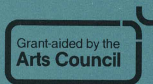





The Cúirt International Festival of Literature at Galway Arts Centre 15 - 20 April 1997

Cúirt97

Sponsors



 The British Council

Nortel
University College Galway
Galway County Council
Galway Corporation

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe
Taylor's Bar, Dominick Street
Thermo King Europe
An Tobar

Cúirt Box Office Opens Tuesday 18th March

Tickets in person or by post from

Galway Arts Centre
47 Dominick Street
Galway

Monday - Saturday 10am - 5.30pm

Information 091 565886
Credit Card Bookings 091 568303
Fax 091 568642
E-mail gac@indigo.ie

15 - 20 April 1997

Cúirt97

6 PM

47 Dominick Street **Festival Launch**

This year's festival brings together some of today's most outstanding writers from countries all over the world including America, Australia, England, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Nigeria and Scotland. Cúirt '97 will be opened by **Patricia Quinn**, former Cultural Director of Temple Bar Properties and recently appointed Director of An Comhairle Ealaíon / The Arts Council.



BEN OKRI

9 PM

An Taibhdhearc **Ben Okri**

Cúirt '97's inaugural reading features the renowned Nigerian novelist, short story writer and poet, **Ben Okri**. He published his first novel *Flowers & Shadows* in 1980, followed in 1981 by *The Landscapes Within*. His short story collection *Incidents at the Shrine* was short-listed for the Commonwealth Prize for 1987 and won the Paris Review Aga Khan Prize for fiction. His subsequent collection *Stars of the New Curfew* was short-listed for The Guardian Fiction Prize in 1988. Ben Okri's novel *The Famished Road* was published in 1991 and won the Booker Prize for fiction. A collection of poems *An African Elegy* was published in 1992 and was followed, in 1993, by *Songs of Enchantment* the sequel to *The Famished Road*. His latest novel *Dangerous Love* was published last year. £5 / £4

Ben Okri is a writer for whom to be grateful. He embodies a questing spirit and a questioning disposition..... Such a writer is rare, an endangered species.
Scotland on Sunday

1 PM

47 Dominick Street

Vicki Feaver & Margit Schreiner

Poet **Vicki Feaver** was born in Nottingham, home of Raleigh bicycles, Players' cigarettes and, reputedly, beautiful girls. Her debut collection, *Close Relatives* was published by Seker in 1981, with her second volume *The Handless Maiden* being published by Cape in 1994. One of the poems in this collection was awarded the Forward Prize for best poem in 1994 and the collection itself won a Heinemann Prize. Vicki Feaver is also published in volume two of the new *Penguin Modern Poets* series alongside Carol Ann Duffy and Eavan Boland. She teaches at Chichester's Institute of Higher Education where she leads an MA in Creative Writing.

Margit Schreiner was born in Austria in 1953 and now lives in Berlin. A poet and short story writer, amongst her many awards are The Ernst Koref Award (1986) and the Theodor Körner Award (1987). She has published three collections of short stories including *The Roses of Saint Benedict*, *Love and Hate Stories* (1989) and *The Suppression of Women, The Virility of Men, Catholicism and Dirt* (1995). Margit Schreiner will read in German with English translations read by Eóin Bourke. £3 / £2

Wednesday



VICKI FEAVER

Margit Schreiner masters the dramaturgy of short stories: she knows how far the bow can be drawn... her language is unaffected, short, fast and sure of its aim.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

6 PM

An Taibhdhearc

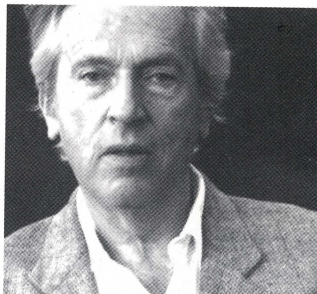
Samuel Menashe & John Agard

American Jewish poet **Samuel Menashe** was born in New York in 1925. He is a poet of rare gifts, who counts among his admirers Robert Graves, Kathleen Raine, Austin Clarke & Derek Mahon. Menashe is a master of minimalist poetics, his typical poem being from four to six lines long.

Poet, performer and anthologist **John Agard** was born in Guyana and moved to Britain in 1977. He has won the Casa de la Americas Prize, was short listed for the Kurt Maschler Award, was awarded an Arts Council Bursary and became the first Writer in Residence at London's South Bank Centre in 1993. He has published plays, poetry and children's books. £4 / £3



JOHN AGARD



SAMUEL MENASHE

'Pirate'

Like a cliff
My brow hangs over
The cave of my eyes
My nose is the prow of a ship
I plunder the World

Samuel Menashe

Here is a poet who compresses thoughts into language intense and clear as diamonds.
Stephen Spender

An outstanding luminary of the exploding galaxy of West Indian - British troubadours, hilarious and moving by turns, with sharply satiric intelligence

Michael Horovitz

8.30 PM

An Taibhdhearc

Carol Ann Duffy & Michael Donaghy

Born in Glasgow in 1955, **Carol Ann Duffy** is not only one of the UK's leading poets, but one of the most important of all post-war British poets. She has received an extraordinary number of awards, including a Cholmondeley Award in 1992 and the Forward Poetry Prize and Whitbread Poetry Award in 1993. Her latest collection is from Salmon Publishing. Entitled *The Salmon Carol Ann Duffy*, it contains poetry of an Irish flavour chosen by Carol Ann from her four previous volumes.

Michael Donaghy was born in the Bronx, New York, in 1954 and has lived in England since 1985. His collections to date are *Shibboleth*, which won the Whitbread Prize for Poetry and the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, and *Errata*, published by OUP in 1993. £5 / £4

...she could well become the representative poet of the present day

The Independent on Sunday

Poems as original, wry and philosophical as these are hard to come by. Don't think of passing them up.

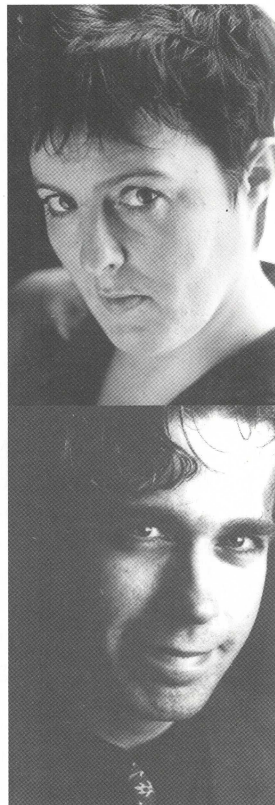
Alfred Corn

A poetry reading by Michael Donaghy is an event to be relished

BBC

CAROL ANN DUFFY

MICHAEL DONAGHY



1 PM

47 Dominick Street

Anne Haverty & Elaine Feinstein

This enticing double-bill brings together an outstanding new writer and a highly esteemed established voice. **Anne Haverty** was born in Holycross, Co. Tipperary and has worked as a journalist and award-winning film-maker. *One Day As A Tiger*, her first novel, has just been published by Chatto & Windus and revolves around events on a Tipperary sheep farm.

Elaine Feinstein is one of Britain's most eminent writers and translators. She has published 12 novels, most recently *Lady Chatterly's Confession* (a sequel to DH Lawrence's novel) award-winning versions of the poems of Marina Tsvetayeva and biographies of Marina Tsvetayeva, DH Lawrence and Bessie Smith. Her latest book of poems *Daylight* was published in March 1997 and is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. £3 / £2

...a moving and original evocation of Irish rural life, today. Brilliant and witty, it marks the magnificent debut of an important writer

Brian Moore

ANNE HAVERTY

ELAINE FEINSTEIN



4 PM

University College Galway The Cúirt Lecture

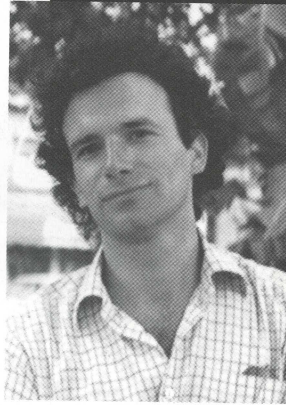
Fintan O'Toole on Criticism

SPONSORED BY
UCG

Fintan O'Toole is one of Ireland's most provocative commentators. Columnist with *The Irish Times*, O'Toole has written extensively on Theatre, Politics and Current Affairs. In 1993 he was awarded the A.T. Cross Award for Supreme Contribution to Irish Journalism. His books include *The Politics of Magic*, a study of the work of playwright Tom Murphy and *Meanwhile Back at the Ranch*, his best-selling account of the Beef Tribunal. He is also the author of three volumes of essays, the most recent being *The Ex-Isle of Erin*, which was published in March 1997.

Admission Free. Contact Galway Arts Centre for venue information.

FINTAN O'TOOLE



Thursday

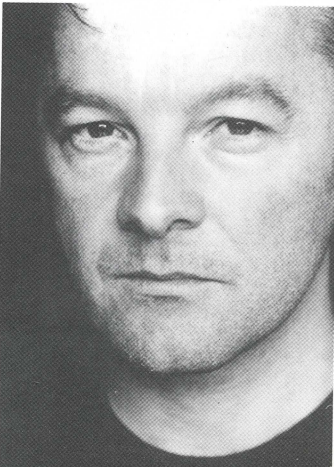
6 PM

An Taibhdhearc John Banville & Robin Robertson

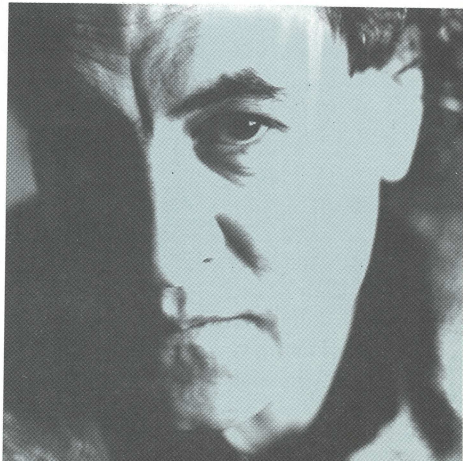
Wexford born **John Banville** is one of our leading novelists. Among his works are such noted achievements as *Kepler* (1981), *Mefisto* (1986), *The Book of Evidence* (1989), which won the G.P.A. award, *Ghosts* (1993) and *Athena* (1995). His latest novel *The Untouchables* was published this year. Well known as publishing director of Jonathan Cape, in which role he is the man behind such names as Irvine Welsh, Seamus Deane, A L Kennedy and Mark Doty, **Robin Robertson's** debut poetry collection *A Painted Field* has just been published by Picador. *A Painted Field* attests that his proven quality as a publisher is more than equalled by his talent as a writer. £4 / £3

Picador inaugurate their new poetry list with what promises to be the best first collection this year, full of lyric intensity and linguistic inventiveness from a much-praised new writer. The Bookseller

ROBIN ROBERTSON



JOHN BANVILLE



Thursday



DAVID MALOUF

8.30 PM

An Taibhdhearc

David Malouf

In what promises to be one of the Festival's highlights, Australia's leading writer **David Malouf** reads from his work. Malouf was born in Brisbane in 1934 of Lebanese and English descent. A novelist and poet he was shortlisted for the Booker in 1994 and has won numerous prizes including the inaugural International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award for his 1993 novel *Remembering Babylon*. This is currently the world's largest literary award. £5 / £4

Friday

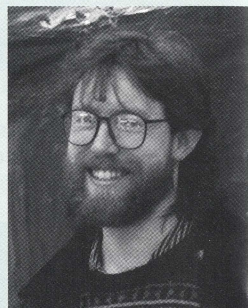
11 AM

An Taibhdhearc

Student Reading

This year's **Writers-in-Schools Programme** features three award winning writers who will conduct a three week series of creative writing workshops prior to and during Cúirt. Poet and playwright **Vincent Woods**, short-story writer and novelist **Mike McCormack** and Irish language poet **Louis de Paor** will lead these workshops designed to encourage writing and reading amongst young people. The event will feature the writing of the workshop participants from schools in Galway city, county and the Aran Islands. Admission Free

VINCENT WOODS



12 NOON

47 Dominick Street

Book Launch: Fred Johnston

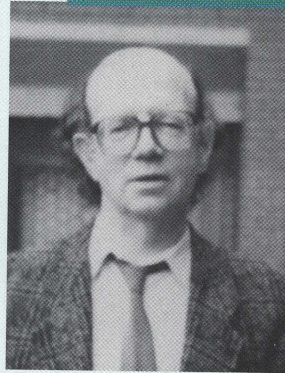
Salmon Publishing launches poet, musician and dramatist, **Fred Johnston's** latest poetry collection *True North*. Fred Johnston is a Hennessy Award winner and the founder of the Cúirt Festival. Admission Free

1 PM

47 Dominick Street **Anthony Cronin**

As part of Cúirt '97's tribute to Samuel Beckett, **Anthony Cronin** reads from his acclaimed biography of the writer - *The Last Modernist*. Anthony Cronin is a respected poet, broadcaster and comic novelist. He was also responsible for setting up Aosdána. Among his other books are *The Life Of Riley* and *Dead As Doornails*. £3 / £2

ANTHONY CRONIN



2.30 PM

Doorus House **Turas go Doorus**

This year's literary trip to Doorus House, near Kinvara, will feature a talk by local historian and arts editor of *The Galway Advertiser*, **Jeff O'Connell**, with music by Charlie Piggott and friends. Doorus House was built in 1866 by the French Count de Basserot and it was in this house that W.B. Yeats first met de Basserot and laid plans for the formation of the Abbey Theatre. The 100th anniversary of that meeting occurs this year. £5 / £4 (Inc. Refreshments)

3 PM

47 Dominick Street **Poet's Platform**

Cúirt's annual showcase for writers around the country. A perennial favourite and an eloquent testimony to the high standards of writing prevailing in Ireland. Admission Free

5 PM

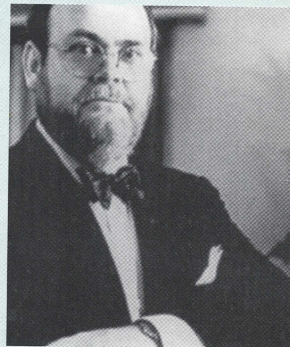
Kenny's Bookshop **Book Launch: Thomas Lynch**

A welcome return by **Thomas Lynch** to Cúirt where Jonathan Cape launch *The Undertaking*, a collection of essays by the esteemed Irish American poet. The essays proceed from Lynch's experience as funeral director and poet, their central themes being love and death, sex and mortality. Admission Free

I'm in awe of Thomas Lynch's way with language: the plain-spoken honesty of this poet's prose.

Elmore Leonard

THOMAS LYNCH

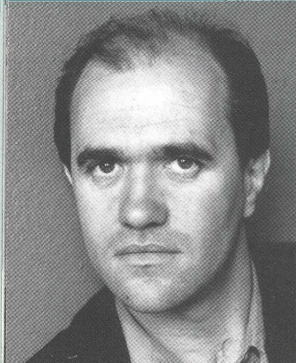


Friday

6 PM

An Taibhdhearc

Colm Tóibín & Ruth Padel



COLM TÓIBÍN

Journalist and novelist, **Colm Tóibín** was born in Wexford in 1955. His first novel was the hugely impressive *The South* (1990), set largely in Spain. Other works since then include *The Heather Blazing* (1993) and the non-fiction *Travels in Catholic Europe* (1994), and, most recently, *The Story of the Night* (1996).

Ruth Padel is gaining a reputation as one of the most intelligent and exciting poets writing today. She has published three collections; *Summer Snow*, *Angel* and *Fusewire*, which appeared last year. Two non-fiction works have also been published, *In and Out of the Mind* and *Whom Gods Destroy*. £4 / £3

8.30 PM

An Taibhdhearc

Brian Patten & Linton Kwesi Johnson

Two poets who are both recognised as dynamic readers of their work. Born in Liverpool in 1946, **Brian Patten** can claim to be one of the founding fathers of modern performance poetry. Initially grouped with fellow-Liverpudlians Roger McGough and Adrian Henri, he has read his work everywhere from California to Khartoum. His work is a beguiling mix of the serious and humorous and few poets can equal him in performance.

Linton Kwesi Johnson was born in Jamaica in 1952. He first came to prominence in the 1970's as a poet and performer through work such as *Dread Beat An' Blood*, *Inglan Is A Bitch* and *Forces Of Victory*. Acclaimed as the world's first dub poet, he is the acknowledged head of the new wave of performance poets whose words weld politics and social conscience with a potent challenge to those in power. He has toured from Japan to South Africa, Europe to Brazil. £5 / £4



BRIAN PATTEN

The Alternative Poet-Laureate
Time Out

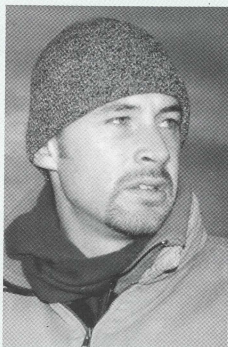


LINTON KWESI JOHNSON

11.30 AM

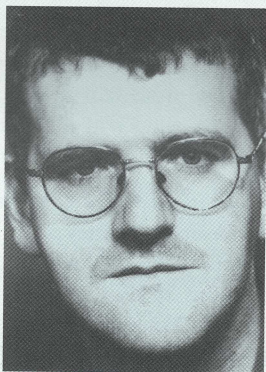
le Graal Bistro

Tom French & Kerry Hardie



TOM FRENCH

Tom French lives and works in Galway. His poems have been published in literary journals in Ireland and abroad, broadcast on radio and included in the short film *Quickfix*. He is currently warming his flight muscles for a first collection. **Kerry Hardie** was born in 1951 and grew up in Co. Down. She was the winner of last year's Friends Provident/National Poetry Competition. A pamphlet, *In Sickness*, was published by The Honest Ulsterman in 1995 and her first full collection, *A Furious Place*, came out last year from Gallery. £3 (Inc. coffee & croissants)



EAMONN SWEENEY



KERRY HARDIE

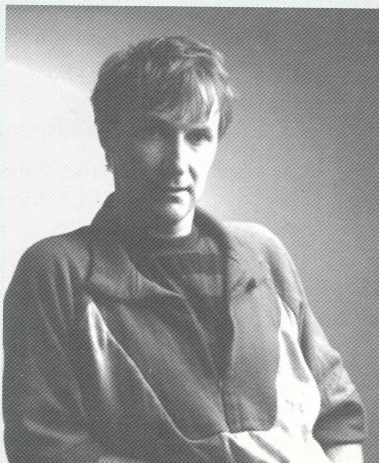
1 PM

An Taibhdhearc

Eamonn Sweeney & Donal O'Kelly

Eamonn Sweeney was born in Sligo in 1968 and currently lives in Dublin. His short stories have been widely published and, in 1995, he won the European/Raconteur Short Story Prize. He will read from his first novel *Waiting for the Healer*, which has just been published by Picador.

Dublin based **Donal O'Kelly** has combined his acting and writing careers for the past decade. His one-man shows include *Rabbit* and *Bat the Father, Rabbit the Son* and, most recently, *Catalpa, The Movie*. Other plays he has written include *Hughie on the Wires, Trickle-down Town* and *Asylum! Asylum!* Recent acting appearances include performing his own play *Catalpa, The Movie* at Dublin's Gate Theatre and co-starring in the film adaptation of Roddy Doyle's *The Van*. £3 / £2



DONAL O'KELLY

Saturday

3 PM

An Taibhdhearc

McGovern reads Beckett

Barry McGovern is one of Ireland's best known actors. Theatre work includes *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame*, *Krapps Last Tape*, *Happy Days*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. TV includes Eamon de Valera in *The Treaty* and Guiseppe Conlon in *Dear Sarah* and films include *Riders to the Sea*, *Billy Bathgate*, *Far and Away*, *Braveheart* and *Driftwood*. He has had major international success with his award-winning one-man Beckett show *I'll Go On* presented by the Gate Theatre. He is widely recognised as Ireland's greatest living exponent of the works of Beckett. For this event he will read a selection of Beckett's writings. £4 / £3

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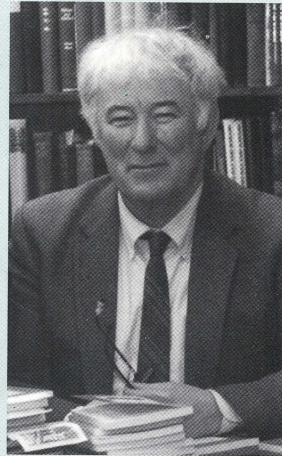
Barry McGovern pictured in Paris dressed for his one-man Beckett revue "I'll Go On".
Photo by John Minihan

5.30 PM

Town Hall Theatre

Seamus Heaney - *Metres Meet*

To celebrate the publication in April of *The School Bag*, a companion anthology to *The Rattle Bag* edited by **Seamus Heaney** and **Ted Hughes**, Ireland's pre-eminent poet Seamus Heaney will read from his own work and from some translations by him of other poems which appear in the anthology. Seamus Heaney has won numerous awards including the Somerset Maugham Award (1968), the Denis Devlin Award (1973), the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize (1975) the American Irish Foundation Literary Award (1973) and the W.H. Smith Annual Award (1976). In 1987 he was awarded the Whitbread Award for *The Haw Lantern* and in 1996 the Whitbread Prize and the T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize for *The Spirit Level*. In October 1995 Seamus Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. £6 / £4



SEAMUS HEANEY

8.30 PM

An Taibhdhearc

Bernard O'Donoghue & Michael S. Harper

Bernard O'Donoghue was born in Cullen, Co. Cork in 1945 and now lives in Oxford where he teaches medieval English at Wadham College. He has published three main collections of verse; *Poetry Rights* (1987), *The Weakness* (1991) and *Gunpowder* (1995) which won the Whitbread Poetry Prize. A native of Brooklyn, New York, **Michael S. Harper** is one of America's finest living poets. His sensitive, personal verse is concerned with ancestral kinships, jazz and the blues, and emerges out of the fire of African American experience. The first Poet Laureate of Rhode Island he has received numerous awards including the Black Academy of Arts and Letters Award for Poetry and the Robert Hayden Poetry Award from the United Negro College Fund. He is University Professor and Professor of English at Brown University, Rhode Island. £5 / £4



THE POETRY VIRGINS

12 NOON

Le Graal Bistro **Bardic Breakfast**

The ever popular Bardic Breakfast this year features **The Poetry Virgins**, one of the UK's foremost womens performance poetry groups. Also featured are well known Galway singer **Seán Keane** and Galway's own irrepressible verse-guru **Little John Nee** as MC. £5 (Inc. Breakfast)

SEÁN KEANE

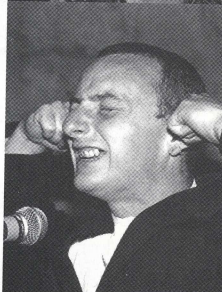


2.30 PM

Druid Theatre **The Pillowman by Martin McDonagh**

The first public performance reading of **Martin McDonagh's** compelling new play, *The Pillowman*, directed by Druid Artistic Director Garry Hynes. Martin McDonagh first came to prominence with Druid's acclaimed 1996 production of his first play, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, which went on to win the Evening Standard Best New Play of 1996. His second play, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, is currently being staged in London's National Theatre and, in June, Druid will present his *Leenane Trilogy* which comprises the plays *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *A Skull in Connemara* and *The Lonesome West*. £3 / £2

LITTLE JOHN NEE



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NORTEL

4.30 PM

Drimcong House **Eva Bourke & Harry Clifton**

Born in Germany **Eva Bourke** has lived in Galway for many years. She has published 3 collections of poetry, the most recent being *Spring in Henry Street*, published last year by Dedalus. She has translated many Irish poets into German and her own work has been translated into Romanian, Swedish, Dutch and Italian.

Harry Clifton was born in Dublin and currently lives in Paris. He has travelled extensively in Africa and Asia and, most recently, Europe. His collections of poems include *The Walls of Carthage*, *Office of the Salt Merchant*, *Comparative Lives* and *The Desert Route*. His most recent book *Night Train Through the Brenner* was published in 1994 by Gallery Press and he has just published a selected poems in French translation. £5 (Inc. Refreshments)

EVA BOURKE

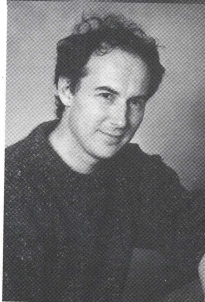


9 PM

Árus na Gael **Sorley McLean Tribute**

Cúirt '97 concludes with a tribute to the late **Sorley McLean**, one of the greatest poets of Scots Gaelic and a frequent visitor to the West of Ireland. Participants include **Ian Crichton Smith**, **Louis de Paor**, **Mairéad Ní Dhómhnaill** with local musicians and MC **Joe Steve Ó Neachtain**. £4 / £3

HARRY CLIFTON



11 AM

47 Dominick Street **John Agard**

John Agard is a hugely popular children's writer whose recent books for children include *Get Back Pimples* and *We Animals Would Like a Word With You*, which was shortlisted for the Kurt Maschler Award. He has worked extensively with children, visiting almost 2000 schools promoting Caribbean culture and poetry as a touring speaker with the Commonwealth Institute. £2

10.30 AM

47 Dominick Street **Patricia Forde**



PATRICIA FORDE

Patricia Forde, former Artistic Director of the Galway Arts Festival, has written extensively for children's television for RTE, including *Mise agus Pangur Bán*, *Citi Crash* and the award-winning series *Mire Mara*. She has published two books for children *Tir faoi Thoinn* (Salmon Publishing) and *The Kings Secret* (O'Brien Press). She is currently working on a new novel for children which she hopes to publish next Summer. Ages 5 - 8 years

11.30 AM

47 Dominick Street **Brian Patten**

Liverpool poet **Brian Patten** is one of the most popular children's writers in Britain today. His cult book, *Gargling with Jelly*, has sold over 200,000 copies in the UK. Other titles include *Grizzelda Frizzle*, *The Utter Nutters* and *Jimmy tag-Along*. Ages 7 - 11 years. Admission £2 per reading or £3 for both

12.30 PM

47 Dominick Street **Marita Conlon McKenna**

Award-winning author **Marita Conlon McKenna** is the most widely read children's author in Ireland today. Her best known work *Under the Hawthorn Tree - Children of the Famine*, has been translated into several languages and was awarded the prestigious International Reading Association Award. Her latest book *Fields of Home*, which completes her Famine Trilogy, was published in paperback this year. Ages 10 - 14 years. £2



MARITA CONLON MCKENNA

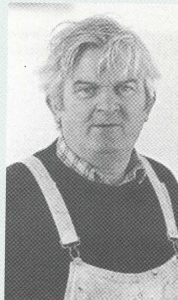
Exhibitions & Special Events

Seán McSweeney - *New & Recent Paintings*

An exhibition of new and recent paintings by one of Ireland's foremost artists, Sean McSweeney. His work, firmly rooted in the landscape of Ireland, has a freshness of exploration and discovery. Member of Aosdána since 1984, this is McSweeney's first exhibition in Galway since his retrospective at the Galway Arts Festival in 1990.

Galway Arts Centre, 47 Dominick St

SEAN MACSWEENEY



Poetry Masterclass with Jessie Lendennie

This year's Masterclass will be given by Jessie Lendennie, writer, editor and publisher. Lendennie is the co-founder and Managing Director of Salmon Publishing Ltd. Since 1992 she has commissioned, edited and published over one hundred books and twenty-six issues of *The Salmon Literary Journal*. Her own publications include a prose poem entitled *Daughter* as well as *The Salmon Guide to Poetry Publishing* and *The Salmon Guide to Creative Writing in Ireland*. She has given numerous workshops, lectures and writing courses in Ireland and abroad. The Poetry Masterclass takes place over two days and is limited to 12 participants. Participants are required to submit three poems to the Arts Centre to arrive no later than April 5th. Those accepted will be notified by April 14th.

Saturday April 19th 10.30 am - 1 pm Sunday April 20th 11 am - 1 pm. Fee £25 / £20

Beckett Photographs by John Minihan

John Minihan was Samuel Beckett's favourite photographer. He spent many years photographing Beckett in London and Paris and this collection is the definitive catalogue of Beckett's later years at work, in rehearsal in London and at home in Paris.

An Taibhdhearc, Middle Street.

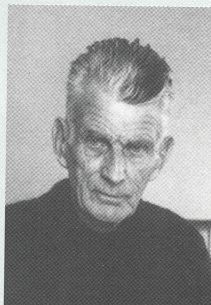


Photo by John Minihan

Performing Poems with Max Hafler

A two hour workshop, with poet, playwright and actor Max Hafler, for up to twenty participants reading at the Poets Platform during Cúirt.

Covering sight reading, engaging with the audience, voice projection etc.

Friday April 18th 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Fee £3

Films from Sound with Max Hafler

A practical look at writing for radio with Max Hafler. This workshop will look at writing for radio and is aimed at new writers who have a serious commitment to writing.

Participants should submit a sample of their work when booking the course.

Wednesday April 16th 10.30 am - 1 pm Thursday April 17th 10.30am - 1pm. £10 / £8

Cúirt Exhibition at Kennys

Throughout the festival Kennys Bookshop will show a selection of photographs of Cúirt participants from 1986 - 1996.

Kennys Bookshop, High Street.

Festival Club

Each evening throughout the Festival there will be an informal gathering of participants and audience at the Atlanta Hotel, Dominick Street.

Admission Free. All Welcome.



I heard last night that Borges up in Heaven
Was asked by God to recommend a read
“Why don’t you email Kennys”, was his answer
“and while you’re at it, say hello from me”.

Theo Dorgan

(To the tune of Galway Bay)

Kenny's Bookshop

High Street, Galway

Phone: 091 562739 Fax: 091 568544 Email: queries@kennys.ie