



Fireworks to ensure Euro parties start with a bang

Paul Melia

CELEBRATIONS marking the accession of 10 new states to the European Union will kick off in earnest tomorrow night with a huge fireworks display on Sandymount Strand in Dublin.

The display, which thousands of spectators are expected to attend, will begin at 9.15pm tomorrow. But the celebrations aren't limited to the capital.

Letterkenny will host An Fidil, a music concert featuring Irish and Polish musicians, while the Last

Concert of Old Europe will take place in Galway with the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra.

On Saturday, Merrion Square in Dublin will host a European Fair, transforming the city centre into a colourful bazaar.

Onlookers can expect to see moving Rembrandt masterpieces, Austrian thigh-slappers, Romanian street theatre and the rascally old Mr Punch in a traditional Punch and Judy show.

Children's spot prizes will also be given out by former D'Unbe-

lievables' star Jon Kenny.

Vectorial Elevation, the world's largest interactive art project on O'Connell Street, continues over the weekend, allowing people to design their own light sculptures over Dublin's sky.

People can design their own installations at www.dublinelevation.net.

Waterford, which hosts Malta, will see a European Fair on Saturday along with the Kilkenny Gospel Choir and cellists Nerys and Llinos Richards at Christchurch Cathedral.

Cork, which hosts Slovakia, will see the Crux dance theatre animate Brown Thomas's shop window with an installation inspired by the flag of Slovakia.

King John's Castle in Limerick will welcome Slovenia with a day-long music festival, while Drogheda will host Latvia as the Calipo theatre company devises, rehearses and performs a new multimedia theatre piece – all in the space of one day.

In Sligo, host town to Hungary, the acclaimed Blue Raincoat theatre company in conjunction with

Dawn Syndrome Ireland will present an adaptation of the Hungarian Folk Tale Kiral Jis Miklosa (The King's Little Michael).

Killarney will host the Parade of Colour, inspired by the symbols and imagery of Ireland and the Czech Republic, with street-theatre group Bui Bolg.

Bray, Co Wicklow, will welcome Cyprus with a sea-front carnival while Kilkenny will hear music from Sutaras, internationally-acclaimed Lithuanian folk musicians, who will provide a lively conclusion to the European Fair.