

## Booking Form

# 2011 Athlone Literary Festival

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 7

**A** Playwriting Workshop, 9.30a.m. - 4.30p.m. Fee: €25.00

**B** Official opening of Athlone Literary Festival 7.30p.m.  
An evening with John Lonergan, 8.00p.m. Fee: €10.00

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 8

**C** MidLANDSCAPES, Creative Writing, 10.30 - 1.00p.m. Fee: €20.00

**D** Publishing, a new chapter ? 10.30p.m. - 12.00 Fee: €6.00

**E** Political Cartoons in 19th Century Ireland 12.00 - 1.00p.m. Fee: €6.00

**F** MidLANDSCAPES, Poetry, 2.00p.m. - 3.30p.m. Fee: €6.00

**G** Creative Writing Workshop for 10-12yrs. 1 - 3p.m. Fee: €6.00

**H** How to draw a comic strip, 7 - 12yrs. 3.00p.m. - 5.00p.m. Fee: €6.00

**I** Ruth Dudley Edwards, 4.00p.m. - 5.30p.m. Fee: €6.00

**J** Between A Rock and a Harding place, a double bill, 8.00p.m.  
Wine reception and supper Fee: €15.00

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 9

**K** Athlone's Sunday Miscellany, 12.00 Fee: €6.00

Discounted Admission may be available when you book. Concessions: OAP's, Students, Unwaged.  
Please return Booking Form and cheque made payable to Athlone Literary Festival as soon as possible to NIB Building, Custume Place, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. Further information: www.athloneliteraryfestival.com Telephone: 086 2282760. Email: literaryathlone@gmail.com

Name:

Address:

Telephone:  Email:

## PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 7TH

Venue **Shamrock Lodge Hotel**, Clonown Road, Athlone

**A** 9.30am - 4.30pm

Playwriting Workshop  
Thomas Conway, Druid Theatre, Galway will lead an interactive workshop for beginners and more experienced writers in some easily applied steps exploring imaginative worlds, writing monologues and dialogue. Please bring some writing work with you. Fee: €25.00

**B** 7.30pm

### RECEPTION AND OFFICIAL OPENING OF ATHLONE LITERARY FESTIVAL BY SENATOR MARIE LOUISE O'DONNELL

8.00pm

An evening with **John Lonergan**. **Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness**, **John Donoghue** and **Senator Marie Louise O'Donnell** discuss 'The Governor, the Life and Times of the man who ran Mountjoy' with the author. The event will be chaired by **Oliver Hegarty**. Fee :€10.00

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH

Venue **Shamrock Lodge Hotel**, Clonown Road, Athlone

9.30am Registration and coffee

**C** 10am - 1pm

MidLANDSCAPES Creative Writing: a Creative Writing Workshop exploring the influence of the landscape on the writer. Workshop Theme: This is an interactive workshop for writers and potential writers led by Nicole Rourke, The Big Smoke Factory, Dublin and aims to get your creativity flowing in an inspiring and enjoyable way. It is suitable for writers working in all forms poetry, drama, fiction etc. Fee: €20.00

**D** 10.30 – 12noon

Publishing, Irish and International - a new chapter ?

Jo O'Donoghue publisher and proprietor of Londubh Books, Dublin will address us on all aspects of publishing from traditional methods to the on-line. She will explore how books are published and the best option to choose. Fee €6.00

11am-12noon Athlone Library

Teddy Bears' Picnic

This is storytelling event suitable for 3-6 year olds and takes place in Athlone Library. All children should bring their teddy. This event should be booked directly with Athlone Library, Athlone Civic Centre, Athlone. Telephone 090 6442157 Admission Free

**E** 12noon – 1pm

Political Cartoons in 19th Century Ireland

Speaker: Donal Casey, illustrator and political Cartoonist. An illustrated lecture on political cartoons in the 19th Century many of which deviate considerably from the notorious 'Paddy' images of Punch magazine. Fee: €6.00

### LUNCH

**F** 2pm – 3.30pm

Midlandscapes Poetry: Exploring the poet's journey through the landscape. Contributors: Nuala Ni Conchuir and Gabriel Rosenstock. Landscape is intrinsic to how our culture is shaped. Sometimes we are blind to it, at other times we are absorbed in it. Two poets with deep connections to Ireland's landscape and natural world discuss the impact on their work of the landscape and its contours. Fee: €6.00

**G** 1pm – 3pm

Creative Writing Workshop for 10-12yrs.

Sinead Kilgariff will lead an interactive creative workshop for 10-12 year olds, looking to get their ideas on paper with fun exercises. Fee: €6.00

**H** 3.00pm – 5.00pm

How to draw a comic strip

Donal Casey, illustrator and cartoonist will lead an interactive workshop for 7-12 year olds. Children should come to the workshop with an idea for a story and will have produced a cartoon strip at the end of the session. All materials supplied. Fee: €10.00

**I** 4pm - 5.30pm

Ruth Dudley Edwards

Ruth Dudley Edwards in conversation with Dave O'Connell. This is an in depth interview with writer, historian and commentator Ruth Dudley Edwards about her crime writing and some of her historical and controversial political views. Fee: €6.00

Venue **Shamrock Lodge Hotel**, Clonown Road, Athlone

**J** 8.00pm

Between a rock and a Harding place - Double bill

Philomena Lynott and Jackie Hayden of Hot Press magazine, co-author of 'My Boy' talk about the late musician Phil Lynott.

Ciaran Burke and friends will provide the music.

Michael Harding author of 'Displaced in Mullingar' reads from his Irish Times Weekly column. This will be followed by a wine reception and supper. Fee: €15.00

### SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER

Venue **Shamrock Lodge Hotel**, Clonown Road, Athlone

**K** 12noon

### Athlone's Sunday Miscellany

Local writers read excerpts from their own work.

Contributors:  
Castle Writers Group, Hannah Dowling, David Flynn, Paddy Murray, Joan Scally  
Musical contribution from:  
Eamon O'Dalaigh, Majella Flanagan and the Ravens Marching Band  
Fee: €6.00



John Lonergan - The Governor. After 42 years in the prison service, 24 of them as the most senior prison officer in the country, his description of life in the prison service is not only a gripping account of humanity at its rawest, but is also invaluable for anyone in a management position anywhere.



Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, a retired Supreme Court judge, is president of the Law Reform Commission. She has served on An Bord Uchtála (the Adoption Board), the Voluntary Health Insurance Board, the National Economic and Social Council and the Second Commission on the Status of Women. She was born in Belfast and educated in Belfast and Dublin.



Marie Louise O'Donnell has been head of Drama at Carysfort Teacher Training College, a Theatre Director and a professional actress as well as a radio producer and presenter with the BBC. She has lectured at the School of Communications at DCU for the past 23 years. Marie Louise is a regular media contributor and published writer .In May 2011 she was appointed to the Senate by The Taoiseach Enda Kenny



John Donohoe owns a second hand and antiquarian bookshop in Athone. A clinical psychologist, he is a graduate of Psychology and Theology from TCD and UCD. He has a particular interest in how people cope with dying and with death and was the founder and Director of the Families of Murder Victims Service for the Victim Support organisation.



Oliver Hegarty lives in the Athlone area and is a lecturer in Psychology in Athlone Institute of Technology. He is an experienced facilitator and has performed the role of chairperson and facilitator for a variety of professional, voluntary and community organisations during the last 20 years.



Thomas Conway works as a director, dramaturg, teacher and journalist. Directing credits include Catastrophe, Rockaby, What Where, Beowulf, Closer, In the Blood, Once upon a Barstool, The King of Friday's Men, and The Gimmick.He currently teaches contemporary theatre practices at N.U.I.G, and has been Literary Manager with Druid since 2005.



Nicole Rourke has trained in theatre and workshop facilitation in the Middle East. She has written, performed and directed several pieces for theatre. Nicole worked as a creative writing facilitator at the Irish Writers Centre from 2006 to 2009.She is a co-director of Big Smoke Writing Factory which provides creative writing for new and developing writers.



Jo O'Donoghue is the publisher/proprietor of Londubh Books in Dublin. She has more than twenty years' experience in Irish publishing, beginning as editorial director with Poolbeg Press. She is the author of a critical study of the Belfast-born novelist, Brian Moore (Gill and Macmillan, 1990).



Donal Casey is a political cartoonist and book illustrator. His cartoons have appeared regularly in Magill magazine and Work & Life. He illustrated the children's book Dhá Chluas Capaill ag Labhraí Loingseach, and the Irish-language text book Enjoy Irish. Originally from Athlone, he now lives in Dublin, where he lectures at Dublin Business School.



Nuala Ní Chonchúir's début novel You(New Island, 2010) was called 'a heart-warmer' by The Irish Times and 'a gem' by The Irish Examiner. Her third short story collection Nude was shortlisted for the UK's Edge Hill Prize; her third poetry collection The Juno Charm appears from Salmon Poetry in late 2011. Originally from Dublin ,Nuala lives in Ballinasloe.



Gabriel Rosenstock is the author/translator of over 150 books, including 13 volumes of poetry and a volume of haiku, mostly in Irish (Gaelic). Prose work includes fiction, essays in The Irish Times, radio plays and travel writing. He has given readings in Europe, South, Central and North America, India, Australia, Japan and has been published in various leading international journals including.



Sinead Kilgarriff is a passionate young writer who has had a play performed in the Fringe Festival of the All Ireland Drama Festival 2011 and has had work published in the Westmeath Independent. She is a member of the Kilbeggan Writers' Group.



Ruth Dudley Edwards, academic, teacher, marketing executive and servant, has been a freelance writer since 1979. A historian, prize-winning biographer and crime writer, The Anglo-Irish Murders, her ninth crime novel, is a satire on the peace process. Her tenth, Carnage on the Committee, was set in literary London, and Murdering Americans, set in the academic world, is Ruth's latest book.



Dave O'Connell is Group Editor of the Connacht Tribune and is also a regular presenter on RTE Radio, most notably on Saturday View. For six years he was editor of the Westmeath Independent, the Westmeath Examiner and Offaly Independent. Prior to that was news editor of the Irish Daily Star.



Philomena Lynott - When her rock star son Philip Lynott died in 1986 the tragic news reverberated across the globe, catapulting Philomena into the media spotlight. In 1995 she released the first edition of the book My Boy, written with Jackie Hayden, it reached number one in the bookseller lists. The book was to have a deep impact on aspects of her life that she was not able to reveal in that first book, but which she has now confronted at the grand young age of 80. Jackie Hayden - as Marketing Manager with CBS Ireland, signed U2 to their first record contract. In 1983 he became a director and General Manager of Hot Press.



Irish Times Columnist – author of DISPLACED IN MULLINGAR. Michael Harding has written 3 novels and numerous plays. He received the Bank of Ireland RTE award for excellence in the arts (1990) and the Hennessy Award for short stories. He was Writer in Association with The National Theatre in 1993 and was short-listed for the Irish Times Aer Lingus Literature Award in 1989.

Making Space is an artistic collective that hosts home to a diverse range of practices including artists, photographers, filmmakers, musicians, writers, thinkers, appreciators and many others. They aim to prompt excitement and curiosity through pop-up public interventions, with the hope of encouraging others in the community to engage with and embrace their own creativity.

#### Athlone Literary Festival Exhibitions.

Exhibition of original political cartoons by Illustrator and Cartoonist Donal Casey. Venue: Bastion Gallery, 6 Bastion St, Athlone. This is a week long exhibition and takes place in the week beginning Friday 7 October 2011. Entrance free.

Exhibition: Making Space Exhibition, Shamrock Lodge Hotel. An exhibition of installation art film, 2 dimensional work and More! The exhibition is inspired by 'The Egg Pyramid', a short story by festival featured writer Nuala Ni Chonchuir.

Sponsors  
Athlone Town Council  
Westmeath County Council  
Foras Eireann  
Westmeath VEC  
WPA Mobiles  
R & R Projects

Committee: Siobhan Bigley, Deirdre Collins, Ursula Daly, Jarlath Duffy (Chairperson), George Eaton, Siobhan Gavin, Jackie Gorman, Simon Healy, Catherine Ivers, Fionnuala O'Connell, Emer O'Connor, Mairead O'Connor, Mel O'Flynn.

October 7, 8 & 9

Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Clonown Road, Athlone

Athlone Literary Festival

2011

Programme

