FRIDAY

	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY	THE OWLERY	THE BALLROOM
1.15 - 2.15pm	**WHAT IS SANITY ANYWAY?** Pretenders frontwoman **Chrissie Hynde** and psychoanalyst **Adam Phillips** tease out the rock and roll of madness, music and a life on the road.	**DEFENDING THE RULE OF LAW** Former president of Ireland **Mary Robinson** and leading human rights lawyer **Caoilfhionn Gallagher** explore what is at stake for international justice and civil liberties, the future of the United Nations, and the role of alliances like NATO in protecting the values that underpin a just and democratic world.	**PAYING ATTENTION:** In a collection of essays about culture, literature, travel and then some, **Anne Enright** (*Attention: Writing on Art, Life and the World*) and *Irish Times* columnist **Kathy Sheridan** talk about the complexities and compulsions of non-fiction.	
2.15pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Adam Phillips** | **Anne Enright**			
3.00 - 4.00pm	**A NEW TIME, A NEW PLACE:** In her much anticipated *The Things We Never Say*, Pulitzer Prize winner **Elizabeth Strout** - the mind behind Olive Kitteridge and Lucy Barton - gives us a new time, a new place and a new leading man: Artie Dan. In conversation with journalist **Lara Marlowe**.	**I BRING MY PAST, I BRING MY FUTURE, I BRING MY RIGHTS AND I BRING MY SONG:** **Lemn Sissay**'s (*My Name is Why*) poetry has been the one true constant in his life. He talks to **Alex Clark** about his childhood in care, navigating an alien world, the warping, paralysing force of anger and the path to forgiveness and joy. ***This is a TS Eliot Foundation event.***	**IMPRISONED IN IRAN:** When British-Iranian **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe** (*White Torture*) went to visit family in Iran, she was inexplicably imprisoned for six years in Tehran's Evin prison. She discusses the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp's 'industry of hostage-taking', the British arms deal in which she became a bargaining chip – and her extraordinary survival. With Iranian investigative journalist **Ramita Navai**.	**THE LAST DECENT TECH BARON?:** **Jimmy Wales** founded Wikipedia as a non-profit, and it remains one of the last frontiers of online honesty. **Iain Overton** meets a rare figure who went against the grain in an industry hellbent on profit.
4.00pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Elizabeth Strout** | **Jimmy Wales** | **Iain Overton** | **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe** | **Lemn Sissay**			
4.30 - 5.30pm	**INDIA ON THE WORLD STAGE:** At a moment of unprecedented crisis, celebrated author and commentator **Pankaj Mishra** places India in its global context. He examines events from an Indian perspective, teasing out India's position on Israel, China, Russia and the USA. In conversation with historian and Empire podcast regular **Jane Ohlmeyer**.	**JOHN, PAUL AND YOKO:** **Ian Leslie** (*John & Paul: A Love Story in Songs*) and Oscar-winning filmmaker **Kevin MacDonald** (*One to One: John & Yoko*) unpick these greatest of musical icons.	**A FOREIGN COUNTRY: DRAMATIZING THE PAST** **Frank McGuinness**, leading Irish playwright whose *Do You Come From Gomorrah?* has just premiered in the Abbey, talks to **Olivia O'Leary** about a life writing for theatre (*The Factory Girls, Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme, Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*) his novels, poetry and the art of translating the classics.	**MAX PORTER'S ALTER EGOS:** **Max Porter** has always investigated what is behind the mask, be it the Green Man, Crow, or Francis Bacon. Here, in a live performance of his new book, Rodney Graham: Trees, Porter considers whether the ultimate form of understanding is to become your subject. In conversation with author and art critic **Brian Dillon**.
5.30pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Pankaj Mishra** | **Ian Leslie** | **Frank McGuinness** | **Max Porter**			
6.00 - 7.00pm	**WHAT MAKES A LIFE WELL LIVED?** **Dylan Moran** sits down with **Miriam Margolyes** – a woman who doesn't leave a thought unspoken – to consider The Big Questions. What do we keep getting wrong? What do we owe one another? What would you save and what would you scrap to create your perfect world?	**PUSSY RIOT: PUNK PRAYERS AGAINST PUTIN:** **Masha Alyokhina** (*Political Girl*) a founding member of the all-female collective Pussy Riot, has spent her life protesting Putin. She is joined by human rights activist **Bill Shipsey** to share her first hand experiences of Russia's treatment of dissidents, imprisonment, escape, and the power of art as activism.	**AMERICA IS LONELY:** **Professor Margaret MacMillan** (*War: How Conflict Shaped Us*) and journalists **Fintan O'Toole** (*We Don't Know Ourselves*) and **Andrew Cockburn** (*Washington Is Burning*) consider the increasingly perplexing isolation of the US.	**THE PARTICULAR QUALITY OF ATTENTION:** Renowned stylist **Claire Louise Bennett** (*Big Kiss Bye Bye*) discusses sex, violence and specificity. In conversation with **Nicole Flattery** (*Everything Is Nice, Everything Is Lovely*). ***This is a London Review of Books event.***
7.00pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Miriam Margolyes** | **Masha Alyokhina** | **Margaret Macmillan** | **Andrew Cockburn** | **Claire Louise Bennett**			
7.15 - 8.15pm	**HIGHWAY TO THE DAVID ZONE** **David O'Doherty**'s search for happiness continues in this characteristically introspective comedy performance. With the assistance of his tiny piano.	**LET THE LIGHT POUR IN:** For **Lemn Sissay** OBE, poetry is a form of meditation. He returns to Borris to perform his 'Morning Poems', a witty and profound 'experiment of hope' in which night gives way to uplifting day. With an interactive audience Q&A. **[Duration 90 minutes, with 10 minute interval for thinking and drinking, ends approx 8.45pm]**	**THAT SHAKESPEAREAN RAG:** Actor **Fiona Shaw** and classicist **Stephen Greenblatt** consider performed Shakespeare, and his broader legacy and influence. With readings from **Fiona Shaw**.	
8.15pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Lemn Sissay**			

INTO THE NIGHT

9.30 -11.50pm in the **ROOKERY**

HOTHOUSE FLOWERS reunite in Borris House - nearly forty years after they rented the property to make their album Home. With support from **The Wran**.

6pm: THEATRE in the **GRANARY**

THE MAN IN THE WOMAN'S SHOES: Pat Farnon walks to town and back again. Written and performed by **Mikel Murfi**.

SATURDAY

	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY	THE OWLERY	THE BALLROOM	THE GRANARY
10.30 - 11.30am	**85 AND UNFILTERED:** **Miriam Margolyes**, frank, funny and startlingly vulnerable, chats to comedian, author and musician **David O'Doherty**.	**THE PRICE OF SPEAKING TRUTH:** **Carole Cadwalladr**, who has been incessantly targeted for her investigative reporting, talks to human rights lawyer **Caoilfhionn Gallagher**, who specialises in defending wrongfully detained journalists, about the intimidation and harassment of female reporters.	**DEALS WITH THE DEVIL:** Novelists and critics **Anne Enright** and **Mary Gaitskill** are joined by journalist **Iain Overton** to discuss Jeffrey Epstein and others, and why so many – moneymen, princes, doctors, public intellectuals – are willing to facilitate and participate in abuse. Is the devil in us all?		
11.30am	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Miriam Margoyles** | **David O'Doherty** | **Anne Enright** | **Mary Gaitskill** | **Iain Overton**				
12.15 -1.15pm	**I CHOOSE HOPE:** **Mary Robinson** has spent a lifetime crusading – for human dignity, for environmental crises, for gender equality, for Ireland to reconsider its immigration policy. Current projects include The Elders (a group of world leaders tackling some of our toughest problems) and Project Dandelion (a woman-led initiative for climate justice). She considers her optimism with **Sean McCabe**, formerly of the Mary Robinson Foundation.	**LIGHT AND THREAD:** Nobel Prize-winner **Han Kang** (*The Vegetarian, Human Acts, We Do Not Part*) talks to her one-time editor **Max Porter** about the common strands that run through her books: interconnection, tenderness, darkness and light. (*With translator **Sejin Lim***)	**CYBER SWEET NOTHINGS:** **James Muldoon** (*Love Machines*) and award-winning journalist **Iain Overton** on the dystopian terrain of AI relationships – romantic partners, therapists and even avatars of the dead. Just how far are lonely generations being manipulated? Why are we seduced by digital reflections of ourselves? How did we get here?	**IT IS THE MENDING THAT MATTERS:** Co-authors **Stephen Greenblatt** and **Adam Phillips** (*Second Chances: Shakespeare and Freud*) examine how Freud and Shakespeare guide us to live through our mistakes. Second chances are essential to the human imagination, engaging our capacity for regeneration. With novelist and critic **Selma Dabbagh**.	
1.15pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Han Kang** | **James Muldoon** | **Iain Overton** | **Stephen Greenblatt** | **Adam Phillips** | **Selma Dabbagh**				
2.00 - 3.00pm	**ON NOT FOLLOWING THE RULES:** In her fiction and her essays, **Mary Gaitskill** embraces ambiguity, encouraging us to apply nuance to sex, identity, character and 'the rules' by which we live. She talks to **Alex Clark** about how radical this is, and the challenge of allowing for the messy complexities of existence.	**TO BE OR NOT TO BE A MACHINE:** Vehement tech sceptic **Paul Kingsnorth** (*Against The Machine*) and journalist **Mark O'Connell** (*To Be A Machine*) confront transhumanism and the digital world. What threat or opportunity does 'The Machine' present? Is the nature of humanity up for grabs – and should we let it be?	**THE CHANGING FACE OF REPORTING:** Journalist **Ramita Navai,** who has reported on human rights in over 40 countries, and **Leslie Cockburn**, documentary filmmaker who has covered six wars, explore how the conflicts in Gaza and Iran, where access for foreign journalists is limited, are reshaping not just war coverage but the entire media landscape.	**NOWHERE TO HIDE:** **Fintan O'Toole** (*We Don't Know Ourselves*) talks to **Anna Fitzgerald** about her imaginative use of language in her prize-winning debut *Girl in the Making*, and the claustrophobia of being a girl in 70s Dublin suburbia.	**I AM WHAT I HAVE READ:** When essayist and critic **Brian Dillon** (*Ambivalence*)was sixteen, his mother died and he turned his back on traditional education. He talks to **Claire Louise Bennett** (*Checkout 19*) about the books, music and philosophy on which he raised himself, and that awakened his love of art, language and ideas. ***This is a London Review of Books event.***
3.00pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Mary Gaitskill** | **Paul Kingsnorth** | **Mark O'Connell** | **Ramita Navai** | **Anna Fitzgerald** | **Brian Dillon** | **Claire Louise Bennett**				
3.45 - 4.45pm	**THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MARGARET MACMILLAN:** Professor of International History at Oxford and bestselling author on war and on peace, **Margaret MacMillan** (*Making the World Again*) offers her reflections on today's global crises, with historian **Jane Ohlmeyer**.	**YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND:** Filmmaker **Jim Sheridan** and Pretenders star **Chrissie Hynde** met on a trip to the Far East some 10 years ago and became instant friends. Filmmaker **Kevin MacDonald** joins them to discuss friendship and why collaboration is at the heart of everything even when you're the boss.	**WE CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY:** **Pankaj Mishra** (*The World After Gaza*) and British Palestinian writer and human rights lawyer **Selma Dabbagh** (*Out of It*) examine the occupation in Palestine, the ongoing genocide and the global forces – such as white supremacy – that enable it. With journalist and flotilla member **Naoise Dolan**.	**THE STARRY SKY IS THE TRUEST FRIEND IN LIFE:** **Erling Kagge** (*The North Pole: The History of an Obsession*) has summited Everest, traversed the North and South Poles, descended into the sewers and subway tunnels of NYC, advised on space exploration, is a renowned art collector, publisher and author of nine books. In conversation with artist **Dorothy Cross**.	
4.45pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Margaret MacMillan** | **Jane Ohlmeyer** | **Pankaj Mishra** | **Selma Dabbagh** | **Naoise Dolan** | **Erling Kagge**				
5.30 - 6.30pm		**DUPED BY A FABULIST:** Award-winning author **Patrick Radden Keefe** (*London Falling*) talks to fellow investigative journalist **Carole Cadwalladr** about the dangerous places we take ourselves with the lies we tell, and documenting the mystery of the British teenager who became lost in the criminality of London's oligarchy.	**THE STATE OF IRELAND:** **Fintan O'Toole** and **Sam McBride** (*For and Against a United Ireland*) join **Colm Tóibín** to debate the future of the Island and the possibilities for change.	**NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF MY SISTER HADN'T BEEN BEAUTIFUL:** **Liz Nugent**'s new book, *The Truth About Ruby Cooper*, is a nuanced, unsettling look at the generational fallout that emerges from a single choice made by one young woman. Here in conversation with **Alex Clark** about her latest shocking and manipulative main character, and the workings of psychological drama.	**A THRILLING AND SUBVERSIVE LIFE, CUT SHORT:** **Stephen Greenblatt** (*Dark Rennaissance: The Dangerous Times and Fatal Genius of Shakespeare's Greatest Rival, Christopher Marlowe*) talks to **Brian Dillon** about Christopher Marlowe: playwright, poet, spy, atheist, and sexual rebel, who was murdered in mysterious circumstances at only 29.
	6.30pm: **BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Patrick Radden Keefe** | **Fintan O'Toole** | **Sam McBride** | **Colm Tóibín** | **Liz Nugent** | **Stephen Greenblatt** | **Brian Dillon**				



6.45-7.45pm: in **The Orangery** Teać Damsa presents: **'1975 / NAOI SEACHTÓ CÚIG'** Five chairs. Sharp suits. A dance floor. **Michael Keegan Dolan** brings together five exceptional dancers, and one legendary album: 1975 by The Bothy Band.

9.45-11pm: in the **Rookery** **THE WRAN** – Four Dunford brothers from Waterford - take trad for a 'little walk'.

INTO THE NIGHT

6.45pm: THEATRE in the **Granary**: **I HEAR YOU AND REJOICE:** Pat Farnon, late in life, embarks on a new journey. Written and performed by **Mikel Murfi.**

SUNDAY

	THE ORANGERY	THE ROOKERY	THE OWLERY	THE BALLROOM	THE GRANARY
10.30 - 11.30am	**THE WEIGHT OF THE PAST:** Pulitzer prize winner **Elizabeth Strout** (*The Things We Never Say*) in conversation with former Laureate for Irish Fiction **Colm Toíbín** (*The News From Dublin*).	**SUNDAY ASSEMBLY FOR MANCHÁN MAGAN:** Musicians **Fiachna Ó Braonáin, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Colm Mac Con Iomaire, Branwen Kavanagh, Lisa Hannigan,** 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**.	**WONDER IS THE VERY ENGINE OF LIFE:** Novelist and poet **Paul Kingsnorth** (*the Dark Mountain Project*) and explorer and writer **Erling Kagge** (*Silence in the Age of Noise*) consider rejecting and protecting oneself from the fractured distraction of modern life.		
11.30am	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Elizabeth Strout** | **Colm Tóibín** | **Paul Kingsnorth** | **Erling Kagge**				
12.15 -1.15pm	**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.	**ILLUMINATING REALITY...WHATEVER THAT MEANS:** Oscar winning filmmaker and documentarian **Kevin MacDonald** looks back on a career in film (*One Day in September, Touching the Void, The Last King of Scotland, State of Play, The Mauritanian, Marley, Whitney*), with investigative journalist **Patrick Radden Keefe**.	**HUMAN RIGHTS: WE NEED TO LOOK AGAIN:** **Caoilfhionn Gallagher**, Irish human rights lawyer, **Ramita Navai**, British-Iranian journalist, and **Selma Dabbagh**, British-Palestinian novelist and lawyer, contemplate the necessity of considering human rights from a female perspective.	**AMPUTATE MY FRECKLED BOSOM:** Actor **Fiona Shaw** and poet **Pádraig Ó Tuama** explore the poetry of Emily Dickinson, her inner and outer worlds, and how she forever changed our poetic landscape.	**HOW TO TALK TO A NOVELIST:** Literary editor, critic and journalist **Martin Doyle** (*A Hosting: Interviews with Irish Writers 1991-2025*) compares notes with novelist and columnist **Patrick Freyne** on their literary encounters and the peculiar task of worming one's way into a writer's mind.
1.15pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Pankaj Mishra** | **Andrew Cockburn** | **Patrick Radden Keefe** | **Ramita Navai** | **Selma Dabbagh** | **Martin Doyle** | **Patrick Freyne**				
2.00 - 3.00pm	**SHE HAD WOKEN THESE VOICES; TO STOP READING WOULD SILENCE THEM:** Poet and novelist **Doireann Ní Ghríofa** is joined by **Alex Clark** to discuss her new book *Said The Dead,* a tender, striking investigation of women once sequestered in the Cork District Lunatic Asylum. Ni Ghríofa resurrects their voices, which pierce into the present and mingle with her own. An ode to forgotten souls, to looking for and listening to them.	**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 a performance by **Lisa Hannigan** of music inspired by the project.	**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?	**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 the joys of a more mundane reality? In conversation with economist and memoirist **Sonali Deraniyagala**.	**ROOMS OF THEIR OWN:** Professor and scholar **Ramie Targoff** (*Shakespeare's Sisters*) resurrects Shakespeare's female contemporaries, their overlooked oeuvres – and their private lives that have been hidden by history. In conversation with **Brian Dillon**.
3.00pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Doireann Ní Ghríofa** | **Max Porter** | **Iain Overton** | **Margaret MacMillan** | **Adam Phillips** | **Ramie Targoff**				
3.45 - 4.45pm	**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 *Experts in a Dying Field* is about being in a band. *And* he is in a band.	**HIGH-STAKES INVESTIGATORS:** **Patrick Radden Keefe** (*Say Nothing*) and **Ramita Navai** (*City of Lies: Love, Sex, Death and the Search for Truth in Tehran*) on untangling complex stories in non-fiction narrative form. Moderated by **Leslie Cockburn**.	**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 *Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice*, explores how our political and economic environment create and maintain inequalities in the healthcare system. In conversation with **Fiachna Ó Braonáin** (broadcaster and musician).	**ON THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!:** Known for his poetic work on religion, sexuality, conflict and poetry, **Pádraig Ó Tuama** (*Kitchen Hymns* and *44 Poems on Being with Each Other*) reads from his recent and forthcoming poetry collections. In conversation with **Olivia O'Leary**. ***A TS Eliot Foundation event.***	**3.45pm:** THEATRE in the **Granary**: **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**.
4.45pm	**BOOK SIGNINGS** (Bookshop): **Patrick Freyne** | **Patrick Radden Keefe** | **Ramita Navai** | **Pádraig Ó Tuama** | **Rupa Marya**				
5.30 - 6.30pm	**WHEN THE ARROW HITS ITS MARK:** **Colm Toíbín** (*The News From Dublin*) talks to **Alex Clark** about his new collection of short stories and the relationship between imagination and memory.	**DYLAN MORAN'S UTOPIA:** **Dylan Moran** 'and his team' have 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.			
6.30pm	**BOOK SIGNING** (Bookshop): **Colm Tóibín**				

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.

1.15-2pm and **3-3.45pm:** LIVE MUSIC in the **Hothouse Bar**:

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. **Floriane Blancke, Adam Downey** & **Quentin Cooper.**