

Press release · [September 5, 2018](#)

GOETHE-INSTITUT IRLAND CELEBRATES RE-OPENING OF 37 MERRION SQUARE WITH WEEKEND OF CULTURAL EVENTS

After a major redevelopment and expansion, the Goethe-Institut Irland's Georgian Headquarters at 37 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 will open with a celebratory programme of cultural events from Thursday September 20 to Sunday September 23, 2018. Over the four days, the public are invited to check out Dublin's newest cultural building and enjoy performances, film screenings, readings and an exhibition, find out about German courses and generally immerse themselves in German culture in the heart of Dublin.

The centrepiece of this cultural programme is the premiere of a **new dance work by Liz Roche Company**, entitled *Näher... Closer, Nearer, Sooner*, which has been commissioned by the Goethe-Institut for the occasion. Presented in partnership with Dublin Fringe Festival, there will be five performances over the re-opening weekend, in which audiences will move through the buildings at 37 Merrion Square, discovering spaces, sounds and performers.

The celebratory programme also features the launch of ***Common Denominator*, a new visual art programme** of exhibitions and events developed by the National College of Art and Design with the Goethe-Institut and curated by the MA/MFA Art in the Contemporary World at NCAD. The programme begins with the exhibition in the Return Gallery at 37 Merrion Square of a specially-designed platform conceptual artist **Liam Gillick**.

The building will be open from 6pm on Culture Night – Friday September 21 – with a series of events including a history talk by **Andrew Hughes**, reading by German fantasy author **Michael Murrak**, a concert by Cologne indie-pop band **Locas in Love**, and a short film programme.

In addition to events at 37 Merrion Square, the Goethe-Institut is supporting the presentation of **Peaches Christ Superstar** at the Abbey Theatre as part of Dublin Fringe Festival: the whole of Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera 'Jesus Christ Superstar' performed by electro-rock provocateuse Peaches.

Full opening weekend programme details are on the Goethe-Institut's website: www.goethe.de/irland

You can also find out more about the re-opening programme by following the Goethe-Institut Irland on Facebook & Twitter: facebook.com/goetheinstitut.ireland / [@GI_Ireland](https://twitter.com/GI_Ireland)

For media information, contact

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EDITORS' NOTES

Opening programme schedule

Day	Time	Event
Thu Sept 20	9am-4pm	<i>Common Denominator</i> - exhibition
	11am	Henchion-Reuter Architects - tour
	5.30pm	<i>Näher... closer, nearer, sooner</i> - dance performance
	8pm	<i>Näher... closer, nearer, sooner</i> - dance performance
Fri Sept 21	4.30pm	<i>Näher... closer, nearer, sooner</i> - dance performance
	6pm-10pm	<i>Common Denominator</i> - exhibition
	From 6pm	German sausages and beer
	6pm-9pm	German language information, games and more
	7pm	Andrew Hughes - Talk about the history of 37 Merrion Square
	7.30pm	Sci-fi author/illustrator Michael Marrack - reading
	9pm	Short film programme - screening
	9pm	Locas in Love - music performance
	9pm	<i>Peaches Christ Superstar</i> - music performance @ Abbey Theatre
Sat Sept 22	9.00am-11.45am	Language classes
	10am-1pm	<i>Common Denominator</i> - exhibition
	10am-1pm	Library open
	11am	Henchion-Reuter Architects - tour
	11.45am-12.30pm	Locas in Love - music performance
	2.30pm	<i>Näher... closer, nearer, sooner</i> - dance performance
	5.30pm	<i>Näher... closer, nearer, sooner</i> - dance performance
	9pm	<i>Peaches Christ Superstar</i> - music performance @ Abbey Theatre
Sun Sept 23	2.30pm	<i>Näher... closer, nearer, sooner</i> - dance performance

About the Building Project

The redevelopment of the Goethe-Institut's Irish HQ at 37 Merrion Square has seen the 1787 Georgian townhouse refurbished to its period glory and welcomes the creation of a new garden and contemporary mews building on the site. Building work commenced in 2016. The Goethe-Institut temporarily relocated all services to 62 Fitzwilliam Square in the interim. The refurbished historic building will contain the Goethe-Institut's Information and Library Service, a new café and expanded cultural/events space, while the contemporary mews building will house the German Language School and services for teachers of German.

About Henchion Reuter Architects

Henchion und Reuter Architekten was established in Leipzig in 1994. In 1998 Henchion and Reuter Architects was established in Dublin. The practice has received numerous design excellence awards in recent years. Completed projects include private homes, hotels, bridges, community and sports centres.

www.henchion-reuter.com/

About the Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural network with 159 institutes in 98 countries. The Goethe-Institut also has liaison offices in many countries in addition to alliances with local cultural societies, libraries and language learning centres. The role of the Goethe-Institut in Ireland is to inform about Germany, provide German language classes and foster cultural exchange between Ireland and Germany.

Find out more about the Goethe-Institut Irland at www.goethe.de/irland

For the latest updates on Goethe-Institut events, follow the Goethe-Institut on Facebook & Twitter:
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