

# IRELAND AND BRITAIN

## A Unique Cultural Connection

Culture is at the heart of the British-Irish relationship. Irish writers, performers and artists continue to develop and thrive in Britain, while British music, television and sport are popular across Ireland.

The UK is an important platform for Irish artists. Most of the major projects being supported by Culture Ireland in the UK this year have been developed with the support of UK partners.

### Awards and Nominations

- Three Irish writers featured on the 2013 Man Booker Longlist: **Colum McCann** (*TransAtlantic*), **Colm Tóibín** (*The Testament of Mary*) and **Donal Ryan** (*The Spinning Heart*) following three previous Irish winners of the Booker prize.
- **Donal Ryan** won the Guardian First Book Award in 2013 for *The Spinning Heart*.
- The Gate and Pan Pan Theatre won the coveted Herald Angel Award at last year's Edinburgh Theatre Festivals.
- In 2013, **Owen McCafferty** won the UK Writers' Guild award for Best New Play, which the Abbey Theatre will tour to Britain this year.
- **Villagers** {Awayland} were nominated for the 2013 Mercury Prize for the best album from the UK and Ireland.
- **Grafton Architects** were shortlisted for last year's Royal Institute of British Architects Sterling Prize for Best New Building.
- **Gerard Byrne** was nominated for the South Bank Sky Arts Award 2013.

### Partnerships

- Support by the Arts Council of England has been critical in assisting Culture Ireland to promote two of Ireland's finest dance companies, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre and Junk Ensemble to tour the UK this year.

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- Horizons, a new musical partnership involving England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, was pioneered at WOMEX 13 in Cardiff.
- Through the Edinburgh International Book Festival in 2013, a host of Irish authors were invited to read from their latest published work, including John Banville, Eoin Colfer, Roddy Doyle, Edna O'Brien and Colm Tóibín.

### Design and Craft

- Ireland's reputation for excellence in design and craftsmanship in areas such as fashion, furniture, ceramics and jewellery is growing in Britain through participation in high profile events including London Design Festival and COLLECT at the Saatchi Gallery.
- Established Irish designers include Philip Treacy, Orla Kiely and Diarmuid Gavin, while emerging designers such as Simone Rocha, Danielle Romeril, Úna Burke, Sorcha O'Raghallaigh and JW Anderson are positioning themselves as the next big names in fashion.
- Sugru – the idea, product and company developed by Jane Ní Dhulchaointigh has received numerous prestigious design awards and become a successful international business, described as '21<sup>st</sup> Century Duct Tape' by Forbes.