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A Welcome from Director, Sasha De Buyl

Fáilte roimh chách chuig Cúirt 2020, Féile Idirnáisiúnta Litríochta bunaithe agus lonnaithe anseo i gcathair na dtreabh ar bhruach an Atlantaigh.

Ask anyone in town about Cúirt, from the festival veteran to the newcomer, and one thing will spring to mind: the pencils! To mark the 35th year of the Cúirt International Festival of Literature – and, I'm delighted to say, my first as director – we decided to use this icon of the festival as inspiration for our visuals. Brilliantly illustrated by Maria Stoian, this year's cover captures some of the joy and passion that Cúirt is best known for.

In 2020, our year as European Capital of Culture, it feels fitting to create a programme that brings writers from across Europe together with some of the finest Irish writers working today. Our stages this year will feature such greats as Anne Enright, Eimear McBride, Kevin Barry, hometown favourite, Elaine Feeney, and it's a privilege to bring together so many world-renowned talents.

This year's programme also features leading lights in poetry and spoken word, including festival favourite and UK Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage; the exceptional Kei Miller; and in her first ever visit to Cúirt, spoken word legend, Kate Tempest.

It's an understatement to say that we are living through interesting times, and we often look to writers and their words to help us make sense of our changing world. It was vital, then, to bring you a programme that acknowledges and celebrates Ireland's place within Europe, and Ireland's language as one of many across the continent, on our special World Literature Day - Tuesday 21 April. As an immigrant, whose parents made Ireland their home, Ireland of the Welcomes is an event very close to my heart. It places migrant writers at the centre of the conversation, sharing their unique conceptions of home and belonging through their work."

It's also been exciting to return to a place where a cúpla focail are more than welcome. This year, our Irish language writers are integrated throughout our programme. Keep an eye out for Mothertongues, a performance event featuring Irish, Welsh and Scots Gaelic writers, revelling in the exuberance and dynamism of their respective 'mothertongues'.

This festival would not be possible without a huge amount of work put in behind the scenes. I'd like to thank every single person who has been involved this year. It's your support year-on-year that has built this festival's legacy and makes it so special. I would like to say an extra thank you to Galway as a whole for being so welcoming to me in my first year as Director; the amount of goodwill I've been shown by the people of Galway, from individuals to the arts community, has been overwhelming.

Come in, take a seat and have a read. I hope you're as excited as we are about what we've got in store.

Stay in Touch Join the Cúirt conversation online and stay tuned for the latest updates







Booking Information

BOOK ONLINE at **www.cuirt.ie** or **www.tht.ie**BOX OFFICE **Town Hall Theatre,** Courthouse Square, Galway, Ireland.
+353 (0)91569777 info@cuirt.ie

Monday 20

14:00 The Anne Kennedy Professional Development Event in association with The

In association with The Stinging Fly Nun's Island Theatre Mia Gallagher, Thomas Morris, Neil Hegarty and Anne Tannam

17:00 Doire Press Launch

Galway Stories: 2020 Walking Tour Town Hall Theatre p 5

20:00 Paddy Irish Whiskey

Fireside Session
Launch Night
The Crane Bar
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Tuesday 21

12:00 World Literature

Day Launch Nun's Island Theatre p 6

13:00 World Literature Day Reading

Shota latashvili and Claire-Louise Bennett **Nun's Island Theatre** p 6

16:00 World Literature

Day Reading
Darach Ó Scolaí and
Andrija Škare and
Elena Medel
Nun's Island Theatre
p 7

16:00 Paddy Irish Whiskey

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17:00 Ropes Book Launch

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18:00 Poetry from the European Periphery Nun's Island Theatre p 8

18:00 Paddy Irish Whiskey

Fireside Session
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20:00 Wait

Contempo String
Quartet*
Nun's Island Theatre
p 10

20:00 Eimear McBride An Taibhdhearc p 11

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9:30 **Cúirt Labs**Rab Fulton Patricia Forde mynameisJohn

Galway Arts Centre p 12

11:00 Cúirt/Over the Edge New Writing Showcase Curated by

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Town Hall Theatre
p 13

13:00 Launch: Poems for

Patience
Galway University
Hospital
p 14

16:00 The History of the

Hardiman

Launch & Readings

Hardiman Hotel TBC
p 14

15:00 Nora Barnacle

• Walking Tour Tigh Nora p 14

16:00 Paddy Irish Whiskey

Fireside Session
Taylor's Bar

18:00 Paddy Irish Whiskey

Fireside SessionSonny Molly's Barp 36

20:00 Simon Armitage Town Hall Theatre p 15

20:30 Galway Youth
Theatre
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Thursday 23

9:30 Cúirt Labs

- Bridget Bhreathnach Ogie Ó Ceilichéir Gemma Bhreathnach **Galway Arts Centre** p 17
- Welcomes: **New Communities Writing Home** Kapka Kassabova, Owodunni Mustapha. Melatu Uche Okorie. Moderated by Jess Traynor

13.00 Ireland of the

13:00 Children of Bach **Nun's Island Theatre** p 19

Town Hall Theatre

15:00 Nora Barnacle **Walking Tour** Tigh Nora p 14

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- 16:00 Paddy Irish Whiskey
- **Fireside Session** The King's Head p 36

18:00 Mothertongues

- Pádraig MacAodh, Ciara Ní É, Ifor Ap Glyn, chaired by Lleucu Siencyn **Nun's Island Theatre** p 20
- 20:00 Kapka Kassabova & **Philip Marsden Town Hall Theatre** p 21
- 20:30 Galway Youth **Theatre Nun's Island Theatre** p 16

Friday 24

11:30 Eilís Dillon Plaque Unveiling

The River Walk. **Newtownsmith p 22**

13.00 Eilís Dillon

- Celebration
 - **Town Hall Theatre** p 22
- 16:00 Paddy Irish Whiskey
- **Fireside Session Tigh Neachtains** p 36
- 17:30 Mary Costello & **Alan McMonagle Town Hall Theatre** p 23
- 19:15 Carolyn Forché & **Kei Miller Town Hall Theatre** p 24
- 20:30 Galway Youth Theatre Nun's Island Theatre p 16
- 21:00 Anne Enright in conversation with Rick O' Shea

Town Hall Theatre



Saturday 25

- 11:00 Richie Sadlier **Town Hall Theatre** p 26
- 11:00 Rob Doyle An Taibhdhearc p 26
- 13:00 Sara Baume & Doireann Ní Ghríofa **Town Hall Theatre** p 27
- 15:00 Spoken Word **Platform** with Natalya O'Flaherty Róisín Dubh p 28
- 16:00 Mark Lewisohn **Town Hall Theatre** p 28
- 16:30 Elaine Feenev An Taibhdhearc p 29
- 17:00 London Writers
- **Eclective Black Gate Cultural Centre** p 30
- 18:00 Michael Gorman & **Roisín Kelly Town Hall Theatre** p **31**
- 20:00 Kevin Barry & Jan Carson **Town Hall Theatre** p 32
- 20:30 Galway Youth Theatre **Nun's Island Theatre** p 16
- 22:00 Kate Tempest Town Hall Theatre p 33



Nun's Island Theatre

Monday 20 April 2- 5pm €15/€13*

In association with The Stinging Fly

The Anne Kennedy Writer Development Day with Mia Gallagher, Neil Hegarty, Thomas Morris and Anne Tannam

Join us for an afternoon of professional development panel discussions for writers at all stages of their careers.

Becoming a Writer and Surviving the Journey 2pm-3.30pm Forging a career as a writer today requires resilience and dedication, and our panel will reveal how they navigate their way within the literature sector, how they continue to make space for their writing and prioritise it within an uncertain publishing landscape, and how and where they find communities of support.

Getting S*** Done 4pm-5.30pm

During the second session, our panel will discuss how a writer develops and sustains their individual creative practice. How do writers harness ideas and transform them into finished works? How do form and content interact? How does one negotiate the final stages of 'completing' a work?

Mia Gallagher's books include HellFire (2006), Beautiful Pictures of the Lost Homeland (2016) and the short-story collection, Shift (2018). Mia has over 25 years' experience of mentoring, facilitating and editing. She is a contributing editor with The Stinging Fly and a member of Aosdána.

Neil Hegarty grew up in Derry. His novels include *The Jewel* (2019) and *Inch Levels* (2017) which was shortlisted for the Kerry Group Novel of the Year. Other titles include *Frost: That Was the Life That Was and The Story of Ireland*.

Thomas Morris's We Don't Know What We're Doing (2015) won the Wales Book of the Year and a Somerset Maugham Award. He edited Dubliners 100 (2014) with Tramp Press and was the 2017-18 Writer in Residence at UCC. Having edited *The Stinging Fly* for two years, he is now a Contributing Editor at the magazine, where he mentors emerging authors.

Anne Tannam is a creative coach and writer. She co-founded the weekly peer-led Dublin Writers' Forum and has published two poetry collections, with a third, *Twenty-six Letters of a New Alphabet* (2020), from Salmon Poetry in June.

Both sessions will be moderated by **Declan Meade**, publisher and founding editor of *The Stinging Fly* magazine and press.

Please email info@stingingfly. org with the subject line 'Cúirt Questions' if you would like to send questions for the panel in advance. Deadline: 15 April.



Starts at **Town Hall** Theatre, finishing at **The Crane Bar** Monday 20 April 5pm **FREE**





Launch: Reading Tour of Galway Galway Stories with Doire Press

Galway Stories: 2020, edited by Alan McMonagle and Lisa Frank, is a collection of short fiction set throughout the neighbourhoods of the city and county, by writers who live, have lived, or who have a strong connection to Galway. In reading these stories you will be taken on a tour of the neighbourhoods, getting to know them through the words of the writers and the eyes of their characters.

Some of the stories present vivid neighbourhood portraits using specific landmarks and detail; others capture the spirit of a neighbourhood and its people.

Together the stories celebrate Galway and the people who live there. Writers featured in Galway Stories: 2020 include: Celeste Augé, Niamh Boyce, Alan Caden, Aoife Casby, June Caldwell, Danny Denton, Elaine Feeney, Órla Foyle, Caoilinn Hughes, James Martyn Joyce, Hugo Kelly, Siobhán Mannion, Una Mannion, Aoibheann McCann, Patrick McCabe, Geraldine Mills, Nuala O'Connor, Micheál Ó Conghaile, Elizabeth Reapy and Moya Roddy. Galway Stories: 2020 is published by Doire Press, a Connemara-based publisher who is celebrating its tenth-year anniversary. The anthology is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland and by Galway 2020.

The reading tour begins at 5:00pm at the Town Hall Theatre.

Stop 1: Town Hall Theatre — Moya Roddy

Stop 2: The King's Head — Aoibheann McCann

Stop 3: The Galway Arts Centre — Caoilinn Hughes

Stop 4: The Róisín Dubh — Celeste Augé

Stop 5: Mick Taylor's Pub — Patrick McCabe

The launch will take place at The Crane Bar immediately after the reading tour and will feature short readings by June Caldwell, Aoife Casby, Órla Foyle,

Aoibheann McCann and Micheál O'Conghaile.

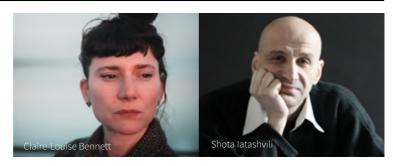


Opening Night: Paddy Irish Whiskey Fireside Session

Monday 20 April, 8pm

The Crane Bar

FREE



Nun's Island Theatre

Tuesday 21 April

A Creative Europe project in association with Galway 2020





World Literature Day Launch 12pm

A Creative Europe funded project, *Read Me I Am Yours* is the culmination of a ten-year relationship between the Cúirt International Festival of Literature and our partners, Vilenica International Literary Festival in Slovenia and the Festival of World Literature (Fraktura) in Croatia.

Building relationships with our European counterparts gives us a chance to discover the breadth and talent of contemporary European writing. As small nations with minority languages, our position on the periphery helps us build cross-cultural understanding and gives us insight into what it means to be human and to be European in this contemporary moment.

 $\label{lem:continuous} \mbox{Join us for a selection of readings from our participating writers to launch our World Literature Day. \\$

Shota Iatashvili and Claire-Louise Bennett

The Writer's Eye 1pm €10/€8*

A writer's eye is not limited by form or genre: they take it with them everywhere they go. How does this express itself in other artforms? How does it articulate visual art, critical writing, poetry or creative non-fiction? Join writers Claire-Louise Bennett and Shota latashvili, both prolific writers of fiction, essays and art criticism, to see how their practice relates and how it differs, and to hear their work

Shota latashvili was born in 1966 in Tbilisi, Georgia. He is a poet, fiction writer, translator and art critic. He has published a significant number of poetry collections, four works of prose and a book of literary criticism, and won the 2018 Vilenica Crystal Award as part of the Vilenica International Literary Festival. .

Claire-Louise Bennett's short fiction, essays, and art writing have featured in many publications, including The White Review, The New York Times and Vogue Italia. She was awarded the inaugural White Review Short Story Prize in 2013 and was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize in 2016. Her debut book, *Pond*, was published by The Stinging Fly (Ireland) and Fitzcarraldo Editions (UK) in 2015, and Riverhead (US) in 2016.



A Creative Europe project in association with Galway 2020





 Beidh togha na scríbhneoirí Gaeilge páirteach sa bhféile

Darach Ó Scolaí and Andrija Škare and Elena Medel

Writing Across Europe 4pm €10/€8*

What does a tradition of European literature look like? And how does Irish writing, and Irish language writing in particular, fit within this? This event brings together European writers Elena Medel, Andrija Škare and Darach Ó Scolaí to discuss what is unique to each national tradition of writing, and what brings them together.

Elena Medel is a Spanish writer, based in Madrid. She is the author of one novel, *The Wonders* (forthcoming 2021), two books of essays and a collection of poetry, *A Black Day in a House of Lies* (2015). Medel is also the director of the publishing house La Bella Varsovia, and has been awarded prizes such as the Loewe Prize for Young Poets and the Princess of Girona Award.

Andrija Škare was born in Zagreb in 1981 and is best known as a writer, screenwriter and broadcaster on Croatian television. He is one of the founders of the Eventualism literary movement, and has published a collection of short stories, and a book of non-fiction journalism on Zagreb's cafes and cafes, entitled *With More Milk, Please* (2008).

Darach Ó Scolaí is a writer, playwright, and publisher. His latest work is a retelling of the Old-Irish epic *Táin Bó Cuailnge* (Leabhar Breac 2017), winner of the Aodán Mac Phóilín Memorial Prize 2017. His novel *An Cléireach* (2007) won the Oireachtas Prize in 2007 and Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin 'Book of the Year' in 2008. His play *Coinneáil Orainn* (2006) won the Walter Macken Prize and a BBC Stewart Parker Award, and his plays *Coinneáil Orainn* and *An Braon Aníos* were adapted for the radio in 2009. He has written screenplays for the short films *Cosa Nite* (1998) and *An Leabhar* (2000), and for the television series *Na Cloigne* (2010).

Scríbhneoir agus foilsitheoir é **Darach Ó Scolaí**. Is í an athinsint ón tSean-Ghaeilge *Táin Bó Cuailnge* (Leabhar Breac, 2017) an saothar is deireanaí leis, saothar a ghnóthaigh Duais Chuimhneacháin Aodáin Mhic Phóilin 2017. Ghnóthaigh a úrscéal *An Cléireach* (2007) Duais an Oireachtais 2007 agus Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin 2008. Bhain a dhráma *Coinneáil Orainn* (2006) Duais Bháitéir Uí Mhaicín agus an BBC Stewart Parker Award amach, agus rinneadh cóiriú do Raidió na Gaeltachta ar *Coinneáil Orainn* agus *An Braon Aníos* i 2009. Tá scripteanna scríofa aige do dhá ghearrscannán, *Cosa Nite* (Rosc, 1998) *An Leabhar* (2000), agus don tsraith teilifíse *Na Cloigne* (2010).



Nun's Island Theatre

Tuesday 21 April 6pm €10/€8*

Presented in association with Creative Europe and Galway 2020





Poetry from the European Periphery: Ukraine, Albania and Slovenia

Bringing us the best in poetry from across the European periphery are Myroslav Laiuk, our European Writer on Tour, from Kyiv, Ukraine; Manjola Nasi, our Writer Nomad, visiting from Albania, and Nina Dragičević, Winner of the 2019 Vilenicia Prize, from Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Myroslav Laiuk is a poet and novelist. Originally from Carpathians, he now lives in Kyiv, Ukraine. He is the author of poetry collections Sow-Thistle! (2013), Metrophobia (2015), and Rose (2019), and the novels Babornya (2016), and The World That Was Not Created (2018). Laiuk's work has been translated into eleven languages and he was noted as one of Ukraine's Top 30 Under 30 in 2018 by KyivPost.

Nina Dragičević is a writer, sound artist and a composer from Ljubljana in Slovenia. She is the author of four books including *Kdo ima druge skrbi* (2014) and *Ljubav reče greva* (2019). Her work has been translated into English, German, Czech, and Spanish. In 2018, she received The Knight of Poetry Award in both Jury Selection and People's Choice category from The University of Ljubljana.

Manjola Nasi is an Albanian poet and literary translator. A Fulbright Scholar, she has been teaching at the University of Tirana for over a decade. She is the author of two acclaimed poetry collections, *Sonnet of Autumn* (2002) and *A Journey and a Half* (2018) and her poems have been translated into English, Italian, German and Slovenian. She is the recipient of the 2019 Crystal Vilenica Award.



Paddy Irish Whiskey Fireside Sessions

Tuesday 21 April, 4pm

The Dáil Bar

Free





Launch: ROPES Literary Journal

Tuesday 21 April, 5pm

Town Hall Theatre

Free

ROPES is the annual literary publication produced by the students of the MA in Literature and Publishing at NUI Galway. The 28th edition, entitled 'Encounters' will be launched at Cúirt in association with Galway 2020. ROPES 2020 comprises a range of visual art, fiction and poetry that seek to explore and define the lived experience. Alongside fresh, up-and-coming voices are established writers such as Claire Hennessy, Ely Percy, Kevin Higgins and Demi Anter

Proceeds from the sale of ROPES go to a charity of their choosing. This year, ROPES has chosen to support COPE Galway, who provide support to the most vulnerable members of our society.



Paddy Irish Whiskey Fireside Sessions

Tuesday 21 April, 6pm

The Blue Note

Free





Wait

Performed By **Contempo String Quartet** Tuesday 21 April 8pm

Nun's Island Theatre €12/€7*

Experience the WORLD PREMIERE of *Wait*, a new piece for string quartet composed by Irish contemporary classical composer **Ailís Ní Ríain**, cocommissioned by Galway Music Residency and Cúirt International Festival of Literature. Ní Ríain premieres a new composition for string quartet in direct response to the poem '*Wait*', by the American poet Galway Kinnell (1927-2014). Ní Ríain has created a fascinating and layered aural experience using Kinnell's words enveloped in the music and performed by ConTempo. '*Wait*' is a meditation on suicide, and audiences will also have opportunity to hear the poem read by the poet in a video recording during the event.

The World Premiere will be followed by conversation with composer Ailís Ní Ríain, poet Emily Cullen, Aidan Thompson, Director of the BA in Music at NUIG, Evonne Ferguson from the Contemporary Music Centre and the musicians of the ConTempo Quartet.

Co-commissioned by the Galway Music Residency and Cúirt International Literature Festival, the commission is funded by the Arts Council's Music Commission Award.









Eimear McBride: Strange Hotel

Tuesday 21 April, 8pm **An Taibhdhearc** €15/€13*

Join us for the culmination of our World Literature Day with one of Ireland's most exciting contemporary novelists, Eimear McBride.

Continuing in the tradition of Irish experimental writing, Eimear McBride's prose pries apart language to expose the circuitry of thought and sensation that makes up human consciousness.

McBride's debut novel, *A Girl Is a Half-Formed Thing*, was published in 2013 to critical acclaim, winning the Goldsmiths Prize, the Desmond Elliott Prize, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction, and the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award. Her second book, *The Lesser Bohemians* (2017) was equally well-received, winning the 2017 James Tait Black Memorial Prize, as well as being shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize and the International Dublin Literary Award.

Cúirt is delighted to welcome back Eimear McBride to discuss her latest novel, Strange Hotel, wherein she turns her incisive eye to the uniquely human experience of a hotel room. Touching on love, loss and ageing, McBride takes an abstract conceit and uses it to uncover the brilliance and dullness of the human condition.

A brilliant reader, this event is not to be missed!

This event will be chaired by arts journalist and book critic, **Edel Coffey**







Booking Info:

Please email info@cuirt.ie with the subject line 'Cúirt Labs Booking' to book, or phone +353 (0)91 565 886

Cúirt Labs

Wednesday 22 April, 9:30am - 1pm **Galway Arts Centre** €5 per child

Group Bookings only. Please bring lunch.

Cúirt Labs returns with workshops for students across three age groups: 1st - 3rd Class, 4th - 6th Class and Post-Primary (1st - 3rd Year).

1st- 3rd Class

Rab Fulton is a working-class poet, author and storyteller who specializes in reimagining the folklore and myth of Scotland and Ireland as well as tales from his own family history. He also writes sci-fi and fantasy novels and short stories.

Using fun interactive games, Rab's workshops will focus on the use of memory, landscape and texture in the creation of new wonder tales.

4th-6th Class

Patricia Forde is an award-winning writer of books for children in both English and Irish. She is the author of nine books and her novel, *Bumpfizzle the Best on Planet Earth* (2018), was chosen as the Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read in 2019.

A fun, high-energy talk about writing and in particular writing The Wordsmith series. The conversation will range from freedom of speech to the importance of minority language.

Post-Primary (1st - 3rd Year)

John Lillis is better known as mynameisjOhn. A DJ and producer from Co. Clare, he uses samplers, keyboards, turntables, mixers, laptops and microphones to make music - but most of all, he just uses his head. John has been involved in educating young people about music production and appreciation for 15 years.

John's workshops are fast, fun and informal sessions that aim at creating improvised music collectively and challenge the audience to express themselves through lyric-writing and performance.





Cúirt/Over the Edge New Writing Showcase

Wednesday 22 April, 11am **Town Hall Theatre** FRFF

Discover new Irish writing talent at the Cúirt New Writing Showcase. Presenting emerging voices in poetry and fiction, the Cúirt New Writing Showcase brings together a selection of writers involved in the Over the Edge Literary Series in Galway, along with the winners of the annual Cúirt New Writing Prize.

Rory Duffy lives in Athlone. His fiction has been published in Crannóg, The Stony Thursday Book, Southword, and Penduline Press. He was highly commended in the Over the Edge New Writer of The Year competition in 2015 and won the 2016 Over The Edge Annual Fiction Slam. In 2017, he was nominated for a ZeBBie Award by the Irish Writers' Guild for his radio play, *Paulo in the Underworld*, and was highly commended in the Seán Ó' Faoláin Award.

Aisling Keogh is a psychotherapist and a mother to three young children. Her short stories have been published with The Irish Independent, Crannóg, Wordlegs, ROPES, Bangor Literary Journal and A New Ulster. She finished writing her first novel in 2018 and was recently shortlisted for the Doolin Writers' Weekend short story prize.

Sarah Padden is of Irish descent and was raised in West Yorkshire. She returned to Ireland over a decade ago. Her poetry has been published in the anthology *Washing Windows? Irish Women Write Poetry* (2017), Skylight 47, ROPES, A New Ulster, and Freehand. She won the June 2017 Galway Poetry Slam and was shortlisted for both the Over The Edge New Writer of the Year 2017 and the Poems for Patience Competition 2018.

Winners of the 2020 Cúirt New Writing Prize (Poetry: Jerm Curtin & Short Fiction: Brigitte de Valk) will join the showcase line-up to read their winning entries.

With thanks to our esteemed Cúirt New Writing Prize judges **Claire-Louise**

Bennett (short fiction) and Jessica Traynor (poetry).



 Beidh togha na scríbhneoirí Gaeilge páirteach sa bhféile

Poems for Patience

Wednesday 22 April, 1pm

Galway University Hospital FREE

Poems for Patience is a long-running programme established by Saolta arts (formerly Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust) in which poems are displayed on the Arts Corridor of the hospital, in waiting areas throughout the hospital and in associated hospital units. In the past, the series has featured poems by leading Irish and international poets such as Seamus Heaney, Philip Schultz, Yrsa Daley-Ward, Vona Groarke, Jane Hirschfield, Tess Gallagher, Michael Cody and Ailbhe Darcy. This year's selection has been kindly chosen by Ciara Ní É.

Ciara Ní É is DCU Writer in Residence 2020. She is the founder of REIC, a monthly multilingual spoken word and open mic night that features poetry, music, storytelling and rap. She has performed internationally in New York, London, Brussels, Sweden, and across Ireland, and she is an Irish Writers Centre ambassador. Her work has been published in a variety of journals including Icarus and Comhar. Her first poetry collection is forthcoming.





Nora Walking Tour

Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 April, 3pm **Starts and concludes at Tigh Nora** FREE

Nora Barnacle is probably best known as the wife and muse of James Joyce. However, she was a strong and independent woman in her own right. After a quarrel with her uncle, Nora ran away from Galway to Dublin where, on 16 June 1904, she met James. This meeting is now celebrated every year as Bloomsday. **The Nora Walking Tour** will tell the story of Nora's personal connection to Galway, the houses where she stayed, the place she grew up, and the bar that is named for her.



The History of the Hardiman Launch

Wednesday 22 April, 4pm

The Hardiman Hotel FREE

The iconic Hardiman Hotel has long played a part in Galway's social history, and this pamphlet, *The History of the Hardiman*, by William Henry, charts its unique history and many changes in name from The Railway Hotel, to the Great Southern Hotel (which many Galwegians will remember) and beyond. The hotel itself is one of the oldest established hotels in Galway, and was designed by John Skipton Mulvany and built by William Dargan, two of the leading people in construction during the 19th century.



Paddy Irish Whiskey Fireside Sessions

Wednesday 22 April

Taylor's Bar, 4pm FREE Sonny Molloy's Bar, 6pm FREE



Simon Armitage: Sandettie Light Vessel **Automatic**

Wednesday 22 April, 8pm Town Hall Theatre €15/€13*

Simon Armitage, a Cúirt favourite, returns for an evening celebrating his career, spanning almost thirty years. Best loved for his Yorkshire deadpan humour and clean poetic execution, Armitage's work remains current, filled with a keen-eyed and music-inspired rhythm that is all his own.

His first visit to the festival since his appointment as the current UK Poet Laureate, this event will see Simon Armitage present his work, Sandettie Light Vessel Automatic, in an hour-long solo show. Over the course of several years, Simon Armitage has written hundreds of poems for various projects, commissions, collaborations and events, which stand outside of his mainstream collections but form a substantial body of work in their own right. These vary from single poems, such as 'Zodiac' T Shirt', written to be performed at the launch of Beck's Song Reader, to the suite of ten poems about Branwell Brontë written at the time of the writer's bicentenary. Together, they cover an eclectic array of subjects including sculpture, the environment, travel, drama, and media.

Sandettie Light Vessel Automatic represents the nature and scale of Armitage's work - it is an important reflection of his public engagement as a poet and the astonishing range of his interests and talents.

Simon Armitage is the UK Poet Laureate and was elected Oxford Professor of Poetry (2015-2019). He has published over a dozen collections of poetry, three books of non-fiction and has written extensively for theatre, television and radio. In 2018 he was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.

"I think of poetry as the most democratic of all art forms - all you need is language, which most of us receive as a free gift. But then you need something to say and a way of saying it - that's when it starts getting difficult." Simon Armitage







Galway Youth Theatre presents

DNA by Dennis Kelly

Wednesday 22 April - Saturday 25 April, 8:30pm

Nun's Island Theatre €14/€12*

DNA. Deoxyribonucleic Acid.

A group of teenagers do something bad, really bad, then panic and cover the whole thing up. But when they find that the cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their otherwise fractious lives, where's the incentive to put things right?

DNA is a poignant and sometimes hilarious tale with a very dark heart. From the writer of the Broadway hit *Matilda*, *DNA* is a black comedy with shocking observations. Directed by Andrew Flynn

Galway Youth Theatre provides a safe environment where young people can gain access to the arts through theatre training programmes, helping participants build new skills in performance and develop their confidence and self-esteem. GYT offers its main service provision to young people in Galway city but also facilitates programmes throughout Galway County. This production provides members of the Galway Youth Theatre with the opportunity to become involved in acting, directing, stage managing and designing a professional production during Cúirt 2020.







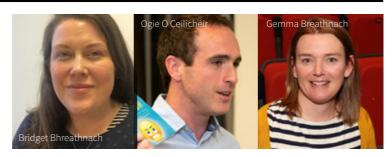
Thursday 23 April, 9:30am -1pm

€5 per child Group Bookings only. Please bring lunch.

Booking Info:

Please email info@cuirt.ie with the subject line 'Cúirt Labs Booking' to book, or phone +353 (0)91 565 886

 Beidh togha na scríbhneoirí Gaeilge páirteach sa bhféile



Cúirt Labs

Cúirt Labs presents its Irish language workshops for students across three age groups: 1st - 3rd Class, 4th - 6th Class and Post-Primary (1st - 3rd Year).

1st-3rd Class Bridget Bhreathnach

As Ros Muc i gConamara ó dhúchas. Údar na bpictiúrleabhar *Lúlú agus an Oíche Ghlórach* (Futa Fata, 2010) agus *Ní Mise a Rinne É!* (Futa Fata 2012). Scríobhann sí colún seachtainiúil le Tuairisc.ie. Ball den eolaire Scríbhneoirí sna Scoileanna, Éigse Éireann.

Bridget Bhreathnach, originally from Ros Muc in Connemara, is the author of two picture books *Lúlú agus an Oíche Ghlórach* (Futa Fata 2010), published in English as *Lulu and the Noisy Night* and *Ní Mise a Rinne É*! (Futa Fata, 2012). She writes a weekly column for Tuairisc.ie. and is a member of Poetry Ireland's Writers in Schools directory.

How do we create characters for a story? Children will learn about picture books and get the opportunity to invent and draw their own character in this workshop. The Workshop will include a reading in Irish, group character brainstorming session and arts and crafts.

4th-6th Class Ogie Ó Ceilichéir

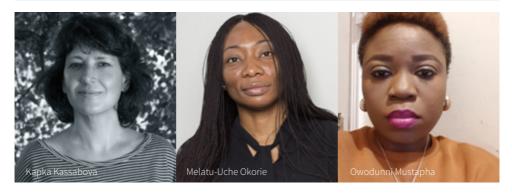
Ón Rinn ó dhúchas é Ógie Ó Céilleachair. Múinteoir drámaíochta is ea é i nGaelcholáiste Luimnigh, áit a scríobhann agus a léiríonn sé dráma le micléinn na hIdirbhliana gach bliain. Tá dhá úrscéal do dhéagóirí foilsithe aige - Cúpla agus Katfish agus Scéalta Eile (Cló Iar-Chonnacht).

Ógie Ó Céilleachair is originally from the Gaeltacht of An Rinn in Co. Waterford. He is a teacher of drama in Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh, where he writes, produces & directs a musical play with TY students annually. He has published a novel for teenagers, *Cúpla*, and a collection of short stories for young adults, Katfish & Scéalta eile.

Post-Primary (1st-3rd Year) Gemma Breathnach

Gemma Breathnach is a script writer and author who lives in Inverin, Co. Galway. She writes for TG4's flagship soap *Ros na Rún* and has contributed to other TG4 series'. Gemma has published two picture books; *Luán agus an Mórphianó* and *Percy Péacóg*.

How are books turned into films or TV shows? Explore the secret journey from page to screen with a hands-on and fun writing workshop.



Town Hall Theatre

Thursday 23 April, 1pm €12/€10*

Ireland of the Welcomes: New Communities Writing Home

After years of emigration, Ireland is now home to more diverse communities who enrich our culture, yet immigration is not an equal experience for all. In a world of hardening borders, how do we make space for new definitions of Irishness and ensure that our society continues to grow and change? What can these writers tell us about our nation, more than a century after the birth of the state? And how can we best listen to the vital stories they have to tell?

Join writers Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Owudunni Mustapha, and Kapka Kassabova, to hear some of the best new writing Ireland has to offer and to share in their stories of what it means to find and make a place a home.

Kapka Kassabova is a poet, novelist and writer of narrative nonfiction. She grew up in Sofia, Bulgaria, and now lives in the Scottish Highlands. Her memoir *Border: A Journey to the Edge of Europe* (2017) won the British Academy's Al-Rodhan Prize for Global Cultural Understanding. Her new book is *To the Lake: A Balkan Journey of War and Peace* (2020).

Melatu-Uche Okorie was born in Enugu, Nigeria and has been living in Ireland for twelve years. She has an MPhil in Creative Writing from Trinity College, Dublin. Her work has been published in *Dublin: Ten Journeys One Destination* (2010), Alms on the Highway, LIT Journal, College Green Magazine. Her debut collection, *This Hostel Life*, was published in 2018.

Owodunni Mustapha, popularly known as Ola, is from Nigeria, and is a graduate of Political Science and a mum of three. She is an asylum seeker currently living in Direct Provision in Ireland. She is a writer/aspiring poet and has had work published, including *Up the Hill in Mayo* (2019) and *Correspondences* (2019) and in the MASI Journal. She is the founder of Ballyhaunis Inclusion Project and last year won the Volunteer of the Year Award courtesy of Volunteer Ireland.

This panel will be moderated by **Jess Traynor**. Jess is a poet based in Dublin and the editor of *Correspondences* (2019), an anthology of writing by and for writers living in direct provision in Ireland, published by The Stinging Fly Press.







Presented in association with Galway 2020

Children of Bach

Thursday 23 April, 1pm

Nun's Island Theatre €10/€8*

Part of our the activities celebrating the centenary of writer and Eilís Dillon, Galway Youth Theatre will reinterpret and breathe life into chose sections of Elís Dillon's final novel, *Children of Bach* (1992)

After the disappearance of their parents, renowned Jewish musicians, Pali, Peter, and Suzy join their aunt, a young friend, and an elderly neighbour in a desperate flight from Nazi-occupied Hungary.

Eilís Dillon was born in Galway in 1920. Her career as a writer spanned more than five decades, during which she wrote prolifically and was widely published in both English and the Irish language.

Her stories for children have been widely acclaimed, and her writing for adults includes literary, historical and crime fiction, as well as autobiography. In her lifetime, she was a member of Aosdána, The Arts Council of Ireland, The Irish Writers' Union, The Irish Writers' Centre, PEN and the Irish Children's Book Trust. In addition, she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society for Literature and received an honorary doctorate from University College, Cork. She died in Dublin in July 1994.



Paddy Irish Whiskey Fireside Sessions

Thursday 23 April, 4pm

The King's Head FREE



Nun's Island Theatre

Thursday 23 April, 6pm €12/€10*





 Beidh togha na scríbhneoirí Gaeilge páirteach sa bhféile

'Mothertongues'

Ciara Ní É, Ifor ap Glyn and Pàdraig MacAoidh

In partnership with British Council, Welsh Government and Literature Wales.

National Poet of Wales **Ifor ap Glyn, Ciara Ní É** and **Pàdraig MacAoidh** present new poems delving into the idea of language, from a Welsh, Scots Gaelic and Irish language perspective. With captivating performances, their work will explore identities and how languages continue to evolve. Above all, they'll revel in the sheer exuberance of their respective 'mothertongues' – and celebrating our distinct literary cultures. Presentations and discussions will be in English with on-screen translations of the poems.

Ciara Ní É is DCU Writer in Residence 2020. She is the founder of REIC, a monthly multilingual spoken word and open mic night that features poetry, music, storytelling and rap. She has performed internationally in New York, London, Brussels, Sweden, and across Ireland, and she is an Irish Writers Centre ambassador. Her work has been published in a variety of journals including *Icarus* and *Comhar* and her first poetry collection is forthcoming.

Ifor ap Glyn was born and bred in London to Welsh parents. He is a multi-award-winning poet, presenter, director and producer. A prolific writer, Ifor has twice won the Crown at the National Eisteddfod – one of the festival's most prestigious prizes. Ifor has represented Welsh poetry around the world in both the Welsh and English language, most recently in Cameroon, Lithuania, China, Belgium, Germany, and Ireland.

Pàdraig MacAoidh A native Gaelic speaker from the Isle of Lewis, Pàdraig MacAoidh is an academic, writer and broadcaster whose work is influenced by the diverse linguistic heritage of his birthplace. Padraig has worked at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, Queen's University Belfast; Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin; and at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, where he was writer in residence. He is the author of a monograph on the work of Sorley MacLean (RIISS, 2010), and has co-edited collections of essays on modern Irish and Scottish poetry and on Scottish Gaelic literature.

The event will be introduced by **Lleucu Siencyn**, CEO of Literature Wales, who will convene an audience Q&A following the performances.



Town Hall Theatre

Thursday 23 April, 8pm €15/€13*

Kapka Kassabova and Philip Marsden

As humans, what draws us to the water? Is it as a place of reflection, a place of solace, a place to discover our relationship to history and myth? Acclaimed nonfiction writers Philip Marsden and Kapka Kassabova come together to discuss how water of all kinds holds a place in our history, mythology and personal narratives.

Philip Marsden takes the decision to single-handedly sail the west coast of Ireland. charting our familiar coastlines in search of Scotland's Summer Isles in the far North. The result is *The Summer Isles*; part travelogue, part exploration of how and why islands and seas (both real and imagined) hold so much importance in our minds and in our culture.

In Kapka Kassabova's To The Lake (2020), it is Lake Orpid and Lake Prespa - two vast lakes joined by underground rivers, in the borderlands of North Macedonia, Albania and Greece - that form the focus of her writing. Setting out to discover both history's well-trodden path and her own personal relationship to the lakes, Kassabova's journey is rooted in the mythic but also the real, linking her family's personal narratives to how geography and politics imprint themselves upon families and nations

Kapka Kassabova is a poet, novelist and writer of narrative non-fiction. She grew up in Sofia, Bulgaria, and now lives in the Scottish Highlands. Her acclaimed memoirs Street Without a Name: Childhood and Other Misadventures in Bulgaria (2008) and Twelve Minutes of Love: A Tango Story (2011) were followed by Border: A Journey to the Edge of Europe (2017) which won the British Academy's Al-Rodhan Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, the Saltire Scottish Book of the Year, the Edward Stanford-Dolman Travel Book of the Year, and the inaugural Highlands Book Prize.

Philip Marsden is the award-winning author of a number of books of travel, history and fiction, including Rising Ground (2014), The Levelling Sea (2011) and The Bronski House (1995). The Summer Isles (2019) is his latest book. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and his work has been translated into fifteen languages. He lives in Cornwall with his family and a number of boats.





 Beidh togha na scríbhneoirí Gaeilge páirteach sa bhféile

Eilís Dillion Ceiliúradh

Friday 24 April, 1pm

Town Hall Theatre

€12/€10*

Presented in association with Galway 2020

During her centenary year, this event celebrates the life of novelist, playwright and essayist, Eilís Dillon. Best known for her historical novel, Across the Bitter Sea, Eilís Dillon was prolific in both English and the Irish language, and much of her work is rooted in the landscape of Connemara

The event will see Dillon's children, the celebrated poet, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, and author and translator, Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin curate an afternoon of song, music, poetry and prose. Chaired by Sinead MacAodha of Literature Ireland, the event will combine readings, performance and music drawn from Dillon's work, as well as some celebrated writers reading extracts of some of Dillon's most loved work

Eilís Dillon was born in Galway in 1920. Her career as a writer spanned more than five decades during which she wrote prolifically and was widely published in both English and the Irish language. Her stories for children have been widely acclaimed and her writing for adults includes literary, historical and crime fiction, as well as autobiography. In her lifetime, she was a member of Aosdána, The Arts Council of Ireland, The Irish Writers' Union, The Irish Writers' Centre, PEN and the Irish Children's Book Trust. In addition, she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society for Literature and received an honorary doctorate from University College, Cork.

Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin was born in Cork City in 1942, educated there and at Oxford before spending her working life as an academic in Trinity College, Dublin. She has published eleven collections of poetry and has won the Patrick Kavanagh Award, the Irish Times Award for Poetry, the O'Shaughnessy Award of the Irish-American Cultural Institute, and the International Griffin Poetry Prize. Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin is a Fellow and Professor of English (Emerita) at Trinity College, Dublin and a member of Aosdána.



Eilís Dillon Plaque Unveiling

Friday 24 April, 11:30am

The River Walk at Newtownsmith

in association with Galway City Council and Kenny's Bookshop

For many years, as part of Cúirt, plaques have been unveiled at locations around Galway city, forming a literary trail around the city. This year, we are delighted to tie this event into the centenary celebrations for Eilís Dillon, with a plaque incorporating extracts from Dillon's much-loved *Death at Crane's Court: A Classic Mystery*, first published in 1953.



Town Hall Theatre

Friday 24 April, 5.30pm €12/€10*

Ticket Bundle Special Offer

Buy tickets to all three Town Hall Theatre Friday night events for just €30!

Booking Info

To book our Friday night ticket bundle, please make a reservation by phone at +353 (0)91 569 777 and quote 'Friday Night Special Offer'.

Mary Costello and Alan McMonagle

In 2020, our year as European Capital of Culture, we bring together two of Galway's most celebrated writers, showcasing the depth and scope of literary talent within our county lines.

Mary Costello, winner of the Irish Book Awards Novel of the Year in 2014 for her debut, *Academy Street*, returns to Cúirt with her second novel *The River Capture*. In a novel that pays glorious homage to Joyce, *The River Capture* tells of one man's descent into near madness, and the possibility of rescue. It is a book about the life of the mind and the redemptive powers of art.

Alan McMonagle's second novel, *Laura Cassidy's Walk of Fame* is the highly anticipated follow up to his debut work of fiction, *Ithaca* (2017). An engrossing and insightful book, this novel is a wonderful observation of love and loss, with a voice that blends devilish humour, quiet mayhem, and a singled-minded optimism.

Mary Costello is from Galway. Her short story collection, The China Factory (2012) was nominated for the Guardian First Book Award and shortlisted for an Irish Book Award. Her first novel, Academy Street (2014) won the Irish Book Awards Book of the Year and was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award, the Costa First Novel Award and the EU Prize for Literature. *The River Capture* is her second novel.

'One of the most interesting and surprising novels of the year...This is a sensory book that draws on the body to feed the mind.' John Self, The Times

Alan McMonagle has written for radio and published two collections of short stories (*Psychotic Episodes*, Arlen House, 2013 and *Liar Liar*, Wordsonthestreet, 2008). *Ithaca*, his first novel, was published by Picador in 2017 as part of a two-book deal, and longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Award for first novels and shortlisted for an Irish Book Award. His second novel, *Laura Cassidy's Walk Of Fame*, was published in March of this year. He lives in Galway

'Alan McMonagle possesses a style that is all his own.' Patrick McCabe, author of The Butcher Boy.



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Booking Info

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Kei Miller and Carolyn Forché

Friday 24 April, 7:15pm

Town Hall Theatre

€15/€13*

Cúirt brings together two leading poetic voices, Carolyn Forché and Kei Miller, for an evening of groundbreaking poetry.

Kei Miller is a poet, novelist, essayist, short story writer and broadcaster originally from Kingston, Jamaica. His many books include the novel *Augustown* (2016) and poetry collection *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion* (2014) which won the Forward Prize for Best Poetry Collection in 2014. In 2010, the Institute of Jamaica awarded him the Silver Musgrave medal for his contributions to Literature.

In Nearby Bushes (2019), his most recent collection is a wise, colourful and unflinching look at contemporary Jamaica; a world in which it is both possible to hide and to heal, a landscape as much marked by magic as it is by murder. Miller has fast become one of Britain and Jamaica's most revered poets. Of Miller, Poet Laureate of Jamaica, Lorna Goodison said 'Raise high the roofbeams, here comes a strong new presence in poetry.' An incredible reader, he is not to be missed!

Carolyn Forché is a celebrated writer of poetry, essays and creative non-fiction. Her first collection in seventeen years, *In the Lateness of the World* (2020) is a tenebrous book of crossings, of migrations across oceans and borders but also between the present and the past, life and death. The poems call to the reader from the end of the world, where they are sifting through the aftermath of history. Carolyn Forché has witnessed, thought about, and put into poetry some of the most devastating events of twentieth-century world history and first coined the phrase 'poetry of witness'.

Part of our Poetry of Witness strand of events.



Ticket Bundle Special Offer

Buy tickets to all three Town Hall Theatre Friday night events for just €30!

Booking Info

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Anne Enright

in conversation with Rick O' Shea Friday 24 April, 9pm

Town Hall Theatre

€15/€13*

In her first appearance at Cúirt since 2010, literary powerhouse Anne Enright returns with her latest novel, *Actress*. A moving and finely written novel, *Actress* brilliantly captures the glamour of post-war America and the shabbiness of 1970s Dublin and explores themes of fame, sexual power and the secrets that bind a family together. A scintillating examination of the corrosive nature of celebrity, it is also a sad and triumphant tale of freedom from bad love, and from the avid gaze of the crowd.

A Dublin native, **Anne Enright** has published widely, with six novels, two short story collections and one book of non-fiction to her name. She is perhaps best known for her expansive Man Booker Prize winning novel, *The Gathering* (2007) and *The Green Road* (2015), which won the Bord Gáis Energy Novel of the Year Award, though all her work is evergreen. In 2015 she was appointed as the first Laureate for Irish Fiction, and in 2018 she received the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature.



Recovering: Richie Sadlier

Saturday 25 April, 11am

Town Hall Theatre

€12/€10*

Sports star turned pundit, psychotherapist, broadcaster, and now author, Richie Sadlier makes his first appearance at Cúirt to discuss his memoir, *Recovering*.

When a career-ending injury struck former Ireland and Millwall striker Richie Sadlier, he was forced to retire from football at age 24.

Recovering is about a life shaped by efforts to escape, and how it is possible to rebuild a life, piece by piece, with the right help. Inspiring and groundbreaking, it is an important reflection on the need to move away from perceptions of shame in our discussions about mental health, sex, relationships and addiction. Recovering is both an inspiring memoir of a life shaped by struggle and an important reflection on Irish society.

This event will be chaired by Rick O'Shea.



Rob Doyle: Threshold

Saturday 25 April, 11am

An Taibhdhearc

€10/€8*

Called 'riddling, irreverent and fearless' by the TLS, Rob Doyle's latest novel, *Threshold* is the perfect hair of the dog for those wishing to make a weekend of Cúirt and keep the party going.

In *Threshold,* Doyle's narrator (also named Rob) takes us on a lurid pilgrimage of cheap thrills and universal truth, from the menacing peripheries of Paris to the drug-fuelled clubland of Berlin, from art festivals to sun-kissed islands, through metaphysical awakenings in Asia and the brink of destruction in Europe, into the shattering revelations brought on by the psychedelic drug DMT. A celebration of art and ageing, sex and desire, the limits of thought and the extremes of sensation, *Threshold* confirms Doyle as one of the most original writers in contemporary literature.

Rob Doyle was born in Dublin. His first novel, *Here Are the Young Men*, (2014) was chosen as a Book of the Year by the Sunday Times, Irish Times, the Independent and was among Hot Press magazine's '20 Greatest Irish Novels 1916-2016'. Doyle has contributed to various publications including the Guardian, Vice and Dublin Review. He writes a weekly books column for the Irish Times and teaches Creative Writing at the University of Limerick.



Town Hall Theatre Saturday 25 April, 1pm €12/€10*

 Beidh togha na scríbhneoirí Gaeilge páirteach sa bhféile

Sara Baume & Doireann Ní Ghríofa

As fiction writer and poet respectively, Sara Baume and Doireann Ní Ghríofa are already well established as significant voices in the stable of new Irish writing. In this event, they come together to discuss their approaches to writing and the lines between artistic practices, between poetry and prose, fiction and autofiction, form and genre.

A Ghost in the Throat weaves two stories together, sculpting a fluid hybrid of essay and autofiction to explore the ways in which a life can be changed in response to the discovery of another's art – in this case, Eibhlín Dubh Ní Chonaill's Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire, famously referred to by Peter Levi as 'the greatest poem written in either Ireland or Britain during the eighteenth century.'

In handiwork, Sara Baume charts the daily process of making and writing, exploring what it is to create and to live as an artist. Elegantly encompassing images and in itself a significant artifact, handiwork offers observations that are at once gentle and devastating on the nature of art, grief and a life lived well.

Sara Baume won the 2014 Davy Byrnes Short Story Award and went on to receive the Hennessy New Irish Writing Award, the Rooney Prize and an Irish Book Award in 2015. Her work has also been longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, the Warwick Prize for Writing, the Desmond Elliott Prize for New Fiction and the International Dublin Literary Award, shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and has won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize amongst others.

Doireann Ní Ghríofa is a bilingual writer whose books explore birth, death, desire, and domesticity. Her latest poetry collection was chosen as a Book of the Year in both The Irish Times and The Irish Independent. Doireann's awards include a Lannan Literary Fellowship (USA, 2018), a Seamus Heaney Fellowship (Queen's University, 2018), the Ostana Prize (Italy, 2018), and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature (2016), among others.



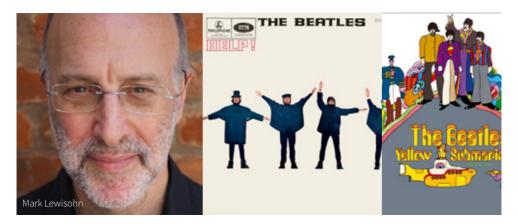
Spoken Word Platform

Saturday 25 April, 3pm **Roisín Dubh** €10/€8*

This high-energy showcase returns to Cúirt for another year, bringing together the best in performance poetry and short fiction. Performers have up to three minutes to present their piece to a panel of three judges with MC Pete Mullineaux overseeing proceedings. The top three participants will go on to perform at the Cúirt Showcase at Electric Picnic.

Guest performer: Natalya O'Flaherty. In a short time, Natalya O'Flaherty has emerged from the dankest of dive bars of the Dublin scene to become established as one of the most exciting names on the Irish spoken word scene.

Open submissions are invited for the Spoken Word Platform and entry is open to all. Please submit via email to petemullineaux@gmail.com by Wednesday 15th April 2020.



Town Hall Theatre

Saturday 25th April, 4pm €15/€13*

The Beatles: All These Years with Mark Lewisohn

The Beatles have been in our lives for half a century and still their music excites, their influence resonates, their fame sustains. New generations find and love them, and while many other great artists come and go, the Beatles are proving beyond eclipse. So who really were these people, and just how did it all happen?

Mark Lewisohn is a self-confessed Beatle-maniac. Having devoted his career to documenting their complete history, his work is being published in three volumes. The first of these *Tune In*, was published in 2013 and was a New York Times bestseller. He joins us for a special event presenting his work so far and taking on the magical mystery tour that is The Beatles' oeuvre.



An Taibhdhearc

Saturday 25 April, 4.30pm €12/€10*

Elaine Feeney in conversation with Lisa McInerney

Galway native and force of nature Elaine Feeney joins us for the inaugural event launching her debut novel, *As You Were*. Fans of her poetry will enjoy seeing this sharp and poignant voice take on a new form.

Wildly funny, desperately tragic, inventive and irrepressible, *As You Were* is about intimate histories, institutional failures, the kindness of strangers, and the darkly present past of modern Ireland. It is about women's stories and women's struggles. Chosen as one of The Observer's 10 Best Debut Novelists of 2020, this is Feeney's first foray into fiction and one not to be missed.

Elaine Feeney is a poet and novelist based in Galway. She has published three collections of poetry, *Where's Katie?* (2010), *The Radio was Gospel* (2013), *Rise* (2017) and a drama piece, *WRoNGHEADED* (2017), commissioned by Liz Roche Company. She teaches at The National University of Ireland, Galway and St Jarlath's College. Her work has been widely published and anthologised in Poetry Review, The Stinging Fly, The Irish Times, Copper Nickel, Stonecutter Journal and others. *As You Were*, (2020) is her fiction debut.

Elaine will be in conversation with Lisa McInerney.

Lisa McInerney is a novelist and writer from the West of Ireland. Her debut novel *The Glorious Heresies* (2015) won the 2016 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and the 2016 Desmond Elliott Prize. Lisa's second novel, *The Blood Miracles* (2017) 2018 RSL Encore Award. Lisa is currently a contributing editor at The Stinging Fly.



London Writers' Eclective Presents...

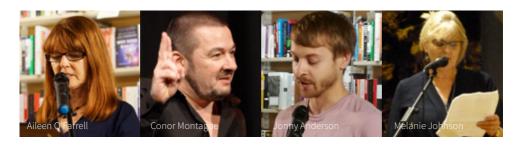
Saturday 25 April, 5pm

Black Gate Cultural Centre

FRFF

London's premier spoken word event comes to The Black Gate Cultural Centre as part of Cúirt. London Writers' Eclective Presents... a caboodle of writers & performers from across London. Joining guest writer **Alan McMonagle** will be **Rose Van Orden, Jonny Anderson, Melanie Johnson, Vince Love, Aileen O'Farrell, Louise Kosinska, Maeve Curry** and surprise guests from the festival.

This event will be hosted by **Conor Montague**.





Michael Gorman and Róisín Kelly

Saturday 25 April, 6pm

Town Hall Theatre

€12/€10*

Separated by a generation but both drawing on Ireland's distinct landscape, social history and mythology for their inspiration, poets Roisín Kelly and Michael Gorman are brought together to read from their latest collections.

Michael Gorman was born in Sligo but has made Galway his home for many years. He has produced three collections of poetry, with his most recent *Fifty Poems*, being published just last year, in 2019. His work has been included in several anthologies, including *Voices and Poetry of Ireland* (2004), *Lifelines Lifelines* (2006) and *Windharp: Poems of Ireland Since* 1916 (2015).

Róisín Kelly was born in west Belfast and raised in Leitrim. After a year working as a handweaver on Clare Island and completing a Masters in Writing at NUIG, she now calls Cork City home. Her first chapbook, *Rapture* (2016), was described in the Los Angeles Review of Books as 'one of the most important collections of poetry the Irish literary canon has to offer.' Her first full collection of poetry, *Mercy*, was published by Bloodaxe Books in 2020.



Kevin Barry and Jan Carson

Saturday 25 April, 8pm

Town Hall Theatre

€15/€13*

Irish writing has always been disdainful of borders both imaginary and political, and that tradition is alive and well in the work of Jan Carson and Kevin Barry. Here we bring together two of Irish writing's leading voices for a unique conversation spanning their most recent work, how landscape situates a novel and the shaping of place through its language.

Kevin Barry is the author of the novels *Night Boat to Tangier* (2019), *Beatlebone* (2015), and *City of Bohane* (2011) and the story collections, *There Are Little Kingdoms* (2007) and *Dark Lies the Island* (2012). *Night Boat to Tangier* was longlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize and was named one of the New York Times Top Ten Books of 2019 and *City of Bohane* was awarded the International Dublin Literary Award in 2013. A new collection of short stories, *That Old Country Music*, will be published in October.

Jan Carson is a writer from East Belfast, Northern Ireland. She is the author of novels *Malcolm Orange Disappears* (2014) and *The Fire Starters* (2019), as well as the short fiction collections, *Children's Children* (Liberties Press 2016), and *Postcard Stories*, (Emma Press 2017). In 2018 she was the inaugural Translink/Irish Rail Roaming Writer in Residence on the Trains of Ireland. *The Fire Starters* won the FU Prize for Literature for Ireland in 2019



Town Hall Theatre

Saturday 25th April, 10pm €20/€18* A handful of words often tell you everything you need to know. When asked, who is Kate Tempest? She gives a brief, albeit telling answer. "Kate Tempest is the words," she responds. You haven't ever seen, heard, or experienced anyone quite like her.

Kate Tempest makes her Cúirt International Festival of Literature debut with her solo spoken word performance from her latest album *The Book Of Traps & Lessons* (2019).

Born and bred in south east London, poet, rapper, novelist and playwright **Kate Tempest** is one of the UK's most innovative and celebrated artists. Since her emergence in 2011, she has redefined what it means to be a wordsmith in the modern age. She was named a Next Generation Poet by the Poetry Book Society, and won the Ted Hughes Award for *Brand New Ancients* (2013). Her debut novel *The Bricks That Built The Houses* (2016) was a Sunday Times bestseller. Melding dazzlingly complex rhyme patterns with post-dubstep electronic beats, her music is as influenced by James Joyce and the Greek Myths as it is by Wu-Tang Clan and the streets of London. Her two studio albums, *Everybody Down* (shortlisted for the 2014 Mercury Prize) and *Let Them Eat Chaos*, (shortlisted for the 2017 Mercury Prize) are both rich in characters and concept, with songs that seamlessly move between multiple narrators and locations.

The Book of Traps and Lessons: "She absorbs all of the uncertainty and anger of our times, and pours it into ferocious, apocalyptic music that both wounds and heals... Tempest is an excruciatingly beautiful performer." The Guardian



Galway Arts Centre

Opening Friday 17th April 6pm FRFF

Monday 20th April-Saturday 25th April

10am-5.30pm Mon- Thurs Fri 10am-5pm Sat 12pm-5pm



Cúirt in association with Aistriu and Galway 2020 present

Unasaka / Tír-Fó-Thoinn Miho Ohtsubo

Aistriú and Cúirt present the work of Japanese visual artist Miho Ohtsubo for her first exhibition in Europe. Ohtsubo's work has been inspired by the poetry of Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill - one of eleven Irish language writers featured in the Galway 2020 Aistriú project. By engaging with Ní Dhomhnaill's 'Immram' sequence and her poem 'Dubh' through the Japanese translations of Mitsuko Ohno, Ohtsubo has responded to the themes of the texts in very personal and powerful ways. The exhibition will feature Ohtsubo's installation 'Black Milk' along with other works that demonstrate her compassionate grasp of Ní Dhomhnaill's poetic world and reflect underlying themes of migration and displacement.

Aistriú translations: As part of the Aistiú project, texts by eleven Irish language writers on the theme of migration are being translated into multiple languages, making the rich literature available to new readers across Europe and the world. This growing collection of translations is shared on the Aistriú website, where you will see translations of Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill's poetry sequence Na Murúcha a Thriomaigh, among other poems and prose.

Miho Ohtsubo was born in Hokkaido in 1945. She graduated from Musashino Art University in 1968 and has had numerous exhibitions of her work in Japan and overseas.







IWC Young Writer Delegate

WC/Cúirt Young Writer Delegate programme

First initiated at Cúirt International Literature Festival in 2018, the **Irish Writers Centre/Cúirt Young Writer Delegate** programme gives young writers aged 18-26 the extraordinary opportunity to immerse themselves in the festival, soak up the atmosphere and to contribute to it as active participants. The selected four young writers will be given festival passes and six days of full literary immersion in its events and social life. They will also participate in an open mic reading and be engaged in writing activities leading up to, during and after the festival.

During the festival, the YWD are supported by an IWC facilitator and local writer mentor to reflect on the festival programme and their experience in it, and to share their views via ILFD and the IWC's social media platforms.

Former YWDs about the programme:

"All of the speakers and writers we met were very engaging and responsive to us. They were encouraging in their treatment of us as budding writers."

"I found the reading we did advantageous as it taught me a lot about editing as well as public speaking. It has definitely ignited a desire within me to go to more readings and even read at them."

Paddy Irish Whiskey Fireside Sessions

Cúirt International Festival of Literature in association with Paddy Irish Whiskey are presenting a impromptu/pop-up programme of stories, poems and music in public houses in the Latin Quarter and Galway City. These will be hospitable and entertaining gatherings, a coming-together to share stories, yarns and songs. The sessions are free to the public and will feature Galway's artists and special guests appearing at Cúirt. Each event will be unique and further details will be announced on the Cúirt website and on the host pubs' social media in the leadup to the festival.

The atmosphere for the sessions will be warm and friendly, reminiscent of a visit to the fireside of a story teller's house and there will be a chance for the audience to join in and share their stories too.



Monday 20 April

The Crane Bar 8pm

Tuesday 21 April

The Dáil Bar 4pm
The Blue Note 6pm

Wednesday 22 April

Taylor's Bar, 4pm

Sonny Molloys 6pm

Thursday 23 April

King's Head 4pm

Friday 24 April

Tigh Neachtain 4pm

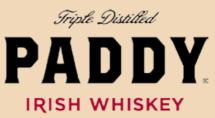


Curated by Tracy Bruen



Tracy Bruen is a well known Galway musician and singer-songwriter. Accompanied by her band, Tracy has toured extensively throughout Europe and Ireland. Tracy has played many of Ireland's major festivals including Cúirt, Galway International Arts Festival, Body & Soul and Electric Picnic. She is the host of Galway's weekly flagship night for original musicians - the Open Mic Night at the Róisín Dubh . She helped in developing a Galway 2020 youth music project called Livefeed, providing workshops and live opportunities for young people. In 2017, Tracy also founded Galway's legendary Westend Choir - The Blue Notes.







Kindly sponsored by Paddy Irish Whiskey





Galway Arts Centre is a key resource for Galway's artistic community and is in the unique position of delivering a year-round programme in a city known for its festivals. Some of Galway's best-known festivals found their start with us including Galway Theatre Festival and TULCA Festival of Visual Arts as well as many theatre productions and visual art exhibitions that were developed in the gallery and theatre spaces.

Galway Arts Centre is the proud home of Cúirt International Festival of Literature, one of Galway's flagship festivals celebrating 35 years in 2020, Galway Youth Theatre who have been providing a pathway to a professional career in theatre since 1991, Red Bird Youth Collective established in 2011, Ireland's first youth led visual art collective, and most recently, Fighting Words, which helps students to develop their writing skills and explore their love of writing.

The organisation also manages **Nun's Island Theatre**, a former Presbyterian Church that has been transformed into a modern 80-seater theatre.

Galway Arts Centre is managed by a voluntary Board of Directors, headed up by Managing Director, Páraic Breathnach, and a team of arts professionals with expertise in visual art, theatre, literature, youth arts, street arts and spectacle.





Galway 2020 in association with CÚIRT and Galway Public Libraries presents

An Evening with Jenny Offill

Wednesday 27 May 2020, 8pm

Nun's Island Theatre €15/€13

Tickets: www.galway2020.ie

Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture and CÚIRT are delighted to present an evening with **Jenny Offill**, author of the much loved *Dept. of Speculation*, when she chats with **Edel Coffey** about her much anticipated new book, Weather.

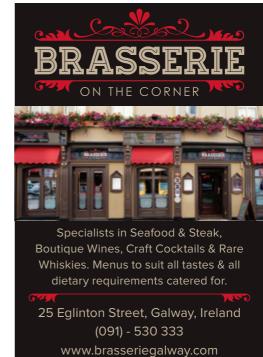
In Weather, librarian Lizzie Benson worries about the small stuff: the climate crisis, death, apocalypse, the atmosphere of gloom that pervades the present moment. She is unofficial shrink to her God-haunted mother and her recovering addict brother. In the midst of all this, her old mentor and now famous podcaster of 'Hell and High Water', Sylvia Liller, wants to hire Lizzie to answer her mail: a microcosm of our age of anxiety in which listeners fret about late capitalism and spotting potential fascists.



Immersed in this chorus of questioning voices, she begins to wonder what it means to keep tending your own garden once you've seen the flames beyond its walls.

Jenny Offill's novel *Dept. of Speculation* was shortlisted for the Folio Prize and the International Dublin Literary Award, and was chosen as a book of the year over 20 times, including by the Guardian, Daily Telegraph, FT, Daily Mail, Stylist, Observer and Vogue. She is also the author of the novel *Last Things*, and four books for children. She lives upstate New York with her family.









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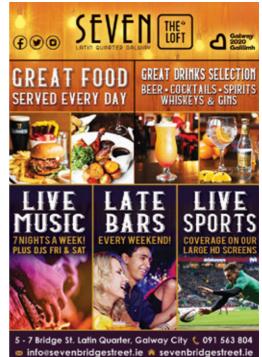


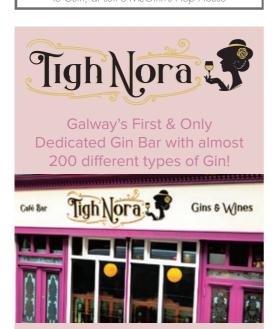
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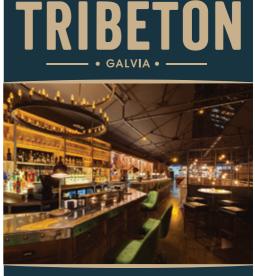
091 374 412

mcginnshophouse@gmail.com

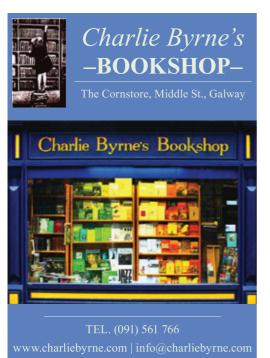
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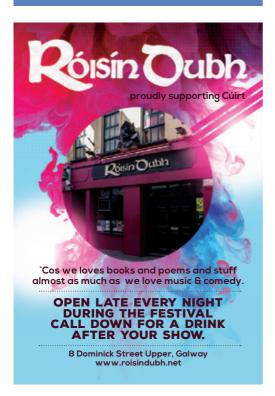
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TAYLOR'S BAR: CULTUR, CRAIC AGUS CEOIL

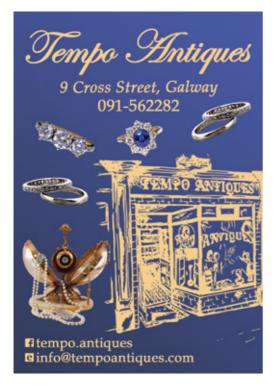
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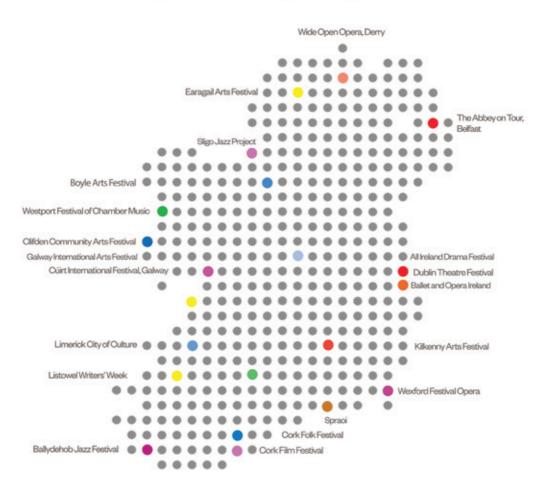
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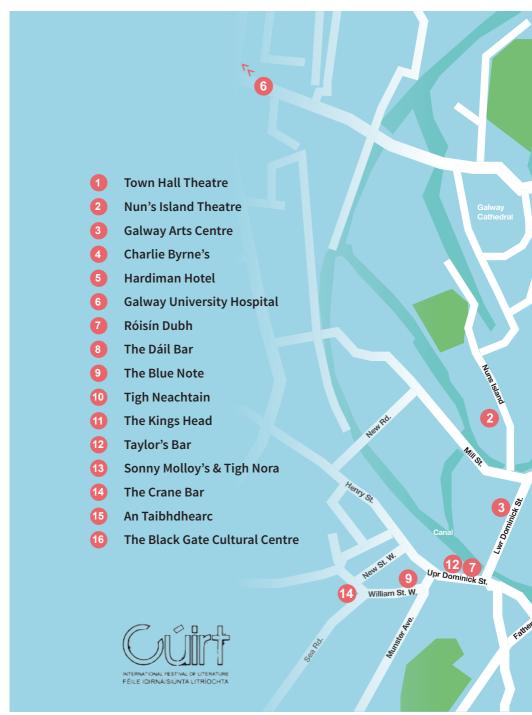


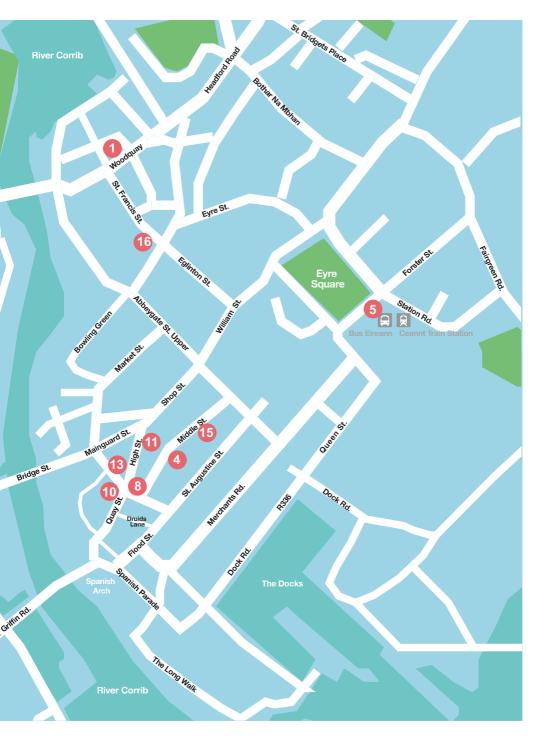


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Venue Map





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& Kieron Smith

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Marketing Co-ordinator Matt Calvert

Operations Manager Mark Elliott

Production Manager Stephen Cunniffe

Volunteer Coordinator Lori Nungesser

Finance Manager Sinéad Wynne

Stage Manager Naomi Cantwell

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Cúirt is produced by Galway Arts Centre.

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Head of Theatre Andrew Flynn
Head of Facilities Siobhán Singleton
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Thank You

Cúirt would like to say a sincere thank you to the following for their help and support:

the hugely supportive and patient staff at Galway Arts Centre, the Cúirt sub-committee, our Board of Directors, venue managers, technical staff, moderators, volunteers and ambassadors.

The Arts Council of Ireland, Creative Europe, Galway City Council, Foras na Gaeilge, Galway 2020, Literature Wales, British Council, the staff of the Town Hall Theatre, and the staff of Charlie Byrne's bookshop.

Our event sponsors: Tigh Neachtain's, Tigh Nora, Charlie Byrne's Bookshop and Paddy Irish Whiskey for their continued support.

All those who were involved after this programme went to print.

Galway Arts Centre wish to thank Galway City Council for their support and the provision of buildings at #47 Dominick Street and Nun's Island for the arts.

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20-25 APRIL 2020 www.cuirt.ie

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