

# Cúirt'98



The Cúirt International Festival of Literature at Galway Arts Centre

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21-26 April

# Cúirt'98

The Cúirt International Festival of Literature at Galway Arts Centre

**Cúirt Box Office Opens  
Tuesday March 24**

Tickets in person or by post from:

**Cúirt Box Office  
Middle Street  
Galway**

Monday - Saturday  
10am - 5.30pm

**Information/Bookings**  
091 561 806

**Credit Card Bookings**  
091 561 808

**Fax**  
091 568 642

**E-mail**  
gac@indigo.ie

**Press Office**  
091 565 886

## Tuesday 21

### 6pm Festival Launch

The 13th Cúirt International Festival of Literature brings together some of today's most outstanding writers from countries as diverse as America, England, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia, Scotland and Ireland. Cúirt '98 will be launched by **Harold Fish**, Director, The British Council.

**Great Southern Hotel, Eyre Square.**

### 9pm Jeanette Winterson



Jeanette Winterson

Cúirt '98's inaugural reading features one of the most distinctive and imaginative talents in modern literature. **Jeanette Winterson** made her debut with the

novel *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit* which became an instant classic. Subsequent works include *The Passion*, *Sexing the Cherry*, *Written on the Body*, *Art and Lies*, *Gut Symmetries* and the essay collection *Art Objects*. Her first volume of short stories, *The 24-Hour Dog and Other Stories*, is due out in July. This evening she will read from *Gut Symmetries* and take questions from the audience.

*"Jeanette Winterson is unmatched among contemporary writers."*

Times Literary Supplement

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**

## Wednesday 22

### 1pm Moya Cannon & Gabriel Gbadamosi

Galway-based poet **Moya Cannon** was born in Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal. Her first collection, *Oar*, was published in 1990 and won the Brendan Behan Memorial Prize. *The Parchment Boat*, her second volume, appeared last year. **Gabriel Gbadamosi** is a widely-published poet, novelist and playwright of Nigerian-Irish extraction. His plays have been produced in the UK, Holland, Portugal and Germany.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £3/£2**

### 3pm Booklaunch: Cúirt Journal

This launch marks the welcome re-appearance of Galway Arts Centre's *Cúirt Journal* after an absence of two years. This, the fifth issue, boasts a strong line-up of poetry, prose and drama, as well as original illustrations. The Journal is edited by **Charlie McBride** and published by Stonebridge Publications.

**The King's Head. Admission Free**



John O'Donohue

## 4pm John O'Donohue

Poet and philosopher **John O'Donohue** is the author of *Anam Cara*, the best-selling work on Celtic spirituality, which was published last year. Born in Co. Clare in 1956, he has also written a book on Hegel and a collection of poetry, *Echoes of Memory*.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**

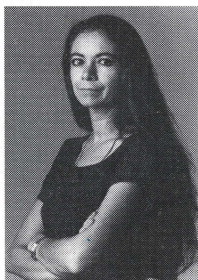


## 6pm Deirdre Madden & Carmen Boullosa

Novelist **Deirdre Madden** is from County Antrim. In 1987 she won the Rooney Prize for *Hidden Symptoms*, and two years later received the Somerset Maugham Prize for *The Birds of the Innocent Wood*. Her most recent novel, 1996's, *One by One in the Darkness*, was shortlisted for the Orange Prize.

Poet, novelist and playwright **Carmen Boullosa** is one of Mexico's foremost writers. She has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Xavier Villaurrutia Award (1989), Guggenheim Fellowship (1992) and was Mexico's Playwright of the Year in 1985. In November 1997, Berlin's Freie Universitat hosted a symposium on her work which attracted 26 contributors from six countries.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**



Carmen Boullosa

## 8.30pm Liz Lochhead & Bernard MacLaverty



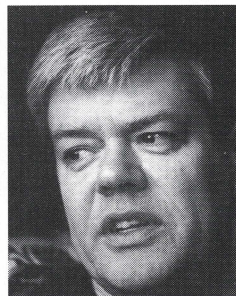
Liz Lochhead

Scottish poet and dramatist **Liz Lochhead** was born in Motherwell in 1947 and published her first collection, *Memo For Spring*, in 1972.

Collections since then include *Islands*, *The Grimm Sisters* and *Bagpipe Muzak*. Among her many works for stage are *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*, *Dracula*, *Blood and Ice*, and *Sweet Nothings* which was screened by the BBC. She lives in Glasgow.

Born in Belfast in 1942, **Bernard MacLaverty** has published three novels and four collections of short stories. Two of his novels, *Lamb* and *Cal* were produced as major films. He has also won the Scottish Arts Council Book award three times. *Grace Notes*, his first novel for fourteen years, was published last year and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**

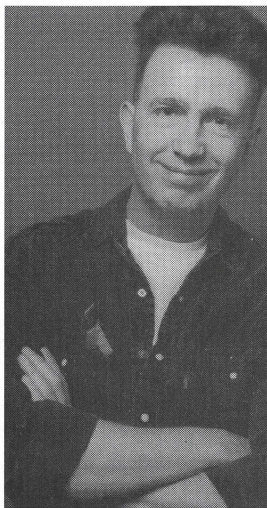


Bernard MacLaverty

## 9.30pm Tom Robinson

Born in Cambridge, England in 1950 **Tom Robinson** became one of the most respected singer/songwriters of his generation. His first album was produced by Ray Davies of The Kinks in 1974. Since then he has recorded several albums, many of which have become classics, including *Power in the Darkness* and *Hope and Glory*. His 1994 recording, *Love Over Rage*, which was hailed as major return to form, was followed in '96 by the critically acclaimed *Having it Both Ways*. He was awarded a UK Sony Radio Award last year for his programme *You've Got To Hide Your Love Away* and this year sees the release of a 1990's compilation *Modern Classics*.

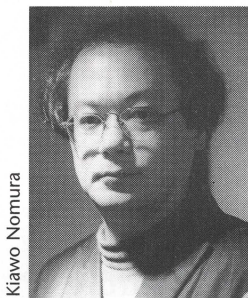
**Róisín Dubh. Admission £9.50**



Tom Robinson

## Thursday 23

### 1pm Kiawo Nomura & Katie Donovan



Kiawo Nomura

**Kiawo Nomura** is in the frontline of contemporary Japanese poets. Born in 1951, his first collection, *Kawanae*, was published in 1987. There have been six further

volumes, including *Adagio*, *Gloomily* and the *Selected Poems of Kiawo Nomura* which both appeared in 1996. Translations of his poems will be available at the reading.

**Katie Donovan** was born in 1962 and lives in Dublin where she is a journalist with *The Irish Times*. Her first poetry collection, *Watermelon Man*, was published by Bloodaxe in 1993 and her second, *Entering the Mare*, in 1997. She has also co-edited *Ireland's Women: Writing Past and Present* and *Dublins*, an anthology of writings about Dublin.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £3/£2**



Katie Donovan

### 3pm Two Chairs Company

A dramatic presentation about love and ambition in the relationship between mother and child. Based on the stories of Mary Lavin, *A Likely Story* is a tragedy of rural life. Performed and directed by **Nuala Hayes** with musical accompaniment by **Emer Maycock** and **Ellen Cranitch**.

**The Kings Head. Admission £4/£3**

### 4.30pm The Cúirt Lecture Eileen Battersby; Lorca - Artist of Passion and Pain

National University of Ireland, Galway  
*Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh*

**Eileen Battersby** M.A. is one of Ireland's foremost arts journalists and literary critics. Currently staff arts journalist and chief literary critic with *The Irish Times*, she also writes the *Thursday Interview*. She has written on all aspects of the arts and maintains a strong interest in the visual arts, cinema and classical music. She has twice been awarded The National Media Arts Journalist of the Year Award, most recently in 1997.

**Federico Garcia Lorca** was born in 1898 and is one of the most celebrated and acclaimed Spanish poets and playwrights of the 20th century. This year marks the centenary of his birth. In her lecture Battersby will explore the life, the work and the enigma of this renowned writer.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission Free.**  
**Tickets in Advance from Box Office.**

### 5pm Booklaunch: Mary O'Donnell



Mary O'Donnell

Salmon Publishing launches, *Unlegendary Heroes*, the third collection of poetry from award winning poet **Mary O'Donnell**. In this

collection the poet draws on themes of family, and acknowledges the heroism in everyday experience. O'Donnell is the presenter of the RTÉ Radio poetry programme, *The Darkness Echoing*.

**Kenny Gallery, Middle Street.**  
**Admission Free.**

### 6pm Peter Fallon & Louis De Paor with music by John Spillane

**Peter Fallon** was born in Germany in 1951 and grew up near Kells in Co. Meath. At the age of 18 he founded the Gallery Press and he has since edited over 300 books of poems and plays by Irish writers. With **Derek Mahon** he edited *The Penguin Book of*



Louis de Paor



*Contemporary Irish Poetry*. He has several collections of his own work published and an expanded edition of his 1993 collection, *News of the*

*World*, will appear later this year entitled *News of the World: Selected and New Poems*.

**Louis de Paor** is one of the leading figures in the recent renaissance of Irish language poetry. Born in Cork and living in Co. Galway, he has twice won the Seán Ó Ríordáin Prize, the premier award for Irish language poetry. *Gubán Cré is Cloch/Sentences of Earth and Stone* (1996) is a bi-lingual collection and his most recent volume is *Seo. Siúd. Agus Uile*, which was nominated for an Irish Times Poetry Prize. Music by Cork born singer/songwriter **John Spillane**.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**

## 8.30pm Adrian Henri & Frank McCourt

A reading which promises to be one of the highlights of Cúirt '98. **Frank**

**McCourt** is the author of *Angela's Ashes*, one of the publishing sensations of recent years. An unforgettablely vivid autobiographical memoir of his poverty-stricken



childhood in 1930s and '40s Limerick, it won the 1996 National Book Award, Los Angeles Times Award, William Heinemann Award, and the Pulitzer Prize.

Born in 1932, **Adrian Henri** is a poet, painter and performer and is based in Liverpool. He first came to prominence in the 1960s, as part of The Liverpool Three with Roger McGough and Brian Patten. Since then he has produced a major body of paintings, poems, songs, plays and performances. His most recent poetry collections are *Not Fade Away* (Bloodaxe, 1994) and *Dinner with the Spratts* (Methuen, 1993), awarded the UK Children's Book of The Year.

"..poems which leave a perceptible imprint on the imagination."

L-Scene

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**



## 9.30pm Tom Robinson

Another opportunity to hear the words and music of singer/songwriter Tom Robinson in the intimate surroundings of the Róisín Dubh.

**Róisín Dubh. Admission £9.50**



## Childrens' Events

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## Wednesday 22

11 am **Adrian Henri**

**Adrian Henri** is one of England's most popular childrens' authors. One of the infamous 1960s poets, *The Liverpool Three*, Henri's collection, *Dinner with the Spratts*, was the UK Children's Book of the Year in 1994. His other much loved collections for children include, *Eric The Punk Cat*, *Rhinestone Rhino* and *The Phantom Lollipop Lady*.

**Galway City Library. Admission Free. Tickets in advance from Box Office.**

## Thursday 23

11am **Jackie Kay**

**Jackie Kay** was born in Edinburgh in 1961 and is one of the most eminent poets and playwrights to emerge from Scotland in recent years. She has written extensively for children and adults and her collections of poetry for children include, *Two's Company* and *Three Has Gone*. Her television work includes *Hidden Fears*, a short drama for school children.

**Galway City Library. Admission Free. Tickets in advance from box office.**

## Friday 24

11am **Kate Thompson**

**Kate Thompson** made a dazzling debut on the literary scene in late 1997. Her childrens' novel, *Switchers*, has received unprecedented critical acclaim. It tells the story of Tess, a Switcher, able to assume any animal shape at will. When Tess meets Kevin, a fellow Switcher, their powers are tested to the limits when together they confront one of the greatest ecological dangers the world has ever known. Jim Henson Pictures have purchased the film rights of the book. The sequel, *Midnight's Choice*, will be published in May this year.

**Galway City Library. Admission Free. Tickets in advance from Box Office.**



Jackie Kay

# Special Events

## Ruth McHugh - In Camera

A collection of new paintings by Galway artist **Ruth McHugh** based on her painting, *In Camera*, which features in this year's Cúirt Poster.

**An Taibhdhearc 10am - 8pm daily.**

## Aztec Poets

An exhibition of graphic art by contemporary Mexican artists, **Luis Nishizawa** and **Leonel Maciel**. The work is directly related to, or inspired by, the work of Aztec Poets and the exhibition includes 16th century English translations of the poems.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission Free.  
10am - 6pm daily.**

## Sár Rang Filíocht le Máire Holmes

Is file agus craoltóir í Máire Holmes. Beidh sár rang filíochta ar súil ar feadh dhá lá, le dhá dhuine dhéag sa rang. Ní mór do na rannpháirtí trí píosa filíochta a chur isteach chuig Galway Arts Centre roimh Aibreán 14. Cuirfir in iúl dóibh súid a ghlactar leo roimh Aibreán 20.

**Dé Sathairn 25 Aibreán 10.30am - 1pm & Dé Domhnaigh Aibreán 26 11am - 1pm. Fee £25/£20.  
Galway Arts Centre, Nuns' Island.**

## Short Story Masterclass with Mike McCormack

**Mike McCormack** is a short story writer and novelist. He was awarded the prestigious Rooney prize for Literature in

1996 for his collection of short stories *Getting it in the Head*. His new novel, *Crowe's Requiem*, is due to be published in June this year. Participants are requested to submit a short story to Galway Arts Centre to arrive no later than April 9. Those accepted will be notified by April 20. The masterclass is limited to 12 participants.

**Saturday April 25 10.30am - 1pm & Sunday April 26 11am - 1pm.  
Fee £25/£20. An Taibhdhearc.**

## Performing Poems with Max Hafler

A two hour workshop, with award winning poet, playwright and actor **Max Hafler**, for up to 20 participants selected to read at the Poets' Platform. The workshop will cover sight-reading, engaging with an audience, voice projection, etc. Hafler is a nominee for the 1998 Stewart Parker Award.

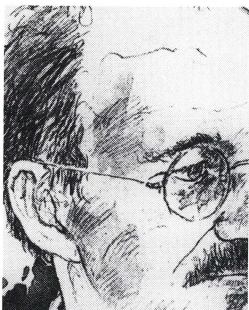
**Friday April 24 10.30am - 12.30pm.  
Fee £5. Conradh na Gaelige,  
Dominick Street.**

## 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.**

Peter Fallon



*Contemporary Irish Poetry*. He has several collections of his own work published and an expanded edition of his 1993 collection, *News of the*

*World*, will appear later this year entitled *News of the World: Selected and New Poems*.

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Adrian Henri



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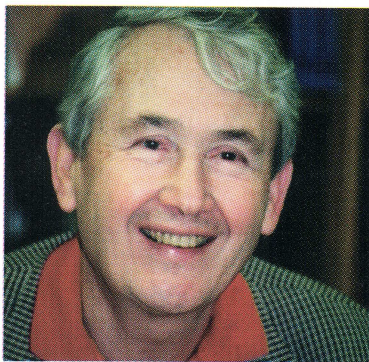
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*"..poems which leave a perceptible imprint on the imagination."*

L-Scene

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**

Frank McCourt



## 9.30pm Tom Robinson

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**Róisín Dubh. Admission £9.50**

# Friday 24

## 11am Student Reading

The Cúirt Writers-in-Schools Programme is one of the most exciting elements of the Cúirt Education Programme and, this year, three writers will conduct a four week series of creative writing workshops prior to and during Cúirt. Novelists **Mike McCormack** and **Eamonn Sweeney**, along with Irish language poet **Louis De Paor**, will lead these workshops designed to encourage participation in all forms of writing among young people. This event will feature the writing of the workshop participants from schools in Galway city, county and the Aran Islands.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission Free**

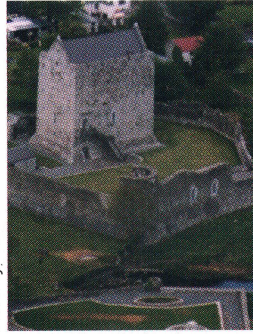
## 1pm Vizma Belsevica & Francis Harvey

Poet and translator **Vizma Belsevica** was born in Latvia in 1931. She has published fourteen collections of poetry and her work has been translated into forty languages. Among the many authors she has herself translated are Dante, Hemingway and Poe.

**Francis Harvey** was born in 1925 and lives in Donegal. A winner of the O.Z. Whitehead Award, his radio plays have been broadcast by RTÉ and the BBC. His poetry, as evidenced by collections such as *In the Light on the Stones* and *The Rainmakers*, is inspired by the glens and coasts, mountains and countryside of Donegal.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £3/£2**

## 2.30pm Cúirt Trip



Atheny Castle

This year's literary trip is to Athenry, one of the finest medieval towns in Ireland. Athenry Castle will be the venue for a tribute to the poet **Padraic**

**Fallon**. Athenry Castle, built circa 1238, is a remarkable example of its type remaining in Ireland today and was recently restored by the Office of Public Works. The trip will be led by the poet **Pat O'Brien**, editor of a tribute volume in honour of Padraic Fallon. O'Brien will also invite visiting poets to read from Fallon's work. Music by **Kathleen Loughnane** and **Alec Finn**.

**Bus departs Galway Arts Centre, 47 Dominick Street at 2.30pm sharp. £5/£4 (Incl. refreshments)**

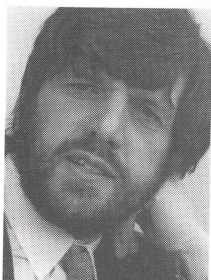
## 3pm Poets' Platform

Poets' Platform showcases some of the best writing from writers' groups all over Ireland. Established as one of the Festival's regular highpoints, it is Ireland's largest poetry reading. It bears eloquent testimony to the depth of talent among the unpublished voices of Irish poetry.

**Kings Head. Admission Free**

## 5pm Booklaunch: Micheal O'Siadhail

Micheal O'Siadhail

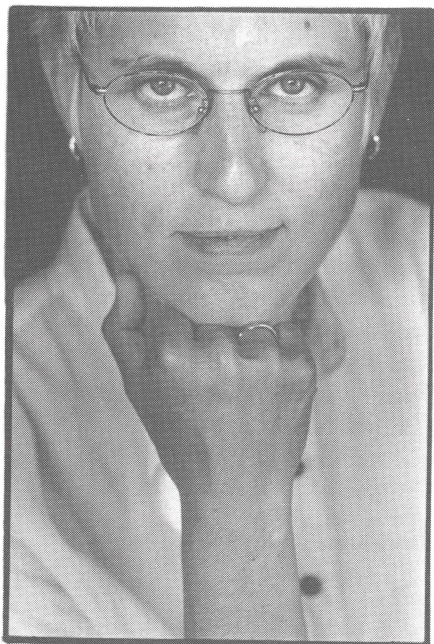


Bloodaxe Books launch *Our Double Time* by **Micheal O'Siadhail**. Ranging through tradition, renewal, sufferings and secrets, music and abundance, it marks a further

development in the work of this "most humane and thoughtful of contemporary Irish writers" (Daily Express)

The collection will be launched by Michael D. Higgins.

**Kenny Gallery, Middle Street.  
Admission Free**



Maria van Daalen

## 6pm Maria van Daalen & Jackie Kay

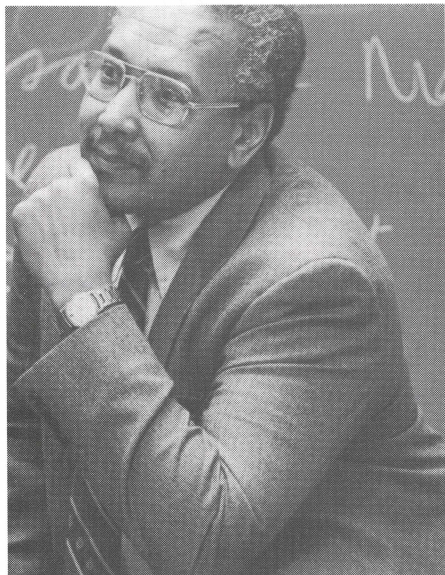
Dutch poet **Maria van Daalen's** collections include *Raveslag* (1989), *Onder he Hart* (1992), *Het Hotel* (1994) and *Het Geschenk/De Maker* (1996). She has co-edited leading Dutch literary magazine *De Revisor* and been Writer-in-Residence at the University of Iowa. Her next volume, *Thirteen Sonnets for a Lost Lover/ Dierten Sonnetten voor een Verloren Geliefde* will be published in a bi-lingual format.

**Jackie Kay's** first collection, *The Adoption Papers*, was published by Bloodaxe in 1991 and won an Eric Gregory Award. In 1993 she won the Somerset Maugham Award for her collection *Other Lovers*. She has also written for stage and television, as well as producing two volumes of poetry for children. Her first novel, *Trumpet*, will be published this Autumn by Picador.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**

## 8.30pm Michael S. Harper & Lavinia Greenlaw

**Michael S. Harper** is one of the most eminent writers/editors living in the USA today. His poetry explores ancestral kinship, jazz and the blues, and the separation of the races in America. Born in New York in 1938, he has published ten books of poetry including *Dear John, Dear Coltrane* (1970), the highly acclaimed *Nightmare Begins Responsibility* (1974) and *Honorable Amendments* (1995), which won the George Kent Poetry Award. He is Professor of English at Brown University, Rhode Island.



Poet **Lavinia Greenlaw** was born in London in 1962. Her first collection, *Night Photograph*, was published by Faber in 1993 to enthusiastic reviews. Her critically acclaimed second collection, *A World Where News Travelled Slowly*, was published last year.

*"Everything Greenlaw touches glitters and resonates, her discipline and skill allowing her to be soulful, knockabout, funny and downright strange in the course of a few lines."*

Glyn Maxwell, Vogue

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**

## Saturday 25

### 11.30am Catherine Phil McCarthy & David Wheatley

This reading showcases two of Ireland's most promising younger poets.

**Catherine Phil McCarthy** has been hailed as *"a very gifted and very interesting new Irish poet"* (Eavan Boland). Her work is refreshing and vivid, and bears witness to a landscape of profound emotional experience. Having debuted with *The Hour of the Tide*, her second collection, *The Blue Globe*, has just been published.

**David Wheatley** was born in Dublin in 1970 and his first collection, *Thirst*, was published last year by Gallery. In 1994, he won the Friends Provident National Poetry Competition. He also co-edits *Metre* magazine and is a widely-published critic.

*"He seems to be among the most scrupulous, as well as original, of younger poets."*

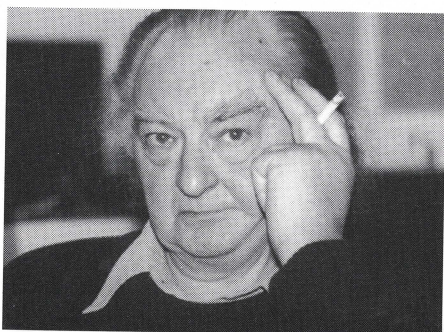
Irish Times

**Kings Head. Admission £3  
(Incl. coffee & croissants)**

# Saturday 25

## 1pm Patrick Galvin & Micheál Ó Conghaile

Patrick Galvin

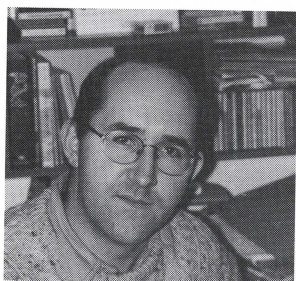


**Patrick Galvin** is one of our most distinctive and original poets. He is the author of seven collections, from 1957's *Heart of Grace* to *New and Selected Poems*, 1996. He is also an accomplished playwright and was Resident Dramatist at Belfast's Lyric Theatre from 1973-79.

*"... a poet in the best bardic tradition of O'Bruadair."*

Michael Smith

Hennessy Award-winner **Micheál Ó Conghaile** was born in Connemara in 1962. His books include *Mac an tSagairt* (stories), 1986, *Comhrá Caillí* (poetry), 1987, and *Conamara agus Árainn 1800-1900* (history), 1988, an Irish Book Award Winner. Last year saw the



Micheál Ó Conghaile

publication of his highly-acclaimed story collection *An Fear a Phléasc*, which was

nominated for an Irish Times Literature Prize. He also became the youngest author ever to receive the Irish American Cultural Institute's Butler Award.

*"...stories that break out of the mould and explore the tears that hide behind the eyelids of the mundane."*

RTÉ Guide

An Taibhdhearc. £3/£2

## 3pm Mike McCormack, Evelyn Conlon & Maurice Leitch

Mike McCormack



*Getting It In The Head*, **Mike McCormack's** 1996 collection of stories, was one of the most remarkable Irish debuts of recent years. It received an Ian St. James Award, Kilkenny Cream of Ireland Award and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature. His first novel, *Crowe's Requiem*, will be published by Jonathan Cape in July. Mike McCormack is from Mayo and is currently living in Galway.

Evelyn Conlon



**Evelyn Conlon** was born in Monaghan and lives in Dublin. She has published three highly-praised short story collections; *My Head is Opening*, *Stars in the Daytime*, and *Taking Scarlet as a Red Colour*. Her first novel, *A Glassful of Letters*, has just been published by Blackstaff who will also

Maurice Leitch



publish her *New and Selected Stories* this Autumn.

*"sharp, sinuous writing...shot through with original thinking and surreal wit."*  
The Scotsman

**Maurice Leitch** was born in Co. Armagh. He won the Guardian Fiction Award for his book *Poor Lazarus* in 1969 and also won the Whitbread Prize for Fiction for *Silver City* in 1981. His most recent novel, his first in over three years, *The Smoke King* was published in March this year, and is *"what he's been doing for three decades, he raises his glorious, inconvenient voice"* (Robert McLiam Wilson).

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £4/£3**

## 4.30pm Maguire and McBride

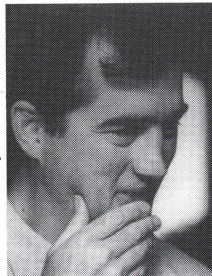
Galway comedy-duo, **Conor Maguire & Charlie McBride** conduct yet another cull of sacred cows from the bardic herd. This year they boldly go where fools and angels fear to tread and unravel 800 years worth, and more, of tangled Anglo-Irish relations.

**The Kings Head. Admission £3/£2**

## 6pm Sebastian Barry & Joseph O'Connor

Born in Dublin in 1955, **Sebastian Barry** is an acclaimed playwright, novelist and poet. His plays include *Boss Grady's Boys*, winner of 1988s Stewart

Sebastian Barry



Parker Award, *Prayers of Sherkin* (1990) and 1995s multiple award-winning *The Steward of Christendom*. His new play, *Our Lady of Sligo*, had its

world premiere at the National Theatre, London, in March of this year. He will read from, *The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty*, his fourth novel, which was published in February this year.

**Joseph O'Connor** was born in Dublin in 1963. His debut novel *Cowboys and Indians* was shortlisted for The Whitbread Prize in 1991. He has written several collections of short stories including *The Secret World Of The Irish Male* and *The Irish Male At Home And Abroad* all of which were bestsellers. He has also written extensively for stage and film and was a regular columnist for *The Sunday Tribune*. O'Connor's second stage play, *The Weeping of Angels* was premiered at The Gate Theatre, Dublin late last year and his latest novel, *The Salesman*, was published in October '97 to rave reviews in Britain and Ireland.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**



Joseph O'Connor



## 6pm Booklaunch: Andy White

**Andy White** was born in Belfast. This evening sees the launch of the critically acclaimed singer/songwriter's first collection of poetry. White has recorded six albums to date, his most recent being *Teenage* in 1997. He has also composed and recorded with Liam Ó Maonlaí and Tim Finn, collectively known as ALT, and has also collaborated with Peter Gabriel. He will perform a short set of songs at the launch.

**Róisín Dubh. Admission Free**



Andy White

## 8.30pm Tom Paulin & Irina Ratushinskaya

**NORTEL**

**Tom Paulin** is a renowned poet, essayist, critic and editor. Born in Leeds in 1949, he grew up in Belfast and is currently lecturing in English at Oxford. His published works include *Liberty Tree*, *Selected Poems 1972-1990*, *Walking A Line* and *The Faber Book of Political Verse* and *The Faber Book of Vernacular Verse*, both of which he edited.



Irina Ratushinskaya

**Irina Ratushinskaya** was 28 years old when she was sentenced to seven years' hard labour and five years' internal exile, accused of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. Her crime: writing poetry. She was held for three years in a "strict regime" labour camp. Her poems were smuggled out of the camp, and published by Bloodaxe in *No, I'm Not Afraid*, the book which spearheaded an international campaign which eventually secured her release. Other collections include *Pencil Letters* and *Dance with a Shadow*. Ratushinskaya currently lives in London.

*"A poet who expresses herself straight from the heart. She is always observing, creating images like the true artist she is, one of the pure spirit."*

David Pryce-Jones, Financial Times

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**

## Sunday 26

### 12noon Bardic Breakfast

This year's breakfast features **The Armagh Rhymers**, one of Ireland's most entertaining performance poetry groups, the renowned Scottish poet **Liz Lochhead**, **Pat Bracken** with his well loved puppets Bridie and Bartley, singer/songwriter **John Faulkner** and Galway's own irrepressible verse-guru **Little John Nee** as MC.

**Brennan's Yard Hotel.**

**Admission £6 (Incl. Breakfast)**

## 4.30pm U.A. Fanthorpe & Rosie Bailey with music by The Oriel String Quartet



**U.A. Fanthorpe** began writing poetry in her forties and has since published seven collections, including 1986's *Selected Poems* (King Penguin)

and 1995's *Safe as Houses*. The first woman to be nominated for Professor of Poetry at Oxford, she has won numerous awards for her work including two Hawthornden Fellowships and the Cholmondeley Award. More recently she has collaborated with **Rosie Bailey** on a work for two voices.

**The Oriel String Quartet** are based in Galway and have been performing their eclectic repertoire since 1995.

**Drimcong House.**  
Admission £5 (Incl. Refreshments)

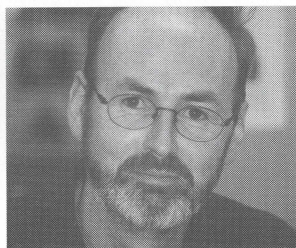
## 7.30pm Niall Williams with Timothy O'Grady & Steve Pyke

**Niall Williams'** *Four Letters of Love* was one of the most acclaimed novels of 1997. He is also the author of three plays, *The Murphy Initiative*, *A Little Like Paradise* and, most recently, *The Way You Look Tonight* commissioned by Druid Theatre Company.

One of the most remarkable novels of 1997 was, *I Could Read The Sky*, a

collaboration between **Timothy O'Grady** and photographer **Steve Pyke**. Its combination of lyrical, sensuous prose and haunting images bears eloquent witness to the age-old Irish experience of exile. Timothy O'Grady has also written the prize-winning novel *Motherland* and, co-wrote with Kenneth Griffith, *Curious Journey: An Oral History of Ireland's Unfinished Revolution*.

**An Taibhdhearc. Admission £5/£4**



Niall Williams

## 9.30pm The Songs of 1798 with John Faulkner, Tony Small & Friends

This final event of Cúirt '98 is a unique evening of music celebrating the songs of 1798. **John Faulkner**, formerly a producer with the BBC, has recorded several albums with the Keane Family and continues to work with Dolores Keane. His last album, *Nomads*, received rave reviews from the critics.

**Tony Small** hails from Galway and is a prolific writer and composer. His work is included in the repertoires of numerous singers including Dolores Keane and Christy Moore.

**Atlanta Hotel. Admission £3/£2**



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