

## “The Most Dangerous Woman in America”

Mary Harris was born in Cork at the end of July 1837 and was baptised at 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 dress making 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.

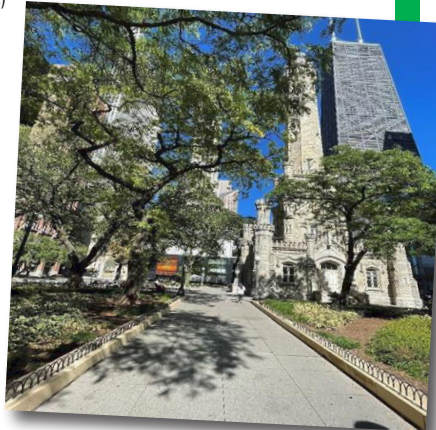
Mary organised the ‘March of the Mill Children’ in 1903, which highlighted the exploitation of young children in the mines, mills and factories of America. Now known throughout North America as simply Mother Jones, she was present at the launch of the IWW union in 1905. In subsequent years, Mother Jones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

During the brutal mines 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. An Irish flag from Shandon was recently flown over her grave. Her spirit remains alive and active wherever in the world there is a fight for labour and social justice.

There are now annual festivals to honour Mother Jones in Mt. Olive in Illinois, Chicago and Cork, each year. The City Of Chicago will shortly erect a statue in her honour. Cork City Council has officially designated August 1st as Mother Jones Day in Cork City. Cork has become recognised everywhere as the birthplace of this inspirational woman.



Mt Olive: Irish flag flies over grave of Mother Jones  
(Photo: James Goltz)



Statue of Mother Jones in Chicago will be erected here in 2024  
(Photo: Rosemary Feurer)



Mother Jones & President Calvin Coolidge in 1924

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.

We thank all in the Shandon Community for their cooperation.



Joan Goggin (Photo: Andy Jay)

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, and many other groups and individuals.

Our sponsors and supporters for 2023 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.



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

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# Shandon Cork SPIRIT OF MOTHER JONES FESTIVAL 2023

THUR 27<sup>th</sup> to SAT 29<sup>th</sup> JULY



By kind permission of artist Lindsay Hand and Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago where the original portrait is on display

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)

# A Decade of 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



# Festival Programme 2023

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

- 11:00 a.m. **F** *Salt of the Earth* (1954)  
Written by **Michael Wilson**  
Directed by **Herbert J Biberman**  
Produced by **Paul Jarrico**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 1:00 p.m. Official festival opening by the **Lord Mayor of Cork**  
Recital by the **Cork Ukrainian Choir**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 2:30 p.m. **L** **Mavis Ramazani**  
"Life and Challenges in Ireland"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 4:00 p.m. **L** **Mick Lynch**  
General Secretary of the RMT trade union  
"The Role of Trade Unions"  
Dance Cork Firkin Crane
- 7:15 p.m. **L** **Anne Twomey**  
"Pathways to Freedom: The Life and Times of Margaret Buckley and the Conlon Sisters"
- L** **Liz Gillis**  
"She Carried Out All the Duties Given to Her in a Most Efficient Manner:  
Women in the Irish Revolution"  
Dance Cork Firkin Crane
- 9.30 p.m. **M** **Cork Singers' Club**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon

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

## Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July

- 10:30 a.m. **L** **Niamh Guiry**  
"Conservation Insights from Brehon Law: Exploring Ireland's Ancient Tree Considerations"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 11:30 a.m. **L** **Eoghan Daltun**  
"An Irish Atlantic Rainforest, A personal Journey into the Magic of Rewilding"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 1:00 p.m. **M** **Jimmy Crowley** accompanied by **Eve Telford**  
Music at the Maldron
- 2:30 p.m. **F** Documentary by **Kaiulani Lee**  
*A Sense of Wonder*  
The warnings of Rachel Carson, Mother of the Environmental Movement  
Introduced by **Ger Mullally**  
followed by discussion  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 4.15 p.m. **F** **Frameworks Films**  
*Mother Jones and Her Children*  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- F** A documentary by **Rosemary Feurer**  
*Mother Jones: America's Most Dangerous Woman*  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 7:00 p.m. **L** **Mary Crilly**  
"40 years of the Cork Sexual Violence Centre"  
Dance Cork Firkin Crane
- 9:00 p.m. **M** **Victor Jara (1932-1973)**  
A tribute to Chilean singer songwriter on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 9:30 p.m. **M** **Songs of Protest: The Folk Music Revival**  
With **John Nyhan & Friends**  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July

- 9:30 a.m. **W** **Peter Foynes** of the Cork Butter Museum  
Walk through the historic birthplace of Mary Harris  
Meet at the Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 11.00am **F** A documentary by **Aurēlio Michiles** (Brazil 2020)  
*Secrets From Putumayo*  
Roger Casement investigates human rights abuses in the rubber extraction industry in Peru.  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 2:00 p.m. **L** **Luke Dineen**  
"The Cork General Lockout of 1909"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 3:15 p.m. **L** **Pat Murphy**  
"The Banshee's Kiss: William O'Brien MP & the All for Ireland League in Cork, 1910 – 1918"  
Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 4:30 p.m. **W** **Maggie O'Neill**  
A Feminist Walking Tour of Cork City  
Meet at the Maldron Hotel, Shandon
- 6:00 p.m. **M** Plaque event including songs with Cork singer and songwriter **Martin Leahy**  
*Everyone Should Have a Home*  
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

