



SUNDAY 7TH JUNE



BORRIS FESTIVAL OF WRITING & IDEAS

9-10am WILD SINGING:

Early risers join half a dozen members of Carlow's enCORE Choir for a walk around the grounds of the Borris House, falling into song (with their fellow walkers) when the moment arises.

	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY	THE OWLERY	THE BALLROOM	THE GRANARY
10.30 - 11.30am	<p>THE WEIGHT OF THE PAST: Pulitzer prize winner Elizabeth Strout (<i>The Things We Never Say</i>) in conversation with former Laureate for Irish Fiction Colm Toibín (<i>The News From Dublin</i>).</p>	<p>SUNDAY ASSEMBLY FOR MANCHÁN MAGAN: Fiachna Ó Braonáin, Liam Ó Maolaí, Colm Mac Con Iomaire, Branwen Kavanagh, physician Rupa Marya (who moved to Ireland because of Manchán), breadmaker Gerry Godley serving bread from Magan's own sourdough starter, choreographer Michael Keegan Dolan, TV producer Brian Reddin, documentary maker and Manchán's brother Ruan Magan.</p>	<p>WONDER IS THE VERY ENGINE OF LIFE: Novelist and poet Paul Kingsnorth (<i>the Dark Mountain Project</i>) and explorer and writer Erling Kagge (<i>Silence in the Age of Noise</i>) consider rejecting and protecting oneself from the fractured distraction of modern life.</p>		
12.15-1.15pm	<p>ROGUE NATIONS: Geopolitical thinkers and journalists Pankaj Mishra, Carole Cadwalladr and Andrew Cockburn consider the nations that have shattered our conceptions of 'global morality', our sense of safety – and our illusion of control.</p>	<p>ILLUMINATING REALITY... WHATEVER THAT MEANS: Oscar winning filmmaker and documentarian Kevin MacDonal looks back on a career in film (<i>One Day in September</i>, <i>Touching the Void</i>, <i>The Last King of Scotland</i>, <i>State of Play</i>, <i>The Mauritanian</i>, <i>Marley</i>, <i>Whitney</i>), with investigative journalist Patrick Radden Keefe.</p>	<p>AMPUTATE MY FRECKLED BOSOM!: Fiona Shaw and Pádraig Ó Tuama explore Emily Dickinson's inner and outer worlds, and how she changed ours forever.</p>	<p>A WOMAN'S PLACE IN HUMAN RIGHTS: A vital conversation on the necessity of considering human rights through the lens of the female experience, featuring Irish human rights lawyer Caoilfhionn Gallagher, British-Iranian journalist Ramita Navai and British-Palestinian novelist and lawyer Selma Dabbagh.</p>	<p>HOW TO TALK TO A NOVELIST: Literary editor, critic and journalist Martin Doyle (<i>A Hosting: Interviews with Irish Writers 1991-2025</i>) compares notes with novelist and columnist Patrick Freyne on their literary encounters, the peculiar task of worming one's way into a writer's mind, what it is all for, and ... mishaps along the way.</p>
2.00 - 3.00pm	<p>SURPRISE TALK:</p>	<p>KINSHIP: Max Porter and Dorothy Cross discuss her 'Kinship' project, which returns a 2000 year old mummy from Ireland to Egypt. This story provokes a profound reckoning with dignity, humanity, art, artefacts and migration at a time of genocide. With readings and a performance by Lisa Hannigan of music inspired by the project.</p>	<p>THE AUTOMATION OF ANNIHILATION: Will AI and autonomous systems make conflict more or less harmful? Iain Overton and Margaret MacMillan explore the modern war. From Ukraine to Gaza, Tehran to the Sahel, how are unmanned drones, AI kill lists and automated weapons reshaping conflict – and what does this mean for the soldiers and civilians on the ground?</p>	<p>THE LIFE YOU WANT: Adam Phillips (Psychoanalyst and child psychotherapist) discusses his profound examination of enjoyment and wanting. What is lost in our search for a life we 'want' rather than the one we have? Might we accept a quiet joys of a more mundane reality? In conversation with economist and memoirist Sonali Deraniyagala.</p>	<p>ROOMS OF THEIR OWN: Professor and scholar Ramie Targoff (<i>Shakespeare's Sisters</i>) resurrects Shakespeare's female contemporaries, their overlooked oeuvres – and their private lives that have been hidden by history. In conversation with Brian Dillon.</p>
3.45 - 4.45pm	<p>OK LET'S PLAY YOUR STUPID SONG: Paul Howard takes Patrick Freyne to task for his taste in music. Patrick lashes out, particularly as his first novel <i>Experts in a Dying Field</i> is about being in a band. And he is in a band.</p>	<p>HIGH-STAKES INVESTIGATORS: Patrick Radden Keefe (<i>Say Nothing</i>) and Ramita Navai (<i>City of Lies: Love, Sex, Death and the Search for Truth in Tehran</i>) on untangling complex stories in non-fiction narrative form. Moderated by Leslie Cockburn.</p>	<p>ON THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!: Known for his work on religion, sexuality, conflict and poetry, Pádraig Ó Tuama (<i>Kitchen Hymns</i> and <i>44 Poems on Being with Each Other</i>) reads from his recent and forthcoming poetry collections. In conversation with Olivia O'Leary. <i>The Annual TS Eliot Foundation event.</i></p>	<p>RECKONING WITH MODERN MEDICINE: Doctor and activist Rupa Marya, former Professor of Medicine at UCSF – fired for speaking out against genocide in Gaza – and the co-author of <i>Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice</i>, explores how our political and economic environment create and maintain inequalities in healthcare system. In conversation with Fiachna Ó Braonáin (broadcaster and musician).</p>	<p>THEATRE: THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF KITSY RAINEY: Pat Farnon reveals a life lived by his wife Kitsy prior to their marriage. Written and performed by Mikel Murfi.</p>
5.30 - 6.30pm	<p>WHEN THE ARROW HITS ITS MARK: Colm Toibín (<i>The News From Dublin</i>) talks to Alex Clark about his new collection of short stories and the relationship between imagination and memory.</p>	<p>DYLAN MORAN'S UTOPIA: Dylan Moran 'and his team' has spent all weekend with festival-goers building a new city state from scratch in a tent. He now takes to the stage to present his findings. Part stand-up, part political experiment, part planning tribunal – come and see what we've done.</p>			

1.15-2pm and 3pm-3.45pm: LIVE MUSIC

Floriane Blancke, Quentin Cooper and Brian Fleming.

Harp, guitars, piano, melodica, assorted percussive objects, and voice – these lot duck and dive between blues, rock, latin and jazz ... and experiment a little with Franco Peruvian roots music.

