

# Into the Circle Theatre

presents

## *Stars, Stones, and Shadows:*

## *A Heroine's Tale*

### Show Program



Artist Credit: [Devyn Sharpe, Sharpe Illusions](#)

The beauty of mythology and the art of storytelling is it can be poetry and prophecy in motion. Saoirse's story blends time, space, and realms. Where the past meets the present; and the physical, spiritual, celestial twirl together. In this tale, some of Éire's (Ireland's) most prolific goddesses offer insights into the human experience and the wisdom that rests within our bodies and spirits.

Thank you for choosing to share your time in this theatrical gathering of community. Your presence means the world.

Míle Buíochas / A thousand thanks,

Erica

### *A Note from ITCT's Creative Visionary*

Céad Míle Fálite / A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!

The voice and presence of the divine feminine is vital during our time. At its energetic resonance, the divine feminine essence is within and accessible to all of us. Divine feminine wisdom being: the life force energy that (when in balance) encourages us to be: intuitive, creative, open, emotionally attuned, expressive, relational, intimate, nurturing, allowing, accommodating, and so forth.

She is intuitive and instinctive. She is primal and primordial. She is the Great Mother in all her forms.

Inspired to share one woman's journey towards remembering her connection to the Great Mothers and her embodied divine femininity, *Stars, Stones, and Shadows: A Heroine's Tale* is a weaving of personal knowings, Irish mythology, sprinkled with a spark of illuminative wisdom of Maureen Murdock.



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## Stars, Stones, and Shadows: A Heroine's Tale

### Show Program

#### An Introduction to the Irish Goddesses

*The mythology and folklore of these great beings is vast and varying.*

*May this serve an initial introduction into the beautifully complex beingness of the goddesses shared within Saoirse's story.*



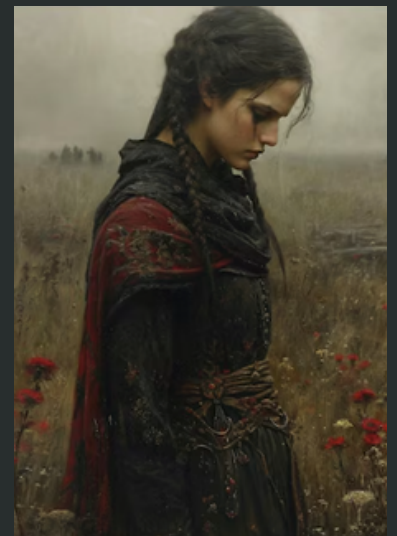
Artist Credit: [GoddessesWallArt](#)

#### Macha

Macha is both sovereignty goddess and queen. In one tale, she's said to have placed a nine-year curse on the men of Ulster - who would later experience the pangs of labour in the heat of battle. In another, she is said to have wittingly defended her crown and throne with the strength of her mind and sword. While in others, she's said to be a divine counterpart of the triple goddess of war. All of these stories have resonance with the Macha you will meet today. However, when I asked what her message or offering was for this particular story, I received: 'Macha the Mighty Mother'. Within Saoirse's journey, she is a guide to trusting the wisdom of her physical body - and how that connects to her spirit.

#### The Morrígan

In Irish mythology, The Morrígan is a fierce warrior goddess; The Phantom Queen. Sometimes she flies solo; in others she's a powerful goddess known in the presence of three. In some tales, she's known for her magical shape shifting abilities - as crow, cow, eel, beautiful maiden, or crone. In others, she's known as a prophetic of death - appearing as a washerwoman by a river. Known to bring change, destruction, and initiations of death and rebirth, we see some of these aspects within our gathering today. However, when I asked what her message or offering was for this particular story, I received: 'Let it crumble; to make space for the new.' Within Saoirse's journey, the Morrígan is a guide to trusting the wisdom held beneath her rage. By giving herself permission to feel all the pain and anger that resides within her rage, Saoirse creates space to grieve.



Artist Credit: [GoddessesWallArt](#)



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Artist Credit: [GoddessWallArt](#)

#### **Brigid**

Brigid is often known as the goddess of the midwives, poets, and metal smithing. Her connection to creativity often associates her with the fires *imbas forosnai* (inspiration that illuminates). One tale shares, that after her son (Ruadhán) dies in battle, it is said Brigid's keen was the first wails of grief to be heard across Ireland. A sturdy presence within the waves of grief is the Brigid we will receive a glimpse of today. When asked what her message or offering was for this story, I received: 'To grieve and be birthed anew.' Within this journey, Brigid offers Saoirse the invitation to allow her grief to flow.

#### **The Cailleach Béare**

The Cailleach Béare is said to be as old as the land of Éire - some tales say that Ireland was created by stones falling out of her apron. Known as the crone or hag, she is often associated with water, storms, winter, and Samhain (the marking of the Celtic New Year and rooted in modern North American Halloween traditions). She is a magical, wise, larger than life primordial being with shapeshifting abilities - as she-wolf or beautiful maiden. Within Saoirse's journey, the Cailleach walks alongside Saoirse during the emotional terrain of her life and the initiations of her divine remembering.



Artist Credit: [Vera Bugatti](#)

