

**Cúirt  
Forty** *is*

**The 40th  
Cúirt International  
Festival of Literature  
8-13 April 2025**



**T**here are stories, of course—stories that circulate, stories that shift and fragment with each telling, and as a home to stories, the tales of our own origins are themselves kaleidoscopic. Amidst the details of the room, the names, and the reasons that Cúirt was founded 40 years ago, there are some unmoving details. Cúirt was founded in 1985, and was initially held as a three-day international poetry festival in Galway. It has since evolved into a week-long programme of events celebrating a mix of literary arts across the city's favourite venues. With readings, lectures, discussions, launches, and workshops, Cúirt has welcomed thousands of guests, as well as Irish and international writers of exceptional talent. The festival, since its conception, has ushered in 40 Galway springs with a celebration of literature.

In those 40 years, the magic of Cúirt has been found in the warmly remembered moments that make up our own stories. The hushed conversations in the corners of a crowded room, a chance encounter with a stranger's words, the thrum of connection that hangs in the air long after the last speaker has left the stage.

With the history of Cúirt only as rich as the lives that wander in and out each April, this year, to mark its 40th anniversary, we invite you to continue to tell the story with us. We're celebrating 40 years of Cúirt with special archival projects and programming.

Join us at Nuns Island Theatre, where it all began to tell your Cúirt tale at *Capturing Cúirt: 40 Years of Stories*, every day at 4pm, hosted by Moth and Butterfly.



**H**ello, and welcome to Cúirt International Festival of Literature 2025. In putting together this year's programme, I've been combing through our archives to find inspiration in the festival's long history. What I found was an abundance, and a celebration, of literature—and I hope this year's festival will reflect that, with each day centred around moments of celebration.

There'll be celebrations of poetry, and to honour our origins as a poetry festival, we kick off the week with a special reading by Paul Muldoon. Throughout the week you'll find poets across the city, in The Mick Lally, Nuns Island, Charlie Byrne's Bookshop, and An Taibhdhearc.

We'll be celebrating all of our authors and their books this year, and we're delighted to welcome some of the Irish writers who have sustained us over those years to reflect on their own careers, including Anne Enright, Roddy Doyle, Sally Rooney, Donal Ryan, and many more.

To celebrate our history, we've invited poet Christodoulos Makris into our archive for a poetic intervention, which you'll find scattered throughout the city. And we're bringing back the much-loved Cúirt Lecture on Saturday with Ahmed Masoud talking about the literature of Palestine.

We're celebrating the wonderful city of Galway, which is, as we all know, a literary city, brimming with words, and this year we're working with many of our local organisations and writers to host showcases of new writing. And don't miss *Capturing Cúirt: 40 Years of Stories*, where you can come, share—and hear—all the scandalous, the mischievous, and the heartwarming tales, to celebrate you, our audience.

Whether this is your first Cúirt, or you've been to every one, we hope to see you every April for years to come.

*Manuela Moser, Festival Director*



Cúirt is 40. So what? Allow this quadragenarian to share five reasons we're fabulous at forty:

1. Cúirt was born in 1985 as a three-day poetry festival. 40 years later we celebrate literature in all its diversity throughout the week. Flick through to find your favourite genre or come and read outside your comfort zone.
2. The arts scene exploded in 1980s Galway when Cúirt was born. Right now, the West of Ireland is experiencing an explosion of remarkable writing. Hear and learn from today's great Irish writers and discover new talent in this year's eclectic programme.
3. From day one, the festival has been international and multilingual. We welcome the cream of global poetry and writing to Galway again this anniversary year. To mark the occasion, Cúirt 40 shines a special spotlight on literature in translation.

4. Above all else, Cúirt's birthday is a tribute to the inspirational people who imagined and sustained it over four decades. Since our last festival, we sadly lost Fred Johnston, Ronnie O'Gorman and Gerald Dawe who were with Cúirt from the beginning. Let's treasure their memory and make new ones in this landmark year.

5. Cúirt kick-starts festival season in our festival city. It's time to meet other bookworms and share what we've read, sometimes by candlelight, since last we met. Every 40th birthday demands a celebration! Our brilliant Festival Director and her energetic team can't wait to welcome you.

Breithlá sona dúinn. Fun really does begin at forty!

*John Caulfield, Chair of Galway Arts Centre Board*

## Cúirt Team

2025

### **Director**

Manuela Moser

### **Authors and**

### **Outreach**

### **Coordinator**

Rita McMahon

### **Marketing Officer**

Meredith Davis

### **Festival**

### **Administrator**

Fernanda Ortega

### **Administrative**

### **Assistant and**

### **Volunteer**

### **Coordinator**

Mags Mullen-Hughes

### **Design**

Stephen Connolly

### **Festival Interns**

Marta Ricart

Neža Kokol

### **PR**

Cormac Kinsella

### **Photography**

Emilija Jefremova

### **Advisory Panel**

Eva Bourke

John Caulfield

Elaine Feeney

Molly Hennigan

Paul Maddern

Mèadh McDonnell

John Patrick McHugh

Padraig Regan

Eimear Ryan

Lorna Shaughnessy

## Galway Arts

## Centre Team

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Megs Morley

### **General Manager**

Tara O'Connor

### **Galway Youth**

### **Theatre Director**

Andrew Flynn

### **Finance Manager**

Karen Quinn

### **Front of House**

### **Manager**

Siobhán Singleton

### **CE Supervisor**

Derval Byrne

### **Board of directors**

John Caulfield

Mike O'Halloran

Alannah Robins

Sarah Lynch

Sarah Searson

Eithne Verling

Gavin Murphy

Kris O'Shea

## Booking

## Information

### **How to book**

Book tickets online at [cuirt.ie](http://cuirt.ie) or [tht.ie](http://tht.ie)

Tickets can also be purchased from the Town Hall Theatre Box Office, 1 Courthouse Square, Galway, +353 (0)91 569 777. Workshop tickets available from [cuirt.ie](http://cuirt.ie).

### **Fees and Concessions**

Cúirt strives to be an accessible and enjoyable festival for everyone. We offer concession prices to senior citizens, full-time students (with appropriate ID), the unwaged, under 18s, people with disabilities and additional needs. *There is a booking fee of €1 per ticket, capped at €5 per transaction.*

### **Complimentary Tickets**

In the event that you can't afford a ticket, we hold a number of complimentary tickets per event. Please email [info@cuirt.ie](mailto:info@cuirt.ie) with 'complimentary ticket' in the subject line for more information. These tickets are allocated on a first come first served basis. This scheme is designed to help audiences with limited means, and we hope it will give more people the opportunity to enjoy the festival. If you can afford our standard ticket price, we ask that you opt to pay it. This means we can continue to offer these benefits to those who need it most.



**The Opening Chapter:**

**Paul Muldoon and Sally Rooney**

TUE 8 APRIL | 20:00 | ONE HOUR | €18/22

*Town Hall Theatre*

Join us as we begin the 40th Cúirt International Festival of Literature with readings from Sally Rooney and Paul Muldoon in a very special opening event.

Paul Muldoon, the current Ireland Professor of Poetry, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was awarded the 1994 T.S. Eliot Prize and the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. In his trailblazing career spanning over 50 years, he has been described as ‘the most significant English-language poet born since the Second World War.’



Sally Rooney is the widely acclaimed author of four novels, her most recent being *Intermezzo* (Faber & Faber, 2024). Her work has achieved both critical and commercial success, and she is heralded as ‘the voice of a generation.’

Come along for a brilliant evening with two of the most significant figures in Irish literature today.

### **New Writing Showcase**

WED 9 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED  
*Nuns Island Theatre*

Selected emerging writers from the Over the Edge Literary Series and Skylight 47/ Open Window will share their new work, alongside the 2025 winners of the annual Cúirt New Writing Prize.



### **Debut Fiction:**

#### **Garrett Carr and Roisín O'Donnell**

WED 9 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

Garrett Carr's *The Boy from the Sea* is the coming-of-age story of a young boy in a tight-knit fishing town. Told over two decades, this is an intimate but vivid portrayal of a family's trials and triumphs and the restless boy at the centre of it all.

Roisín O'Donnell's *Nesting* is a gripping, deeply emotional story, following a mother as she escapes coercive partner control and navigates the difficulties of the broken housing system in Dublin.

### **Capturing Cúirt:**

#### **40 Years of Stories**

DAILY | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | PAY WHAT YOU CAN

*Nuns Island Theatre*

Come along and share your stories of Cúirt, and all things literary each day of the festival in Nuns Island Theatre, where it all began. Join storytelling collective Moth & Butterfly, along with special guests, to hear and share all the scandalous, poetic, mischievous, and magical, and help us to capture Cúirt.





**Seán Hewitt:**

**Open, Heaven**

WED 9 APRIL | 17:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*Kenny's Bookshop*

Join us at Kenny's Bookshop for the launch of the debut novel from the acclaimed Irish poet Seán Hewitt, in conversation with Victoria Kennefick.

*Open, Heaven* is a novel about desire, identity, and the transformative power of first love. Set in a northern English village, it follows James, a shy teen grappling with his sexuality, and Luke, a troubled boy with a dangerous charm. Together, they navigate longing, vulnerability, and self-discovery.

**The Cúirt Poetry Sessions**  
**in association with Poetry Ireland**

WED 9 APRIL | 18:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

*Charlie Byrne's Bookshop*

Join us for an evening of poetry featuring the first two authors published by Macha Press, a new publisher dedicated to marginal, experimental, and interdisciplinary works. Eilish Martin's third collection, titled *! All'arme/? And what... if not*, is composed of two experimental poetic works and designed as a 'head-to-tail' book which can be read from either end. Sam Furlong is a writer from Dublin. Their first book *Crowd Work* (forthcoming in May 2025) showcases a new voice on the Irish poetry scene.



**Maurice J. Casey:**

**Hotel Lux**

WED 9 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €14/16

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

*Hotel Lux* is Irish historian Maurice J. Casey's debut. An exploration of Irish and queer history with a keen interest in how twentieth century revolutionaries navigated day-to-day life.

Maurice follows Irish radical May O'Callaghan and a group of revolutionaries in 1920s Moscow, who were brought together by their vision for a communist future. Join us as he delves into the multi-generational story of a group of forgotten communist activists culminating in a queer love story. The illuminating history of *Hotel Lux* looks as much into the past as it does into the future.



**Sally Rooney and John Patrick McHugh  
in Conversation**

WED 9 APRIL | 20:30 | ONE HOUR | €18/22

*Town Hall Theatre*

Sally Rooney, one of the most defining voices in contemporary literature, is known for her precise, emotionally charged prose and her ability to capture the push and pull of modern relationships. From *Conversations with Friends* to last year's *Intermezzo*, her novels trace the fault lines between intellect and feeling, between self-sufficiency and the longing to be understood. Her characters orbit one another—drawn in, repelled, circling back—while Rooney's cool, meticulous narration lays bare their inner lives with an almost surgical clarity.

John Patrick McHugh, hailed for his evocative and deeply atmospheric storytelling, writes with a lyricism that feels both raw and restrained. His debut short story collection, *Pure Gold*, captures the restlessness of small-town Irish life—young men and women trapped between longing and inertia, searching for meaning in places that seem to resist it. His debut novel *Fun and Games* builds on these themes, turning its gaze towards the fluidity of memory, the weight of the past, and the complicated ways people hurt and need each other.



**Arts in Action: Poetry Reading**  
**with Áine Ní Ghlinn and Moya Roddy**

THU 10 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED  
*Bank of Ireland Theatre*

Join award-winning poet and author Áine Ní Ghlinn for a special reading from her collected poems, with English translations by Theo Dorgan. A recipient of multiple Oireachtas na Gaeilge literary prizes and the Patrick Kavanagh Fellowship, she writes with lyrical intensity on themes of identity and resilience. A former Laureate na nÓg (2020–2023), she is a vital voice in contemporary Irish-language literature.

Buail isteach chuig léamh speisialta leis an bhfile agus scríbhneoir Áine Ní Ghlinn agus í ag léamh rogha dánta óna saothar filíochta le haistriúcháin Bhéarla le Theo Dorgan. Is iar-Laureate na nÓg í (2020–2023) í agus an

chéad scríbhneoir sa ról a scríobhann i nGaeilge amháin. Is iomaí gradam atá gnóthaithe aici, ina measc Duaiseanna Liteartha Oireachtas na Gaeilge agus an Patrick Kavanagh Fellowship. Scríobhann sí le neart is le brí ar ábhair a bhaineann le féiniúlacht agus le teacht aniar. Is glór bríomhar í i litríocht chomhaimseartha na Gaeilge.

Moya Roddy has published poetry, novels and short stories and writes for film and television. Now with *The Dark Art of Darning*, her second poetry collection, she continues exploring themes of family life and the intricate layers of nostalgia and loss.

*In association with Arts in Action*



### **University of Galway MA Showcase**

THU 10 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

*Nuns Island Theatre*

Come along to a dynamic showcase of the vibrant new voices in the Galway literary landscape. Students from the University of Galway will read from various works-in-progress across fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

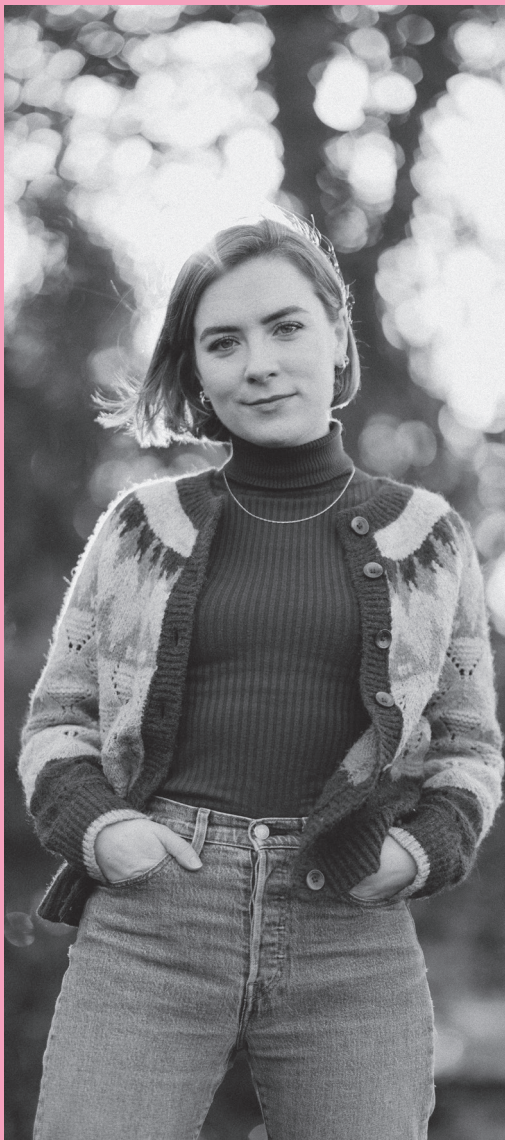
This showcase is an excellent opportunity to discover their growing talent and will be introduced by Elaine Feeney, writer and Lecturer in Creative Writing.

### **Kayo Chingonyi: *Prodigal***

THU 10 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

Acclaimed poet Kayo Chingonyi joins us to present a preview of his extraordinary memoir, *Prodigal*. After his father's death from an HIV-related illness, six-year-old Kayo was smuggled out of Zambia onto a plane bound for Newcastle. In *Prodigal* Kayo takes us on the journey of his return to Zambia 25 years later, the complicated emotions of losing both his parents, and the challenge of writing your future when you don't fully comprehend your past. This is a joyous tribute to the healing power of music, poetry and love, and a deeply moving account of how the immigrant experience is often one of filling in the gaps.



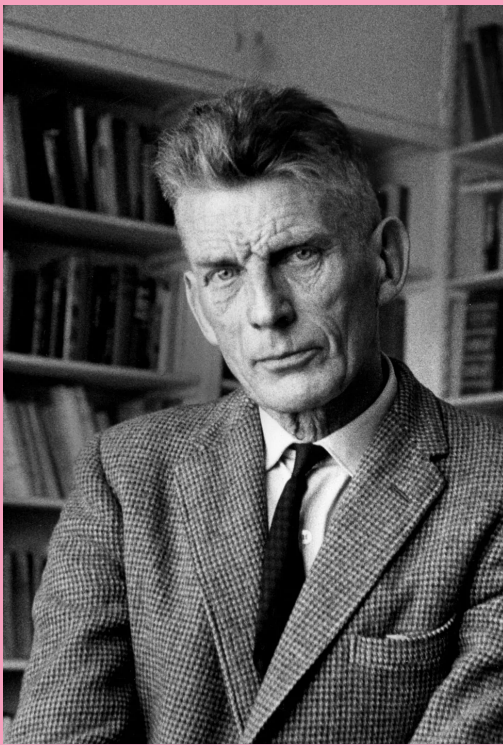
**Folding Rock:**  
**A New Welsh Literary Journal**

THU 10 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED  
*Bank of Ireland Theatre*

For many accomplished writers, literary journals are the place where they had their first opportunity to access publication. *Folding Rock* is one such endeavour: this new journal has

ambitious plans to support both emerging and established Welsh and Wales-based writers. Join us for a conversation with Kathryn Tann, Co-founder and Editorial Director of *Folding Rock*, and two of the writers featured in the publication's first issue: Sophie Mackintosh and Joshua Jones.

*In association with the Welsh Government and Arts in Action*



## Samuel Beckett's Legacies

THU 10 APRIL | 17:30 | €16/€14

*Town Hall Theatre*

Join us to celebrate the publication of three beautiful new editions of Samuel Beckett's greatest novels - *Molloy*, *Malone Dies*, and *The Unnamable* - all written in the late 1940s in the same 'frenzy of writing' that produced *Waiting for Godot*. Published this spring by Faber, these reissues feature illuminating new introductions. One of the most important writers of the twentieth century, Nobel laureate Samuel Beckett was born in Dublin and lived in France during the Second World War. His work began to achieve widespread recognition with the first production of *Waiting for Godot* in 1953. Join Cúirt and special guests to celebrate Beckett's fiction and his influence on subsequent generations of writers.

## The Cúirt Poetry Sessions in association with Poetry Ireland

THU 10 APRIL | 18:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

*Charlie Byrne's Bookshop*

Join us for an evening of poetry featuring two exciting voices based in the north of Ireland, Alanna Offield and Zara Meadows.

Alanna's debut *They Wish They Had What We Have, Kid* dives deep into her heritage as a New Mexican Chicana to offer us a collection that is introspective and full of courage and humanity.

Zara's debut pamphlet, *The End of Art*, published this February by 14 Poems, explores love, queer identities and family connections.



**Poetry Reading: Kayo Chingonyi,  
Dane Holt, Gustav Parker Hibbett**

THU 10 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

We are delighted to welcome three remarkable poets to Cúirt. Their work explores identity and its possible deconstructions with a sense of playfulness and wit.

Author of two collections, *Kumukanda* and *A Blood Condition*, Kayo Chingonyi navigates the in-between spaces of the historical and contemporary, and of life and death. In doing so he crafts a place for himself in the poetic landscape.

Dane Holt's debut collection, *Father's Father's Father*, scrutinises contemporary masculinity, community, and the legacy of grief both

personal and communal, while maintaining a sense of the humorous and absurd.

Gustav Parker Hibbett published their first collection in the summer of 2024. *High Jump as Icarus Story* draws from personal experience and myth alike, deconstructing notions of identity and crafting their own mythology while casting a new light on recognisable figures.

**Open Mic Night with The Oil Slick**

THU 10 APRIL | 8 TIL LATE | FREE

*Nuns Island Theatre*

Come down to the Nuns Island Theatre to listen, and share spoken word or poetry pieces. Try something new, perform on a new stage or find a new audience at this year's Cúirt Open Mic. Performance is not mandatory but encouraged.



## **Donal Ryan in Conversation**

THU 10 APRIL | 20:30 | ONE HOUR | €18/22

*Town Hall Theatre*

As part of our Cúirt 40 celebrations, we've invited Donal Ryan, as one of our best-loved writers, to join our reflective mood and look back on his career.

Award-winning novelist and captivating storyteller, Donal Ryan is here to explore his lyrical and emotionally resonant narratives for an illuminating conversation about his work to date, from his 2012 debut to his latest novel, *Heart, Be at Peace*.

Returning to the small town and chorus of twenty-one voices from his debut *The Spinning Heart*, in *Heart, Be at Peace*, Donal shows us how the characters' lives have expanded and

evolved in the decade following Ireland's economic collapse. With his signature insight and command of the craft, he delivers a rich portrayal of contemporary Ireland that acknowledges the influence of the past while also looking towards the future.

Donal Ryan has written seven novels, winning numerous awards including the Guardian First Book Award, the EU Prize for Literature and six Irish book awards.

*This event is sponsored by Dubray*



## **ROPES Launch**

FRI 11 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

*Nuns Island Theatre*

University of Galway's Masters of Literature and Publishing class is delighted to launch the 33rd edition of *ROPES Literary Journal* at Cúirt, featuring both established names and emerging talents. All proceeds from the 2025 edition will go to Galway Rape Crisis Centre. Find out more at [ropesliteraryjournal.com](http://ropesliteraryjournal.com).

## **Arts in Action: On Translation** **with Keith Payne and the University** **Translator in Residence**

FRI 11 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

*Bank of Ireland Theatre*

As part of the Arts in Action series, we welcome Keith Payne and the University Translator in Residence, in conversation with Lorna Shaughnessy. Literary translation allows us to experience an ever-increasing range of literary works from all around the world. Is it a tool, another art form, or something different altogether? Join Keith, the University Translator in Residence, and Lorna as they discuss the craft, the process and the business of translating.

*In association with the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Galway and Arts in Action*



## **Ali Watkins: *The Next One Is for You***

FRI 11 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

Join us at the Mick Lally Theatre as we celebrate the launch of the prize-winning reporter Ali Watkins' debut book.

*The Next One Is for You* unravels the true story of the Philadelphia Five, a group of American gun runners who helped arm the IRA at the height of the Troubles. This gripping nonfiction thriller explores America's role in the conflict, revealing how its impact is still felt today, in both the United States and Ireland.

**University of Galway Writer in Residence:  
Visual and Literary Histories of Incarceration**

FRI 11 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

*Bank of Ireland Theatre*

Join University of Galway's Arts Council writer-in-residence for 2025 Molly Hennigan and special guests as they explore both visual and literary interpretations of Irish histories of incarceration.

While this aspect of our history has been relatively well-documented in Irish writing, the panel of speakers will delve further into our visual culture of remembering, asking how the two art forms can work together to document our past.

*In association with Arts in Action*

**Threshold Journal and Literary Periodicals:  
Archives and Futures**

FRI 11 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

*University Library*

Join the University Library team as they launch a new digital online archive and exhibition of the *Threshold* journal archive with a panel discussion exploring the rich heritage and important literary story of *Threshold*, its contribution to Northern Ireland culture, and the new digital archive of the journal, its writing, and writers.



**Diachronic Bonhomie:  
A Cúirt Poetry Commission**

FRI 11 APRIL | 16:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

Responding to 40 years of Cúirt through the Festival's archival repositories, Christodoulos Makris has produced an original poem in seven sections, installed across the sites of the festival. Visit all seven of the festival venues to piece together the text of the full poem, presented as visual broadsheets and audio contributions. Join Christodoulos where he will discuss the process and thinking behind his poem, and more broadly the practice of making poetry through historical and contemporary archives, often employing text and other documentary elements directly and working beyond the page across physical and digital media.



## **Roddy Doyle in Conversation**

FRI 11 APRIL | 17:30 | ONE HOUR | €18/22

*Town Hall Theatre*

As part of our Cúirt 40 celebrations, we've invited Roddy Doyle, as one of our best-loved writers, to join our reflective mood and look back on his career.

A Friday evening with Roddy Doyle is hard to beat. Join us as he reflects on his prolific career, from his bestselling debut *The Commitments* in 1987 to last year's *The Women Behind the Door*.

Roddy Doyle's work captures the spirit, humour, and resilience of Irish, and particularly Dublin, life. His sharp wit, incisive social commentary, and deeply human stories have made him a household name, both in Ireland and around the world. He has written

novels for adults and children, short stories, plays, screenplays and memoirs, and has won numerous prizes including the PEN Ireland Award and the Booker Prize for *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*.

Last year's *The Women Behind the Door* returns to Paula Spencer, his beloved character from *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors*, for a story of mother and daughter untangling the ghosts of the past.



**The Cúirt Poetry Sessions**  
**in association with Poetry Ireland**

FRI 11 APRIL | 18:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

*Charlie Byrne's Bookshop*

Join us for an evening of poetry featuring two exciting voices published by Doire Press, Michael Dooley and Jennifer Horgan.

Michael Dooley's debut collection, *In Spring We Turned to Water*, explores nature, folklore, and memory with striking imagery and lyrical intensity. Jennifer Horgan's debut collection, *Care*, promises a poignant and hopeful exploration of human connection and our propensity towards kindness.

*Presented in association with Poetry Ireland and Doire Press*

**Poetry Reading: Mary O'Malley,**  
**Claudine Toutoungi and Charles Lang**

FRI 11 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

Join us for an evening of poetry with Mary O'Malley, Claudine Toutoungi and Charles Lang, three poets whose work delves deeply into the human experience, blending humour, insight, and vivid imagery to capture moments of connection, loss, and resilience.

Mary O'Malley's *The Shark Nursery* is her tenth collection, exploring a world shaped by lockdowns, online realities, and the animal kingdom. Drawing on Irish myth and contemporary concerns, the poems blur the lines between human, animal, and metaphysical realms, using language to confront modern perils. The collection also fuses mythic with

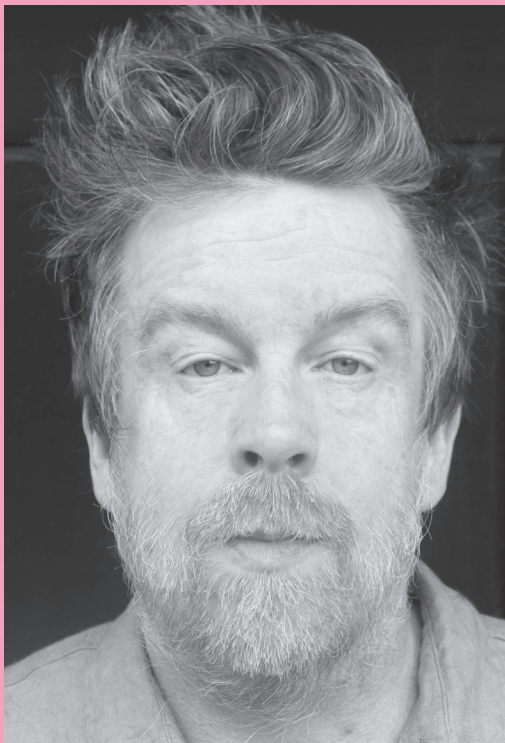


modern elements, as in the eerie, online-driven world of 'The Ballad of Googletown.' We welcome Mary's return to Cúirt after long term-involvement with the festival.

Claudine Toutoungi's latest collection, *Emotional Support Horse*, tracks the tragicomedy of grief, eco-stress, and low vision. Her poems range from the droll to the despairing, with a unique ability to uncover joy in even the darkest moments. From yearning to become a Hungarian Vizsla to exploring planetary fractures, Toutoungi's work blends wit, warmth, and solace in equal measure.



Charles Lang's debut collection, *The Oasis*, pulses with the energy of urban life, offering an unflinching exploration of identity, masculinity, class, and community. His poems move effortlessly from moments of gritty urban chaos to tender reflections, capturing beauty in both the mundane and the extraordinary.



**Kevin Barry and Eimear McBride  
in Conversation**

FRI 11 APRIL | 20:30 | ONE HOUR | €18/22  
*Town Hall Theatre*

One of the great privileges of literary festivals is hearing great writers discuss their work. We've got two here, as Kevin Barry and Eimear McBride reveal how and why they craft such unforgettable stories.

Kevin Barry, known for his deep sense of place and voice, presents *The Heart in Winter*, his highly anticipated 'western with a Cork accent'. Set in the 1890s American West, this atmospheric tale of romantic runaways combines gothic undertones with an epic feel. Described as 'terse and acrobatic' the novel is a masterful blend of beauty, humour, and adventure.

Kevin Barry has published three short story collections and three novels, including the Goldsmiths Prize-winning *Beatlebone* and the Booker-longlisted *Night Boat to Tangier*.

Eimear McBride, the trailblazing author of *A Girl Is a Half-Formed Thing* and *The Lesser Bohemians*, offers a glimpse into her new novel, *The City Changes Its Face*. An intimate and immersive story of passion and family, the book revisits the characters from *The Lesser Bohemians*, exploring the complexities of love and obsession in 1990s London. Hailed as 'a writer of remarkable power and originality' by *TLS*, McBride's work is celebrated for its groundbreaking narrative style and emotional depth.

*Sponsored by The British Library*

## The Fairy Queen

SAT 12 APRIL | 10:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

*Nuns Island Theatre*

Step into a world of magic and wonder with Chrissy Donoghue Ward, a Dublin-based poet, storyteller, and long-time activist, as she performs *The Fairy Queen*, a captivating tale rooted in the oral tradition of the Traveller community. This timeless story, filled with fairies, wicked royalty, and everyday heroes, carries a powerful message about resilience and the history of discrimination faced by the Traveller community.

*The Fairy Queen*, co-published by Little Island Books and Skein Press, is Chrissy Donoghue Ward's reimagining of the Mincéir tale of the Fairy Queen. Rich with drama, excitement, and lyrical oral storytelling, this story shines with themes of kindness and triumph, offering children a magical introduction to a vibrant cultural heritage. With beautiful illustrations and an enchanting narrative, this is a storytelling experience not to be missed!

## Kids' Storytime

SAT 12/SUN 13 APRIL | 12:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

*Charlie Byrne's Bookshop*

Hang on to your hats, Storytime has been Cúirt-ified! Come along and be part of the fun at Charlie Byrne's Bookshop weekly story time session, with author and bookseller Méabh McDonnell. These special Storytime sessions will feature the best in Irish authors and illustrators. Open to all ages.



## Young Writer Delegates Showcase

SAT 12 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

*Nuns Island Theatre*

Now in its eighth year, the Irish Writers Centre Young Writer Delegates Programme has partnered once again with Cúirt. At this showcase, the delegates will share a new piece of writing developed during the festival, MC'd by their festival mentor, Alan McMonagle.

*The Irish Writers Centre Young Writers Delegates programme is in partnership with Cúirt International Festival of Literature. The Irish Writers Centre is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland.*



**Shirley-Anne McMillan and Clara Kumagai  
in conversation with Patricia Forde**

SAT 12 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | €12/€10

*Town Hall Theatre*

Join our 2025 Cúirt Labs Writers in Residence for a discussion about their latest books, tackling issues of identity, cultural belonging, and the complexities of modern life.

Shirley Anne McMillan, Children's Writing Fellow for NI, has published four novels, most recently *Grapefruit Moon*, offering an authentic portrayal of teenagers navigating personal and societal challenges. Clara Kumagai is a Japanese-American-Irish writer whose most recent novel *Songs for Ghost* brings

fresh perspectives on belonging, family, and heritage, encouraging readers to reflect on the complexities of shaping one's identity. Shirley and Clara will be in conversation with Patricia Forde, our current Laureate na nÓg. This event will take place after our Writers in Residence have spent the week of Cúirt visiting schools and hosting events for the young readers and writers of Galway city. So come and join them, whatever your age, to hear more about their work.

*In partnership with Galway City Council*





**Salim Bachi**  
**in Conversation**

SAT 12 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €14/16

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

Join us for a captivating event with Salim Bachi, one of the most remarkable contemporary voices of Algeria writing in French. Through his acclaimed body of work, including the celebrated novel *The Silence of Mohammed*, Bachi masterfully blends historical fact with imaginative storytelling to explore themes of identity, history and mythology. *The Silence of Mohammed*, which reimagines the life of the Prophet Mohammed through the perspectives of key figures, has been praised internationally and highlights Bachi's ability to intertwine legend with literary innovation.

Salim Bachi will be in conversation with Patrick Crowley, Head of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Galway. A prominent scholar of modern and contemporary cultural production in the French-speaking world, particularly Algeria, Dr. Crowley brings a deep understanding of the cultural and historical contexts that inform Bachi's work.

*In association with the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Galway*



**The Irish Writers Centre presents:**  
**Fiction for Beginners – a Creative Writing**  
**Seminar with Alan McMonagle**

SAT 12 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | €5  
*O'Donoghue Centre*

A one-hour fiction-writing taster seminar with writer Alan McMonagle. Alan will take you through a range of techniques for getting started with your writing practice; you will look at openings, voice, character, dialogue, point-of-view, setting and plot, along with ideas about structuring your work, and some takeaway writing prompts. Suitable for beginner writers and those looking for a refresher.

*In association with the Irish Writers Centre. With thanks to Arts in Action*

**The Cúirt Lecture with Ahmed Masoud**  
**The Literature of Resistance**

**Sumud:**

SAT 12 APRIL | 17:30 | ONE HOUR | €16/14  
*Town Hall Theatre*

Modern Palestinian literature has been described as the 'Literature of Resistance', a set of works designed specifically to challenge the Israeli occupation and its colonial stereotypes. For author Ahmed Masoud who grew up in Gaza, Palestine, literature provided people with Sumud (resilience) to allow them to endure years of harsh reality. Poetry, for instance, became the comforting therapeutic medium of writing cocooning writers and readers with the hope needed to survive. In this lecture, Masoud will discuss this form of literature and how Gaza has been over the centuries a literary hub for the entire region.



### **Tolka Journal: Irish non-fiction**

SAT 12 APRIL | 18:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

*Charlie Byrne's Bookshop*

*Tolka* is Ireland's leading literary journal showcasing a wide variety of non-fiction, from essays to travel writing and autofiction. Join two of their contributors, Declan Toohey and

Brenda Romero, as they read excerpts from the journal and discuss their distinctive styles and unique approaches to writing non-fiction with Molly Hennigan. Declan's debut novel *Perpetual Comedown* is an imaginative and formally playful work. Brenda is a BAFTA-winning game designer and has published her writing in many literary journals.



**Poetry Reading: Denise Riley,**  
**Richard Scott and Oluwaseun Olayiwola**

SAT 12 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

We are delighted to welcome these three brilliant poets to the stage.

Denise Riley, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Professor Emeritus at the University of East Anglia, is a celebrated poet and scholar. Her acclaimed works, including *Say Something Back* and *Lurex*, explore language, identity, and grief. Riley's contributions have earned her nominations for the T. S. Eliot Prize and Costa Book Award, among others.

Richard Scott's *That Broke into Shining Crystals*, explores the darkness of injury, the potency and pain of revelation, and the agency as song. Building on his debut *Soho* (shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize), he examines how trauma shapes language, weaving together childhood, scars, forgotten histories, and the risks and rewards of intimacy.

Oluwaseun Olayiwola's debut *Strange Beach*, published by Fitzcarraldo Editions, features intimate, erotic, ecological and philosophical poems that illuminate the body as a porous landscape where existential dramas, filial fractures, and sexual reckonings unfold.



**Anne Enright**  
**in Conversation**

SAT 12 APRIL | 20:30 | ONE HOUR | €18/22

*Town Hall Theatre*

As part of our Cúirt 40 celebrations, we've invited Anne Enright, one of our best-loved writers, to join our reflective mood and look back on her career. Anne Enright always brings a sharp, unflinching gaze to themes of family, love, and the passage of time, capturing both the beauty and the hardship of everyday life. In 2015, Anne was named Ireland's first Laureate for Irish Fiction, a role that affirmed her impact on the literary world. Her latest novel, *The Wren, The Wren*, published in 2024, has been hailed as one of her finest works, winning the Writers' Prize for Fiction. Anne Enright has published eight novels and three short story collections including the 2007 Booker Prize-winning novel *The Gathering*.

**Time to Rhyme: Gráinne O'Brien**  
**and Serena Molloy**

SUN 13 APRIL | 10:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

*Nuns Island Theatre*

Join us for an inspiring journey into children's poetry with Gráinne O'Brien and Serena Molloy, as they present their latest works. Gráinne's *Solo* tells the heartfelt story of Daisy, a passionate classical musician navigating family dynamics, friendship, and heartbreak as she struggles to reconnect with her love for music. Meanwhile, Serena's *The Tree That Sang to Me* is a dyslexia-friendly verse novel exploring empathy, family, and self-discovery. Don't miss this celebration of poetic creativity and storytelling!

## **Ragaire Showcase**

SUN 13 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

*Nuns Island Theatre*

Literary magazines play a pivotal role for new writers, scouting and incubating talent, a vital catalyst for the rich diversity of the Irish literary scene. Founded by University of Galway alumni, Ragaire is a new literary journal flying the flag for Galway, Irish and international writing. Join the editors Aileen McCarthy, Lucy Bleeker and Cormac Culkeen at a showcase event of the magazine's most recent publications.

## **Dinnseanchas**

SUN 13 APRIL | 14:00 | ONE HOUR | €12/€10

*An Taibhdhearc*

Iníúchadh ar an dinnseanchas, seanchas faoi áiteanna, i litríocht chomhaimseartha na Gaeilge. Seo an ceathrú bliain den togra seo, comhfhiontar idir Cló Iar-Chonnacht agus Cúirt. Beidh beirt scríbhneoirí as Tír Chonaill, Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair agus Michelle Nic Pháidín, ag caint faoi thábhacht an dinnseanchais ina gcuid oibre agus ag léamh óna saothar. Is é Micheál Ó Conghaile a bheidh mar fhear an tí.

An exploration of dinnseanchas, the lore of place, in contemporary Irish-language literature. Writers Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair and Michelle Nic Pháidín, both from Tír Chonaill, discuss the importance of place in their work and share selected readings. Hosted Cló Iar-Chonnacht founder, the writer Micheál Ó Conghaile.





**Wired Your Own Way**  
**with Nuala O'Connor, Naoise Dolan**  
**and Niamh Garvey**

SUN 13 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €14/16

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

New Island Books launches *Wired Your Own Way*, an anthology showcasing the diversity of the Irish autistic experience. Join editor Niamh Garvey and two featured authors, Nuala O'Connor and Naoise Dolan, for an insightful conversation on the making of this brilliant essay collection, the impact of an autism diagnosis, and more.

Niamh found out she was autistic at 34 and has written several books on the topic for both children and adults. She aims to spread valuable up-to-date information about autism and help destigmatize it.

Nuala's deeply immersive novels often explore the lives of women on a quest to find out who they are. Her most recent is *Seaborne*, a retelling of the life of Irish pirate Anne Bonny. Since her diagnosis she has been on her own journey of growth and self-discovery.

Naoise is the author of *Exciting Times* and *The Happy Couple*. Her novels offer a sharp, funny portrayal of contemporary relationships and explore class, gender dynamics and queerness.



### **Stuart Murdoch: *Nobody's Empire***

SUN 13 APRIL | 16:30 | ONE HOUR | €14/16

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

Belle and Sebastian frontman Stuart Murdoch joins us for a conversation about his debut novel *Nobody's Empire*. Set in early 1990s Glasgow, Stephen – music-loving romantic – emerges from a lengthy hospital stay diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome, a little-understood disease that has robbed him of any prospects of work, social life or independent living. Finding that he has the ability to write songs, Stephen wakes to the possibility of a spiritual life beyond the everyday and leaves Glasgow in search of a cure in the mythic warmth of California. This book is life-affirming, funny, and heartwarming.

### **Ar Thóir Bhríd Ní Mháille**

#### **In Search of Bríd Ní Mháille**

SUN 13 APRIL | 17:00 | ONE HOUR | €12/€10

*An Taibhdhearc*

Léamh drámatúil as úrscéal le Micheál Ó Conghaile atá i mbéal a fhoilsithe. Tá an t-úrscéal bunaithe ar scéal Bhríd Ní Mháille, an bhean a scríobh *Amhrán an Bháthadh* agus *Amhrán South Boston*. Fitear ceol, próis agus an chaointeoireacht san ócáid speisialta seo le Caitlín Ní Chualáin, Bridie Ní Churraoin agus Eoghan Ó Riada. A dramatic reading from a forthcoming novel by Micheál Ó Conghaile, telling the story of Bríd Ní Mháille, the woman behind *Amhrán an Bháthadh* and *Amhrán South Boston*. Blending song, prose, and the ancient art of keening, this performance features Caitlín Ní Chualáin, Bridie Ní Churraoin, and Eoghan Ó Riada.





## **The Short Story: Lucy Sweeney Byrne and Clare-Lise Kieffer**

SUN 13 APRIL | 18:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

*Charlie Byrne's Bookshop*

Join us for a conversation between two of the most interesting short story writers in Ireland today. In *Let's Dance*, Lucy Sweeney Byrne explores women on the edge of transformation—grappling with identity, desire, and disillusionment—through darkly comic, provocative stories that range from flash fiction to novella. *Tenterhooks* by Claire-Lise Kieffer, weaves together darkly humorous and surreal stories of an Ireland at once familiar and otherworldly, exploring the fragile bonds between people and places in moments of crisis, transformation, and haunting discovery.

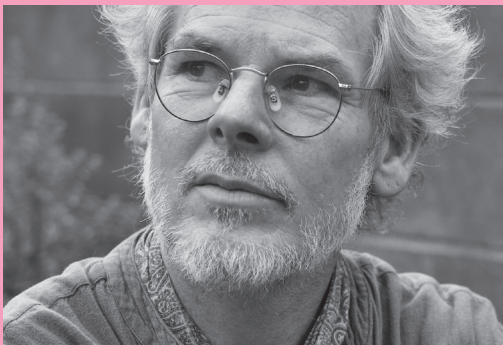


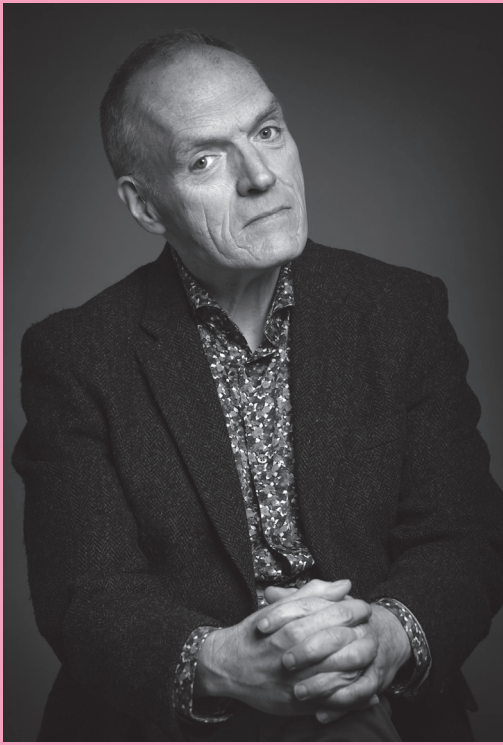
## **Whales and Whales: Poetry in Translation**

SUN 13 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

*The Mick Lally Theatre*

*Whales and Whales*, described as 'trembling poetry; an erratic wave, a magnificent and disturbing inner storm,' is the first English translation of the pivotal Galician poetry collection by Luisa Castro. In *Whales and Whales*, Luisa navigates the journey of a young woman finding her place in the world. From her home on the North Galician coast, Castro's 'daughter of the sea' casts off romantic clichés of love, labour, and girlhood, giving voice to irreverent desires and poignant awakenings. These poems reveal a young woman's transformation in a society struggling to accommodate her. Translated by Keith Payne, poet and author of *Building the Boat* (2023), this remarkable collection will be discussed by Luisa, Keith and Lorna Shaughnessy.





## Ceiliúradh ceoil agus filíochta

SUN 13 APRIL | 20:00 | ONE HOUR | €16/€14

*An Taibhdhearc*

Tráthnóna ceoil, amhránaíochta agus filíochta ag ceiliúradh *Leabhar Mór na nAmhrán* agus an cnuasach *Gearr Gonta: Céad Dán le Céad File*. Is é an craoltóir agus amhránaí Máirtín Tom Sheainín a bheidh mar fhear an tí. Ceol agus amhráin le Lillis Ó Laoire, Caitlín Ní Chualáin, Marcus Mac Conghail, agus Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair. Beidh ceol beo ann le Nóirín Ní Ghrádaigh, fídléir as Ráth Tó i gCo. na Mí, agus Colm Ó Dubháin, boscadóir as an Aird Mhór i gConamara.

An evening of music, song and poetry celebrating *Leabhar Mór na nAmhrán*, a collection of over 400 sean-nós songs, and *Gearr Gonta: Céad Dán le Céad File*. Featuring performances by Lillis Ó Laoire, Máirtín Tom Sheainín, Caitlín Ní Chualáin, Marcus Mac Conghail, and Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair. Live music from Nóirín Ní Ghrádaigh from Ráth Tó, Co. Meath, on the fiddle, and Colm Ó Dubháin from Aird Mhór in Conamara on box. Hosted by Máirtín Tom Sheainín.



## Turning Skies Showcase with The Oil Slick

SUN 13 APRIL | 20:30 | 90 MINUTES | FREE TICKETED

*Nuns Island Theatre*

The Oil Slick presents an exciting showcase of spoken word, music and other artistic forms from Galway and further afield celebrating Cúirt's 40 anniversary. Nuns Island Theatre will be transformed into a stage for lyricism, mystery and celebration. With performances from a broad spectrum of artists, surrounding the journey from endings to new beginnings, join us to experience literature in an unexpected way.

# More at Cúirt

## The Telephone Exchange

*The installation will run throughout the festival week, check [cuiert.ie](http://cuiert.ie) for dates, times and how to book*

Immerse yourself in this digital literary installation produced exclusively for Cúirt International Festival of Literature. Take a chance, dial a number and pick your theme from Alchemy, City of Dreams, Regret, Revenge, Night & Day and Wild Card then settle into your custom-designed booth to hear new work from an exciting cast of featured writers that includes Maggie Armstrong, Emily DeDakis, Soula Emmanuel, Wendy Erskine, Elaine Feeney, Clara Kumagai, Róisín Lanigan, Mike McCormack, Oisín McKenna, Nuala O'Connor and Noel O'Regan. There are two sides to every story. Which one will you choose? Devised and produced by Orla Higgins.

*Funded by The Arts Council*

## Cúirt Labs

We're delighted to be partnering with Galway City Council and the Seamus Heaney Centre for Cúirt Labs, with the appointment of three Writers in Residence this year: Patricia Forde, Shirley-Anne McMillan and Clara Kumagai.

## Threshold Journal and Literary Periodicals: Archives and Futures

FREE | FOR OPENING TIMES PLEASE VISIT [CUIERT.IE](http://CUIERT.IE)  
*University of Galway Library*

*Threshold* was one of Northern Ireland's longest-running literary periodicals of the 20th century.

Founded by Mary O'Malley in 1957, and published in Belfast, the journal provided an outlet for leading and emerging writers across poetry and fiction, as well as topical essays, reviews, and criticism for over forty years. Its final issue was published in 1990. Contributors and guest editors included Seamus Heaney, Mary Beckett, Kate O'Brien, Gerald Dawe, John Hewitt, John Montague, and many others. The *Threshold* journal archive lies within the wider Lyric Theatre/O'Malley archive at University of Galway Library, where the journal and selected archival documents have been recently digitised and made available online.

## Outset Market

SAT 12 APRIL | 11AM - 4PM | THE CORNSTORE

Outset Gallery, in collaboration with Cúirt Festival, will host an indoor market at The Cornstore, continuing its tradition of showcasing independent makers, artists, and creatives. Outset has become a hub for Galway's thriving arts and design community, regularly curating markets that celebrate craft and creativity. This special edition will highlight the written word alongside handcrafted goods, prints, and design pieces, with leading literary journals taking part. Adding to the atmosphere, The Oil Slick Collective—renowned for their immersive poetry and performance events—will present spoken word, live readings, and interactive sessions, making this a vibrant fusion of literature, craft, and performance.

# Faber & Cúirt Workshops 2025 in association with The O'Donoghue Centre

Faber Academy returns to Galway to offer you a full programme of workshops throughout the festival week. Since their first course in 2008, Faber Academy has gone on to see their alumni secure publication deals, win awards and begin their writing careers with the help of their manuscript assessments and mentoring programmes across fiction, poetry and memoir. These workshops will offer a space for writers to explore new ideas, take creative risks, and experiment with genre and style through courses designed with the help of pedagogical experts. Places are limited so early booking is advised. Please book via [cuirt.ie](http://cuirt.ie).

Workshops will take place in The O'Donoghue Centre, or online.



## Rachel Long

### **Advanced Poetry Workshop: Family, Kin, and the Apparently Personal**

TUE 8 APRIL | 14:00 - 17:00 | ONLINE FABER ACADEMY  
€45

In this workshop, we'll delve (or drag our feet) into the quagmire of family: the unit, the brood, the clan. We'll interrogate the notion of background, lineage, parentage, birth, marriage; all the people that populate our houses and hearts. There'll be space to discuss the sticky issues of writing those close to us; how writing our version/experience of our relationships might come into collision with concerns of integrity. We'll explore the notion of family in memory, persona and dreamscape, using poets like Sharon Olds, Warsan Shire and others as our guides.



## Kayo Chingonyi

### **You Are Here: Writing and Walking**

WED 9 APRIL | 13:00 - 16:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

Join award-winning poet and editor Kayo Chingonyi in an exploration of the possibilities of mixing text and image to form cartographical writing drawn from the particular sensory resonances of a place. In the first half of the workshop we'll look at several examples of place writing and discuss. In the second half, we'll briefly explore our immediate surroundings to make images and capture notes before working on writing drawn from these explorations. Participants should dress for the weather and bring a device capable of making images (a phone will do but sketch pads and instant cameras are also welcome). If you have particular access needs, please be in touch so that the session can be adapted accordingly.



## Joey Connolly

### **Developing as a Poet**

THU 10 APRIL | 10:00 - 13:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

Producing striking images and carefully-honed sentences is one thing, but finding a way to move from the notebook to the printed page can seem a whole other ballgame. The journey can seem daunting, but there are established routes – as well as elements of craft, editing and motivation – to help us get there. This three-hour workshop will focus on these aspects of the journey from writing for ourselves to finding readers and becoming poets out in the world.



## **Richard Scott**

### **Advanced Poetry Workshop: Hauntings and Intertextuality**

SAT 12 APRIL | 11:00 - 14:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

Might the poet be, in the words of Lucie Brock-Broido, 'a freak of letters crossing down a rare / Path bleak with poplars'? Join Richard Scott for this workshop in which we'll consider our poetic ancestors and how they might haunt and inspire - through intertextuality, idea and form - our writing now. We'll be doing writing exercises and discussing poems by Will Harris, Allen Ginsberg and Sandeep Parmar, amongst others, as we attempt to talk to the dead and summon the 'familiar compound ghost' written about by Seamus Heaney when talking about his many poetic loves including T.S. Eliot.



## **Susannah Dickey**

### **The Craft of Fiction: Dialogue**

WED 9 APRIL | 10:00 - 13:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

Join novelist and poet Susannah Dickey for a session on the power of dialogue in fiction. With samples taken from a broad span of global contemporary fiction, in this workshop you will study ways of providing exposition through dialogue in nuanced and subtle ways; learn how to make your characters distinctive through their speaking styles; and study how humour in dialogue can supplement and strengthen tragic or serious topics.



### **John Patrick McHugh**

#### **The Craft of Fiction: the Short Story**

FRI 11 APRIL | 11:00 - 14:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

In this workshop, we will examine the short story from three angles: starting out, the gooey middle and the editing. Through discussion, close readings and in-class exercises, we will figure out what makes a story tick, reframe how we view a story's intention, and learn how we can tighten our own work.



### **Eimear McBride**

#### **Fiction Masterclass**

SAT 12 APRIL | 10:00 - 13:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

Join Eimear McBride – prize-winning author of *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*, *The Lesser Bohemians*, *Strange Hotel* and *The City Changes Its Face* – in conversation with Joey Connolly, Director of Faber Academy. Beginning with a conversation about Eimear's insights on questions of craft, style and technique in fiction, the event will also include a chance to pose your questions about writing to one of the pre-eminent stylists and storytellers of our time.



## Sarah May

### **Novel Openings: Where to Begin?**

SUN 13 APRIL | 10:00 - 13:00 | ONLINE FABER ACADEMY

€45

Do you have an idea – or ideas! – for a novel that you’ve been sitting on for weeks, months, years but just can’t seem to get started? Before we can become writers, we must learn how to become storytellers. In this motivational workshop we’ll be looking at how to unlock those ideas and shape them into a story. Focussing step by step on core story elements that will enable you to answer the all-important questions: What’s my story? And why am I telling it? Once you’ve identified your story, we’ll be working in small groups using examples from recently published fiction, to discuss and plan your novel’s opening scene. The session will conclude with some guided writing that will enable you to begin your novel while in workshop.



## Ali Watkins

### **Writing What’s Real: Responsible Non-Fiction**

THU 10 APRIL | 11:00 - 14:00 | O’DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

In this practice-based workshop, we’ll dive into the practicalities of non-fiction writing projects. Whether you’re working on personal essays, journalism or narrative non-fiction, writing about real people and true stories is complicated. Join us as we workshop pitches, brainstorm how to approach living subjects, and discuss best practices for document-based research and source building. Whether you’re just starting out or already midway through a project, this workshop should help you sharpen your focus and hone your sense of responsibility within your non-fiction writing.





## **Eimear Ryan**

### **Approaching Your Memoir**

FRIDAY 11 | 10:00 - 13:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

In this workshop, we'll explore different approaches to personal narrative, from memoir and autobiography to creative non-fiction, and how to locate and uncover compelling narratives from memory. With in-class readings and exercises, this workshop is ideal for writers new to the memoir form, or for those who've always wanted to write their story but are searching for a way in.



## **Helen Jukes**

### **Creative Non-Fiction**

SUN 13 APRIL | 14:00 - 17:00 | ONLINE FABER ACADEMY

€45

In this online taster workshop you'll be getting to grips with some of the core elements needed to write original and compelling creative nonfiction. Through a combination of group discussion and short writing tasks, you'll look at what it means to take a creative approach to writing about real-world subjects, and learn some of the skills and techniques that others have brought to this exciting and diverse genre. Exercises will be open and exploratory – you'll experiment with voice and form, playing with contrast and scale to bring an original perspective to the subjects that interest you. Borrowing a technique from Maggie Nelson, we'll be writing in concentric circles; we'll willingly follow tangents as we experiment with research methods, and ask how to write characters that are as real on the page as the stories they inhabit. Working from an essay by Michael Malay, we'll also consider how personal narratives can function within works of creative nonfiction – how we might write about landscapes even as we hone in on close-up, sensory details. By the end of the session, you should have gained some new tools to help you approach your material in fresh and novel ways.

# Access Statements

## **Town Hall Theatre**

The main auditorium is step free with accessible seating and accessible toilet facilities. Please let the box office know of any requirements so that they can assist with seating. There are two accessible parking spaces on Waterside immediately by the venue and a further two spaces on Corrib Terrace. There is a Loop System in every auditorium. There is a Fresh Air Distribution System.

## **Mick Lally Theatre**

The auditorium, bar and foyer are step free with accessible toilet facilities. There is one accessible parking space on Middle Street outside the Cornstore, and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street opposite Galway City Library, five minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

## **Nuns Island Theatre**

The theatre is a ground floor wheelchair accessible venue. There is a single disabled parking space across the road from Nuns Island Theatre located outside 19 Nuns Island. The bathrooms are not fully accessible. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

## **An Taibhdhearc**

The main auditorium is step free, and there are accessible toilet facilities. There are two accessible parking spaces on either end of Middle Street and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street opposite. There is a Loop system.

## **O'Donoghue Centre**

Step free venue with fully accessible toilet facilities. Accessible parking is located on campus in front of the Quadrangle Building four minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system.

## **Bank of Ireland Theatre**

Step free venue with accessible doorways; the auditorium has two rows of seats on the main floor. There is a fully accessible all gender bathroom. Accessible parking is located on campus in front of the Quadrangle Building four minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system. The Bank of Ireland Theatre is located between the O'Donoghue centre and Sult, and accessible through the O'Donoghue Centre.

## **Charlie Byrne's Bookshop**

The Cornstore entrances are step free but have limited wheelchair access due to the width of the doors. The venue has internal steps with limited space to navigate with certain mobility aids. The street entrance has a step. There is one accessible parking space on Middle

Street immediately outside, and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street. There are no accessible public bathrooms. There is no Loop system.

## **Galway University Hospital**

Step free venue with accessible bathroom available. Accessible parking available on the hospital grounds. There is no Loop system.

## **University of Galway Library**

Step free venue with accessible toilet facilities. Accessible parking is located on campus in front of the Quadrangle Building four minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system.

## **Kenny's Bookshop**

The entrances are step free and wheelchair accessible. The venue has internal steps with limited space to navigate with certain mobility aids. Accessible parking spaces located in front of the building. There is no Loop system.

## **The Cornstore**

Step free venue. Accessible parking located in Augustine Street and Middle Street. There are no accessible public bathrooms. There is no Loop system.

If you have any access enquiries about a venue or event, please email us at [admin@cúirt.ie](mailto:admin@cúirt.ie) or call 091 565 886 and ask for the Cúirt office.



## **The Galway Arts Centre**

Founded in 1982, Galway Arts Centre has been the home of the arts in Galway for generations of artists. Galway Arts Centre presents a year-round inclusive contemporary arts programme that reflects the complexity and diversity of Irish society, featuring visual arts, film, music, literature, dance and theatre. Galway Arts Centre also supports artists at all stages of their practice through exhibitions, workshops, residencies and festivals across two beautiful and historic venues; Nuns Island Theatre and 47 Dominick Street. Cúirt International Festival of literature is proud to be a part of the Galway Arts Centre.

## **Alice Rekab:**

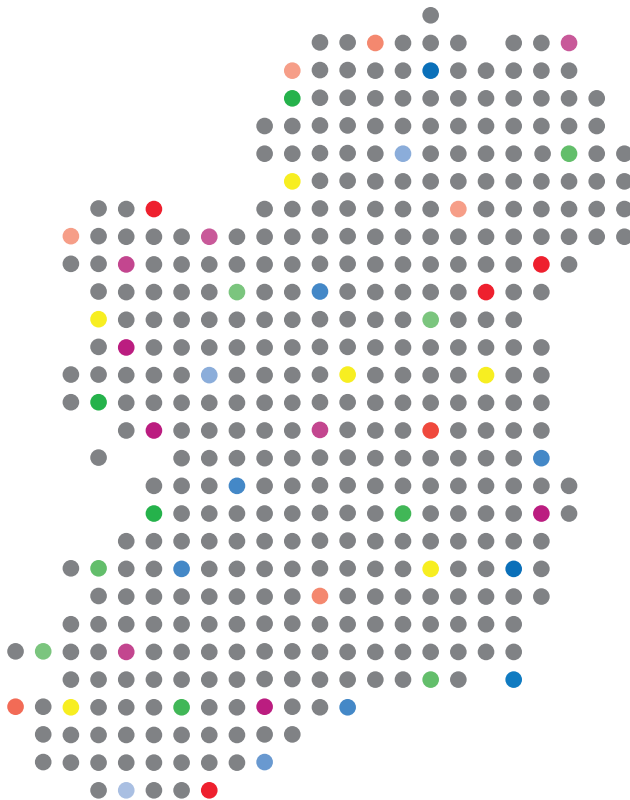
### **Clann Miotlantach / Mythlantics**

28 MARCH-10 MAY

*Galway Arts Centre*

Galway Arts Centre is pleased to present Clann Miotlantach / Mythlantics, a solo exhibition by artist Alice Rekab. Alice Rekab is an Irish Sierra Leonean artist based in Dublin. Rekab takes their identity as a starting point to examine the intersection of personal and shared historical and cultural narratives. They trace fragments of their mixed-race experience through body and mind, geographies and politics.

Rekab researches and operates through the framework of the family unit. They revisit and reimagine archival items – photographs, objects – found in their own holdings and during their trips to Sierra Leone, and combines them with memories, oral accounts, field notes, and readings, all derived from their encounters with Irish and West African traditions, knowledges, spirituality, and materiality.



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## Charlie Byrne's -BOOKSHOP-

The Cornstore, Middle St., Galway

### Charlie Byrne's Bookshop



TEL. (091) 561 766

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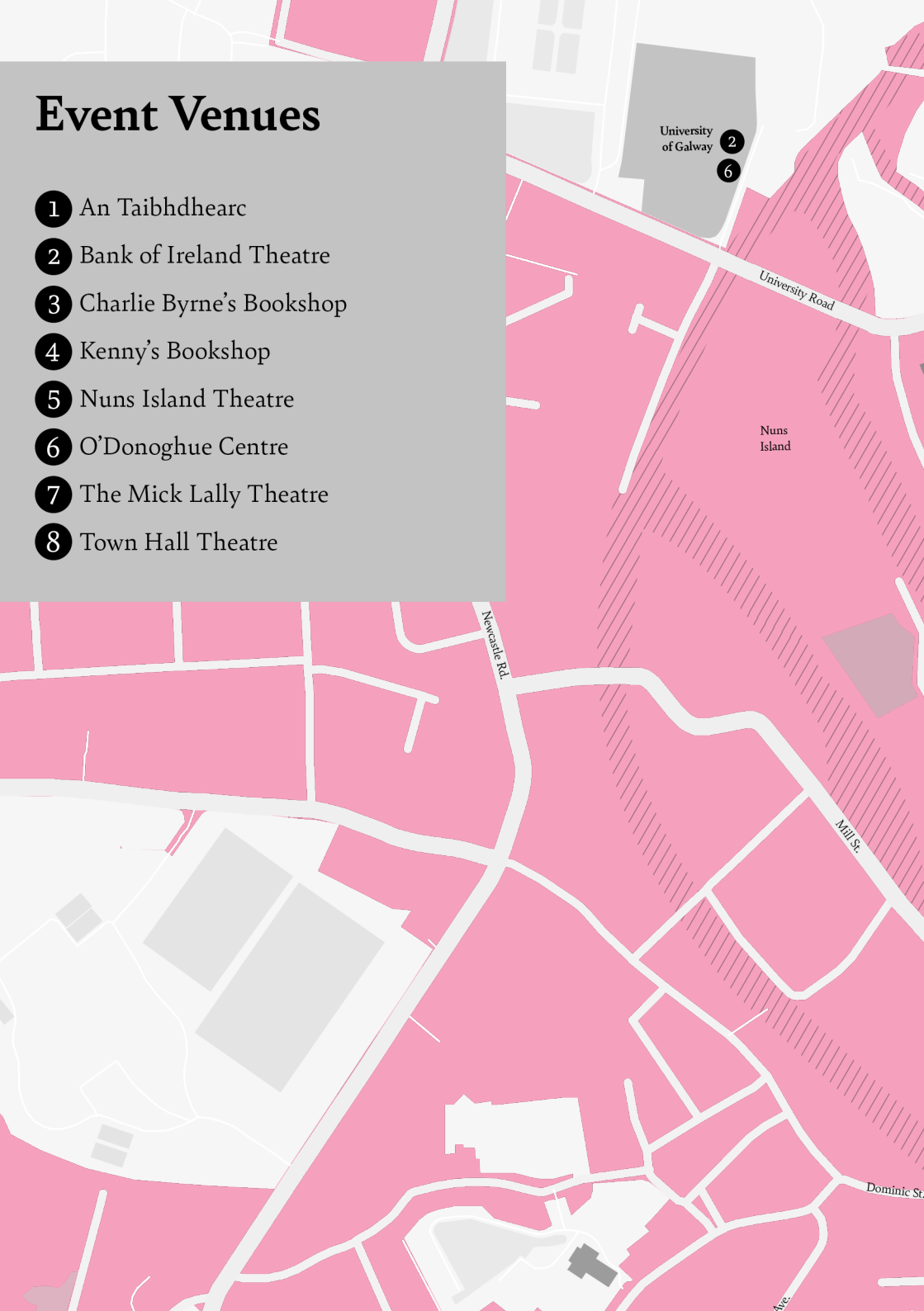
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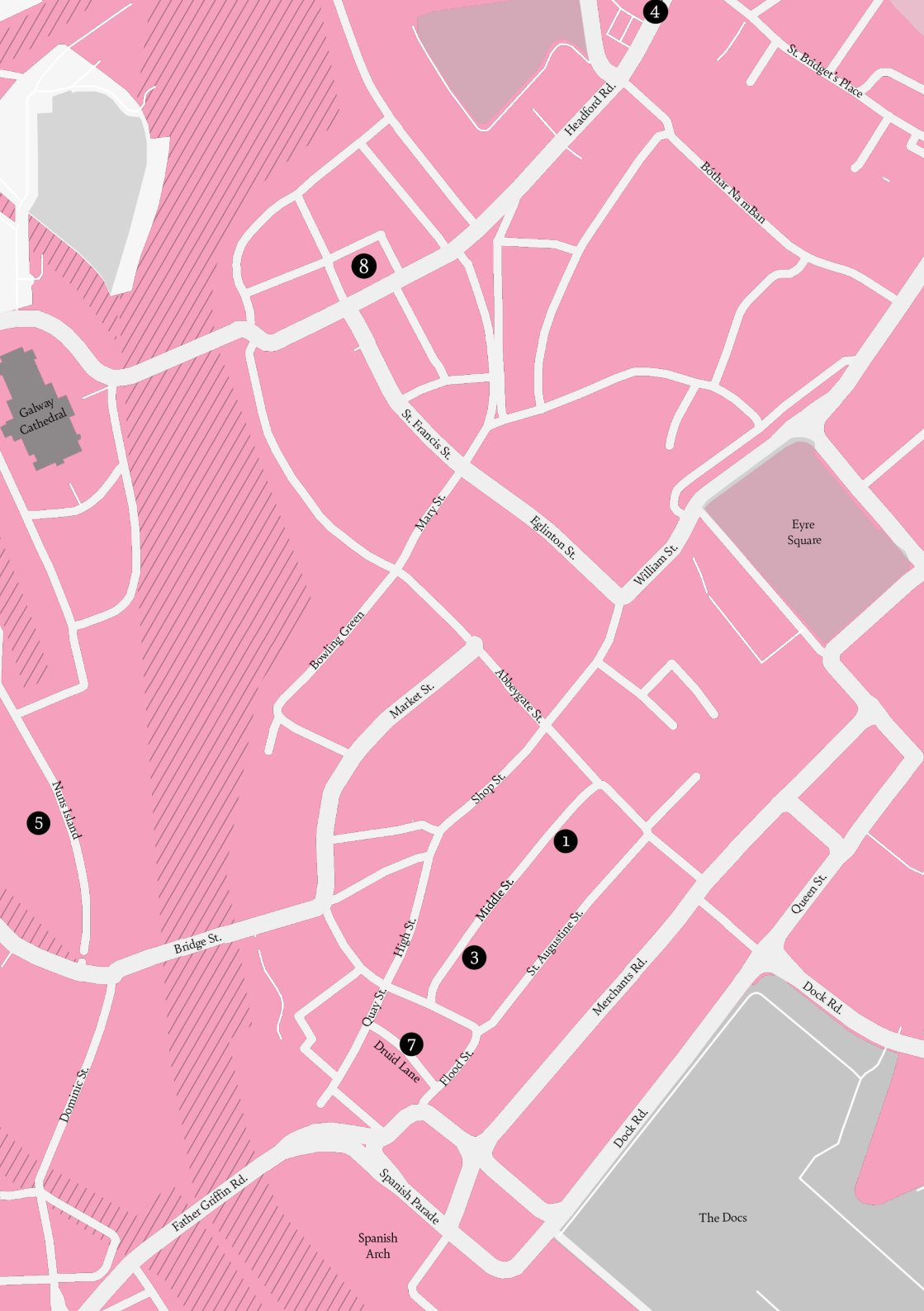
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# Event Venues

- 1 An Taibhdhearc
- 2 Bank of Ireland Theatre
- 3 Charlie Byrne's Bookshop
- 4 Kenny's Bookshop
- 5 Nuns Island Theatre
- 6 O'Donoghue Centre
- 7 The Mick Lally Theatre
- 8 Town Hall Theatre







Galway Cathedral

St. Bridget's Place

Headford Rd.

Bóthar Na mBan

8

4

St. Francis St.

Mary St.

Eglinton St.

William St.

Eyre Square

Bowling Green

Market St.

Abbeygate St.

Shop St.

Middle St.

St. Augustine St.

Queen St.

5

Nuns Island

Bridge St.

High St.

3

1

Quays St.

Druid Lane

Flood St.

Merchants Rd.

Dock Rd.

Dock Rd.

Spanish Parade

Spanish Arch

The Docks

7

Father Griffin Rd.

# Festival at a Glance

## Tuesday 8 April

The Opening Chapter: Sally  
Rooney & Paul Muldoon  
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:00

## Wednesday 9 April

New Writing Showcase  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 13:00

Debut Fiction: Garrett Carr  
& Roisín O'Donnell  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 14:30

Capturing Cúirt: 40 Years of Stories  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 16:00

Seán Hewitt: Open, Heaven  
KENNY'S BOOKSHOP | 17:00

The Cúirt Poetry Sessions  
CHARLIE BYRNE'S | 18:00

Maurice J. Casey: Hotel Lux  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Sally Rooney & John Patrick McHugh  
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:30

## Thursday 10 April

MA Showcase  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 13:00

Poetry Reading with Áine Ní  
Ghlinn & Moya Roddy  
BANK OF IRELAND THEATRE | 13:00

Kayo Chingonyi: Prodigal  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 14:30

Capturing Cúirt: 40 Years of Stories  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 16:00

Folding Rock: A New Welsh  
Literary Journal  
BANK OF IRELAND THEATRE | 16:00

Samuel Beckett's Legacies  
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 17:30

The Cúirt Poetry Sessions  
CHARLIE BYRNE'S | 18:00

Poetry Reading: Kayo Chingonyi,  
Dane Holt, Gustav Parker Hibbett  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Open Mic Night with The Oil Slick  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 20:00

Donal Ryan in Conversation  
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:30

## Friday 11 April

ROPES Launch  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 13:00

Arts in Action: On Translation  
BANK OF IRELAND THEATRE | 13:00

Ali Watkins: The Next One Is for You  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 14:30

Capturing Cúirt: 40 Years of Stories  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 16:00

University of Galway writer in  
residence: Visual & Literary  
Histories of Incarceration  
BANK OF IRELAND THEATRE | 16:00

Threshold Journal & Literary  
Periodicals: Archives & Futures  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY | 16:00

Diachronic Bonhomie: A Cúirt  
Poetry Commission  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 16:30

Roddy Doyle in Conversation  
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 17:30

The Cúirt Poetry Sessions  
CHARLIE BYRNE'S | 18:00

Poetry Reading: Mary O'Malley,  
Claudine Toutoungi & Charles Lang  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Kevin Barry & Eimear McBride  
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:30

## Saturday 12 April

The Fairy Queen  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 10:00

Kids' Storytime  
CHARLIE BYRNE'S | 12:00

Young Writer Delegates Showcase  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 13:00

Shirley-Anne McMillan & Clara Kumagai  
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 13:00

Salim Bachi in Conversation

THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 14:30  
Capturing Cúirt: 40 Years of Stories  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 16:00

Fiction for Beginners: Seminar  
with Alan McMonagle  
O'DONOGHUE CENTRE | 16:00

The Cúirt Lecture, Ahmed Masoud  
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 17:30

Tolka Journal: Irish non-fiction  
CHARLIE BYRNE'S | 18:00

Poetry Reading: Denise Riley, Richard  
Scott & Oluwaseun Olayiwola  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Anne Enright in Conversation  
20:30 TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:30

## Sunday 13 April

Time to Rhyme: Gráinne O'Brien  
& Serena Molloy  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 10:00

Kids' Storytime  
CHARLIE BYRNE'S | 12:00

Ragaire Showcase  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 13:00

Dinnseanchas  
AN TAIBHDHEARC | 14:00

Wired Your Own Way  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 14:30

Capturing Cúirt: 40 Years of Stories  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 16:00

Stuart Murdoch: Nobody's Empire  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 16:30

Ar Thóir Bhríd Ní Mháille/  
In Search of Bríd Ní Mháille  
AN TAIBHDHEARC | 17:00

The Short Story: Lucy Sweeney  
Byrne & Clare-Lise Kieffer  
CHARLIE BYRNE'S | 18:00

Whales & Whales:  
Poetry in Translation  
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Ceiliúradh Ceoil & Filíochta  
AN TAIBHDHEARC | 20:00

Turning Skies Showcase  
with The Oil Slick  
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 20:30

## Funding Partners



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Galway County Council



Foras na Gaeilge

## Programme Partners



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Scoil na dTeagacha, na Litríochtaí  
agus na gCultúr  
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