



*Artwork created in Cork Prison.*

# The Old Triangle

A celebration for the benefit of the  
Irish Penal Reform Trust

The Abbey Theatre, Dublin

Sunday, February 26th, 2012



IPRT is delighted to have the support of patrons who champion our work in the area of prisoners' rights and penal reform. They are: Paula Meehan, poet; Peter Sheridan, author and director; John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison; Senator Ivana Bacik.

IPRT is very grateful to Poetry Ireland and to Sheehan & Partners for supporting this event.



## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES (in order of appearance)

### SHAZ OYE

Dublin born singer & songwriter Shaz Oye has been described by Jackie Hayden as “one of the finest vocalists ever to come out of Ireland”. Her debut album, *Truth According to Shaz Oye*, was nominated as one of the top Irish Albums of the year in *Hot Press*. Her next album will be released later this year.

### TONY CURTIS

Tony Curtis is one of Ireland’s best-loved poets. He has worked for many years in the prison system, and in the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum. His most recent works are a collection of poems, *Folk* (Arc Publications, 2011) and a set of 45 haiku in *Sandworks* (with the Irish photographer Liam Blake).

### GREENSHINE

Noel Shine has been teaching music in Cork Prison for the past thirty years. In 2009 Noel’s work in the prison was the subject of one of the award winning series of radio documentaries on RTÉ 1 entitled *Songs from the Inside*. He has recorded with many musicians, from the Clancy Brothers to, more recently, The Republic of Loose.

Mary Greene, in a duo with Noel Shine, has released 3 critically acclaimed albums to date including *Sea of Hearts*. Mary has had her songs recorded by Sean Keane and Kate Purcell, and has sung on the recordings of many fine artists including Christy Moore, John Spillane, Frances Black and Dr. Strangely Strange.

Ellie Shine has grown up surrounded by music and has been performing in concerts since the age of 13. She currently forms part of the trio GREENSHINE with her parents Noel Shine & Mary Greene. In spite of her tender years (she is 15), Ellie has featured on three CDs to date including most recently her grandfather’s debut recording *Paddy Greene’s Family Album*.

### NUALA NÍ DHOMHNAILL

Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill received the 1988 O’Shaughnessy Award for Poetry and the 1991 American Ireland Fund Literary Award. She served as visiting professor of Irish Studies at NYU and Boston College in 1999. She was named Ireland Professor of Poetry from 2002 - 2004. Her most recent publication is *The Fifty Minute Mermaid* (bilingual, translations by Paul Muldoon) from Gallery Press in 2007.

### EDDIE CAHILL

Eddie Cahill is a self taught Dublin based artist. He has had numerous exhibitions at home and abroad. His work is concerned with social and human conditions. Aidan Dunne of *The Irish Times* said of his portraits: “They move inwards instead of out, the head itself is turned inside out, the magic box of tricks opens to reveal a dark, intense realm, a world stranger than we might have imagined, but also strangely familiar.”

### BRIAN MAGUIRE

Brian Maguire’s deeply felt social and political commitments have led to lengthy periods as artist-in-residence in many of Ireland’s prisons. During 2001 and 2002 Maguire collaborated with the women of two Correctional Institutes in New York. In November 2002 the artist had an exhibition of his own and the prisoners’ work in the White Box gallery in Chelsea in the heart of the New York art world.



### **KARAN CASEY**

Karan Casey has long been one of the most innovative, provocative and admired voices in Irish traditional and folk music. Karan released her first album with the group Solas, which quickly became the most celebrated Irish band in the U.S. Karan has released 5 solo albums as well as an album for children, a duet album with John Doyle and numerous contributions to other artists' projects.

### **NIALL VALLELY**

Concertina player Niall Vallely has established himself worldwide as one of Ireland's most significant musicians. He has recorded two albums with Nomos, a solo album, *Beyond Words*, and a duet album with his brother Cillian, as well as two albums with his newest band Buille. In more recent years he has been expanding the scope of his compositions to embrace larger scale forms and instrumentation.

### **PETER SHERIDAN**

Peter is the recipient of the Rooney Prize for Literature and two Arts Council Bursaries, and has been writer in residence at the Abbey Theatre. Among his plays for the stage are *Down All the Days* (from the novel by Christy Brown), and *Mother of All the Behans* (from the book by Brian Behan). His *44: A Dublin Memoir* was nominated for an Irish Times Literature Prize. Peter is a patron of IPRT.

### **LEANNE O'SULLIVAN**

Leanne O'Sullivan, born in 1983, has published two collections of poetry with Bloodaxe Books: *Waiting for my Clothes* (2004) and *Cailleach: The Hag Of Beara* (2009). The Rooney Prize for Irish Literature 2010 was awarded to Leanne in recognition of her achievement and outstanding promise as a poet.

### **CHRISTY MOORE**

Christy, as he is universally known, was named as Ireland's greatest living musician in RTÉ's People of the Year Awards 2007. His voice and passion and his songwriting gift have placed him firmly in the hearts of the people. In the words of our hosts tonight, "he is tirelessly generous and compassionate, a giving and loving soul, a great artist". His most recent album is *Folk Tale*.

### **JIMMY KELLY**

Jimmy Kelly is proud to be brother to that genius of Irish song, Luke. Jimmy himself is loved and admired by the great community of Irish singers. Known to many as "the troubadour of the left", he is a passionate fighter for justice and a gifted singer.

### **TOM CREAN**

Like Jimmy Kelly and Brian McCarthy a member of The People's College Choir, Tom Crean is a stalwart of the Góilín Singers Club and is fondly known to many from his days with the unsurpassed Press Gang.

### **BRIAN McCARTHY**

As well as being a fine singer, Brian McCarthy is also a fine banjo player, perhaps best known from his work with the John Kelly group. He is also possibly the only contemporary singer who has been a lecturer in psychology.



## A note from IPRT Chairperson, Dr Mary Rogan

It is my very great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) to this special celebration.

The Irish Penal Reform Trust is keenly aware of the vital contribution made by artists and the arts within the prison system. The arts can - and do - act to unlock potential and facilitate change each day in our prisons. IPRT believes it is essential to embed the arts within prison life and in our understanding of the role of the penal system in our society.

IPRT campaigns for penal policy to be based on a commitment to combating social injustice, considering it impossible to separate, much less reform, that policy without reference to broader social policy. We argue for a re-imagined penal policy, which takes proper account of the roles to be played by health, education, economic and social policy in preventing and responding to all kinds of crime in order to benefit communities and society as a whole.

We are delighted and humbled by the generous and open-hearted responses of the artists participating in tonight's celebration. This evening would not be possible without the enthusiasm and tireless work of Theo Dorgan and our patron, Paula Meehan. IPRT is sincerely grateful for your instrumental role in this event. We also wish to thank our sponsors for the evening - Sheehan and Partners and Poetry Ireland - as well as our main funders Atlantic Philanthropies and Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

IPRT extends a special welcome to President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina Higgins. We are deeply honoured by your presence and we are inspired by your longstanding commitment to penal reform and the protection of human rights in Ireland.

Finally, I would like to thank you all very sincerely for joining us in this celebration and for supporting the work of IPRT. If you would like to assist us further in our work for progressive penal reform, please see our website: [www.iprt.ie](http://www.iprt.ie)



### Poetry Ireland | [www.poetryireland.ie](http://www.poetryireland.ie)

Poetry Ireland/Éigse Éireann is the national organisation for poetry in Ireland. They serve all 32 counties and receive support from The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and The Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

As an organisation they are dedicated to developing, supporting and promoting poetry throughout Ireland. Poetry Ireland is committed to creating meaningful encounters with poetry for the public. They are also committed to creating performance and publication opportunities for poets at all stages of their careers. Through four core activities - publications, readings, education and the provision of an information and resource service - we seek to promote access and excellence by embracing and fostering poetry and language as tools for living.

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## IPRT would like to thank the following for all their support

All the artists, Paula Meehan - Patron of IPRT, Theo Dorgan, Jane O'Hanlon and Joe Woods - Poetry Ireland, Peter Mullan - Sheehan & Partners, Antoinette Milne, Maureen Kennelly, Catherine Coakley, Veronica Hoen, Donal Landers - Irish Prison Service, Senator Fiach McConghail, Kate O'Sullivan, Andy Keogh and the staff of the Abbey Theatre, Senator Ivana Bacik - Patron of IPRT, Maria, Emilio and Veronika @ Country Café, and our volunteers Ashleigh, Colette, Louise, Martin, Sarah, Tina and Mary Barnecutt.