

Entertainment Scene

Concerts • Shows • Theatre • Art • Movies and more...

Email Entertainment News to
news@topic.ie



Jason Scarff (left) and Robert Fagan of Mullingar Equestrian Centre get into the spirit with Jan Lindsey ahead of the Best Dressed Ladies' Competition at Mullingar Greyhound Track next Saturday, May 12.

Calling all ladies to the Greyhound Track!

LADIES, be sure to put on your finery for the Best Dressed Ladies' Competition at the Mullingar Greyhound Track next Saturday, May 12. Proceeds from this special fundraiser, which is sponsored by Natterjack Toad Boutique and organised by Mullingar International Supporters Club will go towards the €20,000 Grand Prix, which is scheduled to take place at the Mullingar Country Fayre and International Horse Festival on Monday, June 4.

This year the 'Battle of the Sexes' Donkey Derby will be the centrepiece for what promises to be a fantastic night of family entertainment.

As the name suggests, it is open to both men and women and the final will see competitors battle it out for the much sought-after inaugural title.

In recent years, pony racing took place in between greyhound races, so this is a brand new venture!

TICKETS

The action gets underway at 8pm and admission is €10.

It is also hoped to run a special race for professional jockeys and anyone interested can contact Jason Scarff on 086-6003723.

Factory Girls comes to Mullingar

'FACTORY Girls', a play written by Buncrana native, Frank McGuinness, will be presented in Mullingar Arts Centre from Tuesday, May 15 to Thursday, May 17.

The play, which looks at female solidarity and industrial unrest in Donegal celebrates the working class culture of women, and drew inspiration from his grandmother, mother and aunt's experience working in the local shirt factories of Buncrana where he grew up.

Hard to believe that a play as harrowing and sentimental as this, was written in just one week, after Frank's detailed description of play, which he had

AWARD-WINNING

Frank is an award-winning writer, who has enjoyed a multi-faceted career in the theatre. He is best known for his 1993 hit 'Someone to Watch Over Me' which won the New York Critics' Circle Award for Best Foreign Play and his groundbreaking adaptation of 'A Dolls House', which won three Tony Awards in 1997.

TICKETS

Tickets are available for Factory Girls from Mullingar Arts Centre on 044 93 47777. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Southern Tenant Folk Union to perform debut Mullingar show!

BY MICHELLE CRAWLEY

THE people of Mullingar are in for a special treat on Friday night, May 18, when Edinburgh based roots collective 'Southern Tenant Folk Union perform their first ever show in Mullingar Arts Centre.

Formed by Belfast born five-string banjo player, Pat McGarvey in 2006, Southern Tenant Folk Union have built up a stellar reputation across Ireland and the UK and are now one of the most highly regarded folk outfits on the music circuit.

Pat McGarvey served his musical apprenticeship touring the world and recording a number of albums with bands such as The Arlenes and The Coal Porters in London, experiences which have given him a grounding in fusing american folk and his own Celtic heritage. Keen to find a more personal outlet for his writing, Pat gathered a collective of like minded musicians that share his love of traditional music, but each with their own individual take on such tradition and thus 'Southern Tenant Folk Union' was formed.

UNION INFLUENCE

Speaking to *Topic* this week, Pat McGarvey explained the decision for the band name, taken from the groundbreaking multi-racial union of sharecroppers and non land-owning tenant farmers founded in Arkansas in the 1930s. "I suppose the name came from the fact when we first came together as a group, we used a democratic approach to song-writing and song selection, in that we all came up with ideas,

discussed them and voted on our favourites. It was kind of akin to what happens in unions and being a member of a music union myself, I thought it would be cool to perhaps choose a union for our name", he explained.

However, Pat was all too aware that unions often are bashed and blamed for slow productivity, which he says isn't necessarily true of all unions and feels that unions have also been a huge influence in the 20th century and have spawned a lot of positive moves in recent history.

The theme of labour relations can be seen in their music too, with songs such as 'Rights and Interests of the Labouring Man'. "We try to have some undertones in our lyrics which refers to how not much has changed from the top of capitalism", he admitted.

CHANGES

Speaking of changes however, 2009 saw huge adjustments within the band line-up. "The original line up was a largely London based group, however, the existing band members had a yearning to go onto new projects in 2009 and I myself had been commuting from Edinburgh to London for over two years and it was around that time, that I decided to base the band in Edinburgh and acquire some local musicians". The move has been

very advantageous for the group, who are now a scottish folk/americana bluegrass seven-piece that have received critical acclaim for their fourth album 'Penncaitland'.

IRISH TOUR

Now, Southern Tenant Folk Union are about to embark on an Irish tour, before going into studio to record their fifth album, scheduled to be released early next year. "We will be testing out some of our top quality new material on this Irish tour", hinted Pat excitedly. "We love coming to Ireland. We always receive a great reception from the Irish audience, possibly because the Irish love acoustic sounds and also the Gaelic influence, which we bring to the band through the strings", he added.

DEBUT MULLINGAR PERFORMANCE

While it is the band's first time to perform in Mullingar, Pat himself is no stranger to the area, as his wife Deborah Arnott, a member of Americana band 'Blueflint' used to live in Tullamore.

"I am very familiar with the Midlands and we have a lot of friends in Westmeath and Offaly", he noted. Pat and his fellow band members are really looking forward to performing in Mullingar, which will no doubt be an all-inclusive, moving and atmospheric eclectic live show.

TICKETS

Tickets to the show are just €15 and are available to purchase from Mullingar Arts Centre on 044 93 47777. Book early to avoid disappointment.



Southern Tenant Folk Union will be performing in Mullingar for the first time ever on Friday, May 18. From left to right: Ewan MacIntyre, Carrie Thomas, Marty Camino, Chris Purcell, Jed Milroy, Pat McGarvey and Adam Bulley.



At rehearsals earlier this week were Patricia Gibney, James Elliffe, Teresa Doran, Clare O'Sullivan, Mark Scally and Avril Whelehan.

CÉILÍ

in Cullion Community Centre

Friday, 11 May

Music by Davy Joe

Adm. €10

Light Refreshments Served