

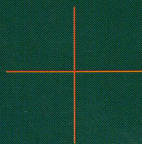


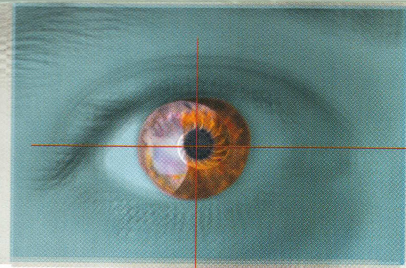
THE CÚIRT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

CÚIRT,00

GALWAY ARTS CENTRE

APRIL 24 – APRIL 30 2000





galway arts centre

47 dominick street, galway, ireland

sponsors

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Galway City Library

The Great Southern Hotel

The Town Hall Theatre

cover **The End of the Age of Innocence by Aissa Deebi**

to be seen in the exhibition in Galway Arts Centre

CÚIRT '00

THE CÚIRT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

Cúirt Box Office

Town Hall Theatre
Cúirt Box Office
Courthouse Square
Galway

Monday – Saturday
10am – 7.30pm

Information/Bookings

00 353 (0)91 569 777

Credit Card Bookings

00 353 (0)91 569 777

10% discount for bookings of 5 events or more

Cúirt International Festival of Literature wishes to thank Fionnuala Dillane, John McAuliffe, Rita Ann Higgins, James Joyce, Frank Shovlin, Noel Johnston, Lelia Doolan, Sonja Brodie, Eilis Lavelle, John Kenny, and Paul Fahy for their time and dedication. Help and assistance from the Cúirt Volunteers is gratefully acknowledged.

Galway Arts Centre & Cúirt International Festival of Literature

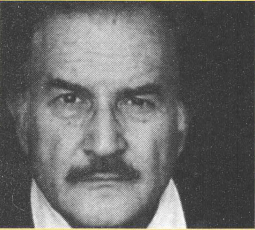
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Galway Arts Centre	Mattie Hynes, Bernard Byrne, Mary Doyle
Galway Youth Theatre	Maura Kennedy, Valerie Parker, Gillian Power
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URL www.galwayartscentre.ie

8.00 pm **Carlos Fuentes**



In a special event, Cúirt International Festival of Literature presents **Carlos Fuentes**, lecturer, essayist, diplomat, and above all, writer. Nothing human is alien to him, and he is situated significantly in the panorama of Latin American literature. Through the decades Fuentes has built a "comédie humaine" creating a parallel world through literature, a mirror in which Mexican society is reflected and recreated.

Author of more than a dozen novels, Fuentes' titles including *Where the Air is Clear*, *The Death of Artemio Cruz*, *Terra Nostra*, *The Old Gringo*, *Christopher Unborn*, *The Orange Tree* and *Diana: The Goddess Who Hunts Alone*. His many non-fictional works include the outstanding *The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World* and the *Diary of Frieda Kahlo*. He has also written numerous short stories, plays, articles as well as literary and political essays.

Among the many prizes he has been awarded are Mexico's National Prize for Literature (1984) and Spain's Miguel de Cervantes Prize for Literature (1988). He has served as Mexico's Ambassador to France and has held several visiting professorships. He has worked extensively in television and is best known for his part as on-camera host for the five part BBC television series, *The Buried Mirror*, a reflection on the complex relationship between Spain and Latin America.

For this event, he will read from his new book *The Years With Laura Diaz* and discuss his work with *Irish Times* writer, **Eileen Battersby**.

Admission £7 | £5

NUI, Galway – O'Flaherty Theatre

CÚIRT, 00

monday 24 april



7:30 pm Launch

Galway Arts Centre presents Cúirt International Festival of Literature 2000, which takes place in the prestigious Town Hall Theatre in Galway, from 24 – 30 April. Writers at the Festival this year come from The United States, Britain, the Middle East, South America including some of Ireland's most outstanding established and new voices. Galway Arts Centre is particularly pleased that **Patrick Murphy**, Chairman of the Arts Council of Ireland will open this year's Cúirt in a reception in Galway's Great Southern Hotel, Eyre Square.

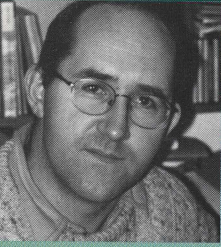
Admission Free

Great Southern Hotel, Eyre Square

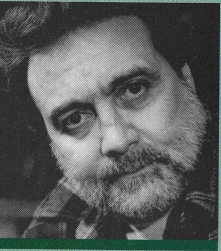
CÚIRT, 00

tuesday 25 april

1.00 pm Micheál Ó Conghaile and Macdara Woods



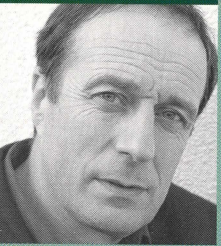
Youngest ever recipient of the Butler Literary Award, Connemara writer **Micheál Ó Conghaile** is a poet, historian and fiction writer, whose works include *Mac an tSagairt*, *Comhrá Caillí* and Irish Book Award winner *An Fear a Phléasc*. His novel *Sna Fir* (1999) was published to rave reviews. He translated *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and is currently writer-in-residence at Queen's University, Belfast and the University of Ulster, Coleraine. Poet and lyricist **Macdara Woods** is the author of nine volumes of poetry and has collaborated with a number of musicians and artists, notably Brendan Graham and Anúna. The appeal of Woods' work is wide and has been translated into many languages, including Portuguese, Italian and Korean. Two collections are forthcoming from Dedalus, *New and Selected Poems* and *The Nightingale Water*.



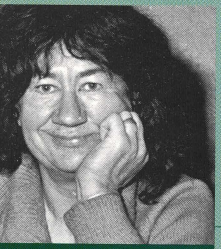
Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre Studio

4.00 pm Tom Paulin and Leland Bardwell



Belfast poet and contributor to BBC's highly popular *Late Review*, **Tom Paulin** reads from his newly published and acclaimed collection, *The Wind Dog*, a work which epitomises his combative style. G.M. Young Lecturer in English Literature in Oxford, Paulin's most recent critical work is *The Day-Star of Liberty: William Hazlitt's Radical Style*. Currently living in Sligo, poet, novelist and dramatist, **Leland Bardwell** co-founded the literary magazine *Cyphers*. Her collections include *The Mad Cyclist*, *The Fly and the Bed Bug*, *Dostoevsky's Grave – New and Selected Poems* and *The White Beach*.



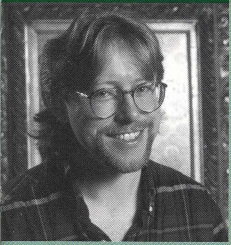
Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

CÚIRT.00

tuesday 25 april

6.00 pm Vincent Woods and Medbh McGuckian



Vincent Woods, currently writer in residence at NUI Galway, was the recent recipient of Australia's Vincent Buckley Fellowship. His poems were collected in *The Colour of Language* and he is the author of Druid's hit play, *At the Black Pig's Dyke*. A children's book, *Framed*, with artist Monica Frawley will be published in the autumn, followed by a new collection of poetry *Life and Miracles*.

He co-edited *The Turning Wave: The Poetry and Ballads of Irish Australia* with Colleen Burke which will be published in Australia in spring 2001. Born in Belfast, **Medbh McGuckian's** work includes *The Flower Master*, *Venus and the Rain*, *On Ballycastle Beach*, *Marconi's Cottage*, and *Shelmaliel* among others. Recognised as one of the foremost poets of her generation, she is currently Poet-in-Residence at Trinity College Dublin. *Marconi's Cottage* was shortlisted for the *Irish Times/Aer Lingus Literature Prize for Poetry*.

Admission £6 | £5

Town Hall Theatre

8.30 pm Irish Times Debate

Chaired by long-time Northern Ireland correspondent for *The Irish Times* **Mary Holland**, panellists poet and polemicist **Tom Paulin**, leading Derry-born painter **Felim Egan**, and Advisor to David Trimble **Stephen King**, will discuss "Is there a Northern Irish culture?" an important question in today's social and cultural climate.

Admission £7 | £5

Town Hall Theatre

CÚIRT.00

w e d n e s d a y 2 6 a p r i l

1.00 pm Ken Bruen and Philip Davison

Galway born **Ken Bruen** is a teacher, actor and script writer. The author of nine novels, six of which are crime thrillers, Bruen has been widely translated and his *Rilke on Black* received a nomination for Best First Crime Novel. **Philip Davison** was born in Dublin. His previous work includes *The Book Thief's Heartbeat*, *Twist and Shout*, *The Illustrator*, and *The Crooked Man*. His latest crime fiction is the quirky *McKenzie's Friend*. His work for stage includes *The Invisible Mending Company* for the Peacock, as well as television drama.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

3.00 pm Ian McMillan

Poet **Ian McMillan**, described by the *Guardian* as "relentlessly jolly", is Barnsley FC's celebrated Poet-in-Residence. He is also well known as a children's author and broadcaster. McMillan's newest book, *It's Just Like Watching Brazil*, recounts Barnsley's breathtaking season in the the English Premiership.

Admission £4 | £3

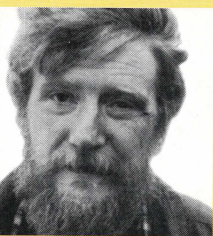
Town Hall Theatre

4.00 pm Claire Keegan and Dermot Healy



Born in Wicklow, **Claire Keegan** won the William Trevor Prize among others for her collection of short stories *Antarctica*. She is currently writing a novel and a second collection of short stories.

Dermot Healy was born in Westmeath in 1947. A poet, novelist and playwright, his novels include *Fighting with Shadows*, *A Goat's Song* and last year's *Sudden Times*. Healy's autobiography is entitled *The Bend for Home* and he recently made his screen debut in *I Could Read the Sky*. He is also founder editor of *Force 10*, Ireland's foremost community arts journal.



Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

w e d n e s d a y 2 6 a p r i l

6.00 pm Aidan Mathews and Don Paterson

Aidan Mathews' first poetry collections were *Minding Ruth* and *Windfalls*; he then turned to fiction and drama for a decade's work which includes *Exit/Entrance*, *Muesli at Midnight* and *Lipstick on the Host*. He returned to poetry last year with *According to the Small Hours*, a collection that was described by Michael Longley as "abundant, enthralling, heart-breaking."

Don Paterson's *Nil Nil* won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection in 1993. It was nearly as highly praised as the Scotsman's second collection, *God's Gift to Women*. His most recent collection is *The Eyes*, an adventurous translation of a selection of Antonio Machado's poetry.

Admission £6 | £4

Town Hall Theatre

THE ANNE KENNEDY MEMORIAL LECTURE

8.30 pm Professor Germaine Greer



Germaine Greer's first book, *The Female Eunuch* (1970), was hailed by the women's movement and influenced an entire generation. Always challenging and controversial, Greer is usually categorised as a writer of non-fiction: the intriguing title of her lecture is *The Impossibility of Non-Fiction*.

Admission £7 | £5

Town Hall Theatre

CÚIRT, 00

thursday 27 april

1.00 pm Eamonn Sweeney and John Waters

Sweeney and Waters are two of Ireland's ablest and most articulate cultural commentators: here they discuss the cultural traps of a changing Ireland. Born in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, *Irish Times* columnist **John Waters** is author of plays for radio and the stage and numerous books, including *Living at the Cross-roads*, *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Ireland*, and *The Man in the Long Black Coat*. **Eamonn Sweeney** is author of *Waiting for the Healer* and *There's Only One Red Army*, his account of the trials, tribulations and occasional joys of supporting Sligo Rovers.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

3.00 pm Israeli and Palestinian Literature Forum



Izzat al-Ghazzawi is author of *The Woman Prisoner*, *A Critical View*, *Letters Underway*, *The Edges*, *Nebo Mountain*, and *Abdullah at-Titali*, and is leader of the Palestinian Writers Union. He was one of the leaders of the intellectual movement during the Intifada. Russian-born **Alona Kimchi's** work includes *I*, *Anastasia* which was awarded the ACUM Prize and *Weeping Susannah*. US-born **Eyal Megged** teaches creative writing and was awarded the 1993 Macmillan Prize. His titles include *Eden Park*, *Edge*, *Cup Final Stories*, and *Early Grace*. Megged and Kimchi are two of Israel's best known contemporary authors. Palestinian **Rajaa Bakriyeh** is both a writer and painter. Her work includes *Psalms to Ellul*, *Papers of a Small Woman* and a collection of short stories, soon to be published. In this forum, moderated by scholar John Maher and along with Irish writers, they



discuss their work and their responses to where they live and how they work. An open workshop prior to this forum will take place, details from Galway Arts Centre.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

CÚIRT 00

6.00 pm John Connolly and Mark Timlin



DUBLINER **John Connolly** burst on to the international literary scene with the publication of *Every Dead Thing* and his latest book *Dark Hollow* justifies the promise of his debut. Included in the "One Hundred Masters of Crime", **Mark Timlin** is author of many crime books under many names, and reviews crime writing with the *Independent on Sunday*. He is one of today's most respected crime authors.

Admission £6 | £4

Town Hall Theatre

6.00 pm Andrew Graham Dixon

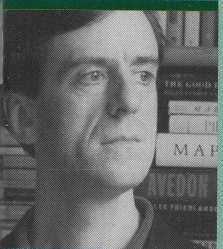


Author, broadcaster and journalist, **Andrew Graham Dixon** presented the Renaissance to television viewers earlier this year in the hugely successful series *Renaissance*. His published works include *A History of British Art*, *Paper Museum* and most recently *Renaissance*. He has made several documentaries and was Arts Journalist of the Year in 1987, 1988 and 1999. He has been Art Critic for *The Independent*, *Vogue*, *Sunday Telegraph Magazine* and *Talk Magazine* (New York). Here, in an illustrated talk, he brings his own informal and engaging style to Cúirt audiences.

Admission £6 | £4

Town Hall Theatre

8.30 pm Brian Keenan and Neil Belton



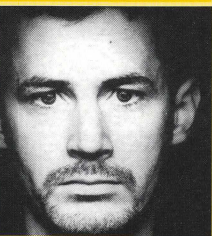
Brian Keenan's acclaimed *An Evil Cradling* chronicled his captivity in the Middle East. Since then, Keenan has been writer-in-residence at Trinity College, Dublin and co-wrote a travel book on the Andes with John McCarthy. He will read from his forthcoming novel, *Turlough*. Born in Ireland and a graduate of University College Dublin, **Neil Belton** won the *Irish Times* Literature Award for Non-Fiction for *The Good Listener: Helen Bamber, A Life Against Cruelty* from which he will read. Reluctantly living in London, he is a highly respected editor and Director of Publishing at Granta Books.

Admission £7 | £5

Town Hall Theatre

friday 28 april

11.00 am Tom French and Deirdre Brennan



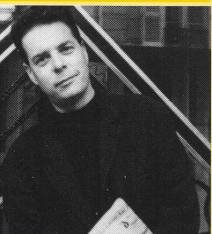
Tom French's work has been widely published in various literary journals. In 1999, he read at Les Langagieres, Rheims and Belfast's Between The Lines literary festival, and has previously read at Cúirt. A first collection, provisionally titled *The Skin House*, is forthcoming from Gallery Books. Poet, fiction writer and dramatist, Dublin-born

Deirdre Brennan's poetry collections include *I reilig na mban rialta*, *Scothanna geala*, *Thar cholbha na mara*. A collection of her short stories won Duais Bhord na Gaelige in 1996.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

1.00 pm Colin Bateman and Douglas Kennedy



Colin Bateman has been deputy editor of the *County Down Spectator*, receiving press awards for his satirical column.

His novel *Divorcing Jack* won the Betty Trask Prize and other works include *Turbulent Priests* and *Empire State*. **Douglas Kennedy**, a born and bred New Yorker, who lived in Dublin for some time, is a writer and journalist. His novels include *The Dead Heart*, *The Big Picture* and *The Job*, all critical and commercial successes.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

friday 28 april

**4.00 pm Máire Mhac an tSaoi, Kathleen Jamie
and Gabriel Fitzmaurice**



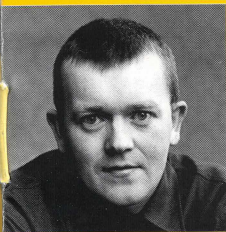
Máire Mhac an tSaoi is one of Ireland's pre-eminent scholars and poets. Her poetry collections include *A Heart Full of Thought*, *Codladh an Ghaisigh*, *Trasládáil*, and her latest work is *Shoa, agus Dánta Eile*. Winner of the O'Shaughnessy Poetry Award of the Irish American Cultural Institute, and an authority on traditional Bardic poetry, she writes primarily in the Irish language. Awarded an honorary D. Lit. Celt from the National University of Ireland, she was born in Dublin and has represented Ireland in the Council of Europe among other diplomatic missions. Born in Renfrewshire, Scotland, **Kathleen Jamie** teaches Creative Writing at the University of St Andrew's. Author of many poetry collections, the most recent, *Jizzen*, was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot award. Jamie has also published a travel book about Northern Pakistan, *The Golden Peak*. **Gabriel Fitzmaurice**, widely known for his work with the Listowel Writer's Week, is author of more than twenty books, including poetry in English and Irish, children's verse in both languages, translations from Irish, essays, as well as collections of songs and ballads. His *A Wrenboy's Carnival: Poems 1980-2000* will be published in Autumn 2000.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

CURTAIN

6.00 pm Conor O'Callaghan and Hugo Williams



Newry-born **Conor O'Callaghan** has two poetry collections, *The History of Rain* (1993), for which he won the Patrick Kavanagh Award, and *Seatown* (1999) which is currently receiving warm reviews. A critic and broadcaster, his interest in cricket was memorably recorded in the Dick Warner-produced radio documentary, *The Season*. O'Callaghan is currently writer-in-residence at University College Dublin. **Hugo Williams'** latest collection, *Billy's Rain*, was the first collection by an English poet to win the prestigious T.S.Eliot Prize. Earlier work includes *Writing Home* which Derek Mahon characterised as being "sung with the grave formality of a secular requiem". His journalism was collected in the acclaimed *Freelancing: Adventures of a Poet*.

Admission £6 | £4

Town Hall Theatre

friday 28 april

8.30 pm Colum McCann and A.L. Kennedy



DUBLINER **Colum McCann** lives in New York City. He was awarded the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature for his short story collection *Fishing the Sloe-Black River*. His novels include *Songdogs* and *This Side of Brightness* which is nominated for this year's IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

McCann's new novel, *Everything In This Country Must*, is due out in April. Dundee-born **A.L. Kennedy** has written extensively in numerous forms, from short story to novel, such as *So I Am Glad*, dramatic works to non-fiction, including her latest title *On Bullfighting*. She is included in *The Observer's* 21 writers for the 21st century, and won the Somerset Maugham Award and the John Llewellyn Prize.

Admission £7 | £5

Town Hall Theatre

CÚIRT

10.30 pm Mike Scott and Steve Wickham



SCOTTISH singer-songwriter and former front man with The Waterboys, **Mike Scott** will re-unite with ex-Waterboys violinist extraordinaire **Steve Wickham** for a one-off date especially for Cúirt. Scott led the Waterboys through their million selling albums such as *This is the Sea* and *A Pagan Place* before going solo in 1995 with *Bring 'Em All In*. Resident in Galway during the early 1990s, Scott and

Wickham combined to great effect on albums like *Fisherman's Blues*. Scott, together with Wickham and the rest of the Waterboys, produced some of the best songs and music of the last fifteen years.

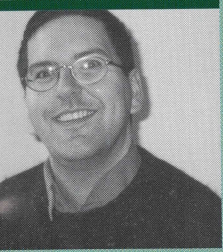
Admission £8 | £7

Town Hall Theatre

saturday 29 april

FIRST READINGS

11.00 am John McAuliffe and Colette Bryce



John McAuliffe has published poems in *The Irish Times*, *The Sunday Tribune*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *ROPES* and other journals. The first recipient of the RTE Poet of the Future award, he lives in Dublin and works as a tutor at Trinity College. Derry-born Colette Bryce's work is included in *Anvil New Poets* and she has recently published her first collection *The Heel of Bernadette*, which has been hailed as "assured, original and promising" (*The Irish Times*). She was awarded an Eric Gregory Award in 1995 and lives in London, working as a freelance editor and bookseller.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

1.00 pm Carol Rumens and Dennis O'Driscoll



Carol Rumens was born in London. She has published 11 volumes of poetry, the most recent being *Best China Sky* and *Holding Pattern*, which was shortlisted for a 1999 Belfast City Arts Award. Dennis O Driscoll has published five collections of poetry and is also a widely-published critic. *As the Poet Said*, a selection of quotations from his "Pickings and Choosings" column in *Poetry Ireland Review*, has been published by Poetry Ireland and a book of his essays and reviews is forthcoming from Gallery Press. He recently won a prestigious Lannan Foundation Award.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

CURTAIN

4.00 pm John Kelly and Anne Enright



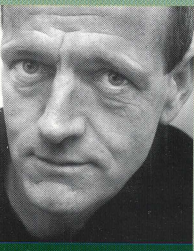
Fermanagh-born John Kelly is a writer for *The Irish Times* and presents the popular *Mystery Train* on RTE Radio 1. He has written an autobiographical travelogue, *Cool about the Ankles* and his second novel, *The Little Hammer*, was published in March 2000. Former broadcaster Anne Enright's first collection of short stories, *The Portable Virgin*, received critical acclaim and was awarded the Rooney Prize for Literature. Her first novel, *The Wig my Father Wore*, was published in 1995, followed by *What Are You Like?* in February 2000.

Admission £4 | £3

Town Hall Theatre

saturday 29 april

6.00 pm Tommy Tiernan and Ian McPherson



Tommy Tiernan is one of Ireland's foremost comedians. The winner of the Best Newcomer at the 1996 Edinburgh Fringe, he was awarded Edinburgh's Perrier Prize, comedy's premier award, in 1998. His numerous television credits include *Fr. Ted*, *The Stand Up Show* and most recently *Small Potatoes*. His first novel will be published later in 2000. Dubliner **Ian McPherson's** writing includes the titles *All You Need is Frank*, *The Man Who Boxed Like John McCormack*, *Woodcock* and *Deep Probing*s, *The Autobiography of a Genius*. A comedian and performer of great acclaim, he has recently completed a children's book, *Late Again*, due out September 2000.

Admission £6 | £5

Town Hall Theatre

8.30 pm Matthew Sweeney and Kwame Dawes



Matthew Sweeney's works include *A Smell of Fish*, *Bridal Suite* as well as three volumes for children. The recipient of an Arts Council of England Writers Award in 1999, Sweeney also co-edited *Emergency Kit: Poems for Strange Times* and *Beyond Bedlam: Poems Written Out of Mental Distress*. He lives in England. **Kwame Dawes** 'writes poetry as it ought to be written' (*Lines Review*). Born in

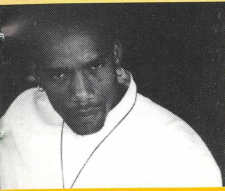
Ghana, he grew up in Jamaica, and his works include *Progeny of Air*, *Resisting the Anomie*, *Prophets*, *Jacko Jacobus* and *Requiem*. His forthcoming works in 2000 are *Grits: Race and Identity* and *Talk Yuh Talk: Interviews with Caribbean Poets*. An accomplished actor, playwright and broadcaster, Dawes teaches in the University of South Carolina.

Admission £7 | £5

Town Hall Theatre

sunday 30 april

12.00 noon BARDIC BREAKFAST WITH
Enda Wyley and Adisa



Poet and teacher **Enda Wyley** whose collections are *Eating Baby Jesus* and *Socrates in the Garden*. Wyley lives in Dublin where she is Visual Arts Programmer for The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children. Her poetry has been translated into Dutch, Italian German, and Romanian. She was awarded the Vincent Buckley Memorial Award and was Poet-in-Residence in Melbourne University. Benjamin Zephaniah said of London-based **Adisa**, Performance Poet of the Year, 'he is the future – it's so good to have something to look forward to'. Drawing on his Nigerian heritage, Adisa performs in venues from pubs to schools and universities and his collections include *Father And Son*, and *Rivers, Trees and Just Like the Sun*. His style is energetic, his poetry mesmerising. Poet and teacher.

Brennan's Yard Admission £10

3.00 pm **Marina Carr and Gabriel Gbadomosi**

Marina Carr is the author of seven plays, including *The Mai* and *By the Bog of Cats*, and her *On Raftery's Hill* will be produced by Druid in May. She is also working on plays for the Project Arts Centre and The Royal Court. She is a member of Aosdana and has been writer-in-residence at Trinity College and at DCU. Poet and playwright **Gabriel Gbadomosi** travels widely in Europe, Africa, Caribbean, and Middle East, researching performance and cultural politics. His plays include *Hotel Orpheu*, *Shango*, *Eshu's Fast*, and *The Long Hot Summer of '76*. His next play for the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, is *Asylum*. This event will be chaired by **Vincent Woods**, writer in residence in NUI, Galway, and author of hit Druid play, *At The Black Pig's Dyke*.

Druid Theatre, Druid Lane Admission £4 | £3

AFTERNOON DELIGHTS AT ROSS CASTLE WITH

4.00 pm **John O'Donoghue, Máire Holmes & Joe Steve Ó Neachtain**

In the atmospheric setting of Violet Martyn's fifteenth century home, authors from the Gaelic tradition **John O'Donoghue**, **Máire Holmes**, and **Joe Steve Ó Neachtain** will read from their work. Renowned raconteur and poet, O'Donoghue's reading will include pieces from his new poetry collection, *Connemara Blues*. Máire Holmes has been published widely in English and Irish and this reading will mark the end of a successful stint as writer-in-residence for the Aran Islands. Well-known actor and author Joe Steve Ó Neachtain will read from his prizewinning short-story collection, *Cloch Mhóin*, and draw on his knowledge of Connemara lore and song. Refreshments will be served in the ballroom, site of many a shindig.

Ross Castle, Roscahill, Co. Galway Admission £10

7.30 pm **Last Orders**

The final get-together for the die-hards takes place in **Brennan's Yard Hotel**, the Festival Club, for repartee and entertainment.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Exhibition at Galway Arts Centre

An exhibition of Israeli and Palestinian art by **Aissa Deebi, Yuval Shaul, Amikam Toren** and **Sharif Waked** showing contemporary work coming from the Middle East in many media – paper, animal skin, video and painting.

Saturday 3pm

Children's Reading with Ian McPherson

Writer and comedian **Ian McPherson** will read from his new children's novel. Funny and new, this innovative young writer will entertain – expect the unexpected. Suitable for kids 7-10.

Galway County Library, Augustine Street. *Admission free.*

Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 8pm

Druid Debuts present the first in a series of semi-staged performances showcasing emergent playwrights, actors and directors. *The Bower Wall* by young Wexford author Paul O'Brien is set in a parkland on the outskirts of Wexford town where the young and the disaffected gather to drink, smoke and socialise.

Druid Lane Theatre. *Admission £5 / £4 Druid Box Office.*

BOOK LAUNCHES

Gerard Donovan

Tuesday 25 – 5pm Kenny's Bookshop

Gerald Dawe & Adrian Rice

Wednesday 26 – 5pm Kenny's Bookshop

Galway Travellers Support Group

Thursday 27 – 5pm Galway Arts Centre

ROPES

Friday 28 – 3pm Aula Maxima

Brennan's Yard, Galway
FESTIVAL CLUB

Town Hall Theatre
FESTIVAL BOOKSHOP

WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

Workshops and lectures on the practicalities of getting published, offering perspectives from author and publisher. Is the publishing industry as impenetrable as it seems?

Tuesday 25 April

11am – 2pm Creative Writing with Kevin Whelan

Author of two acclaimed novels, *Izzy Baia* and *A Wonderful Boy*, Kevin will explore key aspects of the creative process from getting started to finding an agent to approaching publishers. The seminar will be of particular interest to nervous neophytes or those with a novel stashed in the bottom drawer.

Requirements: Writing sample (max ten pages) to Kevin Whelan c/o Cúirt Festival, Galway Arts Centre, 47 Dominick St, Galway before Friday March 31.

Galway Arts Centre. Fee £20.

Wednesday 26 April

11am – 12.30pm Israeli Palestinian Workshops – open forum

Contact Galway Arts Centre for details on taking part in this special workshop, hearing and commenting on the writings from Middle Eastern writers, prior to the Public Forum.

Galway Arts Centre. Free Admission but prior booking only: 091 - 565 886.

2.30pm – 5.30pm Poetry Workshop with John McAuliffe

From student publications to selection as RTE's Poet of the Future, **John McAuliffe** is progressing towards his first collection. This workshop is ideal for novice poets looking for close editorial support and practical advice on how to navigate the world of magazine, newspaper and book publication.

Requirements: Writing sample (max three poems) to John McAuliffe c/o Cuirt Festival, Galway Arts Centre, 47 Dominick St, Galway by Friday 31 March.

Galway Arts Centre. Fee: £20.

Thursday 27 April

11am – 12pm Publishing Seminar with Neil Belton and Jessie Lendennie

Granta's **Neil Belton** and founder of Salmon Publishing **Jessie Lendennie** will discuss publishing issues of concern to Irish writers. Of particular interest will be why many authors from Ireland go to Britain to be published. Both have experience of the industry as writers and publishers.

Galway Arts Centre. Admission Free.

2pm – 5pm Crime Writing with Ken Bruen

Author of six crime thrillers, Galway's **Ken Bruen** will discuss the crime writing genre. Bruen will address such questions as is the British tradition fundamentally different from the American? Is there such a thing as a cultural type? The practicalities of publishing a thriller will also be addressed. Ideal for crime aficionados who may be plotting the perfect crime.

Requirements: Writing sample (max ten pages) to Ken Bruen c/o Cuirt Festival, Galway Arts Centre, 47 Dominick St, Galway by Friday 31 March.

Galway Arts Centre. Fee £20.

3pm – 4pm White Page Forum with Joan McBreen and Gabriel Fitzmaurice

Joan McBreen's *The White Page* is a comprehensive guide to contemporary Irish poetry by women. She will discuss the impetus for her book and focus on the work of Eithne Strong. This reading will also pay tribute to one of the finest Irish Language poets of recent times, Galway's **Caitlin Maude**. **Gabriel Fitzmaurice** will read from her work, including "*An Bhileog Bhán*", the poem which gives McBreen's valuable guide its title.

Library. Admission Free.

11am Poets' Platform

Poets' Platform demonstrates the talent of unsung heroes in the poetry firmament and continues an eloquent Cúirt tradition this year with some sterling entries.

Town Hall Theatre. Admission Free.

Gifts for that special occasion are no longer a problem. Outline the recipient's interests (e.g. poetry!) and we will compile a personalised selection of books to a budget specified by you. Based on our experience and knowledge of Irish books, we will select just the right package.

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