



THE BELFAST
EMPIRE

MAR/APR 2020





BOOKING INFORMATION

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

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

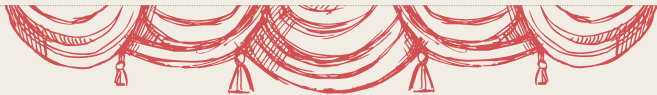
We recommend that when possible, you notify
The Belfast Empire prior to your visit.

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

All patrons must be aged 18 or over.

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Twitter, Facebook & Instagram

42 Botanic Avenue, Belfast BT7 1JQ | 028 9024 9276
WWW.THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM



Dear all,

We've a ton of stuff to get through this issue, so let's just pile straight into it! March means St. Paddy's Day, and we've a full weekend of gigs and other jollities over the holiday period. With KEN HADDOCK in on the Sunday Night, THE RAPPAREES on St. Paddy's Eve, live music on the day and moving into the next weekend with the YOUNG DUBLINERS and a salute to the GENIUS OF GARY MOORE, we've all the bases covered!

While we're talking Irish legends, THE HOTHOUSE FLOWERS have sold out, as has one of two scheduled FROCKED UP dates, featuring BLU HYDRANGEA, the hometown star of Drag Race UK. HAYSEED DIXIE return for another night of Maximum Rockgrass and Acid Jazz legends the JOHN TAYLOR QUARTET are planning a night of quintessential cool. There's the return of DIRTY DC and HUNGRY HEART – a club night consisting entirely of Springsteen smashes.

That and the climax of the SIX NATIONS and endgame for this season's PREMIER LEAGUE?

As always, I remain yours,

Kitty 





EVERY NIGHT IN THE BAR

ENTERTAINMENT

SUN	10PM - BELFAST'S BEST SUNDAY NIGHT KEN HADDOCK SUPPERCLUB
MON	10PM - THE ULTIMATE ALTERNATIVE PUB CHALLENGE THE BIG EMPIRE QUIZ
TUE	11PM - HIP, HAPPY AND HAIRY DISCOBEARD
WED	9.30PM - SINGER-SONGWRITER NIGHT IN THE ROUND
THU	10.30PM - EMPIRE BLUES RAB MCCULLOUGH & BAND
FRI	5.30PM - SWEET BEATS JACKIE RAINEY
FRI	10.30PM 100% FRESH ROOTS <small>SEE OVERLEAF</small>
SAT	10.30PM LIVE ROCK & SOUL <div>7 MAR..... STRICTLY NO BALLROOM 14 MAR..... STRICTLY NO BALLROOM 21 MAR..... PRETTY BOY TOUGH GUYS 28 MAR..... THE MOONSHINES 4 APR..... THE MOONSHINES 11 APR..... PAUL DEAN BAND 18 APR..... ARMS OF VENUS DE MILO 25 APR..... ARMS OF VENUS DE MILO</div>

ALL
NEW

DRINK OFFERS | LATE BAR | FREE ADMISSION
FOOD SERVED MON-SAT 12-9PM

FRIDAYS | 10.30PM



100% FRESH ROOTS

ORIGINAL ARTISTS PLAYING THEIR OWN MUSIC & MORE!

6 MAR **THE UNHOLY
GOSPEL BAND**

13 MAR **THE HANDSOME
PRINCES**

20 MAR **COPPERCROWE**

27 MAR **LONESOME GEORGE**

3 APR **THE UNHOLY
GOSPEL BAND**

10 APR **THE HANDSOME
PRINCES**

17 APR **THE VIBES**

24 APR **THE MOONSHINES**

LIVE SPORT AT THE EMPIRE

CARABAO CUP FINAL
1ST MAR 16.30
ASTON VILLA V MAN CITY

PREMIER LEAGUE
FINALE

SIX NATIONS
7/8/14TH MAR

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
KNOCKOUT STAGES

CHELTENHAM RACES
10TH - 13TH MAR

UEFA EURO 2020 PLAY-OFFS
26TH & 31ST MAR

GRAND NATIONAL
4TH APRIL

MATCH BURGER,
FRIES & PINT £10

ADD BACON & CHEESE £2

BEER
BUCKET £12

4 X COORS / SAN MIGUEL (330ML)



TEMPLES

SUN 1 MAR | 7PM | £16

Touring in support of their third album *Hot Motion*, **TEMPLES** have come a long way from the anticipated bedroom project from James Bagshaw and Tom Warmesley. A series of home-produced demos caught the attention of Heavenly supremo Jeff Barret, who agreed to release their debut in 2012.

With celebrity endorsement in the form of one Noel Gallagher, Temples' own brand of very English psychedelic pop has garnered comparisons to the classics – Pink Floyd, Spacemen 3 and My Morning Jacket.



THU 5 MAR | 9PM | £3
PASCALWILLNOTSURIVETHIS
THE HEATHEN CHOIR
THE SCARLET CAVALIERS
AMERICAN GUINEA PIG



PASCALWILLNOTSURIVETHIS is the vehicle for the pained indie howling of Danny McClelland and Friends. A heady combination of punk, folk and blues, the band grew from the ashes of WASPS, and continue the DIY work ethic of label Zool Records.



Support comes from Darren Doherty and THE HEATHEN CHOIR, straight forward rock and roll from THE SCARLET CAVALIERS and powerpop/antifolk outfit AMERICAN GUINEA PIG.



WED 1 APR | 9PM | £3
PAPER TIGERS
ENOLA GAY
SHOCKS
AFTER THE FLOOD



Fresh from releasing debut single Gucci Smile, PAPER TIGERS are looking to cement their reputation as an uncompromising live offering. The Belfast-based, power alt-rock outfit are making lots of new fans. Ones to watch!



ENOLA GAY are a post-punk/noise rock outfit influenced by Idles and Just Mustard. SHOCKS are a three-piece rock band from Bangor and AFTER THE FLOOD open the night admirably.



HAYSEED DIXIE

FRI 6 MAR | 8.30PM | £19.50

Yeehaa! The return of the Maximum Rockgrass outfit to The Empire Music Hall is a much-anticipated herald of spring around these parts. It's hard to credit that it's 20 years since HAYSEED DIXIE first blasted onto the live circuit, but we all know the world would be a sadder place for it.

New album Blast from the Grassed returns to the time honoured formula of classic rock, bluegrass style – when it ain't broke, don't fix it! DC, Queen, Toto – all fair game when the Dixie are in town!



JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET

SAT 7 MAR | 8.30PM | £25+BKG

We're thrilled to welcome one of the true legends of acid jazz to The Empire Music Hall for a night that will ache effortless cool.

The JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET specialize in the sort of cinematic soundscape lifted straight out of a swinging 60's crime caper, or your favourite blaxploitation joint.

It's not just the covers through – James Taylor defined the acid jazz scene with his own material in the early 90s, and it's aged very well.

Nice.



JOHN GARRITY

SAT 8 MAR | 8PM | £12.50+BKG

If you've been in Belfast city centre over the past year, there's every chance you'll have been astounded by the unique talents of JOHN MCGARRITY.

From Belfast's very own singing busker through to viral sensation, John's incredible vocal talents have seen him sing on the Nolan Show alongside Kodaline's Stephen Garrigan, who's since personally asked him to support the band next time they're in town.

This is John's biggest headlining show to date, and it's already nearly sold out. Don't miss this chance to say you seen him here first.



IN MEMORY OF CATHY MCCREA

MON 9 MAR | 7PM | £10

The local artistic community lost a star in CATHY MCCREA, a regular face at cultural events across the country. Her family have put together an amazing bill, consisting of her friends and collaborators over the years.

In no particular order, there will be sets from Terry Sharpe (the Adventures), Marty Lundy and Katmandu, Sit Tight, Ken Haddock Band and Willie Byrne on the night. All proceeds in aid of Marie Curie, tickets priced a very reasonable £10, and will be available on the night, or from the Empire Box Office.



CMA SONGWRITERS SERIES LIFE WORTH LISTENING

WED 11 MAR | 7.30PM | £15

We're thrilled to have another brilliant concert courtesy of the Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival. This is part of the CMA Songwriter's series and features top rated singer-songwriters LORI MCKENNA, HILLARY LINDSEY & LIZ ROSE.

They've written for Taylor Swift, Carrie Underwood, Tim McGraw, Keith Urban, Little Big Town, Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper and won countless Grammy awards.

Three giants of the Country scene playing their own songs as you've never experienced before!

JINJER PRESENTS



FROCKED UP

FRI 13 & SUN 15 MAR | 5.30/7.30PM | M&G £50/£32

Jinjer Events are back, with another outrageous triple bill, featuring the stars of RuPaul's Drag Race UK! There's not one, but two bumper nights of the Frock Destroyers!

Join Divina de Campo, Baga Chipz Mbe and Blu Hydrangea for a night of outrageous song, dance and roasting.

On top of all this, there's a very special guest hostess to be announced! Limited M&G tickets available now!



NOW THE 90S

SAT 14 MAR | 8.30PM | £11

It seems like NOW THE 90S have been around since forever, but it's only a year since the people behind Pleasuredome ventured into the decade of Britpop, Grunge and the Spice Girls. It's clearly been taken to heart, as they've sold out every night since!

Remembering Blur Vs Oasis, the Spice Girls vs All Saints, Mr Blobby vs whoever happened to get in his way, this is the ultimate nostalgia fest, if it's your first time there or second time around!

AT A GLANCE...

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

EMPIRE LAUGHS BACK COMEDY CLUB

SUN 1 MAR | 7PM | £16

TEMPLES

THU 5 MAR | 9PM | £3

GIFTED PASCALWILLNOTSURIVETHIS | THE HEATHEN CHOIR
THE SCARLET CAVALIERS | AMERICAN GUINEA PIG

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JOHN GARRITY

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NOW THE 90'S

MON 16 MAR | 8PM | £15+BKG

THE RAPPAREES

FRI 20 MAR | 8.30PM | £12

GENERAL FIASCO

SAT 21 MAR | 8.30PM | £12

CELEBRATING
THE GENIUS OF

GARY MOORE

MON 23 MAR | 8PM | £10

YOUNG DUBLINERS

FRI 27 MAR & SAT 11 APR | 7.30PM | £5

SOUNDS OF NI

SAT 28 MAR | 8.30PM | £14

DIRTY DC

WED 1 APR | 9PM | £3

GIFTED PAPER TIGERS | ENOLA GAY
SHOCKS | AFTER THE FLOOD

FRI 3 APR | 8.30PM | £25

HOTHOUSE FLOWERS

SAT 4 APR | 8.30PM | £11

PLEASUREDOME

MON 13 APR | 5.30/7.30PM | M&G £32/£22+BKG

THE HOLE HYDRANGEA TOUR

FRI 17 APR | 8.30PM | £12

NEGATIVE CREEPS

SAT 18 APR | 8.30PM | £12

BON JOVI EXPERIENCE

SAT 25 APR | 8PM | £10/£12

HUNGRY HEART BRUCE
SPRINGSTEEN NIGHT

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



THE RAPPAREES

MON 16 MAR | 8PM | £15+BKG

Responsible for many a night's craic and morning after misery, THE RAPPAREES will be playing one of their biggest gigs to date this St. Patrick's Day eve. There's never been a better excuse for a Monday 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 fleecing 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.

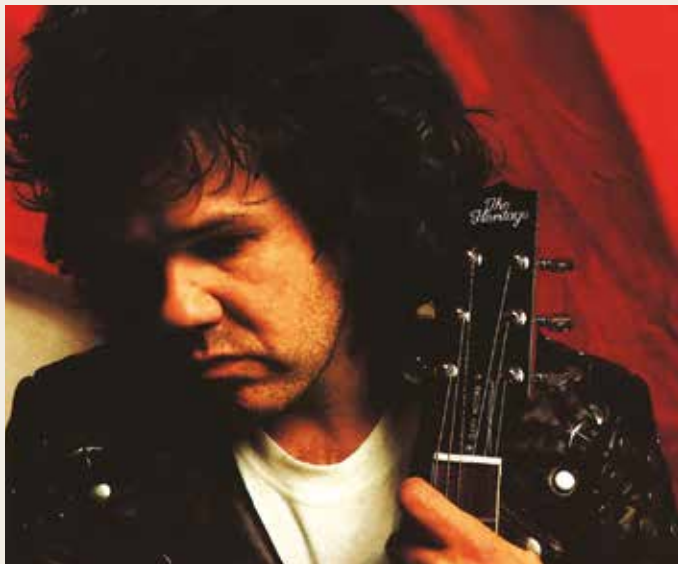


GENERAL FIASCO

FRI 20 MAR | 8.30PM | £12

One of the stand-out local outfits of the past 10 years, GENERAL FIASCO called it a day after six years of live shows and two albums. They'd supported everyone from Jet to the Enemy, toured Europe and played Reading as part of the BBC Introducing programme.

It's hard to credit that it's ten years since the release of their debut album *Buildings*, but we're more than happy to see the return of our favourite Bellaghy noise-makers!



CELEBRATING THE GENIUS OF GARY MOORE

SAT 21 MAR | 8.30PM | £12

Gary Moore's career spanned four decades and found himself playing in some of Ireland's biggest outfits – Skid Row, Colosseum II and, of course, Thin Lizzy. Alongside playing on two of their best acclaimed albums, he would record the classic *Down in the Fields* with Phil, just one highlight of his own prolific output.

THE GENIUS OF GARY MOORE was put together by Speedo Wilson, as a tribute to Belfast's finest bluesman, alongside Nick Scott (Van Morrison, Mary Black and Gilbert O'Sullivan) and a host of the country's finest musicians. This is the band's 5th annual gig!



THE YOUNG DUBLINERS

MON 23 MAR | 8PM | £10

Hailing from LA but with their roots firmly back in the aul sod, THE YOUNG DUBLINERS began life as a covers band, in the ex-pat bars of the East Coast.

Taking their inspiration from Christy Moore and the Fureys, they soon found that there was a market for their own material, and with a live following honed by years on stage the legend was born.

The Young Dubs' music has featured on everything from Jimmy Kimmel to Sons of Anarchy.



DIRTY DC

SAT 28 MAR | 8.30PM | £14

Dirty Deeds, Done Dirt Cheap. But done well, as DIRTY DC have secured the services once more of Sean Mulvihill, world Bon Scott impersonator champion.

AC/DC are the band that never die, even after 40 plus years of riffs, excess and hi-energy anthems. This is the ultimate tribute to Australia's loudest band.

Expect another sell-out show at The Empire Music Hall and buy your tickets accordingly.



HOTHOUSE FLOWERS

FRI 3 APR | 8.30PM | £25

The return of HOTHOUSE FLOWERS to the live circuit is a wonderful thing. Beginning their career in 1985 as a busking duo known as 'the Incomparable Benzini Brothers'. Within three years their debut album would hit the number one spot in Ireland and number two in the UK.

Their upbeat take on folk-rock found them festival favourites throughout the late 80s and early 90s, with massive slots at Reading and Glastonbury, and while they never recaptured the critical success of *People*, they continue to tour and record with everyone from Def Leppard to Tim Finn.

Pleasuredome

80'S TRIBUTE NIGHT



SAT 4 APR | 8.30PM | £11

jinger!

presents

THE HOLE HYDRANGEA TOUR



MONDAY 13 APRIL

VIP MEET & GREET
£32 +BKG | 5.30PM

GENERAL ADMISSION
£22 +BKG | 7.30PM

BUY NOW FROM
WWW.JINJEREVENTS.COM

Cheryl
Hole

Blu
Hydrangea



NEGATIVE CREEPS

FRI 17 APR | 8.30PM | £12

This Newry three-piece admirably recreate the buzzsaw antics of the band that defined the 90s. Nirvana's humble origins were soon left behind with the pop-sensibilities of unit shifter Nevermind.

Dismayed by the success, Cobain put his heart and soul into In Utero – a deliberately difficult and dark follow-up, before tragedy struck in 1995. NEGATIVE CREEPS cover the range of Nirvana's amazing back catalogue in depth.

Support comes from Angry Chair – Ireland's ultimate tribute to Alice in Chains



THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE

SAT 18 APR | 8.30PM | £12

The next best thing to New Jersey's second son, THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE boasts the unmistakable stage presence of Tony, a man who not only has performed for his idol's birthday party but appeared as Jon Bon Jovi himself in Brit-com Kinky Boots.

Dead or Alive, Blaze of Glory, Living on a Prayer. Blue collar anthems all, delivered by one of the most authentic and sought-after tribute bands, in what's bound to be another super smash sell-out show.



HUNGRY HEART

SAT 25 APR | 8PM | EARLY BIRD £10/£12

It's back! The world's only all Springsteen touring club night hits The Empire Music Hall after one amazing night in May last year, saluting one amazing artist. Imagine a whole night of tunes from Bruce Springsteen and the E-street Band.

With a peerless back catalogue to choose from, some of the world's most devoted fans, and one of the best regarded icons in rock and roll from the past 50 years, HUNGRY HEART is the unmissable club night for fans of the Boss.

COMING UP...



THESE
**CHARMING
MEN**

SAT
2 MAY



**now
the 90s**

SAT
9 MAY



REBECCA O'CONNOR AS

TINA
Simply the Best

FRI & SAT
22 & 23 MAY



Pleasuredome

80'S TRIBUTE NIGHT

SAT
6 JUN



Transmission
the sound of
Joy Division

SAT
13 JUN



REM
by **Stipe**

SAT
20 JUN

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE ...

Check out THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM for more shows and info!

DRINK OFFERS

OF THE MONTH



BOURBON

JIM BEAM APPLE

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 LAGER

£3.95



GIN

Fla'penny Gin
with
Fentimans Mixer

£7.50



GIN

Titanic Gin
with
Fentimans Mixer

£7.50



COCKTAIL

Midori Emerald
Midori Melon Liqueur, Orange Juice,
Pineapple Juice & Lemon Juice

£5.95



COCKTAIL

Scandinavian Sour
Akavit, Lemon Juice,
Sugar Syrup & Egg White

£5.95



MON 13 APR | 9PM | FREE ADM

KEN HADDOCK'S SUPPER CLUB



EASTER MONDAY

SUPPORT FROM CONOR SCOTT | FREE NIBBLES

THE BELFAST
EMPIRE
BAR

ST PATRICK'S DAY

TUESDAY 17 MARCH

EAT  DRINK  BE IRISH

COPPERCROWE 3PM

LIVE FOLK SESSION
WITH NOEL 5.30PM

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 8PM
MAN CITY V REAL MADRID

DISC O'BEARD 11PM

£3 PADDY'S PIZZA
£5 LUNCH 12-5PM

FOXES STOUT £3.95

HA'PENNY GIN &
FENTIMANS MIXER
£7.50

MIDORI EMERALD
COCKTAIL £5.95

JIM BEAM APPLE & MIXER
SGL £4.95 DBL £6.95



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