

Presented by

#47 and Nun's Island

Arts Centre,

Galway

International Poetry Festival

Filíochta Idirnáisiúnta na Gaillimhe



Cúirt
1991

11th-14th April

Advance Booking Office

Opens Tuesday, March 26

The Arts Centre, #47 Dominick St, Galway

Tickets available at the advance booking office or by post;

The Arts Centre, #47 Dominick St, Galway

Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm

Tel: 091-65886

Season Tickets - £25

Season tickets cover admission to all events, but ticket-holders wishing to attend the Moya Cannon & Dannie Abse reading in Drimcong *must* confirm attendance upon purchase of ticket. All venues are open seating. It is advisable to come early.

Festival Club

Entry to the Festival Club is £2 per night, but there is also a £3 ticket available from the Box Office which entitles the buyer to attend on all three evenings.

Exhibitions

'Selected Works', by Noel Connor.

Noel Connor was born in Belfast in 1954, and now lives in Stoke, working as a freelance artist and art lecturer. His work has always maintained a close affinity with the written word, and he has illustrated six poetry collections, including *Gravities*, by Seamus Heaney, Tom Paulin's *The Book of Juniper*, and, most recently, the Bloodaxe anthology *Confounded Language*. The present exhibition comprises a selection of his literary work, and it is the first time it has all been assembled in one show in Ireland.

Arabic Calligraphy, by Ghani Alani.

Ghani Alani was born in Iraq, and attended Art College in Baghdad. He has lived in Paris since 1967, where he is professor of calligraphy, and doctor of law. His calligraphy has been exhibited in England, Algeria, Spain and Iceland. Ghani's work centres on the verses of the Khoran, and with colour, design and humour, they continue the age-old tradition of illuminated manuscripts.

These exhibitions continue until April 27th in #47 and Nun's Island Arts Centre.

THURSDAY · 11 APRIL

11.25 am Performance

'The Heart Laid Bare'

This one-man show on the life and work of Patrick Kavanagh is performed by P J Brady, of the Dry Bread Theatre Co., and scripted by Hugh Carr. 'Kavanagh to the very life...a compact, informative and very moving production' (*Sunday Press*)

Venue: The Dominican Convent, Taylor's Hill.

1.00 pm Performance

'The Unholy Well'

This acclaimed stage-show, performed by Nuala Hayes, with music by Ellen Cranitch, highlights some of the very best in contemporary Irish women's writing, and was inspired by the Attic Press anthology, *Wildish Things*.

Venue: University College Galway Library.

6.00 pm **Festival Launch**

The patron of Cuirt '91, Mayor of Galway and poet, Cllr Michael D Higgins, will officially launch the Festival at the Arts Centre, Nun's Island.

8.00 pm Reading

Eithne Strong & Edwin Morgan

Cuirt '91's inaugural reading features two of the most enduring poets in these islands: Eithne Strong from West Limerick, who made her poetic debut in the mid 1940's, and the eminent Glaswegian, Edwin Morgan, whose first collection appeared in 1952.

Venue: Arts Centre, #47 Dominick St.
Admission: £4/£3

10.30 pm **Festival Club**

Nuala Hayes and Ellen Cranitch round off the day's proceedings with a repeat performance of 'The Unholy Well' in the relaxed and convivial atmosphere of the Cuirt Festival Club.

Venue: Galway Arms, Dominick St.
Admission: £2.

- 11.00 am** Performance
'The Heart Laid Bare'
A second chance to see P J Brady's tour-de-force one-man show on Patrick Kavanagh.
Venue: Nun's Island Arts Centre.
Admission: £2.
- 1.00 pm** Reading
Carlo Suarez
Carlos Suarez, who originally hails from Argentina but now resides in California, gives a special reading of his work.
Venue: University College Galway Library.
- 3.00 pm** **Poets' Platform**
This is an open reading which show-cases some of the varied and considerable poetic talents from Writers' Workshops all over Ireland. Would-be participants must notify the Arts Centre by 1.00 pm, Friday April 12th.
Venue: Nun's Island Arts Centre.
Admission: Free
- 6.00 pm** Book Launch
Heather Brett
Salmon launch the debut collection of poet Heather Brett entitled *Abigail Brown*. Ms Brett was born in Newfoundland, but is a long-time resident in Ireland.
Venue: Arts Centre, #47 Dominick St.
- 8.00 pm** Reading
Fred D'Aguiar & Carol Ann Duffy
Cuirt '91 maintains its thoroughly international flavour with Fred D'Aguiar, from Guyana, and Scotland's Carol Ann Duffy, both of whom have won numerous prestigious awards for their work.
Venue: Arts Centre, #47 Dominick St.
Admission: £4/£3.
- 10.30 pm** **Festival Club**
A bibulous evening of poetry, music and song with the redoubtable Joe Steve O'Neachtain from Spiddal, and assorted musicians.
Venue: Galway Arms, Dominick St.
Admission: £2
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1.00 pm Reading

Theo Dorgan & Carlos Suarez

Latin-American poet Carlos Suarez gives his second reading of the Festival. On this occasion he is joined by Poetry Ireland's director, Theo Dorgan, whose first collection, *The Ordinary House of Love*, was recently published by Salmon.

Venue: #47 Arts Centre, Dominick St.
Admission: £4/£3.

3.00 pm Forum

'Poetry's Wild Geese...Migratory Bards'

With E A Markham, Paul Muldoon, Eithne Strong and Victoria White.

The forum is an increasingly popular feature of Cuirt, and this year's topic should once again make for lively and thought-provoking debate. The discussion centres on the reason why many poets leave their homeland, yet maintain a strong sense of place and preoccupation with their country of origin.

Venue: Nun's Island Arts Centre.
Admission: Free

6.00 pm Book Launch

Philip Casey & Rosita Boland

A twin launch by Dublin-based publishers, Raven Arts. *Year of the Knife—Poems 1980-90* brings together a decade's work by Philip Casey, while *Muscle Creak* is the first full collection by Clare-born Rosita Boland.

Venue: Kenny's Bookshop, High St.

8.00 pm Reading

Paul Muldoon & E A Markham

One of the undoubted highlights of Cuirt '91 is this reading pairing the internationally renowned Irish poet, Paul Muldoon, with highly-praised West Indian writer, E A Markham.

Venue: Nun's Island Arts Centre.
Admission: £4/£3.

10.30 pm Festival Club

Maguire & McBride

A comic compendium of poetic sketches, satires and scurrilities compiled and, in some cases, composed by Connor Maguire and Charlie McBride.

Venue: Galway Arms, Dominick St.
Admission: £2.

12.30 to 3.00 pm Bardic Breakfast

A midday feast of food, music and poetry hosted by the charismatic L J F M (aka Littlejohn), that Ghandi of the Gorbals, guru of the gutter, and matchless explorer and soother of bad livers and broken hearts. Also taking part are poets Michael D Higgins and Rita Ann Higgins, and the music is supplied by Dordán. A special painting workshop will be provided for 5 to 9 year olds.

Venue: Bridge Mills Coffee Shop.
Admission: £5/£4. Ticket includes light breakfast.

**6.00 pm Book Launch
Salmon 26 & Richard Tillinghast**

The latest issue of Galway-based literary journal *Salmon* is launched alongside the latest work by American ex-patriate, Richard Tillinghast, *A Quiet Pint in Kinvara*, published jointly by *Salmon* and Tireolas.

Venue: Arts Centre, #47 Dominick St.

**8.00 pm Reading
Dannie Abse & Moya Cannon**

The final reading of Cúirt '91 features Welsh poet and doctor, Dannie Abse. This poet is sponsored by the BBC. One of Galway's most popular poets, Moya Cannon, whose first collection, *Oar*, appeared last year, joins Dannie Abse in this reading; accompanying them is the Cois Chdaigh Madrigal Group.

Venue: Drimcong House, Moycullen.
Admission: £8. Includes wine and savouries sponsored by Drimcong House.
Tickets in advance only.

Education Programme

American poet, Richard Tillinghast, will give a series of poetry masterclasses to a pre-selected group on the 13th and 14th.

Three poets, Theo Dorgan, Joan McBreen and Eithne Strong will give readings from their work to schools in the Galway city and county region.

Paula Meehan will give creative writing classes to school children, and there will be special school performances of P J Brady's one-man show on Patrick Kavanagh, 'The Heart Laid Bare'.

Biographical Details

Dannie Abse

Dannie Abse was born in Wales in 1923, and works as a chest physician. As well as poetry, he has written several novels and plays, and a highly-praised autobiography, *A Poet in the Family*. He has received the Cholmondely Award for one of his plays. Since 1979 he has been president of the Poetry Society. His collected poems, *White Coat, Purple Coat*, were published by Hutchinson in 1989.

Patrick J Brady

P J Brady was born in Cavan. He has worked with the Abbey and Gate theatres, and his film work includes roles in *Cal, Anne Devlin* and *Fools of Fortune*. He played the part of Bonaparte O'Coonassa in Dry Bread's hugely successful production of *The Poor Mouth*, which has toured continuously since its opening in June 1989.

Moya Cannon

Moya Cannon was born in Donegal, but has lived in Galway for several years. Her poems have been published in numerous journals and anthologies in Ireland and abroad. Much of her work focuses on the resonances of the seascape and landscape of Galway and north Clare. Her first collection, *Oar*, was published by Salmon in 1990.

Ellen Cranitch

Since graduating from Trinity College Dublin in 1985, Ellen Cranitch has worked as a freelance musician with the RTE Symphony and Concert Orchestras, Opera Theatre Company, Bolshoi Ballet, and all the major theatres in Dublin. She has frequently appeared on BBC and RTE radio and television, and has composed several television soundtracks.

Fred D'Aguiar

Fred D'Aguiar was born in Guyana, and presently lives and works in England. His first collection, *Mama Dot*, was published by Chatto and Windus in 1985, and was followed four years later by *Airy Hall*. He has also written a play, *A Jamaican Airman foresees his Death*, which was produced by the Royal Court Theatre.

Dordán

Dordán is a newly formed group comprising three outstanding musicians: Mary Bergin on tin whistle, wooden whistle and flute, Kathleen Cannon on harp, and violinist Derbhail Standún. They play a mixture of Irish traditional and baroque music, including slow airs, reels, minuets, mazurkas, jigs, and much more.

Theo Dorgan.

Theo Dorgan is the director of Poetry Ireland, He took an MA in English at University College Cork, where he also taught while literature officer at Triskel Arts Centre. He has been co-director of

Cork Film Festival. *The Ordinary House of Love*, his first full collection, was brought out this year by Salmon.

Carol Ann Duffy

Carol Ann Duffy was born in Glasgow in 1955. Three collections of her work have been published to date, all by Anvil: *Standing Female Nude* (1985), *Selling Manhattan* (1987), and *The Other Country* (1990), which was short-listed for the Whitbread Prize. She was the recipient of a Gregory Award in 1984, a Somerset Maugham Award in 1987, and the Dylan Thomas Award in 1989.

Nuala Hayes

Nuala Hayes was a member of the Abbey Theatre company for five years before founding Team Theatre in 1975. She began acting freelance in 1980, and appeared in several Field Day productions; more recently, she spent two years back at the Abbey. She has also worked as a presenter/reporter for RTE radio and television.

Michael D Higgins

Michael D Higgins was born in Limerick in 1941, and lectures in political science and sociology in UCG. He is a leading member of the Labour Party, a sitting TD, and the current Mayor of Galway. His first collection of poetry, *The Betrayal*, was published last year by Salmon.

Rita Ann Higgins

Rita Ann Higgins was born in Galway where she still lives. *Goddess on a Mervue Bus* was published by Salmon in 1986, and was followed a few years later by *The Witch in the Bushes*. The two volumes were later combined as *Goddess and Witch*. Her humorous and imaginative descriptions of every-day situations have made her one of the country's most popular poets.

Littlejohn

Littlejohn is one of Ireland's best-known street performers, having appeared at festivals all over the country. Over the last few years he has been one of the principal performers with Galway's flamboyant street-theatre group, MACNAS. He has also worked in television and films, most recently in Joe Comerford's *Reefer and the Model*, and the prize-winning short, *Fool's Gold*.

Maguire & McBride

Connor Maguire and Charlie McBride first met while avoiding lectures at UCG in 1978, and have written and performed together on and off ever since. Their last show, *Outta the Box*, was performed at arts festivals in Galway, Sligo, Listowel, Wexford, Limerick and elsewhere. They also appear regularly at Galway's 'Comedy Cumann'.

E A Markham

E A Markham was born in Montserrat, West Indies, in 1939, and since 1956 has lived mainly in Britain and Europe. Amongst his poetry

collections are *Human Rites* (1984), *Living in Disguise* (1986), and *Towards the End of a Century* (1989), all published by Anvil. He also edited *Hinterland*, a Bloodaxe anthology of Caribbean poetry. He is presently writer-in-residence at the University of Ulster in Coleraine.

Paula Meehan

Paula Meehan was born in Dublin. She attended Trinity College, and went on to receive an MFA from Eastern Washington University. She has taught and conducted many workshops. Two collections of her work have been published by Beaver Row: *Return and No Blame* and *Reading the Sky*. A new volume, *The Man who was Marked by Winter*, is due soon from Gallery.

Edwin Morgan

Edwin Morgan was born in Glasgow in 1920. He is a poet who has written in a variety of styles, though his essential subject remains his native city. Recent collections include *Sonnets from Scotland* (1984), *Themes on a Variation* (1988), and *Collected Poems* (1990). He is the Emeritus Professor of English at Glasgow University.

Paul Muldoon

Widely regarded as the leading Irish poet of his generation, Paul Muldoon was born in Armagh in 1951. His first full collection, *New Weather*, was published by Faber in 1973. It has been followed by six others, including *Selected Poems* in 1986, and most recently, *Madoc: a Mystery* (1990). He presently lives in America, where he lectures at Princeton University.

Joan McBreen

Joan McBreen was born in Sligo, and now lives in Tuam, Co. Galway, with her husband and six children. Her poems have appeared in numerous magazines in Ireland and the US. *The Wind beyond the Wall*, her first full collection, was published in 1990.

Joe Steve O'Neachtain

Joe Steve O'Neachtain, from Spiddal in Connemara, is presently busy script-writing the very popular soap *Baile an Droichid*, which is currently enjoying its fourth season on Radio na Gaeltachta. Joe and his family are well known for their humorous sketches, music and drama. They also feature in the book, *A Family from Ireland*, which is part of the American educational system. He has published two books, one of ballads and sketches, and, more recently, a book of poetry, *De Dhroim Leice*.

Eithne Strong

Eithne Strong was born in Limerick in 1923, and currently lives in Dublin. Her poetry and short stories have been published widely in Ireland and abroad. She has published four poetry collections in Ireland, all with Coiscéim, most recently *An Sagart Pinc* (1990). Her most recent English

collection, *Let Live*, received its launch at Cúirt 1990, and is published by Salmon.

Carlos Suarez

Carlos Suarez was born in Argentina in 1940, but has lived in the US since 1968. He has worked as a photojournalist, and was a combat photographer in Vietnam. His first collection, *Tristezas del Jardin Real* (Royal Garden Blues), appeared in 1958. His latest volume, *Between Rivers*, was published in 1983, and he has two new collections currently in preparation.

Richard Tillinghast

Richard Tillinghast was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and presently lives in Kinvara. He has published four books of verse: *Sleep Watch*, *The Knife and Other Poems*, *Sewanee in Ruins*, and *Our Flag was Still There*. He has lectured at Berkeley and Harvard, and is now with the University of Michigan, from which he is on leave as the 1990/91 recipient of the Amy Lowell Travelling Fellowship.

Victoria White

Victoria White is a freelance writer who contributes regular articles on poetry and literature to the *The Irish Times*.

Patron

Cllr Michael D Higgins
Mayor of Galway

Sponsors

Cúirt takes this opportunity to acknowledge the generous support of:

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Le cuidiú
**An Chomhairle
Ealaíon**

Festival Committee

Trish Fitzpatrick
Elizabeth McAvoyn
Charlie McBride
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The Arts Centre and Festival organisers reserve the right to adjust the programme if necessary.