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**Kilkenny Animated**

**A Festival of Visual Storytelling**

**Hosted by Cartoon Saloon**

**Kilkenny, Ireland**

**Feb 23rd – 25th, 2018**

**Kilkenny Animated** is a brand new festival of visual storytelling, incorporating cartoons, animation and illustration in a series of exhibitions, talks, performances, workshops and experiences that celebrate the creativity and craft of the visual image. The festival has been developed in partnership with **Fáilte Ireland** as part of the Ireland's Ancient East brand. **Tickets are on sale now** through our website, check out [www.kilkennyanimated.com](http://www.kilkennyanimated.com) for all shows and ticket prices.

The festival is hosted by **twice-Academy Award ® nominated** animation studio, Cartoon Saloon and is set against and inspired by the backdrop of Kilkenny’s medieval streets and slipways at the heart of Ireland’s Ancient East. **Kilkenny Animated** is the first festival of its kind in the world to bring together so many different aspects of visual storytelling for the enjoyment and appreciation of wider public audience.

There’s hilarious stand up comedy with 2D animation and anarchic projections from **Bec Hill** and **Howard Read**; spell-binding and award-winning dance with live animation from **Hungarian group Bandart**; the premiere of animated series **Cul an Ti** (TG4, Paper Panther, Cartoon Saloon) with live music from **Kila, Lisa Hannigan** and special guests; and the Hometown Gala Premiere at the Watergate Theatre of Cartoon Saloon’s **Golden Globe-nominated feature The Breadwinner**, with a special post -show interview with director, **Nora Twomey**.

There’s an amazing programme of workshops, talks and slideshows from some of the world’s greatest character designers, illustrators, animators and cartoonists who, between them, are responsible for work at **Disney, Dreamworks, Pixar, New Yorker magazine**. **The New York Times, The Irish Times, Washington Post, Sony Pictures**, **Universal Pictures** and the **Jim Henson Company** among many, many others. A huge **exhibition of more than 200 pieces** from these artists will take place over the weekend in the Goods Shed at MacDonagh Junction.

There’ll also be a spectacular exhibition of **street art and graffiti** in one of the old Smithwick’s Brewery buildings in the Abbey Quarter featuring local artists **Mick Minogue** and **Dan Leo** and a sketching walking tour of historic sites in Kilkenny city that inspired and feature in the forthcoming Cartoon Saloon feature, **Wolfwalkers**.

The full programme for Kilkenny Animated is live at [www.kilkennyanimated.com](http://www.kilkennyanimated.com)

Tickets for all shows on sale now!

 For Further information or interview requests contact [sorcha@sorchaoflanaganpr.com](mailto:sorcha@sorchaoflanaganpr.com) or call (086) 0217556