



2night

magazine

freetimeguide
DUBLIN
APRIL 2011

Destination Clubland

2night celebrates 30 great nightclubs

Welcome

to our April issue. It's been a long time since 2night magazine ventured into Dublin's clubland – naturally, we're pleasantly surprised by how vibrant the scene remains. For our special feature this month, we've celebrated game survivors from the past three years, brand new places, and revivals of popular departed clubs – you'll find 30 great places kicking off on page 4. To give a bit of expert advice, we've interviewed Lectrosoul's Richie Rock, who regularly delights the crowd at The Exchequer and the new, re-opened Kitchen nightclub.

We've also had a good chat with Kieran Black, the high-energy frontman for Dublin's favourite party band, The Amazing Few – he's a lovely fellow – and rounded up the events taking place across the city this month. Clubbers will be delighted with what's on offer, as will theatre lovers. Of course, if you're looking for a bit of drama, you'll find our cinema previews have plenty: from the sublime to the patently ridiculous, 2night's film buffs shower praise and barbs liberally. 2night is also showering readers with free stuff, including a €50 bar tab at Kennedy's, a dinner at the Dark Horse Inn, and free concert tickets: we're the magazine that gives you more! And as an added bonus, you'll find hundreds of great venues, bars, coffee shops and restaurants in our Best of Dublin section from page 30. In other words, whether you're a clubber, a gourmand, a shut-in or a mix of everything, you'll find something to suit your tastes in this little tome!

2night
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DESTINATION CLUBLAND

2night celebrates 30 late-night havens.

It's been a torrid few months for nightlife lovers in Dublin. Sin-E's closure early in the year kicked off a depressing new wave of popular bars and clubs going to the wall after gamely hanging on through tough times. But when you start to look on the bright side and count your clubbing bless-

ings, there are several reasons to be cheerful. For one, many existing places are still buzzing, and have actively raised their game to keep the punters in – since we last surveyed Dublin clubs in 2010, we've noticed even more drinks promotions, special offers and class DJs

hitting the town. Moreover, the last 12 months have seen the emergence of several new places, including the artsy paradise that is The Grand Social, and the unexpected survival of others: who'd have bet, a year ago, that The Dragon would still be flaming today?

So, in that spirit of optimism, we've decided to survey 30 great Dublin clubs and celebrate the things that have kept them alive in the tough late-night game: good value, top music and, most of all, good times.



Name: **Richard Earle**
Age: **29**

How does clubbing in Dublin compare to clubs abroad?

That completely depends on where you go. What Dublin has to offer is what I would like to think any Irish person will say; it's the people that make it. What I would compare would be the prices, closing times, clientele, service you get from the staff and décor of the place. Not that I'm that picky about it.

What, for you, is the secret to a great clubbing experience?

What makes a great night out, for me, is really good music and having a good group of friends who you know you can have a good time with. If you have both, you can pretty much put up with anything – well, to an extent.

What clubs do you like in Dublin?

My personal likes are what some people might think are the fancier ones like the Grafton Lounge, the Morgan or Café en Seine. The Church is also a great place. It's a very hard question though, as going further afield you can get other great venues.

have your say
2NIGHTERS AND THEIR NIGHTLIFE

EXPERT



Richie Rock, Lectrosoul (famous for storming The Exchequer, the new revived Kitchen, and the festival scene)

What's the key to good DJing?

Tune selection is key: know your audience, mix it up and keep the flow on the dancefloor, always leave them wanting more! If it's a club you want to get them to the dancefloor then, once they're there, keep them moving till the lights go up. If it's a bar like the Exchequer, I have to keep in mind that people have perhaps come in for dinner and the trick is to ease people into that dancing mood when they move to the bar, with a view to keeping them happy, but always trying to play new music, mixed in with a sprinkling of stuff they may know.

Are Dublin's DJs getting better, or are things a bit stagnant?

This is actually a difficult question. There are a lot more DJs around now than when we started a long long time ago! More does not necessarily mean better, for sure there are guys and gals that are gigging week in week out that have their finger on the pulse. But, with the advent of Laptop DJs (which I use from time to time with a midi controller) and freely downloadable music there are a lot of substandard DJs that don't see anything wrong with playing low quality music –badly compressed .mp3 files. Things have gotten a bit stagnant with one major reason being the ridiculous licensing laws, which all but killed the club scene. The Give us the Night campaign have been brilliant in highlighting this and I hope, with the new Fine Gael/Labour Government, this will change pretty quickly. It was one of their election pledges after all...

Aside from The Exchequer, where do you like to go in Dublin when you're in a clubbing mood?

Well, to be honest, because I'm in The Exchequer every weekend, I don't get much chance to head out and about! When I do, I love the nights put on by the Life Festival crew Neutronyx and PTConnection. Also, The Fibre and Deep into the Bowels of House guys put on some great nights!

ALCHEMY

Fleet Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0866629575



After a year on the go, Alchemy has proved that the city still loves to dance into the night. How do they do it? Well, a music policy centred around proven floor-fillers works a charm. So does a determined effort to keep out underage drinkers, and a generally chilled atmosphere. The décor is also pretty cool, mixing dark, ultra-modern design with a few cool older touches.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 22:30 (23:00 Friday to Sunday) to 03:00.

CLUB M

Cope Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016715274



The excellent door staff at this place could probably tell you a few stories. Then again, you'll come away with a few yourself from a Saturday night trip to one of Temple Bar's busiest clubs. There's an upscale champagne bar at the mezzanine level, but Club M will always remain a place for getting rip-roaring drunk, hilariously bad dancing, and picking up a stranger.

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

KARMA STONE

Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: n/a



It's hard to keep up with the changes at this bar - what seemed like an ideal spot just down the road from Whelan's and The Village appears to have been something of a poisoned chalice for previous tenants, including the short lived Corner Stone bar. We reckon the folks behind Karma have cracked it, with a revamped interior and oodles of drink promotions. This place is particularly popular with the DIT crowd.

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

PANTIBAR

7-8, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018740710



Now run by Rory O'Neill (otherwise known as Panti, one of Dublin's most popular drag queens) Pantibar is bright, loud, and positively flaming. It's also maintained the roomy interior of predecessor GUBU and a comfy seating area. There's a varied programme on offer, including fundraisers for worthy LGBT causes, Brazilian craziness, and a Thursday drag show starring Panti herself.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 17:00 to 02:30 (23:30 Sunday to Tuesday).

ALT

9, Andrew's Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779336



Since being taken over by refugees from the sadly-departed Spy, this former theatre has hosted resurrections of the club's most popular club-nights, including WAR and Gossip, along with nights like Party Animal, which feature giant gorillas and vodka guns - yep, they push the boat out. The dance floor has also been reconfigured to create a more crowded atmosphere in the main room.

Opening hours: Opening times vary depending on schedule - visit www.2night.ie for details.

DOYLES

9, College Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0167710616



It's telling that nobody at team 2night can remember a time when this seemingly traditional pub wasn't a heaving student Mecca by night. The upstairs room hosts late events all through the week, including the Ruby Sessions (a great singer-songwriter night) on Tuesdays, and DJs who know how to mix indie and alternative tunes with a touch of quality pop preside over the weekends.

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

LOST SOCIETY

Powerscourt Townhouse, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016111777



Set in the plush surroundings of this 18th-century townhouse, Lost Society tries to give the venue a modern twist while retaining a certain... grandeur. They make a good stab at it. The basement club has a selection of themed nights - we dig Rococo with Ivano Cafolia - while there's a menu of tasty classic cocktails and signature drinks on offer too.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, from 12:00 to 02:30 (18:00 Monday and Tuesday).

PYGMALION

59 South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334479



Since replacing the sprawling, perhaps overly plush Ba Mizu, this comparatively unpretentious place has been a hit - whether it's the stripped back, warren like interior, sets from genuinely creative DJs, or the interesting arty acts that sometimes preside here, they're doing something right. A good cocktail menu and reliable pints can't hurt either.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 10:30 (12:00 Sunday) to late.

CITIBAR

46, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794455



It's not just the Dame Street spot that makes Citibar a nice place to try. The atmosphere is laid back during the day, but it comes to life on weekend nights with more-than-competent DJs churning out chart hits. They're very proud of their LED dance floor and, to judge by how packed it gets on Fridays, they're not the only ones who like it.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 10.30 (12:00 Sunday) to 23:30 (03:00 Thursday to Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).

GYPSY ROSE

1, Aston Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725566



Is this place the antithesis of the Viper Lounge? Quite possibly. The Gypsy Rose is pitched firmly at the fibbers crowd and rocker refugees from Bruxelles and Eamon Doran's after those places got a facelift - in that, it succeeds admirably. It's an old school rocker bar with regular free gigs and drinks for €4 before midnight, which makes for a pleasantly rowdy crowd.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week from 17:00 to 00:30 (02:30 Thursday to Saturday).

MCGOWAN'S PHIBSBORO

18, Phibsboro Road - Dublin 9. Tel: 018306606



Though the layout of the main bar and restaurant at McGowan's is traditional, they've recently opened a spiffy nightclub section that's popular with local students and young 'uns. We fancy the two professional dancing poles have something to do with it - it's hard to believe that this place was one of the last men-only bars in the city.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 10.30 (12:00 Sunday). Late opening Friday and Saturday.

Q BAR

1, Burgh Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777435



This place has survived an influx of slicker establishments by doing what it does best: serving good drinks at a decent price. 'Monday Mania', offering pints for €3.50 and cocktails for a fiver, is a very popular night. Between the upstairs bar and a more 'clubby' downstairs, there's ample room for many drinkers, and the music is dominated by popular dance tracks.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 10.30 (12:00 Sunday) to 02:30 (23:00 Sunday).

RENARDS

23, Frederick Street - Dublin 2



Robbie Fox's original playground for Celtic tiger cubs has been re-opened with new faces in charge, a spiffy new layout and a more broad-based appeal. The bar opens during the daytime, while the club is open till the wee hours from Thursday to Saturday, with three Dublin DJs spinning everything from funky house to chart-toppers across the three floors of the venue.

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

THE GRAND SOCIAL

Pravda Lower Liffey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018740076



We may miss Pravda's selection of vodkas, but The Grand Social is a more than adequate replacement. Designed with a specific New York factory feel in mind, it's split into four venues – the ballroom, the loft, the garden and the parlour, all hosting a mix of live music, exhibitions, cinema screenings, comedy and performance. A late night, artsy wonderland.

Opening hours: Opening times vary depending on schedule - visit www.2night.ie for details.

THE DRAGON

64-65, Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014781590



Rumours that the Dragon was slain have turned out to be somewhat exaggerated. The newest and possibly the slickest of Dublin's city-centre gay bars is still going strong. There's a chill out section near the entrance, a long bar and dance floor area on the ground floor, then a bar and smoking area on the first floor. The décor - dark with Asian influences, mosaics, and statues - is similarly hip.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 17:00 to late.

THE VILLAGE

26, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555



Since setting up next to indie-haven Whelan's, Village has done a few things to distinguish itself. Quite apart from hosting live gigs by niche artists with fiercely devoted followers and innovative club nights: the rock'n'roll karaoke that is Songs of Praise every Wednesday is our pick, though Saturday's Mixtape (featuring Fionn Davenport's bag of indie tricks) is also popular.

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

SIN

T7-19, Sycamore Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334232



It's handy to find, open late and well run: a simple formula for a club in theory, but one that's difficult to get right. Sin's décor is ultra modern, and the is particularly popular for a €50 open bar deal offering clubbers V.I.P. area access and cloak-room facilities, plus all your drinks for the evening (excluding champagne or shots), meaning it's prone to selling out.

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

THE SUGAR CLUB

8, Lower Leeson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016787188



'Plush' and 'intimate' are two words we rarely associate with Dublin's clubs or performance spaces. Little wonder, then, that The Sugar Club has established itself as a fixture on the late night scene. The owners, a pretty passionate pair about promoting the arts, also work to put on a varied schedule with live music, club nights, and more fringe interests.

Opening hours: Opening times vary depending on schedule. Typically open from Wednesday to Sunday, 21:00 to 03:00.

THE PURTY KITCHEN

34/35, East Sussex Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770945



One of the best gastropubs-and-clubs to emerge in the Temple Bar area, The Purty Kitchen by day is a quiet, handy place to grab a meal. By night, however, the scene transforms, and the Kitchen has three floors of action cooking on most evenings. A mix of alternative bands, singer-songwriters and DJs with flare ensures a lively evening, as do generous drinks promotions.

Opening hours: Open Seven days a week, late club Monday to Friday.

THE WORKMAN'S CLUB

10, Wellington Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692



This new venue is a great addition to the indie-club and live music scene.

Downstairs, the bar remains almost untouched from its days as, well, a working man's club, but you'll find a live music and clubbing venue that's attracting some top-tier Irish artists and international acts upstairs.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 18:00 to 00:00. Special club nights may vary – visit www.2night.ie for details.

SOUTH WILLIAM

52, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725946



This laid back bar and club has recently embraced a Brazilian vibe that was always present here, with some impressive results: the first-ever Dublin Carnival last month was a big hit. The vibe is continued with Tuesday's Groovalization, featuring South American tunes and fejoada stew.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 (16:00 Sunday) to 23:30 (02:30 Thursday to Saturday, 01:00 Sunday). Food served from 12:00 (15:00 Sunday) to 22:00.

THE TWISTED PEPPER

54, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018734038



Bodytonic's flagship venue hums with activity most nights – and days for that matter. There's invariably something interesting on in the four-level venue, from celebrity DJ sets to private parties, gigs and even the odd flea market. The focus generally is on underground acts with a fervent following. We also dig the ground floor bar, which by day serves some of the best coffee in the city.

Opening hours: Opening times vary depending on schedule - visit www.2night.ie for details.

THE UNDERGROUND (KENNEDYS)

31, Westland Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016799077



The positively hopping subterranean club to the old-school Kennedys downstairs has an industrial-chic look, an eclectic line-up of nights, and a heaving atmosphere. Exciting DJs including Maurice Fulton, Andrew Weatherall and Ivan Smagge have all played intimate sets here.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday from 12:00 to late. Nightclub open Friday and Saturday from 23:00 to 02:30. Visit www.2night.ie for club night details.

THE WRIGHT VENUE

South Quarter, Airside - County Dublin. Tel: 018900099



With a capacity of 2700, this venue houses a club and performance space, a terrace bar, a members-only Penthouse Club, the laid-back Purple Room plus The Cities – luxurious private hire booths. The club has residencies and regular slots from the DJ elite including Roger Sanchez, Dirty Vegas and more.

Opening hours: Open every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Bank Holiday Sunday from 22:00. Also available for private hire, launches and film shoots.

THOMAS HOUSE

86, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 016772619



A great little dive bar, with an atmospheric interior, good live acts playing downstairs and a discerning DJ selection policy. The music varies from ska and punk to fairly accessible soul and funk at the weekends, without ever going totally commercial. Up until recently, rumours abounded that this place would be replaced by another superpub, but it seems to have survived every scare admirably.

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

TWENTYONE

21, D'olier Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016712089



Maybe it's the high proportion of students trying to scheme their way past the bouncers or the funny lighting, but this place vaguely reminds us of a school disco on Craggy Island. In a good way. Floor thumping hip-hop, screens playing music videos, a packed dance floor and impressive drinks promotions aren't everyone's cup of tea – but they certainly get some people excited. Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, 23:00 (22:00 Friday and Saturday) to 03:30.

TRAMCO

121, Lower Rathmines Drive – Dublin 6. Tel: 014968050



Tramco's club nights are unashamedly geared towards the student market – it's impossible to avoid given the location. Some cracking one-off gigs and a range of popular club nights pull them in. Wednesdays and Thursdays see tempting promotions run for the students of the area – selected bottles and shots are offered for €2, a price that's hard to match anywhere else.

Opening hours: Open Wednesday to Saturday from 17:30 to 03:00.

VANILLA

19, Morehampton Road - Dublin 4. Tel: 016379805



This boutique nightclub attached to hampton hotel has gone for a distinctly decadent look, with ultra-modern furnishings, cool lighting and luxury at every corner - a great mix of signature and classic cocktails adds to the pampered vibe. The music spans across decades, from the 1970s through to the modern day, and genres from Barry White to Lady Gaga. Admission is for over-26s. Opening hours: Open Friday and Saturday, from 23:00 to late.

TRIPOD

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



You can't discuss clubbing in Dublin without at least a nod in Tripod's direction. As the name suggests, Tripod is three venues rolled into one, meaning there's something for everyone, while top notch lighting and sound systems make for an excellent experience. Live bands play regularly, as do top DJs including Mr Scruff, Felix da Housecat and more. Opening hours: Opening times vary depending on schedule - visit www.2night.ie for details.

WRIGHTS CAFÉ BAR

The Plaza, Forster Way - Co Dublin. Tel: 018406744



With a decade on the go, this bar and club can rightly claim to be more than just a flash in the pan establishment with fancy décor. That said, the setting is lush and interesting, with everything from patterned walls, metallic surfaces and richly-coloured furniture somehow blending into a cohesive whole. Even late at night, there's a nice mellow vibe here. Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 02:30 (23:30 Monday, 01:00 Sunday).



BOWES

31, Fleet Street – Dublin 2.
Tel: 016714038

The sister pub to Doyle's around the corner is the gold standard in 'old school': there's beautifully crafted, comfortable furniture, a firmly unpretentious atmosphere, and a bevy of top-line whiskeys

to encourage a longer stay. You can usually get a table to yourself, which is nice, and the bar staff seem to know everyone who's visited more than twice. On any day off (or just an off-day) you can do a lot worse than spending the afternoon here reading the papers,

drinking away a few productive hours, and watching the football. Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 16:00 to 23:30 (00:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).

Getting there: From the front gates of Trinity College (facing onto

Dame Street), turn right and head down Westmoreland Street. Take a right turn onto Fleet Street, and Bowes will be on your right.

THE FRONT ROW

2NIGHT PREVIEWS THE MAJOR FILMS HITTING DUBLIN SCREENS THIS MONTH.

APRIL 1

SUCKER PUNCH

Watching the heroine of Sucker Punch, Babydoll (Emily Browning), get locked away in a 1950s lunatic asylum by her evil step-father at the start of the movie, it's easy to imagine that what follows will be distinctly bleak. But this film is directed by Dan Snyder, the same peculiar man who gave us 300 and Watchmen. He describes it as "Alice in Wonderland with machine guns". Add dragons, B-25 bombers and brothels, and you're nearly there – the bulk of the action in Sucker Punch takes place in Babydoll's head as she and her fellow patients try to dream up an escape before they're lobotomised. This allows them to wage fantastical warfare against everything from samurais to serpents, with the help of a wise man (Scott Glenn) guiding them. When Glenn outlines all the things that Babydoll and her friends need to find and do, however, Sucker Punch starts to feel more like a video game in its series of isolated challenges than a real movie. There's one critical difference, however – good video games these days have coherent narratives that pull us in. Even though it's visually impressive as it traipses across time and space, and the random crew of enemies make it feel like a 12-year-old gaming freak's dream, Sucker Punch lacks that crucial ingredient.

KILLING BONO

If Killing Bono was a violent farrago in which the world's smuggest rock star met his grisly end, most of the world would turn away in revulsion – a sizeable chunk of Irish fans, though, would probably lap it up. Sadly, this isn't that film. Killing Bono is a straight-up comedy about Neil and Ivan McCormick, two Irish brothers who attempt to become rock stars but can only look on as their schoolfriends U2 begin their dizzying rise. The film compensates for a distinct lack of wanton violence with plenty of knowing references to the late-70s and early-80s music scene, while Ben Barnes and Robert Sheehan are hugely enjoyable as the McCormick brothers. Also look out for a turn from Peta Postlethwaite in his final film role.

SOURCE CODE

If last year's Inception showed us that a blockbuster can challenge its audience and still prove successful, Source Code comes as a stark reminder that films still need to make sense. For this semi-sci-fi effort, Jake Gyllenhaal plays decorated soldier Captain Colter Stevens, who's part of a government experiment called the 'Source Code' – a useful, inexplicable program that enables him to cross over into another man's identity in the last eight minutes of his life. Here, the Government have used it to virtually place Stevens aboard a train that's about to explode, and he has to find the bomber before another attack occurs. The weird hybrid of Quantum Leap and Groundhog Day has a certain appeal, but the logical wheels start to come off when Stevens messes with the rules in the name of love. Which he must do, of course. It's visually impressive, and a wide-eyed Gyllenhaal has a knack for inciting empathy, but Source Code will leave any viewer who tries to understand it stumped – and not in a good way.

APRIL 8

TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN

The tense-mangling title alone is enough to make the average wordsmith weep. Still, this adaptation of John Marsden's young adult novel has an intriguing premise: a group of youthful Australians on an idyllic camping holiday discover that their province has been invaded overnight and that local citizens are being held captive by a hostile foreign force, leaving them with no option but a campaign of guerrilla warfare against the occupying power. If you can get over the vaguely discomfiting race issues and a few patchy performances, Tomorrow When the War Began is an exciting, action-heavy affair that balances its explosions with a welcome bit of moral complexity. A sequel is already in the works.

APRIL 15

RED RIDING HOOD

Adaptations of classic stories on screen usually go in one of three directions. Some follow the original text faithfully. Some tinker around the edges or add a few playful tweaks, like Disney's delightful Tangled. Others have only the vaguest of connections to the original story, and Red Riding Hood falls into this third category. The only thing Amanda Seyfried's Red Riding Hood has in common with the brothers Grimm heroine is her dress sense – in this Twilight-influenced piece, she plays a young woman set to marry a perfectly decent bloke from her village, but head over heels in love with another man who is, of course, wrong for her. We know this because he tells her. With a grating, emo-esque sense of self-absorption. The film's fetish for explaining everything in a tone pregnant with meaning continues when the film kicks into gear and a mysterious werewolf starts killing off the villagers. Do you reckon it could be Red Riding Hood's bad-boy-beau? Most teenagers with more than two brain cells to rub together will be offended by this lazy, pandering nonsense.

THE WAY

Martin Sheen and his son, Emilio Estevez, have built up an impressive fund of goodwill down the years – so much, in fact, that many in the industry still give the human car crash that is Charlie Sheen far too much leeway. On balance, The Way takes more from the goodwill fund than it contributes. The story, as you'd expect, is worthy – an American doctor (Sheen) goes to France to collect the remains of his adult son, killed in the Pyrenees during a storm while walking the Christian Pilgrimage known as the Camino de Santiago. However, he decides to walk the path himself in grief and homage to his son, encountering several other travellers looking for meaning and comfort on the way. Sheen's performance is winning and affecting – in fairness, there's no weak link in the small cast – but the film itself is a grueling 140 minutes. By the time the credits roll, the sheer weight of the film (which is hardly lightened by Estevez's languid directorial hand) will make the audience feel like they've been on a pilgrimage themselves – only without the epiphanic payoff.

APRIL 22

ARTHUR

Consider this star vehicle as one more step in Russell Brand's conquest of Hollywood: whether people love or loathe it will pretty much depend on their feelings towards Brand himself. A remake of the 1981 classic, Arthur stars the funnyman as a comically-spoilt and childlike heir to a vast fortune, forced to choose between an arranged marriage to an affluent socialite (Jennifer Garner) – which will ensure his lavish lifestyle – or an uncertain future with the woman he loves (Greta Gerwig). Brand is his usual manic self as he acts out Arthur's ill-fated attempts to make his own way in the world, while Hellen Mirren is charming as his long-suffering nanny. Brain food it ain't, but at least this offers a few giggles.

APRIL 27

THOR

Marvel are clearly building towards something big in the various plot non-sequiturs that they keep dropping into their increasingly samey blockbusters. It may be a sound investment in pre-marketing but, as we trundle towards The Avengers or whatever big-screen blow-off the powers that be have planned, it's increasingly making films that should be major events feel like b-list affairs. This movie is a case in point. For anyone unfamiliar with the story, Thor tells of a partially disabled medical student, Dr. Donald Blake, who discovers his heretofore unknown alter ego in the legendary Norse warrior. For all the 3D effects and CGI we've come to expect from these big-budget flicks, Thor still feels fundamentally unfulfilling, like a prequel to a hit movie we haven't seen yet – and are increasingly less excited about. The first films in the current wave of comic-book adaptations were funny, universal, and interesting – this joyless, vapid spectacle, the visual equivalent of an all-you-can-eat buffet, is none of those things.

WHERE TO SEE THEM

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





FREE TICKETS

COMPETITIONS

WIN FREE TICKETS AND GREAT NIGHTS OUT WITH 2NIGHT!

CAFÉ CARLO

A friendly little Irish-Italian joint, with a fresh decor and a menu with flavour to spare, Café Carlo has a warm and laid-back feel – though there's a pleasant buzz at evening times – while the service is snappy without rushing people through their meals. Their new 'steak on a stone' special is a real treat, and we're delighted to be giving one lucky 2nighter (and a friend) the chance to experience it!

ESBEN & THE WITCH

Since forming in Brighton during 2008, Esben & The Witch have forged a unique sound springing from a hugely broad range of influences: the trio cite nature and literature, art and science, history and the unknown – along with some Scott Walker and PJ Harvey records. Daniel Copeman (guitar, electronics), Rachel Davies (vocals, bass) and Thomas Fisher (guitar, keys) are rising fast, and set to perform an intimate gig at Crawdaddy on April 4. We've a pair of tickets to give away.

KENNEDYS

On its ground floor, Kennedys is a pleasant, old-school bar – good Guinness, plenty of wooden furniture, a relaxed vibe, and even the odd link to a historical figure (Oscar Wilde once worked in the building when it was a grocery store). You'll also find hearty pub grub, including a particularly warming bangers and mash, along with friendly service too. There's an altogether different feel downstairs: 'the underground' is a positively hopping club with an industrial-chic look that couldn't contrast more wildly with the bar upstairs, but definitely works. We're delighted to be giving away a free bar tab of €50 to one lucky 2nighter!

STEVE MASON

The former Beta Band frontman made a big impression in his last Irish appearance, an intimate Other Voices gig for RTÉ, and is currently touring his well-received album *Boys Outside*, released in 2010. He's traversed from indie to idiosyncratic electronic pop, and done it rather well. Mason will be performing at The Button Factory on April 16 – tickets are normally €17, but we've a pair to give away.

THE DARK HORSE INN

Long one of the most popular early houses in Dublin, The Dark Horse Inn has undergone a major renovation in the last year, sprucing up considerably without losing its characteristic charm. It's become a cool evening jazz venue too, with regular live entertainment supplemented by some one-off gigs and interesting events too, while top chefs have been recruited for the kitchen. We're delighted to be giving away dinner for two with a bottle of house wine to one of our readers.

THE WAVE PICTURES

With 12 years under their belts, this English three-piece are starting to finally get the recognition their sound, which owes something to the bittersweetness of The Smiths and Pulp, deserves. The band released *Beer in the Breakers* earlier this year on Moshi Moshi and are embarking on a UK and Ireland tour. They play *Crawdaddy* on April 30, and we're giving away a pair of tickets to the show.

HOW TO ENTER

Entering our competitions is easy and free – simply head to the 'free and promo' section of our site, www.2night.ie, and answer the question posed in the competition. We'll select an entry, and announce the winner on our Facebook page.

We'll ask for your contact details to get in touch when you've won, but will respect your privacy – have a read of the privacy policy on our site by all means.

AN AMAZING STEW

2night chats to Kieran Black, frontman of rising 'psycho-pop' outfit The Amazing Few.

On stage, The Amazing Few's Kieran Black is as much a demented ringmaster – jumping around and co-ordinating cute spectacles with a childlike delight – as he is a frontman for the band. He's served as the manic host for a NewYear's Eve 3-D show, had a crowd planting seeds in a festival field, and co-ordinated a Tennessee Sweepstakes-themed show including a kissing contest. You can forgive us then, for having a little trepidation about interviewing the diminutive dynamo. We needn't have worried – Black is unfailingly polite and almost disconcertingly calm. And apparently, we're not the only ones who think that. "In my head, I find everything funny off-stage and, on-stage, it all comes out. I'm pretty reserved at home, chilled out. And when I'm out with my friends, I'm pretty quiet. I think people would say I'm a social bumblebee, but I'm not really – I'd hide in the corner!" he says. From a purveyor of a musical style he's dubbed 'psycho-pop', it's an unusual admission. For a word coined to describe a sound that's refreshingly tough to pigeon-hole, 'psycho-pop' is a surprisingly well-defined style. "It's a name we made up, because 'what kind of music do you play?' is the first question people ask. It's a mixture of everything, taking the best of psychobilly and anything that is pop. It's a mixture of ska, punk, country, jazz, theatrics – loads of things," explains Black. The fusion of influences mirrors Black's own distinctly eclectic tastes, which range from Iron Maiden to Frank Zappa and

everything in between – that strange melange made him an unusual fixture on the Seattle music scene even before he came to Ireland. "I started writing when I was just a kid – I think I had one string on a guitar and was writing songs. I was in high school, and thought I was pretty serious then, but I didn't really know what I was doing. Then I moved to Seattle and started playing in bands there. I realised that, not only did I like playing, I liked telling stories, and I started my own thing writing songs. I played with loads of bands there, with some great musicians, and songs that I wrote were often whacked-out, completely different to what everyone else was doing," he says. A quick holiday in Ireland with parents, however, turned into a ten-year stay, and he soon found himself sucked into the world of Dublin indie. "I was doing my own thing, and getting some good gigs – at the time when the Spiegeltent came to the Jarvis Centre, I got to do a residency there, every night at midnight. That's when I realised 'jeez, I really like what I'm doing on my own. This is a lot of fun.' People were dancing just to me on a guitar," he recalls. Hooking up with his future wife Sorcha and Dan Shanahan kicked off a

band that has kept growing to this day. "We started picking people who really liked the band. That keeps going – when we play gigs, we try to get the whole audience to become the band, get on stage and have them play for us. I think we're at thirteen members now, actual players in the band, and then we have other people who do props and visuals," he reveals.

With more people in the musical mix, the songwriting process has shifted. "Traditionally, it was myself coming up with the ideas.

But now I'd try to get everybody involved.

That's how I feel anyway – I'd

encourage everybody to do different things," says Black. "The

last few times, I've sat down with Dan, and say 'these are the words' or 'this is the kind of buzz I'm

going for. Then he'd come up with an amazing composition, and approach the whole band with it. That was the last eight songs, and it's definitely changed things a lot. It's made it more dramatic and more theatrical.' The band evidently aren't afraid of trying out new things, however, as they've just become involved in writing music for The Masterplan, a surreal new show featured on RTE's Storyland competition. The story of two unpopular teens who enter a battle of the bands competition – with a song by The Amazing Few – has an innate appeal to Black.



"The storyline is great – two kids who are unpopular and one's in love with his teacher. I think we can all identify with that! I'm sure, even if you were the most popular kid in school, there was some point where you felt you were tarred and feathered," he says. "It's challenging now, because I haven't met the actors yet. I'm going to see them this week and see how far, as actors, they're willing to go. Talking to Lee, the director, is amazing – he's on the same buzz as I am. We want it to be a really great song, like Dream Theatre meets Queen."

More than that, however, The Amazing Few face a serious challenge in capturing the quirky, manic energy and imagery of their live shows in a recording – no iTunes download can quite capture the bouncy, feel-good vibe of their audio-visual spectacles. "That's our Achilles heel, it really is," he admits. "When we record, we always try to keep it really live. But then there's the visual aspect of it – how do you get that across? It's quite tough. That's one of the reasons why we've only put out singles. But we've made a decision that we're going to put out an album and see how it goes: we're going to put everything in it. We're using effects for the first time, we've got the brass, three guitarists, three singers, and loads of other things. It's like when you're in school and going on the field trip. The teacher has to organise everything – it's the same thing running this band. It's crazy, like orchestrating a school bus of kids. In a good way."

EVENTS

WEEK | 1 - 9 APRIL



APRIL 5, 7 AND 8

HAMLET*

It's Leaving Cert season again, which often leads to by-the-numbers Shakespeare plays dominating Dublin stages. This incarnation of Hamlet, conceived by Second Age Theatre Company, is a mercifully different beast. With contemporary dress and a frankly ingenious set, it promises a fresh-but-faithful take from the off and doesn't disappoint. Conor Madden (pictured) plays the doomed Danish prince as a distinctly manic character – he turns it up to 11 as soon as Hamlet sees his father's ghost, and doesn't take his foot off the pedal for the next two hours – but Frank McCusker's Claudius, simmering with beta-male menace, is a superb counterweight. Jane Brennan is a similarly understated queen, Darragh Kelly gives a wonderful comic turn as Polonius, and Aonghus Óg McAnally is a natural Laertes. The show finishes up its Helix residency on April 8 before taking off on a national tour.

The Helix. DCU, Collins Avenue, Dublin 9

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

APRIL 1

DUM DUM GIRLS

Sandy, Jules, Dee Dee, and Bambi have ridden a wave of garage rock onto the sub-pop label, with a poppy knack for hooks thrown into the mix to boot. €17.50, 19:30

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

INSPIRATIONS

Glen Hansard is the main attraction at this showcase night in aid of Children's charity Barretstown. €30, 19:30

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

THE EAST PIER

An interesting romantic drama by Paul Mercier looks at a couple unexpectedly reunited, and whether they'll pursue love,

friendship – or anything. The play will run until April 16. From €13, 19:30

The Abbey Theatre. 26, Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018872200

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS*

DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama's 23 BA Graduates have produced this take on the classic Middle Eastern collection of stories, which finishes up tomorrow.

€15 (€10 concessions), 20:00

Project Arts Centre. 2, Essex Street East – Dublin 2. Tel: 018819613

GREEN VELVET

The sometime Curtis Jones may go by many names – he answers, apparently, to Geo Vogt, Half Pint, Curan Stone, and Gino Vittori – but the Chicago man is best known as Green Velvet tag, a tag he's used to produce four studio albums. €20, 23:00



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

MODFEST*

Ready your scooters: organised by Modernmedia in association with Inesdit, Modfest 2011 promises two days of fantastic mod-rock at The Village. Secret Affair, Purple Hearts, From the Jam (featuring Bruce Foxton) and Irish favourites The Lambretas will perform today and tomorrow, while 'Afternoon

Acoustic' – a free Saturday afternoon jam – will see Colin Doyle, The Modfathers, Ray Gilligan and more playing the Harcourt Hotel. €49.50 (weekend pass), various performance times

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

PAUL BRADY

He's been described as "The best melody writer I can think of" (Bonnie Raitt), a "secret hero" (Bob Dylan) and "The iron fist in the velvet glove of Irish music" (Bono) – nobody can say that Paul Brady is lacking in admirers in the fifth decade of a storied career.

From €33.60, 20:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

APRIL 2

THE PHILIP LYNOTT EXHIBITION*

It's your last chance to check out this homage to one of the most charismatic rock front-men Ireland ever produced. €10, 12:00

Stephen's Green Shopping Centre. Stephen's Green – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780888

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*

Jim Molloy Promotions bring this new staging of the classic musical about holding to traditions in changing times – and the ebbs and flows of family life – to The Gaiety Theatre. This is the last night of the production's planned run.

From €18.50, 19:30

The Gaiety Theatre. 46, South King Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016771717

NO ROMANCE*

Nancy Harris' tender-but-funny story about the secrets people keep, even in the closest of relationships, finishes up its Peacock Stage run.

From €13, 19:30

The Abbey Theatre. 26, Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018872200

THE BLACKOUT

After playing as part of two sold-out Academy shows in the venue on the 2010 Kerrang! tour, the Welsh hardcore six-piece The Blackout return in support of their third album. €18.50, 20:00

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

THE SAW DOCTORS

The Galway soft-rockers are still in demand internationally – a recent sell-out tour of the UK, including their customary stop-offs in The Glasgow Barrowlands and a pair of Shepherds Bush Empire shows showed that.

€24, 19:00

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

SARAH MILLICAN

The Geordie comic is a relative latecomer to the stand-up game – she first performed at age 29, and hadn't been in a comedy club before the night of her first gig – but has made a mighty big impression in a short space of time. €21.40, 20:30



Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

WESTLIFE

Nicky Byrne and chums still have a place in our hearts – this is the first of four 02 gigs, and tickets will have to be begged, borrowed or stolen.

From €54.80, 18:30

The 02 Arena. North Wall Quay – Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

APRIL 3

NOAH AND THE WHALE

Even though drummer Doug Fink has left to pursue a career in medicine, the Twickenham folksters have clung together and released an acclaimed second album, The First Days of Spring, late last year. €18, 20:00

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

APRIL 4

LITTLE GEM*

Playwright Elaine Murphy's hugely successful debut about three generations of Artane women has become the Play That Would Not Die, and returns for a quick Olympia run to April 9. €22.65, 20:00

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

BETWEEN FOXROCK AND A HARD PLACE*

Ross O'Carroll Kelly is in a bind: his parents are forced to sell their palatial home because of the recession and, as the family gathers to learn how much they've received, fall victim to a tiger kidnapping. This second production of Paul Howard's play kicks off tonight, and runs until April 16. €25, 19:30



The Gaiety Theatre. 46, South King Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016771717

THE PARTING GLASS*

A one-man show about love, friendship, family and loss, The Parting Glass is a deeply personal piece that's resonating with an Ireland experiencing mass emigration once again. Dermot Bolger's play will run at Project Arts Centre to April 16. €20 (€16 concessions), 20:00

Project Arts Centre. 2, Essex Street East – Dublin 2. Tel: 018819613

APRIL 5

CHILDREN OF BODOM

The Finnish death metal outfit have had a busy few years since 2008's Blooddrunk propelled them onto the U.S. hard rock scene. €35.50, 17:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

THE SOUND OF MUSIC*

This new and lavish production telling the story of the Von Trapps on the stage is already generating huge excitement – it kicks off a run tonight that will continue to April 30. From €25, 19:00

Grand Canal Theatre. Grand Canal Square, Docklands – Dublin 1. Tel: 016777999

APRIL 6

BOWLING FOR SOUP

After a sold-out October show with the rest of their band, Bowling For Soup frontman Jaret Reddick and bass player Erik Chandler play a one-off acoustic show for their uniquely dedicated Irish fans. €25, 19:00

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

BELL X1*

The radio-friendly indie stalwarts return to Vicar Street, which they comfortably sold out last November. This time, they're playing tonight and tomorrow. €33.60, 20:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

THOUSANDS

The new Bella Union signings come to Dublin as part of their first UK and Ireland tour. €13, 20:00

The Grand Social. 35, Liffey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018740076



KENNEDYS

31, Westland Row - Dublin 2
Tel: 016799077

The underground club downstairs is pretty cool, and the main bar at Kennedys has plenty of charm too. It's an old-school place, with good Guinness, plenty of wooden furniture, a relaxed vibe, some of the best pub grub in town – trust us, you'll have to sneak out early to grab a table. A particularly warming bangers and mash makes our day, as does the friendly service too.

Open Monday to Saturday from 12.00 to late. Nightclub open Friday and Saturday from 23.00 to 02.30.

Getting there: From Pearse Street DART station (facing onto Westland Row), turn left and head up the street towards Merrion Square. Kennedy's will be on your right.

APRIL 7

ESSIE J

Fresh from picking up the prestigious Critics Choice prize at the Brits, UK singer-songwriter Jessie J – who first came to attention after writing songs for Justin Timberlake, Alicia Keys and Christina Aguilera – continues to bend genres and gain increasing notoriety in her own right.

€14.50, 19:30

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

RYAN SHERIDAN

With a sell-out Whelan's debut under his belt from February, the Monaghan singer-songwriter makes a quick return as single Jigsaw continues to chart well.

€12, 19:30

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

APRIL 8

CLAUDE VON STROKE

Growing up in the suburbs of Detroit, Barclay Crenshaw wanted to be a filmmaker, but natural talent, a dose of luck and hard work have all propelled him onto the a-list DJ circuit.

€17, 23:00

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

CRY BEFORE DAWN

18 years since we last heard from them, Celtic rockers Cry Before Dawn are back with two special shows – one in their native Wexford, and another here in Dublin's Vicar Street on April 8.

€28, 20:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

ESBEN & THE WITCH

The Brighton indie-poppers have come a long way quickly, sharing stages with artists including The xx, Wild Beasts, Efterklang, The Big Pink and Deerhunter. Debut album Violet Cries is mighty exciting too.

€14, 20:00

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

APRIL 9

BROOKE FRASER

20 year-old singer-songwriter Brooke Fraser is well on her way to national treasure status in her native New Zealand, thanks to her well-received debut album What to do with Daylight.

€13.50, 20:00

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

THE AIRBORNE TOXIC EVENT

These highly-rated indie rockers have more than just a cool name to their credit: their self-titled debut album was a sleeper hit on its release in 2009, while follow-up All At Once is due for worldwide release this month.

€18.50, 19:30

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

THESE CHARMING MEN

Feeling like a walk home in the rain? Let Ireland's premier Smiths tribute act unleash your inner mope.

€15, 20:00

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

PAUL HEATON

The former Beautiful South and Housemartins man is flying solo these days, and touring third album Acid Country.

€19.50, 20:00

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

EVENTS

WEEK | 11 - 17 APRIL



APRIL 14 AND 15

BEADY EYE*

Songwriter Noel Gallagher may have jumped ship, but that doesn't mean that the other members of Oasis are retiring back to their mansions just yet. Following Noel's 2009 departure, Liam has hooked up with the other core members of the group, Gem Archer and Andy Bell – recruiting a very accomplished drummer in Chris Sharrock – to bang out more old-school, Beatle-influenced rock. Successful promotional singles Bring the Light and Four LetterWord show there's still an appetite for that kind of thing, and debut album Different Gear, Still Spinning has already been pegged as a hit for 2011. The band are embarking on a UK and Ireland tour to support the release, which will include their first-ever Irish shows at the Olympia.

From €36.60, 19:30

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street. Dublin 2

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

APRIL 11

AFRICA UNITE

An accomplished reggae outfit fit all the way from Turin.

€17.50, 20:00

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

APRIL 12

ADELE

Having made an instant splash with her chart-topping 2007 debut single, Chasing Pavements, singer-songwriter Adele has watched as her star continues to rise. Debut album 19 snagged a Mercury Music Prize nomination and two Grammy Awards (for Best New Artist and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for Chasing Pavements), plus two Grammy nominations for Record of the Year and Song of the Year. She also became the first winner of the BRIT Awards Critics Choice award in 2008. With second album 21 landing in January, the critical drumbeats of acclaim have begun again as

she takes off on tour – tickets for this show have already sold out.

From €30, 19:00

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

TIR NA NOG

Leo O'Kelly and Sonny Condell's outfit are one of the first 'progressive folk' outfits and certainly one of the longest running. They've been playing together on and off since 1985, and 2010's Live at Sirius show they're still sharp as ever.

€15, 20:00

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

ONEOHTRIX POINT NEVER

Daniel Lopatin's big, atmospheric digital pieces are set to fill this fittingly large venue.

€16, 20:00

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

APRIL 13

THE GIRL WHO FORGOT TO SING BADLY

A family-friendly story staged in collaboration with The Ark, sees the tuneless Peggy leading the audience on a journey across snowy lands and wild seas. The show kicks off today with some school performances and will continue through to April 30.

From €5, 12:15

The Abbey Theatre. 26, Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018872200

MALEVOLENT CREATION

These rockers have 23 years on the go, a Spinal Tap worthy list of former members and 11 studio albums to their credit, including last year's Invidious Dominion.

€20.35, 19:30

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

THE VIEW

The View have been enjoying life since debut album Hats off to the Buskers became a surprise number one hit. The LP, which was also nominated for the 2007 Mercury Music Prize, was torn relentlessly by the hard-working band, who still found time to unleash their distinctly darker follow-up Which Bitch? in 2009. They're back in the saddle this year with third album, Bread and Circuses, released in March, and are embarking on an initial UK and Ireland tour.

€23, 19:30

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

J MASCIS

He may be best known for his days in Dinosaur Jr, but the accomplished guitarist and songwriter has had several side bands and a solo career spanning five albums, including this year's Several Shades of Why.

€23, 20:00

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

POSSIBILITIES 2011

Now that Irish voters have unleashed their fury on Fianna Fáil, a new event is challenging us to once again "be the revolution". Possibilities 2011, a social forum organised by three non-profits (Children in Crossfire, SpunOut.ie, and Afr) will feature luminaries including former president Mary Robinson, Kila, and the Dalai Lama. The Tibetan leader is coming to Ireland to speak for the first time since 1991.

€49, 09.00

Citywest Hotel, Saggart – County Dublin. Tel: 0141010500

APRIL 14

BUCK 65

How many rappers have performed songs about a road trip with their dog and a bunch of Johnny Cash records on the go? Not many, we fancy. This Canadian is a unique performer with influences ranging from blues, rock and avant garde thrown into his hip-hop.

€16.50, 19.30

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

P J GALLAGHER

The Naked Camera host and motorbike enthusiast is well known from his TV work, but still makes time to try out his live material at venues across the globe – and Dublin's home of top-tier stand-up.

€28, 20.30

Vicar Street, 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

MARTIN A. EGAN

Few singer-songwriters ever reach multi-platinum status without ever releasing an album. However, Egan's had plenty of success writing for Christy Moore, with the Hothouse Flowers, The Black Romantics, Poppy Gonzalez and Hush Collector. Here, he'll be dusting off his solo work.

€12, 19.30

Whelan's, 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

APRIL 15

WWE WRESTLEMANIA REVENGE

The 02 Arena is once again gearing up for musclebound action, as the stars of the WWE hit these shores as part of their Wrestlemania Revenge tour. The card remains a closely guarded secret, but will probably involve follow-ups from wrestling's big jamboree and should feature the biggest stars in the company – including Dublin's own Sheamus.

From €33.60, 19.30

The 02 Arena, NorthWall Quay – Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI

This Melbourne-based outfit are part of a new crop of bands steadily dispelling the notion that no good music comes from down under. Their latest album, Moment Bends, was being talked up as the first great contemporary pop album of 2011 long before its release this month.

€18.50, 20.00

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

O EMPEROR

Waterford's finest O Emperor are rolling into town for their biggest headline date yet. Since their first Dublin headliner at Whelan's in May (sold out with several weeks to spare), the post-rockers have continued to wow audiences and build a strong live following; their Electric Picnic set was a highlight of last year's festival, and tickets for their recent Sugar Club gig were like gold dust.

€18.50, 19.00

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

JOSH RITTER AND THE ROYAL CITY BAND

The Idaho man returns to a city that can't seem to get enough of his lush Americana. Random House will publish his first novel, Brights

Passage, in Summer 2011, but Ritter insists he's not taking the eye off the musical ball – he'll be joined by the Royal City Band for this gig.

€30, 20.30

Vicar Street, 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

DIGITAL MYSTIKS

The Dubstep duo of Mala and Coki have an ample discography, including last year's Urban Ethics, and a rabid following.

€17.45, 22.30

The Twisted Pepper, 54, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018734038

MAEVE HIGGINS

Stand-up may be a game dominated by the boys, but the Cork lass is well able to tangle with the best of them.

€17.45, 20.00

Whelan's, 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

APRIL 16

STEVE LAWLOR

Birmingham's most popular clubbing export may have been raised on Acid House, but has spent his entire career so far pushing the boundaries of genres in the dance world. Across residencies with top clubs including Ibiza's Space, The End and Twilo, his Lights Out series featured on Boxed, along with his work with the now-defunct Harlem Records, he's striven to craft "deep" and "sexy" house music that's difficult to pigeon-hole.

€17.50, 23.00

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

LYKKE LI

Following a whirlwind run of sold out shows in London, Paris, Berlin and London, Swedish sensation Lykke Li whisks into Dublin for a show that sold out with time to spare. The gig marks her Irish headliner since

2008's Button Factory appearance, though a storming set at 2009's Electric Picnic also helped snag her a few fans. Her critically acclaimed debut Youth Novels doubtless did most of the hard work, while the free-to-download release of latest single Get Some catapulted her to top spot on the Hype Machine chart as the most blogged about artist in the world. Expect the hype to peak with the arrival of her long-awaited follow up album, Wounded Rhymes.

From €20, 19.30

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

APRIL 17

N-DUBZ

With over 500,000 albums sold, three MOBO awards, a 21 date sold out UK tour, over 20 million views on Youtube and a number 1 UK single, N-Dubz are as hot an act as any in British hip-hop today. They're currently touring latest album Love. Live. Life.

€30, 18.00

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

JENNY TALIA

The Australian-born comedy singer songwriter makes a rare Dublin appearance.

€17.50, 20.00

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

JEDWARD

Call them tone-deaf, but you can't question the work ethic of our troll-haired, indefatigable Eurovision standard bearers. They return again to Dublin for what's sure to be a well attended show.

€25, 19.30

Grand Canal Theatre, Grand Canal Square, Docklands – Dublin 1. Tel: 016777999

EVENTS

WEEK | 18 - 24 APRIL



APRIL 24

LAURENT GARNIER

Already a legend in the electronic music community, Laurent Garnier is bringing dancefloor-filling show, L.B.S., on a live tour. Conceived after 18 months on tour with a full live band, L.B.S. ('Live Booth Sessions') features Garnier alongside two live musicians churning out an eclectic set with plenty of experimentation. "After eighteen months on tour with my musicians, I began to realize that I could get as much pleasure from playing live in a festival as I could from DJ-ing in clubs. Whilst on tour, we developed a very open style of playing: interacting, improvising, and expressing ourselves freely, something that I thought I could only achieve through my DJ sets," explains the man himself. This show will see Garnier joined in the booth by Benjamin Rippert on keys and Stephane 'Scan X' Dri on machines, for a fluid five-hour improvised fusion of jazz, house and techno.

€29.50, 21.00

Tripod, Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2

APRIL 18

PRINCE SUNLESS

Artist William McKeown has created this temporary exhibition at The Golden Bough, which will run until May 1.

Free, 12.00

Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery, Parnell Square – Dublin 1. Tel: 018471903

CAT ON A HOTTIN ROOF

With the centenary of Tennessee Williams' birth, expect to see many productions of his tense, emotive dramas on Dublin stages. This Pulitzer Prize winning classic tackles issues of family and the deep south, centring on a wealthy family as it gathers to celebrate Big Daddy's 65th birthday. He is dying of cancer, which the family decide to hide from him and Big Mama as they try to boost their own cut of the

estate. In particular, the beautiful but desperate Maggie 'the cat' (married to the alcoholic Brick) will go to any length to secure what is hers. This production is directed by Mark Brokaw, and designed by Francis O'Connor with lighting by Mark McCullough. Owen Roe plays the patriarch, Big Daddy, Richard Flood is Brick and Fiona O'Shaughnessy is Maggie 'the cat'. The cast also includes Donna Dent, John Kavanagh, Barry McGovern, Marion O'Dwyer, David O'Meara. The show runs through April. From €20, 19.30

The Gate Theatre, 1, Cavendish Row – Dublin 1. Tel: 018744045

BLAZE AWAY

This exhibition examines duelling in Ireland and the work of two Irish families – the Rigbys and the Reads – who made fine swords and guns in Dublin

in the nineteenth century. Free, 10.00

Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks - Dublin 7. Tel: 016777444

APRIL 19

BROTHER

Maybe it's their self-proclaimed 'Gritpop' sound, or the swagger that calls to mind a younger Oasis, but Slough outfit Brother have the music critics in a tizzy. They've been tipped by both The Guardian and the NME as a breakthrough act for 2011 – in fact, the latter featured the Britpop revivalists on its front cover – while their snarling vocals and anthemic guitar sound is winning devotees among the UK indie scene.

€13.50, 19.30

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

BIG COUNTRY

Having delighted fans across the UK with their reunion tour, the band behind anthems including Fields of Fire and In A Big Country are continuing their lap of honour. The 80s rockers made an instant splash with debut album The Crossing in 1983, and scored a number one with follow-up Steeltown. Six albums (all top ten hits) later, the band wound down, but they reunited last year to celebrate their 30th anniversary. The Alarm's Mike Peters replaces co-founder Stuart Adamson, who passed away in 2001, and has been performing well alongside Tony Butler, Mark Brzezicki, Mike Peters, Bruce Watson and Jamie Watson.

€26.50, 19.00

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

THE BIG FELLAH

At once a straight-up madcap comedy and sharp satire, Richard Bean's play focuses on Michael Doyle, a young New York fireman who joins the IRA. Soon, however, his Bronx apartment is overrun with a fast-quipping Irish killer, a beautiful woman who he really mustn't fall in love with and charismatic boss David Costello, the "Big Fella" himself. Spanning three decades, and veering from farce to deadly danger, *The Big Fella* is a witty story of loyalty, disillusionment and betrayal. Tonight is opening night for the production, staged by Out of Joint, and *The Big Fella* will run to May 7.

€15, 19:30
The Gaiety Theatre, 46, South King Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016771717

APRIL 20

TUTANKHAMUN – HIS TOOM AND TREASURES

Whether it's the colossal structures it left behind, the engineering genius its people displayed, or the fact that its history has to be pieced together so carefully, the empire of ancient Egypt has been a subject of lingering fascination for historians and the public alike for centuries. And of course, few aspects of the nation's history are quite as intriguing as the 'boy king' Tutankhamun, whose tomb was uncovered by archaeologist Howard Carter. That's presumably why this exhibition – which uses the expertise of leading Egyptologists, sketches and diary notes made by Carter, and original photographs taken by exploration photographer Harry Burton to recreate three burial chambers and an extensive collection of the famous Pharaoh's most important treasures - has been a major hit.

The display contains jewellery, cult objects, amulets, coffers, chests, chairs, weapons, a stunning golden chariot, large golden shrines and King Tut's iconic death mask. Crowds have been impressive to date, so book in advance.

From €16, 12:00
RDS Main Hall, Merrion Road, Ballsbridge – Dublin 4. Tel: 0166808866

INDIA 9

This Dublin five-piece blend contemporary acoustic sounds with solid rock rhythms. Tickets will be sold on the door.

€TBC, 19:30
Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

APRIL 21

RUBBERBANDITS

The joke is getting thin – to put it bluntly, you don't need to be a comic genius to laugh at poor people – but the Limerick hip-hopers are still going strong, with a new single in *I Wanna Fight Your Father* and this Olympia show.

€19.45, 19:15
The Olympia Theatre, 72, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

APRIL 22

DUBLIN GOSPEL CHOIR

This all-volunteer collective has been going strong since forming in Dublin's inner city during 1996, and are still the choice for anyone in the mood for holly rolling tunes. Their main stage residency at Electric Picnic (five years and counting) shows no sign of abating, even as they collaborate with a-listers such as Stevie Wonder, Nitin Sawhney, John Legend, Riverdance, James Brown,

Damien Rice and Rod Stewart. Second album *Doing Their Thing* made them the first gospel act to crack the top 30 album chart, and they continue to spread the joy at charity events and one-off gigs like this in Ireland and the UK.

€30, 20:00
The Olympia Theatre, 72, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

APRIL 23

THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

These trailblazers of basketball were founded in 1926, long before the sport was integrated – indeed, it was their thumping of the World Champion Minneapolis Lakers in 1948 and 1949 that helped break down the barriers to Afro-Americans entering the NBA. The Globetrotters themselves, though, have stayed aloof from the rigours of America's domestic league, instead developing a worldwide fanbase through live and interactive shows.

€39.20, 20:00
National Basketball Arena, Tymon Park, Tallaght – Dublin 24. Tel: 014597500

EDWARD

Still boasting plenty of energy from their Grand Canal Theatre show, the pop duo perform tonight and tomorrow.

From €20, 19:30
The Olympia Theatre, 72, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

DUNBELIEVABLES

After seeing a huge response to their February run of shows, the comedy double act of Pat Shortt and Jon Kenny return with their surreal, slightly creepy and frequently hilarious look at Irish rural society. The new tour, entitled *One Hell Of A Doo!*, finishes its short second

run at Vicar Street tonight.

€32.50, 20:00
Vicar Street, 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

INVASION

Fans of George Lucas' *Star Wars* are in for a treat: the Emerald Garrison, a body of die-hard fans, is heading to the RDS for a weekend long celebration of the series. Organisers promise an all round science fiction event that will feature the highest calibre props and backdrops ever to be seen in Ireland, as well as amazing life-size *Star Wars* sets. If you've ever longed to see a life-size scout walker or Y-wing fighter, or to sit on the emperor's throne while Darth Vader kneels before you, your time has come. Stars of the series including David Prowse (Darth Vader), Jeremy Bulloch (the original Boba Fett) and Kenny Baker (R2-D2) have been lined up to appear over the weekend, along with celebrated enthusiasts and authors on the *Star Wars* Universe.

From €20 (€12 children), 10:00
RDS Main Hall, Merrion Road, Ballsbridge – Dublin 4. Tel: 016680866

APRIL 24

MEATH V DUBLIN

Croker fills with the roar of the crowd once more, as the blues take on their neighbours in the Allianz league.

€15, 12:30
Croke Park Stadium, Jones' Road – Dublin 3. Tel: 016070000

EVENTS

WEEK | 25 - 30 APRIL



APRIL 27 AND 28

JAMES VINCENT MCMURROW*

Singer-songwriter James Vincent McMorrow may have only picked up a guitar at age 19, but he's made up for lost time. Having released his debut album *Early in the Morning* to critical acclaim last February, he's snagged a Choice Music Prize nomination here and, more importantly a North American deal with Vagrant Records – putting him in the esteemed company of the Eels. He's coming back from a tour of the states to play The Pepper Canister Church. The church, one of the city's most unusual landmarks, only opened its doors to music in December 2008 – the venue usually hosts classically orientated chamber fare, meaning McMorrow's unique style will be a first. Tickets for the April 27 show sold like hotcakes, so he's set to perform the following night too.

€20, 20:00

The Pepper Canister Church, Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2

APRIL 25

GOOD MOURNING MRS BROWN

Mrs. Brown, all told, has been good to Brendan O'Carroll – the comic has written three plays centred around the blue-collar Dublin widow, and returned to RTE with the surprise hit *Mrs. Brown's Boys* in January – a BBC run is set for the Autumn. Now, Carroll has turned his attention to part two of the *Mrs. Brown* stage trilogy, rewriting the funny, affecting tale to include plenty of Mrs. Brown's popular boys. Dermot and his now pregnant wife Maria are living with Mrs. Brown, much to Maria's dismay - and the pressure from her to get a place of their own has Dermot contemplating giving a return to a life of crime with his old partner Buster Brady. Cathy Brown, meanwhile, interrupts her new romance to give partnership counselling to Rory and Dino, and Father Quinn is beginning to doubt his vocation. With O'Carroll in the title role, the play promises good clean fun from

opening night this evening to May 7.
From €30, 20:00
The Olympia Theatre, 72, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

APRIL 26

ANDRE IEU

The Violin master returns to Dublin after being forced to cancel a September date due to ill health.

€TBC, 18:30



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

HELLO MONROE

The pop-rock five-piece fronted by Rona McHugh play this intimate gig at The Academy 2.

€10, 13:00
The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

APRIL 27

PYGMALION

For the first time in its storied history, The Abbey will be presenting Bernard Shaw's classic play, *Pygmalion*, on its main stage tonight. The story has plenty of modern resonance in an X-Factor age – an impoverished flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, is taken in hand by linguistics professor, Henry Higgins, and turned into a lady for a bet – while the sharpness of its satire hasn't blunted in the slightest. This new production features full period costumes and some heavy hitters of Irish theatre too. Risteard Cooper plays Higgins, and Annabelle Connolly directs. The play runs to June 11.

From €18, 19:30

The Abbey Theatre, 26, Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018872200

APRIL 28

TWIN ATLANTIC

Sam McTrusty and his Glasgow alt-rock buddies are touring second album *Free*, set for a May release on Red Bull Records.

€13.00, 18:30
The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

GLASVEGAS

As fellow Glaswegians Twin Atlantic play The Academy 2, these Columbia-signed rockers hit the big stage.

€23, 19:30
The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

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

BEARDYMAN

The Londoner is renowned for both his beatboxing skills and his use of live looping technology – the BBC has already dubbed him “king of sound and ruler of beats”. €21, 19:30

The Twisted Pepper. 54, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018734038

BIPOLAR EMPIRE

Formed in the haze of a mud-laden Punctestown field at Oxegen 2007, this Tallaght three-some dish up old-fashioned, folk-influenced rock’n’roll. €7, 20:00

The Workman’s Club. 11, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692

PETER KAY

Bolton-born comedian Peter Kay has seen unprecedented public demand for a run of shows at the O2 from tonight to May 3. It’s been a long road to the a-list stand-up circuit since Kay lost a job at his local cinema and, rather than looking for another menial gig, decided to pursue his dream of comedy. Even though success has come relatively quickly (he entered and won Channel 4’s So You Think You’re Funny contest in 1997, and snagged a Perrier award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival the following year), he only really cracked the mainstream after 2000’s Live at the Top of the Tower and a string of chat-show appearances. However, he moved quickly, unveiling Phoenix Nights in, spin-off Max & Paddy’s Road to Nowhere, and plenty of live work. A spot in his Mum Wants a Bungalow tour won first prize in a 2006 Channel 4 poll to find the 100 greatest funny moments of all time. Though you’ll see him on the odd film and TV role – including a cameo in the last Wallace and Gromit movie – his focus is firmly on touring nowadays. It makes sense – after all, he’s the



Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

first ever stand-up to play 14 sold-out nights at London’s O2 Arena. €44.20, 18:30

The O2 Arena. North Wall Quay – Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

DES BISHOP: MY DAD WAS NEARLY JAMES BOND

As a teenager, American-born Des Bishop loved to tease his father for coming second place in casting to succeed Sean Connery as James Bond, before eventually giving up on acting for a career in retail and raising a family. But today, Bishop’s father is dying of lung cancer, and the comedian has come up with a funny, affecting tribute that, like all Bishop’s best shows, skirts around deeply personal revelations, edgy material about porn and erectile dysfunction, and deeper points about facing reality and dealing with emotions. The show has won rave reviews down under, and in a nationwide tour. He performs tonight and April 30. €28, 20:30

APRIL 29

FUNERAL SUITS

With a debut EP, Eye Spy, having sold well, the Dublin-Limerick trio are hard at work on a new album. They’re still making time for the odd live show, however. €10, 19:30

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

THE QUARRYMEN

The skiffle and old-school rock’n’rollers – who once counted John Lennon among their founding members – are still touring at an impressive clip. €24, 19:30

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

BATHS

Will Wiesenfeld, otherwise known as rising electro producer Baths, is set to release his debut album Cerulean on June 22. The LP has the same lo-fi, electro-hip-hop that has the Pitchfork crowd very excited. €15, 20:00

The Workman’s Club. 11, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692

MARY GAUTHIER

The folk singer-songwriter is touring seventh album, The Foundling Alone, which had several critics gushing on its 2010 release. €23, 20:00

Whelan’s. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

APRIL 30

ADRIAN EDMONDSON AND THE BAD SHEPHERDS

The English comedian and actor is also pretty handy performing punk and new wave classics and traditional instruments with this band. If that sounds odd just reading it, imagine what it’s like to listen to. €25.00, 20:00

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

LUNASA

Seán Smyth, Trevor Hutchinson, and Donogh Hennessy have been playing their modern trad together since 1996, and have seven studio albums – including last year’s excellent Lá Nua – under their collective belts. €19.85, 20:00

Whelan’s. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

THE WAVE PICTURES

This hard-working, prolific indie outfit unveil their new album, Beer in the Breakers, this month on Moshi Moshi Records. €15, 20:00

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

EVENTS

REGULAR EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC CLUBBING * ONGOING EVENT
EATING AND DRINKING THEATRE ARTS

MONDAYS

LOUNGE LIZARDS

The ever-popular Lounge Lizards sees guest DJs step up to the plate and spin their favourite tunes for lounging. Expect a chilled-out evening with a surprise guest on occasion. Free, 20:00

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

THE HEP CAT CLUB

The Grand Social swings to the strains of jazz era classics, kicking off with a beginners swing class. €8, 20:00.

The Grand Social. 35, Liffey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018740076

SKA NIGHT

It’s not just ska on the menu – there’s a bit of rocksteady and house to be danced to at this evening. Free, 20:30

Thomas House. 86, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 016772619

KING KONG CLUB

The top musical gameshow is now in its third year, with free live music and a knock-out tournament to win a free recording session. Free, 21:00

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

PISS UP WITH PEACHES

A student-friendly gay night, with all drinks €4 or less, and three Jagerbombs for €10. Free, 21:00

The George. 87-89, South Great Georges Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782983

TASTE

Lady Jane takes over the Solas decks, spinning soul classics and a few more modern tunes. Free, 21:00

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

DOLLY DOES DRAGON

This evening of €4 cocktails, candy, and fabulous tunes has been pre-ordered over by the inimitable Dolly since 2006. Together with DJ Lee, Dolly entertains the crowd until the wee hours. Admission free. This evening of €4 cocktails, candy, and fabulous tunes has been pre-ordered over by the inimitable Dolly since 2006. Together with DJ Lee, Dolly entertains the crowd until the wee hours. Admission free. Free, 22:00

The Dragon. 64, South Great George’s Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014781590

HEFTY HORSE

A simple concept for a Monday night club – live music and bands playing their own DJ sets to 02:30 – is made all the sweeter by cheap drinks and free admission. The line-up varies, but the post-gig atmosphere is almost always rocking. Free, 22:00

Whelan’s. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

MAKE AND DO WITH PANTI

The queen bee of Dublin drag does arts and crafts with her adoring fans. Free, 22:00

Pantibar. 7-8, Capel St – Dublin 1. Tel: 018740710

TUESDAYS

SHEBEEN FLICK

A new film night showing much-loved Irish films and some unseen work. Each night has a short film followed by a full-length feature. Free, 19:30

Shebeen Chic. 4, South Great George’s Street – Dublin 2.

TASTE

Classics, Soul and more make for an easy Tuesday night. Free, 20:00

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

THE IRISH BLUES CLUB

Rather like it says on the tin, these guys do great straight-up blues every Tuesday night. €8, 20:00

JJ Smyths. 12, Aungier Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014752565

SUBTERANNEAN

Rock, punk and metal sounds are on at Thomas House. Free, 20:30

Thomas House. 86, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 016772619

ANDREW STANLEY’S COMEDY MISH-MASH

Comedy laissez-faire with a laid-back evening of stand-up, sketches, songs, messing about and free biccies hosted by Comedy Cellar man Andrew Stanley. €TBC, 21:00

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

BATTLE OF THE AXE

Looking to start in comedy? Look no further than this open-mike night at the Ha’penny Bridge Inn. €7, 21:00

The Ha’penny Bridge Inn. 42, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016770616

GENTLE TUESDAYS

The Mighty Stef and chums sing their favourite songs on out-of-tune acoustic guitars. Free, 21:00

The Workman’s Club. 10, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692

GROOVALIZATION

Brazilian food and music fill this hopping club every Tuesday. Free, 21:00

South William. 52, South William Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016725946

THE RUBY SESSIONS

This singer-songwriter night has been on the go for over 10 years and features some great performers in an intimate setting. €6, 21:00

Doyles. 9, College Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016710616

WHITE CHOCOLATE

Classic rock and modern covers are on offer from a soulful outfit. €TBC, 21:30
The Mezz, 23, Eustace Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707655

JUICY BEATS

The Village's resident DJs churn out the best of indie, rock, classic pop, synth pop and electro music at this weekly Tuesday nightclub. €5, 22:00
The Village, 26, Wexford Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555

C. U. NEXT TUESDAY

There's more than just a naughty name to recommend this new club night – indie, electro, pop and dance tunes make a varied mix. €12/5, 23:00
Crawdaddy, Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

WEDNESDAYS

THE WORKMAN RESIDENTS

Indie and Alternative sounds are on offer at the venue bar, while electro predominates on the first floor. Free, 18:00
The Workman's Club, 10, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692

LAUGH OUT LOUD

A regular comedy night featuring MC Aidan Killian and special guests. €7/€5, 20:30
Anseo, 18, Camden Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014751321

SONGS OF PRAISE

It's karaoke, Jim, but not as we know it. This long-running DIY rock n'roll night has moved to Wednesdays after tiring of kicking everyone out early on Sundays. Check out

the full playlist on www.therescuesquad.com/songsopraxis. Free, 21:00
The Village, 26, Wexford St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555

SPACE'N'VEDA

Veda Beaux Reeves and Davina Devine rule the big gay roost at this club-cum-cabaret evening. Free before 22:00/€10, 21:00
The George, 87-89, South Great Georges Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782983

THE SONG ROOM

Hamlet Sweeney presents this showcase of up-and-coming artists at The Globe. Free, 21:00
The Globe, 11, South Great Georges Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220

THE ZODIAC SESSIONS

An acoustic showcase featuring some promising talent at Bruxelles. Free, 21:00
Bruxelles, 7-8, Harry Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016775362

SEVEN DEADLY SKINS

Ignore the lame pun in the name, and focus on the musicianship of this quality reggae cover band. €TBC, 21:30
The Mezz, 23, Eustace Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707655

INTERGALACTIC

Indie and electro bliss is on offer at the Whelan's late club. Free, 23:00
Whelan's, 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

VOGUE

Pop, pop, and more fantastic pop – with lots of drinks promotions. €8 (€6 with flyer), 23:00
ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre, 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

THURSDAYS

PHANTOM 105.2 DJs AND GARAGE BAR RESIDENTS

Dublin's favourite alternative music station provides the tunes downstairs, while 60s sounds are on the first floor. Free, 18:00
The Button Factory, Curved Street, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

The Workman's Club, 10, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692

ISOTOPE

Dublin's longest-running jazz session is still going strong. €10, 20:00
JJ Smyths, 12, Aungier Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014752565

THE ODEON MOVIE CLUB

Relax to classic films while being pampered by a full bar and waiter service. To reserve seats or a table, e-mail hello@odeon.ie. Free, 20:00
The Odeon, Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088

GARAGE INC

The clue is in the name – good garage tunes in a cool setting. Free, 20:30
Thomas House, 86, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 016772619

MASH

Matjazz, Lex Woo, Baby Dave, Marina Diniz and friends spin late into the evening at South William. Free, 21:00
South William, 52, South William Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016725946

MUZIK

An unabashed student night, Muzik is packed with upbeat indie and electro tunes, with plenty of drinks promotions to get the party going in earnest. €6, 21:00
The Button Factory, Curved Street, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

OCTOPUSSY

Resident DJs, an 18-foot pool, twister, and charting hits recommend this new club. €8 (€4 early bird, €5 students), 22:00
The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

THE PANTI SHOW

Pantibar's fabulous proprietor takes to the stage in all her glory every Thursday, with Bunny and some special guests for support. A medley of music, dramatic reconstructions, connect 4 (yes, that one throws us too) and puppets makes for a very dramatic night. Free, 22:00
Pantibar, 7-8, Capel St - Dublin 1. Tel: 018740710

TANKED UP

Dublin's biggest student night in an ideal location. You'll find drinks promotions aplenty. €5, 22:30
Tramco Brewery, 121, Lower Rathmines Road – Dublin 6. Tel: 014968050

PARTY ANIMAL

Gorillas with vodka guns, all drinks costing €3.50, and the hot and sweaty Andrews Lane Theatre dancefloor – you guessed it, it's a student-friendly night. €8 (€6 concession), 23:00
ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre, 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

THE LITTLE BIG PARTY

DJ Brendan Conroy takes over the decks at Rí Rá, beneath the Globe bar, every Thursday. An eclectic mix of soul, indie and rock prevails. Free, 23:00
Rí-Rá, 11, South Great George's St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220

FRIDAYS

FRIDAYS AT MY HOUSE

The master room includes upcoming DJs Ray Shah, Keith Feely and Rafiq. €TBC, 23:00
Buck Whaleys, 67, Lower Leeson Street – Dublin 2.

LECTROSOUL

Richie Rock, Mark Kiernan and Warren Kiernan hit the decks from 23:00 to 03:00, with a set from Marina Diniz. Free, 23:00
The Exchequer, 3-5 Exchequer Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706787

SHAKEDOWN

A hot new Friday club with 70s-influenced rock n'roll from original bands playing lengthy sets. The line up varies from week to week. Free, 23:00
Pacinos, 18 Suffolk St - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775651

WAR

The popular Spy club night relocates to Andrew's Lane. Drinks promotions abound, and the first 40 people (and the first 40 to show up with dog tags) get in free. €5 before 00:00 (€10 thereafter), 23:00
ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre, 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

SATURDAYS

THE MATINEE BRUNCH CLUB

Another Odeon film club, this time featuring more family-friendly movies. But then again, who wouldn't like to see Up over brunch with a pint? Free, 12:00
The Odeon, Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088

DADDY OR CHIPS

Techno, house and hip-hop are all offered across three rooms at this new club. €8, 22:00
The Good Bits, 1, Store Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018197635.

INDIETRONIC

DJ Eamonn Barrett promises the soundtrack to your big Saturday night out, mixing classic rock, indie anthems and big beat electro tunes. Free, 22:00
The Grand Social, 35, Liffey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018740076

MICROFUNK

A hopping clubnight in the bowels of this cavernous bar and club. €5, 22:00
Pygmalion, Powerscourt Townhouse, South William Street – Dublin 2. Tel: n/a

PROPAGANDA

The legendary club night now has a Dublin colony in The Academy. €10/8, 22:30
The Academy, 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

GOSSIP

Yes, the popular Spy club night has moved – it's still loaded with indie-pop and fun times though. €TBC, 23:00
ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre, 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

PENTAGON

Local residents and special guest DJs play across five rooms of the Tripod complex. €12, 23:00
Tripod, Old Harcourt Street Train Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780225

TRANSMISSION

This club night is on a mission to break down the barrier between guitar and DJ culture in the city. Good luck with that, we hear you say, but it's made a great start thus far. €12, 23:00
The Button Factory, Curved Street, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

SUNDAYS

PLAY!

DJ Ronan O' does a mix of classic 80s and 90s tracks, drawing on disco, pop and feel-good tunes. Cocktails are available from €5. Free, 18:00
The Odeon, Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088

M.A.S.S

Power FM curates a blessed-out night of music, arts, sights and sounds. Free, 19:00
Hogan's, 35, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775904

SUNDAY SUSHI

Jazz is dished up with a Far Eastern flavour. Free, 19:30
Yamamori Sushi, 38/39, Lower Ormond Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 018720003

COMEDY CRUNCH

Free comedy + free food = great night. Free, 21:00
Shebeen Chic, 4, South Great George's Street – Dublin 2.

SAUCY SUNDAYS

A new weekly live music session running in the loft venue. Free, 14:00
The Grand Social, 35, Liffey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018740076

SWING NIGHT

The Dublin City Jazz Orchestra has a new home on Sunday nights in the Tivoli. A 17 piece big band plays from 21:00, and novices can enjoy a free lesson. €10, 20:00
The Tivoli Theatre, 135 – 138, Francis Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 014544472

DANCEHALL STYLES

The button factory becomes Reggae Central on Sunday nights from 23:00, with foundation reggae, dancehall classics and contemporary Jamaican music getting an airing. €5, 23:00
The Button Factory, Curved Street, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

BEST OF DUBLIN

AFTER WORK

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

AGAINST THE GRAIN. 11, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014705100. A new bar with a host of craft beers on offer.

BIABAR. 30, Lower Stephens Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014053653. Appealing food, great drinks on tap, and live music are on offer here.

BORDERLINE RECORDS. 17, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016799097. One of the most popular punky record stores around, and deservedly so.

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

BREWBAKERS CAFÉ. 23, South Frederick Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A very popular spot for a sandwich - the chicken and bacon effort is simply delicious.

BRIAN BORU. 5, Prospect Road, Glasnevin - Dublin 9. Tel: 018304527. A welcoming northside bar.

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.

BUSY BEAN CAFÉ. Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A fun café that's bustling without being too frantic. There's a selection of sandwiches and whatnot, plus daily specials.

BUSYFEET & COCO CAFÉ. 41-2, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016719514. A characterful little place with a particularly nice atmosphere after dark.

BUTLER'S CAFÉ. 24, Wicklow Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016710599. Hot drinks, and some of the best little chocolates around: it's a winning combination.

CAFÉ 7. 7, St Andrew's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016792988. A welcoming place with a great selection of wines.

CAFÉ AROMA. 84, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A very pleasant little place just off O'Connell Street.

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

CAFÉ URBANO. 4, Upper Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018786823. Part of a popular new chain of coffee shops.

CAFFÈ CAGLIOSTRO. Millennium Walkway, Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A decidedly authentic Italian café.

CAFÉ WERBURGH. 2, Lord Edward Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A very welcoming little spot, and a great place to linger a while.

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.

CARR & O'DONNELL. Bachelor's Walk - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Formerly known as Panama, this bar does just as busy a night-time trade as its predecessor.

CHORUS CAFÉ. Fishamble Street - Dublin 2. 7, Scarlett Row, Fishamble Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016167088. A bright little place to enjoy a quick sandwich or salad.

CITIBAR. 46-49, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794455. An enjoyable bar, club, and hotel located right at the heart of things - their 'Irish tapas' is also an interesting twist.

COBBLER'S CAFÉ. Leeson Lane - Dublin 2 Dublin City. Tel: 016785945. Popular lunchtime café. Soups are particularly favoured by office worker crowd.

COFFEE SOCIETY. 2, Lower Liffey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 014781064. A favourite coffee shop for many years now among shoppers seeking a little refuge.

COPPER ALLEY BISTRO. 2, Lord Edward Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0167965000. Linked to the Harding Hotel, this place has a great menu which isn't too pricey either.

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.

DAME TAVERN. 18, Dame Court - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793426. A homely place for a relaxing pint.

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

DUBLIN TOURISM. O'Connell Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 1850230330. Searching for something to do in Dublin? Look no further.

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

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

FITZGERALD'S PUB. 22, Aston Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779289. A handy, welcoming place that's just a little bit off Temple Bar's beaten track.

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.

GRAINGERS. 51, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018363249. A great place for a slightly-off-the-beaten-track pint.

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.

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

INSOMNIA. 2, Lower Mayor Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016720320. This place dishes up a much-needed caffeine fix for docklands workers.

INSOMNIA. 40-43, Nassau Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 017071582. Stuck for a place to rest just off Grafton Street? Look no further.

INSOMNIA. 51B, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. An excellent spot for people-watching over coffee - grab the bay window if you can.

INSOMNIA. 9, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A branch of the popular coffee chain on Ireland's premier gigging strip.

INSOMNIA. Custom House Quay, IFSC, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 016720320. Another great place to grab a coffee near the Liffey.

INSOMNIA. Pembroke Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A handy location makes this place a top spot among workers in the nearby offices.

INSOMNIA. Spar, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Another branch of the popular coffee chain that's teamed up with a convenience store.

INSOMNIA. Spar, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Got the shopping? Reward yourself with a nice cuppa.

JAMES JOYCE CAFÉ BAR AND ULYSSES VENUE. 52, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018728188. A lively and fun café bar with a great food menu and a tasty selection of cocktails, plus regular gigs and club nights.

J MCNEILL'S. 140, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018747679. Another popular bar on the perpetually-rocking Capel Street Strip.

KARMA STONE. 40, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Bracken's Corner Stone has made way for this more student-friendly bar.

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

KEOGHS. 9, South Anne Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016778312. A very popular bar and lounge for old-school atmosphere.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE BAR. Bachelors Walk, O'Connell Bridge - Dublin 1. Tel: 014970111. A welcoming traditional-style pub.

LA BOULANGERIE. 6, Chatham Court, Chatham Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A great place for sweet treats with your coffee fix.

LA CORTE. Custom House Square, IFSC – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Whisper it – this little place does some of the nicest Italian coffee in the area. And in Dublin, for that matter.

LASER DVD. St Andrew's Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A great place to pick up some obscure or foreign movies.

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

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

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.

MCGOWAN'S. 18, Phibsboro Road, Phibsboro – Dublin 7. Tel: 018306606. This family-owned pub in Phibsboro also features a hopping nightclub.

MERCANTILE BAR AND GRILL. 28, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707100. With a revamped food menu – plus a cracking live venue – this place has enjoyed a new lease of life in recent months.

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

MUNCHIES. Harbourmaster Place – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. The IFSC branch of Munchies sees plenty of action, particularly at lunchtime.

MUNCHIES. Lower Baggot Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. With a perfect location, this branch of Munchies draws queues of office workers.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND. Custom House Square, Lower Mayor Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 014498500. A well-regarded institution with a range of full and part-time courses.

O'BRIEN'S SANDWICH BAR. 34, Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018747868. Sitting right by the Luas line, this branch of the sandwich chain sees plenty of business.

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

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

O'SHEAS. 19, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018365670. A veritable treasure trove of a pub, with many cosy little spaces.

OLIVER ST JOHN GOGARTY'S. Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016711822. A traditional pub that's very popular with tourists.

PEADAR KEARNEY'S. 64, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016753971. Looking on the outside like any salty boozier, Peadar Kearney's actually attracts a reasonably young crowd for some great music nights.

PORTERHOUSE NORTH. Cross Gunnes Bridge, Glasnevin – Dublin 11. Tel:

018309922. Part of the growing Porterhouse chain of bars, Porterhouse North features all the craft beers and cocktails that make the city centre establishments so popular.

PYGMALION. Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014539890. This place has taken over Bar Mizu'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 OF TARTS. 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.

RED ROSE CAFÉ. 23, Dawson Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 0863704873. A cosy, welcoming café has taken on the space once occupied by an O'Brien's sandwich bar.

RHUBARB. 18, Upper Merrion Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016767870. A bright and airy coffee shop.

SABOTAGE. 14, Exchequer Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016704789. A clothes shop with some refreshingly different looks on offer.

SHAKES. 15, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Dublin's very first milkshake bar has a wealth of recipes to choose from and very efficient staff.

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

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

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

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

SUFI'S CAFÉ. 45-50, Lower Stephen Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016798577. A continental-style café with a secluded atmosphere.

SWEENEY'S. 2, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016350058. The boutique hotel-cum-cocktail bar and jazz club has recently undergone a very good revamp.

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 ABBEYTHEATRE. 26, lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018962335. Ireland's National Theatre is well-furnished and has plenty going on.

THE BACHELOR. 31, Bachelor's Walk – Dublin 1. Tel: 018731238. A popular bar right by the boardwalk.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. 34, Lower Liffey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018782935. Shoppers surely appreciate this convenient place for grabbing bagels on the go.

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.



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THE BAGEL FACTORY. Lower Mayor Street, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 0166119730. There's plenty of variety in the bagels from here, along with seating room if you want to eat in.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. Nassau Street, 2, Nassau Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0166611806. A conveniently-located branch of the popular bagel chain.

THE BANKERS. 16, Trinity Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793697. A welcoming little bar with a great weekly comedy club.

THE CHURCH. Junction of Mary Street and Jervis 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 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 DARK HORSE INN. 1, George's Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016751862. Formerly known

as the White Horse Inn, this old sea dog's haunt has been transformed into a cool venue for jazz and other live music.

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 GARAGE BAR. East Essex Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. 1930s style petrol pumps, sawdust on the floor, and surprisingly good cocktails.

THE GEORGE. 89, George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014782983. The grand dame of Dublin gay bars is as popular as ever.

THE GRAFTON LOUNGE. Unit 2, Royal Hibernian Way, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016796260. Opened where the popular Cocoon once stood, this has a rather more laid-back feel than its predecessor.

THE GRAND SOCIAL. 35, Lower Liffey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018740076. Since taking over Pravda, this live music bar - which hosts a range of other events has gone from strength to strength.

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 HUT. 159, Phibsboro Road, Phibsboro - Dublin 7. Tel: 018302238. A decidedly old school bar - in a good way. Friendly service and a fine pint of Guinness are both on offer.

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 cosy atmosphere and great drinks - try the elderflower Collins.

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



GILBERT AND WRIGHTS DUN LAOGHAIRE

128, Lower George's Street, Dun Laoghaire - Co Dublin
Tel: 016636148

The first southside outpost of the Gilbert and Wright's night-life empire aims for a retro feel - and remarkably, it gets it right. The décor is distinctly 1970s, with funky furniture from the decade, plus plenty of vintage records and other

artefacts from a far cooler time. There's even a stack of magazines if you fancy relaxing - The New Yorker is good for whiling away a few hours over. The charm is more than superficial too: service, without breaking the easy-going vibe, is remarkably efficient, and the cocktail menu is also impressive - frequent two for one deals and

good value pints make their drinks great value too. Overall, it feels like a cross between the pad your cool uncle swears he had in his youth and a rather more mature set from Austin Powers - and no, that's no bad thing at all.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 17:00 (16:00 Friday, 12:00 Saturday and Sunday) to

23:30 (00:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).
Getting there: From Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre (facing onto George's Street), turn right and keep walking down the street for about 10 minutes. You will see Gilbert and Wright's on your right.

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

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 REAL COFFEE COMPANY. Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Like it says on the tin - real coffee, making a real treat.

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 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 SWEETEST THING. 17, Bachelor's Walk - Dublin 1. Tel: 018720233. It's high time there was a dedicated chocolate café in the heart of Dublin, we say. These folks agree.

THE TEA GARDEN. 7, Lower Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 0862191010. A veritable oasis from noisy pubs and clubs

in the city centre, this place is ideal for enjoying gourmet teas or shisha.

THE WORKMAN'S CLUB. 10, Wellington Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692. One of the city's newest - and best - live venues.

THOMAS READS. 1, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Still a very popular bar among clued-in people who don't fancy the full-on Temple Bar night out.

TOSS'D. CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 018291607. A great place for fresh noodles and salads, Toss'd gets particularly busy at lunchtime.

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

WEST COAST COFFEE. 21, Lower Camden Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014756144. Whether you're sobering up - or just trying to stay awake - this coffee shop is mighty handy.

WEST COAST COFFEE. Bachelor's Walk - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A lovely little spot to enjoy good coffee while looking out onto the Liffey.

WEST COAST COFFEE. Westland Row - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Just a few minutes walk from Trinity, this place is a handy spot for a cuppa away from the bustle.

WRIGHT'S FINDLATER HOWTH. Findlater House, Howth - County Dublin. Tel: 018324488. A striking outdoor facade offers a hint at the stylish café bar that lies within.

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.

BOOJUM. Millenium Walkway, Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018729499. A great little burrito bar, which even offers frozen margaritas.

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.

BURRITOS & BLUES. 2, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014254022. Heading to a gig on this strip? This is a great spot for a quick meal beforehand.

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

CAFÉ AZTECA. 19-22, Lord Edward Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709476. Great burritos and more are on offer from this informal restaurant.

CAFÉ CARLO. 63, O'Connell Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018880856. You can get more than just Italian stuff at this cosy, central spot - they do some mean Irish dishes too.

CAFÉ DES IRLANDAISE. 12, George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 017664567. So long Cafebardeli, make way for this new French restaurant.

CAFÉ DETOPOLIS. 37, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016704961. A wonderfully atmospheric pizzeria and Italian restaurant.

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

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

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

CASA NOSTRA. 85, Malborough Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018728143. A relatively new Italian kid on the block.

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: 0166618899. 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.

CIAO BELLA ROMA. 25, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770004. A great place for a late night, sit-down pizza that's fresh and authentic.

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.

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.

FLANAGAN'S. 61, Upper O'Connell Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 8731388. A great family restaurant in the shadow of the spire.

FXB RESTAURANT. 2, Lower Pembroke Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016764606. A high-quality steakhouse that also does a mean bit of seafood and offers great value.

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

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

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

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

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.

HELL. 36, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 1890456666. A recently opened gem of a pizza place, offering both eat-in and take-away deals.

HONEST TO GOODNESS. George's Street Arcade, George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016337727. Simple home-style recipes and

great ingredients are an ideal formula for a successful little restaurant.

IL POSTO. 10, Stephen's Green – Dublin 2. Tel: 016794769. Outstanding Italian food is on offer here in a very atmospheric underground dining room.

JUICE CAFÉ. 73, George's Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014757856. A great spot for veggie grub in the heart of the city.

JUST OFF FRANCIS. 78, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 014738807. A friendly restaurant serving a mix of Irish and international cuisine – prices are great for high-quality fare.

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

KOKORO SUSHI BENTO. 19, Lower Liffey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018728787. A great new place for reasonably-priced sushi.

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

KYLEMORE AT THE SPIRE. 1, Upper O'Connell Street –

Dublin 1. Tel: 018780498. This Dublin institution has benefited greatly from a major sprucing-up.

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.

LA MED. 22, East Essex Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707358. This promises a bit of sunshine and delivers with a selection of Italian and international dishes.

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.

LEMON. 66, South William Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016729044. Before a host of pretenders started serving crepes, there was this place,

which is still dishing up savoury and sweet snacks from South William Street.

MAMMA'S PIZZA. 4, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Quick, hearty pizza on the go will float anyone's proverbial boat.

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

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

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

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.

NYONA. 76, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707200. A great place for truly Malaysian cuisine.

O'BRIEN'S SANDWICH BAR. Custom House Square, Docklands – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. The sausage toastie from this branch of the O'Brien's chain is hard to beat.

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

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

PABLO PICANTE. Pembroke Market – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Top-class burritos just off South William Street.

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.



DOYLE'S

9, College Street – Dublin 2
Tel: 016710616

This easy-going pub with traditional fittings is well known as a student hangout, but is also pretty darn handy on a quiet evening – they've started serving good pub grub in the evenings to match an already highly-regarded lunch menu, and the atmosphere for watching any football or rugby matches is great. By night, the location within five minutes walk of Trinity College ensures it comes alive. DJs play an eclectic mix of sounds upstairs and downstairs. There's a spacious room available to hire for private functions. Doyle's pretty popular outside student circles too, and it's easy to see why. Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 02:30 (23:00 Sunday).

Getting there: From the front gates of Trinity College (facing onto Dame Street), turn right and follow the railings of the college as you turn onto College Street. After about two minutes, you should see Doyle's across the street on your left.

PICHET. 14-15, Trinity Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016771060. A popular restaurant and café with a modern dining room.

RUSTIC STONE. 17, George's Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 017079596. Dylan McGrath's new place has an emphasis on straightforward, healthy fare.

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.

SHERIE'S CAFÉ. 3, Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018747237. A welcoming café bar that's open conveniently late.

SIAM THAI. 14-15, St Andrew's Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016773363. Fresh, healthy and enjoyable Thai cuisine is served amid stylish surroundings.

SUSHI KING. Baggot Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016449836. Cheap – and tasty – sushi will always appeal to tastebuds. 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.

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

TASTE. 39, South William Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016798475. Simple, straightforward-but-tasty food served up by friendly staff.

THE ANGLER'S REST. Strawberry Beds, Castleknock – County Dublin. Tel: 018204351. Elegance is the predominant theme at this easy-going restaurant.

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 COFFEE CO. 13, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016797141. This place does exactly what it says on the tin: a great cup of the black stuff.

THE EPICUREAN FOOD HALL. Corner of Liffey Street and Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. You'll find a great selection of food from across a range of traditions at this hall.

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 ITALIAN CONNECTION. 40, 95, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018787125. A lovely, wholesome restaurant with a cosy dining room.

THE ITALIAN CORNER. 23, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016719114. One of Temple Bar's favourite Italian joints.

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

THE PANTRY. 64, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. This hidden gem does one of the best breakfasts in the city.

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 STEPS OF ROME. 1, Chatham Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016705630. A great place for hot slices of pizza to go.

THE UNICORN. 12, Merion 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.

TOTO. 8, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A surprisingly nice restaurant and pizzeria.

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.

TROCADERO. 3, St Andrew's Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016775545. The famous restaurant for a special pre-theatre meal is still going strong.

URBAN PICNIC. George's Street Arcade, George's Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A

wilfully unpretentious spot for cheap eats.

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.

WOLFES. 153, Capel Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018749570. This lovely little food and wine store has a cosy feel and plenty of treats – it's now serving dinner too.

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.

AFTER DINNER

AMIR'S DELIGHTS. 5, Bloom's Lane, Ormond Quay – Dublin 1. Tel: 0863536404. Excuse the pun, but this is a delightful little place for enjoying Turkish coffee or shisha.

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

BOWES BAR. 31, Fleet Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016714038. An old-school pub, with a warm welcome and a fine collection of whiskeys.

DICEY'S GARDEN BAR. 21-25, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014784066. There's nothing dicey about this popular bar, which boasts an impressive beer garden.

DAME CAFÉ. Centra, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. You might think that a café based in a convenience store wouldn't be a nice place to while away a few hours. You'd be wrong.

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

DARKY KELLYS. The Harding Hotel, Fishamble Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. The official bar and bistro of the Harding Hotel.

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.

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

DYLANBAR. The Dylan Hotel, Eastmoreland Place – Dublin 4. Tel: 0166603000. A stylish cocktail bar that's worth the journey out to D4.

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

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

FIXX COFFEE HOUSE DAWSON STREET. 17, Dawson Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A great place to enjoy award-winning coffee.

GERARD'S CAFÉ. 4, Lower Leeson Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016615703. It's nice to see an independent little coffee shop like this continue to thrive.

GILBERT & WRIGHT, MALAHIDE. 1, Ross Lane, Malahide – County Dublin. Tel: 018456580. There's a hint of 70s retro chic at this stylish bar in a seaside village.

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.

HAIRSTYLE. 12, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706202. Want a chic haircut? Just hop in here.

KENNEDY'S. 31, Westland Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016611124. You'll find this place packed out at lunch-times - they do some of the best pub-grub in town, and have a hopping late club too.

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

LA DOLCEVITA. 5, Music Hall, Cow's Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: 017079786. A wonderful little café and wine bar just away from the bustle of Temple Bar.

MADIGAN'S. 4, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018745456. A traditional pub with a good pint to offer.

O'BRIEN'S SANDWICH BAR. Harbourmaster Place, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A conveniently-located sandwich bar for IFSCers.

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: 016724087. Well-stocked wine bar with a mix of Irish and continental fare.

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

PETER'S PUB. 1, Johnson Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 016778588. A surprisingly cool little city-centre bar.

RON BLACK'S. 25, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016728231. A still-chic cocktail and champagne bar.

RUSH BAR. 65, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016719542. It's not as frantic as the name suggests, but that's no criticism of this well-run bar.

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.

TASTE OF EMILIA. 1, Lower Liffey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 0876402448. A great place for a rustic, Italian-style aperitif.

THE BAGGOT INN. 143, Lower Baggot Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0166618758. A much-loved older pub that's received a successful renovation in recent years.

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

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

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 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 BLOODY STREAM. 14, West Pier, Howth - Dublin 13. Tel: 018395076. A cosy pub that makes the most of its setting, just a few short yards away from the picturesque Howth Harbour.

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 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 CELT. 81, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018788655. A welcoming, traditional pub.

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

THE CONFESSION BOX. Malborough Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Don't be put off by the genuinely teeny interior. Staff is efficient, and it's great fun here once the trad session gets going.

THE FOGGY DEW. 1, Fownes Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779328. A traditional bar that's retained its atmosphere

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through modernisation. Still great for a singsong on special nights.

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

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

THE GAITY THEATRE. South King Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016771717. This stately old theatre is host to some innovative shows and musicals.

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 GOOD BITS. 1, Store Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018197635. Formerly known as Radio City, this live venue remains hugely popular.

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 MARKET BAR. 14a, Fade Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016139094. No piped music, a tapas menu, and a surreal decorative display of foot measures. 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 OLYMPIA THEATRE. 172, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323. The popular live venue and theatre still heaves with action on gig nights.

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 PEMBROKE. 31-32, Lower Pembroke Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A handily-located pub with plenty of character and some interesting design features.

THE PLOUGH. Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A cosy and charming pub that reopened its doors to a grateful public in 2008.

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

THE QUAYS. 11-12, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016713922. Get over the griping about Temple Bar being a tourist trap, and you'll find this pub very nice for a night out.

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

THE TURKS HEAD. Junction of Parliament Street and Essex Gate, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 876764657. Criminally underrated nightspot 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.

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

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

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.

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

LATE NIGHT

ABBEY COURT HOSTEL. 29, Bachelor's Walk – Dublin 1. Tel: 018780700. Good budget accommodation by the Liffey with free wifi.

ALEXANDER HOTEL. Merrion Square – Dublin 2. Tel: 016073900. A handy place to stay just off Nassau Street.

BOOMERANG'S BAR AND NIGHT CLUB. 13, Fleet Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016773333. A popular late spot in the heart of Temple Bar.

BROOKS HOTEL. 59-63, Drury Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 012788093. A boutique hotel just off Grafton Street, you say? Yeah, we'll take that.

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

CAMDEN COURT HOTEL. Lower Camden Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014759666. Good accommodation at a competitive price.

CELTIC LODGE. 81-82, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018788810. Great facilities, bars and restaurants nearby, and a spot by the Luas are all in this establishment's favour.

CITI HOTEL. Dame Street. 46-49, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016794455. Sitting within a stone's throw of the Central Bank, this place is hard to top for location.

CLUB NASSUA. 1-2, Nassau 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.

DAY'S INN. 95-98, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018749202. A handily

located hotel, particularly for 02 concert-goers.

D TWO NIGHTCLUB. 60, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014764603. A popular bar and nightclub for hard-pressed office workers.

GILBERT & WRIGHT, DUN LAOGHAIRE. 128, Lower Georges Street, Dun Laoghaire – County Dublin. Tel: 016636148. One of the newest additions to the Dun Laoghaire social scene has drawn new nightlife-lovers to the seaside town.

GRAFTON CAPITOL HOTEL. Lower Stephen Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016481100. Good rooms, great rates, and helpful staff – it's all anyone really needs from a city-centre hotel.

HARCOURT HOTEL. Harcourt Street. 60, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014783677. Tired after a night on the tiles? Rest your head here.

JACOB'S INN HOSTEL. 21, Talbot Place – Dublin 1. Tel: 018555660. A welcoming, youth-orientated hostel.

KINLAY HOUSE HOSTEL. 2-12, Lord Edward Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016796644. A very handy place to kip just off the edge of Dame Street.

HARDING HOTEL. Fishamble Street, Christchurch - Dublin 2. Tel: 016796500. This place has all the benefits of a location just on the edge of Temple bar, but without all the noise you'd get right in the centre of it.

HOTEL ISAACS. 1, Store Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018134700. A handy little hotel for anyone in the O'Connell Street area, with a great live venue in The Good Bits.

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, Simonscourt 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.

MEZZA. 13, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706424. Late night Lebanese cuisine is understandably popular.

MOLLOY'S. 59, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018550017. An old-school Irish pub.

NORTH STAR HOTEL. Amiens Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 018363136. A convenient location makes this an ideal place for travellers by bus.

O'CALLAGHAN DAVENPORT HOTEL. Fenian Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016073900. A great, cosy hotel bar makes this place a winner.

O'SHEA'S HOTEL. 19, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 014568901. A hotel promising great food, drink and fun within walking distance of O'Connell Street.

PARAMOUNT HOTEL. Parliament Street & Essex Gate, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 014179900. This Temple Bar Hotel is just as lively as you'd expect.

RADDISSON BLU HOTEL. Golden Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A very impressive hotel within a short walk of the city centre.

RÍ-RÁ. 11, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220. A hugely popular student nightclub.

RIPLEY COURT HOTEL. 37, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018365892. A new three-star hotel based in the centre of the city.

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

THE ABBEY HOTEL. 52, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018728188. Good quality, good value accommodation right on the Luas line and in a central location.

THE ACADEMY. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014751895. A cool club and live venue that makes the most of its space.

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 DRURY COURT HOTEL. 28-30, Lower Stephen Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014751988. Sitting close to the heart of the city, this is a lively hotel with some delicious food on offer too.

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, Swords - Co. Dublin. Tel: 018900099. A 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 of craft beer by day and hip student club by night, this

place ticks two very different boxes very well.

TRINITY LODGE HOTEL. 12, South Frederick Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016170900. A hotel with excellently appointed rooms in a great location.

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.

VANILLA NIGHTCLUB. 19-21, Morehampton Road - Dublin 4. Tel: 016739805. A stylish boutique club with great private booths.

WRIGHTS CAFÉ BAR. The Plaza, Swords - County Dublin. Tel: 018406744. One of Ireland's original superpubs remains a fun place both for a cocktail (try the Wright Flirt) or good Irish food.

WYNN'S HOTEL. 35-39, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018745131. A very comfortable hotel that still manages to have a lovely historic feel.

ZAYTOON. 14-15, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016773595. One of the best kebab places in Dublin, and just off Temple Bar. Enough said.

THE TEA GARDEN

7 Lower Ormond Quay - Dublin 1
Tel: 0862191010

A little oasis from Dublin's drink-sodden social scene, The Tea Garden is an ideal spot for whiling away a few hours over gourmet teas or - even better - some soothing shisha. There's a huge range of the stuff, and settling on one choice can be a bit intimidating for anyone who's only just moving beyond Barrys, but the staff are remarkably friendly and happy to offer advice on the various brews. You can buy the teas and even the tea-pots to take away, but it's impossible to replicate the experience of savouring the stuff here.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 15:00 (13:00 Friday to Sunday) to 23:00.

Getting there: From the north side of O'Connell Bridge (facing north), turn left and head down Bachelor's Walk and the northside quays. After about ten minutes, you will see a sign for The Tea Garden on your right. The venue itself is underground.



SATURDAY SALSA FEVER AT PACINO'S!

18, Suffolk Street
Tel: 016775651

Suffolk Street swings to hot salsa beats every Saturday at Pacino's increasingly popular salsa club. The restaurant and venue is now offering a special set dinner with a main course and club for €40. The package includes a starter, a main course, a desert and house wine, with three carefully chosen options. We're big fans of the 'step it up' menu, with classic Italian meatballs, Pacino's tasty chicken and a sweet banoffee, though the 'spicy salsa' and 'cha cha cha' menus are well worth a try too. Free admission to the salsa club and class completes a great night on the town all under one roof!

Getting there: From the Molly Malone statue (facing towards Grafton Street), take a right turn on to Suffolk Street. You'll see Pacino's on your left.



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