

Kilkenny Animated Festival

2026

11—13

Sept

**Kilkenny,
Ireland**

**Animation /
Illustration /
Film /
Storytelling**



WWW.KILKENNYANIMATED.COM



**In a world where screens can be worrisome
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Practical Information

Plan your day

Some workshops and special events have limited capacity. Advance booking is recommended.

Arrive early

For ticketed screenings, talks and workshops, please arrive at least 10 minutes before the advertised start time.

Age guidance

Family workshops have specific recommended age ranges. Please check individual event listings before booking.

Accessibility

If you have accessibility requirements, please contact the festival team in advance so that they can help you plan your visit.

Programme changes

Schedules and venues may occasionally change. For the latest information, visit: kilkennyanimated.com

Share your festival

Follow Kilkenny Animated online and share your festival moments using the official festival hashtag.



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Friday 11 September

Social

Cos Play Karaoke

A festive cosplay and karaoke event featuring artists, guests, and studio crews.

Ages 18+
21:00–23:30
Billy Byrnes
FREE

Headliner

Drawing the Stories Out

A unique live performance featuring storyteller and musician **Aindrias de Staic** alongside artists drawing live.

General Public
18:30–20:00
Watergate Theatre
€26.00



Screening

Late Night Horror Screening: Perfect Blue

A special late-night screening of **Satoshi Kon's** 1997 psychological horror masterpiece, introduced by **Tomm Moore** (Cartoon Saloon).

Ages 18+
22:00–23:30
Watergate Theatre
€13.00

Find yourself sharing hot takes



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Saturday 12 September

Workshop

Brilliant Bedroom Bunting!

Get creative with colour, shapes and characters in this playful family craft activity. Design your own decorations and transform ordinary bunting into a celebration of animation and imagination.

Facilitated by Niamh Moyles

Families and children (must be accompanied by a parent/guardian)

Session 1: 10:00–10:45

Session 2: 11:00–11:45

Cartoon Saloon - The Maltings

€8.50



Workshop

Animation Workshop with Fran Bravo

A gentle introduction to animation for young children. **Fran Bravo** encourages participants to experiment with movement, characters and storytelling through simple, hands-on creative exercises.

Ages 3–6 (must be accompanied by a parent/guardian)

Session 1: 10:00–11:00

Session 2: 11:15–12:15

Cartoon Saloon - Barrack Street

€8.50

Workshop

Zine with Me! with Marty Broski

Explore the creative possibilities of the humble zine. Learn about illustration, sequencing, writing, folding, printing and self-publishing — then make something of your own.

Ages 15+

10:00–12:00

Mayfair Library - Maker Space

FREE



Meet the Creators



Art Market

Discover original artwork, prints, books, zines, crafts and other creations from artists, illustrators and makers.

11:00-17:00

Billy Byrnes

FREE Admission / Artist Showcase

Book Reading

'Letters from the Witch: Cackle Crackle' Storytime with Annie Atkins

A magical storytime reading of **Annie Atkins'** new children's book.

Children and families (All ages)

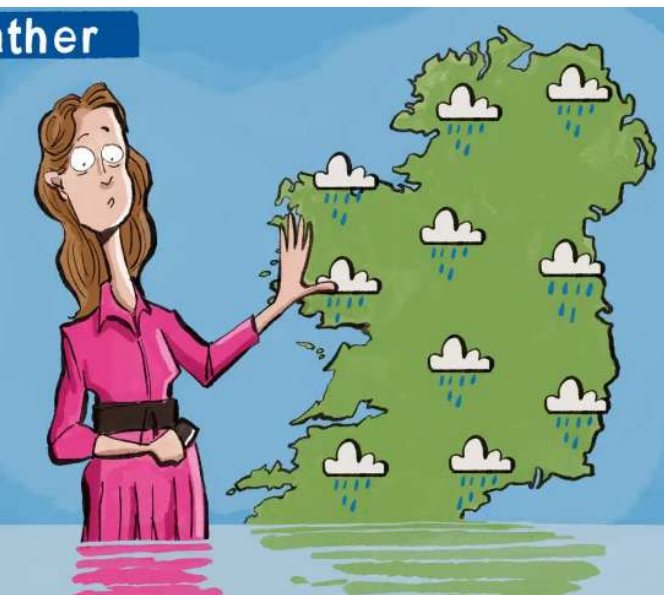
11:00-12:00

Mayfair Library - Kid Zone

FREE



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Headliner

My Line in Politics: Harry Burton & the Art of the Political Cartoon

Harry Burton explores the craft of political cartooning and the power of a simple line to communicate humour, satire, criticism and political ideas.

Ages 12+

11:45-12:45

Home Rule Club

€10.00



Screening

The Colours Within

Naoko Yamada introduces her acclaimed coming-of-age film, following three teenagers whose lives intersect through music, friendship and the discovery of new ways to express themselves.

With introduction by the director Naoko Yamada

PG (Teenagers & Adults)
10:00 - 12:10
Watergate Theatre
€13.00

Screening

A Silent Voice

A moving story about guilt, friendship, disability, communication and redemption. When former bully Shoya Ishida reconnects with Shoko Nishimiya, the deaf classmate he once tormented, he begins a difficult journey towards understanding and forgiveness.

Directed by Naoko Yamada

Ages 13+
17:30-20:00
Watergate Theatre
€13.00



Saturday Afternoon



Tours

Tomb Tales Tour (Day 1)

Step beyond the museum labels and uncover the hidden stories carved in stone. *Tomb Tales* is a unique narrative tour through the Medieval Mile Museum, exploring the stories behind the images carved into ancient tombs.

Tour guided by curator Grace Reinhardt.

Ages 16+

13:00–13:45

Medieval Mile Museum

€12.00

Headliners

The Making of a Zine – with Aoife Dooley & Guests

A lively conversation with the creators behind *The Zine Machine*, Kilkenny's homegrown collective of artists and illustrators.

With Aoife Dooley, Colm Dowling, Rebeca Luca, Amy Byrne, and Marty Broski.

Animators, artists, and creative minds

15:30–16:30

Watergate Theatre

€15.00 (includes a copy of "The Zine Machine")

Headliners

We'll Dub it Live! – Ferg & Stephen Take on Anime

Inspired by questionable anime dubs, this interactive performance takes a beloved anime scene and throws the original script out the window.

Hosted by Fergal Brennan and Stephen Colfer.

Ages 16+

15:00 – 16:00

Home Rule Club

€10.00

Social

Have Your Cake and Draw It

Bring your sketchbook and your appetite. This relaxed social drawing event combines observational sketching with cake, conversation and a welcoming atmosphere.

With Melissa Malone, Amandine Cayla, and Nora Twomey.

Ages 12+

17:30–18:30

Cakeface Café

€10.00

(includes cake and drawing materials)

Supporting Ireland's Animation & Digital Creative Sector



Helping Irish animation and creative companies connect, collaborate and grow internationally. If you would like to enquire about our supports, please reach out to our Digital Creative Sector Team below.



Amanda Ward | Department Manager | amanda.ward@enterprise-ireland.com
Robert Grace | Senior Client Advisor | robert.grace@enterprise-ireland.com
Ollin Flynn | Client Advisor | ollin.flynn@enterprise-ireland.com
Aisling Barry | Market Advisor Japan | aisling.barry@enterprise-ireland.com





25 Years of Cartoon Saloon

The Art of Cartoon Saloon: 25 Years - Book Signing

The official visual retrospective of the first 25 years of **Cartoon Saloon**.

Saturday 12 September

15:00-16:30

Cartoon Saloon - The Maltings

FREE EVENT

For over twenty-five years, **Cartoon Saloon** has been telling stories through art. What began as a small studio with big ambitions has grown into a body of work that has travelled around the world while always remaining rooted in our Kilkenny home and in the creativity and craft of animation.

The Art of Cartoon Saloon: 25 Years is a celebration of that journey. It brings together 300 pages of sketches, character designs, backgrounds, storyboards and concept art from across the studio's feature films, television series and short films. Alongside familiar images are pieces

of never-before-seen artwork, drawn from our archives and shared publicly for the first time. Together, they offer a rare glimpse into the creative process behind the stories, characters and worlds that have defined **Cartoon Saloon** over the last quarter century.

Join **Cartoon Saloon** co-founders and directors Tomm Moore and Nora Twomey, together with animation historian and book author Charles Solomon, for a special book signing in our studio home. Books will be available to buy at the venue.

Saturday Night

Social

Saturday Night Animation Quiz with Colm Dowling

How well do you know animation? Test your knowledge of films, characters, studios, television, history and everything in between in this lively animation-themed quiz hosted by **Colm Dowling**.

Ages 18+
20:00–23:00
Sullivan's Taproom
€5.00

Headliners

Dylan Moran

Live painting, deadpan wit and unpredictable comedy.

Ages 18+
21:00–23:00
Watergate Theatre
€35.00



Representing Ireland as a global centre of excellence in animation.

Animation Ireland is the industry association for Ireland's animation studios.

Our 50 members are geographically spread around Ireland, producing animation content for television & feature films, for the domestic and international markets.

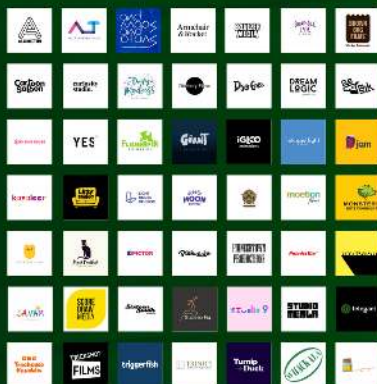
Our activities include:

- Promotion of the sector
- Policy & Advocacy
- The Irish Animation Awards
- Management of the National Talent Academy for Animation
- Animation Ireland Meitheal
- Innovation in Storytelling Fund
- Training and events

🌐 animationireland.com

📧 info@animationireland

📺 [@animationireland](https://www.instagram.com/animationireland)



Sunday 13 September

Workshop

Animation Workshop with Fabian Erlinghäuser

Discover the fundamentals of animation through drawing, movement and storytelling in this practical session for young creators.

Ages 7-11

11:00-12:15

Cartoon Saloon - Barrack Street

€8.50



Workshop

Seeing a Story: Illustration Workshop with Melissa Malone

Explore the relationship between image and narrative. **Melissa Malone** introduces participants to visual storytelling through character, composition, drawing and illustration.

Ages 14+

10:30-12:00

Butler Gallery

€12.00



Workshop

Cartooning Made Easy with Harry Burton

Learn how simple shapes, expressive lines and visual exaggeration can become characters and stories in this accessible introduction to cartooning.

Ages 15+

14:00-15:30

Butler Gallery

€12.00

Ideas in Motion

Headliners

Anime's Journey to the West - An Illustrated Talk by Helen McCarthy

Animation historian and author **Helen McCarthy** traces anime's journey from Japan to Western audiences, exploring distribution, fandom, cultural exchange and the enormous influence of Japanese animation.

12:00-13:00

Watergate Theatre

€17.50



Headliners

Storytelling Through Things with Annie Atkins

In this engaging conversation, **Annie Atkins** will share insights into her creative life, her artistic process and the ways in which objects can carry meaning, reveal character and deepen a story. Drawing on experiences from film, publishing and design, she'll offer audiences a view into the craft behind contemporary cinema visual worlds.

14:00-15:00

Watergate Theatre

€17.50

Headliners

East West Anime

A conversation about what happens when anime crosses cultural boundaries. The panel considers translation, distribution, interpretation and fandom, and the ways Japanese animation is experienced around the world.

With Andrew Partridge, Helen McCarthy, Charles Solomon and Satoko O'Brien.

16:00-17:00

Watergate Theatre

€17.50



Sunday Cinema

Screening

Sunday Morning Shorts: (Dis)Connection

A carefully selected collection of animated shorts exploring the complicated ways people relate to one another.

*Cureated by
Cal McLoughlin*

**General Public
10:00–11:00
Watergate Theatre
€13.00**



Screening

Premiere Screening: The Keeper of the Camphor Tree



The Irish/UK premiere of **Tomohiko Itō's** animated feature. A mysterious camphor tree becomes the gateway to a story of family, memory, loss and reconciliation.

**Introduced by
Andrew Partridge**

**Ages 13+
18:00–20:00
Watergate Theatre
€13.00**

Tour

Sketching Tour

See Kilkenny differently. Guided through the city with sketchbooks in hand, participants are encouraged to slow down, observe architecture and everyday details, and capture what catches their eye.

Guided by Hannah Keenan and Katie Leadbeater



Ages 12+
Tour 1: 10:00–11:30
Tour 2: 13:30–15:00
Lighthouse Studios
€8.50



Tour

Tomb Tales Tour (Day 2)

Discover stories hidden in Kilkenny's historic burial grounds and tombs. This guided experience combines local history, storytelling and visual observation.

Tour guided by curator Grace Reinhardt.

Ages 16+
13:00–13:45
Medieval Mile Museum
€12.00

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ART MARKET

KILKENNY - BILLY BYRNES



**12-13th
September
11am-5pm**

**ZINE
MACHINE**



Venue Guide

Watergate Theatre

A key festival venue for screenings, talks and special events.

Billy Byrnes Gastro Bar

A lively city-centre venue hosting the **Art Market** and selected festival activities.

Sullivan's Taproom

The home of the **Saturday Night Animation Quiz**.

The Maltings & Barrack St.

The two city-centre **Cartoon Saloon studios** are the home of several activities and workshops.

Home Rule Club

A traditional club hosting talks and social festival events.

City Centre & Historic Kilkenny

The city itself becomes part of the festival through sketching tours and **Tomb Tales Tours**.

Workshop Venues

Individual workshop locations may vary. Always check your booking confirmation and the online programme before attending.

Please check the official website for accessibility information, venue directions and last-minute changes.



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Guests

Guest information and programme participation are subject to change.

Aindrias de Staic

Award-winning Irish actor, musician, poet, and storyteller celebrating Ireland's rich folklore and traditions.

Aoife Dooley

Illustrator, author and creator whose work combines humour, drawing and storytelling.

Amy Byrne

2D compositor with extensive animation, teaching, and zine experience.

Andrew Partridge

Animation specialist and CEO of *Anime Limited*, with extensive experience bringing Japanese animation to international audiences.

Annie Atkins

Award-winning graphic designer and author celebrated for creating the detailed printed worlds of major films.

Charles Solomon

Animation historian, critic and author whose work explores the history and art of animation.

Colm Dowling

Animator and animation enthusiast, bringing his knowledge and humour to the festival quiz.

Dylan Moran

Comedian, writer and artist whose creative work extends into drawing and visual experimentation.

Fergal Brennan

Performer and improviser, joining Stephen Colfer for a playful live anime-dubbing event.

Harry Burton

Cartoonist, illustrator and storyboard artist whose work combines visual humour with political observation.

Helen McCarthy

Writer, historian and broadcaster widely recognised for her pioneering work documenting anime and Japanese popular culture.

Marty Broski

Artist and creator leading participants into the world of zines and independent publishing.

Melissa Malone

Illustrator and visual storyteller exploring the relationship between images and narrative.

Naoko Yamada

Acclaimed Japanese animation director known for emotionally resonant films including *A Silent Voice* and *The Colours Within*.

Rebeca Luca

Animation and visual arts practitioner contributing to the festival's creative programme.

Sarah Bowie

Illustrator and artist whose work brings character, humour and visual storytelling together.

Satoko O'Brien

Animation filmmaker and creative practitioner working across illustration and animated storytelling.

Stephen Colfer

Performer and improviser joining Fergal Brennan for live anime dubbing.

Taís Val Penna

Animation and visual arts contributor.

Will Wivell

Animation and creative practitioner contributing to Kilkenny's wider animation community.

Thank You to Our Partners

Kilkenny Animated would not be possible without the support of the organisations, partners, sponsors, funders, venues, artists and volunteers who help make the festival happen.



We are grateful to every organisation and individual supporting animation, illustration and creative culture in Kilkenny.

Credits

Programme Committee

Niamh Herrity

Festival Producer

Paul Young

Co-Founder & Creative Director (Cartoon Saloon)

Naoise Nunn

Creator & Producer (Schweppe Curtis Nuun)

Claire Finn

Managing Director & Executive Producer (Lighthouse Studios)

Gilly Fogg

Head of Creative (Lighthouse Studios)

Nora Twomey

Director (Cartoon Saloon)

Tomm Moore

Co-founder & Creative Director (Cartoon Saloon)

Ann Mulrooney

Studio Manager (Cartoon Saloon)

Organisation Committee

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Festival Producer

Catherine Hehir Roycroft

Chief Operations Officer (Cartoon Saloon)

Sarah Maher

Communications and Marketing (Lighthouse Studios)

Louise Flannery

Senior Manager of People & Culture (Lighthouse Studios)

Claire Finn

Managing Director & Executive Producer (Lighthouse Studios)

Ann Mulrooney

Studio Manager (Cartoon Saloon)

Antonio Caamaño

Studio Graphic Design Manager (Cartoon Saloon)

Orla Smith

Social Media Manager (Cartoon Saloon)

WITH THANKS

To all the artists, animators, filmmakers, speakers, workshop leaders, volunteers, venues, partners and audiences who make **Kilkenny Animated** possible.

And to everyone who continues to believe that animation can tell stories in ways no other medium can.

SEE YOU IN 2027.

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cula4.com