




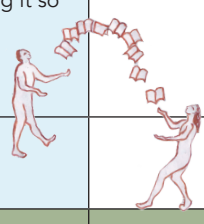
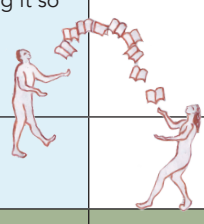

# SCHEDULE 2021

20 – 22 AUGUST



BORRIS HOUSE  
FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS



FRI	GARDEN STAGE (Marquee)	ROUNDHOUSE (Marquee)	FRONT LAWN STAGE (Marquee)
3.20 – 4.20pm	<b>WRITING WHEN THE WORLD IS ON FIRE?:</b> <b>Sarah Moss</b> and <b>Mark O’Connell</b> wonder whether doom is the only safe place.	<b>THE LIFE AND MANY DEATHS OF A STATE PATHOLOGIST:</b> <b>Dr. Marie Cassidy</b> ( <i>Beyond the Tape</i> ) talks to <b>Rob Doyle</b> about her remarkable personal journey in the world of forensic pathology and how the dead have plenty to say.	
4.40 – 5.35pm	<b>ELEGANT EVIL:</b> <b>John Banville</b> talks to <b>Alex Clark</b> about his latest crime novel <i>Snow</i> . Casting aside Benjamin Black and writing in a new stylistic register, John Banville explores the social decay of 1950s Ireland, the grip of the Catholic Church and an honest pursuit of justice.	<b>BEYOND THE BACKSTOP, WHAT’S NEXT?:</b> <b>Glenn Patterson</b> ( <i>Where Are We Now?; Backstop Land</i> ) discusses a United Ireland, the possibility of a border referendum and what this would really mean with <b>Mary Fitzgerald</b> .	
6.00 – 6.55pm	<b>IRELAND, EUROPE AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS:</b> <b>President Michael D. Higgins</b> and <b>Lord David Puttnam</b> in conversation.	<b>WHAT IS NATURE REALLY WORTH?:</b> New, science-based accounting systems reveal that nature is really worth much more than we usually think. But how can we build that insight into public policy and private actions? <b>Paddy Woodworth</b> and <b>Catherine Farrell</b> (of the INCASE project) discuss how we can use natural capital accounting to inform better decisions for people and planet.	<b>CREATE:</b> Poet and wordsmith <b>Stephen James Smith</b> , is central to the rise of the vibrant spoken word scene in Ireland today, and his poetry videos have amassed over 3 million views online. He is accompanied for this performance by a musical soundscape from <b>Aidan Murphy</b> impromptu graphic artwork by <b>Steve Simpson</b> .
7.15 – 8.10pm	<b>SEEING, HEARING, WRITING:</b> <b>Geoff Dyer</b> ( <i>See/Saw</i> and <i>But Beautiful</i> ) - essayist and documentor of the unusual - talks to <b>Liam Cagney</b> about writing on music and photography and the way the two have come together in his work.	<b>BEYOND RACE:</b> <b>Emma Dabiri</b> , academic and broadcaster, ( <i>What White People Can Do Next</i> ) talks to <b>Mary Fitzgerald</b> about the invention of whiteness, the ‘poisoned chalice’ of social media and hashtag activism.	<b>LAUGH OR CRY TO THE END OF THE WORLD:</b> <b>Mark O’Connell</b> ( <i>Notes From An Apocalypse</i> ) talks to <b>Rob Doyle</b> ( <i>Threshold</i> ) on preparing for the apocalypse. Mark O’Connell has travelled the world looking for answers.
8.30 – 9.45pm	FOOD TRADERS WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 9.30PM	FOOD TRADERS WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 9.30PM	<b>LIVE MUSIC</b> from <b>Junior Brother</b> : Chosen as <i>The Irish Times</i> ’ Best Irish Act of 2019, Junior Brother has built a rabid following thanks to unmissable live shows. His irreverent and strange stories unfold with reckless abandon upon a battered guitar and foot tambourine... and two fellow musicians just for the night.
SAT	GARDEN STAGE (Marquee)	ROUNDHOUSE (Marquee)	FRONT LAWN STAGE (Marquee)
10.55 – 11.50am	<b>SIGHING OVER THE PRESENT:</b> <b>Sarah Moss</b> ( <i>Summerwater</i> ) talks to <b>Alex Clark</b> about the closeness and claustrophobia of family life and turning lockdown into fiction.		
12.20 – 1.15pm	<b>PLAYING AT BEING GROWN UPS:</b> <b>Marian Keyes</b> ( <i>Grown Ups</i> ) and <b>Amy Huberman</b> talk about love, comedy, writing and everything in between.	<b>SLEEPING BEAUTIES AND BRAIN WIRING:</b> <b>Suzanne O’Sullivan</b> ( <i>The Sleeping Beauties</i> ) and <b>Kevin Mitchell</b> ( <i>Innate</i> ) explore how nature and nurture shape our brains and impact on all aspects of our psychology, even influencing medical conditions, both real and imaginary.	<b>TWO MEN, TRYING TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT:</b> <b>Michael Harding</b> and <b>Manchan Magan</b> both hope the other one has the answers.
1.45 – 2.35pm	<b>THE INHERITANCE OF GUILT:</b> In her work, <b>Christine Dwyer Hickey</b> ( <i>The Narrow Land</i> ) tackles rarely voiced, suppressed and oblique aspects of human nature. She talks to <b>Olivia O’Leary</b> about the creative process, the writing life and childhood influences.	<b>CHILDREN OF THE FAMINE:</b> <b>Marita Conlon McKenna</b> ( <i>Under the Hawthorn Tree</i> ) is passionate about history as a source for her bestselling novels with <b>Turtle Bunbury</b> ( <i>The Irish Diaspora</i> ).	<b>CROSSING THE THRESHOLD:</b> <b>Rob Doyle</b> ( <i>Threshold</i> ) investigates how to overcome the transcendental with <b>Geoff Dyer</b> ( <i>See/Saw</i> ).
3.05 – 4.00pm	<b>THE FUTURE IS IN THE FIELDS:</b> <b>Paddy Woodworth</b> , <b>Lisa Fingleton</b> and <b>Hannah Quinn Mulligan</b> talk ‘Creative Conservation on the Farm’ - about policies and practices which can keep Irish farmers happily on the land, while meeting increasingly urgent climate and biodiversity targets, and on the role the Arts can play in this.	<b>CONSPIRACY THEORIES, COVID VACCINES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPERTS:</b> Immunologist <b>Professor Luke O’Neill</b> ( <i>Humanology</i> ) and neuroscientist <b>Suzanne O’Sullivan</b> ( <i>The Sleeping Beauties</i> ) talk about the information overload that makes questionable science sound plausible with <b>Roisin Kiberd</b> ( <i>The Disconnect</i> ).	<b>RADICALS, REBELS AND MUSIC-LOVERS:</b> <b>Glenn Patterson</b> ( <i>Where Are We Now?</i> and <i>Good Vibrations</i> ) talks to <b>Liam Cagney</b> about the punk movement during the Troubles and the role of music in his life and work.
4.30 – 5.25pm	<b>SEIZING THE MOMENT TO BE FREE:</b> <b>Elaine Feeney</b> ( <i>As You Were</i> ) talks to <b>Sinéad Gleeson</b> ( <i>Constellations</i> ) about institutional failures and the kindness of strangers.	<b>VERNACULAR OF THE PASTORAL:</b> <b>Emma Dabiri</b> and <b>Manchan Magan</b> question if the Irish language can help us to reimagine our relationship to the natural world.	<b>POET AND THE PLAYER:</b> <b>Lemoncello</b> – Laura Quirke (vocals, guitar) and Claire Kinsella (cello, vocals) weave a melodic and soothing tale for the soul, and when ‘seanchai for the next generation’ <b>Stephen James Smith</b> joins them, the collaboration becomes electric.
5.55 – 6.50pm	<b>REIMAGINING ANCESTRY:</b> <b>Sebastian Barry</b> ( <i>A Thousand Moons</i> ) talks to <b>Patrick Freyne</b> ( <i>OK, Let’s Do Your Stupid Idea</i> ) about how his family history inspires his novels and the troubles that happen within families.	<b>RADICAL EMPATHY:</b> <b>Ruairi McKiernan</b> ( <i>Hitching for Hope</i> ) and <b>Christine Dwyer Hickey</b> ( <i>The Narrow Land</i> ) talk about the power of narrative and how it equips us to use stories to build empathy, shatter stereotypes and break down barriers.	<b>DIGITAL DEMOCRACY AND THE RESURRECTION OF TRUST:</b> <b>Lord David Puttnam</b> talks to <b>Roisin Kiberd</b> ( <i>The Disconnect</i> ) about the threats posed by misinformation and how the distinctions between real life and the nebulous realities of the internet have corroded public trust and threatened democracy.
7.05 – 8.25pm	<b>LIVE JAZZ</b> from <b>The Carole Nelson Trio</b> : Carole Nelson is a long-established jazz composer whose career has gathered international awards and great critical acclaim. This concert is based around the trio’s exceptional second album, <i>Arboreal</i> (which is rooted in the landscape of South County Carlow). <b>Carole Nelson</b> on piano, <b>Cormac O’Brien</b> on bass and <b>Dominic Mullan</b> on drums. FOOD TRADERS WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 9.30PM	<b>THE LONELY PLACE:</b> <b>John Boyne</b> ’s latest hilarious novel <i>The Echo Chamber</i> braves the world of a family’s public meltdown thanks to their attempts to navigate social media. He talks about getting it so wrong, so easily, with fellow novelist <b>Rob Doyle</b> .  FOOD TRADERS WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 9.30PM	
8.30 – 10.00pm	<b>LIVE MUSIC</b> from <b>The Daoirí Farrell Trio</b> : Leading traditional music singer and bouzouki player Daoirí Farrell leads this mesmerising and exhilarating trio.		
SUN	GARDEN STAGE (Marquee)	ROUNDHOUSE (Marquee)	FRONT LAWN STAGE (Marquee)
10.15 – 11.15am	<b>STUPID IDEAS:</b> Journalism, Essays, Fiction and Beyond with <b>Sinéad Gleeson</b> ( <i>Constellations</i> ) and <b>Patrick Freyne</b> ( <i>OK, Let’s Do Your Stupid Idea</i> ).	<b>UNPACKING THE EVIDENCE:</b> <b>Jim Sheridan</b> ’s films ( <i>Murder at the Cottage</i> , <i>In the Name of the Father</i> , <i>My Left Foot</i> ) show a fascination with the underdog, the power of controversy and broken justice. With <b>Lisa McInerney</b> .	<b>SUNDAY ASSEMBLY</b> hosted by <b>Stephen James Smith</b> , and featuring a number of guest speakers and musicians from across the weekend - for many this is one of the festival highlights.
11.25am – 12.20pm	<b>THE ART OF FICTION. PART 1:</b> A very special opportunity to hear <b>David Mitchell</b> reading new work and pieces from his latest novel, <i>Utopia Avenue</i> , introduced by <b>Alex Clark</b> .	<b>HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT:</b> <b>Caelainn Hogan</b> ( <i>Republic of Shame</i> ) talks with <b>Dr. Mary McGill</b> ( <i>The Visibility Trap</i> ) about how breaking silence can be a catalyst for change and the ongoing legacy of human rights abuses in Ireland’s religious-run institutions, with basic rights still being denied today, and generations of survivors speaking out.	<b>MAKING A KILLING:</b> <b>Liz Nugent</b> ( <i>Our Little Cruelties</i> ) and <b>Dr. Marie Cassidy</b> ( <i>Beyond the Tape</i> ) talk to <b>Sue Leonard</b> ( <i>Whispering Hope</i> ) about the research behind crime writing and unpicking reality from the fiction.
12.50 – 1.45pm	<b>THE ART OF FICTION. PART 2:</b> <b>David Mitchell</b> talks to <b>Alex Clark</b> about his work from <i>Ghostwritten</i> and <i>Cloud Atlas</i> to <i>Utopia Avenue</i> , exploring fictional universes, literary inspiration and the nuts and bolts of writing.	<b>HOME:</b> <b>Emma Dabiri</b> talks to <b>Loah</b> (musician and broadcaster) and <b>JyellowL</b> (rapper and activist) about the new soundtrack for Ireland.	<b>A QUESTION OF FAITH:</b> <b>Shaykh Dr. Umar Al-Qadri</b> and <b>Roja Fazaeli</b> discuss the place of religion in an uncertain world with <b>Mary Fitzgerald</b> .
2.15 – 3.10pm	<b>COOKING, GROWING, WRITING AND TEACHING:</b> Siblings <b>Darina Allen</b> and <b>Rory O’Connell</b> tell <b>Kathy Sheridan</b> about the remarkable success story behind Ballymaloe and their other ventures.	<b>T.S. Eliot Poetry Foundation presents: DISPATCHES FROM THE SAUSAGE WARS:</b> <b>Nick Laird</b> ( <i>Feel Free</i> ) and <b>Paul Muldoon</b> ( <i>Dislocations</i> ) read from their poetry and discuss the latest developments in the North.	
3.40 – 4.35pm	<b>A JOURNEY INTO THE SPIRIT OF IRELAND:</b> Author, activist and hitchhiker <b>Ruairi McKiernan</b> ( <i>Hitching for Hope</i> ) and documentary maker <b>Manchan Magan</b> ( <i>Thirty Two Words for Field</i> ) discuss events that have shaped Ireland’s social, political and cultural landscape with journalist <b>Mary Fitzgerald</b> .	<b>AT THE MERCY OF ADDICTION:</b> <b>Lisa Harding</b> ( <i>Bright Burning Things</i> ) talks to <b>Dr. Mary McGill</b> about addiction, intergenerational trauma, parental love and the search for self-knowledge.	<b>TO PREVENT PANDEMICS, RESTORE DEGRADED LANDSCAPES:</b> <b>Paddy Woodworth</b> and <b>Barry McMahon</b> talk about why epidemic diseases leap from animals to humans, and how the destruction of intact habitats is increasing the frequency and virulence of pandemics.
5.05 – 6.00pm	<b>THE GALLAGHER LECTURE: CONSCIENCE AND CONSCIOUSNESS: A SENTENCE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PERSON:</b> <b>Zadie Smith</b> ( <i>Intimations</i> ) on the tension, in fiction, between the individual and the group, between the unique and the general, the personal and the political.	<b>FAITH, REASON AND BETRAYAL:</b> Historian <b>Diarmaid Ferriter</b> gives us a preview of his forthcoming book <i>Between Two Hells: The Irish Civil War</i> . With <b>Kathy Sheridan</b> .	<b>HANK WILLIAMS HASN’T ANSWERED YET:</b> Leonard Cohen, as performed by <b>Eric de Buitleir</b> and featuring <b>Shane O’Donovan</b> and <b>Derek Whyte</b> .

## OUR 2021 DIGITAL TALKS

(recorded before a live audience between January & June 2021) are all available on playback.

Access to all fifteen Digital Talks at [www.springseries.ie](http://www.springseries.ie) for a single payment of €20.

**STEPHEN FRY & COLM TÓIBÍN:**

An evening with introverted extroverts

**RUBY WAX & ALASTAIR CAMPBELL:**

Dreaming of a Better Future

**ANTONY BEEVOR & CHRISTINA LAMB:**

The Eternal War Against Women

**CHRISSE HYNDE & FIACHNA Ó BRAONÁIN:**

An obsession with Bob Dylan, and other candid chatter

**DAVID PUTTNAM & CAROLE CADWALLADR:**

Misinformation’s threat

**PHILIPPE SANDS & AYELET WALDMAN:**

The Real Measure of a Soul

**BOB GELDOF & RORY STEWART:** Rebels with a Cause:

Rock and Roll Eloquence, Public Service and Social Justice

**CARL BERNSTEIN & FINTAN O’TOOLE:**

Rebuilding a Broken America

**RUPERT EVERETT & SIMON CALLOW:**

“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”

**LAURIE ANDERSON & BRIAN ENO:**

Sculpting Sounds and Embracing the Unconventional

**DAVID BADDIEL & ALAN YENTOB:**

Humour as a form of rage: culture wars and comedy

**MARGARET ATWOOD & MAX PORTER:**

‘A word after a word after a word is power.’

**EMMA DABIRI & LEMN SISSAY:** The Myth of Race:

Interrogating Whiteness and Concepts of Identity

**DAVID BYRNE & LAURIE ANDERSON:**

A Glimpse of New York City: Art Now

**AN EVENING WITH PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS & COLM TÓIBÍN**

