

VOL. 39 ISSUE 12 AUG. 05, 2015

HOT PRESS

Rape

How could the judge let that man away with it?

Clare Daly

My Battle With The Gardai

By Olaf Tyaransen

Chernobyl

Inside The Exclusion Zone

Encore!

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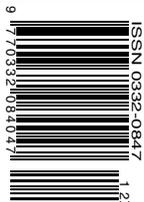
the

Greatest Irish Gigs OF ALL TIME



ampeg

BIG INTERVIEWS: AIDAN GILLEN • ANTONIA CAMPBELL-HUGHES • PAUL MURRAY • SLEAFORD MODS



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the 50

Greatest Irish Gigs *of All Time*

There's been shouting, there's been hair-pulling, there's even been some low-grade eye-gouging, but Team Hot Press has finally come up with a list of the shows that have blown us away most since our first issue in 1977.

From The Boss, the Clash and U2 to Grace Jones, Lady Gaga and Moving Hearts, every gig is a cast-iron classic.

Doubtless we've left some of your own favourites out, so log on now to hotpress.com to tell us what should have been, and share your memories of those epic nights.

• U2 at Slane photographed by Roger Woolman

OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS:

- Stuart Clark
- Colm O'Hare
- Róisín Dwyer
- Craig Fitzpatrick
- Colm O'Regan
- Niall Stokes
- Peter McNally
- Liam Mackey
- Paul Nolan
- Da e Luv

PHOTOGRAPHERS INCLUDE:

- Graham Keogh
- Athrin Baumbach
- Colm Henry
- Athal Dawson
- Andrew Duffy
- Ruth Medjbe
- Brian Mulligan
- Liam Sweeney
- Barry Lumber
- Da a Munnis

28 QUEEN

The RDS, Dublin
Aug '84

It was the summer before they made history with their triumphal, iconic slot at Live Aid, but in 1984, Queen were already safely considered to be one of the most electrifying live acts on the planet. In the late, great Freddie Mercury, they had possibly the most commanding frontman of all-time and he had Dublin in the palm of his hand. Improvising when he forgot the correct words to 'Hammer To Fall' and ending up with a bra on his head, you could always rely on him to inject a little cheek into stadium rock. When you've delivered 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and 'Radio Ga Ga' and still have 'I Want To Break Free', 'We Will Rock You' and 'We Are The Champions' for the encore, you can do what you like! Tactfully replacing typical closer 'God Save The Queen' with 'A Day At The Races', this was a royal visit everybody could get behind.

• Craig Fitzpatrick



Angus Young by Kathrin Baumbach

27 AC/DC

The Oz, Dublin
April '09

There'll be plenty queuing up to argue the merits of their Punchestown show, or even the recent Aviva date, but for me a more intimate night with AC/DC was their stand-out Irish show. True, 14,000 isn't a small crowd, but for a band of this stature it felt pretty damn tiny, and with nowhere for the sound to escape, good God was it loud. Rosie looked as buxom as ever as the band gave us everything we could have wanted and more: we rocked, we rolled, and we saw Angus Young's arse. It was the essence of simplistic rock 'n' roll nirvana.

• Colm O'Regan

26 R.A.T.M

Tivoli Theatre, Dublin
Aug '93

While Rage Against The Machine might have to answer for the waves of cretinous rap-metal outfits that came in their wake, they were the real deal, offering articulate polemics over heavy Zeppelinesque grooves. With Zack De la Rocha attacking the mic, Tom Morello giving us a modern take on guitar heroics and a tight rhythm section, the LA quartet delivered an incendiary set, bookended by 'Take The Power Back' and 'Bullet In The Head' and described at the time as 'MC5 colliding with Ice T.' This was Ireland's first taste of a genuinely new sound.

• Craig Fitzpatrick

Bob at Dalymount by Colm Henry



25 BOB MARLEY

Dalymount Park, Dublin | July '80

This one wasn't just about the music. As glorious as Marley's universal reggae was, the Jamaican superstar arrived in Dublin less than a year before his death and succeeded in shaking the foundations of a still very conservative Ireland. During the support acts, keyboard wizard Tyrone Downie wandered around the home of Bohemians FC in a Hot Press t-shirt. Taking to the stage, Bob was utterly magnetic – rolling out the hits, dancing and dedicating 'Redemption Song' to "the Irish struggle." His appearance was way more important than Pope John Paul II in the Phoenix Park – and with far better tunes. At a time when superstars rarely landed in Ireland, Marley was a magnificent exception...

• Craig Fitzpatrick

24 PEARL JAM

Green Glens Arena,
Millstreet | Oct '96

Following this show, the main economic activity in Cork wasn't the export of Murphy's, nor tourists visiting the Blarney Stone, but the trade of bootleg recordings of an all-time classic gig. Pearl Jam's *No Code* tour had been embroiled in a ticketing dispute back in the States, so it was little surprise that the grunge heroes were eager to unleash some pent-up energy at the start of their European jaunt. Confiding that the Rebel County reminded them of home – rain, green pastures, great beer and good people – and then blasting through a greatest hits parade, this was Eddie Vetter and co. at their ear-splitting, cacophonous best.

• Colm O'Regan

23 TAYLOR SWIFT

3Arena, Dublin
June '15

As the last stop of a wildly successful tour, there shouldn't have been much pressure on Tay-Tay. Her battle with Apple Music one week earlier, though, had seen her elevated from pop princess to something more akin to goddess-like deity. How to respond? Well, elevate yourself on a massive platform rotating above the crowd for a start. Then roll the stage theatrics and production values of Broadway and Cirque du Soleil into one mesmerising, magnificent show and flawlessly perform one of the decade's strongest pop records. How good was she? I was inspired to turn to my companion and blurt out four words I never thought I could say: "She's better than Beyoncé!"

• Colm O'Regan

22 DEPECHE MODE

The Point Depot,
Dublin | Dec '93

By its end seven months later, Depeche Mode's *Devotional* tour was branded by one scribe as "the most debauched rock tour ever." Dublin got very, very lucky, however, in catching the band at the top of their game. Louder and hairier than their SFX days – and tighter than a mallard's posterior after 50 dates across the Atlantic – the North Wall was battered by the new wave giants. Anton Corbijn visuals and a crunching sound played their part. Ultimately, this was the Dave Gahan show: a spine-tingling spiritual performance to demonstrate just why he'd made such a cult of himself.

• Colm O'Regan

21 R.E.M

SFX, Dublin
Dec '94

Already the hottest college rock band in the US, Michael Stipe and crew arrived in Dublin for their first Irish show on a chilly winter evening. Still very much an underground outfit in Europe, only about 700 lucky souls (yours truly included) were on hand to witness one of the most memorable gigs to have hit Dublin in a long while. The set-list, drawn largely from *Murmur* and *Reckoning*, included 'Radio Free Europe', 'So. Central Rain' and 'Wendell Gee', along with covers of the Velvet's 'Femme Fatale' and Television's 'See No Evil'. Steve Wickham, then with In Tua Nua, appeared on stage with his violin for a few numbers including 'Don't Go Back To Rockville'. For many the highlight was Stipe's pin-drop version of Henry Mancini's 'Moon River'. Mesmerising...

• Colm O'Hare

20 DAVID BOWIE

The Point Depot,
Dublin | Nov '03

Bowie's *Reality* tour was the hottest ticket in town when he arrived for two sell-out performances at the old Point Depot. With an impressive stage and stunning visuals to match, the show opened to huge cheers with an exhilarating 'Rebel Rebel'. Bowie barely paused for breath during the marathon 30-song performance. He looked and sounded in great shape and his band, which included Dubliner Gerry Leonard on guitar, were terrific. Highlights included his reclaiming of 'All The Young Dudes', an emotionally-charged 'Life On Mars' and a sing-along 'Changes'. One of his earlier tunes 'The Man Who Sold The World' was ironically better known from Nirvana's recent *Unplugged* version. But Bowie reclaimed it brilliantly on the night. The encores included a trio of Ziggy-era classics – 'Five Years', 'Hang On To Yourself' and, of course, 'Ziggy Stardust' itself. The Dublin shows were filmed and later released on DVD. Apart from the occasional one-off appearance, Bowie hasn't toured since.

• Colm O'Hare



Ed Sheeran by Dara Munnis

19 ED SHEERAN

Whelan's, Dublin | Jan '15

A magical night watching Damien Rice in 2002 inspired Ed Sheeran's career in music, so it was coming full circle when the flame-haired chart-topper – arriving with VH1 *Storytellers* cameras in tow – supplied perhaps the most incredible night in the venue's decorated history. Heading to the show with HP snapper Kathrin Baumbach, rabid fans were ready to rip us limb from limb for one of the precious wristbands, as an estimated 70,000 applications had been received for a mere 400 golden tickets. By the time cameras rolled at midnight, excitement was at fever pitch; by the time the greatest one-man-band in pop finished 90 minutes later, we were utterly floored. Watching it back, it looks fantastic on telly – but trust me, it was something else entirely to be there.

• Colm O'Regan

18 THE CRANBERRIES

Theatre Royal, Limerick | Dec '93

It was either the second or third year we'd done a Christmas gig at the Theatre Royal. The previous ones had been a bit quieter though, put it that way!

We'd been away for nearly a year, starting with a few weeks around Europe supporting Hot House Flowers in February. Our album had come out, but done nothing – charted in the late hundreds – and we thought we were going to get dropped. Then, we got a call saying 'Linger' had taken off on US college radio, and off we went to the States; it was nine months later when we got home.

We had no idea what was coming. Shannon was stuffed with photographers and press. I'd heard from my parents that they'd read things were going well, but we didn't know that it had been picked up back here to that extent. My dad was waiting at the airport, and he was as surprised as we were! I'll always remember how rammed the Royal was that night. At the back door, there were old schoolmates you hadn't seen in years banging on the door looking to get in; all of a sudden, you had a lot more cousins than ever!

To play a home gig is always a buzz, but to have everyone know every song, and to get the reaction we did made it totally special. You felt like you'd arrived; if it ended the following day, we'd done what most bands hope to do.

• Noel Hogan

17 LEONARD COHEN

Lissadell House, Sligo | July '10

While there are those who will steadfastly maintain that the Kilmainham 'comeback' shows were the most notable of Laughing Lennie's visits to our shores, the memory of hearing Cohen pay tribute to WB Yeats in the heart of Sligo is that little bit special. Reciting lines from the stage, we could all see he was visibly moved – no more, it might be added, than I was, seeing Cohen's genius up close once again. 75 years young he may have been, but in a glorious setting, the titfered troubadour was simply incredible. It was a magical evening with a musical master.

• Colm O'Regan



The Beasties backstage by Cathal Dawson

16 BEASTIE BOYS

Tivoli Theatre, Dublin | June '94

Myself and Hot Press snapper Cathal Dawson met the Beasties in the 900-capacity venue at three o'clock after they'd completed their very loud soundcheck. They were going through a cricket phase at the time, and when they clocked I was English decided to do the interview in "tally-ho, old boy!" accents.

Being a camera buff, Mike D was able to tell Cathal exactly what lens and shutter speed were required to get good photos of them in the dimly-lit dressing-room.

The gig itself was smoking, with the trio seamlessly switching between funky call-and-response hip hop, speed-freak punk and their brazen 'up yours!' frat boy rock, which had so enraged the UK red tops a few years earlier.

• Stuart Clark



Thom Yorke by Cathal Dawson

15 RADIOHEAD

Rock Garden, Dublin | May '93

A subterranean flea-pit with the stickiest floor ever, The Rock Garden was for four or five years the venue where most emerging acts made their Dublin bow. Radiohead were among the initiates. Estimates vary enormously, but I reckon there were around 100 people there to see a bleach blond Thom Yorke and the chaps plug their debut *Pablo Honey* album, which was doing far brisker business at the time in the States than on this side of the Atlantic. With their prog rock leanings yet to surface, it was a loud, punky performance, with Yorke subjecting his mic to Iggy Pop levels of abuse and Ed O'Brien throwing serious guitar shapes. Afterwards we all headed to Fatima Mansions' almost equally legendary late night gig in The Tivoli, where there wasn't room to swing even a vertically-challenged cat.

• Stuart Clark