

RÍRá and Ruaile Buaile - the Fleadh Cheoil was revisited at a book launch like no other!

Noel McIntyre's new book of exquisite photography was launched to great acclaim at an evening of Film, Photography, Music and Dance in Mullingar



RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle, the new book of exquisite photography by Noel McIntyre.

Mullingar, Ireland, November 8th, 2023 – The launch of RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle, the exquisite new book of photography by Noel McIntyre inspired by the Fleadh Cheoil na h'Eireann in Mullingar, took place in the Mullingar Park Hotel on November 8th, 2023.

A visual artist and native of Mullingar, Noel McIntyre is known for his creativity and instinct for a story. He produces exquisite fine art photography, reportage and film which is always inspired by human stories. When the Fleadh Cheoil came home in 2022, Noel found himself alongside one of the

biggest stories of the century. He set out to chronicle the event, show people the sights and sounds of those two weeks, and tell the Fleadh Cheoil story his way. The result is **RíRá Mullingar: a Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle**, an exquisite new book of original portraits and street photography, which showcases the town, the music, and the human spirit in all its glory. The beautifully produced hardcover book, and the heirloom Collector's Edition which is also accompanied by a limited edition signed photographic print, make the perfect gifts for music, art or photography lovers, businesses, or Mullingar natives and diaspora.



Noel McIntyre introduces images from RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle, his new book of photography.

Praise for **RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle** is already pouring in:

As my eyes pass from one image to the next I can almost hear the music and feel the energy of the town. Noel is allowing us an inside view to his town and to a gathering of our people that goes back to our free beginnings.

Liam Ó'Maonlaí
Hot House Flowers

This is a stunning collection of pictorial portraits that freeze in time some magic moments from a unique Irish cultural event.

Eddie Rowley
Sunday World

Beautifully atmospheric photographs capturing the flavour and fun of the Fleadh family.

John McColgan
Award-winning Producer and Director, Creator of Riverdance

Noel's sharp and artistic eye captures the true magic of the Fleadh in his hometown of Mullingar. The People, the music, and the craic are all brilliantly reflected through Noel's camera and imagination.

Bobby Kerr Broadcaster , Entrepreneur and Businessman

"The Fleadh was woven into the fabric of my life growing up in Ireland and even more so when I left and it became an annual pilgrimage. Noel brilliantly captures moments of the magic and grace of the musicians and dance performers, split seconds of intimacy that evoke a sense of the unique atmosphere of a trad session and the community coming together. He dances with the camera, playing with light and angles and shutter speed to convey the fluidity of motion and the smallest of details. It is truly a book of art capturing art."

Norah Casey, Broadcaster & Entrepreneur

In the book's foreward, Musician, Author, and Cofounder A Lust For Life, Bressie says

"Whether you were singing, playing, dancing or listening - the Fleadh Homecoming was an unforgettable experience.

I was lucky enough to be there in person, and for me this book summons up the sights, sounds, and memories of those amazing days in Mullingar. In the great tradition of our local artists, Noel McIntyre has chronicled the feeling and the fellowship of the Fleadh Cheoil, and our people at their very best".

Speaking at the launch, the author said:

"I am honoured and humbled by the response the book has received - because for me, **RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle** has been a labour of love.



Leo Nulty MC, congratulates Noel McIntyre, Author at the launch event for RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle.

The Homecoming of the Fleadh Cheoil to Mullingar in 2022 was expected to be the biggest event in the town's history, but actually became the biggest cultural event the country has ever seen. Music and the arts brought more than one million people together in Mullingar, to sing, play, dance or listen to traditional Irish seisiúns in the streets. The Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Homecoming was an unprecedented and unforgettable experience.

I took to the streets with no notion of writing a book - I was just looking for what I call "the magic" - intimate moments amidst the cacophony of Fleadh Cheoil. I took notes of my thoughts and impressions as I worked, which provide the narrative for the images in the book. As the volume of work grew, I knew I had something special, and the idea of the book was born.

I published **RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle** with the aim of bringing the reader back to the moment and into the scene, so that they can almost hear the music that rang through the town, and experience the same magical energy which I felt in person. This is the chronicle of Fleadh Cheoil, as seen through my eyes. Through these fleeting, transient, images, I hope I have shared its magic for others to enjoy".

During the **RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle** launch event, members of the Fleadh Cheoil na h'Eireann Executive Committee were presented with awards in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the cultural legacy of the town. Joe Connaire, Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Willie Penrose, Vice Chairperson, and Collette Glynn, Secretary of the Committee, along with a number of outstanding entertainers from Fleadh Cheoil, received limited edition photographic prints or copies of the book to recognise their individual contributions.



Noel McIntyre presents framed, limited edition prints to Kevin Cunniffe and Eileen Ryan, outstanding performers from Fleadh Cheoil na h'Eireann.

Joe Connaire delivered a heartfelt speech, reminiscing about the work that went into Fleadh Cheoil and the generosity and commitment of the people that made it happen. Before joining musicians on stage for a *seisúin*, he told the audience about the love of music that inspired him to take on the project, and how meaningful it is for people to bring art and culture into their lives. He praised the new RíRá Mullingar book, and encouraged people to support it, buy a copy, and let it transport them back to the days of the Fleadh Cheoil in Mullingar.



Joe Connaire, Chairperson of the Executive Committee of Fleadh Cheoil na h'Eireann receives a limited edition photographic print from Noel McIntyre, at the launch event for RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle

*“They say that pictures paint a thousand words, and that’s true when it comes to **RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle!** When you flip through the pages, you can both hear and feel the Fleadh Cheoil as it happened. It’s an amazing time capsule full of familiar places and faces, and I am reminded just how extraordinary those weeks were for the town. The Fleadh Cheoil is inclusive and designed for ALL people, whether you’re playing, dancing, or cheering them on. Noel has captured the Fleadh Cheoil in another artform - and people are always uplifted by art and music!”*

Amongst the many musicians, dancers and entertainers that delighted the audience, were champions The Downs Set Dancers from Ballynacargy who performed a flawless half set. Kevin Cuniffe and Eileen Ryan, two of the most memorable performers from Fleadh Cheoil also recreated their unique brand of Sean Nós song, dance and craic, spinning yarns and keeping the tradition of Seanchaí alive. The live performances at the event represented the fusion of music, dance, words and kinship of Fleadh Cheoil, our living heritage.



Joe Connaire, Chairperson of the Executive Committee of Fleadh Cheoil na h'Eireann leads a talented band of musicians on stage at the launch event for RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle

RíRá Mullingar: A Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle is available at select independent bookshops and at RiRaBooks.com.

About the Author:

Noel McIntyre is an award-winning visual creative artist based in the midlands of Ireland. His vision, attention to detail, instinct for a story and eye for a brilliant composition combine to create exquisite and memorable fine art photography, reportage and film.

As a lifelong entrepreneur who has launched, built and divested commercial ventures, Noel has experienced towering success and crushing failure throughout his career. These experiences have grounded him, given him a humble appreciation of people from all backgrounds and walks of life, and instilled in him the utmost respect for their individual stories. These human stories are at the heart of what he does today, and he regards it as his honour to tell them in his work.

With his first book, **'RíRá Mullingar: a Fleadh Cheoil Chronicle'**, Noel turned his attention to chronicling an historic event on an intimate scale, capturing moments in time through his photography. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is as much a celebration of people and the human spirit, as it is of music. In this book, both are celebrated. Learn more at RiRaBooks.com

Also a successful filmmaker, Noel's work has been screened and honoured at film festivals all over the world. Noel was also awarded the title of Irish Commercial Videographer of the Year, in 2022 and 2023 by a peer jury from the IPPVA. Learn more about Noel's film and commercial video at motionpicture.ie.

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