

ARTS  
OVER  
BORDERS

# 10 YEARS BECKETT UP NORTH

*'...this most distinctive, original and dreamlike of festivals offered profound experiences'*  
THE INDEPENDENT (5 STARS)

Enniskillen and County Fermanagh have played host to the world's first annual multi-arts festival celebrating Dublin born Nobel Laureate Samuel Beckett, the Happy Days Enniskillen International Beckett Festival. Beckett attended Portora Royal School (1920-1923) in Enniskillen at a time when the Irish border was established. The writer Oscar Wilde attended the same school fifty years earlier. At school, Beckett excelled in sport - and humour, it is understood. Over ten years Irish, British and international artists in theatre, dance, literature, visual arts, film and music, listed below, beat a path each summer to perform and exhibit in the small island town.

## 100 INTERNATIONAL & GB ARTISTS IN COUNTY FERMANAGH

Tariq Ali - Benjamin Appl - Alba Arikha - Pierre-Laurent Aimard - Walter Asmus - Kersten Avemo - Fleur Barron - Berliner Ensemble - Florian Boesch - Ian Bostridge CBE - Alfred Brendel - Gavin Bryars - Klaus Maria Brandauer - John Calder - Carducci Quartet - Romeo Castellucci - Allan Clayton - Max Stafford-Clark - Dame Sarah Connelly - George Craig - Robert Crawford - Sophie Daneman - Tacita Dean - Tim Dee - Julius Drake - Atom Egoyan - Lady Antonia Fraser - Heiner Goebbels - Sir Antony Gormley - David Gothard - John Gray - A C Grayling - Germaine Greer - John Haffenden - Samantha Harvey - Günter Haumer - William Henderson - Hilliard Ensemble - Richard Holloway - Clive James - Kathleen Jamie - Mecorre Quartet - Netia Jones - Toby Jones - Jan Jönson - Kapka Kassabova - Jean Kalman - Konstantin Kimmel - James Knowlson - Joseph Kosuth - Catherine Laws - Tim Lott - Pierre Yves Macé - Sara Maitland - Maguy Marin Dance Company - Peter Marinker - Julian Van Mellaerts - Priya Mitchell - Mark Morris Dance Group - Blake Morrison - Toko Mukaiyama - Steve McQueen - Ema Nikolawska - Susie Orbach - Alice Oswald - Evlyne Oyedokun - Guy Paul - Tim Parks - Don Patterson - Neil Pearson - Phoenix Piano Trio - Ruby Philogene MBE - Diana Quick - Christopher Ricks - Claudia Roden - Terro Saarinen - Colin Salmon - Philippe Sands - Will Self - Raja Shehadeh - John Simpson - Frank Skinner - Guy Stagg - Tamara Stefanovich - Peter Stein - Christianne Stotjin - David Soul - Georg Tabori - Raymond Tallis - Sir John Tomlinson - Léa Trommenschlager - Brian Turner - Vienna Piano Trio - Roger Vignoles - Ed Vulliamy - Dame Harriet Walter - Llyr Williams - Roderick Williams OBE - Robert Wilson - Moshe Yasur - Michael Zantovsky

*'Musicians, poets, actors, performers, artists, talkers, doers and watchers celebrate his life and works on land and beneath the ground; on water, by water and under soft rain. In this island town, reflections and precipitation blur boundaries between earth and sky'*

THE OBSERVER (5 STARS)

## 80 IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND ARTISTS IN COUNTY FERMANAGH

Jo Baker - John Banville - Kevin Barry - Edward Beckett - Andrew Bennett - Daire Bracken - Garech Browne - Gerard Byrne - Garrett Carr - Ciaran Carson - Orla Charlton - Declan Conlon - Denis Conway - Crash Ensemble - Anthony Cronin - Ned Dennehy - Adrian Dunbar - Lisa Dwan - Terry Eagleton - Diarmaid Ferriter - Roy Foster - Olwen Fouéré - Carlo Gebler - Alan Gilson - Domhnall Gleeson - Vona Groarke - Seamus Harahan - Jeremy Henderson - Niall Henry - Tom Hickey - Vincent Higgins - Nicholas Johnson - Neil Jordan - Raymond Keane - Declan Kiberd - Claire Kilroy - Thomas Kilroy - Michael Longley - Derek Mahon - Alan Milligan - John Minihan - John Montague - Eamon Morrissey - Conall Morrison - Paul Muldoon - Tadgh Murphy - Tara MacGowan - Lorcan MacMathuna - Eimear McBride - Frankie McCafferty - Frank McCusker - Ian McElhinney - Paula McFetridge - Matthew McFrederick - Barry McGovern - Belinda McKeon - Pauline McLynn - Anna McMullan - Edna O'Brien - Eoin O'Brien - Mark O'Connell - Simon O'Conner - Shivaun O'Casey - Liam Ó Maonlaí - Tom Paulin - David Pearse - Tommy Peoples - Dylan Quinn - Gavin Quinn - Lalor Roddy - Nick Roth - Annie Ryan - Sarah Jane Scaife - Helen Sharp - Clara Simpson - Paul Smith - Stanley Townsend - Kathryn White - Yurodny Ensemble

## HAPPY DAYS SPONSORS & DONORS



**GOLD:** Peter & Fiona Espenhahn - Joanna McVey - Michael and Ruth West - Mary Heaney

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**BRONZE:** Liam & Jackie Strong - Grace Yu - Paddy Gregan - Donal & Cecelia Gallagher - Sean Hunt - Bill Repard & Jane Prendiville - William Morrison - Jeremy & Kate Young - Robin Preston - Sinead Martin

# The 2026 Samuel Beckett Biennale

*...artistic excellence of the highest order. Far from being a po-faced affair, its programmes are laced with wit and some degree of eccentricity'*

## THE STAGE

Arts Over Borders now has a new festival format, the Samuel Beckett Biennale, which will radiate out of Enniskillen to the author's geographical locations across Ireland and England, Folkestone, Reading, Snodland and London as well as Greystones, Wicklow, Belfast, Dublin and Enniskillen.

The SBB will be location-specific to Beckett's individual plays and prose and at times time-specific across the calendar year. Its locations will bring together East-West (England-Ireland) as well as North-South (Ireland), a model for our times.

A single Beckett work will be presented in one place at one time and will act as a public laboratory festival emphasising experimentation and innovation.

**GREYSTONES:** the Spring Equinox (March 20 & 21) with 'An Evening in the Future', the premiere of *Krapp's Last Tape* at the Whale Theatre performed by Olivier Award nominee Malcolm Sinclair with AI (his younger taped self). Tickets and more information: [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie)

**DERRY~LONDONDERRY:** Palm Sunday weekend (March 28 & 29) for two days of public open rehearsals on AOB's new translation commission of *Waiting for Godot* in Ulster-Scots. Act 1 March 28 10am-5pm and Act 2 March 29 10am-4pm. In partnership with Ulster University. Further details [www.artsoverborders.com](http://www.artsoverborders.com)

**FOLKESTONE:** Beckett's *Happy Days* in the town where he married in the year completing the play. An experimental performed reading with staging in a white cube space in the Quarterhouse Theatre. In partnership with Creative Folkestone. August. Further details [www.artsoverborders.com](http://www.artsoverborders.com)

**READING:** Beckett's *Not I* will be acted by opera soprano Claire Booth directed by former RNT Artistic Director Rufus Norris at the Mingella Studios, University of Reading, home of the Beckett Archive and Billie Whitelaw Archive. September 2026. Further details [www.artsoverborders.com](http://www.artsoverborders.com)

**DUBLIN:** *Die Winterreise* by Franz Schubert on Beckett's death date, December 22, in his home town. Sung by Mark Padmore (tenor) accompanied by Bjarke Mogensen (accordion). Further details [www.artsoverborders.com](http://www.artsoverborders.com)

2026 Samuel Beckett Biennale Partners include The Beckett Foundation Reading University, Creative Folkestone, Ulster University, The Department of the Economy (NI), The Whale Theatre Greystones and The Playhouse Derry-Londonderry.



Beckett International  
Foundation



*Our thanks and gratitude to Edward Beckett and the Beckett Estate.*

*'Happy Days is democratising Beckett. Devoted fidelity to Beckett's vision works here. ...this is brave programming'*

FINANCIAL TIMES

[www.artsoverborders.com](http://www.artsoverborders.com)

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