

Venue Map



Bookings

Early Bird bookings can be made by credit card through the website www.corkshortstory.net until Sunday 4th September. Thereafter, all purchases must be at the Firkin Crane (phone (021) 450 7487). All library events are free. The Farmgate event is free but ticketed. All other events are priced €5 per ticket inclusive of booking fees. **The Munster Literature Centre |**

Ionad Litríochta an Deisceirt

t. + 353 (0)21 4312955

or email info@munsterlit.ie

or pay through credit card/paypal on

www.corkshortstory.net



Programme Outline

Wednesday 7th - Saturday 10th September 2016

Wednesday 7th

9.30am - 12.30pm | Workshops (see p.42)

2.30pm, Library | Admission Free

Oisín Fagan & Tina Pisco

4pm, Library | Admission Free

Mary Morrissey & Mark Tuthill

6pm, The Farmgate Café | Admission Free, *but ticketed at eventbrite.ie*

Doireann Ní Ghríofa and the Women of 1916

7.15 pm, Church of St. Ann's Shandon | Admission €5

Aidan Mathews

Thursday 8th

9.30 am - 12.30pm | Workshops (see p.42)

2.30pm, Library | Admission Free

Launch of new literary journal *Banshee*

4pm, Library | Admission Free

Roisín O'Donnell & Joanna Walsh

7pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

Irina Kovalyova & Sarah Selecky

8.30pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

Gerard Woodward & Alan Heathcock

10pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

Sara Majka & Donal Ryan

Friday 9th

9.30am - 12.30pm | Workshops (see p.42)

2.30pm, Library | Admission Free

Fiction Introductions Reading

4pm, Library | Admission Free

Sean O'Faolain Prize Reading

7pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

Claire-Louise Bennett & Sinéad Gleeson

8.30pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

Lucy Caldwell & David Park

10pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

Zsuzsi Gartner & Stephanie Victoire



Saturday 10th

9.30am - 12.30pm | Workshops (see p.42)

2.45pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

The Happiness of Getting it Down Right

4.30pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

John Boyne & Sean O'Brien

8pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

Arlene Heyman & Polly Samson

9.30pm, The Firkin Crane | Admission €5

Neil Jordan



CULTUREFOX.IE

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CULTUREFOX

The Arts Council's new, upgraded **CULTUREFOX** events guide is now live. Free, faster, easy to use – and personalised for you. Never miss out again.

Reading

Oisín Fagan & Tina Pisco

Wednesday 7th 2.30pm **Grand Parade Library** | Admission Free

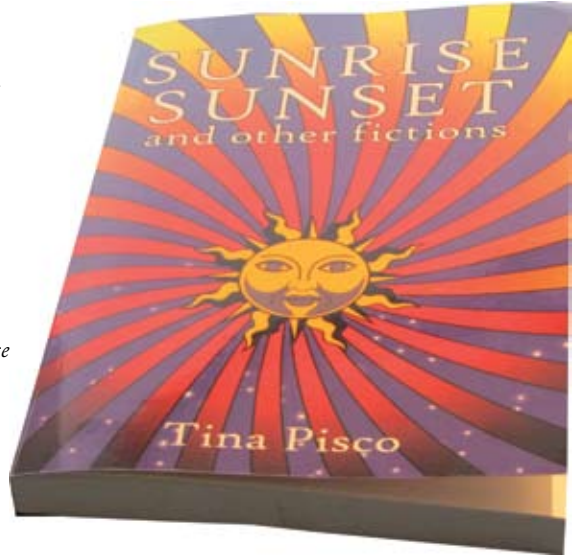


Oisín Fagan was born in 1991. He is from Moynalvey, Co. Meath. He has had fiction published in *The Stinging Fly*, *New Planet Cabaret* and the anthology *Young Irishlanders*. Along with this, he has had work featured in the Irish Museum of Modern Art. His novella *Heiropphants* was winner of the inaugural Penny Dreadful Novella Prize. His collection of stories, *Hostages*, is out in Autumn 2016, with New Island Press. He is an activist with the Irish Housing Network and currently lives and works in Dublin.





Tina Pisco has published two best-selling novels that were translated into five different languages: *Only a Paper Moon* (Poolbeg 1998), and *Catch the Magpie* (Poolbeg 1999). Her short stories and flash fiction have been published in the *Fish Anthology*, *Spolia magazine*, *Colony*, and other journals and anthologies. *Sunrise Sunset and other fictions* (Fish 2016) is a collection of flash, short stories, a comic and a novella.



Reading & Discussion

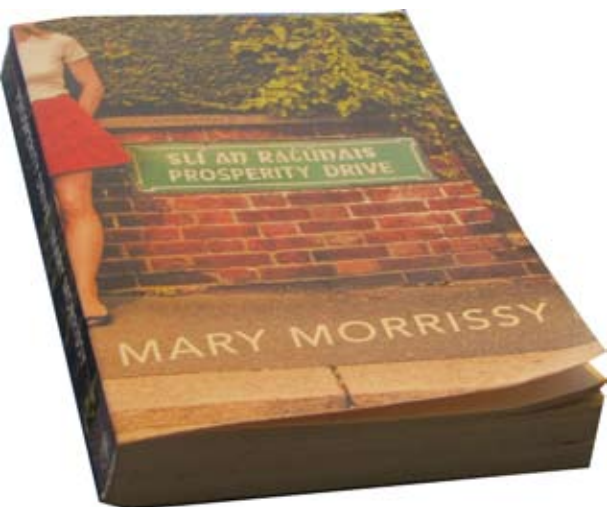
Long Story, Short Journal

Mary Morrissy & Mark Tuthill in conversation with
Jennifer Matthews, editor of *Long Story Short*

Wednesday 7th 4pm **Grand Parade Library** | Admission Free



Mary Morrissy is the author of three novels, *Mother of Pearl*, *The Pretender* and *The Rising of Bella Casey* and two collections of stories, *A Lazy Eye* and most recently, *Prosperity Drive*. *Mother of Pearl*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Award (now Costa) Her short fiction has been anthologised widely and won her a Hennessy Award in 1984. In 1995 she was awarded the prestigious US Lannan Award which honours writers whose work “is of exceptional quality”. She has taught creative writing in the US and Ireland since 2000 and currently teaches on the MA in Creative Writing at UCC. She is a member of Aosdána.



‘Seldom has Irish suburban life – especially the lives of girls and women – been so sensitively and wittily, portrayed,
– ÉILÍS NÍ DHUIBHNE ’



Mark Tuthill lives in Dublin, Ireland.

His short fiction has been published by literary journals including *The Incubator*, *Silver Apples* and *Long Story, Short*. He has also been shortlisted for the Cross Pens Short Story Competition, and his work commended by writers John Boyne and Danielle McLaughlin. He has just completed his first novel, *The Geography of Chance*. Mark has also been writing for the screen for many years, and currently has a feature film in development with the Irish Film Board, while two short films he wrote have been awarded at numerous film festivals, including the BFI London Film Festival by a jury chaired by director, Terry Gilliam. His work has also been optioned by Sprout Pictures, while other TV projects have been under consideration by both the BBC and UTV.

Reading, Exhibition & Reception

Doireann Ní Ghríofa

Wednesday 7th 6pm **The Farmgate Café** | Admission Free but ticketed
tickets must be obtained from www.eventbrite.ie



Doireann Ní Ghríofa has been commissioned to compose a new short story directly inspired by the **Farmgate's** *Women of the South* exhibition. The exhibition highlights radical women associated with 1916.

Doireann Ní Ghríofa is a bilingual writer whose work has appeared in *The Irish Times*, *The Irish Examiner*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. Her third book *Clasp* was shortlisted for the Irish Times Poetry Award 2016 and was awarded the Michael Hartnett Poetry Prize. Among her other awards are the Ireland Chair of Poetry bursary 2014-2015 and a Wigtown Award for Gaelic poetry (Scotland). She writes “with tenderness and unflinching curiosity” (*Poetry*).



www.farmgate.ie

women of the south

radicals and revolutionaries



farmgate café, english market, cork

apr - nov 2016



susanne
day

www.farmgate.ie



hanna sheehy
skeffington

www.farmgate.ie



may
conlon



mary
mcswiney

www.farmgate.ie



kathleen
clarke

www.farmgate.ie

Reading & Discussion

Aidan Mathews

in conversation with Thomas McCarthy

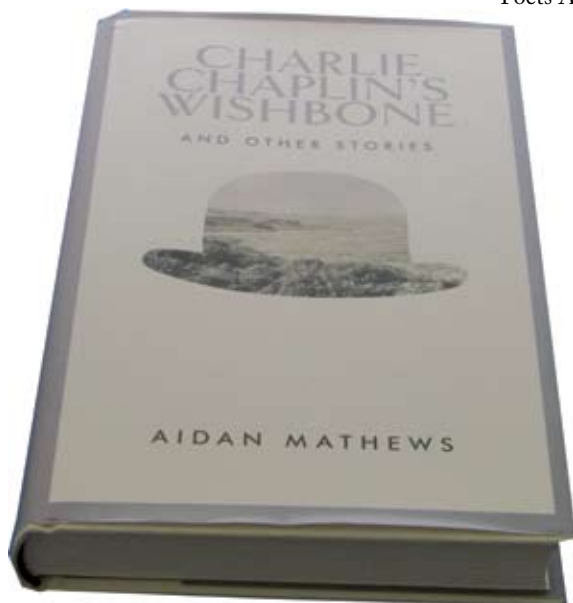
Wednesday 7th 8.30pm **The Church of St Ann's Shandon** | Admission €5



Aidan Mathews is a poet, playwright and fiction writer. He has published three collections of stories, *Adventures in a Bathyscope* (Secker & Warburg, London, 1988); *Lipstick on the Host* (Secker & Warburg, 1992); *Charlie Chaplin's Wishbone and Other Stories* (Dublin, The Lilliput Press, 2014); and a novel, *Muesli at Midnight* (Secker & Warburg, 1990). His awards include The Irish Times Award, 1974; The Patrick Kavanagh Award in 1976; the Macauley Fellowship in 1978-9 and an Academy of American Poets Award in 1982. He lives in County Dublin.

“Their considerable appeal lies in their exquisite language, and their acute and witty observations on people and their foibles.

~THE IRISH TIMES



Journal Feature & Reading

Presentation of new journal *Banshee* with readings by contributors

Thursday 8th 2.30pm **Grand Parade Library** | Admission Free

Editor **Eimear Ryan** introduces a reading by five contributors to mark the publication of issue three of one of Ireland's newest, innovative literary journals.

Aoife Casby works as a writer, editor and visual artist and is currently studying towards a PhD at Goldsmiths University. She was shortlisted for the Fish Short Story Prize 2016 and is completing a collection of short fiction. Aoife has been awarded literature bursaries from the Arts Council and Galway County Council.

Dearbhaile Houston's fiction and poetry has been published in *Wordlegs*, *The Incubator* and *Icarus*. She is currently completing an M.Phil in Gender Studies at Trinity College Dublin.

Clara Kumagai's writing has appeared in *Room*, *Event*, *Megaphone*, and *Icarus*. Her short fiction is forthcoming in *The Stinging Fly* and she is currently completing a young adult novel. She is from Ireland, Canada, and Japan.

Living in Dublin, **Catherine Talbot** is undertaking an M. Phil in Creative Writing at Trinity College. She was shortlisted for the Fish Prize 2016 for 'Richard's Grief'. Her short story 'Shrinking From Life' was longlisted for the inaugural Colm Tóibín International Short Story Award and the Fish Prize 2015.

Tom Vowler's debut story collection, *The Method*, won the Scott Prize in 2010 and the Edge Hill Readers' Prize in 2011. He is the author of the critically-acclaimed novels *What Lies Within* and *That Dark Remembered Day*, and editor of the journal *Short Fiction*. His second collection of stories, *Dazzling the Gods*, is forthcoming in 2017.

Reading & Discussion

Roisín O'Donnell & Joanna Walsh

in conversation with Jennifer Matthews

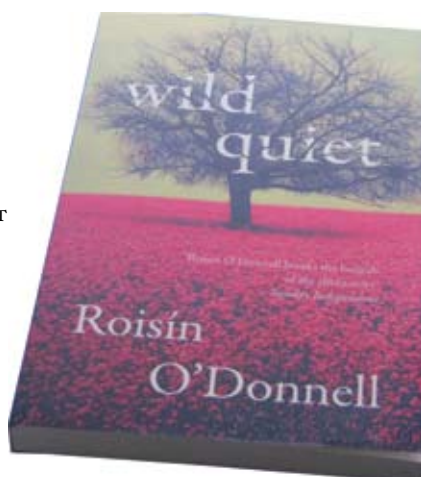
Thursday 8th 4pm **Grand Parade Library** | Admission Free



Roisín O'Donnell With family roots in Derry city, Roisín grew up in Sheffield. Her stories and poems have been published in journals and anthologies internationally. Her work features in *Young Irelanders* (2015), and in the award-winning anthology *The Long Gaze Back* (2015). Nominated for a Pushcart Prize and the Forward Prize, she has been shortlisted the Cúirt New Writing Prize, the Brighton Prize, the Wasafiri New Writing Prize and the Hennessy New Irish Writing Award 2016. Her debut short story collection, *Wild Quiet*, was published by New Island this year.

“Roisín O'Donnell is playful and exuberant in her approach to the multiracial society Ireland is becoming.”

~ THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT





Joanna Walsh is a British writer and illustrator. Her writing has appeared in *Granta*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Gorse* and has been anthologised in Dalkey Archive Press's *Best European Fiction 2015*, *Best British Short Stories 2014* and 2015, and elsewhere. A collection, *Fractals*, was published in the UK in 2013, and her memoir *Hotel* was published internationally in 2015. She writes literary and cultural criticism for *The Guardian*, *New Statesman*, and *The National*, is the fiction editor at *3:am Magazine*, and created and runs the Twitter hashtag #readwomen.

“Her stories reveal a psychological landscape lightly spooked by loneliness, jealousy and alienation”

~ THE NEW YORK TIMES



Reading & Discussion

Irina Kovalyova & Sarah Selecky

in conversation with Beverly Parayno

Thursday 8th 7pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



Irina Kovalyova is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at Simon Fraser University. She has previously interned for NASA and as a Forensic DNA Analyst in New York City. Her debut collection *Specimen* was published by House of Anansi Press in 2015. She was born in Russia and currently lives in Vancouver with her partner and daughter.

*“inventive, comic,
insightful, fresh, and
always curious.”*

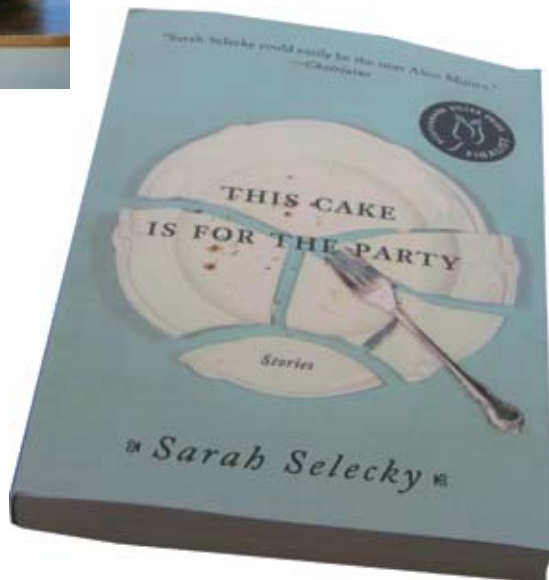
~ VANCOUVER SUN





*“Ultra-lush and wise;
wickedly wry. This cake is ...
delicious.”* ~LISA MOORE

Sarah Selecky is a dual citizen of Canada and the United States and grew up in Southern Indiana and Northern Ontario. Selecky earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. Her writing has appeared in the top Canadian magazines and quarterlies such as *The Walrus*, *The New Quarterly*, *The Journey Prize Anthology*, among many others. She is the author of the book *This Cake Is for the Party*. She divides her time between Toronto and the rest of the world.



Reading & Discussion

Alan Heathcock & Gerard Woodward

in conversation with Paul McVeigh

Thursday 8th 8.30pm **The Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



Alan Heathcock's fiction has been published in many of America's top magazines and journals. His stories have won the National Magazine Award in fiction, and have been selected for inclusion in *The Best American Mystery Stories* anthology. *Volt*, a collection of stories was a Best Book 2011 selection from numerous newspapers and magazines. Heathcock is currently a Literature Fellow for the state of Idaho. A native of Chicago, he teaches fiction writing at Boise State University.

"This is a big ravishing, commanding story collection. ...Each story in its own way shows how we reverberate after tragedy, and how we try — and sometimes fail — to vibrate our way back towards equilibrium. Volt is (dare I say it?) electrifying."

~ANTHONY DOERR





Gerard Woodward was born in London in 1961. He is the author of *Vanishing*, *Nourishment*, and an acclaimed trilogy comprising *August* (shortlisted for the 2001 Whitbread First Novel Award), *I Go to Bed at Noon* (shortlisted for the 2004 Man Booker Prize) and *A Curious Earth*. His collection of poetry *We Were Pedestrians* was shortlisted for the 2005 T. S. Eliot Prize and his most recent collection, *The Seacunny*, was published in 2012. He is Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University.

“A comic sensibility closer to Alan Bennett or Tom Sharpe. Woodward’s rueful amusement isn’t frivolity, it’s a world view”

~FINANCIAL TIMES



Reading & Discussion

Sara Majka & Donal Ryan in conversation with Allannah Hopkin

Thursday 8th 10pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



Sara Majka has received graduate degrees from UMass-Amherst and Bennington College and was awarded a fellowship at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. She now lives in Queens with her young son. *Cities I've Never Lived In* is her first book.



“Like Alice Munro and Raymond Carver, Sara Majka writes stories of people on society’s ragged edge – in money trouble, work trouble, heart trouble – and does so with tremendous subtlety and a grave sophistication all her own”

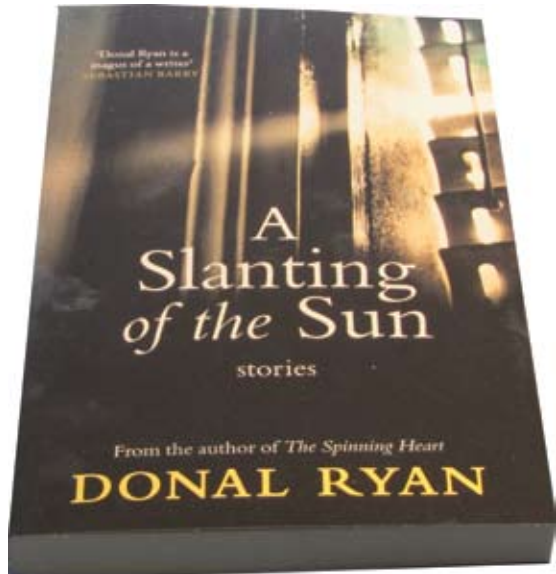
~SALVATORE SCIBONA



Donal Ryan is from Nenagh in County Tipperary. His first two novels, *The Spinning Heart* and *The Thing About December*, and his short story collection *A Slanting of the Sun*, have all been published to major acclaim. *The Spinning Heart* won the Guardian First Book Award, the EU Prize for Literature (Ireland), and Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards; it was shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award; and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Desmond Elliott Prize. Donal holds a Writing Fellowship at the University of Limerick.

“Donal Ryan is a magus of a writer”

~SEBASTIAN BARRY



Reading & Discussion

Fiction Introductions

Paul Cussen, Becca De La Rosa & Paul Lenehan.

Friday 9th 2.30pm **Grand Parade Library** | Admission Free



Paul Cussen has worked as a bookseller and as a library assistant. His only work of non-fiction was *Cork: A Pocket Guide* (2004). His story 'The Browser' won a Waterstone's staff prize in 2006. In 2015 his story 'Going to the Wedding' was published in *The Stinging Fly*.

Three talented, emerging writers get to publish a book, but with periodical publication credits and competition successes.



Becca De La Rosa writes strange stories from her home in Dublin, Ireland. She has been published in many magazines and anthologies both online and off.



Paul Lenehan, from Dublin, has been writing and publishing stories for the past twenty years, most recently in *Crannóg* and *Tupelo Quarterly* (USA). He was twice shortlisted for the Hennessy/Sunday Tribune short story award, and received an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Glamorgan (now University of South Wales).



Sean O'Faolain Prize Reading

Friday 9th 4pm **Grand Parade City Library** | Admission Free

The Sean O'Faolain Prize is awarded to the best single story entered in competition from anywhere in the world. The first prize is €2000. 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*. The winner, if they choose to travel to Cork for this event, also receives accommodation with meals for the duration of the festival, a masterclass scholarship and entry into all events. This occasion is an opportunity to hear the winning story and the judge's citation from Danielle McLaughlin.

ANAM CARA



LONG STORY, SHORT JOURNAL

is the home of stories 4000 words or longer, one story published every month.

With original work by

Mary Morrissy

John McKenna

Danielle McLaughlin

Matthew Sweeney

Valerie Sirr

Guy Ware

Dolores Walshe

Alan McMonagle

Yaron Kaver

Julia Van Middlesworth

and many more...

**LONG
STORY,
SHORT
JOURNAL**

longstoryshort.squarespace.com

Reading & Discussion

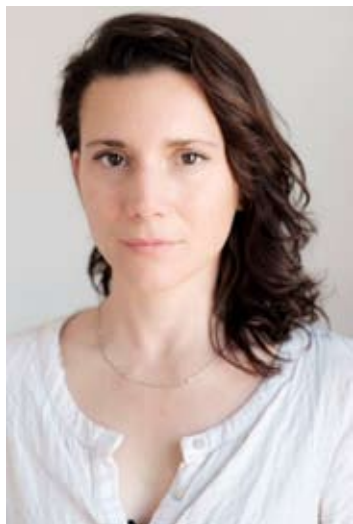
Claire Louise Bennett & Sinéad Gleeson

in conversation with Paul McVeigh

Friday 9th 7pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



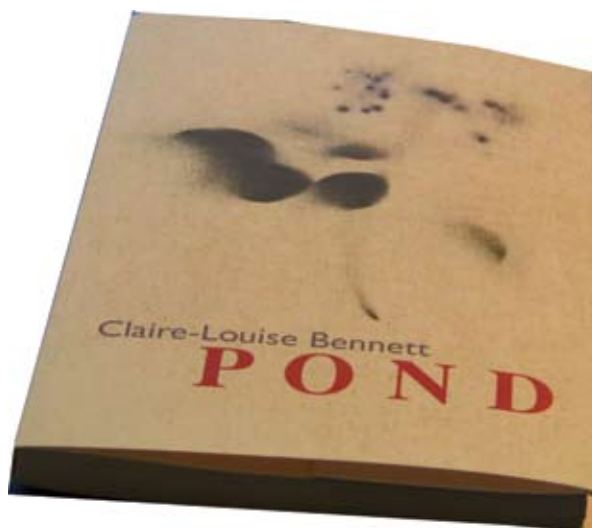
Sinéad Gleeson is a writer, editor, freelance broadcaster and journalist. She reviews books and writes arts features and interviews for *The Irish Times*, and is a regular critic on RTÉ Radio One's Arena. She has edited the short story anthology *Silver Threads of Hope* (New Island, 2012) and *The Long Gaze Back: An Anthology of Irish Women Writers* (New Island, 2015). A new anthology, *The Glass Shore: Short Stories by Women from the North of Ireland* will be published in autumn 2016. An essay, 'Hair', was published in Issue 1 of literary journal *Banshee* in September 2015. In October 2015, "Fathoms", a 500-word flash fiction story was highly commended at the Dromineer Literary Festival. In May 2016, *Granta* published an essay online, 'Blue Hills and Chalk Bones', as part of their new Irish writing volume. Sinéad was also shortlisted for the 2016 Fish Memoir Prize.



Claire-Louise Bennett grew up in Wiltshire in the southwest of England. After studying literature and drama at the University of Roehampton in London, she settled in Galway. Her short fiction and essays have been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *The Penny Dreadful*, *The Moth*, *Colony*, *The Irish Times*, *The White Review* and *gorse*. She was awarded the inaugural White Review Short Story Prize in 2013 and has received bursaries from the Arts Council and Galway City Council. *Pond* (Stinging Fly Press) is her first collection of stories.

“What Bennett aims at is nothing short of a re-enchantment of the world. Everyday objects take on a luminous, almost numinous, quality through the examination of what Emerson called “the low, the common, the near” or the exploration of Georges Perec’s “infra-ordinary” – a quest for the quotidian.”

~ THE GUARDIAN



Reading & Discussion

Lucy Caldwell & David Park

in conversation with Paul MacVeigh

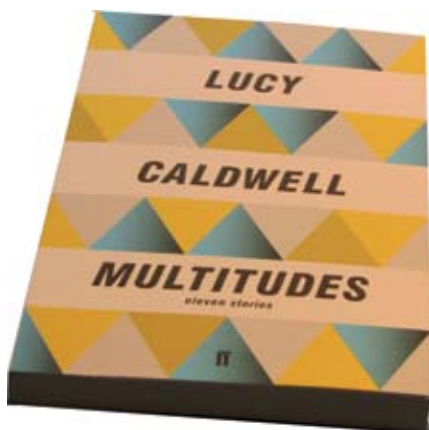
Friday 9th 8.30pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



“A writer of rare elegance and beauty, Caldwell doesn’t just get inside her characters’ minds. She perches in the precarious chambers of their hearts, telling their stories truthfully and tenderly.”

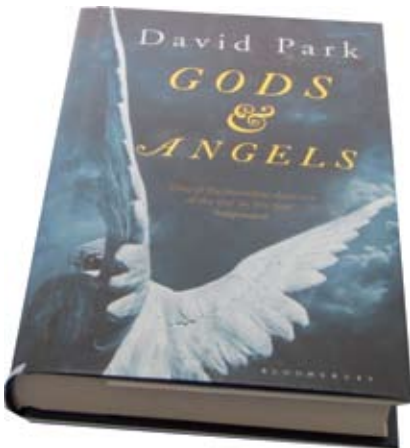
~ THE INDEPENDENT

Lucy Caldwell was born in Belfast in 1981. She has garnered many honours including the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and the Dylan Thomas Prize. She was shortlisted for the 2012 BBC International Short Story Award for her short story ‘Escape Routes’ and won the Commonwealth Writers’ Award (Canada and Europe) in 2014 with ‘Killing Time’, both of which are collected for the first time in *Multitudes*.



“Park is an excellent writer; psychologically astute, lyrically unflinching”

~ THE DAILY TELEGRAPH



David Park has written nine previous books including *The Light of Amsterdam*, which was shortlisted for the 2014 International IMPAC Prize, and, most recently, *The Poets' Wives*. He has won the Authors' Club First Novel Award, the Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize and the University of Ulster's McCrea Literary Award, three times. In 2014 he was longlisted for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award. David Park lives in County Down, Northern Ireland.

Reading & Discussion

Zsuzsi Gartner & Stephanie Victoire

in conversation with Matthew Sweeney

Friday 9th 10pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



Zsuzsi Gartner is the inaugural Frank O'Connor International Short Story Fellow. She is from Vancouver and is the author of the acclaimed and bestselling story collection *All the Anxious Girls on Earth* and editor of *Darwin's Bastards: Astounding Tales from Tomorrow*, and was creative director for five years of Vancouver Review's "Blueprint BC Fiction Series." Her most recent book, *Better Living through Plastic Explosives* was a finalist for the prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize. Zsuzsi has won numerous awards for magazine journalism and National Magazine Awards for Fiction and her stories have been widely anthologised and broadcast on CBC in Canada and NPR in the U.S.

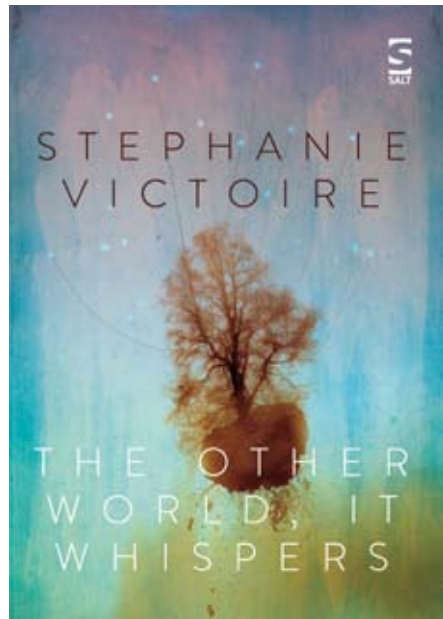


"Gartner's dangerously adult prose is replete with gothic sensibilities and flippant misanthropy. She's the bastard child of Joseph Conrad and Flannery O'Connor."

~ WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



Stephanie Victoire was born in London to a Mauritian family. In 2010 she graduated with a BA in Creative Writing from London Metropolitan University. In 2014 Stephanie completed her collection of fairy and folk tales entitled *The Other World, It Whispers* whilst on the The Almasi League writers' programme. Two of these stories were separately published in 2015. Stephanie lives in London and is currently working on a novel, *The Heart Note*.



Discussion & Debate

The Happiness of Getting it Down Right, editors close working with authors moderated by Patrick Cotter

Saturday 10th 2.45pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5

“In an interview in *The Paris Review*, O’Connor was asked the question “How do you start a story?” and his answer was “Get black on white, used to be Maupassant’s advice — that’s what I always do. I don’t give a hoot what the writing’s like.” Though in fact he did. Opposed to this belief in spontaneity and the importance of form over finicky detail was *The New Yorker’s* insistence that a given piece of writing be as nearly perfect as humanly possible, down to the last semi-colon and comma. Sitting at a table in Maxwell’s office with pages of manuscript scattered before them or galleys with dozens of queries — some helpful, some exasperating — from the proofreader, the two men would work their way deeper and deeper into the material.” – Michael Steinman

The relationship between editor and author in the United States is generally more intense and collaborative than on this side of the Atlantic. Is this a good thing? How much of the text can the author own after an extensive rewrite

directed by an editor? Is there a danger editorial intervention can stray into the territory of co-authorship? Is the author who does not receive this level of attention at a disadvantage?

We’ll be discussing these questions and others with a panel of writers and editors, experienced on one side or other of the Atlantic or on both.

Sara Majka has worked with the renowned editor Bridget Hughes of *A Public Space*, formerly of *The Paris Review*. Sara will give us an insight into Bridget’s working method. See also page 20. **Danielle McLaughlin** has success with book publication in America and these islands as well as appearances in fine periodicals such as *The New Yorker* and *The Stinging Fly*. **Declan Meade** is the founding editor of *The Stinging Fly* where he has proved he has an eye for spotting excellent new talent. **Nuala O’Connor** has published books with Irish and North American publishers and can tell a story of contrasting editorial relationships.



Reading & Discussion

John Boyne & Sean O'Brien in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson

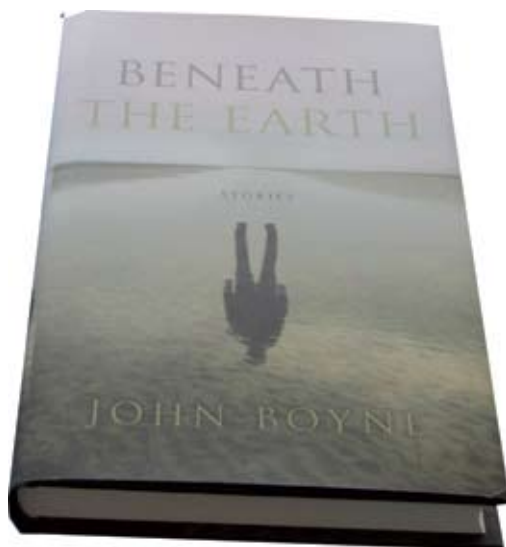
Saturday 10th 4.30pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



John Boyne was born in Ireland in 1971. He is the author of nine novels for adults and four for younger readers, including the international bestsellers *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, which has sold more than six million copies worldwide, *A History of Loneliness* and, most recently, *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*. His novels are published in forty-five languages. He is married and lives in Dublin.

*“Urgently compelling ...
Brave, righteously angry and
stunning”*

~ JOSEPH O’CONNOR





Sean O'Brien is a poet, critic, playwright, anthologist, broadcaster, novelist and editor. He grew up in Hull and now lives in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He has published seven collections of poetry to date, including *Downriver* (2007) and *November* (2011). His *Collected Poems* was published in 2012. His collection of short stories, *The Silence Room*, appeared in 2008 and his novel, *Afterlife*, in 2009. He contributes to *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. Current projects include a new book of poems, a second novel and a second collection of short stories. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

“Sean O’Brien does for libraries what Ursula Andress did for bikinis, Read and rejoice!”

~VAL McDERMID



Reading & Discussion

Arlene Heyman & Polly Samson in conversation with Mary Leland

Saturday 10th 8pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



Arlene Heyman's debut short story collection is *Scary Old Sex*. She is the recipient of Woodrow Wilson, Fulbright, Rockefeller and Robert Wood Johnson Fellowships. Her short stories have appeared in *New American Review* and she won *Epoch* magazine's novella contest. She has been listed twice in the honour rolls of *Best American Short Stories*. Heyman is a psychiatrist/psychoanalyst practising in New York City, where she lives with her husband. She is currently at work on a novel.

“What an astonishing collection! I absolutely loved these stories, so stylish, earthy and funny — and underneath them, thrumming away, a sense of our own mortality.”

~ DEBORAH MOGGACH

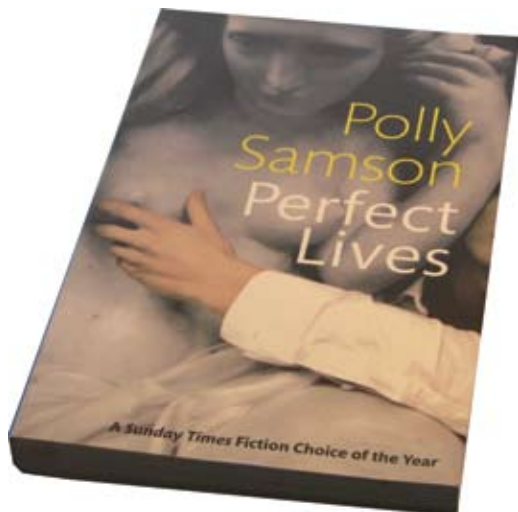




Polly Samson is the author of two highly acclaimed story collections and a novel, *Out of the Picture*, which was shortlisted for the Authors' Club First Novel Award. Her most recent linked story collection, *Perfect Lives*, was a Sunday Times Fiction Choice of the Year and was read on BBC Radio 4. She has been shortlisted for the VS Pritchett Memorial Prize and The Edge Hill Short Story Prize. She recently wrote the introduction to Daphne du Maurier's *The Doll: Short Stories*. She has written lyrics for three bestselling albums and was a Costa Book Awards judge in 2007. Polly Samson lives in Brighton.

“Like babes in the wood, Samson’s characters possess a blithe grace – their days filled with fresh flowers and cherubic children. And yet, amid the domestic harmony there are scenes of lewd horror, humiliation, tragedy and regret.”

~ THE GUARDIAN



Night in Tunisia by Neil Jordan

Introduction by Sean O'Faolain

This is a highly original, personal, distinctive and interesting book. What more can one ask of any book except that it should be written by a man who also has the gift of words, images, feelings, responsiveness? Neil Jordan shows all these qualities. If he keeps and develops his primal gifts — he is quite young; barely 25 when this first collection of stories appeared — he will become an outstanding writer. At present he is intensely concerned with things of the mind and spirit rather than with the social world in which most of us spend most of our busy lives, but he is also tremendously responsive to all the things, people, surroundings and influences that have affected him as a youth, which is precisely how one would also describe the relationship of Joyce to his world in *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. A further cause for special interest in Neil Jordan is that while being thus engrossed in his locale he is in no way as Joyce also was not, in the least bit parochial or regionalist. In fact, surprisingly and delightfully, the hero

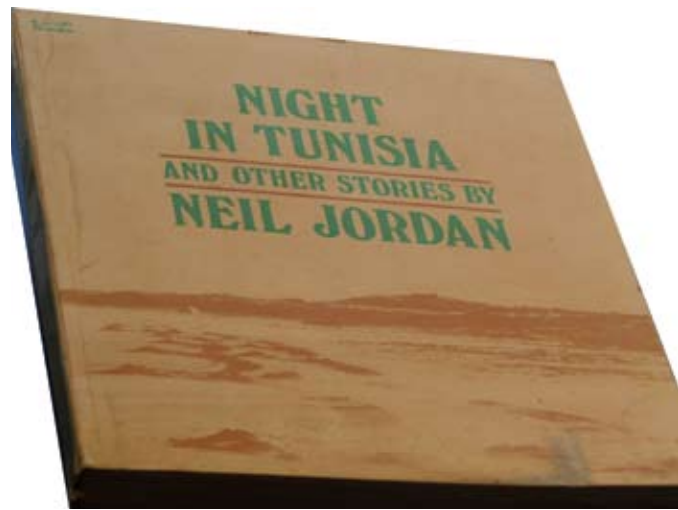
of the central story of this group of stories is American jazz music, the objective correlation of his theme is an alto saxophone and its presiding deity is old Charlie (Bird) Parker. In harmony with the mood of this music Jordan concentrates on the sexual growth of a very real boy through his relationship with a very real girl, who like himself is a life-yearner, as well as one with the watchful father, one of the last of the old brass-men. In the course of that tale music releases the youth to life, to love, to selfhood. This kind of metaphor and symbol is a new and releasing thing in Irish literature. It is a personal language. It has no echo of the worn out, now rather boring old language and symbolism of rural Ireland's little whitewashed country cottages, her wet winding roads, her colleens driving home the cows, her old priests, the little country chapel, the patriotic songs and laments of country pubs. This young man's metaphors are songs like *The Crying Game*, *The Tennessee Waltz*, *Night in Tunisia*, a boy fingering an old piano in a dance hall, the sax wailing high, and out there beyond the tin hut where he and his father live, enclosed and alone, the dusk, the waves on the beach, the night, the girl, the world, the future.

40th Anniversary Event 1976-2016

I fervently believe that *Night In Tunisia* is one of those game-changing collections of Irish short stories such as *Dubliners*, *Guests of The Nation* or *Antarctica*. To have let this fortieth anniversary go by without marking it would have been a dereliction of my duty.

- PATRICK COTTER

Artistic Director of the Cork International Short Story Festival since 2003.



Reading & Discussion

Neil Jordan

in conversation with Patrick Cotter

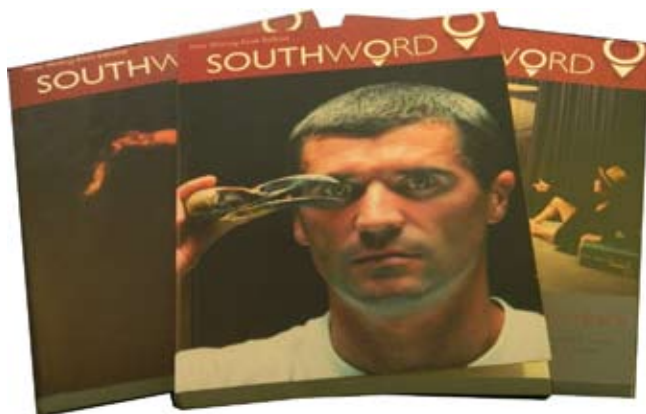
Saturday 10th 9.30pm **Firkin Crane** | Admission €5



Neil Jordan was born in 1950 in Sligo. He is the author of several critically acclaimed novels including *The Past*, *The Dream of a Beast*, *Sunrise with Sea Monster*, *Shade*, *Mistaken* and *Night In Tunisia*, a collection of short stories which won the Guardian Fiction Prize. He has written, directed and produced a large number of award-winning films including *The Crying Game*, *Michael Collins*, *The End of the Affair* and *Ondine*. He lives in Dublin.

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http://www.munsterlit.ie/Southword/issues_index.html



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Murakami, James Lasdun, Tess Gallagher, Billy Collins,
D.W. Wilson, Leanne O'Sullivan, Bernard O'Donoghue,
Martín Espada, Paula Meehan and many, many others.

WORKSHOPS

Five Things You Absolutely Positively Must Do To Write A Great Story: a class for beginning or emerging writers by

Alan Heathcock (see page 18)

No prerequisite to register. Class

maximum: 10. Price: €160

“In twenty-one years as a writer and professor, I’ve given careful study to all the traits that mark a powerful story. I’ve considered every book I’ve read, every movie and play I’ve seen, stories I’ve told and have been told, the truths of human communication, all to understand the root-qualities of the most potent stories. In this presentation, you’ll have these five concepts delivered in a multi-media presentation suitable for both beginners and experienced writers alike.”

The DNA of Short Fiction & other considerations

A master class by Zsuzsi Gartner (see page 30)

Student prerequisite: one story published in a professional literary journal. Class maximum: 15. Price: €180.

During this intensive four-morning workshop, we’ll explore some of

contemporary short fiction’s delightful, startling, and seemingly endless possibilities. The emphasis will be on the vital mechanics of the form (including structure, point of view, time-frame/tense choices, and narrative momentum, as well as the more elusive, but all-important, issue of voice), right down to the genetic level – the paragraph, the sentence, and the word. We’ll look hard at how to put language at the service of your stories, and how to make your stories worthy of all that language allows us.

There will be a number of in-session writing exercises, as well as the opportunity to have others comment on your work and a chance to do a substantial revision of a short piece. Handouts include a take-home DNA Workshop Course Pack and a comprehensive reading list of contemporary short story collections.

How to Book

Phone + 353 (021) 4312955

Email info@munsterlit.ie

In person at The Munster Literature Centre, Frank O’Connor House, 84

Douglas Street, Cork

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Firkin Crane
THE HOME OF DANCE



The Cork International Short Story Festival

The Cork International Short Story Festival was founded in 2000 and called then the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Festival. It is produced by the Munster Literature Centre.

About Munster Literature Centre

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. To this end, we organise festivals, workshops, readings and competitions. Our publishing section, Southword Editions, publishes a biannual journal, poetry collections and short stories. We actively seek to support new and emerging writers and are assisted in our efforts through funding from a number of government agencies, mainly Cork City Council and the Arts Council of Ireland.

Originally located in Sullivan's Quay, the centre moved to its current premises in Frank O'Connor House (the author's birthplace) at 84 Douglas Street in 2003.

Festival Team

Festival Director: Patrick Cotter

Administrator: Jennifer Matthews

MLC Board of Management:

*Claire Connolly, Edward Fahy, Mick Hannigan, Aisling Meade, Marc O'Sullivan
Pádraig Trehy.*

Special thanks to:

Cork City Council Arts Officer: Jean Brennan

Arts Council Head of Literature: Sarah Bannan