



THE BELFAST  
**EMPIRE**

MAR/APR 2019





# BOOKING INFORMATION

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM**  
THE EMPIRE BAR (no booking fees)  
ALL TICKETMASTER OUTLETS  
24 hr booking line 0844 277 445  
[www.ticketmaster.ie](http://www.ticketmaster.ie)

Should you or any member of your party require any special assistance, our staff will be delighted to help.

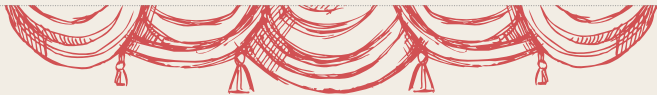
We recommend that when possible, you notify  
The Belfast Empire prior to your visit.

Please note that some performances may use special effects, such as strobe lighting and smoke effects.

All patrons must be aged 18 or over.

**FOLLOW US ON**  
Twitter, Facebook & Instagram

42 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JQ | 028 9024 9276  
[WWW.THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM](http://WWW.THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM)



*Dear all,*

Time marches on, and we're already well into Spring!  
We've got the second half of the 6 NATIONS on in The  
Empire Basement, and, as you know, anything can happen.  
There's the fun and games of St. Patrick's Day, with the  
return of THE RAPPAREES in what's bound to be  
another sell out Empire spectacular.

Speaking of sell outs, we've the amazing IDLES - their April  
show sold out in 9 minutes, but there's plenty of other  
original music incoming in the form of JACK LUKEMAN,  
BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH and YUNGBLUD. There's  
a fundraiser to get Belfast the GARY MOORE statue it  
deserves and the annual visit from the always convivial  
HAYSEED DIXIE in March.

Local music continues to be a fixture, with GIFTED,  
Belfast's longest running local band night, and the weekly  
ROOTS sessions in the Empire Basement every Friday.  
The Empire Comedy Club continues to bring the chuckles  
and we're hosting a genuine legend in the form of  
LEE 'SCRATCH' PERRY.

Cannot wait!

As always, I remain yours,

*Kitty*





# EVERY NIGHT IN THE BAR

## ENTERTAINMENT

**SUN**

10PM - BELFAST'S BEST SUNDAY NIGHT

**KEN HADDOCK SUPPERCLUB**

**MON**

10PM - LIVE IRISH TRADITIONAL & FOLK

**THE RARE AUL STUFF**

**TUE**

11PM - HIP, HAPPY AND HAIRY

**DISCOBEARD**

**WED**

10PM - THE ULTIMATE ALTERNATIVE PUB CHALLENGE

**THE BIG EMPIRE QUIZ**

**THU**

10.30PM - EMPIRE BLUES

**RAB MCCULLOUGH & BAND**

**FRI**

5.30PM - SWEET BEATS

**JACKIE RAINEY**

**FRI**

10.30PM

**100% FRESH ROOTS** SEE OVERLEAF

**SAT**

10.30PM  
**LIVE  
ROCK  
& SOUL**

2 MAR ..... THE BREAKFAST CLUB  
9 MAR ..... THE PRETTY BOY TOUGH GUYS  
16 MAR ..... PAUL DEAN BAND  
23 MAR ..... THE MOONSHINES  
30 MAR ..... THE MOONSHINES  
6 APR ..... ARMS OF VENUS DE MILO  
13 APR ..... ARMS OF VENUS DE MILO  
20 APR ..... PAUL DEAN BAND  
27 APR ..... STRICTLY NO BALLROOM

**DRINK OFFERS | LATE BAR | FREE ADMISSION**  
**FOOD SERVED MON-SAT 12-9PM SUN 12.30-6PM**



FRIDAYS | 10.30PM



# 100% FRESH ROOTS

ORIGINAL ARTISTS PLAYING THEIR OWN MUSIC & MORE!

1 MAR **THE UNHOLY  
GOSPEL BAND**

5 APR **THE UNHOLY  
GOSPEL BAND**

8 MAR **BROKEN STRING BAND**

12 APR **LONESOME GEORGE**

15 MAR **THE PEACE PROCESS**

26 APR **THE VIBES**

22 MAR **OUTLAW COUNTRY MEN**

29 MAR **LONESOME GEORGE**



# JACK LUKEMAN

FRI 1 MAR | 7.30PM | £17.50

We've the very handsome JACK LUKEMAN joining us in The Empire Music Hall on the 1st of March. The artist formerly known as Jack L has been compared to such luminaries as Nick Cave and Leonard Cohen, while supporting everyone from The Proclaimers through to Imelda May.

Theatrical, romantic, with an uncanny ability to play the characters from the songs like the finest actor, a solo JACK LUKEMAN show is a rare treat, and one to be savoured, especially in such a small venue as The Belfast Empire.



# HAYSEED DIXIE

SAT 2 MAR | 8.30PM | £18.50

It's hard to credit that it's been nearly 20 years since HAYSEED DIXIE first sailed out of the hills of Appalachia on a sea of whiskey and bluegrass, to release their now legendary Tribute to AC/DC, but played on Banjo, jug and washboard. Since then their folk versions of classic rock shtick have seen them play festivals the world over, becoming one of the planets hardest working bands.

We're always pleased to welcome the boys back to The Empire, for what's always a raucous experience, where good times are guaranteed. And we mean guaranteed.



# YUNGBLUD CARLIE HANSON

THU 7 MAR | 7.30PM | £11

Up and coming, socially aware, with a healthy dose of post-Nirvana angst, YUNGBLUD will play his debut Belfast show in the Empire Music Hall on Thursday 7th of March.

With a string of YouTube hits, and the acclaimed album *21st Century Liability* under his belt, the man formally known as Dominic Harrison channels the spirit of Richey James-era Manic Street Preachers, with a hefty measure of ska, pop and grime to flavour.

It's a uniquely English rebellion, and the voice the new generation craves. Strictly 18+ on the doors.



# POCKET BILLIARDS

## UNITED BOTTLES | THE SKALLIONS TONIC ALL STARS

FRI 8 MAR | 8.30PM | £10

POCKET BILLIARDS will be playing live and dangerous as part of the best party in town. With a blinding new album just about to drop, the 9-piece band continue to impress all comers with their energy and good time tunes.

Essential listening for those who remember the 2 Tone revival the first time around as much as today's party kids, POCKET BILLIARDS can be considered Belfast's premier party band. Support comes from United Bottles, The Skallions and Tonic All Stars.

"No-one can argue with the sheer oi de vivre on display." BBC ATL



# UK GUNS N ROSES

SAT 9 MAR | 8.30PM | £12

Sure, they're back, and even managed to get Slash back on board, but can you really count on them showing up on time? Unlike Axl, UK GUNS N ROSES are consummate professionals, and incredibly punctual. That's the only way you can tell the difference though.

From Night Train through to Live and Let Die, Welcome to the Jungle through to November Rain UK GUNS N ROSES take you on a potted history of the world's most dangerous band, focusing on the classic line-up and seminal albums of the late 80s and early 90s.



# VONDA SHEPARD & SHARON CORR

WED 13 MAR | 8PM | £35

New York native VONDA SHEPARD is probably best known for fronting the house band in *Ally McBeal*, although her musical career started at age 14, before signing to Reprise and releasing her self-titled major label debut in 1989. Spotted by *Ally McBeal* creator David E. Kelley, her stint on the show catapulted her to world fame.

She's joined on the night by SHARON CORR – the eldest of The Corrs sisters and former resident of Stranmillis (random fact) for a homecoming of sorts. This multi-platinum selling songwriter is far more acclimatised to the stadium, so this intimate double headline show is a very rare treat!



THU 14 MAR | 9PM | £3  
**SWALL MONKEY**  
**BELWOOD**  
**SENSE DEFICIENCY**  
**ANTI DEPRESANTS**



With a debut gig supporting The Skallions [SH1], you'll know that there's something special behind SWALL MONKEY. You can either shuffle on stage or come out swinging – and we all know what happened next. The crowd went wild.



Joining them on the bill are the melodic punk rockers of BELWOOD, Enniskillen based SENSE DEFICIENCY and the glorious racket of ANTI-DEPRESANTS. Gifted continues to give, the city's longest running regular band night and your best chance to catch tomorrow's acts today.



THU 4 APR | 9PM | £3  
**ROE**  
**MUNKY**  
**SUSIE BLUE**  
**ALICE LA**

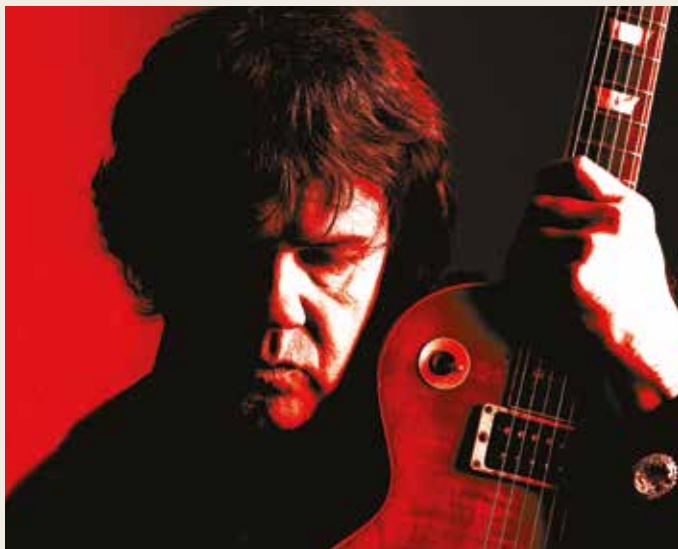


A brief glance at ROE's CV belies her years. This incredibly talented artist went from studying music at the North West Regional College to working with the MOBO nominated David Lyttle within a year, with advert exposure and the blessing of Tom Robinson thrown in for the craic.



Fresh from supporting Snow Patrol over their UK arena tour, her self-styled 'grumpy electro-pop has been bopping all the right heads. Support comes in the form of grunge-disco types MUNKY, the acclaimed SUSIE BLUE and the ambitious pop of ALICE LA.





# CELEBRATING THE GENIUS OF GARY MOORE

SAT 16 MAR | 8.30PM | £11

GARY MOORE was one of the world's finest guitarists and shared the stage with everyone from Thin Lizzy to BB King. They say that a prophet is without honour in his own country at least, that's what Speedo Wilson thought, and, in a full-on Facebook rant, proclaimed he was going to book his own venue for a tribute to the man himself.

Unlike most Facebook rants, Speedo followed through, and recruiting likeminded souls, put the band together. This is the fourth year of the Genius show to salute the man, and the legend.



# THE RAPPAREES

SUN 17 MAR | 7.30PM | £15+BKG

Responsible for many a night's craic and morning after misery, THE RAPPAREES will return to the Empire Music Hall this St. Patrick's Day. With the bank holiday on a Monday, there's never been a better excuse for a Sunday session - all work and no play makes a dull boy or girl out of all of us!

The good times are guaranteed as they take you a million miles away from the clichéd tourist fleeing trad session we all know so well. Find out why exactly THE RAPPAREES are the most sought-after traditional group in the North of Ireland. Expect another sell-out set at this exclusive event!

# ST PATRICK'S WEEKEND

EAT 🍀 DRINK 🍀 BE IRISH

FRIDAY 15TH

JACKIE RAINEY 5PM

THE PEACE PROCESS 10.30PM

SATURDAY 16TH

HOT SAUSAGE & MUSTARD 7PM

PAUL DEAN BAND 10.30PM

SUNDAY 17TH

THE HAULAWAYS 6.30PM

KEN HADDOCK 10PM

MONDAY 18TH

THE RARE  
AUL STUFF 10PM



# AT A GLANCE...

**EVERY TUE** | 8PM | £10/£8 PAY AT THE DOOR

**EMPIRE LAUGHS BACK** COMEDY CLUB

**FRI 1 MAR** | 7.30PM | £17.50

**JACK LUKEMAN**

**SAT 2 MAR** | 8.30PM | £18.50

**HAYSEED DIXIE**

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CELEBRATING  
THE GENIUS OF **GARY MOORE**

**SUN 17 MAR** | 7.30PM | £15+BKG

**THE RAPPAREES**

**SAT 23 MAR** | 8.30PM | £13

**MACK FLEETWOOD**

**SUN 24 MAR** | 7.30PM | £16+BKG

## BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH

**THU 28 MAR** | 7.30PM | £19

## LEE SCRATCH PERRY

**SAT 30 MAR** | 8.30PM | £12

## THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE

**MON 1 APR** | 7.30PM | SOLD OUT

## IDLES

**THU 4 APR** | 9PM | £3

## GIFTED

ROE | MUNKY

SUSIE BLUE | ALICE LA

**FRI 5 APR** | 8.30PM | £14

## NEGATIVE CREEPS

ULTIMATE TRIBUTE  
TO NIRVANA

**SAT 6 APR** | 8.30PM | £12

## R.E.M. BY STIPE

**FRI 12 APR** | 7PM | £15

## GIG FOR GARY

GARY MOORE  
BELFAST STATUE FUNDRAISER

**SAT 13 APR** | 8.30PM | £11

## PLEASUREDOME

**MON 22 APR** | 7PM | FREE

## KEN HADDOCK'S

EASTER MONDAY  
SUPPER CLUB

**SAT 27 APR** | 8.30PM | £13

## DIRTY DC

Check out **THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM** for more shows and info



# SO:NI

SOUNDS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

FRI 22 MAR & SAT 20 APR | 8.30PM | £5

LIVE  
LOUD  
LOCAL



# MACK FLEETWOOD

SAT 23 MAR | 8.30PM | £13

Scotland's biggest tribute to the biggest band of the seventies, (that are still with us), MACK FLEETWOOD take you on an unforgettable journey into some of the songs that defined a generation and continue to influence bands to this day, with everyone from Florence to Clean Bandit professing a love for the Mac.

From the early blues days of Peter Green, through to the arena bothering Rumours, the experimental excesses of Tusk and the not as bad as everyone will try to tell you 80's output, Fleetwood Mac's music is interpreted by some of Scotland's finest session musicians, with a set bound to please everyone from the casual newcomer to die-hard fans.



# BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH

SUN 24 MAR | 7.30PM | £16+BKG

York native BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH returns to the Empire Music Hall this March, touring new material from his third studio album *Gratitude*. He began playing guitar at the age of 10 and while he maintains a healthy regard for the canon – your Buckleys and your Drakes – he's as heavily informed by the music of Arcade Fire and Placebo.

With his debut album *Last Smoke Before the Snowstorm* saw him compared to Damien Rice and Jose Gonzalez. Sophomore *After the Rain* would go on to cement his reputation as one of the great up and coming artists of the Spotify era. With his new material featuring a darker, electronic edge Benjamin is definitely upping the game.





# LEE SCRATCH PERRY

THU 28 MAR | 7.30PM | £19

What can one write in just a few words that can describe the legend that is LEE 'SCRATCH' PERRY? Shall we start with one of the most essential dub-reggae albums of all time, the massive Super Ape? Or his pioneering Black Ark studios that he allegedly burnt down...twice? His work with Bob Marley, the Congos or Junior Murvin?

Or do we let the man speak for himself?

"From Genesis to Revelation. Here I come. Here I come to dub the nation."

Preach.



# THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE

SAT 30 MAR | 8.30PM | £12

You might have heard that THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE cut the mustard, but until you've experienced the show in the flesh you can't really appreciate just how close it is to the real thing

Tony is the double of the man himself, so much so that he appeared as his idol on film and screen, as well as earning the admiration of Nickleback's Chad Kroeger.

Living On a Prayer, Blaze of Glory, You Give Love A Bad Name, it's time to punch the air with the only Bon Jovi tribute to have performed at Jon's birthday!



# IDLES

**MON 1 APR | 7.30PM | SOLD OUT**

No April Fools here, IDLES have managed to explode like no other band, at least since the early manic days of the Arctic Monkeys, or Is This It era of The Strokes.

Their new record 'Joy as An Act of Resistance' debuted at number 5 in the UK charts, smashing all Rough Trade's sales and pre-release records.

This concert sold out pretty much immediately back in November, so if you've got tickets, you're a very lucky soul. If you don't, I'm sure you'll see them at a festival near you soon.



# NEGATIVE CREEPS

## THE DEFINITIVE TRIBUTE TO NIRVANA

FRI 5 APR | 8.30PM | £14

Quail in terror with the news that it's over 25 years since Kurt left us. Then buy a ticket for the **NEGATIVE CREEPS** and remember what made it so vital that first time around.

Once again the Newry based **NEGATIVE CREEPS** take to the road spreading the gospel truth of grunge. Support now announced in the form of Rage Against The Machine tribute Born as Ghosts.

Music as it should be, loud, distorted and sweaty. Come as you are.



## R.E.M. BY STIPE

SAT 6 APR | 8.30PM | £12

This time last year STIPE played their Empire debut, slap bang in the middle of the Beast from the East. They certainly succeeded in bringing a bit of Athens sunshine to those stormy climes, so, they're back for more!

Whether it's playing major festivals or appearing on The One Show, performing for Michael Himself, Stipe are the definitive R.E.M. tribute, complete with 6-piece band, and encyclopaedic knowledge of the back catalogue, the boys from Athens' legacy is in good hands.



# GIG FOR GARY

## GARY MOORE BELFAST STATUE FUNDRAISER

FRI 12 APR | 8PM | £15

Have you even been to Dublin if you don't get your picture taken by the Phil Lynott statue? Wouldn't it be great if we saluted Belfast's own guitar hero Gary Moore in the same way? The proceeds from the GIG FOR GARY are going towards funding the ultimate tribute to Belfast's ultimate guitar hero.

With a full line-up of amazing artists, including Patricia Moore, the Eric Bell Trio, Gerry Quigley & The Nomadic Druids and Sam Davidson's Taste, this is the ultimate place to enjoy the progressive blues and rock that Gary left behind for us.



# PLEASUREDOME

SAT 13 APR | 7PM | £11

Maurice Jay and his crew know how to party. Like, 1980's party, the sort of party that makes House Party look like House Party 2. And you're all invited.

Simply the best 1980's rock, pop and soundtrack tribute around, PLEASUREDOME have been a regular visitor to The Empire for longer than both of us care to remember, having played to 20,000 satisfied guests over the years– and counting!

Always a sell out and with the approval of Limahl himself, PLEASUREDOME is the next best thing to being there.

MON 22 APR | 7PM | FREE ADM

# KEN HADDOCK'S SUPPER CLUB



EASTER MONDAY

SUPPORT FROM EMMA WALLACE | FREE NIBBLES





# DIRTY DC

SAT 27 APR | 8.30PM | £13

There's something primal about the work of AC/DC, something that cuts through the nonsense of day to day live, fuss and artifice, something that punches through the armour of respectability and mainlines pure, unadulterated fun into your heart. That's why DIRTY DC keep coming back to The Empire. Dust off the school uniform, launch the heat-seeker and prime your cannon, as dirty deeds are done dirt cheap in a show lasting nearly two hours. It's the greatest hits, it's the anthems, it's formation clapping and 'Angus', it's simply one of the most enjoyable times you can have in The Empire without getting chucked out for lewdness. And it always sells out, so don't say you weren't warned.

# DRINK OFFERS

## OF THE MONTH



### BOURBON

JIM BEAM RED STAG

SINGLE & MIXER

£4.95

DOUBLE & MIXER

£6.95

SUN - THU



### BOURBON

JIM BEAM DEVIL'S CUT

SINGLE & MIXER

£4.95

DOUBLE & MIXER

£6.95

SUN - THU



### BEER

FOXES ROCK STOUT

£3.95



### BEER

BOYNE BREWHOUSE  
IRISH CRAFT SAISON

£3.95



### GIN

Copeland  
Raspberry & Mint  
with Fentimans Mixer

£7.50



### GIN

Malfy Arancia  
with  
Fentimans Mixer

£7.50



### COCKTAIL

*Shamrock*

Gin, Vodka, Blue Curacao, Rum,  
Tequila, Orange Juice & Slice of Orange

£5.95



### COCKTAIL

*April Fools*

Midori, Jose Cuervo Blanco,  
Lime Juice & Cranberry Juice

£5.95



# AN EMPIRE TRIBUTE...



A  
FOREIGNERS  
JOURNEY

SAT  
4 MAY  
8.30PM | £12



The Ultimate  
Bruce Springsteen  
Night Out

FRI  
17 MAY  
7PM | £12



THESE  
CHARMING  
MEN

SAT  
18 MAY  
8.30PM | £11



REBECCA O'CONNOR AS

TINA  
*Sing & Tell*

FRI 24 &  
SAT 25 MAY  
8.30PM | £14



RAISED ON ROCK

SAT  
15 JUN  
8.30PM | £10



THE  
BJÖRN  
IDENTITY®

SAT  
22 JUN  
8.30PM | £12

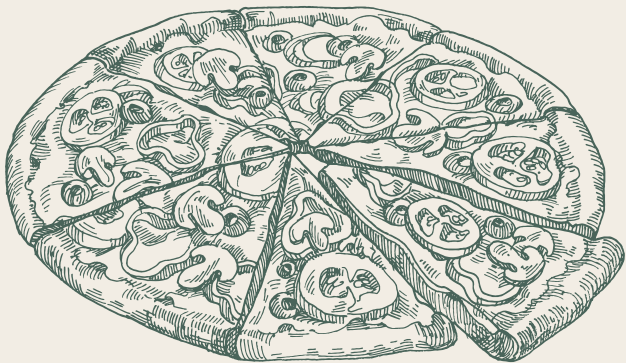
## AND MUCH, MUCH MORE ...

Check out [THEBELFASTEEMPIRE.COM](http://THEBELFASTEEMPIRE.COM) for more shows and info!



# £3 PIZZA

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10" Margherita,  
rolled fresh in-house when  
purchased with a drink  
Monday - Friday 12 - 9pm



[WWW.THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM](http://WWW.THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM)