesting programme.

SHEBEEN CHIC. 4, South Great George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016799667. Don't let the shabby décor fool you - this is a very happening bar and restaurant.

SOLAS. 31, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583. A cocktail bar with a bit of outsider charm - and a very nice lunch menu.

SOUTH WILLIAM. 52, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725946. Trendy club with a pie-themed food menu, extensive cocktails and varied club nights.

THE ARLINGTON HOTEL AND LEGENDS. 16, Lord Edward Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 016708777. A popular tourist hotel with Irish dancing seven nights a week.

THE BAILEY. 2, Duke Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 016773055. This hip place also serves a nice little food menu.

THE BERNARD SHAW. 50/51, South Richmond Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0857128342. Imagine an old-man bar on powerful hallucinogens. It's better than you think.

THE BOAR'S HEAD. 149, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 014752705. A very popular spot for lunch and a pint, this is also fun to visit after work.

THE CHURCH. Junction of Mary Street and Jarvis Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018280102. Excellent pub-cum-restaurant-cum-club that ticks all the boxes.

THE CLARENCE HOTEL. 6-8, Wellington Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 014070800. One of the city's best hotels and home to both the Tea Rooms and the Octagon Bar.

THE CLIFTON COURT HOTEL. 11, Eden Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018743535. A welcoming hotel with an excellent bar in 'The Metropolitan'.

THE CZECH INN. Essex Gate, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016711535. Czech-themed bar with plenty to appeal to everyone, including an extensive beer range.

THE DAWSON LOUNGE. 25, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016771487. An antidote to the trendiness of the Dawson Street strip, the Dawson lounge claims to be the smallest pub in the city. We believe it.

THE DICE BAR. 79, Queen Street, Smithfield - Dublin 7. Tel: 016746710. Part-owned by fun loving criminal Huey Morgan, this cool little bar has a lot of noo yawk charm.

THE DRAGON. 64, South Great George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014781590. A relatively new kid on the gay bar block, this pub has a packed event programme.

THE DUKE. 8-9, Duke Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 876764657. A nice large traditional pub with good service and a trad evening on Sundays.

THE FLOWING TIDE/NEPTUNE BAR. 9, Abbey Street Lower - Dublin 1. Tel: 018744108. Very popular with the post-theatre crowd, and home to a comedy club that's generating considerable buzz.

THE FRONT LOUNGE. 33, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016704112. A relatively quiet - but nonetheless fun - gay bar.

THE GEORGE. 87-89, South Great George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014782983. The city's oldest gay bar has moved with the times and remains unimpeachably hip.

THE HARBOURMASTER. Customs House Dock, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016701688. Great coffee by day and a crackling atmosphere by night make this a winner.

THE ISAAC BUTT. Store Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018555021. A large hotel bar with a great downstairs music venue in The Good Bits.

THE LONG HALL. 51, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014751590. A popular pub with impeccable traditional credentials.

THE MARBLE BAR. The Westbury Hotel, Harry Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016791122. Just off Grafton Street lies one of the most relaxing and best-staffed cocktail bars in the city.

THE MINT BAR. Westin Hotel, Westmoreland Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016451322. This underground bar has a cozy atmosphere and great drinks - try the elderflower Collins.

THE PINT. 28, Aston Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 018745255. Neighbourhood bar with a varied live music mix.

THE PORT HOUSE. 64, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770298. A gorgeous little tapas bar with candlelight, and some innovative dishes.

THE MORGAN HOTEL. The Morgan Hotel, 10, Fleet Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014757166. This place is very popular, and it's easy to see why - the cocktails are frankly fantastic.

THE ODEON. 57, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088. With more room to breathe, you can appreciate the wonderfully restored décor of this place all the better - arrive before the late-night rush.

THE PALACE BAR. 21, Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016717388. One of the most welcoming traditional pubs to survive in Dublin city centre.

THE SECRET BAR. 3, Fade Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 017645681. The city's worst-kept secret doesn't even need a name badge to draw in the punters.

THE TEMPLE BAR HOTEL. 13-17, Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016773333. Handy, centrally-located hotel with some good last-minute deals.

THE TURKS HEAD. Junction of Parliament Street and Essex Gate, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 876764657. Criminally underrated nightclub with lashings of atmosphere and a fun crowd.

THE VILLAGE. 26, Wexford street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555. A worthy addition to the Camden/Wicklow Street Strip, this place has booze, music and atmosphere in abundance.

THE WOOLSHED. Unit 4, Parnell Centre, Parnell Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018724325. A popular sports bar with many drinks promotions on quieter nights.

TGI FRIDAYS. St Stephens Green West - Dublin 2. Tel: 014781233. Cheap cocktails and a consistently lively atmosphere make this a handy hangout for the young.

WHELAN'S. 25, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766. A long-standing indie music pub, this place is increasingly featuring innovative live acts.

LATE NIGHT

ALCHEMY. Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016129390. This late night club in Temple Bar is just as busy and buzzing as you'd expect.

BUCK WHALLEYS. 67, Lower Leeson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334200. Popular wine bar, now with a full bar license and late opening.

CLUB NASSUA. 1-2, Nassua Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794388. The 'home of the slow set' plays old school hits from the 1980s and other decades every week.

COPPER FACE JACKS. 29, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 867816251. Many a romance has begun (and ended) in this heaving Dublin club.

CRAWDADDY. Old Harcourt Street Train Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780225. An intimate live venue downstairs at the POD complex.

DYLANBAR. The Dylan Hotel, Eastmoreland Place - Dublin 4. Tel: 016603000. A stylish cocktail bar that's worth the journey out to D4.

HOWL AT THE MOON. 7-8, Lower Mount Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016345460. A spacious club with many levels - and lots going on most evenings.

ICE BAR. Four Seasons Hotel, Simmonscourt Road - Dublin 4. Tel: 016654000. You can now get top-drawer sushi at this stylish cocktail bar - we're amazed nobody thought of the combination before.

KRYSTLE. 21-25, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014784066. A club clearly aiming for the high-class, high-spending market, and hitting it right on the button.

LILLIES BORDELLO. Adam Court, Grafton Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016799204. The playground for the super-rich is increasingly letting in the hoi-polloi. Just don't try approaching the celebs.

SIN. 17-19, Sycamore Street - Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334232. Uber-popular Temple Bar nightclub with a mixed music policy.

THE BUTTON FACTORY. Curved Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202. The refurbished and revamped Temple Bar Music Centre is a great place for smaller gigs.

THE MEZZ. 23, Eustace Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016707655. Formerly the mezzanine bar, this Temple Bar club is winning many new converts.

THE SUGAR CLUB. 8, Lower Leeson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016787188. An intimate live venue with comfy seating, a pleasant bar, and a strong event line-up.

THE TWISTED PEPPER. 54, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018734038. This venue gives a welcome stage to some cutting edge electronic musicians and DJs. Regular club nights Pogo and Mud are also great fun.

THE WRIGHT VENUE. Airside Business Park, Swords - Co. Dublin. Tel: 018900099. Gigantic Miami-style club. Buses are available as transport to the venue from the city centre.

TRAMCO BREWERY. 121, Lower Rathmines Road - Dublin 6. Tel: 014968050. A purveyor or craft beer by day and hip student club by night, this place ticks two very different boxes very well.

TRIPOD. Old Harcourt Street Train Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374. One of the best clubs and live venues in the city, Tripod hosts some top international acts along with more offbeat artists.

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