



A.T.CROSS

Cúirt 96

FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE GALWAY ARTS CENTRE 16 - 21 APRIL

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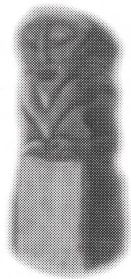


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Cúirt Box Office opens Friday March 22
Tickets available to callers or by post from:

Galway Arts Centre
47 Dominick Street
Galway

Monday - Saturday 10 am - 5.30 pm

INFORMATION 091 565886
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS 091 568303
FAX 091 568642

A.T.CROSS
Cúirt 96

FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE GALWAY ARTS CENTRE 16 - 21 APRIL

TUESDAY APRIL 16

6pm FESTIVAL LAUNCH

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, Cúirt brings together some of the world's finest contemporary writers. Cúirt 96 is launched by Páraic Breathnach, Macnas co-founder and one of the most innovative and dynamic figures in arts development in Ireland today.

47 Dominick Street

9pm MARGARET ATWOOD

Cúirt 96's inaugural reading features one of the most eminent writers of the last thirty years. Since her first publication appeared in 1964, Canadian Margaret Atwood has published over twenty books comprising novels, short stories, poetry and literary criticism. She has won numerous awards for such acclaimed volumes as *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Cat's Eye* and *The Robber Bride*. Her most recent publications are *Morning in the Burned House* (poems) and the children's book *Princess Prunella and the Purple Peanut*, both of which appeared last year.

Nun's Island. Admission £4/£3



Margaret Atwood

1pm

MARY MORRISSY & MIKE McCORMACK

This reading showcases two of the most exciting Irish writers to have emerged over the past year. Mary Morrissy's debut collection of short stories, *A Lazy Eye*, was published by Cape in 1993 to widespread acclaim and was followed, in 1995, by her first novel *Mother of Pearl*. That same year she was awarded America's prestigious Lannan Literary Award for both books.

Mike McCormack's first collection of short stories, *Getting It In The Head*, has just been published by Jonathan Cape. Macabre, moving and darkly humorous, they are beautifully written and signal the arrival of a major talent.



Mary Morrissy



Mike McCormack

47 Dominick St. Admission £2

6pm

BOOK LAUNCH: PAT BORAN

Dedalus Press launch *The Shape of Water*, Pat Boran's third poetry collection. Born in Laois in 1963, Boran won the Patrick Kavanagh Award with his debut collection *The Unwound Clock* (1990) and has also published a volume of short stories, *Strange Bedfellows* (1991).

"Boran captures the seductive claustrophobia of life in small Irish towns quite brilliantly, and with a minimum of verbal fuss."
(Books Ireland)

Kenny's Bookshop

8pm

COLUM McCANN & JENNIFER JOHNSTON

Colum McCann was born in Dublin in 1966 and made his debut with the highly-praised short story collection, *Fishing the Sloe-Black River*. In 1994 he won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and last year saw the publication of his first novel *Songdogs*. He presently lives and works in New York.

Jennifer Johnston is one of Ireland's foremost writers. Her novels include *The Captains and the Kings*, *How Many Miles To Babylon*, *The Old Jest* (winner of the Whitbread Prize) and *Shadows on our Skin* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize) Several of her works have been successfully adapted for film and television. At Cúirt, she will read from her most recent novel *The Illusionist*, published last September.



Colum McCann

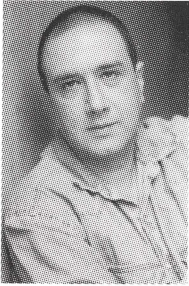


Jennifer Johnston

Nun's Island. Admission £5/£4

1pm

RONNY SOMECK & JAMES LIDDY



Ronny Someck

The Israeli poet Ronny Someck was born in 1951 and is the author of six volumes of verse. His themes are drawn from politics, pop culture, family life and his country's landscapes. This versatility, allied to his wry humour and distinctively individual voice, has made him one of Israel's most popular poets.

James Liddy was born on the night of the long knives in 1934. Limerick, Clare, Long Island and Wexford are the geographies of his ancestry and upbringing. Since 1977, he has taught in the English Dept. of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has published six collections of verse, including *Collected Poems* which appeared in 1994.



James Liddy

47 Dominick St. Admission £2

4pm

DANA GIOIA: LECTURE

POETRY NOW... THE COLLAPSE OF PRINT CULTURE

Dana Gioia was born in Los Angeles in 1950 and his poems, essays and translations have appeared in numerous American periodicals. His first full-length collection, 1986's *Daily Horoscope* aroused intense debate. His next collection, *The Gods of Winter*, appeared in 1991. That same year, his essay *Can Poetry Matter* ignited a national debate on the role of poetry in contemporary America.

University College Galway

6pm

THE LANDSCAPE OF THE THEATRE

Do plays change with their audiences? Are Irish plays performed in Ireland the same plays when they are performed in England? Is a play that is translated into another language the same play? With Druid's production of Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* just returned from London's Royal Court Theatre, the Company brings together a panel of theatre practitioners to discuss these and other questions. Participants include Garry Hynes, Artistic Director of Druid; Graham Whybrow, Literary Manager of the Royal Court; Billy Roche and Marina Carr, Writers-in-Association with Druid.

Druid Theatre, Chapel Lane. Admission Free (with ticket)

9pm

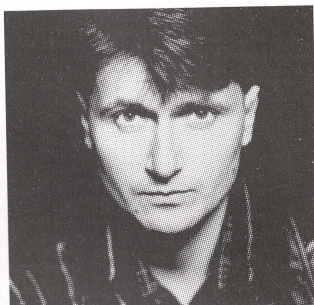
KATHLEEN JAMIE & SIMON ARMITAGE

Scottish poet Kathleen Jamie was born in 1962 and, in 1981, became one of the youngest ever winners of the Gregory Award. Her first collection, *Black Spiders* was published the following year and it has been followed by acclaimed volumes such as *The Way We Live*, *The Autonomous Region* and *The Queen of Sheba*. Much of her work has drawn on her travels through some of the wildest regions of Pakistan, Tibet and Baltistan. She now lives and works in the Orkneys. "*This fierce, blanched, singing verse is exquisitely gathered by a fine ear*" (London Review of Books)



Kathleen Jamie

Simon Armitage is widely acknowledged as one of Britain's finest young poets. Born in Huddersfield in 1963, he has produced 4 collections to date; *Zoom*, *Kid*, *Book of Matches* and most recently, *The Dead Sea Poems*. Twice shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize, he was the Sunday Times 1993 choice as Young Writer of the Year.



Simon Armitage

Nun's Island. Admission £5/£4

10.30pm

A TRIBUTE TO SEÁN DUNNE AT CÚIRT

Cúirt pays tribute to the life and work of Seán Dunne, the poet and journalist who died in August last year. This is a celebration in words and music by some of the writers he admired. Taking part are Thomas McCarthy, Peter Fallon, Tim Robinson and Dermot Healy with music from renowned accordionist Tony McMahon and singer Treasa Ní Mhiolláin. The event will be chaired by Lar Cassidy.

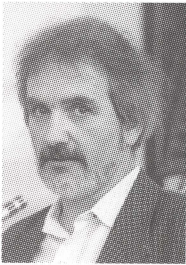
Atlanta Hotel. Admission £3

11 am STUDENTS' READING

Three award winning writers, poet and playwright Vincent Woods, short story writer and dramatist Joe Steve O Neactain and performance poet and playwright, Max Hafler will conduct a series of workshops prior to and during Cúirt. This event will feature the writing of the workshop participants who will read in Irish and English. Designed to encourage writing and reading among young people, this years Cúirt education programme will involve twenty schools in Galway City and County.

Nun's Island. Admission Free

1pm JACQUES RANCOURT & MARIO DEL VALLE



Jacques Rancourt

Jacques Rancourt was born in Quebec in 1946 and has lived in Paris since 1971. A poet, essayist and translator, he has published eight collections of verse. These include *The Distribution of Bodies*, a bi-lingual edition of his work published by Dedalus in 1995.

Mexican poet Mario Del Valle was born in 1945 in Vera Cruz. His first collection, *Linea Rota*, was published in 1973 and three others have followed, most recently *Luz de Plomo* (1996). Del Valle is also celebrated as the founder and editor of the award-winning publishing house *Ediciones Papeles Privados* which specialises in books of poetry and art.



Mario Del Valle

47 Dominick St. Admission £2

2.30pm THE COOLE TRIP

An afternoon of music and poetry with a coach trip to Coole Park and Thoor Ballylee, famous for their associations with Lady Gregory and W B Yeats. At Coole, Vincent Woods and other poets attending Cúirt will read from their work. Music will be provided by Brendan O'Regan and friends.

Departure 47 Dominick Street Price £5/£4 (incl. refreshments)

3pm POETS' PLATFORM

Poets' Platform showcases some of the best writing talent from writers' groups all over Ireland. Since it was first held in 1991, the event has become one of the festival's regular highlights. As Ireland's largest poetry reading, it vividly illustrates the range and depth of talent amongst the unpublished voices of Irish poetry.

Nun's Island. Admission Free

6pm ÁINE NÍ GLYNN, GABRIEL ROSENSTOCK,
CATHAL O'SEARCAIGH, MICHEÁL Ó CONGHAILE
& MICHAEL DAVITT

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Téann painéal filí Gaeilge faoi chathaoirleacht Michael Davitt i ngleic le ceist an aistriúchain; céard a chailltear, céard a bhaintear agus saothair Ghaeilge á n-aistriú go Béarla. An é leas an bhundáin é a aistriú, nó an é atá san fhilíocht ná an méid a chailltear san aistriúchán? Táthar ag súil le seisiún bríomhar ag a gcloisfear dearcadh na bhfilí féin. Cuirfear téacsanna dátheangach ar fáil don lucht féachana. Under the chairmanship of Michael Davitt, three Irish poets and a publisher come together to discuss the issue of poetry translation between Irish and English. What's gained and what's lost in the exercise? The forum, which promises to be a lively one, will be conducted through both languages.

Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, Middle Street

Admission Free (with ticket)

8.30pm

MÁIRE MHAC AN tSAOI & PAUL MULDOON

Two highly distinctive poets come together for what promises to be a thoroughly compelling reading. Máire Mhac an tSaoi was born in Dublin in 1922. She is widely recognised as one of the foremost poets working in the Irish language today. Máire has published numerous collections of poetry, the most recent being *An Cion go dtí Seo* (1990) as well as the cassette release of *Guth an Fhile* (1992).

Paul Muldoon, born in 1951, is widely regarded as the leading Irish poet of his generation. Collections include *Mules*, *Quoof*, *Madoc* and *New Selected Poems 1968-94*, all published by Faber. A new collection, *Kerry Slides*, has just been published by Gallery.



Máire Mhac an tSaoi



Paul Muldoon

Nun's Island. Admission £5/£4

FRIDAY APRIL 19

11pm

NICK CURRIE & BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH

Born in Scotland, currently living in Paris, Nick Currie, also known as Momus, will sing and read from his recently published book *Lusts of a Moron*. "His words are bewildering and breathtaking and shocking in a way I find difficult to resist" (Simon Armitage).

Dub-poet and playwright Benjamin Zephaniah broke through on the British cabaret and performance circuit in the early '80s and the poetry world has never been the same since. His work, fashioned in English and Jamaican patois, is a heady and potent mix of critical wit and extraordinary verbal agility. Books include *The Dread Affair*, *Rasta Time In Palestine* and *City Psalms*. A dynamic and exhilarating performer, this event promises to be one of the Festival's highlights.

Town Hall Theatre

Admission £5/£4



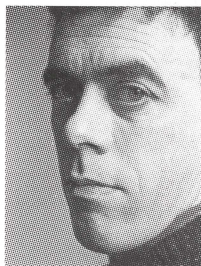
Nick Currie



Benjamin Zephaniah

1pm

THEO DORGAN & STEPHEN DUNN



Theo Dorgan

Poet, editor and broadcaster Theo Dorgan was born in Cork in 1953. His poetry collections include the highly-praised *Ordinary House of Love* and *Rosa Mundi*. With Gene Lambert, he co-edited *The Great Book of Ireland* and he is the editor of the forthcoming *Irish Poetry After Kavanagh*. He also presents RTE Radio One's Poetry Now and is the Director of Poetry Ireland.

American poet Stephen Dunn has published 9 collections of poetry, including *New and Selected Poems 1974-1994*, *Landscape at the End of the Century*, and *Full of Lust and Good Usage*. His work has received numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, three NEA Creative Writing Fellowships and a Theodore Roethke Prize. "He is a poet of wisdom... a healer and a teacher... The music is perfect as the art is hidden, and some of the poems are unbearably beautiful. He is a magnificent poet" (Gerald Stern).

47 Dominick St. Admission £2

3pm

FILM FORUM

CENTENARY OF WHAT?

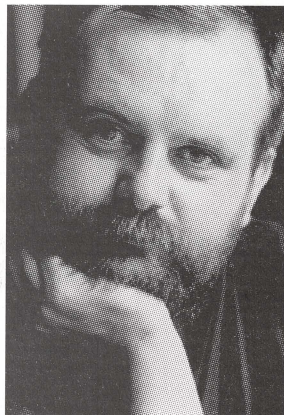
In response to recent celebrations marking the centenary of film, Cúirt brings together some of the leading practitioners in the industry. Ciarán Carty, Arts Editor of the Sunday Tribune and author of the recent *Confessions of a Sewer-Rat*, (on film censorship in Ireland) Mary McGuckian, screenwriter, producer and director; Lelia Doolin, Chairperson Irish Film Board will discuss a broad range of issues concerning film. The event will be chaired by Prof. Ciarán Benson, Chairperson Arts Council, and will be open to audience participation.

Nun's Island. Admission Free (with ticket)

6.30pm

PAT McCABE

Born in Monaghan in 1955, Pat McCabe is firmly established as one of the leading Irish writers of recent years. He first achieved prominence with his third novel, *The Butcher Boy* (1992) which won the Irish Times/Aer Lingus Fiction Prize and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. His play, *Frank Pig Says Hello*, based on that novel has successfully toured in three continents. McCabe's latest novel, *The Dead School* has just been published in paperback by Picador.



Pat McCabe

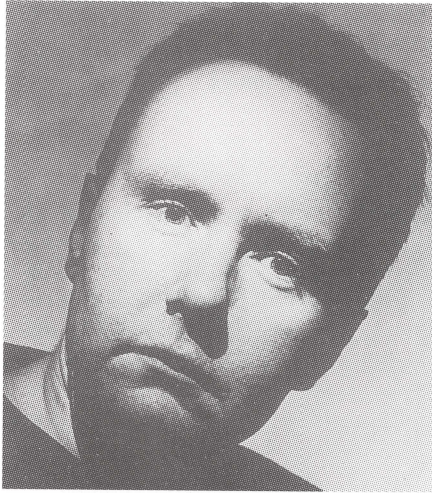
Nun's Island. Admission £4/£3

SATURDAY APRIL 20

8.30pm IRVINE WELSH

Edinburgh's Irvine Welsh burst onto the literary scene in 1993 with his incendiary novel *Trainspotting*. A ferocious, bleakly funny account of junkie society in Edinburgh's housing projects, it rapidly achieved best-seller status. An acclaimed film version of the book, directed by Danny Boyle, has recently been released. Welsh followed his debut with 1994's *The Acid House*, a collection of stories and his second novel, *Marabou Stork Nightmares*, published last year. "Welsh writes with a skill, wit and compassion that amounts to genius. He is the best thing that has happened to British writing for decades." (Sunday Times)

Nun's Island. Admission £4/£3



Irvine Welsh

10.30pm MAGUIRE & MCBRIDE'S "FILTHY LUCRE"

Comedy-duo Connor Maguire and Charlie McBride, grizzled veterans of many a Cúirt, present their 6th consecutive dismemberment of assorted lofty literati. Showing scant mercy to man, woman or beast, they lift up their cudgels and lay about them with a will. In this year's show they explore that most compelling and irresistible fount of artistic inspiration; Money.

Atlanta Hotel. Admission £3

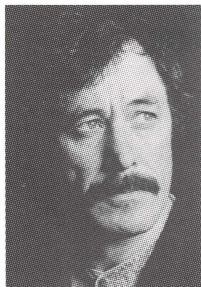
12noon

BARDIC BREAKFAST

SEÁN TYRELL & RITA ANN HIGGINS

A midday feast of music, poetry and fine food featuring Seán Tyrell and Rita Ann Higgins. Seán is one of Galway's most accomplished singer-songwriters. In the last two years he has released the acclaimed *Cry of A Dreamer* album and written a musical version of *The Midnight Court*, which was successfully staged by Druid.

Award-winning poet & playwright Rita Ann Higgins began writing poetry in her late twenties and published her first collection *Goddess on the Merroue Bus* ten years ago. Her latest collection, *Higher Purchase*, has just been published by Salmon. Rita Ann is currently Writer in Residence at University College in her home city of Galway.



Seán Tyrell



Rita Ann Higgins

Le Graal Bistro & Brasserie,

35 Dominick Street

Admission £5/£4 (incl. breakfast)

4.30pm

DANA GIOIA & VISMA BELSEVICA

Following his lecture on Thursday, American poet Dana Gioia reads from his own work, which has attracted widespread praise. Award winning poet and translator Visma Belsevica was born in Riga, Latvia in 1931. Among her 14 books are collections of poetry "*Kamoal tineja*" (1981) and "*Dzeltu laiks*" (1987). Short stories including "*Nelaimē majas*" (1979) and "*Bille*" (1992), have been translated into forty languages. Visma has been a prolific translator throughout her literary career and is an Honorary Member of the Latvian Academy of Science.



Dana Gioia



Visma Belsevica

Drimcong House, Moycullen

Admission £5/£4 (including wine & savouries supplied by

Drimcong House) Tickets in advance only

SUNDAY APRIL 21

7.30pm TONY HARRISON

In one of the Festival's highlights, Tony Harrison reads from his work. Born in Leeds in 1937, Harrison has written poetry, verse-drama, opera librettos and works for television. His version of Aeschylus's *Oresteia* won the 1982 European Poetry Translation Prize and *The Gaze of the Gorgon* won the Whitbread Poetry Prize in 1993. Other works include *Selected Poems*, *The Shadow of Hiroshima and Other Film Poems* and *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*. His play *The Prince's Play* opens at London's National Theatre during the week of Cúirt.

Nun's Island. Admission £4/3



Tony Harrison

9.30pm THE CÚIRT CONCERT

Cúirt '96 comes to a fitting end with a special music event by surprise guests.

Nun's Island

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

POETRY MASTERCLASS

This years Masterclass will be given by Eileán Ní Chuilleanáin, a lecturer in English and a fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. Winner of the Patrick Kavanagh Award in 1973 for her poetry collection *Acts and Monuments*. More recently she was awarded the O'Shaughnessy Prize for poetry in 1992 by the Irish American Cultural Institute. She has edited at several publishing houses and is a co-founder of Cyphers, Ireland's longest running literary magazine. She will conduct a poetry Masterclass over two days commencing on Saturday, April 20th from 10.30am to 1.00pm and on Sunday, April 21st from 11am to 1.00pm. The class, which is limited to twelve participants, is designed for previously published writers or those with a serious intention of publishing their work. Participants are required to submit three poems at least one week in advance.

Closing date Saturday April 13. Fee £20

47 Dominick Street

EDUCATION

During the week of Cúirt and the weeks preceding the festival Jean Parker, librarian, storyteller and youthworker, will conduct a series of workshops for primary schoolchildren on Irish childrens' authors.

During the festival, novelist and short story writer Colum McCann, will conduct a one-off workshop for Leaving Certificate students.

EXHIBITION: LOUIS LE BROCQUY, THE TÁIN PORTFOLIOS

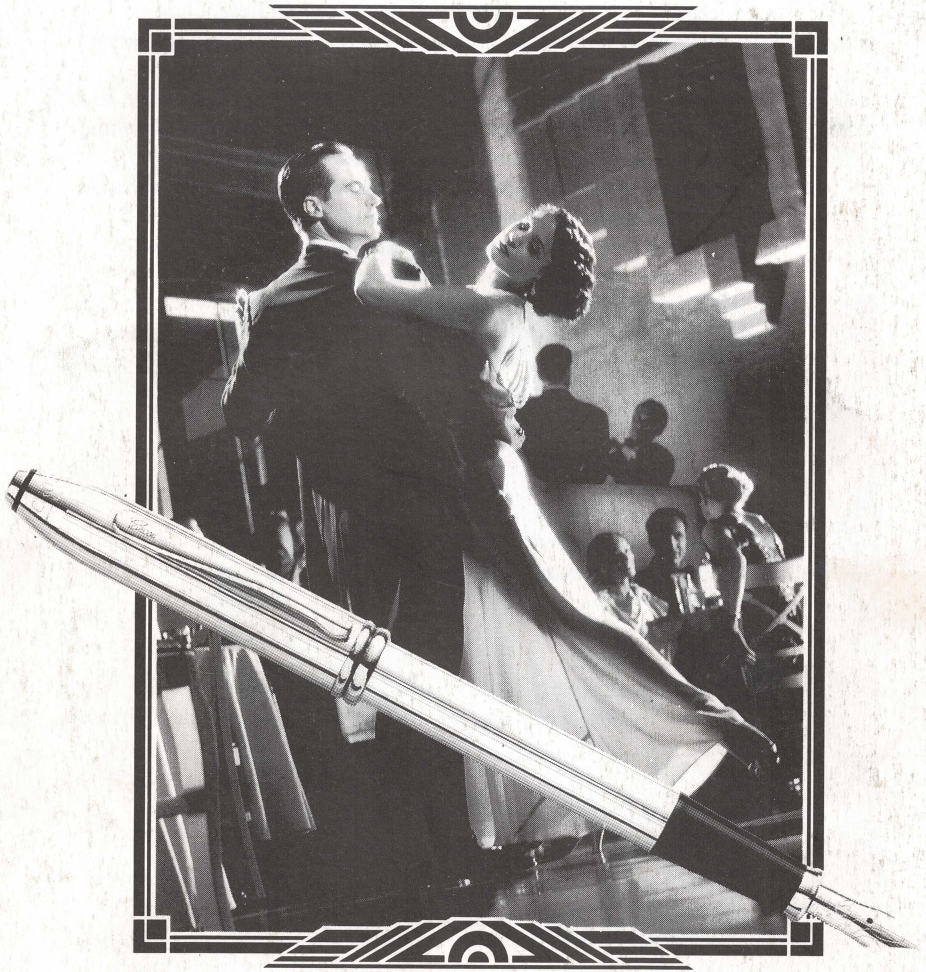
The Táin portfolios contain the original lithographic brush drawings which were made in 1968 - 69 by Le Brocquy to illustrate Thomas Kinsella's inspired translation of the Táin Bo Cuailnge. These works illustrate the dramatic record of the eighth century Ulster cycle of heroic tales.

47 Dominick Street. Admission Free

CÚIRT JOURNAL

The fourth edition of the Cúirt Journal, edited by Charlie McBride, will be published in conjunction with the launch of the festival. The Journal will be on sale at the festival venues.

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