



MINDFIELD: OUT OF AFRICA

Electric Picnic's MindField arena once again takes its place among the ancient trees on the lawn of Stradbally Hall with a massive programme of challenging debate, inspiring poetry, literature and theatre, mind-boggling science, more than a cúpla focail as Gaeilge and much more, all complemented by the feast for the senses that is the Theatre of Food.

Africa: The Rising Continent is the theme of this year's programme, the centerpiece of which is Fergal Keane Talks Africa - a series of interactive debates about the past, present and future of the continent and its people - hosted by the acclaimed author and BBC journalist together with Ugandan publisher and journalist, Andrew Mwenda and a diverse panel of experts in economics, technology, development and the arts from Africa and Europe.

The **Leviathan** debates, hosted by economist and author, David McWilliams, and supported by the Centre for Irish and European Security, respond to the threats to human rights defenders in Africa and beyond and explore how surveillance technologies have become the new weapons of war. The expert panels will also take a long hard look at our fetish for technological solutions to societal problems and ask whether smart cities will create smart societies.

Technology's positive potential is also explored with two new elements to MindField: **CoderDojo**: the open source, global movement of free computer coding clubs for young people sets up shop and Kevin Godley, of pioneering music video duo Godley and Crème, will demonstrate his groundbreaking musical platform **Whole World Band** with live performances beamed in from around the world with Rodney Orpheus and Nigerian-Irish rapper, Simi Crowns.

In the afternoons, the provocative **History Ireland Hedge School** returns to ask was World War I: a Great War or a good war and, with a neat hucklebuck, looks into Show bands, beat bands & ballads: youth culture of the '60s. As Sunday morning breaks through, Miriam O'Callaghan will host the riotous assembly that is the **Electric Picnic Brunch** with comedians, journalists and performers from among the tired and emotional of Stradbally's fields. More chat without the chit returns with the fun "speed-debating" of **Salon du Chat**.

The **Science Gallery Stage** will have Ignite Electric Picnic: High-energy five-minute talks, guaranteed to amaze, inspire, upheave and amuse; Scientific Sue: A science show for all ages that looks at weird weather and crazy climate.; Futureproof Live: Newstalk's weekly science show with Jonathan McCrea will return for an almost-live festival edition and a jam-packed programme of workshops and demos, inspired by Science Gallery's current exhibition, STRANGE WEATHER.

The Word Stage, hosted by the inimitable Marty Mulligan from Mullingar features a wealth of poetry, slam and musical talent including: Canadian poet and rapper, C R Avery, The Brownbread Mixtape, Dublin's Underground Beat, Cúirt Literary Festival Showcase, The Monday Echo, Milk and Cookies, The Whitehouse Poets, Lingo Spoken Word Festival Showcase, Storymap, Come Here to me, Olaf Tyaransen, The Mary Coughlan Band, Ka Tet, Ska's Good Gravy, Cronin, Mojo Gogo, Sinead White, David Donoghue and Clive Barnes as well as many others.

The Theatre Stage programmed by Dublin Theatre Festival's Willie White, presents a series of festival-fit performances from some of Ireland's most exciting artists including productions from Opera Theatre Company, performing opera from the movies; Gúna Nua, Dylan Coburn Gray, ANU Productions, Emmet Kirwan (Sarah and Steve) and Ian Lloyd Anderson (Love/Hate) and Devious Theatre Company.

An Puball Gaeilge has its biggest ever programme of wild Irish language events including Hector Ó hEochagáin hosting 70s porn karaoke; Rónán Mac Aodh Bhui's Caiberet Craiceáilte; Manchán Magan and Aindrias de Staic; as well as music, poetry, theatre debate, burlesque, standup comedy and food – all in the medium of ár teanga náisiúnta.

Full programme details available shortly at <http://www.leviathan.ie> and at <http://www.electricpicnic.ie>