

THE BELFAST
EMPIRE

MAR/APR 2018





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.

FOLLOW US ON
Twitter, Facebook & Instagram

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



Dear all,

March is here and brings with it Spring, sunshine and the six nations, with an absolutely jam packed St. Patrick's Day weekend this year, with THE, mighty, RAPPAREES playing the must-see Trad session for Belfast. Tickets are on sale now, and are bound to sell out. There's no work on Monday, being a bank holiday and all that, so we've got KEN HADDOCK bumped up to the Music Hall for that night. And what's that? Ireland vs. England in the last weekend of the SIX NATIONS? Sure where else would you be?

There's the usual run of great touring bands, with Squeeze's CHRIS DIFFORD, math rock three piece GALLOPS and new country superstar SARAH DARLING will all be joining us, showing there's something for everyone at The Empire! We have a R.E.M. tribute courtesy of STIPE, the return of THESE CHARMING MEN and the usual 80's shenanigans from PLEASUREDOME.

There's new music from the hotly tipped BRUNO MAJOR, R&B from ASTON, formerly of JLS and emo-power-poppers THE WONDER YEARS will hope to replicate the quite frankly insane gig they performed here in 2017. C'mere, there's more. SARAH DARLING, THE SECRET SISTERS and Nirvana tribute NEGATIVE CREEPS... it's going to be a busy season!

As always, I remain yours,

Kitty 





EVERY NIGHT IN THE BAR

ENTERTAINMENT

SUN	10PM KEN HADDOCK SUPPERCLUB
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MON	10PM THE RARE AUL STUFF
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TUE	11PM DISCOBEARD
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WED	10PM THE BIG EMPIRE QUIZ
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THU	10.30PM RAB MCCULLOUGH & BAND
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FRI	5.30PM JACKIE RAINEY
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FRI	10.30PM 100% FRESH ROOTS
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SAT	10.30PM LIVE ROCK & SOUL	3 & 10 MAR STRICTLY NO BALLROOM 17 MAR TRES HOMBRES 24 MAR THE EL DUDE BROTHERS 31 MAR PAUL DEAN BAND 7 APR THE EL DUDE BROTHERS 14 & 21 APR ARMS OF VENUS DE MILO 28 APR THE RENEGADES
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LATE BAR | FREE ADMISSION | 7 NIGHTS A WEEK
FOOD SERVED MON-SAT 12-9PM SUN 12.30-6PM

FRIDAYS | 10.30PM



100% FRESH ROOTS

ORIGINAL ARTISTS PLAYING THEIR OWN MUSIC & MORE!

2 MAR LONESOME GEORGE 6 APR MONGREL STATE

9 MAR TWO TIME POLKA 13 APR RORY NELLIS

16 MAR TO BE ANNOUNCED 20 APR THE MOONSHINES

23 MAR THE PEACE PROCESS 27 APR CROW BLACK CHICKEN

DRINK OFFERS

OF THE MONTH



BOURBON



JIM BEAM RED STAG

SINGLE & MIXER

£4.75

DOUBLE & MIXER

£6.50

SUN - THU



BOURBON



JIM BEAM DEVIL'S CUT

SINGLE & MIXER

£4.75

DOUBLE & MIXER

£6.50

SUN - THU



BEER



THE FOXES ROCK STOUT

£3.95



BOYNE BREWHOUSE PALE ALE

£3.95



GIN



*Fla'penny with
Fentimans Mixer*

£6.95



*Malfy with
Fentimans Mixer*

£6.95



COCKTAIL



Lucky Charm

Midori, Malibu, Passoa & Pineapple Juice

£5.95



Caipirinha

Cachaca, Lime Juice, Sugar & Fresh Lime

£5



BAR FOOD OFFERS

£3 PIZZA



Freshly baked 10" Margherita when purchased with a drink
Monday - Friday 12 - 9pm



MATCH BURGER & FRIES £6

ADD BACON & CHEESE £2

ADD PINT £3

T&C'S APPLY



FOOD SERVED MON-SAT 12-9PM SUN 12.30-6PM



THU 1 MAR | 9PM | £3

DONUM DEI ALBUM LAUNCH
DEATH OF A SALESMAN
KETOS
DREAM AWAKE

March sees a very metal night at The Empire as up and coming Metal Core merchants DONUM DEI take to the stage, in what's bound to be one of the most punishing Gifted showcases ever! Citing Machine Head, As I Lay Dying and Trivium as influences DONUM DEI will be releasing their debut album this year. Keep an ear out for this up and coming outfit.

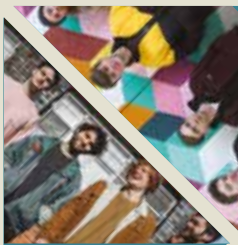
Support comes from DEATH OF A SALESMAN, KETOS and DREAM AWAKE, with enough technical metal, tectonic riffs, and pounding blast beats to take the roof down. And as always, Gifted is at the low, low price of £3.

THU 5 APR | 9PM | £3

WYNONA BLEACH
BLACK CHAPELS
HAND MODELS
FOX COLONY

The Band Formerly Known as R51 have re-branded as the much more memorable WYNONA BLEACH. With a healthy pedigree in dream-pop and shoe gaze, the Belfast based 4 piece are looking to stamp their new imprint on the local scene. Essential stuff for fans of MBV, JAMC and Ride.

The full support line-up includes BLACK CHAPELS, classic alternative rock, with a healthy dose of Goth thrown in, HAND MODELS, who revisit Weezer by way of Limmy's Show and the emo twinged FOX COLONY add up to a great night of local bands!





COMEDY TUESDAY



BEER BUCKET £10 | COCKTAIL JUG £12 | HOUSE WINE £12

8PM

£8/£7 STUDENT



THE BELFAST
EMPIRE
MUSIC HALL



HUE & CRY

FRI 2 MAR | 7.30PM | £25

Find out what all the fuss is about, as one of the cornerstones of the Blue Eyed Soul movement take to the road once again, this time in support of their brand new album *Pocketful of Stones*. With one foot firmly planted in their heritage and another in the future, this new album is a vital addition to the HUE & CRY repertoire.

Brothers Pat and Greg Kane formed HUE & CRY in Coatsbridge, Scotland, in 1983. It would take four years for debut album *Seduced and Abandoned* to be released, and with lead single *Labour of Love*, the band took off. HUE & CRY were never content to play it safe, and that love of experiment has kept them fresh and revitalised well in to the 21st century!



STIPE

A TRIBUTE TO R.E.M.

SAT 3 MAR | 8.30PM | £12

Maybe because it's only seven years since they split, or maybe they were the band too odd to be gigantic, but R.E.M. remain one of the world's most underrated and enigmatic stadium rock bands.

With a string of peerless albums running through the 80s and 90s, one eye on the underground and another on that soaring chorus, it's safe to say we'll never see their like again. 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.



CHRIS DIFFORD

WED 7 MAR | 7.30PM | £17.50

Squeeze epitomised the new wave of British music in the era immediately after punk imploded. With real musicians, an ear for a hook and a keen sense of social justice, the Deptford outfit joined the likes of Elvis Costello and Billy Bragg in writing heartfelt tunes that dealt with the themes of Love and Justice.

We're thrilled to announce Squeeze songwriter CHRIS DIFFORD to The Empire, and while many would be happy to do the rounds and bang out the hits, Chris has kept his hand in at the old songwriting game, and new material sits seamlessly with classics like *Up the Junction*, *Cool For Cats* and *Mussels From a Shell*.





THE RAPPAREES

SAT 17 MAR | 8.30PM | £15 +BKG FEE

It's been four years since THE RAPPAREES played a full band show at The Empire, and that sold out in record time. There's no reason why this St. Patrick's Day special won't do the same! Following their gigantic Fairy-tale of the Pogues Christmas shows, THE RAPPAREES have cemented their reputation as one of the biggest Trad bands on the live circuit. Constantly in demand for their unique mix of traditional staples, drinking songs and their own back catalogue, THE RAPPAREES have come a long way from the days of turning up for impromptu sessions and random pub gigs. One not to be missed!

AT A GLANCE...

THU 1 MAR | 9PM | £3

GIFTED DONUM DEI (ALBUM LAUNCH) |
DEATH OF A SALESMAN | KETOS | DREAM AWAKE

FRI 2 MAR | 7.30PM | £25

HUE & CRY

SAT 3 MAR | 8.30PM | £12

R.E.M. BY STIPE

WED 7 MAR | 7.30PM | £15

CHRIS DIFFORD

THU 15 MAR | 8.30PM | £5

SO:NI LIVE AND LOCAL

FRI 16 MAR | 8PM | £25

PIEKNI MŁODZI & PLAYBOYS

SAT 17 MAR | 8.30PM | £15+BKG

THE RAPPAREES

SUN 18 MAR | 7PM | FREE ADM

KEN HADDOCK ST PATRICK'S BANK HOLIDAY
LUKE WARD

THU 22 MAR | 7.30PM | £15

SARAH DARLING KIOI

FRI 23 MAR | 8.30PM | £17.50

THE SECRET SISTERS DANNI
NICHOLLS

SAT 24 MAR | 8.30PM | £11

THESE CHARMING MEN PLAY THE MUSIC OF THE
SMITHS & MORRISSEY

SAT 31 MAR | 7.30PM | £12

GALLOPS

MON 2 APR | 7PM | FREE ADM

KEN HADDOCK EASTER MONDAY SUPPER CLUB AMANDA AGNEW

THU 5 APR | 9PM | £3

GIFTED WYNONA BLEACH | BLACK CHAPELS HAND MODELS | FOX COLONY

SAT 7 APR | 8.30PM | £10

PLEASUREDOME

THU 12 APR | 8.30PM | £5

SO:NI LIVE AND LOCAL

FRI 13 APR | 8PM | £14

CIARAN LAVERY

WED 18 APR | 8.30PM | £17.50

ASTON MERRYGOLD

THU 19 APR | 7.30PM | £17.50

THE WONDER YEARS

SAT 21 APR | 8.30PM | £14

NEGATIVE CREEPS

FRI 27 APR | 8.30PM | £12

LISA CANNY LARKS | REEVAH

SAT 28 APR | 8.30PM | £11.50

BRUNO MAJOR

Check out THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM for more shows and info.

SUN 18 MAR | 7PM | FREE ADM

KEN HADDOCK'S

SUNDAY SUPPER CLUB



BANK HOLIDAY

SUPPORT FROM LUKE WARD | FREE NIBBLES



SARAH DARLING KIOL

THU 22 MAR | 7.30PM | £15

One of the true superstars of the New Country scene, the fragrant Sarah Darling will be returning to Belfast to play her biggest UK tour to date. More used to the giant arenas and TV talent shows of the United States, this is a rare and unique chance to catch one of the biggest names on the Nashville Circuit.

As much influenced by the classic tunes of the 80's, (having performed covers of With or Without You and Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want) as the giants of the Country scene, Sarah's chart topping albums and countless TV appearances, including the famed Grand Ole Opry show us we're dealing with genuine class.



THE SECRET SISTERS

DANNI NICHOLLS

FRI 23 MAR | 8.30PM | £17.50

Laura and Lydia Rogers were born in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, to a musical family. Learning to sing acappella at their local church, the sisters found themselves invited to audition for Universal. While the first album was well received, the company expressed doubts, just before dropping them from the label. Things were looking grim, until Brandi Carlisle asked them to open for her. A chance rendition of new material at their sound-check saw Brandi demanding to produce the new album. *You Don't Own Me Anymore* is a powerful paean to not giving up, the power of catharsis and the bittersweet joy of vindication – and led to the duo's first Emmy nomination for Best Folk Album. Essential stuff for fans of Bob Dylan, Jack White and The Everly Brothers.



THESE CHARMING MEN

PERFORM THE MUSIC OF THE SMITHS AND MORRISSEY

SAT 24 MAR | 8.30PM | £11

What do we want? We want the one we can't have! When do we want them? Now! THESE CHARMING MEN return to The Empire for another Night that Never Goes Out celebrating the music of Morrissey and The Smiths. From Smiths conventions to headline slots at the legendary Mt. Fuji Music Festival, THESE CHARMING MEN have made a career playing in front of some of music's most demanding fans.

From the classic run of Smiths albums, Morrissey's solo material, the hits, the misses and the rarities, this Dublin based tribute gallop through a two hour set of some of the finest songs ever committed to wax, the songs that made you smile, and the songs that made you cry...





GALLOPS

SAT 31 MARCH | 7.30PM | £12

Back in 2012, GALLOPS were riding high. Formed in 2007 in Wrexham, Wales, they found themselves lauded by BBC introducing and supporting artists of the calibre of 65DaysofStatic, Deerhunter and Battles, while Huw Davis picked one of their tracks to feature on his compilation. They released one acclaimed album, then split in 2013.

After a hiatus they're back, with fresh blood, new instruments and a hearty appreciation of the possibilities of electronic music. While the guitars and drums haven't quite been relegated to the rehearsal room, there's a new sense of experimentation to GALLOPS, while maintaining the live punch of their early shows.

MON 2 APR | 7PM | FREE ADM

KEN HADDOCK'S SUPPER CLUB



EASTER MONDAY

SUPPORT FROM AMANDA AGNEW | FREE NIBBLES



PLEASUREDOME

SAT 7 APR | 8.30PM | £10

Oh right, so you've seen *Stranger Things* and you think you know what the 80s were like? You weren't there, kid. You've never had to wind a cassette tape in with a pencil, you've never had a Marathon and every suitcase you've owned has had wheels. Let Maurice Jay and his crew transport you to that hallowed time when shoulder pads weren't just for the American Football player in your life, when the keytar was a serious instrument and a Flock of Seagulls wasn't just something you got menaced by eating chips in Bangor.

PLEASUREDOME hits the spot, from Prince to Duran Duran, Wham to GnR, the next best thing to being there!



CIARAN LAVERY

FRI 13 APR | 8PM | £14

Friday the 13th isn't bad news for any fans of CIARAN LAVERY, as the Northern Ireland Music Award winner takes to the Music Hall stage. With a new album brewing, the follow up to the acclaimed *Let Bad In*, the time is ripe to catch one of this country's brightest talents.

From the small town upbringing in Aghagallon, Co. Antrim to touring the world, Ciaran's music has a universal appeal. Formerly of alt-country outfit Captain Kennedy, and with a musical family (two of Ciaran's uncles formed a band called Ezy Meat, who were big in Germany) music runs through Ciaran's veins. With over 80 million streams on spotify, Ciaran's star is in the ascendant. Catch him while you can!



ASTON MERRYGOLD

WED 18 APR | 8.30PM | £17.50

JLS were truly one of the giants of the post-Millennial music scene. Managing to emerge from the whole X-Factor thing with their credibility and sanity intact, their debut album went on to sell a million copies in the UK alone, alongside charting at number one with three massive singles.

ASTON MERRYGOLD co-wrote and released the platinum selling hit Get Stupid, and led to a massive media profile, including The Late, Late Show, a return to The X-Factor and, of course, Strictly!

And it's a homecoming of sorts for the Peterborough lad, as Aston's mum originally comes from Dunmurry, fact fans!



THE WONDER YEARS

THU 19 APR | 7.30PM | £17.50

They're back, and after a long teaser campaign and with a new album in the works, Lansdale, Pennsylvania power-punk outfit THE WONDER YEARS make good on their promise to return, following last year's Belfast debut – in none other than your very own Empire. Touring in support of their new album *Sister Cities*, THE WONDER YEARS have six studio albums and over a decade of touring experience under their studded belts.

From the early wilderness of *Get Stoked* on it, to the classic trilogy of the *Upsides*, *Suburbia*...and *Greatest Generation*, this seemingly innocuous outfit have become a staple of the post-Emo scene.



NEGATIVE CREEPS

A TRIBUTE TO NIRVANA

SAT 21 APR | 8.30PM | £14

In more, 'Jeepers, am I really that old?' news, Nirvana's twisted masterpiece *In Utero* is an unbelievable 25 years old this year. **NEGATIVE CREEPS**, Ireland's finest tribute to the band that broke the 90s will be hitting the road to make this auspicious anniversary, with the Belfast leg firmly planted in The Empire.

With the 'difficult second album' played in full, a greatest hits set and some of the best rarities thrown in on top, the Negative Creeps experience captures the fury, the power and the humour of Nirvana at their finest. The 90s may be back for some, but for the rest of us it never went away.



LISA CANNY

LARKS | REEVAH

FRI 27 APR | 8.30PM | £12

LISA CANNY is shaking up the somewhat staid world of Irish Traditional music. Having studied Irish Music and Dance, graduating with a first class honours degree, Lisa then went on to study her Masters in Ethnomusicology. On top of this she was awarded All Ireland Champion a record 7 times in both banjo and harp.

Having toured the globe with such stirring shows as Celtic Crossroads and the Young Irishlanders, Lisa is moving onto the newest, most exciting stage of her career. Working on her debut album, with a series of producers whose credits include Mika, Shakira and Paloma Faith, she's looking to do to Mayo what Clannad did to Donegal!



BRUNO MAJOR

SAT 28 APR | 8.30PM | £11.50

When you throw yourself fully into a gruelling residency at one of London's best respected jazz clubs, you're doing it for the love of music. BRUNO MAJOR started work as a session guitarist when he was sixteen, when most of us were struggling with the chords to Teenage Kicks.

He's since self-recorded and released the epic *A Song for Every Moon*, put together over a year, with each of the 12 tracks representing the month it was written and recorded. The album has since achieved universal acclaim, with the accompanying shows proving a sell-out throughout the first leg of the tour. Essential stuff for fans of Frank Ocean, James Blake and Chet Baker.

ST PATRICK'S WEEKEND

EAT  DRINK  BE IRISH

FRIDAY 16TH

JACKIE RAINEY 5.30PM

100% FRESH ROOTS 10.30PM

SATURDAY 17TH

6 NATIONS

ENGLAND v IRELAND 2.45PM

AMACH ANOCHT 7PM

TRES HOMBRES 10.30PM

SUNDAY 18TH

LUKE WARD 8PM

KEN
HADDOCK 10PM

MONDAY 19TH

THE RARE
AUL STUFF 10PM

