



Lasta
2026

A Young Curators Festival

National Arts Festival for Young People by Young People

1st - 4th October 2026

www.siamsatire.com



Event Programme

the arts
council
a chomhairle
ealaíon

funding
the arts



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Siamsa Tíre



By Young People for Young People

Now in its sixth year, the national LASTA young curators festival is a testament to collaboration, engagement and community. Started in 2020 by Backstage Theatre, the programme has blossomed to include eight venues nationwide and an expanding programme of exciting, multidisciplinary work. The spark that fuels the project is faith in the next generation of audience members, artists and programmers. It is this trust and desire to connect from the network that encourages a belief in performance and participatory practice, and cultivates the elevation of contemporary sentiments as they emerge.

In this wide-ranging programme of work, you are called to spectate, participate, and listen to a broad and exciting range of voices. Boasting theatre, music, film, visual art (and more!), the programme is a showcase of what we want to hear in our venues, and want to share with our communities.

Under the guidance of theatre artist **Maisie Lee**, we are thrilled to share an auditorium, a moment, and a festival with you. Ambitious and expansive, it speaks to the value we place on holding space, creating forum, and opening up to the possibilities of what new voices can add to the conversation.

Instagram @lastafestival

Facebook.com/lastafestival

TikTok @lastafestival

X @lastafestival

Youtube @Lasta Festival



A note from our Young Curators...

*Antonia Gergely and Neil Moore Ryan.
Young Curators at Lasta Festival 2026*



We're proud to present this year's Lasta festival to you all! Our time curating the Lasta programme has flown and we are so excited to share it all with you.

The events for this year's festival came together through both of us leaning into our interests, what we find is important to the audiences of today, and foregrounding the talent that stands out to us.

We prioritised cultural interests we've noticed in our own generation, like the re-emergence of the Irish language (**Anonn: The Other Side, a bilingual play by Scaoilte Theatre**), the return of analogue and rejection of excessive technological focus (**backspace, a visual art exhibition**), and the prioritisation of self-reflection and self-care (**Tangent Idea Generation, Art Therapy, and Jigsaw Kerry workshops**). We also included a vintage pop-up and an anime film screening to bring people together in a more laid back way, which allows people to fully take part while saving their social battery.

Our goal is to bring people together at **Siamsa Tíre**, and to highlight the venue as a welcoming space to celebrate culture and community at every age. We'd like to give a huge thanks to the team at Siamsa Tíre and the Young Curators Programme led by **Maisie Lee** for supporting us in making this event possible.

Should you find yourself in the area, please support the Lasta Festival and our fellow Young Curators in Backstage Theatre (Longford), Dunamais Arts Centre (Portlaoise), glór (Ennis), An Grianán (Letterkenny), Lime Tree (Limerick) and THT (Galway).

Thank you for supporting Lasta Festival 2026, we can't wait to see you there!

Antonia and Neil

Open Call

Ag Samhlú Saoil Eile

How does Irish language and myth about the Otherworld, and the role of nature within it, speak to us in a time of environmental crisis?

Join this three-part workshop series with bilingual collective Scaoilte Theatre using theatre and storytelling to imagine your own 'other worlds', of living in tune with our ecosystems.

The finished piece of work will be recorded and exhibited as a sound installation titled 'Ag Samhlú' for Lasta Festival 2026 at Siamsa Tíre. All are welcome to attend the free exhibition throughout the festival!

These free 2hr workshops are open to young people, 16-24yrs. All levels of familiarity with Irish welcome.

Attendance at all three workshops is encouraged. Bígí linn!

- 29th Aug | 11am - 1pm
- 5th Sept | 11am - 1pm
- 19th Sept | 2pm - 4pm

Limited Spaces
Book your free spot at
siamsatire.com/events

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Funded by Creative Ireland and Kerry County Council
under the Creative Communities Fund.

At a Glance...

LASTA Festival Schedule and Booking Info

THURS 1ST OCT

- Backspace Art Exhibition | All Day
- Ag Samhlú Sound Installation | All Day
- Official Opening | 7pm

FRI 2ND OCT

- Backspace Art Exhibition | All Day
- Ag Samhlú Sound Installation | All Day
- Anonn by Scaoilte Theatre | 7:30pm

SAT 3RD OCT

- Backspace Art Exhibition | All Day
- Ag Samhlú Sound Installation | All Day
- Vintage Pop-Up Shop | 11am-3pm
- Piece of Mind Creative Stations | 3pm
- Animated Film - Akira | 7pm

SUN 4TH OCT

- Backspace Art Exhibition | All Day
- Ag Samhlú Sound Installation | All Day
- Tangent Creative Workshop | 11am
- Art Therapy Workshop | 3pm
- Live Music Gig - AMANO | 7pm



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**For more information & to book,
visit www.siamsatire.com**



VISUAL
ARTS

Festival Opening

Join us for the official opening of LASTA festival 2026 where attendees can also enjoy our visual arts exhibition '**Backspace**' and sound installation '**Ag Samhlú**'.

The perfect launch for a weekend celebrating creativity in all its forms.

All are welcome to attend, booking not required.

Visitors can visit the exhibition and sound installation throughout the festival!



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1ST OCT | 7PM | FREE ENTRY | ALL AGES
SIAMSA TÍRE ART GALLERY
WWW.SIAMSATIRE.COM

ART

BACKSPACE

LASTA presents Backspace, an exhibition showcasing young visual artists in Ireland.

A backspace is not an erasure or an admission of error. When we backspace - digitally erase - we reflect, retrace, rethink, and refine our steps forward.

Through their analogue nature, the artworks included in this exhibition celebrate a return to slowness in an age of instant images, prepackaged experience, and automated consumption.

From painting to film photography, in this exhibition, slow observation becomes radical and seemingly outdated media are transformed into a vehicle for connection to the world as we'd like to know it.

The exhibition will be available to enjoy from 25th September with the official opening held on Thurs 1st October at 7pm, all welcome to attend, no booking required.

25TH SEPT - 4TH OCT | ALL DAY | FREE
SIAMSA TÍRE ART GALLERY
WWW.SIAMSATIRE.COM



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ART

Ag Samhlú Saoil Eile Sound Installation

This sound installation is the outcome of a three-part workshop series with the bilingual collective **Scaoilte Theatre**.

Using theatre and storytelling, the participants explore how Irish language and myth about the Otherworld, and the role of nature within it, speaks to us in a time of environmental crisis. They then imagine their own 'other worlds', of living in tune with our ecosystems.

Get Involved!

The free 2hr workshops are open to young people, 16-24yrs. All levels of familiarity with Irish welcome. Bígí linn!

- 29th Aug | 11am
- 5th Sept | 11am
- 19th Sept | 2pm

Book your spot at siamsatire.com/events

1ST - 4TH OCT | ALL DAY | FREE

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THEATRE

Anonn presented by Scaoilte Theatre

Seoirse has been pretending to be a spirit-medium. When he actually makes contact with the other side, he's forced to confront what he has done.

A bilingual one-man show tackling themes of grief, loss, death, and the macabre, all from the safety of a salt circle.

This is Scaoilte Theatre's debut show, following its award-nominated run at Dublin Fringe Festival 2026.

www.scaoilte.com



FRI 2ND OCT | 7:30PM-8:30PM | 16YRS+
€18/€16/€15/SCHOOL GROUPS €8
SIAMSA TÍRE THEATRE



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ECO SHOP

Pop-Up Shop with The Vintage Vault

The Vintage Vault was born out of a passion for sustainable living and a love of fashion!

Based in Killorglin, Co.Kerry, the team consists of Michelle and AJ, wives and business partners. Both are fashion lovers and love the vintage aesthetic.

The Vintage Vault are so excited to bring quality used vintage clothing to LASTA festival and can't wait to meet fellow young Kerry fashionistas!

facebook.com/Finderskeeperskerry



SAT 3RD OCT | 11AM-3PM | FREE

SIAMSA TÍRE LOBBY

WWW.SIAMSATIRE.COM



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WORKSHOPS

Piece of Mind Drop-in Workshops

Drop by the interactive creative stations to connect and share your thoughts on wellbeing and mental health, no booking required.

A collaborative, youth advocate-led creative event In association with Jigsaw Kerry

www.jigsaw.ie/location/kerry

**JIGSAW
KERRY**

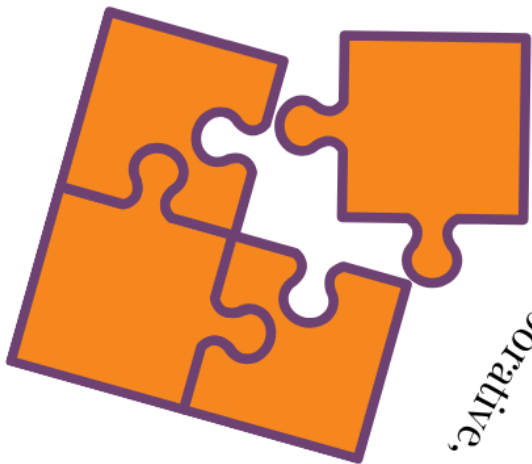
Young people's
health in mind

SAT 3RD OCT | 3PM-5PM | FREE | 18YRS+

SIAMSA TÍRE MUSIC ROOM

WWW.SIAMSATIRE.COM

PIECE OF MIND



A collaborative, Youth Advocate-led creative event.



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FILM

AKIRA

The 1988 animated, Japanese cyberpunk, anime masterpiece directed by the renowned Katsuhiro Otomo, with its unprecedented hand-drawn detail.

A Festival Highlight!

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SAT 3RD OCT | 7PM-9PM | 15A | €5

SIAMSA TÍRE THEATRE

WWW.SIAMSATIRE.COM

Workshop

'Tangent' Idea Generation Workshop

A workshop for creatives of all kinds
(especially if you don't call yourself one!).

What can we find when we really pay
attention?

Engage whichever way you choose to. Chat
to a new face across the table, jot down
words and phrases that catch your ear or
doodle aimlessly while you listen to the
buzz of the café. You won't be asked to
share what you write.

Just bring a journal, a pen, and a book for
our book swap – the rest is up to you!

Your Facilitator:

Irish singer-songwriter **Maria Kelly**



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SUN 4TH OCT | 11AM-1PM | €8 | 18YRS+
EARLY BIRD €5 (BOOK BEFORE 2ND OCT)
SIAMSA TÍRE MUSIC ROOM



WORKSHOP

Art Therapy Workshop

Join Rebecca Anastasia for a taster art therapy group workshop applying self compassion in creative expression.

Participants will explore their inner world with the use of art materials. Rebecca will give a short introduction into art therapy and her personal approach much inspired by Shaun McNiffs "Art as Medicine" book and acknowledging that the soul is communicating to us through our art.

This will be followed by art making, group sharing and exploration. Participants will take their artwork home with them. All materials provided however you are welcome to bring any materials you like to work with at home. Bring a journal for self-reflection. No experience in art making needed.

Rebecca Verrall BA, MA. IACAT.

Art Psychotherapist

SUN 4TH | 3PM-5PM | €5 | 18YRS+

SIAMSA TÍRE MUSIC ROOM

WWW.SIAMSATIRE.COM



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Music

Amano Music Performance

Amano is a singer, songwriter and sean-nós artist with roots in Kerry and Kyūshū (Japan). Her live performances invite audiences into deeper attunement with story, place and season, blending Irish sean-nós with contemporary folk alongside pop and electronic influences.

In Autumn 2026 Amano will perform nationwide on her debut tour, which now includes Siamsa Tíre, accompanied by a diverse and masterful band of established artists with backgrounds ranging from avant-garde, to traditional to neo-soul: Brian Dillon, Dale McKay and Danny Groenland. Amano's Autumn tour promises a unique immersion in traditional Irish song from the haunting lullaby, to the raucous slip jig, to elaborate tales of unrequited love and all the beauty and pathos found in between.

SUN 4TH | 7PM | 18YRS+
SIAMSA TÍRE THEATRE
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**booking fees apply to some events*



*The eight LASTA Festival venues are; An Grianán Theatre (Letterkenny),
Backstage Theatre (Longford), Dunamaise Arts Centre (Portlaoise), glór
(Ennis), Lime Tree Theatre (Limerick), Pavilion Theatre (Dún Laoghaire),
Siamsa Tíre (Tralee), Town Hall Theatre (Galway).*



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Government of Ireland



Siamsa Tíre