

Why it's all smelling of 'Roses' for the Cranberries

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Dolores O'Riordan at a press conference in Milan to announce their new tour

ALLISON BRAY - 23 FEBRUARY 2012

TRINITY College's 329-year-old debating club was the unlikely spark that reunited The Cranberries, singer Dolores O'Riordan revealed yesterday.

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The reformed band are getting ready to embark on a world tour following the release tomorrow of 'Roses', their first album in more than a decade.

And the band's 40-year-old frontwoman credited Trinity's College's Philosophical Society for their reunion. The society invited the band to play there after making Ms O'Riordan an honorary patron in 2009.

Not only did Ms O'Riordan join Bishop Desmond Tutu, Jack B Yeats and Oscar Wilde as a patron, the gig also prompted the band to begin working together again.

"We went to the pub and over a beer (bass player) Mike (Hogan) said we should do it now because we're not getting any younger," she said yesterday. "My shock was to see young people in the audience," added guitarist Noel Hogan.

"During our break, all these kids were discovering our music on the internet and they never thought we were going to play live ever again," he said.

They decided to embark on a 107-date world tour the same year, and got back into the studio following the tour.

Meanwhile, Thomond Park chief John Cantwell confirmed that negotiations were under way for a homecoming gig at the Limerick stadium, possibly in July, at the end of their forthcoming world tour.

Speaking to the Irish Independent last night, he said he met with the band members in Limerick last month to discuss a possible Irish date. "We're on the same page. They want to do it and we want them to do it," he said. "We're finalising details to see their availability. But we hope to come in on the back of their tour."

The Cranberries last played a short set at the venue as part of the opening ceremony for the 2010 Special Olympics.

The band's new album is their sixth studio album since 'Wake Up and Smell the Coffee' in 2001, and the lyrics, written entirely by Ms O'Riordan, deal with adulthood, being a mother and bereavement, following the death of her father.

Their latest tour kicks off on March 15 in Auckland New Zealand and the closest to an Irish gig so far is when the band return to Europe in June with a gig at London's Hammersmith Apollo on June 18

read john meagher's review of the new album in Day & Night tomorrow

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