THE CABLE THAT CHANGED THE WORLD - AS ONE FAMILY WAITS FOR A SINGLE WORD

SIAMSA TÍRE PRESENTS

THE CABLE

WRITTEN & PERFORMED by MIKE KELLY
DIRECTED by AIDAN DOOLEY

★★★★★

'Kelly's enthralling one-man show is a new Irish masterpiece...beautifully crafted, musically rich and emotionally powerful'
KERRYMAN & IRISHINDEPENDENT.IE

2026 Tour Dates

20th Jun	Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith, London
18th-19th Jul	Valentia Transatlantic Cable Station, Valentia Island
17th-18th Oct	Siamsa Tíre, Tralee
20th Oct	Backstage Theatre, Longford
22nd Oct	glór, Ennis
23rd Oct	Belltable, Limerick
25th Oct	Clifden Station House Theatre, Galway
27th Oct	Town Hall Theatre, Galway
29th Oct	An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny

Tickets €20-€25+bf from individual venue websites

Siamsa Tíre

Siamsa Tíre Theatre
Tralee, Co. Kerry.
www.siamsatire.com
Box Office 066 7123055

Siamsa Tíre is kindly supported by:

arts council ealaíon funding the arts artscouncil.ie

An Roinn Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Department of Culture, Communications and Sport

orbitus

"What a joy and privilege it has been to support artists through such a rigorous and rewarding development process; one that allowed for deep exploration of one of Kerry's most extraordinary stories. This journey invited playwright Mike Kelly as creator to lead a collaborative exploration of the narrative, working closely with Aidan Dooley and a wider team of artists and creatives. Together, they engaged with the story through multiple lenses historical, cultural, emotional, and imaginative. What emerged is a rich and layered tapestry of responses that reflect both individual insight and collective vision.

This has been a process of discovery, dialogue, and dedication. Heartfelt thanks to Mike Kelly for entrusting us with the development of this powerful work and for his passion, vision, and openness throughout the process. To all who believed in the relevance and resonance of this story, and to the many artists, collaborators, and supporters who brought it to life with such care, creativity, and conviction, go raibh mile maith agaibh go leir.

CEO Angela Ryan Whyte

A note from Mike Kelly

A special thank you to everyone whose support led me to be here at Siamsa Tire, especially - Marian O'Neill, Clare Horgan, Paul Dolan and Eamonn Campbell. Thank you Aidan Dooley for helping me find more layers in 'The Cable' than I ever imagined possible. Your kind and careful direction has been priceless.

And no thank you is big enough for Angela Ryan, whose faith in me and my play has brought me to this iconic Kerry venue. It is an opportunity I have dreamt about for a long time.

I dedicate this performance to the lady who has inspired so much of it; my mother, Mary Ann Kelly. Mom has dealt with more than any mother should, but has never lost her fire and spirit in the face of it all. She resides in Valentia Care Home and continues to brighten the days of all who meet her. I dedicate it also to the memory of my father, Mike, brother Robert, and sister Claire. The pain of their loss is ever-present in 'The Cable'.

Contact Mike Kelly at - info@thecableplay.com
Please leave feedback on FB and Instagram at @thecableplay and #thecableplay

Visit www.thecableplay.com for more information.

THE CABLE

Historical Background

The Transatlantic Cable, which ran from Valentia Island, Co. Kerry, to Heart's Content, Newfoundland, spanned over 3,000 kilometres beneath the Atlantic Ocean and revolutionised global communication by reducing message transmission across continents from weeks to mere minutes. As the world changed forever, so too did the lives of those at its edges — a truth brought vividly to life in this stirring production.

Set against the backdrop of the monumental laying of the Transatlantic Cable on Valentia Island in 1866 — known as the "Eighth Wonder of the World" — The Cable explores how a family's emotional struggles mirror a world on the brink of a communications revolution.

"The Transatlantic Cable is a symbol of global connection, and this play brings that down to a deeply personal level — showing how progress and pain often walk hand in hand." Aidan Dooley, Director

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Show Synopsis

The Transatlantic Cable is about to be laid out from Valentia Island in South Kerry to Newfoundland, changing how the world communicates forever. But for the local O'Sullivan family, whose son Mícheál works at the cable station, will this bring any comfort as they desperately seek news about their daughter, Kitty, who sailed out to New York six months earlier? Kelly has written a compelling story about loss, love, and life at an extraordinary time in Irish history. *The Cable* is deeply moving, funny and will live long in the memory.

The Cable is a poignant exploration of loss, hope, and the universal longing for connection. Blending the compelling visual storytelling shaped by Mike Kelly with haunting original music by Dave McGilton, evocative lighting design by John Hurley, and the creative direction of Aidan Dooley, The Cable captures the intersection of technological achievement and human longing.

Audiences can expect a theatrical experience that stirs the soul and ignites the imagination — a compelling narrative of personal and historical transformation set against one of Ireland's most dramatic landscapes – a story that deeply resonates.

PRODUCTION

Mike Kelly, Playwright & Performer

Mike Kelly trained at the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) and has appeared in countless stage productions since. He spent 15 years touring the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe with Madhouse Theatre Company, of which he is a co-founder. Their repertoire ranged from the intense prison drama 'Someone Who'll Watch Over Me' by Frank McGuinness to their take on the hilarious 'Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged).' He also played the lead in a national tour of 'Look Back In Anger.' TV credits include 'The Martian' (Dir, Ridley Scott), Hellboy II (Dir. Guillermo Del Torro), a guest lead in 'Silent Witness' and 'Robin Hood' for the BBC, and 'The Terror' for AMC, with Ciaran Hinds. 'The Cable' is Mike's debut at Siamsa Tíre.

Mike has spent his life visiting the family home in Ballinskelligs, Southwest Kerry, just a few miles from Valentia Island. His love for the place runs deep and it has always been where he is most creatively fulfilled and inspired.

Aidan Dooley, Director & Dramaturg

Aidan is originally from Galway and trained at the Guildford School of Acting. Based in London, he works as a freelance actor, writer, and director. His theatre credits include Philadelphia, Here I Come! (Wyndham's), Elegies for Angels (Criterion), DA (White Bear), Translations (National Theatre) and Tom Crean – *Antarctic Explorer*, which has toured worldwide for over 20 years, winning awards including a Fringe First at Edinburgh and Best Solo Show at the New York Festival. [tomcreanshow.com] His second solo show, *Our Last Chieftain – O'Sullivan Beara*, also toured extensively.

Aidan is Co-Artistic Director of Play On Words Theatre Company and has been an Associate Lecturer in Drama at Canterbury Christ Church University since 2006. His book Travels with Tom Crean was published in 2016.

TEAM

Angela Ryan Whyte - Producer

Before her appointment as CEO of Siamsa Tíre, Angela Ryan Whyte built a distinguished career as an award-winning theatre producer, playwright, and actor. Holding an Honours MA in Drama & Theatre Studies from NUI Galway, she founded Jasango Theatre and Scripts – Ireland's Playwriting Festival, producing acclaimed works and mentoring emerging voices in collaboration with national partners The Abbey Theatre & Fishamble. An accomplished arts facilitator and curator, she led national and international tours, youth theatre projects, and large-scale cultural events, all rooted in inclusive, community-focused practice and a passion for Irish theatre and storytelling.

Miriam Cooper - Assistant Director

Miriam trained at the Guildford School of Acting and has performed extensively across stage, radio, and touring theatre. Her credits include *The Ghost Train* (Bristol Old Vic), *Playing with Fire* (Young Vic), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (The Dukes), and BBC Radio 4 dramas. She toured internationally with *The Two Worlds of Charlie F* and appeared in *Witness for the Prosecution* (County Hall) and *Dear Octopus* (National Theatre). Miriam co-wrote acclaimed children's theatre and was nominated for an Off West End Award for her solo show *Prostitutes Marry in May*. She is Co-Artistic Director of Play On Words and is a Lecturer in Drama at Canterbury Christ Church University. www.playonwoordstheatre.com

PRODUCTION TEAM

Dave McGilton - Musical Director

Dave is a writer and composer based in Cloghroe, Co. Cork. His most recent album, *Drift*, joins a catalogue of work recorded over the years. His songs have been performed by artists including Mary Courtney, Frances Black, Daniel O'Donnell, John McDermott, and Rachel Goode.

His music features regularly at commemorative events such as Anzac Memorial Day, and he was recently commissioned to write a piece marking those lost during An Gorta Mór. Dave's theatre work began with the use of his song *Tom Crean* in Aidan Dooley's *Tom Crean – Antarctic Explorer*, followed by a full commission for *O'Sullivan Beara – The Last Gaelic Chieftain*.

Originally from Tralee, Dave is delighted to contribute music to Mike Kelly's new play, *The Cable*. His music is available on all streaming platforms and at www.davemcgilton.com.

MUSIC

All Instrumental Compositions Written and Composed by Dave McGilton.
Stage recording of musicians Tom Hanafin and Katie Lucey.

Dark Night of Sorrows, Uaigneas, Dusk and Valentia Flowers - Copyright D.McGilton

Recorded Extracts:

Siúil A Rún -Traditional - Sung by Mary Courtney, taken from the album Grá by Morning Star

Drone - Traditional - Gabriel Donohue www.marycourtneymusic.com

Mo Shlan Beo Soir – Traditional – Sung by Clare Horgan

TECHNICAL TEAM

John Hurley - Lighting & Projection Designer

John's stage journey began with Tralee Musical Society, building sets and special effects for shows like *Joseph* and *West Side Story*. He later joined Siamsa Tíre as a lighting and sound operator, progressing to lighting designer for numerous productions. In 1998, he went freelance, designing *Me and My Girl* for Killarney Musical Society — the first of many acclaimed shows. He returned to Tralee Musical Society 13 years ago for *Titanic* and has lit every production since. His work spans pantos, showcases, and musicals across the region, earning multiple AIMS nominations and wins for Best Technical achievement.

Tech & Stage Team

- **Eric Heaslip - Tour & Stage Manager**
- **Shane Murphy - Sound Programming**
- **Dara McGee - Original Set Design**
- **Eric Heaslip & Alex Hindmarsh - Set Adaptation & Construction**

Credits

- **Aisling Carmody - Graphics**
- **Anthea Hogan & Seaweed Digital - Digital Publicity**
- **Michelle Murphy - Sustainability Advisor & Head of Business Development & Marketing**
- **Geraldine Hurley - Head of Operations**
- **Sharon Walsh - Front of House & Box Office Manager**
- **Justin Walsh - Community Engagement Manager**

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on Siamsa Tíre and The Cable

Siamsa Tíre #1 of 45
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TripAdvisor July 2026

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Siamsa Tíre
www.siamsatire.com
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