

McGonagle's by Aaron Kavanagh

McGonagle's was a rock club located on 22 South Anne Street, that has been called everything from a 'crucial cornerstone in the Dublin live music scene'¹, 'Dublin's premiere rock club'², 'iconic'³, 'one of the most vital venues for live rock back then'⁴, and the 'top live music venue of its era'⁵, to a 'small, run-down, sweaty dive'⁶, 'infamous'⁷, and a 'standard, dark, rock cellar bar, where, even by day, stale tobacco clung to the corner like cobwebs, and the floor was a tacky reminder of a thousand spilled pints'⁸, which ran from the late 1970s to the early 1990s. The venue was estimated to have a capacity of around 800.⁹ For a comparison to today's venues in Dublin, that makes it comparable to The Academy on Middle Abbey Street, which has a capacity of 833.¹⁰

Before it was McGonagle's, it was the Crystal Ballroom; a ballroom owned by promoter and businessman Bill Fuller, who owned many venues across the world, including the Electric

¹ Sam McGrath, 'Rock against the Referendum 1982', Come Here to Me! (blog), 20 February 2015 <<https://comeheretome.com/2015/02/20/rock-against-the-referendum-1983/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

² Neil McCormick, *Killing Bono* (London: Penguin Books, 2011), eBook, ch.6.

³ Valerie Loftus, 'Dublin's iconic McGonagle's music venue has been reincarnated as this amazing theatre', *Daily Edge*, 26 October 2016 <<https://www.dailyedge.ie/magistorium-dublin-3046597-Oct2016/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁴ Jackie Hayden, 'A family affair', *Hot Press*, 8 June 2011 <<http://gerryquigleymusic.com/in-the-media/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁵ Aaron, '1979 – 1981 – CAVS', cavs.ie, 10 May 2017 <<https://cavs.ie/timeline/1979-1981/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁶ NickCD, 'McGonagle's Dublin: An icon of a gloriously shabby golden age', Medium, 2 September 2018 <<https://medium.com/@NickCD/mcgonagles-dublin-an-icon-of-a-gloriously-shabby-golden-age-cb19794f889e>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁷ 'The Blades', Reekus Records <<http://www.reekus.com/portfolio/the-blades/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁸ Mick Middles, *Breaking Into Heaven: The Rise, Fall & Resurrection of The Stone Roses* (London: Omnibus Press, 2012), eBook, ch.7 'You Are The One'.

⁹ 'Fugazi Live Series: Dublin, Ireland 9/17/90', dischord.com <https://www.dischord.com/fugazi_live_series/dublin-ireland-91790> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹⁰ 'The Academy – Dublin Bus', dublinbus.ie <<https://www.dublinbus.ie/Bus-it-to-Events/Venue-Information/?venueID=369>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

Ballroom in London and the Fillmore West in San Francisco¹¹, and managed by record store owner, showband manager, and friend to Bing Crosby, George O'Reilly¹², who normally put on showbands at the venue.¹³ The Crystal Ballroom famously hosted Johnny Cash during his first Irish tour in 1963, which was a tour promoted by Fuller.¹⁴ The ballroom was where Bono's parents courted each other, and U2 released a song about the venue, titled 'The Crystal Ballroom', on the deluxe edition of their 2014 album *Songs of Innocence*.¹⁵ The late RTÉ DJ Larry Gogan stated, in the context of seeing Joe Dolan and the Drifters there in 1963, 'The Crystal was considered to be an upmarket ballroom and it was a shilling dearer into the dances there, compared to the other venues around the city. It was owned by a promoter called Bill Fuller and had a very strict code of smart dress.'¹⁶ The Crystal Ballroom existed from the 1950s to the early 1970s, and, opened as McGonagle's on July 16th, 1976.¹⁷

¹¹ 'Impresario and businessman best known for ballroom success', *Irish Times*, 23 August 2008 <<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/impresario-and-businessman-best-known-for-ballroom-success-1.934025>> [accessed 16 April 2020]; Ann Scanlon, 'Bill Fuller: Irishman whose empire of venues and hotels started in Camden', *Guardian*, 9 September 2008 <<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2008/sep/09/popandrock.musicindustry>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹² Declan Cashin, 'Dear Bing...', *Irish Times*, 24 December 2011 <<https://www.independent.ie/lifestyle/dear-bing--26805506.html>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹³ Neil Hegarty, *Waking Up in Dublin: A Musical Tour Of The Celtic Capital* (London: Omnibus Press, 2010), eBook, ch.2 'The Triumph Of The Will Dublin's Rock Icons'.

¹⁴ 'Johnny Cash's Lost Tour of Ireland – Documentary on One', RTÉ, 16 July 2018 <<https://www.rte.ie/culture/2018/0713/978424-johnny-cashs-lost-tour-of-ireland-documentary-on-one/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]; Robert Mulhern, 'On the trail of the time Johnny Cash played Athy', *Leinster Leader*, 28 July 2018 <<https://www.leinsterleader.ie/news/home/326598/on-the-trail-of-the-time-johnny-cash-played-athy.html>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹⁵ Timothy D. Neufeld, *U2: Rock 'n' Roll to Change the World* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018), p.36.

¹⁶ Larry Gogan, cited in Eddie Rowley, *Our Joe: Joe Dolan by the People Who Knew Him Best* (Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 2012), eBook, ch.8 'Brendan Bowyer, Larry Gogan and Fanmania'.

¹⁷ For McGonagle's opening date, see Gallery section of this essay. The oldest date I could find for the Crystal Ballroom was an advertisement for a dance there from 21/11/1954, and the latest date I could find was a Thin Lizzy concert there on 01/11/1970. Shelbourne Football Club Ltd., 'Grand Christmas Dance.', Official Programme 3d.: Shelbourne v. Cork Athletic, 21 November 1954 <http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie/media/Shelbourne%20v.%20Cork%20Athletic_02.pdf> [accessed 16 April 2020]; Peter Nielsen, 'Thin Lizzy and related 1964-1970', thinlizzyguide.com <http://www.thinlizzyguide.com/tours/tour_ram.htm> [accessed 16 April 2020]

McGonagle's was managed by Terry O'Neill, who had been Thin Lizzy's first manager when they began. He booked a lot of U2's early concerts at the venue, before they even changed their name to U2, and were still called the Hype.¹⁸ It's been stated that, 'For U2, playing at McGonagles [*sic*] was a foundational experience in an important venue.'¹⁹ In addition to U2, the venue also was an early spot for nascent Dublin punk and new waves bands like the Virgin Prunes, the Radiators from Space, the Blades, the Lookalikes²⁰, the Tearjerkers²¹, the Vipers²², Berlin²³, the Atrix²⁴, and Free Booze (whose shows sold well, as it promised 'Free Booze' at McGonagle's!).²⁵ In addition to local acts, the venue would also see Northern Irish punk acts, like the Undertones²⁶, Stiff Little Fingers²⁷, and the Outcasts²⁸, and touring punk acts, like the Lurkers²⁹, the Rezillos³⁰, Slaughter & the Dogs³¹, the Vibrators³², the Valves³³,

¹⁸ Colm O'Hare, 'U240 U2: The Gig That Got Away', *Hot Press*, 25 September 2016 <<https://www.hotpress.com/music/u240-u2-the-gig-that-got-away-18931810>> [accessed 16 April 2020];

Andrea Morandi, 'The age of innocence', 40 Years With U2, 27 August 2016

<<https://www.40yearswithu2.com/en/the-age-of-innocence-2/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹⁹ Neufeld, p.37.

²⁰ Aaron.

²¹ See Gallery section of this essay.

²² See Gallery section of this essay.

²³ 'Irish Rock Discography: Berlin', irishrock.org <<https://www.irishrock.org/irodb/bands/berlin.html>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

²⁴ Alan Corr, 'Dublin new wave band The Atrix spring back into action', RTÉ, 18 September 2019 <<https://www.rte.ie/entertainment/2019/0918/1076507-dublin-new-wave-band-the-atrrix-spring-back-into-action/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

²⁵ 'Irish Rock Discography: Free Booze', irishrock.org <<https://www.irishrock.org/irodb/bands/freebooze.html>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

²⁶ 'Shows 1976-1983', theundertones.com <http://theundertones.com/_/Shows_1976-1983.html> [accessed 16 April 2020]

²⁷ Roland Link, *Kicking Up a Racket: The Story of Stiff Little Fingers, 1977-1983* (Belfast: Appletree Press, 2009), pp.334-335.

²⁸ Sam McGrath, 'Violence and the Dublin live music scene (1977 – 1988)', Come Here to Me! (blog), 14 April 2014 <<https://comeheretome.com/2014/04/14/violence-and-the-dublin-live-music-scene-1977-1988/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

²⁹ John Shearlaw, 'Tours', *Record Mirror*, 11 November 1978, p.4 <<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/UK/Record-Mirror/70s/78/Record-Mirror-1978-11-11.pdf>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

³⁰ John Shearlaw, 'Tour/Single from Rezillos', *Record Mirror*, 28 October 1978, p.4 <<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/UK/Record-Mirror/70s/78/Record-Mirror-1978-10-28.pdf>> [accessed 16 April 2020]; See Gallery section of this essay.

³¹ 'Slaughter & the Dogs', Punk Music Catalogue, 75-78 (blog) <<https://punkmusiccatalogue.wordpress.com/slaughter-the-dogs/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

³² See Gallery section of this essay.

³³ See Gallery section of this essay.

U.K. Subs³⁴, Anti-Pasti³⁵, the Dark³⁶, and the Doomed³⁷ (who were a short-lived iteration of the Damned, that originally featured Lemmy from Motörhead³⁸, however, by the time they played McGonagle's, Lemmy was no longer in the band, and the band were just keeping the name).³⁹ Post-punk act XTC would play three consecutive nights there in October 1978.⁴⁰ Phil Lynott's sideband the Greedies (a.k.a. the Greedy Bastards), which included members of the Sex Pistols and the Boomtown Rats, played at a Christmas party for *Hot Press* at the venue in 1978.⁴¹ Other acts that played the venue at this time included Tradition⁴², the Motors⁴³, Girlschool⁴⁴, Cado Belle⁴⁵, Wilko Johnson's Solid Senders⁴⁶, Radio Stars⁴⁷, John Otway⁴⁸, Jenny Darren⁴⁹, Alberto y Lost Trios Paranoias⁵⁰, and Son Seals.⁵¹ O'Neill would pass management of the club over to Fran Quigley.⁵² U2 got booked to play at the club every

³⁴ Shane Baldwin, 'Punk's Not Dead', *Record Collector* <<https://recordcollectormag.com/articles/punks-not-dead-726>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ See Gallery section of this essay.

³⁷ 'Upfront', *Record Mirror*, 2 December 1978, p.35 <<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/UK/Record-Mirror/70s/78/Record-Mirror-1978-12-01.pdf>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

³⁸ Kory Grow, 'The Damned Talk 40 Years of Shapeshifting Punk', *Rolling Stone*, 14 April 2017 <<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/the-damned-talk-40-years-of-shapeshifting-punk-128456/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

³⁹ Barry Hutchinson, *The Damned – The Chaos Years: An Unofficial Biography* (self-published, 2017), pp.88-89, 96-97.

⁴⁰ 'Upfront', *Record Mirror*, 30 September 1978, p.34 <<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/UK/Record-Mirror/70s/78/Record-Mirror-1978-09-30.pdf>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁴¹ Graeme Thomson, *Cowboy Song: The Authorised Biography of Philip Lynott* (London: Constable, 2016), eBook, ch.13.

⁴² See Gallery section of this essay.

⁴³ 'Upfront', *Record Mirror*, 26 August 1978, p.23 <<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/UK/Record-Mirror/70s/78/Record-Mirror-1978-08-26.pdf>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁴⁴ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁴⁵ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁴⁶ 'Upfront', *Record Mirror*, 25 November 1978, p.44 <<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/UK/Record-Mirror/70s/78/Record-Mirror-1978-11-25.pdf>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁴⁷ 'Upfront', *Record Mirror*, 14 October 1978, p.26 <<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/UK/Record-Mirror/70s/78/Record-Mirror-1978-10-14.pdf>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁴⁸ John Shearlaw, 'Tours', *Record Mirror*, 7 October 1978, p.4 <<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/UK/Record-Mirror/70s/78/Record-Mirror-1978-10-07.pdf>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁴⁹ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁵⁰ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁵¹ Sherlaw, 7/10/1978, p.4.

⁵² Paula Geraghty, *Smiley Bolger and Fran Quigley in Conversation #MayFest 2017*, Vimeo, online video <<https://vimeo.com/232226146>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

Thursday for four weeks in 1979, which Quigley said was the hardest day to get people to attend.⁵³ McGonagle's was also the venue that U2 chose to perform a showcase for representatives of CBS Records at.⁵⁴ Reporters John O'Donoghue and Áine O'Connor were seen dancing at McGonagle's on a news story on disco for the 22 August 1978 edition of RTÉ's *P.M.* programme.⁵⁵

In addition to Quigley, in the '80s the venue would see promoters such as the late Electric Picnic founder John Reynolds (1965-2018)⁵⁶, Smiley Bolger (who worked as a DJ at the venue)⁵⁷, and the Hope Collective's Niall McGuirk.⁵⁸ The club would host various club nights for different types of music, including reggae⁵⁹, rave⁶⁰, metal⁶¹, and dance⁶². In addition to Smiley Bolger, future RTÉ DJ Dave Fanning was a resident DJ at the venue.⁶³ Guest DJs would include Carl Cox⁶⁴, Coldcut⁶⁵, Norman Jay⁶⁶, Judge Jules⁶⁷, Dave Dorrell⁶⁸, and Andrew Weatherall.⁶⁹ Some of the club nights they hosted were Danceteria, Club

⁵³ Ibid.; Matt McGee, *U2: A Diary* (London: Omnibus Press, 2011), eBook, ch. '1979'; See Gallery section of this essay.

⁵⁴ McGee; David Kootnikoff, *Bono: A Biography* (Santa Barbara: Greenwood, 2012), p.29.

⁵⁵ 'From Ballroom To Saturday Night Fever 1978', RTÉ < <https://www.rte.ie/archives/2018/0809/984038-ballroom-to-disco/> > [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁵⁶ 'John Reynolds: Visionary music festival promoter and club owner', *Irish Times*, 3 November 2018 <<https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/john-reynolds-visionary-music-festival-promoter-and-club-owner-1.3684260>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁵⁷ Geraghty.

⁵⁸ Niall McGuirk, *Please Feed Me: A Vegan Cookbook* (Brooklyn: Soft Skull Press, 2004), pp.130-131.

⁵⁹ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁶⁰ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁶¹ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁶² See Gallery section of this essay.

⁶³ Hegarty.

⁶⁴ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁶⁵ Colm Carty, cited in Sam McGrath, 'The Manhattan and other late night eateries', Come Here to Me! (blog), 11 September 2012 < <https://comeheretome.com/2012/09/11/the-manhattan-and-other-late-night-eateries/> > [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁶⁶ Colm Carty, cited in McGrath, 11/09/2012; See Gallery section of this essay.

⁶⁷ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁶⁸ Colm Carty, cited in McGrath, 11/09/2012; See Gallery section of this essay.

⁶⁹ Mark Kavanagh, 'Tribute: Legendary DJ and producer Andrew Weatherall remembered', Buzz.ie, 23 February 2020 < <https://www.buzz.ie/music/legendary-dj-producer-andrew-weatherall-tribute-356601> > [accessed 16 April 2020]

Voodoo, and Soul On Ice.⁷⁰ Thin Lizzy played at an anti-Eurovision alternative song contest at McGonagle's, booked by Smiley Bolger and hosted by the 'First International Alternative Song Contest Organisation' (or F.I.A.S.C.O. for short).⁷¹ There was also socially conscious event nights held at the venue, such as when they hosted the band Some Kind of Wonderful during a series of Anti-Amendment Campaign concerts, that were against the then-upcoming Eight Amendment referendum⁷², and a club night against the censorship of information on abortion services.⁷³

The 1980s saw a wide variety of live music at McGonagle's. The Pogues made their Dublin debut at the venue.⁷⁴ Author Mick Middles said, 'For up and coming bands from Manchester and Liverpool keen to flex their Irish heritage, a gig at McGonagles [*sic*] was essential.'⁷⁵ Such was the case with the Stone Roses; however, the band had gotten booked on a heavy metal night, and the crowd threw glasses at them.⁷⁶ The venue would also see new wave acts Echo and the Bunnymen⁷⁷, and Classix Nouveaux⁷⁸, Mick Jones' post-Clash dance group Big Audio Dynamite (B.A.D.)⁷⁹, Madchester band the Happy Mondays⁸⁰, EDM band the Shamen⁸¹, two-tone/ska band Bad Manners⁸², socialist punk band the Redskins ("Redskins."

⁷⁰ Sam McGrath, 'Danceteria @ McGonagles (1981)', Come Here to Me! (blog), 11 October 2012 < <https://comeheretome.com/2012/10/11/danceteria-mcgonagles-1981/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁷¹ Thomson; thinlizzyguide.com <<http://www.thinlizzyguide.com/tours/dates/1981/810404.htm>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁷² Sam McGrath, 'Anti-Amendment Music', Come Here to Me! (blog), 12 May 2018 < <https://comeheretome.com/2018/05/12/anti-amendment-music-1982-83/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁷³ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁷⁴ James Fearnley, *Here Comes Everybody: The Story of the Pogues* (London: Faber & Faber, 2012), eBook, ch. 15.

⁷⁵ Middles.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁷⁸ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁷⁹ GotGameGreggy, *Big Audio Dynamite – Live in Ireland, 1988*, YouTube, online video, 8 April 2020 < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzW6YujwwXg>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁸⁰ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁸¹ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁸² McGrath, 14/04/2014.

Because they were socialist skinheads. Get it?)⁸³, indie acts the Fall⁸⁴, the Wedding Present⁸⁵, Inspiral Carpets⁸⁶, and the House of Love⁸⁷, post-punk acts New Model Army⁸⁸, Theatre of Hate⁸⁹, the Teardrop Explodes⁹⁰, and the Comsat Angels⁹¹, and Australian punk band the Hard-Ons.⁹² A new generation of Irish musicians played McGonagle's at this time, too, such as My Bloody Valentine⁹³, the Fatima Mansions⁹⁴, the Frames⁹⁵, A House⁹⁶, the Golden Horde⁹⁷, the Fountainhead⁹⁸, and Something Happens.⁹⁹

Around 1986 to 1992, McGonagle's became primarily a metal venue, hosting heavy metal, crossover, thrash, and hardcore acts, such as Suicidal Tendencies¹⁰⁰, Death¹⁰¹, Sabbath¹⁰²,

⁸³ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁸⁴ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁸⁵ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁸⁶ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁸⁷ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁸⁸ Rhea H. Boyden, 'Review: Opening Night of Glitterball – Dublin', Rhea Boyden (blog), 11 May 2017 <<https://rheaboyden.com/2017/05/11/review-opening-night-of-glitterball-dublin/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁸⁹ Deklan Dachau, cited in *In Concert: Favourite Gigs of Ireland's Music Community*, ed. by Niall McGuirk and Michael Murphy (Dublin: Hope Publications, 2017), p.64.

⁹⁰ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁹¹ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁹² See Gallery section of this essay.

⁹³ 'My Bloody Valentine Live', sites.google.com < <https://sites.google.com/site/mybloodyvalentinelive/live-guide/1990>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁹⁴ Michael O'Hara, 'Critics Roundup 1990', *Hot Press*, 22 May 2001 < <https://www.hotpress.com/music/critics-roundup-1990-1262735>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁹⁵ Michael O'Hara, 'The Frames – McGonagles, Dublin, 1991', *Hot Press*, 6 July 2015 < <https://www.hotpress.com/music/the-frames-mcgonagles-dublin-1991-14586399>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁹⁶ 'A House', Eirewave < <https://www.eirewave.ie/music/artists/a-house>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁹⁷ See Gallery section of this essay.

⁹⁸ The Fountainhead, Facebook post, 27 January 2014 < https://www.facebook.com/Fountainhead.BandPage/photos/a.10151228108767868.512387.543847867/749547911724972/?type=3&__tn__=EH-R> [accessed 16 April 2020]

⁹⁹ Something Happens – Topic, *Promised (Live From McGonagles, Ireland/1988)*, YouTube, online video, 11 November 2014 <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wzu-hfhOek>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹⁰⁰ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹⁰¹ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹⁰² See Gallery section of this essay.

Saxon¹⁰³, Carcass¹⁰⁴, D.R.I.¹⁰⁵, Gang Green¹⁰⁶, Morbid Angel¹⁰⁷, Decide¹⁰⁸, Paradise Lost¹⁰⁹, Mordred¹¹⁰, Massacre¹¹¹, Xentrix¹¹², Sacred Reich¹¹³, Acid Reign¹¹⁴, and more. It was also a space for big acts such as Ozzy Osbourne¹¹⁵ and Def Leppard¹¹⁶ to perform intimate gigs.

However, it was by no means only metal music that was hosted at the venue in those years. Legendary hip hop group Public Enemy played the club in 1988.¹¹⁷ Also in 1988, post-hardcore indie darlings Fugazi played McGonagle's on their first European tour, and would end up playing three shows for three consecutive years at the venue, between then and 1990.¹¹⁸ In 1990, the influential noise rock group Sonic Youth made their Irish debut at the venue, supported by the Scottish power pop band Teenage Fanclub.¹¹⁹ In 1991, the venue would host the Massachusetts alt-rock band Dinosaur Jr.¹²⁰, and the crazy, experimental punk band Nomeansno.¹²¹ In August 1991, about a month before the release of their seminal sophomore album *Nevermind*, Nirvana supported Sonic Youth on their European tour, making their Irish debut on that tour's first date at Sir Henry's in Cork,¹²² a tour famously

¹⁰³ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹⁰⁴ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹⁰⁵ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹⁰⁶ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹⁰⁷ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹⁰⁸ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹⁰⁹ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹¹⁰ 'Mordred', metallipromo.com < <https://www.metallipromo.com/mo.html> > [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹¹¹ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹¹² See Gallery section of this essay.

¹¹³ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹¹⁴ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹¹⁵ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹¹⁶ Phil Collen and Chris Epting, *Adrenalized: Life, Def Leppard and Beyond* (New York: Random House, 2015), eBook, ch.4.

¹¹⁷ NickCD.

¹¹⁸ McGuirk, pp.8-9, 130.

¹¹⁹ 'SONIC YOUTH: 09/02/90 – Dublin, Ireland @ McGonagles', Sonicyouth.com, <<http://www.sonicyouth.com/mustang/cc/090290.html>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹²⁰ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹²¹ McGuirk, p.43.

¹²² Carrie Borzillo, *Kurt Cobain: The Nirvana Years* (London: Carlton Book, 2013), p.75.

documented in Dave Markey's film *1991: The Year Punk Broke*.¹²³ The following November, the band started a headlining tour of Europe to support *Nevermind*, which was to include a sold out date at McGonagle's on December 10th; however, the band cancelled the Irish and Scandinavian legs of that tour, in order to go home and rest after extensive touring.¹²⁴ The band would make their Irish headlining debut the following June, playing to a sold out, 8,000-capacity Point Depot.¹²⁵ McGonagle's also hosted popular British indie and alternative acts at that time, including EMF¹²⁶, the La's¹²⁷, Levellers¹²⁸, James¹²⁹, Ride¹³⁰, Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine¹³¹, Loop¹³², the Godfathers¹³³, Silverfish¹³⁴, Ned's Atomic Dustbin¹³⁵, and Curve.¹³⁶ Additionally, the venue also hosted early concerts by future popular British acts, such as Blur¹³⁷, the Prodigy¹³⁸, Manic Street Preachers¹³⁹, and Therapy?¹⁴⁰

¹²³ *1991: The Year Punk Broke*, dir. by Dave Markey (Tara Films, 1992).

¹²⁴ Borzillo, pp.88, 93.

¹²⁵ Ibid., p.109; Kevin Courtney, 'Gifted and cursed', *Irish Times*, 27 October 2001

<<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/gifted-and-cursed-1.334459>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹²⁶ 'Tour Dates', [emf-theband.com](http://www.emf-theband.com/multimedia/tourdates.asp) <<http://www.emf-theband.com/multimedia/tourdates.asp>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹²⁷ Neil83, 'Gigography', [the-las.com](http://www.the-las.com), 3 December 2012 <<http://www.the-las.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=1824&start=150>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹²⁸ 'Show Archive', [levellers.co.uk](http://www.levellers.co.uk) <<https://www.levellers.co.uk/events/archive/1992>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹²⁹ 'Dublin McGonagles – 28th June 1990', [oneofthethree.com](http://www.oneofthethree.com)

<<https://www.oneofthethree.com/1990/06/28/dublin-mcgonagles-28th-june-1990/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹³⁰ 'McGonagles, Dublin, IR', ride.band <<http://ride.band/1990/10/19/mcgonagles-dublin-ir/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹³¹ '1991 – Carter USM – Gigs', [carterusm.co.uk](http://www.carterusm.co.uk) <<http://www.carterusm.co.uk/gigs/gigs1991.htm>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹³² Paul English, 'Indie Top 20 Volume 8 (Beechwood Music, 1990)', A Pop Fan's Dream (blog), 27 July 2019 <<https://apopfansdream.wordpress.com/2019/07/27/indie-top-20-volume-8-beechwood-music-1990/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹³³ The venue is misspelled as 'McDonagals'. 'Silverfish The First 111 Gigs', [bandplanet.co.uk](http://www.bandplanet.co.uk) <http://www.bandplanet.co.uk/Oldsite/silverfish_gigs.htm> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹³⁶ 'Curve Timeline', curve-online.co.uk <<http://curve-online.co.uk/archive/timeline.php>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹³⁷ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹³⁸ See Gallery section of this essay.

¹³⁹ Stephen Byrne, 'Nicky Wire of Manic Street Preachers | Interview', *Golden Plec*, 28 September 2013 <<https://www.goldenplec.com/nicky-wire-manic-street-preachers-interview/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹⁴⁰ See Gallery section of this essay.

After McGonagle's, the venue morphed into the short-lived System nightclub, ran by Martin Ryan, who got caught in the crosshairs of an organised crime investigation, despite innocence.¹⁴¹ In the early 2000s, a £20 million project began on South Anne Street to attract retailers, as it is attached to the major shopping street Grafton Street.¹⁴² The plan was to turn the former McGonagle's site into a boutique hotel, which didn't eventuate.¹⁴³ In 2016, the site became the Magistorium, a 'dinner and show' music club, that focused on traditional music and jazz.¹⁴⁴ By 2017, it became the spot for the Number Twenty Two nightclub, which still exists to this day.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴¹ Middles; John Mooney, *Gangster: The Biography of the International Drug Trafficker John Gilligan* (Dublin: Maverick House, 2015), eBook; The Irish Sun's Raving Reporter, '10 MORE Dublin clubs we loved that are no more', *Sun*, 20 November 2015 <<https://www.thesun.ie/archives/irish-news/105355/10-more-dublin-clubs-we-loved-that-are-no-more/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]; Boyden.

¹⁴² Sue Carter, '£20m project on South Anne Street aims to attract top retailers', *Irish Times*, 30 May 2001 <<https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/homes-and-property/20m-project-on-south-anne-street-aims-to-attract-top-retailers-1.310598>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹⁴³ Gretchen Friemaan, 'Upmarket British shop for South Anne Street', *Irish Times*, 24 October 2007 <<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/commercial-property/upmarket-british-shop-for-south-anne-street-1.975689>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹⁴⁴ Loftus; Jim Carroll, 'It's the season for new venues in Dublin', *Irish Times*, 12 October 2016 <<https://www.irishtimes.com/blogs/ontherecord/2016/10/12/its-the-season-for-new-venues-in-dublin/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

¹⁴⁵ Barry Arnold, 'Ultimate list of iconic Dublin music venues we wish never closed down', DublinLive, 21 September 2017 <<https://www.dublinlive.ie/whats-on/music-nightlife-news/ultimate-list-iconic-dublin-music-13506677>> [accessed 16 April 2020]; 'About Us', numbertwentytwo.ie <<http://www.numbertwentytwo.ie/about/>> [accessed 16 April 2020]

GALLERY

Some of the information in this essay required photographic references. These images were taken from the Classic Dublin Gigs and U2 & Dublin '76 to '80 Facebook pages, Twitter, 45worlds.com, metallipromo.com, and tshirtslayer.com

Mc Gonagles

Dec 7th Friday
The Dark 8.00-11.00
Jazz 11.00-3.00

Dec 8th Saturday
Lookalikes 8.00-11.00
Lookalikes 11.00-3.00

Dec 9th Sunday
Rogue Angel 10.00-2.00

Dec 13th Thursday
Takeaways 10.00-2.00

Dec 14th Friday
The Dark 8.00-11.00
Recess 11.00-3.00

Dec 15th Saturday
Lookalikes 8.00-11.00
Lookalikes 11.00-3.00

Dec 16th Sunday
Shout Treatment
and
Lower of the Day
10.00-1.30

Dec 20th Thursday
Takeaways 10.00-2.00

Mc Gonagles Rocks
Restaurant 11.00-12.00
Bar 12.00-1.00

COCKTAILS & BARS AVAILABLE
CHECK 'EM OUT

One card that gives you
a good deal.....

Mc Gonagles

Mc Gonagles Rocks

Mc Gonagles 21a St. Anne Street
Tel: 011 23 23 23 23

Mc Gonagles
ROCKS

Tuesdays BRUSH SHIELDS
Wednesdays SACRE BLEU
Thursdays STAGALEE
Fridays FULL CIRCLE
Sat 23 DAVE PRIM'S CHICKEN
FISHER BAND
Sun 20 REVOLVER U2
Mon 21 MODERN HEIRS
Mon 7 GIRLS SCHOOL (all girl
band from London)
open 7 NIGHTS A WEEK

WHOLEFOOD-WINE-SOUNDS-POOL
Mc GONAGLES 21a St. ANNE ST.

Mc Gonagles
Rocks

WEDNESDAY 24th JANUARY - CARO BELLE
THURSDAY 25th JANUARY - STAGALEE (final gig)
FRIDAY 26th JANUARY - FULL CIRCLE
SATURDAY 27th JANUARY - SIDEMINDER
SUNDAY 28th JANUARY - BERLIN
MONDAY 29th JANUARY - BRUSH SHIELDS
TUESDAY 30th JANUARY - SMILEY HOLGER
WEDNESDAY 31st JANUARY - JIMI KLEVIN BAND
FRIDAY 1st FEBRUARY - FULL CIRCLE
SATURDAY 2nd FEBRUARY - LOUDEST WHISPER
SUNDAY 3rd FEBRUARY - THE BISHOPS
MONDAY 4th FEBRUARY - BRUSH SHIELDS
TUESDAY 5th FEBRUARY - SMILEY HOLGER
WEDNESDAY 6th FEBRUARY - THE ATRIX

Mc GONAGLES 21a St. Anne Street 1st Dublin Street
RESTAURANT 11.00-12.00 12.00-1.00 1.00-2.00

Mc Gonagles
ROCKS

Tuesdays BRUSH SHIELDS
Wednesdays SACRE BLEU
Thursdays STAGALEE
Fridays FULL CIRCLE

Mon 14th TIME MACHINE
Sun 20/Mon 21 THE LURKERS
Wed 23 JENNY DARRIN BAND
28/29 THE MOTORS
OPEN 7 NIGHTS A WEEK

WHOLEFOOD-WINE-SOUNDS-POOL
Mc GONAGLES 21a St. ANNE ST.

Mc Gonagles
Rocks

EVERY MONDAY - BRUSH SHIELDS AND THE IRISH OUTLAWS
EVERY TUESDAY - SMILEY AND DAVE
EVERY THURSDAY - BOB WILSON AND THE ROCKETS
EVERY FRIDAY - FULL CIRCLE

PLUS

WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY - ATRIX
SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY Afternoon 1 - 4pm THE VIPERS
SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY (night) with Jim Armstrong
SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY - BICHEN
WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY - SACRE BLEU (New Release)
SATURDAY 17th FEBRUARY (afternoon) SACRE BLEU
SATURDAY 17th FEBRUARY (night) THE MONKS
SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY - FREDIE WHITE BAND
WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY - SACRE BLEU

Mc GONAGLES 21a St. Anne Street 1st Dublin Street
RESTAURANT 11.00-12.00 12.00-1.00 1.00-2.00

U-2

The Jingle Balls EVERY THURSDAY
IN MCGONAGLES... Starting
Thursday 7th June... Special Guests:
SANTA and POO THE
VENTRILOQUIST... also: see those
four young men on SUNDAY
AFTERNOON 3RD JUNE... Family
outing... MCGONAGLES adm. 75p
and: Our Times, RTE 1 6.30 p.m.
Monday-Whit Weekend Happy
Christmas!

U-2

"CHRISTMAS
IN JUNE"
U-2
with strange guests
in McGonagles every Thursday
THE JINGLE BALLS

Dublin skinheads
present
Boots
N
BRACES
AT
MCGONAGLES
21a St. Anne Street
Reggae TONE
ADMISSION
£2.00

oses = HAPPY MONDAYS = DE
CARPETS = TECHNODANCE =
15 = DANCE =
CALL
LYRA
SUB
ANDON
MODE = SK
emotion = WATER BOYS =
11 SOUL = + MANY MANY M
SATURDAYS FEAT NIGHTLY
Mc Gonagles
RAVE

McGONAGLES
FRIDAYS
HIGH TILL LATE
THE CULT
DANCE
SEPTUOR
MANIA
FAITH NO MORE
LED ZEPPELIN

DJs
London's Tin Tin & MC Master P
Dublin
Banana Boys, Dave Moore,
Rob E. Rory Boyce, Kevoo, Lee
Corks
Remond The Dominator
All New Production at McGonagles

Genative 12K 120L Quadraphonic Systems
Dish Light Mixing - Power Flavors
QV & Terra Stroking
Plus New Loudly Designed Speakers & More!!
fill this setting up to create a whole
new exciting atmosphere at McGonagles

Tickets £10.00

Tickets Limited to 600
Reservations only available at McGonagles Club, 21a St. Anne Street,
Dublin 1 (Tel: 011 23 23 23 23)

Friendly Security
Only Happy People Need Bouncers Coming
See You There!!!

Rocket Promotions
presents
EASTER SUNDAY SPECIAL
Featuring:
CARL COX
(THE 3 DECK MASTER)

+ Guests Incl.
DILLY-SNAFU.
(N. I. Mixing Champ.)
On Sunday 19th April.
10.00 p.m. - 2.00 a.m.

Thumping sub bass sounds
and spectacular light show.

+ At McGonagles White Club.
off Griffin Street.

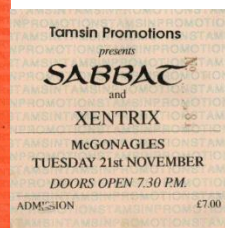
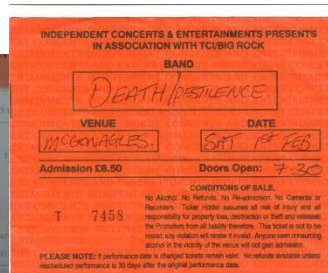
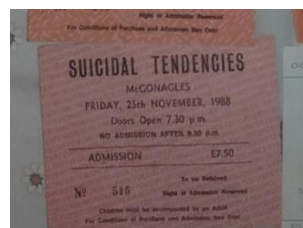
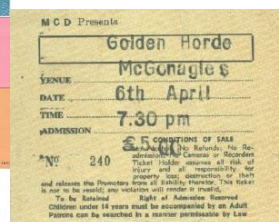
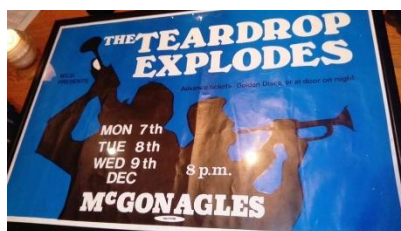
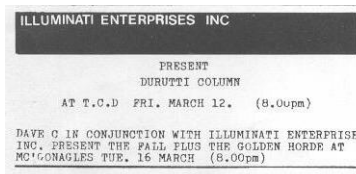
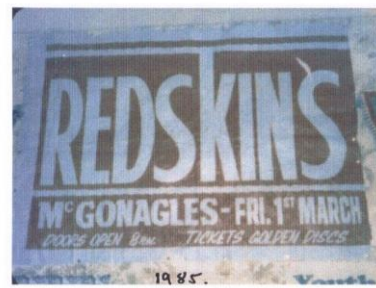
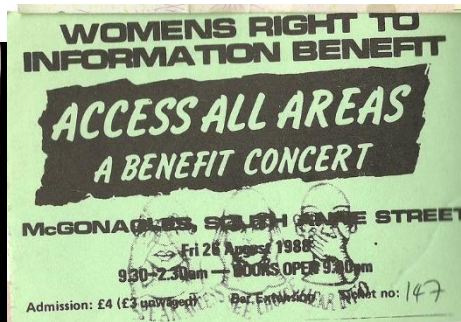
+ Admission £10 on the door.
Please come early to avoid
disappointment.

Mc Gonagles 21a St. Anne Street

Voodoo
WED. 21st DEC. 11.00-1.00
GUEST DJ: THEOTOKOS, BILLIE ADAM

Voodoo
SAT. 21st JAN. 11.00-1.00
GUEST DJ: TRAVIS, JORDAN, BILLIE ADAM

PUMP UP THE VOLUME





TASMIN PROMOTIONS presents
DRI
Plus Support
in McGONAGLES, DUBLIN
THURSDAY, 19th APRIL, 1990

Admission - £7.00 Doors open 7.30 p.m.

No 510

CONDITIONS OF SALE
No Alcohol, No Refunds, No Re-
admission, No Camera or Records,
Ticket Holder assumes all risk of
injury and all responsibility for
property loss, destruction or theft
and releases the Promoters from all liability therefor. This ticket is
not to be resold, any violation will render it invalid.

THE BEERCORE INVASION !!!
GANG GREEN
Older Budweiser

JANUARY U.K. TOUR + MELIAH RAGE
25th DUBLIN, McGonagles
28th BELFAST, The Rosetta
29th EDINBURGH, The Venue
30th NEWCASTLE, The Riverside

FEBRUARY
1st BRISTOL, Bierkeller
2nd BRADFORD, Queens Hall
3rd MILTON KEYNES, Woughton Centre
4th BIRMINGHAM, Edwards
25th LONDON, Marquee

THE PRODUCT
YOU GOT IT LP/CD • LVIN LOVIN MAID 12"
• B1BAU Mini LP/MC/CD
• OLDER • BUDWEISER LP/MC/CD
You've got to hear 2 and Gang Green album
and Older Budweiser is no exception
Paul Miller, KERRANG! (KKKK)

JOIN THE GREEN PARTY ... **EMERGO**

M.C.D. Presents
MORBID ANGEL
McGONAGLES, DUBLIN
MONDAY 9th DECEMBER 1991
DOORS OPEN 8.00 pm

ADMISSION - - - - - £7.50

No 0164

Right of Admission Reserved
Conditions of Purchase See Over
This Portion to be Retained



PARADISE LOST
SHADES of GOD
1992

No 1046

Admission £7.50

Doors open 7.00 p.m.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
No Alcohol, No Refunds, No Re-
admission, No Camera or Records,
Ticket Holder assumes all risk of
injury and all responsibility for
property loss, destruction or theft
and releases the Promoters from all liability therefor. This ticket is
not to be resold, any violation will render it invalid.

INDEPENDENT CONCERTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS
PRESENTS
MORGOTH & DEVASTATION
PLUS GUESTS
ON FRIDAY 20th SEPT. 1991

No 1046

Admission £7.50

Doors open 7.00 p.m.

CONDITIONS OF SALE
No Alcohol, No Refunds, No Re-
admission, No Camera or Records,
Ticket Holder assumes all risk of
injury and all responsibility for
property loss, destruction or theft
and releases the Promoters from all liability therefor. This ticket is
not to be resold, any violation will render it invalid.

TAMISIN PROMOTIONS presents
X-ENTRIX
plus SUPPORT
in McGONAGLES
FRIDAY, 20th JUNE, 1990

Admission - £5.00

No 550

CONDITIONS OF SALE
No Alcohol, No Refunds, No Re-
admission, No Camera or Records,
Ticket Holder assumes all risk of
injury and all responsibility for
property loss, destruction or theft
and releases the Promoters from all liability therefor. This ticket is
not to be resold, any violation will render it invalid.

TAMISIN PROMOTIONS presents
SACRED REICH
plus ATROPHY
in McGONAGLES
on WEDNESDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER, 1990

Admission - £7.50

No 350

CONDITIONS OF SALE
No Alcohol, No Refunds, No Re-
admission, No Camera or Records,
Ticket Holder assumes all risk of
injury and all responsibility for
property loss, destruction or theft
and releases the Promoters from all liability therefor. This ticket is
not to be resold, any violation will render it invalid.

ACID REIGN
NEW ALBUM
OBNOXIOUS

ACID REIGN ON TOUR

1st BRISTOL, Bierkeller
2nd BRADFORD, Queens Hall
3rd MILTON KEYNES, Woughton Centre
4th BIRMINGHAM, Edwards
25th LONDON, Marquee

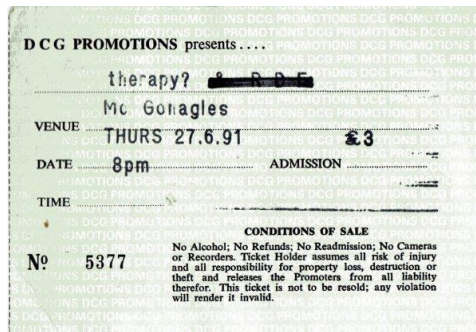
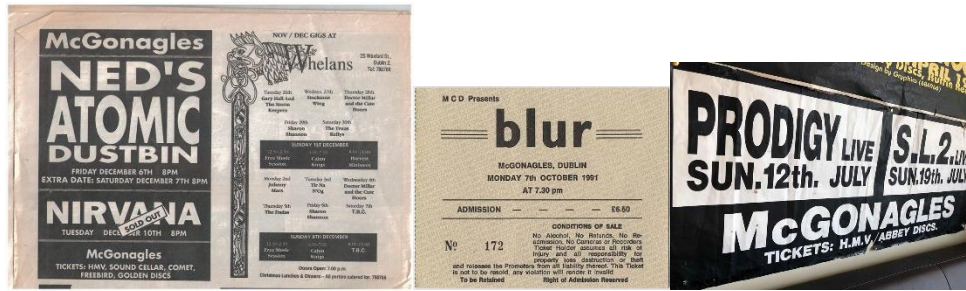
A LIVE REHEARSAL
€ZZY €Bourne
McGONAGLES
FRI. 11th/SAT. 12th JANUARY 1991
Tickets: £7.00 HMV, SOUND CELLAR

D.C.G. presents
DINOSAUR JR.
plus SUPPORT
in McGONAGLES
on WEDNESDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER, 1991

Admission - £8.00

No 3154

CONDITIONS OF SALE
No Alcohol, No Refunds, No Re-
admission, No Camera or Records,
Ticket Holder assumes all risk of
injury and all responsibility for
property loss, destruction or theft
and releases the Promoters from all liability therefor. This ticket is
not to be resold, any violation will render it invalid.



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