

IRELAND'S CONSUMER MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

IMAGE

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**ERASE AND
REWIND**

LATEST ANTI-AGEING GEMS

**BODY
BEAUTIFUL**

MEETING ELLE MACPHERSON

**SMART
SHOPPING**

**THE IMAGE
BOUTIQUE GUIDE**

**BRILLIANTLY
BOOKISH**

**LIA MILLS ON WHY
WE LOVE READING**

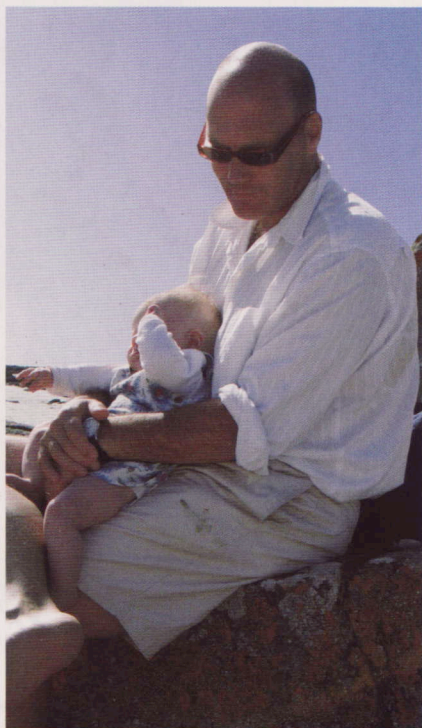


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Contributors

David Robbins is a columnist with the *Irish Independent* and has been a senior editor with the Independent group for many years. His secret love (apart from his three-year-old daughter, Grace) is cricket. He found he had much in common with the New Victorians he went in search of for IMAGE: "I think I'm kind of a New Vic myself. I like to cook and keep house too. And cricket came of age with the Victorians. What's not to like?" Read David's dissection of the New Victorian phenomenon on page 72.



Novelist **Lia Mills** was expelled from school when she was eight years old, for a series of crimes the nuns blamed on the influence of Enid Blyton. Eventually, they relented and took her back, but they banned Enid Blyton instead. "After that, I knew that authority was afraid of what reading could do, even though they never objected to seeing you curled up in a chair with a book. I've been an avid reader ever since." Her most recent book, *In Your*

Face, is a non-fiction account of her experience of cancer. Lia writes about the effects reading can have on our health and our happiness in "Prescribed Reading", page 47.



Rocky Redmond is co-owner and director of Vanilla Venture Ireland. With a degree in hotel and catering, he spent five years working in finance in London but food was never far from his mind. Following an encounter with the owners of Vanilla Venture Amsterdam, Rocky and business partner Robert Dunleavy set up Vanilla Venture Ireland in 2005. With a product assortment well over 1,000, they specialise in sourcing the best of artisan food produce from around

the globe, considering taste, quality and individuality. Rocky reminisces about Jabugo, Spain and the delicious black Ibérico pig it's so famous for, page 161.



Fashion photographer **Mo Saito** spent his early years in Japan, but grew up in England and then New York before returning to London. He completed a degree in neurophysiology and psychology before a brief spell in medical school. Mo's love of photography, he thinks, comes from watching too many movies as a child through a rectangle frame. See his mesmerising work in "Light Touch", on page 116.



Writer and journalist, **Deirdre Mulrooney** has written on the arts for the *Sunday Tribune*, *The Sunday Business Post*, *The Irish Times*, *Dance Magazine* in the US, and *Dance Europe*. She has contributed to arts shows, RTE Radio 1's *Sunday Miscellany*, and hosted her own five-part documentary series, *Nice Moves*, on the station. She has also directed theatre, had a photographic exhibition on Rwanda, curated dance and theatre events, and written two books. Her eclectic passion for the arts recently brought her to

collaborate with Cirque du Soleil in their Montreal HQ as artistic talent scout. She pens our new culture pages, 23, from this month.



Sarah Skaggs performs in *Dances for Airports*, at the Project Arts Centre April 29 – May 1

DEIRDRE MULROONEY has the pick of this month's theatre dates, open-air choirs plus a day at the circus.

Dust off your tutus for the first annual **Dublin Dance Festival** (DDF), which rolls out an array of wonderful shows from across the globe in various venues from **April 17 – May 3**. For openers, one of the world's foremost choreographers, William Forsythe, who re-invented classical dance as a dynamic 21st century artform, presents his anti-war epic, *Three Atmospheric Studies*. This American artist, who transformed the vocabulary of classical ballet during his 20-year stint with Ballett Frankfurt, gives his answer to Picasso's "Guernica" on the Abbey's main stage. Expect dance at its most political. Speaking of transformations, DDF invites us to check in on the choreographic and personal journeys of former *Riverdance* co-stars Jean Butler and Colin Dunne – most recently seen as judges on RTE's *Celebrity Jigs 'n' Reels*. In Dunne's new solo, *Out of Time*, and Butler's *Does She Take Sugar?* (both at the Project Arts Centre), we get a close-up of the odysseys these artists have been on, re-inventing themselves, and deconstructing Irish dancing in the process. Listen out for Dunne's playful exploration of audio reverb – by placing shoe-microphones on his famous world-record-breaking feet. Rather special. Newly at the helm of the festival, Laurie Uprichard's eclectic programme will keep you up to speed with the latest trends in this happening and (surprise, surprise), sometimes subversive artform. She has lined up top-class international dance from France, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, Eastern and Central Europe, Ireland, and, of course, her native NYC (check out Tere O'Connor), where until this move she ran prestigious dance venue Danspace Project. Take your pick at www.dublindancefestival.ie.

CIRCUS ACT Cirque du Soleil, one of the most extraordinary and successful live entertainment companies on the planet, are pulling into Belfast for just one night, with *Delirium*, a multimedia, music-centred extravaganza, at The Odyssey Arena on **April 12**. From the people who re-invented the circus, it's the only arena rock-show-style offering in their considerable arsenal. Cirque du Soleil's Québecois founder and "guide", Guy Laliberté, has evolved from a hippy fire-breather and stilt-walker in the early 1980s into a billionaire, at the helm of an empire of touring shows, five resident shows in Las Vegas, with massive plans for expansion. Maybe the Midas effect will rub off on attendees? Regardless, you are guaranteed an unforgettable show; www.cirquedusoleil.com; www.mcd.ie for more.



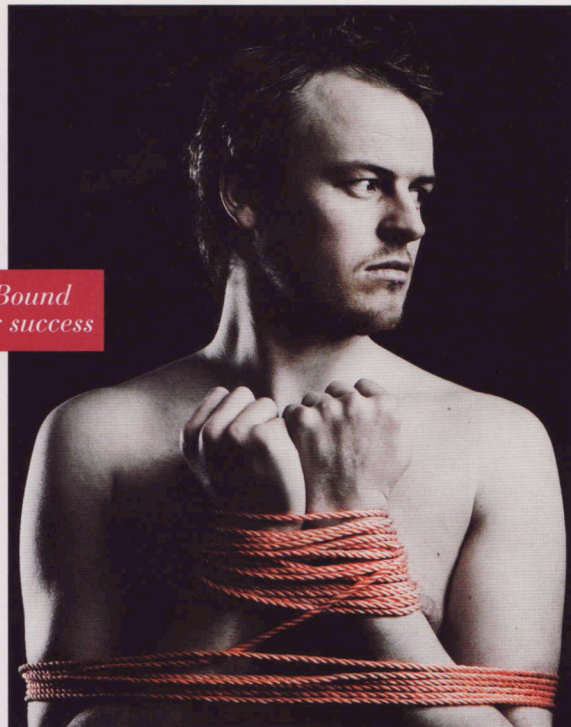
HALLELUJAH! Temple Bar Cultural Trust's annual Dublin Handel Festival, **April 13-18**, in celebration of the composer's magnificent *Messiah*, which premiered in Dublin on April 13, 1742, kicks off with a free open-air performance entitled *Messiah on the Street*, on the original site of Fishamble Music Hall, by Our Lady's Choral Society and the National Sinfonia, conducted by Proinsias Ó Duinn. What better way to get into the wonders of the capital than by turning up (at 1pm) and maybe even singing along to the Hallelujah chorus (they encourage it)? Free talks, tours, interactive activities and family events in Temple Bar will culminate this year in a full-length performance of *Messiah* in Christ Church Cathedral by the Christ Church Cathedral Choir; www.templebar.ie for more.



A GREAT ESCAPE Ever heard of Sheamus O'Shaunessy? If not, you're about to. Known to aficionados as "The Irish Curse", this wrestler from Cabra makes his acting debut in Irish/UK co-production *The Escapist* from **April 11**. Told in *Memento* style, this story of a prison-break places O'Shaunessy in cameo next to the acting genius of Liam Cunningham (*The Wind that Shakes the Barley*), Jack Walsh (*Killinaskully*) and Joseph Fiennes among others. Director Rupert Wyatt's first feature, it was partly shot in Dublin's lesser-known subterranean tunnels under Connolly Station, and was hailed as "an innovative new take on the prison genre" at Sundance earlier this year.

Remember the chilled-out strains of groovy singer-songwriter José González's 2003 album, *Veneer*? González's equally magical second album, *In Our Nature*, was released in September last year, and now, lucky for us, this Swedish artist of Argentine descent is on tour. Experience his ultra-mellow talent live at The Academy on Middle Abbey Street on **April 6**; www.jose-gonzalez.com.

*Bound
for success*



NEW VOICE Every now and then a theatre director comes along who tunes into the *zeitgeist*, plugs into the mindset of the new generation, and actually gets through. Twenty-seven-year-old **Tom Creed** is one such director. Back in 2004, Rough Magic Theatre Company rather astutely signed him onto their Seeds programme for nurturing new directing talent. Since then he has won a reputation for "extreme storytelling". This month, you can catch his "new ways of telling stories" with classic Spanish author Calderon's 17th century *Life is a Dream* (**March 31 – April 17**), at the Project Theatre.

The Heights, his "Kate Bush-inspired" adaptation of *Wuthering Heights*, had just wound up its hit run over in Temple Bar at Project Cube. An astounding show, structured like a 1980s synth-pop gig, it featured Creed's multi-talented long-term collaborators Hilary O'Shaughnessy, Will O'Connell, and Raymond Scannell, playing numbers like the Sex Pistols' "Pretty Vacant". Missed it? You can see the production when it tours later this year. In the meantime, Creed is opening Lynda Radley's intriguing one-woman show *On the Art of Swimming* for the Playgroup Theatre Company at Bewley's Café Theatre.

Creed professes to be "committed to finding new ways of telling stories that speak to young generations". Serving up "storytelling that is self-consciously theatrical", his emphasis is squarely on the fact that "it's all play".

If *Life is a Dream* strikes your fancy, pencil the Kilkenny Arts Festival into your diary for August, when Creed will be programming five shows. Oh yes, and watch out for John Webster's macabre Jacobean classic *The White Devil*, which Creed directs with Trinity acting students for their end of year show.