



■ Opera singers Dearbhla Walsh (right) and Fiona Murphy

Artists to diversion



■ The Rex Levitates Dance Company will return for another stint at Meeting House Square



■ There's a spectacular line-up of circus and puppetry events for kids; while John Kelly will entertain the 'big kids'



By Yvonne Kinsella

FOR the next three months Temple Bar will become an even more hectic hive of activity as a full feast of free entertainment comes our way.

Yes, once again there'll be dancing in the streets of the capital as the Diversions Temple Bar programme for 2001 kicks in this month until September.

Dubliners and tourists alike will be treated to a host of on-street entertainment from a range of artists to suit everyone's taste.

It's not very often that we get something for nothing in this country, but this is the third year that the festival will take place at Meeting House Square, the heart of the cultural capital.

And it is expected that this year's crowds will, if possible, even outshine those of the past.

There will be Irish premieres on view, international productions and commissions in contemporary dance, multimedia rock opera, world music, open air movies (with the smell of delicious food from the hoards of local restaurants wafting in from all corners of the Temple bar area) and a spectacular programme of circus, acrobatics, mime and dance, puppetry and music for both the little kids and the slightly 'more mature' kids amongst us.

The Diversion's Temple Bar has been divided this year into three strands: the first being a free contemporary dance, theatre opera and music event called Asahi Live on the Square offering free film screenings every Saturday night.

A full feast of free entertainment on its way to Temple Bar

And what was the circus last year is now recalled The Source of Family Fun and it will come to life with free performances every Sunday.

World class Irish and international performers will also be on hand strutting their stuff at the Asahi Live on the Square gig with a lot of artists making their first appearances on Irish soil.

The Irish premier of the award-winning multimedia rock opera Failing Kansas by US musician and composer Mikel Rouse will be brought to us along with the Aboriginal group Visions of a Nomad.

Irish Jazz Saxophonist, Michael Buckley and Irish composer Roger Doyle will also perform over the coming months and the Rex Levitates Dance Company will return for another stint in the Square. These events will all take place during June and August midweek, starting at 9pm.

The movies in the Square will screen at 10pm on Saturdays right through from May to September and the theme for this year will be 'Sound in Motion' with a series of musicals in conjunction with RTE Radio 1 and Rattlebag. The first screening will be the one and only Grease.

From then on there will be a range of both classical and contemporary

screenings, including U2's Rattle and Hum, the emotive film scores of Ennio Morricone, Elmer Bernstein and Bernard Hermann and a short screening of an Irish film will precede each feature movie on the night.

The family season will open on May 27 with the return of the Minor Merchants' Arts and Craft Market where young hagglers from 10 local schools will come together to sell their hand-crafted goods.

There will be a range of different international circus performers, mime artists, aerial acrobatics, dancers and musicians and highlights will include the Caucasian Circus from Israel, Flamenco Express from Madrid and Nakupelle from Finland to name but a few. These feasts will be up for grabs every Sunday afternoon.

If you need more information on the bustling timetable of events then you can call Diversions on 6772255; event information will also be posted weekly on the 24-hour information Cultureline on 6715717

Although all events are free, evening events on the Square require tickets and they will be available for collection from Temple Bar Properties, 18 Eustace Street the week preceding the event.

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