

From arthouse film and portraiture to a musical array of jazz, opera, folk and classical, DEIRDRE MULROONEY has your October lineup.



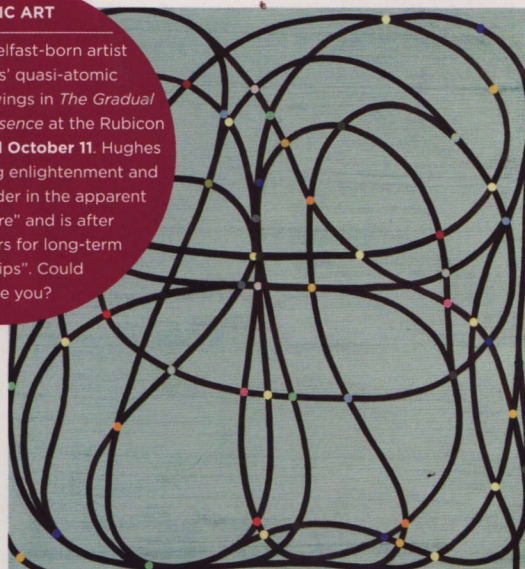
**UP NORTH** Making his Irish premiere just days before his 80th birthday, legendary Oscar-winning film composer Ennio Morricone, far left, (*The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*, *The Untouchables* and *Cinema Paradiso*), opens the 46th Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's, **October 17 - November 1**. Following that, there's Orchestra Baobab, Seu Jorge, Gilbert O'Sullivan, and Rufus's gifted sister Martha Wainwright, left, hot on the heels of her latest album, *I Know You're Married but I've Got Feelings Too*. The magical Footsbarn Theatre Company pull into town with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, above, bad-boy choreographer Michael Clark dazzles with *Mmm ... Stravinsky Project Part 2*, Dylan Moran chews life up and spits it out with *What It Is*, and Cherie Blair, no less, shall hold court on her book, *Speaking for Myself*, [www.belfastfestival.com](http://www.belfastfestival.com) for more.

**SOUTHERN COMFORT** There's more to **Cork Film Festival**, **October 12-19**, than the punchy shorts that parade in its renowned international and national short film competitions. As well as world cinema, documentary panorama, and a thoughtful retrospective on the world of Liverpoolian director Terence Davies (*Distant Voices*, *Still Lives* and *Of Time And The City*), Cork shines its light this year on Mexican short films, Irish filmmaking duo Desperate Optimists, and presents an interesting talk by controversial arthouse film director Peter Greenaway (*The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* and *Prospero's Books*). For details, [www.corkfilmfest.org](http://www.corkfilmfest.org).

**DON'T MISS** FINE PORTRAITIST MAEVE MCCARTHY, WHOSE AIRY DEPICTION OF MAEVE BINCHY "STRIKING A POSE FOR MY COUNTRY" HANGS IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND, UNVEILS HER NEW ARRAY OF STILL LIFE, CUSTOMARY OBLIQUE ANGLES, LANDSCAPES, AND OLD-FASHIONED PORTRAITS IN DUBLIN'S MOLESWORTH GALLERY THIS MONTH. TAKE A PEEK, [WWW.MAEVEMCCARTHY.COM](http://WWW.MAEVEMCCARTHY.COM).

## ATOMIC ART

Contemplate Belfast-born artist Ronnie Hughes' quasi-atomic paintings and drawings in *The Gradual Materialisation of Essence* at the Rubicon Gallery, Dublin, **until October 11**. Hughes has been pondering enlightenment and "an underlying order in the apparent chaos of nature" and is after "curious viewers for long-term relationships". Could that be you?







**ONSCREEN** "I play a down-on-his-luck actor. I didn't have to do too much research," jokes Dubliner Mark Doherty, pictured above far right, writer of black farce *A Film With Me In It*, above, a quirky road movie that has been compared to *Withnail and I* and which has wowed audiences at Galway, Edinburgh and Toronto Film Festivals so far, and is set for general release later this month. Doherty, one of Ireland's top comic talents, wrote the script ("it emerged"), with Dylan Moran, pictured centre, of *Black Books*, in mind. "My best friend is a scriptwriter, played by Dylan Moran. We find ourselves in this very dark place with no way out, where things seem to be going against us. It seems to be like a quirky comedy. His life is falling apart, and then, about a third of the way through, it takes a sharp turn left." Along with Amy Huberman and Aisling O'Sullivan, Neil Jordan also features, typecast as a film director. "He's really good," offers Mark, who reciprocated by playing a part in Jordan's new film, *Ondine*. Son of jazz musician Jim Doherty, and brother of stand-up comedian David O'Doherty, Mark has naturally been

"living on the fringes", for more than a decade - doing the stand-up comedy circuit until 2000, acting in low-budget feature films like *November Afternoon*, by John Carney (recently catapulted into Oscar-land with *Once*) and Tom Hall, and writing alternative projects for television. Apart from Doherty's 2004 play, *Trad*, which was an international success, his offbeat sense of humour can often be found at 11pm on RTE 2: "It's a graveyard slot. That's where I live." As *A Film With Me In It* takes off, Doherty is "writing a television show with Barry Murphy, my collaborator for years on telly projects. Last year we did *Soupy Norman*. We bought ten episodes of a Polish soap opera, re-cut the pictures, overdubbed the whole thing and created our own little ten-minute stories about a dysfunctional Cork family and a girl who moves to Dublin." Ridiculous? "It was a bit of a cult hit." Mark declares himself "happy to be mixing it all up, and spreading myself thinly. So nobody can suss me," he laughs. "It has worked so far."

DEMONSTRATE YOUR NONCHALANCE IN A JAZZIE WEEKEND OF RHYTHMIC SHOULDER-SHRUGGING AT THE **27TH CORK JAZZ FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 24-27**. FROM OUR OWN LOUIS STEWART TO CHICK COREA'S "RESTLESS CREATIVE SPIRIT", A MIND-BOGGLING LINEUP OF INTERNATIONAL JAZZ GREATS WILL DISPERSE THEIR MOODY TUNES ACROSS CORK'S HOTTEST VENUES. DON'T MISS FLAMENCO GUITAR LEGEND PACO PEÑA AND HIS EPONYMOUS FLAMENCO DANCE COMPANY, BELOW, AT CORK OPERA HOUSE. SEE AND BE SEEN AT THE GRESHAM METROPOLE FESTIVAL CLUB, AT IRELAND'S BIGGEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS JAZZ EVENT. NICE. VISIT [WWW.CORKJAZZ-FESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.CORKJAZZ-FESTIVAL.COM).



#### KILLING TIME BETWEEN OPERAS?

Shoot the breeze at the **Wexford Fringe Festival, October 16 - November 2**. Post-opera music at Whites' Library Bar could be fun. Then there's Rebecca Storm, Jack L and band, The Three Tenors, Merrill Osmond (yes, really, Donny's brother), comedian Jarlath Regan, children's events and its very own Goose Festival; - [www.wexfordfringe.ie](http://www.wexfordfringe.ie).



**R**oll out the red carpet to welcome Ireland's first ever custom-built opera house for its inaugural **Wexford Festival Opera season, October 16 - November 2**. Nestled into the quaint seaside town of Wexford, this skyline-changing building, left, "an incredible feat of engineering that blossoms upwards", is a rather breathtaking triumph. Designed by international award-winning Keith Williams & Associates architects, it's a fitting home to Wexford Festival Opera, which, since 1951, has been providing us not only with a great opportunity to dress up, but also to catch a close-up glimpse of up-and-coming international opera stars. Known for staging long-forgotten masterpieces by famous composers, the 2008 season marks the centenary of Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov's death, by staging his little-known gem, *Snegurochka*, a version of the traditional Russian folktale, *The Snow Maiden*. There will be Gothic opera, with *The Mines of Sulphur* by British composer Sir Richard Rodney Bennett (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*), and comic opera, poking a bit of fun at the opera world itself, with Carlo Pedrotti's Tutti in Maschera (*Everyone in Disguise*). Amid the 50 events on offer across the 18-day festival are short works by Puccini, Rossini, Menotti, and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. For more, [www.wexfordopera.com](http://www.wexfordopera.com).