

September 24 25 26

Athlone Literary Festival

2010 profiles



20 - 25 exhibition

Emer O'Connor is an artist and native of Athlone. She has studied at NUIG and IADT. Emer's artistic interests include the cinematic, literary, mythological and historical. She works primarily in the two-dimensional, in drawing and paint, as well as animated drawings.



Thursday 16th September

7.00 Art Exhibition launch "Loveliest of the Lawn" in Aidan Heavey Public Library, Athlone.

The literary festival committee welcome local artist Emer O Connor for her first Athlone exhibition. All welcome.

20 - 25 September Artist Emer O'Connor's "Loveliest of the Lawn" Admission: Free Venue: Aidan Heavey Public Library, Athlone This is an exhibition of narrative art, based on the concept of "the garden in literature". The inspiration for this series of drawings comes from a variety of literary works by authors including Margaret Atwood and Elizabeth Bowen. The title is taken from Oliver Goldsmith's "Sweet Auburn".



Irene Graham is a writer and photographer. In 1991 she founded The Creative Writer's Workshop, which has become an international success in memoir and fiction writing. Irene lives in the west of Ireland, writing and taking photographs – when she is not tutoring workshops!



Terence Frisby is a playwright, actor, director and producer. His most famous play, There's A Girl In My Soup, was London's longest-running comedy and a worldwide smash hit. Kisses On A Postcard started life as an award-winning radio play, then a stage musical, which is currently being mounted for a West End production.



Roisin Boyd, broadcaster and journalist recently produced with Fomacs (Forum on Migration & Communications) and the Irish Refugee Council an animated DVD on asylum 'Burden of Proof' and mentored a radio series in the DIT with migrant women. Roisin has reported for RTE from Africa including Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and the DRC and from Asia: the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam.



Colm Doyle is a retired Colonel of the Irish Defence Forces having served for 43 years. His overseas service includes Cyprus, Middle East, Lebanon and Yugoslavia. He is a former Chief of Staff of the Military Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations at UN HQ in New York and has given evidence at the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, at the trials of Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic.



Abie Philbin Bowman is the writer and performer of 'Jesus: The Guantanamo Years', 'Eco-Friendly Jihad' & 'Sex, Lies and the KKK', with sold-out shows all over the world. He was the only Irish radio host to have interviewed the Ku Klux Klan on the night of Barack Obama's election. He has been endorsed by Osama bin Laden and boycotted by Ian Paisley's DUP.



Claire Keegan has published two collections of short stories, Antarctica and Walk the Blue Fields, to enormous critical acclaim and has won numerous awards, including the Rooney Prize and the 2008 Edge Hill Prize. Recently she won the Davy Byrnes Memorial Prize for her story, Foster (2009). Claire also has a great reputation as a reader and teacher.



Michael D Higgins: Author, Poet and Politician. Michael is the Party President and Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, and is a current sitting deputy for Galway West. He is a former Minister for Arts, Culture, and the Gaeltacht (1993- 1997), was first elected to the Dáil in 1981. His first collection of poems, "The Betrayal", was published in 1990. His second book "The Season of Fire" in 1993, and his third collection "An Arid Season" was published in 2004. A collection of political writing, 'Causes for Concern' was published in 2006. An international campaigner for human rights, he was awarded the Greek Peace medal in 1992 and in the same year the first recipient of the McBride Peace Prize of the International Peace Bureau.



Donncha O'Connell was Dean of the Faculty of Law NUIG from 2005-2008. He is a Director of Druid Theatre Company. He is co-editor of Justice in Controversy, published by Irish Academic Press and he edits the Irish Human Rights Law Review for Clarus Press.



Lorraine Francis: Athlone born and bred children's book author, Lorraine Francis has written five books. Lorraine's first book, was "Lulu's Tutu" and her second book, "Save Our Sweetshop" Poolbeg published "A Giant Never Dies", "The Great Trolley Race", "The Origami Bird", "Pandora's Lunchbox" and her most recent book will be published in Belgium "Sammy and the Skyscraper Sandwich".



Jason Gill was editor of The Athlone Observer prior to its re-launch as The Athlone Advertiser. He is a frequent actor on the stage of the Athlone Little Theatre. He wrote, directed, and acted in his very successful play The Brothers Malone which featured on the amateur drama festival circuit in 2008. His book, A Year In My Room has just become available.



Liam Horan: Liam is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster and former Gaelic Games Correspondent of the Irish Independent. He was founding editor of the Athlone Voice and creator of the Championship Man series on RTE Radio One. He runs Sli Nua Communications based in his home town of Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, where he lives with his wife Noreen.



Gearoid O'Brien is Senior Executive Librarian with Westmeath County Library service. He is the author of more than a dozen books and over the years he has broadcast widely on RTE (radio & television), TG4 and local radio. He has had about 20 contributions broadcast on the ever popular Sunday Miscellany programme.



Jean Farrell

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Prince of Wales Hotel

2010

programme

Friday 24 September

11.00 - 4.00 Author Irene Graham "Memories into Memoir" Workshop. Workshop Fee €40 (including The Memoir Writing Workbook). Irene will guide participants through the elements of memoir writing using memoir mapping, right-brain/left-brain exercises and visual writing techniques to evoke and enhance memory recall. You will also learn the importance of structure and engage in discussions on truth and incorporate the retrospective voice into your memoir. This workshop will kick-start the writing of your creative memoir, in a step-by-step process, translating life experience into memoir.

11.00 - 4.00 Author Terence Frisby "The most delightful of childhood wartime memoirs"
Admission: By Arrangement

School visits – Terence will read from his latest book Kisses on a Postcard and recount his first –hand experiences of being an evacuee during World War II. His true account will bring alive the English and History curricula for the students.

7.00 - 8.00 "Passionfruit Cornucopia" Admission: Free Venue: Passionfruit Theatre
A reading of an extract from 'Johnnie's Britches', a comic play by P.G. O'Dea and a reading of a short story from 'Tell Me Sweet Little Lies' by Dr. Joe Ducke. The official unveiling of a portrait of the late Joe Ducke, created by Ruth Ryan, daughter of P.G. O'Dea

7.30 - 8.00 Official opening of Athlone Literary Festival by renowned author Terence Frisby, who is best known as an actor and playwright. His most famous play and film, featuring Peter Sellars & Goldie Hawn, There's A Girl In My Soup, was London's longest-running comedy and a worldwide smash hit.

8.00 - 10.00 "Oh! What a Glorious Thing is War..." Admission €5
Three extraordinary and contrasting eyewitness and personal stories of the impact of war will be revealed. The chair will actively facilitate this dynamic forum. The audience will be invited to engage with the speakers in this exploration of the forgotten causalities of war.

Speakers
Terence Frisby, author, playwright, actor.
Roisin Boyd, journalist, former Media Officer for the Irish Refugee Council
Col. Colm Doyle, former Army officer, head of the EU's monitoring mission in Bosnia during the civil war.

9.30 - 11.00 Abie Philbin Bowman's new comedy show "Sex, Lies and the KKK" Admission: €12
Concessions €10 Venue: Passionfruit Theatre. Does God hate sex? Should we let homophobic couples marry? And how does the Ku Klux Klan view President Obama? Direct from the 2010 Hollywood and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, join this comic journey, through prejudice and sexuality, from the creator of international sell out comedies 'Eco-Friendly Jihad' & 'Jesus: The Guantanamo Years'.

Booking
Season ticket €90 and concessions €70 (includes attendance at two workshops of your choice). To book email: literaryathlone@gmail.com or ring 086 3671039 or write to Athlone Literary Festival, NIB Building, Northgate Street Athlone, Co Westmeath.

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www.athloneliteraryfestival.com
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Saturday 25 September

9.15 a.m. Registration and coffee. Venue: Prince of Wales Hotel Lobby

9.30 - 1.00 Award-winning author Claire Keegan "Fiction Writing Seminar" Admission: €25 (incl. free entry to Claire Keegan's reading at 2.30pm). This is a unique opportunity for all writers – beginners to advanced – to spend a morning with widely acclaimed short story writer and experienced teacher of creative writing, Claire Keegan. Claire and the participants will investigate narrative structure, dialogue and character development. Examples from Chekov and McGahern will be used to explore the shape of fiction. Participants' questions will be addressed throughout the morning.

11.00 - 1.00 Stand-up comedian Abie Philbin Bowman "Funny Business: a comedy workshop" Admission: €20/ Concessions €15. Ever fantasized about being your own boss, speaking your mind and travelling the world, making people laugh? Now is your opportunity to start the new career you've always dreamt of - could you be the next Dara O'Brian? This intensive comedy workshop will explore the artistic and business sides of comedy - creating valuable work and convincing people to appreciate it.

11.00 - 1.00 Poets' Corner Admission/Donation €5.
Published and emerging poets will read from their own work. The event will be facilitated by Grace Brennan. Featuring poets from Scribblers in Mullingar, Ballymahon Writers Group and Castle Writers Group. Open forum, all welcome.

1.00 - 2.00 pm Lunch

2.00 - 3.30 Kibeggan Writers' Group Open Mike. Admission: €5/Student Concession: Free
A group of young writers from the Midlands curate this event. This group of 10 teenage writers are seasoned performers of their own work and will each read on the day.

2.30 - 3.30 Claire Keegan Reading from Walk The Blue Fields Admission: €5. Claire Keegan will be reading from her most recent works. Claire is an electrifying and dramatic reader who engages with her audience.

3.00 - 4.30 The Life, Times and Works of Michael D. Higgins TD. Admission: €10. Interview by Donncha O Connell, Lecturer in Law, NUI Galway and editor of The Irish Human Rights Law Review.

Join us afterwards for a complimentary cocktail called "Willie Ryan", in memory of John Broderick, specially commissioned by the Festival Committee.

Friends Wanted

This is your opportunity to support the Athlone Literary Festival. Join with us and enjoy your best festival ever. Benefits include free admission to most of the literary events of the weekend. The friend's rate of subscription is €50. Apply to :

Athlone Literary Festival,
NIB Building
Northgate Street
Athlone,
Co Westmeath
or email:
literaryathlone@gmail.com

Sunday 26 September

12.00 - 1.00 Athlone's Sunday Miscellany. Admission/Donation €5 . Radisson Hotel
Featuring published writers Gearoid O'Brien, Jean Farrell, Lorraine Francis, Liam Horan and Jason Gill, interspersed with the unique harmonies of About Time, a ladies quartet, and the melodious guitar-playing of Tony Dunne.

To make a booking ring 086 3671039 or email literaryathlone@gmail.com

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