People & Culture



King of his castle

Patrick Bergin tells Barry Egan about getting remarried, his wife's cancer, and his strong faith

Marriage rites: Eilis O'Hanlon appraises TV's Real Housewives.

Cusack stand: Producer Pádraig on his theatrical family.

Leo season: The review is in for the former taoiseach's memoir.

Sunday Independent
07.09.25

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EDITORIAL
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Just saying Emmet Kirwan

Emmet Kirwan (45) is a playwright and actor. His play 'Dublin Old-school' won the Stewart Parker Major trust award, and was turned into a feature film. He lives with his wife and their young children.

I lived in Raheen, in west Tallaght. A terraced house. My dad was a milkman and then he became a taxi driver. My mam is nearly 40 years now working in the Credit Union and is a member of the board. I have three brothers. I'm the youngest.

My brothers were all huge music fans. My oldest brother is an art teacher, he was in college when I was young, so art would have been brought into the house. It was a very loving house. Very nice parents. They were very pleasant, hard-working people, and they gave us all a great life.

I got involved in the Dublin Youth Theatre when I was 15. They take people from all over Dublin, from every kind of area. Obviously Tallaght's a predominantly working-class area so you're pulled out of that and thrown into it a kind of cultural milieu. Dublin Youth Theatre was in a house on Gardiner Street, and we basically had the run of this whole house on a Saturday, to write and produce, and make your own plays. So it was kind of an exciting place to be.

On Saturday mornings, I'd work with my dad on his milk truck. He'd give me a bit of money, and he'd drop me off. My mother had also brought me to the theatre as a young child.

I studied acting and theatre at the Samuel Beckett Centre in Trinity College Dublin. I actually started working kind of straight away afterwards, quite lucky. I wanted to work in theatre. In between second and third year I did a musical, *Rent*, in the Olympia for the summer. I went to an open call and I got a part in it.

I was really struck by the lack of contemporary work. I'd read a lot of contemporary work when I was in college, both from Britain and Ireland. Then when I came out, it was often remakes or reinterpretations of older texts. I was very much excited by contemporary Irish stories, written from a working-class perspective that weren't stereotypical.



Myth-busting– Emmet Kirwan. *Photo: Steve Humphreys*

I was doing comedy sketches with a friend, and I was doing a play for Fishamble. Playwright and director Dave Coffey came to see it – he had done *Dan & Bees*. He asked would I be interested in co-writing a show with him – which became *Sarah and Steve* for RTÉ. I really appreciated the fact that Dave didn't want it to be leaning into stereotypes in order to gain comedy, which is normally what happens with those kind of working-class characters.

I'd been writing all the way from the teenage years, but never really took it seriously. But once I was writing under contract and working with people to make things, that was the turning point. They gave me a commission on the Fringe Festival – *Dublin Old-school*. I wanted to use on stage all of the things that I'd been trained to do, playing with vocal pitch and tone and spoken word that's also kind of hip-hop. And also physicality.

It's becoming harder, I think, for people if they don't have a familial background in it. Let's say you've grown up with parents who are actors or playwrights, or you've been brought up in it, it's easier to understand the place. If not, every time you do something in the arts, like for the first 20 years, it's probably the first time you're doing it.

> *It's becoming harder, I think, for people if they don't have a familial background in theatre*

The safety net thing, if you gave it too much thought, you'd go mental. If you get past [the age of] 27 working in the arts, you go, it's too late now, I'm in it. There's nothing else I can do.

The idea for my 2022 play *Accents* was mythologies of fatherhood. Your place within a family, the love that you have for your wife and the future that you might hopefully build. Then also how did you wind up where you are, who you are, why you sound a particular way you sound, how much of where you're from dictates your life and your loves and your expectations.

As part of the Dublin Theatre Festival, Emmet Kirwan will appear in Gavin Kostick's first play for children, 'The Leap', at Draiocht Studio, October 8-12. fishamble.com

As told to Liadán Hynes

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It's a week until Boyne Valley Trails' Walking Festival opens, so a) double check a plethora of all-weathers garb is good to go and b) you've pre-booked tickets to the plethora of guided walks, talks and cultural activities around the storied "Ancient East". As well as the Boyne Camino, Nordic Walks and food foraging, an expected highlight will be a talk with Ellie Berry, the Irish adventurer, writer, and co-creator of Tough Soles, an outdoor project documenting long-distance walks and outdoor experiences across Ireland. The festival will launch at 9.30am next Sunday with a rove around Beaulieu Estate and Gardens, east of Drogheda, led by Dusty Flanagan. Until September 21. *boynevalleytrails.ie*



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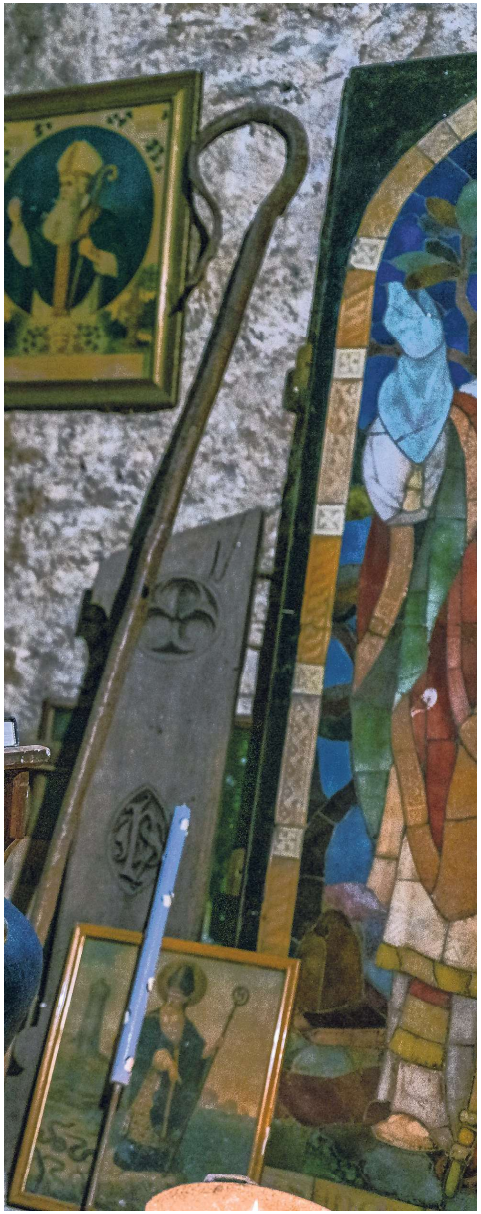
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Sunday Independent | 7 September 2025



Thoughts and prayers – Patrick Bergin in his 17th century home, in Co Tipperary.
Photo: Mark Condren



Reformed hellraiser and Hollywood actor Patrick Bergin tells **Barry Egan** about his recent marriage to Helen Goldin, her brush with cancer, and how he gave up the drink after Shane MacGowan had a word with him...

Faith, hope and clarity

It's a long way to Tipperary. It's even longer when you're lost. The old farmer I meet on the tractor on a backroad somewhere between Cloughjordan and Nenagh has never heard of Patrick Bergin. "He's a movie star and he lives in a castle around here?" he wonders, squinting through the late summer sun on the back of his tractor. "Maybe ask at the next farm through the crossroads..."

There is no one about that I can see and Google Maps is sending me towards Offaly in circles along roads with no signs Miraculously, I spot a road sign and embark up a long road. Eureka, there it is – Patrick Bergin's home, built circa 1649.

There are goats in the field and a statue of Michelangelo's David by a castle wall. There is a van outside and Patrick and his wife Helen are standing on the old steps at the door when I pull up.

Inside, she and Patrick give me a guided tour. "It's one of the last of the O'Carroll clan castles to fall to Cromwell's Conquest," he says.

The 74-year-old movie star that the local farmer hadn't heard of then takes me downstairs. "This is the oldest oak staircase in Ireland," he says. "Probably one of the oldest in the world."

He brings me into a big room in the basement with religious paintings and pictures of Christ on the wall. He and Helen come in here and pray every day.

"I played Christ once in a movie," he says, pointing up at the painting. "God is everything. I believe in God, and heaven and hell. Heaven and hell are states of happiness and despair."

He prays with St Patrick's prayer, "using 'spirit' rather than 'Christ'," he says quoting: "Spirit before me, spirit behind me." He played St Patrick in the 2000 film *St Patrick: The Irish Legend*.

"I believe, except when I'm agnostic"

When is that?

"I'm agnostic when I don't know," he says. "But I believe there is a God."

In the hallway in the basement, he asks me to look into a hole in the 375-year-old wall. Like a mischievous little boy, he runs off to the other side and looks through it. I can see his face in the hole 20 feet away.

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"In the 17th century you would be dead," he laughs, "after I poured boiling water on your head through this hole."

Instead, Helen boils the kettle and we all have tea, sandwiches and cake in the kitchen in the basement, sitting at a long, oak table.

His best-known movies are, of course, *Sleeping with the Enemy* opposite Julia Roberts in 1991, Robin Hood as the lead opposite Uma Thurman as Maid Marian the same year and *Patriot Games* opposite Harrison Ford in 1992.

There was also *Mountains of the Moon* – "the picture I'm most proud of," he says – with Richard E Grant in 1990.

Ensconced in an old wooden chair, he recites a poem by his late father that he will be performing in Abbeyleix at the Lovely Laois Homecoming Festival: "Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil united stood in a Dáil and passed a law that could not fail to put the fitters all in jail / For years they plugged the O'Higgins line and swore that Fianna Fáil were swine but against the FSB stood Tweedledum and Tweedledee. So what's the answer – let it be / To march again with Connolly..."

"Hypocrisy makes me angry," he says when he finishes.

The woman at the opposite side of the long table clearly makes him happy. You can see it in his eyes when he looks at her. I've met Patrick down through the years (in Budapest in 2002, while he filmed the lead in the TV show *Dracula*, and a few nights out in Dublin 15 years or so ago). I found him sometimes moody ("magnificent and moody" as *The Times* called him) and troubled.

Today with Helen, he is friendly and kind and generous. I've never seen him so content or full of fun and joy. He seems happy in his skin. I would credit this to her. She feels the same about him.

"Patrick and I met 26 years ago," she says. "Then again 10 years ago. He changed my life. I was alone for eight years [after her husband, hypnotist Paul Goldin died in 2008] and resigned to the life I had. Then suddenly in comes Patrick and I started to live again. And have fun."

"I think we both brought out the best in one another. Still do. We're very much one. I went on locations with him to various places and looking after him in his work gave me new interests. Most of all, we had fun."

Even at times when fun seemed the furthest thing from their minds. When Helen was dealing with breast cancer a year-and-a-half ago, he went with her to each session of the 12 weeks of chemotherapy. She says they treated it like a date.

"We went every Friday," she says. "We handled it as if it was our day out, at Vincent's Hotel [hospital]. For a cocktail [chemotherapy]! We are true soulmates. We do everything together."

"Helen is amazing," Patrick says, "a great, great woman. There is no one like her. When I fell in love with her, my life was changed in every way. I love her so much. We got married before Christmas."

Patrick was married before, to Paula Frazier in 1992, and has a grown-up daughter, Tatiana. Helen believes having a partner like Patrick helped her through the whole cancer process.

"Patrick is kind and caring," she says. "He is also calm and positive. It could be a very lonely, scary journey and one needs a positive attitude. It was lucky he had some time off as it's very overwhelming and scary and having him at every chemotherapy session was comforting.

"We made it nice," he says, of their visits to the 'Hotel'. "We'd have a cup of coffee and I'd bring *The Nenagh Guardian* from Tipperary for her and the nurse to read. I made it a little party for us all."

Before her illness, he says they "used to go to the theatre together. We used to go see bands. We used to enjoy going out, two or three nights a week in Dublin."



Life and times – clockwise from top left, with Julia Roberts in 'Sleeping with the Enemy'; in a 1995 promo picture; with Danny Dyer in 'EastEnders'; with co-star Uma Thurman in 'Robin Hood'. Above, Patrick with his real-life leading lady, wife Helen Goldin, in 2019

Did Helen help him live again the way she says he did with her?

"Absolutely. It was a similar thing for me. I had split up with my relationship."

You are made for each other, I say to both of them.

"Yes," she says, "we're soulmates."

Soulmates who first met 26 years ago. "Originally, I had a script which I wanted to produce called *The Eyes*," says Patrick. "It was about hypnotism. It was based on the story of Svengali. The film director Ronan O'Leary got me in touch with Helen to have a talk with Paul Goldin, her husband. I went out and had lunch with them. It was a very pleasant day."

"Then we went on our merry ways," she says. "We had our own lives. Ronan and I stayed good friends and met regularly. One day, over nine years ago now, he said to me: 'Remember that actor Patrick Bergin? He's back in town doing *Red Rock* and renting a gate lodge down the road...'

I said: 'Really? Give him my number and ask if he feels like a coffee sometime.' Two days later he called me."

"I phoned her and asked to come out for my birthday," he says, "I was going to see Keith Barry at the Olympia. She came along. We sat in Paul Goldin's box, by angelic coincidence."

"We talked about movies and the power of the mind," she says.

"We've been together..." he says.

"..... ever since," she finishes.

"It's easy to fall in love with Helen," he says. "Everyone falls in love with Helen. There's something very special about her. You could call it angelic."

"I tell my angels about my day and sometimes ask for advice," she says. "I've been talking to the four archangels every night for over 40 years. I never miss a night. Gabriel, Michael, Raphael and Uriel. I also have my own two, Harmony and Hope, who I saw on a visit to Malibu about 10 years ago."

"I believe there's a parallel universe," Patrick says. "I believe there's angels around us. There are forces out there. I wrote a song called *My Angel*, which I recorded with Eleanor Shanley. I believe there is something within all of us that is pure. It's probably one of the reasons me and Helen bonded so well on our journey together, because of our shared beliefs."

> *Everyone falls in love with Helen. There's something very special about her. You could call it angelic*

Helen finished her treatment a year ago. "Touch wood," she says, putting her hand on the old table. "Touch wood, I am fine."

"She looks great, doesn't she?" he says.

"You never know with life, do you?" she says. "A friend of ours, a woman with six children, she was leaning against the window of her house and slipped and banged her head. She died that night."

"You can be that close [to death]," Patrick says. "When I did *Frankenstein* in 1992, there was a scene in the movie when I was pulled by huskies on a sleigh chasing after the monster played by Randy Quaid. It was shot on Pinewood Studios in the lot.

"I remember I was sitting on a boat with a sail and they pulled me along. It was sprayed to make it look like it was in the Arctic. I was pulled by a Mini car. It was only about two or three-hundred yards with a camera.

"There was a bar across the boat with one rope tied to the middle of it. We did the rehearsals and I came back and the rope has moved over to the left. I realised that would imbalance it. The director said: 'What's happening? I want action.' So, off we went, and the f**king boat came over – about a quarter tonne of it, landed there. It smashed this [right] arm. I can't play guitar. I was inches from death."

"You were lucky," says Helen. "But your arm has got worse."

"I played guitar for a while but then I had a couple of other falls."

Above the fire in the kitchen is a large sword that he kept when he played Robin Hood in 1991. In an old interview he said he was once in such despair that he considered a Roman death with that very sword. I ask how he got through that despair and out the other side? God? Faith? Love?

"All three," he says. "I think I was just bragging for dramatic effect [in that interview] about a Roman death."

He says he came through any depression he might have suffered through "stopping the drink – and subsequently falling in love with Helen, of course. But you're right. I am very happy now."



Helen of joy – Patrick and his soulmate at their castle in Co Tipperary. *Photo: Mark Condren*

Over the next four hours, the boy from Drimnagh who was the toast of Hollywood before ending up in a castle on the Offaly/Tipperary border, reels in the years. There is occasional prompting from his manager, his agent, his wife.

One of five – four boys and a girl – Patrick Connolly Bergin was born on February 4, 1951 and baptised in Westland Row on February 9. His father was a Labour Senator.

"My godfather was Roddy Connolly, James Connolly's son," he says. "I had a lot to live up to."

The Bergin family lived underneath the Labour Party offices in number 20 Earlsfort Terrace. "It's no longer there. It's an office block now. I would come home and walk down the corridor to the basement. There was a woman, the first woman secretary of a political party in Ireland, Miss Daly. The sidebar to this story was that I was doing a charity gig in UCD – now the Concert Hall – many years later.

"The President was there. I said to Michael D Higgins: 'Do you remember when the Labour Party offices were across the road? He said, yeah. I said: 'Do you remember Miss Daly?' He almost jumped with fright. [Laughs] She was a terror. She terrified everybody."

Asked what Dublin was like then, he says: "I didn't know Dublin an awful lot, but we used to go over to Parnell Street at Christmas. My uncle had a pub over there called The Seven Stars. We used to go over to get the Christmas cake. One of my aunts made the Christmas cake for everybody.

"I remember playing in St Stephen's Green a few times. I remember losing a boat in one of the little ponds. It had a sail on it, and I was pushing it out and then trying to get in, to get it back. There was an inspector or someone in the gardens and he gave me a bollocking. He took it off me, but I got it back in the end."

At the age of four, he went to school in Loreto College on the corner of St Stephen's Green. His older sister Siobhan also went. When he was six, the family moved to Drimnagh.

"The house in Earlsfort Terrace, I think, was a bit damp in the basement. My father – I don't know whether it was because he was a Senator – he managed to squeeze a corporation house out. There were four kids by then – Siobhán, my brother Emmet who passed, God rest him, myself, Pearse and my youngest brother Alan was born in Drimnagh. It was a good spot to live."

The day of the big move became part of Patrick's destiny as an actor. It was Hallowe'en. When the truck carrying the Bergins' belongings pulled into the cul-de-sac in Carrow Road, "the whole of Drimnagh followed the truck because they thought it might have been for the bonfire".

"They all had masks on and torches with flames. They asked me: 'Who are you? Where have you come from? What's your name?' I was terrified of them. I ran in to my mam and said to her: 'What will I tell them?'"

Busy unpacking to move into the new house, she said: "Tell them anything you want."

"My best mate from where I lived in Earlsfort Terrace was called Bernard Redmond. So, when I went out and the gang in masks and torches asked me my name, I said Bernard."

"Then they asked me, 'And what's your surname?' My ma used to sing a song called *Get Up Out of That You Impudent Brat, Let Mr Maguire Sit Down* – so I said, 'Maguire'. And I went to school in Drimnagh under the name Bernard Maguire for the next six years. That was my first acting role, playing Bernard Maguire. Years later when I did *EastEnders* I used the name Maguire."

The jig was up one Wednesday afternoon when his father came up to the school.

"He knocked on the door and he and the teacher had a chat. I was called out [of class]. 'I've been speaking to your father and he tells me that your name is not Bernard Maguire at all – it's Patrick Bergin. Is that right?' asked the teacher. I said yes, sir. 'You know I'm going to have to tell the class?' I said yes sir. Can you tell them tomorrow and I won't come in?' He said alright.

"But when I went back in, he told the class. The whole f**king school followed me home that night."

What was it like letting go of Bernard Maguire?

"I haven't," he says. "All my old mates still call me Ben."

Whatever his real name, life was vivid for him. He recalls the first time he watched television was the 1958 Cup Final between Manchester United and Bolton Wanderers.

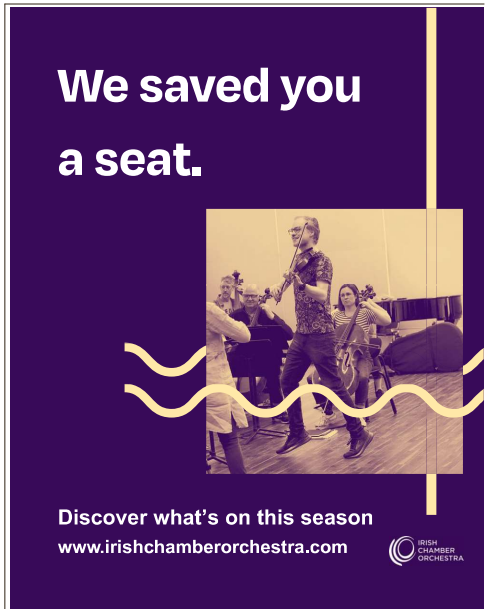
"It was in the Gleasons' house. It was the only house on the street that had a telly at the time. We were out playing football and everybody ran in to watch it. I remember – amazingly – to this day Harry Gregg in goal for Man United being shouldered into the net by Nat Lofthouse.

"From that moment on, I wanted to be a goalkeeper. I had the height for goalkeeping. I got so good that I got a trial for Ireland. I played for St Francis."

"Didn't you get sold for sixpence?" prompts Helen.

He smiles. "I did. When I was in Carrow Road, the Harrises ran the football team, and we used to have road leagues. Anthony Harris used to play in goal for Carrow Road.

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

He got injured and I was in goal. What happened was, the big game was coming a couple of weeks later against Galty Celtic and I was dropped because Anthony declared himself fit."

Out on the castle grounds, there are two mini plastic goals in the field and some footballs. Helen's grandson came down the other day and played football with Patrick. "He is going to play for Manchester City," he says proudly.

When his big brother Emmet became an actor, he says: "That opened a few ideas in my head as well. 'I could do that.'

At 17, he went to England. He had two friends from school – Colin Lane and George Bucket – who had gone over to London ahead of him; he shared a flat with them in Kilburn in 1969. "I saw The Stones in Hyde Park. It was just magic. I had long hair and all that."

He had his "first legal pint in The Cock in Kilburn High Road on my 18th birthday. It was a great street with great restaurants where you could have your dinner for next to nothing."

Through the Emerald Employment Agency in Kilburn, he got a job in a place that made pneumatic drills. "I was a clerk, counting the number of screws that they were using. I lasted a week."

He went back to agency. They told him there was nothing available. When he mentioned that his flatmate George worked at the library off the Tottenham Court Road and he said there might be a job going, they placed him there.

He worked there for three years. "It was a gift. I spent years reading books."

It allowed him the time to educate himself. He studied in Kilburn at night to get two A-I evels and received a grant to go to a polytechnic to become a teacher. He taught in various places around London, and played in goal for a team in the East End.

He had time also to set up a theatre group in West Hampstead, in a room underneath restaurant called Mum's Kitchen. He called it Mum's Underground. There, he would put on short plays and performed Yeats's poem *Cat and the Moon*. "We did it in shadow, put a sheet across the stage."

Fate intervened again one evening when he went to see a play, *Hatchet*, with Johnny Murphy in The Falcon in Kentish Town. At the interval, the producer of the play asked him if he was an actor. "I said [laughs], yeah."

The producer was working for the National Film and Television School and said that one of the students was making a film called *No One's Land* in Newry. He asked would he be interested. He was. A theatrical agent in London subsequently saw the low-budget movie and took him on. He toured with Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* around England.

He also met the director Pat O'Connor who told Bergin he had seen *No One's Land*: "You were brilliant, where the f**k have you been all these years?"

A week later, another agent, one of the best in London, Caroline Dawson rang and signed him.

"And I never looked back," he says. "A very early one was *Act of Betrayal* [TV miniseries in 1988]. That was the big break for me. It was very exciting. It was all magic."

He and his pal Danny Wright used to busk on Friday nights in The Good Mixer in Camden, where he lived. "I was gigging, playing music around Camden town and all the musos would meet in The Marathon, opposite the Roundhouse. It was nicknamed 'The Mogadon' – if you bought a kebab you could drink till four in the morning. Great sessions.

"I loved the drink to destruction," he says. "Been there, done that. I moved on. End of story. I haven't drunk in 10 years. Shane MacGowan told me I was drinking too much. So, I stopped.



Holding court – Patrick Bergin. *Photo: Mark Condren*

> *Up the road from me was Alan Bennett. Extraordinary. I remember 'the lady in the van'*

"My flat in Camden then was directly behind The Dublin Castle pub. Up the road from me was Alan Bennett. Jonathan Miller was across the road. It was extraordinary. I remember the 'lady in the van' [played by Maggie Smith in the 2015 film adaptation of Bennett's memoir of the same name] – she was there when I was there. She was a real person. And there was a woman Mary Louise, who was from Longford, who lived on the ground floor flat. She was lovely. I still occasionally phone her."

"Gabriel [Byrne] used to live in Hampstead with Aine O'Connor," he continues, "Through her, I got very close with Gabriel and I think it was probably her influence that got me the part in *The Courier*. I'd be surprised if there wasn't a little nudge from them. That was a great little movie."

He played Christy in the 1988 Irish crime thriller with Byrne, Pogue Cait O'Riordan and Padraig O'Loinsigh.

"I saw Padraig recently in the play about Phil [*Moonlight: The Philip Lynott Enigma*] and the guy who is playing Phil Lynott lived around the corner from me in Drimnagh – beside the Harrises who sold me for sixpence. He grew up there. He used to get messages from my ma."

"Peter Smith," says Helen.

"Me and Peter," he says, "have become good friends. My ma even spotted him. She said: 'That boy is going to go far.'"

Patrick's father was, he says: "A truly great man. A great speaker and great company. He was full of yarns."

He died in 1991 at the 78. What did he inherit from him? "His hat, some letters and a Parker fountain pen."

His big brother Emmet died on March 15 last year.

"Emmet was a great guy," he says. "I thought he was Elvis – he and my sister Siobhan would jive with friends around the lamppost at the back of Earlsfort Terrace. He was an inspiration.

"I saw him in the first production of *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* at the Gaiety Theatre where my mother Nora was running the Green Room. I first saw him onstage in Butlin's holiday camp where coincidentally my mother was catering manager.

"Emmet was a great fisherman and he won a half ton of logs for catching the biggest conger eel in Kinsale... my dad and Emmet were members of The Knights of the Silver Hook."

I ask Patrick does he ever go fishing for eels.

"Up the canal," he says, "near Lucan."

He remembers the day – November 30, 2023 – when his friend Shane MacGowan died. He and Helen take me upstairs to the big hallway.

"I was thinking of the song *The Sick Bed of Cuchulainn* in the car. When I got home, I opened the front door and I heard a bang. The statue of Cuchulainn had fallen and was broken on the floor right there [points] in front of me. I have no explanation for it."

They go outside to the fields at the back of the castle to feed the goats. There is a football – and Patrick kicks it. He looks well for his age, the movie-star charisma has not left him.

In-between feeding the goats and checking the statue of David is OK in all the wind and the rain, he has time for a story. It was the day before the Oscars at the Independent Spirit Awards in Venice Beach, many years ago.

"I went there with Gabriel [Byrne]," he says, as the goats and Helen look up at him. "I was walking down the red carpet and Gabriel was pulled by photographers. I was on my own. Then Muhammad Ali appeared and said to me: 'How are you doing, Big Fella?' It's incredible – that hand shook Muhammad Ali's," he says holding out his hand.

That night, he ended up at a party in the Hollywood Hills with Jack Nicholson, John Travolta and Robin Williams. An especially curious Mick Jagger came over to him at the pool and asked him who he was.

"I am an actor. My name is Patrick Bergin."

The Rolling Stone immediately lost interest and walked away.

Not to be thwarted, he said to Jagger: "I think I owe you some money, Mick."

He stopped and turned around.

"How do you work that out?" he asked.

"Because," Bergin answered, "when I was busking outside the Pompidou Centre in Paris, I made an awful lot of money out of *Honky Tonk Women*. Do people like us owe you money?" Jagger laughed and said, "I'm going to look into that", before walking away again.

The goats have finished their feed.

"Oh, by the way I'm filming next week, on Martin Scorsese's [docudrama TV series] *The Saints*," he says. "I'm playing Milchu, the slave owner, who sends St Patrick up the mountain."

He is also playing the lead in the feature film *Sunphlowers*, which is out next month.

On the way back into the castle, he and Helen hold hands. "Patrick is very kind and has a huge heart," she says. "He's very intelligent, generous and has amazing integrity. He never lies. He is a good man."

So is Bernard Maguire. Two good men for the price of one.

In the shadow of Spike Island



Growing up, the former prison felt like the personal nightmare of Amy Jordan. But in recent years she has learned to channel that terror

If you listen to any podcast or radio interview featuring an author, or attend any literary festival discussion panel, you will hear this question: "Where do you find inspiration for your novels?"

Most writers will offer similar replies; that we draw inspiration from everyday things, such as snippets of overheard conversation, an encounter with a stranger or an intriguing-looking person in the street.

In truth, any innocent thing that occurs can be twisted and turned in the mind of a writer. "What if...?" can become a whole novel, but something must ignite the spark.

For me, a source of fascination with the darkness of humanity lay just a couple of kilometres away from my childhood home. Just across the water from Ringaskiddy, in Cork Harbour, lay an island prison, a shadowy, impenetrable rock, a place of legend and fear, at least in my young imagination. Spike Island, often called Ireland's Alcatraz.

It terrified me. As an avid reader of crime and mystery stories throughout my childhood, this was a real prison and I found its proximity unnerving. There was something about it... out there, in the middle of the sea, completely impenetrable and impossible to escape.

In school, I heard tales of the horrific suffering endured there. I will never know if they were real or embellished for the macabre entertainment of childhood spooky stories, but it stuck with me.

There were rumours of screams echoing across the sea to the mainland and ghosts that walked the island by night. Stories were murmured of inmates emerging after their prison sentence a mere shadow of their former selves. It is known that many prisoners never left the island at all but were buried there by fellow prisoners hundreds of years ago.

As much as I was scared, I was also fascinated. And, even then, I understood the draw to crime and punishment and justice; the power of one's imagination to create an unsettling fear, and the idea of dark and light in humanity. My fascination became my inspiration to write stories that captured that feeling and ignited a lifelong obsession with crime fiction.

Over the last 1,300 years, Spike Island has been a monastery, a fortress spanning 24 acres, a convict depot, home to island dwellers and a prison. In 2004, the last prisoner left the island but the punishment blocks and dark tunnels remain, telling the story of the suffering and horror that was often endured there.

It is only in recent years that the prison has become accessible to the public – now it's a tourist destination, a draw for ghost hunters and history enthusiasts – the museum displays are fascinating, the grounds are beautifully landscaped, the cafe offerings delicious, the guides both informative and enthusiastic, the walks scenic.

Also intact are the punishment blocks, where offenders were chained to the walls for up to 24 hours at a time during its tenure as a Famine-era prison. It's possible to stand inside the prison cells and hear stories of unimaginable misery.

The After Dark tours allow candle-lit access to areas only the prisoners and guards knew. The tours promise to be "spine-chilling" and I have no doubt that's true.

Walking across the island, it seems an entirely different place from the one I imagined lay across the water as a child. And yet the dark stories of its past are best whispered, and always, at its heart, beats the suffering endured there.

For the last four years, the island has hosted the Spike Island Literary Festival, led by Cobh native and best-selling crime writer Michelle Dunne. It is the perfect location for a literary festival focusing on the crime and thriller genre.

As an author, it was a huge thrill to be included in the festival in Cork this weekend as it brought together Irish and international authors whose work is enmeshed in such a chilling setting.

On my first visit to Spike Island as an author, we were offered a tour by our experienced guide. Perhaps it was because I knew the history of the island, or it could be that I had heard so many scary stories, but I found it a chilling experience to delve deep into the place that had terrified me as a child.

Our guide's passion for the island's history was infectious, but the stories were heartbreaking. Many of the prisoners were dangerous and violent criminals, but a lot of them were incarcerated for stealing food during Famine times, or for minor offenses that did not warrant the punishment they received.

The punishment block was an area I simply could not walk into. It felt like I was walking into an invisible brick wall.

Drawn to the dark side – author Amy Jordan, above. Inset, Spike Island is often called Ireland's Alcatraz.

> *Many of the prisoners were dangerous and violent criminals, but a lot of them were incarcerated for stealing food during Famine times*

I was confused, tried to laugh it off, but our guide was understanding – he'd seen this before. I later, in the tunnels, in near-complete darkness, listening to stories of the prisoners' suffering, it felt like my lungs were being compressed.

I blamed it on a hangover from my childhood fears... but in truth, there's something about the island. Something impossible to name, but there all the same.

It was September 2022. Thrilled to be invited to read as part of the festival, I realised my event would take place in one of the tunnels. I was to read inside a cell – dark, cold, with no electricity – chairs laid out in front of me, nothing but brick walls around me. The event went brilliantly; the audience were shapes in front of me, their faces impossible to make out.

Although my childhood fear of Spike Island returns every time I step on to the ferry and sail across the sea, that in itself has inspired a facet of my fictional detective's character in my latest novel.

The Dark Hours is a crime thriller about a retired detective named Julia Harte. Throughout her career, she has seen enough to know that terrible things happen in the dark hours. Whether the lights are on makes no difference; it's the hours of darkness, the veil of night, that she fears the most. Yet facing that fear brings peace.

Festival organiser Michelle Dunne is creating a new story, one where authors who write about crime and suffering come to an island where all that took place for real. It was an honour to be part of it.

'The Dark Hours' by Amy Jordan is published by HarperCollins HQ

Sunday Independent | 7 September 2025

It launched a dozen spin-offs, and paved a way for the 'scripted reality' genre, but is derided as cliched and regressive. Undeterred, **Eilis O'Hanlon** mounts a stout defence of stilleto TV

How Real Housewives conquered the world in high heels











If anyone knows a thing or two about television, it is former *Pointless* co-presenter and bestselling novelist Richard Osman of *The Thursday Murder Club* fame. He used to be the creative director of production company Endemol, which specialises in reality TV and game shows, and recently explained that there are two sure-fire ways to make oodles of money in the industry.

The first is to produce a show so popular that it runs and runs for years. Better still is to come up with the idea for a programme that other territories want to make their own versions of and to whom you can license the format. That way, you keep getting paid for years without the need to do any further work.

There is no finer example of this phenomenon than *The Real Housewives of Orange County*, a fly-on-the-wall series documenting the lives of the obscenely super-wealthy – the parties, the shopping trips, the rivalries, the bitching, the backstabbing.

The show was the brainchild of producer Scott Dunlop, who came up with the concept at a dinner party in a wealthy suburb of Los Angeles. Noticing how the well-off guests kept up a relentless pretence that everything in their lives was wonderful, while simultaneously griping all the time about their problems, Dunlop thought it would be interesting to shine a spotlight on these privileged Californians to see what made them tick.

"They were all such unusual humans," he said. "Entertaining, but also kind of annoying."

When he first pitched it to executives, they were not convinced. "Everyone looked at me and asked: 'Why would you want to do that?'"

He pressed ahead regardless, originally filming both men and women in a gated community. Once the US cable network Bravo came on board, they persuaded him to focus on the women, who then – as now – made up the bulk of the audience for their reality-heavy schedule.

The drama *Desperate Housewives* was dominating ratings around the same time. The working title 'Behind the Gates' was ditched for the now famous brand. "It was a stroke of genius," Dunlop said, not least because it opened up the possibility of making further shows in the same vein but in different cities.

Interestingly, the head of production at Bravo was "vehemently opposed" to the new title because he didn't think they ever would make such shows. "How wrong we were," he later admitted.

The Real Housewives of Orange County was one of six new reality shows which Bravo launched in 2006. Among the others was *Tabloid Wars*, which followed the work of journalists at the *New York Daily News*. That lasted one season and was never seen again. The women of Orange County, by contrast, were an immediate success, and ratings grew steadily with each successive outing.

This year brought the number of seasons of that original show up to 19, totalling over 330 episodes – more than old faithfuls such as *ER* or *Cheers*. Meanwhile, spin-offs were launched in numerous other cities across the US, from Atlanta and Salt Lake City to Miami, New York, New Jersey and Washington DC.

> *When Dunlop first pitched it to execs, they were not convinced. 'Everyone looked at me and asked: 'Why would you want to do that?'*

Satisfying Osman's second criteria on how to secure a licence to print money, international versions have since been made as far apart as Sydney, Melbourne, Vancouver, Athens, Warsaw, Antwerp, Naples, Slovenia, Nairobi in Kenya, Abuja in Nigeria, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Budapest (this list is by no means exhaustive). Easily the one with the greatest longevity is *The Real Housewives of Cheshire*, which has had a staggering 18 seasons since launching in 2015.

Some of the spin-offs have in turn inspired their own spin-offs, notably an ever-growing number featuring the magnificently named Lisa Vanderpump, the stand-out cast member of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, regarded by many as the best of the franchise.

From *Vanderpump Rules* to *Vanderpump Dogs*, there seems to be no end to the hunger for further content in the Real Housewives universe, including a rumoured true crime spin-off to come, not to mention a tsunami of books and clothing lines and other products, official and unofficial.

Suffice to say that it has not done Scott Dunlop's bank balance any harm. "I'm very comfortable," he laughed when asked by *The Guardian* more than a decade ago how much money it had made him. Presumably he's even more comfortable now.

The most recent version to launch is *The Real Housewives of London*, which debuted in August and can be watched exclusively on Hayu (if you don't know what Hayu is, let's just say it's definitely not for you).

London has introduced fans to a whole new cast of women with more money than is good for them, including socialite Amanda Cronin (ex-girlfriend of Wham!'s Andrew Ridgeley); Juliet Mayhew, a "lifestyle imaginator" (whatever the heck that is); a second Juliet, just to confuse us; and a woman called Nessie, like the Scottish loch monster, who owns a high-end cake company in upmarket Chelsea (presumably Greggs is banned in posher areas of the UK capital).

There was a bit of a backlash to the latest series. Some commentators thought that making potential stars out of women who spend £140,000 on a single shopping trip to Harrods was disgustingly out of touch during a cost-of-living crisis. They were surely missing the point. Ireland in the 1980s wasn't exactly an economic paradise either, but everyone watched *Dallas*. It was glamour. Fantasy. Culture-snobs considered that trash TV too.

Keeping it 'real' – clockwise from above, 'The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills' (including Lisa Vaderpump, third from left); the original cast of 'Orange County'; the 'Washington DC' lineup; and the new stars of 'Real Housewives of London', Nessie Welschinger, Juliet Angus, Juliet Mayhew, Amanda Cronin, Karen Loderick-Peace and Panthea Parker

The Real Housewives satisfies the same need for escapism, the only difference being that their homes are more palatial than the comparatively humble Southfork where JR Ewing & Co conspired and canoodled. Sue Ellen would have made a fabulous Real Housewife.

Not all the various incarnations of the show have been equally successful. Virgin Media is currently screening the first season of *The Real Housewives of Dubai*, which was subsequently cancelled at the end of the second, the cast members being deemed to have insufficient chemistry.

There is something dispiritingly empty and hollow about this particular addition to the franchise, which is perhaps reflected in the city itself. Only one of the cast, Sara Al Madani, is from the United Arab Emirates. The others are blow-ins, attracted by Dubai's Disneyland air of unreality – though perhaps not unreasonably, since only around 11pc of the UAE's population is Emirati. In this manufactured environment, however, where no one really seems to belong, they are islands of solipsism, interacting with nothing and no one but themselves and the staff who exist purely to serve them.

If they have any interest in the region's Arab culture and history, they do a good job of hiding it. They might as well be in Beverly Hills. Privately, they probably wish they were.

That the United Arab Emirates is a country with a poor human rights record adds another layer of discomfort to the experience of watching *The Real Housewives of Dubai*. In that context, the show could be seen as a further example of so-called

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

"culture washing" by the Gulf States, who are sinking money into the arts and sport in the West.

Devotees of the franchise cannot be held responsible for all the ills of the world merely for liking a TV show, any more than football fans can be blamed for human rights abuses by autocratic states from which the billionaire sheikhs who own many of their favourite clubs hail; but it does leave a slightly bitter after-taste.

There has always been a dark side to reality TV, of course. Some of the Real Housewives have complained bitterly about misrepresentation. Hours of footage are edited down to moments to suit a narrative arc. Tensions are artificially inflamed by producers for dramatic effect. Entire story lines are invented – or "curated", as industry jargon has it. Dialogue is scripted in advance.

This approach was revolutionary back in 2006, but is standard for the genre now, as anyone who has winced through badly acted episodes of *The Only Way is Essex* or *Made in Chelsea* can attest. Neither would surely have existed at all had *The Real Housewives* not paved the way.

Participants are required to sign a contract agreeing that their "appearance, depiction, and portrayal... may be disparaging, defamatory, embarrassing or of an otherwise unfavourable nature", and may even "expose me to public ridicule, humiliation or condemnation, and may portray me in a false light".

The ethics of this are certainly questionable. In return, they are paid large fees for appearing, but that is one of the oddest things about *The Real Housewives*.

Most people who appear on reality TV are unknowns in search of fame and fortune. These women are already staggeringly wealthy, many running their own business empires, yet willingly sign away rights to their public personae in search of fame – or more likely, infamy – alone. The black hole of celebrity sucks in everyone and everything in the end.

The pressure can be immense. The estranged husband of Taylor Armstrong, one of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, died by suicide just weeks after she filed for divorce from him on the grounds of verbal and physical abuse, having needed reconstructive surgery on her right eye when he hit her. (Armstrong had been accused of domestic violence by two of his previous partners.)

Russell Armstrong was $1.5m in debt and being sued by various associates. His business partner took his own life the next day. Despite the other factors, Russell's lawyer blamed the pressure that the show had put his client under for the 47-year-old's death.

"These couples join these shows and then they keep trying to outdo each other and they end up spending all their money trying to sustain a lifestyle that's unrealistic and wasn't there prior to the show," he said. "Trying to pretend you have unlimited resources in Beverly Hills is tough."

That Armstrong's finances may have worsened as a result of his wife being on the show is hardly far-fetched.

Season three of the show kicked off weeks later all the same. The juggernaut does not stop even for death. The 14th series finished in April; a 15th is in the pipeline.

That one will feature for the first time fashion designer and stylist to the stars Rachel Zoe, who was once described as "single-handedly bringing back anorexia" because her style of clothing only works on the thinnest women. She has always denied the charge, but producers are no doubt working hard on ways to shoehorn a row about it into the next season.

Such cynical puppetry has inevitably led *The Real Housewives* participants to be accused from the start of undermining sisterly solidarity, sometimes to a comically absurd degree. There have been a slew of postgraduate theses and academic papers.









Created a monster – clockwise from top, 'Real Housewives' is the brainchild of Scott Dunlop, pictured in his former neighbourhood in Coto de Caza, California in 2006; stylist to the stars Rachel Zoe will feature in the upcoming 15th iteration of 'Beverly Hills'; series megastar Lisa Vanderpump; and Lisa Gray's Sue Ellen of 'Dallas' would have made a fabulous 'Real Housewife'.
Main photo: Glenn Koenig/ LA Times via Getty

> *The dismissive attitude of more highbrow critics reflects a tendency to dismiss the things in which women take pleasure*

One titled "The (Unreal) Housewives of Atlanta: A Post-Feminist, Post-Racial Textual Analysis of Reality TV's Favorite Housewives" argues that the Atlanta spin-off (which memorably featured a rare all-African American cast) is "riddled with racist and sexist stereotypes" and "both reinforces and challenges the normality of the exploitation of the black woman in media in return for ratings". Sounds like a fun read.

Another from last year called "Queering the Housewife: Failures of Femininity in the Real Housewives of New York City" aims to "make visible the ways in which capitalism and heteronormativity are central to the construction of the housewife as a specifically gendered role within the family dynamic". These people must be a hoot at parties.

Then there is "The Real Housewives of Postfeminism: False Agency and the Internalization of Patriarchy", which accuses the show of promoting "a discourse in which women have become their own oppressors".

The dismissive attitude of more highbrow critics to *The Real Housewives* phenomenon reflects a tendency to dismiss the things in which women take pleasure.

Most condescending of all is to start from a premise that a largely female audience must be unable to realise that they are consuming content which is superficial and unrealistic or otherwise problematic on many levels. Maybe they just, you know, enjoy it anyway?

The secret ingredient is humour. At their best, the Real Housewives are extremely smart and funny, as well as offering a rare glimpse into the dangerous undercurrents of female friendship – a far more complicated affair than that between male friends.


Dubai's Sara Al Madani

Arguably the worst thing that the makers of *The Real Housewives* have done is not to hold back the cause of feminism, but to greedily milk the cash cow dry without bringing anything fresh to the mix. Every season in every city is more or less the same. Once you've seen one, you've seen them all.

In their defence, there is far more sport on our screens than reality TV, and isn't every GAA season or Six Nations campaign basically identical too? Soaps trundle on for decades in the same predictable way. Familiarity needn't diminish the tension.

The social, marital and financial skirmishes which erupt regularly on screen among the wealthy inhabitants of *The Real Housewives* universe have been the stuff of drama since the Ancient Greeks.

It may be time to try something new, all the same, before viewers grow sick of the sight of them. There's nothing worse than a once essential show which outstays its welcome. Some of us have still not forgiven the writers of *Lost* for that terrible last season.

The great shame is that there was never any sign down the years of *The Real Housewives of Dublin* joining the pantheon. Conspicuous consumption is not as overt in Ireland as Dubai or Orange County.

As a society, we cling on to a comforting myth of classlessness, even if the wealth gap is widening in real terms all the time.

Ballsbridge and Killiney are still crawling with immaculately turned-out yummy mummies in people carriers who would surely have leapt at the chance to tear strips off each other on cue in return for attention.

Irish TV moguls definitely missed a trick there.

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Behind the scenes – Pádraig Cusack. Photo: Michael Mac Sweeney/Provision



'I learned from a young age how to pop champagne'

Pádraig Cusack tells **Ciara Dwyer** how his cello career ended when he nearly lost an arm in a stabbing, and catering for Liz Taylor and Edna O'Brien at their home

"It's no accident that I like the company of actors, I'd want to. There are enough of them in my family," says Pádraig Cusack. The 63-year-old theatre producer is part of the famous Irish acting family.

His parents were both actors – Cyril Cusack and Maureen Kiely. Almost all of his siblings – Sorcha, Sinéad, Niamh and half-sister Catherine went on to be actors too. His brother Paul was a TV producer.

Since the age of 30, Cusack has worked as a theatre producer but he took a circuitous route to this profession. His initial plan was to become a cellist. All that changed after he was mugged and stabbed one night in Manchester where he was studying to be a professional musician. He was on the way home from rehearsals.

"It was quite a brutal attack," he says. "I was in the wrong place at the wrong moment. Four guys just pounced on me. The frustrating thing was that they mugged me first and I didn't put up any resistance. They took my watch and my wallet. Then they took out knives and stabbed me in the chest twice. They stabbed my fingering arm," he says motioning an imaginary cello, "and tried to hack it off with a Stanley knife."

He learned later on that the attackers went on to kill two other people on the same street that night. Such was the severity of this attack that Cusack was in danger of having his arm amputated. At the hospital, he pleaded with the doctors to save it.

"I could see my cello career coming to an end and I didn't want to give up."

A brilliant Swedish microsurgeon, who was over in Manchester lecturing, was called in to the hospital and saved the arm.

"He put it all back together which is great and I have 80pc use of it but it wasn't quite good enough to play the cello."

Cusack never fully recovered his finger dexterity. After two years of physiotherapy, he had to move on to a new life.

These days he has his own theatre production company which he set up in 2009. Producing was his act two and he had to learn the ropes, working his way up. But he took to it like a duck to water. It was in the genes.

He is warm and cheerful company and he clearly loves what he does now. It may have been a Plan B profession but his passion for the theatre is very evident.

"I wouldn't be able to get on stage and bare myself in the way that actors do. I'm full of admiration for actors and the extraordinary things that they do in the most extreme adversity," he says. "I love the magic that happens in a rehearsal room and then when you move to the theatre, it just transforms. It's so exciting."

But who would want to be a producer? Aren't they the ones dealing with all the headaches?

"Yes, producing is dealing with the headaches to be honest," he says with a smile. "I'm the enabler. I have to raise the money and do the contracts and budgets. But as a producer, you could be doing all sorts of things."

He tells me about being in a rehearsal room not so long ago and noticing how one of the cast members was sitting alone, quietly weeping. He approached her and asked if she wanted to talk. It turned out that her sister had died the week before and she hadn't told anyone. She was apologising for crying.

He sympathised with her and told her that she didn't have to go on. They could help and support her and she could talk to a counsellor.

"It was a tiny moment, where I thought, I can make a difference. Within a day, she'd been to see someone, the company were on board and everyone was hugely supportive. She decided to stay with the show and was sensational in it. But she had a choice of not staying. I told her that no play was that important, life is more important," he says.

I tell him of how I've heard of many actors who went on stage on the same day that a parent had died. He says that it happened in his own family.

"I remember Niamh [his sister] doing *A Doll's House* when my dad died. She said, 'It's what he would have done and that's what he would expect. I'm a professional and the show must go on.'

"I think there's a different mood in theatre [now], certainly with youngsters. They may not go that extra mile but I think as they get older they might say that they want to go on. I think with the older generation you'd have to drag them from the theatre to stop them.

"I remember Sinéad was doing the Scottish play, *Macbeth*, and she had a car crash on the way to the theatre. It was press night and she broke her collarbone. The ambulance men told her that she had to go to hospital. She said, 'No, strap it,' and she went on.

"I love in acting companies that sense of company – we're all in it together and I can't let you down and we're all dependent on each other. We're dependent on the stage manager and the hair and make-up person. You may be a star that the public are booking to see but if one of the team isn't there, you're not going to look that way," he adds.

For the Dublin Theatre Festival, he is bringing a thrilling production of Adam Rapp's Tony-nominated play *The Sound Inside* to the Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire from September 24 until October 5. It's about the relationship between a creative writing lecturer at Yale University and her maverick undergraduate student.

"She's in her 50s, she's got no one in her life, no partner and she doesn't own anything. There's something solitary about her and he's quite arrogant and anti-establishment. They are both passionate about literature and the relationship intensifies. An intellectual literary romance begins. It's not sexual. It's a meeting of minds and a passion for literature. They are kindred spirits but little-by-little they reveal things to each other. There are a few twists and it has a thriller feel to it," he says.

The play was on in The Traverse Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival last year and sold out for its four-week run. He is hopeful for a similar success in Dublin.

As a boy, Cusack's life was naturally steeped in the theatre and the acting world. "I was brought up in Dalkey. We travelled a bit as kids because of dad's work. We spent time in London and Rome but then once school got important, we were at home in Dalkey."

> *Elizabeth Taylor and mum would be at the kitchen table chatting. It was only latterly that you would think, that was just extraordinary. They would always come with gifts*

And what a home it was. "My dad was away a lot and when he was coming home it was always an event. Everything had to be just so, I suppose he was this star."

Cyril had been in the theatre in the West End. He was once in a play starring opposite Vivien Leigh who was fresh from her success in *Gone with the Wind* and he was in many films with famous actors, including Richard Burton.

"At times he was very down-to-earth but mum would make a fuss and the house had to be just so and we had to be on our best behaviour. He was quite Victorian as a dad. Sunday dinner was around the big dining room table. And children were seen and not heard. You had to be quiet and listen to dad but when you are five or six that was really hard because he was talking about things that you didn't know anything about and in fact, you really weren't that interested in," he says.

As he recounts all this, there is not an ounce of rancour. Rather, he is amused by the memories.

"But ironically it paid dividends later on because I made this unexpected move into theatre when I was 30, I'd retained information that I never knew I had about plays and playwrights. A lot of that was probably from him talking and it must have been sinking in. So I kind of have to thank him for that.

"But at the time I just sort of thought, can I go outside and play? He was the slowest eater in the world and as kids, you just wolf food down. Going out straight away wasn't an option, so we just had to sit there on full ceremony," he adds.

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

He says all this cheerfully but then his face really lights up as he talks about his mother. They had a very close bond. With his doe-like eyes, he looks like her. He thinks that his sister Sinéad is similar too.

"My mother was amazing. She was a terrific actress and wonderful homemaker."

She had given up a successful acting career to raise her family.

"She was a terrific cook and people just loved her. As a consequence, we always had exciting people coming to visit. Micheál Mac Liammóir of the Gate Theatre was a huge fan and he would visit her a lot. Edna O'Brien was a great friend of my mum's and she was always popping in. And Liz Taylor and Richard Burton were great friends too. Liz particularly loved my mum and she would come out to the house in Dalkey."

Burton had been in *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* which was filmed in Dublin with Cyril.

"The thing I remember about Elizabeth Taylor is that she had these piercing blue eyes. She and mum would be at the kitchen table chatting. It was only latterly that you would think, that was just extraordinary. They would always come with gifts.

"I remember one weekend I said to my mum, 'Is anyone interesting coming this weekend?' and I got told off. That's not what life is about. But it was always so exciting. My mum had a great sense of fun.

"Because we always had visitors in the house, there was always chat, always banter. My memory of my childhood was very happy. I think it was a bit chaotic. I used to go to friends' houses and I'd think, gosh, this is brilliant. They always had dinner – they would say tea – at 6pm, people who worked 9-to-5. Their dad would get home at 6pm and dinner was on the table.

"Sometimes dinner wouldn't happen until 8.30pm in our house. It's the same in our home now and my kids laugh but they don't mind. Sometimes as a kid, I'd look enviously at those families who had a kind of routine and systematic way of life but actually I look back and think we were blessed.

"In the summers we were constantly on the beach. We'd go to White Rock beach and I know it's incorrect, but my memory is that it was always sunny. I was always off on my bike – you wouldn't be able to do that now – but I was blessed and I would just come home when I was hungry.

"My mum was a magnet for people – they just loved her and even during her illness when she was in bed for weeks on end, there was an endless parade of visitors, wonderful people coming to chat and laugh.

"Mum, being the best hostess ever, made sure that nothing changed for anyone who dropped in, so from a surprisingly young age I learned how to make gin and tonics, or Irish coffees and how to pop a bottle of champagne. Edna only drank champagne. She also taught me how to slice brown bread so thinly to make the perfect base for smoked salmon. Even in her illness she was teaching me handy skills for my life ahead.

"She was in a bridge club and sometimes their fourth would drop out, so when I was about nine, she taught me bridge. I'd have these great nights out with these grown-ups playing bridge. They would all be having a glass of wine, so they wouldn't be so quick at remembering stuff. Then I'd wipe the floor with them. I was more concerned with the cards and winning. As a kid, I was very competitive.

"In terms of academic work, we were all pretty smart. I remember my dad saying to me there's no point in coming second. He'd say the same to Sorcha. When they'd get school reports, it just wasn't good enough if they were second or heaven forbid if you were seventh.

"I came second in the Feis Ceoil and I was delighted with myself but dad said, nobody will remember who came second. I was probably 10 at the time. It was a hard lesson to learn at that age but it probably made me more determined.





Creative genes – from top, Niamh, Cyril, Maureen and Pádraig in Dalkey in 1962; Pádraig and the Cusacks on the Serpentine lake in London in 1965; Niamh and Sinéad with Sinéad's husband Jeremy Irons in London, 2015.
Photos: Pádraig Cusack's private collection and Getty Images

> *Because I was the youngest I was sort of the cherished baby for my mum. So I probably got off quite lightly*

"I think because I was the youngest, I came further down the pecking order and I probably didn't get as much of that as my older siblings. There was a 10-year gap between us and then there was only a year and a half between myself and Niamh, so we were very close. Because I was the youngest I was sort of the cherished baby for my mum. So I probably got off quite lightly.

"Niamh and I started music at a young age. I was five when I began piano lessons. I got a scholarship to the Royal Irish Academy. My mother would often ask me to play for her and Niamh and I would do duets. She played the flute," he says.

Cusack's mother died when he was 14. That changed everything. By then, his father was living in England.

"It wasn't suitable for me to go to live with him," he says. He later found out that his father was living with Mary Rose Cunningham with whom he had a daughter, Catherine. Two years after Maureen's death, Cyril married Mary Rose.

"I went to live with this extraordinary family called the Gaffneys who lived in Donnybrook. I knew them from school and they were great friends. There were nine girls and me and I was just made part of the family. They were wonderful and really special. I'd go on holidays with them and everything. I was blessed.

"It's only when you look back, you think that was a really tricky time and the Gaffneys really helped me navigate it."

Niamh told him about his half-sister Catherine.

"She did it in a wonderful, loving way, making it really clear that it wasn't her fault, that it's your parents who create you. It was strange to discover that I had another sister and it took a while for that relationship to develop and mature. She's a lovely woman.

"My dad was a bit cross that Niamh had told me but we got over it and we talked it through. He just said these things happen. He said that he was away a lot and having company helped him through whatever he was doing and he ended up having a child. None of us are perfect. I just had to accept the family we had and forgive. It's probably my nature to accept and forgive.

"My relationship with Catherine didn't really take off properly until dad died. He had been pushing because he wanted us to be close but I wanted it to be on our terms.

"Coincidentally, Catherine was working in my theatre in Leeds when dad died and we drove down together. It was very emotional because it was a shared and difficult time but a special time. In that four-hour drive to London, we talked the whole way and that was the moment I thought, you are special to me. It was odd that it was the moment that he was gone. But the pressure was removed in a way and we were both grown-ups and able to make our own decision."

These days Cusack lives in west Cork with his wife Denise, an artist he met when they were both working in the theatre over 40 years ago. They have two daughters – Megan, who is 29 and an actress best known for her role in *Call the Midwife* and Kitty, a psychologist who is off having the adventure of her life in Australia, driving around in a camper van.

Pádraig and Denise had lived in London but one day, Denise was mugged outside her flat. They decided to come to Ireland to have a quieter life.

He laughs as he tells me that when Megan was born, Denise was the career-driven one. She was going to go back to work while Cusack was going to happily become a house-husband.

"Three days after Megan was born, she looked at her baby and decided that she wasn't going back to work, she liked this mother thing so much."

"She's an extraordinary mother, creative with a great sense of fun," he says.

All this sounds similar to his own mother. This life suits him, as he looks about 20 years younger than his age. I tell him we should all marry Denise and move to west Cork.

'The Sound Inside' is at the Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire as part of Dublin Theatre Festival. Previews September 24 and 25; opens September 26 and runs until October 5, pavilliontheatre.ie / dublintheatrefestival.ie

Review

STAR RATINGS
★★★★★ *Excellent*
★★★★ *Recommended*
★★★ *Passable*
★★ *Poor*
★ *Dismal*



Kitchen sink dramatics – Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson in 'The Conjuring: Last Rites'

Film

Jump-scare horror not haunting enough



CHRIS WASSER

THE CONJURING: LAST RITES
★★½
In cinemas; Cert 16

'The case that ended it all.' It's a nice tagline. Enough to pique our interest. But does it promise too much?

Maybe. After three main films and five elaborate spin-offs, you might be forgiven for thinking that the suits at Warner Bros were looking to close the curtain on their mega-bucks *Conjuring Universe* saga with a towering horror finale for the history books. Big ideas, shocking twists, an ending bold enough to sit alongside the greats – that sort of thing.

That's not quite the case. For 12 years, Patrick Wilson (always a pleasure) and Vera Farmiga (likewise) have had their fun portraying cosy, fictionalised versions of real-life married ghost hunters Ed and Lorraine Warren.

During the 1970s, if there was an alleged paranormal troublemaker in America, then you can be damn sure Ed (the demonologist in the family) and Lorraine (the clairvoyant) knew all about it.

The Warrens became household names, famous spirit chasers with unusual tools and wild imaginations – and they investigated matters that most of us refused to believe in. It was only a matter of time before someone made a film about them.

Released in 2013, James Wan's supernatural horror *The Conjuring* provided a chilling big-screen take on a classic Warren case. Audiences showed up, and the film became the first chapter in an extraordinarily profitable franchise.

Various other Warren legends have since been adapted under *The Conjuring Universe* banner, generating a mighty $2.2bn from a budget of $200m. A frightening amount of money.

But are the films any use? Not always. And the reason why is simple. Ghost stories aren't supposed to be repeated this way. If the demon chasers always win – if the exorcism works, and the head-the-ball spirit gets what's coming to them – then how can we believe that the next yarn will be any different?

This time around, we begin with a haunted mirror (no giggling down the back, please).

A hazy flashback depicts a younger Ed and Lorraine, investigating a creepy looking glass on the night of their daughter's birth.

It's an unnerving welcome for baby Judy, and you won't be surprised to learn that the child (portrayed in adulthood by Mia Tomlinson) inherits mum's supernatural attributes.

By 1986, however, their ghost-hunting enterprise has become a laughing stock, and a worrisome Ed (Wilson) is experiencing health issues. The old ticker is in trouble, it seems, and the Warrens have no choice but to wind down the family business.

There is more. Over in Pennsylvania, the Smurl family have inadvertently welcomed a paranormal visitor into their home.

It all started when granny and grandad bought an antique mirror (uh-oh) for the grandkids.

Yep, the poor children (Beau Gadsdon and British-Irish talent Kila Lord Cassidy) are the first to realise they're in trouble here.

It's only after the projectile vomiting begins – always a major red flag, if you ask me – that the silly grown-ups finally call in the experts.

You can probably see where this is headed, but it takes a very long time to get there.

Busy, bloated and uncharacteristically sluggish, **The Conjuring: Last Rites** pushes its luck with an epic 135-minute run-time.

Too many scares? Not quite. Just like previous chapters, the horror aspect is the least interesting part of Michael Chaves's sequel. Much more fun is the idea of Ed and Lorraine figuring out their place in a world that no longer appreciates their services.

A likeable presence, Ben Hardy joins the fold as Judy's fiancee, Tony – and for a while at least, we're afforded a glimpse of a steadier, cleaner feature.

Watchable and reliable, Wilson and Farmiga make for a lovely double act – and if the material was half as good as they are, we'd be on to a winner.

Sadly, *The Conjuring: Last Rites* loses its way with an illogical and unforgivably shoddy third act.

These things aren't required to make sense, not all the time, but we need to believe there are at least some rules involved.

All set-up and very little payoff, *The Conjuring: Last Rites* arrives at its ear-splitting destination with nothing to offer but reheated twists, janky jump-scares and sloppy ghost-train antics for the easily startled.

There's a decent film in here somewhere. I'd like to have seen more of it.

Film



Ireland's Oscar hopeful – the quirky 'Sanatorium'

SANATORIUM
★★★★
Selected cinemas; Cert 15A
A distant plume of smoke across the water hints at a deep unrest far beyond the perimeter of Odesa's Kuyalnik Sanatorium. The charmingly outdated Soviet-era health resort still hosts Ukrainians seeking to recharge batteries and take the life-giving muds in the nearby lagoon. But numbers aren't what they were since the spectre of Putin's war.

Pristinely captured and often bemusing, this Fleadh-winning documentary from the brilliant Venom Films (*His & Hers*, *Making the Grade*) takes us inside the facility and its clientele. These include a mother trying to find a wife for her son, a woman having fertility struggles, as well as a soldier injured on the frontline.

Gar O'Rourke's film channels the dignified kitsch of a Martin Parr exhibition, but the conflict smouldering over the horizon – which erupted during production – lends an uncommon gravity to everything. One assumes that this, along with the remarkable compositions of cinematographer Denys Melnyk, won it the nod for Ireland's official Oscars submission in the Best International category. An unconventional representation of Irish cinema to send forth, for sure, but not one you'd readily bet against.
Hilary White



THE COURAGEOUS
★★★★
Selected cinemas; Cert TBC
A single mother fights for her family and indeed her dignity, in this graceful and perceptive character study from first-time feature director Jasmin Gordon.

Mum Jule (Ophelia Kolb) is beginning to unravel. Unemployed and unrealistic about her financial prospects, our eccentric protagonist has started lying to her kids about their fractious living arrangement.

The little ones think they're moving to a bigger house – but in reality, mum hasn't paid the rent in months and will soon be evicted. The boys are away in their own little worlds, thankfully – but Jule's daughter is beginning to suspect trouble in the adult-sphere.

An electronic tag on mum's ankle tells us there is a story here – but where did it all go wrong? And is there a way to fix it?

It's been a good year for European social drama, and this absorbing feature – set against the beautiful backdrop of Switzerland's Valais region – is another worthy addition to the vault.

Original and sincere, **The Courageous** is a story of redemption and rebellion, of slippery slopes and second chances – and Kolb's performance is impossible to turn away from. A wee gem.
Chris Wasser



HONEY DON'T!
★★★
In cinemas; Cert 16
On an extended break from making great films with brother Joel, Ethan Coen serves up the second instalment of his and wife Tricia Cooke's co-written "lesbian B-movie" trilogy (following last year's shaky *Drive-Away Dolls*).

Once again, girl-of-the-moment Margaret Qualley stars, this time as Honey O'Donahue, a hard-boiled, libidinous private investigator in a dustbowl town. When not being the cool aunt to her many nephews and nieces, or enjoying barstool dalliances from lesbian cop Falcone (Aubrey Plaza), Honey is looking into a string of mysterious deaths.

They may have something to do with a Gallic femme fatale (Lera Abova) riding around on a scooter, or a sleazy pastor (Chris Evans) who grooms sex slaves plucked from his congregation. Honey's emo niece (Talia Ryder) might also be caught up in it. With the local cops, led by Charlie Day's detective, next to useless, it's up to Honey to crack the case.

Qualley, her character's noir stylings, and the one-horse setting are to be enjoyed. The same cannot be said for the jumbled, incoherent plotline that relies too often on kooky absurdism and strands that lead nowhere.
Hilary White

Vulture

Cameras at the McGregor case? Not a cow milked...



The hitman and her – Donna Adelson is on televised trial in America



DÓNAL LYNCH

The summer is over, the weather has turned, and the autumn TV schedules are upon us.

As always, they heavily feature foreign TV formats – like *The Traitors* – that we try our best to put our own Irish spin on. The broadcaster pays a fat fee to the originator, and we, the viewers, get something we've probably already seen but now mixed with milk and water, or Moate and Waterford.

The greatest and cheapest foreign format of all is always missing, however. Cameras in the courtroom. There are no *Real Housewives*, no *I ove Island* hopefuls, no stars dancing who can compare, in terms of drama, to even a single evening of Court TV.

On the American broadcaster's coverage prosecutors become avenging superheroes, defendants get alliterative stage names, and irresistible drama is served up for the cost of pointing a camera at both of them.

Just now Court TV's most gripping series stars Donna Adelson, aka the *Matriarch Murder Mastermind*, a wealthy Florida grandmother who is now on trial for paying a hitman to kill her former son-in-law, a Canadian law professor called Dan Markel.

The case has elements of the Australian mushroom killer trial – could a kindly grandmother really do anything so heinous? It has featured glacially impassive testimony from Donna's daughter, Wendi, who has never been charged with involvement in her estranged husband's death but has been described by prosecutors as an "unindicted co-conspirator".

There have been Shakespearean levels of inter-family backstabbing, as Donna's kids have testified to her meddling ways. It has all made for addictive viewing, viral moments, and enormous ratings. And yes: a faith that though the wheels of justice turn slowly, they do surely turn.

Here, real-life courtroom drama like this is viewed a little like fracking gas: a toxic resource that unscrupulous Americans have no compunction about mining, but we have the good sense to leave lying untapped. Court rules generally restrict recording for anyone outside the court service itself to the taking of shorthand notes.

Bona fide journalists can text about proceedings as long as their devices are on silent. But conveying the essence of the drama falls to colour writers, who, however skilled, merely leave you yearning for the evidence of your own eyes.

Why should this be the case?

Under article 34 of the Constitution, justice must be administered in public and if you can get to a courtroom you can watch most proceedings for yourself.

We can already watch the working of the Oireachtas, and when Ryan Tubridy spoke before the media and public accounts committee in 2023 millions of minutes were watched.

In Britain filming inside courtrooms has already been allowed in certain circumstances and parliament there is consulting on whether to expand the practice in England and Wales.

Last week, for the first time, live-streaming took place from a Scottish criminal court. Surely the practice will eventually extend to other areas of the UK.

Can you imagine the interest if, for instance, cameras were allowed into the Conor McGregor civil case? There wouldn't be a cow milked in Clare, or anywhere else really, that night.

It's time Ireland stole a march on progress. Cameras in the courtroom would be a fillip for local media and, with very little outlay, could help solve the rolling funding crises. It would fulfil the promise of the constitution.

And, most importantly of all, it would give those who don't hugely care about either of those things, white hot original reality entertainment.



Case – Conor McGregor

> *It's time Ireland stole a march on progress. Cameras in the courtroom would be a fillip for local media*

Television

You can tell this franchise is Irish because of all the tea and cursing



EILIS O'HANLON

THE TRAITORS IRELAND
RTÉ One, Monday/Tuesday, 9.35pm

If the main reaction to **The Traitors Ireland** could be summed up with a single emotion, it would be relief that RTÉ has finally managed to make a programme that people are looking forward to watching each night, rather than just being made to feel that they should out of a grim sense of patriotic duty.

They really need not have worried. *The Traitors* is like one of those model airplane kits that young boys used to put together with glue before PlayStations came along to fry their brains. As long as you follow the instructions that come with the box, the finished product should look and feel exactly like all the others.

As anyone who has seen the various international versions – and I have devoured every one on which I could lay my greedy hands – they are all basically the same, aesthetically and dramatically speaking. It's a well-oiled machine. The format just works.

The most important decision that producers have to make is the selection of contestants.

The tasks in which they all build up the €50,000 prize pot are a bit "meh", in all truth. Watching other versions of the show, I generally tend to fast-forward through those bits to get to the part where they just sit around throwing suspicion on each other for absolutely no reason whatsoever, before heading to the Round Table to gang up and throw another innocent under the bus. This is where the real fun is to be had and for that you need the right mix of characters.

The original Dutch programme on which *The Traitors* is based went with celebrities. Yawn. The genius of the British version, hosted by *Strictly*'s Claudia Winkleman, is that it opened the door of the castle to normal (more or less) people from a range of different walks of life. (There is though a celebrity charity version coming in October, starring the likes of Celia Imrie, Alan Carr, David Olusoga, Paloma Faith and Stephen Fry.)

The Traitors Ireland went in that direction too, thankfully so, even if it does mean that it takes a while to get to know everyone.

This first week, the camera kept panning round the group, prompting the inevitable questions at home: "Who's that? Has this one even spoken yet?" As a result, I'm still making my mind up about the Irish line-up.

Retired prison officer Paudie is a delight, which is why he's getting so much screen time. Being picked as a Traitor doesn't hurt, in that respect. Nor does having a secret son in the show as well.

Paudie's fellow Traitor, serving garda Eamon, said on Tuesday that he thinks the 68-year-old is "not ruthless enough", and he's probably right. His innate decency will do for him in the end.

No such danger for Eamon. The ginger-bearded assassin is surely scheming a bit too transparently to make it to the end, but is clearly set on having a ball with the auld murdering in the meantime.

The third Traitor is 32-year-old Katelyn, a "leadership consultant" – whatever the heck that means. She started out a bit quietly, but finding out Paudie had raised her name as a potential Traitor brought Katelyn out of her shell.

Pleasingly, she has now started to exert more control. Eamon was definitely pulling the strings before then. On Tuesday, it was Katelyn who suggested that it was time to "get rid of a woman". That's the true Traitors spirit.



Slane threshold – Faye, Christine and Michele in 'The Traitors'

For their part, the Faithfuls are proving to be terrible Traitor-hunters so far, but that's par for the course too. The numbers are simply stacked against them.

On Tuesday, attention turned to Nina, the one with the pink hair and the great selection of jumpers (Tuesday's bore the legend: "Dia Duit, Bitch." They're bound to be this autumn's must-wear outfit). She was banished for the crime of enthusiastically throwing out some wild theories, rather than sitting back and blending into the background.

Come on, guys, you know the score. You don't eliminate the biggest characters this early on.

'Tis ever the way on *The Traitors*, though. The merest hint of individuality brings out the daggers. Paranoia spreads like myxomatosis on *Watership Down*. It doesn't do much for one's faith in human nature, but is delicious fun all the same; and it's only going to get more connivingly evil as the net narrows. Bring it on.

If I have one quibble with the Irish version, it is that the episodes are not fully conveying the conversations that go on between the players, and the alliances that are formed. It's hard to say on what they are basing their judgments right now. Still, it's early days. Tuesday's third episode was the best. The next few should get even better.

It's certainly authentically Irish, not least in the waves of unbleeped cursing that go on, and the even more phenomenal amount of tea being drunk. They should have got Mrs Doyle from *Father Ted* to present it rather than Siobhán McSweeney.

The big danger is that, after being starved of well-made, popular TV for so long, relief gives way to over-praise and Irish viewers start to think this variant of *The Traitors* has knocked the socks off its international rivals.

Personally, I've a soft spot for the Australian and New Zealand versions, whose contestants were particularly smart and bubbling with Antipodean self-confidence.

There's no need to compare like with literal like anyway. *The Traitors Ireland* is simply the newest facet of a beguiling diamond.

The best thing about it is that we all have been made to wait to find out who's getting the chop between event co-ordinator Faye, beauty therapist and full-time Corkwoman Christine and kick-boxing champion Michele.

In an atomised age where whole seasons are dropped for binge-watching over a weekend, there is something reassuringly old school about having a show that everyone's forced to watch at the same pre-digital pace.

Podcasts

CULTURE PIGS
Acast, Apple, Spotify
INSTANT CLASSICS
Apple, Spotify
OUR BIG SHOT
Apple, Spotify

Lucy White

Kids are back at school – a blessing and a curse, depending on your personal circumstances. At least with the heavier traffic you've more commuting time for new podcasts.

Former Vanity Fair and New *Yorker* big cheese Tina Brown coined the term "high-low journalism" in the 1980s to describe Condé Nast's then-pioneering blend of intellectualism and pop culture. More recently Roger Scruton has described high culture as "the self-consciousness of a society", and while Irish series **Culture Pigs** has yet to throw in words such as "hagiography", navel-gaze over Philip Glass or Albert Camus or discuss semiotics in the oeuvre of either Jonathan Swift or indeed Taylor Swift (though they do discuss the singer), it claims to "talk about highbrow things in a lowbrow way and lowbrow things in a highbrow way". And so hosts Kate Demolder and Rory Cashin reflect (so far) on why all's well that didn't end well for the SATC multiverse, their own experiences at music festivals, and the cult of *KPop Demon Hunters*.

The study of Ancient Greek and Roman literature would unequivocally slot into the highbrow category, but with historian, academic and broadcaster Mary Beard at the helm of **Instant Classics**, with author and journalist Charlotte Higgins, listeners won't be left figuratively thinking "this is all Greek to me". Beard is expert at tethering the past with the present day, without over-exaggerating or shoehorning parallels. "There are 101 different reasons why you cannot possibly even think it remotely useful to compare the American president Trump with a Roman emperor..." she says, before doing exactly that, arriving at Filagabalus and Higgins at Caligula, neither of which you'd want to bump into down a dark alley. Other excellent posers include whether Oedipus did actually have a complex and what was a day like at the ancient races, plus a book club bonus for academics and swords-and-sandals fans alike.

As the West succumbs to outbreaks of preventable diseases due to vaccine hesitancy – and ever-louder calls for Robert F Kennedy Jr to resign as US Secretary of Health and Human Services – **Our Big Shot**'s bonus episodes are a must-listen, as Harvard professor Lee McIntyre tells host and science communicator Dr Seema Yasmin the five ways of challenging people who believe in conspiracy theories, while Delhi-based gynaecologist Dr Shelly Batra explains why non-profit organisations have never been more vital to working in resource-poor countries and regions.

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MY CULTURAL LIFE
ZEDA



Zeda the Architect, aka Oyindamola Animashaun, is a Dublin-based curator, artist and sustainability stylist from Abeokuta, Nigeria. She's a panellist at IMMA's Earth Rising festival on Saturday, talking textile reuse.

SUBSTACK DUDA VIEIRA
Lately I've been splitting my reading between physical books and long-form online pieces. Online, I'm hooked on Substack essays that are clever without being cynical, particularly Duda Vieira's musings. At the top of my novel list is *I Who Have Never Known Men* by Jacqueline Harpman. No one can agree whether it's feminist in nature, but everyone agrees on the bleakness it leaves behind.

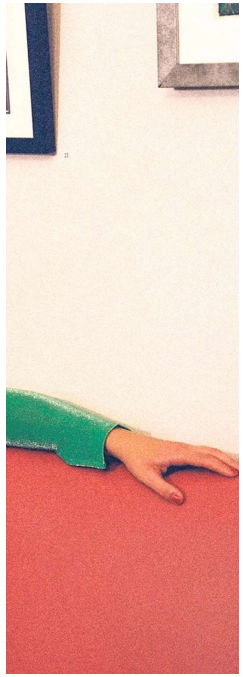
FILM WEAPONS
As a cinephile with a monthly Odeon pass and the good fortune to be invited to press viewings, there's always something to see. Zach Cregger's *Weapons* stood out for its take on horror, although I'm a little over the old hag or witch trope in cinema. The most overlooked film in recent years is the black British rom-com *Rye Lane* by Raine Allen-Miller. One day it'll get the flowers it truly deserves.

TV AND JUST LIKE THAT
I unapologetically adore it. I do not care what the critics say – I am here for the fashion, the chaos and the occasional emotional gut punch.

ALBUM HEIS
I love a mixture, from Beyoncé's genre-bending *Cowboy Carter* to Charli XCX's *Brat* and anything Tyla releases into the world. Rema's *Heis* is also a banger, especially when I want to shout out my roots. Singles-wise, F3mii clearly entered the studio knowing he wanted to make history with *I ost Without Maria*. And *Point and Kill* by Little Simz and Obongjayar demands to be listened to with at least a little dance. It is music that makes everyday moments feel like they deserve their own soundtrack.

FESTIVAL DUBLIN FRINGE
Dublin Fringe is my favourite kind of organised chaos. It transforms the city into a stage where you might stumble upon a powerful piece of theatre in a small room one evening and a wild, immersive performance in a warehouse the next. I love that it encourages risk-taking from both artists and audiences.





HOW WE MADE... 'I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE'

'The song is an ode to friendship and to sticking around'

Morgan MacIntyre, formerly of Saint Sister, tells **Barry Egan** that it's OK to be wrong

Morgan MacIntyre was one half of acclaimed Irish duo Saint Sister, with Gemma Doherty the other half. An extraordinary talent, she is now a solo act as Morgana, her new single *I'm Not Going Anywhere* out on September 24.

When did you write *I'm Not Going Anywhere*?
About 18 months ago, two years ago. It was the first song I wrote after Gemma and I from Saint Sister had a little break. I decided to go to London a lot, to try to get myself out of my funk.

Why was that?
I was always a very slow writer. With Saint Sister, I found writing incredibly slow. I felt very precious about the idea of writing. If anyone put pressure on me to get an album out or said there was a deadline, I completely contracted and couldn't function at all. When we took the break, I had a bit of an identity crisis. I had been writing in a very specific way for the previous 10 years. I didn't know how to change that.

How did you make that change?
My manager Conor was determined that I not sit in that space for too long. I went over to London once a month, for a week each time. I'd stay on my sister Orla's sofa, she was living in Bethnal Green. I tried lots of different ways of writing and met different producers. I cracked whatever it was in my brain that was stopping me.

How did you move through the identity crisis?
It took time. Also, I love a co-dependent relationship. I love being part of a band, being part of a team. And when that was paused for a while, I definitely didn't know who I was.

What is 'I'm Not Going Anywhere' about?
It has two layers. I guess the song was inspired by a friend who was lashing out and turning in on themselves. You just know when you see someone you know, and all they need is to be held. You know that whatever happens, no matter what tantrum they throw or how they push people away, that you will be there at the end of it for them. And after all the tears are shed, the friendship will continue no matter what happens. You'll still be there. The song is an ode to friendship and sticking around, no matter what.

Another part of me just loves singing it, and having that as the anthem for my adventure into my solo career.

What drew you to music when you were a child?
I've always loved songs. I've always loved the idea of making a song and the art of lyric writing.

Sister act – Morgan MacIntyre of Morgana

> *It turns out most of the time that your worst fears don't happen – and even if they do, you survive. That's liberating*

My mum has always been a big influence in terms of the songs I listened to as a kid. She would have sat me down and really made a spiritual moment of it. It would have just been the two of us, and she would have played Sinead O'Connor or Patsy Cline or Leonard Cohen. Loads of different singer-songwriters.

I think her love of words – the love of song as a stand-alone piece of art – passed on to me. I was born in Belfast and then my parents bought a pub in Donegal Gaeltacht. I spent a lot of my formative years living above the pub. There were sessions every night. We would have been upstairs with our ears on the floorboards. We would be able to tell who was in, who was singing and what craic was happening.

And if we were set on being really bold, we'd take a run through the pub in our jammies at half twelve – and then we'd get spotted and be sent back up to bed.

What age were you when you wrote your first song?
When I was nine years old. It was about my friend Myrid Carten, about having a fall out. The chorus was: "I'm glad to be coming back to my best friend, who will watch your back until the end."

What's the story behind your name?
My mum named me Morganaigh after she read a feminist retelling of the King Arthur legends. When I was small, Morganaigh became Morgan – which I hated even more. I was five when I demanded my mum explain herself for making such a terrible choice of name. She told me that Morgan was a magician, and that meant I could do whatever I wanted.

What was your reaction?
I was annoyed by this and replied: "I can't cross the road by myself." There began the tension between the two sides of my personality – a chronic rule-follower mixed with a wild dose of self-belief. I can do anything specifically because I'm allowed to.

In my late teens, I asked my mum again. Why give me the name Morganaigh but shorten it to Morgan? She said she thought Morganaigh was too much to land on someone without their consent and that one day she wanted me to have the option to choose to be the witch.

What was it like to learn, and know, that you can cross the road by yourself?
It's very liberating to know you can try something and get it wrong – and no one dies. I had previously been preoccupied with not letting people down. Turns out most of the time your worst fears don't happen – and if they do, you survive.

I think something that sharpened that is having real tragedy enter my life – rather than the anxiety of future tragedy – in the form of a close friend's illness. Watching someone deal with a real-life actual shit-storm puts all the imagined slights and worst-case scenarios into perspective.

Morgana plays The Academy, Dublin on October 9

Art: What Lies Beneath

How time in the UK sent an artist back to her roots

NIALL MacMONAGLE



HAZEL O'SULLIVAN
Winged-Beetle and Disc

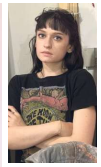
Thirteen-year-old Hazel O'Sullivan was "switching to business at school when a picture of my shoe got loads of praise from my art teacher. She convinced me to stay and from there my passion for art really started to grow", she says now.

O'Sullivan grew up in Drumree, Co Meath, surrounded by music and movies. She gave up piano "on condition from my dad that I take up art instead. My dad – an electrical engineer, and my mam who runs a motor rewinding business that she took over from my grandad, a jazz pianist – always encouraged us to do something creative."

Her homeplace began to show up in her work after she left, she says. "I used to go to the Hill of Tara every Sunday with my grandad for chocolate cake and it became a place tied to memory for me. I was always surrounded by Irish mythology. Living in rural Ireland, with fairy mounds and open fields, meant I spent a lot of time rummaging around at the bottom of trees, trying to find fairies. My relatives were full of stories. I was totally hooked."

Long before the Leaving Cert, O'Sullivan knew she wanted to go to NCAD. A big turning point was a trip to Berlin where contemporary work by James Turrell, Bruce Nauman and Wolfgang Tillmans "really shook" her. O'Sullivan's Erasmus year was in Germany's Munster. There she was taught by Klaus Merkel who told her "quite bluntly, to stop painting figuratively and to start exploring minimalism".





Matter of perspective – 'Winged-Beetle and Disc'. Above, artist Hazel O'Sullivan

And then Covid happened. "I finished the year at home in Ireland, making work in the garage. For my graduate show I honed in on perspective studies, building maquettes from cardboard boxes and turned them into paintings. I was thinking about boundaries, space and utopia, used wood stains on plywood to mimic marquetry so the paintings looked like intricate woodwork when really it was all illusion, paint tricks".

Having googled "best and cheapest art university in London", the University of the Arts London popped up. She was accepted and "the experience was a bit surreal. I was terrified and completely lost half of the time, but it was brilliant."

There, "a sense of anonymity" sent O'Sullivan back to her roots. "I'm part of Croí na Gaeilge in London which has been great for reconnecting with the Irish language. I began noticing how decolonisation and post-colonialism were being talked about in contemporary art and that pushed me to bring my Irishness more actively into my work."

'Winged-Beetle and Disc', *above*, was worked out on graph paper and transferred to canvas using rulers and measuring tape. "I like making work that feels a bit uncanny, a little nostalgic and I'm really interested in imagining a future from an historical perspective," she says, while her use of pinks, purples and teal "draw on Irish mythology and nobility".

The title comes from a fragment of Donegal carpet in the V&A Collection. "Its intricate design shows a beetle holding a disc", and a British Museum artefact labelled 'Irish Disc: Unknown Function' prompted her to think that "the carpet beetle held that Irish Disc. It just clicked with my work."

She's happy if viewers "decode abstract imagery with anthropomorphic shapes. There's something playful about it – like medieval manuscripts that combined the serious and the silly on the same page. I like that balance."

Hazel O'Sullivan's solo show 'Circa Ré' is at Kerlin Gallery, Dublin 1 until October 4.

ON SHOW TWO TO VIEW

BERNADETTE MADDEN
Collected Impressions
Madden, an expert screen printer, draws on memories, photographs, quick sketches to create these 75 screen prints featuring Fanad Head Lighthouse, an old-style phone box, a yacht, modern buildings along the Liffey, a shoreline, a shop front and a masked self-portrait during Covid.
Kenny Gallery, Galway, until September 16



DEIRDRE FROST
Blue Skies, Black Earth
Oil on canvas and on wood explore rootedness, displacement and the innate instinct in all living things to grow, to thrive and to flourish. Frost draws on local imagery of natural and built environments, reminding us beauty and simplicity can survive the bombardment of modern media.
GOMA, Waterford, until September 27



Radio

Pat is still a step ahead of quaint and careful RTÉ



DECLAN LYNCH

THE PAT KENNY SHOW
Newstalk, weekdays, 9am

Pat Kenny is not just the oldest presenter of a major current affairs radio show; at present he is also the best.

He has at various times in the past also been the best, but the important thing for our purposes is that he is the current holder of that supreme position. That's according to this column anyway, where I made this assertion a few months back, mainly in the light of Pat's superior grasp of the biggest story of our time: the fact the US has been rapidly moving towards autocracy.

Indeed those were Pat's exact words last Monday morning, introducing his items for the day. "The US rapidly moving towards autocracy" is the kind of clear, accurate and generally confident command of the situation which Pat continues to display, for three hours, five mornings a week on Newstalk.

Yet when it was announced he will be leaving this position and moving to weekends, this somewhat significant aspect of the situation was largely unmentioned. Much of the commentary stuck to the inevitable changes that occur when a broadcaster reaches a great age – though Pat has not given the slightest sign that his powers are declining – and to the money involved and the "musical chairs" aspect of it, with Claire Byrne due to replace Pat, and David McCullagh replacing her on RTÉ's *Today* show.

Actually, we've been hearing a lot about some major "shake-up" at RTÉ radio in general, and sure enough, they need some kind of a shake-up. But not the kind of shake-up that is achieved just by shifting presenters around or by bringing in a few new ones.

It's more fundamental than that, more to do with this important point that Pat Kenny, one of the oldest men in the radio world, is correctly framing the great events of our time, while RTÉ, on the whole, is still a step behind him.

And no, it's not really about some sense of freedom he might feel on Newstalk, it's about the vast experience he has accumulated as a journalist, mainly with RTÉ itself – experience which has trained him to call things as they are, to change the framing of events when the events themselves demand it.

By contrast, RTÉ radio in these post-truth times can sound like the newsreader during the week solemnly intoning about "so-called dodgy boxes". He's not wrong, exactly, but there is such a sense of distance from the essential energy of the subject, it can sound like a bishop delivering the homily at a confirmation.

This Week came up with another prize exhibit recently, when interviewing Professor Bob Schmuhl about Donald Trump's move to "re-district", or, if you like, to gerrymander, the mid-term elections. When it was put to Schmuhl that this move by Trump was "brazen", even Schmuhl, who is deeply avuncular and measured, had to lift it a notch – "brazen is probably a quaint and careful term".

RTÉ in general is still at the "quaint and careful" stage, as if the game hadn't changed utterly since the old "both-sidesing" days. Meanwhile, Pat has been ahead of them, freely referring to how Hitler dismantled German democracy in 53 days, and how Trump is clearly heading in that direction too. He does not bother to "both-sides" it, to formally mention that Trump supporters might disagree with that analysis, because he has moved on from that kind of zombie journalism.

Moreover, while the "musical chairs" aspect, and the speculation about the vast salaries was entertaining, in truth this recent upheaval should not be about individuals but about a systemic issue – not about whether David McCullagh will be better than Claire Byrne, or whether she will be better than Pat Kenny, but about a whole way of broadcasting life.

It is long past the stage when RTÉ news and current affairs should have had a major re-appraisal of its traditions of "both-sidesing" journalism and how it has stopped working in the age of the post-truth leaders who just don't observe the basic rules that have sustained that culture.

No more is the interviewer trying to catch the politician in a lie, it is now a much rarer thing to catch some of these characters in a moment of truth. Of course, RTÉ may already have had this major re-appraisal and reached the conclusion that everything was fine.

Meanwhile, the one broadcaster on national radio who has really met the moment is leaving the front line.

Theatre



Five stars – Don Wycherley gives a masterful performance as Paddy Armstrong

Wycherley mesmerises in this tender one-man show



CHRIS WASSER

PADDY: THE LIFE & TIMES OF PADDY ARMSTRONG
Viking Theatre, Clontarf; touring this autumn, see lifeandtimesofpaddy.com

How do we explain the great Don Wycherley vanishing act?

Experienced up close, Wycherley's mesmerising portrayal of Paddy Armstrong – one of the Guildford Four, who spent 15 years behind bars for a crime he didn't commit – ranks among the greatest magic tricks in contemporary Irish theatre.

We know it's Don in the creased dressing gown and navy-blue jeans. We watch him arrive on stage, and we'll applaud his performance, long after he has left.

But for 80-odd minutes, Wycherley – Skibbereen's finest acting export – disappears entirely.

In his place is a compelling Belfast charmer with a story for the ages. Every now and then, Wycherley's Armstrong locks his eyes on yours. Look away, and he'll catch you again; try to spot the line between player and character and I guarantee you won't find it.

So invested is Wycherley in this astonishingly well-written feat of biographical theatre that you often forget you're watching a performance. That doesn't happen every day.

Most of us are familiar with the basic details here. Beginning in 1975, Paddy Armstrong is falsely convicted of helping carry out the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings of 1974.

British authorities claim Armstrong is a member of the IRA (he isn't). He and three others – Carole Richardson, Paul Michael Hill and Gerry Conlon – are brutally interrogated until finally, someone snaps.

Armstrong was essentially forced into a false confession, when really, he was an innocent man who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It wasn't until October 1989, with the help of solicitor and friend Alastair Logan, that the Guildford Four had their convictions quashed. What happened next, and how, exactly, does one go about rebuilding their life in a world that moved on without them?

This was answered in Armstrong's acclaimed autobiography, *Life After Life: A Guildford Four Memoir*, written with Mary-Elaine Tynan.

Eventually, Tynan – collaborating with Don Wycherley and Niamh Gleeson – started to think about turning that memoir into a one-man show. A risky move, perhaps, but it seems to have paid off.

Tonight, there is just a single chair for Wycherley's storyteller. Behind him, a sparse black canvas with silver vertical lines, like an abstract prison cell or something else entirely.

It's left for us to decide where Armstrong is telling his story from. Whatever the case, our dedicated performer doesn't require props.

Wycherley's Armstrong is older, frailer, a tad unsure of himself. His memories haven't yet faded – they're just a little scattered, and so Armstrong delivers his life story in twitchy, tragic bursts and eager, emotional anecdotes.

Here is a broken chapter from Paddy's youth, when he first learned to play poker; here he is as a young man, arriving home one day to learn of a devastating personal loss.

There is the London he emigrated to in the 1970s, and the Dublin he started to call home in the 1990s. In between, a horrifying miscarriage of justice – and Wycherley's Armstrong recalls every terrible detail.

Life on the inside was unimaginably grim, and the one he returned to on the outside came with its own difficulties, including a tricky gambling addiction.

But the light never fades in Armstrong's heart, not even on his darkest days. In real life, Paddy Armstrong likes to make people laugh, whatever the weather, and so it makes sense for Wycherley's version to interrupt himself with clever gags and witty put-downs.

In time, Armstrong encounters his future wife, a schoolteacher named Caroline, at a gig in the International Bar. "Hi, I'm Paddy Armstrong of the Guildford Four," he tells her.

It's a hell of a line – so, too, is the response when one of her students asks him what he missed the most while he was in prison. Use your imagination.

Indeed, this masterful production paints a tender, truthful portrait of a man who steadfastly refused to allow a wrongful conviction to define the rest of his life. It's a beautiful piece, poetic and profound, and Wycherley's performance is up there with the best I've seen this year. Unmissable theatre.

Books

Memoir

Leo: Leaks, Lucinda and me



SPEAKING MY MIND
Leo Varadkar
Sandycove, €24.99

Mary Regan

It's reassuring to know that in the high-powered, high-stakes and strategically stage-managed world of politics, nose-picking can still change the course of things.

There are two instances of this most basic of human habits in Leo Varadkar's memoir **Speaking My Mind** and they play an important role in telling the story of how someone whose entire life was dedicated to the pursuit of high office grew increasingly disillusioned with it soon after he got there.

The first instance of nose-picking was in September 2021, when things were just beginning to reopen after Covid, but live entertainment was still out of bounds.

In one of the many occasions in the book where Varadkar struggles to balance the high-powered job of his dreams with a burgeoning social life – one that he had missed out on in his 20s – he and his partner Matt stopped off in London on the way to a trade mission in Berlin.

Over drinks in a friend's house they ran and offered tickets to the Mighty Hoopla festival in Brixton. While his friends were "enthusiastically" making plans, he notes: "I didn't want to spend the evening on my own. Again."

Off they all went to the festival, but Varadkar was "on edge" and struggling to enjoy himself, knowing people were watching. "Then it happened; I was photographed sitting on the ground, talking on my phone with my finger in my nose."

The online "pile-on" that followed in the next few hours was "ferocious", with musicians Bressie and Mary Coughlan wading into the debate. A stressful few hours followed. Leo wanted Matt to stay on and enjoy himself. "This shouldn't ruin your night too," he told him – a struggle that comes across in their relationship.

Varadkar slips in the theory that Simon Harris "was behind the whole thing". The "sneaky photo-taker was known to his family" and was from Wicklow, he writes. Varadkar dismisses this as a "far-fetched" conspiracy theory – but not enough to leave it out of the book altogether.

Back to the nose-picking incident. It was the beginning of the end of his time in politics. "We made our way back to the hotel room. I really don't want to do this anymore, I thought. I'm a different person than when I started out in politics. Life's moved on. My priorities have changed. I want to be able to live my own life, my way."

He went on to become taoiseach for a second term. But it's clear from the book his heart wasn't much in it. By the time we get to the second nose-picking viral moment – when he was caught on camera on his way into King Charles's coronation, the gig was almost up.

Soon afterwards he made up his mind to resign: "I'd been back in office as Taoiseach for more than a year and it wasn't working out as I'd hoped... As with Tolkien's ring of power, the burden was getting heavier. It was starting to consume me. Every day, I was a little more Taoiseach and a little less me."

The book sells itself as an honest, open tell-all about someone who has always been something of an enigmatic political figure. If this is to be the style, then the opening chapter is not all that convincing.

It begins with an eight-year-old Leo visiting a polling station with his mother. "It seemed almost magical, how voting could transform those ordinary people into leaders," he writes. It continues to labour the point of his childhood politicisation a bit too much.

He describes how he was "allowed to stay up later than most of my friends to watch the news" tuning into BBC 4 and Radio Sweden – when, let's face it, he should have been picking his nose.

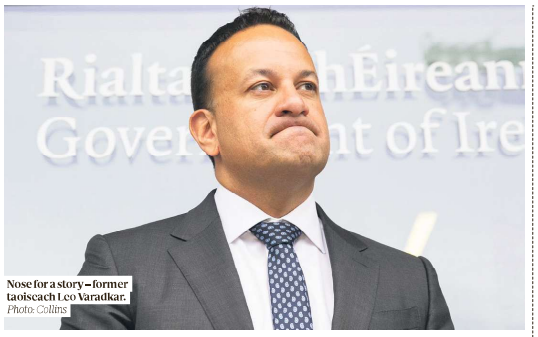
As the book continues, he eases slightly into his promise of speaking his mind, offering an insight into his personal life – a part of him the public often failed to understand.

At 13 he spent "more time alone than most kids" he says, in one of the many times he touches on the theme of loneliness. But he didn't mind, and was happy talking to his parents' friends about the economy and foreign policy.

It was only when he started in Trinity that he found his tribe. He hung out exclusively with students who were passionate about politics. Among them was Lucinda Creighton, whose "outgoing personality, blonde good looks and incisive, inquiring mind" seems to have been key to helping the serious, nerdy young Leo to have some fun while developing his political ideas.

"Those bright eyes would flash when you said things like 'constitutional amendment'," he writes.

Creighton becomes a stand-out character in Varadkar's story. The ups and downs of their friendship as they both navigated political careers is one of the more insightful and endearing parts of the book.



Nose for a story – former taoiseach Leo Varadkar. *Photo: Collins*

> *I'd been back as Taoiseach for more than a year and it wasn't working out as I hoped. It was starting to consume me. Every day, I was a little more Taoiseach and a little less me*



Kindred spirits – Leo Varadkar and Lucinda Creighton met at TCD

He is honest about the conflict between his sexuality and his political career. His rise through the ranks of student politics, to councillor, to TD to minister, was attributed to his inability to confront his sexuality.

"A lot of closeted gay men are tremendously successful in various fields. One of the reasons is the fact that we tend to throw ourselves into our work, pouring our restless energy into something so that we don't have to deal with a sexuality we're not comfortable with," he writes.

He talks about what had been an open secret in politics for a long time; his kiss in Mother nightclub. But he brushes past it nonchalantly, putting it in the context of an invasion of privacy in what is supposed to be a gay-friendly place, rather than whether it had any bearing on his standing as a political leader.

When it comes to the pure politics, Varadkar comes across as thoughtful. He recalls being "immediately interested" when he was first presented with information from Maurice McCabe. He went about meeting the garda whistleblower and found him "convincing, straightforward and serious" at a time when he was dismissed by others.

But the book is self-congratulatory too. When he became Minister for Health it was already too late to reverse the decision on the National Children's Hospital. A garda investigation into the leaking of a GP contract is partly attributed to his outspokenness in defence of McCabe. And there is little by explanation of his party's failings on housing.

There are some colourful flys-on-the wall moments. Like when Enda Kenny pretended he needed him to look at a sore foot – only to drag him into a room to warn him against a heave. Or when Fianna Fáil refused to pose for a photo after agreeing the confidence and supply deal.

While there is no major reveal, overall the book brings to life some of the behind-the-scenes moments of what has been a transformative period in Irish and global politics.

It tells the story of a character at the centre of it all. Of the conflict between his political ambitions and his personal growth. We are left with a truer sense of Leo Varadkar than might have been publicly known. And a feeling that maybe we would have liked him that little bit more, if only we knew him better.

BESTSELLERS

PAPERBACK FICTION
1 **Small Things Like These** Claire Keegan, Faber & Faber
2 **Intermezzo** Sally Rooney, Faber & Faber
3 **The Housemaid** Freida McFadden, Little, Brown
4 **The Wedding People** Alison Espach, Phoenix
5 **The Surrogate Mother** Freida McFadden, Poisoned Pen Press

ORIGINAL FICTION
1 **Katabasis** RF Kuang, HarperVoyager
2 **Paper Heart** Cecelia Ahern, HarperCollins
3 **Wolf Hour** Jo Nesbo, Harvill Secker
4 **She Didn't See It Coming** Shari Lapena, Bantam
5 **Such a Good Couple** Sophie White, Hachette

PAPERBACK NON-FICTION
1 **A Deadly Marriage** Brian Carroll, Sandycove
2 **Deadly Silence** Jacqueline Connolly, Hachette
3 **Intensive Care: True Stories of Healing, Heartache and Hope from Inside** Dr Suzanne Crowe, Hachette
4 **Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York** Andrew Lownie, William Collins
5 **Money: A Story of Humanity** David McWilliams, Simon & Schuster

HARDBACK NON-FICTION
1 **Make & Freeze: Ultimate Guide to Family-friendly Meal Preparation** Lou Robbie, Michael Joseph
2 **The Let Them Theory** Mel & Sawyer Robbins, Hay House
3 **Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York** Andrew Lownie, William Collins
4 **Guinness World Records 2026** Guinness World Records
5 **The Irish Words You Should Know** Hector Ó hEochagáin, Gill

SPORTS BOOKS
1 **The Racket** Conor Niland, Penguin
2 **Obsessed** Johnny Sexton, Penguin
3 **States of Play: How Sportswashing Took Over Football** Miguel Delaney, Seven Dials
4 **Keegan: The Man Who Was King** Anthony Quinn, Faber & Faber
5 **The Last Ditch** Eamonn Sweeney, Hachette

CHILDREN'S BOOKS
1 **The Book of Saints,** Paul Harrison, Wayland
2 **Lottie Brooks vs The Ultra Mean Girls** Katie Kirby, Puffin
3 **Cozy Corner** Coco Wyo, Penguin
4 **Skandar and the Spirit War** AF Steadman, Simon & Schuster
5 **The Summer I Turned Pretty** Jenny Han, Penguin

Memoir

Shards of a celebrated Irish actor shadowed by demons



SHE DIED YOUNG: A LIFE IN FRAGMENTS
Brenda Fricker
Head of Zeus, €16.99

Joe Dowling

By any measure, Brenda Fricker has had a wonderful career. She was lauded for her theatre work in Dublin, London and in the US. She appeared in some of the most successful television series, including *Casualty, Coronation Street* and in RTÉ's first foray into drama, *Tolka Row*.

Her film career is no less stellar, and she holds the distinction of being the only Irish woman to win a supporting actress Oscar for her performance in *My Left Foot*.

But, as this remarkable, uncompromisingly honest memoir, subtitled *A Life in Fragments*, makes clear, Brenda Fricker's life has been fraught with deep pain, recurring mental illness, parental violence and, in two devasting incidences, appalling sexual attacks.

She was born into a middle-class Dublin family; her father, Des, was a journalist with *The Irish Times* and her mother Bina was a schoolteacher. Brenda attended Loreto College in St Stephen's Green. She studied dancing and drama, and every summer she and her sister Gránia spent time in Co Kerry with her aunt Nonee, one of the few people who showed her unconditional love.

Behind the scenes, this seemingly idyllic childhood was regularly shattered by beatings from her mother. She writes: "I'm convinced that that violence led to the later violence of my first suicide attempt. I carry it with me to this day."

While Bina carried out the punishments, Des remained aloof and in later years denied hearing any of the violence meted out to a small girl for such "crimes" as wetting the bed.

Brenda was a student of drama teacher Ena Mary Burke in her Kildare Street salon. I also was a devotee. We both know that our time with Burkey, as we irreverently called her, was a defining period of our lives.

In a chapter devoted to Miss Burke, she gives an insight into how this remarkable teacher impacted a troubled child, longing for some approval, writing. "I can hear her now, see her, revere her, love her but more than this I can thank her – truly thank her – for giving me the best of everything I have, not least the kind of education and inspiration she provided."



Crowning glory – Brenda Fricker with her Best Supporting Actress Oscar for 'My Left Foot' in 1990

On the night of her Oscar triumph, Ena Mary Burke was among the first people she thanked for her success.

Brenda's young life was shattered by two long stays in hospital. On her 14th birthday, she got a new bike, and, on its first outing, she was hit by a speeding car, owned by a government minister. She spent two years in The Meath Hospital with horrific injuries.

Shortly after her recovery, she was diagnosed with TB and spent a further year in a Blanchardstown sanatorium. The three-year interruption in her education left a lifelong feeling of intellectual inferiority and continuing self-doubt.

From an early age, she had suicidal tendencies, collecting razor blades and fetishising her own blood. In one terrifying fragment, she creates a brilliant Joyce-inspired monologue outlining her interior life while undergoing treatment in a mental health institution.

She attempted suicide 31 times and was finally persuaded by Dr Anthony Clare that "mental illness was not a thing to be ashamed of". In St Edmundsbury in Lucan, she came to terms with her depression, realising that "all of this pain was here for life."

Brenda Fricker is a great actor. It is also clear that acting helps as a refuge from her endless battles with depression. "When I was working, I felt safe," she writes. Whether on stage or on film, she adds depth with a sharp intelligence and a sense of the truth of every line.

While much of this beautifully written memoir tells of her battles through her illnesses and the impact of profound childhood trauma, she also paints a wonderfully vivid picture of many of the people who inspired her throughout her career.

Early on, her talent attracted attention from producer Phyllis Ryan and Jim Fitzgerald, one of the most brilliant directors of the period. Despite their age difference, she and Micheál Mac Liammóir developed a close friendship. She saw his one-person show on Oscar Wilde over 13 times, and she writes wittily of how she helped his costume design for Brecht's *Mother Courage* by calling her Auntie Nonee in Kerry, telling her "I need black shawls. Go round the village and get every black shawl you can and post them to me." Nonee did as asked, to Mac Liammóir's delight.

> *From an early age, she had suicidal tendencies, collecting razor blades and fetishising blood*

The remarkable thing in offering "fragments" of her life is how her personal demons and the ultimate acceptance of her battles with depression dominate so much of the book. This is no ordinary "star "memoir, recounting her many triumphs. In fact, the film that won her "The Prize" – her Oscar – gets short shrift in one hilarious chapter where she confronts Daniel Day-Lewis about his method acting, which she describes as "anathema". Her direct questions in a lunch break quickly broke through his on-screen Christy Brown persona, leading Day-Lewis to break character with an irritated profanity.

This is a searingly honest memoir. I aced with humour as well as life-changing events, **She Died Young** depicts how a strong spirit could not be destroyed by a traumatic past or by her incessant demons. A powerful testament from an actor who deserves The Prize.

Joe Dowling is the former artistic director of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin and former CEO and artistic director at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis

Thriller

Comic spy caper has a delicious sting in tail



CLOWN TOWN
Mick Herron
Baskerville, €16.99

Anne Marie Scanlon

The celebrated TV show *Slow Horses* is based on Mick Herron's *Slough House* series of novels and **Clown Town** is the latest.

During The Troubles, 'Pitchfork', a member of the IRA who was notorious for his deranged violence, was in fact working for the British, his trail of multiple rapes and murders facilitated by a team of four – CC, Daisy, Avril and Al. After the Good Friday Agreement, Pitchfork got a new identity and an annual income of £80,000 (€92k) while the team was essentially abandoned by the government.

Everyone has heard about the operation thanks to several media exposés and investigations but there had never been any concrete proof. Until CC finds a micro-cassette recording.

To get some form of restitution for the team, who are all broken by what happened, he attempts to blackmail the First Desk Spymaster Diana Taverner, a woman who, to put it mildly, should not be messed with and who "probably dreamed in crossword clues".

Broadly this is a spy novel but it's also highly comic and hot-off-the-press contemporary commentary. The new government is noted for its so-called granny freezing policies and love of freebies.

While never named, the prime minister is pilloried for plenty including his voice "that made hearing him a chore" and mixing up the words "sausage" and "hostage".

There's plenty of old-fashioned spy action, bluffs, double-bluffs, car chases, close calls and deaths. For readers like me who haven't read any of the series, the regulars are portrayed so well that I was shocked and bereft when one of them died. This is a fabulous, funny book with a delicious sting in the tail.



Fabulous and funny – Mick Herron

MY LIFE IN BOOKS: ADAM KAY

Adam Kay, a former doctor, has written seven books and sold five million copies. His debut, *This is Going to Hurt*, was adapted as a multi-Bafta-winning comedy-drama series for the BBC. His latest book, *A Particularly Nasty Case* is out now from Orion.

The books at your bedside?
My reaching-distance library is quite varied. Because of my job, I get to read unpublished books, and I'm currently motoring through Michael Hogan's *The Dogwalkers' Detective Agency*, out in October. Plus there'll usually be whatever I'm currently reading to my two toddlers. At the moment it's *War and Peace*, to teach them that life is long and boring.

Your book of the year so far?
I was blown away by *The Glorious Dead* by Justin Myers, out in mid- September. He's best known for his acerbic rom-coms, but has shifted gear with this tale of a dead playwright whose unpublished memoirs haunt the loved ones he's left behind. It's funny, twisty and grippier than a bulldog clip to the face, but also a wise and poignant thesis about how you never really know even those closest to you.

Your favourite literary character?
Emma Woodhouse, the flawed heroine of Jane Austen's classic. She's in turns a whip-smart manipulator and an oblivious clod, which sums up the human condition pretty well. I can't think of anyone I'd rather attend a formal picnic with.

The first book you remember?
I loved *Spot the Dog*. Actually, perhaps he's my favourite literary character – sorry, Emma. Who wouldn't want to be a mischievous puppy, wreaking havoc for eleven-twelfths of a book and then totally exonerated on the last two pages? An inspiration.



War and Peace and quiet – Adam Kay. *Photo: Charlie Clift*

The book you couldn't finish?
JRR Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. I appreciate the density of the world-building, and maybe it's all subconscious professional jealousy about its success, but after a few chapters it just became a blur of consonants and I had to bail.

The book that changed your life?
I reckon it's appropriate enough to call out one of my own here. *This is Going to Hurt* turned my world upside down, and sometimes I still can't really believe that the scrappy diaries I kept as a junior doctor ended up being part of a huge conversation about the NHS, and the struggles of those working on the front line. I even got to meet government ministers as a result. Ridiculous/marvellous.

Your comfort read?
I've a few favourites I return to time and time again. *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, by David Sedaris. He's one of the finest writers of our time – wonderfully bitchy but also clever and tender.

The book you give as a present?
Generally ones I get sent by publishers for free. But if I'm putting my hand in my pocket then Nora Ephron's *Heartburn* is a pretty bulletproof gift – it's warm, funny, heartbreaking and life-affirming all in one go. That said, it doesn't work as a wedding present, as it's about the combustion of a marriage.

The writer who shaped you?
The Lady in the Van by Alan Bennett was the first book that I remember actually enjoying reading. Bennett's talent gave me the first inkling that maybe I'd maybe enjoy writing as a career too. So I did it the easy way: spending seven years as a doctor first.

The book you would most like to be remembered for?
Much as I'd like it to be *A Particularly Nasty Case*, which I think is definitely the funniest thing I've ever written, rationally it's more likely to be *This is Going to Hurt* (again). I'll always be the guy who wrote that diary.

Fiction

Screenplay beckons for sweeping family saga



BUCKEYE
Patrick Ryan
Bloomsbury, £16.99

Emily Hourican

Born with one leg two inches shorter than the other, Cal misses out on America's entry to World War II – something that makes him "so conscious of not being overseas that he found his limp worsening all by itself" – and yet, on the day Truman announces that the Nazis have surrendered, he has a classic VE Day moment. A woman walks into the hardware store where he works, in the town of Bonhomie, Ohio.

"Her forehead was high and her red hair was done up in Victory Rolls. Her mint-green dress and matching pillbox hat, her white gloves and her coral lipstick suggested money."

She asks does he have a radio, and together they listen to the news. Outside, car horns are blaring, people cheering. Inside, in the basement of the store, she kisses him. At first, it's nothing. The woman, Margaret, is gone as abruptly as she arrives. Cal goes home to Becky – who hears the voices of the dead and believes "the dead lingered mostly because they still had something to say though a few also showed up to listen" – and their son Skip.

But then, it's something. And continues to be something after Margaret's husband, Felix, who has his own secrets, returns from the war.

The novel plays out over 60 years, taking in America's post-war boom and the Vietnam war. The world Ryan creates is complex and detailed. The people of Bonhomie are filled in with precise, economical details, and the passage of time skilfully handled.



Witty – author Patrick Ryan

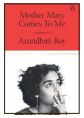
The Buckeye tree in Cal's yard (Buckeye is also the nickname given to Margaret's son, Tom) acts as a fixed point around which the characters can grow and change. There are, at times, touches of Gunter Grass's *The Tin Drum* here, and the assurance of the debut is astonishing (Ryan, a former associate editor of Granta and current editor-in-chief of *One Story* has written three YA novels and two short story collections, so he honed his skills thoroughly before beginning this epic).

The quality of his writing is what really sustains the momentum. This is sweeping-family-saga stuff, but the writing is crisp and witty, with a nicely-judged balance of intimacy and distance.

Tom Hanks is a fan. So is Ann Patchett, to whom the book is dedicated. I'm thinking movie rights...

Memoir

How tough love helped novelist win a Booker



MOTHER MARY COMES TO ME
Arundhati Roy
Penguin Books, €20

Frieda Klotz

Many of Arundhati Roy's memories of her mother are double-edged. One is what happened when Roy received an impressive end-of-year assessment from the boarding school she attended with her brother. Her mother hugged her and said, "you have a brilliant report".

The night before, Roy had heard her enter her little brother's room and beat him with a wooden ruler until it broke saying, "No son of mine comes home with a report that says 'average student.'"

The experience left her perennially ill at ease with success, the writer says in her memoir **Mother Mary Comes to Me**. Arundhati Roy offers a portrait of her jagged but loving relationship with her mother, Mary, a woman who she stowed on her daughter a "gift of darkness". Mary Roy had overcome poverty and the obstacles of gender to establish a highly-regarded school in a town in Kerala, southern India, which brought her recognition and renown.

But she was hard to live with, and Roy often wished she was one of her mother's students rather than her daughter. Dealing with her was, she says, like entering a spider's web; and yet is an experience for which Roy remains grateful.

Written in Roy's characteristically dazzling prose, the memoir is a homage to her mother and a reflection on Roy's own life. It takes readers from her traumatic childhood through to her extraordinary professional success, first as a screenwriter and then the author of *The God of Small Things*, which won the Booker Prize in 1997.



Dazzling prose – Arundhati Roy. *Photo: Mayank Austen Soofi*

Along the way, she offers a blistering critique of Indian politics and outlines her own battles with the judges who reproved her for "Not showing India in a proper light".

Roy's was far from a typical childhood. She was born into a Syrian Christian family in a relatively wealthy community in southern India. Her parents separated early, and after leaving her husband, her mother found work as a teacher.

As a little girl Roy spent as much time as she could away from home, befriending wild animals along a river bank. She portrays herself as an impish, rebellious figure and often downplays her achievements.

After sitting highly competitive national exams, she obtained a place to study architecture at Delhi School of Planning and Architecture, where she found her people among the students.

Poverty would haunt her early adulthood. In her final year at university, she and a boyfriend lived illegally in a storeroom before finding a hut in a shanty town with community toilets and open drains. She graduated at 21 but "was far older than others my age. I had become a strange person, of a somewhat vagrant disposition. I hadn't the parental guardrails that my classmates did."

Gradually success came as she began writing screenplays and over four years completed her first novel, *The God of Small Things*, published when she was 36. Literary agents fought to represent the book and Roy's advance was a million dollars.

Its reception was exhilarating, Roy recalls – people loved the book, and hated it – but it was so controversial in India that she was charged with obscenity. As a relative explained to her, the love between a Christian and a Dalit (or Untouchable) depicted in the story was impossible because the two were not the same species.

It would be 20 years before Roy published another novel. In the intervening decades she supported environmental causes, campaigning against the building of a dam in the pristine Narmada river valley, and worked to help the Muslim population in Kashmir.

Roy remains a provocateur, an impassioned environmentalist and a puckish public figure determined to be a thorn in the side of India's governing class.

This memoir teems with irreverent humour and acerbic, often brilliant insights. Describing how carefully her friend the late philosopher John Berger listened as she read from a draft of her second novel, she notes that, "I don't think that stillness, that quality of attention, is even possible in digital-age humans, who suckle on mobile phones from the moment they're born."

The book's front and back covers show a mature Roy smiling at an image of her younger self, who is smoking and looking glamorous. Mother Mary is as much about Roy's development as about Mary Roy herself – an "unaffectionate iron angel," who shaped her daughter's path for ill and for good.

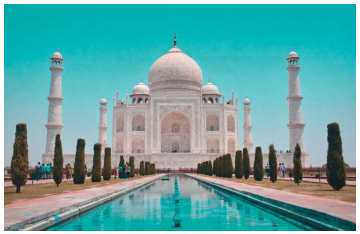
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The iconic Taj Mahal in Agra

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From the snowy peaks of the Himalayas in the north to the palm-lined beaches in the south, India is full of things to see and do.

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No trip to India is complete without seeing the Taj Mahal, one of the most famous landmarks in the world. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, this white marble monument in Agra is a true symbol of love.

The building is set on the river among beautifully laid-out gardens, its white marble designed to reflect the changing moods of the sky. This unique effect makes it just as incredible at sunrise as it is at sunset.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it's a moment you'll never forget.

● **Cruise Kerala's Backwaters**

For a slower pace, head to Kerala. Relax on this web of lakes, lagoons, and rivers surrounded by towering trees and lush green foliage.

These boats, once used to carry grain, are now cosy floating homes. Dine on freshly cooked local dishes, watch fishermen cast their nets, and fall asleep to the sound of lapping water under the stars.

● **Experience the Ganges River**

Varanasi is India's spiritual heart, and life revolves around the holy Ganges. Wake early and head to the river at dawn. As the sun rises, priests chant, candles float, and locals bathe in the river to wash away sins.

From the steps of the ghats, you'll see the city's colourful palaces, temples, and ashrams rising behind you.

● **Immerse yourself in the culture**

India's forts are living stories of kings, queens, and empires past. In Delhi, the Red Fort has towering red sandstone walls and carvings, while in Agra, the colossal Agra Fort sits on the banks of the Yamuna River.

Built by Emperor Akbar in 1565, Agra Fort was once the heart of the Mughal Empire. Inside its 21-metre-high walls, you'll find palaces, mosques, marble halls, and gardens.

● **Spot tigers in Ranthambore**

If wildlife is more your thing, Ranthambore National Park is a must. It's one of the best places to spot the famous Bengal tiger. Jump into a 4x4 jeep and journey through jungle, lakes, and ancient ruins.

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Spot Bengal tigers in Ranthambore National Park

No trip to India is complete without seeing the Taj Mahal, one of the most famous landmarks in the world.

Our verdict?

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Biography

From guerilla to supreme leader of most secretive state



FOREVER PRESIDENT
Michael J Seth
Reaktion, €23

NJ McGarrigle

A biography stating that "information is often difficult to obtain" and that "much, therefore, remains a mystery" would normally cause concern in a reader. But when it's based on the founding father of the hermetically sealed North Korean state, then usual rules do not apply.

Forever President: Kim Il Sung by Michael J Seth is even-handed, elucidative, streamlined; and it would have to be to some extent, as the author admits how challenging it is in writing about Kim Il Sung's life.

"The state he did so much to bring about is the most closed, most secretive in the world, and it is especially secretive about the ruling elite," writes Seth, an historian specialising in Korea at James Madison University, Virginia.

He focuses on the public life and times of Kim Il Sung and the book is not diminished by this. It covers a geographically and culturally complicated childhood, Sung's early days as a guerrilla fighting colonial Japanese forces in the 1930s, to his dramatic rise in becoming leader of North Korea for close to half a century until his death in 1994.

All in a trim 250 pages, making it an ideal entry point for anyone wishing a better understanding of one of the world's strangest nations.

Kim Il Sung perfected the idea of the totalitarian state and remained entrenched until the end when other communist nations shifted ideologies. His dictatorship also engendered the cult of his family as supreme rulers, which of course persists with his grandson Kim Jong Un ruling the pariah state as successor to his father Kim Jong Il.



Sealed state – Kim Il Sung in 1980

And yet it wasn't always meant to be like this, perhaps, Seth documents when man-of-the-people and garrulous Kim Il Sung first became leader of the Soviet zone of Korea in 1945, he had ambitions of making his country one of the most progressive and modern in the world.

The country's partition in 1948 made these plans naturally more difficult, with North Korea consequently heavily dependent on the Soviet Union and China for economic and military support.

The gradual decline of the former's communism and the latter's tilt towards western markets resulted in Kim Il Sung becoming increasingly isolated, turning his country inwards while burnishing the supernatural aura of his family and indoctrinating North Koreans. Reunification declarations and supposed threats from imperial forces always proved failsafes to rally a beleaguered people amidst a stagnating economy, potential famine, and political purges.

Seth points to the remarkable fact that Kim Il Sung "uniquely among modern dictators carefully planned for his succession, and the system and cult he created and the family that it centres on still rules unchallenged more than 30 years after his death".

North Korea is fascinating and looks certain to remain a cynosure of international affairs for years. It is, as Seth says, "one of history's starkest examples of how political leadership can impact a society". And still does.

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Places



Soft days – the garden at Villa Le Barone

Tuscan bucolic bliss is the holiday of dreams

I prefer the music of crickets and cuckoos calling to each other, instead of raging nightlife, writes **Dónal Lynch**

There are many ways one notices ageing. The feeling that pop music has gotten so much worse. The sense that the gardaí are recruiting children. The suspicion that the only major change ahead is some form of decay. For me, however, a more hopeful sign that I have moved into a different phase of life is in the holidays I choose.

During those decades when I was awake almost the entire time, there had to be a city or a resort, ideally with a beach and definitely with a raging nightlife. The zenith of travel in those years was probably a moment at a festival on Fire Island, off the coast of New York, watching a laser light show play across the dawn clouds as the crowds danced on the beach below.

A quarter of a century later, travel priorities having changed entirely, I flash back to that moment as I walk along a tree-lined country road in Tuscany at dusk. Instead of a thumping bass beat, there is an orchestra of crickets, frogs and cuckoos calling to each other across the gloaming. And there is another, quieter light show unfolding.

Fireflies, in their thousands, illuminate the hedgerows and vineyards. The entire countryside seems to glitter with some strange fairytale strobe. Our phones won't capture it. We just have to watch, dumbfounded by the beauty, storing the memory for the deathbed.

The enchantment is relentless in Tuscany. We stay in an ivy-covered old mansion, Villa Le Barone (*villalebarone.com*), near the town of Panzano, in Chianti. The building, as far from an anonymous chain hotel as is it possible to get, is steeped in heritage. Going back to the Middle Ages it was the seat of a baronetcy, hence its name.

During the Renaissance the tower of the original building was converted into a villa with its own agricultural estate. After World War I, the Marchesa Maria Bianca Viviani Della Robbia managed Villa Le Barone as a wine, olive oil estate and classic Tuscan farm.

In the 1960s the current owners, Corso and Jacqueline – aka the count and countess Aloisi de Larderel – moved from Paris to Tuscany to begin running the country home, which had been owned by Corso's cousin, as a hotel.

They still live at the property, on the other side of a little vegetable garden from the main house, and their presence, as well as the friendliness of the staff, give myself and my partner the feeling of being rich little boys, waiting out some distant war, while being tended to by kindly nannies.

Our 'war', is of course, just everyday life. Like most people now we fall into our week away with work worries and the oppressiveness of digital connection grabbing at our ankles like the monsters of nightmares.

> *The shock of Italy is how excellent its casual fare is*

It takes quite a few days before we begin to shake ourselves free and every moment thereafter we begin to smell the roses (not a figure of speech, there are actual roses just outside) and notice something new about the sheer loveliness of our surroundings. The orange and lemon trees by the front door of the house; the infinity pool where you can swim against a backdrop of church bells and rolling hills.

Continued on next page

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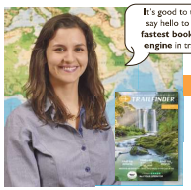
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Continued from previous page

Once you've entered this dream-like state of appreciation, you look with pity on those who still remain in their own world; the woman mesmerised by her laptop in a drawing room full of old books; the man still competitively using his app to count steps on a hike across the meadows; the girl harvesting her afternoon by the pool for Instagram.

As you move through Tuscan country you realise they've managed the wonderful trick of combining agricultural land with natural habitats. Forests run right up to the edge of vineyards. Free range pigs snuffle for truffles in wooded glades while nearby goats snack on wildflowers.

It makes you understand how unnecessary it is that so much of our so-called Emerald Isle is actually an ecological desert.

We know we can't do pasta like the Italians and that we couldn't think of anything better to do with their music than use it in ice cream ads and world cup anthems, but are we doing their wine wrong as well? To drink in Chianti is to realise that we may as well be slugging antifreeze from our supermarket "Italians" and overpriced house reds at home. Two glasses and you have what in Kerry is called a ceannin.

Here, you can swig the Chianti Classico like you're partying with Bacchus himself, and there isn't a trace of grumpiness or fuzzy-headedness the next day.



The big shop – local food is as spectacular as you'd expect

We visit a vineyard where the sales pitch is practised and flawless: get them pissed on samples and watch them order several cases to have sent home. The planned post-holiday detox quickly has a clause inserted: "Unless the wine beats us home."

The food is as spectacular as you would expect, with the caveat that Tuscan menus tend to be quite heavy on beef – a typical dish is peposa, a kind of peppered beef stew – and it's unusual to see a fish course.

The Villa Le Barone has a very competitively priced dinner menu with a superb salad bar filled with delectable antipasti.

In the towns dotted around the region, including nearby Panzano, there are great options. If you want to fight the crowds you can go to Dario Cecchini's Butcher Shop which featured on Netflix's *Chef's Table*, but Ristorante Oltre Il Giardino has a more relaxed vibe and a terrace which overlooks the nearby hills, and at the Michelin-mentioned Osteria Le Panzanelle in nearby Radda I had a savoury cheesy crepe of unsurpassed decadence.

But, while you can pay for great food anywhere, the real shock of Italy is how excellent its cheap and casual fare is, even at Pisa airport, which we fly in and out of, the pizza makes a mockery of the sludgy slices you'd get in a similar setting anywhere else.

Tuscany is a kind of oasis of sensible driving within Italy. As you walk along the dirt roads, passing cars slow to a crawl to avoid sending pebble skittering up at you from the tires. Once you're back on the "main" roads that connect it to other regions, however, things quickly become a bit more white knuckle. By the time we dropped the car back we were spent of adrenaline and grateful to be alive.

We committed what many would consider the unforgivable sin of not taking day trips to either Florence or Siena but not even the prospect of seeing the David with our own eyes could wrench us from bucolic bliss to line up with crowds of tourists on hot city streets.

I served my time in cities, working through a tedious checklist of "sights." The Roaring 40s are about what Keats called "drowsy noons/And evenings steeped in honeyed indolence". Or as I like to think of it; being a tourist on my own terms.

GETTING THERE

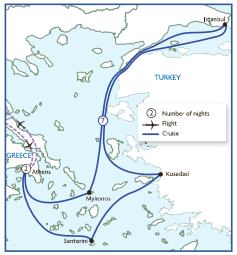
- **Dónal flew to Pisa with Ryanair; flights from €35. *ryanair.com***
- **From there you can rent a car to travel through Tuscany for approximately €400 per week.**
- **Dónal stayed at Villa Le Barone; rooms from €351. For further details, visit *villalebarone.com* or email *info@villalebarone.com***

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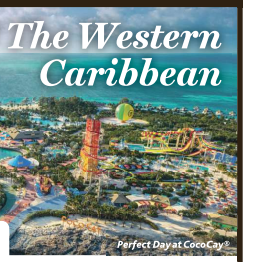
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Television

Don't miss this

THE LATE LATE SHOW
FRIDAY, RTÉ ONE, 9.35PM
What has happened to the chat show? With genre giants Graham Norton and Jonathan Ross off our screens, and Tommy Tiernan only appearing in repeats, it's up to Patrick Kielty to keep it going.

After taking a summer break, he's back with a new series of the evergreen *Late Late Show*, his third run as its frontman after taking over from Ryan Tubridy.

As regular viewers will probably be aware, the programme's return comes a week later than usual, with experts speculating it's due to some uncertainty surrounding Kielty's involvement following the announcement of the breakdown of his 13-year marriage to fellow TV presenter Cat Deeley.

However, RTÉ has confirmed he'll be in charge, stating, "Patrick will be joined by a host of special guests each Friday night in front of a live studio audience."

So it seems the format isn't changing, which is a relief. But then again, after 63 years of success, there's no need to make alterations. So cheers Patrick, and here's to plenty more entertaining evenings.


Patrick Kielty hosts another run of 'The Late Late Show'

Sunday

FREDDIE FLINTOFF'S FIELD OF DREAMS: ULTIMATE TEST
BBC ONE, 8.10PM
The latest series sees Flintoff expand his vision. He's hoping he can change more teenage lives by getting them playing cricket for teams in Liverpool and Manchester. He also sets up his first all-female squad in Blackpool.

THE TRAITORS IRELAND
RTÉ ONE, 9.30PM
The faithfuls are under more fire from the traitors at Slane Castle. Don't forget to watch spin-off show *Uncloaked* at 10.30pm. The fun continues on Monday and Tuesday.

THE WEDDING PLANNER
FILM (2001) RTÉ2, 9.30PM
Likeable romcom starring Jennifer Lopez as the titular character. She's usually unlucky in love, but thinks that's changed when she meets a charming man (Matthew McConaughey), only to discover she's been hired to arrange his nuptials.

DEF LEPPARD: RADIO 2 IN THE PARK
BBC TWO, 10.50PM
After watching highlights from the second day of performances at Hylands Park in Chelmsford, stay tuned for a set from the Sheffield-born rockers.

Monday

NATIONWIDE
RTÉ ONE, 7PM
Anne Cassin celebrates the 170th anniversary of Cork Opera House by exploring its history and hearing from performers and audience members who all have some amazing stories to tell.

JAMIE: EAT YOURSELF HEALTHY
CHANNEL 4, 8PM
Jamie Oliver is out to boost our bone health with a recipe containing vitamin D and calcium – seared tuna with wholegrain rice and a kimchi sauce.

DISASTER AT SEA: THE PIPER ALPHA STORY
BBC TWO, 9PM
The final edition focuses on what happened at the Cullen Inquiry and its aftermath. Those who took part discuss their disappointment at the fact that, despite damning evidence, no criminal charges have ever been brought.

THE WIFE
FILM (2017) TG4, 9.30PM
Glenn Close is on fine form in a compelling drama about a woman who realises she's wasted her own literary talent by supporting her writer husband. Jonathan Pryce and Max Irons are among the supporting cast.

Tuesday

SCANNAL
RTÉ ONE, 7PM
Insight into the events of August 2020 when, amid tightening of Covid restrictions, members of the Oireachtas Golf Society planned a gathering at Clifden in Co Galway. After the news was leaked, a scandal erupted that would dominate the headlines.

DANNY DYER: THE WAR ON MEN
VIRGIN MEDIA ONE, 9PM
The actor investigates masculinity in the 21st century by exploring mental-health issues and the impact toxic influencers can have on impressionable minds.

LIFE AND DEATH ROW
RTÉ2, 9.30PM
Three-part documentary in which cameras follow the efforts to save prisoner Ivan Cantu from execution: he spent 20 years protesting his innocence after being convicted of two murders.

CLEMENCY
FILM (2019) BBC TWO, 12AM
An experienced prison governor's bond with a Death Row inmate puts a strain on her ability to do her job, particularly as she isn't convinced of his guilt. Thought-provoking drama starring Alfre Woodard.


Anna Cassin delves into the past in 'Nationwide'


Masculinity is in the spotlight in 'Danny Dyer: The War on Men'

Television



Ipswich Town forward Sammie Szmodics will be keen to get on the scoresheet when the Republic of Ireland travel to Armenia on Tuesday

Film of the week

TOOTSIE
(1982) FRIDAY, RTÉ ONE, 11.15PM
For years, Dustin Hoffman was a struggling New York actor until, at the age of 30, he landed the star-making lead in *The Graduate*.

He then gained a reputation – wrongly or rightly – for being brilliant but difficult on set. As a result, he was perfect casting as Michael Dorsey, a struggling New York actor whose demanding on-set nature has made him impossible to employ. Some experts have even said Hoffman was the model for the character.

Whatever the truth, he delivers one of his most iconic performances in this comedy as Dorsey, who poses as a middle-aged woman to land a daytime soap role. The character is a big hit, and Dorsey's life becomes increasingly difficult as he tries to keep up the pretence, particularly as he's fallen for a co-star (Jessica Lange) whose father (Charles Durning) has taken a shine to his female alter ego.

Some of the issues raised, involving sexual harassment and gender, remain relevant, while a hilarious Bill Murray appearance also makes it a must-see.



Who's that girl? Dustin Hoffman in 'Tootsie'

Sport highlights

WOMEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP
TODAY, RTÉ2, 2PM
Ireland are already through to the quarter-finals, but their final group match is a difficult one – it sees them take on reigning champions New Zealand in Brighton.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIER FOR FIFA WORLD CUP
TUESDAY, RTÉ2, 4.30PM
Hot on the heels of last Saturday's match against Hungary in Dublin, the Republic of Ireland make the trip to Armenia, where a win against the minnows would boost Heimir Hallgrimsson's men's chances of qualifying.

FAI CUP LIVE
FRIDAY, RTÉ2, 7PM
Holders Drogheda take on double-chasing Shamrock Rovers in a quarter-final encounter at Sullivan & Lambe Park.

SACAR NA MBAN BEO
SATURDAY, TG4, 3.45PM & 7.15PM
Máire Treasa Ní Cheallaigh hosts coverage of both semi-finals in the FAI Women's Cup, as Bohemians face Treaty United, and Shamrock Rovers tackle Athlone.

Wednesday

NEVEN'S ULSTER FOOD TOUR
RTÉ ONE, 8.30PM
Neven Maguire heads to Armagh, where he receives a guided tour of the local observatory. He also samples an ice-cream sandwich and goes on a cider-tasting trip. From there, a visit to a restaurant sourcing all its food from within 15 miles of its front door beckons.

BEAST
FILM (2022) RTÉ2, 9.30PM
Idris Elba heads the cast as a recently widowed father who tries to cheer up his teenage daughters by taking them to a South African wildlife reserve. However, a rogue lion has the family in its hungry sights. Sharlto Copley, Leah Jeffries and Iyana Halley co-star.

DE VALERA'S IRELAND
RTÉ ONE, 9.35PM
David McCullagh continues his in-depth profile of Éamon de Valera, who dominated Irish life and remains an important figure 50 years on from his death aged 92.

FAMILIES LIKE OURS
TG4, 10.40PM
The concluding part of the Danish drama begins in Bucharest, where Laura is busy making a new life for herself. However, she longs for family and home, particularly Elias, whose fate remains unknown.

Thursday

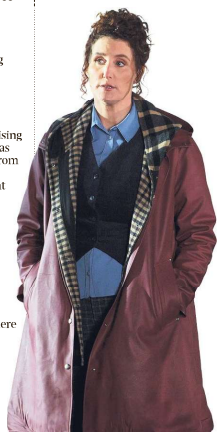
CHEAP IRISH HOMES
RTÉ ONE, 7PM
Maggie Molloy and Tadhg Casey are in Co Wexford to meet retiree Deirdre Ní Shuibhne, who is hoping to find a property in which she can live that is also suitable to house the bakery and coffee shop she is planning to run with her daughter.

GLÚIN Z
TG4, 8PM
A new four-part social affairs documentary focuses on the rising cost of living, an issue which has had a deep impact on people from all walks of life. Among those discussing the issue is a student living in a van and a woman who can't find a job.

GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES
FILM (1953) BBC FOUR, 8PM
Listen out for some memorable songs in Howard Hawks' musical. Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell play showgirls en route to Paris, where they hope to land themselves a pair of wealthy husbands.

THE GAME
VIRGIN MEDIA ONE, 9PM
Huw's suspicions about Patrick grow after he links him to a murder victim.

Carol (Bronagh Waugh) has personal and professional worries to deal with in 'Ridley'



Friday

THE HAGGIS HUNTERS – OUR LIVES
BBC ONE, 8PM
Cameras follow four families of butchers desperate for success as they prepare to do battle at the prestigious World Haggis Championship. Will any of them win, or will another team steal their thunder and lift the trophy?

RIDLEY
VIRGIN MEDIA ONE, 9PM
Carol's concerns about her son Jack may distract her from her and her mentor Ridley's latest case, which involves the shooting of a man during an illegal rave on a building site.

BANDERA BANDITS
FILM (1972) TG4, 9.05PM
Lively spaghetti western from master of the genre, Sergio Corbucci. A lawman is obsessed with bringing to justice a Robin Hood-style pair of outlaws who give away their loot to the poor and needy. Tomas Milian, Susan George and Telly Savalas star.

MITCHELL AND WEBB ARE NOT HELPING
CHANNEL 4, 10PM
The duo's comedy sketches this week involve the world's most shallow TV game-show and the story behind a 1970s pop classic.

Saturday

THE BOGEY MEN – TEE TIME
TG4, 1.05PM
Podcast presenters Jonny MacCann and Michael Style bring their passion for golf to TV while playing amazing courses and meeting friends across the country.

BLENHEIM: BRITAIN'S GREATEST PALACE
RTÉ2, 8PM
New series taking viewers behind the scenes at the Unesco World Heritage Site in Oxfordshire, which was the birthplace and ancestral home of British wartime leader Winston Churchill.

IRON MAIDEN NIGHT
BBC TWO, FROM 9PM
An evening dedicated to the rockers begins with a chance to see them in concert in 2008. That's followed by the documentary *Iron Maiden: Flight 666* at 10pm.

MY LEFT FOOT
FILM (1989) RTÉ2, 10.35PM
Daniel Day-Lewis won his first Oscar for his extraordinary portrayal of Christy Brown in Jim Sheridan's biopic. It charts how young Christy was initially dismissed due to having cerebral palsy before going on to become a renowned cultural figure. Brenda Fricker also bagged an Academy Award for her role as his mother.

Sunday September 7

RTÉ1

6.00 **EuroNews 7.20 Teleshopping 7.55 10 Things to Know About** (T) **8.25 Casualty** (T) **9.25 Father Brown** (T) **10.15 Mass** (T) **12.00 Neven's Ulster Food Tour** (T) **12.30 Live Irish Open Golf** Coverage of the fourth and final day. (T) **1.00 RTÉ News** (T) **1.10 Live Irish Open Golf** Further coverage of the fourth and final day. (T) **5.40 Nuacht 5.50 RTÉ News With ISL 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 RTÉ News** (T) **6.30 Dolphins – Wonders Of The Ocean** Part two of two. (T)
7.30 **Home of the Year** A look at homes in Co Carlow and Dublin.
8.00 **Fair City** Erica allows herself to get closer to Philip.
8.30 **Keys to My Life** Celebrities reveal how certain places have shaped their lives.
9.00 **RTÉ News**
9.30 **The Traitors Ireland** The traitors continue to wreak havoc on the faithfuls at Slane Castle. In this edition, there is a mission which will test ethics and powers of deception.
10.35 **The Traitors Ireland Uncloaked** Host Kevin McGahern and celebrity guests assess the latest betrayals.
11.00 **Dermot Bannon's Super Spaces** Dermot travels around Ireland to visit a variety of impressive homes, from a small successful coffee business in Dublin to a renovated farmhand's cottage in Co Kerry.
12.10 **Hidden Assets** (T) **1.10 Silent Witness** (T) **2.15 Alice & Jack** (T) **3.05 EuroNews** Headlines.

RTÉ2

6.00 **EuroNews 8.00 RTÉ Kids 10.20 Home and Away** (T) **11.20 An Hour Behind** (2017) FILM Romantic comedy, starring Emily Rose and Barry Watson. ★★ (T) **1.00 Wild France** (T) **2.00 Women's Rugby World Cup** New Zealand v Ireland (Kick-off 2.45pm). Coverage of the final match in Pool C, held at Amex Stadium in Brighton. (T) **5.35 Earth's Great Seasons** (T) **6.35 Hitler's Gold** The hunt for the Nazi criminals. Last in series. (T)
7.35 **Asia** Animals that live in Asia's deserts and dry grasslands, including the Gobi bear, one of the rarest animals on Earth who communicates by leaving its scent on ancient trees.
8.35 **Inside the Four Seasons: Park Lane** A look at the festive activities taking place around the Four Seasons Hotel London at Park Lane. Documentary going behind the scenes of the five-star hotel. Last in series.
9.30 **The Wedding Planner** (2001) FILM A single woman struggles to keep it together when she is hired to organise the wedding for the man of her dreams. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConaughey. ★★
11.25 **Home Rescue: The Big Fix** In Dublin, the team helps Ann O'Malley sort out her cluttered three-bed semi in Clondalkin.
12.25 **Super Surgeons: A Chance at Life** Last in series. (T) **1.20 Suspect** (T) **1.50 Invisible Boys** (T) **2.30 EuroNews**

Virgin Media One

6.30 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** (T) **7.20 The Chase Australia 9.00 Ireland AM** (T) **12.00 John and Lisa's Weekend Kitchen 1.00 Cooking with the Stars** (T) **2.00 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport 2.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars 3.30 Celebrity Catchphrase** (T) **4.30 The Chase Celebrity Special** *A Good Morning Britain* special of the quiz show. (T) **5.30 News at 5.30** (T)
6.00 **Vera** DCI Stanhope is called in when a man who ended up on the streets after leaving the army is found dead, and discovers secrets from his past and betrayal in the present.
8.00 **Ant & Dec's Limitless Win** Joe and sister-in-law Jo are the first to take on the Limitless Ladder, followed by Steve and son-in-law Jordan.
9.00 **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** New series. Big-prize quiz hosted by Jeremy Clarkson in which another line-up of contestants answer questions that could change their lives.
10.05 **Noel Edmonds' Kiwi Adventure** Noel and Liz face new challenges as they fight to turn their business around, and the TV veteran's love for cars and his legacy project are put to the test. Last in series.
11.05 **World's Greatest Hotels** A peek behind the scenes at the planet's most iconic establishments.
12.00 **Ridley** Crime drama series. (T) **5.25 Alphabetical** (T)

TG4

6.00 **Cúla 4 10.10 Timpeall na Tíre 10.40 AFL Aussie Rules na mBan 1.57 An Aimsir Láithreach 2.00 GAA Beo** Live coverage of the GAA Club Championships. **3.45 GAA Beo** Live coverage of the GAA Club Championships. **5.35 Iománaíocht Hollywood** Part one of two. **6.35 Geantraí 6.57 An Aimsir Láithreach**
7.00 **Nuacht TG4**
7.15 **Tom Munnelly – Fear na n-amhrán** The life and work of song collector Tom Munnelly, who had the foresight to amass over 20,000 Irish songs from the aural and oral tradition.
8.30 **Ceolaireacht** Doireann Ní Ghlacáin explores Irish music in Co Leitrim. Last in series.
9.30 **Brendan Gleeson's Farewell to Hughes'** The unassuming pub's lasting contribution to traditional music in Ireland.
10.40 **Transatlantic Sessions – Togha agus Rogha** Highlights from two decades of the music show, featuring stars from Ireland, the UK and the US, including Sarah Jarosz, Alison Krauss and Karen Matheson.
11.38 **An Aimsir Láithreach**
11.40 **Cumasc: Seisiúin sa Black Gate** With musicians Brighde Chaimbeul and Jack Talty.
12.15 **Pogrom Bhéal Feirste 1.15 Ceol na Talún 1.45 Abair Amhrán 2.00 Nuacht TG4 2.15 Ceolaireacht 3.15 Cumasc: Seisiúin sa Black Gate 3.40 Iománaíocht Hollywood 4.35 Timpeall na Tíre 5.00 France 24**

Virgin Media Two

6.10 **Moneyball** (T) **7.00 Tipping Point** (T) **10.00 Wild Britain 11.00 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (T) **12.00 Paddington Station 24/7 1.00 The Finish Line** (T) **2.00 Unbeatable** (T) **3.00 Think Tank 5.00 Storage Hoarders 6.00 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (T)
7.00 **European Qualifiers for FIFA World Cup Live** Germany v Northern Ireland (Kick-off 7.45pm). All the action from both teams' second FIFA World Cup Group A qualifier, held at RheinEnergieStadion in Cologne, Germany. Have qualified for every World Cup finals in history apart from the one they were banned from entering in 1950. In contrast, Northern Ireland have only qualified on three occasions, and the most recent of those was back in 1986. The most recent matches between the teams came in qualifying for UEFA Euro 2020, when Germany won 2-0 at Windsor Park and 6-1 in Frankfurt.
10.00 **The Jonathan Ross Show** The host is joined in the studio by Pierce Brosnan, Ben Stiller, Adam Scott, Britt Lower, John Bishop and Judi Love. With a musical performance from AJ Tracey and Jorja Smith.
11.00 **The Graham Norton Show** The host catches up with Bruce Springsteen, Kristin Scott Thomas, Matthew McConaughey. Plus, Sam Smith chats and performs *Diamonds*.
12.05 **World's Greatest Hotels**

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (T) **9.00 Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg** (T) **10.00 Great North Run 2025** Live coverage of the half-marathon. (T) **2.00 BBC News** (T) **2.15 Songs of Praise** (T) **2.50 Escape to the Country** (T) **3.20 The Addams Family 2** (2021) FILM Animated family comedy, with the voices of Oscar Isaac and Charlize Theron. ★★★ (T) **4.45 Parenthood** (T) **5.45 BBC News** (T) **6.00 BBC Newsline** (T) **6.10 Countryfile** (T)
7.10 **The Chronicles of Armagh** Autumn's clear skies bring celestial wonders for the astronomers to enjoy.
7.30 **Live International Football** Germany v Northern Ireland (Kick-off 7.45pm). Stephen Watson presents all the action from both teams' second FIFA World Cup Group A qualifier, held at RheinEnergieStadion in Cologne, Germany.
10.00 **BBC News**
10.25 **BBC Newsline**
10.30 **Tommy: The Good. The Bad. The Fury** Tommy heads to Budapest to close the deal for the fight, but there's a hitch.
11.00 **Tommy: The Good. The Bad. The Fury** Tommy faces his comeback fight in Budapest. Last in series.
11.30 **The Crime I Can't Forget** Detectives solve a cold case over three decades later.
12.30 **The Women's Football Show** (T) **1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead** (T) **1.25 BBC News** The latest headlines. (T)

BBC2

6.20 **Take a Hike** (T) **6.50 Christine's Garden** (T) **7.20 Glorious Gardens from Above** (T) **8.05 The Best Dishes Ever** (T) **8.40 Countryfile** (T) **9.35 Beechgrove Garden** (T) **10.05 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (T) **11.35 The Great British Sewing Bee** (T) **12.35 Witness for the Prosecution** (1957) FILM Courtroom drama, starring Charles Laughton and Tyrone Power. ★★★★★ (T) **2.30 Live Women's Rugby World Cup 2025** New Zealand v Ireland (Kick-off 2.45pm). (T) **5.00 Burghley Horse Trials** Live coverage of the event in Stamford, Lincolnshire. (T) **6.30 Suzie Lee's Great Food Made Simple** (T) **6.40 Paula McIntyre's Hamely Kitchen USA** In Maine. (T)
7.10 **Antiques Roadshow**
8.10 **Freddie Flintoff's Field of Dreams: Ultimate Test** New series. Freddie creates several new cricket teams of teenagers across England's northwest.
9.10 **King & Conqueror** Harold fights for his family's rights.
10.00 **Radio 2 in the Park: Sunday Highlights** With Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Olly Murs, Anastacia, Soul II Soul and David Gray.
10.50 **Def Leppard: Radio 2 in the Park** The rock band perform.
12.05 **ODI Cricket Highlights** (T) **12.50 Sign Zone: Parenthood** (T) **1.50 Sign Zone: The Guest** (T) **2.50 Sign Zone: Here We Go** (T) **3.20 Sign Zone: Chess Masters: The Endgame** (T) **3.50 This is BBC Two** (T)

Channel 4

6.15 **Cheers** (T) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (T) **8.25 Frasier** (T) **10.00 Sunday Brunch** (T) **1.00 The Simpsons** (T) **2.25 Four in a Bed** (T) **4.55 Grand Designs** (T) **6.00 Channel 4 News** (T) **6.30 Formula 1 Italian Grand Prix Highlights** Steve Jones presents action from the 16th round of the season. (T)
8.00 **Educating Yorkshire** The pressure of secondary school starts to get real for Year 10 Casey, who is dyslexic, a condition that has left her feeling insecure, self-conscious and different.
9.00 **The Inheritance** The players must fulfil the final orders from The Deceased's farm shop and prepare an order for luxury VIP hampers, complete with homemade sausages and freshly churned butter.
10.00 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics gather in front of their TVs once more to give their thoughts on the week's programming highlights.
11.00 **Legends of the Fall** (1994) FILM The lives of three brothers and their father are thrown into turmoil when the youngest brings his fiancée home to live with them. Period drama, starring Brad Pitt. ★★★★
1.30 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) **2.20 The Fear Clinic: Face Your Phobia** (T) **3.15 The Simpsons** (T) **4.55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (T) **5.50 Countdown** Game show. (T)



Sam Monaghan, 'Live Women's Rugby World Cup 2025', BBC2, 2.30pm

Radio

RTÉ Radio 1
6.00 Rising Time 8.00 World Report 8.30 Bowman 9.00 Sunday Miscellany 10.00 Sunday with Miriam 11.00 Brendan O'Connor 1.00 This Week 2.00 Sunday Sport 6.00 The History Show 7.00 Poetry, People 7.30 Giant At My Shoulder 8.00 Drama on One 9.00 The Rolling Wave 10.00 South Wind Blows 11.00 Late Late 2.00 RTÉ Gold

RTÉ 2FM
6.00 2FM Overnight 7.00 Helen & Benny 9.00 Blathnaid Treacy 12.00 Demi & Mikey 3.00 Emma & Graham 6.00 Conor Behan 8.00 Beta Da Silva 10.00 Jenny Greene 12.00 2FM Cormac Battle 2.00 2FM Overnight

RTÉ lyric fm
7.00 Vlad Smishkewych 10.00 Hamilton Scores 1.00 Simon Delaney 4.00 Claudia Boyle 6.00 Shirley Keane 7.00 John Kelly 9.00 Ellen Cranitch 12.00 Lyric Through the Night

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta
8.00 Béal Maidine 10.00 Príomhscéalta na Nuachta 10.08 Cartlann Bhóthar na Léinsí 10.40 Focal Ar Fhocal 11.00 Aifreann an Domhnaigh 11.45 Togha agus Rogha 1.00 Nuacht a hAon 1.15 Togha agus Rogha 1.50 Spórt an Lae 6.00 Nuacht a Sé 6.30 Bimis ag Ceol 7.00 Éist Le Seo 8.00 An Braon Gaelach 9.00 Tequila Tire 11.00 Siúlach Scealach 12.00 Scoth na Seachtaine

Today FM
7.00 Music You Love 8.00 All Irish 9.00 Alison Curtis 12.00 Dara Quilty 4.00 Emma Nolan 7.00 Shelly Gray 10.00 Paula McSweeney 1.00 Overnight Music

Newstalk
7.00 Documentary and Drama on Newstalk 8.00 Clare McKenna 9.00 Mandy Johnston 10.00 Anton Savage 12.00 Jonathan McCrea 1.00 Off the Ball 2.00 Patrick Geoghegan 8.00 John Fardy 9.00 Jonathan McCrea 10.00 Best of the Anton Savage Show 11.00 Clare McKenna 12.00 Best of Newstalk

Radio 4
5.30 News Briefing 5.34 Shipping 5.43 Bells on Sunday 5.45 In Touch 6.00 News 6.05 Heart and Soul 6.35 On Your Farm 6.57 Weather 7.00 News 7.00 Papers 7.10 Sunday 7.54 Appeal 7.57 Weather 8.00 News 8.00 Papers 8.10 Worship 8.48 Witness History 8.58 Tweet of the Day 9.00 Broadcasting House 10.00 Reunion 11.00 Archers 12.15 Profile 12.30 Just a Minute 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World This Weekend 1.30 Student Predator: Surviving Zhenhao Zou 2.00 Gardeners' Question Time 2.45 Opening Lines 3.00 Drama 4.00 Bookclub 4.30 Nature Table 5.00 Witness History 5.10 En-Gulfed 5.54 Shipping 5.57 Weather 6.00 News 6.15 Pick of the Week 7.00 Archers 7.15 Cat Killer Detectives 7.45 Michael Mosley 8.00 Word of Mouth 8.30 Last Word 9.00 Money Box 9.25 Appeal 9.30 From Our Own Correspondent 9.59 Weather 10.00 Westminster Hour 11.00 What Happened to Counter-Culture? 11.30 Lucan Obsession 11.45 Short Works 12.00 News 12.15 Crossing Continents

Monday September 8

RTÉ1

6.00 **EuroNews 6.25 Teleshopping 7.30 Casualty** (T) **8.30 Doctors** (T) **9.40 The Drew Barrymore Show** (T) **10.30 The Kelly Clarkson Show** (T) **11.25 The Great British Sewing Bee** (T) **12.30 Shortland Street** (T) **1.00 RTÉ News** (T) **1.30 Home and Away** (T) **2.00 Neighbours** (T) **2.30 Fair City** (T) **3.40 Big Life Fix** (T) **4.40 The Coroner** (T) **5.40 Nuacht 5.55 RTÉ News With ISL 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 RTÉ News** (T)

7.00 **Nationwide** Celebrating 170 years of Cork Opera House.

7.30 **EastEnders** Ravi is pulled in for questioning by the police.

8.00 **Saol na Feirme** It's harvest time for David, a make-or-break moment for the year's crop. Last in the series.

8.30 **Cailini Comhraic** Christina discovers whether she's secured a spot on the Olympic team.

9.00 **RTÉ News**

9.35 **The Traitors Ireland** An explosive argument leaves the players reeling.

10.40 **The Traitors Ireland Uncloaked** Host Kevin McGahern and celebrity guests assess the latest betrayals.

11.10 **Keys to My Life** Celebrities reveal how certain places have shaped their lives.

11.45 **Kidnapped: The Chloe Ayling Story** Chloe questions whether MD will keep his word.

12.50 **Who Do You Think You Are?** (T) **1.55 Nationwide** (T) **2.25 The Kelly Clarkson Show 3.10 EuroNews** Latest headlines.

RTÉ2

6.00 **EuroNews 7.50 RTÉ Kids 4.30 The Simpsons** (T) **5.00 The Goldbergs** Comedy. (T) **5.30 The Big Bang Theory** Comedy series. (T) **6.00 Neighbours** (T) **6.30 Home and Away** (T)

7.00 **Foxes: Their Secret World** Part two of two. Steve Backshall takes another look at fox behaviour, watching the seven cubs cameras have been following since they were days old as they battle to establish their hierarchy.

8.00 **Big Little Journeys** In Madagascar, a Kirindy forest chameleon emerges from its egg and starts the journey of a lifetime to find a mate. Will she lay her eggs before time runs out? Last in the series.

9.00 **The Traitors Ireland Uncloaked** Host Kevin McGahern and celebrity guests assess the latest betrayals.

9.30 **Mix Tape** In 1989, Alison's home life goes from bad to worse as she takes on caring for Peter on top of trying to help her mother deal with her worsening alcoholism.

10.35 **First Dates** Charity worker Freddie, who's 27, is set up on a date with 22-year-old fashion buyer Rebecca. Meanwhile, 36-year-old army medic Lyn meets Steve, a 38-year-old ex-army engineer.

11.40 **Shortscreen** A girl sets out for revenge when her father leaves her mother.

12.05 **The Handmaid's Tale** (T) **1.05 Here We Go** (T) **1.40 Jerk** Comedy. (T) **2.10 EuroNews**

Virgin Media One

6.15 **The Six O'Clock Show** (T) **7.00 Ireland AM** (T) **10.00 This Morning** (T) **12.30 News at 12:30** (T) **1.00 The Chase** (T) **3.00 Loose Women** (T) **4.00 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** Documentary. **4.30 Judge Judy 5.30 News at 5.30** (T) **6.05 The Six O'Clock Show** Chat show. (T)

7.00 **News at 7**

7.30 **Emmerdale** Aaron tries to escape again.

8.00 **Coronation Street** David worries when he finds a pregnancy test in the bin.

9.00 **I Fought the Law** Ann channels her grief into putting pressure on the police for answers, while also battling to save her marriage from crumbling under the strain.

10.00 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit** The team is tasked to track down a suspect targeting tourists staying in hostels. The race is on to identify one woman's attacker. Starring Mariska Hargitay.

10.55 **The Game** Former detective Huw settles into retirement alongside his wife Alice, but never far from his mind is the case he failed to solve – that of the Ripton Stalker. Thriller, starring Jason Watkins.

11.55 **Ian Bailey: The Big Interview** Several years on from the murder of Sophie Toscan Du Plantier in west Cork in 1996, Colette Fitzpatrick sat down with suspect Ian Bailey, who died in 2024.

12.55 **Infiltre** Last in the series.

TG4

6.00 **Cúla 4 11.15 Ainmhithe Craiceáilte 11.40 Comhrá 12.10 The Wonder Years** (T) **12.40 Geantraí 1.10 The Golden Girls** (T) **1.35 Murder, She Wrote** (T) **2.30 Tom Mannelly – Fear na n-amhrán 3.40 Taste of Australia with Hayden Quinn** (T) **4.05 Viva Ceol Tíre 4.35 Shark Tank** (T) **5.27 An Aimsir Láithreach 5.30 Irish Paint Magic 6.00 The Golden Girls** (T) **6.30 The Wonder Years** (T) **6.57 An Aimsir Láithreach**

7.00 **Nuacht TG4**

7.30 **Ainmhithe na hÉireann** The lives of non-indigenous animals.

8.00 **GAA 2025** GAA highlights from Club Championships around the country.

9.00 **Glór Tíre: Rogha & Togha** Featuring performances by Jim Devine, Mike Denver, Brendan Shine, and Gerry Guthrie.

9.30 **The Wife** (2017) A woman reflects on her life with her husband after he is selected to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. Oscar-nominated drama, starring Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce. ★★★★

11.13 **An Aimsir Láithreach**

11.15 **Narcos: Mexico** Mexican and US authorities search in earnest for Amado. While in prison, Chapo makes moves to show he's the boss. Last in series.

12.30 **Marú inár Measc 1.30 Snugcheol 2.00 Nuacht TG4 2.30 Ainmhithe na hÉireann** Wildlife series. **3.00 GAA 2025 3.55 Bláth na hÓige 4.20 Wwoofáil 4.50 France 24**



Glenn Close, 'The Wife', TG4, 9.30pm

Radio

RTÉ Radio 1
5.30 Rising Time 7.00 Morning Ireland 9.00 Oliver Callan 10.00 Today with Claire Byrne 12.00 The Louise Duffy Show 1.00 News at One 1.45 Liveline 3.00 The Ray D'Arcy Show 4.30 Drivetime 7.00 Arena 8.00 The John Creedon Show 10.00 Mooney Goes Wild 11.00 Late Date 2.00 RTÉ Gold on RTÉ Radio 1

RTÉ 2FM
6.00 Carl, Roz & Aisling 9.00 Laura Fox 12.00 Tracy Clifford 3.00 Doireann Garrihy 6.00 2FM Game On 7.00 2FM New Music Show with Beta Da Silva 9.00 2FM Greene Room with Jenny Greene 11.00 2FM Alternative with Dan Hegarty 12.00 2FM Overnight

RTÉ lyric fm
7.00 Marty in the Morning 10.00 Niall Carroll 1.00 Liz Nolan 4.00 Lorcan Murray 7.00 John Kelly 9.00 Bernard Clarke 12.00 Lyric Through the Night

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta
7.00 Nead na Fuiseoige 8.00 Adhmhaidin 9.00 Priomhscéalta na Nuachta 9.15 Iris Aniar 10.15 Cuideachta Ceoil 10.55 Tuairisc Spóirt 11.00 Barrscéalta 12.00 Priomhscéalta na Nuachta 12.08 An Saol ó Dheas 1.00 Nuacht a hAon 2.00 Tuairisc Spóirt 2.05 Baile an Droichid 2.30 Cóisir Cheoil 5.00 Tús Áite 5.55 Tuairisc Spóirt 6.00 Nuacht a Sé 6.30 Fógraí an Lae 7.00 Ceol Binn ó na Beanna 9.00 An Bóthar go Nashville 11.00 An Taobh Tuathail 1.00 Scoth an Luain

Today FM
5.00 Music You Love 6.00 Ian Dempsey 9.00 Dave Moore 12.00 Louise Cantillon 2.00 Ray Foley 4.30 The Last Word 7.00 Paula McSweeney 10.00 Ciara Revlin 12.00 Overnight Music

Newstalk
6.00 Shane Beatty 6.30 Joe Lynam 7.00 Shane Coleman and Ciara Kelly 9.00 Pat Kenny 12.00 Andrea Gilligan 2.00 Seán Moncrieff 4.00 Kieran Cuddihy 7.00 Off the Ball 10.00 Tom Dunne 12.00 Best of Newstalk

Radio 4
5.00 News Briefing 5.04 Yesterday in Parliament 5.32 Weather 5.34 Shipping 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 6.00 Today 9.00 Start the Week 9.45 Cafe Hope 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 The Great Influencer Experiment 11.45 Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me 12.00 News 12.04 You and Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.45 The Fort 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Believe It! 2.45 Mrs Bridge 3.00 Great Lives 3.30 You're Dead to Me 4.00 Student Predator: Surviving Zhenzo Zou 4.30 The Kitchen Cabinet 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 Just a Minute 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row 8.00 Rethink 8.30 BBC Inside Science 9.00 Start the Week 9.45 Cafe Hope 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nesting 11.00 Blasts from the Megaphone 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News 12.30 Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me 12.48 Shipping 1.00 As BBC World Service

Virgin Media Two

6.15 **The Chase Australia 8.00 Tipping Point** (T) **9.00 The Chase** (T) **11.00 The Chase Australia 12.00 Harbour Cops** (T) **12.25 The Voice UK 2.05 Yes Chef** (T) **3.00 The Chase** (T) **4.00 Tipping Point** (T) **6.00 The Chase** (T)

7.00 **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** Airside officer Ian has a close shave out on the runway, while veteran Border Force officers Glen and Amarjit hunt down smuggled cargo.

7.35 **European Qualifiers for FIFA World Cup Live** Belarus v Scotland (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of both teams' second FIFA World Cup Group C qualifier, held at ZTE Arena in Zalaegerszeg, Hungary.

9.45 **The Real Housewives of Dubai** Caroline Brooks is feeling dismissed and judged by Sara – can Lesa resolve their issues by getting them to take part in a Jamaican dancehall battle?

10.45 **The Real Housewives of Dubai** A newly-married Caroline leaves husband Sergio behind to whisk the women away on a girls' trip to Nurai Island that is disrupted by a stray comment.

11.45 **The Real Housewives of Dallas** LeeAnne and D'Andra meet up to discuss their differences, Kary invites all the women on a girls' trip to Mexico, and D'Andra turns 50 and throws a rip-roaring party.

12.35 **The Real Housewives of New Jersey** Reality series. **1.30 My Mum, Your Dad USA**

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (T) **9.30 Morning Live** (T) **10.45 The Moment of Proof** (T) **11.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (T) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (T) **1.00 BBC News at One** (T) **1.35 BBC Newsline** (T) **1.45 BBC News at One** (T) **2.00 Clean It, Fix It** (T) **2.30 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes** (T) **3.00 Escape to the Country** (T) **3.45 The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) **4.30 The Answer Run** (T) **5.15 Pointless** Quiz show. (T) **6.00 BBC News at Six** (T) **6.30 BBC Newsline** (T)

7.00 **The One Show** With Angellica Bell and Roman Kemp.

7.30 **EastEnders** Rumours spread around the square following the dramatic events of Zoe's return.

8.00 **Spotlight** Global drugs cartels ferrying drugs into Great Britain and Europe via Ireland.

8.30 **Our Lives: Dolphin Town** Bottlenose dolphins at New Quay, Ceredigion.

9.00 **The Guest** Ria faces the police while trying to pick up the pieces with Lee – but that will mean cutting Fran off entirely.

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Newsline**

10.40 **True North: The Pleasure Boys** Strip group The Pleasure Boys return to Belfast for International Women's Day.

11.10 **Have I Got News for You**

11.40 **Stranded on Honeymoon Island** Reality dating show, presented by Davina McCall.

12.40 **Stranded on Honeymoon Island** (T) **1.40 BBC News** (T)

BBC2

6.30 **Bargain Hunt** (T) **7.15 The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) **8.00 Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow** (T) **9.00 BBC News** (T) **12.15 Politics Live** (T) **1.00 Impossible** (T) **1.45 Bridge of Lies** (T) **2.30 Unbeatable** (T) **3.15 Great British Menu** (T) **4.15 Yellowstone: The Blazing Summer** (T) **5.15 Flog It!** (T) **6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games** With Sian Gibson. (T) **6.30 Great Coastal Railway Journeys** (T)

7.00 **Global Eye** New series. A programme focusing on forensic journalism.

7.30 **Mastermind** The specialist subjects include Bob Mortimer and Eva Cassidy.

8.00 **Only Connect** Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts a first-round match as Doctors Matthews take on the Keyboard Warriors.

8.30 **University Challenge** Amol Rajan asks the questions in a first-round Oxbridge clash.

9.00 **Disaster at Sea: The Piper Alpha Story** The Cullen Inquiry reveals fatal errors and ignored warnings. Last in the series.

10.00 **Giorraíonn Beirt Bóthar** The team retraces the footsteps of the warrior Cú Chulainn.

10.30 **Newsnight**

11.00 **Hope and Glory** (1987) British World War II drama, starring Sebastian Rice-Edwards and Sarah Miles. ★★★★★

12.50 **Sign Zone: Countryfile** (T) **1.45 Sign Zone: Stranded on Honeymoon Island** (T) **2.45 Sign Zone: MasterChef** (T) **3.45 This is BBC Two** (T)

Channel 4

6.30 **The King of Queens** (T) **7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond** (T) **9.10 Frasier** (T) **11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) **12.05 Channel 4 News Summary** (T) **12.10 A New Life in the Sun** (T) **1.10 Car S.O.S** (T) **2.10 Countdown** (T) **3.00 A Place in the Sun** (T) **4.00 Help! We Bought a Village** (T) **5.00 Chateau DIY** (T) **6.00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses** Documentary series. (T)

7.00 **Channel 4 News**

8.00 **Jamie: Eat Yourself Healthy** Jamie Oliver serves up seared tuna with wholegrain rice and a tangy kimchi sauce.

9.00 **The Inheritance** The players must prepare the grounds for the famed Estate Festival, but a crucial instruction is misplaced.

10.00 **First Dates** Aspiring rapper Matt is romantically minded enough to present a bouquet of flowers to his date.

11.05 **Educating Yorkshire** The pressure of secondary school starts to get real for Year 10 Casey, who is dyslexic.

12.05 **The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice** (T) **1.05 Mitchell and Webb Are Not Helping** (T) **1.30 Travel Man: 48 Hours in Dublin** (T) **2.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) **2.45 American Refugee** (2021) Dystopian horror, starring Erika Alexander. ★★★ (T) **4.20 Kirstie's House of Craft** (T) **4.40 Hollyoaks Omnibus** (T) **5.50 Countdown** (T)

Tuesday September 9

RTÉ1

6.00 **EuroNews 6.40 Teleshopping 7.10 Casualty** (T) **8.10 Doctors** (T) **9.20 The Drew Barrymore Show** (T) **10.10 The Kelly Clarkson Show** (T) **11.05 The Great British Sewing Bee** (T) **12.15 Shortland Street** (T) **12.45 Telly Bingo** (T) **1.00 RTÉ News** (T) **1.30 Home and Away** (T) **2.00 Neighbours** (T) **2.30 How to Be Good with Money** (T) **3.00 EastEnders** (T) **3.40 Big Life Fix** (T) **4.40 The Coroner** (T) **5.40 Nuacht 5.55 RTÉ News With ISL 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 RTÉ News** (T)

7.00 **Scannal** A look back at the golf dinner that outraged the nation.

7.30 **EastEnders** Nigel and Phil go on a day trip to the countryside.

8.00 **Fair City** Erica's wedding nerves go from bad to worse when Teri shows up unannounced.

8.30 **Off Duty Chef: Bringing It Home** Mark Moriarty shares three recipes intended to combat the cold weather.

9.00 **RTÉ News**

9.35 **The Traitors Ireland** A shocking turn of events leaves the players unsure of who to believe. Presented by Siobhán McSweeney.

10.35 **Prime Time** In-depth analysis of current affairs.

11.15 **Call the Midwife**

12.20 **Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour** (T) **1.30 Prime Time** (T) **2.10 Telly Bingo** (T) **2.25 The Kelly Clarkson Show** (T) **3.05 EuroNews** Headlines.

RTÉ2

6.00 **EuroNews 7.50 RTÉ Kids 4.30 European Qualifier for Fifa World Cup** Armenia v Republic of Ireland (Kick-off 5pm). All the action from both teams' second Group F match, held at Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium. (T)

7.30 **Home and Away** Eden tries to get through to Remi.

8.00 **Gift from the Ice: Japan's Wild North** The wildlife of the Shiretoko National Park, on the northern tip of the Japanese peninsula, which is a little-known paradise for animals and birds.

9.00 **The Traitors Ireland Uncloaked** Kevin McGahern and guests assess the latest betrayals from the show.

9.30 **Life and Death Row** New series. Documentary following the campaign to take Dallas man Ivan Cantu off death row, having been sentenced to death in 2001 for the murder of his cousin and his cousin's fiance.

10.35 **The Traitors Ireland Uncloaked** Kevin McGahern and guests assess the latest betrayals.

11.05 **Grey's Anatomy** Jo and Link's wedding day arrives, along with some visitors.

12.00 **First Dates Hotel** (T) **1.00 Songs of Ireland** (T) **2.00 Christy Brown: Self Portrait** (T) **3.00 Home Rescue: The Big Fix** (T) **3.55 Cheap European Homes** (T) **4.20 Best Place to Be** (T) **4.50 Room to Improve** (T) **5.45 EuroNews** Headlines.

Virgin Media One

6.15 **The Six O'Clock Show** (T) **7.00 Ireland AM** (T) **10.00 This Morning** (T) **12.30 News at 12:30** (T) **1.00 The Chase** (T) **3.00 Loose Women** (T) **4.00 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport 4.30 Judge Judy** Real-life small-claims cases. **5.30 News at 5.30** (T) **6.05 The Six O'Clock Show** Chat show. (T)

7.00 **News at 7**

7.30 **Cocaine Cargo** A look back at the shocking story of the MV Matthew and the multi-agency operation that led to the largest cocaine seizure in Irish history.

8.00 **Cooking with the Stars** Emma Willis and Tom Allen host the grand final of the celebrity cooking contest as the three remaining stars take on their mentors' signature dishes. Last in series.

9.00 **Danny Dyer: How to Be a Man** Danny Dyer explores modern masculinity, asking what it means to be male in the 21st century and why so many young men are struggling with their mental health.

10.00 **The Tonight Show** Comment and analysis on the big stories of the day in Ireland and abroad with a panel of guests covering the key issues.

11.00 **The 1% Club** Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense.

12.00 **Vicky Phelan: The Big Interview** (T) **1.00 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 5.25 The Tonight Show** (T)

TG4

6.00 **Cúla 4 11.15 Ainmhithe Craiceáilte 11.40 Comhrá 12.10 The Wonder Years** (T) **12.40 Geantraí 1.10 The Golden Girls** (T) **1.40 Murder, She Wrote** (T) **2.35 Cúlfir 3.35 Taste of Australia with Hayden Quinn** (T) **4.05 Viva Ceol Tíre 4.35 Shark Tank** (T) **5.27 An Aimsir Láithreach 5.30 Éadaí SOS 6.00 The Golden Girls** (T) **6.30 The Wonder Years** (T) **6.57 An Aimsir Láithreach**

7.00 **Nuacht TG4**

7.30 **Ag Triall ar an Tobar** The stories of holy wells at Achill Island, Connemara and Ardmore, Co Waterford.

8.00 **Feirmeoirí** Joe Joyce's sheep win a prize and Pat Ó Flatharta brings his pigs to a meat factory.

8.30 **Baile** Sile Nic Chonaonaigh visits An Bóthar Buí in Co Galway. Last in series.

9.00 **Glór Tíre: Rogha & Togha** Performances on stage in the Quays Bar Music Hall.

9.30 **Oops le Daniel** Featuring performances by John McNicholl and Trudi Lalor.

10.30 **Better Call Saul** New series. Nacho runs for his life and Jimmy and Kim make a plan. Crime drama, with Bob Odenkirk.

11.33 **An Aimsir Láithreach**

11.35 **Fíorscéal** Researchers' new approach to disability.

12.35 **Hacks** (T) **1.10 An Klondike (Dominion Creek) 2.10 Nuacht TG4 2.40 Barragram 3.10 Opry le Daniel 4.05 Ag Triall ar an Tobar 4.30 Feirmeoirí 4.55 France 24**

Virgin Media Two

6.15 **The Chase Australia 8.00 Tipping Point** (T) **9.00 The Chase** (T) **11.00 The Chase Australia 12.00 Harbour Cops** (T) **12.25 The Voice UK 2.00 Yes Chef** (T) **3.00 The Chase** Martin, Dylan, Sonia and Karen take on one of the Chasers. (T) **4.00 Tipping Point** (T) **6.00 The Chase** Deepak, Lynn, Franky and Nick answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize. Bradley Walsh hosts. (T)

7.00 **European Qualifiers for FIFA World Cup Live** Serbia v England (Kick-off 7.45pm). All the action from the FIFA World Cup Group K match at Rajko Mitic Stadium. The teams last met in the group stage of UEFA Euro 2024, when Jude Bellingham scored the only goal of the game to give England victory. Another tough match for the Three Lions is anticipated, with their cause not helped by Bellingham's absence due to injury.

11.00 **Million Dollar Listing: NYC** Ryan seeks to create a little magic by inviting an illusionist to an open house. LA agent Josh Altman worries about Fredrik's new team.

11.55 **Million Dollar Listing: NYC** Ryan puts together a music video hoping to shift his Tribeca loft, while Tyler pitches for the biggest listing of his whole career.

12.50 **Million Dollar Listing: LA**

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (T) **9.30 Morning Live** (T) **10.45 The Moment of Proof** (T) **11.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (T) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (T) **1.00 BBC News at One** (T) **1.35 BBC Newsline** (T) **1.45 BBC News at One** (T) **2.00 Clean It, Fix It** (T) **2.30 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes** (T) **3.00 Escape to the Country** (T) **3.45 The Travelling Auctioneers** A widow sells her jewellery and other items to fund a family holiday. (T) **4.30 The Answer Run** Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina. (T) **6.00 BBC News at Six** (T) **6.30 BBC Newsline** (T)

7.00 **The One Show** Presented by Alex Jones and Lauren Laverne.

7.30 **EastEnders** Nigel and Phil go on a day trip to the countryside.

8.00 **Stacey & Joe** New series. The daily lives of Stacey Solomon, Joe Swash and their children. Belle starts nursery, Joe digs a fishing lake and Stacey plots a birthday twist.

9.00 **The Great British Sewing Bee** The semi-finalists make 1920s-style fashion.

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Newsline**

10.40 **Patrick: A Young Traveller Lost** The high suicide rates among the traveller community.

11.35 **Billion Dollar Playground** Temperatures rise on a women's holiday as a heatwave hits.

12.20 **Billion Dollar Playground** (T) **1.05 BBC News** (T)

BBC2

6.45 **Clean It, Fix It** (T) **7.15 The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) **8.00 Sign Zone: The Repair Shop** (T) **9.00 BBC News** (T) **12.15 Politics Live** (T) **1.00 Impossible** (T) **1.45 Bridge of Lies** (T) **2.30 Unbeatable** (T) **3.15 Great British Menu** (T) **4.15 Cornwall: This Fishing Life** (T) **5.15 Flog It!** (T) **6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games** (T) **6.30 Great Coastal Railway Journeys** (T)

7.00 **The Hairy Bikers Go West** Dave and Si explore the region around the River Severn, an area famous for its fusion of flavours and meet locals with their own special recipes, such as a Mexican fusion menu.

8.00 **Digging for Britain** Alice Roberts examines a Dutch ship sunk by the English.

9.00 **QI XL** Sandi Toksvig talks about rocks, rolls and rock 'n' roll. Last in series.

9.45 **The Chronicles of Armagh** A look at snapshots of life in Co Armagh in the winter.

10.00 **Spotlight** Global drugs cartels ferrying drugs into Great Britain and Europe via Ireland.

10.30 **Newsnight**

11.00 **Saving Lives at Sea** In Portaferry, Northern Ireland, the crew searches for two missing kayakers.

12.00 **Clemency** (2019) Drama, starring Alfre Woodard and Richard Schiff. ★★★ (T) **1.45 Sign Zone: Stranded on Honeymoon Island** (T) **2.45 Sign Zone: MasterChef** (T) **3.45 This is BBC Two** (T)

Channel 4

6.30 **The King of Queens** (T) **7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond** (T) **9.10 Frasier** (T) **11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) **12.05 Channel 4 News Summary** (T) **12.10 A New Life in the Sun** (T) **1.10 Car S.O.S** (T) **2.10 Countdown** (T) **3.00 A Place in the Sun** (T) **4.00 Help! We Bought a Village** Documentary. (T) **5.00 Chateau DIY** (T) **6.00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses** (T)

7.00 **Channel 4 News**

8.00 **The Great British Bake Off** Biscuit week arrives for the bakers as they take on a "slice and bake" signature, go hob-nobbing in the technical and make mementos out of biscuit in the showstopper.

9.30 **The Inheritance** The players are challenged to find and restore some of the Deceased's prized possessions.

10.30 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on *Squid Game: The Challenge*.

11.35 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics give their thoughts on the week's TV.

12.30 **Love Cheats** (T) **1.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) **2.15 The Old Man & the Gun** (2018) Fact-based crime drama, with Robert Redford, Casey Affleck and Sissy Spacek. ★★★★ (T) **3.45 Find It, Fix It, Flog It** (T) **4.05 Location, Location, Location** (T) **4.55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (T) **5.50 Countdown** (T)



Mark Moriarty, 'Off Duty Chef: Bringing It Home', RTÉ1, 8.30pm

Radio

RTÉ Radio 1
5.30 Rising Time 7.00 Morning Ireland 9.00 Oliver Callan 10.00 Today with Claire Byrne 12.00 The Louise Duffy Show 1.00 News at One 1.45 Liveline 3.00 The Ray D'Arcy Show 4.30 Drivetime 7.00 Arena 8.00 The John Creedon Show 10.00 Late Date 1.00 RTÉ Gold on RTÉ Radio 1

RTÉ 2FM
6.00 2FM Breakfast with Carl, Roz & Aisling 9.00 2FM Morning with Laura Fox 12.00 2FM Afternoon with Tracy Clifford 3.00 2FM Drive with Doireann Garrihy 6.00 2FM Game On 7.00 2FM New Music Show with Beta Da Silva 9.00 2FM Greene Room with Jenny Greene 11.00 2FM Alternative with Dan Hegarty 12.00 2FM Overnight

RTÉ lyric fm
7.00 Marty in the Morning 10.00 Niall Carroll 1.00 The Full Score 4.00 Lorcan Murray 7.00 Mystery Train 9.00 Blue of the Night 12.00 Through the Night

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta
7.00 Nead na Fuiseoige 8.00 Adhmhaidin 9.00 Priomhscéalta na Nuachta 9.15 Iris Aniar 10.15 Cuideachta Ceoil 10.55 Tuairisc Spóirt 11.00 Barrscéalta 12.00 Priomhscéalta na Nuachta 12.08 An Saol ó Dheas 1.00 Nuacht a hAon 2.00 Tuairisc Spóirt 2.05 Baile an Droichid 2.30 Cóisir Cheoil 5.00 Tús Áite 5.55 Tuairisc Spóirt 6.00 Nuacht a Sé 6.30 Fógraí an Lae 7.00 Ceol Binn ó na Beanna 9.00 Ar Aghaidh 10.00 An Taobh Tuathail 12.00 Scoth na Mairte

Today FM
5.00 Music You Love 6.00 Ian Dempsey Breakfast 9.00 Dave Moore 12.00 Louise Cantillon 2.00 Ray Foley 4.30 Last Word 7.00 Paula McSweeney 10.00 Dara Quilty 12.00 Overnight Music

Newstalk
6.00 Breakfast Briefing 6.30 Breakfast Business 7.00 Newstalk Breakfast 9.00 Pat Kenny 12.00 Lunchtime Live 2.00 Moncrieff 4.00 The Hard Shoulder 7.00 Off the Ball 10.00 The Tom Dunne Show 12.00 Best of Newstalk

Radio 4
5.00 News Summary 5.04 Yesterday in Parliament 5.32 Weather 5.34 Shipping 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 6.00 Today 9.00 The Life Scientific 9.30 Universities Challenged 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Add to Playlist 11.45 Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me 12.00 News 12.04 You and Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.45 The Fort 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: Good Enough 3.00 Peak Danger 3.30 Heart and Soul 4.00 Finding Elgar 4.30 What's Up Doc? 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 Room 101 with Paul Merton 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row 8.00 The Today Debate 8.45 In Touch 9.00 Crossing Continents 9.30 Great Lives 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nesting 11.00 Eastern Classical 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News 12.30 Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me 12.48 Shipping 1.00 As BBC World Service

Wednesday September 10

RTÉ1

6.00 **EuroNews** 6.20 **Teleshopping** 7.25 **Casualty** (T) 8.25 **Doctors** (T) 9.35 **The Drew Barrymore Show** (T) 10.25 **The Kelly Clarkson Show** (T) 11.20 **The Great British Sewing Bee** (T) 12.30 **Shortland Street** (T) 1.00 **RTÉ News** (T) 1.30 **Home and Away** (T) 2.00 **Neighbours** (T) 2.30 **Fair City** (T) 3.00 **EastEnders** (T) 3.40 **Selling Ireland's Dream Homes** (T) 4.40 **The Coroner** (T) 5.40 **Nuacht** 5.55 **RTÉ News with Signing** 6.00 **The Angelus** 6.01 **RTÉ News** (T)
7.00 **Nationwide**
7.30 **EastEnders** Johnny tries to build a bridge between Callum and Jorno.
8.00 **Eva Pau's Asian Kitchen** Eva shares her favourite Asian street food classics.
8.30 **Neven's Ulster Food Tour** Neven Maguire visits the Armagh Observatory.
9.00 **RTÉ News**
9.35 **Dev: Rise and Rule** The rise and rule of Éamon de Valera.
10.35 **One Valentine's Day In Edinburgh** The 1993 Women's rugby match in Edinburgh between Ireland and Scotland.
11.40 **Playing Nice**
12.35 **The Tommy Tiernan Show** (T) 1.45 **The Hills Are Alive: A Year at Kylemore Abbey** (T) 2.45 **Cailini Comhraic** (T) 3.10 **Football Families** (T) 4.00 **Na Féilte Tine** (T) 4.50 **Aistear an Amhráin** (T) 5.15 **Ear to the Ground** Magazine show. (T) 5.40 **EuroNews** Headlines.

RTÉ2

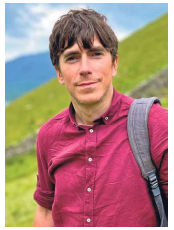
6.00 **EuroNews** 7.50 **RTÉ Kids** 4.30 **The Simpsons** (T) 5.00 **The Goldbergs** Adam is voted "nicest guy" in the school yearbook. (T) 5.30 **The Big Bang Theory** The gang learns Sheldon has a best friend he has never mentioned before. (T) 6.00 **Neighbours** Holly struggles with her conscience. (T) 6.30 **Home and Away** Mackenzie and Levi finally get their latest IVF results. (T)
7.00 **At Your Service** Hoteliers Francis and John Brennan help Ciara O'Brien, once a big shot accountant, who, during Covid, returned home to Mitchelstown in Co Cork and is now starting up a B&B.
8.00 **Kerry: Tides of Time** The story of a single year, as the seasons play out through and across the county's varied habitats.
9.00 **The Traitors Ireland Uncloaked** Kevin McGahern, along with celebrity guests and players from the show, assess the latest betrayals, mind games and manipulations.
9.30 FILM **Beast** (2022) Nate Samuels and his teenage daughters Meredith and Norah find their holiday at a South African nature reserve turns into a nightmare when they are hunted by a huge rogue lion in the savanna. Action thriller, starring Idris Elba. ★★★
11.05 **Blue Bloods** New series. Danny investigates a homicide connected to his old partner.
12.00 **Yellowstone** (T) 1.00 **NCIS** (T) 1.55 **EuroNews** Headlines.

Virgin Media One

6.15 **The Six O'Clock Show** (T) 7.00 **Ireland AM** (T) 10.00 **This Morning** (T) 12.30 **News at 12:30** (T) 1.00 **The Chase** (T) 3.00 **Loose Women** (T) 4.00 **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** Documentary. 4.30 **Judge Judy** 5.30 **News at 5.30** (T) 6.05 **The Six O'Clock Show** Chat show. (T)
7.00 **News at 7**
7.30 **Emmerdale** Charity is concerned when Jacob surprises Sarah and her with an early ultrasound, and Chas vows to make Robert pay.
8.00 **Celebrity Catchphrase** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, with Mark Chapman, Asim Chaudhry and Sue Cleaver competing for the chance to win £50,000.
9.00 **Gogglebox Ireland** New series. TV viewers from around the country offer their reactions to the best small-screen moments from the past week, beginning with a celebrity special.
10.00 **The Tonight Show** Comment and analysis on the big stories of the day in Ireland and abroad with a panel of guests covering the key issues.
11.00 **Murder By Mushroom** The case that gripped Australia and many people around the world, after Erin Patterson invited three dinner guests into her home and poisoned them with toxic mushrooms.
12.10 **Sport Stories: Kenneth Egan** (T) 1.10 **The Doctor Blake Mysteries** 5.25 **The Tonight Show** Current Affairs. (T)

TG4

6.00 **Cúla 4** 11.15 **Ainmlithe Craiceáilte** 11.40 **Comhrá** 12.10 **The Wonder Years** (T) 12.40 **Geantraí** 1.10 **The Golden Girls** (T) 1.40 **Murder, She Wrote** (T) 2.35 **Dara le Daniel** 3.35 **Taste of Australia with Hayden Quinn** (T) 4.05 **Viva Ceol Tíre** 4.35 **Shark Tank** (T) 5.27 **An Aimsir Láithreach** 5.30 **Taoscadh ón Tobar** 6.00 **The Golden Girls** (T) 6.30 **The Wonder Years**
American comedy. (T) 6.57 **An Aimsir Láithreach**
7.00 **Nuacht TG4**
7.30 **Ceolaireacht** Doireann Ní Ghlacáin explores Irish music in Co Leitrim. Last in series.
8.30 **Moving West** Relocations to the county of Donegal.
9.00 **Glór Tíre: Rogha & Togha** Featuring Jim Devine, Mike Denver and Gerry Guthrie.
9.30 **Ceathrar Guilford – 50 Bliain na Mbréag** The story of four young people who wrongly spent 15 years in prison for the Guildford pub bombings.
10.38 **An Aimsir Láithreach**
10.40 **Families Like Ours** Laura builds a life for herself in Bucharest, though misses her family and friends during Christmas. Last in series.
11.40 **Borgen** The right wing submits a bill that lowers the age of criminal responsibility.
12.45 **RTÉ RnaG ag Ceiliúradh 50 Bliain** 1.45 **Seán-Nós** 2.15 **Nuacht TG4** 2.45 **Ceathrar Guildford – 50 Bliain na Mbréag** 3.50 **Moving West** 4.15 **Baile** 4.45 **France 24**



Simon Reeve, 'Wilderness with Simon Reeve', BBC2, 9pm

Radio

RTÉ Radio 1
5.30 Rising Time 7.00 Morning Ireland 9.00 Oliver Callan 10.00 Today with Claire Byrne 12.00 The Louise Duffy Show 1.00 News at One 1.45 Liveline 3.00 The Ray D'Arcy Show 4.30 Drivetime 6.30 Brainstorm 7.00 Arena 8.00 The John Creedon Show 10.00 Late Date 1.00 RTÉ Gold

RTÉ 2FM
6.00 Carl, Roz & Aisling 9.00 Laura Fox 12.00 Tony Clifford 3.00 Doireann Garrihy 6.00 2FM Game On 7.00 Beta Da Silva 9.00 Jenny Greene 11.00 Dan Hegarty 12.00 2FM Overnight

RTÉ lyric fm
7.00 Marty 10.00 Niall Carroll 1.00 Liz Nolan 4.00 Lorcan Murray 7.00 Ambient Orbit 9.00 Culture File Weekly 9.30 Bernard Clarke 12.00 Lyric Through the Night

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta
7.00 Nead na Fuiseoige 8.00 Adhmhaidin 9.00 Prìomhscéalta na Nuachta 9.15 Iris Aniar 10.15 Cuideachta Cool! 10.55 Tuairisc Spóirt 11.00 Barrscéalta 12.00 Prìomhscéalta na Nuachta 12.08 An Saol ó Dheas 1.00 Nuacht a hAon 2.00 Tuairisc Spóirt 2.05 An Cúirtéam Bhóthar na Léinsí 2.30 Cóisir Cheoil 5.00 Tús Áite 5.55 Tuairisc Spóirt 6.00 Nuacht a Sé 6.30 Fógraí an Lae 7.00 Ceol Binn ó na Beanna 9.00 Ri-Rá ar RnaG 10.00 An Taobh Tuathail 12.00 Scoth na Céadaoine

Today FM
5.00 Music You Love 6.00 The Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show 9.00 Dave Moore on Today FM 12.00 Louise Cantillon 2.00 Ray Foley 4.30 The Last Word 7.00 Paula McSweeney 10.00 Clodagh Lawlor 12.00 Overnight Music

Newstalk
6.00 Shane Beatty 6.30 Joe Lynam 7.00 Shane Coleman and Ciara Kelly 9.00 Pat Kenny 12.00 Andrea Gilligan 2.00 Seán Moncrieff 4.00 Kieran Cuddihy 7.00 Off the Ball 10.00 Tom Dunne 12.00 Best of Newstalk

Radio 4
5.00 News Summary 5.04 Yesterday in Parliament 5.32 Weather 5.34 Shipping 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 6.00 Today 9.00 More or Less 9.30 The People vs McDonald's 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 The Today Debate 11.45 Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me 12.00 News 12.04 You and Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.45 The Fort 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: Life and Time: The Officers 3.00 Money Box Live 3.30 New Elements 4.00 When It Hits the Fan 4.15 The Media Show 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 Do Gooders 7.00 Archers 7.15 Front Row 8.00 Moral Maze 9.00 The Life Scientific 9.30 The Cat Killer Detectives 9.59 Weather 10.00 World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nesting 11.00 Ria Lina Gets Forensic 11.15 The Skewer 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News 12.30 Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me 12.48 Shipping 1.00 As BBC World Service

Virgin Media Two

6.20 **The Chase Australia** 8.00 **Tipping Point** (T) 9.00 **The Chase** (T) 11.00 **The Chase Australia** 11.55 **Harbour Cops** (T) 12.25 **The Voice UK** 2.00 **Yes Chef** (T) 3.00 **The Chase** (T) 4.00 **Tipping Point** (T) 6.00 **The Chase** Quiz. (T)
7.00 **The Chase** Bradley Walsh presents as contestants Jim, Nuala, Sarah and Jack work as a team to take on the Chasers and secure a cash prize.
8.00 **Puzzling with Lucy Worsley: The Final** It is the grand final and the contestants take on five rounds of fiendish challenges as they attempt to become the ultimate puzzler. Last in series.
9.00 **Dark Side of Reality TV** The truth about *Hell's Kitchen*, which sees Gordon Ramsay run his contestants through a verbal assault course as they compete for a dream job working under him.
10.00 **The Graham Norton Show** The host is joined by Hollywood star Sam Neill, actors Billie Piper and James Nesbitt and comedian Andi Osho. Plus, Tom Jones performs his single *No Hole in My Head*.
11.05 **Schitt's Creek** A vineyard has an idea to make a wine called Moira Rosé and invites Moira and David down to taste potential wines for the brand.
11.35 **Schitt's Creek** Johnny and Moira spend a night at the Presidential Suite in the new motel, while Alexis receives a surprise visitor.
12.05 **Loaded in Paradise**

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (T) 9.30 **Morning Live** (T) 10.45 **The Moment of Proof** (T) 11.15 **Homes Under the Hammer** (T) 12.15 **Bargain Hunt** (T) 1.00 **BBC News at One** (T) 1.35 **BBC Newsline** (T) 1.45 **BBC News at One** (T) 2.00 **Clean It, Fix It** (T) 2.30 **Robson Green's Weekend Escapes** (T) 3.00 **Escape to the Country** (T) 3.45 **The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) 4.30 **The Answer Run** (T) 5.15 **Pointless** (T) 6.00 **BBC News at Six** The latest headlines. (T) 6.30 **BBC Newsline** (T)
7.00 **The One Show** With Ciara Amfo and Vernon Kay.
7.30 **EastEnders** Julie feels left out when Nigel and Phil return home from their trip.
8.00 **MasterChef** The best winners return for knockout week, in which they serve up a dish they would put on their own menu before taking on their first professional kitchen service.
9.00 **Stranded on Honeymoon Island** The couples swap partners for the day.
10.00 **BBC News at Ten**
10.30 **BBC Newsline**
10.40 **Girl Fight** New series. Documentary following female MMA fighters training at Next Generation gym in Ballymena.
11.10 FILM **The Krays** (1990) Biopic of the ruthless twins who ruled east London's gangland with a rod of iron in the 1960s. Starring Gary and Martin Kemp. ★★★★
1.05 **The Hit List** Music-based quiz show. (T) 1.50 **BBC News** (T)

BBC2

6.30 **Escape to the Country** (T) 7.15 **The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) 8.00 **Sign Zone: Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** (T) 9.00 **BBC News** (T) 11.15 **Politics Live** (T) 1.00 **Impossible** (T) 1.45 **Bridge of Lies** (T) 2.30 **Unbeatable** (T) 3.15 **Great British Menu** (T) 4.15 **Cornwall: This Fishing Life** (T) 5.15 **Flog It!** (T) 6.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** (T) 6.30 **Great Coastal Railway Journeys** (T)
7.00 **SOS: Extreme Rescues** A child goes missing on a busy beach.
7.30 **Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers** Paul Murton explores the lower River Tay.
8.00 **The Secret Genius of Modern Life** The technology that goes into the vacuum cleaner.
9.00 **Wilderness with Simon Reeve** Adventurer Simon explores the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
10.00 **True North: The Pleasure Boys** Strip group The Pleasure Boys return to Belfast for International Women's Day.
10.30 **Newsnight**
11.00 **Unspun World with John Simpson** Current Affairs.
11.30 **International T20 Cricket**
12.00 **Sign Zone: The Great British Sewing Bee** (T) 1.00 **Sign Zone: Disaster at Sea: The Piper Alpha Story** (T) 2.00 **Sign Zone: Stranded on Honeymoon Island** (T) 3.00 **Sign Zone: MasterChef** (T) 3.30 **Sign Zone: Irvine Welsh: The Next Chapter** (T) 4.00 **This is BBC Two** (T)

Channel 4

6.30 **The King of Queens** (T) 7.45 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (T) 9.10 **Frasier** (T) 11.10 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) 12.05 **Channel 4 News Summary** (T) 12.10 **A New Life in the Sun** (T) 1.10 **Car S.O.S** (T) 2.10 **Countdown** (T) 3.00 **A Place in the Sun** (T) 4.00 **Help! We Bought a Village** (T) 5.00 **Chateau DIY** (T) 6.00 **Sun, Sea and Selling Houses** Documentary series. (T)
7.00 **Channel 4 News**
8.00 **Location, Location, Location** New series. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer go house-hunting in Bath and Bristol.
9.00 **The Donald Trump Show** New series. Archive news clips are re-edited as drama in this novel take on the US president's second term in office.
10.00 **24 Hours in A&E** Trainee advanced clinical practitioner Emily Rowe oversees the treatment of a 40-year-old man who has suffered a severe facial injury from a machine at work.
11.05 **Brain Surgeons: Between Life and Death** Two patients undergo brain surgery while remaining awake.
12.05 **The Great British Bake Off** (T) 1.25 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) 2.10 **Huge Homes with Hugh Dennis** (T) 3.05 **Extraordinary Escapes with Sandi Toksvig** (T) 4.00 **Location, Location, Location** (T) 4.55 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (T) 5.50 **Countdown** (T)

Thursday September 11

RTÉ1

6.00 **EuroNews** 6.35 **Teleshopping** 7.10 **Casualty** (T) 8.10 **Doctors** (T) 9.20 **The Drew Barrymore Show** (T) 10.10 **The Kelly Clarkson Show** (T) 11.05 **The Great British Sewing Bee** (T) 12.15 **Shortland Street** (T) 12.45 **Telly Bingo** (T) 1.00 **RTÉ News** (T) 1.30 **Home and Away** (T) 2.00 **Neighbours** (T) 2.30 **How to Be Good with Money** (T) 3.00 **EastEnders** (T) 3.40 **Selling Ireland's Most Exclusive Homes** (T) 4.40 **The Coroner** (T) 5.40 **Nuacht** 5.55 **RTÉ News with Signing** 6.00 **The Angelus** 6.01 **RTÉ News** (T)
7.00 **Bleach Irish Homes** Deirdre Ní Shúilleabháin searches for a property where she can set up home and start a business.
7.30 **EastEnders** Jonno's true colours show when Callum realises what he really wants.
8.00 **Home Grown** Kitty Scully explores the critical work of Ireland's Horticulture Border Patrol. Last in series.
8.30 **Fair City** Ger puts an alternative plan in motion to deal with James permanently.
9.00 **RTÉ News**
9.35 **Prime Time** Hosted by Miriam O'Callaghan and Fran McNulty.
10.15 **Harry Wild** A mystery novelist is found dead in a locked panic room with no gun.
11.15 **Silent Witness**
12.20 **Van Der Valk** (T) 1.20 **Prime Time** (T) 1.55 **Telly Bingo** (T) 2.10 **The Kelly Clarkson Show** (T) 2.55 **EuroNews** Headlines.

RTÉ2

6.00 **EuroNews** Headlines. 7.50 **RTÉ Kids** 4.30 **The Simpsons** (T) 5.00 **The Goldbergs** (T) 5.30 **The Big Bang Theory** (T) 6.00 **Neighbours** (T) 6.30 **Home and Away** (T)
7.00 **Dolphins – Wonders Of The Ocean** Part two of two. Ken O'Sullivan finds new dolphin species, comes into contact with some of the largest creatures ever, and discovers thousands of dolphins are killed every year.
8.00 **Grand Designs** Kevin McCloud follows the progress of North Lincolnshire born-and-bred Danny who plans on building a stylish, sustainable and affordable home among the trees in his garden.
9.00 **Amandaland** Comedy spin-off of *Motherland* starring Lucy Punch and Joanna Lumley. Following her divorce, Amanda finds herself parenting teenagers in new surroundings.
9.35 **Home Rescue: The Big Fix** The team help transform Arran and Caoimhe's cluttered home in Ballycanew, Co Wexford, into a safe, calming space with clear storage, an exercise area and room to breathe.
10.35 **We Were the Lucky Ones** Halina, Jakob and Bella search for those missing in Lvov. Meanwhile, Addy and Eliska attempt to enter Brazil.
11.40 **Gavin & Stacey** Gavin embarks on two stag nights.
12.15 **Line of Duty** (T) 1.25 **Alma's Not Normal** (T) 2.05 **EuroNews** Headlines.

Virgin Media One

6.15 **The Six O'Clock Show** Chat show. (T) 7.00 **Ireland AM** (T) 10.00 **This Morning** (T) 12.30 **News at 12:30** (T) 1.00 **The Chase** (T) 3.00 **Coronation Street: 50 Years, 50 Moments** 4.00 **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** 4.30 **Judge Judy** 5.30 **News at 5.30** (T) 6.05 **The Six O'Clock Show** Chat show. (T)
7.00 **News at 7**
7.30 **Emmerdale** Kammy questions what is going on with Vinny, who eventually breaks down in tears. Meanwhile, Robert fears for Aaron's life as he waits to be interviewed at the police station.
8.30 **Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad** The boys' driving skills are tested when they experience real-life Tokyo Drift and Brad makes a bid for redemption by attempting a stomach-churning bungee jump.
9.00 **The Game** Huw finds a connection linking Ruth to Patrick in the form of a ballerina statue and his promise to forget about Patrick and the Ripton Stalker comes under strain.
10.00 **The Group Chat** A debate on the main news stories of the week in an extended round-table conversation.
11.00 **I Fought the Law** Ann channels her grief into putting pressure on the police for answers.
12.00 **Inside China's Battle for Tibet** (T) 1.15 **Inside Dubai: Playground of the Rich** (T)

TG4

6.00 **Cúla 4** 11.15 **Ainmlithe Craiceáilte** 11.40 **Comhrá** 12.10 **The Wonder Years** (T) 12.40 **Geantraí** 1.10 **The Golden Girls** (T) 1.40 **Murder, She Wrote** (T) 2.35 **Domhan an Aigéin Chiúin** 3.35 **Taste of Australia with Hayden Quinn** (T) 4.05 **Viva Ceol Tíre** 4.35 **Shark Tank** (T) 5.27 **An Aimsir Láithreach** 5.30 **An Gúna Bainise** 6.00 **The Golden Girls** (T) 6.30 **The Wonder Years** (T) 6.57 **An Aimsir Láithreach**
7.00 **Nuacht TG4**
7.30 **Siorstíl** Cutting-edge sustainable fashion competition.
8.00 **Cúla 2**
8.30 **Ros na Rún @ 25** Memories of Séamus Mhicil Tom.
9.00 **Glór Tíre: Rogha & Togha** Featuring performances by Jim Devine, Mike Denver and Brendan Shine.
9.30 **Iomáinocht Hollywood** Part two of two. How Gaelic games have been a recurring feature of Irish cinema.
10.30 **Fíorscéal** Hubert Reeves, aided by passionate scientists and explorers, presents an overview of the threats facing the ocean and its phenomenal capacity for regeneration.
11.33 **An Aimsir Láithreach**
11.35 **The Twelve** Nathan lies under oath about the affair.
12.40 **Peadar Ó Riada – Ónár gCroí** 2.00 **Nuacht TG4** 2.30 **Glúin Z** 3.00 **Sloinne** 3.55 **Réalta Agus Gaolta** 4.50 **France 24**

Virgin Media Two

6.20 **The Chase Australia** 8.00 **Tipping Point** (T) 9.00 **The Chase** (T) 11.00 **The Chase Australia** 12.00 **Harbour Cops** (T) 12.30 **The Voice UK** 2.00 **Yes Chef** (T) 3.00 **The Chase** (T) 4.00 **Tipping Point** (T) 6.00 **The Chase** Jill, Jack, Pippa and Peter take part. (T)
7.00 **The Chase** Bradley Walsh presents as contestants David, Mary, Emma and Richard answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on one of the Chasers and secure a cash prize.
8.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars** Ben Shephard hosts a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Freddie Flintoff, Tim Vine and Angellica Bell answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.
9.00 **Olivia Attwood: The Price of Perfection** Olivia investigates how pornography and social media play a part in influencing men seeking the perfect penis. Last in series.
10.00 **Vanderpump Rules** The bachelor and bachelorette trips continue as Sandoval, Schwartz, Jax and Beau plan a surprise for the girls.
10.55 **Vanderpump Rules** Dayna finally stands up to Scheana while Lisa helps Ariana come to terms with depression.
11.50 **Loaded in Paradise** One pair is eliminated before the final three pairs battle it out in the finale. Last in series.
12.50 **The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills**

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (T) 9.30 **Morning Live** (T) 10.45 **The Moment of Proof** (T) 11.15 **Homes Under the Hammer** (T) 12.15 **Bargain Hunt** (T) 1.00 **BBC News at One** (T) 1.35 **BBC Newsline** (T) 1.45 **BBC News at One** (T) 2.00 **Clean It, Fix It** (T) 2.30 **Robson Green's Weekend Escapes** (T) 3.00 **Escape to the Country** (T) 3.45 **The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) 4.30 **The Answer Run** (T) 5.15 **Pointless** Quiz show. (T) 6.00 **BBC News at Six** (T) 6.30 **BBC Newsline** (T)
7.00 **The One Show** Hosted by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp.
7.30 **EastEnders** Jonno's true colours show.
8.00 **MasterChef** The amateurs serve lunch at a five-star restaurant in London's Mayfair.
9.00 **Stranded on Honeymoon Island** An intimacy crate washes up to help the honeymooners get personal, and when the couples spend the day apart at beach picnics, some are left reeling from shocking revelations.
10.00 **BBC News at Ten**
10.30 **BBC Newsline**
10.40 **The View** News, comment and analysis from Stormont and Westminster.
11.20 **Thailand: The Dark Side of Paradise** Zara McDermott discovers the dark side of Thailand's backpacker culture.
12.05 **Thailand: The Dark Side of Paradise** (T) 1.35 **BBC News** The latest headlines. (T)

BBC2

6.15 **Clean It, Fix It** (T) 7.15 **The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) 8.00 **Sign Zone: Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden** (T) 9.00 **BBC News** (T) 12.15 **Politics Live** (T) 1.00 **Impossible** (T) 1.45 **Bridge of Lies** (T) 2.30 **Unbeatable** (T) 3.15 **Great British Menu** (T) 4.15 **Cornwall: This Fishing Life** (T) 5.15 **Flog It!** (T) 6.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** (T) 6.30 **Great Coastal Railway Journeys** (T)
7.00 **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip**
8.00 **Saving Lives at Sea** Lifeguards help teenagers who have been cut off by the tide.
9.00 **The Newsreader** New series. Helen and Dale are forced into direct competition.
9.55 **Tiger Dynasty: Natural World** Following two tigers released into the wild to breed.
10.00 **Girl Fight** Documentary about female MMA fighters training in Ballymena.
10.30 **Newsnight**
11.00 **Limbs in the Loch: Catching a Killer** Detectives make a crucial breakthrough when a new witness comes forward.
11.30 **Limbs in the Loch: Catching a Killer** Last in series.
12.00 **Sign Zone: Saving Lives at Sea** (T) 1.00 **Sign Zone: King & Conqueror** (T) 1.50 **Sign Zone: Football's Financial Shame: The Story of the V11** (T) 3.25 **Sign Zone: The Great Ticket Rip-Off: Scams & Scandals** With Steffan Powell. (T) 3.55 **This is BBC Two** (T)

Channel 4

6.30 **The King of Queens** (T) 7.45 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (T) 9.10 **Frasier** (T) 11.10 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) 12.05 **Channel 4 News Summary** (T) 12.10 **A New Life in the Sun** (T) 1.10 **Car S.O.S** (T) 2.10 **Countdown** (T) 3.00 **A Place in the Sun** (T) 4.00 **Help! We Bought a Village** (T) 5.00 **Chateau DIY** (T) 6.00 **Sun, Sea and Selling Houses** In Málaga. (T)
7.00 **Channel 4 News**
8.00 **The Dog House** Identical twins seek four-legged friend to join them for pub lunches.
9.00 **Taskmaster** New series. Maisie Adam, Reece Shearsmith, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Phil Ellis and Ania Magliano are the latest group of comedians taking on the challenge.
10.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown: Best Bits** A compilation of memorable moments from recent episodes, featuring players including Jon Richardson, Jonathan Ross, Alan Carr, Jack Dee, Sarah Millican and Tom Allen.
11.05 **Big Fat Quiz: Best Bits** Choice moments from the celebrity quiz show.
12.05 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) 12.55 **The Inheritance** (T) 3.40 **Location, Location, Location** (T) 4.35 **Kirstie's House of Craft** (T) 4.50 **Escape to the Chateau** (T) 4.55 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (T) 5.50 **Countdown** (T)



Lucy Punch, 'Amandaland', RTÉ2, 9pm

Radio

RTÉ Radio 1
5.30 Rising Time 7.00 Morning Ireland 9.00 Oliver Callan 10.00 Today with Claire Byrne 12.00 The Louise Duffy Show 1.00 News at One 1.45 Liveline 3.00 The Ray D'Arcy Show 4.30 Drivetime 7.00 Arena 8.00 The John Creedon Show 10.00 Late Date 1.00 RTÉ Gold on RTÉ Radio 1

RTÉ 2FM
6.00 2FM Breakfast with Carl, Roz & Aisling 9.00 2FM Morning with Laura Fox 12.00 2FM Afternoon with Tracy Clifford 3.00 2FM Drive with Doireann Garrihy 6.00 2FM Game On 7.00 2FM New Music Show with Beta Da Silva 9.00 2FM Greene Room with Jenny Greene 11.00 2FM Alternative with Dan Hegarty 12.00 2FM Overnight

RTÉ lyric fm
7.00 Marty in the Morning 10.00 Niall Carroll 1.00 The Full Score 4.00 Lorcan Murray 7.00 Mystery Train 9.00 The Blue of the Night with Bernard Clarke 12.00 Lyric Through the Night

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta
7.00 Nead na Fuiseoige 8.00 Adhmhaidin 9.00 Prìomhscéalta na Nuachta 9.15 Iris Aniar 10.15 Cuideachta Cool! 10.55 Tuairisc Spóirt 11.00 Barrscéalta 12.00 Prìomhscéalta na Nuachta 12.08 An Saol ó Dheas 1.00 Nuacht a hAon 2.00 Tuairisc Spóirt 2.05 An Cúirtéam Dána 2.30 Cóisir Cheoil 5.00 Tús Áite 5.55 Tuairisc Spóirt 6.00 Nuacht a Sé 6.30 Fógraí an Lae 7.00 Cuan an Cheoil 8.30 Seoda Foinn 9.00 Ri-Rá ar RnaG 10.00 An Taobh Tuathail 12.00 Scoth an Déardaoin

Today FM
5.00 Music You Love 6.00 Ian Dempsey Breakfast 9.00 Dave Moore 12.00 Louise Cantillon 2.00 Ray Foley 4.30 The Last Word 7.00 Paula McSweeney 10.00 Claire Beck 12.00 Overnight

Newstalk
6.00 Breakfast Briefing 6.30 Breakfast Business 7.00 Newstalk Breakfast 9.00 Pat Kenny 12.00 Lunchtime Live 2.00 Moncrieff 4.00 The Hard Shoulder 7.00 Off the Ball 10.00 The Tom Dunne Show 12.00 Best of Newstalk

Radio 4
5.00 News Summary 5.04 Yesterday in Parliament 5.32 Weather 5.34 Shipping 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 6.00 Today 9.00 Into the West 9.30 How to Play 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 This Cultural Life 11.45 Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me 12.00 News 12.04 Scam Secrets 12.30 Dough 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.45 The Fort 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: Life and Time: The Officers 3.00 Open Country 3.27 Radio 4 Appeal 3.30 Word of Mouth 4.00 Rethink 4.30 BBC Inside Science 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 Glenn Moore's Almanac 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row 8.00 When It Hits the Fan 8.15 The Media Show 9.00 Loose Ends 9.45 One to One 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nesting 11.00 Radical with Amol Rajan 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News

Friday September 12

RTÉ1

6.00 **EuroNews** 6.05 **Teleshopping** 7.10 **Casualty** (T) 8.10 **Doctors** (T) 9.20 **The Drew Barrymore Show** (T) 10.10 **The Kelly Clarkson Show** 11.05 **The Great British Sewing Bee** (T) 12.15 **Shortland Street** (T) 12.45 **Telly Bingo** (T) 1.00 **RTÉ News** (T) 1.30 **Home and Away** (T) 2.00 **The Zoo** (T) 2.30 **Fair City** (T) 3.00 **EastEnders** (T) 3.40 **Selling Ireland's Most Exclusive Homes** (T) 4.40 **The Coroner** Starring Claire Goose. (T) 5.40 **Nuacht** 5.55 **RTÉ News with Signing** 6.00 **The Angelus** (T) 6.01 **RTÉ News** (T)

7.00 **Nationwide**

7.30 **Fair City** A fiery James walks right into Ger and Sharon's trap.

8.00 **High Road, Low Road** Actor Simon Delaney and TV host Aidan Power head to Slovenia.

8.30 **Son of a Critch** It's the end of the school year, and Mark is faced with changes and challenges ahead.

9.00 **RTÉ News**

9.35 **The Late Late Show** New series of the music and chat show, hosted by Patrick Kielty.

11.15 **Tootsie** (1982) An out-of-work actor poses as a woman to audition for a part in a soap opera, only for his female alter ego to become a huge star. Comedy, starring Dustin Hoffman. ★★★★

1.25 **Nationwide** (T) 1.55 **Telly Bingo** (T) 2.10 **The Kelly Clarkson Show** (T) 2.55 **EuroNews** Headlines.

RTÉ2

6.00 **EuroNews** 7.50 **RTÉ Kids** 4.30 **The Simpsons** (T) 5.00 **The Goldbergs** Beverly interferes in Dana and Adam's parenting project. (T) 5.30 **The Big Bang Theory** Howard causes trouble by dressing up as Sheldon for Halloween. (T) 6.00 **The Simpsons** Lisa makes a shocking decision about college, wounding Marge, but it leads to a very surprising place. (T) 6.30 **Home and Away** Jo and Tane go for a drink, and Lacey asks Abigial for help. (T)

7.00 **FAI Cup Live** Drogheda United v Shamrock Rovers (Kick-off 7.30pm). Coverage of the quarter-final at Sullivan & Lambe Park. Drogheda are the holders of this trophy, but face a tough test against Rovers, who are looking to win a league and cup double.

9.50 **The Nan Movie** (2022) Catherine Tate's sketch show character Nan goes on a wild road trip from London to Ireland with her grandson Jamie to make amends with her estranged sister Nell. Starring Tate alongside Mathew Horne, Katherine Parkinson, Paul Reid, and Emer Hedderman. ★★★

11.30 **Live at the Apollo** Actor and comedian Babatunde Aléshé introduces Chloe Petts and Lindsey Santoro to London's Hammersmith Apollo stage, where they perform their stand-up routines.

12.25 **Abbac Against the Odds** (T) 2.20 **Apples Never Fall** (T) 3.05 **EuroNews** Headlines.

Virgin Media One

6.15 **The Six O'Clock Show** (T) 7.00 **Ireland AM** (T) 10.00 **This Morning** (T) 12.30 **News at 12:30** (T) 1.00 **The Chase** (T) 3.00 **Coronation Street: 50 Years, 50 Moments** 4.00 **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** 4.30 **Judge Judy** 5.30 **News at 5.30** (T) 6.05 **The Six O'Clock Show** Chat show, featuring celebrity interviews, food from leading chefs and guidance on a wide range of topics. (T)

7.00 **News at 7**

7.30 **Emmerdale** Gabby is fed up that neither Bernice or Kim are coming to her wedding, while Cain upsets Victoria. Meanwhile, Kammy has a plan.

8.00 **Coronation Street** Lisa reels in shock and the walls close in on Carl and Dylan as George reveals he saw who was driving the car. The owner of the pregnancy test comes forward.

9.00 **Ridley** When a body is discovered at an illegal rave, Ridley and the investigative team are thrust into a high-profile case as victim Oliver Grant emerges as the heir apparent to his family's property empire and poised to become its next CEO. Crime drama, starring Adrian Dunbar.

11.00 **Gogglebox Ireland** TV viewers from around the country offer their instant reactions to the best small-screen moments from the past week, beginning with a celebrity special.

12.05 **Murder By Mushroom** (T) 1.10 **World's Greatest Hotels**

TG4

6.00 **Cúla 4** 11.15 **Ainmhithe Craiceáilte** 11.40 **Comhrá** 12.10 **The Wonder Years** (T) 12.40 **Geantraí** 1.10 **The Golden Girls** (T) 1.40 **Murder, She Wrote** (T) 2.35 **Iománaíocht Hollywood** 3.35 **Taste of Australia with Hayden Quinn** (T) 4.05 **Viva Ceol Tíre** 4.35 **Shark Tank** (T) 5.27 **An Aimsir Láithreach** 5.30 **Ag Triall ar an Tobar** 6.00 **Domhan an Dúlra** 6.57 **An Aimsir Láithreach**

7.00 **Nuacht TG4**

7.30 **Inis Airc – Bás Oileáin** The mass exodus of the Inishshark community in 1960 to the Connemara mainland, after the government opted to resettle the inhabitants instead of building an expensive pier.

8.30 **Ar Scáth na Sléibhte** Cormac Ó hAdhmaill reveals how Co Donegal's Marble Arch Caves were discovered. In Irish.

9.03 **An Aimsir Láithreach**

9.05 **Bandera Bandits** (1972) A sheriff obsessively pursues an outlaw couple who always give their ill-gotten gains away to the poor. Spaghetti western, starring Tomas Milian, Susan George and Telly Savalas. ★★★

11.00 **Hector Caribbean** Hector Ó hEochagáin samples the tasty delicacies of Puerto Rico.

12.00 **Cumasc: Seisiúin sa Black Gate** 12.35 **Call My Agent! 1.40 Ros na Rún** *@* 25 2.10 **Nuacht TG4** 2.40 **Cúlтír** 3.35 **Dúiseacht** 4.00 **Paisean Faisean** 4.30 **Amhráin is Ansa Liom** 4.55 **France 24**



Denzel Washington, 'Training Day', BBC1, 10.40pm

Radio

RTÉ Radio 1

5.30 **Rising Time** 7.00 **Morning Ireland** 9.00 **Oliver Callan** 10.00 **Claire Byrne** 12.00 **The Louise Duffy Show** 1.00 **News at One** 1.45 **Liveline** 3.00 **The Ray D'Arcy Show** 4.30 **Drivetime** 7.00 **Arena** 8.00 **The John Creedon Show** 10.00 **Caravan Radio** 11.00 **Late Date** 2.00 **RTÉ Gold on RTÉ Radio 1**

RTÉ 2FM

6.00 **Carl, Roz & Aisling** 9.00 **Laura Fox** 12.00 **Tracy Clifford** 3.00 **2FM Doireann Garrihy** 6.00 **2FM Game On** 7.00 **Bláthnaid Treacy** 9.00 **2FM with DJ Wax** 11.00 **2FM with Andrew C** 1.00 **2FM The Late Night Sessions**

RTÉ lyric fm

7.00 **Marty in the Morning** 10.00 **Niall Carroll** 1.00 **Aedín in the Afternoon** 4.00 **Lorcan Murray's Classic Drive** 7.00 **Paul Herriott** 10.00 **Ellen Cranitch** 1.00 **Lyric Through the Night**

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta

7.00 **Nead na Fuiseoige** 8.00 **Adhmhaidin** 9.00 **Príomhscéalta na Nuachtta** 9.15 **Iris Aniar** 10.15 **Cuideachta Ceoil** 10.55 **Tuairisc Spóirt** 11.00 **Barrscéalta** 12.00 **Príomhscéalta na Nuachtta** 12.08 **An Saol ó Dheas** 1.00 **Nuacht a hAon** 2.00 **Tuairisc Spóirt** 2.05 **Blas** 2.30 **Baile an Droichid** 3.00 **Pé Scéal é** 5.00 **Tús Áite** 5.55 **Tuairisc Spóirt** 6.00 **Nuacht a Sé** 6.30 **Fógraí an Lae** 7.00 **Cuireadh Chun Ceoil** 9.00 **Ri-Rá ar Rnaí** 10.00 **An Taobh Tuathail** 12.00 **Scoth na hAoine**

Today FM

5.00 **Music You Love** 6.00 **The Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show** 9.00 **Dave Moore on Today FM** 12.00 **Louise Cantillon** 2.00 **Ray Foley** 4.30 **The Last Word** 7.00 **Block Rockin Beats** 10.00 **Today FM 80s** 12.00 **Overnight Music**

Newstalk

6.00 **Shane Beatty** 6.30 **Joe Lynam** 7.00 **Shane Coleman and Ciara Kelly** 9.00 **The Pat Kenny Show** 12.00 **Lunchtime Live with Andrea Gilligan** 2.00 **Moncrieff with Sean Moncrieff** 4.00 **Kieran Cuddihy** 7.00 **Off the Ball** 10.00 **Splanc** 12.00 **Best of Newstalk**

Radio 4

5.00 **News Summary** 5.04 **Yesterday in Parliament** 5.32 **Weather** 5.34 **Shipping** 5.43 **Prayer for the Day** 5.45 **Farming Today** 6.00 **Today** 9.00 **The Reunion** 10.00 **Woman's Hour** 11.00 **The Food Programme** 11.45 **Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me** 12.00 **News** 12.04 **Rare Earth** 12.57 **Weather** 1.00 **The World at One** 1.45 **The Fort** 2.00 **The Archers** 2.15 **Drama: Mothercover** 2.45 **Uncharted with Hannah Fry** 3.00 **Gardeners' Question Time** 3.45 **Short Works** 4.00 **Last Word** 4.30 **More or Less** 5.00 **PM** 5.57 **Weather** 6.00 **News** 6.30 **The News Quiz** 7.00 **The Archers** 7.15 **Add to Playlist** 8.00 **Any Questions?** 8.55 **This Week in History** 9.00 **The Adverb** 9.59 **Weather** 10.00 **The World Tonight** 10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Nesting** 11.00 **Americast** 11.30 **Today in Parliament** 12.00 **News** 12.30 **Book of the Week: Mother Mary Comes to Me** 12.48 **Shipping** 1.00 **As BBC World Service**

Virgin Media Two

6.15 **The Chase Australia** 8.00 **Tipping Point** (T) 9.00 **The Chase** (T) 11.00 **The Chase Australia** 12.00 **The Voice UK** 2.00 **Yes Chef** (T) 3.00 **The Chase** (T) 4.00 **Tipping Point** (T) 6.00 **The Chase** (T)

7.00 **Sports Gone Wrong** The most chaotic and unexpected moments in sports history.

7.30 **The Chase Australia** Quiz, hosted by Andrew O'Keefe.

8.00 **The Chase** Bradley Walsh hosts as Ranjeev, Metrice, Linda and Ian answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on one of the Chasers and secure a cash prize.

9.00 **OnlyFans: Ireland's X-Rated** Following Ireland's OnlyFans content creators, featuring the likes of Irish dad Mattie Gilbert, aka The Irish Viking, who earns over €50,000 a month.

10.00 **The Graham Norton Show** The host is joined by rock legend Dave Grohl, comedian Alan Carr, and actors Felicity Kendal, Daisy Haggard, Siobhán McSweeney and Rege-Jean Page. With music by singer and podcaster Jessie Ware.

11.05 **Below Deck: Mediterranean** A baseball legend comes on board the ship with a group of his rowdiest friends.

11.55 **Below Deck: Mediterranean** Aesha and June bond over their mutual losses, and as the guests depart – Sandy is faced with a big complaint.

12.50 **The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills** Reality series. 1.45 **Craic Den Comedy Club**

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (T) 9.30 **Morning Live** (T) 10.45 **The Moment of Proof** (T) 11.15 **Homes Under the Hammer** (T) 12.15 **Bargain Hunt** (T) 1.00 **BBC News at One** (T) 1.35 **BBC Newsline** (T) 1.45 **BBC News at One** (T) 2.00 **Sister Boniface Mysteries** (T) 2.45 **Escape to the Country** (T) 3.45 **The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) 4.30 **The Answer Run** (T) 5.15 **Pointless** Quiz show. (T) 6.00 **BBC News at Six** (T) 6.30 **BBC Newsline** (T)

7.00 **The One Show** JB Gill and Clara Amfo present the live magazine show.

7.30 **Paula McIntyre's Hamely Kitchen USA** Paula tries her first taste of moonshine at a Smoky Mountain distillery.

8.00 **The Haggis Hunters – Our Lives** Fierce rivalry at the World Haggis Championship.

8.30 **MasterChef** The remaining amateurs have 60 minutes to deliver an extraordinary dish.

9.00 **Stranded on Honeymoon Island** A crate containing the couples' mobile phones washes ashore. Davina McCall hosts.

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Newsline**

10.40 **Training Day** (2001) A cop is left battling his conscience when he is partnered with a seasoned narcotics officer who uses unconventional tactics. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington. ★★★★

12.35 **Stranded on Honeymoon Island** (T) 1.35 **BBC News** (T)

BBC2

6.15 **Clean It, Fix It** (T) 7.15 **The Travelling Auctioneers** (T) 8.00 **Sign Zone: Our Lives: Dolphin Town** (T) 8.30 **Sign Zone: Great Continental Railway Journeys** (T) 9.00 **BBC News** (T) 12.30 **Political Thinking with Nick Robinson** (T) 1.00 **Impossible** (T) 1.45 **Bridge of Lies** (T) 2.30 **Unbeatable** (T) 3.15 **Great British Menu** (T) 4.15 **Cornwall: This Fishing Life** (T) 5.15 **Flog It!** (T) 6.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** (T) 6.30 **Great Coastal Railway Journeys** (T)

7.00 **Villages by the Sea** The host explores the remains of a lost harbour in Port Carlisle.

7.30 **Irish League Live** Glentoran v Linfield (Kick-off 7.45pm). Action from the Belfast derby in the NIFL Premiership, held at The Oval. Linfield dominated the league last term, finishing 22 points clear of runners-up Larne, with Glentoran another two points further back.

10.00 **Beechgrove Garden** Lizzie and Brian plant acers in the Jim McColl memorial garden.

10.30 **Newsnight**

11.00 **The Newsreader** The launch of Helen's new show coincides with news of an Alaskan oil spill. Starring Anna Tory.

11.50 **The Chronicles of Armagh** An archaeological dig is taking place at Navan Fort.

11.55 **Live Athletics: World Championships** Coverage of the opening session on day one.

4.10 **This is BBC Two** (T)

Channel 4

6.30 **The King of Queens** (T) 7.45 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (T) 9.10 **Frasier** (T) 11.10 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) 12.05 **Channel 4 News Summary** (T) 12.10 **A New Life in the Sun** (T) 1.10 **Car S.O.S** (T) 2.10 **Countdown** (T) 3.00 **A Place in the Sun** (T) 4.00 **Help! We Bought a Village** (T) 5.00 **Chateau DIY** Last in series. (T) 6.00 **Sun, Sea and Selling Houses** (T)

7.00 **Channel 4 News**

8.00 **The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice** Jo Brand and Tom Allen are joined by guest Stephen Mangan to review memorable moments from Biscuit Week. They also catch up with the second baker to leave the tent.

9.00 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their reactions to what they have been watching during the week.

10.00 **Mitchell and Webb Are Not Helping** More sketches from the comedy duo.

10.35 **American Pie 2** (2001) The teenage friends get together after their first year at college and set out to broaden their sexual horizons over the summer. Comedy sequel, starring Jason Biggs. ★★★

12.35 **Chopper** (2000) Fact-based Australian drama, starring Eric Bana and Simon Lyndon. ★★★★★ (T) 2.10 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) 3.00 **Educating Yorkshire** (T) 3.55 **Four in a Bed** (T)

Saturday September 13

RTÉ1

6.00 **EuroNews** 6.20 **Teleshopping** 6.50 **Nationwide** (T) 7.20 **Fair City Omnibus** (T) 9.20 **Ros na Rún** (T) 10.20 **European Parliament Report** (T) 10.50 **Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby** (T) 11.50 **MasterChef** (T) 12.30 **Women's Rugby World Cup** Coverage of the opening quarter-final (Kick-off 1pm). (T)

3.15 **Keys to My Life** (T) 3.45 **Cheap Irish Homes** (T) 4.15 **Best Place to Be** (T) 4.45 **Dolphins – Wonders Of The Ocean** (T) 5.45 **Nuacht** 5.55 **RTÉ News With ISL** 6.00 **The Angelus** 6.01 **RTÉ News** (T)

FILM 6.35 **Paddington** (2014) Family comedy, starring Hugh Bonneville ★★★★★ (T); **Lotto**

8.20 **Raised by the Village** Rural communities help two city teenagers, Noah from Dublin and Teagan from Balbriggan, get their lives back on track.

9.25 **RTÉ News**

9.55 **The Young Offenders** Conor takes a job at the fishmonger's, still desperate to get back with his former flame Linda.

10.30 **The Tommy Tiernan Show** Improvised chat show in which neither the host nor the viewers are told the identity of the guests in advance.

11.50 **Harry Wild** A novelist found dead in a locked panic room with no gun.

12.50 **Breakfast on Pluto** (2005) FILM Black comedy drama, starring Cillian Murphy. ★★★ (T) 3.00 **Grantchester** (T) 3.50 **EuroNews** Headlines.

RTÉ2

6.00 **EuroNews** 7.25 **RTÉ Kids** 7.45 **Home and Away** (T) 9.15 **Champions League Magazine** (T) 9.45 **World Athletics Championships** Coverage of the second session on day one. (T) 2.45 **Racing from Leopardstown** Day one of the Irish Champions Festival. (T) 6.00 **Clash of the Crown Princes** Documentary. (T)

7.00 **Changing Planet: River Restoration** Two world-leading projects designed to tackle the crises facing Earth's rivers – one in the Americas, one in Paris.

8.00 **Blenheim: Britain's Greatest Palace** New series. Behind the scenes at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire. Apprentice George is opening the palace, but he isn't alone as a pigeon has moved in overnight.

9.00 **A Quiet Place** (2018) Two FILM parents do whatever it takes to protect their children in a world full of creatures hunting every sound they hear. Nothing can be heard from the family hiding in silence, but all it takes is one noise and everything can go horrifically wrong. Horror, starring real-life husband-and-wife duo Emily Blunt and John Krasinski. ★★★★

10.35 **My Left Foot** (1989) Biopic of FILM Irish writer and artist Christy Brown, who had cerebral palsy and learned to write and draw with his foot. Starring an Oscar-winning Daniel Day-Lewis and Brenda Fricker. ★★★★

12.30 **Fake** (T) 1.25 **EuroNews**

Virgin Media One

6.30 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** (T) 7.20 **The Chase Australia** 9.00 **Ireland AM** (T) 12.00 **John and Lisa's Weekend Kitchen** 1.00 **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** 2.30 **Celebrity Catchphrase** (T) 3.30 **Ant & Dec's Limitless Win** (T) 4.30 **Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad** (T) 5.00 **Cocaine Cargo** (T) 5.30 **News at 5.30** (T) 6.00 **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars** Ben Shephard presents. (T)

7.00 **The Chase: I'm a Celebrity Special** Bradley Walsh presents as former *I'm A Celebrity* campmates Rita Simons, Malique Thompson-Dwyer, Fleur East and James McVey try to win as much money as they can for charity.

8.00 **You Bet! on Tour** New series. Stephen Mulhern returns with the game show, this time travelling around the UK to find ordinary people taking on extraordinary challenges for the chance to win £5,000.

9.00 **The National Television Awards 2025** Joel Dommett hosts the 30th edition of the ceremony, as stars and fans gather for one of the biggest nights in British TV, from the O2 Arena, London.

11.35 **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** Big-prize quiz hosted by Jeremy Clarkson in which another line-up of contestants answer questions that could change their lives.

12.40 **The Graham Norton Show** (T) 1.45 **Million Pound Pawn**

TG4

6.00 **Cúla 4** 10.10 **GAA 2025** 11.10 **The Wonder Years** (T) 11.40 **Taste of Australia with Hayden Quinn** (T) 12.10 **Murder, She Wrote** (T) 1.05 **The Bogey Men – Tee Time** 2.05 **AFL Aussie Rules na mBan** 3.42 **An Aimsir Láithreach** 3.45 **Sacar na mBan Beo** Bohemians v Treaty United (Kick-off 4pm). 6.20 **Red Bull for Reals** Footage of a plane being flown at 245km per hour through a tunnel. (T) 6.57 **An Aimsir Láithreach**

7.00 **Nuacht TG4**

7.15 **Sacar na mBan Beo** Shamrock Rovers v Athlone Town (Kick-off 7.35pm). Máire Treasa Ní Chealaigh presents live coverage of the semi-final in the FAI Women's Cup.

9.48 **An Aimsir Láithreach**

9.50 **Inside I'm Dancing** (2004) FILM A shy man with cerebral palsy befriends a brash newcomer to his residential care home and the pair make a bid for independence. Drama, starring James McAvoy and Steven Robertson. ★★★★

11.45 **20 Feet from Stardom** (2013) FILM Oscar-winning documentary exploring the lives and careers of backing singers, who share their personal accounts of the rewards and sacrifices that their role brings. ★★★★

1.30 **Laochra Gael – Na Coimhlintí** 2.00 **Nuacht TG4** 2.15 **Celtic Connections 2022** (T) 3.10 **Scéalta na gCorn** (T) 3.40 **Comhrá** 4.10 **Seal le Dáithí** 4.40 **France 24**

Virgin Media Two

6.15 **Moneyball** (T) 7.05 **Tipping Point** (T) 9.00 **Britain: A Year in the Wild** 10.00 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** (T) 11.00 **The Chase Australia** 11.30 **UEFA Champions League Magazine Show** 12.00 **Inside Paddington Station** 1.00 **The Finish Line** (T) 2.00 **Unbeatable** General knowledge quiz. (T) 3.00 **Think Tank** 5.00 **Storage Hoarders** 6.00 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** (T)

7.00 **Dress to Impress** Single shoppers Natalie, Molly and Dumebi are hoping to win the heart of fitness coach Deji, and they will be picking outfits for him based on his instructions.

8.00 **John and Lisa's Weekend Kitchen** John Torode and Lisa Faulkner demonstrate four meals that can all be made in around 30 minutes.

9.00 **Hell's Kitchen** The chefs feel the heat during a pasta challenge, and one team dishes out a stellar dinner service while the other faces Gordon Ramsay's wrath.

10.00 **Tell Me Everything** Mei wants to move back to Canada after the attack from Brett, and when Jonny makes a shock discovery, he decides that he's going to head across the Atlantic too. Last in series.

11.00 **Gogglebox Ireland** Celebrity telly fanatics including Pat Shortt, Dave Fanning and Rosie O'Donnell offer their opinions on the best small-screen moments from the past week.

12.00 **Autopsy USA**

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (T) 10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live** (T) 11.30 **BBC News** (T) 11.45 **Live Athletics: World Championships** Further coverage of the second session on day one. (T) 2.45 **Escape to the Country** (T) 3.10 **Early Man** (2018) Animation, with the voice of Eddie Redmayne. ★★★★ (T) 4.30 **Final Score** (T) 5.20 **BBC News** (T) 5.30 **BBC Newsline** (T) 5.40 **The Hit List** (T) 6.25 **Michael McIntyre's Big Show** (T)

7.25 **Pointless Celebrities** With David Seaman, Eddie Kadi, Slim and Chemmy Alcott.

8.10 **Casualty** The ED staff must remain professional as they treat a divisive patient, Iain runs away from his problems, Dylan expresses concern for Flynn, and Ngozi prepares to say goodbye.

9.00 **Last Night of the Proms: The Finale** Further live coverage from the Royal Albert Hall of the climax of the classical music festival, including a specially commissioned orchestral version of *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

10.30 **BBC News**

10.50 **Match of the Day** Highlights of the latest matches, including Arsenal v Nottingham Forest and West Ham United v Tottenham Hotspur.

12.20 **The Football Interview** (T) 12.35 **Mindhorn** (2016) Comedy, starring Julian Barratt, Essie Davis and Steve Coogan. ★★★★ (T) 1.55 **Weather for the Week Ahead** (T) 2.00 **BBC News** Headlines. (T)

BBC2

6.10 **Hey Duggee** (T) 6.20 **Mojo Swoptops** (T) 6.30 **Super Happy Magic Forest** (T) 6.40 **Grizzy and the Lemmings** (T) 7.00 **Pokémon Horizons: The Search for Laqua** (T) 7.20 **Bro's in Control** (T) 7.35 **Gladiators: Epic Pranks** (T) 7.55 **Blue Peter** (T) 8.20 **Newsround** (T) 8.30 **Gardeners' World** (T) 9.30 **Live Athletics: World Championships** Coverage of the second session on day one. (T) 11.45 **Football Focus** (T) 12.30 **Live Women's Rugby World Cup 2025** The opening quarter-final (Kick-off 1pm). (T) 3.00 **Hairy Bikers' Best of British** (T) 3.30 **Live Women's Rugby World Cup 2025** The second quarter-final (Kick-off 4pm). (T) 6.10 **Paula McIntyre's Hamely Kitchen USA** (T) 6.40 **Suzie Lee's Great Food Made Simple** (T)

6.55 **Last Night of the Proms** Katie Derham presents live coverage from the Royal Albert Hall of the climax of the classical music festival, with performances from Elim Chan, Louise Alder and Alison Balsom.

9.00 **Iron Maiden: Live in Concert** Highlights of the band's concert performance from 2008.

10.00 **Iron Maiden: Flight 666** FILM (2009) Documentary chronicling the band's 2008 world tour. ★★★

11.55 **Live Athletics: World Championships** Coverage of the first session on day two.

4.00 **This is BBC Two** (T)

Channel 4

6.10 **Cheers** (T) 7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (T) 8.55 **Frasier** (T) 9.55 **The Simpsons** (T) 10.50 **Come Dine with Me: The Professionals** (T) 11.50 **A Place in the Sun** (T) 12.55 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (T) 1.55 **Location, Location, Location** (T) 3.00 **Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It** (T) 4.00 **Worst House on the Street** (T) 5.05 **Channel 4 News** (T)

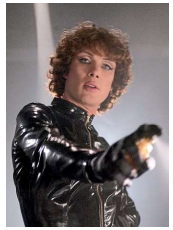
FILM 5.35 **Star Trek** (2009) Sci-fi adventure, with Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto. ★★★★ (T)

8.00 **Britain's Railway Empire in Colour** The story of how Britain gave railways to the world, featuring newly coloursised archive materials.

9.00 **The Pope's Exorcist** (2023) FILM Premiere. Father Gabriele Amorth, chief exorcist for the Vatican, investigates the possession of a young boy. Horror, starring Russell Crowe and Daniel Zovatto. ★★★

11.00 **The Last Stand** (2013) The FILM sheriff of a small town on the Mexican border tries to stop a drug lord from fleeing the US. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. ★★★

1.00 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (T) 1.50 **Huge Homes with Hugh Dennis** (T) 2.45 **Extraordinary Escapes with Sandi Toksvig** (T) 3.40 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (T) 4.35 **The Simpsons** (T) 5.20 **Find It, Fix It, Flog It** (T) 5.25 **Location, Location, Location** (T)



Cillian Murphy, 'Breakfast on Pluto', RTÉ1, 12.50am

Radio

RTÉ Radio 1

6.00 **Rising Time** 8.00 **Countrywide** 9.00 **Playback** 10.00 **The Business** 11.00 **Brendan O'Connor** 1.00 **Second Captains Saturday** 2.00 **Saturday Sport** 6.00 **Neil Doherty** 8.00 **Irish Imperial Lives** 8.30 **Out & Proud** 9.00 **Céilí House** 10.00 **Folk on One** 11.00 **Country Time** 11.59 **Late Date** 2.00 **RTÉ Gold on RTÉ Radio 1**

RTÉ 2FM

6.00 **2FM Overnight** 7.00 **Helen & Benny** 9.00 **Bláthnaid Treacy** 12.00 **Demi & Mikey** 3.00 **Emma & Graham** 6.00 **Jenny Greene** 8.00 **2FM Dance with Dave Treacy** 10.00 **2FM The Spring Sessions** 12.00 **2FM White Noise** 1.00 **The Late Night Sessions**

RTÉ lyric fm

7.00 **Evonne Ferguson** 10.00 **The Hamilton Scores** 1.00 **Aedín Gormley** 4.00 **Claudia Boyle** 6.00 **Suaimhneas** 6.30 **Culture File** 7.00 **Opera Night with Paul Herriott** 10.00 **Ellen Cranitch** 1.00 **Lyric Through the Night**

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta

7.30 **Béal Maidine** 9.00 **Príomhscéalta na Nuachta** 9.02 **Rogha na Seachtaine** 10.00 **Cas Ceirnín** 11.00 **An tSeachtain le Máirín Ní Ghadhra** 12.00 **Príomhscéalta na Nuachta** 12.08 **Togha agus Rogha** 1.00 **Nuacht a hAon** 1.20 **Togha agus Rogha** 2.00 **Spórt An tSathaim** 6.00 **Nuacht a Sé** 6.30 **Blas** 7.00 **Spórt an Tráthnóna** 9.00 **An Ghealach Ghorm** 12.00 **Scoth na Seachtaine**

Today FM

7.00 **Music You Love** 8.00 **Alison Curtis** 11.00 **Ben Murray** 2.00 **KC** 6.00 **Block Rockin Beats** 9.00 **Floorfillers** 12.00 **Overnight Music**

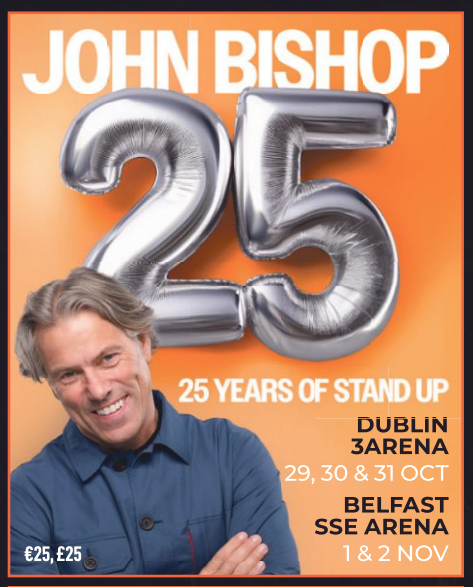
Newstalk

7.00 **Soundscape – TED Talks** 8.00 **The Home Show with Sinead Ryan** 9.00 **The Anton Savage Show** 11.00 **Bobby Kerr** 1.00 **Off the Ball** 5.00 **Jessica Kelly** 6.00 **John Fardy** 7.00 **Soundscape – TED Talks** 8.00 **The Home Show with Sinead Ryan** 9.00 **Documentary and Drama on Newstalk** 10.00 **Best of The Pat Kenny Show** 11.00 **Tech Talk with Jessica Kelly** 12.00 **Best of Newstalk**

BBC Radio 4

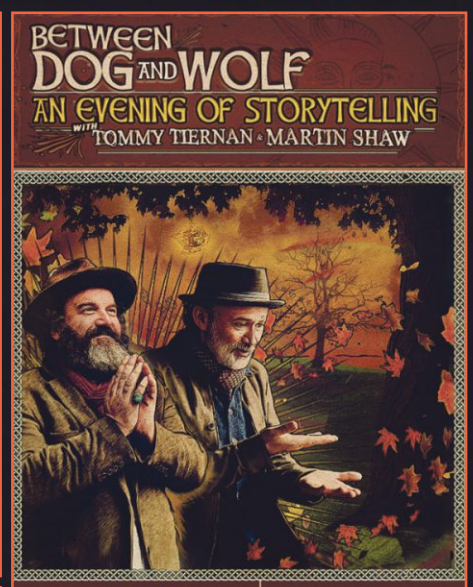
5.30 **News Summary** 5.34 **Shipping** 5.43 **Prayer for the Day** 5.45 **Uncharted with Hannah Fry** 6.00 **News and Papers** 6.07 **Open Country** 6.30 **Farming Today This Week** 6.57 **Weather** 7.00 **Today** 9.00 **Saturday Live** 10.00 **You're Dead to Me** 10.30 **The Kitchen Cabinet** 11.00 **The Week in Westminster** 11.30 **From Our Own Correspondent** 12.00 **News** 12.04 **Money Box** 12.30 **The News Quiz** 12.57 **Weather** 1.00 **News** 1.10 **Any Questions?** 2.05 **Any Answers?** 2.45 **The Archers** 3.00 **Drama** 4.00 **Weekend Woman's Hour** 5.00 **Saturday PM** 5.30 **Nick Robinson** 5.54 **Shipping** 5.57 **Weather** 6.00 **News** 6.15 **Loose Ends** 7.00 **Profile** 7.15 **This Cultural Life** 8.00 **Archive on 4** 9.00 **The Moral Maze** 10.00 **News** 10.15 **The Food Programme** 11.00 **Ickiewick** 11.30 **Nature Table** 12.00 **Midnight News** 12.15 **Bookclub** 12.48 **Shipping** 1.00 **BBC World Service**

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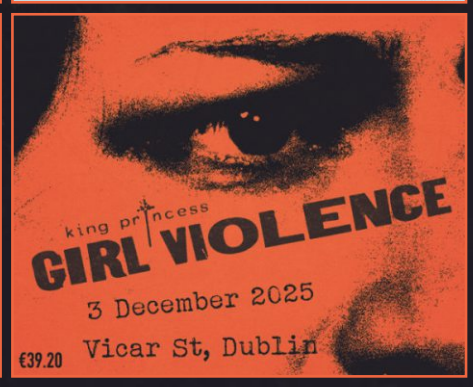








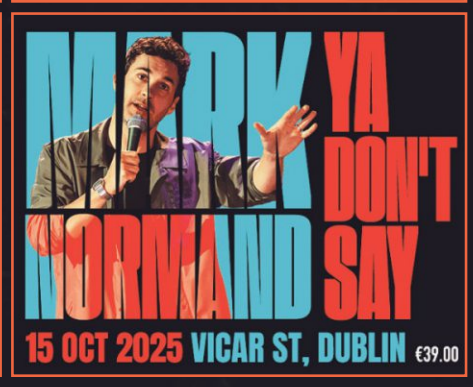












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