



**DUBLIN 2010**  
**WRITERS FESTIVAL 10**  
**JUNE 1 - 6**

# Trust

Trust is earned, not given  
Our only obligation is to you



# DUBLIN WRITERS FESTIVAL 2010 WELCOMES YOU



Dublin City Council  
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath



**IT** THE IRISH TIMES  
irishtimes.com

RTÉ lyric fm

# Contents

LORD MAYOR'S ADDRESS				P5
BOOKING INFORMATION				P6
THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT BOOKS				P8
DATE	WRITERS	VENUE	TIME	PAGE
JUNE 1ST	IAN McEWAN STEWART BRAND	NATIONAL CONCERT HALL	7.30PM	P10
JUNE 2ND	DAVID MITCHELL	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	7.30PM	P12
	ANTONY BEEVOR	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	8PM	P14
	THE RIVERRUN PROJECT / AN TIONSCADAL RIVERRUN	SUGAR CLUB	8PM	P16
JUNE 3RD	JOSEPH O'CONNOR	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	8PM	P18
	FROM BEYOND OUR SHORES: TRAVEL LITERATURE IN IRISH	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	8.15PM	P20
	PAUL BRADY IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN KELLY	LIBERTY HALL	8PM	P22
JUNE 4TH	JENNIFER JOHNSTON	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	7.30PM	P24
	NEIL HANNON IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN KELLY	LIBERTY HALL	8PM	P26
	THE GLÓR SESSION	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	8.30PM	P28
JUNE 5TH	READING STORIES: ANNE ENRIGHT ON ALICE MUNRO	DUBLIN WRITERS MUSEUM	11AM	P29
	JOHN LYNCH PAUL MURRAY	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	2PM	P30
	NATASHA WALTER SUSAN McKAY	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	4PM	P32
	SARAH BAKEWELL, DECLAN KIBERD RUTH PADEL	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	6PM	P34
	HANIF KUREISHI	PROJECT ARTS CENTRE	8PM	P36
JUNE 6TH	READING STORIES: DERMOT HEALY ON JAMES JOYCE & AIDAN HIGGINS	DUBLIN WRITERS MUSEUM	12PM	P38
	YANN MARTEL	HUGH LANE GALLERY	2PM	P40
	TOM MURPHY	ABBEY THEATRE	4PM	P42
	THE GALLERY PRESS 40 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION	ABBEY THEATRE	7.30PM	P44

# Lord Mayor's Address

It is always wonderful to have reason to show pride and to celebrate. Dublin Writers Festival 2010 offers the city a chance to draw strength and inspiration from the best of the nation's contemporary writers. Our playwrights, poets, fiction and non-fiction writers, as well as songwriters and composers will give voice to a living heritage that marks us as the richest of nations.

As Dublin (at time of writing) awaits its hoped for designation as UNESCO City of Literature, we also welcome those international writers who, while challenging us, illuminate our concerns and beliefs, adding weight to what we intuitively know: that Art is both critical to and a reflection on society. Whether questioning our conflicted attitudes to the rights of women, capturing the tensions and potentialities in our multicultural/multiracial society or illustrating how art and science engage with ecological concerns, these gripping writers demonstrate with conviction the power of the engaged and thoughtful citizen.

I would like to thank our partner, The Arts Council, for its continued and vital support in making this year's festival one of the most impressive to date. On a personal note, I would like to offer congratulations and thanks (for their literary legacies) to the incomparable Jennifer Johnston, Tom Murphy and Gallery Press, who celebrate their respective 80<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> birth years with us in 2010.

Lord Mayor of Dublin,  
Cllr. Emer Costello



# Booking Information

## BOOKINGS

### National Concert Hall

(Ian McEwan & Stewart Brand event only)

Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

**Tel.** + 353 (0) 1 417 0000

(Open Mon–Sat 10am–6pm)

**Web.** [www.nch.ie](http://www.nch.ie)

### Project Arts Centre

(includes bookings for The Sugar Club,

Liberty Hall, Dublin City Gallery –

The Hugh Lane)

39 East Essex Street, Dublin 2

**Tel.** + 353 (0) 1 881 9613/4

(Open Mon–Sat 11am–7pm)

**Web.** [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

### Abbey Theatre

(Abbey Theatre events only)

26 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1

**Tel.** + 353 (0) 1 878 7222

(Open Mon–Sat 10.30am–7pm)

**Web.** [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

### Dublin Writers Museum

To reserve for these events please email

[info@dublinwritersfestival.com](mailto:info@dublinwritersfestival.com)

## VENUE LOCATIONS

- 1 National Concert Hall**  
Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2
- 2 Project Arts Centre**  
39 East Essex Street, Dublin 2
- 3 The Sugar Club**  
8 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2
- 4 Liberty Hall**  
Eden Quay, Dublin 1
- 5 Dublin City Gallery**  
The Hugh Lane, Charlemont House,  
Parnell Square North, Dublin 1
- 6 Dublin Writers Museum**  
18 Parnell Square North, Dublin 1
- 7 Abbey Theatre**  
26 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1

---

Ticket concessions are available for students, senior citizens and the unwaged. For venue-specific terms and conditions, please see [www.nch.ie](http://www.nch.ie), [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie), [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

## FESTIVAL ADMINISTRATION

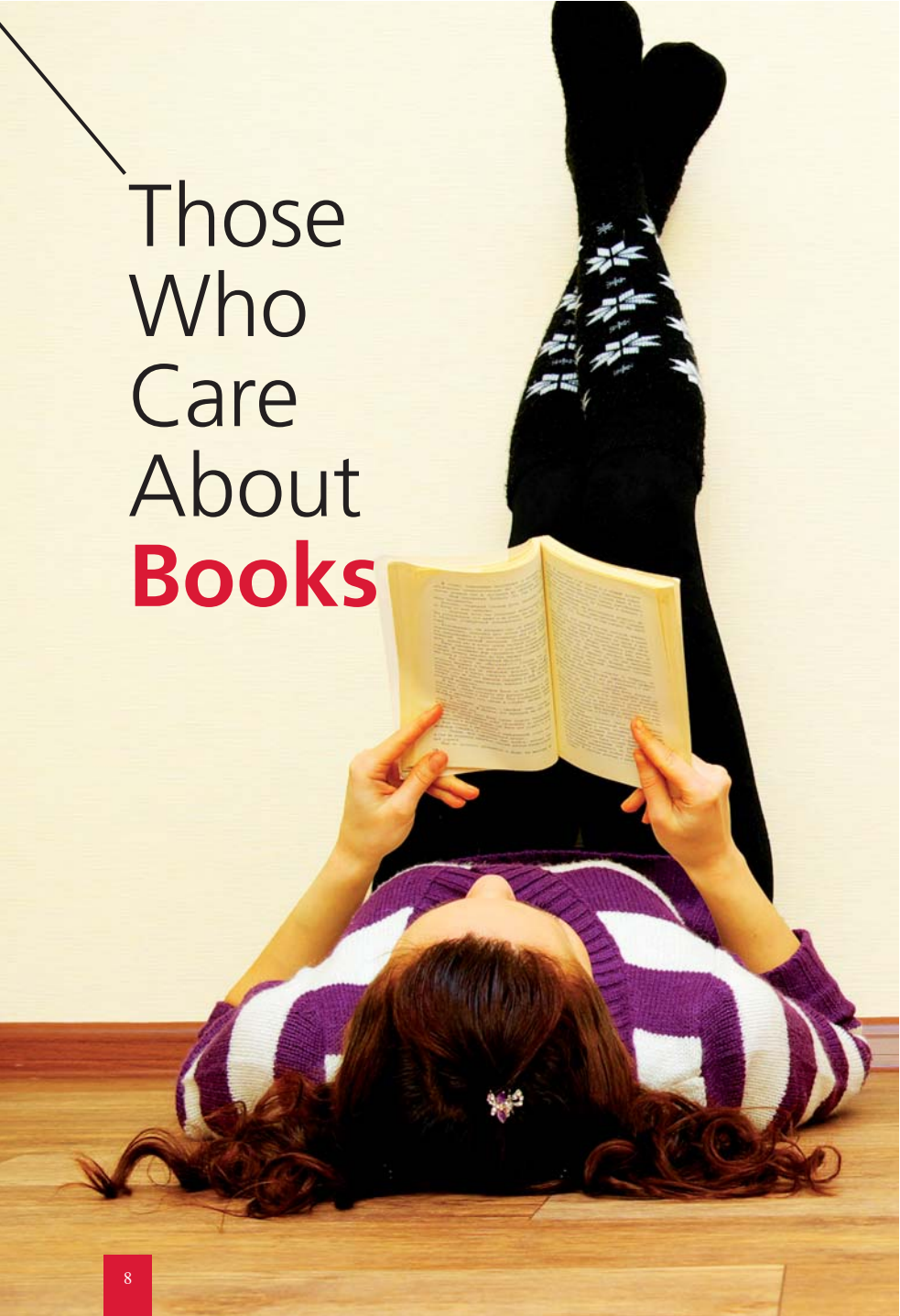
### Dublin City Council Arts Office

The Lab, Foley Street, Dublin 1

**Tel.** + 353 (0) 1 222 5455 **Web.** [www.dublinwritersfestival.com](http://www.dublinwritersfestival.com)



Those  
Who  
Care  
About  
**Books**



In his poem 'The Given Note', Seamus Heaney describes an old Irish traditional air coasting out of the atmosphere 'on loud weather'. There's been plenty of loudness in Ireland recently. We're living through days of fury. Yet the work of storytellers and writers, of filmmakers and musicians, has been finding a way up through the swamp of recession, just as punk did in its time and place, and rap, and gospel, as the blues bubbled up from the Mississippi. The wrecked Dublin of my adolescence was re-energised not by any politician, but by the explosion of music and related creativities that was detonated in the late 1970s.

Ireland's in a mess. Old certainties are broken. But one treasure we continue to have is the extraordinary resource of the written word. And when all the swarming lies around us

are dust and old headlines, we'll still have it. It's then we're going to need it the most.

A novel, like a song, takes its chances alone. It needs the reader to bring it to life. What the reader does is the truly creative part of the relationship, for in the intimate act of empathy invited by the book, the little black ink-stains called 'words' and 'sentences' are blazed into life by imagination. And the Dublin Writers Festival, a great meeting of readers, speaks to those of us who have been thrilled and changed by a story, and who need to be so uplifted again. Here are some of the world's most exciting writers, from overseas and from home, their words finding breath on the air.

**Joseph O'Connor**  
Dublin, 2010

*Joseph O'Connor will read at Project Arts Centre on June 3<sup>rd</sup> (see p. 19 for details)*

## Ian McEwan & Stewart Brand

**Chairperson:** Myles Dungan

Booker-winning novelist Ian McEwan and self-styled 'eco-pragmatist' Stewart Brand examine how art and science can and should engage with our growing concerns about the earth's future. Join them for some cool-headed thinking on the hot topic of our age.

Ian McEwan – multi-award-winning author of *Atonement*, *On Chesil Beach* and *Saturday* – turns his focus to cutting-edge physics and climate change in his latest novel *Solar*. In 2005, McEwan joined a team of artists and scientists in the Arctic Circle to witness global warming first-hand. Two years later he was invited to address a symposium of Nobel laureates on the same issue. *Solar* is the culmination of these experiences – a darkly satirical tale of a Nobel Prize-winning physicist whose last chance to reinvigorate his career might also just save the planet.

A key influence on McEwan's own environmental position is Stewart Brand. Brand's counter-culture credentials are impressive: he studied ecology with Paul Ehrlich, 'hung out' with Ken Kesey and founded the era-defining *Whole Earth Catalogue*. Yet, his 21<sup>st</sup>-century stance is a world away from 'old school' green thinking. For Brand, ideology is no longer enough. His latest book – *Whole Earth Discipline* – is a forceful argument for science-led pragmatism (embracing urbanisation, nuclear power and biotechnology) as the only viable solution to our global crisis.

**Venue:** The National Concert Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Tickets:** €15, €20 (concessions available)

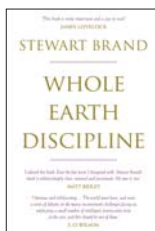
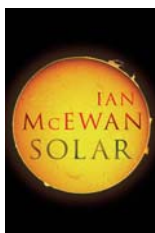


photo – Annalena McAfee

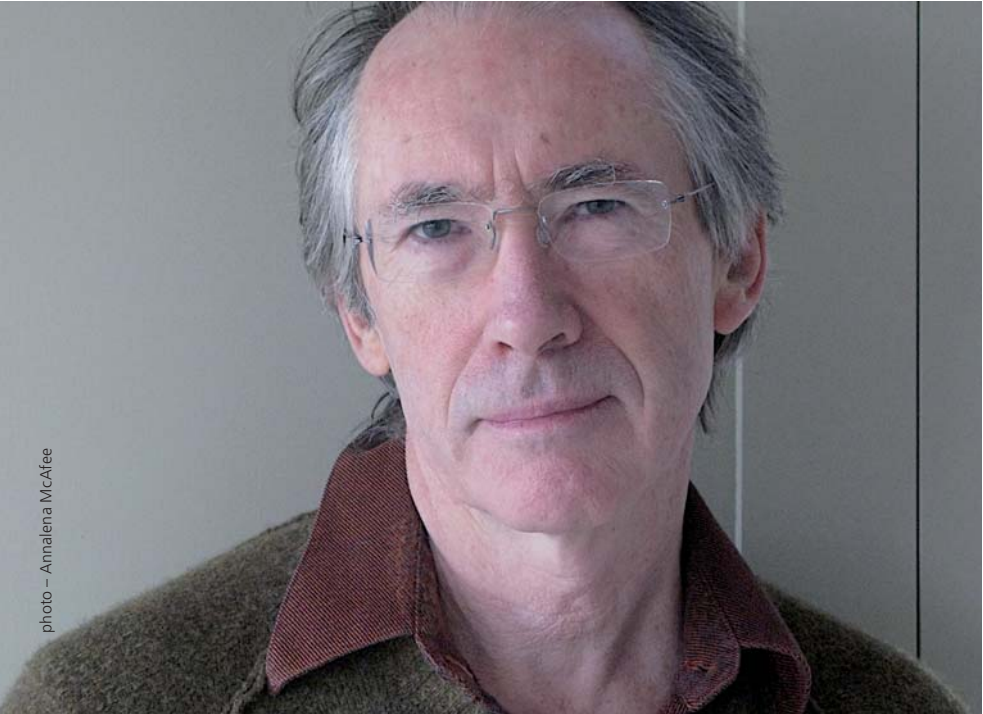
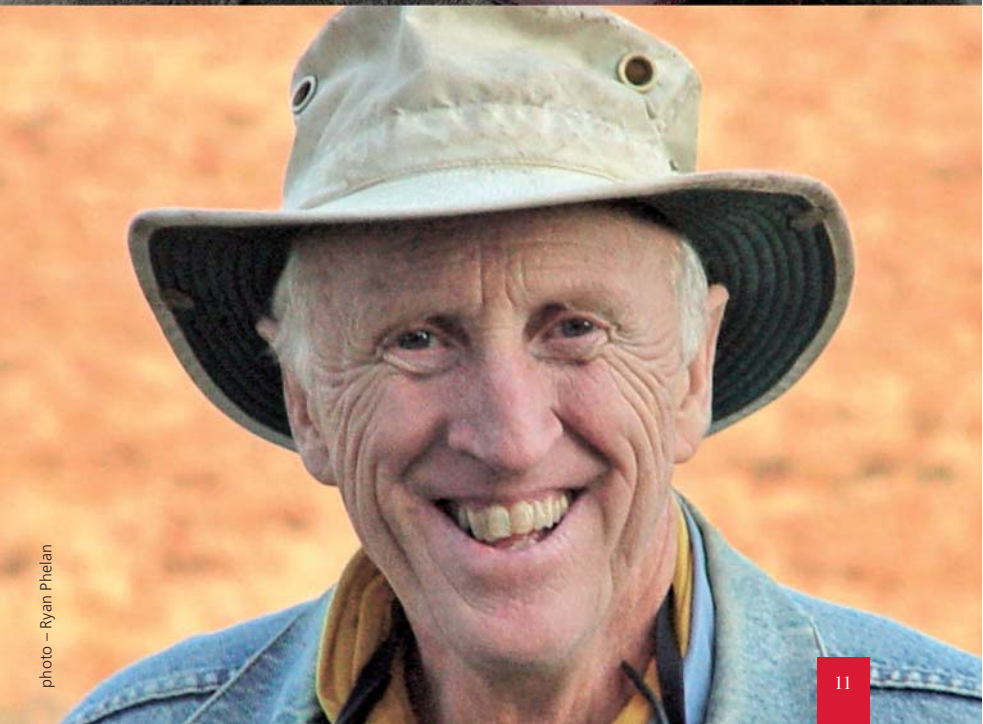


photo – Ryan Phelan



THOUSANDS OF  
JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Bookings:** Tel. 01 881 9613 (14)

**Web:** [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

## David Mitchell

**Chairperson:** Brendan Barrington



In an exclusive visit to Dublin Writers Festival, Booker-shortlisted novelist David Mitchell discusses his latest work.

*The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet* is Mitchell's eagerly awaited sixth novel. Imagine an empire that has shut out the world for a century and a half. No one can leave, foreigners are excluded, their religions banned and their ideas deeply mistrusted. Yet a narrow window onto this nation-fortress still exists: an artificial walled island connected to a mainland port, and manned by a handful of European traders. For one young Dutch clerk, a strange adventure of duplicity, love, guilt, faith and murder is about to begin...

Mitchell made his name with a series of dizzying, multilayered narratives. *Ghostwritten* won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize; *Number9dream* was shortlisted for the Booker; as was *Cloud Atlas*, the author's most ambitious and bravura feat of storytelling yet. The Costa-shortlisted *Black Swan Green* was less elliptical but equally luminous. Now *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet* cements Mitchell's reputation as 'an author of extraordinary ambition and skill' (Independent on Sunday).

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

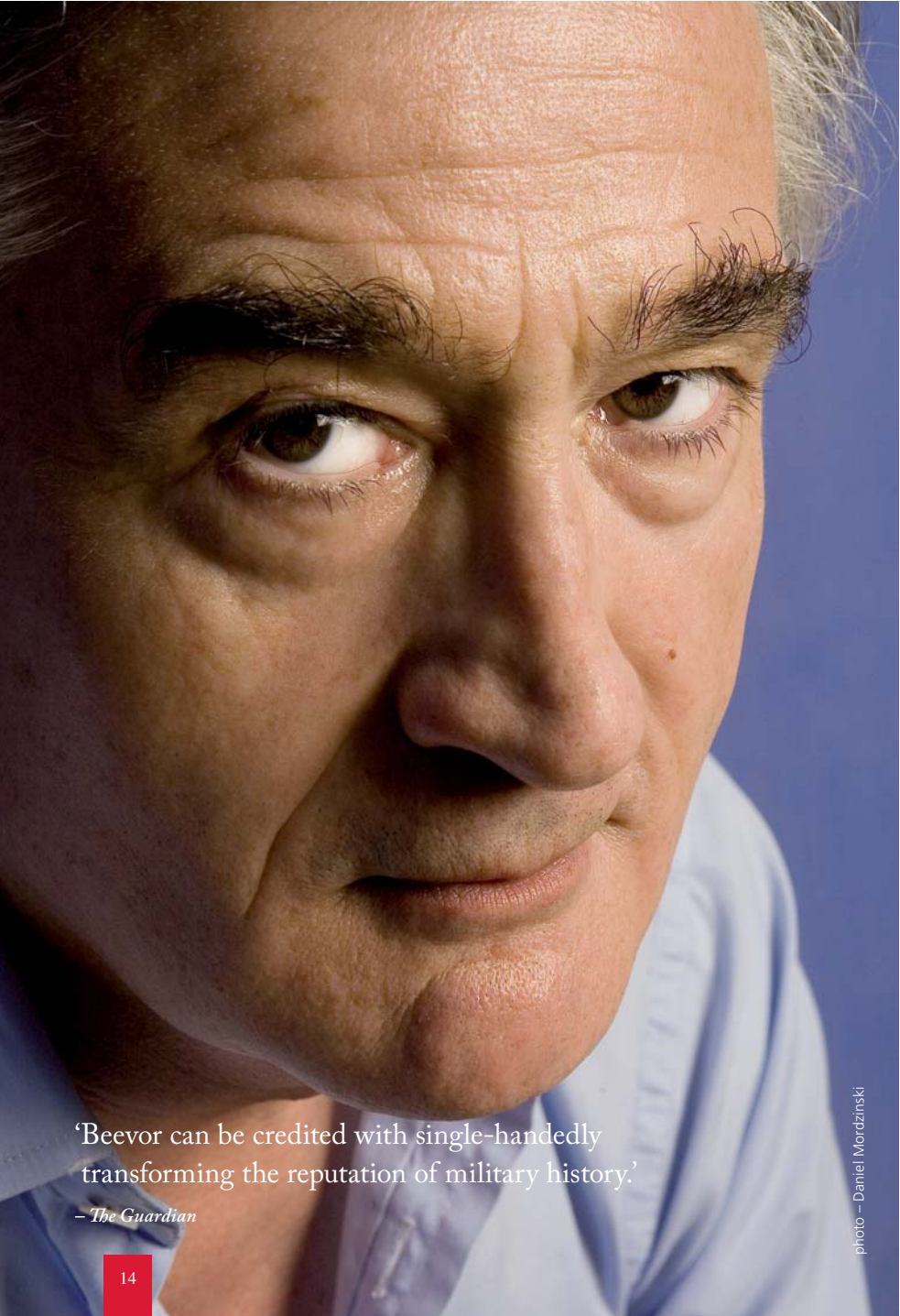
**Time:** 7.30pm

**Tickets:** €12 / €10 (concession)



'Mitchell is, clearly, a genius.'

— *The New York Times Book Review*



‘Beever can be credited with single-handedly transforming the reputation of military history.’

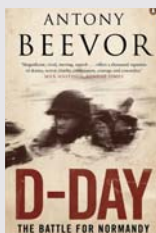
– *The Guardian*

JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bookings: Tel. 01 881 9613 (14) Web. [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

## Antony Beevor

**Chairperson:** Diarmaid Ferriter



The best-selling author of *Stalingrad*, *Berlin* and *D-Day: The Battle for Normandy* makes a special visit to Dublin Writers Festival.

No other writer captures the raw experience of war like Antony Beevor. In *Stalingrad* he compelled us to look into the face of battle itself, combining 'a soldier's understanding of war's realities with the narrative techniques of a novelist' (*Sunday Telegraph*). In *Berlin* he made us 'feel the chaos and the fear as if every drop of blood was our own.' (*Spectator*). Now, in *D-Day: The Battle for Normandy* – the third instalment in his award-winning trilogy of Second World War classics – he once again translates 'the dry stuff of military history into a human drama of the most vivid and moving kind' (*Sunday Times*).

Join him as he explores the courage, cruelty and compassion that defined these world-changing events.

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 8pm

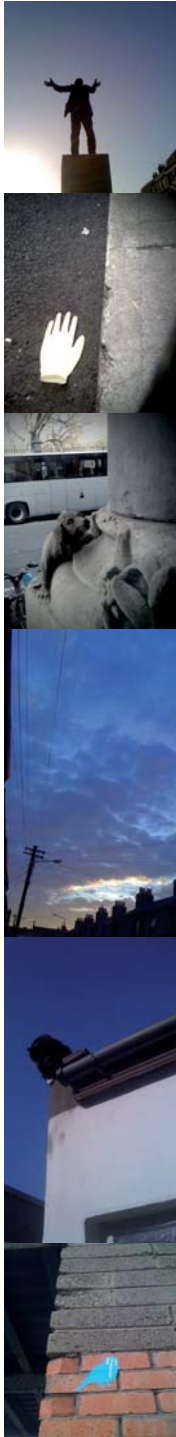
**Tickets:** €12 / €10 (concession)

## The RIVERRUN Project

The RIVERRUN Project will take its audience on a unique bi-lingual sonic, visual and literary voyage through the city of Dublin. Poets Dermot Bolger, Biddy Jenkinson, Máighréad Medbh and Liam Ó Muirthile will read new work in English and Irish, evoking Dublin past and present, from Viking Dublin to the surreal landscapes of post Celtic Tiger Dublin, its ghostly apartment blocks and deserted housing estates. The poets will read to new music created by acclaimed musician and composer Seán Óg; graphic designer and artist Margaret Lonergan will create on-screen images of modern Dublin to accompany the performance.



Poet, playwright and novelist Dermot Bolger has long placed Dublin at the heart of his work, including the *Ballymun Trilogy* of plays set and performed in the working class suburb of Ballymun. Described by Ciaran Carson as 'one of our greatest writers in any language', Biddy Jenkinson's latest collection is *Oíche Bhealtaine*. Máighréad Medbh's poetry has been hailed by the *Irish Times* for its 'heavily cadenced and song-like' qualities; her latest collection is *When the Air Inhales You*. Liam Ó Muirthile is a potent performer of his work, and his most recent collection *Sanas* features a CD of him reading poetry to a soundtrack created by singer and composer Iarla Ó Lionáird.



## An Tionscadal RIVERRUN

Tabharfaidh an Tionscadal RIVERRUN a lucht féachana ar turas uathúil dátheangach sonach radharcach agus liteartha trí chathair Átha Cliath. Léifidh na filí Biddy Jenkinson, Dermot Bolger, Maighréad Medbh agus Liam Ó Muirthile saothar nua i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge a chuirfidh an ardchathair mar a bhí agus mar atá inár láthair, ó Baile Átha Cliath na Lochlannach go dtí tírdhreacha osréalacha na tréimhse a tháinig i ndiaidh bhás pianmhar an Tíogair Cheiltigh, bloic árasán na bpúcaí bochta is eastáit tithíochta na dtaibhsí dearóile. Cuirfidh an sárcheoltóir-chumadóir Seán Óg tionlacan leo; déanfaidh an dearthóir grafach Margaret Lonergan íomhánna ar scáileán de Baile Átha Cliath ár linne a chruthú mar chuid den léiriú.

Is fada Baile Átha Cliath mar chuid lárnach de shaothar Dermot Bolger, file, drámadóir agus úrscéaláí. Ní gá dúinn ach smaoineamh ar an 'Triológ Baile Munna' aige, na drámaí ata suite i gceantar an lucht oibre. Duine de na scríbhneoirí is mó atá againn i dteanga ar bith í Biddy Jenkinson, dar le Ciaran Carson. *Oíche Bhealtaine* an cnuasach is déanaí aici. Thagair an *Irish Times* do na 'heavily cadenced and song-like qualities' atá i bhfilíocht Mhaighréad Medbh. *When the Air Inhales You* an cnuasach is déanaí aici. Léitheoir láidir é Liam Ó Muirthile. Sa chnuasach is déanaí uaidh *Sanas* tá dlúthdhiosca a dhearbhaíonn a cháilíocht mar fhile agus mar léitheoir, diosca ar a bhfuil fuaimrian a chum an t-amhránaí-chumadóir Iarla Ó Lionáird.

*This event has been curated by Liam Carson, Director of IMRAM, in association with the Dublin Writers Festival.*

**Venue:** The Sugar Club

**Time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** €10 / €8 (concession)



'Better than perfect...  
O'Connor has broken the  
mould of Irish fiction.'

– *The Sunday Independent*

JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bookings: Tel. 01 881 9613 (14) Web. [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

## Joseph O'Connor

**Chairperson:** Mary Wilson

Joseph O'Connor last appeared at Dublin Writers Festival three years ago to discuss *Redemption Falls*. Now the festival welcomes him back – in conversation with RTÉ *Drivetime* presenter Mary Wilson – to celebrate the publication of his brand-new novel *Ghost Light*.



Dublin 1907. Molly Allgood – a young actress from the tenements – dreams of Broadway. But Molly has a secret. Her lover is none other than John Synge – troubled genius and Ireland's leading playwright. Once discovered, their affair is sternly opposed – by friends, family and austere Edwardian convention. Many years later scenes from their doomed courtship return to haunt Molly as she makes her way through the windblown streets of post-war London. Spanning Edwardian Dublin to twenties Manhattan, *Ghost Light* is a moving love story played out across cultures, continents and epochs.

Joseph O'Connor has written seven novels including the Whitbread-shortlisted *Cowboys and Indians*, *Redemption Falls* (nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award), and the multi-prize-winning global bestseller *Star of the Sea*.

Mary Wilson presents Ireland's number one evening radio news programme, *Drivetime*, which airs Joseph O'Connor's specially commissioned weekly Wednesday diary.

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** €12/ €10 (concession)

RTÉ RADIO 1

## Bíonn Adharca Fada ar na Buaibh Thar Lear: An Litríocht Taistil sa Ghaeilge

I gcomparáid le Michael Palin abair nó Alan Whicker, scríbhneoir taistil agus craoltóir den scoth sa dá theanga é an fánaí fiáin Manchán Magan. Tá scannánú déanta aige san India, sa Mheánoirthear, i Meiriceá, sa Ghraonlainn agus sa tSín. Agus é ag cur síos ar a leabhar *Angels and Rabies: A Journey through the Americas* dúirt Gerry Ryan gurb é a bhí ann ná 'a cross between Joseph Conrad and Frank Zappa.' Thug an *Irish Times* ardmholadh don leabhar *An Bóthar go Santiago* le Micheál de Barra, leabhar machnamhach ar bhóthar na hoilithreachta go Santiago de Compostela, an tsiúlóid bheannaithe is cáiliúla san Eoraip. Iar-oifigeach airm é Frank Reidy agus ina leabhar *Ó Chósta go Cósta* tugann sé timpeall chósta na Céinia sinn i ndabha, bád traidisiúnta, tugann cuairt ar mhamó Barack Obama agus faigheann sé amach i dtaobh stair chasta bhrónach na tíre. Tugann sé cuairt ar Ruanda chomh maith, féachaint conas tá ag éirí leo i ndiaidh an chinedhíothaithe. Sa bhliain 2003 d'fhág Alan Desmond Éire chun a bheith ag teagasc in Ollscoil Chaitliceach Lublin agus tugann *Seal sa Pholainn* sinn go dtí croí na tíre sin, conas mar a mhúnlaigh an Caitliceachas, an Dara Cogadh Domhanda agus teip an chumannachais an náisiún agus an pobal.

Léifidh na scríbhneoirí as a gcuid saothar i gcomhluadar Michael Cronin, teangeolaí agus criticeoir a bhfuil spéis ar leith aige sa litríocht taistil.

## From Beyond Our Shores: Travel Literature in Irish

Often compared to Michael Palin and Alan Whicker, 'Global Nomad' Manchán Magan is a first-class travel writer and broadcaster in both English and Irish. He has filmed in India, the Middle East, US, Greenland and China. His book *Angels and Rabies: A Journey through the Americas* was described by Gerry Ryan as 'a cross between Joseph Conrad and Frank Zappa'. Micheál de Barra's *An Bóthar go Santiago* was hailed in the *Irish Times* as a 'beautifully written meditation on the pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, Europe's most famous pilgrim walk'. In *Ó Chósta go Cósta*, Frank Reidy sails around the Kenyan coast in a traditional dhow, visits Barack Obama's grandmother, and learns about the country's complicated and tragic history. He also returns to Rwanda to see how they are progressing in the years following genocide. In 2003, Alan Desmond left Ireland to teach at the Catholic University of Lublin, and in *Seal sa Pholainn* he takes the reader on a probing journey to the heart of modern Poland, exploring how Catholicism, the Second World War, and the fall of communism have shaped the nation and its people.

Tonight these writers will read from their books and talk about their travels in the company of writer, linguist and critic Michael Cronin.

*This event has been curated by Liam Carson, Director of IMRAM, in association with the Dublin Writers Festival.*

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 8.15pm

**Tickets:** €10 / €8 (concession)

## Paul Brady – in conversation and live performance with John Kelly

What makes a great song – the lyric, the melody or something altogether more elusive? Exploring this fertile terrain through words and live performance in the first of two specially curated songwriting events is one of Ireland's most prolific and enduring artists – Paul Brady.

Brady was swept up in Ireland's traditional music revival scene of the late 60s and early 70s, recording and touring with The Johnstons, performing with folk-rock supergroup Planxty and forging a formative partnership with Andy Irvine. Following his definitive folk statement – *Welcome Here Kind Stranger* – in 1978, Brady reached a musical crossroads, branching out and refining his own songwriting skills on a series of acclaimed solo albums and creative collaborations. In 2001 he completed a record run of 23 nights at Dublin's premier music venue Vicar Street. His latest album *Hooba Dooba* – his first for five years – is an object lesson in sublime songcraft, a multi-instrumental *tour de force* that tackles big themes from love and death to contemporary politics.

Now, in conversation with writer and broadcaster John Kelly – punctuated by a personal selection of live acoustic material – Brady shares his thoughts on the art of songwriting: key songs, major influences, inspiration, co-writing and collaboration...

*This event has been curated by John Kelly in association with the Dublin Writers Festival.*

**Venue:** Liberty Hall

**Time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** €20 / €15 (concession)



## Jennifer Johnston

**Chairperson:** Lelia Doolin

Dublin Writers Festival marks Jennifer Johnston's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with a celebration of the author's remarkable career.

Revered today as one of Ireland's finest writers – for Roddy Doyle, *the* finest – Johnston was a relatively late starter. She was in her forties when her literary debut *The Captains and the Kings* won the *Evening Standard* First Novel Award in 1972. Since then her output has been prolific. Over the last four decades she has written some sixteen novels – from the Booker-shortlisted *Shadows on Our Skin* (77) and the Whitbread-winning *The Old Jest* (79) – later filmed as *The Dawning* – to last year's *Truth or Fiction*.

Johnston has been dubbed 'the quiet woman of Irish literature'. Yet her themes – often dark and disquieting – rather belie this image. Far from cosy or conventional, her narratives dissect family dysfunction and sexual transgression with stylish economy. Johnston once remarked – 'I'd like people to find some small truth in my work and go on doing so.' Don't miss this special audience with Jennifer Johnston – one of our foremost chroniclers of the hidden workings of the human heart.

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Tickets:** €12 / €10 (concession)

‘Jennifer Johnston is not just one of Ireland’s best living writers, she is one of the best, full stop...’

– *Irish News*



JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>

Bookings: Tel. 01 881 9613 (14) Web. [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

## Neil Hannon – in conversation and live performance with John Kelly

In the second of two special events on the art of songwriting, Neil Hannon explores his craft through conversation and live performance.

The Derry-born singer-songwriter is best known as the creator and front-man of the Divine Comedy, a band whose mercurial chamber pop genius has graced two decades and seen numerous incarnations from solo Hannon enterprise to fully fledged orchestral ensemble. During this time Hannon has penned a number of contemporary pop classics including the 90s Britpop anthems *Becoming More Like Alfie* and *Something for the Weekend*. Beyond the Divine Comedy, Hannon has collaborated with the likes of Ute Lemper and Scott Walker, lent his songwriting talents to *Doctor Who* and *Father Ted*, and taught the English a thing or two about cricket in the suitably eccentric guise of the Duckworth Lewis Method.

Here, in the company of writer and broadcaster John Kelly, he dissects, debates and demonstrates the power of a good song, with some enlightening discussion and a few choice acoustic interludes.

*This event has been curated by John Kelly in association with the Dublin Writers Festival.*

**Venue:** Liberty Hall

**Time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** €15 / €12 (concession)



JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>

Bookings: Tel. 01 881 9613 (14) Web. [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

## The Glór Session


The Glór Session is Dublin's only weekly music and poetry event. Normally held in the basement of The International Bar in Wicklow Street, it is staging a special showcase for Dublin Writers Festival. Hosted by Stephen James Smith, it offers an energetic night of openness and sharing, a good mix of experience and inexperience, where the supportive atmosphere and no-nonsense policy gives performers a safe platform from which to shine. The Glór Session has featured on RTÉ's Radio 1 arts show *Arena* and in *The Irish Times'* Cultural Review 2009.

Performers on the night include poets Stephen James Smith, Kalle Ryan, Colm Keegan and Noel Sweeney, musicians Fiach and Enda Reilly and actor Melissa Nolan

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 8.30pm

**Tickets:** FREE (Booking advised, please contact the Project Arts Centre)

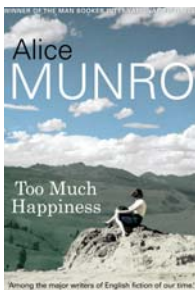


TONIGHT  
the  
singer  
songwriter  
night

JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>

Bookings: [info@dublinwritersfestival.com](mailto:info@dublinwritersfestival.com)

## Reading Stories: Anne Enright on Alice Munro



Writing and reading go hand-in-hand. So what do our favourite writers choose to pick up (and revisit) for their own reading pleasure? And once revisited, how might the perception of a story or novel change? In a new programming strand to the festival, major authors discuss and celebrate the writers and works that matter to them. Here Anne Enright chooses acclaimed Canadian short story writer Alice Munro.

*'Alice Munro's work has accompanied me through the last twenty five years of my life. She just gets better. She is the reader's friend.'* Anne Enright

Anne Enright discusses and answers questions on Alice Munro's latest collection, *Too Much Happiness*. Munro's accessible, moving stories are set in her native Canada, in small, provincial towns and explore human relationships through everyday events. Although not necessarily directly autobiographical, they reflect the author's own life experiences, are concerned with women's lives and are 'probably unrivalled in their fullness' (*Washington Post*). Alice Munro was awarded the Man Booker International Prize in 2009 for a lifetime's work.

Anne Enright has written essays, short stories, a work of non-fiction and four novels, the most recent of which, *The Gathering*, won the 2007 Man Booker Prize. Places are limited, booking is essential.

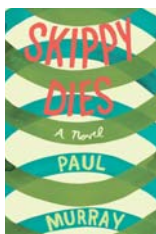
**Venue:** Dublin Writers Museum

**Time:** 11am

**Tickets:** FREE (Booking advised, please email [info@dublinwritersfestival.com](mailto:info@dublinwritersfestival.com))

## John Lynch & Paul Murray

**Chairperson:** Niall MacMonagle



How do writers face the challenge of the 'tricky' second novel? Are the jitters that inevitably accompany the literary debut now relegated to history? Or does the weight of expectation hang heavy on the successfully published writer? To discuss the highs and lows of the 'follow-up' are Irish writers John Lynch and Paul Murray.

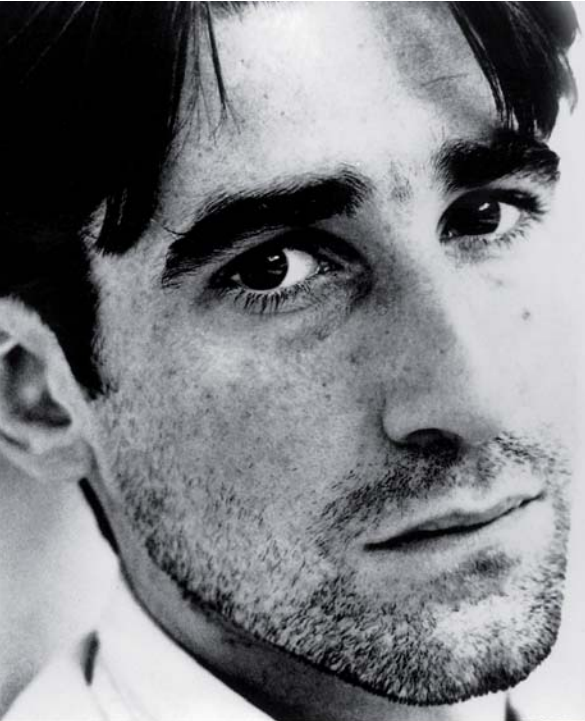
John Lynch made his name as an actor in a series of hard-hitting films – from *Cal* (1984) to *Some Mother's Son* (1996). He also starred in *Sliding Doors* (1998) with Gwyneth Paltrow and recently played Gerry Adams in the BBC's *Mo* (*The Mo Mowlam Story*). Yet Lynch is also an accomplished writer. Five years after his acclaimed debut *Torn Water* – 'a tale of great delicacy and originality' (*Independent on Sunday*) – comes *Falling Out Of Heaven*, a courageous story of betrayal and addiction in which one man must untangle his dark past to reclaim his future.

Paul Murray's 'criminally underrated' (*Guardian*) debut, *An Evening of Long Goodbyes*, was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award in 2003. Seven long years later and the wait is finally over in the form of his brand new tragic-comic epic *Skippy Dies*. Set in the grand old Dublin institution of Seabrook College for Boys, this 'gigantic, marvellous, witty, heartbreaking' (*Daily Telegraph*) novel wrings every drop of pathos, humour and hopelessness out of life, love, mermaids and 'M-theory'...

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 2pm

**Tickets:** €10 / €8 (concession)

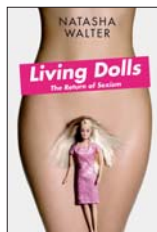


JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>

Bookings: Tel. 01 881 9613 (14) Web. [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

## Natasha Walter & Susan McKay

**Chairperson:** Anthea McTiernan



What message does our hypersexualised culture and its airbrushed version of femininity send out to women and young girls whose ambitions often stop at fame, glamour and endorsement by men? To what degree are we limiting their futures, and what actions can we, as a society, take to counter the slide?

In *Living Dolls* – written more than a decade after her seminal *The New Feminism* – broadcaster, writer and critic Natasha Walter asks how its watchwords – ‘choice’, ‘empowerment’ and ‘liberation’ – have become so distorted, and at what cost? Natasha Walter has worked as a reviewer, columnist and feature writer at the *Independent*, the *Observer* and *Guardian*. She is a passionate advocate for the rights of women and in 2006 founded the charity Women for Refugee Women.

Susan McKay is an award-winning journalist, author and campaigner. She is currently director of the National Women’s Council of Ireland. Her debut book *Sophia’s Story* was a potent and provocative best-seller. She has also written the history of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, and was instrumental in setting up the Belfast equivalent. Her other books include *Bear in Mind* *These Dead* (2008) and *Northern Protestants, an Unsettled People* (2000).

Join Natasha and Susan for a pressing debate on the return of sexism.

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 4pm

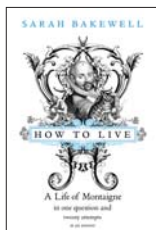
**Tickets:** €10 / €8 (concession)



# How to Live

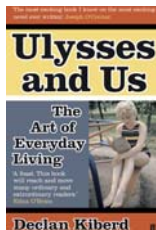
## Sarah Bakewell, Declan Kiberd & Ruth Padel

**Chairperson:** Evelyn Conlon



What effect might reading ‘great works’ have on the way we live and engage with the world around us? And to what extent does reading (and indeed all the arts) help shape our humanity?

In Sarah Bakewell’s innovative new biography of Montaigne, the 16<sup>th</sup>-century French thinker and Renaissance essayist is revealed in strikingly contemporary light, his free-ranging meditations proving an inexhaustible source on *How to Live* in his or any other century...



Declan Kiberd is an award-winning writer, critic, broadcaster and professor of Anglo-Irish Literature at University College, Dublin. In *Ulysses and Us* – his audacious new take on this seminal text – he argues that, far from elitist literature, Joyce’s epic novel offers a model for *Everyday Living*, in the tradition of Homer or Dante.

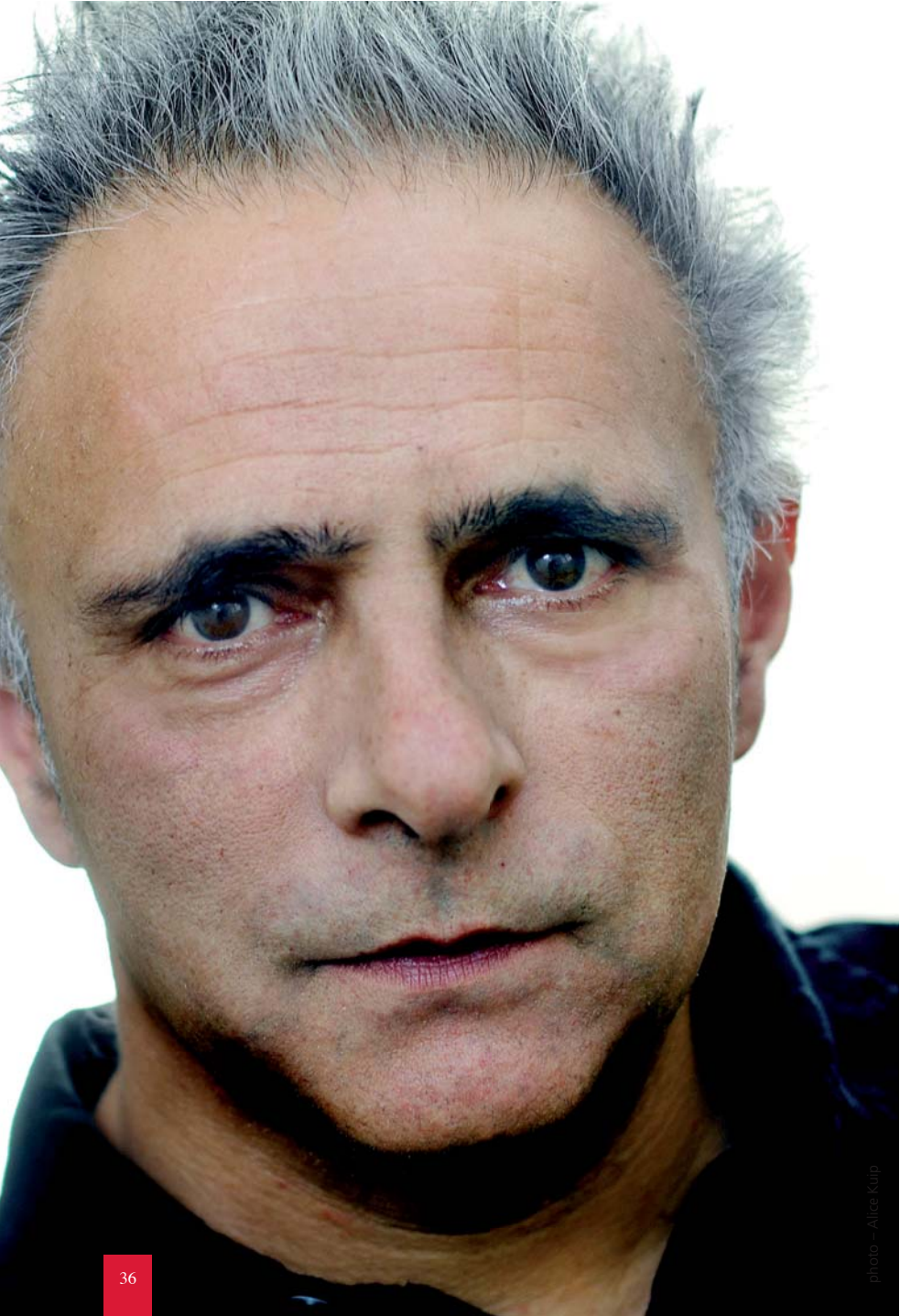
If ever a book changed lives it was Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*. A century and a half later, the botanist’s great-great-granddaughter Ruth Padel distilled the essence of the man and his work in the daring and original *Darwin: A Life in Poems*. Her latest work – *Where the Serpent Lies* – marks a turning point in the poet’s career, trading verse for prose in a gripping debut novel.

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 6pm

**Tickets:** €12 / €10 (concession)





JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>

**Bookings:** Tel. 01 881 9613 (14) **Web.** [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

## Hanif Kureishi

**Chairperson:** Philip Coleman



Join Hanif Kureishi for a celebration of his recently published *Collected Stories* in his only Irish event this summer.

Hanif Kureishi is a prolific creative force. Playwright, screenwriter, novelist and filmmaker, he has captured the zeitgeist of our multicultural and multiracial society in a string of award-winning works from his Oscar-nominated 1985 screen debut *My Beautiful Launderette* to last year's adaptation of *The Black Album* at London's National Theatre.

Throughout this time Kureishi has penned some of his most powerful and provocative work in the short story form. At turns political and personal, tender and satirical, these stories have explored such diverse territory as the media (*Love in a Blue Time*), the dynamics of sexual desire (*Midnight All Day*) and physical/personal identity (*The Body and Other Stories*). Now, for the first time, Kureishi's short fiction has been collected in a definitive anthology. The volume includes the author's controversial story *Weddings and Beheadings*, as well as his prophetic *My Son the Fanatic*, which exposes the religious tensions within the Muslim family unit.

**Venue:** Project Arts Centre

**Time:** 8pm

**Tickets:** €12 / €10 (concession)

## Reading Stories: Dermot Healy on James Joyce & Aidan Higgins

Dermot Healy chooses two short stories, one by James Joyce and one by Aidan Higgins.

*'Re-reading gives you a different story than the one you first read, as you've added on to it and forgotten some of the original. This was something I experienced with both these short stories.'* Dermot Healy

Dermot Healy considers why these two short stories have had such a profound effect on him, stories that he has returned to again and again.

Widely regarded as one of the finest short stories ever written, James Joyce's *The Dead* (from *Dubliners*) chronicles the spiritual awakening of Gabriel Conroy.

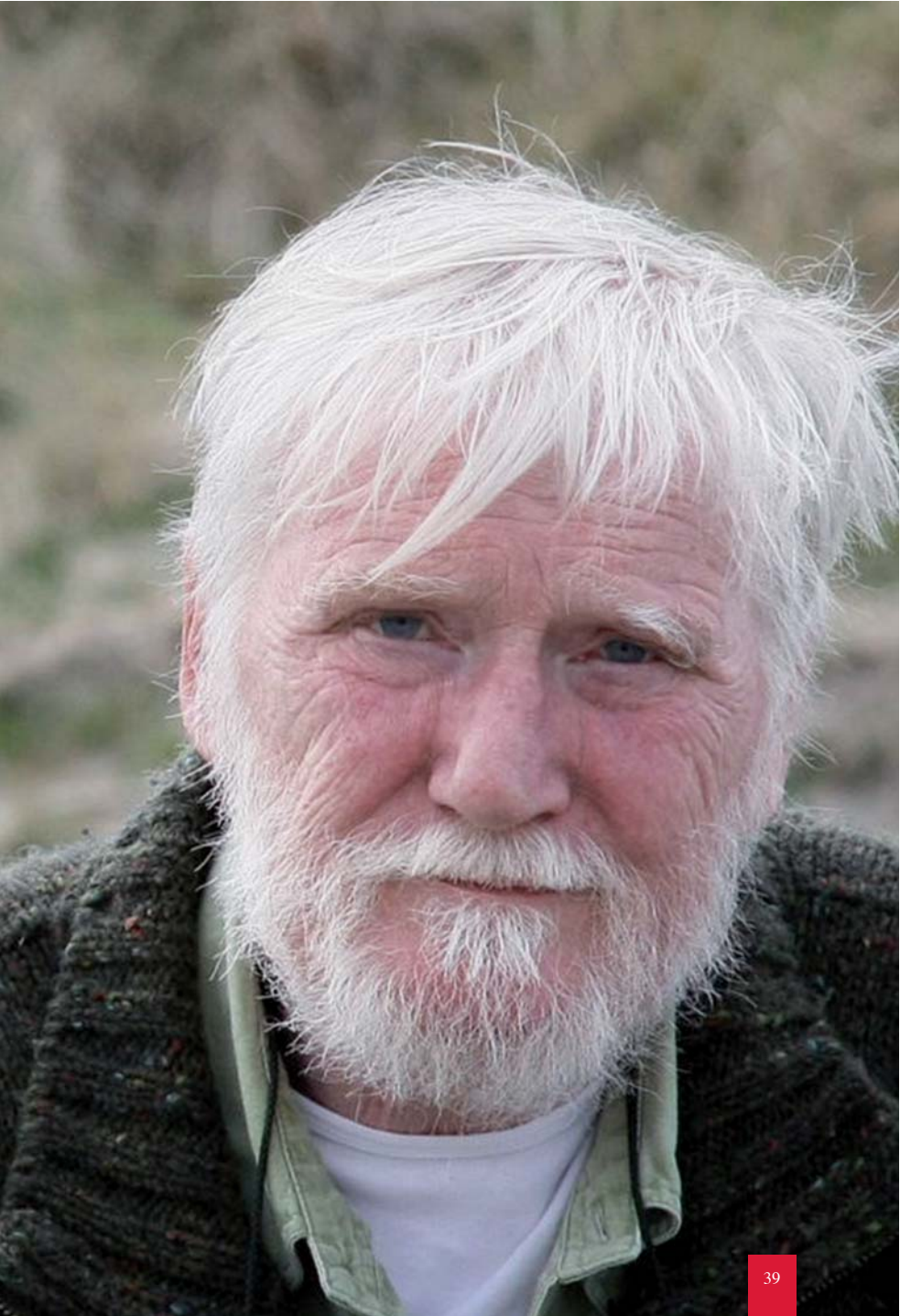
*Asylum* was the main story in Aidan Higgins' 1961 collection *Felo de Se*. For Annie Proulx, 'the pure architecture of his sentences takes the breath out of you.'

Dermot Healy's work includes novels, short stories, poetry, plays and a memoir. A new novel, *Long Time, No See* will be published in October.

**Venue:** Dublin Writers Museum

**Time:** 12pm

**Tickets:** FREE (Booking advised, please email [info@dublinwritersfestival.com](mailto:info@dublinwritersfestival.com))



JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>

Bookings: Tel. 01 881 9613 (14) Web. [www.projectartscentre.ie](http://www.projectartscentre.ie)

## Yann Martel

**Chairperson:** John Boyne

*'So magical, so playful, so harrowing and astonishing... Every page offers something of tension, humanity, surprise, or even ecstasy.'* *The Times* on *Life of Pi*

In what promises to be one of this year's festival highlights, Canadian novelist Yann Martel unveils *Beatrice and Virgil*, the much anticipated follow-up to his Booker-winning literary phenomenon *Life of Pi*.

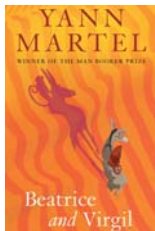
When Henry receives a letter from an elderly taxidermist, he becomes embroiled in the strange and remarkable lives of Beatrice and Virgil – a donkey and a howler monkey. Together they undertake an epic journey... With the same narrative verve that made *Life of Pi* such a resounding success – 7 million copies worldwide! – *Beatrice and Virgil* takes the reader on a haunting odyssey. En route Martel asks some profound questions about life and art, truth and deception, responsibility and complicity.

A persuasive advocate for Art as a cornerstone of society, Martel has spent the last three years lobbying the Canadian premier by sending him a book every fortnight. Join him as he takes a brief hiatus from this literary 'campaign' to share his own words and thoughts on the liberating power of fiction.

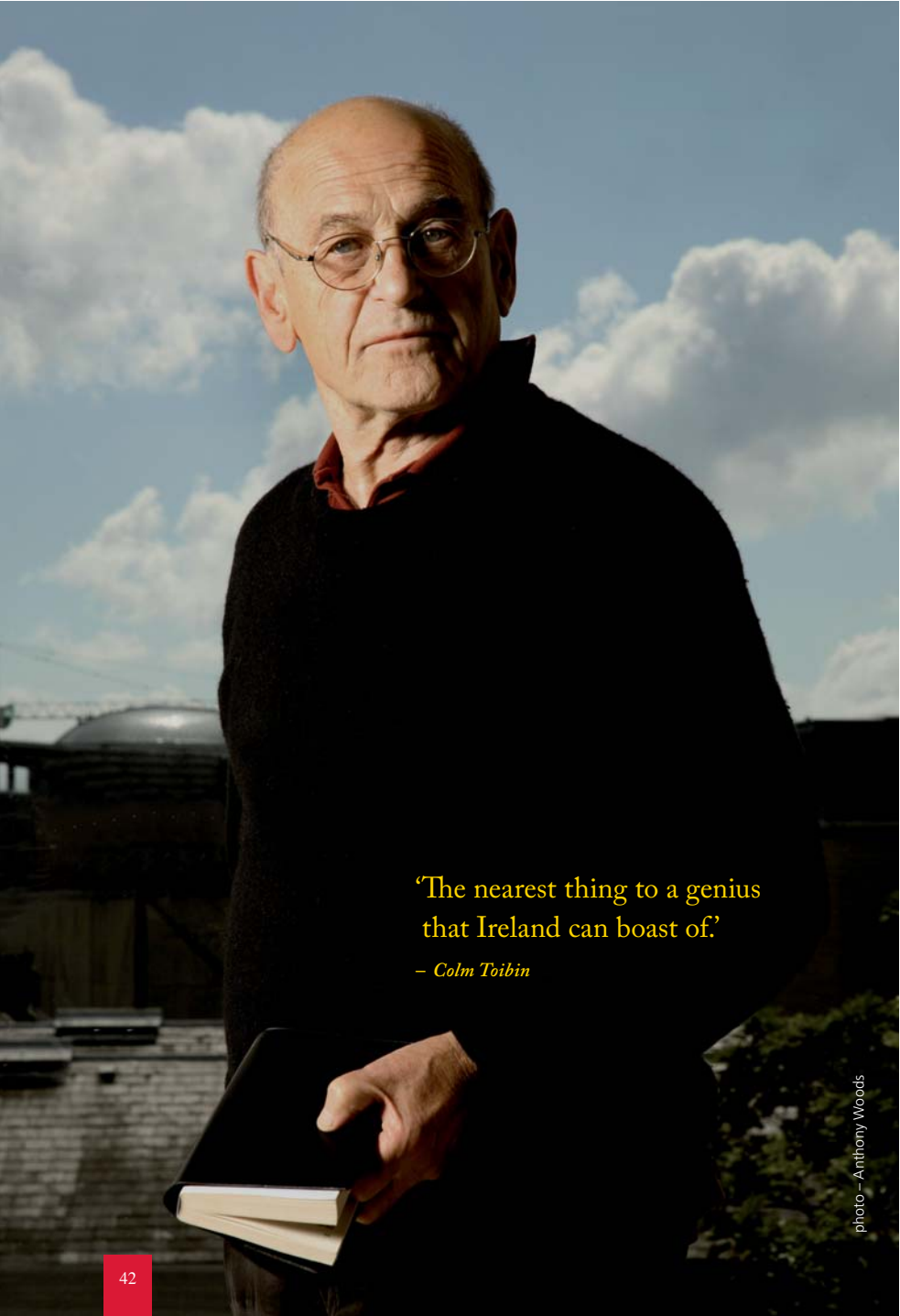
**Venue:** Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane

**Time:** 2pm

**Tickets:** €10 / €8 (concession)







“The nearest thing to a genius  
that Ireland can boast of.”

– *Colm Toibin*

JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>

Bookings: Tel. 01 878 7222

Web. [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

— Eithne McGuinness Memorial Event —

## Tom Murphy

**Chairperson:** Conor McPherson

This year Tom Murphy – one of Ireland’s foremost living dramatists – turns 75. To celebrate, Dublin Writers Festival presents a rare evening of reading and conversation with the Dublin-based playwright.

When Tom Murphy raged onto the 60s scene with his incendiary debut *A Whistle in the Dark*, Kenneth Tynan called it ‘arguably the most uninhibited display of brutality London theatre has ever witnessed.’ The playwright has rarely been far from controversy since. The anticlerical *The Sanctuary Lamp* (1974) – recently revived at London’s Arcola Theatre – caused such a furore at its Dublin premiere that audiences walked out in ranks.

If these early years were characterised by a dark fury, then the 1980s saw work wildly diverse in tone, style and theme – from the ‘Faustian’ *The Gigli Concert* and lyrical *Bailegangaire* to the darkly comic *Conversations on a Homecoming*. His more recent plays include *The Wake* (1997), *The House* (2000) and *Alice Trilogy* (2005). His latest, *The Last Days of a Reluctant Tyrant*, premiered last year at Dublin’s Abbey Theatre, whose extensive 2001 retrospective almost a decade earlier was a defining moment in the playwright’s career.

Today Tom Murphy remains a restless and probing writer, with a razor-sharp wit, dark edge and profound engagement with contemporary Irish concerns.

**Venue:** Abbey Theatre

**Time:** 4pm

**Tickets:** €12 / €10 (concession)

JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>

Bookings: Tel. 01 878 7222

Web. [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

## The Gallery Press 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poetry Celebration

*including:*

Dermot Healy \* Ciaran Carson \* Gerald Dawe  
Alan Gillis \* Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin \* Derek Mahon  
Michael Coady \* John Montague \* Peter Fallon  
Medbh McGuckian \* Vona Groarke

To mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ireland's pre-eminent independent publisher, The Gallery Press, Dublin Writers Festival has assembled a stellar line-up of Irish poets, drawn together for a very special one-off celebration.

For the last four decades, Gallery Press has published poetry, drama and prose by these and many other leading contemporary Irish writers. With over 400 titles to its name, the Press has amassed a formidable list, showcasing the finest of new Irish writing by established and emerging literary figures.

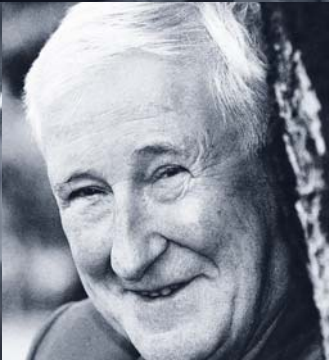
With opening address by special guest Seamus Heaney and the premiere performance of new work by composer Bill Whelan, this exclusive poetry encounter is a fitting tribute to a modern Irish institution.

**Venue:** Abbey Theatre

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Tickets:** €20 / €15 (concession)

THE  
GALLERY  
PRESS



# Festival Team

## Festival Director

Sinéad Connolly

## Programme Director

Liam Browne

## Advisory Panel

Niall MacMonagle  
Ailbhe Smyth  
Peter Sirr  
Clare Hogan  
Jack Gilligan

## Festival Manager

Aimée van Wylick

## Administration

Vicky Kearney  
Catherine Neville  
Maura Carty

## Front of House

Lisa Griffith and  
team of volunteers

## Graphic Design

Yellowstone Design

## Copywriter

Max Crisfield

## Website

Sandbox

## Blog

Elizabeth Rose Murray

## PR

Zoetrope

## Special thanks are due to the following:

Lord Mayor of Dublin,  
Cllr. Emer Costello  
and the members of  
Dublin City Council

City Manager  
John Tierney,  
Philip Maguire, Paul Clegg  
and Michael Sands

Sarah Bannan,  
Maeve Whelan,  
Members and Executive  
of The Arts Council

Willie White,  
Niamh O'Donnell, and all  
at Project Arts Centre

Gerard Smyth,  
Katie Molony and all  
at The Irish Times

Cormac Kinsella of  
Reporce Publicity

Declan Haaney

John Kelly

Liam Carson

Ruth Webster,  
Books Upstairs

Susan Walsh,  
Dubray Books

Marian Richardson,  
RTÉ Radio One's Drivetime

Julie Knight, lyric fm

Greg McLoughlin

## Sponsors



## Media Sponsors



## Publishers

Atlantic Books  
Canongate  
Faber & Faber  
Harper Collins  
Little, Brown  
Hatchette Books Ireland  
Hodder Headline  
Hodder & Stoughton  
Penguin  
Penguin Ireland  
Random House  
The Gallery Press

## Venues

A special thanks to  
all the staff of:

Dublin City Gallery  
The Hugh Lane  
Dublin Writers Museum  
Abbey Theatre  
Liberty Hall  
The National Concert Hall  
Project Arts Centre  
The Sugar Club

With gratitude and great affection we remember the late Eithne McGuinness, who worked with Dublin Writers Festival from 2004-2008. A great friend to Dublin City Arts Office, Eithne was a talented actor and playwright whose wicked sense of humour endeared her to everyone. "Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann".

Dublin City Council's Arts Office located in  
the municipal arts centre,

# The LAB

which includes a Gallery, Workshop/Rehearsal Rooms,  
Arts Incubation Space and Meeting Room



The LAB  
Foley Street, Dublin 1.

Enquiries  
01 222 5455 / e-mail: [catherine.neville@dublincity.ie](mailto:catherine.neville@dublincity.ie)

Exhibitions open  
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm

# RTE lyric fm



music



arts



Where Life  
Sounds Better



Classical, opera, jazz, big band, movies  
& musicals, world & roots, traditional,  
contemporary, full works, chamber,  
sacred & choral and more...  
Centuries of music, traditions and styles

# BROOKS

— HOTEL —

Official host hotel of the Dublin Writers Festival



Brooks is a four star designer boutique hotel located on Drury Street, just a short stroll from Grafton Street, Trinity College, Temple Bar and all of the cities main attractions. Designed to cater for guests who value difference and for whom ambience, décor and quality of service are important, Brooks is modern and stylish with an emphasis on personal service and unhurried timelessness. For those travelling by car Drury Street Car Park is directly opposite with special rates for Brooks Residents.

## MAKE A NIGHT OF IT...

Special rates for Dublin Writers Festival guests from as little as  
€70 per person sharing including Full Irish Breakfast



*Brooks is part of the Sinnott Hotel Group and a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.*

Drury Street, Dublin 2

Phone: 01 6704000 Fax: 01 6704455 Email: [reservations@brookshotel.ie](mailto:reservations@brookshotel.ie)



[www.sinnotthotels.com](http://www.sinnotthotels.com)

the arts  
council  
as chomhairle  
ealaíon

funding

literature

artscouncil.ie

## Take a bow!

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

The arts play a vital role in our economy, and smart investment of taxpayers' money in the arts is repaid many times over. The dividends come in the form of a high value, creative economy driven by a flexible, educated, innovative work force, and in a cultural tourism industry worth €5 billion a year.

The Arts Council is the Irish Government agency for funding and developing the arts. Arts Council funding from the taxpayer, through the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, for 2009, is €75 million, that's about €1 euro a week for every household.

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

Find out what's on at [www.events.artscouncil.ie](http://www.events.artscouncil.ie)

You can find out more about the arts here:

[www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie)





**FÉILE** 2010  
**SCRÍBHNEOIRÍ**  
BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH  
MEITHEAMH 1-6