

DYLAN McGRATH: WHY I'M CRUEL IN THE KITCHEN

IMAGE

JUNE 2008

€4.25 (£2.95stg)



IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM

THE PERILS OF LOVING A NARCISSIST

END OF AN ERA
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BEST WAYS TO A SIZZLING HOT BODY

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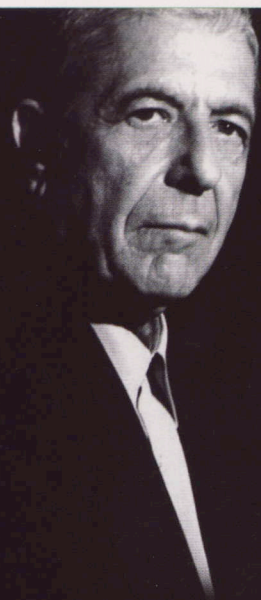
culture

June 2008

Living art and summer sounds
make for fun diary dates.
DEIRDRE MULROONEY reports.



NAKED AMBITION Get your kit off for internationally acclaimed contemporary artist Spencer Tunick and be part of his first Irish art installation, taking place as part of the Cork Midsummer Festival, **June 17** and Down at the Docklands in Dublin, on **June 21**. Participants will pose nude for a large-scale installation and group photograph, receiving their very own copy for the bathroom wall. Register at www.spencertunickireland.ie to take part. **KO'D**



"The heart goes on cooking, sizzling like a shish kebab", professes 73-year-old guru of song, Leonard Cohen who is back on the road for the first time in 15 years, pulling into the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, June 13-15, to give the most sophisticated concert of the summer. During his time-out, the cult hero went by the name of "Jikan" ("the silent one"), in a five-year retreat at the zen buddhist monastery on Mount Baldy, near LA. That may sound all blissed-out, but no sooner did the master of morose delight from Montreal turn his back on the real world, than it took a rather large bite out of him. About \$5 million to be exact. Jikan emerged from the monastery to discover that while he had been seeking enlightenment, his former business manager had been busy rifling through Leonard Cohen's personal accounts and investments. Cohen, who has recently been inducted into New York's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was broke. Well, if that is what has brought this legendary artist to Ireland for the first time in 20 years, all the better for us. Damien Rice supports the great man. For more, www.leonardcohenfiles.com; www.pod.ie

As part of Cork's Midsummer Festival, Corcadorca theatre company presents towering American playwright Eugene O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape* in promenade June 23-July 5. Director Pat Kiernan leads his audience through a series of interconnected warehouses in Cork's docklands. Moving us from the stokehole of an ocean-liner to the promenade decks above, and from a prison scene to New York's Fifth Avenue. Sounds intriguing. For more, www.corcadorca.com.



From Dromoland Castle to Stormont, and the King's Inns to Kilruddery House, the Great Houses of Ireland throw open their doors, June 6-14, to classical music lovers with some of the world's best acts. Catch "the heir to Jessye Norman", Measha Brueggergosman, in Dromoland Castle, and King's Inns; Bach interpreter Angela Hewitt at the National Gallery; and the Belcea Quartet at Castletown House and Stormont. For more, www.musicgreatirishhouses.com.



Free, fun, open-air performances by the world's best street performers here on our own doorstep? Thanks to entrepreneurial dreamers Mark Duckinfield and Conor McCarthy, yes, yes, yes. Roll up to Merrion Square, June 13-15, to see the reigning AIB Street Performance World Champion Australian Space Cowboy defend his title against Japanese acrobats, a Canadian trapeze stunt troupe, and an ex-Soviet circus superstar. One of the craziest and funniest festivals in the world, this year it also promises a human fountain, a giant sleeping pig, and maybe even Elvis. For more, www.spwc.ie.



One to watch

"I've never worked in Ireland," says talented up-and-coming actress, **Genevieve O'Reilly**, above, who is making a return visit to her native Dublin to star in The Gate Theatre's production of *The Weir* by Conor McPherson from June 10. She can't wait to be directed in the play's intriguing female role, that of outsider Valerie, by the only woman ever to win a Tony Award for directing, Galwegian Garry Hynes.

"I grew up in Dublin [until the age of ten] but then we emigrated to Australia," explains Genevieve. "I was raised really in Australia, where I went to drama school. I guess I cut my teeth as an actor on stage in Sydney." All the same, one of her most memorable roles there was Joanie in Sebastian Barry's *Our Lady of Sligo*.

No sooner did she and her Australian husband arrive in London three years ago, than Genevieve was cast as the Queen in *Richard the Second* at the Old Vic ("with Kevin Spacey – that was a joy. Trevor Nunn was directing").

It has been non-stop since then, starring in numerous films for TV, and BBC series *The State Within*, as well as the 2007 TV docudrama *Diana: Last Days of a Princess* (in which she was a dead ringer for Lady Diana). Genevieve, who happily describes herself as "a jobbing actor", has also featured in blockbuster sequels like *Star Wars* and *The Matrix*. However, when she finished filming *The Young Victoria* last year, in which she played Lady in Waiting to Emily Blunt's Queen Victoria (Princess Beatrice of York also makes an appearance in the film, of which Sarah Ferguson is a producer), she was really aching to get back to theatre.

Cue a phonecall from Michael Colgan of Dublin's Gate Theatre, asking her to read for *The Weir*. Genevieve was "thrilled" at the prospect of interpreting a role by McPherson. "His writing really is like a musical score for the actor. To start with a script like that is such a gift." Refreshingly in awe of Garry Hynes' directorial reputation, this accomplished 32-year-old actress admits "I was actually a bit nervous when I had to go and meet her." Nerves notwithstanding, she landed the role.

Going into rehearsal now is an "exciting prospect. I'm really looking forward to working with Garry. I'm sure I'll learn so much – about myself as an actor, and about her way of directing." Genevieve also relishes the rare opportunity to work in her own accent – despite her time abroad, it is recognisably Dublin. "A lot of your emotions are tied to your voice. I'm really looking forward to being able to work in my natural voice." For more, www.gate-theatre.ie.