

# $\odot$ welcome note $\odot$

This year at Cúirt we will be looking at how we engage with literature, the exploration of language, the rise of the e-reader and the many levels on which literature communicates with us. We will also be talking about the writer-reader relationship, which is at the very heart of the Cúirt festival.

We are lucky to have so many exceptional writers of both fiction and poetry visiting Cúirt this year. I have no doubt that many of them are some of the best writers of our generation and life time. It is a great joy and honour to host them here in Galway and I would like to thank Hotel Meyrick and all of our sponsors who show our guests such wonderful hospitality.

At the heart of Cúirt as always, lies you, the audience. The festival has been and continues to be fuelled and energised by the people who attend it. Cúirt remains a readers' festival, and I, a reader before anything else, enjoy the pleasure and the privilege of sharing some of the world's best writing with you.

Dani Gill Programme Director

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#### Take a bow!

The arts really matter to us in Ireland; they are a big part of people's lives, the country's single most popular pursuit. Our artists interpret our past, define who we are today, and imagine our future. We can all take pride in the enormous reputation our artists have earned around the world.

The arts play a vital role in our economy, and smart investment of taxpayers' money in the arts is repaid many times over. The dividends come in the form of a high value, creative economy driven by a flexible, educated, innovative workforce, and in a cultural tourism industry worth €2.4 billion directly a year.

The Arts Council is the Irish Government agency for funding and developing the arts. We work in partnership with artists, arts organisations, public policy makers and others to build a central place for the arts in Irish life. The Arts Council's strategic approach for 2011-2013 builds on previous plans. It has a dual focus on supporting artists and arts organisations and on seeking to increase public engagement and participation in the arts. This approach is outlined in Developing the Arts In Ireland: Arts Council strategic overview 2011-2013, which is available to download from the Arts Council website.

The Arts Council recognises that the environment in which public funds are now allocated is very competitive. We will continue to make a strong case to government to provide the arts with the core funding they require and to protect the significant investment already made. The role of the Arts Council is to plan and provide in good times and bad and we will make all our decisions with the long-term good of the arts as our principal goal.

So, when you next turn the pages of a great book or hear a poem that inspires you or attend an enthralling reading, don't forget the role you have also played and take a bow yourself!

Find out what's on at: www.events.artscouncil.ie

You can find out more about the arts here: www.artscouncil.ie

# $\odot$ Ar Chúirt / Out visiting $\odot$

ast year, Cúirt International Festival of Literature expanded its horizons and began an outreach programme. Due to its phenomenal success we continue to grow and have programmed further events outside of the city and within residential areas of the Galway City community. The objective of this work is to try to bring some of the festival atmosphere out of our main venues and into new places where we can reach new audiences. It is very much about connection, building relationships and increasing knowledge of what Cúirt and literature are all about. We would like to sincerely thank our funding partners who have made these projects possible this year.

### **KITCHEN READINGS**

In conjunction with the Galway City Library Service we will be hosting Kitchen Readings in a number of homes in Galway City during the week of the festival. Australian Poet Robyn Rowland and harpist Lynn Saoirse will visit houses in Westside and Ballybane areas of the city during the week of Cúirt. These informal gatherings are free and will be open to all. For more information please contact:

Ballybane Library: (091) 380590 ballybane@galwaylibrary.ie Westside Library: (091) 520616 westside@galwaylibrary.ie

### **PORTUMNA WORKSHOPS AND SILVER LEAVING EVENT**

During the month of April poet Robyn Rowland will give workshops in Portumna which will focus on elements of the natural landscape and the environment of the area. Places are limited and interested parties should contact Galway Arts Centre to enroll: (091 565886 /info@galwayartscentre.ie ).

**Dr Robyn Rowland AO**, is an Irish-Australian poet who splits her time between Connemara and Australia each year. She has published nine books, six of poetry, most recently *Seasons of Doubt & Burning*. *New & Selected Poems* (2010) representing 40 years of poetry. Her poetry has recently appeared in *Being Human*, ed. Neil Astley, (Bloodaxe Books, UK, 2011). *Silence & its Tongues* (2006, reprinted 2008, 2009) was shortlisted for the 2007 ACT Judith Wright Poetry Prize. Robyn is winner of, among others, the Writing Spirit Poetry Award, Ireland 2010. She is a Honorary Fellow of the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne and curates and presents the Poetry & Conversation Series for the Geelong Library Corporation.



Lynn Saoirse is an award-winning Irish harpist living in Connemara. She has recorded four solo albums as well as being a featured artist on three other recordings. She has performed throughout Europe, the US, the Caribbean, Nepal, Argentina and Egypt. Her harp arrangements of both traditional and contemporary Irish music are very highly regarded.

#### Silver Leaving: Poems & Harp Portumna Castle, Sunday 22nd April, 3pm

Following the bardic tradition of harp and spoken word, this is a

collaboration between two fine artists; a partnership of lyric with music; an often haunting recording, full of deep emotion. Longing and love, history and hope, weave their magic into and out of a strongly present landscape.



#### **ADMISSION: FREE**

#### FROM CARNA TO A CORUNA **SATURDAY 31ST MARCH CARRAROE LIBRARY 4:00PM**

This will be an intercultural concert of traditional song in the Irish and Galician languages. Translators and musicians who have worked on a number of songs in Irish and Galician will perform them for the first time. The experiment has been carried out by the Spanish and Irish Departments in NUIG who have explored song translation and the relationship between sean nós and traditional Galician songs. In addition, the noted Galician performer Marco Velez, will give an introduction to Galician music.



#### ÓN GCEATHRÚ RUA GO A CORUNA. LEABHARLANN NA CEATHRÚN RUA IMEACHT GAILÍSISE AGUS GAEILGE I GCOMHAR LE HINSTITIÚID DE MÓRA. OLLSCOIL NA HÉIREANN. GAILLIMH

Imeacht idirchultúrtha a bheas inti seo: ceolchoirm d'amhráin dhúchasacha Gaeilge agus Gailísise. Cuirfear aistriúcháin ar amhráin ó Ghaeilge go Gailísis agus droim ar ais i láthair den chéad uair. D'oibrigh léachtóirí le Spáinnis agus le Gaeilge as Scoil na dTeangacha, na Litríochtaí agus na gCultúr agus as Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge i gcomhar le chéile chun aistriúcháin a chur ar fáil a d'fhéadfaí a chasadh mar amhráin. Fiosraíonn an iarracht seo an ceangal idir ceol traidisiúnta na Gailísise agus sean-nós na hÉireann. Chomh maith leis sin, beidh an ceoltóir cáiliúil Marco Velez as an nGailís i láthair agus tabharfaidh sé léargas ceolmhar ar dhúchas amhránaíochta na Gailíse.



## READ ME. I'M YOURS

A number of copies of visiting authors' books will be dropped in various locations around the city where people can pick them up and read them. They will have a flyer inside that gives the date and time of the authors reading so that those intrigued by what they read can then go along to the event. These books will be left at cafés, pubs and hotel foyers.

## ONE BOOK, ONE TOWN, TUAM

One Book, One Tuam is an inclusive community reading project that enriches children's learning. The aims of the project are to reduce literacy difficulties, to promote reading for pleasure and to promote a sense of community. This year, each child and adult in Tuam will be encouraged to read Kensuke's Kingdom, by Michael Morpurgo. A programme of events will run from 20th February to Mid April 2012.

One Book, One Tuam is now in its third successful year. For further information on the project contact:

Tuam Library, Main Street, Tuam: 093 24287 / Email: tuam@galwaylibrary.ie

# GALWAY EDUCATION CENTRE

This year, Cúirt has partnered with the Galway Education Centre on Fíbín's presentation of An Rón Dall in Connemara. The Centre will also be running literary events in schools during the week of Cúirt which will include workshops with children's writer Alan Durant and an event with Ireland's Children's Laureate Siobhán Parkinson focusing on childrens literature.

For more information please contact: info@galwaylibrary.ie 091 562471

Alan Durant has published over 70 books for children. He writes for boys and for girls and his books range from picture books for the very young to novels for teenagers. Among his most recent titles are Billy Monster's Daymare (Winner of the Royal Mail Scottish Children's Book Award), Burger Boy (Winner of the Portsmouth Children's Picture Book Award), Dear Tooth Fairy (shortlisted for the Children's Book Award), Game Boy (runner-up for the Nottingham and Portsmouth Children's Book Awards) and Flesh and Bones. As well as writing, Alan runs regular workshops and courses in the UK for children and adults.

# FÍBÍN: AN RÓN DÁLL

TRACHTÁIRE: Darach Ó Tuairisg EALAÍONTÓIR: Dara McGee CEOLTÓIRVinnie Kilduff COINCHEAP LE: Dara Mc Gee

I 1832 rinne William Hamilton Maxwell cur síos sa leabhar Wild Sports of the West ar na heachtraí a tharla dó agus na scéalta a chuala sé le linn dó a bheith ag taisteal in iarthar na hÉireann. Ba cheann de na scéalta seo, scéal faoi rón a bhí mar pheata ag iascaire i Rinn Mhaoile, Conamara a spreag Dara McGee leis an seó físiúil seo a chur i gceann a chéile. Deartar gur fíor sceal é seo, faoi saol an Rón, an úinéair agus na daoine ar fad a bhí bainteach leis./ Baintear úsáid as bua an cheoil, bua na scéalaíochta agus bua na healaíona leis an scéal tragóideach An Rón Dall a insint.Is é Vinnie Kilduff atá i mbun an cheoil, Darach Ó Tuairisg atá i mbun na scéalaíochta agus Dara McGee atá i mbun ealíon beo ar staise.

While travelling through the west of Ireland, William Hamilton Maxwell documented stories and experiences in his book Wild Sports of the West, published in 1832. It was one of these stories that inspired Dara McGee to put together a visual show recounting the fate of a domesticated seal at the home of a local fisherman at Renvyle, Connemara. Music, storytelling and live art are used in this show to tell the sad story of The Blind Seal. Renowned musician Vinnie Kilduff provides the musical score with Darach Ó Tuairisg relaying the story and Dara McGee painting live on stage.



#### MONDAY 23RD

#### RAHOON CEMETERY 2:00PM

## PLAQUE UNVEILING: RAHOON CEMETERY

This year Cúirt will unveil a stone plaque in honour of James Joyce. His poem: *She Weeps Over Rahoon*, will be carved in stone at the entrance to the Rahoon Cemetery. Join us for its official unveiling by Galway City Arts Officer James C. Harrold, at the cemetery on Monday 23rd April at 2pm.

#### Monday 23rd - Sunday 29th Nuns Island Theatre 5:00pm





Gethin is 23, he has just finished a film course and reckons he's the next Scorsese. His Mum is on at him to do her friend's wedding video – before they get divorced! But Gethin is interested in a much more daring project – one that will test his friendships, piss off his sister, question his idealism and turn his life and that of his family upside down. An examination of paranoia, ambiguity and innocence in our highly sexualized world.

#### ADMISSION: €12/ €10

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#### Monday 23rd - Sunday 29th

#### NUNS ISLAND THEATRE 8:00PM

#### GALWAY YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS BREATHING CORPSES

BY LAURA WADE (with kind permission by Samuel French Ltd.) DIRECTED BY ANDREW FLYNN

Amy's found something in a hotel bedroom.

There's a funny smell coming from one of Jim's storage units.

And Kate's losing it after spending all day with the police.

There's no going back after what they've seen. Darkly comic, Breathing Corpses is the story of people, a murderous jig-saw puzzle about how one death can cause another, and another, and another...

#### ADMISSION: €14/ €12

### OFFICIAL OPENING TUESDAY 24TH APRIL THE ROWING CLUB 6:00PM

Join us in The Rowing Club, Woodquay when we will officially open the 27th Cúirt International Festival of Literature.

#### TUESDAY 24TH - SUNDAY 29TH TOWN HALL STUDIO 8:00PM DARWIN: A LIFE IN POEMS BY RUTH PADEL Adapted for the stage by mephisto theatre company

'She'd be the engineer of all his happiness. Bees shifted honey-bags up his spine. He was roses burning alive and she was the haze above tropical forest...'

In these extraordinary poems Ruth Padel illuminates the development of Darwin's thought, the drama of discovery of evolution and the fluctuating emotions of Darwin the husband, the naturalist and the tender father

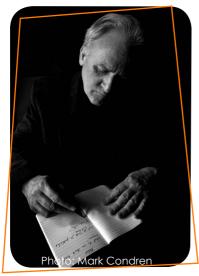
Now, at the Cuirt International Festival of Literature, Mephisto Theatre Company transform DARWIN A Life in Poems into an immersive performance that captures the essence of Darwin's humility, humanity and breadth of scientific vision. Mephisto Theatre Company performed their critically acclaimed adaptation of *The World's Wife* by Carol Ann Duffy to a sell out house at Cuirt in 2010. In 2011, they returned with the hugely successful *Grenades* by Tara McKevitt.

"Exquisite, precise and moving poems..." Claire Tomalin on DARWIN A Life in Poems.

"...the production has it all... thanks to an exuberant ensemble cast who don't miss any of Duffy's deft beats" – Metro on Mephisto's production of The World's Wife.

#### Admission: €12/ €10

#### PAUL DURCAN & RITA ANN HIGGINS Tuesday 24th April Town Hall Theatre: 8:30pm



### PAUL DURCAN

Born in Dublin in 1944. Paul Durcan is one of Ireland's foremost poets. His first book, Endsville (1967), has been followed by more than twenty others, including The Berlin Wall Café (a Poetry Book Society Choice in 1985), Daddy (winner of the Whitbread Award for Poetry in 1990), A Snail in My Prime: New and Selected Poems (1993), Cries of an Irish Caveman: New Poems (2001), The Art of Life (2004) and The Laughter of Mothers (2008). In 2009, he published a selection of his work from the previous forty years in one volume: Life is a Dream.

In 2001, Paul received a Cholmondeley Award. He was the Ireland Professor of Poetry 2004-2007 and in 2009 he was conferred with an honorary degree by Trinity College, Dublin. He is a member of Aosdána.

'Risky, complex, full of compassion, Durcan's interrogations of storytelling itself, of the juxtapositions and confluences of personal history and political struggle, are a bristling tour de force'.-The Independent

'Anyone who has attended one of his electrifying poetry readings and been reduced to hysteria (a common enough occurrence) can testify to the unique flavour of his work, especially when read aloud by the poet himself'. -The Guardian



## **RITA ANN HIGGINS**

Rita Ann Higgins was born in Galway in 1955. She has published nine collections of poetry including Sunny Side Plucked (1996, which was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation), An Awful Racket (2001), Ireland Is Changing Mother (2011) from Bloodaxe and Hurting God: Prose & Poems (2010) from Salmon. First published in 2005, her Bloodaxe retrospective Throw in the Vowels: New & Selected Poems was reissued in 2010 with an audio CD of her reading the poems. Her latest collection, Ireland is Changing Mother, was published by Bloodaxe in September 2011. Rita is a member of Aosdána

'Rita Ann Higgins writes a poetry in which anger is transformed into irony, social comment and wordplay. Hers is an unstoppable intelligence, which comes off the page in a swirl of humour, deprecation and observation'.- Fiona Sampson, The Irish Times

'There are not many books of poems of which I can say that I can remember the day, the month, the year when I read them. Rita Ann Higgins's Goddess on the Mervue Bus was such a book. It was a cold dark winter's day when I read it and it lit a fire in my heart. To me Rita Ann Higgins means a unique line in human warmth; and a unique colour of humour and a unique clarity'.-Paul Durcan



Admission: €12/€10

#### JUDI CURTIN TOWN HALL THEATRE 11:00AM

#### WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL



JUDI CURTIN is the best-selling author of the Alice and Megan Series: Alice Next Door, Alice Again, Don't Ask Alice, Alice in the Middle, Bonjour Alice, Alice & Megan Forever, Alice to the Rescue and Alice & Megan's Cookbook. She is also the author of the smash-hit Eva's Journey and the sequel, Eva's Holiday, will was published in Autumn 2011. With Roisin Meaney she has written See If I Care. Judi has also written three novels, Sorry, Walter, From Claire to Here and Almost Perfect.





#### ADMISSION: €3 PER CHILD (ADULTS FREE)

# **POETRY DEPOT**

#### WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 11:30AM - 1:30PM Neachtains

The InkStorm Poetry Depot is a pop-up collaborative poetry studio, where poets meet members of the public one-to-one and create a poem with them. The poet spends time in conversation with each person, unearthing the rich details of their subject. They then write a poem on the spot and the person comes back when it's finished. The poet then reads their poem, both parties sign the co-creation and the person takes it away. The three poets taking part in this Poetry Depot will be: **Dave Rock, Elaine Feeney** and **Miceal Kearney.** 

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Ink Storm

### ALL-IRELAND SCHOOLS POETRY SLAM Wednesday 25th April Town Hall Theatre 1:00pm



The Youth Speaks Schools Poetry Slam returns for its fifth year at Cuirt. Every year, Youth Speaks Poets Stephen Murray and Dave Lordan travel the length and breadth of Ireland delivering poetry and performance workshops to transition year students. At this year's event twenty-five students will compete for the coveted title of Youth Speaks Slam Champion. A theatre full of screaming teenagers will cheer them on. Think tears, laughter, loud cheers, think X-Factor but for poetry. MCs for the event are Stephen Murray and Dave Lordan.



**ADMISSION: FREE** 

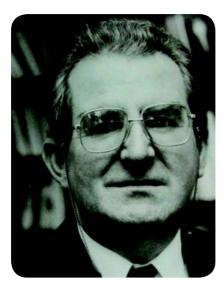
#### PUBLIC HISTORY AND THE PROFESSIONAL HISTORIAN: AN IRISH PERSPECTIVE

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

AULA MAXIMA, NUIG 1:00PM

#### ANNE KENNEDY MEMORIAL LECTURE With Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh

As Ireland enters a decade of anniversaries of pivotal events from its recent history (notably the several centenaries of the events from the revolutionary decade 1912-22), the issue of who determines what historical events should be commemorated, and in what manner, will likely excite public debate. What role should professional historians take in this debate? Is it inevitable that the historian's scruple for evidence and complexity in historical explanation will always be at odds with the confident, affirming terms in which 'public history' is widely understood, and in which the State will generally seek to dress its public anniversaries and commemorations?



# GEARÓID Ó TUATHAIGH

Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh is Professor Emeritus in History at NUI, Galway. His numerous publications, in English and Irish, have mainly related to modern Irish and British history and to issues in the historical process of cultural change. He has also been a frequent commentator in recent decades on aspects of public policy, culture and broadcasting in Ireland.



ADMISSION: €8/€6

### CANADIAN LITERATURE & PUBLISHING WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 3:00PM

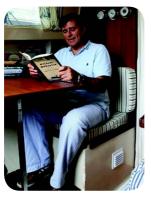
This event will feature a reading by Canadian writer Linda Spalding from her forthcoming novel *The Purchase*, followed by a discussion on Canadian literature with IFOA Director Geoffrey Taylor.

### LINDA SPALDING

Linda Spalding was born in Kansas and lived in Hawaii before immigrating to Toronto in 1982. She is the author of three novels, *Daughters* of Captain Cook, The Paper Wife, and Mere, which she wrote with her daughter, Esta. Her non-fiction work, *The Follow*, was short-listed for the Trillium Book Award and the Pearson Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize. Who Named the Knife, her most recent work, is a memoir



of crime and punishment. She is an editor of *Brick*, A Journal of Reviews and has been awarded the Harbourfront Festival Prize for her contribution to the Canadian literary community. *The Purchase*, a novel, will be published in Canada in the fall of 2012 by McClelland & Stewart.



### **GEOFFREY TAYLOR**

Geoffrey Taylor is the current Director of the International Festival of Authors at the Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, Canada. He is an advisor for the Humber School of Creative Writing and has served as a jury member for the Toronto Arts Council, Toronto Arts Awards and the Amazon First Novel Award. In 2003, he was the inaugural recipient of the Order of the Forest for his extraordinary contribution towards building an ancient-forest friendly book-publishing community. In 2006, he received the Jack Award, which is presented by

the Book Promoters' Association of Canada in recognition of an individual's s ignificant contribution to the promotion of Canadian books and authors. In 2008, Quill and Quire named him one of the 30 most influential people in Canadian publishing. This event is sponsored by The Association for Canadian Studies in Ireland.

# LAUNCH : AWAY WITH WORDS

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

### LAUNCH OF JESSICA CASEY & OTHER WORKS BY AWAY WITH WORDS

way with Words is an innovative creative writing project which enables people with intellectual disabilities to share in the arts life of their community. Set up as a partnership between the Brothers of Charity Services and local writers, Away With Words hosts workshops where participants can explore their voices as writers in a supportive setting. Jessica Casey & Other Works is Away with Words' first publication. The story of Jessica Casey is the fruit of collaborative writing workshops at the Duirling Centre in Connemara, facilitated by Mary Madec. The work brings us into the funny, phantasmagoric world of a young woman on the threshold of the adult world. The other works showcase the output of workshops in Gort, Galway and Connemara, including the winning poems from the Inclusion Ireland Poetry Awards 2011.

This work gives us a true insight into the lives of these authors and what they find interesting and amusing about the world around them. This publication includes a wonderful animation of Jessica Casey, which the Away With Words writers at the Duirling Centre developed in collaboration with visual artist Aideen Barry. This animation will be shown in the main auditorium of the Town Hall at 5pm, followed by the book launch and reception upstairs in the Town Hall Bar.

This project is funded by: The Arts Council of Ireland, Galway City Arts Office, Galway County Arts Office, Galway City VEC and the Brothers of Charity Services, Galway.

ADMISSION: FREE

#### **GEARÓID MAC LOCHLAINN & MARK BRAIDNER** WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL BUSKER BROWNES 6:30PM

## **CRISS-CROSS MO CHARA**

Words and acoustic blues with Gearóid Mac Lochlainn & Mark Braidner (bilingual event, English & Irish)



# GEARÓID MAC LOCHLAINN

Gearóid Mac Lochlainn was born in Belfast in 1966. His last collection of poetry, *Sruth Teangacha / Stream of Tongues*, with translations in English, received awards nationally and internationally, and selections of his work have been translated into several languages. He has been Writer-in-Residence at the University of Ulster and Queen's University, Belfast, and a fellow with the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences (University of Massachusetts, Boston.)

# MARK BRAIDNER

Mark Braidner from Belfast has a deep passion for the acoustic blues made popular during the 1920s and 1930s by such artists as Blind Blake, Skip James and Bukka White. His mastery of styles ranges from ragtime and hokum to down-home slide played on either acoustic or national steel guitars.

## **CRISS-CROSS MO CHARA**

Focail agus gormacha fuaimiúla le Gearóid Mac Lochlainn agus Mark Braidner

Ócáid dhátheangach, Béarla agus Gaeilge

Den chéaduair riamh, déanfaidh Gearóid Mac Lochlainn agus Mark Braidner cur i láthair beo ón leabhar agus dlúthdhiosca nua, *Criss Cross Mo Chara* (Cló Iar-Chonnacht, 2012).

Déantar smidiríní de choinbhinsiúin anseo, áit a léiríonn Criss-Cross idirtheanga gan smacht, gan ord, inar thig le rud ar bith tarlú.

"Tumoideachas i leathdhomhan Mo Chara: tuillte cainte, sruthanna íomhánna, aigéin de charachtair imeallaithe ar snámh ar éigean ann. Tiocfaidh an léitheoir slán sa deireadh, é fliuch go craiceann agus greim an fhir bháite aige ar an leabhar spleodrach, spreagúil seo." – Philip Cummings, scríbhneoir

# GEARÓID MAC LOCHLAINN

I mBéal Feirste a rugadh Gearóid Mac Lochlainn, sa bhliain 1966. Bhain an cnuasach is déanaí uaidh, *Sruth Teangacha | Stream of Tongues,* duaiseanna amach in Éirinn agus thar lear. Tá tréimhsí caite aige mar scríbhneoir cónaitheach in Ollscoil Uladh agus in Ollscoil na Ríona, Béal Feirste, agus mar chomhalta den William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences (in Ollscoil Massachusetts i mBoston Mheiriceá). Tá a shaothar aistrithe go mórán teangacha iasachta.



### **MARK BRAIDNER**

Tá dúil mhór ag Mark Braidner as Béal Feirste sna gormacha fuaimiúla(acoustic blues). Ceola tháinig chun suntais i rith na 1920í agus 1930í agus é á sheinm ag ceoltóirí ar nós Blind Blake, Skip James agus Bukka White. Ar a mháistreacht stíle tá eagcheoil (ragtime) agus hokum chomh maith le sleamhnú ar an ngiotár fuaimiúil agus an giotár cruaiche.

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Admission: €8/ €6

### FICTION / DISCUSSION EVENT WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 6:30PM

### **KJERSTI SKOMSVOLD & LARS IYER**



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# **KJERSTI SKOMSVOLD**

Kjersti Annesdatter Skomsvold, born 1979, is from Oslo, Norway. She made her literary debut in 2009 with the novel The Faster I Walk, The Smaller I Am (published in Ireland by Dalkey Archive Press). The book was nominated for the Norwegian Book Sellers' Prize and won the Tarjei Vesaas First Book Prize (judged by The Literary Council of The Norwegian Authors' Union). The rights for The Faster I Walk, the Smaller I Am have been sold in English, Bulgarian, Danish, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish.

The National Theatre (Oslo) will produce a play based on the novel in 2013. Skomsvold studied mathematics and computer science at the University of Oslo and at the University for Science and Technology in Trondheim. Subsequently, she attended the Writers Class at the Nansen School in Lillehammer and completed studies at the Academy of Writing in Bergen. She has also studied literature at the University of Oslo and French at Université de Caen, France. She is currently living in Paris.



# LARS IYER

In a raucous debut novel (*Spurious*) that summons up Britain's fabled Goon Show comedies, writer and philosopher Lars Iyer tells the story of someone very like himself with a "slightly more successful" friend and their journeys in search of more palatable literary conferences where they serve better gin. Another reason for their journeys: the narrator's home is slowly being taken over by a fungus that no on seems to know what to do about. Before it completely swallows his house, the narrator feels compelled to solve some major philosophical questions

(such as "Why?") and the meaning of his urge to write, as well as the source of the fungus... before it's too late...or, he has to move.

Lars Iyer is a lecturer in philosophy at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He is the author of two books on Blanchot (*Blanchot's Communism: Art, Philosophy, Politics and Blanchot's Vigilance: Phenomenology, Literature, Ethics*) and is also a contributor to Britain's leading literary blog, Ready, Steady, Book. Hailed by *The Guardian* as 'A tiny marvel of comically repetitive gloomery.... A wonderfully monstrous creation', *Spurious* by Lars Iyer was shortlisted for the Not-The-Booker-Prize 2011. His debut novel forms part one of a trilogy. The second instalment of the series, *Dogma*, was published in February 2012.

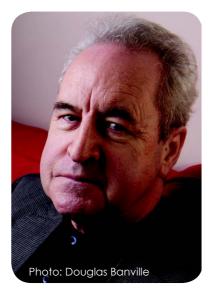
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Galway City Arts Officer James C. Harrold will introduce and chair the event.



#### Admission: €8/€6

### JOHN BANVILLE & RICHARD BEARD WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 8:30PM



# **JOHN BANVILLE**

John Banville was born in Wexford in 1945. His novels include *The Book of Evidence, Eclipse, The Sea*, which won the Man Booker Prize in 2005 and *The Infinities*. A new novel, *Ancient Light*, will be published in July. He reviews for *The Irish Times, The Guardian* and *The New York Review of Books*. He is the recipient of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, the Guardian Fiction Prize, the Premio Nonino and the Franz Kafka Prize. He lives in Dublin.

<sup>•</sup>Regarded as the most stylistically elaborate Irish writer of his generation, John Banville is a philosophical novelist concerned with the nature of perception, the conflict between imagination and reality, and the existential isolation of the individual <sup>?</sup> -British Council of Literature

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# **RICHARD BEARD**

Richard Beard is the author of five highly inventive novels. X20 (Flamingo 1996) features a narrator who writes something down everytime he craves a cigarette. Damascus (Flamingo 1998) is a love-story set on a single day, 1 November 1993 and all the nouns in the novel come from that day's edition of *The Times* newspaper. *The Cartoonist* (Bloomsbury 2000) is a novel set in and around Disneyland Paris, in which libel and copyright restrictions prevent the characters from ever entering the Disney land theme-park and Dry Bones (Secker& Warburg,2004) which was described as : 'A rollercoaster philosophical journey of Stoppard-like brilliance' (*The Glasgow Herald*). His latest novel, *Lazurus is Dead* (2011), re-imagines the life of Lazurus, from youth to resurrection and beyond.

After studying at Cambridge, Richard Beard worked in Hong Kong, Oxford and Paris. In 1995 he completed a Creative Writing MA at the University of East Anglia. Beard went to Japan in 2003 as Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo. In 2006, he returned to Europe and is now Director of the National Academy of Writing in London.

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Admission: €12/€10

### THE ATLANTIS COLLECTIVE WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL RÓISÍN DUBH 9:00PM

#### THE ATLANTIS COLLECTIVE PRESENT: FAR FROM LITERATURE WE WERE REARED

(See page 5 for details)



ADMISSION: €3

An evening of song, spoken word and shenanigans with Seamus Ruttledge and friends.Guests include: Michel Brandt, Derek Murray, Dan Trayers, Olaf Tyaransen, Aideen Henry, Conor Montague and John Donnellan.





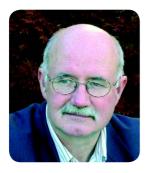
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### MASTERCLASSES 26TH & 27TH APRIL

#### HOTEL MEYRICK &GALWAY ARTS CENTRE 10:00AM - 12NOON

THE GALLERY PRESS Loughcrew · Oldcastle · County Meath · Ireland

This year Cúirt is running a programme of masterclasses in association with **Gallery Press. Peter Fallon**, **Gerald Dawe** and **Marina Carr** will facilitate classes in poetry and drama over two days of the festival. The series will end with a public, ticketed, panel discussion event on Friday 27th April, which will focus on the theme of writing.



## PETER FALLON THE ASSEMBLY OF A POEM

Through a series of writing and reading exercises, this workshop focuses on the way a poem grows, or is assembled, and on the techniques and strategies by which ideas and feelings are translated into, and conveyed by, language. It considers also a wider assembly: a poem's relationship with other poems, with the community in which its author lives and with the

tradition it extends through. As the founder and publisher of Ireland's leading poetry publishing house, The Gallery Press, Peter Fallon possesses a unique track record and gift as an editor and assembler of poems and books. **Venue:** Galway Arts Centre

# **READINGS WITH GERALD DAWE**

This masterclass is dedicated to those who are seriously interested in developing their writing and reading of poetry. Participants in the workshop sessions read and discuss individual poems under the guidance and direction of Gerald Dawe, who will also give advice on suggested reading and on presentation and publication. This is a rare opportunity to work with the distinguished poet who is also director of the



internationally recognised graduate writing programme based in the Oscar Wilde Centre, School of English, Trinity College Dublin. **Venue:** Hotel Meyrick

# DRAMA MASTERCLASS

# DRAMA MASTERCLASS WITH MARINA CARR

Marina Carr is one of Ireland's most distinguished playwrights. Her early plays include *Low in the Dark*, *This Love Thing* and *Ullaloo*. The Gallery Press published *The Mai*, *Portia Coughlan* (Susan Smith Blackburn Award, 1997), *By The Bog of Cats* (Irish Times/ ESB Award for Best New Play, 1998), *On Raftery's Hill, Ariel, Woman* and *Scarecrow*, *The Cordelia Dream* and *16 Possible Glimpses* (October 2011). Her awards include The Irish Times Best New Play Award, the Dublin Theatre Festival



Best New Play Award 1994, a Macauley Fellowship, a Hennessey Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and an E.M. Forster Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She has been Writer-in-Residence at Trinity College and was Heimbold Professor of Irish Studies at Villanova University in 2003. She is a member of Aosdána and lives in Kerry.

Marina's Masterclass will focus on BETRAYAL by Harold Pinter for the first session and ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA by William Shakespeare for the second. Topics discussed will include character, plot and structure. Each participant must read these texts before the class.

#### ADMISSION FOR ALL MASTERCLASSES: €40

\*Places are limited, please see page 69 for booking and submission guidelines

### MASTERCLASS WITH LINDA SPALDING 26TH & 27TH APRIL HOTEL MEYRICK 10:00AM - 12NOON

# **MASTERCLASS WITH LINDA SPALDING**



#### LOOKING INWARD, WRITING OUTWARD: Memoir Writing with Linda Spalding

Linda Spalding will lead a two-day workshop in memoir writing for those exploring this area of writing. Participants should submit a sample piece of writing (up to 2000 words) which they will bring to class and discuss. Participants will read work in advance of the workshop and Linda will lead discussion sessions focusing on particular elements of people's work as well as taking inspiration from other texts and writers.

#### Admission: €40 \*

Places are limited, please see page 69 for booking and submission guidelines.

### POETRY DEPOT Thursday 26th April

#### TOWN HALL BAR 11:00AM- 1:00PM

The InkStorm Poetry Depot is a pop-up collaborative poetry studio, where poets meet members of the public one-to-one and create a poem for them. The poet spends time in conversation with each person, unearthing the rich details of their subject. They then write a poem on the spot and the person comes back when it's finished. The poet then reads their poem, both parties sign the co-creation and the person takes it away. The three poets taking part in this Poetry Depot will be: **Susan Millar du Mars, Sarah Maria Griffin** and **Lisa Keegan**.

Ink Storm

### PANEL DISCUSSION: E-BOOK VS. REAL BOOK THURSDAY 26TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 1:00PM

In this lively panel discussion event, experts from various sectors of the publishing world will talk about the emergence of e-publishing and the changing world of books. Printed text enthusiasts and the best minds in digital publishing will give us a sense of what is happening on the ground and the pros and cons of the printed text and online reading.

Chairperson for the discussion will be: Cormac Kinsella, Publicity Director of Repforce Ireland.



# **EOIN PURCELL**

Eoin Purcell is a publisher (digital and print), a publishing consultant and a publishing strategist. Eoin frequently writes commentary and analysis on the Irish and international publishing industry. He currently publishes *Irish Publishing News* and *The Irish Story* and runs the publisher and author consultancy, Green Lamp Media.

Previously he has worked as Commissioning Editor with Mercier Press. He blogs and reviews for *The Bookseller Magazine* as well as running his own blog: www.eoinpurcellsblog.com

# **ISOLDE ROCHE**

Isolde Roche is a Junior Creative in the Marketing Department of Pan Macmillan, London, UK. Isolde graduated in 2009 with an MA in Book Design from Central Saint Martins. After working in trend forecasting for two years she joined the marketing department of Pan Macmillan where she focuses on digital marketing and social media.





# **MATTHEW YOUNG**

Matthew Young is a designer, animator and illustrator. He graduated from the University of Leeds with a first class honours in 2010, and was named 'Graduate of the Year' by Creative Review. For his final year university project Matthew came up with the concept of Imprint Books; a new publishing company which focused on the aesthetic quality of books. Imprint specialised in producing bespoke sets of

books, with unique covers, using layers of coloured card to build up the illustrations. As part of this project he also created animated videos which may be viewed on you tube. Matthew now works as a Graphic Designer for Penguin UK. Matthew's website: www.mymyy.biz/

# **MICHAEL BHASKAR**

Michael Bhaskar is Digital Publishing Director at leading independent publisher Profile Books. He is responsible for spearheading their digital strategy, their ebook program, web presences, social media and digital business development in creating new products and platforms. Over the past few years Michael has written and talked extensively on the topic of digital publishing. He has worked as Digital Editor at Pan Macmillan and at the literary agency Rogers, Coleridge and



White. He has also reviewed books for *The Daily Telegraph* and worked for an economics research firm. Michael has a degree in English Literature from the University of Oxford and was British Council Young Creative Entrepreneur 2011.



Admission: €8/€6

### LOUISE STERN THURSDAY 26TH APRIL



#### TOWN HALL THEATRE 3:00PM

# LOUISE STERN

Louise Stern grew up in Fremont, California, the fourth generation deaf in her family. She has lived in London for ten years and works for the artist Sam Taylor-Wood. Her art, which is based around ideas of communication and language, has been exhibited in Geneva, London, Port Eliot, Cornwall, New York City, and other places. Her book of short stories, *Chattering*, was published by Granta in 2011, and her body of work also includes performance and a contemporary art magazine for children.

Stern has just finished writing a play and is currently working on a novel. She has collaborated with her sign language interpreter, Oliver Pouliot, for more than ten years. Her debut short story collection *Chattering* was widely acclaimed, Alan Warner described it as "an amazing debut: vibrantly perceptive, gentle, funny and profound".

# EVENT AT CÚIRT

Sign language interpreter Oliver Pouliot and writer Louise Stern will read the short story "Boat" from Stern's book *Chattering*. The emotional state of the main male character in "Boat" will be separated from the narrative and brought to the forefront, as will the written conversations that feature within the story. Different techniques will be used to bring spatial perspective to the written word. Through this method of storytelling, the audience will get several perspectives at the same time, some much more immediate than others. This unique performance promises to be a very special Cúirt event and definite highlight of the 2012 festival.

'Everything we think we know about the world is learned through language and no one stops to reflect on this. We need to understand that language is more important for human beings than food or water. It's what makes us human.'-Louise Stern



### ROPES THURSDAY 26TH APRIL



ROPES is an annual publication produced by NUIG's MA in Literature and Publishing. This year's 20th issue is a highly anticipated collection of prose, poetry, and drama connected by the theme of 'Links.' This literary journal has a prestigious history and has published some of Ireland's finest authors, with past contributors including, Nuala Ní Chonchúir, and Seamus Heaney. All proceeds from this year's issue will benefit Laura Lynn House, Ireland's first children's hospice.

BUSKER BROWNE'S 5:00PM

#### ADMISSION: FREE



### LAVINIA GREENLAW & FIONA SAMPSON THURSDAY 26TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 6:30PM



'Beautifully crafted and cadenced poems ... Brilliant - and deeply original.' Ruth Padel, Financial Times

# LAVINIA GREENLAW

Lavinia Greenlaw was born in London where she has lived for most of her life. She studied seventeenth-century art at the Courtauld Institute, and was awarded a NESTA fellowship to pursue her interest in vision, travel and perception. Her poetry includes: *Minsk*, which was shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot, Forward and Whitbread Poetry Prizes. She has also published novels and works of non-fiction which include *The Importance of Music to Girls* and *Questions of Travel: William Morris in Iceland.*  She has won a number of prizes and held residencies at the Science Museum and the Royal Society of Medicine. Her work for BBC radio includes programmes about the Arctic, the Baltic, Emily Dickinson and Elizabeth Bishop.

'Greenlaw's art is to capture such past ways of seeing, such lost visions. Her clear, calm, almost hypnotic voice draws the reader away from a world of busyness, loudness and brightness, and towards the slower, quieter and darker place that lies buried within it.' Rachel Campbell-Johnston, The Times



# **FIONA SAMPSON**

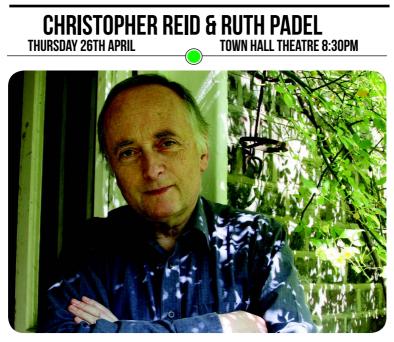
Fiona Sampson was first a concert violinist, then studied at the Universities of Oxford, where she won the Newdigate Prize, and Nijmegen, where she received a PhD in the Philosophy of Language. This research arose from her pioneering residencies in health care. Her latest collection of poetry is *Rough Music*, shortlisted for the 2010 Forward and T.S. Eliot Prizes. In 2009 she received a Cholmondeley Award and became a Fellow and a Council Member of the Royal Society of Literature.

She gave the Newcastle/Bloodaxe Poetry Lectures at Newcastle University in 2010, published in 2011 as *Music Lessons*. Her other collections of poetry include *Folding the Real* (2001); *The Distance Between Us* (2005); and *Common Prayer* (2007), short-listed for the 2007 T. S. Eliot Prize. She was short-listed for the Forward Poetry Prize (Best Single Poem) in 2006. From 2002-2005 she was the Arts and Humanities Research Council Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University. She contributes regularly to radio and to a number of publications, including *The Guardian, The Irish Times* and *The Liberal*.

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ADMISSION: €8/€6



# **CHRISTOPHER REID**

Christopher Reid was born in Hong Kong in 1949. He has worked in publishing as poetry editor at Faber and Faber and in university education as Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Hull. With his first book of poems, *Arcadia* (1979), Christopher Reid won both a Somerset Maugham Award and the Hawthornden Prize. He has since published over a dozen collections of poetry. His poem *The Song of Lunch* (2009) was made into a BBC film starring Alan Rickman and Emma Thompson and in January 2010 he was awarded the Costa Book Award for *A Scattering*, written as a tribute to his late wife. The collection won the overall Best Book of the Year, making Reid the first poet to take the overall prize since Seamus Heaney in 1999. His most recent collection, *Selected Poems*, was published by Faber and Faber in 2011.

'Reid is a poet who lives on in the mind, becomes part of one's own inner vocabulary. In every poetic generation there are not more than one or two like that.' John Bayley, Poetry Review



# **RUTH PADEL**

Ruth Padel is Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Zoological Society of London and Resident Writer at the Environment Institute and History Department of University College London. She has won the National Poetry Competition and four of her seven collections, most recently *Darwin: A Life in Poems*, have been short-listed for the T.S. Eliot and Costa Prizes.

She presents Radio 4's Poetry Workshop, on writing poetry, and has written three much-loved books on reading it: 52 Ways of Looking at a Poem (2002), a snapshot of contemporary poetry in Britain with in-depth discussions of individual poems; The Poem and the Journey (2007), containing accessible analyses of 60 more contemporary poems and an acute introduction on why we need poetry; Silent Letters of the Alphabet (2010). Her new collection, The Mara Crossing, mixes poems with prose interludes.

"A major meditation on migration: a poet's book to the core, proving that pressures on cells, bodies, creatures human and other, and on the planet itself, are fit and essential matter for poetry." -Jo Shapcott on The Mara Crossing



Admission: €12/€10





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\*Please see pages 22-24 for full details of the masterclasses and page 69 for submission guidelines.

# LAUNCH: POEMS FOR PATIENCE

## SELECTED AND INTRODUCED BY FIONA SAMPSON

Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust invites you to come along to the launch of the ninth series of the very successful Poems for Patience initiative. Poet Fiona Sampson will introduce 21 poems she has selected, including works by poets reading at this year's festival. The poetry is circulated throughout the waiting areas of University Hospital Galway and Merlin Park University Hospital. For the duration of the festival, the poems will be on display on the Art Corridor, University Hospital, Galway. Organised by: Margaret Flannery.



## **FIONA SAMPSON**

Fiona Sampson was first a concert violinist, then studied at the Universities of Oxford, where she won the Newdigate Prize, and Nijmegen, where she received a PhD in the Philosophy of Language. This research arose from her pioneering residencies in health care. Her collections of poetry include: *Folding the Real* (2001); *The Distance Between Us* (2005); and *Common Prayer* (2007), short-listed for the 2007 T. S. Eliot Prize. She was short-listed for the Forward Poetry Prize (Best Single Poem) in 2006. She contributes regularly to radio and to a number of publications, including *The Guardian, The Irish Times* and *The Liberal.* 

## LAUNCH: THIS NEVER HAPPENED



*This Never Happened*: Creative Writing by residents at Units 5 and 6 Merlin Park University Hospital will also be launched on the Art Corridor. Writer in Residence Kevin Higgins has been working with patients on their creative writing. The result is the lively publication *This Never Happened*.

**Directions:** from the main entrance of University Hospital, Galway go through the foyer and take the second right. For further information contact Margaret Flannery, Arts Director, Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust at 091 544979 or guhartstrust@hse.ie

## HOTEL MEYRICK 160TH CELEBRATION FRIDAY 27TH APRIL HOTEL MEYRICK 12:30PM



# HOTELMEYRICK

Our official accommodation partner: Hotel Meyrick celebrates 160 years of hospitality at the heart of Galway city. Enjoy an Afternoon tea celebration in Hotel Meyrick's Victorian themed lobby with readings, poetry, culture and a reflection of Galway in the company of our writers, poets and literary greats.

#### ADMISSION: FREE

## SEÁN TYRRELL: THE MESSAGE OF PEACE FRIDAY 27TH APRIL RUBY ROOM, KINGS HEAD 1:00PM



A music and song event inspired by the poetry of John Boyle O' Reilly. John Boyle O'Reilly (1844-1890) was a visionary, poet and had the heart of a rebel, the courage of a freedom fighter and the commitment of a civil rights activist. He was persecuted, condemned and banished from Ireland to the Penal Colonies in Australia, for his political beliefs and activities.

'Some will see it as history, some as poetry, some as storytelling, some as singing, some as theatre, some will be overwhelmed by mans abuse of man, some will have an epiphany'. Mike Considine- Noteable Arts.



This show will also run Saturday 28th April, at 1pm.

#### ADMISSION: €12/€10

# GALLERY PRESS PANEL DISCUSSION

**FRIDAY 27TH APRIL** 

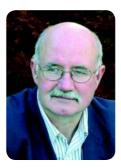
TOWN HALL THEATRE 1:00PM

## THE PRACTICE OF WRITING: WORDS AND THEIR READERS

In this special event, Gallery Press Poets: Peter Fallon, Gerald Dawe, Vona Groarke and playwright Marina Carr will discuss 'Writing', its cause, effect and purpose in our world. Find out how each panelist works through ideas, their processes in reaching for the right words and the experience of communicating with an audience. This event will be Chaired by writer and Poetry Ireland Director, Joseph Woods.

## PETER FALLON

Peter Fallon was born in Germany in 1951 and grew up on his uncle's farm near Kells in County Meath. He is an Honours Graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, where in 1994 he was Writer in Residence. At the age of eighteen he founded The Gallery Press which has published more than four hundred books of poems and plays by the country's finest established and emerging authors. His poetry collections include: The Speaking Stones (1978), Winter Work (1983), The News and Weather (1987), Eye to Eye (1992) and The Company of Horses (2007).





## **GERALD DAWE**

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Gerald Dawe was born in Belfast in 1952. He is inaugural director of the Oscar Wilde Centre for Irish Writing, Associate Professor in English and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin. The Gallery Press has published six collections including The Lundys Letter, for which he received the Macaulay Fellowship in Literature, Lake Geneva and Points West. He has also published The Proper Word: Collected Criticism and Conversations: Poets and Poetry. He has been a visiting professor at Boston College and Villanova University in the United States. He lives in County Dublin.



## **MARINA CARR**

Marina Carr is one of Ireland's most distinguished playwrights. Her early plays include Low in the Dark, This Love Thing and Ullaloo. The Gallery Press published The Mai, Portia Coughlan (Susan Smith Blackburn Award, 1997), By The Bog of Cats (Irish Times/ ESB Award for Best New Play, 1998), On Raftery's Hill, Ariel, Woman and Scarecrow, The Cordelia Dream and 16 Possible Glimpses (October 2011).

Her awards include: The Irish Times Best New Play Award, the Dublin Theatre Festival Best New Play Award 1994, a Macauley Fellowship, a Hennessey Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and an E.M. Forster Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

## **VONA GROARKE**

Vona Groarke was born in the Irish Midlands in 1964. Her poetry collections with the Gallery Press include *Shale* (1994), *Other People's Houses* (1999), *Flight* (2002), shortlisted for the Forward Prize (UK) in 2002 and winner of the Michael Hartnett Award in 2003, *Juniper Street* (2006) and *Spindrift* (2009), a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. She has also won the Hennessy Award, the Brendan Behan Memorial Prize and the Strokestown International Poetry Award. She teaches in the Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester.



Admission: €8/€6

## CÚIRT/ OVER THE EDGE SHOWCASE FRIDAY 27TH APRIL THEATRE 3:00PM

The Over the Edge reading series began in January 2003 in Galway City Library and has grown since to become Ireland's leading literary reading series. Each month, Over the Edge gives a platform to emerging poets and fiction writers - readings end with an open-mic, where anyone can get in on the act. Co-organisers Kevin Higgins and Susan Millar DuMars (host) are grateful for the continued support of Galway City Council, The Arts Council, Galway City Library, Poetry Ireland, Cúirt and, especially, the many talented writers who have taken part in the series during the past nine years. If you, or a writers group you belong to, would be interested in taking part in the Over The Edge series in the future contact Over The Edge, 3 Carbry Road, Newcastle, Galway Street, Galway or see: http://www.overtheedgeliteraryevents.blogspot.com/ for submission details.



## **SARAH MARIA GRIFFIN**

Sarah Maria Griffin is 24 years old and is currently living in Dublin after completing the MA in Writing NUIG. Her first collection of poetry, *Follies*, was published by Lapwing in April last year. During 2011 she was sent to New York was part of Culture Ireland's 'Imagine Ireland' initiative, to represent contemporary Irish performance poetry as part of the Glór Sessions. Her work has appeared in many literary journals both in Ireland and abroad. She has also contributed interviews and poetry to RTE Radio 1's Arena.

She has performed at major spoken word events all over the country, including The Mindfield at Electric Picnic's Art Council Literary Stage, Literary Deathmatch, Upstart's Slam Poetry/Slam Wrestling events, as well as representing Connacht in the All Ireland Slam in 2011. She is currently Writer in Residence at Collinstown Community College, Clondalkin.



## **ERIN BUTTNER**

Erin Buttner is a writer, baker, broadcaster, and veteran living in Kinvara, Co Galway. A native New Yorker, Erin immigrated to Ireland in 2008 to take a Master's degree in Writing at NUI Galway. Her poetry has been published in *Chronogram Arts Magazine* in New York, *Three Times Daily* and *Ropes*. She is presently drafting her memoir based on the four years she spent serving in the US Military. She can be heard every Sunday from 3-5pm on Rascal Radio. Erin was a Featured Reader at the November 2011 Over The Edge Open Reading.

## **MAEVE MULRENNAN**

Maeve Mulrennan grew up in County Kildare. She studied Arts Administration and Policy at NUI Galway is currently Visual Arts Officer at Galway Arts Centre. An experienced visual artist, Maeve recently began writing fiction. She attended Celeste Augé's short fiction class at Galway Arts Centre earlier this year and in October took part in the annual Over The Edge Fiction Slam. Maeve was a Featured Reader at the December 2011 Over The Edge Open Reading which was her first major public reading of her work.



The winners of the Cúirt New Writing Prize 2012 will also read at this event. For news of the prize please see: www.cuirt.ie

Admission: Free

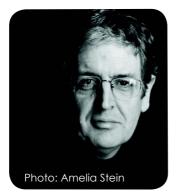
#### **RTÉ RADIO 1: ARENA BROADCAST** FRIDAY 27TH APRIL NUNS ISLAND THEATRE 3:00PM



RTÉ Radio 1: Arena will record a show from Nuns Island Theatre on Friday 27th April. The show will be a Cúirt Special, featuring writers and musicians who are taking part in this year's festival.

#### **ADMISSION: FREE**

#### LAUNCH: SELECTED POEMS BY GERALD DAWE **FRIDAY 27TH APRIL TOWN HALL BAR 5:00PM**



ince its first appearance in book form in 1978 Gerald Dawe's poetry has been praised for its 'feeling of unpadded completeness and unforced structure' (Alastair MacLean, TLS). His achievement has been described by Dennis O'Driscoll as 'brave and risk-taking, finely tuned and perfectly pitched' and by John McAuliffe, as 'serious and seriously enjoyable'. Selected Poems is a generous representation of this gifted poet's work.

Spanning over thirty-five years, in poems that move through Irish city and country life - Belfast, Galway, Dublin - to Italian and Polish landscapes and the American east coast, both of the present and ranging through the past half-century, Gerald Dawe's clear and unadorned voice articulates 'an imagination of European scope'. (Terence Brown)

The publication will be introduced by Peter Fallon and launched by Thomas Kilroy.

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**ADMISSION: FREE** 

## MANUEL RIVAS & KIRMEN URIBE FRIDAY 27TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 6:30PM

## MANUEL RIVAS AND KIRMEN URIBE IN DISCUSSION WITH JONATHAN DUNNE:

Two of Spain's most prominent literary voices talk about their Galician and Basque roots, the importance of minority languages and the exportation of Spanish literature.



## MANUEL RIVAS

Manuel Rivas was born in A Coruña, Galicia in 1957. He is a Galician writer, poet and journalist who began his career writing for Spanish newspapers such as *El Ideal Gallego*, *La Voz de Galicia* and *El Pais*. Rivas writes in the Galician language of north-west Spain and is a poet, novelist, short story writer and essayist. Rivas is considered a revolutionary in contemporary Galician literature. O Lápis do Carpinteiro, or The Carpenter's Pencil in English, has been published in nine countries and is the most widely translated work in the history of Galician literature. Rivas's book Que me quieres, amor? (1996), a series of 16 short stories, was adapted by director Jose Luis Cuerda for his film, La lengua de las mariposas (Butterfly). His best known books in English are: The Carpenter's Pencil (1998), In the Wilderness (2004), From Unknown to Unknown (2009) and Books Burn Badly (2010).

'Manuel Rivas writes in Galician, the least known of Spain's official languages. Franco's repression of the four regional languages ended up doing a great deal to stimulate their revival, and Rivas chooses to write in Galician even if not all his characters would have spoken it, even if it means his work's literary life will be led mostly in translation'. -The London Review of Books



## **KIRMEN URIBE**

Kirmen Uribe was born in Ondarroa, Spain. He studied Basque Philology at the University of the Basque Country, Gasteiz and did his graduate studies in Comparative Literature in Trento, Italy. In October 2009 he was awarded the Spanish Literature Prize for his novel *Bilbao–New York–Bilbao*. For the same work he had received the 2008 Critics' Prize for a novel written in Basque. He has participated in a number of international literary festivals including: New York's PEN World Voices Festival, the Berlin International Poetry



Festival and The Havana International Poetry Festival. He has given lectures and led seminars at Stanford, Brown, New York University, California Institute of the Arts, University of California-San Diego and the University of Warsaw. His poetry collection *Meanwhile Take My Hand* (2001) received the Critics Prize for poetry written in Basque and its first edition sold out within a month. The book has since been translated into Spanish, French, English, Catalan, Russian and was a finalist for the 2008 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation, which recognizes the best book of poetry in translation published in the United States in the previous year.

"Uribe's voice speaks across cultures.... His poems may be rooted [in the Basque Country], but they bloom outwards."- The Harvard Book Review

## JONATHAN DUNNE

Jonathan Dunne is the editor and main translator of an Anthology of Galician Literature published in two volumes: 1196-1981 and (forthcoming) 1981-2011. He edited and translated a supplement of *Contemporary Galician Poets for the winter* 2010 issue of *Poetry Review*. His translations of fiction and poetry by Manuel Rivas have been nominated for the International IMPAC Award, the Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize and the Popescu Prize for Poetry in Translation. He also translates from Spanish, Catalan and Bulgarian. He has published two books: a poetry collection, *Even Though That*, and a study of English word connections, *The DNA of the English Language*. Jonathan also directs the publishing house Small Stations Press: www.smallstations.com.

#### ADMISSION: €8/€6

## HISTORY DISCUSSION FRIDAY 27TH APRIL THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE 6:30PM

In the special setting of the Mechanics Institute, Middle Street, Galway, three Young Historians will present on their areas of expertise:



## **JOHN BORGONOVO**

John Borgonovo lectures in History at University College Cork. He has published extensively on the Irish Revolution of 1916-1923, including the books, *Spies, Informers, and the Anti-Sinn Fein Society: The Intelligence War in Cork City, 1920-1921*, and *The Battle for Cork*, July - August 1922. Later in 2012 he will publish his study of Cork City during the First World War, *The Dynamics of War and Revolution*.

## SONJA TIERNAN

Sonja Tiernan lectures in History at Liverpool Hope University. She has a PhD from UCD and has held fellowships at the University of Notre Dame, Trinity College Dublin and the National Library of Ireland. Her exhibition on Hilda Tweedy and the Irish Housewives Association is currently on display throughout Dublin City Public Libraries. Her latest book, *Eva Gore-Booth: An Image of such Politics*, is published in 2012.





### NIALL WHELEHAN

Niall Whelehan is an IRCHSS Research Fellow in History at NUI Galway. He holds a PhD from the European University Institute, Florence and has spent periods as a visiting scholar in the USA and Germany. His forthcoming book, *The Dynamiters: Irish nationalism and political violence in the wider world*,

1867-1900, examines transformations in revolutionary violence in transnational contexts.

The event will be chaired by **Dr John Cunningham**, History Department, NUIG.

#### ADMISSION: €8/€6

### BILLY COLLINS & TESS GALLAGHER FRIDAY 27TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 8:30PM

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"Billy Collins is a rare poet accessible and gravid, high-minded and delightful".- Frederick Smock, The Courier-Journal

## **BILLY COLLINS**

Billy Collins (born William James Collins March 22, 1941) is an American poet, appointed as Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003. He has been called "The most popular poet in America" by The New York Times and in 2005 Collins was the first annual recipient of its Mark Twain Prize for Humor in Poetry. He has published over a dozen collections of poetry including: Pokerface (1977), Taking Off Emily Dickinson's Clothes (2000), Nine Horses (2002), Ballistics (2008) and Horoscopes for the Dead (2011). He is a Distinguished Professor at Lehman College of the City University of New York and is the Senior Distinguished Fellow of the Winter Park Institute, Florida. Collins was recognized as a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library (1992) and was selected as the New York State Poet for 2004-2006





## **TESS GALLAGHER**

Tess Gallagher was born in 1943 in Port Angeles, Washington. She received a BA and MA from the University of Washington, where she studied creative writing with Theodore Roethke and a MFA from the University of Iowa. Her first collection of poems, *Instructions to the Double*, won the 1976 Elliston Book Award for "best book of poetry published by a small press". She has published nine volumes of poetry including *Midnight Lantern: New and Selected Poems* (2012) *Dear Ghosts* (2006); *Owl-Spirit Dwelling* (1994) and Moon Crossing Bridge (1992).

Distant Rain, published in 2006, is a conversation between Tess and Jakuch Setouchi, a Buddhist nun from Kyoto, which took place after the death of her husband, Raymond Carver. Gallagher is also the author of Amplitude, Soul Barnacles: Ten More Years with Ray, A Concert of Tenses: Essays on Poetry, and two collections of short fiction: At the Owl Woman Saloon and The Lover of Horses and Other Stories. She spends time near Lough Arrow in Co. Sligo where many of her new poems are set, and also lives and writes in her hometown of Port Angeles, Washington.

"Gallagher's poems resound with exquisite beauty and remind me once more how it is not subject but its rendering that redeems and uplifts."—The Boston Globe

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Admission: €12/€10

## LOUIS DE PAOR & RONAN BROWNE FRIDAY 27TH APRIL NUNS ISLAND THEATRE 10:00PM



## **MUSIC AND WORDS**

Ronan Browne and Louis de Paor continue to explore the links between music and poetry through performances and recordings that combine spoken work with traditional and contemporary musical settings.

Originally from Dublin but living now in Connemara, Ronan Browne is one of Ireland's leading traditional musicians. A serial collaborator, his work inhabits the boundaries between traditional Irish music and the modern electronic world, ranging from solo projects, to partnerships with Kevin Glackin and Seán Tyrrell, Peter O'Loughlin, CRAN, Róisín Elsafty, and Siobhán Armstrong. Ronan was the original piper with both the Afro Celt Sound System and Riverdance. Louis de Paor has been involved with the contemporary renaissance of poetry in Irish since 1980 when he was first published in the poetry journal *Innti*, which he subsequently edited for a time. A four-times winner of the Oireachtas prize for the best collection of poems in Irish, he lived in Australia from 1987 to 1996. His *Selected Poems* have just been published by Coiscéim.



a Louis de Paor agus Ronan Browne ag obair le tamall de bhlianta ar an teorainn idir ceol agus filíocht, ag iarraidh teacht ar shlite nua chun dánta a chur i láthair léitheoirí agus éisteoirí. Tá an Brúnach ar dhuine de scoth na gceoltóirí traidisiúnta, an píobaire uilleann ba thúisce a bhí ag casadh le Riverdance agus leis an Afro Celt Sound System. Tá os cionn céad albam ceoil taifeadta aige is bíonn sé ag seinm, in Éirinn agus thar lear, le Kevin Glackin agus Seán Tyrrell, le Peter O'Loughlin, CRAN, Róisín Elsafty, agus Siobhán Armstrong. Tá seacht gcnuasach bunfhilíochta foilsithe ag Louis de Paor agus príomhdhuais an Oireachtais don gcnuasach is fearr sa Ghaeilge buaite aige ceithre huaire. Tá *Rogha Dánta* leis díreach foilsithe ag Coiscéim.

'Descartes, Isaac Newton, Galileo and Stephen Hawking lurk in the lush undergrowth of this intriguing collaboration. Anchored by the sensual Irish language poetry of Louis de Paor, piper Ronan Browne doesn't so much paint an aural landscape as stitch it seamlessly around every syllable, swaddling de Paor's richly spoken words in a tapestry laden with left-field sound samples and quotidian reminders of life's ordinary magic. The sheer cinematic scope of Browne's music is revelatory, sundered from any cosy notions of traditional music convention. A revelatory collaboration that glistens in the heat forged by its own spirit of adventure'.- Siobhán Long, The Irish Times

#### Admission:€12 €10

## <u>Theatre Shows</u>

**UAKWIN** A LIFE IN POEMS BY RUTH PADEL ADAPTED FOR STAGE BY MEPHISTO THEATRE COMPANY TUESDAY 24TH - SUNDAY 29TH Town Hall Studio 8:00PM GALWAY YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS **BREATHING CORPSES** BY LAURA WADE DIRECTED BY ANDREW FLYNN MONDAY 23RD - SUNDAY 29TH NUNS ISLAND THEATRE 8:00PM

NUI GALWAYBA CONNECT Programme presents **P E R V E** By Stacey Gregg Monday 23RD - Sunday 29th Nuns Island Theatre 5:00PM

### LAUNCH :THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SNOW BY MANUEL RIVAS FRIDAY 27TH APRIL OYSTER BAR, HOTEL MEYRICK 10:30PM

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Translated by Lorna Shaughnessy Launched By Jonathan Dunne



The Disappearance of Snow was published in 2009 in all four of Spain's official languages within one volume. It was described by its publisher Alfaguara as "a book that transgresses limits and frontiers". Join local poet Lorna Shaughnessy and Manuel Rivas for a very special poetry reading in the intimate setting of The Oyster Bar, Hotel Meyrick.

'The Disappearance of Snow, originally written in Galician, is a succession of soundings in the realms of emotion, spaces in the conscious mind and niches in memory which, at different times, have marked the whole of the poet's work. In a rich language tinged with a touch of the barroque (and occasional deviations into the surreal) that delves into the roots of experience, Rivas strives to excavate spaces of origin in the land and in a world, (Galicia), that offers something at once primitive and virgin, that generates the myths that accompany the lyric subject, reclaiming the territory (at times joyous, at times dark) of childhood, and that sheds light on the cultural and emotional icons with which his world of referents was built, from Cassius Clav to Marisol to Valle-Inclán, Angel González to Orson Welles, to cite just a few'.-El Pais

#### ADMISSION: FREE

## FICTION MASTERCLASS WITH AMY BLOOM SATURDAY 28TH APRIL HOTEL MEYRICK 10:00AM-12N0ON



#### Admission: €40

Bring your maimed, your lame, your near-misses. Everybody will work on a piece of prose which they bring with them. Exercises will pertain to their own work and the work will be shared at the end of the second day. Amy will also bring some of her own work to the class which she will read and dissect with the group. Participants are asked to read 'The Dead' by James Joyce in advance of the class as this will also be discussed during the sessions.

\*Places are limited; please see page 69 for booking and submission guidelines.

ENDA WYLEY: READING FOR PANDA CLUBS SATURDAY 28TH APRIL

## STORIES FOR PANDA CUBS WITH ENDA WYLEY

ENDA WYLEY is an author and a poet and has had several books published including *Boo and Bear* in the O'Brien Press Panda Cubs Series for Younger Readers and *The Silver Notebook* for readers aged 10+, as well as *I Won't Go to China* as part of the Bridges Series from the O'Brien Press.





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ADMISSION: €3 PER CHILD (ADULTS FREE) Suitable for children age 4-6yrs

### KATHLEEN MACMAHON IN CONVERSATION WITH VINCENT WOODS Saturday 28th April Town Hall Theatre 11:00AM



## **KATHLEEN MAC MAHON**

Kathleen MacMahon is a journalist and writer. After an early childhood in Central and South America, Kathleen grew up in Dublin. She studied History and English at University College Dublin, before going on to take a Master's degree at Cambridge University. She began working for RTE shortly after graduating and spent ten years as a journalist on Morning Ireland and the News at One. She currently reports on foreign news for television.

A grand-daughter of the short story writer Mary Lavin, Kathleen caused great excitement last year when her first novel *This Is How It Ends*, was the biggest book deal agreed at the London Book Fair. The rights for a two-book deal were sold to Little, Brown in the UK and to Grand Central Publishing in the US for an incredible £600,000 sterling. The book, which will be published by Little, Brown in May tells the story of a love affair between a 38-year-old unemployed Irish architect and a 50-year-old American who comes to Ireland to escape the financial crisis and trace his roots.

Senior Editor at Little Brown, Rebecca Saunders, described it as a "love story for our times", which will resonate with men and women of all ages.

Kathleen will discuss her forth coming novel with broadcaster **Vincent Woods** and will also read from one of Mary Lavin's short stories in honour of the centenary of her birth which will be celebrated this year.

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#### Admission: €8/€6

## LAUNCH: THE CHINA FACTORY BY MARY COSTELLO SATURDAY 28TH APRIL TOWN HALL BAR 12:00N00N

The Stinging Fly Press proudly presents: *The China Factory* by Mary Costello. The secret fears and private desolations of men and women; the intimate corners of ordinary lives; the isolated moments when a few words or a small irrevocable act can alter fate—this is the territory that Mary Costello explores in her haunting and powerful stories. Originally from Menlough in East Galway, Mary now lives in Dublin. The China Factory is her first book of stories.

#### Admission: Free



The Stinging Fly

## SEÁN TYRRELL: THE MESSAGE OF PEACE SATURDAY 28TH APRIL RUBY ROOM, KINGS HEAD 1:00PM



A music and song event inspired by the poetry of John Boyle O' Reilly. John Boyle O'Reilly (1844-1890) was a visionary, poet and had the heart of a rebel, the courage of a freedom fighter and the commitment of a civil rights activist. He was persecuted, condemned and banished from Ireland to the Penal Colonies in Australia, for his political beliefs and activities.

'Some will see it as history, some as poetry, some as storytelling, some as singing, some as theatre, some will be overwhelmed by mans abuse of man, some will have an epiphany'. Mike Considine- Noteable Arts.



#### Admission: €12/€10

# LYDIA DAVIS & AMY BLOOM

#### SATURDAY 28TH APRIL

## ADMISSION: €8/€6



LyDIA DAVIS Lydia Davis (born 1947 in Massachusetts) is an American story writer, novelist, and translator. She is the author of six collections of stories and one novel, *The End of the Story* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1995) and most recently *The Collected Stories of Lydia Davis* (FSG, 2009, Hamish Hamilton, 2010). She is also the translator of numerous works of avant-garde French literature, including fiction by Maurice Blanchot and the autobiographical essays of Michel Leiris, as well as the Penguin Classic: *Swann's Way* by Marcel Proust (Penguin UK, 2002) and *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert (Penguin UK, 2010). Among many other honors, she was named a Chevalier of the Order of Arts

and Letters by the French government in 1999 and was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2003. She currently teaches at SUNY Albany and New York University and is working on translations from the Dutch of short stories by A.L. Snijders.

## AMY BLOOM

Amy Bloom is the author of two novels, three collections of short stories and was a nominee for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her stories have appeared in Best American Short Stories, Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards, and numerous anthologies here and abroad. She has written for The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, The Atlantic Monthly, among many other publications, and has won a National Magazine Award. Her most recent novel, Away, was an epic story about a Russian immigrant. Her most recent collection of short stories, Where the God of Love Hangs Out, was published in 2010. She lives in Connecticut and taught at Yale University for the last decade. She is now Wesleyan University's Writer-in-Residence.



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## CÚIRT POETRY GRAND SLAM SATURDAY 28TH APRIL RÓISÍN DUBH 3:00PM

The year-round activity of slamming at the Galway Arts Centre culminates in the Cúirt Poetry Grand Slam Final in which up to 20 performers have just three minutes to impress the judges under the watchful eye of MC Pete Mullineaux. The top 3 contestants go on to perform at Electric Picnic in September.



## **COLM KEEGAN**

Guest performer at this year's final is Colm Keegan. Colm Keegan lives in Clondalkin, Dublin. Since 2005 he has four-times been shortlisted for the Hennessey new Irish Writing Award, for both poetry and fiction. In 2008 he was short-listed for the International Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Competition. He won the All Ireland Poetry Slam in 2010. In 2011 he was nominated for the Absolut Fringe's 'Little Gem' Award for the play he co-wrote *Three Men Talking About* 

Things They Kinda Know About which will be touring in Spring/Summer 2012. He regularly reviews for and contributes material to RTE radio's arts show Arena. His poetry collection *Don't Go There* will be published by Salmon in May 2012.

## DAN COMAN

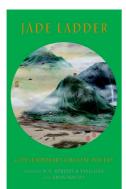
Dan Coman, the 2011 Crystal Award Winner from the Vilenica Festival in Slovenia, will also perform at the slam.

Dan was born in 1975 in Transylvania, Romania. He has published three collections of poetry including *Year of the Yellow Mole*, (2003), which won The Opera Prima Award and the award of the Romanian Writers' Association for the best debut collection of poetry. In 2007, an anthology of his poetry was also published, under the title *D Great Coman*. His poetry has been translated into French, German, Hungarian, Serbian, Slovene, and Swedish.



Admission: €6

# THE JADE LADDER TRIO PLUS PANEL DISCUSSION SATURDAY 28TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 3:00PM



#### THE JADE LADDER TRIO PLUS PANEL Discussion on communication and language

This special Cúirt event will feature Chinese poetry presented by The Jade Ladder Trio (Bill Herbert, translator, Brian Holton, translator and poet: Yang Lian) followed by a panel discussion on communication and language with some of the worlds best linguists: Jay Rubin, Jonathan Dunne, Brian Holton and Bill Herbert. From Chinese to Japanese to Spanish/Basque/Galician, we find out from these four men how they interpret some of the worlds best literature and their challenging position as a crucial conduit between writer and reader. **This event will be chaired by Cúirt Programme Director Dani Gill.** 

#### Admission: €8/€6



## **YANG LIAN**

Yang Lian was one of the original Misty Poets who reacted against the strictures of the Cultural Revolution. Born in Switzerland, the son of a diplomat, he grew up in Beijing and began writing when he was sent to the countryside in the 1970s. On his return he co-founded the influential literary magazine *Jintian* (Currently published in exile in Scandinavia). His work was criticised in China

in 1983 and formally banned in 1989. He has lived in exile since 1989 when he organised memorial services for the dead of Tiananmen while in New Zealand. After spells in Australia, Germany and the USA, he settled in London. Translations of his poetry include three collections with Bloodaxe, *Where the Sea Stands Still* (1999), a Poetry Book Society Recommended Translation, *Concentric Circles* (2005), and *Lee Valley Poems* (2009), as well as *Riding Pisces: Poems from Five Collections* (Shearman, 2008), a compilation of earlier work.



## **BRIAN HOLTON**

Brian Holton was born in Galashiels in the Scottish Border country but grew up partly in Nigeria. He was the son of an Irish father who was bilingual in English and French, fluent in Hausa and West African Pidgin and competent in Yoruba. After being educated in Greek, French and Latin, he studied Chinese at the universities of Edinburgh

and Durham and was the first Programme Director of the Chinese-English/ English-Chinese translation programme at Newcastle University. He taught translation for ten years at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and in 1992 he began a continuing working relationship with the poet Yang Lian, which has so far resulted in a dozen books of translated poetry. He also translates into Scots and is the only currently-publishing Chinese-Scots translator in the world.



## **BILL HERBERT**

Bill Herbert was born in Dundee and educated at Brasenose College, Oxford. He is Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing at the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at Newcastle University. He has published seven volumes of poetry and four pamphlets and is widely anthologised. His last five collections, with Bloodaxe Books, have won numerous accolades. He has published broadly in the field of Creative Writing, and is a regular reviewer of contemporary poetry.

## **JAY RUBIN**

Jay Rubin holds his Ph.D. in Japanese literature from the University of Chicago. He has taught at Harvard University and the University of Washington. Rubin has translated most of the work of renowned Japanese author Haruki Murakami and has also translated Natsume Soseki and Noh drama. His most recent publications are Modern Japanese Writers (Scribners, 2001), and Haruki Murakami and the Music of Words (Harvill, 2002; Vintage, 2005). His translation of 18 stories by Akutagawa Ryunosuke appeared as a Penguin Classic in 2006.





### JONATHAN DUNNE

Jonathan Dunne was educated at Oxford University and holds advanced diplomas in Spanish, Galician and Bulgarian. His many translations include: from the Spanish, two novels by Enrique Vila-Matas, *Bartleby & Co* and *Montano's Malady*, nominated for the 2008 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize; from the Galician, *In the Wilderness*, nominated for the

2004 Weidenfeld Translation Prize, and *The Carpenter's Pencil*, nominated for the 2003 International IMPAC Award, both by Manuel Rivas. He is the author of *The DNA of the English Language* (2007) and a collection of poetry entitled *Even Though That* (2004). He lives in Sofia, Bulgaria.

ADMISSION: €8/€6

# M. PHIL TRINITY LAUNCH SATURDAY 28TH APRIL TOWN HALL BAR 5:00PM

#### M. PHIL TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN PRESENT: A THOROUGHLY GOOD BLUE

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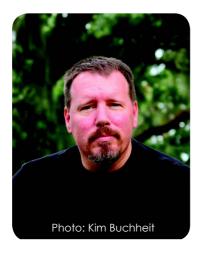


A Thoroughly Good Blue is an anthology of new writing from the 2011/2012 M.Phil Creative Writing Course at the Oscar Wilde Centre, Trinity College Dublin. It is a collection of fiction and poetry written by writers who come from different places and cultural backgrounds including Ireland, UK, USA, Canada, the Netherlands and Asia. The title of the book comes from an essay by Oscar Wilde in which the search for a thoroughly good blue is a metaphor for the writer's search for perfection.



#### **ADMISSION: FREE**

## BRIAN TURNER & JACOB SAM-LA ROSE SATURDAY 28TH APRIL



## **BRIAN TURNER**

Brian Turner served for seven years in the US Army. He was an infantry team leader for a year in Iraq from November 2003 with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. In 1999-2000 he was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina with the 10th Mountain Division. Born in 1967, he received an MFA from the University of Oregon and lived abroad in South Korea for a year before joining the army. His poetry was included in the Voices in Wartime Anthology published in conjunction with a feature-length documentary film. His collection Here, Bullet

(Bloodaxe Books, 2007) was first published in the US by Alice James Books in 2005, where it has earned Turner nine major literary awards, including a 2006 Lannan Literary Fellowship and a 2007 NEA Literature Fellowship in Poetry. In 2009 he was given an Amy Lowell Traveling Fellowship. His second collection, *Phantom Noise* was shortlisted for the 2010 TS Eliot Prize.





## **JACOB SAM-LA ROSE**

Jacob Sam-La Rose was born in London in 1976. He was Managing Director of a web development studio before becoming a freelance writer and editor. He is the Artistic Director of the London Teenage Poetry Slam and an editor for Flipped Eye Press. He also facilitates a range of literature-in-education, creative writing and spoken word programmes through schools, arts centres and other institutions. His work has appeared in many anthologies and journals, including *Identity Parade: New British & Irish Poets* (Bloodaxe), *Poems For Love* (Penguin), *I Have Found a Song* (Enitharmon Press), *Red* (Peepal Tree), *Learn Then Burn: The Ultimate Poetry Guide for the High School or College Classroom* (Write Bloody) and Michael Rosen's A-Z: The Best Children's Poetry from Agard to Zephaniah (Puffin). His pamphlet Communion was a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice in 2006. *Breaking Silence* (Bloodaxe Books, 2011) is his first book-length collection.

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#### Admission: €8/€6

## DAVID MITCHELL & SIMON VAN BOOY SATURDAY 28TH APRIL TOWN HALL THEATRE 8:30PM



## **DAVID MITCHELL**

David Mitchell was born in Southport, Merseyside in 1969 and grew up in Malvern, Worcestershire. A graduate of the University of Kent, he studied for a degree in English and American Literature, followed by an MA in Comparative Literature. After university David travelled and taught English in Japan for eight years. His first novel: Ghostwritten (1999), won the Mail on Sunday/John Llewellyn Rhys Prize for the best book by a writer under 35 and was also shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, His second novel, number9dream was shortlisted for the 2001 Man Booker Prize as well as the James Tait Black Memorial Prize.

His best selling novel *Cloud Atlas*, (now being made into a Hollywood movie directed by the Wachowski Brothers) was shortlisted for the 2004 Man Booker Prize and won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and the South Bank Show Literature Prize. His most recent book: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* (2010), was longlisted for the 2010 Man Booker Prize and was listed as one of Time Magazine's Best Books of the Year and a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. David Mitchell lives in Clonakilty, Ireland with his wife and their two children.

## **SIMON VAN BOOY**

Simon Van Booy was born in Great Britain and grew up in rural Wales. He is the author of *The Secret Lives* of *People in Love, Love Begins in Winter* (winner of the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award) and the novel, *Everything Beautiful Began After.* He is the editor of three philosophy books, titled *Why We Fight*, *Why We Need Love*, and *Why Our Decisions Don't Matter.* His essays have appeared in *The New York* 



Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Guardian, and ELLE Men, (China), where he has a monthly column. He has also written for National Public Radio and the BBC. His first play, HINDSIGHT, is currently in production for a New York City run in March, 2012. He teaches at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, and is involved in the Rutgers Early College Humanities program for young adults living in underserved communities. He was a finalist for the Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise, and his work has been translated into thirteen languages. His latest novel, *The Illusion of Separateness* will be released in the autumn of 2012.

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Admission: €12/€10



# FICTION MASTERCLASS WITH AMY BLOOM

Admission: €40 \*Places are limited, please see page 69 for booking and submission guidelines.

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# LITERARY BRUNCH WITH DOIRE PRESS



oin us for breakfast and a morning of music and words with a selection of writers from Doire Press publishing house. MC for this event: Lisa Frank

## **ABOUT DOIRE PRESS**

Doire Press was founded in 2007 by Lisa Frank and John Walsh. Based in Connemara, they publish poetry and literary fiction by Galway-based writers who give voice to what it means to be Irish in a rapidly changing Ireland. Doire Press is a community-based publisher that works closely with each of its writers in every stage of the publishing process, from editing to designing the cover. Since its inception, it has quickly become one of the most notable small presses in the west of Ireland.



## **JIM MULLARKEY**

Jim Mullarkey is a former Labour member of Galway City Council. In recent years he has facilitated creative writing workshops for adults with learning difficulties. He has been twice short-listed for the RTE Francis MacManus Award. *And*, his debut collection of short stories, was

published by Doire Press in 2011.

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### **GERRY GALVIN**

Gerry Galvin was born in Limerick and now lives in Oughterard, Co. Galway. He is a chef and former restauranteur and has published two cookbooks. No Recipe, his debut collection of poetry, was published by Doire Press in 2010. In 2011, they published his crime thriller, *Killer à la Carte.* 



**JOHN WALSH** John Walsh was born in Derry but has lived in Connemara since 1989. He's had three books of poetry published, including his latest, *Chopping Wood with T.S. Eliot* (Salmon). He is co-director of Doire Press and organiser of North Beach Poetry Nights in Galway. *Border Lines* is his first collection of short stories published by Doire Press in April 2012.



## SUSAN MILLAR DU MARS

Susan Millar DuMars was born and raised in Philadelphia but has lived in Galway for many years, where she teaches creative writing and is co-organiser of the Over the Edge literary series. She has published two volumes of poems with Salmon Poetry. *Lights in the Distance*, a collection of short stories, was published by Doire Press in 2010.



## SUSAN LINDSAY

Susan Lindsay is originally from Dublin but now lives in Galway. She has been a psychotherapist, group leader, workshop facilitator and trainer for over thirty years. She was also a member of the Faber Academy, Dublin poetry class in 2010. *Whispering the Secrets* is her first book of poetry.

#### ADMISSION: €14

## LAUNCH: THANKS FOR NOTHING, HIPPIES SUNDAY 29TH APRIL



Thanks for Nothing, Hippies is a collection that offers wry judgment on several unsolved murders, endures scarcely tolerable bus journeys in odd places, offers many useful tips for survival in the modern workplace and presents the reader with a myriad of novel methods for ruining perfectly good relationships along the way. Affecting, darkly witty and occasionally absurd this collection breaks even the most serious of topics into bite-sized pieces for the reader's consumption. With all the ingredients of a page turner, Thanks for Nothing, Hippies, is a poetry 'whodunnit' where the author has no illusions that whatever 'it' was, she did it herself. Poet Kevin Higgins will launch the collection.

## SARAH CLANCY

Sarah Clancy is from Galway. Her first collection of poetry *Stacey and the Mechanical Bull* was published in December 2010 by Lapwing Press. Her work was anthologised in a three-writer publication *North Beach Nights*  Anthology One published by Doire Press in 2011. Sarah has read her work widely at events such as Cúirt, Electric Picnic, Temple House Festival, The Irish Writers' Centre, Over The Edge and the 2011 Vilenica Festival in Slovenia. In 2010 her work was shortlisted for the Listowel Collection of Poetry Prize, the Over the Edge New Writer of the Year Award and the Patrick Kavanagh Award. Recently she came second in the Ballymaloe International Poetry Prize 2012. She was the Cúirt International Festival of Literature Grand Slam Champion in 2011 and also represented Connacht in the All Ireland Grand Slam Finals 2011. Her work has been widely published in journals and magazines in Ireland including Revival, The Stony Thursday Book, Dogs Singing: A Tribute Anthology (Salmon, 2010) and The Poetry Bus Magazine. Her work has also been published in translation in the Mexican Literary Magazine

Cuadrivio.

**ADMISSION: FREE** 

# **POETRY A LA CARTE**

#### SUNDAY 29TH APRIL The blue note 8:00PM

The Blue Note offers a literary event with a difference for the Cuirt festival, transforming itself into a veritable verbal restaurant with the help of some of the most interesting performers in Galway and the greatest writers in history. Literature lovers can help themselves to a gourmet feast of poetry, prose and famous theatrical scenes, comfortably seated in the Blue Note's bohemian ambience and ordering from a menu of carefully selected pieces to be presented before their very eyes and ears.

This event is directed by Anam Theatre's Sarah O'Toole. Prices per performance vary according to the menu. (Not more than a couple of euro per piece.) Entry to the Blue Note is free.





# SPECIAL EVENT

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#### BRIAN BOURKE Pertaining to William Blake At Norman Villa Gallery

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This body of work has been specifically created for the Cúirt Festival by the renowned artist Brian Bourke. Bourke who has a deep love of literature in particular poetry is fascinated by the poetic and artistic works of William Blake.

The exhibition consists of still life paintings of the life-mask of William Blake with decaying sunflowers and a series of works derived from Blake's painting "The Ghost of a Flea".



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The Exhibition will be opened by Desmond Egan: poet, publisher and Artistic Director of the Gerard Manley Hopkins International Summer School on Monday 23rd April 6pm.

The Exhibition runs throughout the Festival 12 - 6 pm daily and continues until 12th May.

## **CÚIRT TOUR OF GALWAY'S POETRY AND PROSE PLAQUES**

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**MEETING POINT / START:** The historic 19th century Quadrangle building at the National University of Ireland, Galway, which first opened its doors to 63 students on 30th October 1849.

**2**. The first plaque on the tour presents 'Uncle Philip' by the renowned English poet Roger McGough, and features illustrations by Tom Matthews. It is located in the Children's Millennium Playground on the wall by the end of the entrance ramp.

**3**. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the canal to where Moya Cannon's 'Bright City' can be found on the Claddagh side of Wolfe Tone Bridge. Some of the swans mentioned in the poem might be encountered on your way to the next stop.

**4**. A plaque dedicated to Louis McNeice, featuring his poem 'Galway,' is impressively located at the end of Nimmo's Pier. Louis wrote this poem on the pier in 1939 after hearing the news of the beginning of World War II.

**5.** Also situated in the Claddagh area is an extract from Walter Macken's *The Rain on the Wind*. This plaque was unveiled during Cúirt 2007 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Galway writer's passing.

**6**. From Nimmo's Pier the tour takes in the beautiful seaside sights and sounds of the Long Walk and the Salthill Promenade. Seamus Heaney's 'Girls Bathing, Galway, 1965' is located by Ladies' Beach across the road from the Galway Bay Hotel.

**7.** Just a short walk further down the promenade will bring you to the final stop on the tour. Across the path from the yellow swimmer's shelter is a plaque featuring 'Fear na Lasraí', or, 'The Lamplighter', by Máirtín O'Direáin, who was once known as Ireland's unofficial 'Poet Laureate'.



## BOOKING INFORMATION

Tickets for all events are available from March 14th 2012. Town Hall Theatre Box Office is open to personal callers at Courthouse Square, Galway, Monday – Saturday , 10am – 7.30pm. Phone 091 569777 (during above hours) Visa, Access, Mastercard and Laser are accepted. \*Telephone and personal bookings are subject to Town Hall Theatre refurbishment charge of 50 cent per ticket. Buy online 24 hours at www.tht.ie Online bookings are subject to a €1.50 booking charge per ticket.

#### Cúirt Ticket Packages 2012:

Offer 1: Buy 3 8:30pm tickets get 1 6:30pm ticket free Offer 2: Buy 5 daytime event tickets, get 1 evening event free \*Daytime event=any event from 11am-3:30pm \*Evening event=events from 6:30pm onward (excluding theatre)

## **GROUP DISCOUNTS**

Discounts apply for groups of eight or more. Please contact 091 569777 for assistance.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

For general information enquiries please contact: Galway Arts Centre, 47 Dominick Street, Galway. T: 091 565886, E: info@galwayartscentre.ie/ www.cuirt.ie Galway Taxis is the official taxi service for the festival.

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## **FESTIVAL CLUB**

Oyster Bar Hotel Meyrick Eyre Square Tuesday 24 April-Saturday 28 April from 10pm

## MASTERCLASS

## GUIDELINES

Places in the Cúirt masterclasses are limited. To apply please follow these guidelines:

## GALLERY PRESS MASTERCLASSES

# The Assembly of a Poem with Peter Fallon:

Please submit 3 poems and a letter of interest/CV detailing why you want to do the course or any relevant writing experience that you may have.

## Readings with Gerald Dawe:

Please submit 3 poems and a letter of interest/CV detailing why you want to do the course or any relevant writing experience that you may have.

#### Drama Workshop with Marina Carr:

Please submit a letter of interest explaining why you would like to do the course or a CV detailing any relevant drama/theatre experience that you may have.

## Fiction Masterclass with Amy Bloom:

Please submit a piece of writing up to 2000 words for consideration and a letter of interest explaining why you would like to do the course or a CV detailing any relevant writing experience that you may have.

#### Memoir Writing with Linda Spalding:

Please submit a piece of writing up to 2000 words for consideration and a letter of interest explaining why you would like to do the course or a CV detailing any relevant writing experience that you may have.

All entries must be typed All entries must have contact details (a phone number& email address)

Send applications in **hard copy only** to:

Cúirt Masterclass Entries c/o The Galway Arts Centre 47 Dominick Street Galway **Closing date for applications: Tuesday 3rd April 2012, 3pm** 

## STAFF LIST FOR GALWAY ARTS CENTRE & Cúirt international festival of literature

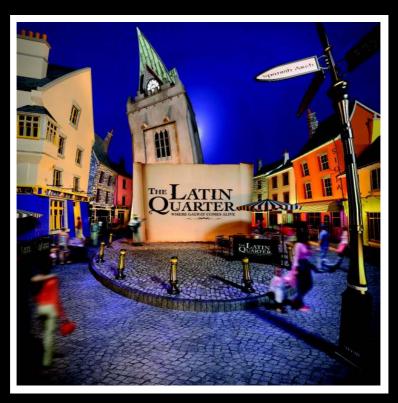
MANAGING DIRECTOR Páraic Breathnach PROGRAMME DIRECTOR Dani Gill CÚIRT ADVISORY PANEL Megan Buckley, James C. Harrold, Vincent Browne, Michael Gorman, Gerard Hanberry FESTIVAL MANAGER Norma Flaherty PRODUCTION Mike O'Halloran, Mark Byrne, Ciaran Kelly ADMINISTRATION Geralyn Fannon Niamh Moloughney Ronan Considine Maeve Richardson FESTIVAL INTERNS Aisling Lynch, Caitriona Cregan, Orla Reilly PR Cormac Kinsella Róisín Stack GRAPHIC DESIGN Mary Reynolds CÚIRT WEBSITE **Biggley Byrne** SPONSORSHIP LIASION Marina Healy MARKETING Zulaikha Engelbrecht HOSPITALITY Mattie Hynes, Victoria McCormack, Matthew Ziruk

VISUAL ARTS OFFICER ACCOUNTS GALWAY YOUTH THEATRE

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Maeve Mulrennan Sinéad Wynne Andrew Fynn, Siobhán Singleton

GALWAY ARTS CENTRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Craig Steven (Chair), Aideen Barry, Dara Bradley, Vinny Browne Michael Burke, Siobhán Calpin, Michael Gorman, Colette Nic Aodha, Anna Lardi Fogarty, Gerard Hanberry, Cllr Eileen Mannion, Imelda Tierney, Kathleen Furey.



## THE LATIN QUARTER

The Latin Quarter is the area of Galway situated on the left bank of the Corrib - defined bysome of the city's most historic landmarks, it stretches from Spanish Arch at Long Walk to O'Brien's Bridge to St Nicholas' Church and back (via Buttermilk Lane) to An Taibhdhearc on Middle St. It is home to Galway's Saturday Market, Galway City Museum and the internationally acclaimed Druid Theatre Company. It is also home to many of Galway's quirkiest and best-known shops, pubs and restaurants, and has for years played host to much of Galway's renowned cultural activity. Its extensive pedestrianised streets have a unique atmosphere and provide the heartbeat to Galway's renowned social scene, providing the ideal backdrop for Cúirt International Festival of Literature. For more information please visit:

# HOTELMEYRICK

#### **Our Official Accomodation Partner is:**

Hotel Meyrick Eyre Square Galway www.hotelmeyrick.ie Tel 091 564041

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## **OTHER PLACES TO STAY:**

Pillo Hotel Galway Headford Point Galway T: +353 91 513200 F: +353 91 513201 email: info@pillohotelgalway.com

Jurys Inn Quay Street Galway 091 566 444 www.galwayhotels.jurysinns.com The Adare Guesthouse: 9 Father Griffin Place Galway 091 582638 www.adareguesthouse.ie Lp

## **FRIENDS LIST**

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Joan Mc Breen Fr. Patrick O' Brien Tonita O'Dwyer Anthony Ryans Mac Isaac's Baboró The Galway Arts Festival The Galway Film Fleadh

## **THANKS LIST**

Cúirt would like to thank the following people for their help and support: Marilyn Gaughan, James C. Harrold, Sarah Bannan and all of the Arts Council Staff, the Board of the Galway Arts Centre, the Cúirt Panel, Ciarán Doyle and the Board of The Bish, Hotel Meyrick, John Ashton, Mike Diskin and the Staff of the Town Hall Theatre, Emer Donohue, Fiona Monaghan, Pat MacMahon, Declan Meade, Joseph Woods, Josephine Vahey, Lorna Shaughnessy, Noelle Lynsky, John Cunningham, Biggley Byrne, Joe Flaherty, Galway Water, our interns and our volunteers. Cúirt would like to extend a very sincere thanks to our anonymous doners who gave so generously to the festival this year.

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