

# MERRIMAN SUMMER SCHOOL 2009

## Feature Performance

Wednesday, 19 August @ 20.30, Old Ground Hotel, Ennis

### **The Wilder Wisdom of Auld Ones.... Stories, Legends and Poetry inspired by the Cailleach**

*performed by Actor and Storyteller, Nuala Hayes  
and Harpist and Composer, Anne-Marie O'Farrell.*

The stories of the Cailleach, the wise woman or hag of Irish mythology, are full of mystery and the power, wisdom and imagination of older people. Often this power is a threat, sometimes it's a challenge, but always, like the rocks and the stones of the earth, it's a force of nature. Many of these stories come from the oral tradition, and although considerable scholarly work has been done by eminent folklorists such as Gearóid Ó Cruaí, they are seldom told. They tap into old pre-Celtic and pre-Christian beliefs. They challenge, entertain and divert and are important in a world that is in flux.

Nuala Hayes and Anne-Marie O'Farrell have been awarded a grant, under the Arts Council's *Deis* Scheme to research and to explore these stories and poems in performance, with music on the Irish Harp composed and played by Anne-Marie.

**NUALA HAYES** Well known actor and storyteller. Member of Abbey Theatre for five years. Founded Two Chairs Company, with musician Ellen Cranitch 18 years ago. Has performed at all the major Storytelling Festivals in Ireland was Director of the Dublin Festival, *Scéalta Shamhna*, for 10 years. Recently played leading roles in the New Theatre's adaptation of *The Tailor and Ansty* by Eric Cross (2005); *The Well of the Saints* by J.M. Synge (2008) and in *The End of the Beginning*, by Seán O'Casey, with Big Telly Theatre Company.

**ANNE-MARIE O'FARRELL** Well respected harpist, composer and teacher who graduated from UCD and was awarded an M.A. in composition from NUI Maynooth. Plays a pivotal role in the development of the Irish Harp and is consultant to Salvi harpmakers. Performs with both classical and traditional musicians.

Recordings include her solo albums, *Heads and Harps*, *Harping Bach to Carolan*, *The Jigs Up*, and *Double String* with Cormac de Barra.

Cead Isteach/  
Admission

€10.00

