

Magazine

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FRESHEN THE PALATE

Clodagh McKenna's
healthy cooking tips

WEARING THE WEST

The Aran jumper
has its day in the
sun

LOOK FORWARD TO FILM

John Maguire's
movie must-sees

THE FACES OF 2015

Introducing the bright young things
from the arts and design worlds who
are set to shine this year

Bright young things

Whose stars are in the ascendancy in 2015?
Compiled by Lily Killeen

Moe Dunford: soon to star in the Terry McMahon drama Patrick's Day

Moe Dunford, actor
What have you seen him in?
An Crisis, Vikings
What will you see him in?
Patrick's Day

Moe Dunford dropped out of an Arts degree in UCC after first year. "Ah, it didn't suit me and I knew it," he says, explaining how he spent the next year or so looking around for some sort of creative expression. "In 2007 I sent €50 to the Gaiety School of Acting and went up to do an audition. I did two monologues, a section of John B Keane's *Sive* and something from a Neil Simon play. Patrick Sutton told me it was the worst audition he'd ever seen but that I had something. He couldn't say what it was, but I had it." Shortly after completing the two-year course, Dunford was cast in *The Tudors* and has worked more or less consistently since. "Consistently for an actor, that is. I did the restaurant drama *Raw* for RTE and *An Crisis*

for TG4, and was lucky enough to be cast in *Vikings*."

Later in 2015, Dunford has "my first lead role in my first movie" – *Patrick's Day*, written and directed by Terry McMahon. "I play a guy who has mental health issues and the story has him becoming involved with a woman his mother, played by Kerry Fox, thinks is unsuitable. It was an incredibly tough part to play. Dunford was nominated for the Bingham Ray New Talent Award at this year's Galway Film Fleadh while *Patrick's Day* won the Audience Award at the Cork Film Festival. Dunford says his real hope is that the film will "help draw attention to the crisis in mental health services in this country and remove the stigma associated with mental illness".

Dunford has been selected by an international jury to represent Ireland as one of Europe's Shooting Stars at the Berlin Film Festival in February.

John Maguire



Sean Guinan: 'I felt [painting] was a natural talent I had, so it seemed right to go for it'



Ruth Anna Coss, stylist

This graduate of textile design in NCAD began styling when she worked on a shoot with photographer Johnny McMillen for designer Eilis Boyle. However, Coss has been steeped in fashion for years having worked as an assistant buyer and stylist for Envoy of Belfast.

Coss has worked on commercial and editorial work for retailers and designers and for magazines such as Image and Thread. "I enjoy my commercial work as

much as my editorial work – they just involve a different approach," says Coss.

"For the milliner Laura Kinsella we just used a white studio in order to enhance the details of the hats but often I do find myself working with photographers who favour natural light and I'm also a fan of seeing where the shoot takes you – the weather, or what happens if you put the model in a certain environment."

See ruthannacoss.com.

Ruth O'Connor



Vann Music

Those who love a particular kind of 1980s-inspired synth-pop should warm to the sounds of Dublin-based electro-poppers Vann Music in 2015. Their single Tina was one of my favourite singles of last year, a gorgeously hooky confection built around a climactic chorus of fizzy synths. There's more than a touch of Bono about Aaron Smyth's capable vocals, and their live sets have seen the four-piece grow of late in confidence and delivery. Still to release their debut album, the band plan a new EP for March with production duties handled by Stephen Hague (New Order, the Pet Shop Boys) and mixing by Billy Bush (The Naked & Famous, Jake Bugg). They'll play the Button Factory in Dublin on March 7 to launch the as-yet-to-be-named new EP, which, says Smith, is something of an evolution for the band, counting Jon Hopkins, New Order and M83 as key influences. Expect 2015 to be a very good year for them.

Nadine O'Regan



Stephanie Rowe: 'It's amazing to get recognition'

Bryan Meade

Stephanie Rowe, painter

Close to becoming Ireland's newest citizen, Vancouver Island-born Stephanie Rowe is making a name with her stylish, miniature mise-en-scene paintings, many inspired by the big screen. These are works you connect with. They say: 'We're having a really interesting time – come on in and join us'.

Exhibiting at Futures at the Royal Hibernian Academy in 2012, she was co-awarded the Hennessy Craig Scholarship – and was spotted by Oliver Sears who gave her her first solo show. "I found the small scale of her works so alluring," he says. Her penchant for small scale goes beyond painting. She likes Ireland for its proximity to Europe, and its size. When she wins the Lotto her shopping list won't include

Rothko or Warhol. "Of course I like what the top curators pick, but I'd look for a super-unknown artist whose work was interesting and resonated with me. I glean a lot from going to student exhibitions where they are putting up random pieces of paper on the wall; I get more from that than going to the blockbuster exhibitions."

Her idea of a role model is artist Carmen Herrera who spent her life unrecognised, going on with her work in a quiet way before being discovered at 96.

"Obviously it's amazing to get recognition, but with or without it, I'd be doing it anyway, it's the place I like to go – it's my space."

Ros Drinkwater