



**An Beal Bocht Cafe, 445 W. 238 St., Riverdale**  
"The name means 'the poor mouth'—complaining about things, saying you've got no money. In Ireland, that means, you have a poor mouth on you. You're always begging. This is a restaurant/bar/theater all in one. Go there on Fridays and see Mary Courtney. She's my sister from another mother. A great singer."

**1 The Irish Hunger Memorial, 290 Vesey St., at North End Avenue**

"It's a really beautiful spot, usually kind of deserted. What I love about it is that they took flowers, plants and even weeds from Ireland, so that weeds I grew up with are growing in there. It's also a great place just to go and contemplate, because it's usually very quiet, and it has one of the best views of New York Harbor."



Jonathan Backen

**2 The corner of the Bowery and Grand Street**

"That's the edge of the old Five Points area. The Five Points was world famous, because all sorts of squalor, riotousness, drinking and music took place there. Most of it has been knocked down, but you can still get a feel for it. I go to that particular corner because if you look down the Bowery, you see where the great American songwriter Stephen Foster lived in the last years of his life. He walked those very streets."

**The Irish Riviera, Rockaway Beach and Breezy Point**

"So many Irish people live there that they call it the Irish Riviera. That was a derogatory term from the non-Irish. You've got the sea breezes out there, so it stays cool at night so people could sleep. That's why they went out there. We call it the Republic of Rockaway, because they got their own way of thinking out there. When I first played there, I couldn't get over how Irish the people seemed, but they were Irish almost from a different century. It's probably the most Irish part of New York."

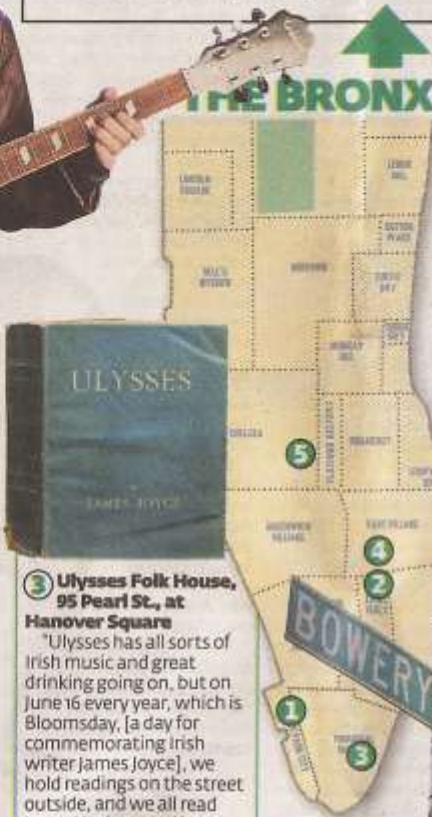
Anthony J. Causi

**BLACK 47'S  
LARRY  
KIRWAN**

**BLACK 47** has been one of New York's leading Irish rock bands for more than 20 years, and since arriving

here from County Wexford in the mid '70s, founder and singer Larry Kirwan has experienced every aspect of our ever-changing metropolis. "I used to live on Avenue B and Third Street when it was the center of heroin dealing in New York," says Kirwan, whose band plays an all-ages show at B.B. King's on St. Patrick's Day. "The junkies would be lined up outside my door, and the minders would beat them [away] to let you in the door. It was crazy."

Now and for the past 23 years a resident of SoHo, Kirwan, an Irish history aficionado, says there's no better place to revel in the rich history of his homeland than NYC. "Because of the mass immigration between 1845 and 1852, it became an Irish town almost overnight. You can throw a stone and [hit] Irish or Irish-American history around New York City." This is Kirwan's Irish New York. — LARRY GETLEN



**3 Ulysses Folk House, 95 Pearl St., at Hanover Square**

"Ulysses has all sorts of Irish music and great drinking going on, but on June 16 every year, which is Bloomsday, [a day for commemorating Irish writer James Joyce], we hold readings on the street outside, and we all read Joyce. We just read it on the street with a PA, and people come in from work and they hear Joyce and they stop and think, what the hell is this?"

**4 St. Patrick's Old Cathedral, 263 Mulberry St., at Prince Street**

"That was the first St. Patrick's Cathedral. It was built by the Irish. The most famous bishop there was Dagger John Hughes. He was [New York's first archbishop] and he wore a cross that looked like a dagger. He was in charge of the church during the famine arrival. The Know Nothing Party didn't want Irish immigrants, and they threatened to burn down Dagger John's church. So he sent word to the titans of Wall Street that if one match was lit near the church, he would not be responsible for Wall Street burning the next day. After that, there were no more attacks on St. Patrick's."

**5 Irish Repertory Theatre, 132 W. 22nd St., between Sixth and Seventh avenues**

"It has such a high standard that you don't have to know what's going on there—just go. They're doing Eugene O'Neill at the moment. 'Dancing at Lughnasa' was one of the best things I've seen there."



Carol Hoffman

**QUEENS**



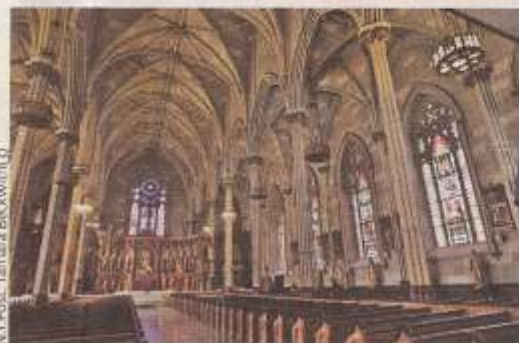
**Connolly's Bar, 155 Beach St., at 95th Street, Rockaway Beach**

"It's this little beach bar. The owners used to see Black 47 in Manhattan and they invited us out, and we used to play there in the summertime. It's a real fun place."

**BROOKLYN**

**Rocky Sullivan's, 34 Van Dyke St., Red Hook, Brooklyn**

"This pub moved out there from Lexington Avenue. It's right on the water, and it has that Irish waterfront feel. They have music there a couple of nights a week and over the weekend. There's a band, friends of mine called Seanchai, there every Saturday night. They're Irish hip-hop, a mixture of hip-hop and Irish traditional. It's a thing unto itself."



NY Post: Tamara Beckwith/©