




SUNDAY 8TH JUNE



BORRIS FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS

	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY	THE OWLERY	THE BALLROOM	CHAPEL
10.30 - 11.30am	SUNDAY ASSEMBLY: Reflections from the Front Line Reflections from the Front Line. Veteran war-correspondent Lindsey Hilsum (<i>I Brought the War with Me</i>) leads us in a commemoration for those in conflict. With contributions from Denise Gough , Fiona Shaw , William Sieghart – along with other writers and musicians who have been with us over the weekend.	KINSHIP: Manchán Mangan (<i>Brehons and Brahmins</i>) and William Dalrymple (<i>The Golden Road</i>) explore the many cultural connections between Ireland and India - including mythology, language and legal systems.			MANY LIVES AND AFTERLIVES: 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 Bridget Hourican (<i>Finding Mangan</i>). With Patrick Freyne on the challenges of writing biography, and of reckoning with her own ghosts in the process.
11.30am	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Manchán Magan, William Dalrymple, Bridget Hourican				
11.45am -12.45pm	MY MOTHER, EDNA O'BRIEN: Carlo Gébler offers a unique and intimate perspective on his mother, Edna O'Brien. With Margaret Drabble . Interspersed by readings from Denise Gough and Fiona Shaw .	EARTH SHAKERS AND MAKERS: Biologist Merlin Sheldrake (<i>Entangled Lives</i>) is joined by naturalist Helen Macdonald 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.	THOSE LONG UNEVEN LINES: Max Hastings (<i>Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War</i>) and Geoff Dyer (<i>The Missing of the Somme</i>) on approaches to the Great War. With Jane Ohlmeyer .	WHAT TO DO WITH A BOY'S RAGE?: Documentary filmmaker Alan Bradley (<i>Invisible Men – Ireland's Incels</i>) and writer Catherine Prasifka (<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 Ben Anderson .	BECOMING AN UNBELIEVER: Philosopher-writer Rebecca Goldstein 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 William Sieghart .
12.45pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Carlo Gébler, Margaret Drabble, Merlin Sheldrake, Helen Macdonald, Rebecca Goldstein, Max Hastings, Geoff Dyer, Jane Ohlmeyer				
	 <p>12.45-1.30pm TOOTING AND PARNING: Music out the front of the house with Code of Behaviour Brass Band</p>				
1.40 - 2.35pm	OUR LIVES IN EXILE: Journalists Andrei Soldatov and Irina Borogan (<i>The New Nobility, The Red Web, The Compatriots</i>) exiled from Moscow for their fearless investigations into Russia's secret services, offer a rare glimpse into Putin's world. With Misha Glenny .	MUSIC, ONCE AND AGAIN: Singer Glen Hansard joins author/producer Joe Boyd 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.	AS TRUE AS THE SUN WILL RISE: A decade on, Donal Ryan 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 Alex Clark .	CRACKING MYSTERIES: Booker Prize winner and Stafford and Quirke's creator, John Banville (<i>The Drowned</i>) and Gold-Dagger winning Una Mannion (<i>Tell Me What I Am</i>) take on the literary crime. With Kirsty Lang .	COMICS JOURNALISM: Renowned as 'the greatest practitioner of comics journalism today,' Joe Sacco is joined by award-winning war correspondent Ben Anderson 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	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Rupert Everett, Joe Boyd, John Banville, Una Mannion, Joe Sacco, Donal Ryan				
3.15 - 4.15pm	OF CHILDREN, ANIMALS AND HUNGER ARTISTS: Kristin Scott Thomas 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 John Banville .	PERIPHERAL THINKING - THE TREE IS NEVER JUST ITSELF: William Kentridge on transformation, the 'poor man's animation', and the pleasures of self-deception.	GREEK TO ME: Ferdia Lennon talks to Rebecca Goldstein (<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.'	THE TRAUMA OF THE TROUBLES: Eoin Macnamee (<i>The Bureau</i>) and Carlo Gébler (<i>A Cold Eye</i>) on the Northern Irish Conflict and its aftermath.	WHEN THE PAST IS HAUNTED BY THE PRESENT: Adania Shibli's <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 Alex Clark .
4.15pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): William Kentridge, Ferdia Lennon, Rebecca Goldstein, Carlo Gébler, Adania Shibli				
5 - 6pm	IDEAS CHANGE HISTORY: Cognitive psychologist, public intellectual and professor at Harvard Steven Pinker in conversation with John Micklethwait (editor-in-chief of Bloomberg News).	DREAMING OF DANIEL: First public performance of musician Jerry Fish's tribute to the late, great artist and musician Daniel Johnston - featuring MayKay from Fight Like Apes & guitarist Conor Brady - blending a wide array of Indie, Americana, folk and cabaret.	THESE DAYDREAMS PERSISTED LIKE AN ALTERNATE LIFE: Paul Murray (<i>The Bee Sting, Skippy Dies</i>) and cultural historian Clair Wills (<i>Missing Persons, 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.		
6pm	BOOK SIGNINGS (Bookshop): Steven Pinker, Paul Murray, Clair Wills				

