



## THE FESTIVAL OF WRITING AND IDEAS

This is the 13th edition of this curious weekend of dialogue and discourse, gathering together intriguing minds from all over the world and inviting them to Borris Village for a few days. In the magnificent surroundings of Borris House, at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains with the River Barrow meandering by, this is a place that the curious find inspiring. We would like to thank the Kavanagh family for having us and for nurturing the festival every step of the way.

#### **BOARD**

Vivienne Guinness Hugo Jellett Mareta Doyle Kathy Gilfillan

#### WHO DOES WHAT

Creative and Executive Director: Hugo Jellett

Chief Curator: Vivienne Guinness Production Director: Annette O'Kelly

Artistic Director and Decor: Roz Jellett, Emperor's Robes

Curatorial Advisor: **Patsey Murphy** Artist Liaison: **Naoise Roo Callan** 

Camping Manager and Staff Welfare: **Dominique Dorman** 

Technical Director: Liam Mulvaney

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Auditor: Catherine Arthur, D.F. Dillon & Co. Sound and Light: Des Mahon Sound

Photography: Frank Smith

Tentology: Charles Preston, Bohemia Canvas

Bookshop: Liz Meldon

Team: Joel Greenbury, Fionn Breslin, Lily Guinness, Allegra Fitzherbert, Fiona Arakelian,

Amelia Conophy, Tom Emmet, Hayley Douglas, Shane Jackson, Kate Killarney, Ruby Arnold, Ruby Ware, Carla Barry, Harriet Fennell, Jack Zinc, Kayleigh Martin

#### **PATRONS**

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- 32-33 Food Stalls



#### **Edging closer**

Each year we get a little better at our aspiration to leave no trace, to contribute to carbon offset, and to programme talks that will nudge us in the right direction.

#### To date we have:

- · implemented a site wide, zero plastic policy.
- · invited food vendors who use locally sourced, fresh, seasonal food in fully compostable containers and cutlery.
- · hired local caterers using produce from this region
- · deposit scheme for reusable cups
- · introduced mains water stations with free reusable drinking cups.
- separated rubbish into compost, recycling and minimum general waste, to be processed by a local company, selected by us.
- · urged the people to make landfill waste a thing of the past by dealing with what they discard properly.
- · reduced paper usage via digital tickets, drastic reduction in printed promotional literature (100,000 programmes reduced to 3000)
- · changed all our lighting to LED bulbs
- · compost loos now plentiful. Please use them, not the other chemical ones!
- programmed over 120 hours of talks relating to sustainability and climate justice, publishing many digitally and for free to listeners
- · encouraging lift share to solo drivers

#### and...



With the owners of Borris House, we have planted a further 1000 trees this year, on top of 5000 so far.

Please join us by doing a little more than your bit.

And please put forward fresh ideas to do more.

www.festivalofwritingandideas.com





## FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS

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	THE ORANGERY	THE OWLERY	THE ROOKERY	STEPHOUSE	GRANARY	
2.15 - 3.15pm	DOUBLE TROUBLE: Ocean Vuong (On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous) and Deborah Levy (August Blue) on living through uncertainty, writing between darkness and light. Introduced by Fintan O'Toole.	THE HOLY LAND IN ANTIQUITY: Historian Tom Holland (In the Shadow of the Sword) on the ancient roots of the current conflict in Israel and Palestine, explaining the present crisis in the context of the deep past.	THINGS FELL APART: In Jon Ronson's award-winning podcast, he uncovers intriguing, wholly unexpected stories. We welcome him in person to explain why "nothing is more interesting than the complicated truth."			
3.15pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Ocean Vuong, D	eborah Levy, Tom Holland, Jon Ronson				
3.45 - 4.45pm	THE MEMORY GAME: Filmmaker and writer Neil Jordan's first memoir (Amnesiac) has just been published. He shares his experiences with long-time collaborator and producer Stephen Woolley (films include Mona Lisa, The Crying Game, Interview With The Vampire, Michael Collins, The Butcher Boy).	A SUMMONING: Sinéad Gleeson (Hagstone) discusses her eerie first novel which finds an artist on a secluded island challenged and transformed by a mysterious commune of women. In conversation with journalist Patrick Freyne.	LET'S TALK ABOUT RACISM: In their books, journalists Emma Dabiri (Disobedient Bodies) and Afua Hirsch (Decolonising My Body) explore ritual and beauty, race and identity, and reconnecting with their heritage.			
4.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Neil Jordan, Sind	éad Gleeson, Emma Dabiri, Afua Hirsch				
5.00 - 5.55pm	HOW I LISTEN: Novelist Elizabeth Strout (Lucy by the Sea; Olive Kitteridge) talks to actress Minnie Driver (Managing Expectations – her memoir in essays) about writing and "finding out what it feels like to be another person".	A WORLD MORE WONDERFUL THAN OUR WILDEST IMAGININGS: Katherine Rundell (The Golden Mole) with Kerri ní Dochartaigh (Cacophony of Bone) on an exhuberant celebration of nature's treasures.	NORTHERN LIGHT: Martin Doyle (Dirty Linen: The Troubles in My Home Place) talks to Máiría Cahill (Rough Beast: My Story and the Reality of Sinn Féin) about the lasting toll of violence in a single rural parish in Co. Down.	SEAMUS HEANEY: A LIFE IN LETTERS: Catherine Heaney introduces Christopher Reid, editor of The Letters of Seamus Heaney, and actor Ciarán Hinds, who will read from the collection.		
5.55pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Elizabeth Strout,	Minnie Driver, Katherine Rundell, Kerri ní Dochartai	gh, Christopher Reid, Martin Doyle, Máiría C	Cahill		
6.10 - 7.05pm	THE RESTORATION OF NATURE: Conservationists Charlie Burrell and Isabella Tree (The Book of Wilding) talk about their work at the Knepp Estate in West Sussex that has put wilding on the agenda. With Catherine Cleary, co-founder of Pocket Forests.	ON EARTH WE'RE BRIEFLY GORGEOUS: Vietnamese American writer, professor and photographer, Ocean Vuong (Time is a Mother), talks to literary journalist Alex Clark. Supported by the T.S. Eliot Foundation.	REINVENTING DICTATORSHIP FOR THE INFORMATION AGE: Kai Strittmatter, author of We Have Been Harmonised: Life in China's Surveillance State and Isabel Hilton, founder of China Dialogue, discuss the unprecedented surveillance of Xi Jinping's regime and the implications this digital totalitarianism has for the world's democracies.	GENRE-DEFYING WORK: Artist and stage designer Es Devlin's creations range from operas, plays, stadium concerts with artists including Béyonce and U2, as well as Olympic opening ceremonies and choral sculptures at Tate Modern and V&A. She talks to writer and academic Emma Dabiri.		
7.05pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Charlie Burrell, Isabella Tree, Ocean Vuong, Kai Strittmatter, Es Devlin					
7.25 - 8.20pm	REPORTING FROM THE FRONTLINE: BBC journalists Orla Guerin, Lyse Doucet and Fergal Keane bring stories behind the headlines of our time, including new risks and restrictions, and explain what keeps them going back to war zones including, of late, the Middle East and Ukraine. Moderated by Fintan O'Toole.	DON'T ASK ME, I'M JUST THE BASS PLAYER: U2 co-founder Adam Clayton talks to documentary film-maker Nick Broomfield.	LOVE KNOTS: Winner of the 2024 Writer's Prize for Fiction, Anne Enright (The Wren, The Wren), talks to Irish Times books editor Martin Doyle about family mythologies, generational conflict and the ties that bind.	CELEBRATING DYLAN THOMAS: Join Cerys Matthews (musician, author and broadcaster) and Arun Ghosh (multi instrumentalist) as they revisit the fictional Welsh seaside village of Under Milk Wood with music, chat and projections.	THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF KITSY RAINEY: Mikel Murfi (The Man in the Woman's Shoes and I Hear You and Rejoice) performs his latest critically acclaimed one-man show. It tells the story of cobbler Pat Farnon - married late - who lifts the lid on his wife's previous life. Tender and	

## HERE COMES NIGHTFALL

When the sun has dipped below the yard-arm... a night in Borris Village

**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): Fergal Keane, Anne Enright, Cerys Matthews

9pm: COMEDY IN THE ROOKERY: TINY PIANO MAN: David O'Doherty, with his €10 ebay keyboard, unpacks the complications he encounters between sleeps.

9.45pm: MUSIC IN THE STEPHOUSE: Ye Vagabonds brothers Brían and Diarmuid Mac Gloinn grew up playing music together, and have gone on to become one of Ireland's most loved folk groups.

and projections.

## 10pm: MUSIC IN O'SHEA'S PUB:

joyously funny. [Runs to 8.45pm]

Josh Okeefe – a rebel artist with guitar and harmonica – crackles with authenticity.

## SATURDAY 8th



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	THE ORANGERY	THE OWLERY	THE ROOKERY	STEPHOUSE	GRANARY 🌘	
10.30-11.25am	YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP: Winners, respectively, of the Baillie Gifford Prize For Non-Fiction in 2022 and 2023, Katherine Rundell (Super-Infinite, The Golden Mole) and John Vaillant (Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World) ask who needs fiction when nature is providing enough of a fastmoving, harrowing story? With journalist Alex Clark.	REWILDING BIG AND SMALL: Keen gardener Adam Clayton (bassist in U2) talks to conservationist Isabella Tree (Wilding: The Return to Nature of a British Farm) about practical solutions for rewilding - from allotments and gardens to farms and public spaces.	PUT ANOTHER RECORD ON: Annie Mac, broadcaster, DJ and author (The Mess We're In) and Cerys Matthews, musician, broadcaster and author (Where the Wild Cooks Go) share a passion for music and discuss their experiences in the music world.			
11.25am	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Isabella Tree, John Vaillant, Annie Mac, Cerys Matthews					
11.40am -12.35pm	CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING: Broadcaster and writer Misha Glenny on the ethical implications of the microchip, and the battle for technological supremacy, a tale not just of innovation but of sinister espionage and opaque governance. Isabel Hilton (founder of China Dialogue) asks him who will come out on top in the new Cold War: China or the West.	VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING: Seasoned night-owls Dylan Moran and David O'Doherty wonder what people do at this hour of the day. They are up this early today to find out.	STATE OF DECLINE: In Andrew O'Hagan's Caledonian Road, a London-based art historian on the brink of disaster is surrounded by oligarchs, bent businessmen, poisonous columnists, fading aristocrats and fashionistas. With historian and writer Roy Foster.	GROWING UP IN THE SHADOWY WORLD OF THE IRA: Máiría Cahill (Rough Beast: My Story and the Reality of Sinn Fein), records her story of sexual abuse by a senior IRA member and her subsequent fight for justice. She tells Olivia O'Leary about her transition from republican activist to member of the Seanad and SDLP, and her life now as a writer.		
12.35pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Andrew O'Hagan, Máiría Cahill					
1.00 - 1.55pm	THE COST OF LIVING: Deborah Levy discusses her trilogy of 'living autobiographies' (Real Estate, The Cost of Living, Things I Don't Want to Know) with actor and writer Minnie Driver (Managing Expectations). "To separate from love is to live a risk-free life. What's the point of that sort of life?"	MERCHANTS OF THE THRILLER: Anthony Horowitz (Close to Death) and Liz Nugent (Strange Sally Diamond) talk about the art of cliffhangers and page- turners.	AFRICA RISING: Lemn Sissay (Let the Light Pour In) and Afua Hirsch (Brit(ish) On Race, Identity and Belonging) explore how young creatives are reinventing culture across Africa in fashion, film and music, referencing Afua's three-part BBC documentary Africa Rising.	THE STATE OF US: Ireland has relied on emigration; it now relies on immigration for economic growth.  Fintan O'Toole asks if there is real political will to create the infrastructure - and social change - required, with fellow journalist Kathy Sheridan.	MIDNIGHT OIL & FINDING HI TRIBE: Australian musician Jim Mo (of Midnight Oil) joins Fiachna Ó Bra (of Hothouse Flowers) for a preview his memoir The Silver River. With gui to hand, they'll talk about adoption touring together, making music fromurmurations of starlings, and why made this very valley his second home	
1.55pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Fintan O'Toole, Mini	nie Driver, Deborah Levy, Liz Nugent, Anthor	y Horowitz, Lemn Sissay, Afua Hirsch, Jim	Moginie		
2.20 - 3.15pm	CLIMATE JUSTICE: Chair of The Elders, Mary Robinson, and David Wallace Wells (The Uninhabitable Earth) discuss the pressing humanitarian issues that arise from climate change, with Isabel Hilton, founder of the China Dialogue.	BARRY GO WEST: Author Kevin Barry reads from his new book <i>The Heart of Winter</i> , set in the American Midwest, with music from <b>Ye Vagabonds</b> .	KILBURN CAPERS: Annie Mac (The Mess We're In) talks about being Irish in London, and the soundtrack that accompanies her coming-of-age novel set at the turn of the millennium. With Sinéad Gleeson (Hagstone).	WHY HISTORY MATTERS: Tom Holland and Misha Glenny on "s/he who controls the past controls the future".	WILD AND REBELLIOUS: Hist Roy Foster talks to Jane Welles! (Blue Eyes and a Wild Spirit) about her book on the remarkable life of her grandmother, poet Dorothy Wellesley, married to a future Dul Wellington, lover of Vita Sackville and intimate friend of WB Yeats.	
3.15pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Kevin Barry, Mary Robinson, David Wallace Wells, Annie Mac, Sinéad Gleeson, Jane Wellesley, Roy Foster					
:.40 - 4.35pm	WE'RE ALL ON THE SHADOWY FRINGE NOW: Film director Nick Broomfield and Jon Ronson (who was inspired by Broomfield's documentaries to become a journalist) discuss adventures on the edge among neo-nazis, conspiracy theorists, shadowy sex cultsand swap observations of mainstream cultural life.	TWENTY YEARS ON: Laureate for Irish Fiction Colm Tóibín talks to Katherine Rundell about his new novel, Long Island, a sequel to Brooklyn.	MY VULNERABILITY IS MY POWER: Ocean Vuong (Time is a Mother) reads from his work and talks to writer Kerri ni Dochartaigh (Cacophony of Bone), with a special guest performance from Nashville based folk musician Josh Okeefe.	GLAMOUR AND THE SCHOOL RUN: Dawn O'Porter (Cows, So Lucky, Life in Pieces) and Emma Dabiri (Don't Touch My Hair, What White People Can Do Next) swap tales about everyday challenges, little and large.	WRITING WRONGS: Writers E Ward and Martin Beanz Warde about barriers to cultural inclusion and how peer mentorship is help Travellers break through and flou creatively. Journalist Patrick Frey shares his experiences on mentor hosted by independent festival pro and programmer Naoise Nunn.	
1.35pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Tom Holland, Colm	lőibín, Katherine Rundell, Ocean Vuong, Kerr	i ní Dochartaigh, Dawn O'Porter, Emma Da	biri		



## SATURDAY 8th (cont.)

	THE ORANGERY	THE OWLERY	THE ROOKERY	STEPHOUSE	GRANARY	
4.50 - 5.45pm	<b>EVERYTHING IS LISTENING:</b> Creative pioneers <b>Laurie Anderson</b> (artist and musician) and <b>Es Devlin</b> (artist and stage designer) in conversation about their mind-blowing avantgarde projects.	TROUBLES AND STRIFE: Louise Kennedy (Trespasses and The End of the World is a Cul de Sac) discusses her award-winning work, and the vibrant surge in writing, television and film work emerging from the North. With Alex Clark.	ACCOUNTABILITY IN UKRAINE: Human rights lawyer Janine di Giovanni talks to Baillie Gifford prizewinner John Vaillant about The Reckoning Project, which documents crimes against humanity committed during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.	WARRIOR POET: Lemn Sissay marvels at young Scottish poet and campaigner Len Pennie (poyums) whose many thousands of followers watch her daily online videos. They discuss how she navigates language and verse for a new generation.	EMBRACING MY ACCENT: Playwright and actor Emmet Kirwan (Dublin Old School, Accents) - accompanied by musician Brian Dillon (The Line, Meltybrains) - stages a selection of his best-known and new works, a fusion of acoustic hip hop and verse theatre.	
5.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Louise Kennedy	, Es Devlin, John Vaillant, Lemn Sissay, Len Pennie				
6.05 - 7.00pm	WORKING IN THE LINEAGE OF THE LAUREATES: Simon Armitage (Blossomise) in conversation with Katherine Rundell (Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne) about how poetry punches through time like nothing else, why we need it, and how he does it.	<b>DEVIANT MINDS:</b> Writer and filmmaker <b>Jon Ronson</b> ( <i>The Psychopath Test</i> ) and former State Pathologist <b>Dr Marie Cassidy</b> ( <i>Beyond the Tape</i> ) have an interest in common: psychopaths.	MOVERS AND SHAPERS: Anthony Sattin (Nomads: The Wanderers Who Shaped Our World) and Manchán Magan (Global Nomad) on how migration has fostered and refreshed civilisation throughout history.	EARTH'S LAST WILDERNESS: One of the world's leading oceanic journalists Olive Heffernan (The High Seas: Ambition, Power and Greed on the Unclaimed Ocean) with David Wallace-Wells (The Uninhabitable Earth) envisage humanity's future on a resource-limited planet.	5.55pm start THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF KITSY RAINEY: Mikel Murfi (The Man in the Woman's Shoes and I Hear You and Rejoice) performs his latest critically acclaimed one-man show. It tells the story of cobbler Pat Farnon - married late - who lifts the lid on his wife's previous life. Tender and joyously funny.	
7.00pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Simon Armitage, Katherine Rundell, Jon Ronson, Marie Cassidy, Anthony Sattin, Manchán Magan, Olive Heffernan, David Wallace-Wells					
7.25 - 8.20pm	<b>RE-DEFINING GLOBAL HISTORY:</b> Historian <b>Peter Frankopan</b> ( <i>The Earth Transformed</i> ) will discuss how the natural world has shaped human history and how humanity has, in turn, shaped the environment. With <b>Fintan O'Toole.</b>	MYSTERY PLEASURE CRUISE: Writer and performer Dylan Moran and writer Kevin Barry set sail across uncharted waters in a conversation that might end up just about anywhere.	BEYOND THE FOG OF WAR: Geopolitical journalist Misha Glenny and China expert Isabel Hilton discuss how the world is changing and the seismic shift in geopolitics from the West in favour of Asia and the Global South.	I AM NOT AS WELL AS I THOUGHT I WAS: Ruby Wax performs a parlour version of her raw, dark and funny sell-out show about searching for meaningbut ending up in a mental ward. A tragic comedy.		
8.20pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Peter Frankopa	n, Kevin Barry, Ruby Wax			4200	



A Night in Borris Village

#### 8.45pm THE ROOKERY: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE GOOD TO GIVE IT A GO:

Actress and writer Sally Phillips (the Bridget Jones films, Miranda), talks to journalist Patrick Freyne about a career in comic timing. She seizes the moment to perform some hilarious monologues from her show Talking to Strangers.

10pm: MUSIC IN THE ROOKERY: NEW WAVE CONNECTION:

**Martin Stephenson** of the Daintees and **John Perry** of The Only Ones join forces.

#### 9.45pm: MUSIC IN THE STEPHOUSE:

ON THE ROAD AGAIN Tom Dunne, Fiachna Ó Braonáin and Alan O'Connor.

#### 10pm: MUSIC IN JOYCE'S PUB:

Donal Dineen deep dives into his Vinyl Collection.

## SUNDAY 9th



	THE ORANGERY	THE OWLERY	THE ROOKERY	STEPHOUSE	GRANARY	
10.30 - 11.25am	SUNDAY ASSEMBLY: Writers and musicians staying the weekend with us reflect upon and commemorate those in conflict.	GETTING TO THE HEART OF A STORY: Film director Nick Broomfield talks about documenting the lives of the Rolling Stones, Kurt Cobain, Leonard Cohen, Brian Jones, Tupac and Biggie, Whitney Houston and others. With writer and musician Patrick Freyne.	FIRE AND GEOPOLITICS: John Vaillant (Fire Weather) with David Wallace-Wells (The Uninhabitable Earth) on the need for urgent solutions in a climate-disrupted world. Chaired by Katherine Rundell.	THE WAY UP IS THE WAY DOWN: Actress Sally Phillips with her son Olly Bermejo join poet Lemn Sissay - drawing on his own childhood experiences - to discuss the ups of Downs and the Downs of ups.		
11.25am	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Simon Armitage, John Vaillant, David Wallace-Wells					
11.40am -12.35pm		SLEUTHING FOR A LIVING: Anthony Horowitz (Close to Death) and former State Pathologist Dr Marie Cassidy (Body of Truth) on mysteries, misdeeds and motives for murder.	Al ANXIETY ON THE RISE: Kai Strittmatter (We Have Been Harmonized) and Jennifer Cassidy an Al and diplomacy specialist, consider the challenges of artificial intelligence as well as its potential for good. Moderated by Andrew O'Hagan editor at large LRB (The Secret Life: Three True Stories).	WARTIME CHILDHOODS: Mary Fitzgerald and Janine di Giovanni on their work documenting the experiences of children living through armed conflict, and the emergence of a unique museum in Sarajevo which focusses on Ukraine, Bosnia, Gaza and soon, Northern Ireland.	ALL I HAD LOST AND ALL I HAD GAINED: Claire Kilroy (Soldier Sailor) explores the clash of a mother's fierce love for a new baby with the resulting seismic change in identity for herself. With Alex Clark.	
12.35pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Isabella Tree, Ko	erri ní Dochartaigh, Manchán Magan, Marie Cassidy,	Antony Horowitz, Kai Strittmatter, Jennifer	Cassidy, Clare Kilroy		
1.20 - 2.15pm	LET THE LIGHT POUR IN: For the past decade, Lemn Sissay has composed a short poem as dawn breaks each morning. Life-affirming, witty and full of wonder, these poems chronicle his own battle with darkness and are fuelled by resilience and defiant joy.	SO MUCH AT STAKE: Journalists Fintan O'Toole, David Wallace- Wells and Lyse Doucet discuss the consequences of this year's US elections, their impact on our carbon-hungry world, and conflict in the Middle East, Ukraine and Africa.	MONKEYS WITH TYPEWRITERS: Laurie Anderson talks to Donal Dineen about her pioneering adventures in Al, her chatbot modelled after her late partner Lou Reed, experimenting with her voice and creating in story limbo.	THE BIRDS AND THE BEES: Conservationist Isabella Tree (Wilding), ornithologist and bird whisperer Seán Ronayne, and nature writer Kerri ní Dochartaigh (Cacophony of Bone) join Manchán Magan (Listen to the Land Speak) to celebrate the pursuit of the wild.	THE WAITRESS, THE CHEF AND HIS WIFE: In her second novel, critic and writer Sarah Gilmartin (Service) tells a story of power and complicity in the kitchen. With Irish Times books editor Martin Doyle.	
2.15pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Lemn Sissay, David Wallace-Wells, Patrick Freyne, Sarah Gilmartin, Martin Doyle					
2.50 - 3.45pm	FROM OLIVE KITTERIDGE TO LUCY BARTON: Elizabeth Strout talks to Alex Clark about her writing life and the recurring characters who appear in her books.	IRELAND'S COASTAL WATERS: Olive Heffernan (The High Seas) on her current research, funded by the Pulitzer Center, on the struggle for ocean protection in Ireland and further afield. In conversation with marine journalist Lorna Siggins.	THE CAT LADY SINGS Cecelia Ahern (In a Thousand Different Ways) and Dawn O'Porter (Cat Lady) about how we all see the world differently.	GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN: Colm Tóibín on the rich legacy of writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin, one hundred years on.	<b>EGYPT:</b> Writer and broadcaster <b>Anthony Sattin</b> ( <i>Nomads</i> ) gives an illustrated talk on the ways in which ancient Egypt has shaped the West. A first glimpse of a book-in-themaking called <i>Why Egypt Matters</i> .	
3.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Elizabeth Strout, Olive Heffernan, Cecelia Ahern, Colm Tóibín, Dawn O'Porter, Anthony Sattin					
4.15 - 5.20pm	<b>EXITING WAR:</b> Historians <b>Roy Foster</b> and <b>Robert Gerwarth</b> discuss upheaval, resettlement and continuity in Europe, legacies of violence, the consequences of good and bad peacemaking and how the origins of many of today's conflicts were founded in the aftermath of World War I.	RUBY 'N' JON: Ruby Wax (Mindfulness Guide for the Frazzled) and Jon Ronson (The Psychopath Test) talk about mental health and the surprising discoveries they made while researching their books.	GENERATION DISCONNECT: Journalist Justine McCarthy (An Eye on Ireland) and playwright Emmet Kirwan (Dublin Old School, Accents) ask why – if Ireland is such an economic powerhouse – young people are unable to afford to live here and how this is directly affecting the arts in Ireland.			
5.20pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Tom Holland, Re	oy Foster, Ruby Wax, Jon Ronson, Justine McCarthy				
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11.15am - 3pm **DYLAN MORAN'S** 'LAST JUDGEMENT'

(on the lawn somewhere....) on Sunday morning, **Dylan Moran** - assisted by everyone - (and using an arsenal of paints, pens, charcoal, and collage materials) wonders who is going to Heaven, and who to Hell?





## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## **Cecelia Ahern**

Cecelia Ahern wrote her first novel at 21 years old, *PS I Love You*, subsequently made into a film with Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. She has published a novel every year since then (19 to date), sold over 25 million copies internationally, and is published in over 40 countries, in 30 languages. *In A Thousand Different Ways* is her most recent book. Along with writing novels, Cecelia has co-created the TV comedy series 'Samantha Who?' and her collection of short stories *ROAR* is now on AppleTV+ starring Nicole Kidman.



#### **Laurie Anderson**

Laurie Anderson is a writer, director, composer, visual artist, musician and vocalist who has created groundbreaking works that span the worlds of art, theatre, experimental music and technology. Her recording career was launched by *O Superman* in 1981. In 2002, Anderson was appointed the first artist-in-residence of NASA. As a performer and musician, she has collaborated with many people including Brian Eno, Jean-Michel Jarre, William S. Burroughs, Peter Gabriel, and Philip Glass. Her life partner as well as her collaborator was Lou Reed.



## **Simon Armitage**

UK Poet Laureate Simon Armitage has published over a dozen poetry collections, including Magnetic Field: the Marsden Poems, and acclaimed medieval translations of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and The Owl and the Nightingale. He also writes, records and performs with the band LYR, and his book Never Good with Horses assembles his song lyrics. His latest work Blossomise came out this Spring. A regular broadcaster, Armitage presents the BBC Radio 4 series 'The Poet Laureate has Gone to his Shed'. He is Professor of Poetry at the University of Leeds.



### **Margaret Atwood**

Margaret is the author of more than 50 books of fiction, poetry, critical essays, and graphic novels. This year she collaborated with the Authors Guild and Douglas Preston on the novel Fourteen Days. Her previous novel The Testaments was a co-winner of the 2019 Booker Prize. It is the long-awaited sequel to The Handmaid's Tale, an award-winning TV series. Other works of fiction include Cat's Eye, Alias Grace, The Blind Assassin (winner of the 2000 Booker Prize), and Hag-Seed. She lives in Toronto.







Kevin Barry is the author of four novels, *Night Boat to Tangier, Beatlebone, City of Bohane* and most recently, *The Heart in Winter*; and three short story collections. He also works as a playwright and screenwriter. He lives in County Sligo.



### Olly Bermjo

Olly Bermejo (19) is completing his fourth year at Sixth Form college and enjoys cooking, P.E., eating brownies and making TikToks. He is the President of the Brentford Penguins DS football team and recipient of many awards such as Holy Trinity School's Most Enthusiastic Bouncer, Kindest Pupil and one treasured Golden Boot.



#### **Nick Broomfield**

Nick Broomfield is a British film-maker best known for his award-winning documentaries. His previous work includes Tales of the Grim Sleeper, Aileen Wuornos: The Selling of a Serial Killer, and The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife. His film Battle for Haditha dramatised the Haditha massacres in Iraq. Nick was originally influenced by the observational style of Fred Wiseman, and Robert Leacock and Pennebaker, before moving on largely by accident to the more idiosyncratic style for which he is better known.



#### Fiachna Ó Braonáin

Fiachna Ó Braonáin is a guitarist of immense versatility, getting down with African gospel singers, Moroccan tribesmen, Texan swingers and Irish balladeers - best known for the band he cofounded, The Hothouse Flowers, almost forty years ago. In broadcasting, he worked on several Irish and American television shows as guest and presenter, and produced many award winning music documentaries, before taking up a regular post on RTÉ Radio One. He continues to perform live on stage frequently in various music collaborations.



#### **Charlie Burrell**

Charlie Burrell is chair of Foundation Conservation Carpathia, the biggest rewilding project in Europe, and the White Stork Project. He is co-founder of Rewilding Britain, and is on the oversight committee for the Endangered Landscapes Programme. He also chairs rePlanet, Wildlife and Nattergal, each involved in nature restoration. He is co-author, with his wife Isabella Tree, of *The Book of Wilding*. They live in the Knepp Estate.



#### Máiría Cahill

Máiría Cahill is a former Irish Senator and Councillor. At the age of sixteen she was abused by a member of the IRA and waived anonymity in 2014. This led to a furore in the Irish media and debates in Dáil Éireann and the Northern Irish Assembly, culminating in an investigation by Sir Keir Starmer and the NI Police Ombudsman. Cahill writes a political opinion column for the Sunday Independent, has written for the Belfast Telegraph and Fortnight Magazine, and regularly appears as a media commentator. She lives in Northern Ireland.



## Dr. Jennifer A. Cassidy

Dr. Jennifer A. Cassidy is a Departmental Lecturer in Diplomatic Studies at the University of Oxford. She wrote the world's first PhD on Digital Diplomacy, exploring how diplomats use social media during times of political crisis. This continues to be one of her primary research areas, alongside Artificial Intelligence, Power of Big Tech, Disinformation and Hybrid Warfare. Jennifer contributes regularly to global media commentary, including the BBC, Sky News, ABC Australia, Al Jazeera and *The Irish Times*.



## **Marie Cassidy**

During her 15-year career as Ireland's State Pathologist, Marie Cassidy's expertise helped to solve murders and clarify unexplained deaths. She performed thousands of postmortems and dealt with hundreds of murders. She has witnessed the burgeoning role of forensic science in death investigation, embracing new technology and welcoming experts in the other sciences. She retired in 2018 to write. Her number one bestselling memoir *Beyond the Tape* came out in 2020, followed by *Body of Truth* – her first novel – in 2023.



## **Catherine Cleary**

Catherine Cleary is an award-winning journalist, author and nature activist. In 2020 she co-founded Pocket Forests, a Dublin-based social enterprise helping communities create space for nature in urban areas. She has hosted several podcasts, including her latest 'The Pocket Forests'. Last year she planted more than 6,000 trees with her extended family to establish a native woodlands and wilding project of over 24,000 native trees in Co. Roscommon. This project is the subject of a documentary by Beta Bajgart called The Forest Midwife, which is being filmed this year.



#### **Alex Clark**

Alex Clark is a journalist and broadcaster, often seen in the pages of *The Guardian, The Observer* and *The Times Literary Supplement*, and heard on BBC R4 programmes such as Front Row and Open Book. She is now a Patron of the Cambridge Literary Festival. The literary awards she has judged include the Man Booker Prize and the Orwell Prize. She is co-host of The Graham Norton Book Club.



## **Adam Clayton**

Adam Clayton is U2's bass player. One of the best live acts in the world, U2 have toured the globe countless times and sold over 157 million albums. They recently completed a residency in The Sphere in Las Vegas. Adam has written about contemporary art for British GQ. In 2022 he presented a documentary titled 'Francis Bacon: The Outsider' which follows the story of the painter's early life in Ireland. He is also a keen gardener, particularly at his Wicklow home Danesmoate.



#### **Emma Dabiri**

Emma Dabiri is an Irish-Nigerian author, academic and broadcaster. She is a final year Visual Sociology PhD researcher at Goldsmiths, and author of the *Sunday Times* bestseller *What White People Can Do Next, Don't Touch My Hair* and *Disobedient Bodies*. In 2023 she was appointed as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She has presented several television and radio programmes including BBC Radio 4's 'Journeys into Afro-futurism' and 'Britain's Lost Masterpieces'. She is a columnist at *The Guardian* and Contributing Editor at *Elle*.



#### **Es Devlin**

British contemporary artist Es Devlin's canvas ranges from public sculptures and installations at Tate Modern, V&A, Serpentine, Imperial War Museum and the Lincoln Centre, to kinetic stage designs at the Royal Opera House, the National Theatre and the Metropolitan Opera, as well as Olympic Ceremonies, Super-Bowl half-time shows, and monumental illuminated stage sculptures for large scale stadium concerts, including Beyonce and U2. She is the subject of a major new monographic book, *An Atlas of Es Devlin*.



### **Brian Dillon**

Brian Dillon is a musician and sound artist, and a member of Meltybrains? He has collaborated with a range of Irish musicians over the last 10 years, including Talos, Denise Chaila, Loah, and Brídín, as well as artists Emma Martin (choreographer), Emmet Kirwan (actor/writer), Mark McGuinness (photographer) and Kate Dunne (aerialist). Brian has also worked as a professional sound artist and sound designer and his previous projects includes installations for Ireland's Museum of Modern Art and The Wild Atlantic Way.



#### **Donal Dineen**

Donal Dineen is a recovering DJ, filmmaker and broadcaster from Kerry. He is the presenter of the acclaimed Irish music internet TV show This Ain't No Disco and publisher of both the Make Me An Island and We Are The Makers podcast series.



## Kerri ní Dochartaigh

Kerri ní Dochartaigh is a mother, writer and grower. Her work currently explores ideas of emergency, interconnectedness and ecologies of care. Her first book *Thin Places* was awarded the Butler Literary Award 2022, and highly commended for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2021. Her second *Cacophony of Bone* was longlisted for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2023. She lives in the west of Ireland with her family.



## **David O'Doherty**

Having scaled the heights of telemarketing, comedian David O'Doherty first stepped on stage at Dublin's Comedy Cellar in 1998. He can be seen on 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown (Channel 4), Live At The Apollo (BBC) and Along For the Ride with David O'Doherty (Channel 4). He has written widely for newspapers and magazines, published a book for children, written a play (featuring live repair of audience members' bicycles), and a radio series about bee detectives with his brother Mark. He is currently writing a book about pandas.



#### **Lyse Doucet**

Lyse Doucet is a Canadian journalist who is the BBC's Chief International Correspondent who reports across the BBC's domestic and global channels. She received an OBE in 2014, and the Order of Canada in 2019, and became a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society last year. Lyse has been reporting for the BBC for over thirty years, with posts in Abidjan, Kabul, Islamabad, Amman, and Jerusalem. In the past year she's focused on the Israel-Gaza war, the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and Afghanistan since the Taliban's return.



#### **Martin Doyle**

Martin Doyle is Books Editor of *The Irish Times*, where he has worked since 2007. He is a former Editor of The Irish Post in London, where he worked from 1992 to 2001, and worked for *The Times* in London from 2001-2006. He was also an extra in Father Ted. He is the author of *Dirty Linen: The Troubles in My Own Place* (2023), an intimate, personal history of the Northern Ireland conflict told through the testimony of the friends and families of more than 20 victims who died violently in the author's own rural parish in County Down.



#### **Minnie Driver**

Minnie Driver is one of the world's best known and beloved actresses. She's also a gifted singer and songwriter, and in *Managing Expectations* she brings her formidable storytelling skills to her own life. This 'memoir in essays' is suffused with warmth and humour, and charts Minnie's unconventional childhood, her subsequent fame and beyond.



## **Anne Enright**

Anne Enright has written two collections of stories, one book of non-fiction, *Making Babies*, and seven novels, including her Booker-prize winning *The Gathering*, *The Forgotten Waltz*, and *The Green Road*. In 2015 she was appointed as the first Laureate for Irish Fiction, and in 2018 she received the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature. Her most recent novel is *The Wren*, *The Wren*.



## **Mary Fitzgerald**

Mary is a specialist on Libya, a country she has focussed on for more well over a decade. She has worked with the International Crisis Group (ICG), United States Institute of Peace (USIP), and the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) among others. She is a consultant with the War Childhood Museum, documenting the experience of children in conflict. Her work has appeared in publications including *The Economist, The New Yorker, The Washington Post, The Financial Times, The Guardian*, and *The Irish Times*, reporting on conflict and post-conflict dynamics.



#### **Roy Foster**

Roy Foster is Emeritus Professor of Irish History at Oxford and a well known cultural commentator and critic. His many prizewinning books include *Modern Ireland* 1600-1972, the two-volume authorised biography of W.B. Yeats, *Vivid Faces* and *On Seamus Heaney*. A Fellow of the British Academy, an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy, he received the President's Distinguished Service Award in 2021 and a Lifetime Achievement Award at the An Post Irish Book Awards in 2023.



## **Peter Frankopan**

Peter is Professor of Global History at Oxford University. His book *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World* topped the Non-Fiction charts all around the world, including in the US, UK, India and China. It was named as one of the 25 most important books translated into Chinese over the last 40 years. Peter's most recent book is *The Earth Transformed: an Untold History* looks at the natural environment and the role it has played in shaping the past. It was named *The Times* History Book of the Year, and was an instant international bestseller.



## **Patrick Freyne**

Patrick Freyne is a features writer with the *Irish Times*. He has had essays published in *The Financial Times Magazine*, *The Dublin Review* and *Harpers*. And he has had short stories published in *Banshee*, *Winter Papers* and *The Art of the Glimpse*. His collection of memoir essays, *OK*, *Let's Do Your Stupid Idea*, was nominated for an Irish Book Award, longlisted for the Rathbones Prize and shortlisted for the Dalkey Emerging Writer Prize.



**Robert Gerwarth** 

Robert Gerwarth is Professor of Modern History at UCD and Director of the Centre for War Studies. A specialist in German history, his books include *The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End and November 1918: The German Revolution.* 



Misha Glenny

Misha Glenny is the Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. During the revolutions in Eastern Europe of 1989 and the wars in Yugoslavia in the 1990s, Misha was the BBC's Central Europe Correspondent. The award winning journalist and historian is also the author of several best-selling books, including McMafia: Seriously Organised Crime which was made into a highly successful BBC Television Drama. His latest podcasts The Scramble for Rare Earths and The Invention of Russia are among the most listened to on the BBC Sounds.



**Arun Ghosh** 

Arun Ghosh is a British-Asian clarinettist, bandleader, multiinstrumentalist and composer. He has released five albums, and works as a composer for theatre and film. Arun has performed alongside Cerys Matthews for many years; most notably their collaborations with Ballet Cymru, and as a musician on Cerys' acclaimed adaptation of Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood*.



**Orla Guerin** 

Dublin-born Orla Guerin is one of the most prominent and fearless international correspondents, reporting from some of the world's most challenging and conflict-ridden regions. Early in her career, she became RTÉ's youngest foreign correspondent, sent to Eastern Europe at the age of 23. With the BBC, she has played a pivotal role as a Senior International correspondent for the last 20 years. Her work has taken her to numerous conflict zones, from the Middle East to Africa, often on the front lines, capturing the human stories behind the headlines.



Sarah Gilmartin

Sarah Gilmartin is an Irish writer and arts journalist. She co-edited the anthology Stinging Fly Stories. Her short fiction has been published in The Dublin Review and The Tangerine. Her bestselling debut novel Dinner Party (2021) was shortlisted for best newcomer at the Irish Book Awards and the Kate O'Brien Award. Her second novel Service (2023) was a book of the year in The Irish Times, The Irish Independent, The Sunday Independent and The Sunday Business Post.



**Andrew O'Hagan** 

Andrew O'Hagan was born in Glasgow. He has been nominated for the Booker Prize, was voted one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists in 2003, and won the E. M. Forster Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is Editor-at-Large of the London Review of Books and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He has written 10 books, including *Our Fathers and Mayflies*, with three of his novels being Booker nominated. His most recent is *Caledonian Road*.



Janine di Giovanni

Janine di Giovanni is the CEO of The Reckoning Project, a war crimes unit in Ukraine that documents atrocities. Previously, she ran a similar initiative for the UN Democracy Fund in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. She is currently a Non Resident Fellow at Yale Law School Schell Center for Human Rights. She is also an award-winning war reporter and the author of nine books, as well as an academic specialising in human rights.



**Catherine Heaney** 

Catherine Heaney has worked as journalist and editor in Dublin and London for over 20 years, and is a contributing editor to The Week and The Gloss magazines. Since 2017, she has been a director of the Estate of Seamus Heaney – her father – working with publishers, cultural organisations and universities in Ireland and beyond to preserve and promote his work and legacy.



Sinéad Gleeson

Sinéad Gleeson has published a collection of essays Constellations: Reflections from Life, edited anthologies including The Art of the Glimpse, The Long Gaze Back: An Anthology of Irish Women Writers, This Woman's Work: Essays on Music and The Glass Shore: Short Stories. She has collaborated with artists and musicians, working with composer Stephen Shannon and artists Aideen Barry, Alice Maher and Rachel Fallon. Her debut novel, Hagstone, came out this Spring.



#### **Olive Heffernan**

Olive Heffernan is an award-winning science journalist who writes about oceans and climate change. Her work has been published in *Nature*, *WIRED*, *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, and *New Scientist*. In 2019, she joined Johns Hopkins University as an adjunct lecturer, and in 2020 received a Giles St Aubyn Award for non-fiction from the Royal Society of Literature. She is currently funded by the Pulitzer Centre to report on ocean conservation in Europe. Her first book, *The High Seas: Ambition*, *Power and Greed on the Unclaimed Ocean*, is just out.



**Isabel Hilton** 

Over a long career in international print, online and broadcast media, Isabel Hilton has covered global politics, conflict, development, human rights, climate change and environmental degradation. In recent years her work has focussed on the impacts of a rising China with particular emphasis on climate change and China's global environmental footprint, founding Chinadialogue, a fully bilingual not-for-profit newsroom dedicated to this.



#### Ciarán Hinds

Ciarán Hinds is a veteran character actor from Belfast who has accumulated over a hundred film and TV credits. A Belfast native, he grew up in a Catholic household and developed an early interest in dancing, then pursued a career in law before shifting his attention to acting. His television credits Above Suspicion, Game of Thrones, The Terror and Kin. His film credits include Jane Austen's Persuasion, Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life and Veronica Guerin.



#### **Afua Hirsch**

Afua Hirsch is an award-winning writer, journalist, former barrister and filmmaker, covering culture, identity and social justice. She presents the flagship BBC documentary series *Africa Rising*, a 6-parter about the transatlantic slave trade, and many podcasts. Her book *Decolonising My Body* blends memoir and narrative non-fiction to examine beauty, rituals and ancestry as an approach to radical justice. Previous books include *Brit(ish)*: *On Race, Identity and Belonging* (2018) and *Equal To Everything* (2019), *Look Again* (2021).



#### **Tom Holland**

Tom Holland is an award-winning historian and broadcaster. His most recent book *Pax* covers the heyday of the Roman Empire. He is co-presenter of the world's most downloaded history podcast, The Rest is History. He has written and presented several TV documentaries, on subjects ranging from ISIS to dinosaurs.



#### **Anthony Horowitz**

Anthony Horowitz is one of the most prolific writers in the UK, unique in that he works across so many genres including more than fifty novels, TV series as well as films, plays and journalism. Anthony books include the Alex Rider series, *Magpie Murders*, and *Moonflower Murders*, and TV series Foyle's War and Midsomer Murders. He was awarded a CBE in 2022 for his services to literature.



### Róisín Ingle

Róisín Ingle is a columnist, features writer and podcaster with *The Irish Times*. She is the author of two collections of her columns, *Pieces of Me* and *Public Displays of Emotion*, and is the co-author of *The Daughterhood* with Natasha Fennell, and her latest book is *My Perfect Place in Ireland*. She produces and co-presents the award-winning 'Women's Podcast' on Irish Times online.



#### **Neil Jordan**

Neil Jordan is an Irish film director, screenwriter and author based in Dublin. His first book, *Night in Tunisia*, won a Somerset Maugham Award and the Guardian Fiction Prize in 1979. He is also a former winner of the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the Irish PEN Award, and the Kerry Group Irish Fiction Award. Jordan's films include Angel, the Academy Award-winning The Crying Game, Michael Collins and The Butcher Boy. He has just written his memoir *Amnesiac*.



#### **Fergal Keane**

Fergal Keane is a journalist and author. He was awarded an OBE for his services to television journalism. He has written several critically acclaimed books, including *Wounds* and most recently - an account of war trauma - *The Madness*.



#### Josh Okeefe

Josh Okeefe's current home of Nashville, Tennessee is just one small part of a nomadic life-in-music which spans generations and encompasses myriad genres. The young guitar-and-harmonica-playing singer-songwriter delivers potent lyrics with the gravitas of a seasoned veteran - a rebel artist, a protest singer, the heir to Bob Dylan, with raw, topical storytelling and a voice that crackles with authenticity. He has shared stages with Kris Kristofferson, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Alison Krauss, John Spillane, Rufus Wainwright, among many others.



## **Louise Kennedy**

Louise Kennedy grew up a few miles from Belfast. She is the author of the Women's Prize Longlisted novel, *Trespasses*, and the acclaimed short story collection, *The End of the World is a Cul de Sac*, and is the only woman to have been shortlisted twice for the *Sunday Times* Audible Short Story Award (2019 and 2020). Before starting her writing career, she spent nearly thirty years working as a chef. She lives in Sligo.



**Claire Kilroy** 

Claire Kilroy is the author of five novels, All Summer (Faber, 2003), Tenderwire (Faber, 2006), All Names Have Been Changed (Faber, 2009), and The Devil I Know (Faber, 2012). In 2023, after an eleven year silence, her fifth novel, Soldier Sailor, about the early years of motherhood, was published to universal acclaim. She studied at Trinity College and lives in Dublin.



#### **Emmet Kirwan**

Emmet Kirwan is an actor, playwright and theatre maker from Tallaght in Dublin. He studied at the Samuel Beckett Centre Trinity College Dublin. For over 20 years Emmet has worked in Irish and British Theatre. His play 'Dublin Oldschool' has toured internationally and transferred to The Dorfman in The National Theatre for a sell out run, and was adapted for film. His most recent work as a writer and performer is 'Accents'.



## Olivia O'Leary

Olivia O'Leary is a journalist and broadcaster. She has presented current affairs programmes for RTE, BBC and ITV. In recent years she presented RTE Radio One's 'The Poetry Programme'. The O'Brien Press has published two collections of her radio columns for RTE's Drivetime, 'Politicians and Other Animals', and 'Party Animals'. She has won three Jacob's awards for her work with RTE and a Sony Award for the BBC Radio 4 series, 'Between Ourselves'.



#### **Deborah Levy**

Deborah Levy is the author of the living autobiographies, *Things I Don't Want to Know, The Cost of Living and Real Estate*— for which she was awarded the Prix Femina Étranger in France and The Christopher Isherwood Prize in the USA. Her novels include the Booker Prize listed, *The Man Who Saw Everything, Hot Milk, Swimming Home* and, most recently, *August Blue*.



#### **Annie Macmanus**

Annie Macmanus is an internationally renowned broadcaster, author, DJ, events curator and more. Her debut novel *Mother Mother* was a Sunday Times Bestseller. She produces her own podcast, 'Changes with Annie Macmanus', where she chats to writers, artists and fascinating people from all walks of life about changes they've faced. She can be seen on the biggest stages of music festivals around the world.

The Mess We're In is her second novel.



## Manchán Magan

Manchán Magan has written books on his travels in Africa, India and South America. He writes occasionally for *The Irish Times*, and presents the 'Almanac of Ireland' podcast for RTÉ. He has made dozens of documentaries on issues of world culture. His books include *Thirty-Two Words For Field*, *Listen to the Land Speak*, *Tree Dogs, Banshee Fingers and Other Words For Nature*, and *Wolf-Men and Water Hounds*.



#### **Cerys Matthews**

Cerys Matthews is a songwriter, author and radio programmer. She was a founder member of million selling band Catatonia. Her cross-genre/cross-topic radio show is the most listened to show on BBC 6 music. She has curated and composed for theatres, including the Tate Modern and the National Theatre, London. This year she publishes *Out of Chaos Come Bliss*, a compilation of Dylan Thomas poetry with her own notes.



#### **Justine McCarthy**

Justine McCarthy is an journalist, with over a dozen awards to her name. In a career spanning several decades, she has written for many Irish newspapers including *The Irish Independent*, *Sunday Tribune*, *Sunday Times* and *Irish Independent*. She has been an adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Limerick and is author of three books, most recently *An Eye on Ireland: A Journey Through Social Change* (2023), mapping a transformative era in Irish life towards a more progressive and just society. She writes a weekly column for *The Irish Times*.



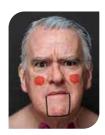
## Jim Moginie

For fifty years, songwriter, guitarist and keyboard player Jim Moginie was a driving force behind the startling rise and global success of one of Australia's most powerful, influential and iconic rock bands Midnight Oil. Jim now spends much of his time in Ireland, here in Co. Carlow. His latest record Murmurations was written specifically for solo electric guitar and was inspired by a natural phenomenon that Jim witnessed in and around Borris, the massive gatherings of starlings that occur during winter evenings.



## **Dylan Moran**

Dylan Moran is a comedian, actor and writer. Black Books, the Channel 4 hit sitcom that he co-wrote and starred-in, won him two BAFTAs, and he has since won numerous prizes and accolades for his television work and live-shows. Moran's comedy is characterised by a use of language involving surreal associative leaps between observations and fantasies, verbally painting bizarre and absurd worlds, often through a use of highly poetic, James Joyce-style stream-of-consciousness narration.



**Mikel Murfi** 

Following on from The Man in the Woman's Shoes and I Hear You and Rejoice, both of which enjoyed incredible acclaim in Ireland, London and New York (and previous Borris Festivals), Mikel Murfi now brings us his new show The Mysterious Case of Kitsy Rainey, the third in the series, which finishes out Pat Farnon's journey in a most unexpected way... Originally from Sligo, Mikel Murfi trained at Ecole Jacques Lecoq, Paris.



#### **Liz Nugent**

Liz Nugent is a writer of award-winning psychological suspense novels *Unravelling Oliver* (2014), *Lying in Wait* (2016), *Skin Deep* (2018), [Our] *Little Cruelties* (2020) and *Strange Sally Diamond* (2023). All five books topped the Irish bestsellers list and Liz has won multiple literary awards. Liz's books have been translated into 20 languages and she has also written extensively for radio and television in drama and animation.



#### **Naoise Nunn**

Naoise Nunn is a creator, producer and programmer of festivals and events including MindField at Electric Picnic, Kilkenomics, Kilkenny Animated and Ireland House at SXSW. Schweppe Curtis Nunn, the company of which is is co-director also produced the Brightening Air season for the Arts Council; and has run the Bram Stoker Festival for Dublin City Council since 2017. He is Chair of Dublin Youth Theatre.



On The Road Again

Fiachna Ó Braonáin from Hothouse Flowers and Radio 1 and Tom Dunne from Something Happens and Newstalk 106FM join multi-instrumentalist Alan Connor to perform songs from each other bands, and a few of their favourites.



#### **Len Pennie**

Len Pennie is a poet who writes predominantly in the Scots language. She writes passionately about the promotion of minoritised languages, survivors of domestic abuse and the destigmatisation of mental illness. Her debut collection, poyums, was published this Spring and was an instant Sunday Times bestseller. Her Instagram & TikTok is @misspunnypennie and on Twitter she is @Lenniesaurus



## **Sally Phillips**

Sally Phillips is a multi-award-winning British actress, comedian, and producer. She is known for her work in the comedy television series *I'm Alan Partridge, Jam and Jerusalem, Miranda, Taskmaster* and *Veep*, and for her role in the Bridget Jones films.



#### **Dawn O'Porter**

Dawn O'Porter is the bestselling author of the novels *The Cows* and *So Lucky*, and her non-fiction title *Life in Pieces*. She has made numerous documentaries that included immersive investigations of Polygamy, Size Zero, Childbirth, Free Love, Breast Cancer and the movie Dirty Dancing. As well as writing, she designs dresses for Joanie Clothing, and LOVES instagram.



#### **Christopher Reid**

Christopher Reid has written many books of poems, and for most of the 1990s he was poetry editor at the London publishing house of Faber and Faber. Among his works are A Scattering, The Song of Lunch, Old Toffer's Book of Consequential Dogs, The Late Sun, Poems of London, Toys / Tricks / Traps. Letters of Ted Hughes, which he edited, appeared in 2007; The Letters of Seamus Heaney, which he also edited, followed last year.



## **Mary Robinson**

Mary Robinson is Adjunct Professor for Climate Justice in Trinity College Dublin and Chair of The Elders. She served as President of Ireland from 1990-1997 and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002. She is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the President of the United States Barack Obama. Recently she became joint Honorary President of the Africa Europe Foundation. Her memoir Everybody Matters was published in 2012 and her book Climate Justice - Hope, Resilience and the Fight for a Sustainable Future in 2018.



#### **Séan Ronayne**

Ornithologist and wildlife sound recordist Seán Ronayne's mission is to record the vocalisations of every bird species in Ireland. For three years, he has travelled across bogs, mountains, remote islands and native woodlands documenting nearly 200 bird species, including those on the cusp of extinction. His recordings of mimicry, distinct dialects, and birds never recorded in Ireland before reveal the beauty and importance of sound, and what listening can tell us about the state of our natural world.



Jon Ronson

Jon Ronson's nonfiction books include So You've Been Publicly Shamed, The Psychopath Test, Them: Adventures with Extremists, Lost at Sea and The Men Who Stare At Goats. Most recently, Jon made the acclaimed BBC podcast Things Fell Apart (2021 - 2024) Before that came three Audible Original audio series - The Debutante, The Butterfly Effect and The Last Days of August. His books have been translated into more than 30 languages, and his two TED talks have been watched more than 30 million times.



#### **Katherine Rundell**

Katherine is a Fellow of St Catherine's College, Oxford. Her bestselling books for children have been translated into more than thirty languages. Rundell is the author, for adults, of Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne, which won the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction, The Golden Mole and Other Living Treasure, and Why You Should Read Children's Books, Even Though You Are So Old and Wise. She writes for the LRB, TLS, the New York Times and the NYRB, mostly about books and animals, but sometimes about flying, night-climbing and tightrope walking.



#### **Anthony Sattin**

Anthony Sattin is the author of books of history and travel, a journalist and broadcaster. Much of his work has focused on the Middle East and North Africa. His latest book is *Nomads, The Wanderers Who Shaped Our World*. He is currently writing about why ancient Egypt matters, and learning about oak and olive trees in the heart of Italy.



## **Kathy Sheridan**

Kathy Sheridan has been a journalist with *The Irish Times* for decades, covering politics, disasters, funerals, social affairs and the occasional war. She currently writes a weekly Op Ed column for the paper and is co-host of The Women's Podcast.



#### **Lemn Sissay**

Lemn Sissay is a BAFTA-nominated, award-winning writer and broadcaster. He has authored collections of poetry and plays and his memoir *My Name Is Why* was a number one *Sunday Times* bestseller. He has been made an Honorary Doctor by the universities of Manchester, Kent, Essex, Huddersfield and Brunel, and in 2019 he was awarded the PEN Pinter Prize. He received an MBE in 2010 and an OBE in 2021 for services to literature and charity. In 2023, Sissay was awarded the Freedom of the City of London. He is British and Ethiopian.



## **Martin Stephenson and John Perry**

Martin Stephenson began his career as a busker aged 15, combining Jazz, Blues, Country, Skiffle, Reggae until a glorious collision of styles became his trademark and the Daintees were formed.

John Perry - best known in Ireland for the blistering guitar solo that heralded the Dave Fanning Show for several years - came to prominence in the mid-70s as the guitarist for the Only Ones.



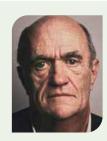
#### Kai Strittmatter

Kai Strittmatter was for more than a decade the China correspondent for Germany's Sueddeutsche Zeitung. Fluent in Mandarin, he has studied and lived in China for more than 30 years. His most recent book We Have Been Harmonized: Life in China's Surveillance State, explains how the internet and high tech have allowed the Chinese authoritarians to create the most efficient surveillance state in history. Advances in facial recognition, GPS tracking, supercomputer databases, mobile phones, high-resolution security cameras make citizen's privacy impossible.



#### **Elizabeth Strout**

Elizabeth Strout is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Lucy by the Sea, Oh William!, Olive, Again, Anything Is Possible, My Name Is Lucy Barton, The Burgess Boys, Olive Kitteridge (winner of the Pulitzer Prize); Abide with Me and Amy and Isabelle. She has also been longlisted for The Booker Prize, as well as a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Women's Prize in London. She lives in Maine.



#### Colm Tóibín

Colm Tóibín was born in Enniscorthy in 1955. He is the author of 11 novels including *The Master, Brooklyn, The Testament of Mary, Nora Webster, House of Names* and *The Magician*. His work has been shortlisted for The Booker Prize three times, has won the Costa Novel Award and the IMPAC Award. He has also published two collections of stories and many works of non-fiction. He is Laureate for Irish Fiction.



#### Fintan O'Toole

Fintan O'Toole is a columnist with *The Irish Times* and advising editor of *The New York Review of Books*. He has been awarded the Robert Silvers Prize for Journalism, the Orwell Prize and the European Press Prize. His most recent book is *We Don't Know Ourselves*: A *Personal History of Modern Ireland*. He is currently working on the official biography of Seamus Heaney.

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#### Isabella Tree

Isabella Tree is an award-winning writer and conservationist who lives with her husband, Charlie Burrell, in the middle of a pioneering rewilding project in West Sussex. She is author of six non-fiction books, including *Wilding:* the Return of Nature to a British Farm. Her most recent book, co-authored with Charlie, The Book of Wilding - a Practical Guide to Rewilding Big and Small (2023) has been described as 'a handbook of hope'.



#### **Martin Warde**

Martin Warde is a member of the Irish Traveller community and has a degree in Sociology and Politics from NUIG and an MA in journalism at UL. Martin is also a stand-up comedian/writer, theatremaker, and podcaster with a passion for telling stories from the margins. Martin has spoken on multiple platforms about the lack of representation of his community within Irish media, particularly in positions of power and decision making.



#### John Vaillant

John Vaillant has written for *The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Outside, National Geographic* and *Men's Journal,* among other publications. His first book *The Golden Spruce* won the Canadian Governor General's Award for non-fiction. His most recent *Fire Water: A True Story from a Hotter World* - an account of this century's most intense urban fire, and a panoramic exploration of the rapidly changing relationship between fire and humankind - won the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction last year.



#### **Ruby Wax**

Ruby began her career with the Royal Shakespeare Company. She went on to a successful career with BBC as an interviewer and comedian, and has written and edited numerous scripts for TV including *Absolutely Fabulous*. Ruby then turned her attention to psychotherapy and neuroscience, graduating from Oxford University in 2013. She has subsequently received an OBE for her service to mental health. Ruby is the author *A Mindfulness Guide for the Frazzled* and *How to be Human*, and *I'm Not as Well as I Thought I Was*.



## **Ocean Vuong**

Ocean Vuong is the author of *The New York Times* bestselling poetry collection, *Time is a Mother* (2022), and *The New York Times* bestselling novel, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* (2019), translated into 38 languages. He has written for *The Atlantic, Granta, The New York Times, The Paris Review, The Village Voice* and *American Poetry Review*. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, he was raised in Hartford, Connecticut in a working class family of nail salon and factory workers. He currently serves as a tenured Professor in Modern Poetry and Poetics in the MFA Program at NYU.



#### **Jane Wellesley**

Jane Wellesley, writer and producer, is the author of *Blue Eyes* and a *Wild Spirit: A Life of Dorothy Wellesley*, a book about her grandmother the poet. Her first book, *Wellington: A Journey Through My Family*, was published in 2008. Before a long career in the television and film industry, she worked in the art world. She is a founder of the Marie Colvin Journalists' Network (MCJN).



#### **David Wallace-Wells**

David Wallace-Wells is a writer for New York Times Opinion, a columnist for the New York Times Magazine, and the author of the international best-seller The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming, which The Guardian called 'an epoch-defining book'. He was previously deputy editor of New York Magazine and, before that, the Paris Review, and is a National Fellow at the New America Foundation.



## **Stephen Woolley**

Stephen Woolley is a London-based filmmaker who has collaborated with Neil Jordan on sixteen movies. As his producer these include The Company of Wolves (1984), Mona Lisa (1986), The Crying Game (1992), Interview With The Vampire (1994), Michael Collins (1996), The Butcher Boy (1997), The End of the Affair (1999) and Byzantium (2012). Woolley and Jordan collaborated as producers and exec producers on The Courier (1988), The Actors (2003) and Intermission (2003). His latest productions are The Salt Path and The Assessment.



#### **Emma Ward**

Emma Ward is a 21-year-old Irish Traveller wheelchair user. She is a journalist who is hoping to change the media's perception of both the Irish Traveller and disabled communities. Emma is also a disability rights activist and a content creator.

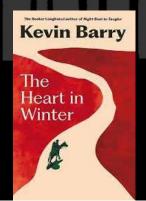


## Ye Vagabonds

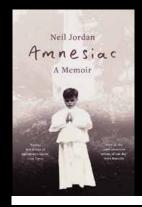
Brothers Brían and Diarmuid Mac Gloinn grew up playing music together around their hometown of Carlow. After moving to Dublin in 2012, they quickly became a staple of the live music and session scene in Ireland. Three albums later - Ye Vagabonds, The Hare's Lament, and Nine Waves - they now play sold out headline shows in Ireland, France, Switzerland and the UK.

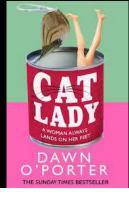
## BOOKSHOP IN THE BALLROOM

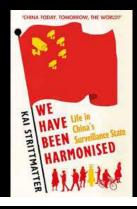
all the books by all the writers here this weekend, and a carefully selected collection of the best ne The Festival Bookshop is located in the Ballroom, around the southern flank of the house, and has novels of the past year. Two books have not even come out yet. We have the very first copies.

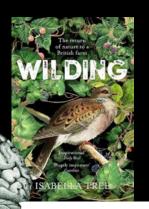




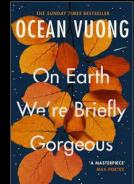














## SHOPPING FOR LOVELY THINGS

Craft Bazaar is a group of tented shops, displaying the wares of a handful of makers both local and from across the country.



Michele Sweetman's textile designs Iseult Law's Ikat cushions and belts

Emma Jeffcock's unique, fair-traded baskets and rugs from all over the world

Lizzie van Amerongen's exceptional painted lamps

**Orla Twomey & Armand Tessier's** artworks from carefully foraged seaweed from the shores of West Cork

Una Burke's sculptural leather accessory designs

Jacinta Hughes's beautiful botanical watercolours painted right in front of you















# FOODMAKERS

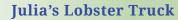
#### Gidi's Great on the Grill

Fusion of Yemenite and Moroccan flavours, traditional family recipes, served with a smile.



#### Little Coffee Hut

The little coffee hut will be serving beautiful specialty single origin coffee roasted by Bell Lane coffee roasters. Along with a large selection of treats. For breakfast we will have Acai bowls and overnight oats.



Cooking simple fresh seafood from the West of Ireland; grilled lobster, steamed mussels, clams and oysters. Great fresh fish and chips fried in beef dripping.







#### Silly Sid's (also serves coffee)

Silly Sids is a food truck that uses fresh irish ingredients from the Boyne valley, we will have sourdough toasties (the spicy cheezy was a huge hit at last year's festival) along with rolled ice cream + coffee + refreshments.





Hot and iced single origin coffees, loose leaf tea, hand blended herbal teas, specialty hot chocolate and artisan cordial fizzy drinks as well as savoury snacks and sweet treats





## Weirdough Pizza

Homemade dough is homemade, ingredients are fresh (both local and Italian imports) and all pizza is made to order.



The sizzle of the pan, the aroma of saffron and spices, the burst of colour from fresh vegetables, and the perfectly cooked rice will transport you to the streets of Spain.





#### **Home Fries**

Pan fried baby potatoes (in a huge paella pan, until they become beautifully seasoned golden pieces of perfection) complemented with a great range of toppings and sauces, such as homemade Patatas Bravas and Garlic & Cheese to Chorizo Stew and Slow Roast BBQ Pulled Pork.

#### **Maison Libanaise**

Fresh and authentic Lebanese cuisine, including falafel, grilled meat kofta, grilled chicken kofta and fresh homemade baklava.





#### **Goldenhill Farm Ice Cream**

Handmade on a family farm in county Wicklow, using finest quality ingredients; also making delicious fruit sorbets (which are dairy, egg and gluten free), and milkshakes and smoothies.



Delicious Korean style burritos homemade kimchi and Asian slaw with wonderful Irish meat and dairy.





## Lu's Chaat-Stop

Delicious, authentic Indian street food snacks & dishes, including the sensational pani puri, the classic bhel puri and delicious dhals.

## Neighbourhood Café

We import, roast and serve ethically and sustainably sourced specialty coffee with a minimum cup score of 84+ ...along with an array of homemade tasty treats and refreshments.

