



# SCHEDULE



**BORRIS HOUSE**  
**FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS**  
June 8th - 10th, 2018





| FRI 8th       | BALLROOM  | CHAPEL  | GRANARY   | MARQUEE   |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|
| 6.00 - 6.55   | <b>WRITING BEYOND GENDER:</b> Margaret Atwood, ( <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , <i>Oryx and Crake</i> and <i>Hag-Seed</i> ) and Anne Enright ( <i>The Gathering</i> and <i>The Green Road</i> ) in conversation.  |   | <b>UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BRAIN:</b> 2016 Wellcome Book Prize winner Suzanne O'Sullivan ( <i>It's All in Your Head</i> ), gives an illustrated talk on the enigma of psychosomatic illnesses.   |   |
| 7.10 - 8.05   | <b>TARTT HISTORY:</b> Donna Tartt ( <i>The Secret History</i> and <i>The Goldfinch</i> ) talks to writer and producer, Rick Stroud, about writing, art and adventure.   |   | <b>HUMAN TRAFFICKING:</b> Author Lisa Harding ( <i>Harvesting</i> ) and photographer Giles Duley (who documents displaced refugees) discuss the worldwide problem of sex trafficking & its victims' plight.   | <b>TO THROW AWAY UNOPENED:</b> Viv Albertine, The Slits guitarist and author, talks about her new book and challenges authority and female relationships with Sophie Gorman.  |
| 8.20 - 9.15   | <b>McMAFIA:</b> Misha Glenny, award-winning journalist and author talks to Luke Harding about organised crime in Russia.  |   | <b>A RECKLESS ROCK'N'ROLL LIFE:</b> Guy Pratt gives a 'wonderfully indiscreet' retelling of his riotous life as bassist with Pink Floyd, Roxy Music, Michael Jackson and Madonna.   | <b>IMPOSSIBLE IS JUST I'M POSSIBLE:</b> Joanne O'Riordan talks to Roisín Ingle about her inspirational life, living with no limbs, and her campaign for disability rights and funding.  |
| 9.45 - 11.15  |   |   |   |   |
| SAT 9th       |   |   |   |   |
| 11.00 - 12.00 | <b>SURPRISE TALK</b>  | <b>AN ARTICULATE WORKING CLASS:</b> Kit de Waal ( <i>My Name is Leon</i> , <i>The Trick to Time</i> ) and Lisa McNerney ( <i>The Glorious Heresies</i> , <i>The Blood Miracles</i> ) talk to Sinéad Gleeson about the gradual rise of voices from the 'underclass'.<br> | <b>LIVING WITH LUCIAN:</b> Painter David Dawson, Lucian Freud's longtime assistant and friend, gives an illustrated talk on his years spent alongside Freud with Sophie Gorman.<br>   | <b>THE CYBERDOGS OF WAR:</b> Journalist Misha Glenny ( <i>McMafia</i> ) and author and columnist Ben Macintyre ( <i>SAS: Rogue Heroes</i> ) discuss war in the digital age with historian Margaret MacMillan (2018 Reith Lecturer).   |
| 12.30 - 1.30  | <b>GHOST SONATA:</b> John Paul Jones, co-founder of Led Zeppelin, and Helen Cooper, librettist and playwright, talk about their 'mysterious and dramatic' opera with broadcaster Gerry Godley.  | <b>THE DEATH OR RE-BIRTH OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:</b> Una Mullally and Emmet Kirwan - a new generation of activists - discuss the hard-fought campaign for the Repeal the 8th Referendum and its implications for the young in Ireland with Fintan O'Toole.              | <b>CREATING FREEDOM:</b> Raoul Martinez discusses his essential text for thinking radicals and explores the mechanisms of control that pervade our lives suggesting how we can reshape our world with Michael Harding.  | <b>SEX, CENSORSHIP AND THE PLACE OF ARAB WOMEN IN THE WORLD:</b> Acclaimed Lebanese author Hanan al-Shaykh talks to journalist Mary Fitzgerald about challenging social mores.  |
| 2.00 - 3.00   | <b>MY NAME IS ELIZABETH STROUT:</b> Elizabeth Strout, the Pulitzer prize-winning author of <i>Olive Kitteridge</i> and <i>My Name is Lucy Barton</i> , talks to Sinéad Gleeson.   | <b>SACRIFICE:</b> Playwright Marina Carr talks to actor Lisa Dwan about rape, mutilation and murder in Greek tragedy.   | <b>A GLINT IN THE DARKNESS:</b> Photographer Giles Duley presents an illustrated talk about his work with refugees for his Legacy of War Foundation, with conflict journalist Ben Anderson.   | <b>ABANDONMENT:</b> Kit de Waal ( <i>The Trick to Time</i> ) and David Park ( <i>Travelling in a Strange Land</i> ) talk to Sophie Gorman about truth and loss during the Troubles.   |
| 3.30 - 4.30   | <b>POETRY AT BORRIS:</b> Billy Collins, former American Poet Laureate, reads from his work in conversation with Niall MacMonagle. An annual poetry presentation by the T.S. ELIOT FOUNDATION.   | <b>ERRANT TEENAGERS IN FICTION:</b> Danny Denton ( <i>The Earlie King</i> and <i>The Kid In Yellow</i> ) and Lisa McNerney ( <i>The Glorious Heresies</i> , <i>The Bloody Miracles</i> ) talk about bad girls and boys in literature.                                   | <b>FILMMAKING &amp; OTHER DISEASES:</b> Writer and Director Stephen Bradley allows comedian Neil Delamere a peek under the bonnet of a film-maker to discuss scenes that influenced, infuriated and informed him. Then they'll talk about milk.   | <b>CHINA: GREEN DICTATORSHIP</b> Isabel Hilton, international journalist and broadcaster, talks about her work raising environmental awareness in China and the enigma that is the People's Republic with Fintan O'Toole.   |
| 5.00 - 6.00   | <b>SOVIET SCANDAL:</b> Luke Harding ( <i>Collusion: Secret Meetings</i> , <i>Dirty Money</i> , and <i>How Russia Helped Donald Trump Win</i> ) discusses investigations into possible Russian collusion in the US elections with RTÉ news anchor Caitríona Perry ( <i>In America: Tales from Trump Country</i> ). | <b>THE PERSONAL AND THE PANORAMIC:</b> Alan Hollinghurst ( <i>The Stranger's Child</i> , <i>The Sparsholt Affair</i> ) and Philip Hensher ( <i>The Friendly Ones</i> , <i>The Emperor Waltz</i> ) discuss capturing social change in fiction with Alex Clark.<br>       | CLOSED FOR REHEARSAL  | <b>DETECTIVE STORIES FROM THE WORLD OF NEUROLOGY:</b> Suzanne O'Sullivan ( <i>Its All in Your Head</i> and <i>Brainstorm</i> ) meets John Lloyd ( <i>Not the Nine O'Clock News</i> and <i>QI</i> ) discuss the brain's invisible disabilities, its many strange manifestations and its links to creativity. |
| 6.30 - 7.30   | <b>LIFE OF CRIME:</b> Author Liz Nugent ( <i>Lying in Wait</i> , <i>Skin Deep</i> ) discusses the sweet spot where literary fiction and crime fiction meet, with Roisín Ingle.  | <b>GOTHIC OR WHAT?</b> Patrick McGrath talks madness and menace in his fiction with writer Roy Foster.  | 6.20pm: <b>PALE SISTER:</b> A sneak preview of Lisa Dwan's rehearsed reading of a new translation of <i>Antigone</i> by Colm Tóibín, in advance of its theatrical release next year. To be followed by a discussion with actress and author. [6.20pm No Latecomers / Event is 90 minutes]   | CLOSED  |
| 9.30 - 11.00  |   |   |   |   |
| SUN 10th      |   |   |   |   |
| 11.00 - 12.00 | <b>ROLLING THE DICE?</b> Margaret Atwood in conversation with Max Porter on myth, climate, fiction and poetry.  | CLOSED  | <b>HELD AGAINST HIS WILL:</b> Ivana Bacik talks to Ibrahim Halawa, the young Irishman released last October after spending four years in prison in Egypt.   | <b>TWO GREAT DAMES OF CUISINE:</b> Darina Allen and Claudia Roden talk to Rory O'Connell.   |
| 12.30 - 1.30  | <b>KIN AND KIND:</b> Alan Hollinghurst ( <i>The Line of Beauty</i> , <i>The Sparsholt Affair</i> ) talks to writer Nick Laird about what makes a family.  | <b>BEING A MAN TODAY:</b> John Lloyd ( <i>QI</i> ), Emmet Kirwan ( <i>Dublin Oldschool</i> ) and Philip Hensher ( <i>The Friendly Ones</i> ) talk about representations of masculinity in recent times.   | <b>INCARCERATED:</b> Rachel Kushner (whose new novel <i>The Mars Room</i> is based in a US correctional facility) considers life on both sides of the prison wall with Sophie Gorman.   | <b>PEACE IN OUR TIME?</b> Historians Margaret MacMillan and Rick Stroud in conversation on why we should still care about the First World War.  |
| 2.00 - 3.00   | <b>POETRY AT BORRIS:</b> Michael Longley reads from his work. An annual poetry presentation by the T.S. ELIOT FOUNDATION introduced by Niall MacMonagle.<br>  | <b>THE EXISTENCE OF STUFF:</b> John Connell ( <i>The Cow Book</i> ) and Michael Harding ( <i>On Tuesdays I'm a Buddhist</i> ) talk about uncertainty.   | <b>TWO PEAS IN A POD:</b> Alison Spittle meets fellow comedian Francesca Martinez to talk about the art of making people laugh.   | <b>THE LONGTERM LEGACY OF THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN:</b> War correspondent Ben Anderson in conversation with Fintan O'Toole.   |
| 3.30 - 4.30   | <b>GRIEF IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS:</b> Fresh from the sublime theatre production of <i>Grief</i> , author Max Porter, adapter and director Enda Walsh and actor Cillian Murphy talk us through their collaboration.   | <b>WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG:</b> John Lloyd and Sean Hardie take us through four decades of satire since they started <i>Not the Nine O'Clock News</i> together.<br>   | <b>MODERN GODS:</b> Poet and novelist Nick Laird talks poetry and prose with Olivia O'Leary, host of RTÉ's <i>The Poetry Programme</i> .<br>  | <b>FOOD FOR THE SOUL:</b> Giles Duley, Claudia Roden and Darina Allen talk to Rory O'Connell about the importance of breaking bread in human relationships.   |
| 4:45 - 5.45   | <b>A FANATIC HEART:</b> Bob Geldof talks with Roy Foster about Yeats, the Republic & social revolution in the inaugural ANNUAL DOYLE COLLECTION INTERVIEW.  | <b>JUDGING SHAW - THE RADICALISATION OF GBS:</b> Fintan O'Toole on George Bernard Shaw and the politics of celebrity.   | <b>VISUAL ART</b> Sculptors Sonja Landweer, Caroline Couchman, Mim Scala and artist Janet Brabazon exhibit work in The Old Laundry (beside the Granary), while artist David King will work <i>en plein air</i> (assuming torrential rain stays away) throughout the festival - and invites visitors to come and look over his shoulder. |   |



### MUSIC IN THE PUBS AT NIGHT

Both O'Sheas's Bar and Joyce's Pub will have live music on both **Friday and Saturday night from 10pm**. Details can we found on our website and in the premises.



### STEP HOUSE

9.45: **A LINE OF O'KANE:** Following her impressive performance on 'Dancing with the Stars', Deirdre O'Kane takes to the stage with her hilarious new stand-up show.

### OH MY GOD WHAT A COMPLETE AISLING:

Comedian Alison Spittle meets Sarah Breen (Borris native!) & Emer McLysaght to talk about their runaway success.

### WHAT THE \*\*\*\* IS NORMAL?

Award-winning comedian Francesca Martinez talks to Deirdre O'Kane about society's obsession with normality and the rocky path to self-acceptance.

### IRELAND, EUROPE AND THE FUTURE OF THE BRITISH ISLES:

Historians Margaret MacMillan (2018 Reith Lecturer) and Oxford Professor Roy Foster discuss the far-reaching implications of Brexit.  


### THE FALL OF ISIS:

Award-winning war journalist Ben Anderson discusses his experience on the frontline in Mosul with fellow journalist Mary Fitzgerald.

### 5 X 15: STORIES:

Joanne O'Riordan, Alison Spittle, Ibrahim Halawa, Isabel Hilton and Surprise Guest each give us 15 minutes of their time. No scripts.




### MAJESTIC TRADITION:

Iarla Ó Lionáird and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh of The Gloaming are joined by guitarist Steve Cooney for a candlelit performance.

### ROGUE SPIES:

Journalists & authors Ben Macintyre and Luke Harding talk about the current geopolitical obsession with espionage, with Rick Stroud.

### EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT LOVE:

Journalist and writer Dolly Alderton talks to Roisín Ingle about recklessness and taking risks.  


### DIFFICULT WOMEN:

Elizabeth Strout (*Olive Kitteridge*, *My Name is Lucy Barton*) and Patrick McGrath (*Asylum*, *The Wardrobe Mistress*) discuss character and relationships in their fiction.

### THE BAR MARQUEE

#### SUNDAY: MUSIC

4.30 - 6pm

Music by Lemoncello Free.

