Theatre

Summerhouse - Druid Presents the premiere of award-winning playwright Rob Hefferan's new plays, from Wednesday, April 20th, at Druid Lane Theatre. Now booking.

Riders to the Sea - Revelations Theatre Company present the third of their Synge productions at The King's Head from Wednesday, April 20th until Saturday, April 30th, daily except Sunday.

The Factory Girls - Heidis or Harps present their new production of Frank McGuinness's powerful play about a similar Donegal steel factory until Saturday, April 16th, at An Taibhdhearc. The show is directed by Geralinde McDermottroe, Artistic Director of the London Bridge Theatre Company, and then transfers to the Butter Arts Centre, London, for five performances, April 9th to the 13th.

"It's a ta ag imacht Johnny!" - a New Irish language play about the travelling Community, written by Galwegian Mick McGuire and directed by Beartas na Gaileachs for four nights only, April 18th to the 21st, nightly at 8 p.m. in Aras na Gaileach, UCG.

"Dog, Dog, Mie and Mu" - You can catch the last two performances of Caitlín Browne's unusual comedy, nodding in the general direction of Beckett and Synge, in the BMI Theatre, UCG, until Friday, April 23rd, nightly at 8 p.m.

"The Proposal" - Clockwork Theatre Company's delightful show returns to The King's Head by popular demand for one week only until Saturday the 16th, daily at 1.10 p.m.

Exhibitions

Exhibition of Handmade Dolls & Puppets - A wonderfully imaginative exhibition featuring the magical creations of Caitlín Browne. A new Galway-based artist, Helga Pikal is currently running at the Geoghegan Gallery, The Bridge Mills. This exhibition will be followed late this month by an Exhibition of Paintings by Rita Webb, which will be the final exhibition before The Geoghegan Gallery, which has served the Galway arts scene with verve, charm, and skilful curation.

"Legends" - An exhibition of paintings by Peggy Dooley, oil, watercolour and pastel, is running at the Bank of Ireland, 19 Eyre Square, until the end of the month.

Exhibition of Art by John Lyons - A series of paintings, drawings and art objects exploring the legacies, folklore and myths of the artist's native African Caribbean culture will run during Curt at the Arts Centre, 47 Dominick Street.

Sara Susan McCullin - An exhibition of new paintings by the Ballintober artist. Aていく drawing at the Kenny Gallery, Middle Street.

"Just Purple" - An unusual and stimulating joint exhibition by brothers Alan Murray and Ivan Murray is currently running in the Sahilt Hotel until the end of April. Alan Murray's colourful paintings are well complemented by Ivan Murray's Bog Oak sculpture. It's an exhibition well worth visiting.

Artists' Artists - An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artists of the Artists' Artists Project continues at the House of James until the end of the month.

Music

Sean Ryan & Alec Finn - Two superb musicians join forces tonight at a gig at Bhaog Fhoclum, Utopia in Eircheadh, starting at 9.15 p.m.

Concert by Ivan Zena - Accompanied Czech violinist Ivan Zena, of the Czechoslovakian National Radio Orchestra, will be performing in The City Gallery, Monday, April 18th. Accompanying him on piano will be the distinguished Czech pianist, Karel Haze.

Dance

Silas of the Bolshoi Ballet - Leinster is the venue for a very special show featuring dancers from the prestigious Bolshoi Ballet Company, on Friday and Saturday, April 22nd and 23rd. The Bolsho's renowned Prime Ballerinas, Anna Pavlova, will be making a special Galway appearance for the shows.

Launches

"Fr. Griffin, 1892-1972" - Dr. James McDonagh, Bishop of Galway, will launch a new book by Fr. Philip O'Leary (who wrote the first life of Nora Barnacle, James Joyce's Garvey-borne wife) in the Kenny Gallery tonight, April 16th, at 6 p.m.

Festivals

Kilmorna's Fleadh na gCulach - A major traditional music festival will run over the Bank Holiday, May Weekend, in Kilmorna, from Friday the 29th to Monday the 2nd. More details next week.

Budweiser Rhythm, Roots and Country Festival - Galway is due to host its annual music and arts festival, which would become another annual Galway Festival. Featuring artists like Mary Black, Enya, Darin, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Sharon Shannon, Chris Martin and Martin O'Connor, it runs from Friday, April 26th through to Sunday, May 1st.

The A.T. Cross Cuirt International Festival of Literature

- April 19th to the 25th (see adjoining box for details.

The A.T. Cross Cuirt International Festival of Literature

Saturday, April 19th:

- Festival Launch by Bernard Loughlin, Director of Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annamakerrig - 6 p.m.; 47 Dominick St.

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Shell Shocked in Setanta!

On Monday night the brilliantly talented Michelle Shocked played what many people are already saying is the gig of the year in Setanta. Playing with energy, passion and great good humour, the singer delighted a large and enthusiastic audience with versions of her songs, especially those taken from her terrific "Arizona Traveller" album.

Brendan O'Carroll's Wobbly Bits

Leisureland was really well packed to the rafters on Easter Monday to see this gig by Gay Byrne's favourite comedian. Brendan's backing band attempted to warm up the audience with a pretty unimaginative set of covers, such as you'd hear in any of a million pubs any night of the week. Why, for goodness sake! Couldn't they have done something funny? Well, no actually, as it was painfully demonstrated by the cringingly witty Writers and Comedians parody with which they closed their set. Entitled "A Bang Up Your Rear", it made the most abysmal student rag-mag look like vintage Flann O'Brien in comparison. But enough about the gig, what about the Main Man, the "cheeky little scamp", as the programme describes him?

As his show's title "How's Your Snowballs?" would suggest, O'Carroll's humour is largely based on sexual innuendo. More than that in fact, as much of the material is quite explicit, with plenty of effing and blinding to vindicate the "outrageous" tag of which he truthfulness. And really good punchline - we recognise its familiarity at the base of our literature. But then why should he, so long as he can pack out the like of Leisureland with his present material? Not so much "How's Your Snowballs?" - more a case of "Never Mind the Bollocks".

C. McBl.

Puppeteering Workshops at An Taibhdhearc

A six week series of Irish language "Henson-Style Puppet- making" workshops will be held in An Taibhdhearc, beginning on Saturday, April 23rd. The course is aimed at ages between 14 and 17 years. If you're interested in attending, contact Deidre at An Taibhdhearc for more information (091 62024 or 63660) before April 21st.

Photo: Mike Shaughnessy/Solargraphic