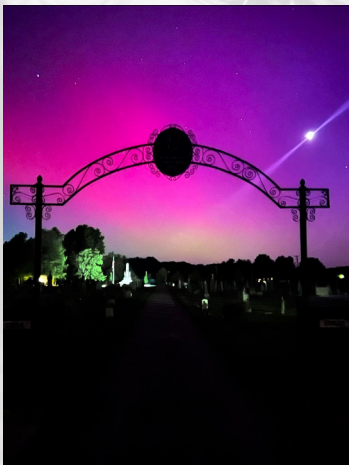




Kalyna Cork Ukrainian Choir and Cobh Animation at 2023 festival.



Northern Lights illuminate grave of Mother Jones in Mt Olive. Tonya Lytle Holland



Lord Mayor of Cork '23/'24, Cllr Kieran McCarthy is welcomed to festival by Mother Jones Joan Goggin and piper Norman O'Rourke.

## "The Most Dangerous Woman in America"

Mary Harris was born in Cork at the end of July 1837 and was baptised in the North Cathedral on 1st August of that year. The Harris family emigrated to Canada during the Great Famine.



Mary became a teacher and later a seamstress and moved to Memphis after her marriage to George Jones, a union moulder, in 1861. Tragedy struck when a yellow fever epidemic took the lives of her husband and four young children in 1867.

Having lost her dressmaking business in the Great Chicago fire of 1871, Mary Jones became involved in the growing trade union movement. By 1900 she worked to support miners and their families and became a tough and feared union organiser. Mary led many strikes for better pay and working conditions.

Mary organised the "March of the Mill Children" in 1903, which highlighted the exploitation of young children in the mines, mills and factories of America. Then known throughout North America as simply Mother Jones, she was present at the launch of the IWW union in 1905. In subsequent years, Mother Jones organised labour extensively throughout America as well as Canada and Mexico.

During the brutal mining wars in West Virginia and Colorado from 1912-1914, Mother Jones played a prominent role and was arrested and jailed many times. She died in 1930 and is buried at Mt. Olive Union Cemetery in Illinois. Her spirit remains alive and active wherever in the world there is a fight for labour and social justice.

August 1st is now designated **Mother Jones Day** in Cork City, and there are annual festivals in Mt Olive and Chicago. Chicago will erect a statue of Mother Jones in the city shortly. Cork, as the Rebel City of her birth, which has virtually no monuments to working class women should recognise this inspirational woman by the construction of a significant statue and honour Mother Jones with an appropriate place name in this city.

The Cork Mother Jones Committee wish to thank our speakers, musicians, singers, participants, film makers, sponsors, and volunteers who working together create a unique festival to honour Cork's Rebel Daughter.



Mother Jones  
Kathleen Scarboro

Thanks also to the Shandon Maldron Hotel, the Dance Cork Firkin Crane, the Shandon Area Renewal Association (SARA), Frameworks Films, Cork Community TV, Lee Press Ltd, the Cork City and County Archives, Lindsay Hand, Rosemary Feurer (Chicago), The Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago, James Goltz (Mt Olive), Saul Schniderman (Washington), Kaiulani Lee, Andrew Desmond, WhazOn? Cork, Dale Hawkins and many other groups and individuals.

Festival sponsors and supporters include Cork City Council Heritage Department, the Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland, the ASTI Cork South Paddy Mulcahy Branch, SIPTU at Liberty Hall, Teachers Union of Ireland, Cork (TUI), Northern Ireland Public Servants Alliance (NIPSA), Cathedral Credit Union, Pure Cork, Cllr Ted Tynan, Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT), Connect Trade Union, INTO, Mandate Trade Union, UNISON Northern Ireland.



[www.motherjonescork.com](http://www.motherjonescork.com)

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@MotherJonesCork

# Shandon Cork SPIRIT OF MOTHER JONES FESTIVAL 2024

THUR 25<sup>th</sup> to SAT 27<sup>th</sup> JULY



By kind permission of artist Lindsay Hand

A festival and summer school dedicated to the memory of Mary Harris/Mother Jones and to inspirational people everywhere who fight for social justice

Cork Mother Jones Committee

[www.motherjonescork.com](http://www.motherjonescork.com)



# The Spirit of Mother Jones Awards

The Spirit of Mother Jones Award each year is presented to activists who have made an extraordinary contribution in the area of labour/trade union, social justice or human rights issues.

A decision to present the award is made by the Cork Mother Jones Committee for the year of the festival. Members of the committee consult very widely before the selection of recipients.

- 2013 Margaret Aspinall and Sue Roberts  
Hillsborough Family Support Group
- 2014 Gareth Peirce, Solicitor
- 2015 Fr Peter McVerry
- 2016 Dave Hopper RIP General Secretary, Durham  
Miners' Association
- 2017 Ken Fleming  
International Transport Workers Federation
- 2018 Mary Manning on behalf of the Dunnes Stores  
workers
- 2019 Louise O'Keeffe
- 2020 Antoinette Keegan, Stardust Families
- 2021 Catherine Coffey O'Brien, Ann O'Gorman &  
Maureen Considine  
Cork Survivors and Supporters Alliance
- 2022 Don O'Leary for the Cork Life Centre
- 2023 Mick Lynch, General Secretary RMT Union



Photo: Niamh O'Flynn



# Festival Programme 2024

Previous festival archives will be shown on Cork Community TV over the Festival days. See details on [www.corkcommunitytv.ie](http://www.corkcommunitytv.ie)

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July

- 10:30 a.m. **F** *Nae Pasaran*  
A documentary about Scottish factory workers who refused to work on Chilean Air Force engines during the Pinochet dictatorship. Followed by Q&A with director **Filipe Bustos Sierra** on Zoom  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 1:00 p.m. Official festival opening by the **Lord Mayor of Cork**  
Piping by **Norman O'Rourke**  
Special appearance by **Kalya Ukrainian Community Choir**  
Cork Mother Jones - **Joan Goggin**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 2:30 p.m. **L** **Adrian Kane** SIPTU  
"Union Renewal"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 4:00 p.m. **F** *Fight Like Hell - The Testimony of Mother Jones*  
Written and performed by **Kaiulani Lee**  
Directed by **Ian Cheney**  
Produced by **Martha Gregory**  
Dance Cork Firkin Crane
- 7:00 p.m. **L** **Liz Gillis**  
"Is This What They Fought For? Women and Independent Ireland"  
Dance Cork Firkin Crane
- L** **Anne Twomey**  
"A Dauntless Spirit who went to fight for women in a country where they were treated like half-wits." Margaret Goulding Buckley  
Dance Cork Firkin Crane
- 9.30 p.m. **M** **Cork Singers' Club**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon

## Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July

- 10:30 a.m. **F** *field*  
A documentary of local biodiversity and Q&A with director **Dervla Baker**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 11:30 a.m. **L** **John Barry**  
Professor of Green Political Economy at Queen's University Belfast  
"Capitalist Growth as a Death Cult: The Need for an Economics of Life, Labour and Land."  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 1:00 p.m. **M** **Jimmy Crowley and Eve Telford**  
Concert  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 2:30 p.m. **L** Environmental Round Table  
"Climate Change and Taking Action"  
Moderator: John Barimo  
Panelists: **Niamh Guiry, Claudia Hihetah, Dearbhla Richardson**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 4:00 p.m. **F** **Frameworks Films**  
*Mother Jones and Her Children*
- F** **Theatre Works**  
*March of the Innocents*  
Written and produced by **Kymme Patrick**, who will join on Zoom
- F** **Rosemary Feurer**  
*Mother Jones: America's Most Dangerous Woman*  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 7:00 p.m. **L** "Stories of Palestine"  
**Walaa Sabah**  
Project Manager of **We Are Not Numbers**  
**Fiona O'Rourke** Author  
Dance Cork Firkin Crane
- 9:00 p.m. **M** **John Nyhan** and Friends  
Introducing special guests from Kentucky, USA  
**Carla Gover** and **Cornmaiz**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon



## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July

- 9:00 a.m. **W** **Peter Foynes** of the Cork Butter Museum  
A walk through the historic birthplace of Mary Harris  
Meet at the Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 10:30 a.m. **L** **Julianna Minihan**  
"The Historical Provision of Water, Cork City, 1760 – 1890"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 11:30 a.m. **L** **Owen Reidy** ICTU  
General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
"The Future World of Work and the Place of Trade Unions"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 2:15 p.m. **L** **Jack Lane**  
"The 'All for Ireland League' and the 'Irish Land & Labour League' – a uniquely Cork movement"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 3:00 p.m. **W** **Maggie O'Neill** and **Conach Gibson**  
University College Cork  
Feminist Walk 2  
Begins at UCC and arrives at the Mother Jones Plaque at 5:45 p.m.
- 3:30 p.m. **F** A film by **Yvette Vanson**  
*The Battle for Orgreave*  
Remembering the 40th anniversary year of the British Miners' Strike  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 4.30 p.m. **L** **Luke Dineen**  
"Big Jim Larkin: His Life, Times and Ideology"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 6.00 p.m. **M** Plaque event with Cork singer and songwriter **Martin Leahy**  
Followed by the traditional toast to Mother Jones  
At the Mother Jones Plaque on John Redmond Street

- F** Film
- M** Music
- L** Lecture/talk/discussion
- W** Walk

All speakers and musicians included in this programme are committed to attending the festival. Additional speakers and events may be included at the festival itself. The Cork Mother Jones Committee reserves the right to vary the programme. Check on [www.motherjonescork.com](http://www.motherjonescork.com) and Facebook