



Kíla, Bishop and 'Indian Rangoli' make Le Chéile line-up stronger than ever

The already strong line-up for Le Chéile - the Midlands premier arts and music festival in Oldcastle - just got even stronger with the addition of trad masters Kíla and American funny man Des Bishop to the bill.

Kíla, the star attractions at last week's successful Ballymahon festival, will perform at Creans on Saturday night, July 31st in the three-day festival. Des Bishop, meanwhile, will perform what is sure to be a sell-out show at Caffreys.

Winner of the 2002 Tap Water Award at the Edinburgh Fringe, native New Yorker Des Bishop has become one of Ireland's most outspoken and exciting comedians.

Well known to TV viewers in Ireland for his appearances in X-it File, as team captain on *Don't Feed The Gondolas*, and in his own TV show on RTE, *Des Bishop's Work Experience* - a savagely comic series about the minimum wage experience in Ireland - Bishop has also become a familiar voice on radio including RTE 1's *Liveline* where he is a regular guest.

His rap and comic brilliance were first seen on the stage in *Rap Éire*, which he co-wrote with Arthur Riordan and he was most recently featured in Jim Sheridan's hugely successful film *In America*.

Unquestionably one of the most gifted comedians to emerge in recent years, he has just released his first DVD, *Des Bishop Live At Vicar Street*, an hour of blistering stand-up

which illustrates why he is one of Ireland's most promising talents.

Kíla's material (all original but with more than a passing nod to the tradition) is a mix of freewheeling instrumentals, lilting airs, furious jigs and reels and memorable songs - the majority of which are sung in Irish. They are fast becoming Ireland's leading world music band and their unique style has attracted attention within the film and television arena also.

Kíla have been involved in composing, arranging and producing music for films including *Gold in the Streets*, *Silent Grace* and the documentaries *Seven Days* and *Hidden Treasures*. In 2001 they composed the soundtrack for the London West End musical *Monkey!* and subsequently released an album of the same name.

Most people know the band from their sensational Meteor Award win in 2002 when they beat off competition from De Dannan, Altan, Chieftains and Sharon Shannon to pick up the IRMA/Meteor Award for best trad act. The award acknowledged their superb live performances as much as their recordings. They've won many more awards, from *Hot Press* readers' polls to international world music awards and they are easily one of the best live bands, if not the best live band, on the go at the moment.

Kíla shows are known for their vibrancy, colour, lighting and stage design with the occasional trapeze artist and fire-juggler adding to the carnival atmosphere.

Both acts join the likes of Shane MacGowan, Mundy, Westlike, The Revs, Blink, Mary Coughlan and many more on the Le Chéile bill. With more acts to be announced, it's shaping up to be the best Le Chéile yet!

Rangoli at Le Chéile

As well as the music, there is a range of art activities and exhibitions taking place. Among the most eagerly awaited is Indian Rangoli at the Gilson School.

Rangoli (ran-goal-i, also known as Alpana, Kolam and by other names) is one of the most popular art forms among Indian women. The term is derived from 'Rang' (colour)+ 'avalli' (coloured creepers) or 'Rang' + 'aavalli' (row of colours). Rangoli is mainly painted on the ground in front of their houses using different colour powders. In a traditional household, the lady of the house starts her daily chores with purifying herself, drawing some Rangoli lines in front of the pooja room and the tulusi. Her regular routine begins after this ritual. With this, her entire day remains fresh and lively. The powder of white stone, lime, rice flour and other cheap paste is used to draw intricate and ritual designs.

One characteristic of Rangoli is that it is painted by commoners. On some special occasions it is painted in every home, with or without formal training in Rangoli art. The art is typically transferred from generation to generation and from friend to friend. Popular magazines publish new

designs of Rangoli every week and on special occasions there are Rangoli contests.

Originally Rangoli was done in small patterns - 2' by 2' but now entire floor areas of rooms and hotel foyers are covered in intricate detailed designs. Traditionally, such floor decorations were done only on auspicious occasions or festivals. But today, any occasion is good enough - weddings, birthday parties, opening ceremonies, etc. Each state of India has its own way of painting Rangoli.

This art can be predominantly seen during the tamil month of MAARKAZHI in Tamil Nadu, India which falls between December 15th and January 15th in western calendar. According to Hindu mythology, during this month the Goddess ANDAL prayed to the Lord THIRUMAL to marry her. It was said that her wish came true. So, this month is said to be so auspicious for unmarried girls to pray to their god to have a spouse of their dreams. During this month unmarried girls arise before the Sun rise to paint beautiful rangolis to welcome the Lord THIRUMAL. The earliest Indian treatise on painting Chitralakshana mentions the legend of rangoli. When the son of a King's high priest died, Lord Brahma, asked the king to paint the image of the boy so that He may revitalize him.

Women (and men!) will get an opportunity to try their hand at this ancient and fascinating art form during the Le Cheile Arts and Music Festival on the August Bank Holiday

weekend. On the afternoon of Sunday August 1st at 3:00pm when a team of rangoli exponents from the Chester Beatty Library will conduct a workshop for adults in the Gilson School, Oldcastle.

Places are limited so advance booking is necessary at 087 9230985 or culture-gap@eircom.net



Uilleann piper Eoin Dillon and percussionist and vocalist Rónán O'Snódaigh of the outrageously talented Kila. The award-winning group perform at Le Chéile in Oldcastle on Saturday July 31st.

Line-up to date:

Friday July 30th

Time	Venue
7:00pm	Opening Ceremony - Town Square
7:00pm	Art Exhibition - Gilson School (all weekend from 12 noon with guest artists)
8:00pm	Start of Pub Trail
8:30pm	Band TBA - Town Square
9:00pm	Des Bishop - Caffreys
9:00pm - 1:30pm	Ham Sandwich, Blink and The Revs - Creans

Saturday July 31st

Time	Venue
11:00am-1:00pm	Children's Willow Sculpture with Greenmantle (5-7 Yrs) - Gilson School
2:00pm - 4:00pm	Children's Willow Sculpture with Greenmantle (8-11 Yrs) Gilson School
5:00pm - 6:30pm	The Cabbage Head King by Downtcha Puppet Theatre (4-8 Yrs) - Gilson School
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Westlike + Underage Disco - Show Hall
9:30pm - 11:30pm	Mundy - The Ceili House
11:30pm - very late	Kila - Creans

Sunday 1st August

Time	Venue
1:00pm - 6:00pm	Family entertainments: Fun Activities, Local stalls and Live Stage - The Naper Arms
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Indian Rangoli - Gilson School
5:00pm	Walk to Sliabh na Caillighe/Loughcrew Cairns & Historical Talk.
6:00pm - 10:00pm	Traditional Irish Music Sessions - various venues
9:00 pm	Mary Coughlan - Caffreys
8:30 pm	The Classic Beatles - The Céilí House
10:00 pm	Shane MacGowan with guests Jacuzzi Jungle - The Show Hall