



VISUAL ART
LIVE PERFORMANCE
CREATIVE CONNECTION

4 - 8 JUNE 2025

CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL

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Special thanks to Tully's Bar Carlow, Lamberts Coffee House, and Lennons

Welcome to Carlow Arts Festival 2025

Each year in June, Carlow Arts Festival provides a carefully curated, truly eclectic, multi-disciplinary arts programme.

Comprising of local, national, and international artists, the festival presents work from a wide array of art forms including theatre, literature, circus, spectacle, music, dance, and visual arts.

For 2025 we have another programme of local talent, national stars, and Irish premieres of internationally renowned works, running alongside returning favourites and festival staples.

With a balanced offer of free and reasonably priced events, largely suitable for all ages, we hope Carlow Arts Festival is a chance to relax, to discover, and to celebrate being together throughout a vibrant week of visual art, live performance, and creative connection.

Our only piece of advice – take a chance. See the act you've never heard of. Indulge in the art form most distant from your usual tastes. You never know what you might find.

We hope you enjoy, and we look forward to seeing you around the festival.

- The Festival Team

4 – 8 June

Carlow College,
St Patrick's
& VISUAL

Book now

To book your tickets and plan your visit go to carlowartsfestival.ie

Concessions

Where applicable, concessions are available for students, senior citizens, arts workers, the unwaged, and persons with a disability. Proof of eligibility must be presented at Festival box office and/or venue.

Family (4 people)

Buy four tickets and receive all four at the concession rate of €7.50 per ticket. This offer applies to *An Ant Called Amy* (p.5) and *Simple Machines* (p.9).

Free events

While being advertised as Free Events, please consider donating via our website or in person at the festival. As a not-for-profit that relies mainly on public funding, all donations – no matter how small – go a long way to ensuring the festival will continue for another 46 years. Thank you!

A €1.50 booking fee will be added to all tickets. Full terms and conditions can be found on our website and on the website of our box office system supplier – takeyourseats.ie

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. Alcoholic drinks bought off-site are not permitted, and all alcoholic drinks bought at the festival bar must be consumed within the festival grounds. Please drink responsibly.



★★★★★

"Tense mystery of a missing writer and a Nazi fugitive is slippery, intriguing and full of nuance"

The Guardian

© Tom Dachs

Theatre | Irish Premiere

THE LONG SHADOW OF ALOIS BRUNNER

Collective Ma'louba (SY/DE)

Performance

Wed 4 June, 7.30pm

Venue

The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, VISUAL

Tickets

€22 / €17

Age recommendation

14+

Duration

80 mins

Performed in Arabic with English subtitles

Supported by the Goethe-Institut Ireland

Supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund

The Long Shadow of Alois Brunner reveals the true story of a notorious Nazi criminal who escaped sentencing and the lasting impact his horrendous legacy has had on the world.

Instrumental to the deportation of over 100,000 people to concentration camps and ghettos, Alois Brunner evaded numerous arrest attempts. Finally fleeing to Damascus, he was instrumental in building Syria's intelligence services – advising the ruling government on effective torture and interrogation techniques.

Weaving together Syrian and German history, *The Long Shadow of Alois Brunner* explores exile, accountability, and political memory – and the complex thread that ties the past to the present.

As wars rage around the globe, and with the recent fall of the Assad regime in Syria, Carlow Arts Festival is honoured to present this crucial work which raises searing questions about refuge, justice, and hope.

The performance will be followed by a post-show talk with the artists.

CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL



★★★★★

"You are left utterly stunned. Excellent"

The Irish Times

(for *Catch Me*)

© Jym Daly

Aerial & Theatre | New Work

H.O.M.E

Fidget Feet & Tobi Omoteso

Performance

Fri 6 June, 7.30pm

Venue

The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, VISUAL

Tickets

€20 / €15

Age recommendation

12+

Duration

60 mins

Funded by the Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon

Co-Commissioned by Carlow Arts Festival, Cairde Sligo Arts Festival, and Earagail Arts Festival with support from Irish Aerial Creation Centre

In partnership with ISACS Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network

H.O.M.E by Fidget Feet and Tobi Omoteso is the first aerial Hip H'Opera created in Ireland. A thrilling cast of nine examines society's limitations and what elevates and suppresses us as humans: darkness, trust, strength, gender expectations, identity, and more.

Devised in collaboration with the cast *H.O.M.E* explores the personal stories of each performer through aerial, movement, hip-hop, spoken word, music, and opera. The performance engages its audience viscerally, led by a gritty and raw narration by critically acclaimed rapper Wilzee.

The combination of different art forms makes this an extraordinarily unique experience which is profoundly moving to witness.

The performance will be followed by a post-show talk with the artists.

CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL



**"A loving marriage
of old and new"**

The Irish Times



Music

YE VAGABONDS

Performance

Sat 7 June, 8pm

Venue

The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, VISUAL

Tickets

€32 / €27

Duration

75 mins

Not long after brothers Brian and Diarmuid Mac Gloinn of Ye Vagabonds moved from their hometown of Carlow to Dublin in 2012, they soon found themselves *"at the fore of a new wave of Irish folk"* (Irish Examiner).

The duo quickly became renowned in the Irish music scene playing traditional folk songs alongside their own original material and have extensively toured Ireland, Scotland, England, and throughout Europe and North America.

Across three stunning albums (and with a new one on the way), Ye Vagabonds have gracefully blended traditional Irish and European music, American old time, and the sounds of the 1960's folk revival.

Now performing as a five-piece alongside Alain McFadden (harmonium and synthesizer), Caimin Gilmore (upright bass), and Kate Ellis (cello), Carlow Arts Festival is thrilled to be hosting Ye Vagabonds' homecoming show.



"Magical"

The Irish Times



Theatre & Families

AN ANT CALLED AMY

Julie Sharkey

Performance

Sun 8 June, 3pm

Venue

The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, VISUAL

Tickets

€12 / €7.50

Family (4 people) €30

Age recommendation

5 - 8

Duration

40 mins

Originally funded by

**The Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon
Roscommon County Council
Creative Ireland**

This is a story about an ant called Amy (an award-winning ant one might add), her brother Andy and a Brown Spider. Amy the ant works very hard. When she wins the Employee of the Month Award, Amy feels a happiness that drives her to work even harder. But is she truly content?

With the help of the Brown Spider, Amy learns to find true happiness by appreciating the world around her and celebrating her brother's memory in the everyday.

Written and performed by Julie Sharkey. Directed by Raymond Keane. This charming and moving story for children aged 5 - 8, tells the tale of an ant who learns to slow down.

"In my little play, Amy the ant is missing her brother, Andy. This is a gentle tale. It's entertaining and fun. It's not going to uncover an awful truth or discuss serious illness. Simply, we meet this little ant Amy, who is working to forget... Until her supposed arch enemy the Brown Spider gently nudges her to find Andy in the everyday" - Julie Sharkey



© Theo Sims, *Oh When the Saints Go Marching Out*, 1998

Visual Arts

DREAMTIME IRELAND

Artworks 2025

Launch and Artworks Prizes

Thurs 5 June, 6pm

Guided tour

Fri 6 June, 1pm

Approx 1 hour, meet at VISUAL reception

Exhibition

Thurs 5 - Sun 8 June

11am - 8pm

Venue

VISUAL

Tickets

Free

Dreamtime Ireland continues at VISUAL until 31 August

Funded by the Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon

2025's Artworks exhibition, *Dreamtime Ireland*, is formulated as part of a wider research project by artist Sean Lynch that brings together overlooked, forgotten, controversial or unrealised artworks.

Dreamtime Ireland points to often undervalued yet vital cultural forms of commentary, interaction, exchange, and provocation towards the shape of the world and its environment, both today and historically. These are represented by ideas of public art, art as social practice and ecology, and speculative forms of what art and culture can be.

The exhibition includes invited and commissioned works along with Irish and international artists selected through VISUAL and Carlow Arts Festival's annual Open Call, which invited applicants to think of art's potential both as a tool of communication, and as a way of shaping and understanding the world; one that is investigative, egalitarian and celebratory.

"This fabulously radical, feminist flamenco dance-duel-duet knowingly plays with tradition but retains a soul-piercing depth"

Springback Magazine



© Eneko

Dance | Irish Premiere

TARANTO ALEATORIO

María del Mar Suárez / La Chachi & Lola Dolores (ES)

Performance

Opening night performance

Thurs 5 June, 7.45pm

Venue

Carlow College Grounds

Tickets

Free

Duration

50 mins

Supported by the Instituto Cervantes Dublin

Two women in tracksuits eat sunflower seeds in a courtyard. They share a common space, they have a conversation, they sit in silence. Suddenly, the *cante* (song) and *baile* (dance) burst forth – transforming this everyday scene into a spectacle.

In *Taranto Aleatorio* (Random Taranto) the choreographer and dancer María del Mar Suárez (aka La Chachi) and the singer Lola Dolores offer their personal take on the roughness of the flamenco form known as taranto. It is a variety of dance that originated in the Andalusian mining region of Almería and is traditionally accompanied by a simple acapella song – developed from its need to be sung independently.

Combining traditional flamenco with contemporary wit and humour, this free outdoor performance of *Taranto Aleatorio* will energetically launch audiences into the festival weekend.



© Neil Hainsworth



© Arne Lievens

"Part social commentary, part philosophical adventure, this world of dancing robots went down a storm with adults and kids alike"

The Quintessential Review

Acrobatics | New Work

SYMBIONT

Cikada Circus

NO ONE, REALISTIC AS YOU

Lacunavicci

Performances

Sat 7 & Sun 8 June, 4.30pm

Venue

Geodesic Dome

Tickets

€12 / €7.50

Age recommendation

14+

Duration

75 mins, including 15 min interval

Funded by the Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon

In partnership with ISACS Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network

This double-bill of new works is presented by critically acclaimed Irish company Cikada Circus in their own pop-up venue – a geodesic dome on the grounds of Carlow College. Both performances have been designed specifically for this special venue.

Symbiont is an acrobatic performance and living exhibition that shines a spotlight on the interaction of living organisms and technologies, whether for mutual benefit or to one's advantage. In the experiential and acrobatic tapestry that unfolds interdependency, balance, and tension are woven together to transform the stage for a dynamic, uplifting journey.

No One, Realistic As You, by multidisciplinary artist Lacunavicci, explores the relationship between humanity and technology, which is unlike anything we've ever known – a cycle of false promises and incredible inventions.

Theatre & Families | Irish Premiere

SIMPLE MACHINES

Ugo Dehaes (BE)

Performances

Sat 7 & Sun 8 June, 4pm & 6pm

Venue

Cobden Hall, Carlow College

Tickets

€12 / €7.50

Family (4 people) €30

Age recommendation

8+

Duration

45 mins

Supported by Flanders State of the Art

Having found human dancers too expensive and too needy, choreographer Ugo Dehaes turned to robots.

Born in his basement from slimy, strange cocoons, they grow into shiny, intelligent machines. Some of them crawl across the table like caterpillars, some stumble around like puppies, others turn themselves in all directions, while some others simply repeat the same movement over and over again.

In this intimate performance, Dehaes tells the story of how his robot dance-troupe came to be, he explains the process from which they are born, and displays some of his choreography. All the while, the robots dance, swing, crawl, and interact with the audience and each other.

After the performance, the audience is invited to explore an installation in the space featuring other robot designs. Attendees will have the chance to imagine and create their own robotic choreography.



© Patrick Bramley

Spectacle

CARNIVAL OF COLLECTIVE JOY

Parade

Sat 7 June, 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Venue

Carlow Town, starts at Carlow College Grounds

Tickets

Free

Duration

60 mins

Funded by the Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon

With support from Carlow County Development Partnership

In partnership with VISUAL, Music Generation Carlow and Waterford, and ISACS Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network

The joyful imagination of the children of Carlow returns to parade the streets of the town. We are coming together to celebrate the colour, diversity, joy and wonder all around us. This year we are dreaming of Carlow, of its past, present and future and of the myths and legends that shape our world.

Artists Selene Murphy, Molly O'Brien and Angelica Santander are working with children in St Patrick's N.S, Rathvilly, Scoil Mhuire Lourdes N.S, Tullow, Equal Chances Polish School and children who have recently arrived in Carlow. Together, they will create wonderful worlds and fantastic creatures for the colourful and joyful parade.

Returning for its fourth year, the *Carnival of Collective Joy* is part of our ASSEMBLY programme – a year-round initiative developing community-led creative projects in and around Co. Carlow.



© Patrick Bramley

Spoken Word

THE WRITE AND THE WRONG

Clifton Redmond Poetry

Performance

Sat 7 June, 6pm

Venue

The Yurt

Tickets

€5

Duration

60 mins

Presented in association with Poetry Ireland

Supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund

Sponsored by Carlow Credit Union

After the hugely successful *Éigse: Voices in the Crowd* at Carlow Arts Festival 2024, local writer Clifton Redmond returns with another specially curated evening of readings by published and emerging poets.

The Write and The Wrong looks at creative responses to an unjust world. Join Clifton and his guests as they share a deep and thought-provoking evening of poetry and spoken word that explores how we can find light in creativity, even in the darkest of times.

After the readings, the popular open-mic session will return, inviting you to perform your own poems in front of a friendly and engaged audience.

"Emman Idama is a effervescent source of energy, just the thing to keep the spirits up"

Chortle



© Glee Comedy Club

Comedy

NO BLACKS, NO DOGS, NO IRISH

Emman Idama

Performance

Fri 6 June, 8pm

Venue

The Yurt

Tickets

€10

Age recommendation

18+

Duration

60 mins

Supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund

Sponsored by Carlow Credit Union

"No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs" was once a common sign that appeared on boarding houses across Britain. Now, with a slight twist, it serves as the title of a hilarious and insightful new show by Irish-Nigerian comedian Emman Idama.

Described by Chortle as *"a warm, charming and thoroughly engaging performer"*, Idama will guide the audience through his journey of moving from Nigeria to Ireland at the age of six, being the only black child in a small Irish town, his Christian mother's and his Muslim father's attempts to win his soul for their respective faiths, and finding out he has dyslexia at the age of 27.

Two-time winner of the Hotpress Irish Comedian of the Year award, Emman is a regular of stage and screen – having toured Ireland extensively and appeared on RTE's *Republic of Telly*, Des Bishop's *This is Ireland*, and most recently on Comedy Central UK.

"A thing of delicate beauty, I wept the whole way through"

Bell Harbour Bullhorn



© Colm Hogan

Music & Theatre

ZEITGEIST JUKEBOX

Little John Nee

Performance

Sun 8 June, 7pm

Venue

The Yurt

Tickets

€10

Age recommendation

14+

Duration

75 mins

Supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund

Sponsored by Carlow Credit Union

On a night such as this, some folk meet up at an old warehouse in response to a notice stuck on a lamppost. It was an invitation to join the oddest band that ever was, and then make the greatest album of the twenty-first century. Primitive recording equipment sits ready for use. The clock ticks. Everyone has to help. It's now or never.

Zeitgeist Jukebox is an immersive theatre experience framed by renowned performer Little John Nee's masterful storytelling – a soulful antidote to the disconnection of our times, and a testament to the healing power of music.

Based in the west of Ireland, Little John Nee is an award-winning writer, performer and musician. He has developed a unique style of musical storytelling theatre that can be simultaneously hilarious and heart-breaking, best described as *"gentle punk"*, winning him both national and international recognition.



Spoken Word & Talks

CARLOW TRAVELLER FORUM

Performance

Sat 7 June, 4pm

Venue

The Yurt

Tickets

Free

Duration

60 mins

Supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund

Sponsored by Carlow Credit Union

In partnership with St Catherine's Community Services Centre

Carlow Traveller Forum will share stories created as part of their project *Memories from the Grassy Margins*, a traveller-led art project exploring traditions and everyday experiences.

This will be followed by a short discussion exploring connections that highlight the support and strength family, friendship, and community can give to one another.

The Carlow Traveller Forum, funded by Carlow County Council, meet regularly throughout the year to identify key issues affecting the community and explore strategic opportunities to address challenges.



Comedy

DIVERGENT & DRAGONS LIVE

Divergent & Dragons

Performance

Sat 7 June, 8pm

Venue

The Yurt

Tickets

€10

Age recommendation

16+

Duration

90 mins

Supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund

Sponsored by Carlow Credit Union

Divergent & Dragons Live is Ireland's nerdiest, neurodiversiest, most chaotic comedy show as three comedians with ADHD take on their biggest challenge – simple maths and basic rules. There'll be dungeons, dragons, and dice, as this unique mix of nerdy action, improv comedy, and audience participation returns to Carlow after sell-out shows across Ireland.

No previous experience or knowledge of D&D is required to enjoy this uproarious live podcast. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer with the heads of Beholders on your mantle, or you're a total newbie who doesn't know their Aarakocra from their elbow, this hilarious improvised adventure will have you rolling.

Content warning: some of the language is rather spicy and generally a lot of (imaginary) things die.

This isn't D&D – this is ADHD&D.



© Writers' Tears



© Patrick Bramley

Workshop

PAINTING WITH FLAVOURS

James Kilgannon

Performance

Fri 6 June, 6pm

Venue

The Yurt

Tickets

€10

Age restriction

18+ only

Duration

60 mins

Presented in association with Writers' Tears

Brought to you by Writers' Tears, this mixology masterclass with Irish whiskey expert James Kilgannon will show you how to use unloved ingredients lurking in the back of your press to make show stopping cocktails and mocktails.

Having travelled extensively throughout the world promoting Irish whiskey – and being a firm believer of the mantra 'drink less, drink better' – Kilgannon will give a step-by-step guide on how to create two exquisite drinks at home.

Kilgannon has worked in the drinks and hospitality industry for nearly ten years and will use his knowledge to help you elevate your Friday night drinks from a one note wonder to a symphony of flavours.

Alcoholic drinks bought off-site are not permitted, and all alcoholic drinks bought at the Festival Bar must be consumed within the festival grounds. Please drink responsibly.

Talks

THE PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE

Dr Noel Kavanagh

Performance

Sun 8 June, 3pm

Venue

The Yurt

Tickets

€5

Duration

45 mins

Supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund

Sponsored by Carlow Credit Union

Returning to the festival for a second year is Dr Noel Kavanagh with another rousing, insightful, and lively lecture.

Noel is a lecturer in Philosophy at the Department of Arts and Humanities, Carlow College. He is a P4C/CPI practitioner and a passionate advocate for public philosophy.

His primary area of interest is the concept of love in philosophy and culture, the human-animal relationship and the interconnections between philosophy, psychoanalytic theory and psychotherapy.

In this lecture, Noel will take a funny, wry and off-centre look at our ideas of love in the world and its surprising origins.

In 2024, Noel's lecture was a sell-out event. Book now to avoid disappointment.

THE O'HARA'S MUSIC STAGE

Thanks to the ongoing and generous support of our Principal Sponsor, O'Hara's Brewery, we're thrilled to bring back our free music stage hosting bands, DJs, and workshops across the festival weekend for everyone to enjoy.

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. Alcoholic drinks bought off-site are not permitted, all alcoholic drinks bought at the Festival Bar must be consumed within the festival grounds. Please drink responsibly.



SITTING ROOM

Fri 6 June, 5pm | 60 mins | Free

Originally hailing from Carlow, this sweet-sounding trio take their name from the room where they spend most of their time writing their beautiful, lilting indie-pop compositions.

Their intertwined and delicate harmonies have led to them being recognised as RTÉ2fm's Grass Roots Irish Artists of the Week and become finalists in KLCR's New Local Hero Awards 2024.

With gigs already booked for venues around Ireland later this year, be sure to see this excellent local band on the cusp of major success.



SEXYTADHG

Fri 6 June, 9pm | 60 mins | Free

Fresh off an 18-date UK tour, playing to over 40,000 people supporting The Mary Wallopers, SexyTadhg brings their larger than life, six-piece live show back home for one night only.

Whether as a pianist, songwriter, vocalist, or fashion designer, SexyTadhg's artistry takes you on an electrifying journey that defies expectations.

In their show-stopping performances, Tadhg is often compared to David Bowie, Elton John, Lady Gaga, or Freddie Mercury. However, they often flip this dominating aura to tell more personal and delicate stories centred around gender, sexuality, and mental health.



WOL COLLECTIVE

Sat 7 June, 7pm | 60 mins | Free

WOL Collective is a five-piece folk-rock band with its roots in Kilkenney's vibrant music scene.

The members have worked together for many years, infusing traditional Irish folk songs with elements of 60's psychedelic and folk-rock to create a rich, harmony led sound that is reminiscent of Jefferson Airplane, Fairport Convention and other greats from that era.

Performing with a mix of drums, synth, guitar, and accordion, their unique and energetic sound will guarantee to get you up dancing.



THE SPINNING BOY

Sat 7 June, 9.30pm | 60 mins | Free

The Spinning Boy is an evolving music collective spearheaded by Carlow native Marc-Ivan O'Gorman.

A combination of devotional song, noise music, and post-punk art rock, The Spinning Boy fuses eastern influences with an experimental attitude to technology and an improvisational approach to performance.

The Spinning Boy has a substantial record of creating music for images in collaboration with an eclectic array of international musicians, including soundtracks for narrative films (e.g. the feature Charlie Casanova), art films, and TV commercials.

THE O'HARA'S MUSIC STAGE



© Kate Mahony

DOMHAN

Sun 8 June, 4pm | 60 mins | Free

Domhan is a captivating Irish folk artist creating music inspired from her spiritual journey, shamanism and connection with the earth and the soul. She is also known for being a member of Irish transcendental band Bog Bodies.

As an artist she plays with bringing an otherworldly, Celtic mythological, sacred sound to her music through her voice, bilingual lyrics and her instrumentation of low whistle, harmonium, and bodhrán.



© Patrick Bramley

THE MERCADONNAS

Sun 8 June, 9pm | 60 mins | Free

Closing the festival this year will be Carlow-based The Mercadonnas. With the release of their debut album imminent and their established track record of lively post-punk songs and performances, they are sure to provide a celebratory and memorable end to the 2025 festival.

"It's an honour to be headlining Sunday night at our local festival. We can't wait to give it our all" - Jack O'Flaherty, frontman of The Mercadonnas.



© Peter Mullen

Music & Encounter

CELLO SOLUS

**Yseult Cooper Stockdale
& Caitríona Finnegan**

Performances

Sun 8 June, 2pm - 4.30pm

Venue

The Orchard, Carlow College

Tickets

€7.50

Duration

10 mins

Each year, Carlow Arts Festival presents a special performance in the beautiful surrounds of The Orchard in Carlow College. This year we are thrilled to host a special duet for one audience member at a time.

Renowned cellists Yseult Cooper Stockdale and Caitríona Finnegan invite you to join them for a unique performance.

As an audience of one, you will be enveloped in classical and contemporary music as the two cellists perform just for you – live and unamplified. Their performance will intertwine with the sounds of nature and the special surroundings of The Orchard, taking you away from the hustle and bustle of life for ten glorious minutes of peace and solitude.

Created especially for Carlow Arts Festival, each performance of *Cello Solus* lasts ten minutes. Due to the small capacity, all the performances are likely to sell out quickly. Be sure to book so as not to miss this intimate musical experience.



© Patrick Bramley

Visual Arts

CYCLES EXHIBITION

Exhibition

Thurs 5 - Sun 8 June, 11am - 8pm

Venue

Barry Hall, Carlow College

Tickets

Free

Developed in partnership with County Carlow Sports Partnership, Carlow County Library, Carlow County Museum, Carlow Road Cycling Club, Carlow County Council and Carlow An Garda Síochána

Cycles is part of ART:2023, a Decade of Centenaries programme, presented by The Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon in association with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. This project has been supported by Carlow Sports Partnership, Sport Ireland via the Dormant Accounts Fund, Creative Ireland Carlow, Carlow Arts Office, Carlow County Development Partnership and Healthy Ireland.

This exhibition captures the magic of *Cycles*, an arts participation and engagement project led by artists Michelle Browne and Eszter Némethi that took place across 2023 and 2024 in Rathvilly, Tullow, Graiguecullen and Hacketstown.

Part of our ASSEMBLY programme, the project explored Carlow's hedgerows, landscapes and languages through cycling. Relive the experience of the 18km cycle that began and ended at Ducketts Grove in July 2024 through a film created by Ros Kavanagh and Michelle Browne, alongside objects and special pieces made as part of this unique project.

FREE EVENTS



© Patrick Bramley

OPENING NIGHT GATHERING

Thurs 5 June, 8.30pm - 11pm
O'Hara's Music Stage

After the launch of *Artworks 2025* (p.6) and the energetic flamenco of *Taranto Aleatorio* (p.7) join us at the O'Hara's Music Stage for the *Opening Night Gathering*. The food vendors will be on site, refreshments will be available at the Festival Bar, and music will be playing as we look forward to three more days of visual art, live performance, and creative connection.



© Orlaith Treacy

STEADFAST SEWING CLUB

Fri 6 June, 10am - 1pm
Murdoch Hall, Carlow College

The Steadfast Sewing Club will be taking up residence in Carlow College St Patrick's repairing and making clothes and furnishings and maybe even bunting using mainly recycled materials. Their mission is to promote eco-friendly practices, empower individuals to reduce textile waste, and inspire creativity while honouring the planet. Come see what they're up to and get some advice on how to repair your clothes.

FREE EVENTS

Year-round we engage the community in artistic expression and creative pursuits. Please consider donating to help Carlow Arts Festival continue for another 46 years.



© Patrick Bramley

MORNING YOGA

Sat 7 June, 10am | 60 mins
O'Hara's Music Stage

Connie Byrne's mindful yoga creates a space for you to breathe, move, and rest; allowing you to flow through your day with ease, grace, and balance. Join in on Saturday and please bring along your own yoga mat.

Supported by County Carlow Sports Partnership



© Brian Cregan

SAMBA DRUMMING WORKSHOP

Sat 7 June, 11.30am | 60 mins
O'Hara's Music Stage

Bang the drums with Rhythm Riot's Samba Drumming Workshop. Learn how to keep a beat and create new music.

Supported by Music Generation Carlow

Age recommendation
9 - 12 years



© Brian Cregan

CARNIVAL WORKSHOP

Sat 7 June, 12.30pm | 45 mins
O'Hara's Music Stage

Come and be part of the Carnival of Collective Joy (p.10). Join us at the O'Hara's Music Stage to create your own unique costume piece to show off on the streets of Carlow. Whether you're young or young-at-heart, everyone is welcome to get involved.

Age recommendation
8+



© Brian Cregan

MGW & MGC BRASS

Sat 7 June, 3pm | 45 mins
O'Hara's Music Stage

Enjoy the bold brass sounds of Music Generation Waterford and Carlow.

This talented group of young musicians will be playing fun, familiar tunes on trumpets, saxophones, trombones, and flutes.

FREE EVENTS



© Brian Cregan

OLD SCHOOL GAMES

Sun 8 June, 11am - 4pm
Carlow College Grounds

Join the fun and hop into an egg and spoon race, bring your friends and try win a three-legged race. Pick up a hula-hoop and see how long you can hula for. There's lots for all ages to play and enjoy.

Supported by County Carlow Sports Partnership



© Patrick Bramley

MGC ROCKS THE FEST

Sun 8 June, 1.30pm | 90 mins
O'Hara's Music Stage

Carlow's rising stars bring an electrifying performance to Carlow Arts Festival. After months of dedication and creativity, Music Generation Carlow's Rock Bands, MouthBox, and Trad Ensembles are ready to showcase their talent, blending energy and passion in a must-see show. Expect powerful performances and an unforgettable experience for all.



© Carlow Traveller Forum

CRUSH ON CHOIR

Sun 8 June, 5.30pm | 30 mins
O'Hara's Music Stage

Join members of the Carlow Traveller Forum *Crush On & Start Singing* project for another special event of folk music, singing, and storytelling.

Project participants will sing songs exploring threads of connections that highlight the support and strength family, friendship, and community can give to one another.



© Patrick Bramley

FESTIVAL FOOD VILLAGE

Thurs 5 - Sun 8 June

Great food is integral to the festival experience. Our Food Village has a specially selected mix of the best food trucks from Carlow and the surrounding counties.

The Festival Bar, operated by Ed Cahill and the Tully's Bar Carlow team, will be serving O'Hara's superb range of Irish Craft Beer and other grown-up beverages, alongside non-alcoholic options and soft drinks. Last orders at 11pm.

Alongside our food offering we will again be hosting crafters and designers whose work will be available for purchase at the festival.

All our food vendors and crafters pay a small fee to cover their on-site energy and operating costs, and then retain 100% of their profits. By buying from them you are directly supporting local businesses.

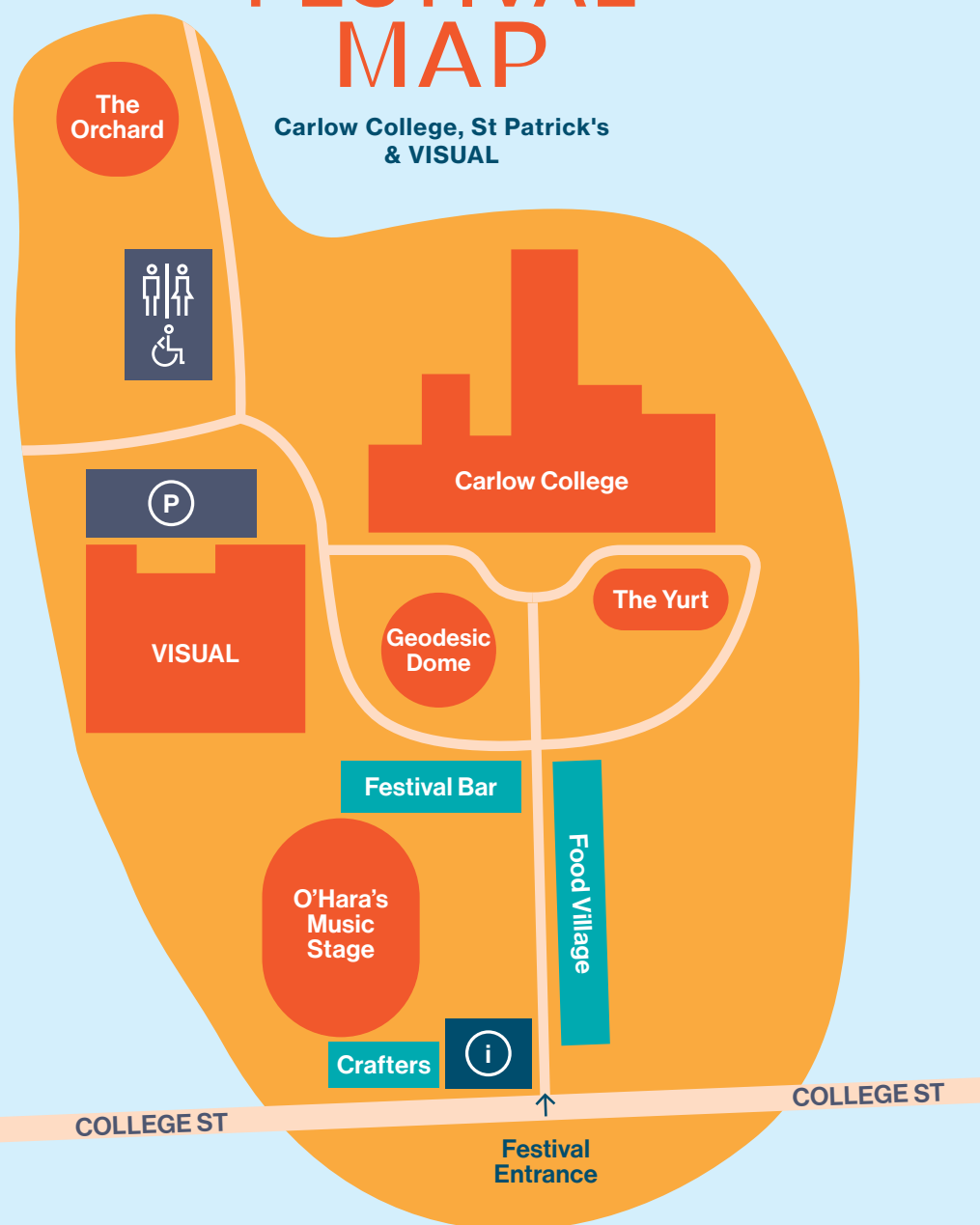
Lennons, the restaurant and café at VISUAL, is also open as usual during the festival.

The Food Village and Festival Bar are open from Thursday 5 to Sunday 8 June.

Enjoy!

2025 FESTIVAL MAP

Carlow College, St Patrick's
& VISUAL



CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL 4 - 8 JUNE

Wednesday 4 June

7.30pm - 8.50pm	The Long Shadow of Alois Brunner	The George Bernard Shaw Theatre	Theatre	€22 / €17	p.2
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Thursday 5 June

11am - 8pm	Cycles Exhibition	Barry Hall, Carlow College	Visual Arts	Free	p.22
6pm - 7.30pm	Dreamtime Ireland: Artworks 2025 Launch	VISUAL	Visual Arts	Free	p.6
7.45pm - 8.35pm	Taranto Aleatorio	Carlow College Grounds	Dance	Free	p.7
8.30pm - 11pm	Opening Night Gathering	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.23

Friday 6 June

10am - 1pm	Steadfast Sewing Club	Murdoch Hall, Carlow College	Workshop	Free	p.23
11am - 8pm	Cycles Exhibition	Barry Hall, Carlow College	Visual Arts	Free	p.22
11am - 8pm	Dreamtime Ireland: Artworks 2025	VISUAL	Visual Arts	Free	p.6
1pm - 2pm	Dreamtime Ireland: Guided Tour	VISUAL	Visual Arts	Free	p.6
5pm - 6pm	Sitting Room	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.18
6pm - 7pm	Painting with Flavours	The Yurt	Workshop	€10	p.16
7.30pm - 8.30pm	H.O.M.E	The George Bernard Shaw Theatre	Aerial & Theatre	€20 / €15	p.3
8pm - 9pm	No Blacks, No Dogs, No Irish	The Yurt	Comedy	€10	p.12
9pm - 10pm	SexyTadhg	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.18

Saturday 7 June

10am - 11am	Morning Yoga	O'Hara's Music Stage	Workshop	Free	p.24
11am - 8pm	Cycles Exhibition	Barry Hall, Carlow College	Visual Arts	Free	p.22
11am - 8pm	Dreamtime Ireland: Artworks 2025	VISUAL	Visual Arts	Free	p.6
11.30am - 12.30pm	Samba Drumming Workshop	O'Hara's Music Stage	Workshop	Free	p.24
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Carnival Workshop	O'Hara's Music Stage	Workshop	Free	p.25
1.30pm - 2.30pm	Carnival of Collective Joy	Starts at Carlow College	Spectacle	Free	p.10
3pm - 3.45pm	MGW & MGC Brass	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.25
4pm - 4.45pm	Simple Machines	Cobden Hall, Carlow College	Theatre & Families	€12 / €7.50	p.9
4pm - 5pm	Carlow Traveller Forum	The Yurt	Spoken Word & Talks	Free	p.14
4.30pm - 5.45pm	Symbiont & No One, Realistic As You	Geodesic Dome	Acrobatics	€12 / €7.50	p.8
6pm - 6.45pm	Simple Machines	Cobden Hall, Carlow College	Theatre & Families	€12 / €7.50	p.9
6pm - 7pm	The Write and the Wrong	The Yurt	Spoken Word	€5	p.11
7pm - 8pm	WOL Collective	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.19
8pm - 9.15pm	Ye Vagabonds	The George Bernard Shaw Theatre	Music	€32 / €27	p.4
8pm - 9.30pm	Divergent & Dragons Live	The Yurt	Comedy	€10	p.15
9.30pm - 10.30pm	The Spinning Boy	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.19

Sunday 8 June

11am - 8pm	Cycles Exhibition	Barry Hall, Carlow College	Visual Arts	Free	p.22
11am - 8pm	Dreamtime Ireland: Artworks 2025	VISUAL	Visual Arts	Free	p.6
11am - 4pm	Old School Games	Carlow College Grounds	Children & Families	Free	p.26
1.30pm - 3pm	MGC Rocks the Fest	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.26
2pm - 4.30pm	Cello Solus	The Orchard, Carlow College	Music & Encounter	€7.50	p.21
3pm - 3.40pm	An Ant Called Amy	The George Bernard Shaw Theatre	Theatre & Families	€12 / €7.50	p.5
3pm - 3.45pm	The Philosophy of Love	The Yurt	Talks	€5	p.17
4pm - 4.45pm	Simple Machines	Cobden Hall, Carlow College	Theatre & Families	€12 / €7.50	p.9
4pm - 5pm	Domhan	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.20
4.30pm - 5.45pm	Symbiont & No One, Realistic As You	Geodesic Dome	Acrobatics	€12 / €7.50	p.8
5.30pm - 6pm	Crush On Choir	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.26
6pm - 6.45pm	Simple Machines	Cobden Hall, Carlow College	Theatre & Families	€12 / €7.50	p.9
7pm - 8.15pm	Zeitgeist Jukebox	The Yurt	Music & Theatre	€10	p.13
9pm - 10pm	The Mercadonnas	O'Hara's Music Stage	Music	Free	p.20

Book Now

To book your tickets and plan your visit go to carlowartsfestival.ie

A €1.50 booking fee will be added to all tickets. Full terms and conditions can be found on our website and on the website of our box office system supplier – takeyourseats.ie

Support Carlow Arts Festival

Carlow Arts Festival is a not-a-profit organisation dedicated to promoting art in all its forms and delivering exceptional cultural experiences for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

We're proud to be one of seven festivals that are Strategically Funded by the Arts Council | An Chomhairle Ealaíon. As our Principal Funder, their ongoing support is crucial to Carlow Arts Festival's future. We are also supported by Carlow County Council, our generous corporate sponsors, and our national and international cultural partners.

Our goal is to ensure Carlow Arts Festival will continue for another 46 years (at least) and your support helps us to present the festival each June, to create opportunities for local and national artists through ORIGIN – our artist development programme – and to deliver ASSEMBLY, our year-round community engagement programme.

As a registered charity, all donations are tax deductible. So whether as an individual or as an organisation, please consider making a donation today via our website or in person at the festival. All profits and donations go directly back into the delivery of Carlow Arts Festival.

Thank you for your support!

Carlow Arts Festival is a member of Performing Arts Forum, Carlow PPN Public Participation Network, Naturally Wild Festivals, and ISACS Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Network.

We promote the Safe to Create Programme in our actions and provide safe working conditions for all our workers.

Carlow Arts Festival is the trading name of Eígse-Carlow Arts Limited registered charity no. 20035419.

Festival Team

Artistic Director & CEO
Benjamin Perchet

Executive Director
Andy Currums

Programme Manager
Ferga Moran

Creative Producer
Orlaith Treacy

Festival Producer
Shannon Basso Gaule

Volunteer Manager
Michael Florin Cahill

Marketing Assistant
Darren Flynn

Artist Liaison
Ash Flynn

Illustration and Design
Claire Prouvost

Website
Path.ie

Box Office
Take Your Seats

Security
South East Security, Dolmen Guarding

A huge thank you to our technical and production team, all our seasonal staff, and our amazing volunteers.

Special thanks to Fr. Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh, Averil Lawler and the staff of Carlow College, St Patrick's.

Board of Directors

Roisin Lawlor (Chairperson), Cian Kinsella (Secretary), Janice de Bróithe, Dr Noel Kavanagh, Dan McNerney, Jolly O'Rock, Fintan Phelan




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