

*Wexford Web*

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## **Wexford Festival Opera & Fringe Festival**

For sixty years now many hundreds of thousands of people have made a pilgrimage to Wexford Festival Opera in search of buried operatic treasure. Wexford is a charming seaside town on Ireland's southeast coast and since 1951 this town has hosted what has become known as one of the world's most remarkable festivals. Wexford Festival Opera prides itself in giving new life to unjustly neglected operas, introducing artists and audiences to the forgotten masterpieces. And it does this in high quality productions which annually delight both critics and audiences alike.

But far from being satisfied with presenting three productions each year, also on offer is a packed programme of morning events, lunchtime concerts, afternoon ShortWorks and recitals and late night revues. As if this wasn't enough, a vibrant Fringe Festival offers everything from art exhibitions through to singing and swinging pubs.

And throughout all this, there is the remarkable camaraderie engendered by the warmth and intimacy of Wexford town itself. From the brand new Wexford Opera House seating just over 770, the 350 strong volunteer corps ready to welcome you to Wexford, to the hotels, bars and restaurants along the High, Main, and side streets of this Viking town, Wexford is a town which is truly taken over by the Festival. There's something in the air that quickens everyone's pulse – a common heartbeat of expansive good feeling and heightened sensibility that brings people back to Wexford again and again.

The Wexford Festival Opera has been running since 1951, playing a central role in the cultural life of Ireland, in the world of Opera and Arts internationally.



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WEXFORD  
FESTIVAL OPERA

### **Wexford Fringe Festival**

Wexford Fringe Festival, now in its 59th year, is the largest annual fringe festival in the southeast of Ireland and runs concurrently with Wexford Festival Opera. Both Festivals transform Wexford into a vibrant hub for 17 event-packed days and nights.

Catering for all ages and tastes, Wexford Fringe Festival is an incredible opportunity to embrace a wide range of cultural experiences, including drama productions, historical tours, classical recitals, jazz, musicals, light opera, antique and second hand book fairs, the Open Festival Golf Cup, the Wexford Races, and art and photography exhibitions squeezed into every nook, cranny and bare wall in Wexford. The hugely enjoyable Singing & Swinging Pubs contest involves most of Wexford's many pubs and bars and provides a stage for the area's most talented local singers, musicians and comedians...and sometimes even a visiting opera singer!

Wexford Fringe Festival has become a vital showcase for Irish arts nationally and internationally, and with over 250 eclectic events all squeezed into a town with stunning scenery, top class accommodation and mouth-watering cuisine, this is a feast of artistic entertainment not to be missed.

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