

THE TICKET

@ Electric Picnic 2008

- Friday reviewed
- The best food stalls
- Yesterday in pictures
- Line-up, stage times and tips

Saturday, August 30, 2008

Our verdict on day one: a supersized festival

DESTINATION STRADBALLY

A lot of Picnic-goers learned from last year's brutal traffic on the opening night and hit the road earlier to get here on time. That said, there were still a few nasty hold-ups that snarled some poor unfortunates, including, sadly, The Ticket crew. Next year, we'll cycle. Or arrive on horseback.

SUPERSIZED PICNIC

After a quick stroll it became clear that there's far more to see, do, hear and eat than ever before. There are new areas such as the Walled Garden and at every turn some act, artist, performer or DJ doing their thing. Prepare to be gobsmacked.

THE MUSIC

Oh yes, there's music too. There's a selection of reviews from yesterday overleaf, but we were also wowed by the ace New Young Pony Club and the magnificent Tinariwen.

We're also really digging the new World Music Stage, where At First Light's lovely slo-mo trad and Terry Callier's heavenly folk-jazz provided tonic for the soul.

Jim Carroll



Alison Goldfrapp enchanted fans at the Main Stage last night. Photograph: Alan Betson

Stuff we liked ... and we think you might too

Granny's Gaff

Winding wool, teabag conkers, bingo, senility and an obstacle course that won't make you think of Gladiators. Check it out opposite the inflatable church.

The Salty Dog saloon

A stage in the forest on an abandoned trawler. What's not to like?

Thisispopbaby

The five-metre long inflatable baby

suspended from the ceiling - and everything else in the this tent too.

The Nokia info stand

A phone company's version of Willy Wonka's chocolate Factory.

Aerial ballet at the Blue Room

Look mammy, no hands! Or Legs! Truly sublime aerobatics on 12-foot stems.

That pink boat

If you spotted it yesterday, go see it again today. Some above-par doodlings appeared on it overnight.

Arcadia Spectacular

The Arcadia collective of artists, musicians and people in strange hats are Glasto veterans whose acts with fire and water will make you drop your eco cup in delight.

BLOODY WEATHER

Mostly sunny, with a risk of rain later and tonight. Highs of 19 degrees. And there's a blight warning in force. DO NOT rely solely on the potato as your only source of nutrition this weekend!

Foreign news: from beyond Picnicland

● John McCain has named governor of Alaska Sarah Palin as his running mate. The 44-year-old "hockey mom" has an approval rating over 80 per cent in Alaska ● Tropical storm Gustav has killed 70 in the Carribean ● Jack and Sarah were the most popular babies' names of 2007

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THE REVIEWS

... of yesterday's gigs, art, comedy and more



Sigur Ros: what they were like?

With Sigur Ros, it's all about the details. The stage set consists simply of seven bulbous lanterns hanging from the rigging. The band members are attired in frock-coats or tails and have the look of intense concentration usually required when writing epic Russian novels. The Amiina ladies impassively await the nod to start plucking. You can't go wrong with a set-up like that.

And the Icelandic pure music exponents do not. Every note is perfectly cast. Even the spaces between glisten. Some other band went on in song about "everything in its right place", but Sigur Ros actually act upon it.

The sound? Angels thumb-wrestling on the head of a pin over the last marshmallow probably comes close. The most majestic way to end the first day we can imagine.

Jim Carroll

Artists' area: life inside

You might as well get used to slumming it with the other thirty-odd thousand picnicking punters, because there's one place only a triple A wristband will take you: the artists' area, where the stars hang out when they're not rocking out.

Here, Portacabins are

wallpapered and bathrooms have mirrors and running water. The makeshift dressing rooms are carpeted and fitted out with leather sofas and full-length mirrors where the likes of Tahita Bulmer from the New Young Pony Club can be found applying some last-minute lippy pre-performance.

There's Gomez's Paul "Blackie" Blackburn wandering through - almost mistook him for a bus driver. A supersized yurt contains a pool table, some comfy cushions and a few members of Kila.

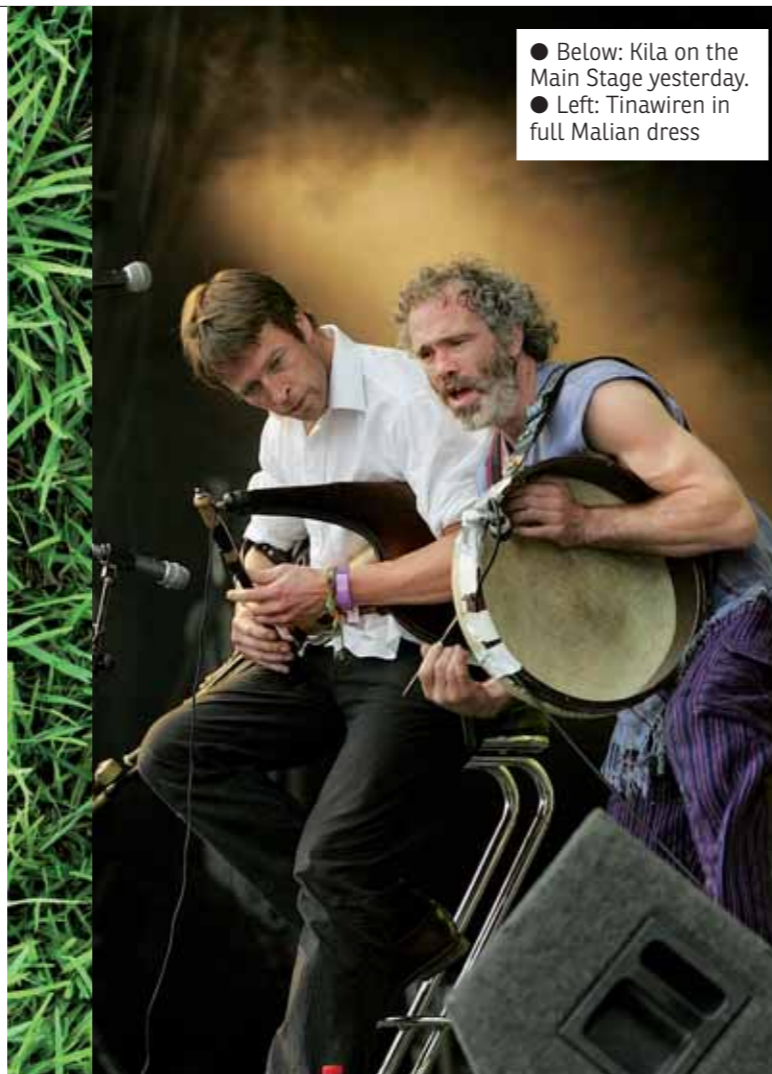
Alas, there's more gorging than orgy-ing going on, with artists fuelling up with healthy hot food rather than the diet of MDMA and blue M&Ms you might expect. And the muck factor is just the same, whichever side of the fence you're on. **Fiona McCann**

Kila: love making music

They were in the Crawdaddy tent last year, and had it full before their first song ended, so this year Kila took on the challenge of Pied-piping the crowds to the Main Stage. They were up to the task, and leapt over it, whooping and shrieking and playing out of their skins. Bodhran-wielding bandleader Ronan Ó Snodaigh led and followed with fine voice and canny ear, at one point confidently taking lead vocal alongside the Discovery Gospel Choir in a piece of powerhouse a capella.

Plumed, carnivalesque dancers added more hips and sway to the mood. At the outset, Ó Snodaigh had promised to make love to us over 55 minutes of set; they had us there in five, and we could have kept going all night.

John Lane



● Below: Kila on the Main Stage yesterday.
● Left: Tinawiren in full Malian dress

David O'Doherty sit-down comic

"The best way to start is, everyone, lower your expectations," suggested David O'Doherty, and given the current hype surrounding this Dublin comedian as he took the stage for his first Irish gig since winning the If.Comedy award in Edinburgh, it wasn't bad advice.

To be fair, O'Doherty is funny, and got plenty of laughs from his sit-down audience with his musings on Oprah,

iPhones and the best ways to kill your board-game opponents.

For much of his set, though, he just wasn't THAT funny, and at times his wordy humour seemed a little quick-witted for a slowed-down festival audience. His trademark songs, where, to the tinny beats of a synthesiser on his lap, he waxed lyrical on his "mild superpowers" and the list of things that made him angry this year, provided some of his finest moments, leading us to the conclusion that this

particular stand-up is at his best sitting down.

Fiona McCann

Lucent Dossier: sexing up circus

The word will be out about this riotous circus by now. This is the kind of show where word of mouth spreads like gossip about a secret after-hours performance from a certain visiting artist on Sunday.

From Los Angeles, the Lucent Dossier ensemble perform imaginative and funky vaudeville featuring shape-throwing, art, live music, a bit of singing and a lot of dancing. The stage for the dozen dancers is a replica of a pirate ship (how the hell did that get through customs?) and they gaily prance and pirouette about it with great vim and enthusiasm. There's a lot of water splashing around too, both on and off the stage.

It's an alternative crazy-ass Cirque du Soleil which will make you wow and smile. Go, go, go. Performances today and tomorrow in the Body & Soul area at 7.30pm and 12.30am.

Jim Carroll

Dawn Landes: Kentucky kid

Dawn Landes could get to really like Laois-Offaly. Last November, the singer-songwriter from Kentucky, who earned her stripes engineering records for the likes of Ryan Adams and Phillip Glass, made her Irish debut at the Tullamore Rugby Club, opening for Josh Ritter. She's been back to Ireland a few times since, plugging her album

Fireproof at every turn. Those shows have transformed Landes's songs. They're still pretty, but they're now tough and snarling too.

Landes plays her guitar and kicks ass with an effects box, while drummer Ray Rizzo adds some pizzazz. We're liking this, and so are those who were pulled into the tent by those songs. Next time she's in this 'hood, she'll be further up the bill on a bigger stage. **Jim Carroll**

Jape: festival jump-start

Nobody can put a sweaty tentful of punters who've just spent three hours in traffic back in the festival spirit like Jape. Bouncing onto the Crawdaddy stage, Richie Egan fizzed with energy, revving up a bursting tent with his high octane electro-rock and mixing up tunes from his spectacular 2008 release, *Ritual*.

I Was A Man, in which a chest-thumping Egan became king of all he surveyed, was a particular highlight. And with old favourites like *Floating*, Jape's three-man ensemble had bodies jumping and fists pumping through a stomping half-hour set.

Things hit

BAD STUFF

- €3 for an hour's phone charging
- Too many trilbys
- Non-beautiful naked people, Body & Soul
- The wasp invasion
- Traffic. Not as bad as last year, but still worth a fume
- Site map and signage: confusing
- That's all we could think of, which is saying something

GOOD STUFF

- The superchilled walled garden
- Snowball fights, Heineken tent
- Beautiful naked people, Body & Soul
- The mobile piano man
- Tinariwen: best outfits
- Free choccies, sambos flavoured H₂O etc, Body & Soul
- The programme: nice job

human writers

How do you write about human rights? When Sean Love, the former director of Amnesty Ireland, and Roddy Doyle approached the heaviest hitters of the Irish literary world for a unique project to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they kept it simple.

Each writer would pick one of the 30 articles, and would take that as the starting point for a prose piece - fiction, essay - whatever they wanted. There were no rules, beyond some rough guidelines on length. For the past six months or so, we've been publishing the results in the WeekendReview section of Saturday's *Irish Times*.

Today and tomorrow, eight of the contributors will read their pieces, which form a pretty representative sample of the 30. There'll be two Booker-winners (Anne Enright and the aforementioned Mr Doyle), along with Mark O'Halloran, who wrote and co-starred in the best Irish film of the last 10 years, *Adam & Paul*.

And there'll be some of Ireland's best prose stylists: Kevin Barry, Hugo Hamilton, Ann Marie Hourihane (whose story is in today's newspaper), Claire Keegan and Glenn Patterson.

The pieces they'll be reading range from surreal fantasy to straight reportage, from classical short story to up-to-the-minute political satire.

Readings take place in the Leviathan area at 4pm on Saturday and at 4.30pm on Sunday.



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There's another one on Sunday.
And one more in Monday's
THE IRISH TIMES



From hogs to tarts: the best grub at the Picnic

MARIS FINN

The staple craved by many bellies on a morning like this is the magisterial potato, and its most evolved form, the chip. There's no shortage of chip vendors but Maris Finn Chips and Dips have taken the simple approach and nailed it. What you get is a sturdy carton, a bellyful portion of our hot heroes and a choice of dips (cheese, garlic, garlic-cheese, bbq, bbq-cheese, etc). We went for the homemade gravy (without cheese), and had to fight off regretful fools with smoothies as we scoffed the lot. Of course other chips are available ... but are they with dips? €4.50. **John Lane**

CELTIC HOG ROAST

Chips down, the search was on for the burger. Acting locally (it's next door to Chips and Dips) and thinking globally (a world of victuals: kangaroo, wild hog, ostrich, venison, impala), we decided on a kangaroo burger with mustard. Strewth! It was great, a bit like lamb but more widely travelled. The hog on a spit was also quite impressive. **John Lane**

PIEFACE

Last year we raved about Pieminister. This year we tried an alternative, Pieface, which serves a whopping nine different pies with great chips and a tasty veggie gravy. Though steak and kidney is a

stomach-filling if soggy favourite, vegetarians will be glad to find plenty of options like chestnut cassoulet pie or a vegetarian Hungarian goulash, all for €6. For €10, you get chips and a drink thrown in. Does the job if you can't face the queue for the reigning pie champions. **Fiona McCann**

CREPES IN THE CITY

What have the French ever done for us anyway? Well, aside from fabulously smelly cheeses and supermodels getting hitched to pint-sized politicians, their Breton brethren have come up with the crepe. Both sweet and savoury are on offer at Crepes In The City, so we went the sweet route. A plump banana, a big dollop of creme fraiche

and a couple of squirts of maple syrup for a fiver. Chatty lass at the creperie counter too, all set for a weekend on the batter. **Jim Carroll**

GROOVY SMOOTHIES

It's a fruit extravaganza round here. They have a long row of machines ready to get mashing with pineapples, melons, mangos, bananas, ginger, honey, carrots, strawberries and chocolate. It might well be the place to go for breakfast (the Break-of-Dawn smoothie features yoghurt, muesli and honey with your selection of fruit). Yesterday afternoon, though, a Melon Cooler with tangy melon and mango did the trick. Easily the most colourful thing you'll see this side of Grace Jones's stage set-up. **Jim Carroll**

TARTS AND TEAS

Ladies and gentlemen, we bring you cake. Not the band, but the dessert, here under the cosy canvas of Tarts and Teas. Served in the Cabaret Corner by bubbly maidens with buns in their hair, this works as a breakfast delight (the Tunisian Orange cake is packed full of vitamin C, they assure me), or an energy-giving sugar rush at any hour of the day. All organic, all home-made, and served with either slut-tea or cheeky coffee from noon to 6pm. After that, things take a turn for the burlesque, and the whole affair becomes Tarts and Tease. See what they did there? **Fiona McCann**



THE LINE-UP SATURDAY

MAIN STAGE

00:00-02:00 George Clinton
22:00-23:15 Franz Ferdinand
20:15-21:15 Wilco **GO**
18:30-19:30 Duffy **GO**
16:45-17:45 The Herbaliser
15:00-16:00 Antibalas
13:30-14:15 Liam O Maonlai
12:30-13:00 Kormac feat. BS Quartet

ELECTRIC ARENA

22:45-00:00 Underworld
20:45-21:45 Grace Jones **GO**
18:45-19:45 Elbow
17:00-18:00 The Breeders
15:15-16:15 Midnight Juggernauts
14:00-14:45 Ulrich Schnauss **GO**
13:00-13:30 Super Extra Bonus Party

CRAWDADDY STAGE

22:45-00:00 Tindersticks
21:15-22:15 Josh Ritter
19:45-21:00 Lisa Hannigan
18:15-19:15 That Petrol Emotion
16:45-17:45 The Kills **GO**
15:30-16:15 Cathy Davey **GO**
14:30-15:00 Laura Izibor
13:30-14:00 Boss Volenti
12:30-13:00 The Flents

LITTLE BIG TENT

00:30-02:00 Digital Mystikz
23:00-00:00 Crystal Castles **GO**
21:15-22:15 Silver Apples
19:45-20:45 Dan Deacon **GO**
18:30-19:15 Juana Molina
17:15-18:00 The Faint
16:00-16:45 Ra Ra Riot
15:00-15:30 The Radio
14:00-14:30 Large Mound
13:00-13:30 La Rocca

COSBY STAGE

00:00-02:00 A-Trak
23:00-00:00 Santogold **GO**
21:15-22:15 Cut Copy
20:00-20:45 Arno Carstens
18:30-19:15 Black Acid
17:15-18:00 The New York Fund
16:00-16:45 Halves
15:00-15:30 Teitur
14:00-14:30 Oppenheimer **GO**
13:00-13:30 Tobias Froberg

BODYTONIC MAIN

00:30-02:00 Rob Hood
23:00-00:30 Ben Klock
21:30-23:00 Barry Redsetta
20:00-21:30 Bodytonic DJs
19:00-20:00 Count & Sinden **GO**
18:00-19:00 Billy Scurry
17:00-18:00 Spilly Walker (David Kitt) **GO**
16:00-17:00 Chewy (Climaxx DJs)
15:00-16:00 Generic People DJs

IMC WORLD MUSIC

00:30-01:45 Havana Son
23:00-00:15 Mercedes Peon
21:15-22:30 Soha
19:30-20:45 Rachel Unthank and The Winterset **GO**
18:00-19:00 Yurodny
16:30-17:30 MSG
14:45-16:00 Crash Ensemble
13:00-14:00 Mornington Singers

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A Day In The Life Kraftwerk Plus Soulwax & Guests

Tickets €99.50 incl booking fee & VAT. Ticket price includes Bus from Dublin city centre or Park & Ride from Leopardstown Racecourse Available from Ticketmaster outlets nationwide. For Credit Cards Ph 0818 715300. Book online www.ticketmaster.ie. Tel & internet bookings subject to service charge 12.5%, agents charge €2.50 *Please note there are no parking or camping facilities available at the venue. All transport details & restrictions at www adayinthefestival.com & www.pod.ie



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