



# BORRIS HOUSE FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS 2014



MADE POSSIBLE BY:  
**WRITERS'  
TEARS**  
POT STILL  
IRISH WHISKEY

Borris House and Village, Borris, Co. Carlow

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

Sitting at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains on the banks of the Barrow, Borris House is one of the most magnificent ancestral homes in Ireland, tracing its history back to the High Kings of Leinster.

The weekend of 14th and 15th June 2014 will bring together some of the most intriguing international minds – novelists, journalists, film-makers, poets, theatre directors, war correspondents, biographers, artists and political commentators – for a weekend of stimulating discussion.

## SATURDAY 14TH JUNE

**TICKETS FROM €12.50 FOR MOST TALKS TO  
€35 FOR A DAY PASS**

**MARIELLA FROSTRUP** talks to **JOHN BANVILLE** about his double life.  
12-1 PM

**STEPHEN FREARS** (*Philomena*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *The Snapper*, *The Queen*, *The Van*) discusses his forthcoming film about Lance Armstrong with journalist **DAVID WALSH**, on whose book *Seven Deadly Sins*, the film is based.  
1.30-2.30 PM

Booker-prize nominee **DEBORAH LEVY** talks to arts correspondent **SOPHIE GORMAN** about hypochondria, novels that are 'on the brink of chaos' and why she writes.  
1.30-2.30 PM

**JASON McCUE** on turning Somali pirates into fishermen, **ANNIE GOSNEY** on theatre costumes, **LOUIS DE BERNIERES** plays the mandolin, **LISA DWAN** on her Beckettian homage, and a **SURPRISE GUEST**  
3-4 PM

Novelists **DONAL RYAN** (*The Spinning Heart* and *The Thing About December*) and **EIMEAR McBRIDE** (*A Girl is a Half Formed Thing*) talk to documentary-maker **COLLEEN TOOMEY** about how their characters survive the brutal world.  
3-4 PM

Following **KATRINE BOORMAN'S** 2012 documentary *Me and My Dad*, her father **JOHN BOORMAN** asked her to collaborate on his new movie *Queen & Country*. The two talk about family and film.  
3-4 PM

"It's not so much I'm angry. But so sad." **PHILOMENA LEE** talks with film director **STEPHEN FREARS** about her lifelong search for her son, the film that told her story, and how *Philomena* finally changed Ireland's adoption record policies.  
4.30 PM

Novelist **SEBASTIAN BARRY** and historian **ROY FOSTER** in a conversation about history, fiction, memory and the ways that the Irish past is remembered, forgotten and celebrated.  
4.30-5.30 PM

'Dying is easy. Comedy is hard' **JOHN BUTLER** (*The Stag*) and **PAUL MURRAY** (*Skipper Dies*) chew the cud.  
6-7 PM



PHILOMENA LEE

ROY FOSTER

SEBASTIAN BARRY

MARIELLA FROSTRUP

STEPHEN FREARS

LISA DWAN



In *Return of a King: the Battle for Afghanistan*, **WILLIAM DALRYMPLE** draws parallels between the 19th-century Anglo-Afghan War and the current Afghan conflict. "In both cases, the invaders thought they could walk in, perform regime change, and be out in a couple of years." He explains.

6-7 PM

**MARIELLA FROSTRUP** 'landed one of the few jobs where past crimes and current misdemeanours enhance your qualifications'. **SINEAD GLEESON** quizzes her on the responsibilities of agony auntism, whether she is ever truly flummoxed... and if it is a grim business, or a source of incredulous amusement.

6PM

Blackadder actor **TIM MCINNERNY** (Lord Percy and Captain Darling) meets **SINEAD GLEESON** to discuss that ground-breaking comedy series, his career since then, and his recent encounter with Irish Wolfhounds.

6PM

*Soundings*: A live recording of the culture podcast as hosts **DYLAN HASKINS** & **LISA HANNIGAN** are joined by author **DAMIEN BARR** (*Maggie and Me*) for a cultural show and tell on the theme of autobiography.

7.30-8.30PM

*The Man in the Woman's Shoes*, written and performed by **MIKEL MURFI**

8-9 PM



WILLIAM DALRYMPLE



PATRICK MCCABE



CATHY DAVEY



KEVIN MYERS



PATRICK McGRATH



RUTH PADEL

## SUNDAY 15TH JUNE

*Soundings' Holy Trinity*: Surprise speakers and musicians hijacked from the Green Room talk and sing us into the day with stories to inspire, alarm and humour. Hosted by **DYLAN HASKINS** and **LISA HANNIGAN**

11.00 AM

"Love itself is what is left over, when being in love has burned away" said John Hurt's character Dr Iannis in *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. Does **LOUIS DE BERNIERES** really believe that?

12.30 PM

In 2009, human rights lawyer **JASON McCUE** won a landmark case against the Omagh bombers. He meets journalist **KEVIN MYERS** five years on.

12.30-1.30 PM

Musician and horse rescuer **CATHY DAVEY** meets poet and tiger conservationist **RUTH PADEL** to talk about creatures and lyrics. Both are prone to break out in song.

12.30-1.30 PM

*New York Times* Pakistan Bureau Chief **DECLAN WALSH** was expelled from Pakistan a year ago under mysterious political circumstances. One year on he sits down to make sense of it all with bestselling author **WILLIAM DALRYMPLE**.

2-3 PM

Bestselling novelist **JOSEPH O'CONNOR** talks to **OLIVIA O'LEARY** about his new book *The Thrill Of It All*, his love of music, his previous novels, and his teaching of creative writing.

2-3 PM

*Dubliners: 100* (published by Tramp Press) invited a number of established writers to re-imagine the short stories of Joyce's *Dubliners*. **PATRICK MCCABE**, **PAUL MURRAY** and **EIMEAR MCBRIDE** read from their contributions. Chaired by **TOM MORRIS**

2-3 PM



Novelists **HUGO HAMILTON** with **AUDREY MAGEE** discuss a common theme in their work – Berlin and its people, the war, the generation who lived there during the war and the one that lives there now. Introduced by **PETER STRAUS**

3.30 PM

Irish artist **GERARD BYRNE** discusses his work.

3.30 PM

**ROY FOSTER** talks on *Vivid Faces: The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland 1890–1922*, his new book due for release this Autumn.

3.30–4.30 PM

*Representing Conflict*: Human rights photographer and landmine survivor **GILES DULEY** and journalist **DECLAN WALSH** discuss their craft.

5.00 PM

Bestselling authors **DAMIAN BARR** and **DONAL RYAN** wind things up with a talk on scapegoats.

5.00 PM

'*That Way Madness Lies: Doubt, Fear and Horror in the Novel*' New York-based novelist **PATRICK McGRATH** and *Breakfast on Pluto* and *The Butcher Boy* author **PATRICK McCABE** in conversation with **PETER MURPHY**

5–6 PM



## FREE EVENTS TO HOLDERS OF ANY TICKETS TO ANY TALKS:

**FORM: DESIGN-MADE IN CARLOW** SAT AND SUN | 11AM–7 PM

The inaugural exhibition from a creative collective dedicated to excellence in design and making.

**Venue:** The Restored Laundry Building at Borris House. (See pg 4)

**NINE STONES EXHIBITION** SAT AND SUN | 11AM–8 PM

A dynamic visual arts group, based in the rural hinterland of South County Carlow, will present exhilarating new site-specific works.

**Venue:** Town House in Borris Village. (See pg 4)

**SCREENING: THE STAG [2014]** SAT | 1.30 PM

Directed by John Butler, starring Andrew Scott, Amy Huberman, Peter McDonald and Hugh O'Connor.

**Venue:** Borris House

**DAY OF RECKONING** SAT | 2.40–2.55 PM

Spontaneous Pop-Up Drama: *Day of Reckoning* by Barry McKinley (10 mins) performed by Carlow Little Theatre Society

**TALK IN THE PARK** SUN | 1.40–1.55 PM

Spontaneous Pop-Up Drama: Alan Ayckbourn's *Talk in the Park* (10 mins) performed by Carlow Little Theatre Society.

**RUTH PADEL** SUN | 2.30–3 PM

Ruth Padel reading *Seven Words and Earthquake*.

**WRITERS TEARS:** of frustration, of jubilation, of catharsis, of envy, of admiration... Surprise guests take turns in talking about the tears they have shed

**O'SHEAS PUB, BORRIS VILLAGE**  
SAT | 9.45PM

