Cúirt Féile Idirnáisiúnta Litríochta 21-26 Aibreán 2026

Cúirt International Festival of Literature 21-26 April 2026

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How to Book

Book tickets online at cuirt.ie or tht.ie Tickets can also be purchased from the Town Hall Theatre Box Office, 1 Courthouse Square, Galway, +353 (091) 569 777. Workshop tickets available from cuirt.ie.

Fees and Concessions

Cúirt strives to be an accessible and enjoyable festival for everyone. We offer concession prices to senior citizens, full-time students (with appropriate ID), the unwaged, under 18s, people with disabilities and additional needs. There is a booking fee of €1 per ticket, capped at €5 per transaction.

Complimentary Tickets

In the event that you can't afford a ticket, we hold a number of complimentary tickets per event. Please email info@cuirt.ie with 'complimentary ticket' in the subject line for more information. These tickets are allocated on a first come first served basis. This scheme is designed to help audiences with limited means, and we hope it will give more people the opportunity to enjoy the festival. If you can afford our standard ticket price, we ask that you opt to pay it. This means we can continue to offer these benefits to those who need it most.

Hello, and welcome to Cúirt International Festival of Literature 2026

We are excited to welcome our wonderful community of readers, writers and book lovers to another glorious springtime in Galway filled with engaging storytelling, hopeful conversations and curious thought.

With this year's theme, Finding the Words, we invite you to celebrate literature and the ways in which writers shape the way we see the world, fuel our imaginations, provide clarity, and broaden our minds. The writers in this year's festival will discuss a myriad of topics, from a childhood spent in the Communist Party of Ireland to the contemporary impact of war and genocide, from queer love in South Wales and enduring friendships to geology, visual art and climate justice.

This year's festival gathers together many acclaimed authors from around the world, including the Netherlands, Sweden, Palestine, Brazil, Italy, the USA and the UK, alongside many of our beloved Irish and local Galway writers.

Following on from the reintroduction of The Cúirt Lecture for our 40th anniversary, we return for 2026 with Sarah Clancy's reflections on her journey with the Global Sumud Flotilla.

We will celebrate three of the most significant Irish writers of the last 100 years, Seamus Heaney, Maeve Brennan and Manchán Magan, reflecting on their legacy and the words they left us with, and we'll hear many new writers exploring their voices in showcases across the week.

Finding the Words also asks us to consider our own relationship with language and self-expression, whether that's through meaningful conversations after events, sharing your own work at our open mic, or honing your skills in a workshop. We hope this festival offers space to explore how we talk and write about what matters to us most, and in doing so, helps us to process the world around us – or, in the words of Seamus Heaney, 'If you have the words, there's always a chance that you'll find the way.'

We can't wait to see you this April for a week brimming with novels, poetry, memoirs and exhibitions, where we hope Cúirt will help you to find the words.

Manuela Moser, Festival Director

usual and generous ways

28 FEB-26 APR | OPEN TUE - SUN
GALWAY ARTS CENTRE

Galway Arts Centre in partnership with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) are pleased to present a group exhibition usual and generous ways curated by Padraig Regan.

This exhibition brings together works from the collection of the IMMA, rock samples from the James Mitchell Geology Museum, a selection of historical maps and diagrams, and material from Tim Robinson's archive held at University of Galway to explore how artists and scientists have tried to give visual expression to the processes that have shaped our physical surroundings. Including works by artists; Richard Long, Barrie Cooke, Damien Hirst, Dorothy Cross, Seiha Kurosawa, David Beattie, Patrick Ireland/Brian O'Doherty, Patrick Hall, Anne Madden, Hilary Heron and Hamish Fulton.

usual and generous ways invites audiences to consider how artists engage with the physical and symbolic weight of stone: its geological time, its cultural histories, and its capacity to hold meaning.

The exhibition has been developed through Galway Arts Centre's inaugural Writer in Residence programme 2025-2026, developed in partnership with Cúirt International Festival of Literature.

The Galway Arts Centre

Founded in 1982, Galway Arts Centre has been the home of the arts in Galway for generations of artists. Galway Arts Centre presents a year-round inclusive contemporary arts programme that reflects the complexity and diversity of Irish society, featuring visual arts, film, music, literature, dance and theatre.

Galway Arts Centre also supports artists at all stages of their practice through exhibitions, workshops, residencies and festivals across two beautiful and historic venues; Nuns Island Theatre and 47 Dominick Street.

Cúirt International Festival of literature is proud to be a part of the Galway Arts Centre.

TUESDAY 21 APRIL

Brendan Mac Evilly & Tom O'Connell
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 12:00

New Writing Showcase
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 14:30

An Asylum for my Affections
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 17:30

Cúirt Poetry Sessions
CHARLIE BYRNE'S BOOKSHOP | 18:00

Mary Costello & Edel Coffey
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

The Oil Slick Showcase
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 20:00

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL

Rosamund Taylor & Anthony Shapland
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 13:00

The Stinging Fly: Climate Issue
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 14:30

Poetry: Vona Groarke & Jessica Traynor
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 16:00

ROPES Launch
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 17:30

Alan Davies: White Male Stand-Up
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 17:30

Cúirt Poetry Sessions
CHARLIE BYRNE'S BOOKSHOP | 18:00

A Personal History of Pyromania
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Moth & Butterfly: Wild Thing
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 20:00

The Poems of Seamus Heaney
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:30

THURSDAY 23 APRIL

Poems for Patience
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL | 11:00

Tolka: The Writer's Voice
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 13:00

Arts in Action: On Translation
O'DONOGHUE CENTRE | 13:00

Eva Meijer
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 16:00

Dinnseanchas
AN TAIBHDHEARC | 17:00

Ardal O'Hanlon
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 17:30

Cúirt Poetry Sessions
CHARLIE BYRNE'S BOOKSHOP | 18:00

usual and generous ways: Gallery Lates
GALWAY ARTS CENTRE | 19:00

Celia de Fréine: Cóirín na dTonn
AN TAIBHDHEARC | 19:00

Open Mic
ELECTRIC | 20:00

Claire-Louise Bennett
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 20:00

Louise O'Neill
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:30

FRIDAY 24 APRIL

Sinéad Morrissey and Joe Dunthorne
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 13:00

Young Writer Delegates Showcase
O'DONOGHUE CENTRE | 13:00

Faighteoirí na Sparánachtaí Síolta Taibhsín
AN TAIBHDHEARC | 14:30

Juliano Zaffino & Caragh Maxwell
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 16:00

Writing Fiction for Beginners
O'DONOGHUE CENTRE | 16:00

Wait for It: A Reading & Conversation
GALWAY ARTS CENTRE | 16:00

Comhrá le Ciara Ní É
AN TAIBHDHEARC | 17:00

Adania Shibli: Minor Detail
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 17:30

Cúirt Poetry Sessions
CHARLIE BYRNE'S BOOKSHOP | 18:00

Jan Carson, Balsam Karam and Saskia Vogel
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Filíocht ó Bhéal & Ceol na nGael
AN TAIBHDHEARC | 19:00

Neil Jordan
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:30

SATURDAY 25 APRIL

Outset Market
THE CORNSTORE MALL | 11:00 - 16:00

Gyasi Sheppy
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 10:00

Children's Story Time
CHARLIE BYRNE'S BOOKSHOP | 11:00

Frames of Reference: Editors
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 12:00

The Cúirt Lecture: Sarah Clancy
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 13:00

Poetry: Browne, Rice, Walker
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 14:30

Polly Barton & Susannah Dickey
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 16:00

Fatena Abu Mostafa
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 17:30

Liz Nugent
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 17:30

CTRL: Essays on Video Games
CHARLIE BYRNE'S BOOKSHOP | 18:00

Gwendoline Riley
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Tribute to Manchán Magan
TOWN HALL THEATRE | 20:30

SUNDAY 26 APRIL

Sunday Breakfast Club
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 10:00

MA Showcase
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 12:30

Lucy Caldwell
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 13:00

Essays on Monuments
GALWAY ARTS CENTRE | 14:00

Frames of Reference: Agents
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 14:30

Poetry: O'Malley, Carson, Perry
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 16:00

Ragaire
NUNS ISLAND THEATRE | 17:30

Rita Ann Higgins
THE MICK LALLY THEATRE | 19:00

Debut Fiction: Brendan Mac Evilly and Tom O'Connell

TUE 21 APRIL | 12:00 | ONE HOUR | €5/8

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

Brendan Mac Evilly's *Deep Burn* is a tale of art and the value of obsession; fame and the price of envy; friendship and the uncertainty of love. In this fascinating novel, Martha Knox explores an unusual artistic career, burning emotionally charged objects and photographing the results.

Tom O'Connell's *Lichtenberg* is set in a frozen and hopeless future, showing how easily lies can spread in modern society, through a breathtaking dystopian story. Riven is finding cracks in the propaganda and discovering long-kept secrets of the city.

New Writing Showcase

TUE 21 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

Selected emerging writers from the Over the Edge Literary Series and Skylight 47/ Open Window will share their work, alongside the 2026 winners of the annual Cúirt New Writing Prize.

An Asylum for my Affections

TUE 21 APRIL | 17:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12
Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

An Asylum for my Affections, edited by Molly Hennigan, is an anthology of new essays by Irish writers, inspired by the life and work of Meave Brennan, a key figure of twentieth century Irish diaspora writing. Maeve Brennan moved from Dublin to America in 1934, and during her lifetime, published two collections of short stories and a book of essays. Join Molly Hennigan, Jess Traynor and Niamh Campbell as they explore her life and work, from cityscapes, girlhood, and mythology, to loneliness and the emotional impact of history and diaspora.

The Cúirt Poetry Sessions in association with Poetry Ireland/Éigse Éireann

TUE 21 APRIL | 18:00 | 45 MINUTES | FREE
Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

Join us to launch three new poetry collections from Salmon Press.

Lorna Shaughnessy's sixth collection, *Throat Full of Feathers,* is an experiment in fracture and flow: stories told and retold as language bends and reshapes itself and time advances with a quiet dignity, carrying the hum of what cannot be spoken. Joan McBreen's fifth collection, *Unbridled Joy,* confirms her reputation as one of the most distinctive poetic voices from the West of Ireland and it announces a working poet of continuing, undiminished power. Nessa O'Mahony's sixth collection, *Dodder Daughter,* explores the feminine in all its cycles, charting a river's course through youth, maturity and the enigma of old age.

Mary Costello and Edel Coffey in Conversation

TUES 21 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €14/16

The Mick Lally Theatre

We're delighted to welcome Galway-based authors Mary Costello and Edel Coffey to discuss their latest novels.

Mary Costello's *A Beautiful Loan* is a heart-wrenching novel set in 1980s Dublin, where introverted, naïve Anna falls for an older man. An intimate portrait of a woman claiming the life she yearns for.

Edel Coffey's *In Glass Houses* is a propulsive thriller about power and privilege in wealthy New York City. With a shocking twist, this novel will keep you guessing until the very end.

The Oil Slick Showcase

TUE 21 APRIL | 20:00 | ONE HOUR | €5/8

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

Join us for an exhilarating night full of spoken word, music and immersive performance, featuring artists from Galway city and further afield. The Oil Slick Showcase offers artists space to express themselves in the spaces between genres and mediums. Be ready to experience literature in a way you never have before.
Join us afterwards in Electric's upstairs venue The Garden, for an opening night reception.

In partnership with creative partner Electric

Queer Stories: Rosamund Taylor and Anthony Shapland

WED 22 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

The Mick Lally Theatre

Rosamund Taylor and Anthony Shapland, in conversation with Paul Maddern, discuss the queer themes in their debut novels.

Rosamund Taylor's verse novel *Filly* tells the coming-of-age of Orla navigating school in Ireland. This genre-bending story explores sexual awakening, masochistic love, and the transformative possibilities of community.

Anthony Shapland's *A Room Above a Shop* explores the complexities of love against the backdrop of the age of consent debate and the HIV and AIDS crisis in South Wales.

Supported by the Welsh Government

The Stinging Fly Presents: The Climate Issue

WED 22 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

How as artists should we engage with the consequences of climate change? What can writers – or any of us – do in the face of impending climate catastrophe?

These were two of the questions that *The Stinging Fly* sought to answer when it put out the submission call for its latest issue, which takes the ongoing climate emergency as its theme.

This Earth Day, join *The Stinging Fly's* editor Lisa McInerney, visual artist Ríonach Ní Néill and poet Joey Connolly in conversation with climate activist and academic Dr Nessa Cronin to discuss the capacity for artists and writers to intervene and to help save our planet.

Poetry Reading: Vona Groarke and Jessica Traynor

WED 22 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

The Mick Lally Theatre

We are delighted to welcome two remarkable poets to Cúirt. Their poetry is written in precise, luminous language, exploring identity and deconstruction with playfulness and wit.

The Current Ireland Professor of Poetry, Vona Groarke's ninth collection *Infinity Pool* explores the thin veil between poetry and the world it seeks to process. These poems write into the point where anything might slip into something else – the Atlantic become an actor; a luggage carousel be a reckoning; a poem nudge itself gently over its own fourth wall.

Jessica Traynor's fourth collection *New Arcana* explores grief, bad boyfriends, and the power of female friendship through readings of the Tarot and Tim Burton movies.

ROPES Launch

WED 22 APRIL | 17:30 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

ROPES, produced by students of the MA in Literature and Publishing in University of Galway, is delighted to launch the 34th edition of ROPES Literary Journal, featuring both established names and emerging talents. All proceeds from the 2026 edition will go to *Palestine Children's Relief Fund.*

Find out more at ropesliteraryjournal.com

Alan Davies: *White Male Stand-Up*

WED 22 APRIL | 17:30 | 75 MINUTES | €20/22
Town Hall Theatre

Following *Just Ignore Him*, the bestselling memoir of his childhood, *White Male Stand-Up* explores what happens next. Join Alan Davies in conversation, as he brings us on a journey through his assent to life-changing fame, the camaraderie of the comedy circuit and echoes of his past.

The Cúirt Poetry Sessions in association with Poetry Ireland/Éigse Éireann

WED 22 APRIL | 18:00 | 45 MINUTES | FREE
Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

Rafael Mendes' *The Migrant Dictionary* was the winner of the Irish Chair of Poetry Pamphlet series in 2025. Using the dictionary entry as its shaping principle, it troubles ideas of fixed meanings in a world of instability and change, challenging our assumptions about the limits of racism and structural violence in Ireland.

Sacha White's poetry explores the intersections between historical myth and contemporary life, and in doing so touches on the enduring ecological and human narratives shared by both.

A Personal History of Pyromania

WED 22 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €14/16

The Mick Lally Theatre

An intimate, darkly comic essay-performance that reflects on the meanings and functions of fire in life and art. Moving between childhood experiments with homemade fireworks, family and national history and the author's novel *Deep Burn*, Brendan Mac Evilly traces a lifelong fascination with flame. At its centre sits an elusive story about the burning of an inherited uniform—a moment that hovers between memory and invention—asking why we are drawn to fire and what can it transform? Combining live reading, projected media, sound and ceramics, the piece considers fire as a force of attraction, creation, remembrance and release.

Written and performed by Brendan Mac Evilly; direction and media design by David McGovern; music by Irene Buckley; recorded readings by Aisling Flynn.

Moth & Butterfly: Wild Thing

WED 22 APRIL | 20:00 | 75 MINUTES | €5/8

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

Cúirt is delighted to welcome The Moth & Butterfly Storytellers Órla Mc Govern and Niceol Blue back to Cúirt. Experience traditional tales, new myths and personal stories based around the theme Wild Thing. Órla and Niceol are acclaimed performers and founding artists of The Moth & Butterfly International Festival of Storytelling & Improvisation.

The Poems of Seamus Heaney

WED 22 APRIL | 20:30 | 75 MINUTES | €20/22
Town Hall Theatre

We're delighted to be hosting this special event celebrating the life and work of Seamus Heaney to mark the publication of *The Poems of Seamus Heaney*. The definitive edition of his work, it encompasses all the poems that Seamus published in his lifetime (from *Death of a Naturalist* (1966) to *Human Chain* (2010)) alongside a number of previously unpublished poems. Editor Rosie Lavan will be joined by Ireland Chair of Poetry Vona Groake and poet Dean Browne for readings and reflections from the book, celebrating a body of work that has shaped modern poetry and continues to resonate across generations.

Poems for Patience

THU 23 APRIL | 11:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE
Galway University Hospital

This year's Poems for Patience will be selected and introduced by Dani Gill as we celebrate 45 years of Salmon Poetry. Many Salmon poets have been featured throughout the Poems for Patience 24 year history, and we are delighted to collaborate with them to bring you this special collection as part of their silver anniversary celebrations.

Tolka Presents: The Writer's Voice

THU 23 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | €5/8

The Mick Lally Theatre

Tolka, a literary journal that publishes 'formally promiscuous' non-fiction, talks to three writers about voice: John Patrick McHugh, Maija Makela and Declan Toohey. In pieces written for *Tolka*, John Patrick McHugh considers the voices in his head when writing and when playing football, Maija Makela searches for ghostly voices while on a haunted writer's residency, and Declan Toohey spends an afternoon housesitting and wonders if the voice in his head is really him at all.

Arts in Action: On Translation

THU 23 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

O'Donoghue Centre

As part of the Arts in Action series, we welcome Giovanna Granato, the University Translator in Residence, for a discussion around translation. Giovanna has translated some of the most important English-speaking modern authors into Italian, including Edna O'Brien, Virginia Woolf and Flannery O'Connor, and is currently working on a translation of Colm Tóibín's Nora Webster.

In association with the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Galway and Arts in Action, University of Galway

Eva Meijer: *Sea Now*

THU 23 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12
The Mick Lally Theatre

Join Dutch novelist Eva Meijer for a discussion about her novel *Sea Now*, translated by Anne Thompson Melo. Part eco-thriller, part coming-of-age adventure, part philosophical meditation on the relationship between the human and non-human, *Sea Now* is terrifyingly and tragically captivating. Eva Meijer's fiction and non-fiction is internationally renowned and has been translated into over twenty languages.

Part of New Dutch Writing. Supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

Dinnseanchas

THU 23 APRIL | 17:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12
An Taibhdhearc

Iniúchadh ar an dinnseanchas, seanchas faoi áiteanna, i litríocht chomhaimseartha na Gaeilge. Seo an ceathrú bliain den togra seo, comhfhiontar idir Cló Iar-Chonnacht agus Cúirt. Beidh beirt scríbhneoirí as Corcaigh, Lorraine Ní Chathasaigh agus Seán Óg Ó Duinnín, ag caint faoi thábhacht an dinnseanchais ina gcuid oibre agus ag léamh óna saothair.

An exploration of dinnseanchas, the lore of place, in contemporary Irish-language literature. Cork writers Lorraine Ní Chathasaigh and Seán Óg Ó Duinnín discuss the importance of place in their work and share selected readings. Hosted by Cló Iar-Chonnacht founder, Micheál Ó Conghaile.
Supported by Ealaín na Gaeltachta

Ardal O'Hanlon: *A Plot to Die For*

THU 23 APRIL | 17:30 | 75 MINUTES | €20/22
Town Hall Theatre

Ardal O'Hanlon, Ireland's beloved comedian, actor and novelist will discuss his fascinating new murder mystery *A Plot to Die For* with Edel Coffey.

When beloved celebrity gardener Finn O'Leary returns to his hometown of Abbeyford in Ireland to care for his aging mother, he is naturally roped into the Tidy Towns committee – a competition fanatically fought over by every town and village in the land. His best friend's sister, Aoife, is sure that this year Abbeyford will take home the prize with the nation's favorite gardener on-side. But Finn's not been back long when an alto-baritone at his mother's choir practice drops dead, and Finn soon finds himself trying to solve a murder – or two!

usual and generous ways: Gallery Lates

THU 23 APRIL | 19:00 | 45 MINUTES | FREE
Galway Arts Centre

Join Padraig Regan, Galway Arts Centres' inaugural Writer in Residence, for a curator talk and poetry reading at 19:00. The gallery will remain open until 21:00.

Na Seisiúin Fhilíochta Cúirt le hÉigse Éireann/The Cúirt Poetry Sessions in association with Poetry Ireland

THU 23 APRIL | 18:00 | 45 MINUTES | FREE
Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

Bí linn d'eagrán dátheangach Sheisiúin Fhilíochta Cúirt le beirt faighteoirí na Sparánachtaí Síolta *Taibhsín*, Ola Majekodunmi agus Amano De Londra Miura. Is amhránaí, file agus scríbhneoir amhrán í Amano. Is scríbhneoir, craoltóir agus léiritheoir cruthaitheach í Ola.

Join two of An Taibhdhearc's Na Sparánachtaí Síolta *Taibhsín* artists, Ola Majekodunmi and Amano De Londra Miura, for a bilingual edition of The Cúirt Poetry Sessions. Amano is a singer, poet and songwriter. Ola Majekodunmi is a writer, broadcaster and creative producer.

Open Mic

THU 23 APRIL | 20:00 | 2.5 HOURS | FREE
Electric

Come down to Electric to listen, and share poetry and spoken word. Try something new, perform on stage and find yourself in the spotlight at the Cúirt Open Mic. Performance is not mandatory but encouraged.

Comhrá le Celia de Fréine: *Cóirín na dTonn*

THU 23 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12
An Taibhdhearc

Is file, drámadóir agus scríbhneoir próis í Celia de Fréine, agus pléifidh an t-imeacht comhrá seo a próiseas ó thaobh dráma a chur ón leathanach chuig an stáitse. Tá a dráma *Cóirín na dTonn* molta ar shiollabas na hArdteistiméireachta faoi láthair. Suite in iarthar na hÉireann ag deireadh an fichiú céad, insíonn sé scéal Chóirín agus í ag iarraidh saol úr a chruthú di féin tar éis bhás a máthar.

Celia de Fréine is a poet, playwright and prose writer, and this event will explore her page-to-stage process. Her play *Cóirín na dTonn* is currently recommended as a text on the Leaving Certificate Syllabus. Set in the West of Ireland at the end of the twentieth century, it explores Cóirín's experience as she tries to carve out a new life for herself after the death of her mother.

Claire-Louise Bennett: *Big Kiss, Bye-Bye*

THU 23 APRIL | 20:00 | ONE HOUR | €14/16
The Mick Lally Theatre

We are delighted to welcome Claire-Louise Bennet to discuss *Big Kiss, Bye-Bye*.

The things that hold life in place have been lifted off and put away. Uprooted by circumstance from city to deep countryside, a woman lives in temporary limbo, visited by memories of all she's left behind.

What does it mean to connect with another person? What impels us to touch someone, to be touched by them, to stay in touch? How do we let them go? In yet another tour de force of fiction, Claire-Louise Bennett explores the mystery of how people come into and go out of our lives, leaving us forever in their grasp.

Louise O'Neill: *Whatever Happened to Madeline Stone?*

THU 23 APRIL | 20:30 | 75 MINUTES | €20/22
Town Hall Theatre

It's 2002 and twin sisters Madeline and Chelsea Stone are joint stars of the AtomicKids sitcom *Double Trouble*, but everyone knows it's Maddie who shines most brightly. Until Chelsea beats her sister for the role of a lifetime and just as her stardom reaches impossible new heights, Maddie disappears.

It's 2025 and Chelsea has retired from acting – but living life under the radar is easier said than done when you're the most famous woman of your generation. When a storage locker is found containing heart-breaking truths about the year Maddie went missing, Chelsea feels a flicker of hope for the first time in twenty years. This is her chance to discover what really happened to her twin, but to follow the trail she'll have to face the past and step back into the spotlight . . .

Sinéad Morrissey and Joe Dunthorne in Conversation

FRI 24 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

The Mick Lally Theatre

Sinead Morrissey's *Among Communists*, is set against the distinctive cultural milieu of Belfast Communism – its smokey rooms, protests, marches, sports days, holidays, discos and Party bazaars – telling a history of the Troubles unlike any other.

Joe Dunthorne's *Children of Radium* tells the story of his eccentric great-grandfather, a Jewish scientist who invented radioactive toothpaste and possessed a troublingly encyclopedic knowledge of poison gases. Considering the long half-life of trauma and the ever-evasive nature of truth, this book is witty and wry, deeply humane and endlessly surprising.

In association with the Welsh Government

Young Writer Delegates Showcase

FRI 24 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED

O'Donoghue Centre

Now in its ninth year, the Irish Writers Centre Young Writer Delegates Programme has partnered once again with Cúirt. At this showcase the delegates will share a new piece of writing developed during the festival, MC'd by their festival mentor Alan McMonagle.

The Irish Writers Centre Young Writers Delegates programme is in partnership with Cúirt International Festival of Literature. The Irish Writers Centre is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland. With thanks to Arts in Action, University of Galway

An Taibhdhearc: Comhrá le Faighteoirí na Sparánachtaí Síolta Taibhsín
An Taibhdhearc: In Conversation with the Recipients of the Taibhsín Seed Bursary

FRI 24 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

An Taibhdhearc

Bí linn le faighteoirí na Sparánachtaí Síolta *Taibhsín*, clár forbartha ealaíontóirí na Taibhdhearca do scríbhneoirí, lucht déanta amharclainne agus ealaíontóirí taibhithe atá ag obair go gairmiúil sa Ghaeilge. Tacaíonn an sparánacht leo a gcuid smaointe a iniúchadh agus a fhorbairt. Rannpháirtithe: Ola Majekodunmi, Amano De Londra Miura agus Seoirsín Bashford.

Hear from the recipients of the *Taibhsín* Seed Bursary, An Taibhdhearc's artist development programme for writers, theatre makers and performance artists working in Irish. The bursary supports them to explore and develop their ideas. Featuring: Ola Majekodunmi, Amano De Londra Miura and Seoirsín Bashford.

Debut Fiction: Juliano Zaffino and Caragh Maxwell

FRI 24 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

The Mick Lally Theatre

Juliano Zaffino's *The Steps* is a novel that is at once deeply moving and eerily unsettling. With echoes of Virginia Woolf and Shirley Jackson, Zaffino uses psychological suspense to create an intimate and uncanny family drama.

Caragh Maxwell's *Sugartown* is a remarkable Irish debut about growing up and moving backwards. When Saoirse moved to London, she was supposed to have left Ireland and her messy family dynamics behind for good. But when her five-year relationship ends, she has no choice but to return home.

The Irish Writers Centre presents: Writing Fiction for Beginners – a Creative Writing Seminar with Alan McMonagle

FRI 24 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE TICKETED
O'Donoghue Centre

A one-hour fiction-writing taster seminar with writer Alan McMonagle. Alan will take you through a range of techniques for getting started with your writing practice; you will look at openings, voice, character, dialogue, point-of-view, setting and plot, along with ideas about structuring your work, and some takeaway writing prompts. Suitable for beginner writers and those looking for a refresher.

In association with the Irish Writers Centre. With thanks to Arts in Action, University of Galway

Wait for It: A Reading and Conversation on Process, Inspiration and Creative Collaboration

FRI 24 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE
Galway Arts Centre

Join Texas Poet Laureate Jenny Browne and Guggenheim Fellow and interdisciplinary artist Joey Fauerso for an intimate reading from *Wait for It*, an exercise in text/image improvisation, experiment and constraint. The reading will be followed by an informal Q&A and show and tell from Browne and Fauerso's long term and on-going collaborative practice developing a range of projects exploring collage, humor, erasure, gender, illness, animation, disaster and hope.

An Taibhdhearc: Comhrá le hEalaíontóir Cónaithe Ciara Ní É

FRI 24 APRIL | 17:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12
An Taibhdhearc

Bí linn do chomhrá le Ciara Ní É, duine de chúig ealaíontóirí cónaithe *Taibhsín*. Is scríbhneoir, taibheoir agus scannánóir dhátheangach í Ciara. Baineann a cuid oibre le cultúr comhaimseartha na hÉireann, le béim ar leith ar theanga, féiniúlacht agus taithí na haiteachta. Ise a bhunaigh REIC, ardán ilteangach d'fhilíocht ó bhéal.

Join us for an in conversation with Ciara Ní É, one of five *Taibhsín* Artists in Residence. Ciara is a bilingual Irish-language writer, performer and filmmaker. Her work is rooted in contemporary Irish culture, with a particular focus on language, identity and queer experience. She is the founder of the multilingual spoken word platform REIC.

Minor Detail: Adania Shibli in Conversation with Anne Enright

FRI 24 APRIL | 17:30 | 75 MINUTES | €14/16

Town Hall Theatre

Adania Shibli's novel *Minor Detail* begins in 1949, one year after the war that the Palestinians mourn as the Nakba – the catastrophe that led to the displacement and expulsion of more than 700,000 people – and the Israelis celebrate as the War of Independence Israeli soldiers capture and rape a young Palestinian woman, and kill and bury her in the sand. Many years later, a woman in Ramallah becomes fascinated to the point of obsession with this 'minor detail' of history. *Minor Detail* cuts to the heart of the Palestinian experience of dispossession, life under occupation, and the persistent difficulty of piecing together a narrative in the face of ongoing erasure and disempowerment.

In association with the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Galway

The Cúirt Poetry Session in association with Poetry Ireland/Éigse Éireann

FRI 24 APRIL | 18:00 | 45 MINUTES | FREE

Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

Susanna Galbraith's *Morsels*, published by Macha Press in 2025, has a voice as fresh and daring as it is assured and elegant, experimenting with erasure, structuralism, and folk tales. Nithy Kasa's *How to Make Love to a Colonised Body*, published by Doire Press in 2026, addresses our relationships, both personal and political, playing with language and testing the Irish lyric.

Alternative Presents: Jan Carson, Balsam Karam and Saskia Vogel

FRI 24 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €14/16
The Mick Lally Theatre

In Jan Carson's *Few and Far Between* Marion and Robert-John have grown accustomed to their haunted existence on the Ark, monitoring the mysterious Far Side, where ghostly figures linger. Now they're being forced to leave, how will they cope with a new life on the Mainland? Is it possible to leave the past behind?

In Balsam Karam's *Event Horizon*, translated by Saskia Vogel, Milde refuses to accept the order of things and is presented with a final choice: to be publicly executed or launched into space towards a black hole. Collapsing and expanding myth and reality, this narrative is woven with oppression, solidarity, trauma and loss.

Supported by the Swedish Arts Council as part of the Stories from Sweden programme.

Filíocht ó Bhéal & Ceol na nGael

FRI 24 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €14/16
An Taibhdhearc

Bí linn d'oíche filíochta ó bhéal le Ciara Ní É agus ceol ó Amano De Londra Miura, le tionlacan ó cheoltóirí traidisiúnta. Is scríbhneoir, taibheoir agus scannánóir dhátheangach í Ciara. Is amhránaí, file agus scríbhneoir amhrán í Amano. Is faighteoirí *Taibhsín* iad an bheirt acu, clár forbartha ealaíontóirí na Taibhdhearca.

Join us for a night of spoken word from Ciara Ní É and music from Amano De Londra Miura, with accompaniment from traditional Irish musicians. Ciara is a bilingual writer, performance artist and filmmaker. Amano is a singer, songwriter and poet. They are both recipients of *Taibhsín*, An Taibhdhearc's artist development programme.

Neil Jordan:
The Library of Traumatic Memory

FRI 24 APRIL | 20:30 | 75 MINUTES | €20/22

Town Hall Theatre

We are delighted to welcome Neil Jordan to Cúirt to discuss his latest novel *The Library of Traumatic Memory*, the first literary science fiction novel from the visionary director of *The Crying Game, Michael Collins and The Butcher Boy*.

In the year 2084, Christian Cartwright, a quiet librarian at the enigmatic Huxley Institute, spends his days archiving the world's most painful memories in the Library of Traumatic Memory. But when his lover Isolde dies in a mysterious car crash, Christian secretly resurrects her as a digital consciousness - an act of grief, obsession, and defiance.

As Christian navigates a world where memories can be edited, dreams harvested, and the dead made to speak, he uncovers a centuries old conspiracy buried in the Institute's foundations. And as the past and future collide, Christian must decide what it means to remember - and what it costs to forget. With gothic mystery, speculative science, and philosophical depth, this is a thrilling reflection on love, loss, and the ethics of memory.

In partnership with Galway Film Fleadh

Gyasi Sheppy: *But Dancing is for Girls!*

SAT 25 APRIL | 10:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/€8*
Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre
Age 5 -11

But Dancing is for Girls! is Gyasi Sheppy's debut children's book where inclusion, being unapologetically yourself, and dancing are at the heart of the story. Let's step into story time with Gyasi, expect joy and lots of energy alongside dance-themed stories. Gyasi is an entertainer, author and television personality, and families may know his face and voice from children's television. Born to entertain, Gyasi has worked with Children and Young people for over 15 years and he couldn't be more thrilled to bring his beautiful book with a heartfelt message to Cúirt this April.

**Tickets are €10 for an adult and child, and an additional €8 per child, per group. Accompanying adults must remain for the duration of the event.*

Children's Story Time

SAT 25 APRIL | 11:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE
Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

Hang on to your hats, Story Time has been Cúirt-ified! Come along and be part of the fun at Charlie Byrne's Bookshop weekly story session, with author and bookseller Méabh McDonnell. Open to all ages.

Outset Market

SAT 25 APRIL | 11:00 - 16.00 | FREE
Cornstore Mall

Outset Gallery will host an indoor market at The Cornstore, continuing its tradition of showcasing independent makers, artists, and creatives. Outset has become a hub for Galway's thriving arts and design community, regularly curating markets that celebrate craft and creativity. This special edition will highlight the written word alongside handcrafted goods, prints, and design pieces, with leading literary journals taking part.

Frames of Reference: Editors

SAT 25 APRIL | 12:00 | ONE HOUR | €5/8
The Mick Lally Theatre

Join Eimear Ryan from *Banshee*, Dean Fee from *The Pig's Back* and Nathan O'Donnell from *PVA* as they discuss the culture of journals, the joys and challenges of editing fiction and non-fiction, and answer your questions on publishing.

In association with Re-mediating the Early Book: Pasts and Futures' Training Network

The Cúirt Lecture: When Governments Fail, We Set Sail

SAT 25 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | €14/16

Town Hall Theatre

Reflections on the Global Sumud Flotillas and the potential for citizen's direct collective action in the face of the emerging world (dis)order. Sarah Clancy took part in the 2025 Global Sumud Flotilla, a civilian action which involved more than 500 people from 47 different countries sailing in small boats to attempt to break Israel's illegal siege on Gaza. Although ultimately unsuccessful, this flotilla led to a renewed concentration of the world's attention on Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinian men women and children in Gaza and the failure of governments all across the so-called west to uphold international law. This lecture will focus on the gap between public sentiment and government action in Ireland and the EU as well as the flotillas and their purpose, ethic and motivation.

Poetry Reading: Dean Browne, Matthew Rice, Kandace Siobhan Walker

SAT 25 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

In Dean Browne's debut, *After Party*, we encounter a mesmeric teller of surreal poems that test the boundaries of contemporary poetry. A leg sets off on a long train journey; a Parisian alley cat is launched into space; earthbound lovers attempt to connect while their inner lives prove unbridgeable.

Matthew Rice's *plastic* is a book-length poem exploring the life of the industrial worker turned poet. This collection moves with grace through working class realities and hopeful imaginings. Kandace Siobhan Walker's debut *Cowboy* is knowing and funny, with currents of spirituality, grief and longing. Asking the question, where does a person grow up? and moving restlessly between rural Wales, London, the American South, and esoteric spaces of the internet. *In association with the Welsh Government*

Polly Barton and Susannah Dickey in Conversation

SAT 25 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

The Mick Lally Theatre

Polly Barton's *What Am I, a Deer?* asks what it means to lose yourself, as a young woman in Frankfurt set on reinvention, encounters a nice-eyed stranger and is catapulted into a dizzying, year-long whirlwind of obsession. Rendering the paradoxes of modern life in all its complexity, this novel is propulsive, titillating and bitingly funny.

Susannah Dickey's *into the wreck* asks how you mourn someone you never really knew. With their father's funeral only days away, Anna, Gemma and Matthew are consumed by their everyday concerns, from not-quite-exclusive boyfriends to overbearing mothers. With trademark wit and empathy, Susannah Dickey explores the knotty complexities of one family's bonds.

Fatena Abu Mostafa, from Gaza to Galway

SAT 25 APRIL | 17:30 | ONE HOUR | €5/8

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

In our 2025 New Writing Showcase we shared an audio recording of a poem by Fatena Abu Mostafa, who at the time was in Gaza. In the recording, Fatena said that she hoped one day to be with us in Galway to share her poetry. On August 28th, she was successfully evacuated from Gaza and we're delighted to welcome her to Cúirt this year, to talk with Vincent Woods about her journey to Ireland, and to share her poetry with us in person.

Liz Nugent: *The Truth about Ruby Cooper*

SAT 25 APRIL | 17:30 | 75 MINUTES | €20/22
Town Hall Theatre

We are delighted to welcome Liz Nugent to Cúirt this year with her compelling new novel *The Truth about Ruby Cooper*. Following five Number One Bestsellers, including *Strange Sally Diamond* and *Our Little Cruelties*, Liz Nugent brings us another suspenseful thriller, about the lives of two sisters in the wake of tragedy. Ruby Cooper and her sister Erin live an idyllic life in their close-knit church community in Boston, but when Ruby is sixteen, she is involved in an incident that causes her family's world to implode. As the years pass, the fallout reverberates through the sister's lives in Dublin and Boston, and the truth cannot stay a secret forever.

This event is sponsored by Dubray

CTRL: Essays on Video Games

SAT 25 APRIL | 18:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE
Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

CTRL: Essays on Video Games, edited by Dean Fee, is an anthology of insightful and curious essays exploring video games as an artform. Join Dean Fee, Joe Dunthorne and Brenda Romano as they discuss how video games have affected their own writing and how they see the world, and where – if it truly is an artform in its own right – will videogames go from here?

In association with the Welsh Government

Gwendoline Riley: *The Palm House*

SAT 25 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €14/16
The Mick Lally Theatre

Gwendoline Riley's latest novel *The Palm House* tells the friendship and lives of Laura Miller and Edmund Putnam, from long evenings gossiping about work and the state of the world in an ancient pub by the Thames, to losing parents, tricky pasts and day-to-day precariousness. *The Palm House* is a novel of enduring friendships and small mercies, offering us Gwendoline Riley's trademark keen observation and wit, and leaves us, somehow, with a curious sense of possibility.

A Tribute to Manchán Magan

SAT 25 APRIL | 20:30 | 75 MINUTES | €20/22
Town Hall Theatre

Manchán Magan was a regular guest on Cúirt stages talking about the natural world, the roots of our language and the deep connection between these two things. His death in late 2025 was mourned across our society.

For this tribute event we are asking special guest writers and artists to reflect on what Manchán's work meant to them and how it can continue to inform and inspire how we think and live.

Join us to celebrate the legacy of this great multidisciplinary artist in words and music on the Town Hall Theatre stage.

Sunday Breakfast Club with Méabh McDonnell

SUN 26 APRIL | 10:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/8*
Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre
Age 10+

Join Méabh McDonnell, beloved storyteller and author of *Any Way You Slice It*, for Cúirt's Sunday Breakfast Club for ages 10+. Méabh and Cúirt have teamed up to serve you stories and pastries on a Sunday morning. Méabh's second YA novel follows a young baker, Carrie Quinn, for whom baking isn't just a hobby – it's her whole future. She's determined to prove herself and win the Castlecreagh baking competition, but when she and her sworn enemy, Dara Harte, are disqualified from the competition, it seems like her future is over. That is unless the two of them can find a way to bake together...

**Tickets are €10 for an adult and child, and an additional €8 per child, per group. Accompanying adults must remain for the duration of the event.*

MA Showcase

SUN 26 APRIL | 11:30 - 12:30 | ONE HOUR | FREE
Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

Come along to a dynamic showcase of the vibrant new voices in the Galway literary landscape. Students from the University of Galway will read from various works-in-progress across fiction, non-fiction and poetry. This showcase is an excellent opportunity to discover their growing talent.

Lucy Caldwell: *Devotions*

SUN 26 APRIL | 13:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12
The Mick Lally Theatre

Lucy Caldwell joins us with a highly anticipated new collection of short stories, *Devotions*. Transporting and profound, these are stories of love, grief, longing, of new beginnings, and the ways we find shelter in each other. From a young Belfast theatre troupe bringing an experimental production of *Hamlet* to New York, to a man who loses all he thought he had, and finds himself haunted by all he never will, these are exhilarating and devastating short stories.

As if nothing could fall: Essays on Monuments

SUN 26 APRIL | 14:00 | ONE HOUR | FREE

Galway Arts Centre

From the epic megastructure to the fleeting memorial, this new anthology from PVA explores the mechanisms of monuments, the carving of totems to mark the passage of time, from the grand narratives of history to the intimate personal memories. These essays offer a profound curiosity and questioning of not just the multivalent meanings of monuments but also of the importance and fragility of the forces that seem to hold them in place. Join editor Nathan O'Donnell and curator and writer Beulah Ezeugo, in conversation with Padraig Regan.

Frames of Reference: Literary Agents

SUN 26 APRIL | 14:30 | ONE HOUR | €10/12

Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

Join us in welcoming Galway-born novelist John Patrick McHugh, author of *Fun and Games,* and his agent, Angelique Tran Van Sang, in a discussion about the publishing industry, followed by a question and answer session. Find out what an agent does, why you should consider getting one, and how to make yourself stand out from the crowd.

In association with Re-mediating the Early Book: Pasts and Futures' Training Network

Poetry Reading: Mary O'Malley, Liam Carson, Paul Perry

SUN 26 APRIL | 16:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12
The Mick Lally Theatre

Join us for an afternoon of poetry with Mary O'Malley, Liam Carson and Paul Perry.

Mary O'Malley's *The Shark Nursery* won the Walcott Prize in 2025. This collection explores a world shaped by lockdowns, online realities, and the animal kingdom. Drawing on Irish myth and contemporary concerns, the poems blur the lines between human, animal, and metaphysical realms, using language to confront modern perils. The collection also fuses mythic with modern elements, as in the eerie, online-driven world of 'The Ballad of Googletown.' We welcome Mary's return to Cúirt after a long-term involvement with the festival.

Liam Carson's *Belfast Twilight* is a collection of haikai that create kaleidoscopic montages, taking the reader into various worlds. From Belfast's Docklands at twilight to windswept islands off the west of Ireland, to life in 1980s London squats or even the suburban haven of the People's Park in Dun Laoghaire.

Paul Perry's *Clockhammer* is a captivating work obsessed with time, not merely its passage, but its pressures, distortions, absences, and residues. Paul treats chronology as unreliable narration, where memory and its ghosts step forward not as testimony but as presence.

Ragaire

SUN 26 APRIL | 18:00 | ONE HOUR | €5/8
Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre

Irish literary magazines play a crucial role for new writers. They promote and nurture talent, and are a vital catalyst and connection for the rich diversity of Ireland's literary scene. Founded by University of Galway alumni, *Ragaire* champions writing from Galway, Ireland and beyond. Join editors Aileen McCarthy, Lucy Bleeker and Cormac Culkeen for a showcase event of the magazine's most recent work.

Rita Ann Higgins: *Jiving with Wasps*

SUN 26 APRIL | 19:00 | ONE HOUR | €10/12
The Mick Lally Theatre

We're delighted to be closing this year's festival with the launch of a *New and Selected Poems* from Rita Ann Higgins. *Jiving with Wasps* draws upon four decades of poetry, giving us provocative and heart-warming poems of hi-jinks and telling social commentary by a gutsy, anarchic chronicler of Irish lives and foibles. Join Rita Ann Higgins and Edel Coffey in celebrating this defiantly mischievous and playfully subversive poetry.

Cúirt Workshops in association with The O'Donoghue Centre, University of Galway

These workshops will offer a space for writers to explore new ideas, take creative risks, and experiment with genre and style through courses designed with the help of pedagogical experts.

Places are limited so early booking is advised. Workshops will take place in The O'Donoghue Centre, or online.
Please book via cuirt.ie.

Jane Yeh

Poetry and Imagination

TUE 21 APRIL | 18:00 - 21:00 | ONLINE

€45

In this lively, generative workshop we'll play with various sources of inspiration – such as visual art, popular music, TV, and film – to spark your creativity. We'll explore imaginative approaches to poetry through open-ended writing exercises using prompts, as well as discussing poems by a diverse group of contemporary authors, including Emily Berry, Jericho Brown, Victoria Chang, and Vidyan Ravinthiran. If you want to try something new or are just hoping to shake up your usual practice, this workshop is for you.

Nikesh Shukla

Writing The World

TUE 21 APRIL | 18:00 - 21:00 | ONLINE

€45

We cannot ignore the times we are living in. To write now is to write in the midst of ongoing horrors, technological advancements and constant rolling news. Stories may offer escape but they also bear witness to the times we are living in. This generative workshop, filled with writing exercises, extracts from other writers and thoughts on how to bring the world as it is into the world we wish to create on the page, this workshop will help you to get through these times by documenting them in only the way you know how.

Isabelle Baafi

Advanced Poetry Workshop: Writing Against Logic

WED 22 APRIL | 18:00 - 21:00 | ONLINE

€45

Get ready for a time of discovery and invention as we explore poem-worlds with strange happenings and even stranger rules. In this workshop we will read, discuss and write poems that draw from dreams, memories, semiotics and the visual arts, and feature sound poetry, paradoxes, wordplay and literary nonsense. We will play with syntax, form, logic and allusion to unpack poetry's capacity for offering subversion and catharsis. Together, we will create new work in an atmosphere of adventure, risk, truth-telling and play, in order to push the bounds of possibility.

K Patrick

Writing Desire

WED 22 APRIL | 18:00 - 21:00 | ONLINE

€45

How to move the body onto the page? Join K Patrick for a workshop on the language(s) of intimacy. Translating that which so often resists translation, we will look at both the substance and style of authors and poets such as Robert Gluck, Fanny Howe, Violette Leduc and Reginald Shepherd to see how the body comes to be on the page. This welcoming workshop is suitable for everyone from beginners to published authors looking to expand their craft into a new area.

Anthony Shapland

Lying and Dreaming: Writing Fiction

THU 23 APRIL | 10:00 - 13:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE

€65

Is fiction lying? It's made up, it's choreographed, it's a manipulation. It runs parallel to truth and Anthony Shapland likes to think of it as honourable fibbing. In this workshop you'll look at ideas of where truth sits in fiction and read, discuss and develop iterations of a text. Anthony will share some insights into how *A Room Above a Shop* came about and show where lived-experiences and invention blend. Together you'll look at how our senses can both convince and deceive us, take a look at 'falseness' and you'll test hinging moments, paradoxes and consequences in your texts using games and random prompts.

Vona Groarke
Writing On Things

THU 23 APRIL | 11:00 - 14:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE
€65

A three-hour poetry workshop looking at objects, probing them for a possible haul of meaning, stories and significance. What do the objects we choose to keep with us, show off, carry with us from place to place, tell about us? And how can that telling be harnessed as a shortcut, a signpost, a start? There will be writing, plus thinking and talking about it. And there will be poems.

Pete Moser
Songmaking

THU 23 APRIL | 14:00 - 17:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE
€65

A playful and exciting journey into the world of songmaking led by musician, songwriter and community musician, Pete Moser from Morecambe, UK. We'll make songs of all shapes and sizes – together as a group and on our own. Find the lyricist inside yourself, play with rhyme and rhythm and tell the story you want to share. Discover ways of finding and crafting melodies thinking about the moods they create and the way they compliment the words. This is a workshop for people who write songs already and those who have never done it before.

Please feel free to bring an instrument if you have one, although the workshop is also suitable for those without.

Jan Carson

Introduction to the Short Story

FRI 24 APRIL | 10:00 - 13:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE
€65

This lively, interactive and incredibly practical workshop will equip you with everything you need to begin or continue your journey with the short story. Combining discussion, writing exercises and teaching drawn from Jan's own experience you can expect to explore all the components of the short story including character development, plot, structure, voice, editing and much more. Over the course of the session, you'll have a chance to develop and begin writing your own short story. Jan will also offer hard-learned advice on the publishing process. This workshop is suitable for both beginner writers and those keen to reinvigorate their writing practice. All you need is an imagination, a pen and a notebook.

Polly Barton

Non-Fiction: Conversation as Inspiration, Conversation as Material

FRI 24 APRIL | 11:00 - 14:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE
€65

Conversation is a hugely valuable – and often overlooked – tool in the non-fiction writer's kit. Often viewed as the preserve of fiction, conversation can form a mainstay of the practice of producing essays, memoirs and creative non-fiction books. Facilitated by Polly Barton, a strong believer in the importance of dialogue for inspiring, informing and shaping all kinds of non-fiction, this workshop will encourage participants to consider dialogue as the starting point and lodestar for works of non-fiction, engaging in various creative exercises designed to open up new ways of looking at real-life conversations. Suitable for writers of all kinds, from those with an oral history project on the go to those who have never considered that dialogue could have its place in non-fiction.

Jenny Browne and Joey Fauerso

In Other Words, Pictures

Sat 25 April | 10:00 - 13:00 | O'Donoghue Centre
€65

Join poet Jenny Browne and artist Joey Fauerso in this playful generative workshop exploring the relationship between language and image. Browne, a poet who also works in collage, erasure, and watercolor, and Fauerso, an interdisciplinary artist who uses poetry as both inspiration and source material in her paintings, animation and video work will discuss and provide a range of craft exercises and strategies to help participants create new work through textual and visual engagement and experiment.

Lucy Caldwell

Writing the Moments that Matter

sat 25 april | 11:00 - 14:00 | o'donoghue centre
€65

Robert McLiam Wilson says in Eureka Street that 'All stories are love stories'. If we think about how coming-of-age happens for us all at multiple times, in multiple ways, and isn't a straightforward trajectory – could all stories, in a way, be coming-of-age stories? Do we ever truly come of age? What might it mean to come of age in your sixties, seventies – on your hundredth birthday? What does it mean as a human to embrace change, or to resist it?

In this workshop, we'll look at how to use pivotal moments in our lives to inspire our fiction – from the richnesses of childhood to the complex and painful times of growth we all must go through as adults. We'll find wild creative freedom and inspiration in the power of myths that take us through transformation and transfiguration.

Samuel Arnold Keane and Kasia Kaminska

Language and Light: Foraging and Cyanotype Workshop

SAT 25 APRIL | 12:00 - 15:00

GALWAY ARTS CENTRE AND ÁRAS NA NGAEL

€65

What I am hoping to capture is that luminance that arises from the depths of languages - the way they shine a faint light on the past and illuminate some of our murkier memories and practices - Manchán Magan

Guided by the words and work of Manchán Magan, we will shine a light on the plant life that surrounds us through this foraging walk and cyanotype printmaking workshop.

Beginning with a walk, we will learn as we gather wild plants that thrive in the urban environment, exploring what their names as Gaeilge reveal to us about their uses for food, medicine, crafts and art. The Irish language shines light on the past, illuminating older, often more ecological ways of relating to our environments. We will take this light into the cyanotype workshop in Áras na nGael, using the natural light of the sun to create cyanotype prints and words; giving older words a renewed sense of belonging into our modern lives. Please note, all levels of Irish (including none) are welcomed.

Dean Fee

Starting to Write

SUN 26 APRIL | 11:00 - 14:00 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE
€15

Join writer and editor Dean Fee to think about childhood narratives in fiction and non-fiction, and work on developing your own. Childhood narratives allow a writer to not only critique the world through the eyes of the innocent but, for those interested in memoir, it also allows them to examine the emergence of their own artistic sensibilities. Much of what we encounter as children can shape the people we become later in life. It's easy to look back and notice, but the real challenge is in how to capture it.

In the first half of this workshop we will look closely at examples of childhood narratives from some of the best writers to do it. You will then have a chance to put pen to paper, incorporating what you've learned into your own work, which we will discuss in class. Conversation is key, so participants should come with an open mind and a willingness to discuss.

Elaine Feeney

Fiction Masterclass

SUNDAY 26 APRIL | 14:30 - 16:30 | O'DONOGHUE CENTRE
€65

Join Elaine Feeney – prize-winning author of novels *As You Were* and *How to Build a Boat* as well as numerous other works in poetry, prose and drama – in conversation with Joey Connolly. Beginning with a conversation about Elaine's insights on questions of practice of being a writer, and on craft, style and technique in fiction, the event will also include a chance to pose your questions about writing to one of our generation's most beloved novelists in Ireland and beyond.

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APRIL 25TH

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36 Abbeygate St Upper
@hoesoftralee

Event Venues

1. An Taibhdhearc
2. Galway Arts Centre
3. Charlie Byrne's Bookshop
4. Electric
5. Galway Arts Centre - Nuns Island Theatre
6. O'Donoghue Centre
7. The Mick Lally Theatre
8. Town Hall Theatre
9. The Cornstore Mall
10. Áras na nGael

St. Bridget's Place
Headford Rd.
Bóthar Na mBan
Prospect Hill
8
St. Francis St.
Mary St.
Eglinton St.
William St.
Eyre Square
Forster St.
4
Bowling Green
Market St.
Abbeygate St.
Ceannt Train Station
Shop St.
1
Middle St.
High St.
St. Augustine St.
Queen St.
Bridge St.
3
Merchants Rd.
Quay St.
Dock Rd.
7
Druid Lane
Flood St.
Dock Rd.
Spanish Parade
Father Griffin Rd.
The Docs
Spanish Arch
The Long Walk

Access Statements

Town Hall Theatre
There is a cobblestone step up onto a platform where you can access a concrete wheelchair accessible ramp. The main auditorium is step free with accessible seating and accessible toilet facilities. Please let the box office know of any requirements so that they can assist with seating. There are two accessible parking spaces on Waterside immediately by the venue and a further two spaces on Corrib Terrace. There is a Loop System in every auditorium. There is a Fresh Air Distribution System.

The Mick Lally Theatre
Lane access can be narrow, approaching from the Latin Quarter. The auditorium, bar and foyer are step free with accessible toilet facilities. There is one accessible parking space on Middle Street outside the Cornstore, and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street opposite Galway City Library, five minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

Nuns Island Theatre
The theatre is a ground floor wheelchair accessible venue. There is a single disabled parking space across the road from Nuns Island Theatre located outside 19 Nuns Island. The bathrooms are not fully accessible. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

An Taibhdhearc
The first row of seating in the main auditorium is step free. There are accessible toilet facilities. There are two accessible parking spaces, either end of Middle Street and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street opposite. There is a Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use.

O'Donoghue Centre, University of Galway
Step free venue with accessible toilet facilities. Accessible parking is located on campus in front of the Quadrangle Building four minutes from the venue. There is no Loop system. HEPA filter will be in use for workshop spaces.

Galway University Hospital
Step free venue with accessible bathroom available. Accessible parking available on the hospital grounds. There is no Loop system.

Electric Nightclub
The main entrance to The Garden has steps. There is a lift available on request. The main bar area is accessible. There is one step to the outdoor platform and then further steps down to the smoking area. There are accessible toilets available onsite.

Charlie Byrne's Bookshop
The Cornstore entrances are step free but have limited wheelchair access due to the width of the doors. The venue has internal steps with limited space to navigate with certain mobility aids. The street entrance has a step. There is one accessible parking space on Middle Street immediately outside, and three spaces on Saint Augustine Street. There are no accessible public bathrooms. There is no Loop system.

The Cornstore Mall
Step free venue. Accessible parking located in Augustine Street and Middle Street. There are no accessible public bathrooms. There is no loop system.

Galway Arts Centre
Galway Arts Centre 47 Dominick Street's main public entrance has a wheelchair ramp to provide entry to the ground floor. There is a manual door to enter the public reception and ground floor gallery. There is no elevator access to our first floor gallery and our offices are not wheelchair accessible. There are folding chairs to any visitors who may need to sit down regularly

Áras na nGael
The main entrance to Áras na nGael has a wheelchair ramp available to provide entry to the ground floor. The toilets are not wheelchair accessible.

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