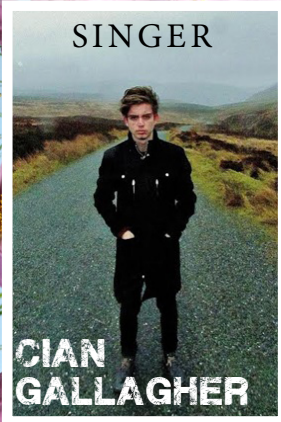


**BRAY**

Mon June 8th  
2015  
8pm

**Raffle**  
ON THE NIGHT

**TRASH SHOW!**



COMEDIAN

Mayday! Bray Arts summer season launched, predictably late, after the Bank Holiday break. Midway through the night, the MSC cruise ship steamed along the seafront – they didn't know what they were missing. Poetry from the port of Liverpool, and parts north, dancing from exotic points east, and a music finale from beyond the western ocean.

Helen Harrison was the poet of the night, returning with her collection of *The Last Fire*. This fanned the flames of poetic ardour, tall tales and true from a towering talent. Helen has zigzagged from Liverpool to Monaghan and, regularly, Bray. Seafaring references spice poems such as the *Voyaging Vessel*, probably anticipating the MSC beyond the windows. Elsewhere, Kilruddery House was name checked with its elder trees and bumblebees, and intriguingly: 'life goes on underground'. Is she thinking of the ice house? Helen veered towards comedy later on; she has a natural flair for it. This poet is hot and cool, never lukewarm.

Azaria Starfire was fortuitously named, it would seem. Clad in turquoise and feathers, she provided a brief interlude from the seraglio. With souk-blasters, sinuous insinuation and the careful use of feather fans, she had the audience hypnotized. Trust in me, the music hissed, and indeed we would oblige to a man and most of the women too. The sound quality was a little dubious at times, but Azaria scarcely blinked at such erratic distractions.

Appellation Pending put into port with time to spare. Bluegrass was the colour; music was the game, a winning formula to take us on a trip through West Virginia and the blue hills of Memory. Appalachian of course, as it nearly says on the tin. Guitar, fiddle, mandolin and bass combined with the shifting vocals of the boys and girls, to weave a spell of toe-tapping, foot-stomping, barnstorming American Folk. Old standards such as *You Are My Sunshine*, and country classics like *Country Roads* made for an accessible set. My favourite was *Fox on the Run*, haven't heard that in years, since the days of Manfred Mann. Azaria returned, denying the adage regarding east and west: that never the twain shall meet. Indeed they did, with Russian music providing common ground. The dance was truly enhanced. Walking the tightrope of live music, it became real; a conversation flowing from musician to dancer, radiating into the audience. To the strains of the *Tennessee Waltz*, there was that traditional surge of the Bray Arts faithful onto stage. It was time to cast off and, to cries of 'a vast behind!' sail away into the sunset.

*Shane Harrison*

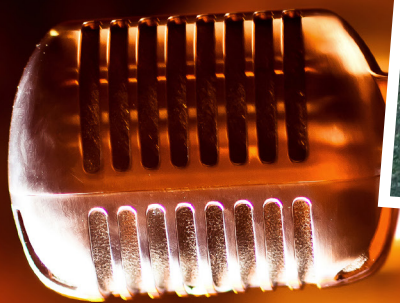
# ESPRESSO (A capella quartet)

How about a shot of coffee!



We are Ruthie, Hazel, Maire and Mary and we came together as Espresso Quartet in the summer of 2012. We are all members of Beating Time and are based in the Wicklow area. We sang in our first convention in Waterford in 2014 winning a silver medal . Our first public performance was in the Kenmare Choral Festival in Dec 2012 where we were 'Highly Commended'. We meet once a week and really enjoy singing together.

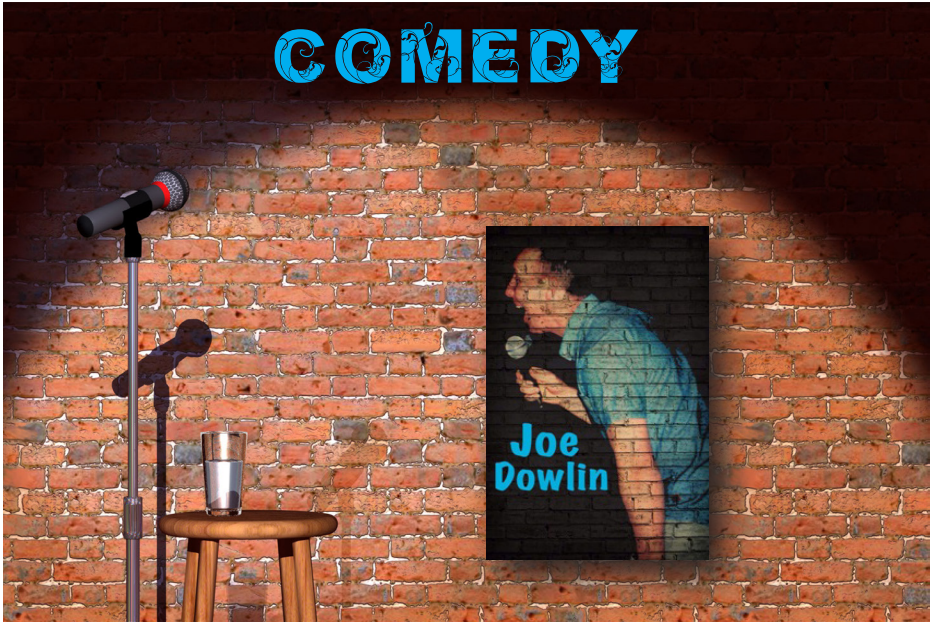
# CIAN GALLAGHER SINGER



Cian has had an extensive theatrical/stage experience along with his solo career and has performed in shows such as Les Miserables in Belfast to West Side Story at the Mermaid. His solo career has seen him play various venues around Ireland. He reached the final of the All Ireland Talent Search contest at the Helix. In 2013 he performed on the Bandstand at the Bray Summer Fest and also the Byrnes Summer Festival in Kilcoole. This year has been an incredible year for Cian

so far. The highlights being performing in the National Concert Hall and singing with Take That in the 3 Arena on their 2015 European Tour in May.

Cian Sings a wide variety of styles ranging from Jazz to Indie Rock. He'll be singing hits such as 'That's Life', 'Mack the knife' and more slower modern jazz numbers like 'Gran Torino' by Jamie Cullum. He will also be showcasing his more Indie side by singing some Kasabian and Lana Del Rey.



## **JOE DOWLIN - COMEDIAN**

Started doing comedy just over two years ago after winning a local stand-up competition , A finalist at the London / Irish Ted Fest comp 2014 and 3 times winner of Battle Of the Axe , Joe also made it through to the final of this year's (Forbidden fruit talent search on 26/05/15 ) He has gigged at all the top comedy clubs and has been performing up and down Ireland and many times in the UK. He is also founder and resident MC at the hugely popular TallaCraic Comedy House in Tallaght.

Don't miss this rising star with his side splitting humour and energetic performance!

LINES WRITTEN TO A POORLY PATIENT IN LIEU OF A BUNCH OF FLOWERS

For mood of persiflage,  
Choose the saxifrage  
Jupiter's pink  
and blue and white,  
clinging to the ground  
and rooting  
for the quench  
of gentle rain -  
as is the way  
of a little xerophyte.

For jubilation, I'd go  
for yellow gorse  
sweet smells  
of coconut  
in pod-pop beat of sun.

Then those sleepy  
nights with digitalis  
purpurea (that's foxglove  
to you and me)  
making hearts  
godiddly-dee,  
slyly nodding  
you to bed with red  
and purple head -  
all the while ignoring  
petal trails of indigo  
forget-me-nots.

In morning flight again,  
run you down by clumps  
of bogland willowherb  
and honeyed woodbine droop  
where brilliant hawkmoths  
hide their beauty,  
flashing in the dark.

But thyme is of the essence,  
wind-tousled tang of sheepen  
pastureland, as you step  
towards the sea;  
rock rose, purslane  
you're assaulted  
by the salted scents.

Turning back to town,  
past sagging bindweed  
hedge, pause to watch  
thesplaw-legged  
waddle of a silent rook,  
safe from guns  
on treeless tarmac land.

Then through the gate  
to that familiar  
pathway home,  
cobble leading  
to the door  
and rose-trooped  
colours marking  
patient's safe return.

So now you have  
beside the bed  
a jar of thoughts;  
hear the colour,  
glimpse the frankincense,  
connect to pain-free  
days of zestfulness  
and get well soon!

Joe Neal

# Signal Arts Center exhibition



Monday 8th June - Sunday 21st June  
opening night Friday 12th June 7-9pm

## Mairead O' Neill Laher 'In my element'



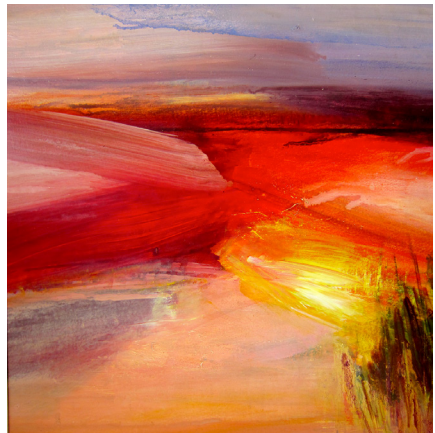
Distant Land



Foreshore



leaving Achill



Obstacles

# BRAY ARTS SHOW

layout by John McCann c/o Signal Arts Centre

THE  
MARTELLO  
HOTEL  
BRAY  
MON June 8TH  
2015  
DOORS OPEN 8PM  
ADMISSION  
€5 - €4 CONC.



## Espresso Quartet

Will bring the fun and close harmonies of unaccompanied barbershop singing as one of Ireland's top ladies quartets based in the Wicklow area.

## Cian Gallagher singer

Will bring a wide variety of styles ranging from Jazz to Indie Rock, some well-known hits and modern jazz numbers while showcasing his more Indie side with some Kasabian and Lana Del Rey.



## Joe Dowlin Comedian

Will have you splitting your sides with his humour and energetic performance having appeared at the top comedy clubs up and down Ireland, the UK and the Talla Craic Comedy house in Tallaght.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PERFORM OR PRESENT YOUR WORK AT THE BRAY ARTS PLEASE CONTACT JULIE ROSE McCORMICK AT 0872486751: ALL ART FORMS WELCOME, FILM, DANCE, ART, LITERARY, MIXED MEDIA, MUSIC, SONG, PUPPETRY, EXPERIMENTAL, SHOWCASE NEW WORK.



BRAY ARTS ON FACEBOOK OR [WWW.BRAYARTS.COM](http://WWW.BRAYARTS.COM)  
[WWW.BRAYARTS.NET](http://WWW.BRAYARTS.NET)

