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The A.T. Cross
Quirt Festival
of Literature



Presented by Galway Arts Centre

19-25 APRIL 1994

The A.T. Cross
Cúirt Festival
of Literature

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Taylors Bar, Dominick Street
Tigh Neachtain, Cross Street

Cúirt Box Office

Opens Tuesday 22 March,
Tickets available to callers or by
post from Galway Arts Centre,
47 Dominick Street, Galway.

Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5.30pm

Information: 091 65886

Credit Card Bookings: 091 68303

Fax: 091 68642

Season Tickets

A limited number of season tickets
at £25 (£22 conc.) go on sale on
22 March. Season ticket holders must
confirm which events they are
attending when purchasing the ticket.

6.00 PM Festival Launch

The most expansive Cúirt to date is launched by Bernard Loughlin, Director of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, which has been a home away from home for many of Ireland's poets and writers over the last two decades.

Venue: 47 Dominick Street



Denise Levertov

9.00 PM Denise Levertov and Eavan Boland

Cúirt's inaugural reading brings together two of the finest poets writing in English today. Since her debut volume - 'The Double Image' - appeared in 1946 Denise Levertov has published over 20 collections of poetry including 'Selected Poems' (1986), 'A Door In The Hive' (1989) and 'Evening Train' (1992). She has long been known for her remarkable political poetry but she also takes her readers from public issues back to the most personal, spiritual concerns, her subjects ranging from paintings and music to terror in El Salvador. The New York Times acclaimed her as "... the most subtly skillful poet of her generation, the most profound, the most moving."



Eavan Boland

Eavan Boland was born in Dublin in 1944. Since her first collection was published in 1967, she has established herself as one of the leading poets of these islands. Her last collection, 'Outside History' was hailed by the Guardian as "...unquestionably one of the most fully achieved collections of 1990". At Cúirt she will give the premiere reading of her eagerly awaited new volume, 'In a Time of Violence', in which she continues to "bless the ordinary...sanctify the common."

Venue: Nun's Island. Admission £4/£3.

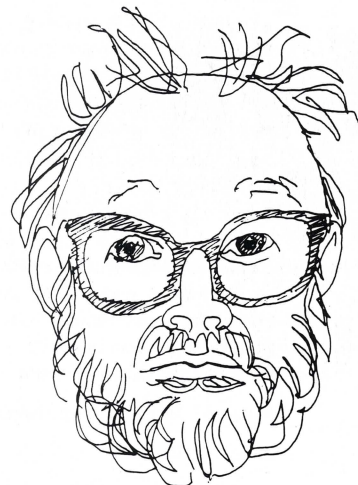
9.00 PM William Trevor and Alasdair Gray

William Trevor

An engrossing double-bill featuring two highly contrasting prose stylists. William Trevor was born in Cork in 1928 and his first novel - 'The Old Boys' - was published in 1964. Since then he has written numerous novels, short stories and plays for stage, radio and television including, most famously, 'The Ballroom Of Romance'. Amongst the many awards he has received are the Hawthornden Prize, the Whitbread Prize and an honorary CBE. His 'Collected Stories' were published last year by Penguin.

Alasdair Gray has described himself as a "stout, elderly, balding, spectacled Glasgow pedestrian". He has a phenomenal skill as a storyteller who amuses even as he provokes his audience. Born in 1934, his first novel - 'Lanark' - appeared in 1982 and was described by The Guardian as "...probably the greatest Scottish novel of the century". Five other novels have followed, including 'Poor Things' (1992) which won the Whitbread Novel of the Year Award and Guardian Fiction Prize. He has also published a collection of verse and three books of short stories, the most recent being 'Ten Tales Tall & True'.

Venue: Nun's Island. Admission £4/£3.



Alasdair Gray

1.00 PM **Thomas Kilroy
and Hugo Hamilton**

Thomas Kilroy is best known as a playwright, his works including 'Talbot's Box', 'Tea, Sex And Shakespeare' and 'Double Cross'. His 1971 novel, 'The Big Chapel' was short-listed for the Booker prize, received the Guardian Fiction prize and the Heinemann Award For Literature. His Cúirt reading will focus on his new novel 'Quirke'.

Hugo Hamilton was born in Dublin in 1953 of German/Irish parentage. 'Surrogate City', his first novel was published by Faber in 1990 and was followed by 'The Last Shot' in 1991. In 1992 he won the Rooney Prize and his new novel, 'The Love Test', will be published later this year. He was recently appointed Writer-in-Residence at U.C.G.

Venue: 47 Dominick Street. Admission £2.



Katie Donovan

4.00 PM **Katie Donovan and John Lyons**

Born in 1962, Katie Donovan is a freelance journalist whose first poetry collection, 'Watermelon Man', was recently published by Bloodaxe. With Brendan Kennelly she co-edited 'Dublines', an anthology of writing about Dublin to be published by Bloodaxe in 1994 and she has also co-edited 'Ireland's Women: Writing By and About Irish Women', to be published this year.

Born in Trinidad, John Lyons now lives in Manchester and is a painter, poet and writer of considerable talent. Much of his work is inspired by the folklore and culture of his native Caribbean, evident in the vibrant colour and mythological figures of his paintings. His poetry has appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies.

Venue: 47 Dominick Street. Admission £2.

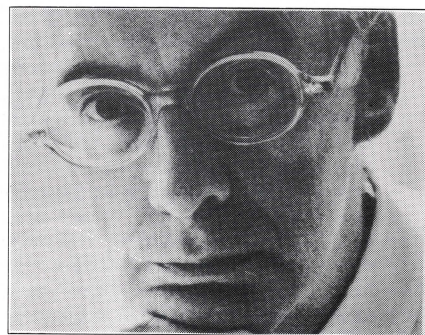
6.00 PM **Joint Booklaunch;
John F. Deane and 'Mayo Anthology'**

The launch of two new books from Achill-born poet John F. Deane. 'Walking On Water', his latest collection of verse is published by Dedalus Press (which he founded) and 'Free Range' is a collection of his stories published by Wolfhound. Also being launched is the latest 'Mayo Anthology' edited by Michael Gorman and featuring over 50 writers with Mayo connections, including Paul Durcan, Tom Kilroy, Michael Mullen and John F. Deane. The books will be launched by Denise Levertov.

Venue: Kenny's Bookshop

9.00 PM **Roger McGough
and Brendan Cleary**

Poet, performer, broadcaster and playwright, Roger McGough has been one of the U.K.'s most enduringly popular writers ever since his emergence from Liverpool's "Mersey sound" scene in 1967. His prodigious output includes 28 poetry collections (10 for children), 19 plays and 5 television presentations (including 1992's award-winning Channel 4 series, 'The Elements'). Whether he is observing the eccentricities of contemporary life or the oddities of human feeling, his verses sparkle with verbal dexterity, irreverent wit, irony and heartfelt compassion.



Roger McGough

Brendan Cleary has been described as "the mad axeman of poetry". Born in Antrim in 1958, he now lives in Newcastle upon Tyne where he works as an editor, part-time lecturer, performance poet and stand-up comic. His first major collection, 'The Irish Card' was published in 1993 by Bloodaxe to instant acclaim, one critic observing: "These new poems are tearful and brilliant...like a kind of Irish Hank Williams on acid."

Venue: Nun's Island. Admission £4/£3.

1.00 PM **Matthew Sweeney and Pat O'Brien**

Born in Donegal in 1952, and now based in London, Matthew Sweeney has been described as "a star in the firmament of poetry". In his highly inventive, witty and exuberant poetry he creates a hallucinatory world in which darkness and irony always lurk beneath the polished surfaces. He has published 6 poetry collections, the most recent being 'Blue Shoes' (1989) and 'Cacti' (1992)



Matthew Sweeney

Pat O'Brien is a priest working in the Co. Galway village of Skehana. A collection of his poems - 'The Book Of Genesis' - was published in 1988 by Dedalus. He edited 'Erect Me A Monument Of Broken Wings' (1992) an anthology of writings by and about Padraic Fallon and has written and produced seven plays.

Venue: 47 Dominick Street. Admission £2.

2.30 PM **Boat-Trip to Annaghdown**

"Mise Raiftearaí an file....." Raiftearaí was the last of the great wandering Irish bards and one of his best known poems is "Anach Cúain", a lament based on events in the village of Annaghdown on the banks of the River Corrib. To commemorate the Irish bardic tradition, Cúirt has organised a boat trip to Annaghdown, and guide for the journey is Connemara naturalist Tony Whilde. At Annaghdown pier, Nora Duggan will recite "Anach Cúain" and at the village schoolhouse, poet John O' Donoghue will lead a reading. Many of Cúirt's visiting poets will take part in the trip and will join in with poems appropriate to the occasion.

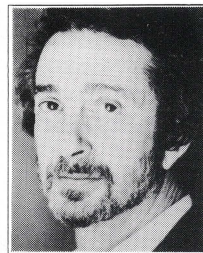
Departure: Waterside Quay, Woodquay. Charge £5/£4 (including boat and refreshments)

3.00 PM **Poets' Platform**

Poets' Platform is an open forum for poets which showcases some of the best talent from writers' groups all over Ireland. First held in Cúirt '91, it has become one of the festival's most popular events amply demonstrating the sheer quality of Irish poetry's unpublished voices.

Venue: Nun's Island. Admission Free.

8.00 PM **C.K. Williams and Cathal Ó Searcaigh**



C.K. Williams

Born in New Jersey in 1936, C.K. Williams is one of America's most exciting poets, a writer of intense and searching originality who makes lyric sense of the often brutal realities of everyday life. Collections include: 'Lies' (1969), 'Tar' (1983), 'Flesh And Blood' (1988) which won the

National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry, and 'A Dream Of Mind' (1992). "To put it simply, C.K. Williams is a wonderful poet, in the authentic American tradition of Walt Whitman and William Carlos Williams, who tells us on every page what it means to be alive in our time" (Stanley Kunitz)



Cathal Ó Searcaigh

The poet and playwright Cathal Ó Searcaigh lives on a small hill farm at the foot of Mount Errigal in Donegal. He is the author of four acclaimed volumes of verse including 'Suibhne: Rogha Danta' (1988) and 'Ag Tnúth leis an tSolais' (1993).

His many quirky, irreverent plays include 'Mairimid

leis na Mistéirí' and 'Tá an Tóin ag Titim as an tSaol'. He is firmly established as a popular and persuasive reader of his verse.

Venue: Nun's Island. Admission £4/£3

Sponsored by BORD NA GAEILGE

10.00 PM **Maguire & McBride**

For the 4th consecutive year, Galway comedy-duo Connor Maguire & Charlie McBride carry out a ritual slaughtering of sacred cows culled from the bardic herd. Having, in previous years, explored such lofty literary topics as Love and Alcohol, this year in "Feud For Thought" they focus on writers at war; with such eternal enemies as landlords, censors, spouses and, especially, other writers.

Venue: Nun's Island. Admission £3/£2.

11.00 AM **Roger McGough**

Roger McGough, much-loved children's performer and witty word-prankster, gives an unmissable reading for children, aided by Galway Youth Theatre, who present a mixed bag of poems about "Rum Relatives and Funny Friends".

Venue: 47 Dominick Street. **Admission Free.**
Sponsored by Thermo King.

1.00 PM **"Emergent Voices"**

A reading featuring four of the best participants from previous Poet's Platforms; Anne Joyce from Sligo, Noelle Vial from Killybegs, whose debut collection will be published shortly, Barbara Parkinson also from Killybegs and Westport's Ger Reidy.

All four are writers of considerable promise and ability whose work has appeared in many anthologies and who seem certain to become much more widely known in the near future.

Venue: 47 Dominick Street. **Admission £2.**

2.30 PM **Nick Hornby**

Nick Hornby

Published in 1992 Nick Hornby's 'Fever Pitch', charting his lifelong passion for Arsenal, became an instant classic and won the William Hill Sportsbook of the Year Award. Amongst universally ecstatic reviews the Observer described it as "a sophisticated study of obsession, families, masculinity, class, identity, growing up, loyalty, depression and joy" and Elle

magazine found it "Utterly hilarious, even football-haters will be beguiled". Hornby has since edited 'My Favourite Year', an anthology of football writing and is a regular columnist with the Independent on Sunday.

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

4.00 PM **Robert Fisk**

"The Writer's Lot: How Image Dominates Reality or How the Rooster Lost Its Call"

Robert Fisk, the leading foreign correspondent in the Middle East, delivers what promises to be a rivetting talk on the ways in which television has distorted journalism, a topic of considerable aptness at a Literature festival. As well as his regular contributions to the Independent, Fisk is the author of 'Pity The Nation', an enthralling and powerful history of modern Lebanon. "He is a devastating witness to the failure of politics to guard mankind against itself." (Sunday Times).

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

The
George
MacBeth
Memorial
Lecture

6.00 PM **Book-Launch; Padraic Fiacc**

The official launch of 'Ruined Pages', the selected poems of Padraic Fiacc, published by Blackstaff to co-incide with his 70th birthday. Edited by Gerald Dawe and Aodán MacPóilin, this definitive collection celebrates the very best of Padraic Fiacc's poetry - ranging from the tender bardic simplicity of his early lyrics to the sharp vernacular speech, macabre wit and brutal imagery of his later work.

Venue: Kenny's Bookshop

7.30 PM **Roddy Doyle**

Roddy Doyle

A reading by one of Ireland's funniest and most popular writers. Roddy Doyle has written four novels, two of which - 'The Commitments' and 'The Snapper' - have been made into hugely successful films. His latest, 'Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha' was awarded the 1993 Booker Prize. He has also written several plays and has just completed a drama series 'The Family' for the BBC.

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

9.00 PM **Linton Kwesi Johnson and Jean 'Binta' Breeze**

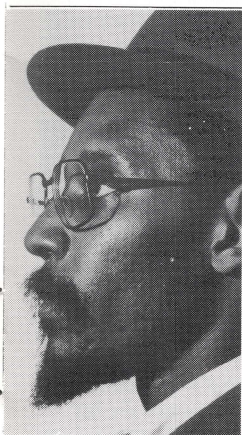
The Caribbean strand in Cúirt '94 is highlighted in this electrifying double-bill. Linton Kwesi Johnson was born in Jamaica in 1952 and moved to England at the age of eleven. His first poetry collection appeared in 1975 and his debut album - 'Dread, Beat An' Blood' - appeared in 1978 to immediate acclaim. Further outstanding albums followed, such as 'Forces of Victory' (1979), 'Bass Culture' (1980) and 'Making History' (1983). During the '80s he became immersed in journalism, working closely with the Race Today collective. In 1991 Bloodaxe published his Selected Poems - 'Tings An' Times'.

Jean 'Binta' Breeze is one of Jamaica's leading "dub poets" and storytellers.

She made her poetic debut with 'Answers'

in 1983 and has followed it with such volumes as 1988's 'Riddym Ravings' and 'Spring Cleaning' in 1992. She wrote the screenplay for 'Hallelujah Anyhow', released in 1990. As an actress, dancer, choreographer and theatrical director Jean has a compelling and striking stage presence, generating all the power and excitement of a full-blown theatrical performance.

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



Linton Kwesi Johnson

12.00 NOON **Bardic Breakfast**

Another annual Festival favourite, the Bardic Breakfast offers a midday feast of poetry, music and fine food. Participants this year include the inimitable Linton Kwesi Johnson who will be joined by rising young Galway poet Olaf Tyaransen. Born in 1971, Olaf is a freelance journalist and regular contributor to Hot Press whose first collection - 'The Consequences of Slaughtering Butterflies' - was published by Salmon in 1992. Today he will read from his forthcoming collection, 'Finding My Virginitiy'. Music will be provided by new Galway group "The Cappucinos"

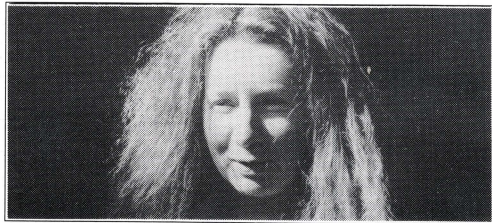
Venue: Bewley's Cafe. **Admission** £5/£4 (incl. breakfast).

4.00 PM **An Afternoon at Drimcong with Sujata Bhatt and Medbh McGuckian**

The elegant surroundings of Drimcong House are the setting for what promises to be a richly satisfying poetic afternoon. Sujata Bhatt's wry, sensuous and sophisticated poetry explores the marriage between two worlds: East and West.

Born in Ahmedabad, India in 1956 she was educated in the U.S. and now lives in Germany. Though her mother tongue is Gujarati she writes in English and has produced two award-winning collections, 'Brunizem' (1988) and 'Monkey Shadows' (1991). Her rich and varied work ranges

from wildlife to real and mythological people and from political strife to erotic love.



Sujata Bhatt

Medbh McGuckian

Medbh McGuckian is one of Ireland's most distinctive poetic voices. Among the many awards she has won are the Alice Hunt Bartlett Prize, The Cheltenham Award and The Bass Ireland Award for Literature. Her first collection - 'The Flower Master' - was published in 1979 and has been followed by 'Venus And The Rain' (1984), 'On Ballycastle Beach' (1988) and 'Marconi's Cottage' (1991). "Her work moves with great dignity and assurance, while her characteristic first-person speaking voice, imitating no other writer's, beguiles one immediately." (Sunday Times).

Venue: Drimcong House, Moycullen. **Admission** £5/£4 (including wine and savouries supplied by Drimcong House. Tickets in advance only.)

9.00 PM **Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin**

Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin is one of Ireland's best known composers and performers. Much of his composition has explored the diametrically opposed sounds of Irish traditional and classical music. In his last four recordings, The Dolphin's Way, Oilean/Island, Casadh/Turning and Gaiseadh/Flowing, Ó'Súilleabháin has consistently turned to poetry to find correlations with his own musical sounds. In this special solo piano performance for Cúirt of his own music and the music of others, he finds resonances between poetry and music.

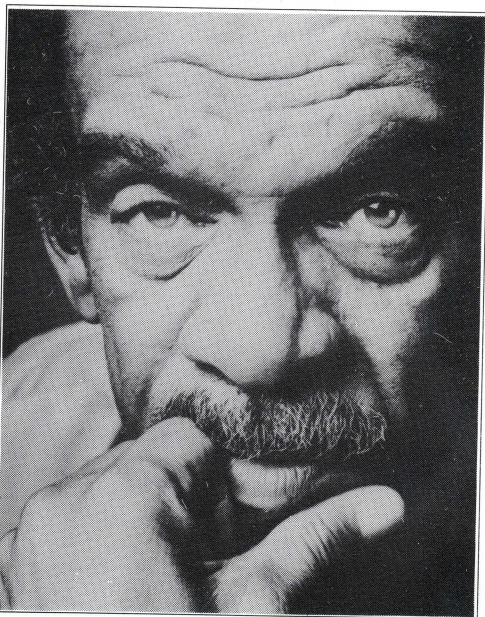
Venue: Nun's Island. **Admission** £5/£4



Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin

9.00 PM **Derek Walcott**

Cúirt '94 concludes on a very high note indeed with this reading by Nobel Prize winner, Derek Walcott. Regarded by many as the best poet in the English language today, he has won international acclaim for his work which explores the history, politics and landscape of his native Caribbean as well as the universal themes of love, death and the nature of memory. His many collections include 'Sea Grapes' (1976), 'The Arkansas Testament' (1988), 'Collected Poems 1948-84' (1986) and the epic poem 'Omeros' (1990). He is also an accomplished playwright and painter and divides his time between St. Lucia (where he was born in 1930) and Boston, where he is Professor of English.



Derek Walcott

"Walcott is neither a traditionalist nor a modernist. He belongs to no school... He can be naturalistic, expressionistic, surrealist, imagistic, hermetic, confessional - you name it. He simply has absorbed, the way whales do plankton or a paintbrush the palette, all the stylistic idioms the north could offer; now he is on his own, and in a big way... He is the man by whom the English language lives." (Joseph Brodsky).

Venue: Nun's Island. Admission £5/£4.

Poetry Masterclass

This year's Poetry Masterclass will be given by Canadian-based poet, Robin Skelton. Since 1955, he has published 26 books of poetry as well as numerous translations, biography, criticism and memoirs. He is an acknowledged authority on the works of Synge and Yeats. He will give a series of masterclasses to a limited group (12 maximum) on 23 and 24 April. Application to participate must be made in advance. The fee is £15.

Education Programme

The Cúirt Schools Programme is bigger than ever before with two writers conducting workshops in both Irish and English in a total of seven schools, ranging from Galway city to the Aran Islands.

The Irish language workshop leader will be Cathal Ó Searcaigh, the leading Donegal Gaeltacht poet, who has extensive experience as poet-in-residence and currently holds that post at the University of Ulster. Leland Bardwell, challenging novelist and short story writer, will take the English language workshops, discussing her own work and that of the participant students.

On Saturday 23 April the fruits of these workshops can be heard, at a public reading by the participant students in Nun's Island at 12.00 midday. All are welcome. Admission Free.

Exhibitions**John Lyons**

In his paintings, drawings and art objects John Lyons explores the world of legend, folklore and the myth of his native Caribbean culture. He discovers here a fascinating universality. His works, far from being quaint representations of folk tales, are dynamic often politicised expressions in which legendary folkloric characters play a central role.

Venue: Galway Arts Centre, 47 Dominick St.

"A Word In Your Eye"

An exhibition specially assembled by the Grainstore Gallery as "a bouquet to Cúirt" and echoing its themes in its various images. Exhibitors include the cartoonist Tom Mathews, the acclaimed calligrapher Denis Brown, illustrator John Verling, Allie Kay textile maker and Romy Gray with her delicately embedded fragments of poetry in gold leaf on handmade parchment.

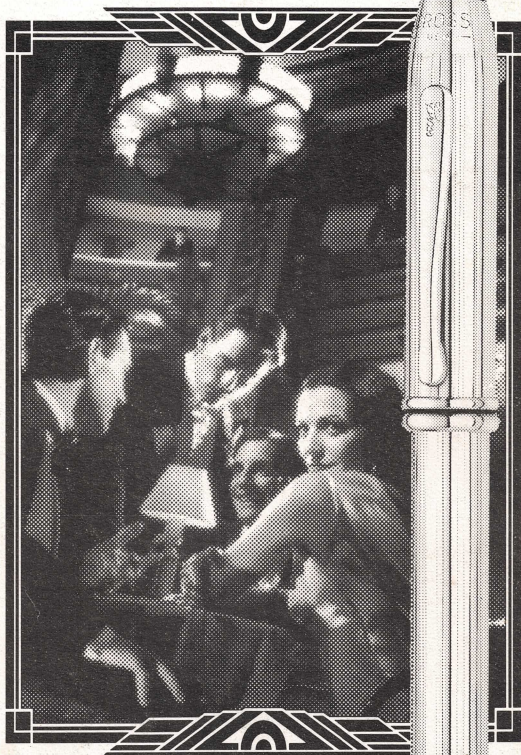
Venue: Grainstore Gallery, Abbeygate Street.

Exhibition Open Daily, 10.00am - 5.30pm.

Festival Club

Each evening throughout the Festival after the readings at Nun's Island there will be an informal gathering of participants and audience at the Atlanta Hotel, Dominick Street. Admission Free. All welcome.

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