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Capital gains as the season starts to really swing

September marks the beginning of Dublin festival season. From the beginning of that month until the end of October, the city will host an array of culture, arts, theatre, music and architectural events. There has never been a better time to be in the city.

Dublin Contemporary

Dublin Contemporary will see the city taken over by large-scale art installations and gallery exhibitions. Some of the venues include the Royal Hibernian Academy, the Hugh Lane and the National Gallery, but there is a new kid on the block in the shape of the former university college campus on Earlsfort Terrace. This beautiful space will host mini-solo exhibitions, installations and wall hangings. All the works will fall under the theme of *Terrible Beauty: Art, Crisis, Change & The Office of Non-Compliance*.

Begins on September 6 and runs until the end of October.

Absolut Fringe

Absolut Fringe offers a cultural extravaganza in dance, music, theatre and comedy. Taking over 40 venues throughout the city, it is underpinned by the manifesto of 'celebrating the new and the next'. September 10-26.

Arthur's Day

It may take 119.53 seconds to pour the perfect pint, but it takes a whole day to celebrate it. The acts are big, bold, beautiful, but the gigs are intimate. Buy a ticket to an Arthur's Day celebration and you will be guaranteed a ve-

nue, confirmed acts and 'more surprise performances' through which to celebrate the day. Think of it as an all-island surprise party.

There might even be a pint or two on the menu. September 22.

Dublin Culture Night

Dublin's Culture Night is an opportunity to connect with the city and enjoy a night of dis-

covery as galleries, museums and cultural venues open their doors for free. Beginning at 5pm, grab your map, pick a zone and let a free Dublin Bus take you there.

A tour of Christ Church Cathedral or Dublin Castle's State Apartments gets the heritage box ticked. For talks by staff and a chance to handle some exhibits, hop across

the river to the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History. Just a Luas stop away is Imma with live music, free food and a bar in their grounds. September 23.

Also on . . .

Mountains to Sea Book Festival (September 1-11) is a literary affair that brings great writers and aspiring writers under the one roof in Dun Laoghaire, while the **Dublin Festival of Fashion** (September 8-11) is a sartorial celebration that takes place in various venues around the city.

For more information, see www.discoverireland.ie/dublinfestivalseason



Dublin Culture Night: takes place on September 23