

EMPIRE

SEP/OCT 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,

Wow, what a summer that was, what with all the weather, (all of it!), the World Cup and some outrageous shows to boot. Well, hold on to your hats, because the new term is about to begin.

First up, a welcome to all our freshers. Let me be the first to say that the Empire Bar cannot be peered into at street level, so is the ideal place for lecture dodging. And it's the only place on Botanic where you can pick up a five pound lunch, complete with cutlery!

In all seriousness though, there's plenty going on every night, with everything from Live Trad, through to our weekly Comedy club and the Belfast institution that is Ken Haddock every Sunday.

And we're very well placed for the train station.

Music wise we've everything from NICK MULVEY, through to Ed Sheeran's backing band BEOGA to ska favourites THE SLACKERS. You like things a bit more progressive and metal? come down and see THREE TRAPPED TIGERS and BLACK PEAKS. ANNA CALVI, described by Brian Eno himself as the next Patti Smith is due in following the release of her new album Hunter, while fans of Rory Gallagher would do well to check out top Irish blues guitarist EAMONN MCCORMACK.

Between GIFTED and SONI we've the local band scene pretty much sewn up, alongside the Friday night ROOTS session in the Basement. There's always something on at the Empire and more often than not it's for free too! Don't say we're not good to you!

As always, I remain yours,







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

LIVE ROCK & SOUL DRINK OFFERS | LATE BAR | FREE ADMISSION FOOD SERVED MON-SAT 12-9PM SUN 12-30-6PM

FRESH

ORIGINAL ARTISTS PLAYING THEIR OWN MUSIC & MORE!

7 SEP TO BE ANNOUNCED 5 OCT THE EL DUDE BROTHERS

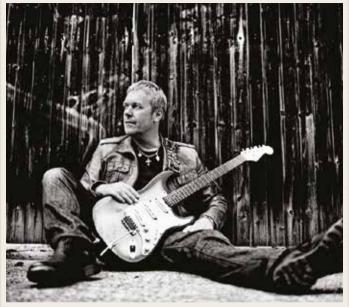
14 SEP OUTLAW COUNTRY MEN 12 OCT THE CLANDESTINOS

21 SEP THE VIRES

19 OCT THE UNHOLY GOSPEL BAND

28 SEP LONESOME GEORGE

26 OCT BROKEN STRING BAND



EAMONN MCCORMACK

SAT 1 SEP | 8.30PM | £20

A prophet is without honour in his own land, they say, and while there was always plenty of love for the late great Rory Gallagher here, he was absolutely massive in the low countries and Germany. And they know what they're on about when it comes to rock!

The same goes for EAMONN MCCORMACK. Born in Dublin, he cut his teeth playing the likes of Cat Stevens and Slade, before graduating to Dutch masters Focus! Since then he's travelled the States, played some of the biggest festivals in Europe and payed with everyone from Nils Lofgren to Rory himself. This is his first Irish tour in five years, so catch him while you can!



MATT HOLLYWOOD & THE BAD FEELINGS

WED 5 SEP | 8PM | £12

The excesses and strife of the Brian Jonestown Massacre have gone down in rock legend. Aided by the uncompromising documentary Dig!, the band's mystique, centred around the enigmatic Anton Newcombe has often overshadowed just what a great psyche rock outfit they were at their peak.

MATT HOLLYWOOD contributed to many of the band's early successes, and in his own right he's proven that there is life beyond the BJM. The Bad Feelings maintain the psychedelic edge of his previous outfit, while bringing in the best of Cohen, Gainsborough and the rest of the 60's canon.



THU 6 SEP | 9PM | £3

THE MANNERLY HOODS BUFFALO BAY PSYPHONY MATT MCCRUM

Fronted by David McMaster and Ryan Bennett, THE MANNERLY HOODS have been causing a bit of a ruckus despite only having two singles to their name, the anthemic debut Woodstock and the follow-up Heather. Take heed, this is a band on the up, and they're launching their debut EP Heather on the night. Support comes from BUFFALO BAY who cite Oasis and The Killers as influences. The hard working four piece have been writing, playing and writing until their craft has been fully honed, and are now ready to unleash themselves on an unsuspecting public. PSYPHONY are a new outfit from Armagh with a QOTSA fixation and the line-up is completed by MATT MCCRUM.

THU 4 OCT | 9PM | £3

HOT COPS MOB WIFE GHOST OFFICE FERALS

Named for an all male exotic dancing troupe in the sublime Arrested Development, Belfast three-piece HOT COPS have returned to the crease following a bit of a live hiatus. Fret ye not, as their raggedy slacker pop retains it's grungy charm, as the lads channel the spirit of prime Pavement or Dinosaur Junior.

Support comes from Noise Rock outfit MOB WIVES, who count At the Drive In and Thee Oh Sees amongst their influences, the angular postpunk of GHOST OFFICE and the hotly tipped live fuzz bomb of FERALS.











HATS OFF TO LED ZEPPELIN

SAT 8 SEP | 8.30PM | £12

Officially the UK's number one tribute to the music of Page, Plant, et al, HATS OFF TO LED ZEPPELIN have the distinction of being represented by the son of legendary manager Peter Grant, so there you go. With authentic gear, costumes and, of course, the live licks to back it up, it's the nearest thing to the real thing short of jumping in a time machine.

With possibly the best regarded opening run of albums ever, Led Zeppelin helped define the 70s, and will always have a special place in the hearts of Belfast music fans, as anyone will tell you Stairway to Heaven got it's first airing in the Ulster Hall. And anyone who was ther will tell you that they weren't impressed, at least at first!



THU 13 SEP | 8.30PM | £5

LIVE LOUD LOCAL



COMEDY TUESDAY



BEER BUCKET £12 | COCKTAIL JUG £13.95 | HOUSE WINE £13

8PM £8/£7 STUDENT







ROSCO'S RIOT WILD HEART | DELUSIONAL SILENCE

SAT 15 SEP | 8.30PM | £8

The New Wave of Classic Rock in support of Ciara's Volunteer Mzansi Afrika fund present a night of old-school, crunchy, face melting, maximum rock and roll. No messing around, just three of Northern Ireland's finest riffmerchants coming together to support a great cause.

ROSCO'S RIOT have been getting all sorts of love from the likes of UberRock and Moshville, being described as a combination of Motorhead and Black Stone Cherry. WILD HEART have set out with an admirable mission, to drag 80's metal into the 21st century, and DELUSIONAL SILENCE complete the lineup with their modern take on classic style. And all for a brilliant cause!

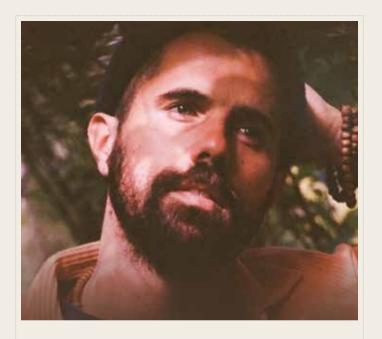


WOODEN SHJIPS

MON 17 SEP | 7.30PM | £15

It's been over a decade since San Franciscan outfit WOODEN SHJIPS released their self-titled debut to near universal acclaim, marking the pitch for a new wave of space rock that owed as much to the work of Iggy and the Stooges as to Hawkwind. And the band have simply come on from strength to strength, with lasted album V praised by Pitchfork as one of their most accessible yet.

Aiming to find some form of transcendent tranquillity through the pursuit of the drone, WOODEN SHJIPS have been compared to such luminaries as Spacemen 3, Spiritualized and Spectrum. And while the records garner constant complements, it's in a live arena where the four-piece find their feet. Pretty gosh-darned unmissable.



NICK MULVEY

WED 19 SEP | 7.30PM | £19.50

NICK MULVEY started his musical career by moving to Havana, in order to learn his craft in the same bars and speakeasies that spawned the Buena Vista Social club. He would go on to join the acclaimed Portico Quartet on the mysterious hang drum.

Combining a love of experimentation and esoteric knowledge with a songwriter's pop sensibility, Nick's material encompasses the universal themes of love and loss, as well as having a keen sense of social justice.

With a new album about to drop this is a perfect opportunity for fans old and new to acquaint themselves with Nick's body of work.



BEOGA EMMA LANGFORD

THU 20 SEP | 8PM | £17

It's a funny old world. One minute you're an up-and-coming young trad band, living out of the back of your van and plugging away at any venue that'll take you. Sure, you've the talent, and the work ethic, but sometimes you need that little boost. The Grammy nomination was nice, as was the recognition from the US Congress, but it was only when Foy Vance played a couple of tunes to a certain ginger songsmith that things went mad.

Ed Sheeran co-wrote his massive trad themed album Divide with the help of the Galway based outfit. Now, on the cusp of releasing a new album, Beoga hit the road this autumn to spread the word.



ANNA CALVI

THU 27 SEP | 8PM | £20

The last time around ANNA CALVI stole our hearts, putting in an Empire Music Hall performance that the Belfast Newsletter found 'mesmerizing'. Kitty here just remembered prime Jeff Buckley and went a bit weak at the knees. Brian Eno called the her the 'best thing since Patti Smith'. Can you see what we're getting at? New album, the Predatory Hunter is due to drop at the end of August. We've already heard the deliciously fluid Don't Beat the Girl Out of My Boy, we know that Nick Cave and Grinderman legend Nick Launey has produced it and we're pretty damn sure it's going to be one of 2018's event albums. And we'd recommend getting tickets before it drops, as you could find yourself bereft.

AT A GLANCE...

EVERY TUE | 8PM | £8/£7 PAY AT THE DOOR COMEDY EMPIRE LAUGHS
BACK COMEDY CLUB

SAT 1 SEP | 8.30PM | £20 FAMONN MCCORMICK

WED 5 SEP | 8PM | £8/£7 PAY AT THE DOOR
MATT HOLLYWOOD AND THE
BAD FFFI INGS

THU 6 SEP | 8PM | £3

GIFTED THE MANNERLY HOODS | BUFFALO BAY PSYPHONY | MATT MCCANN

SAT 8 SEP | 8.30PM | £12

HATS OFF TO LED ZEPPLIN

THU 13 SEP | 8.30PM | £5 SOUNDS OF NI

SAT 15 SEP | 8.30PM | £8

ROSCO'S RIOT - THE NEW WAVE OF CLASSIC ROCK - WILD HEAT | DELUSIONAL SILENCE

MON 17 SEP | 7.30PM | £15 WOODEN SHJIPS

WED 19 SEP | 7.30PM | £19.50

THU 20 SEP | 8PM | £17
BEOGA EMMA LANGFORD

THU 27 SEP | 8PM | £20

SAT 29 SEP | 8.30PM | £20

THREE TRAPPED TIGERS WASPS WASPS

THU 4 OCT | 9PM | £3

GIFTED HOT COP | MOB WIVES GHOST OFFICE | FERALS



SAT 6 OCT | 8.30PM | £10

PLEASUREDOME 80'S POCKTORER

WED 10 OCT | 7.30PM | £15

LUCY SPRAGGAN

THU 11 OCT | 7.30PM | £15

BLACK PEAKS LNT | ILENKUS

FRI 12 & SAT 13 OCT | 8.30PM | £14
PIGEON & PLUMS EMPIRE XXX
SOTH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

FRI 19 OCT | 8.30PM | £12.50 THE LOGUES

SAT 20 OCT | 8.30PM | £13

MON 22 OCT | 7.30PM | £15 MUTUAL BENEFIT

THE KATE BUSH SONGBOOK

FRI 26 OCT | 8.30PM | £17

SAT 27 OCT | 8.30PM | £12 MACK FLEETWOOD

SUN 28 OCT | 7.30PM | £18 THE SLACKERS

WED 31 OCT | 7.30PM | £7

POCKET BILLIARDS KID TRENCH I PANDORA

AND LOTS MORE...

Check out THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM for more shows and info!



THREE TRAPPED TIGERS ARVO PARTY | WASPS

SAT 29 SEP | 8.30PM | £20

Rescheduled show. Tickets for first date are still valid!

They're back! THREE TRAPPED TIGERS, a band for whom reinvention is just another day in the office have long since built on the hype and fury of their initial EP trilogy, managing to both mature and evolve without laving behind any of the playful energy of the early work. They've worked with Underworld's Karl Hyde and the legendary Brian Eno, they've propped up just about any festival stage worth seeing and for this, their biggest show in Belfast to date, they're promising to take no prisoners.

 $\hbox{``Music without fear...such audacity should be celebrated.'' BBC Introducing.}$



MAURICE JAY'S PLEASUREDOME 80'S ROCKTOBER SPECIAL

SAT 6 OCT | 8.30PM | £10

I'm sure that the 80's were barely over before the first 80's revival party was thrown - and who could blame them? With proper teen movies, with proper soundtracks and proper stars (whatever happened to Molly Ringwald, people?) it was a haloyon time. The Rocktober special focues on the days when the Hair Farmers walked the earth, rock bands wore spandex instead of jeans and makeup instead of a scowl. Whether you were there, and had the legwarmers, shoulder-pads and make-up (and that was just the boys) or missed out the first time, MAURICE JAY'S PLEASUREDOME recreates the hits, the misses and stolen kisses of the age of the power ballad, complete with full band, dancers and drinks offers!



LUCY SPRAGGAN

WED 10 OCT | 7.30PM | £15

Lucy was always too good for the X-Factor. Sailing through the process in style, she brought her own songs to the table, competing with the other singers on her own terms. Forced to pull out, (James Arthur eventually won, and we know how that worked out...) she nevertheless managed to release her own album before the live dates, and hit top 40 with the well received Join the Club. Now signed to the wonderful Cooking Vinyl, Lucy is set to open up a whole new chapter in her career, with a new album due in Spring. Her autumn UK and Ireland date follows a string of boutique festival shows at the likes of Kendal Calling, Belladrum and Y Not. Warm, real and incredibly talented, this is a show not to be missed.



BLACK PEAKS LNT | ILENKUS

THU 11 OCT | 7.30PM | £15

In June, BLACK PEAKS unleashed a frenzy of expectation when they announced the release of new album All that Divides. The long awaited follow up to brilliant debut Statues has been precede my the epic single Home, probably the first progressive metal tune to deal with the thorny issue of Brexit.

Having supported everyone from the Dillinger Escape Plan to the Deftones, BLACK PEAKS have since carved their very own reputation as a formidable live prospect into the hearts of metallers across the globe. Essential stuff for fans of Adebesi Shank and 65DoS.



PIGEON&PLUM'S VAUDEVILLE CIRCUS

FRI 12 & SAT 13 OCT | 8.30PM | £14

THE LORDS OF STRUT!

(FROM CORK, MAGNIFICENT BRITON'S GOT TALENT FINALISTS)

MISS JOANNA NEARY

(FROM BRIGHTON, THE GRAND DAME OF BAFFOONERY

BOB PICKLES

HILLARIO SPILLACHI

SIDEBOARD-SIDESHOW

(ASTOUNDING CIRCUS JUGGLING & BANJO DOUBLE ACT)

TUTIMIBILE CURCUS

AMAZING HIGH FLYING DOUBLES AERIAL TRAPEZE ACT)

SPINE TINGLING & MIND BENDING CONTORTION ACT

SPINE TINGLING & MIND BENDING CONTORTION ACT)

GRANT GOLDIN

SHAW & LOWRY

(HILARIOUSLY SURREAL, SIDE SPLITTING COMEDY DOUBLE ACT)

CELEBRATING THE 250 VEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SIRCHE

LELEBRATING THE 250 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF LIKLUS

YOUR CHAIRMAN FOR THE EVENING

MR. PEREGRINE RAVENGUARD



THE LOGUES

FRI 19 OCT | 8.30PM | £12.50

Acclaimed as the 'most progressive folk band in Ireland', THE LOGUES, hailing from the sleepy town of Castlederg, Country Tyrone have done more to shape modern trad than any other band. It's relatively easy to make a small fortune farting out the standards for the tourist trade, but The Logues are an exception to the rule, as proven by the release of hit singles I Don't Love You at All, and Home.

From Donegal to Dubai, the band have taken their tunes across the globe, already drawing comparisons to the Chieftains and the Dubliners. The five piece effortlessly combine folk-rock and trad, owning the stage the way only an experienced outfit can.



DIRTY DC

SAT 20 OCT | 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.



MUTUAL BENEFIT

MON 22 OCT | 7.30PM | £15

Hard to pin down musically, Jordan Lee, aka MUTUAL BENEFIT veers between classic lo-fi, chamber pop and anti-folk. The nomadic American has no fixed line-up and no fixed abode, but in his downtime soaks up the boho atmosphere of Brooklyn.

He's ran his own label in order to release his own compositions, part solo work, part collective, part found sound collage experiment, earning global endorsements from the likes of Pitchfork and the Guardian.

 ${\bf Essential\ stuff\ for\ fans\ of\ Lightspeed\ Champion\ or\ Grizzly\ Bear.}$



THE KATE BUSH SONGBOOK

THU 25 OCT | 7.30PM | £20

Just passed 60, KATE BUSH is the true definition of a national treasure. Topping the UK charts at the fresh age of 19 with the unique Wuthering Heights, Kate's eccentricities and disregard for the rules of song writing saw her blossom as an alternative to the gloss of the 80s.

Cloudbusting have teamed up with Kate's original bass player and producer Del Palmer, with the intention of stripping back the songs to their basics, and letting the quality shine through. With a set that covers all of Kate's acclaimed albums, this is a rare chance to hear these songs performed live on stage.



ERIC MARTIN

FRI 26 OCT | 8.30PM | £17

ERIC MARTIN's career as a lead vocalist began in 1978 with the legendary 415, who supported everyone going, from Hall and Oates to Foreigner, cementing a powerhouse reputation in the San Fransisco Bay Area. They would become the Eric Martin Band, and struck gold.

Following the break, Eric joined Mr Big, his voice proving a formidable counterpoint to the shredding of his band-mates, Fueled by the international hit To Be With You, Mr Big toured the globe.

Here's a rare chance to see Eric in such a small venue, an unmissable night for fans of classic 80's and 90's rock.



MACK FLEETWOOD

SAT 27 OCT | 8.30PM | £12

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.



THE SLACKERS

SUN 28 OCT | 7.30PM | £18

Like punk, America embraced ska a little later than the rest of us, but when it did, it was with a verve and energy which had not been seen since the glory days of two-tone and the Specials. THE SLACKERS are more than a dodgy revival band, influenced as much by the blue-collar American songbook as the Upsetters and the Wailers.

Since the release of 1996's Better Late than Never, THE SLACKERS have not only proven themselves on wax, but in pits and sawdust strewn venues the globe over. With a formidable live reputation and a back catalogue to boot, this is an unmissable night for fans of the Specials, Rancid or the Mighty Mighty Bosstones.



POCKET BILLIARDS KID TRENCH | PANDORA

WED 31 OCT | 8.30PM | £7

POCKET BILLIARDS are back, and we're glad to see them! Simply one of the finest live, local acts around the energetic 9 piece have played every festival worth playing and supported everyone from Madness through to the Selector and the Undertones. This ghoulishly good Halloween spooktacular is your best excuse to dress accordingly and dance your wee cotton socks off. And it's single release night for the Billiards!

Support comes from Newry based producer and songwriter Kid Trench, who's not only recorded more than a few BBC Introducing sessions, but only went and supported Sophie Ellis Bextor! The line-up is completed by up and coming noiseniks Pandora Ills. Sure what else would you be at?



DRINK OFFERS

OF THE MONTH



BOURBON

JIM BEAM RED STAG



SUN - THU



BOURBON

JIM BEAM DEVIL'S CUT



£.4.95

SUN - THU



BEER

PALE ALE



BEER

ADNAMS GHOST SHIP



GIN

Malfy Rosa



GIN

Jawbox Pincapple Fentimans Mixer





Amaretto Sour Luxardo Amaretto, Angostura Bitters,

Sugar Survo. Lemon Juice

COCKTAIL



Dark n Stormy Dark Rum, Ginger Beer, Bitters



COMING UP...

SOUNDS OF BELFAST 2018 | 7 - 16 NOV | GIGS ANNOUNCING SOON





SAT 3 NOV 13.50 | M408.1



SPRING-PRESK

10 NOV 8.30PM | £12.00



THREATIN

SUN 11 NOV 7PM | £14



All the but in the World

MON 12 NOV 7.30PM | £10





FRI 16 NOV 8PM | £20



CHARMING MEN SAT 17 NOV 8.30PM | £11

AND MUCH. MUCH MORE ...

Check out THEBELFASTEMPIRE.COM for more shows and info!

PIGEON & PLUM'S

VAUDEVILLE CIRCUS



12TH & 13TH OCT 2018 DOORS 8.30

OVER THE COUNTER FROM THE BELFAST EMPIRE BAR {NO BOOKING FEES}
See page 25 for details



TICKETMASTER
OUTLETS,
TICKETMASTER.IE OR
24HR BKG 0844 277 4455

