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SHOW

Mon Oct 5th
2015
8pm

SHIRLEY McCLURE - POET

GRACE HALL
PHOTOGRAPHER

FRANK GALLAGHER
BRIAN WHELAN

JAZZ
&
BLUES

It's September. Season of mists and back-to-school blues. Well, those creeping mists and gathering gloom that had enveloped Bray Seafront on Monday evening were instantly dispelled- when we entered the candle-lit sanctuary of the Martello Arts quarter. A different space..... another continent maybe. As the ever smiling Julie-Rose bids a warm BAC welcome to our first guest, so it unfolds. It's Latin America.....Arriba !

First up is Elis Taves, a remarkable photographer from Brazil. She shared with us details of her commercial work and her many and photographic assignments. Elis is truly a 'dual citizen' of both countries, as she promotes Brazilian culture in Ireland and Irish culture in Brazil. She presented images from Bahia state in Brazil and most striking were 'The Doors of Bahia' with its images of Portuguese inspired architectural features, faded colonial churches and associated medieval superstitions which served to place the roots of Brazilian culture firmly back to Southern Europe. The common thread running through her work was (that which we crave in Ireland) the quality of the light. Yes, 'Let there be light' and there was, clear and translucent. This presentation was as informative as it was engaging and thought provoking. Gratias Elis.

Next was Sofia Arteaga from Uruguay, surrounded by the most exotic collection of instruments I have ever witnessed in one location. She bravely introduced herself through her first choice of instrument- her voice. Sofia held us spellbound as she stood there 'sotto voce' in what sounded like a 'sean nos' or perhaps a Latin lament. She entered that space to remind us of the harsh realities of life outside our cosy enclave - a pause for those less fortunate at that moment. Bravo!

Influences lie in the ancient cultures of both Europe and South America. And what a range of instruments!

From South America we had: cow bells, pan-pipes, tarkas, tamboriles, rainstick, and bombos (a much better name for drums) From Europe: acoustic guitar, bells, shakers, music box, castanets, metronome, and harmonium. From Asia: singing bowl, meditation bells, and ukulele.

From Africa: darbuka and calimba. And there were more and as Sofia sampled each in turn, audience reaction moved from curiosity to mild bewilderment and then on to the confidence to have a go. The initial result sounded like a creche full of five year olds but stronger patterns began to emerge. For instance, John Walsh (much travelled in these parts) did so well on the Pan Pipe that Sofia immediately upgraded him to the Charango- a stringed instrument which he mastered in jig time! So there - we had musical history, geography, culture and then music (of sorts) curated in some style by the accomplished Sofia.

The bar was now set so high and the buzz around the room was such that the next act had to be something very special and that's exactly what it turned out to be. After our musical trip around the globe, it was great to have the Kelly Brothers (John & Enda) from Bray 'Bringing it all back home'. These two brothers have music in their genes from their father, in their fingertips through their two acoustic guitars (without a pick or plec in sight, if I'm not mistaken) and in their souls, singing in close harmony, reflecting both the loves and losses in their own lives and indeed in all of us.

You've heard of the Everly Brothers- well on that Monday night we heard the Everly Brothers scaling the heights with songs like 'Bye-Bye Love'.....'There goes my Baby'..... as the songs of John and Enda lulled us along in perfect harmony. Was that Roy Orbison slinking across towards the bar of the room- could have sworn it was. Another pint please, Ravi. Oh hang on- here come the Bee Gees- now will the lads hit the high falsetto note (the Beecher's Brook of voice range)- they've cleared it and we didn't even notice so: 'Smile, an everlasting smile.....' Beautiful.

After about ten songs and two encores, the Kelly's decide to 'Sing You back Home' and close with the self-penned 'The Rest of our Time'. Jays Lads- Ye's were Brill ! Michael Doorley

Shirley McClure on the Spanish Affair CD

A new CD of poetry and music, Spanish Affair, has just been released, with all proceeds to Arklow Cancer Support centre. It features music from gifted guitarist, Eamon Sweeney, and poems, both funny and serious, by local poet Shirley McClure, along with two brilliant Bloodaxe poets, Katie Donovan and Jane Clarke.

All proceeds from the sale of CDs at €10 each go to Arklow Cancer Support Group, available online at the ACSG website, www.arklowcancersupport.com

Arklow Cancer Support Group was set up in 2009 to offer support to local individuals and families affected by cancer. The launch was addressed by the energetic and popular Mary O'Brien, director of the centre, who won a Community Health Award in 2014.

Shirley McClure has been working with the writers' group at Arklow Cancer Support Group for the past three years. Her first collection of poems, *Who's Counting*, was published in 2009. Her second, *Stone Dress*, has just been published. She also works with writers' groups in Bray.

Eamon Sweeney is co-artistic director of Alchemy Music Series in Wicklow. He has received numerous awards and bursaries over the years and enjoys teaching guitar to many students here in Bray as well as Wicklow.

Rathdrum-based poet Jane Clarke launched her own first collection of poetry, *The River*, in June 2015. Jane has won numerous awards including the 2014 Listowel Writers' Week Poetry Collection Award.

Katie Donovan has published four collections of poetry, the most recent of which is *Rootling: New and Selected Poems*. A former journalist with the Irish Times, Katie now practises Amatsu, a form of Japanese osteopathy.

Actor Lizzy Morrissey also appears on the CD, adding character voices and fun to the experience. Lizzy has appeared in *Batchelor's Walk* and *Jerry Springer: The Opera* in the Grand Canal Theatre. In 2012 she appeared in *Dubliners* (2012), a Joycean audio guide to her native city.

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
Arklow Cancer support group**



GRACE HALL PHOTOGRAPHER

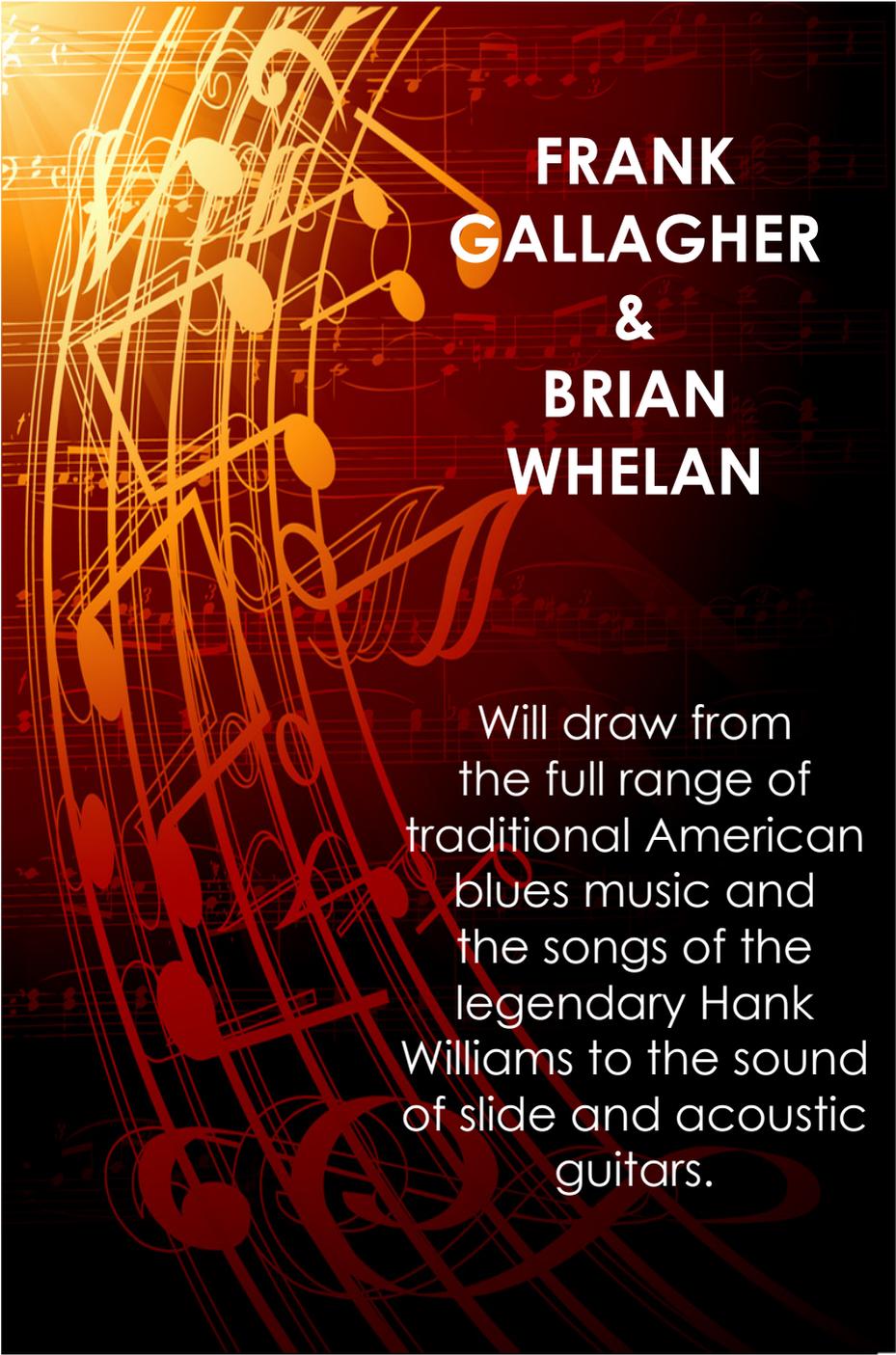
Women with Attitude photographic exhibition showed at the Kilruddery Arts space featuring a group of well-known hi energy ladies such as Zan O’Loughlin, Brigid O’Brien and others, with a photographic book produced for sale, and can also be seen online.

After a lifetime interest in visual culture, in particular the performing arts, dance, theatre and opera, and following retirement, I decided to take the opportunity to pursue my interest in photography full time by studying for an Hons. Degree in Photography at the Dublin Institute of Technology, graduating in 2014.

My practice is strongly influenced by my interest and involvement in the performing arts. Much of my practice explores the portrait, both documentary and studio, with a particular interest in the negotiated space that exists between the photographer and the subject in the studio.

In our visual culture the older women is to a large extent invisible, in particular in the media. As a portrait artist, one of my main areas of interest is to rectify this situation by means of portraiture, thus making visible the older woman.

My practice also includes other genres such as still life, landscape, events, and live performance.
I also carry out commissioned commercial work.



**FRANK
GALLAGHER
&
BRIAN
WHELAN**

Will draw from the full range of traditional American blues music and the songs of the legendary Hank Williams to the sound of slide and acoustic guitars.

Peace from my soul

Through Golden fields and laughing meadows I stroll Alone but in touch with all around me and within me. The sun so warm on my back, with comfort, gently beaming. There ahead, to and beyond the ocean I can see. The light of the sun on the waves dancing and gleaming

And now into the trees cool and green, another world With roots and brown fallen leaves lying in there ivy bed Now the sun flashing on and off through leafy branches blowing. The rustling sounds of living trees , plants and small animal ahead. And I now part of it all, thoughts now gone and oneness growing.

Time then stops and stands so still so quiet, no tick or tock no rush, Just peace, among this forest noise, complete and utter peace, Where from ? this peace . heavenly? Maybe, most certainly divine. Now floating gently with this peaceful noise, the calming feel, complete release. No sense of where I'm going, no pressure of time.

If only I could stay among these fields and trees, forever. Alas there are those who must depend and I must tend there needs And so from this heavenly place I descend, to life and they that have control. The hustle, the bustle, the clock and how it speeds, Maybe I will return someday to Gods creation and live within my soul. Ash's to Ash's Dust to Dust.

BRAY ARTS SHOW

layout by John McCann c/o Signal Arts Centre

THE
MARTELLO
HOTEL
BRAY
MON Oct 5TH 2015
DOORS OPEN 8PM
ADMISSION
€5 - €4 CONC.



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Shirley McClure - Poet

Well-known member of writers' groups in Bray and Arklow will bring a selection of funny and serious poems from her publications "Who's Counting", and the recently published "Stone Dress".

Grace Hall photographer

explores a wide variety of genres in documentary and studio portraiture as expressed in the portrait of the older woman and the negotiated space that exists between the photographer and the subject in the studio.



Frank Gallagher and Brian Whelan - blues and jazz will draw from the full range of traditional American blues music and the songs of the legendary Hank Williams to the sound of slide and acoustic guitars.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PERFORM OR PRESENT YOUR WORK AT THE BRAY ARTS PLEASE CONTACT JULIE ROSE McCORMICK AT 0872486751: ALL ART FORMS WELCOME, FILM, DANCE, ART, LITERARY, MIXED MEDIA, MUSIC, SONG, PUPPETRY, EXPERIMENTAL, SHOWCASE NEW WORK.



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