

# **PRESS RELEASE - "Art and Conflict in Northern Ireland" Conference, Edinburgh Fringe Event**

Submitted by: Sharp's Office Services

Thursday, 29 July 2004

---

PRESS RELEASE - An Edinburgh Fringe Festival Event, Hosted by Harry Irwin Foundation,

[www.harryirwinfoundation.co.uk](http://www.harryirwinfoundation.co.uk)

A charity devoted to peace and reconciliation

"ART AND CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND" - CONFERENCE - VENUE 297, The Point Conference Centre, Edinburgh

Monday, 9th August 2004, 1.00pm to 5.30pm

£8.00, £6.50 Concs, (2 for 1 available on 8th August) From [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com) or Fringe Box Office Tel

No:- 0131 226 0000

This is Harry Irwin Foundation's first time at the Fringe and they invite you to participate in this exciting conference "Art and Conflict in Northern Ireland". Enquiring people who have an interest in Northern Ireland, art, or perhaps conflict are welcome to come along, you may wish to participate in the great debating session in the last forty-five minutes of the conference.

Northern Ireland is a country, which is very often misunderstood, especially in the media! It is very often interpreted as being "a country at war with one another" and represented as if, "it has a great cloud of smoke hanging over it". This could not be further from the truth; it is an extremely beautiful country with a lot to offer. There are many great people of Northern Ireland who are all proud of their own heritage, culture and traditions. What better place could there be to hear about it than here, in the midst of the world's greatest art festival?

The great speakers at this conference invite you "to sit back and enjoy the show". If you have made the decision to come along and find out more about how the conflict has influenced the rich cultural traditions of Northern Ireland, especially through art, then you will be in the right place at the right time.

Professor Bill Rolston for one has a surprise up his sleeve. He invites you to a unique slide show, which will uncover some of the finest murals from the Northern Ireland Republican and Loyalist collections. The Murals are an important part of the history of Northern Ireland. They come from the "heart of the people who express themselves through their art".

Dave Duggan, Playwright, nominated for an Oscar for Dance Lexie Dance invites you to ask him "Can Theatre contribute to a Peace Process?"

Professor Liam Kelly presents a slide show and talk about visual artist Shane Cullen, whose artwork is influenced by visual art and the written word. Cullen is internationally known for his artwork on the letters from the Maze prison.

Martin Dowling will give thought-provoking speeches; they express how culture has influenced their lives and invite you to share with them their knowledge. Award winning playwright and film-maker Macdara

Vallely has been invited as an additional guest speaker. His play Peacefire is also showing during the Fringe Festival this year at the Gilded Balloon Caves from 6th to 30th August 2004.

All media will be invited to press event at 11.00am on Monday, 9th August 2004, morning of the conference. INVITE ONLY This will be held in the Point Conference Centre.

If you require an interview, or photoshoot with any of the speakers please make your arrangements in advance with Jacqueline Sharp, Publicist, (Sharp's Office Services PR), on the following email address:- [Jacquelinesharp@aol.com](mailto:Jacquelinesharp@aol.com) or contact Jacqueline Sharp on mobile 07792 690786; OR Contact Paddy Cuthbert, Publicist for Macdara Vallely at Podge Publicity on 0131 624 0249. Email address:- [fringe@podge.co.uk](mailto:fringe@podge.co.uk)

Conference supported by the Community Relations Council of Northern Ireland/Press release distributed by [www.responsesource.com](http://www.responsesource.com), (Daryl Willcox Publishing)