

Press Release: Tuesday 28th January 2025

The National St. Patrick's Festival is back!

St. Patrick's Festival 2025

A Global Celebration of Irish Arts, Culture and Heritage

Supported by Government of Ireland, Fáilte Ireland & Dublin

City Council

15-17 March, 2025

www.stpatricksfestival.ie || #spf25 || #stpatricksfestival

Subject to licence & permissions.

**The Spectacular National St. Patrick's Day Parade Returns on Monday
17th March + St. Patrick's Festival Events Programme Places Festival
Fun Right into the Heart of the City, Where Tales, Trails & Treasure
Await!**

Today, Tuesday 28th January 2025, the programme for the **national St. Patrick's Festival, Dublin, Ireland, March 15th to 17th 2025** is unveiled. The theme of this years' global celebration of Irish Arts, culture and heritage is **Adventures (Eachtraí)**, representing the famed and legendary Adventurous spirit that lives inside us all, known and loved the world over as a defining symbol of Irishness. It is that innate ability as a nation to transform fear into courage, face any challenge head on and turn it into an adventure, forging new paths as we go.

This year's St. Patrick's Festival invites locals and visitors alike to a celebration like no other across a city of tales, trails, and treasures, where every street tells a story of history, of magic, of adventures. All are welcome to experience the world-famous parade, immersive on-street performances and the cultural delights of a city bursting with life. Guests can expect a huge celebration of Irish culture throughout the weekend, from captivating **street theatre** to **comedy** that fills the city streets with **joy and laughter**, awe-inspiring **circus** performances, **family-friendly** areas, **neurodivergent friendly** performances, a lively **Céilí Mór** located at the beautiful Merrion Square on the 17th and everything in between!

THE NATIONAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, DUBLIN, 2025

This year's **National St. Patrick's Day Parade**, driven by the values of joy, community, diversity and sustainability, promises to be the most joyful yet, bringing more experiences, laughter, spectacle and delight to those watching.

The iconic procession will feature Ireland's foremost creative parade companies including **Bui Bolg, Spraoi, Inishowen Carnival Group, The Outing Queer Arts Collective, Artastic** and **Art FX**, with a highly anticipated Parade return coming in the form of the beloved and legendary **Macnas and Cork Puppetry Company!** The 2025 parade will also see a beautiful and meaningful collaboration between St. Patrick's Festival and **Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre** who are celebrating 40 years of Pavee Point. This particular piece will honour the wagon wheel, a shared

traditional focal point for both groups, and bring the two together as they share stories & skills between the two communities. **Kia** embarks on its fourth adventure as an official sponsor of St. Patrick's Festival, with their support continuing to drive the festival's success. **Dublin Zoo** have jumped on board with a larger-than-life twist on our theme of Adventures – expect surprises that'll leave crowds roaring for more! With half a million spectators expected to line this year's route, the Parade will feature over 23 artistic parade performances and ceremonial unit displays, 10 community groups performances (as part of the St. Patrick's Festival Community Arts Programme), and 12 marching bands from across Ireland, North America and Austria.

Under the guidance of new Artistic Director, Aoife Carry, the Festival has worked closely with all of the parade companies, drawing on their vast experience and utilising all of their unique talent and artistic flair to really bring the theme of Adventures to life.

After a huge uptake in attendance and extremely positive feedback from guests, St. Patrick's Festival is thrilled to announce the return of the **Dublin City Council Relaxed Parade Space** for 2025, allowing neurodivergent members of our communities and their families to safely enjoy the festivities in a safe, sensory-friendly environment. The application for the Dublin City Council Relaxed Parade Space is now open and guests will be selected by lottery on February 17th.

A limited number of **Parade Grandstand Seats and Hospitality Packages** can be purchased at www.stpatricksfestival.ie and for those that are unable to attend this year's Parade, the full Parade will be broadcast nationally live on RTÉ One, and around the world on RTÉ Player.

ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL EVENTS PROGRAMME

St. Patrick's Festival is thrilled to launch the 2025 programme of events, with an immersive offering of interactive and awe-inspiring experiences taking place against the backdrop of our historic city. This year **Dublin comes to life** with events that **celebrate the city**, through a diverse and eclectic array of **entertainment, on-street performances** and **cultural experiences**, with something for everyone, each and every way you turn! This **exciting new adventure** places the Festival back **into the beating heart of the city**, delivering electric and joyous energy pulsing right across the weekend as Dublin transforms into a **playground of discovery** and wonder for all ages and interests, from the very best of our esteemed creative communities.

Kicking off the festival will be the much-loved **Dublin City Council Treasure Hunt** which makes a triumphant return for 2025 and is guaranteed to be a hit with all ages. The perfect way to explore and rediscover Dublin City - More details to follow very soon!

For the remainder of the weekend, be sure to explore the city and catch acrobatic delights and juggling wonders with circus companies like **Cikada Circus, Tumble Circus, Hands Down Circus, Symmetry Circus** and **Amadan Circus** on city corners; dance on the pavement to tunes by **Acid Granny** and the **Shamrock Show Band**; or stop by to wonder and enjoy **Team Fuinneamh** or **Moss Russell 'Squish Stomp Spin'** (*both neurodivergent friendly performances!*).

Performance and visual art will surprise and delight all over the city, courtesy of talented creatives and cultural curators including interdisciplinary performing artist **Elisa Gallo Rosso**, multidisciplinary dancer and percussionist, **Favour Odusola**, illustrator and visual artist **Harry Pizzey** and many more! While the streets teem with performance and adventure, there's even more to be found across a plethora of iconic city locations, including the **Wood Quay**

Amphitheatre, Wolfe Tone Square, Hugh Lane Gallery, Capel Street, Barnardo Square and St. Stephen's Green.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the city while also supporting our workers across the arts, culture, heritage, festivals, entertainment, tourism, hospitality and accommodation industries, locally, nationally and internationally. More details and announcements to follow on www.stpatricksfestival.ie over the coming weeks.

The 18th annual Aware Harbour2Harbour Walk takes place this St Patrick's Day, Monday 17th March. Over 3,000 enthusiastic walkers are expected to take on the 26 km challenge with the option of starting at Howth or Dun Laoghaire Harbour and finishing at the opposite harbour.

Speaking of the Festival programme announcement, **Lord Mayor of Dublin, Emma Blain** said: *"St. Patrick's Festival continues to be a vibrant celebration of Irish culture and creativity. This year, I'm particularly excited to participate in the Parade and see the iconic Lord Mayor's Coach proudly return to our city's streets. I'm also looking forward to the diverse range of events taking place across Dublin, bringing the spirit of St. Patrick's Festival to life on the city's streets. With a dynamic programme curated for all ages, this year's festival is set to be truly remarkable. I want to congratulate the St. Patrick's Festival team for delivering yet another exceptional showcase of our heritage and talent."*

Ciara Sugrue, Head of Festivals & Events at Fáilte Ireland said

"St. Patrick's Festival returns to Dublin this year with a fantastic programme of music, entertainment, and arts that celebrates the rich tapestry of Irish arts, culture, and heritage and we look forward to welcoming over 500,000 visitors for celebrations this year. The eyes of the world are on Ireland on the 17th of March, and St Patrick's Festival Dublin acts as the kick-off point for our main tourism season due to the winter in Dublin initiative, showcasing Ireland as a fantastic visitor destination to audiences across the globe. The festival is also a vibrant celebration of the incredible talent and creativity within our communities - from the street performances taking place across the city, to the magic and colour of the parade, and of course, the unmissable craic of the Céilí Mór, which is hugely popular with overseas visitors."

Following the programme announcement, **Richard Tierney, CEO, St. Patrick's Festival** said:

"St. Patrick's Festival is a truly collaborative effort, brought to life by the incredible contributions of artists, creators, events teams, and community organisations from across the country, along with our core Festival team. The 2025 Festival is set to fill the city's streets with energy and excitement like no other, featuring the much-anticipated Festival Parade and a host of family-friendly events across the city. We are immensely grateful to our funders, partners, and sponsors for making this year's St. Patrick's Festival possible and I look forward to welcoming visitors from near and far to Dublin this March."

St. Patrick's Festival is made possible through the continued support of the Government of Ireland, the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, the Department of Arts, Culture, Communications, Media and Sport, Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council, and many generous partners and funders.

The Festival Programme is available now at stpatricksfestival.ie and will continue to be updated as more events are announced. See www.stpatricksfestival.ie for details and tickets. To be the first to hear all the news, join the Festival mailing list on the website and follow St. Patrick's Festival on all social media channels.

Ends.

For further information please contact **THE HIVE AGENCY:**

Katie Genockey | katiegenockey@thehiveagency.ie | 0851917534

Jodie Delany | jodie@thehiveagency.ie | 0871253373

NOTES

About St. Patrick's Festival:

The national St. Patrick's Festival is Ireland's global celebration of Irish Arts, Culture and Heritage. It takes place annually in Dublin and is made possible by the generous support of Principal Funders: the Government of Ireland, the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, the Department of Arts, Media, Communications, Culture and Sport, Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council, and many generous partners and funders.

Established in 1996, St. Patrick's Festival has grown from a single-day to a multi-day event featuring music, performance, spectacle, dance, theatre, literature, visual arts, food, community activations and much more. It is recognized globally as one of the world's biggest festivals and in 2024, delivered an overall media reach of 400m+, a digital and social media reach of 22m, a live audience in excess of 600k and a TV audience of 386k.

The Festival is a key driver for the tourism industry, presenting a world class event that showcases the very best of Irishness and Ireland as a destination, platforming our incredible unique culture, heritage and traditions to a global audience through quality experiences. The most recent economic impact research estimates that St. Patrick's Festival returns roughly €113 million to the Irish economy, with over 100,000 out-of-state visitors specifically choosing to holiday in Ireland to visit the Festival.

St. Patrick's Festival also continues to be a key driver of employment and opportunity for the creative sector, providing over 11,000 days of employment for over 4,200 artists in 2024. The 2025 Festival will continue to provide these opportunities, driving employment through direct investment in these vital industries that uplift Ireland across the world. The Festival team is made up of many of Ireland's most experienced professional artists, arts workers, creatives and live events workers, in support of a small core team who work throughout the year planning the St. Patrick's Festival and Parade. Year on year, St. Patrick's Festival employs thousands of Irish artists, arts workers, arts organisations, live event workers, community workers and volunteers. St. Patrick's Festival is an independent not-for-profit organisation with charity status, governed by a Board of Directors under the patronage of the President of Ireland.