

TAKING THE MYTH

If Damien Hirst was the artist whose work defined the Cool Britannia era, then Rankin was its photographer-in-residence; now these old mates have collaborated on a project entitled *Myths, Monsters and Legends*, a series of striking interpretations of the menacing beasts and ethereal bodies from myth and mythology – one of Hirst's reoccurring obsessions. Ageing *enfants terribles* always need a nubile and willing muse, and here they've found a rather glorious one in model and co-collaborator Dani Smith, whose heavily altered presence inhabits the images. Their efforts just showed in LA and London; the accompanying publication, *Myths* (Rankin Photography, £40, out now) is a must, and awaits your coffee table.

CULTURE



Indie hits, Cool Britannia and festive cheer fill DEREK O'CONNOR's December round-up.



Nothing but a Bea thing

We've already put our admiration for artist Beatrice O'Connell on the record: She's a formidable and versatile talent whose work just gets better, and better still. For her latest show, *The Flood and Other Stories*, she uses a haunting African folk tale – it involves a thirsty witch doctor denied water who proceeds to transform a village (save a single, sympathetic soul) into crocodiles – to engage with issues of social and gender history, not to mention individual kindnesses and societal greed. Densely metaphorical as this work might be, it's still more than possible to engage with O'Connell's work at face value. She's a great painter. At IMOCA, Pembroke Row, Lad Lane, Dublin, until November 28.

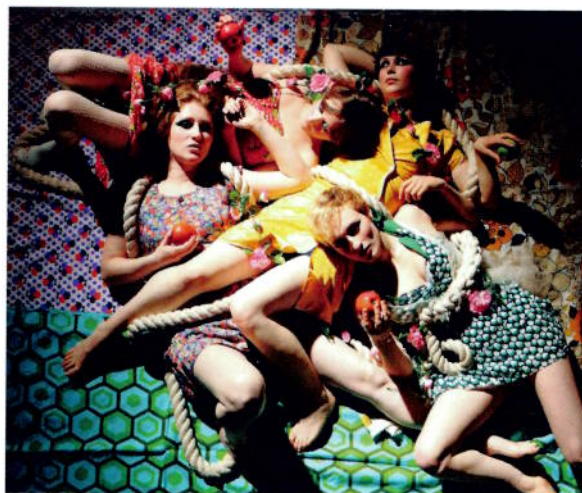
PANTO MANIA

Dublin is the centre of the panto-verse: the Gaiety presents Samantha Mumba in *Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates* (December 4 – January 29), The Olympia offers up *Jedward and the Beanstalk* (December 21 – January 8) and The Tivoli's *Sleeping Beauty* (December 14 – January 16) stars Alan "Sammy Sausages" Hughes and Georgia Salpa. Let the season begin.

FEATURED ARTIST

Aoife Spillane-Hinks

Two years ago, director Aoife Spillane-Hinks and actress Maeve Fitzgerald began planning a project together. In September, that project, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, wowed the 2011 ABSOLUT Fringe. Earlier this year, US-born (but firmly Irish rooted) Spillane-Hinks helmed an acclaimed *Hamlet* for a national tour via Second Age; her credits include stints with The Gate and Rough Magic. She's young. She's talented. And she's going places. Fast.



HOUSE OF FUND

Fund It is one of the Irish arts success stories of 2011, an online crowd-funding initiative that lets artists pitch stuff: shows, films, books, whatever. You like, you invest, with cool incentives for those persuaded to take a punt. So far dozens of cool projects have been realised, such as ABSOLUT Fringe sensations Paper Dolls, left. Go to www.fundit.ie and get in touch with your inner Medici.