

Get Ready for Sparks to Fly



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Programme Information Television and Radio
Week 37 September 8 - September 15 2007

B B C Northern Ireland

New this week



BBC SPORT NI

THE LANGUAGE OF FOOTBALL

Coming up LIVE on BBC NI and BBC Radio Ulster
 October 17th 2007 - SWEDEN v NI
 November 17th 2007 - NI v DENMARK

Every Angle Covered

Final Score - Saturdays BBC One NI
 Saturday Sportsound - BBC Radio Ulster
 92-95FM / 1341MW

Irish Cup & League Cup Finals
 NI European Qualifiers

TV / RADIO / ONLINE / INTERACTIVE

BBC Northern Ireland
 bbc.co.uk/ni

BBC RADIO ULSTER
 92-95FM | 1341MW

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Welcome to the Laboratory of Castle Bright Sparks!

New seven-part series on BBC ONE Northern Ireland which mixes curriculum based studio challenges with real 'Wow' factor science

Bright Sparks, BBC TWO Northern Ireland, Sunday, 09 September at 7pm (repeated on Thursday, 13 September on BBC TWO Northern Ireland at 7.30pm)



Presenter Joe Lindsay with Professor Noel Sharkey at Castle Bright Sparks

BBC Northern Ireland brings you Bright Sparks, a new seven-part series on BBC ONE NI which mixes curriculum based studio challenges with real 'Wow' factor science. Never has science and technology been so exciting!

Each week, Bright Sparks challenges two school teams to come up with an innovative creation or robotic invention against 'the sands of time'. Over six weeks, twelve teams will go face to face vying for a position in the series grand finale and teams will need to use all their intelligence, technological creativity and flair to overcome the difficult challenges laid out for them.

The programme is based in the laboratory of Castle Bright Sparks, a place controlled by an eccentric character, The Professor, in the shape of Professor Noel Sharkey, a world-famous authority in robotics and artificial intelligence, who hails from these very shores.



Presenter Joe Lindsay with Professor Noel Sharkey at Castle Bright Sparks

The Bright Sparks laboratory itself is something to talk about. Tapping into what the revitalized Dr Who and Harry Potter fans now expect, the laboratory is a stunning Gothic creation where anything can happen, with robotic visitors and an 'Infinity Tunnel' for virtual transportation.

In the final programme of the series, The Bright Sparks – Winner of Winners series Grand Finale will see the winning teams return to the Castle with their own brand new innovations which they pitch to The Professor.

The Bright Sparks play-off takes place in the Odyssey Arena when the Infinity Tunnel beams the winning team down to

receive the Bright Sparks crystal trophy in front of thousands of fellow teenagers.

In the first programme Dalriada Grammar, Ballymoney and Portadown College go head to head to create a robot dishwasher in The Professor's spectacular castle laboratory.

Series producer, Ian Dougan says, 'The great thing about Bright Sparks is that it directly sets out to attract the 'Bebo' audience and rewards the viewer for staying with the programmes' educational content by featuring exciting Big Bang Science and making education cool. The programme steers away from the perception that science and technology is in any way 'Geeky'.



It's Prom Time

BBC Proms in the Park live from Carrickfergus

BBC Proms in the Park, Saturday, September 8, live on BBC Radio Ulster from 7pm



BBC
PROMS
in the Park
BELFAST

Thousands of people are expected to enjoy a magical evening of music in front of the historic backdrop of Carrickfergus Castle at this year's **BBC Proms in the Park**.

The annual musical extravaganza, now in its sixth year, takes place on Saturday, September 8.

All tickets for the free event have now been allocated.

However for those not fortunate to get a ticket they can still enjoy the evening by tuning into BBC Radio Ulster from 7pm onwards where Marie-Louise Muir will be going behind the scenes to meet the main performers and bringing the music live into your living room.



Giselle Allen

The entire event is hosted by BBC Northern Ireland's Noel Thompson.

It will feature performances from world renowned musicians and singers, including tenor Alfie Boe; Carrickfergus-born

soprano Giselle Allen; acclaimed trumpeter Alison Balsom; the Ulster Orchestra, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, under the baton of Kenneth Montgomery; Irish traditional group Beoga and the Carrickfergus Community Choir.

Promenaders and listeners tuned in on BBC Radio Ulster can expect to enjoy an evening of everything from Haydn to Charpentier, Puccini, Bach and Mendelssohn, as well as music from John Williams.

The nationally renowned event is sponsored by NS&I (National Savings and Investments) and organised locally in association with Carrickfergus Borough Council. Other Proms in the Park events are being organised in London's Hyde Park, Glasgow, Swansea and the Tees Valley.

Mayor of Carrickfergus, Alderman David Hilditch MLA, says: "I am delighted to welcome the BBC's prestigious Proms in the Park to Carrickfergus. This will be one of

the most important music events to have taken place in the Borough and the Council has focused its efforts on securing the event as a major cultural boost and to help raise the profile of the borough on a national level."

BBC Proms in the Park at Carrickfergus will be recorded for television by Landseer Productions to be shown later in the year.

For further information on BBC Proms in the Park 2007 visit bbc.co.uk/proms.

BBC Proms in the Park in Carrickfergus on Saturday, September 8 is live on BBC Radio Ulster from 7pm.



ns&i

Event sponsors



Carrickfergus Borough

Celebrating the Centenary of the birth of poet Louis MacNeice

BBC Radio Ulster's Arts Extra programme celebrates the life and work of Belfast-born poet Louis MacNeice with a week of special programming

Arts Extra, BBC Radio Ulster, Monday, September 10 to Friday, September 14, 6.30pm.
bbc.co.uk/radioulster

BBC Radio Ulster's Arts Extra programme is celebrating the centenary of the birth of the poet Louis MacNeice with a week of special features devoted to the Ulsterman's life and work.

The programme will feature interviews with some of the leading poets now writing in English, including Northern Ireland's prize winning poets Michael Longley and Paul Muldoon, as well as leading critics and experts on his work.

Every night at 6.30pm from Monday, September 10 until Friday, September 14, Arts Extra will ask leading literary figures about what MacNeice the poet means to them and to read their favourite MacNeice poem.

A special edition of Arts Extra will be broadcast on Wednesday, September 12, the centenary of the poet's birth.



The life and work of Belfast poet Louis MacNeice will be celebrated in a week of special features on BBC Radio Ulster's Arts Extra

Featuring leading poets and critics, the programme will discuss MacNeice's status as a poet and his influence on his contemporaries and younger poets and critics.

A major conference celebrating MacNeice's work is being held at Queen's University, Belfast from September 12-15, and the BBC Community Bus will also be offering creative writing classes, on Thursday, September 13 and Friday, September 14 from the Queen's Campus. There are no more places available for this for this writing class. An exhibition on MacNeice and the BBC: 'Castles on the Air', will be opened on September 12 at the QUB Visitors' Centre. Peter McDonald will give the keynote lecture, the first BBC Louis MacNeice Memorial Lecture, "The Pity of it All".

Louis MacNeice was born in Belfast in 1907 and educated at Marlborough and at Merton College, Oxford. His first book of poems, *Blind Fireworks*, appeared in 1929, and he subsequently worked as translator, literary critic, playwright, autobiographer, BBC producer and feature writer. Several of his most famous poems, such as *Carrickfergus* deal with his time in Northern Ireland. His long poem, *Autumn Journal* (1939), is now regarded as one of the most important poems of its time. His last book of poems, *The Burning Perch*, appeared shortly before his death in 1963.



The life and work of Belfast poet Louis MacNeice will be celebrated in a week of special features on BBC Radio Ulster's Arts Extra

Saturday, September 8

The Music In Me

BBC Radio Ulster, 11.30am

The second in a series of four programmes in which young people from across Northern Ireland explain how they use music to express their religious beliefs and cultural identity. This week, Hindu teenagers who perform everything from traditional Indian dance music to a more contemporary sound, inspired by their cultural heritage.

Saturday Sportsound

BBC Radio Ulster, 2.45pm

Sportsound with Michael McNamee and Nikki Gregg. In today's CIS Cup football programme holders Glentoran travel to Larne. Linfield take on Glenavon at Windsor Park while Donegal Celtic entertain Cliftonville. Elsewhere it's the first day of golf's Walker Cup at Royal County Down where Rory McIlroy and Jonathan Caldwell will be hoping to impress.



Michael McNamee will present this week's Saturday Sportsound with Nikki Gregg on BBC Radio Ulster

Saturday, September 8

European Championship Football

BBC Radio Ulster, 5.15pm

LATVIA v NORTHERN IRELAND

Adam Coates introduces coverage of Northern Ireland's crucial European Championship tie with Latvia in Riga. David Healy scored his 24th goal for Northern Ireland in the one nil home win over the Latvians. Joel Taggart is joined on commentary by John O'Neill with analysis from Roy Coyle.



Joel Taggart will be in the commentary box for this week's European Championship tie

Saturday, September 8

Proms in the Park 2007
BBC Radio Ulster, 7.30pm

Marie-Louise Muir sets the scene for Northern Ireland's premiere classical music event live from Carrickfergus. From 8pm Noel Thompson presents Proms in the Park with the Ulster Orchestra conducted by Kenneth Montgomery and special guests Alfie Boe (tenor), Alison Balsom (trumpet) Giselle Allen (soprano), Dermot Dunne (Accordion), Beoga (traditional Irish group), Richard Sterritt (Lambeg Drum) and the Carrickfergus Community Schools' Community Choir.



BBC Proms in the Park's Northern Ireland presenter Noel Thompson with the Ulster Orchestra's Paul Young at Carrickfergus Castle

Sunday, September 9

Bright Sparks
BBC TWO Northern Ireland, 7pm (repeated on Thursday, 13 September on BBC TWO Northern Ireland at 7.30pm)

Set in a gothic castle laboratory, presenter Joe Lindsay and Professor Noel Sharkey challenge two school teams of Bright Sparks to come up with an innovative creation or robotic invention against the sands of time. In the first programme Dalriada Grammar and Portadown College go head to head to create a robot dishwasher in The Professor's spectacular castle laboratory. His Apprentice, Joe Lindsay endures being struck by lightning!



Presenter Joe Lindsay with Professor Noel Sharkey at Castle Bright Sparks

Sunday, September 9

The Flight Of The Earls
BBC ONE Northern Ireland, 10.20pm



BBC Northern Ireland tells the definitive television account of one of the most important episodes in Irish history. The sudden departure of the Gaelic leaders in September 1607 signified the success of England's conquest of Ireland and the end of Gaelic rule, and cleared the way for the Plantation of Ulster. It is a story of war, political intrigue, passion and greed which still has repercussions today.

Presented by Antaine Ó Donnaile, the first programme of three looks at the violent events which led to the Flight, in particular the Battle of the Yellow Ford in Armagh in 1598, which almost ended English rule and which made the Irish leaders the toast of Catholic Europe. Also, viewers with digital television can watch the programme in either English or in Irish, merely by pushing the red button on their remote.

Lobby Lives
BBC TWO Northern Ireland, 7.30pm



Get a taste of life behind the scenes at one of the worlds' most famous hotels The Europa. Join General Manager James Maginn and the staff as they embark on the busiest day of the Christmas rush; "Black Friday". Nerves fray as the band booked for tonight's big Christmas party sound dreadful in rehearsals.



General Manger, James Maginn in the kitchens of the Europa Hotel in Belfast

Sunday, September 9

A Love Divided

BBC TWO Northern Ireland, 9pm

County Wexford, Ireland, 1957. Sean and Sheila Cloney's mixed marriage (he is a Catholic, she is a Protestant) is tested when a domestic quarrel about what school their daughter should be sent to ends up polarizing their community along sectarian lines, eventually leading to violence.

Sunday, September 9

From The Archives - Speaking Personally

BBC Radio Ulster, 4.30pm

During the 1970s BBC Radio Ulster broadcast several series with the title Speaking Personally in which people from all walks of life talked about their lives and their musical preferences. Over three decades later, Walter Love has selected some of these for a second hearing, and a chance to hear again some of the interviewees who were involved in radio at that time. This week MARY PETERS interviewed by Nick Ross in a programme first broadcast in 1971.



Walter Love has selected some programmes for a second hearing on BBC Radio Ulster

Monday, September 10

Thinking Big

BBC ONE Northern Ireland, 10.35pm

When Saddam Hussein's family searched the world for the best lawyers prepared to defend the Iraqi dictator, they were told to hire a brilliant young lawyer from Derry. Desmond Doherty didn't tell his family or friends about his infamous client but went about his work with the type of tenacity and attention to detail that has built him a worldwide reputation. In this documentary, he speaks for the first time about defending a despot and some of the other cases he's involved in, including Bloody Sunday and the Omagh bomb.



Des Doherty's life and success are in the spotlight this week on BBC ONE Northern Ireland.

The Next Level

BBC TWO Northern Ireland, 11.30am

R

A year in the lives of five family businesses - the triumphs, the tribulations, the successes and the disappointments. This week, we follow Mike and Nikki McQuillan as they attempt to open seven more franchises of their caf  chain The Streat in just twelve months.



Mike and Nikki McQuillan in one of their franchises of The Streat

Wednesday, September 12

Mission Employable
BBC ONE Northern Ireland, 10.40pm

The gloves are off as our five long-term unemployed are pushed out of their comfort zones when Stephen Nolan and the two experts begin the process of addressing the issues revealed so far.



Des Doherty's life and success are in the spotlight this week on BBC ONE Northern Ireland.

Fiche Lá Ag Fás/Twenty Days
BBC TWO Northern Ireland, 7pm

Fiche Lá Ag Fás

Sraith ceithre-pháirt ar Choláiste Bhríde, Rann na Feirste. Léireofar eispéireas na scoláirí, scéal na múinteoirí agus scéal bhunadh na háite.

Twenty Days A-Growing

A four-part series on Rannafast Irish College in Donegal following students through an important rite-of-passage. Teenagers learn about the Gaeltacht and about themselves.

Seanchai

BBC TWO Northern Ireland, 7.30pm



A supernatural drama series, each week featuring a different tale, narrated in Irish with English subtitles. Adam has come to Northern Ireland from Poland to pick apples. He thinks he has landed on his feet when he is offered a job by the beautiful and mysterious Eibhlínn. But nothing is what it seems at Eibhlínn's orchard, and Adam soon begins to realise that with every apple he picks, he is in greater and greater danger.

Thursday, September 13

Let's Talk
BBC ONE Northern Ireland, 10.35pm

Mark Carruthers presents the audience driven programme which tackles the big issues - and the big names - in Northern Ireland.



Mark Carruthers will be presenting Let's Talk on BBC ONE Northern Ireland

Friday, September 14

Lobby Lives
BBC ONE Northern Ireland, 8.30pm

Get a taste of life behind the scenes at one of the worlds' most famous hotels The Europa. Christmas is approaching but festive good will is put to the test by the heavy workload. Functions manager Gerardo falls out with the serving staff and General Manager James feels the pressure when hosting lunch on Christmas Day.

Na Dódaí Me and You
BBC TWO Northern Ireland, 11.45am

Na Dódaí say 'Hello' and our four characters introduce themselves. We meet Nóra, the oldest sister who loves to read stories every day. Then come the twins, Ruairí and Róise who are great friends and never fight! Ruairí is a good dancer and his twin sister loves to sing. The youngest member of the household is Naoise and he loves just about everything.



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