

# **CÚIRT** 1993



Presented by  
Galway Arts Centre

**Galway's International Poetry**  
*Cúirt Litriochta Idirnaisiúnta na Gaillimhe*  
**and Literature Festival**

**March 30 • April 4**

# CÚIRT 1993

## Sponsors

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Cúirt also gratefully acknowledges  
the assistance of:

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Bridge Mills Restaurant  
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Sheela Na Gig Bookshop  
Taylor's Bar, Dominick St.  
Tigh Neachtain, Cross St.

## Cúirt Box Office

Opens Thursday March 18th  
Tickets available to callers or by  
post from: Galway Arts Centre,  
#47 Dominick Street, Galway.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-5.30 pm

**Information: 091 65886**

**Credit Card Booking: 091 68303**

**Fax: 091 68642**

## Season Tickets

A limited number of season tickets  
at £23 (£20 conc.) go on sale on  
March 18th. Season tickets cover  
admission to all events except the  
evening in Drimcong House.  
Season ticket holders must confirm  
which events they are attending  
when purchasing the ticket.

**Tuesday** 30 March

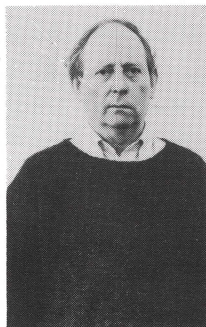
### 6.00 PM **Festival Launch**

Cúirt '93 is officially launched by longtime friend and patron, playwright and novelist, Thomas Kilroy.

**Venue: #47 Dominick St.**

### 8.30 PM **John McGahern and Beryl Bainbridge**

Cúirt '93 gets underway in earnest with a reading featuring two of the most eminent prose writers in these islands. John McGahern is the author of three collections of short stories and five highly acclaimed novels, including 'The Dark' 1965, 'The Pornographer' 1979 and 'Amongst Women' 1990 which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the Aer Lingus/Irish Times prize. His 'Collected Stories' were published last year by Faber & Faber. "He has the Irish gift of being able to move fluently and unselfconsciously between a simple and a heightened style" (TLS)



John McGahern



Beryl Bainbridge

Since the early 1970s Beryl Bainbridge has written thirteen novels, two works of non-fiction and five television plays. Her novel 'The Dressmaker' was filmed in 1988 and 'Injury Time' won the Whitbread Prize. 'An Awfully Big Adventure' was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1990. Her novel 'The Birthday Boys' was recently published by Penguin.

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

**Wednesday** 31 March



Seamus Heaney

### 8.30 PM **Seamus Heaney**

The first appearance at Cúirt by Ireland's most renowned living poet. Widely and justly celebrated for his flawless handling of the lyric, Seamus Heaney has published eight collections of poetry since his 1966 debut 'Death Of A Naturalist'. Other major collections include 'North', 'Station Island' and, most recently, 'Seeing Things'. He has also published two volumes of essays, 'Preoccupations' 1980 and 'Government of the Tongue' 1988 and his verse-play 'The Cure At Troy' was produced by Field Day. In 1989, he was elected to the post of Professor of Poetry at Oxford University. He spends part of each year teaching at Harvard University.

"More than any other poet since Wordsworth he can make us understand that the outside world is not outside, but what we are made of" John Carey (Sunday Times).

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



**1.00 PM Patricia Burke Brogan and Vincent Woods**

This lunchtime poetry reading brings together the writers responsible for two of Ireland's theatrical highpoints of 1992 but who are also developing an increasing reputation as poets. Patricia Burke Brogan's 'Eclipsed' - performed by Punchbag Theatre Co. - won a Fringe First at the Edinburgh Festival. She has also won many awards for her poems, short stories and paintings.



Patricia Burke Brogan

Vincent Woods' play 'At The Black Pig's Dyke' was a major popular and critical success for Druid. 'The Colour Of Language', his first full poetry collection, will be published later this year.

**Venue: #47 Dominick St. Admission: £2.**

**4.00 PM Nina Fitzpatrick and John Arden**

A most unusual afternoon event which features the literary "coming out" of the enigmatic Nina Fitzpatrick and a rare appearance by the playwright and novelist John Arden. Nina Fitzpatrick's first book 'Fables of the Irish Intelligentsia' received an Irish Times/AerLingus Award which was subsequently withdrawn in controversial circumstances. A follow-up novel, 'The Loves of Fustyna' has just been published.

John Arden has written numerous plays both "solo" and in collaboration with Margaretta d'Arcy amongst which are 'Serjeant Musgrave's Dance', 'The Royal Pardon' and 'The Non-Stop Connolly Show'. His first novel, 'Silence Among The Weapons', was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and it has been followed by 'Books of Bale' and 'Cogs Tyrannic'.

**Venue: #47 Dominick St. Admission: £2**

**6.00 PM Book Launch - Dennis O'Driscoll**

The official launch of 'Long Story Short' - jointly published by Dedalus and Anvil Press - the latest collection from Dennis O'Driscoll. This is his third collection, following 'Kist' 1981 and 'Hidden Extras' 1987. The launch will be performed by Les Murray.

**Venue: Kenny's Bookshop**



June Jordan

**8.00 PM June Jordan and Ciarán Carson**

Poet, essayist, activist and playwright June Jordan is the most published African-American writer in history. Born in Harlem and the author of over ten works, her writing is remarkable for its clarity, hope, anger and visionary power. 'Technical Difficulties', a selection of essays and 'Haruko/Love Poetry' comprising old and new poems have just been published by Virago. "The most powerful political writer in the West" (Sunday Times).

Ciarán Carson was born in Belfast in 1948 and is currently Literature Officer with the Northern Ireland Arts Council. Among his collections are 'The Irish For No' and 'Belfast Confetti'. Winner of an Irish Times Aer Lingus Award, he has been described as "one of the most gifted imaginations in contemporary poetry".

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

**10.30 PM Henry Normal**

Henry Normal performs his cunningly conceived one man show 'Encyclopaedia Poetica'. He has published seven collections of verse, done a successful TV series for Channel 4 and has been one of the most popular acts at Edinburgh Festivals. His poetry, honed on the Mancunian rock n' roll circuit, "marries the suburban beauty of the Beatles' ballads with the blunt candour of the kitchen sink" (The Guardian).

**Venue: Atlanta Hotel.  
Admission: £2**



Henry Normal



Friday 2 April



Jean Valentine

### 1.00 PM Jean Valentine and Gerard Donovan

Jean Valentine, acknowledged as one of America's finest poets, has published five collections of verse, which have been described as "...heroic guesses pushing poetry out where it must both float and support.." She is joined by Gerard Donovan who grew up in Galway and currently lives in Arkansas. He has been shortlisted for Hennessy Awards in Poetry and his debut collection 'Colombus Rides Again' was published last November.

**Venue: #47 Dominick St. Admission: £2**

### 2.30 PM Trip to Coole

This coach trip to Coole Park and Thoor Ballylee, famous for their associations with Lady Gregory and W.B. Yeats, is guided by Anne Keane of U.C.G.. At Coole, Gerald Dawe and other poets attending Cúirt will read poems from his recently published edition 'Yeats: The Poems *A New Selection*'

**Departure: #47 Dominick St.**

**Charge: £5/£4 (incl. refreshments)**

### 3.00 PM Poets' Platform

Poets' Platform showcases some of the best talent from writers' groups all over Ireland. First held in Cúirt '91, it has featured in BBC and RTE radio coverage of the Festival. The Poets' Platform is a unique poetic occasion highlighting the unpublished voices of Irish poetry.

**Venue: Nun's Island. Admission: Free**

Friday 2 April

### 6.00 PM Booklaunch: Lapwing Pamphlets

Belfast-based Lapwing Publications are one of the major developments in the Northern Ireland literary scene in the past year. This launch of new pamphlets includes work by poets Michael O'Sullivan, Jean O'Brien, Paul Murphy and John McGuckian.

**Venue: Kenny's Bookshop**

### 8.00 PM Les Murray and Piotr Sommer



Les Murray

One of the Highlights of Cúirt '93 is this reading by Australia's Les Murray, widely recognised as one of the finest poets now writing in English. Les Murray was born in 1938 (on the same day as Evel Knievel!). He grew up in the farming community of New South Wales where he has returned to write full-time. Five collections of his poetry have been published in the U.K., including 'Collected Poems' and in March '93 - 'Translations From The Natural World'. "There is no poetry in the English Language now so rooted in its sacredness, so broad-leafed in its pleasures, and yet so intimate and so conversational" (Nobel Prize winner - Derek Walcott).

Joining Les Murray is Piotr Sommer, another one of the striking new generation of Polish poets. Six volumes of his poetry have been published in Poland. An accomplished translator, his first collection of poems in English 'Things to Translate' was published by Bloodaxe in 1991.

**Venue: Nun's Island.**

**Admission: £4/£3**

### 10.30 PM Scots Gallic Evening

An evening of poetry and music with some of Scotland's foremost contemporary poets. Iain Crichton Smith is a poet, novelist, essayist and short story writer who writes in both Gallic and English. His 'Collected Poems' recently won The Scottish Book of the Year Award. Fearghas MacFhionnlaigh is a poet and artist with three collections published to date. They are joined by Gallic singer, Flora MacNeill, and piper, Domhnall Bán Mac Domhnaill

**Venue: Atlanta Hotel. Admission: £2**

**Saturday** 3 April

**11.00 PM Children's Favourites**

**Suitable for 7 - 12 year olds**

Maeliosa Stafford, Director of Druid Theatre, reads his favourite poems for children and Galway Youth Theatre presents "Edible Verse", poetry close to the hearts (and stomachs) of young people. Keep your eyes peeled for some special guests!

**Venue: #47 Dominick St. Admission: Free**

**1.00 PM Rodney Pybus and Michael Davitt**

Born in Newcastle in 1938, Rodney Pybus is the author of six highly-praised volumes of poetry, the most recent being 'Cicadas in Their Summers: New and Selected Poems'. "Pybus' intelligence is formidable ... his themes are good, his language hard and contemporary". (Douglas Dunn)

Michael Davitt has been writing poetry in Irish since the age of sixteen and, to date has published three collection of his work; 'Gleann ar Ghleann' 1981, 'Bligeard Sráide' 1982, and 'Rogha Dánta' 1987.

**Venue: #47 Dominick St. Admission: £2**



Michael Davitt

**3.00 PM Lecture: Anthony Thwaite on Philip Larkin**

Though he published only four full collections during his lifetime, Philip Larkin was one of the most widely-revered English poets of his generation. The posthumous appearance of his 'Collected Poems' and the controversial 'Selected Letters', both edited by Anthony Thwaite, has shown public interest in his life and work to be as keen as ever.

Anthony Thwaite is himself a poet of considerable repute and was a close friend of Larkin's for many years.

**Venue: Nun's Island. Admission: Free**

The George MacBeth Memorial Lecture

**Saturday** 3 April

**7.30 PM John Banville**

Since the appearance of his first novel 'Long Lankin' in 1970, John Banville has established himself as one of the finest novelists of our age. Seven subsequent novels have followed that auspicious debut amongst which are 'Doctor Copernicus', 'Kepler' and 1989's 'The Book of Evidence' which was showered with critical accolades and won the GPA Award. This evening will feature the premiere public reading of his new novel 'Ghosts' which is published on April 14.

**Venue: Nun's Island. Admission: £3/£2**



John Banville

**9.00 PM Wendy Cope and Glyn Maxwell**

Wendy Cope's 'Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis' has sold an astonishing 40,000 copies making her the U.K.'s most popular poet. Her follow-up volume 'Serious Concerns' consolidates that position. Like its predecessor it is full of poems that are immediate, finely-crafted and immensely funny.

She is joined by Glyn Maxwell who The Guardian described as "England's brightest new poet for a decade". His first book 'Tale of the Mayor's Son' was published by Bloodaxe in 1990 and it was followed, in 1991, by 'Out of The Rain'. A collection of his verse plays 'Gnyss The Magnificent' will be published in June.

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



Wendy Cope

**10.30 PM Maguire & McBride**

Following their immensely popular shows at Cúirt '91 and '92, Galway comedy-duo Maguire and McBride supply yet another sustained assault on unsuspecting literary icons. This year's show evaluates the profound influence of that literary staple: Alcohol.

**Venue: Atlanta Hotel. Admission: £3/£2**



**12.00 NOON Bardic Breakfast**

A midday feast of food, poetry, music and humour featuring a second chance to enjoy the incomparable wit and wisdom of Wendy Cope. She is joined by one of the brightest of the new generation of Galway poets, Ann O'Dea, who has attracted considerable interest with her "miniaturist" verse. Music is provided by the Galway Early Music Group, who play recorders, gemshorns and the like while disporting themselves in Tudor costumes. MC for the occasion is the original "Donegal Fry", Little John Nee.

**Venue:** Bewley's Cafe

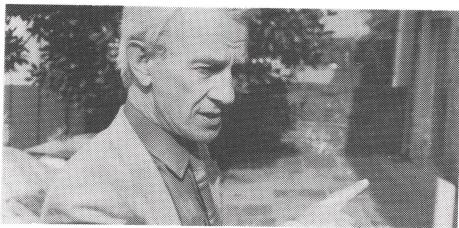
**Admission:** £5/£4 (including breakfast)

**8.00 PM Richard Murphy and Anthony Thwaite**

Richard Murphy

Drimcong House once again hosts the Festival's poetic finale. Richard Murphy is one of Ireland's most admired and accomplished poets. Born in the West of Ireland, he spent much of his childhood in Ceylon. He first gained widespread attention with 'Sailing to an Island' which was selected by T.S. Eliot for publication by Faber in 1963. Many other collections followed including 'The Battle of Aughrim' and 'New Selected Poems'. His most recent volume is 'The Mirror Wall'.

Anthony Thwaite has taught at both the Universities of Tokyo and Libya. He is a former literary editor of The Listener and The Statesman. Seven volumes of his poetry have been published as well as a selected collection 'Poems 1953-88'. Regarded as a "a master of poetic form" he has also edited several anthologies including the 'Penguin Book of Japanese Verse' and 'Six Centuries of Verse' based on a major Channel 4 series.



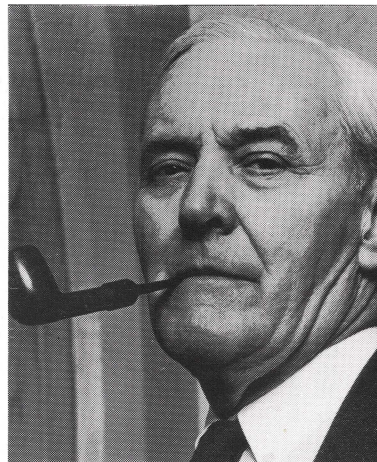
Anthony Thwaite

**Venue:** Drimcong House, Moycullen  
**Admission:** £8 including wine and savouries supplied by Drimcong House. Tickets in advance only. Sponsored by Thermo King.

**9.00 PM Tony Benn and Ruth Winston**

One of the most intriguing events of Cúirt '93 is this talk by English Labour politician, Tony Benn. He was first elected an M.P. in 1950 and held various cabinet positions in the 1960's and 70's. Convinced of the necessity for an accurate contemporaneous record of his thoughts and actions, he has kept a daily diary throughout his career. His voluminous diaries have now been edited by Ruth Winston and published in six volumes. These diaries, together with eight other books, make Benn one of the most prolific and respected political writers in Britain today.

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

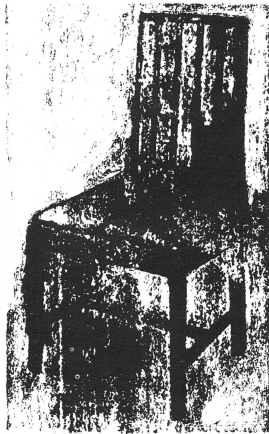


Tony Benn

### **"Sheltering Places" by Noel Connor**

This exhibition of etchings and drawings by Noel Connor are a product of a longtime collaboration with poet Gerald Dawe and are collected in the revised edition of 'Sheltering Places' which will be published with 'Company' to coincide with this exhibition. Connor has exhibited widely in Britain and Ireland. As an illustrator he has worked on Seamus Heaney's 'Gravities', Tom Paulin's 'Book of Juniper' and the 'Game of Life and Death' by John Heath Stubbs.

**Venue: Gallery 1  
at #47 Dominick St.**



### **"Poets in the Lens" by Becky Hallsmith**

A collection of photographic portraits of leading poets in a montage with their poems by English photographer Becky Hallsmith. During the course of Cúirt '93, Hallsmith will be capturing the poets and writers on camera for a future exhibition.

**Venue: Gallery 2 at #47 Dominick St.**

**Exhibitions open daily 10 am - 5.30pm**

## **Education Programme**

### **Poetry Masterclass**

English poet, Carol Rumens, has published five volumes of poetry. Her Selected Poems appeared in 1987. She edited Chatto's women's anthology, "Making for the Open" in 1985 and is currently on the editorial board of Bloodaxe Publications and is writer in residence in Queens University, Belfast. She will give a series of poetry masterclasses to a limited group (12 maximum) on the 3rd and 4th April. Application to participate must be made in advance. The fee is £15.

### **Schools Programme**

During the week of Cúirt, and the week preceding it, one of the most popular younger poets in Ireland, Pat Boran, will be conducting workshop sessions with classes in four Galway secondary schools.

At 3.00pm on Saturday April 3 there will be a public reading at #47 Dominick Street featuring students who have participated in those workshops. Admission is free and all are welcome.



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