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Thursday 12.12.2013

Berlin Philharmonie,

Live in HD

MAHON OMNIPLEX, CORK

Operas and ballets from the Metropolitan Opera House and Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre have become familiar, popular, welcome presentations at cinemas throughou the country. They are the next-best-thing to attending these venues and experiencing their remarkable productions — at reasonable prices. The world-renowned Berlin Philharmonic is the first orchestra in Europe to realise this potential. I doubted that I, a 'live music snob', would enjoy their concert in a cinema. Despite mild reservations regarding the restlessness of the camera, I loved the experience. It was a privilege to see the state-of-the-art Berlin Philharmoni

concert hall and to listen-in on con versations, about the music, between the conductor and players and then to see and hear that music being performed. Gustavo Dudamel, the brilliant, 32-year-old Venezuelan music director of Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, Caracas, conducted an

well-known and unfamiliar music The familiar music was by two Viennese contemporaries, Beethoven (1770-1827) and Schu bert (1897-1828), who met once. We heard the 4th symphonies of both, one in each half of the programme, each preceded by one of Igor Stravinsky's (1882-1971) Suites

for Small Orchestra Each Suite is made up of several short, pithy, easily whistled tunes of great charm. It is the quirky harmonies and the scoring, however, that catch one's attention. Stravinsky had a knack of making 'wrong' chords sound logical, along with a remarkable ability to create unique orchestral colours by combining the most unlikely instrumental pairings

The symphonies were impeccable played, noticeable for the beautiful shading of orchestral colour, the obvious rapport between the players, and their total communication with their very undemonstrative, but marvellously communicative, sensitive, conductor.

New Year's Eve Gala Dec 31, 4pm

The Colleen Bawn

BLACK BOX THEATRE, GALWAY

**** By the law of averages, a Druid show will fall flat on its face. On the Galway theatre company's current form, however, any such mishap looks a long distance off. Dion Boucicault's 1860 melodrama, The Colleen Bawn, is stupendous and reveals a company in rude health. Druid's director, Garry Hynes, make no bones about creating pop ular theatre — a theatre for the people, a theatre that entertains. In this, Druid are unrivalled. Yet, in the conceptual stakes, too, few can

Bawn is a perfect example. The plot of Boucicault's comic melodrama hinges on a secret marriage between an aristocrat and an Irish peasant girl. It ignites when a misunderstanding convinces the gentleman's servant to kill the girl Hynes cherishes the play's humour as she does its perfect plotting, and it makes for an exciting, hilarious

What makes it better still, however, is the way that Hynes quietly electrifies the play's social commen-

Thus, in Aaron Monaghan's dejected 'bad guy', a cripple who adores the same authority figure that buckled him, and Maeliosa Stafford's odious gombeen-man magistrate, we can see the origins of the postcolonial mire in which Ireland now wades. Hynes's staging also makes

tle over language. The performances are thrilling. Aisling O'Sullivan delivers a dotty Anglo-Irish spin on Katherine Hepburn, Monaghan channels a full galaxy of comic darkness, and Marie Mullen gets great gas from swapping

As subversive stage Irishman. Myles-na-Coppaleen, meanwhile Rory Nolan is full of splendid wit

At one point, late on, his 'deus-ex-machina' character even becomes divine. It all makes for a stunning slice of popular theatre and the only decent thing you can do is relish it.

■ Until Dec 21; Tours in 2014 Pádraic Killeen

Letting in the light divine

A new exhibition illustrates William **Burges's plans for St Fin Barre's Cathedral** in Cork, writes Tina Darb O'Sullivan

T'S one of the most iconic features on the Cork skyline. First established as a monastic site in 606 AD, St Fin Barre's Cathedral now houses a French neo-gothic cathedral designed in 1862 by William Burges of London. Searching For A New Jerusalem is an exhibition of stained glass cartoons and maquettes used in the realisation of Burges's

architectural scheme for the cathedral. The exhibition at the Glucksman in UCC is curated by Richard Wood, a fine arts and heritage enthusiast with an encyclopaedic knowledge of St Fin Barre's. "You can view this exhibition on two levels," he says. "One is just to see the process of how the artwork on the cathedral was created, the other is to find out what lies behind it." Burges's design scheme for St Fin Barre's included the

architecture, stained glass, statuary, mosaics and furniture. While the ission stated that costs should not exceed £,15,000, Burges ignored this and submitted plans that would eventually cost in excess of £,100,000. Fully aware that the work could not be finished within his lifetime Burges presented a book of his

designs to Bishop John Gregg. "Burges was quite a control freak," says Wood, "He was insistent that his design would be used throughout and that no other artists would be employed it, but because there is this wonderful story which is told through the artwork and he didn't want that to be interrupted, quite

rightly. And aesthetically it would have damaged the cathedral if the work of another artist was intruding on Burges's designs. While the overall vision was led by Burges, the cartoons hemselves were mostly made by

artist Horatio Lonsdale, appointed by Burges. Burges was interested in gothic revival architecture and was deeply concerned that the stained glass should adhere to the fundamentals set out in medieval stained glass practice. "Stained glass had become a very debased art form," says Wood. "It ended up by being

more or less painting on glass The windows that you see from the 17th and 18th centuries seem to be landscapes with events taking place in them, with a vanishing point on the canvas. A a sort of courtesy to the stained glass tradition they would put in he odd lead line here and there, but it was intrusive and meaningless. Those windows are "So Burges, along with others,

went to Canterbury Cathedral and

various other places where you could find medieval glass and they found three things about the glass that were essential. Firstly, the leading lines were an essential part of the whole composition. Secondly, the picture was dimensional, there was no or little anishing point; and thirdly, they found that areas of one single colour varied in intensity considerably in medieval glass. Burges insisted that Lonsdale went the extra mile and that each cartoon was properly drawn out



• Burges insisted that his design would be used throughout and no other artists would be employed >

and finished with heavy watercolour rather than the charcoal sketches normally used. The background was never neglected; a block of colour was made up of different intensities,



Richard Wood curates the exhibition, Before Burges, he says, "stained glass had become a very debased art form."

The drawings on display are the actual working drawings of the day, with little directive notes scribbled alongside the images and the odd tea stain. They were initially brought to public attention in 2005 for Conserving the Dream – Treasures of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, an exhibition in Cork Public Museum. Since the the entire collection of cartoons have been restored by conservation specialist Paul Curtis and have a new permanent home, in the storage wing of UCC's Boole Library. Jason Ellis is

inserted in the making of the glass rather than painted on afterwards "Lonsdale cathedral, but did not get used. This is

on which Burges failed in this exhibition, every to win over the cartoon is well worthy of a congregation. Protestan public exhibition on its own, even sentiment at the time forbade the though it was designed as part of a use of images of Christ but Burges process to create a stained glass managed to feature several images in window. We have this wonderful his scheme of stained glass panels collection which is a by-product illustrating the Passion of Christ and of the creation of the cathedral."

The cartoons depict scenes from the Old and New Testaments. Read from the bottom up, as with medieval glass, the story unfolds as one walks through the cathedral. Burges had a flair for the dramatic. sometimes embellishing animals with wings and fire to add excitement to the drawings. "It's so sophisticated and exciting," says

below, William Burges's designs

form part of the exhibition at the

spectacular cathedral dominates

cartoons. The

maquette of

in Glory was

one of the few points

intended for use

by Burges in the

Christ Enthrone

the southern skyline of Cork.

for the stained glass windows

Glucksman: inset. the

Searching For A New Jerusalem continues at Lewis Glucksman Gallery, UCC, until Mar 23. Richard Wood leads a free tour of the exhibition at 1pm on Friday, Jan 10

Books: crooks and cooks

Expecting a few vouchers in your Christmas stocking? Declan Burke and Roz Crowley pick their favourites from the best of the crime fiction and cooking books on the shelves, on tablets, and online

by Pierre Lamaitre, €11.50

The first English translation from French author Lamaitre, Alex (MacLehose Press) opens with an apparently conventional story of an ibducted young woman and a bloodthirsty serial killer before turning the genre on its head and subverting the reader's expectations

by Aly Monroe, €11.50

The fourth novel to feature British spy Peter Cotton, Black Bear (Faber and Faber) finds Cotton in post-WWII Washington DC, where he has been abducted and injected with a truth serum. Monroe's elegant prose is a bonus in this terrific spy novel/character study

by Carl Hiaasen, €10.99

The poet laureate of American absurd, Carl Hiaasen's Bad Monkey (Sphere) marks a real return to form. Former police detective

Andrew Yancy, now a restaurant inspector, takes it upon himself to investigate a missing arm hauled aboard a marlin fishing boat, with blackly hilarious consequences



by Alan Glynn, 18.75

The Cuckoo's Calling

The publishing sensation of the revealed to be a pseudonym for JK Rowling, The (Sphere) finds London private eve Cormorar Strike investigating the suspicious death of a famous model. A hugely enjoyable tale of old-fashioned sleuthing.

with a botched attempt to snare a weapons dealer on Gibraltar, the cover-up of which drags young London-based diplomat Tohy Bell renditions and the public-private enterprise of national security.

by Michael Clifford, €18.75

The Deal (Hachette Books Ireland) builds on the considerable promise of Clifford's 2001 debut, Ghost *Town*, with a taut tale about successful

saleswoman Karen Rinev grow houses.

by Alissa

Faber) is a first-person account of a sexual predator who targets impressionable teenagers. The twist? Celeste Price is an ostensibly respectable English teacher, a woman who will stop at nothing to fulfil her grotesquely



thrillers

With over 50m copies of his books sold, crime author Michael Connelly is one of the most successful writers working today. 'The Gods of

confronts serial killer Asa Surrette.

quality as Burke pits good versus

evil in a contemporary tale with

The sequel to Steele's 2011 debut

The Watchers, Angel City (Bantam

private eye Jay Harper battling in

forces. Paradise Lost with atomic

weaponry, basically. Thrilling.

by Jo Nesbo,

The tenth outing for

Oslo-based police

Hole. Police (Harvill

Secker) finds Harry

battling his own

demons as a serial

former colleagues. A

thriller that features

powerful psychologica

fascinatingly complex

•••••

experienced cooks.

by Ross Lewis

of those who pro-

duce ingredients for

him in the best pos-

sible way. The

recipes are stylish

and complex but

(his red cabbage

side dishes are easy

recipe is ideal for

OR some a cookbook is all

about the photographs,

get to know the cook through

evocative words. With a lot of

new titles coming from Ireland

this year, we look at the best of

the bunch which provide interest-

ing choices for both keen and less

Chapter One: An Irish Food Story

In hardback by Gill & Macmillan

orous book of the year, with the

best photographs (by Barry Mc-

Call), Ross Lewis has transposed

his flair for food and appreciation

the festive season), but overall it's a

petent cooks to enjoy a challenge.

book to drool over and for com-

A terrific promotion of

Master It: How to Cook

Today by Rory O'Connell

In hardback from 4th Es-

tate. €30. A treat to watch

cooking, Rory O'Connell

is an excellent communica-

tor and writes in a style that

modern Irish food.

€39.99. Easily the most glam-

while others are happy to

killer targets his

one of the most

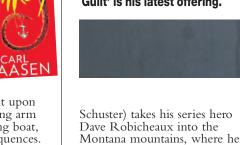
€20.50

trilogy that finds the deadpan

The prose takes on a Biblical

strong overtones of the classic

by Jon Steele, €20.50





The third in Irish uthor Alan Hvnn's lobe-trotting

murders of Wall Street's movers and shakers. The pacy momentum belies a cleverly crafted exploration of the clash between the powerful and the powerless.

by Robert Galbraith, €18.75

year, when 'Robert Galbraith' was

A Delicate Truth by John le Carré, €27.50

into a murky world of extraordinary

and her doomed venture into the underworld of recession-proof

Tampa Nutting, €18.75

Tampa (Faber & perverse ambitions.

Light of the World



crime fiction.

€28.99

Cross of Vengeance

House) is the 10th novel

from Clare-based author

series heroine Mara, a 15th

century Brehon judge. Mara

investigates the murder of a

The Burren landscape shines.

by Val McDermid, €20.50

German pilgrim, who appears to

finds clinical psychologist

atest confrontation with

serial killer Jacko Vance.

appears to be targeting

Tony's former partner.

inderpinned with

The Convictions of

women who resembl

A propulsive tale

sharp insight.

JONESBO The Convictions John Delahunt by Andrew Hught €18.85

Tony Hill dealing with

the fall-out from his

Meanwhile, a killer

Harrison to feature her

by Cora Harrison,

Guilt' is his latest offering.

Reacher finds himself vulnerable onvictions of John Delahunt to his emotions, and the twists Doubleday) is a compelling and turns that follow are all the

Holy Orders by Benjamin Black, €20.50 Black — aka John Banville — to pathologist Quirke, Holy Orders exploration of the darker corners of 1950's Dublin, when the Catholic Church wielded its

tale of informants, police

orruption and murder in

ctorian Dublin. A very

tone and atmosphere.

power mercilessly. A

masterclass in mood,

Never Go Back by Lee Child, €21.50 The 18th Jack Reaches novel, Never Go Back (Bantam Press) finds Reacher in Washington DC, where he is accused of a murder he didn't he's almost certain —

commit. For once

the kitchen. Recipes are varied

from granolas (one with peanut

butter) to goats' cheese with

radish and sea salt, baked kale

chips to Sicilian wedding cake

Not surprisingly for this writer

are amusing. Greaat for younger

The Irish Beef Book by Pat

Whelan and Katy McGuinness

In hardback from Gill & Macmil-

lan €24.99. From corned beef

with parsley sauce to bone mar-

row pizza, getting the best from

beef is the message is this book

for committed carnivores. Slow

cooking makes the best of inex-

pensive cuts, while a good steak is

celebrated with a guide to choos-

ing and cooking each cut. Lots to

learn in this one.

Cookery Course

Marv Berry's

and broadcaster, the introductions

readers who need encouragement

by Arlene Hunt, €11.50 ising debut novel from torian Hughes, it's a utifully written historical crime drama based on true

JACK REACHER

NEVER GO

Why would anyone want to attack the harmless and possibly autistic teenager Emma Byrne? Set in Wicklow. The Outsider (Portnov Publishing) is a slow-burning psychological thriller that gradually excavates the murderous apparently placid setting of a rural

more resonant for it.

The Outsider

The Red Road

by Denise Mina, €18.75 The fourth police procedural from Denise Mina to feature her

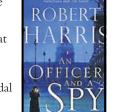
hardboiled heroine Inspector Alex Morrow, and set in Glasgow, The Red Road (Orion) switches from past to present as Morrow investigates the reasons why a voung girl might knife two men to death in a single night. The chief delight here is Morrow, a character

why a former friend has been

An Officer and a Spy

novel, An Officer and a Spy (Hutchinson) puts Major George Picquart of the French War

Department centre stage as he picks apart the cover-up and corruption tha led to Drevfus becoming a scapegoat for the infamous spy scanda



Branar tap into

One of the nation's leading lights in children's theatre, Branar Téata do Pháistí, are currently touring their new Christmas show, Twas The Night Before Christmas. Featuring Branar's trademark mix puppetry and physical theatre, the new show is inspired by the traditional Christmas poem of the

"The thing I love about that poem is the sense of anticipation of what the next morning will bring," says Marc Mac Lochlainn, the company's artistic director. "I wanted to see if I could bring that wonder into a play, so our show is set in a fictional town in the year 1948 and it's the first year that the town will have electricity for Christmas. So that's the big build-up in the show — to see how magical the place will look when that happens. We have lovely little moments where the set is transformed. There are little

parcels left onstage that eventually

light up and turn into the houses

For over a decade Branar have produced such moments of magic for children aged five and upwards. There's a deceptive simplicity to the company's aesthetic. "The hardest thing to do is make something that is simple," says Mac Lochlainn. "But children really appreciate it when



turn it sideways and make it becomes something else. Every day they get to see shows with the best blue screen effects and animatronics on TV, but simple live, animated shadow puppetry draws far more awe from a young

Mac Lochlainn is a former teacher who abandoned the job to focus on children's theatre. "To be part of a live theatrical experience is as big an educational moment for any child as anything in the classroom," he says. In addition to regular performances, Branar often

their shows are often told in both Irish and English, in recent years the company has minimised verbal content in favour of music, physical theatre, and puppetry. "The shows have become more an emotional or a physical story rather than a verbal story. Mac Lochlainn. You can't presume that

every child will interact with a

perform at schools and conduct

workshops with children. Though



they'll listen Or thev'll understand through

the spring. They're also touring recent hit, Spraoi, to London's South Bank Centre, and later in 2014 will debut a new co-production with Danish company Teater Refleksion. Whatever about the nights before Christmas, the nights after it look like they'll be long ones.

■ Twas The Night Before Christmas tours to Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, Dec 13-14; the Pavilion, Dun Laoghaire, Dec 16; Draiocht, Blanchardstown, Dec 17-18; and An Taibhdhearc, Galway, Dec 20-22. www.branar.ie

From San Fran to the

responsible for the restoration of

the plaster maquettes that

nolidays 13 years ago, she fell for the city and made her way to the Opera House to make enquiries about work. Within two days of meeting her, Declan O'Mullane. now stage manager of the Cork Opera House, proposed to the smitten American. They married and now have a 10-year-old

Zagone is now the costume and set designer for Jack and the Beanstalk, the pantomime at the Everyman in Cork. Her studio in the Camden Palace Hotel arts centre in Cork is like an Aladdin's Cave, full of the colourful tools of

Zagone says she approaches

She says it's unusual for one

each job with a sense of challenge.

person to be responsible for both

the set and costume design. "But

I like doing both. The costumes

have to complement the set. I

entire show will look like and

how the set is going to function

worked mainly with the Opera

river to the city's other main

Since arriving in Cork, Zagone

Zagone says she was careful not

to step on anyone's toes when she

decided to work and live in Cork.

music or through movement. I try to ensure that there is a way into the show for every child." The new year promises to be busy. Having been made the theatre artist in residence in Mary Immaculate College, Branar will present a new show, Bláth, at the Lime Tree Theatre, Limerick, in have an overall vision of what the House but has now crossed the



"But I brought my own way of the envelope and are a little bit more sculptural than what I saw when I first came here. I started using new and different materials that are now commonly used here, such as camouflage netting, polystyrene and plastics for making masks and shaped objects.

'Michael Collins, the Musical'." Fascinated with the strong tradition of pantomime in Ireland Zagone says it took her a while to get her head around the notion of

"Coming from San Francisco

means I'm used to men in drag but Zagone has been working in set and costume design for 26 years, having started at 16. She considers everything she creates as being part of a larger body of her work. "I put my own style into design in the same way I would if I was



"Instead of painting a backdrop, I use a form of plastic that looks like brick from a distance. I used a lot of that for the 1916 Rising scenes in

the dame isn't a man in drag. She is This year, the dame will make a grand entrance riding a bike wearing pink bloomers based on Amelia Bloomer's bicycle suit.' It's all in a day's work for Zagone.

Everyman until Jan 12.

Jack and the Beanstalk runs at the

— Colette Sheridar

by James Lee Burke, €20.50 Burke's 32nd novel (Simon &

manages to be lyrical while practical. Not a book for those who insist on photographs of every dish, this is more for those who enjoy learning how to appreciate all the stages of food preparation from shopping to serving. Delicious recipes, too, even for

The Paris Gourmet by Trish Deseine

In paperback from Flammarion, €25 For anyone planning to visit Paris or attempting to get into the French psyche, this book has plenty of humourous tips as well is easy, imaginative recipes to whet the appetite. I used it on a recent trip to find new cafés and restaurants and the descriptions

delicious fruit crumble. **Dream Deli by Lilly Higgins**

In hardback from Gill & McMillan €22.99. Easy, tasty recipes are the key to this book which has plenty

Master it

- Roz Crowley

those with lots of cookbooks.

were spot-on. Recipes include easy bites, soups and a

In hardback from DK, £25. Loved by those of us who have cooked for many years, Mary Berry's popularity has further increase with her contri bution to the BBC's Great British Bakeoff. This clear guide to many

has tips for making a decent omelette, herby meatballs and easy sultana flapjacks. My eight-year-old niece made the flapjacks and they worked perfectly. A good book for beginners.

of real substance.

Pie by Angela Boggiano

Mitchell Beazley €19. Plenty of light recipes using bought puff pastry take us away from traditional weighty versions more popular in England than Ireland in this collection of easy recipes. Fennel and gruyere puffs sausage rolls, chocolate and pecan pie, peach and apricot pie all work well. Paul Hollywood's book – Pies and Puds (Bloomsbury €24) is anoth-

flavours in Pie best.

er good pie book, more suited to

beginners, but I like the

The World Atlas of Wine by Hugh Johnson and Jancis Robinson

In hardback from Mitchell Beazley €40. This seventh edition of an easy to navigate wine book is the perfect pairing with a cookbook for a luxurious gift The basics of winemaking ered, along with what grapes are most common in various

Popular in his Co Cavan-based restaurant and on elevision, Neven Maguire shares easy recipes in this book aimed at those who lik variations on classics. honey and ginger sauce, lasagne enriched with an-

In hardback from Mitchell Beazley In a slightly confusing layout

sics such as





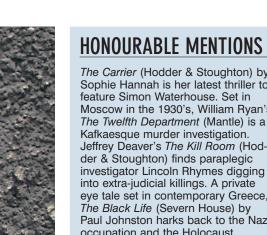
Caramelised pork belly with chovies, strawberry and lemon curd sponge cake are typical.

Kevin Dundon's Modern Irish Food

where recipe titles are in the middle dishes for ba

roast, sautéed garlic potatoes and Dauphinoise potatoe are useful to find in one place. His rhubarb and grape jam, re marmalade, are





BOOKSTORE

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Louise Penny's The Beautiful Mystery

(Sphere) featuring Chief Inspector

emote Canadian monastery. Eoir

Screwed (Headline), is an hilarious

Colfer's second adult crime novel

Armand Gamache, is set in a

screwball caper set in New



the jury, in Michael Connelly's latest offering, although Mickey also has his own private guilt. and his own

demons, to answe as he is a lawyer as he tries to discover

As much a historical account of the Drevfus Affair as it is a thrilling spy

