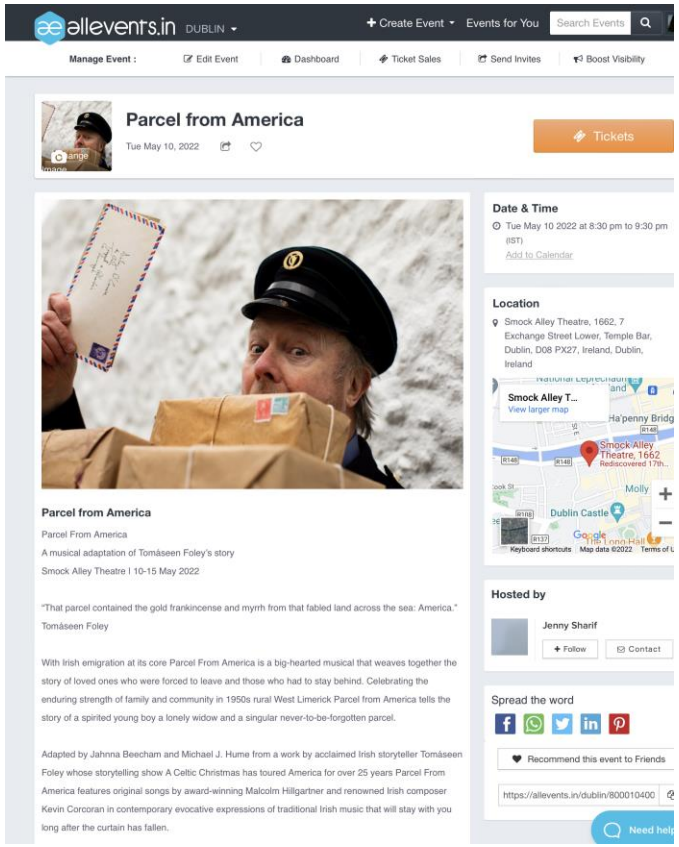
Parcel from America

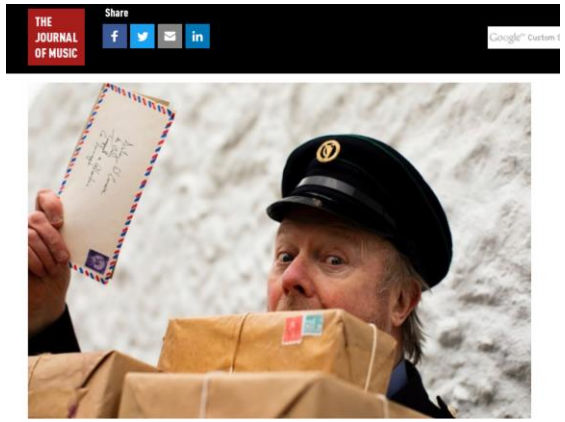
Press Coverage

Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin, May 2022

AllEventsIn



Journal of Music



Parcel from America

Tuesday, 10 May 2022, 7.30pm

SMOCK ALLEY THEATRE, DUBLIN

Parcel From America
A musical adaptation of Tomáseen Foley's story
Smock Alley Theatre | 10-15 May 2022

"That parcel contained the gold, frankincense and myrrh from that fabled land across the sea: America." Tomáseen Foley

With Irish emigration at its core, Parcel From America is a big-hearted musical that weaves together the story of loved ones who were forced to leave and those who had to stay behind. Celebrating the enduring strength of family and community in 1950s rural West Limerick, Parcel from America tells the story of a spirited young boy, a lonely widow and a singular, never-to-be-forgotten parcel.

Adapted by Jahnna Beecham and Michael J. Hume from a work by acclaimed Irish storyteller Tomáseen Foley, whose storytelling show A Celtic Christmas has toured America for over 25 years, Parcel From America features original songs by award-winning Malcolm Hillgartner and renowned Irish composer Kevin Corcoran in contemporary, evocative

and renowned Irish composer Kevin Corcoran in contemporary, evocative expressions of traditional Irish music that will stay with you long after the curtain has fallen.

Parcel From America will premiere in Smock Alley Theatre on 7th May, featuring a stellar cast including Pat Nolan (Fair City), Michael Grennell (Game of Thrones), Rose Henderson (Fair City), Clare O'Malley (Creed), Emer Casey (Bloodlands) and introducing Charlie Reid (Joyride) as Seanin.

Speaking about the traditions of receiving a 'parcel from America', Tomáseen Foley said: "At Christmastime, more than the Christmas cards, more than all the symbols of Christmas, for me, growing up as a small boy in Teampall an Ghleanntain in West Limerick, the prime symbol of Christmas was the parcel from America.

Almost every family had a relative in America at this time, and those relatives would send home a parcel at Christmas - to the family they had left so tearfully behind. And in that parcel would be clothing, often clothing that they themselves had worn in America over the previous year - and was of course all the more precious for that.

And very often in with the clothing there would be an envelope stuffed with dollars. And I can tell you that for many families, more cash money and more clothing would come into the house in that parcel at Christmastime than in the course of the whole year that had preceded it. So that parcel was looked forward to with the same glee and anticipation by grown men and women as young children look forward to Santy Claus."

Smock Alley Theatre: May 10 to 15
May 10, 11, 12, 13, 14: 7.30 PM
May 14 matinee: 1.30 PM
May 15 3PM
Adults (matinee and evening): 20 Euros
Concessions: 18 Euros
Group rate (8 or more) 15 Euros

WEBSITE

Entertainment.ie

25entertainment.ie

HOME CINEMATHON TV CINEMA ON DEMAND MOVIES GAMING

Events Home Events Listings Event News Submit a Listing

Home > Events > Listing > Parcel From America

Parcel From America

Share

Date:	Sat 14 May 2022 at 19:30
Venue:	Smock Alley Theatre
Price:	€18.00 - €20.00

With Irish emigration at its core, Parcel From America weaves a musical story of loved ones who were forced to leave and those who had to stay behind, and the great power and significance of one particular parcel sent home from America.

Discover Ireland

DiscoverIreland

Search for destinations, things to do, what's on and more

COVID-19 advice: Please follow current government advice and check business opening times before travel. Learn more

Home > Destinations > Dublin > Dublin City > Parcel From America

Parcel From America

Dublin City, Co. Dublin 10 May – 15 May 2022

FAMILY FUN ARTS AND CULTURE

A brand new musical of a story of loved ones in 1950's Ireland who were forced to leave and those who had to stay behind. The beautiful original score, written by Malcolm Hillgartner & Kevin Corcoran (The Villagers) is guaranteed to lift your spirits

Set in 1950s Ireland, Parcel from America weaves a musical tale of a community and the great power and significance of parcels sent home by loved ones from that fabled land across the sea – America. The original songs, written by Malcolm Hillgartner and well-known Irish composer, Kevin Corcoran(The Villagers), are contemporary, evocative expressions of traditional Irish music that will stay with you long after the curtain has fallen.

Adapted from a work by acclaimed Irish storyteller Tomáseen Foley- Parcel From America will premiere in Smock Alley Theatre 10th-15th of May, featuring a stellar cast including Pat Nolan (Fair City), Michael Grennell (Game Of Thrones) upcoming talent Charlie Reid (Joyride) and many more.

Family friendly

Get directions on Google Maps

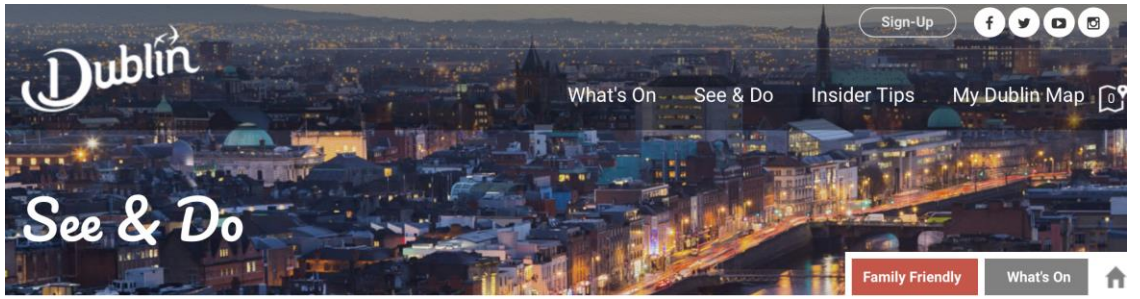
Visit Website

Book now

Event details

Contact details

Dublin.ie



Theatre | Stage & Film | What's On | Family Friendly

BOOKING OPTIONS

Parcel From America

PIN TO MAP

DIRECTIONS

address
Smock Alley Theatre, 1662, 7 Exchange Street Lower, Temple Bar, Dublin City

web
smockalley.com

phone
+35316770014

Set in 1950s Ireland, Parcel from America weaves a musical tale of a community and the great power and significance of parcels sent home by loved ones from that fabled land across the sea – America. The original songs, written by Malcolm Hillgartner and well-known Irish composer, Kevin Corcoran(The Villagers), are contemporary, evocative expressions of traditional Irish music that will stay with you long after the curtain has fallen.

Adapted from a work by acclaimed Irish storyteller Tomáseen Foley- Parcel From America will premiere in Smock Alley Theatre 10th-15th of May, featuring a stellar cast including Pat Nolan (Fair City), Michael Grennell (Game Of Thrones) upcoming talent Charlie Reid (Joyride) and many more.

event dates:

Tue, 10 May 2022 19:30 - 21:00

Wed, 11 May 2022 19:30 - 21:00

Thu, 12 May 2022 19:30 - 21:00

Fri, 13 May 2022 19:30 - 21:00

Sat, 14 May 2022 19:30 - 21:00

Sun, 15 May 2022 19:30 - 21:00

TV Now
27 April

The week's best interviews

Home chat with... Rose Henderson

The much-loved Irish talent on her passion for writing and performing

Theatre
Parcel From America
10th to 15th May, Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin. For tickets smockalley.com

INTERVIEW: Deborah Neville
PHOTOS: Gil Curtin

"WE'RE ALL STARVED OF THIS KIND OF SHOW THAT IS UPLIFTING, HAS MUSIC, HAS DANCE... I THINK PEOPLE WILL REALLY ENJOY IT"

Rose Henderson returns to the stage in the warm, uplifting musical Parcel From America. It's a musical adaptation of the story from Irish storyteller Tomáseen Foley about a quirky widow, a young boy and a parcel sent across the ocean from America to Limerick. Set in in the 1950s, Rose explains how it recalls a time when emigration in Ireland was high, and when moving to America meant never returning to Irish shores again.

The production features in Smock Alley Theatre and is written by Jahnna Beecham, Malcolm Hillgartner and Michael J Hume with original music by Hilgartner and composer Kevin Corcoran. Rose stars in the show alongside a stellar cast including Pat Nolan, Michael Grennell, Charlie Reid and Emer Casey; with Rose playing Róisín, the nosy neighbour.

"There is always a need in a storyline for a nosy neighbour to pass on information to people who are not supposed to hear it," Rose says of her role. "And we burst into song at inappropriate moments, which is what a musical does and I'm really looking forward to that because I haven't done that before. I think that'll be really interesting. It's a really good production with really good musicians. Pat Nolan has a gorgeous voice and Michael Grennell has a gorgeous voice."

Henderson describes Parcel From America as a beautiful story. "It's just one of those pieces…" she says. "It takes place in the 50s but it's a very poor community of people who rally together to look after somebody who is in shock and her only son has gone off to America. And when they went to America in those days you never saw them again. And we're all starved of this kind of show that is uplifting, has music, has dance. I think people will really enjoy it."

Weighing In returns
Next month Rose reprises her role in another theatrical production, the hilarious two-hander Weighing In, alongside Isobel Mahon and written by Ger Gallagher. "It's a comedy about weight loss and it's a total laugh," Rose says. "It's hilarious. It's set outside a weight loss clinic and I'm not the thin one. Isobel's character has lost four stone."

Weighing In will be performed at the Viking Theatre in Clontarf on 30th May and for more information on this, and other upcoming productions Rose will star in, log onto her website rosehenderson.com

With two theatre projects back-to-back Rose feels buoyed that audiences are finally returning to theatres. During the pandemic she says she felt lucky to be working on a couple of films and she also took to performing outside in the dark and funny short play According To Sydney, written by Gerry Lynch.

"It was a one-woman show on a park bench that I was able to do outside and bring into theatres as well," she recalls. "The audience were grateful that something was happening and we were grateful that the audience were coming, it was this emerging of appreciation as if the actors were applauding the audience for being there. I was just happy to be doing it. When Covid came and the rug was pulled it was just such a shock for everybody, we're a very artistic nation. I think people have missed being in an audience."

Pandemic performance
Typically the Irish weather let the production down and Rose found herself bracing the wind and rain outside the Lexicon theatre. "On that day there was a gale force wind coming from the sea," she remembers, "so when we tested my voice you could hear the first half of a sentence and nothing for the second half. So my voice was being taken away with the wind so we ended up doing it in the carpark, underneath. You were only allowed to have 25 people anyway so we brought the seats down into the car park and they whooshed the cars out of the way and put up a barrier. We ended up being in a wind tunnel but it was better than being rained on. It was a very cold experience. You saw people who had been to an outdoor show before and they were prepared – they had brought hot water bottles, blankets and hot tea."

Craggy Island antics
Fans of Father Ted will know Rose from her role as Sister Assumpta in the wacky sitcom and she regards that role as one of her career highlights.

"It was terrific. It was just another job, a very enjoyable job. We did the exteriors in Clare, so you'd knock on the door in County Clare and walk in the door in London," she remembers about filming in front of a live studio audience in London. "The continuity was extraordinary how they matched everybody up. It was an extraordinary, fun experience. Between Hat Trick, the production company, knowing how to do a sitcom and all these Irish people in London, it was just great fun. Ardal O'Hanlon was such a natural in front of the camera. Dermot Morgan was a bit uncomfortable being the straight man. He was very nervous being the straight man but he had this real sense that this was going to be a big hit and it was. I was so glad for him."

Rose is also an established playwright and has written the acclaimed Take Off Your Cornflakes with Pat Nolan, whom she stars with in Parcel From America. The story was inspired by Rose's late father Jack who had Alzheimer's and couldn't remember he had cancer. "He has passed five years ago now. I really wanted to show what it was like for the carer, for my mum, it was so traumatic for her just to figure how to deal with this new thing. My dad normally did everything, the shopping for her, he was a real problem solver, an engineer, very bright but now not remembering things," Rose recalls. "I remember he got to a place where he'd say 'I'm sure there is something I should be worrying about but sure I can't remember'. He wasn't happy with not remembering but he knew we were looking after him and knew he was alright."

Rose is ready to bring the drama to the yearning masses

ROSE'S HOME BREW FACTS

TEA OR COFFEE? "Tea. The trouble with tea is that you have to have a biscuit. I also drink mint tea."
FAVOURITE SPOT AT HOME TO SIT FOR A HOT DROP? "A sofa in the kitchen. I've four kids and it's the hub of where everything happens. My husband is in the next room playing the piano probably so it's a nice lively house."

Broadway World 3 May

broadway WORLD Ireland

Optimise your training with personalised fitness insights.

WHOOP LEARN MORE

PARCEL FROM AMERICA Opens In Dublin Next Week

Performances run May 10 to 15.

Register for Ireland News

E-mail address Sign up

Get local news, offers & more...

by Stephi Wild May. 3, 2022

With Irish emigration at its core, Parcel From America is a big-hearted musical that weaves together the story of loved ones who were forced to leave and those who had to stay behind. Celebrating the enduring strength of family and community in 1950s rural West Limerick, Parcel from America tells the story of a spirited young boy, a lonely widow and a singular, never-to-be-forgotten parcel.

Adapted by Jahnna Beecham and Michael J. Hume from a work by acclaimed Irish storyteller Tomáseen Foley, whose storytelling show A Celtic Christmas has toured America for over 25 years, Parcel From America features original songs by award-winning Malcolm Hillgartner and renowned Irish composer Kevin Corcoran in contemporary, evocative expressions of traditional Irish music that will stay with you long after the curtain has fallen.

Parcel From America will premiere in Smock Alley Theatre on 7th May, featuring a stellar cast including Pat Nolan (Fair City), Michael Grennell (Game of Thrones), Rose Henderson (Fair City), Clare O'Malley (Creed), Emer Casey (Bloodlands) and introducing Charlie Reid (Joyride) as Seanin.

Speaking about the traditions of receiving a 'parcel from America', Tomáseen Foley said: "At Christmastime, more than the Christmas cards, more than all the symbols of Christmas, for me, growing up as a small boy in Teampall an Ghleanntain in West Limerick, the prime symbol of Christmas was the parcel from America.

Almost every family had a relative in America at this time, and those relatives would send home a parcel at Christmas - to the family they had left so tearfully behind. And in that parcel would be clothing, often clothing that they themselves had worn in America over the previous year - and was of course all the more precious for that.

And very often in with the clothing there would be an envelope stuffed with dollars. And I can tell you that for many families, more cash money and more clothing would come into the house in that parcel at Christmastime than in the course of the whole year that had preceded it. So that parcel was looked forward to with the same glee and anticipation by grown men and women as young children look forward to Santy Claus."

Studio 6 School of Music

Studio 6 School of Music Open >

CAST:

Chloe Cody - Nell

Emer Casey - Nora

Gerry Herbert - Father Tom

Clare O'Malley - Bridie

Michael Grennell - Narrator

Ger Kelly - Michael

Rose Henderson - Roisin

Pat Nolan - Davey the Post

Charlie Reid - Seanin

Aidan Jordan - Fergus

Alex Sharpe - Bridge

TOMÁSEEN FOLEY (story) is a master storyteller and producer from the west of Ireland. For the past 25 years, Tom has brought Irish musicians, singers, and dancers across the Atlantic to star in his show, Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas, which has played to critical acclaim and packed concert halls all over the USA. "He is a master of the Irish narrative and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture." - Rego Irish Records

Smock Alley Theatre: May 10 to 15

May 10, 11, 12, 13, 14: 7.30 PM

May 14 matinee: 2.30 PM

May 15 3PM

Adults (matinee and evening): 20 Euros

Concessions: 18 Euros

Group rate (8 or more) 15 Euros

Sunday Business Post 8 May

This week you will love...

Compiled by Mary Cate Smith

A stylish fundraiser

Stylists, designers and models are to donate pre-loved garments from their closets to raise money for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal in Ireland this month. Raid the wardrobes of the cognoscenti of Irish fashion at Greystones tennis club, May 14, where you can pick up hardly worn clothes for bargain prices. The raffle includes prizes from spa days to designer swimwear and Irish-made jewellery. Enter the draw in advance of the event at idonate.ie/raffle/LuxuryIrishRaffleForUkraine.

A mindful retreat

Seeking an accessible introduction to the practice of yoga in a picturesque setting? The **New to Yoga** experience at the Park Hotel, Kenmare is a short and sweet retreat conducted over two nights at the historic Kerry hotel. Taking place next weekend, May 13-15, it's an ideal opportunity to slow down and recalibrate the mind and the body. Book tickets from €375 at parkkenmare.com.

Waist treatment

We're firm believers that the humble belt doesn't just hoist up your trousers; it elevates an entire ensemble. We're getting reacquainted with the waist-cinching accent piece via the newly launched Parisian brand **Déhanche**. Crafted from buttery-smooth leather by Italian artisans, the Hollyhock belt is approximately €189. See dehanche.com.

CARBON-NEGATIVE KNITWEAR

Moderate temperatures of late are lulling many of us into a false sense of sartorial security, leaving exposed shoulders and forearms chilly at times. If you're not quite ready for summer garments, layer a fine-knit jumper over a lightweight top so you can easily pop it into your bag when it gets too warm. Try **Sheep Inc**'s carbon negative Crewneck Light, €160. The temperature-regulating, light merino wool pullover is made on a regenerative, zero-waste farm using only solar-powered machines. PS Tom Hardy loves this brand as much as we do. Shop at eu.sheepinc.com.

A guiding light

Looking for a lamp that's easily manipulated and energy efficient? The Danish-designed **Mr Wattson** is a handmade, flexible ash wood lamp with an LED flashlamp inspired by the original Vespa headlight. This offbeat Scandinavian lamp in Nardo Grey, €149, would be a playful accent piece for a stylish home office or bedroom. Available at meadowsandbyrne.com.

A multi disciplinary music festival

Hilary Williams's work as a performance artist has always highlighted social issues, from the housing crisis in Ireland to climate change and mass immigration. Now & Then, the septuagenarian's new project is a darkly witty conversation with her younger self, set to a live score. Presented by Bob Gallagher, this event will be performed in the Complex, May 15, as part of MusicTown, a city-wide festival of live music across theatre, film, performance and dance. For the full suite of events, see musictown.ie.

LIVING MEMORIES

From the sight of the postman brandishing a mystery bundle to the treasured items it held, the arrival of a package from America was a source of excitement for many Irish households in the 1950s. Based on fond family memories, **Parcel from America** is storyteller Tomáseen Foley's musical tale of scented soap, Wrangler jeans and the tangible connections to the Irish diaspora that were forged through the postal service. Taking place at Smock Alley Theatre, May 10-15, tickets are available at smockalley.com.

TABLE MANNERS

One could be forgiven for assuming that the tablescaping trend is a show pony for decadent consumerism, but a slew of ethical homeware brands are proving that this is not the case. Brown Thomas's new pop-up **Table Stories** stocks sustainable brands that support local craftspeople, source plant-friendly materials and provide ethical wages for their workers. These plates from Nkuku, €26 each, are hand painted by artisans in Vietnam and are available on Floor 3 at Brown Thomas or at brownthomas.com.

RENTING THE RUNWAY

The jury may still be out on the need for fast fashion outlets, but the evidence overwhelmingly points to the damage its throwaway culture does to our environment. **ByBorrow** is a new fashion lending service that allows users to upload, rent out and borrow clothing from other users. It's the perfect way of having something new to wear without any of the guilt associated with one-off purchases. Browse items or upload your clothes on byborrow.com.

Thank you for raising vital funds for Pieta's life-saving services.
You can still donate via Revolut or at **darknessintolight.ie**

electric Ireland

Irish Mail on Sunday
8 May

Messages from America

Parcel From America, a musical adaptation of Tomáseen Foley's story, runs at the Main Space, Smock Alley from Tuesday until May 15. It's December 1950, rural west Ireland. The townsfolk await annual packages from family in the US but, for one lonely widow, the hoped-for parcel is about much more than gifts and money. *See smockalley.com*

IrishTimes.com
9 May

ADVERTISEMENT
Fast, Powerful Relief from Heartburn & Indigestion
Rennie Dual Action Chewable Tablets. Always read the label.
Rennie DUAL ACTION 2X ACTION Find out more

Culture

Gig of the Week: Hey Mr Postman, where's my Parcel fr America?

Culture guide May 9-15

Expand

A new musical celebrates those bygone days when emigration touched every Irish family and that annual delivery was a lifeline to a better world

By Kevin Courtney

Mon May 9 2022 - 06:00

Gig of the week: Parcel from America

May 10th-15th, Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin, 7.30pm, Tuesday-Saturday (Saturday matinee, 2.30pm; Sunday matinee 3pm), €20/€18/€15, smockalley.com

Fadó fadó, around the 1950s, Irish families waited in anticipation every Christmas for the postman to arrive with that most coveted item – a parcel from the United States, which was sure to contain treasures from the land of the free and the home of the brave. The parcel would be sent by one of the family members who had emigrated, and would contain all sorts of exotic items you couldn't get here, such as trendy jeans, comic books, and of course an envelope stuffed with dollar bills. This new musical, based on the story by Tomáseen Foley, celebrates those bygone days before Amazon, when emigration touched every Irish family, and that annual delivery was a lifeline to a better world. The cast includes Fair City's Pat Nolan as the postman, Rose Henderson (from the Bord Gáis Daniel O'Donnell ad) and Game of Thrones actor Michael Grennell and the music is composed by Kevin Corcoran.

THE IRISH TIMES BOOK C
Book Club
Sign up to the Irish Times book
podcasts and more
Sign
By signing up you agree to our T
Polic
ADVERTISEMENT
Imag
bette
for
hor
ene
Switch

RTÉ Guide
9 May

HOT LIST

Your guide to cool stuff this week

Eurovision 2022

It's party time again. All eyes are on Turin, and all ears will be on the various Boom-bang-a-bangs and Ding-a-dongs as the 66th Eurovision Song Contest final gets underway. Among the hosts this year will be Mika, who had a monster hit in 2007 with 'Grace Kelly'.

Peaky Blinders

If you're still bemoaning the end of Steven Knight's award-winning drama, now is your opportunity to reconnect with Cillian Murphy and his dangerously titfered chums. All six seasons of the hit series are now available in one complete blu-ray collection. And if you opt for the deluxe edition, you'll also find a collection of double-sided Art Cards depicting Tommy, Polly, Ada and all the Brummie based crew.

The FA Cup final

It began as a dream for 729 clubs; now two sides, Chelsea and Liverpool, will compete this weekend for the most famous club trophy in the world. The Reds start as favourites, but the Blues are contesting their fifth FA Cup final in six years. It promises to be a belter.

The melting face

Of the 37 new emojis approved this year, one has stood out. Sometimes, words just can't sum up how you're feeling and that's when the melting face emoji comes in; instantly describing dread, shame, exhaustion or discomfort. Other emojis that made the cut include saluting face, dotted line face and a disco ball. Don't we all love a good emoji!

The states of things to come

Parcel From America is a musical adaptation of Tomáseen Foley's evergreen story about those magical packages that winged their way from Stateside to relatives back home at Christmastime. "That parcel contained the gold, frankincense and myrrh from that fabled land across the sea," says Tomáseen of a long-gone ritual. Rose Henderson, Pat Nolan and Michael Grennell star. Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin from May10 to May 15. Smockalley.com

They shoot, they score

Ever feel like you've been swindled? Well here they come again, the swaggering sultans of Punk, the Sex Pistols, are back in the frame with the re-release of 'God Save the Queen' (back in '77 the single made no 2 in the charts although some suspect dark forces deprived them of the top spot) and on May 31, Danny Boyle's series, *Pistol*, based on the Steve Jones' memoir, *Lonely Boy: Tales from a Sex Pistol*, arrives on Disney+: Sid Vicious and Mickey Mouse? Not even Malcolm McLaren could have seen that one coming.

Registered at the GPO as a newspaper. Published by RTÉ Commercial Enterprises DAC, Dublin 4. Printed by Boylan Print G
RTÉ 2022. BBC Programme Listings © BBC Enterprises Ltd. 2022. ITV/Channel 4 Programme Listings © ITP Ltd. 2022. RTÉ
and original photographs published in this issue. Unauthorised reproduction in whole or in part of any such details is
Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Iris Raidió Teilifís Éireann Vol 46 No 20

Irish Star, Chic Mag 14 May

CELEBRITY

My best

ALEX SHARPE

Former Celtic Woman member **ALEX SHARPE** has been a part of many incredible projects – from musical theatre to cabaret, pantomime to working with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. And for the last few days, that has included being part in a special production at the Smock Alley Theatre. Parcel From America, which runs until tomorrow (see smockalley.com), is set in West Limerick in the 1950s. It tells the tales of a number of vibrant characters, including a spirited young boy and a lonely widow, and the great power and significance of parcels sent home by loved ones from America. Chic caught up with Alex to find out about some of her favourite things...

BEST MOVIE *It's A Wonderful Life. It's such a beautiful story and I love Jimmy Stewart as well. The movie is just so gorgeous and timeless.*

BEST FRIEND Her name's Olivia. I've known her since I was a teenager and she emigrated years ago, but she came back about four years ago. It's been great to have her back.

BEST JOKE *I don't have one off the top of my head.*

BEST RESTAURANT I don't eat out enough for that – but I've a favourite food, I love sushi.

BEST MEMORY *This is probably going to sound so cliché, but it was seeing my son for the first time when he was born.*

BEST BOOK The Water of the Hills by Marcel Pagnol – it's actually a two-part series, with Jean de Florette and Manon des Sources. I read it in English but it was originally written in French and it's just a beautiful story.

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS *Gillian Anderson. I think she's incredibly courageous. I've been watching her work over the years and I think she's fabulous – she's just brilliant.*

BEST GIG I'd have to go back to my youth – my first live gig would have been seeing A-ha. But I've got quite a few favourites, it's hard to pick just one. I saw Michael Jackson live and he was incredible and Tina Turner was phenomenal as well.

BEST SONG
I'm going to go with an old classic Somewhere Over The Rainbow. I started my professional career as an actress and singer playing Dorothy in The Wizard Of Oz – so, Somewhere Over The Rainbow is a classic, but it'll always have a really special place for me.

BEST HOLIDAY *It was when I was about 18. I'd already been to Malta and I'd gotten a Maltese boyfriend, so I went back a year after that and travelled around the island on the back of his motorbike. I spent the summer cruising around Malta on the back of his bike and it was a fabulous, fabulous holiday. And he was pretty gorgeous too.*

BEST BEAUTY PRODUCT I do, and it's not an expensive one. It's Astral face cream – it's really cheap but amazing. I first heard about it from an interview that Joanna Lumley did. Everyone would comment on her fabulous skin and she'd just say, "I've been using this for years". I've been using it ever since, for about 10 or 15 years now. It's brilliant.

BEST KISS *I'd probably say the best one would be with that Maltese boyfriend.*

BEST ADVICE: 'Always be grateful with a little less than you have, and then you'll always be happy'. I have that in my kitchen at my home.

BROADCAST

- 13 April, Near FM, Dramatic Dublin – Interview Rose Henderson
- 27 April, RTE One TV, Today – Interview with Pat Nolan
- 25 April, RTÉ Radio 1, Ray D'Arcy Show – Interview with Pat Nolan
- 3 May, Spirit FM, Mornings With Donal – Interview with Kevin Corcoran
- 7 May, Near FM, The Week in Review – Interview with Kevin Corcoran
- 10 May, Virgin Media TV, Ireland AM – Interview with Charlie Reid