





# SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE



## BORRIS FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS

	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY	THE OWLERY	THE BALLROOM	CHAPEL
10.30 - 11.30am	<b>SUNDAY ASSEMBLY: Reflections from the Front Line</b> Reflections from the Front Line. Veteran war-correspondent <b>Lindsey Hilsum</b> ( <i>I Brought the War with Me</i> ) leads us in a commemoration for those in conflict. With contributions from <b>Denise Gough</b> , <b>Fiona Shaw</b> , <b>William Sieghart</b> – along with <b>other writers</b> and <b>musicians</b> who have been with us over the weekend.	<b>KINSHIP: Manchán Mangan</b> ( <i>Brehons and Brahmins</i> ) and <b>William Dalrymple</b> ( <i>The Golden Road</i> ) explore the many cultural connections between Ireland and India - including mythology, language and legal systems.			<b>MANY LIVES AND AFTERLIVES:</b> Alcoholic, opiate addict and fabulist, James Clarence Mangan, 'Ireland's forgotten national poet' - beloved by Irish icons from James Joyce to Shane MacGowan - has been resurrected by <b>Bridget Hourican</b> ( <i>Finding Mangan</i> ). With <b>Patrick Freyne</b> on the challenges of writing biography, and of reckoning with her own ghosts in the process.
11.30am	<b>BOOK SIGNINGS</b> (Bookshop): <b>Manchán Magan</b> , <b>William Dalrymple</b> , <b>Bridget Hourican</b>				
11.45am -12.45pm	<b>MY MOTHER, EDNA O'BRIEN:</b> <b>Carlo Gebler</b> offers a unique and intimate perspective on his mother, Edna O'Brien. With <b>Margaret Drabble</b> . Interspersed by readings from <b>Denise Gough</b> and <b>Fiona Shaw</b> .	<b>EARTH SHAKERS AND MAKERS:</b> Biologist <b>Merlin Sheldrake</b> ( <i>Entangled Lives</i> ) is joined by naturalist <b>Helen Macdonald</b> explore the hidden world of fungi – organisms that shape life on Earth, challenge our ideas of intelligence and individuality, and hold extraordinary potential to heal, transform, and sustain our world.	<b>THOSE LONG UNEVEN LINES:</b> <b>Max Hastings</b> ( <i>Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War</i> ) and <b>Geoff Dyer</b> ( <i>The Missing of the Somme</i> ) on approaches to the Great War. With <b>Jane Ohlmeyer</b> .	<b>WHAT TO DO WITH A BOY'S RAGE?:</b> Documentary filmmaker <b>Alan Bradley</b> ( <i>Invisible Men – Ireland's Incels</i> ) and writer <b>Catherine Prasifka</b> ( <i>This Is How You Remember It</i> ) investigate why young men are entering violent and extremist spaces – and what this reveals about the world we've built around them. With <b>Ben Anderson</b> .	<b>BECOMING AN UNBELIEVER:</b> Philosopher-writer <b>Rebecca Goldstein</b> grew up in a stern orthodox Jewish community, until she read her way out of religion - graduating from a sense of entrapment into the limitless beliefs on offer in atheism. She revisits her 'novel' <i>36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction</i> . In conversation with <b>William Sieghart</b> .
12.45pm	<b>BOOK SIGNINGS</b> (Bookshop): <b>Carlo Gebler</b> , <b>Margaret Drabble</b> , <b>Merlin Sheldrake</b> , <b>Helen Macdonald</b> , <b>Rebecca Goldstein</b> , <b>Max Hastings</b> , <b>Geoff Dyer</b> , <b>Jane Ohlmeyer</b>				
	<div><div>12.45-1.30pm TOOTING AND PARPING: Music out the front of the house with <b>Code of Behaviour Brass Band</b></div><div></div></div>				
1.40 - 2.35pm	<b>OUR LIVES IN EXILE:</b> Russian investigative journalists <b>Andrei Soldatov</b> and <b>Irina Borogan</b> , who both live in exile because of their investigations of the Russian secret services, talk to <b>Misha Glenny</b> about the Putin regime.	<b>MUSIC, ONCE AND AGAIN:</b> Singer <b>Glen Hansard</b> joins author/producer <b>Joe Boyd</b> to talk about music they both love, from Joe's productions of Nick Drake, R.E.M., Fairport Convention and Pink Floyd, to Glen's roots in trad. Glen will have his guitar at the ready.	<b>CRACKING MYSTERIES:</b> Booker Prize winner and Stafford and Quirke's creator, <b>John Banville</b> ( <i>The Drowned</i> ) and Gold-Dagger winning <b>Una Mannion</b> ( <i>Tell Me What I Am</i> ) take on the literary crime. With <b>Kirsty Lang</b> .	<b>GREEK TO ME: Ferdia Lennon</b> talks to <b>Rebecca Goldstein</b> ( <i>Plato at the Googleplex</i> ) about bringing ancient Greece into the 21st century, and his award-winning debut, <i>Glorious Exploits</i> – 'a stunningly fun meditation on companionship, humanity, and the role of performance.'	<b>COMICS JOURNALISM:</b> Renowned as 'the greatest practitioner of comics journalism today,' <b>Joe Sacco</b> is joined by award-winning war correspondent <b>Ben Anderson</b> for an illustrated talk on documenting civilian stories from the world's most volatile conflict zones. Together, they explore how visual storytelling can bridge the gap between hard-hitting journalism and wide popular appeal.
2.35pm	<b>BOOK SIGNINGS</b> (Bookshop): <b>Rupert Everett</b> , <b>Joe Boyd</b> , <b>John Banville</b> , <b>Una Mannion</b> , <b>Joe Sacco</b> , <b>Rebecca Goldstein</b> , <b>Ferdia Lennon</b>				
3.15 - 4.15pm	<b>THE TRAUMA OF THE TROUBLES:</b> <b>Patrick Radden Keefe</b> ( <i>Say Nothing</i> ) and <b>Carlo Gebler</b> ( <i>A Cold Eye</i> ) on the Northern Irish Conflict and its aftermath.	<b>PERIPHERAL THINKING: THE TREE IS NEVER JUST ITSELF:</b> <b>William Kentridge</b> on transformation, the 'poor man's animation', and the pleasures of self-deception.	<b>AS TRUE AS THE SUN WILL RISE:</b> A decade on, <b>Donal Ryan</b> returns to the world and voices of his beloved debut, <i>A Spinning Heart</i> . The resulting portrait of contemporary life in Tipperary, <i>Heart Be At Peace</i> , is an enchanting and non judgemental portrayal of humanity - in all its weirdness, melancholy, comedy and love. With <b>Alex Clark</b> .	<b>OF CHILDREN, ANIMALS AND HUNGER ARTISTS:</b> <b>Kristin Scott Thomas</b> performs a selection of short stories from Kafka's archive, a performance described as "funny and absurd; bizarre and troubling; captivating and unsettling." Introduced by <b>John Banville</b>	<b>WHEN THE PAST IS HAUNTED BY THE PRESENT:</b> <b>Adania Shibli's</b> <i>Minor Detail</i> explores the aftermath of a 1949 Palestinian massacre through the eyes of a young woman and a soldier. Here Adania discusses the struggle for a language during our present times, where hindrances to free artistic expressions and work are mounting. <i>Minor Detail</i> itself was subject to such treatment at Frankfurt Bookfair in 2023. With <b>Alex Clark</b> .
4.15pm	<b>BOOK SIGNINGS</b> (Bookshop): <b>Patrick Radden Keefe</b> , <b>Carlo Gebler</b> , <b>William Kentridge</b> , <b>Adania Shibli</b> , <b>Donal Ryan</b>				
5 - 6pm		<b>THINKING ABOUT THINKING:</b> <b>Steven Pinker</b> in conversation with Bloomberg's <b>John Micklethwait</b> .	<b>THESE DAYDREAMS PERSISTED LIKE AN ALTERNATE LIFE:</b> <b>Paul Murray</b> ( <i>The Bee Sting</i> , <i>Skippy Dies</i> ) and cultural historian <b>Clair Wills</b> ( <i>Missing Persons</i> , <i>My Grandmother's Secrets</i> ) are online friends. Here they meet in person for the first time to discuss Paul Murray's writing life, from <i>An Evening of Long Goodbyes</i> to <i>The Bee Sting</i> - and all that came between.	<div></div>	
6pm	<b>BOOK SIGNINGS</b> (Bookshop): <b>Steven Pinker</b> , <b>Paul Murray</b> , <b>Clair Wills</b>				

