

# Spacers present a new comedy 'Splendid Isolation' in the Friary Hall

Spacers present a new comedy 'Splendid Isolation' in the Friary Hall, Anne Street. The play runs for three nights: Thursday 25th, Friday 26th and Saturday 27th April at 8pm.

Spacers' first production took place in the Friary hall back in 2017. The group came together to perform 'The Space' by Gráinne Jordan (hence the name Spacers).

In 2018 they brought Colin Calvert's one act comedy 'Mystery Tour' to the theatre in the Museum.

In 2019 they returned to the Friary Hall with a production of Tommy Marron's 'The Real McCoy'. Spacers were getting ready for their opening night in March 2020 production with Jimmy Kearey's 'I'm The One For You' when Covid struck and the country went into lockdown the week before. This is Spacers first post-lockdown production.

Having had the last production stopped by Covid, it is fitting that Spacers return to the stage with a nod to the extraordinary circumstances of the past few years.

'Splendid Isolation' is set during the lockdown and follows the fortunes of various characters whose

lives are impacted by the lockdown. The play is written and set locally.

May McCartney owns the Splendid Lodge, a small independent hotel in Dundalk. As the hospitality industry suffers under Covid restrictions, May takes a decision to save her business.

She offers her premises as an isolation centre for travellers coming from abroad. Her niece Káte McCarthy, a journalist with the local paper, is desperate for a good story.

Local gossip Minnie Power likes to think she has her finger on the pulse of the town. She's happy to share her knowledge if the price is right. When the isolating guests start arriving the shenanigans start.

May McCartney, the owner of the Splendid Lodge, is played by Joanne Dalton.

Her niece Kate is played by Barbara Finegan. Patricia Reynolds plays Minnie Power.

Among the guests who end up in the hotel are Lisa, Padraig, Ailbhe and Cici, played by Karen Maguire, David McArdle, Stephanie Rocks and Denise Tighe.

Kate's husband, local guard Frank Murphy, played



May McCartney, the owner of the Splendid Lodge, is played by Joanne Dalton

by Mark Matthews gets drawn into the intrigue. Joan Wilson is the director. She may have more than one finger in this particular pie.

Other Spacers who have been involved in this production either backstage, in technical roles or front of house include Amy Galligan,

Eimear Boyle, Damien O'Callaghan, Martina Clerkin Byrne, Mary Reilly and Maeve Montgomery.

Tickets priced €15 can be purchased by phoning Amy on 086 2268606, from any member of the cast and crew and from National Tile.

# Oriel music links to be examined in new film

An award winning film which explores the musical links between the Oriel area and southwest Donegal will screen in Newry next week.

The screening of the award-winning documentary television programme, "The Life and Times of Johnny Doherty" at Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail this Wednesday 17 April offers an opportunity to examine and celebrate the extraordinary links between Oriel and southwest Donegal, which reach back many generations.

Since Peadar Ó Dubhda moved his Irish speaking college from Omeath to Rannafast in 1924, generations of families from this area have made annual pilgrimages to Rannafast and other areas of the Donegal Gaeltacht to improve their Irish, and immerse themselves in the rich traditions of music, songs

and poetry.

The musical talents of the famed Donegal travelling family, the Dohertys, dates back as far as the flight of the Earls in 1607.

The Hardee's left Doe Castle on the shores of Sheep Haven and since then continued the family business of travelling tinsmiths, musicians, storytellers and men of literature.

More recently, John claims that he was descended from Turloch Mac Suibhne, An Píobaireach Mór, whose ancestral home was south west Donegal in the 18th century.

The documentary will be presented by Bronagh McAtasney on behalf of NIScreen and she is keen to encourage questions and discussions on the material.

Volunteers from OTMA will also be on hand to locate



the documentary in the context of the Oriel Traditional Music Archive.

"Every young traditional musician, and certainly every fiddle player should attend this very important presentation.

"The intergenerational dimension of learning and

assimilating Irish traditional music is a key component of our tradition" says Tommy Fegan, piper and co-author of the book Free Spirits - Irish Travellers and Irish Traditional Music, and he adds that "without understanding the past, we can't hope to fulfil our musical ambitions for the future".

In addition to the documentary, OTMA is presenting a fascinating story on a recent surprise find of a song written over 40 years ago, and thought to have been lost. It has a political, cultural and a humorous twist.

The event is organised by the Oriel Traditional Music Archive and will take place on Wednesday 17th April, 7pm-9pm in the Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail, Newry. Everybody is welcome. Admission is free.



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

Planning and Development Act 2000,  
as amended  
Planning and Development Regulations 2001,  
as amended

Notice of Intention to Undertake Development by  
Louth County Council Under Section 179A of The  
Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Louth County Council gives notice of its intention to carry out the following development:

**The construction of 70no. houses including 9no. 2-bed bungalows, 24no. two storey 2-bed houses, 18no. two storey 3-bed houses, 5no. two storey 4-bed houses, and 2no. 3-bed bungalows, and 12no. sheltered accommodation 2-bed bungalows on a site of 3.17 hectares in the townland of Ravel, Dunleer, Co. Louth.**

The development will also include the construction of new connections to the existing estate road; provision of new cycleway, footpath, and public lighting along the boundary with the R170; new estate roads and homezones within the site; 123no. car parking spaces including both on-street and in-curtilage parking; cycle parking; hard and soft landscaping including public open spaces, playground, and private gardens; boundary treatments; ESB substation; lighting; laying of underground sewers, mains and pipes; underground pump station and attenuation tank; and all associated works.

Plans and particulars of the housing development are available for inspection or purchase, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Louth County Council as set out below and are available for inspection on the website of Louth County Council at <https://consult.louthcoco.ie/> hereafter.

**Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Fair Green, Ardee, Co. Louth, A92 RYT2.**

(Inspection and purchase - during public opening hours between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday)

In accordance with Article 81A(5) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, Louth County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination pursuant to the provisions of article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 81A(6) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, Louth County Council has carried out a screening of the proposed development to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Accordingly, Louth County Council has determined that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

This notice informs interested persons and parties of Louth County Council's intention to commence the proposed development no sooner than 8 weeks from the date of this notice.

Within a period of 8 weeks from the date of this notice any person may question the validity of any decision of the Planning Authority by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986), in accordance with sections 50 and 50A of the Act.

**Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, Louth County Council.**  
16.04.2024

Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant  
Closing Date 1st of May

The deadline for **Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) grant registration is fast approaching!** Businesses have until **May 1st** to register on the ICOB Portal at [icob.ie](http://icob.ie).

**Eligibility Criteria:** Make sure to check the portal for the criteria and see if your business qualifies. Don't miss out on this vital support for small and medium businesses!

**Act Now:** Register as soon as possible to avail of this grant. Payments will commence from late April 2024.  
Visit [www.mycoco.ie](http://www.mycoco.ie) for more information.

County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, County Louth A91 KFW6  
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View Alerts at [www.mapalserterie/louth](http://www.mapalserterie/louth)