

# FRONTLINES

## TUNEFUL MONSTERS

Let your kids get in tune with their inner monsters this Halloween at Monster Music Improv, a new improvisation and visual performance by The Ark and Improvised Music Company.

Designed to encourage children's imaginations, the music and visual performance show will provide a dynamic and engaging (and just a little bit spooky) experience for children aged five and up. Spontaneous musical fun will be provided by vocalist Lauren Kinsella (*below*) and guitarist Shane Latimer, who will invent jazzy melodies on the spot, while illustrator Patrick Sanders draws cartoons via live projection. Halloween storytelling will also form part of the interactive show.

Monster Music Improv has been in the works for two years, and will tour venues across Ireland from the October 21st-31st. Limerick, Drogheda, Dublin and Navan will be among the nine locations visited. [improvisedmusic.ie](http://improvisedmusic.ie)

Gráinne Loughran



## MIDTERM HIDEAWAY

Fancy adding some fairy dust to the midterm break? Head to the four-star Killashee Hotel in Co Kildare to search for fairy doors among the toadstools in the Fairy Forest, before heading indoors for the hotel's signature afternoon tea. A children's library, Duplo Room and an evening High Tea Kids Club (October 31st to November 3rd) put the younger members of the family centrestage. B&B for two adults and up to three children, including dinner in The Bistro on one evening, is from €180 per night. Rates include access to the leisure club and discounts for local attractions such as the National Stud and Kildare Village.

Make sure to check out Emma's Butterfly Garden while you are there. Opened in September 2012, the garden was designed as a place for people with the painful skin condition epidermolysis bullosa (EB, known as "butterfly skin") to enjoy tranquil surroundings. It was the brainchild of Emma Fogarty, a patient ambassador with Debra Ireland.

And don't forget to bring your costumes – the High Tea Club kicks off with a Halloween night on October 31st. [killasheehotel.com](http://killasheehotel.com)

Leonie Corcoran



## ISLAND LIFE

Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa has been clocking up awards of late with a regularity only matched by the tides surrounding them. This year, for the seventh time, they took home the award for Ireland's Leading Spa Resort at the World Travel Awards. The glorious and relaxing Spa features revitalising seawater and sea mud treatments, and is perfectly complemented by the unique seawater therapy pool.

To celebrate their gong, Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa has launched the Linger Longer and Save package, which includes three nights B&B midweek with 25% off the 3rd night, valid until December 23rd and excludes midterm. For more information visit [inchydoneyisland.com](http://inchydoneyisland.com)



## CLEW BAY INSPIRATION

Autumn is the perfect time for a creative getaway, and the beautiful Wild Atlantic Way offers lots of inspiration. Following a recent restoration, Killadangan House in Westport, Co Mayo, is being launched as a residential centre, with courses and programmes in activity, health and learning.

Sitting in the shadow of Croagh Patrick, the centre offers both pre-designed and bespoke programmes – from watersports and languages, to psychotherapy and massage – for groups of five to eight adults. Upcoming programmes include genealogy, health/strength and nutrition, and the well-being-orientated Alexander technique.

As a sister project to the Clare Island Lighthouse, Killadangan House is a sanctuary-style residence. The cosy sittingroom and panoramic views over Clew Bay will inspire as surely as they relax. [killadanganhouse.com](http://killadanganhouse.com)

Gráinne Loughran

## TO THE MANOR

If you're an opera fan heading to Wexford at the end of this month and have not yet booked a place to stay, a magnificent house in New Ross is offering both accommodation and a pre-opera aperitif and dinner. Berkeley Forest is a handsome manor dating from the 17th century which recently joined Airbnb and has already earned 11 five-star reviews. Rates are €175 per person for tea/aperitif on arrival, pre opera dinner with wine, bed and breakfast. [berkeleyforesthouse.com](http://berkeleyforesthouse.com)

Deirdre McQuillan

