



SATURDAY 8th



FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS

	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 (<i>Super-Infinite</i> , <i>The Golden Mole</i>) and John Vaillant (<i>Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World</i>) ask who needs fiction when nature is providing enough of a fast-moving, harrowing story? With journalist Alex Clark .	REWILDING BIG AND SMALL: Keen gardener Adam Clayton (bassist in U2) talks to conservationist Isabella Tree (<i>Wilding: The Return to Nature of a British Farm</i>) about practical solutions for rewilding - from allotments and gardens to farms and public spaces.	PUT ANOTHER RECORD ON: Annie Mac , broadcaster, DJ and author (<i>The Mess We're In</i>) and Cerys Matthews , musician, broadcaster and author (<i>Where the Wild Cooks Go</i>) 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 <i>Caledonian Road</i> , 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 (<i>Rough Beast: My Story and the Reality of Sinn Féin</i>), 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' (<i>Real Estate</i> , <i>The Cost of Living</i> , <i>Things I Don't Want to Know</i>) with actor and writer Minnie Driver (<i>Managing Expectations</i>). "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 (<i>Close to Death</i>) and Liz Nugent (<i>Strange Sally Diamond</i>) talk about the art of cliffhangers and page-turners.	AFRICA RISING: Lemn Sissay (<i>Let the Light Pour In</i>) and Afua Hirsch (<i>Brit(ish) On Race, Identity and Belonging</i>) explore how young creatives are reinventing culture across Africa in fashion, film and music, referencing Afua's three-part BBC documentary <i>Africa Rising</i> .	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 HIS TRIBE: Australian musician Jim Moginie (of Midnight Oil) joins Fiachna Ó Braonáin (of Hothouse Flowers) for a preview of his memoir <i>The Silver River</i> . With guitars to hand, they'll talk about adoption, touring together, making music from murmurations of starlings, and why Jim made this very valley his second home.
1.55pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Fintan O'Toole , Minnie Driver , Deborah Levy , Liz Nugent , Anthony Horowitz , Lemn Sissay , Afua Hirsch , Jim Moginie				
2.20 - 3.15pm	CLIMATE JUSTICE: Chair of The Elders, Mary Robinson , and David Wallace Wells (<i>The Uninhabitable Earth</i>) 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 Ye Vagabonds .	KILBURN CAPERS: Annie Mac (<i>The Mess We're In</i>) 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 (<i>Hagstone</i>).	WHY HISTORY MATTERS: Tom Holland and Misha Glenny on "s/he who controls the past controls the future".	WILD AND REBELLIOUS: Historian Roy Foster talks to Jane Wellesley (<i>Blue Eyes and a Wild Spirit</i>) about her book on the remarkable life of her grandmother, poet Dorothy Wellesley, married to a future Duke of Wellington, lover of Vita Sackville West 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				
3.40 - 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 cults...and swap observations of mainstream cultural life.	TWENTY YEARS ON: Laureate for Irish Fiction Colm Tóibín talks to Katherine Rundell about his new novel, <i>Long Island</i> , a sequel to <i>Brooklyn</i> .	MY VULNERABILITY IS MY POWER: Ocean Vuong (<i>Time is a Mother</i>) reads from his work and talks to writer Kerri ní Dochartaigh (<i>Cacophony of Bone</i>), with a special guest performance from Nashville based folk musician Josh Okeefe .	GLAMOUR AND THE SCHOOL RUN: Dawn O'Porter (<i>Cows, So Lucky, Life in Pieces</i>) and Emma Dabiri (<i>Don't Touch My Hair, What White People Can Do Next</i>) swap tales about everyday challenges, little and large.	WRITING WRONGS: Writers Emma Ward and Martin Beanz Warde talk about barriers to cultural inclusion and how peer mentorship is helping Travellers break through and flourish creatively. Journalist Patrick Freyne shares his experiences on mentoring: hosted by independent festival producer and programmer Naoise Nunn .
4.35pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Tom Holland , Colm Tóibín , Katherine Rundell , Ocean Vuong , Kerri ní Dochartaigh , Dawn O'Porter , Emma Dabiri				
4.50 - 5.45pm	EVERYTHING IS LISTENING: Creative pioneers Laurie Anderson (artist and musician) and Es Devlin (artist and stage designer) in conversation about their mind-blowing avant-garde projects.	TROUBLES AND STRIFE: Louise Kennedy (<i>Trespasses and The End of the World is a Cul de Sac</i>) 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 (<i>poyums</i>) 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 (<i>Dublin Old School, Accents</i>) - accompanied by musician Brian Dillon (<i>The Line, Meltybrains</i>) - 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 (<i>Blossomise</i>) in conversation with Katherine Rundell (<i>Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne</i>) about how poetry punches through time like nothing else, why we need it, and how he does it.	DEVIANt MINDS: Writer and filmmaker Jon Ronson (<i>The Psychopath Test</i>) and former State Pathologist Dr Marie Cassidy (<i>Beyond the Tape</i>) have an interest in common: psychopaths.	MOVERS AND SHAPERS: Anthony Sattin (<i>Nomads: The Wanderers Who Shaped Our World</i>) and Manchán Magan (<i>Global Nomad</i>) on how migration has fostered and refreshed civilisation throughout history.	EARTH'S LAST WILDERNESS: One of the world's leading oceanic journalists Olive Heffernan (<i>The High Seas: Ambition, Power and Greed on the Unclaimed Ocean</i>) with David Wallace-Wells (<i>The Uninhabitable Earth</i>) envisage humanity's future on a resource-limited planet.	5.55pm start THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF KITSY RAINEY: Mikel Murfi (<i>The Man in the Woman's Shoes</i> and <i>I Hear You and Rejoice</i>) 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	RE-DEFINING GLOBAL HISTORY: Historian Peter Frankopan (<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 Fintan O'Toole .	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 meaning...but ending up in a mental ward. A tragic comedy.	
8.20pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Peter Frankopan , Kevin Barry , Ruby Wax				



HERE COMES NIGHTFALL

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.

