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UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Dickens at the Ulster Hall

Litvack, L. (Developer). (2012). Dickens at the Ulster Hall: A collaboration between Leon Litvack and dramatist Sam McCready on a one-man show inspired by Dickens's visits to Belfast. Performed at the Lyric Theatre 8-12 May 2012 as part of the Dickens 2012 NI Festival. Performance

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With Claire McCallion Vintage show docks at the barge



WITH their very own celebration of the city that built the Titanic, Decadence Vintage Events are running a special one-off vintage and handmade fair on Sunday, April 1 when the very unique Frock Around the Dock will take place on The Belfast Barge.

This 'Made In Belfast' event will feature vintage dealers and creative designers selling handcrafted and upcycled fashion, jewellery, artworks and homewares which predominantly reflect nautical, Belfast, Titanic, and Edwardian themes. Many of the unique goods for sale will have been made specifically for this event and won't have been available for sale anywhere else.



Organiser Becky Moore says, "With Belfast excitedly gearing up for the Titanic centenary we wanted to get on board with our own unique take on the festival celebrations, and we will be pushing the boat out with a 'Made in Belfast' themed vintage and handmade fair, perfectly showcasing the creative talent of today which has grown from the industrial foundations of early 1900s Belfast. We also wanted a special venue for this one-off event and The Belfast Barge with its permanent maritime exhibition was the perfect choice to provide a nautical backdrop to the proceedings. What's more, Frock Around the Dock will be a free entry event so visitors will have a few more pounds in their pockets to spend on the limited edition and one-off designs!"

The event will feature 14 carefully selected creative entrepreneurs selling unique designs including jewellery made from antique silver cutlery from Linzi Rooney at Elephant Juice, Belfast and Titanic artworks from Christine Gorman at Off One, nautical themed jewellery from Claire Connolly at Rua Rose and Susannah Jones at Keepin' It Kitsch, customised Edwardian and vintage Edwardian-style clothing from Becky herself, Belfast themed greetings cards from

Arbee Cards, and skirts and fashion accessories from Noelle Patterson at Annabelle's Fashions featuring kitsch nautical fabrics - perfect for the summer ahead! Couture cupcakes and sweet treats will be available from John McClean at The Sugar Room while Della Storm will be entertaining visitors with nautical tunes and her own 'Made In Belfast' songs.

Frock Around the Dock will take place on Sunday, April 1 from 11am to 4pm at The Belfast Barge, Lanyon Quay (which is permanently moored on the River Lagan adjacent to Lanyon Place, behind The Waterfront Hall). The vintage and handmade fair will take place in the performance space in The Hold and admission is free.

While on board, a perfect afternoon out can be completed with a visit to the permanent maritime exhibition and the Galley Cafe (visit www.belfastbarge.com for details of entrance prices).

More information on Frock Around the Dock can be found on the website www.decadencevintage-fairs.com and the vintage fairs can also be followed on www.facebook.com/decadencevintageevents

GIG GUIDE



PIGSTOCK
THE clocks going forward can only symbolise one thing - the anticipation of this summer's festival season.

And Pigstock, traditionally the first Northern Irish festival of the summer, takes place over three days in Killinchy Co Down from June 1-3.

Acts announced already include scene stalwarts Fighting With Wire and rising act More than Conquerors.

They will be joined by Eatenbybears, Not Squares and Mojo Fury.

Tickets are on sale now - weekend camping £35, Saturday day £25. For further information visit www.pigstockfestival.co.uk.



LUCY ROSE
ENGLISH singer-songwriter Lucy Rose makes her debut performance at Belfast's Black Box on June 12.

The young acoustic folk/pop performer started her musical career playing innumerable open mic nights all over London. This led her to meeting Jack Steadman of Bombay Bicycle Club and featuring on their albums Flaws (2010) and A Different Kind of Fix (2011).

With no recorded material released, her fans turned to Youtube where some of her videos received over 600,000 views.

Lucy Rose's songs are hallmarked by her flawed crystal voice and live, her wicked asides and skewed sense of humour allow you to see the girl behind the guitar.

Tickets are on sale now, priced £7 from www.openhousefestival.com.

NOEL GALLAGHER'S HIGH FLYING BIRDS

FRESH from the high of their raucous performance at the Odyssey Arena comes Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds who are back to headline Belsonic on August 20.

Noel (left) and

GIG OF THE WEEK Titanic Lockdown launch festival

HOME to Belfast's new counter-culture is T13 (a sports park and shared cultural space), and it will be hosting Belfast's biggest and brightest new boutique music festival.

The festival - Titanic Lockdown, will see some of the biggest icons in music descend on the city on June 1-2 - including electronic legends New Order and Mancunian heavy weights The Happy Mondays.

The event will also include more leftfield acts including Ghostpoet, Factory Floor, Glasgow-based Errors and the legendary reggae producer Lee 'Scratch' Perry.

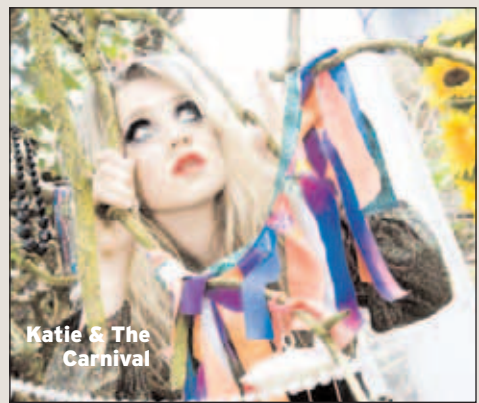
To mark the occasion Hydroponic Music will host an all-day extravaganza this Saturday, March 31 in T13.

Located against the backdrop of the iconic Samson and Goliath cranes this launch event promises a fun-filled day for all ages and will include everything from wii Olympics to live performances from The Bonnevilles and Roots Manuva.

The fun kicks off at midday and will feature DJ sets, continental food markets, live street art, urban sports demo's, fashion workshops and fire-breathers.

The street art will include world class live street art from some old favourites and some new faces as well. KVLr, Friz, Lucan, Redmonk, Tweet, Doc are joined by new faces to Belfast, Marca Mix, SBK Fox and Skreech Ink.

Alongside this leading local bands will also be



performing throughout the day including Pocket Billiards, The Bonnevilles, Katie and the Carnival and VerseChorusVerse.

Both of these events will run well into the evening and best of all - admission is free.

At 7pm the launch culminates in a night time concert with cutting edge music performances from Roots Manuva, legendary DJ Gilles Peterson and London's Soul Jazz Sound System.

Tickets for the evening concert are £25. Early bird weekend passes for Titanic Lockdown in June will also be exclusively available at this event. Weekend passes will go on general release on Monday, April 2 at www.titanic-lockdown.com and ticketmaster outlets.

band will be playing songs from the acclaimed, self titled debut album together with a selection of Noel Gallagher penned Oasis classics. Joining them will be Brit-Rock power-trio The Enemy.

Tickets, priced £30, go on sale on Friday, March 30 from ticketmaster outlets and www.belsonic.com.

GIRLS NAMES

GIRLS Names, who play the Queens Students' Union this Thursday, March 29, are a band for music elitist everywhere.

Support comes from Documenta and Third Man Theme.

Doors 9pm. Admission is free.

ICE AGE

DANISH four piece punk band Ice Age have announced a Belfast date at The Limelight on Wednesday May 9.

Described in their home country as teenage punks full of anger and anxiety, the band have recently released their debut album New Brigade to much critical acclaim.

With Ice Age, all you have to do is close your eyes and you could be listening to autumn-76 punk, with a little early-80s

Formed in January 2009, they've quickly garnered recognition outside of the confines of their hometown of Belfast with the release of their eponymous debut EP in 2010 through New York's Captured Tracks label, which was swiftly followed by their critically acclaimed debut LP Dead to Me.

Known for their sunny surf and indie-pop roots, the band have spent the last six months developing a more progressive, expansive sound - think the dark sides of Echo and The Bunnymen and David Bowie.

Expect a few surprises as the band play their first show of 2012 ahead of their UK and European tours - including Barcelona's prestigious Primavera Sound Festival in May.

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hardcore thrown into the melee. Tickets are £10 and are available from ticketmaster.ie, Katy Dalys Bar, www.limelightbelfast.com and all usual outlets

RYAN SHERIDAN

MONAGHAN main man Ryan Sheridan has announced his biggest Belfast show to date at The Limelight on Wednesday, April 18. Together with partner in rhythm Arthur, he will be returning to the city after selling out McHugh's Basement and playing alongside the Script at Vital in 2011.

2011 was an incredible year for Ryan - his debut album The Day You Live Forever was released in May and charted at number 2 in the Irish charts - just behind Adele. Who knows what 2012 has in store for this talented singer-song writer.

Tickets priced £9.50 are on sale from ticketmaster.ie and all usual outlets

To have your gig or event included in our listings, contact Claire McAuley on clentertainment@gmail.com or phone 9033 7390.

WHAT'S ON



THEATRE

Ruddigore at the Grand Opera House

RUDDIGORE, Opera North's hugely successful operetta, will come to the Grand Opera House from June 14-16.

Audiences will be able to revel in this witty Victorian melodrama, which is considered one of Gilbert & Sullivan's most inventive works.

The tale centres around Sir Despard Murgatroyd, a man under pressure. He has inherited a witch's curse forcing him to commit a crime every day or die in agony. So it's a huge relief when shy Robin Oakapple is revealed as his long-lost elder brother - true inheritor of the curse. But what will Rose Maybud, Robin's fiancée, make of this dastardly revelation?

Tickets start at £19.25. For more information visit www.goh.co.uk.

Rare Owl Times at the Theatre at the Mill

THIS comedy drama is set in 1950's Dublin with the action taking place in the back bar of The Bailey Pub.

The audience eavesdrops as two of Ireland's most volatile drinkers and literary figures, Brendan Behan and Patrick Kavanagh discuss with great humour their lives, loves, successes and failures.

Nostalgia, humour and song flow in equal proportions to the pints of 'black stuff', as the cast produce a memorable nights

theatre that will send the audience home with a tear in their eye and a smile on their lips.

Rare Owl Times takes place this Friday, March 29. Tickets start at £9 <http://www.theatrethemill.com>

She Stoops to Conquer at the QFT

THE National Theatre's production of She Stoops to Conquer starring Katharine Kelly will be broadcast live from the Olivier Theatre on at 7pm Thursday,

March 29.

One of the great, generous-hearted and ingenious comedies of the English Language, Oliver Goldsmith's She Stoops to Conquer offers a celebration of chaos, courtship and the dysfunctional family.

Admission is £10. For more information visit www.queensfilmtheatre.com.

La Traviata at Belfast's Waterfront Hall

THIS spectacular world class

PREVIEW OF THE WEEK

Still time to catch that Dicken's fever

THE start of 2012 saw the world celebrate the 200th birthday of one of our greatest literary heroes - Charles Dickens.

Born on February 7 1812 at Landport in Portsea he touched many lives and his life works are still very relevant to this day.

In his lifetime he made three visits to Belfast - in 1858, 67 and 69, to give public readings of his work, and received a very warm welcome on each occasion.

He described Belfast as "a fine place with a rough people". It seems therefore that he may not have taken to us, but we certainly have taken to him.

To celebrate, Dickens 2012 NI Festival will run for the duration of 2012.

If you missed the launch back in February, fear not, as there is still plenty of events to celebrate this historic bicentenary. This Thursday, March 29 will see the continuation of the David Copperfield read-athon in the John Hewitt Bar and will feature chapters 10-12.

Probably the most autobiographical story of his childhood, David Copperfield has all of the power and resonance of Dickens' social critique of a Victorian society that had very few safeguards against the mistreatment of the poor.

The reading begins at 6.45pm, for more information about this and further readings visit www.thejohnhewitt.com

Throughout the year, the QFT will also host a Dickens film each month including Alberto Cavalcanti's The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, which will be screened this Sunday, April 1.

Nicholas Nickleby is the story of a young man's progress as he struggles to make his way in a brutal, heartless world; a world in which light eventually triumphs over darkness. Tickets are £6.50 and are available from www.queensfilmtheatre.com.

In May, the festival will take to the Lyric Theatre for Dickens at the Ulster Hall. This play writ-



ten and performed by Sam McCready, is a one-man show which interweaves extracts from the writer's best-loved novels. The play runs from May 8 - 12 May, Tickets £10 / £8 concession and are available from www.lyrictheatre.co.uk.

Dickens 2012 is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the life of a writer whose genius has inspired millions worldwide. For a full programme of events visit www.dickens2012ni.com

PREVIEW OF THE WEEK

side, often on the same contact sheet. This exhibition speaks about an organisation and the people responsible for it, about a turbulent history and the people who lived through it. It presents honest explorations into a past well-documented in the media, reflecting on itself and the sometimes controversial process surrounding its development.

The exhibition runs until April 27. Admission is free. For more information visit www.belfastexposed.org.

Vicinity at Catalyst Arts

VICINITY is a group exhibition that investigates temporary, adaptable and transitory methods for exploring Belfast city.

Artists will work in an engaged manner using the mile radius of the gallery as a starting point to make new work in the gallery and at offsite locations.

Artists involved in the project include: Bbeyond, Jean-peirre Bertrand, Fiona Larkin, Shiro Masuyama, Jim McCracken, and Seamus Nolan.

The exhibition runs until April 13. For more information visit www.catalystarts.org.uk.

Terry Bradley: Men of Belfast at the Linen Hall Library

BELFAST-born Terry Bradley has a colourful past. He has run a crystal-making enterprise, sold unique and uber-cool clothes, and dabbled as a fashion model.

Quietly in the background he painted, and developed his own distinctive style with echoes of the famous Tintin comics by Herge which entertained him as a child.

The collection of works in this exhibition is themed around the Titanic and is part of the Library's Titanic exhibition.

Admission to this exhibition is free. It runs until April 30.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK Hunger Games

(12A, 142 mins)

★★★★★

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Alexander Ludwig, Woody Harrelson, Stanley Tucci, Elizabeth Banks, Lenny Kravitz, Donald Sutherland, Wes Bentley, Director: Gary Ross

BY CONNOR MULHOLLAND

THE Hunger Games is the latest blockbuster adaptation of teen literature much in-line with the Twilight Saga. Although thankfully that's where the similarities end.

Based on the hugely popular book by Suzanne Collins, the production team have managed to create something that works as a stand-alone film and not just an adaptation of a book. You don't necessarily have to have read the book to fully 'get it'. Hardcore fans of the book series will no doubt be in awe of the world that director Gary Ross and his team have created; a visual triumph.

The story is set in a dystopian future where the nation of Panem has replaced the former United States. The country has been divided up into 12 districts ranging from very rich to very poor. Every year two 12 to 18-year-olds (Trib-

utes) are randomly selected from each district and then forced to fight to the death until only one remains. The Games act as a sort of sacrificial ritual to remember Panem's past.

The problems arrive when our heroine Katniss (played by the remarkable Jennifer Lawrence) volunteers for the games after her younger sister Prim is randomly selected. Katniss must then travel with baker-boy Peeta to the lavish Capitol and fight to the death with the other 'Tributes'.

Stylistically this is as good as it gets. The superficial Capitol is presented to us with such flare and the juxtaposition with ragged District 12 allows us to see how far the worlds are apart. The film works as an allegorical satire as

well; showing how much power the rulers have. These themes show that the film isn't that far removed from reality.

Fantastic support is added by Stanley Tucci, Donald Sutherland, Elizabeth Banks and Woody Harrelson; but this is Jennifer Lawrence's film. Turning in a similar performance that got her an Oscar nomination for Winter's Bone.

The film is bold, brave and often quite terrifying. The perfect blend of action and emotion. This is powerful stuff that will linger on in your thoughts for a while after it's over. It remains to be seen if the sequels will match up to this impressive first helping...but on this showing, it's looking good.



Jennifer Lawrence steals the show in The Hunger Games



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