

Bookings

The 21st Cork International Short Story Festival kicks off in October featuring the likes of Kevin Barry, Emma Donoghue and Brendan MacLaverty, and you can join us from wherever you are in the world.

We, the festival producers, The Munster Literature Centre, receive, in an average year, approximately 80% of our funding from the Irish taxpayer. In the extraordinary year of 2021, when Irish artists have faced unprecedented obstacles to reaching audiences and accessing income-generating opportunities, we have decided to dedicate the overwhelming majority of this year's festival programme to Irish writers, to those living at home and those living as far apart as Canada and Romania. The international winners of the Seán O'Faoláin Prize of 2020 and 2021 will also feature.

The festival has one live event - a book launch of Conal Creedon's latest story collection at Waterstones in Cork and everything else will be a live zoom-cast. Authors will read from their work and talk about their practice in lively discussions. We would be delighted if you attended and could pay €5 per event, but if you're broke there is the option to attend without paying. Any monies raised will go towards the Munster Literature Centre's other programmes of benefit to writers and readers such as our mentorship schemes, workshops, residencies, prizes and publications.

The Munster Literature Centre | Ionad Litríocht an Deiscirt

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Programme Outline

Tuesday 12th - Saturday 16th October

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Tuesday 12th

7.00pm | Admission €5

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Cónal Creedon in conversation with Tina Pisco: launch of *Pancho and Lefty Ride Again*

9.00pm | Admission €5

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Evelyn Conlon & Adrian Duncan in conversation with Alannah Hopkin

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7.00pm | Admission €5

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Harry Crosbie & John O'Donnell in conversation with Cliona Ní Riordáin

9.00pm | Admission €5

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Dermot Bolger & Éilís Ní Dhuibhne in conversation with Nuala O'Connor

Thursday 14th

7.00pm | Admission €5

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Philip Ó Ceallaigh & Cathy Sweeney in conversation with Eimear Ryan

For the latest news regarding workshop availability visit www.corkshortstory.net

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Queer Love: Emma Donoghue, Declan Toohey & Shannon Yee in conversation with Paul McVeigh

Friday 15th

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Madeleine D'Arcy & Deirdre Sullivan in conversation with Alannah Hopkin

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Saturday 16th

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Seán O'Faoláin Short Story Prize Reading

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Lucy Caldwell & Jan Carson in conversation with Paul McVeigh

9.00pm | Admission €5 page 24

Bernard MacLaverty in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson

Reading & Discussion

Cónal Creedon

in conversation with Tina Pisco

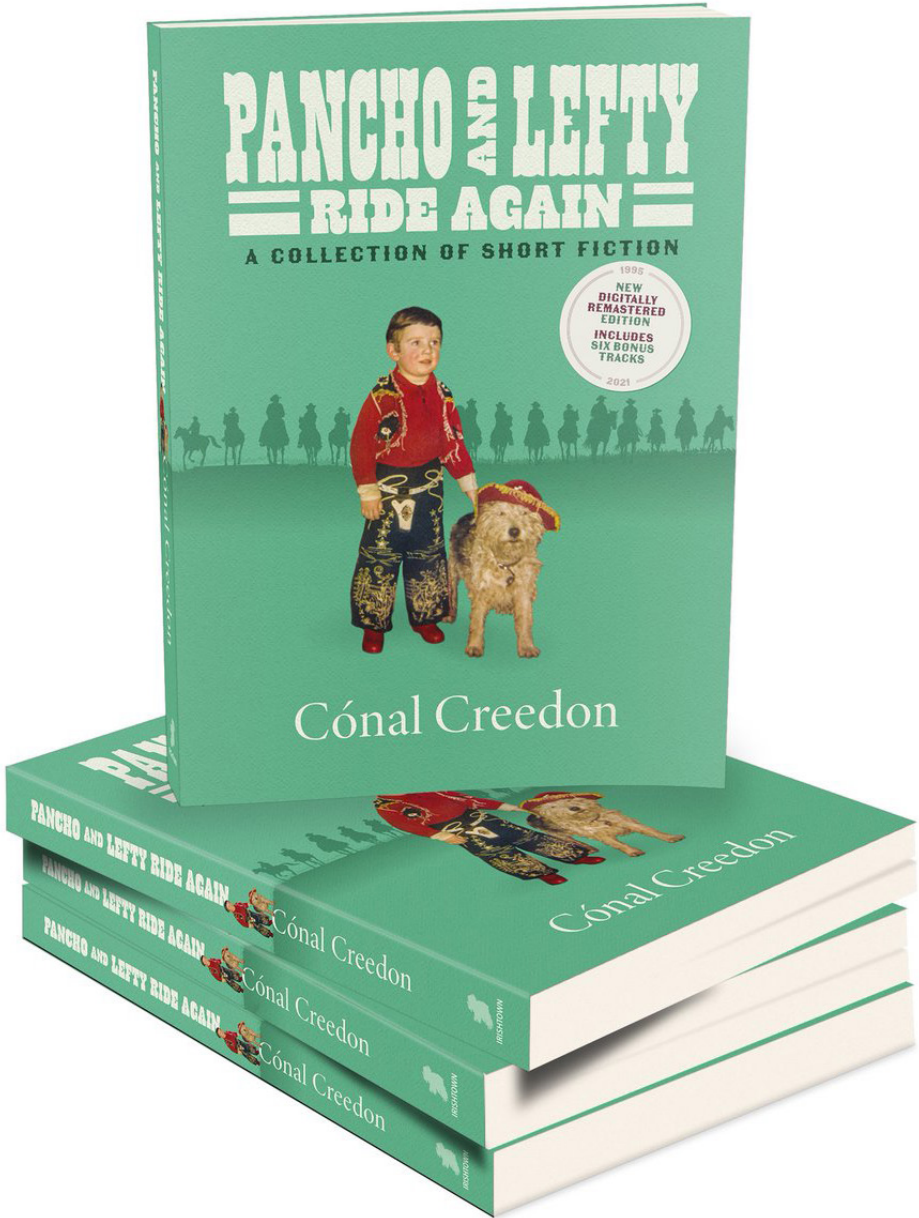
launch of *Pancho and Lefty Ride Again*

Tuesday 11th 7.00pm **Waterstones, Patrick Street** | Admission €5



Cónal Creedon is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, playwright and documentary filmmaker. Cónal's short fiction has been widely anthologised and has achieved recognition in the: George A. Birmingham Awards, The Life Extra Awards, The One-Voice Monologue BBC 4, The Francis McManus Awards RTÉ, The P.J. O'Connor Awards [adaptation] RTÉ. His work has been translated into German, Bulgarian, Italian and Chinese. His books include, *Pancho and Lefty Ride Again* (2021), *Second City Trilogy* (2019), *Begotten Not Made* (2018), *CornerStone* - anthology ed. (2016), *Immortal Deed Of Michael O'Leary* (2015), *Passion Play* (1999), *Pancho And Lefty Ride Out* (1995).

“Mr Creedon's words are enough to create a world that is at once comic and dramatic, poetic and musical.” - Rachel Saltz, New York Times



Reading & Discussion

Evelyn Conlon & Adrian Duncan in conversation with Alannah Hopkin

Tuesday 12th 9.00pm **Online** | Admission €5



Evelyn Conlon is novelist, short story writer, radio essayist and anthologist. Her work, described as ‘by turn poetic, acerbic, spare and beautifully descriptive’, often deals with people who are between places, crossing borders both real and imagined. It has been widely anthologised and translated, including into Tamil and Chinese. Naoise Dolan said of her most recent collection, *Moving About the Place*, Blackstaff, 2021, “Her restraint is not to be confused with repression: there is heart in these stories, and Conlon holds back so that it means something when she lets go. Each sentence advances the story and is a work of art. Her description of the sky ... is word-perfect, efficiently expository and gorgeous to live in.”



Adrian Duncan, born in County Longford, is a Berlin-based visual artist who originally trained as an engineer. His short fiction has appeared in literary journals both in Ireland and the USA. His acclaimed debut novel, *Love Notes from a German Building Site*, published by Lilliput Press and Head of Zeus in 2019, was shortlisted for the Dalkey Literary Emerging Writer Award and won the inaugural John McGahern Annual Book Prize. His second novel, *A Sabbatical in Leipzig*, published by Lilliput Press in 2020, was shortlisted for the Kerry Group Novel of the Year 2021. His first collection of short stories, *Midfield Dynamo*, published by Lilliput Press in 2021, is longlisted for the 2021 Edge Hill Short Story Prize.

Reading & Discussion

Harry Crosbie & John O'Donnell in conversation with Cliona Ní Ríordáin

Wednesday 13th 7.00pm **Online** | Admission €5



Harry Crosbie is best known as the developer who transformed Dublin and its music scene during the 1990s with the Point and Bord Gáis theatres, Vicar Street and the docklands. In his collection of short stories, *Undernose Farm*, which recreate the city life of his youth during the early 1960s, through tales of the Dublin and Dubliners who peopled his hard-scrabble world, he discovers a voice that will leave an equal mark on cultural memory.



John O'Donnell's work has been published and broadcast widely. He has published four poetry collections, the latest being *Sunlight: New & Selected Poems* (Dedalus Press, 2018). Prizes include the Irish National Poetry Prize, the Ireland Funds Prize and the Hennessy Award for Poetry. Fiction publications include *Counterparts*, *Hennessy Book of Irish Fiction*, *Sunday Independent*, *The Stinging Fly*, and RTE's *The Book On One*. Awards include the Hennessy Award for Emerging Fiction and the Cuirt Festival New Writing Fiction Prize. His collection of short stories *Almost the Same Blue* (Doire Press) was nominated in the Irish Times as one of the Best Fiction Debuts of 2020, and one of the Books of the Year in the Sunday Independent. His play *Rainbow Baby* was recently broadcast on RTE Radio's Drama On One. *Americans Anonymous*, a collaboration of photographs and poems with photographer Barry Delaney is forthcoming from Hi-Tone Books.

Reading & Discussion

Dermot Bolger & Éilís Ní Dhuibhne in conversation with Nuala O'Connor

Wednesday 13th 9.00pm **Online** | Admission €5



Dermot Bolger is one of Ireland's best known writers. His fourteen novels include *The Journey Home*, *The Family on Paradise Pier*, *The Lonely Sea and Sky* and, most recently, *An Ark of Light*. His debut play, *The Lament for Arthur Cleary*, received the Samuel Beckett Award. Numerous other plays include an adaptation of Joyce's *Ulysses* and, most recently, *Last Orders at the Dockside*, both staged by The Abbey Theatre. His tenth poetry collection, *Other People's Lives*, will appear in 2022. In 2012 Bolger was named Commentator of the Year at the Irish Newspaper Awards. In 2020 – forty-four years after David Marcus published his first short story in *The Irish Press* while he was still a schoolboy – Bolger fulfilled a long standing ambition by finally publishing his debut collection of short stories, *Secrets Never Told*.



Éilís Ní Dhuibhne was born in Dublin. Author of more than thirty books, her work includes *The Dancers Dancing*, *The Shelter of Neighbours*, and *Fox, Swallow, Scarecrow*. Her most recent books are *Twelve Thousand Days: A Memoir* (shortlisted for the Michel Déon Award 2020), *Little Red and Other Stories* (Blackstaff 2020), and *Look! It's a Woman Writer. Irish Literary Feminisms 1970–2020* (ed.) (Arlen House, 2021) She has published seven collections of short stories and has been the recipient of many literary awards, most recently the Pen Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature, and a Hennessy Hall of Fame Award. In Autumn 2020 she held the prestigious Burns Scholarship at Boston College. She is a member of Aosdána, and President of the Folklore of Ireland Society.

Reading & Discussion

Philip Ó Ceallaigh & Cathy Sweeney in conversation with Eimear Ryan

Thursday 14th 7.00pm [Online](#) | Admission €5



Philip Ó Ceallaigh has published three collections of short stories, *Notes from a Turkish Whorehouse*, *The Pleasant Light of Day*, and most recently *Trouble* (Stinging Fly Press, 2021). He is a recipient of the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, among other awards, and he was shortlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award in 2009. He lives in Bucharest.



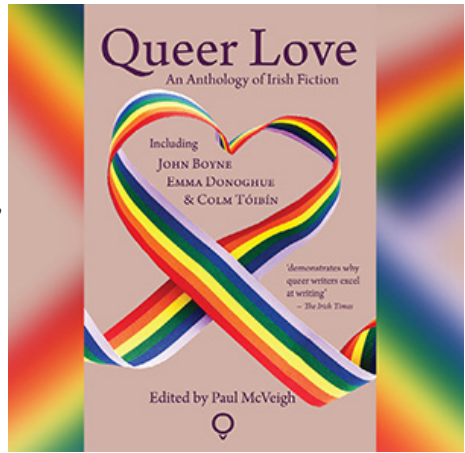
Cathy Sweeney is a writer living in Dublin. Her short fiction has been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *The Dublin Review*, *Egress*, *Winter Papers*, *Banshee*, *The Tangerine* and has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Her debut short story collection *Modern Times* is published by The Stinging Fly and Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Kevin Barry described Sweeney’s writing style as “a senselessness that makes perfect sense” during The Stinging Fly Podcast, while Danielle McLaughlin has called her work “magnificently weird, hugely entertaining, deeply profound.” She is at work on a novel.

Reading & Discussion

Queer Love: Emma Donoghue, Declan Toohey & Shannon Yee in conversation with Paul McVeigh

Thursday 14th 9.00pm **Online** | Admission €5

Queer Love: An Anthology of Irish Fiction is a new publication from Southword Editions which seeks to go some way to redress the lack of acknowledgement of the LGBTQI+ community in Irish literary anthologies, with a mixture of established writers of international standing, writers who have been making a splash in recent years and new emerging writers. The anthology has a mixture of previously published stories, newly commissioned work and those entered through our call out. Featuring stories by John Boyne, Emma Donoghue, Mary Dorcey, Neil Hegarty, James Hudson, Emer Lyons, Jamie O'Connell, Colm Tóibín, Declan Toohey, and Shannon Yee.



Declan Toohey is from County Kildare. His writing has appeared in *Soft Punk*, *The Dublin Review of Books*, *The Blue Nib*, *Stone of Madness Press*, and the anthologies *Queer Love* and *Brevity is the Soul*, among other outlets. Earlier this year, he was a co-winner of the IWC Novel Fair, and his debut novel, *Perpetual Comedown*, is forthcoming with New Island Books.



Emma Donoghue, born in Dublin in 1969, is an award-winning novelist, playwright and screenwriter, living in Canada with her family. Her novel *The Pull of the Stars* became a bestseller in the US (New York Times), Canada, Ireland and Britain on publication in July 2020. *Room* was shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes and has sold over two million copies. She adapted the novel into her first feature film, *Room*, directed by Lenny Abrahamson, which was nominated for four Academy Awards for Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Director, Best Picture, and Best Actress (won by Brie Larson). Her short-story collections include *Astray*, *Three and a Half Deaths* (UK ebook), *Touchy Subjects*, *The Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits*, and *Kissing the Witch*.



Shannon Yee is an award-winning writer and producer. Her perspectives as an immigrant, ethnic minority, queer artist-parent with a disability living in NI are deeply embedded in her work. Shannon has received a number of awards and grants, including the ACNI Major Individual Artist Award (2017). Her *Reassembled*, *Slightly Askerw* sonically immerses audiences in her autobiographical experience of nearly dying and subsequent acquired brain injury (www.reassembled.co.uk), touring



locally, nationally and internationally in arts festivals and medical training settings since 2015. Shannon's published short stories are 'The Brightening Up Side' (*Belfast Stories*; Doire Press, 2019), and 'Thumbnails' (*Queer Love: An Anthology of Irish Fiction*; Southword Editions, 2020). Her first dance film, *Pandemic Parenting: Pandemonium*, will be aired this autumn on BBC as part of the Culture in Quarantine commissions.

Reading & Discussion

Madeleine D'Arcy & Deirdre Sullivan in conversation with Alannah Hopkin

Friday 15th 7.00pm **Online** | Admission €5



Madeleine D'Arcy is a fiction writer based in Cork City. Her début short story collection, *Waiting for the Bullet* (Doire Press, 2014) won the Edge Hill Readers' Choice Prize 2015 (UK). Her second collection, *Liberty Terrace*, will be published in October 2021. In 2010 she received the Hennessy Literary Award for First Fiction and the overall Hennessy Literary Award for New Irish Writer. Madeleine holds an MA in Creative Writing (1st) from UCC (2014). Since January 2017, she has co-curated Fiction at the Friary, a free monthly fiction event in Cork City, with fellow-writer Danielle McLaughlin. She has recently completed her debut novel.



Deirdre Sullivan is a writer and teacher from Galway. She has published seven acclaimed books for young readers, including *Savage Her Reply* (Little Island 2020), *Perfectly Preventable Deaths* (Hot Key Books 2019), and *Tangleweed and Brine* (Little Island 2017). She was the recipient of the CBI Book of the Year Award in 2018 and the An Post Irish Book Award for YA in 2020. Her short fiction has appeared in *Banshee*, *The Irish Times* and *The Dublin Review*. *I Want to Know That I Will Be Okay* is her first book for adults.

Reading & Discussion

Kevin Barry & Billy O'Callaghan in conversation with Clóna Ní Ríordáin

Friday 15th 9.00pm **Online** | Admission €5



Kevin Barry is the author of three novels, most recently *Night Boat to Tangier* and three short story collections, most recently *That Old Country Music*. His awards include the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the Sunday Times EFG Bank Short Story Award, the Goldsmiths Prize, a Lannan Foundation Literary Award and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature. *Night Boat to Tangier* was longlisted for the Booker Prize and was a New York Times Top Ten Book for 2019. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Granta* and elsewhere. He also writes for the screen and for the stage.

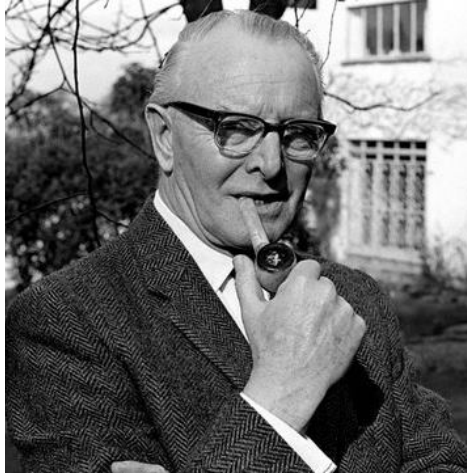


Billy O'Callaghan is the author of four short story collections and three novels, most recently *Life Sentences* (Jonathan Cape, 2021), and the acclaimed collection, *The Boatman and Other Stories* (Jonathan Cape, 2020). Winner of the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Award and shortlisted for the COSTA Short Story Award and the Royal Society of Literature's Encore Award, his work has been translated into over a dozen languages and his short stories have appeared widely, in journals such as *Agni*, *the Kenyon Review*, *Narrative*, *Ploughshares* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. A new novel will be published by Jonathan Cape in 2023.

Reading & Discussion

Seán O'Faoláin Short Story Prize Readin

Saturday 16th 3.00pm **Online** | Admission €5



The Seán O'Faoláin Prize is awarded to the best single story entered in competition from anywhere in the world. The first prize is €2,000. The winner also receives a week's residency at the Anam Cara artist retreat in West Cork and publication of their winning story in *Southword*. This occasion is an opportunity to hear the 2021 winning story *Am I Helping?* by Shelley Hastings and the 2020 winning story *A Navigable River* by Ben Fergusson. Winning and shortlisted stories will be published in issue 42 of *Southword*.



Shelley Hastings is a writer and producer. Her stories have been short/long listed for The BBC Short Story Award, The Galley Beggar Short Story Prize, The Aurora Short Fiction Prize and The Writers' and Artists' Short Story Award. She has a pamphlet forthcoming in 2022 with Hickathrift Press and was recently selected for Thi Wurd's 2022 anthology. She is a

Creative Befriender with dementia charity Resonate Arts and a regular collaborator with theatre company 1927. For fifteen years she worked at Battersea Arts Centre as a Senior Producer and Artistic Associate. She is currently completing her debut collection of short stories, *Can You Feel It?* She lives in South East London with her partner and two children.



Ben Fergusson is a writer and translator from the UK. His debut novel, *The Spring of Kasper Meier* (2014), won the Betty Trask Prize and the HWA Debut Crown, and was shortlisted for the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award. It was the first in a trilogy of novels set in Berlin, completed by *The Other Hoffmann Sister* (2017) and *An Honest Man* (2019). The latter was a 'Best

Book of the Year' in The Sunday Times, the Times Literary Supplement, and the Financial Times. He teaches at the University of Potsdam and lives in Berlin with his husband and son.

Reading & Discussion

Lucy Caldwell & Jan Carson in conversation with Paul McVeigh

Saturday 16th 7.00pm **Online** | Admission €5



Lucy Caldwell is the author of two short story collections, several stage plays and radio dramas, and four novels, including the forthcoming *These Days* (Faber, March 2022). She is also the editor of *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories* (Faber, 2019). A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a former Fellow of the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University, Belfast, awards include the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the Dylan Thomas Prize, the George Devine Award for Most Promising Playwright, and a Major Individual Artist Award from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Her most recent collection *Intimacies* was described by Kevin Barry as “A tremendous collection. Precise and beautifully controlled fictions but with strange, wild energies pulsing along just below their surface,” and by Derry Girls writer Lisa McGee as “Heart-stoppingly good.” She was named by the Sunday Times as “one of Ireland’s most essential writers.”



Jan Carson is a writer and community arts facilitator based in Belfast. Her first novel, *Malcolm Orange Disappears*, was published in 2014 to critical acclaim, followed by a short-story collection, *Children's Children* (2016), and two flash fiction anthologies, *Postcard Stories* (2017) and *Postcard Stories 2* (2020). Her second novel, *The Fire Starters* (2019), won the EU Prize for Literature and was shortlisted for the Dalkey Novel of the Year Award. Her work has appeared in numerous journals and on BBC Radio 3 and 4. She has won the Harper's Bazaar short-story competition and has been shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award and the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Prize. She specializes in running arts projects and events with older people, especially those living with dementia.

Reading & Discussion

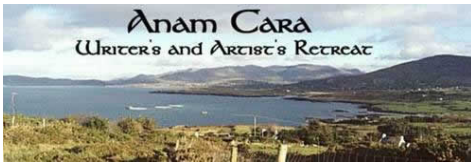
Bernard MacLaverty in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson

Saturday 16th 9.00pm **Online** | Admission €5



Bernard MacLaverty lives in Glasgow. He has written five previous collections of stories and five novels, including *Grace Notes*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and *Midwinter Break*, the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Novel of the Year. He has written versions of his fiction for other media - radio and television plays, screenplays and libretti.

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Founded in 1993, the Munster Literature Centre (Ionad Litríochta an Deiscirt) is a non-profit arts organisation dedicated to the promotion and celebration of literature, especially that of Munster.

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