

NOTES TO EDITORS

Factual

NEW Ireland's Health Divide

NEW The Classroom Divide

NEW What Are You Working For?

A series of documentaries looking at inequality in Ireland across health, wealth and education. In ***Ireland's Health Divide***, Dr Eva Orsmond discovers why where you born and raised has a direct influence on how long you live. In ***What Are You Working For?*** Philip Boucher Hayes explores Irish incomes and outcomes and in ***The Classroom Divide*** Joe Duffy finds out how much your life is dictated by where you went to school.

NEW Trauma

From the team behind *Keeping Ireland Alive: The HSE in a Day*, this four-part documentary series gives viewers unprecedented insight into the challenging, exciting, stressful world of medical emergencies - from the 999 operator to A&E, surgery and Intensive Care.

NEW Alison Spittle's Culchie Club

Westmeath born comedian Alison Spittle travels across Ireland looking for answers as she investigates what makes a Culchie a Culchie.

NEW The Axel Foley Story

One year on from his untimely passing, this documentary celebrates Axel Foley and his journey from a working class Limerick suburb to the pinnacle of international rugby.

NEW The Game

A definitive history of hurling in three-parts produced in partnership with the BAI and the GAA.

NEW Shergar

Thirty years on from Shergar's infamous disappearance, this documentary charts his extraordinary story with starring roles for an IRA supergrass who believes he knows what happened, and a Sunday Telegraph racing correspondent who thought he was going to die. A BBC co-production.

NEW Golden

Golden is a one hour documentary about couples in Ireland who have been married for over 50 years. Each couple will share the ups and downs of over a half century of love.

NEW No Country For Women

Two-part documentary detailing the State's efforts to limit women's freedoms throughout the Republic's history, from restricting women's rights in work to blocking access to fertility control. What has been the fallout of limiting women's citizenship in the new Irish State? And is the legacy of inequity still being felt today?

NEW Irish in Wonderland

In this two parter, Yasmine Akram travels to the Hamptons in New York and the Cote D'Azur in the south of France to meet the Irish making their fortunes in the wealthiest, most opulent, luxurious and lavish industries in the world.

NEW The Rich List

Joe O'Shea guides viewers through the top 30 billionaires and millionaires who make up this year's Sunday Times Rich List, revealing what it takes to join this exclusive club.

NEW We Won the Lotto

With the Lotto celebrating 30 years, this documentary meets some of the winners who scored really big and goes behind the scenes at Lotto HQ as one of the country's newest millionaires arrives to collect their winnings.

NEW My Trans Life

Groundbreaking series following the lives of young transgender people in Ireland, documenting the emotional, physical and mental struggle involved as they transition.

NEW Schizophrenia: The Voices in My Head

A first for Irish television, this documentary tracks the daily lives, struggles and triumphs of Irish twenty-somethings living with schizophrenia.

Returning: *Ear to the Ground, CrimeCall*

Natural History and Science

NEW WeatherWatch Live

Brand new live, family-focussed event broadcast across three nights looking at the subject that obsesses us all – Ireland's weather. Taking in everything from the climate to topography, *WeatherWatch Live* is wholly interactive with input from across the country. Made with support from the BAI.

NEW 700 Light Years from Birr

700 Light Years from Birr, presented by Jonathan McCrea, examines where great feats of engineering meet space exploration and where Irish ingenuity from the past meets Irish innovation for the future to produce a cutting-edge technological adventure film set in rural Ireland.

NEW Hardest Harvest (WT)

New three-part series plunging an Irish farmer, forester and fisherman into the harsh realities of living off the land and sea in Mozambique, joining families and communities as they survive on subsistence resources in the developing world.

NEW Great Lighthouses of Ireland

For all their romance and mystery, lighthouses are a vital part of Ireland's maritime infrastructure. This series illustrates our dependence on the sea, our battle with the elements, the engineering, history, science and above all the people behind these extraordinary buildings. With support from the BAI.

NEW It's a Park's Life

Monumental six-part series documenting life in one of Europe's largest city parks, the Phoenix Park. Narrated Baz Ashmawy, *It's A Park Life* goes behind the scenes with the characters who make the 350-year-old park tick and those who call it home. From the makers of *The Zoo*.

NEW Will a Robot Steal my Job

With relentless advances being made in the world of artificial intelligence, Anne-Marie Tomchak looks at how automation is changing the nature of the traditional jobs market and how society can best make this change work to its advantage. Talking to global experts and innovators in the field, she asks what the future may hold for Irish workers and the way the country educates itself. Made in association with Science Foundation Ireland.

Returning: *What In The World, Ploughing Live, Tracks and Trails.*

Drama

NEW Acceptable Risk

When her husband is murdered, Sarah Manning (Elaine Cassidy) realises she knows nothing about his past and his work for a powerful global organisation. As she discovers the truth about him, she suddenly finds herself under suspicion and under surveillance. Also starring Angeline Ball (*Redwater*), Lisa Dwyer Hogg (*The Fall*) and Morten Suurballe (*The Killing*).

Striking Out

Tara strikes back as the IFTA award-winning series, starring Amy Huberman and Neil Morrissey, returns with a six-part series. New faces include: Moe Dunford (*Vikings*), Maria Doyle Kennedy (*Redwater*), Charlotte Bradley (*Veronica Guerin*), Owen McDonnell (*My Mother and Other Strangers*) and Adam Fergus (*Clean Break*).

Fair City

The drama continues on Ireland's most watched soap with Carol spiralling out of control as she comes to terms with Trigger's death. This year *Fair City* welcomes its first transgender character and there's a shock in store for the residents of Carrigstown as some familiar faces return to ruffle feathers

Comedy

NEW Nowhere Fast

Alison Spittle-penned comedy chronicling the hilarious trials of the boomerang generation as millennial Angela finds herself back living in the Midlands town she grew up with after an unfortunate incident scuppers her media career. Also starring Clare Monnelly (Moone Boy), Genevieve Hulme Beaman (Pondling) and Cathy Belton (Red Rock/Roy).

NEW Ends Meet

RTE's first adult animation series, *Ends Meet* is the story of single father Beezer, son Sean Óg and granddad Tony who live together in a working class suburb of Dublin. Written by

breakthrough comic talent Mark Baldwin, and animated by Gareth Lyons. With support from the BAI.

NEW Young Offenders

The hit movie comes to the small screen in this six-part series, filmed on location in Cork and starring Alex Murphy and Chris Walley. Commissioned by BBC3 and BBC Comedy in association with RTÉ, the series is produced by Martina Niland and directed by IFTA winner Peter Foott. With support from the BAI

NEW The School

Warm-hearted mockumentary from sketch group 'CCCahtoots', following the teachers and children of a fictional Cork primary school as they prepare for this year's Nativity play. Starring Tadgh Hickey and Dominic McHale.

NEW Senior Moments

From the team behind *The Young Offenders*, *Senior Moments* sees some of Ireland's more mature citizens knocking great craic out of playing pranks on their younger counterparts and regaling viewers with jokes, anecdotes and the odd phoney call from the comfort of their living room.

The Tommy Tiernan Show

A hit with viewers and critics alike last year, *The Tommy Tiernan Show* returns with a host of new guests who are only revealed to their host when they walk out on stage. Returns for a 12-week run this season.

Returning; *Bridget and Eamon, Can't Cope, Won't Cope, Hardy Bucks, All Round to Mrs Brown's, Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Specials.*

Music

The Nathan Carter Show

Ireland's favourite country star returns with another series of chat and music filmed in front of a live audience in the Knocknarea Arena in Sligo. Nathan's guests this year include: Martine McCutcheon, Aston Merrygold, Shane Filan, and The High Kings.

Electric Picnic

Dedicated Electric Picnic coverage live on Saturday, 2nd of September fronted by Eoghan McDermott and Blathnaid Treacy, with exclusive performances from main stage headliners. Soraiya Ryan and Emman Idama will be reporting from the 'Picnic' arena, bringing the latest news, exclusive artist interviews and festival happenings.

Also returning: *Other Voices, Fleadh Ceoil, Choice Music Awards*

Acquired Drama

The critically acclaimed serial killer thriller ***Mr Mercedes***, starring Brendan Gleeson, joins a host of returning favourites including ***Vikings, Homeland, Doctor Foster***, and ***Grey's Anatomy***.

The home of the best imported programming from around the world, RTÉ2 this year dedicates Friday nights to foreign language drama giving Irish viewers a first look at series two of Norwegian detective series **Mammon**, Danish thriller **Below the Surface** and the latest from Borgen creator Adam Price, **Ride Upon the Storm**.

Education and Irish Language

NEW Fab Vinnie

Thirty years on from his death, this Irish language documentary looks at Vincent Hanley's story both in front of the camera as host of the cutting edge MT Usa and his journey from small town Ireland to the bright lights of the Big Apple.

NEW Línthe Ceoil Cheiltigh – The Celtic Songlines

Dónal Lunny follows the Celtic songlines on an epic journey of musical discovery along Europe's western coasts, meeting some of the world's most renowned traditional musicians along the way. With support from the BAI.

NEW Gaineamh Séidte

A landmark 6-part music series, co-produced with BBC Alba, that looks at the shifting sands between tradition and innovation in Irish and Scottish traditional music over the past 50 years.

NEW Tony McMahon - Farewell To Music

Intensely personal portrait of the acclaimed traditional musician, Tony McMahon, who looks back over a remarkable and consistently troubled life. Made with BAI and Creative Europe MEDIA fund support.

NEW An Teorainn

Two-part series taking viewers on a visually stunning journey along the border from the air, dropping in to get a sense of the history and stories of the area both ancient and new. A unique insight into this sometimes forgotten part of our island.

Also returning: *Tracks and Trails, Ploughing Live, Big Week on the Farm, What in the World, The Geansaí*

Lifestyle

NEW Dermot Bannon's Superhomes

Ireland's favourite architect is back with a new series where he travels to the USA for looking at American superhouses.

NEW Say Yes to the Dress – Ireland

Fronted by wedding guru Franc, hit series *Say Yes to the Dress* comes to Ireland! The 10 part series will see a cast of brides coming to a brand new Irish bridal store, stocked with amazing dresses from all over the world, to find their dream gown.

NEW The Great House Revival

Architect Hugh Wallace follows six ambitious restoration projects across the country and meets the owners attempting to reclaim these old abandoned buildings to create modern comfortable homes.

NEW David Brophy's Choir of Ages

Following the success of the High Hopes Choir, internationally renowned conductor David Brophy creates an intergenerational choir including primary school kids and senior citizens. With support from the BAI.

NEW Awake – The Science of Sleep

Dr Pixie McKenna investigates sleep, meeting the scientists trying to uncover its deep secrets and the Irish people who struggle with it. With support from the BAI.

NEW This Crowded House

With one in four Irish people over 25 still living at home with their parents, *This Crowded House* presented by Brendan Courtney, stages an intervention to help sever the apron strings.

NEW Raised by a Village

Two troublesome teenagers swap city life and their parents' rules for a two week dose of discipline Irish village style.

NEW Frock Finders

From cutting edge couture to mother of the bride rig-outs, weddings to wakes and performances to beauty pageants, this new six-part series captures the quest to find the perfect outfit at boutiques all across the country

NEW Desperate Houses

Each week, architect and designer Róisín Murphy and her team bring order to the chaos of a cluttered home – helping hoarders to let go and designing full makeovers of the two worst rooms in the house.

NEW Salon Confidential

Real People, Real Problems, Unreal Hair; welcome to Salon Confidential where our hairstylists and barbers will not only revamp your hair – they'll restyle your life as well.

NEW Neven's Italian Food Trails

Neven Maguire travels from Venice on the Adriatic coast to Sorrento on the Mediterranean coast to taste and learn about some classic Italian food and drink.

NEW Neven's Christmas Special

In what has become a Christmas tradition, Neven gives viewers recipes, inspiration and tips for a delicious Christmas.

NEW How To Cook Well At Christmas

Rory O'Connell brings his sophisticated style to Christmas dining with wit and expertise.

NEW Grow, Cook, Eat

Grow, Cook, Eat delivers a masterclass in how to grow your own herbs and vegetables and how to cook what you've grown. Each week presenters Michael Kelly and Karen O'Donoghue focus on one vegetable, from growth to harvest, with recipes and tips on how to treat them best.

Room to Improve

Following on from his most successful series yet, Dermot is back with a whole new set of homeowners to persuade and cajole as he transforms their property. And this year he's headed to Donegal to give the home of Daniel and Majella O'Donnell the Room to Improve treatment.

Celebrity Operation Transformation

Five more celebrities – Mary Byrne, Triona McCarthy, Gary O'Hanlon, James Patrice and Kayleigh Cullinan - take on the *Operation Transformation* challenge.

Getaways

Rugby star Tommy Bowe will join presenting team Joe Lindsay, Mairead Ronan and Vogue Williams in the new run of the holiday series.

Also returning: *Today with Maura and Dáithí*, *Home of the Year*, *First Dates Ireland*, *At Your Service to the Rescue*, *Operation Transformation*, *Find Me A Home*, *Catherine Fulvio's Tastes Like Home*, *10 Things to Know About...*, *Eco Eye*.

Arts

NEW National Treasures

Fascinating documentary series and social history project telling the story of Ireland's recent past by crowd-sourcing ordinary objects from homes across Ireland that have big – and little - stories to tell about who we are and how we have changed as a people. Produced in association with National History Museum.

NEW My Astonishing Self: Gabriel Byrne on George Bernard Shaw

Gabriel Byrne explores the life, works and passions of George Bernard Shaw - a giant of world literature and emigrant Irishman who had to leave to be heard. Featuring contributions from President Michael D Higgins, Ralph Fiennes, Dara Ó Briain and Gemma Arterton. A passionate and timely one-hour documentary jointly commissioned by RTE and the BBC.

NEW James Joyce: A Shout in the Street

Presented by Oscar winner Anjelica Huston, this landmark film will bring the viewer on a compelling and exhilarating journey through the extraordinary life and work of James Joyce.

NEW Citizen Lane

A feature documentary one hundred years in the making, *Citizen Lane* tells the story of Hugh Lane, his hard fought project to establish the world's first public modern art gallery – a Dublin treasure – his untimely death on the *Lusitania* and his contested Will.

NEW Eavan Boland

Documentary painting a vivid portrait of Eavan Boland, considered “the first great woman poet in the history of Irish poetry”.

Also returning: *Painting the Nation, The Works Presents..., Bord Gáis Book Energy Awards*

Religion

NEW Countdown to Calvary

Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville travels to Jerusalem to tell the story of the week that changed the world – the last six days of Jesus’ life. A co-production with European public broadcaster (ARTE) and American Public Television (APT).

NEW Minister of Hope

With unprecedented access, this observational series follows the work of three remarkable lay chaplains providing spiritual and emotional support to people at moments of crisis or joy in three very different environments - Shelton Abbey Prison, Beaumont Hospital and DCU.

NEW Liutár 500 - An Fear a Scoilteadh an Domhan Gaelach (Luther 500 - the Man Who Split the Gaelic World)

Irish language documentary exploring the impact of Martin Luther’s gesture of protest against corruption in the Catholic Church and how the legacy of his actions reverberate today.

NEW A Star Over the Shannon

Mary Kennedy hosts a star-studded carols extravaganza from the University of Limerick.

The Meaning of Life with Gay Byrne

As he prepares to celebrate 60 years in broadcasting, Gay Byrne returns with a fourteenth series of face-to-face interviews with major public figures about the people, experiences, ideas and beliefs that give their lives meaning.

Also returning: *Would You Believe?*

Entertainment

Dancing with the Stars

Following the huge success of RTÉ One’s Sunday night extravaganza, *Dancing with the Stars* is back to put more celebrities through their paces. Who will waltz home with the coveted glitterball trophy?

Ireland’s Fittest Family

Ireland’s Fittest Family will return this autumn for a fifth series with a coaching line-up that includes season four winner Anna Geary, GAA legend Davy Fitz, returning hero Derval O’Rourke and first time Fittest Family coach and rugby legend Donncha O’Callaghan.

Also returning: *The Late Late Show*, *The Ray D'Arcy Show*, *Brendan O'Connor's Cutting Edge*, *Pat Shortt's Music from D'Telly*, *Up for the Match*, *People of the Year*, *Winning Streak*, *Stetsons and Stilettos*.

RTÉ

NEW Drop Dead Weird

Twenty-six-part series following the hilarious antics of an Australian family who move to a remote Irish seaside village. With three fish-out-of-water Aussie kids, one kooky Irish grandfather and two recently zombified parents... things are going to get weird. Starring David Rawle (Moone Boy) and Pauline McLynn (Fr Ted).

News2day

RTÉ's news designed specifically for children. Presented by Tommy Meskill and new addition to team Zainab Boladale

And **RTÉjr** will announce its schedule later this autumn.

Sport

Ireland's Greatest

In a brand new series for RTÉ2, Des Cahill and Evanne Ní Chuillín are looking for viewers help to choose the greatest ever Irish sporting moment from the 1960s to the 2000s.

Know the Score

Return of the popular sports quiz, fronted by Jacqui Hurley, with team captains Ruby Walsh and Shane Byrne. This exciting quiz tests the knowledge of our country's brightest stars in a bid to determine if they *Know The Score*. More familiar with performing under the glare of thousands of spectators, Ireland's best sports people will step under the studio lights in the ultimate sporting trivia contest.

All-Ireland Day – Hurling

A look at the essence of a very special day in the Irish sporting calendar, the All-Ireland Hurling final, by following a select group of characters all with their vested interests in the big day. From the makers of 2015's All-Ireland Day – Football.

Blues Sisters

For the first time RTÉ Sport goes behind the scenes with a women's sports team as our cameras follow a season in the life of the Dublin ladies footballers.

The **RTÉ Sport Awards** will once again see the RTÉ Sport Person of the Year Award, the RTÉ Sport Manager of the Year Award as well as the RTÉ Sport Team of the Year Award winners revealed and they will be presented with their awards at a glittering ceremony live on RTÉ One in December.

The summer comes to a close with the final of the **Women's Rugby World Cup** on August 26 on RTÉ2 while the 2017 Guinness Series sees the Irish men's team take on South Africa, Fiji and Argentina at the Aviva Stadium in November. And, next February, we continue to

bring the Irish Women's rugby team's journey throughout their 6 Nations Championship. The GAA Championships culminate in three live finals, all live from Croke Park on RTÉ2.

The Republic of Ireland's **FIFA World Cup 2018** qualifying campaign reaches a climax on RTÉ2 this autumn, with trips to Georgia and Wales, plus home games against Serbia and Moldova, as Martin O'Neill's men aim to seal a place in next summer's finals in Russia. The **UEFA Champions League** group stages return to RTÉ2 on Wednesday 13 September with Match Day 1, while on the domestic front, the SSE Airtricity League and the Irish Daily Mail FAI Cup take centre stage, with live games and the weekly highlights show, Soccer Republic.

There's plenty more horse racing action to come this autumn and winter, with Champions Weekend from the Curragh and Leopardstown in September plus the Leopardstown Christmas Festival. Greyhound racing action comes from Shelbourne Park with the Derby semi-final and final.

News

This September, RTÉ *Prime Time* celebrates 25 years as a window on the most dramatic events that have shaped Irish lives over the past quarter of a century. In two special programmes, RTÉ *Prime Time* will feature the most unforgettable moments from that tumultuous time, and debate whether those events have created a better or worse Ireland.

This autumn also sees the return of *Claire Byrne Live* with more live studio debate and further stories revealed by RTÉ Investigates.