



**BELFAST**



**BOOK**

**FESTIVAL**

**7-16 June**

**2019**

[BelfastBookFestival.com](http://BelfastBookFestival.com)



## Introduction

With over 80 diverse events taking place in venues across the city, we are delighted to have assembled a great line-up for our 9th Belfast Book Festival. This year's festival has been designed with all in mind and will welcome both celebrated international authors and poets, as well as showcasing the wealth of local talent that defines our thriving literary community. Books matter, authors matter and words matter. They must be cherished and championed. This is the ethos with which we have proudly programmed this year's Belfast Book Festival. Our theme is **where do you like to read**, and we'd love for you to join the conversation at **#BelfastBook** and share your favourite place to enjoy a book. A huge thank you to our funders, sponsors, partners, staff and of course you, our festival goers for your kind support - we can only do what we do, because of you.

### Charlotte Jess, Chair, The Crescent Arts Centre, 2019

The Belfast Book Festival, with its broad and accessible approach to all things literary, covering all manner of genres, from children's novels to sporting biographies and much else in between, has inspired the city to think differently about books. The programme for 2019 matches with a renewed energy and vision the very best editions of this vibrant celebration, convening a wonderful gathering of writers, thinkers, personalities and opinion-formers, all of whom reach for creative words to achieve their ambitions. The Arts Council, as principal funder, is proud to support the ninth Belfast Book Festival as it continues to promote the immeasurable joy of books, in all their forms.

### Damian Smyth, Head of Literature and Drama, Arts Council of Northern Ireland

**Festival Programmer** Peter McCloskey

**Assistant Programmer** Manuela Moser

# BOOKING...

#### Online

[BelfastBookFestival.com](http://BelfastBookFestival.com)

#### By Telephone

028 9024 2338

#### In Person

The Crescent  
2-4 University Road  
Belfast  
BT7 1NH



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## EARLY EVENING MENU

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SUNDAY–THURSDAY | 5PM–7PM | 40A CHURCH LANE, BELFAST, BT1 4QN

# FRIDAY 7 JUNE





## David Kogan

### Protest and Power: The Battle for The Labour Party

We are delighted to open the Belfast Book Festival 2019 with **David Kogan** as he discusses his new book **Protest and Power**. Exploring the history of the Labour party over the last 40 years, the book chronicles the continued struggle for supremacy between right and left, and asks whether the Labour party now exists only to stand as opposition or whether it might once again find power. Revealing the story from those at the centre of it, David interviews the likes of Neil Kinnock, Tony Blair, Ed Miliband and current members of Momentum, to trace the journey of the left through years of defeat, New Labour, and a surprising comeback in 2015. Join us as we ask questions such as whether the left can learn from its mistakes and overcome party-wide fissures, and whether the Labour party can save the country in these uncertain times.

6pm

£8 | £6

The Crescent

## Sinéad Gleeson & Kevin Breathnach

### Constellations & Tunnel Vision

The Belfast Book Festival is delighted to welcome two of Ireland's most exciting new writers, **Sinéad Gleeson** and **Kevin Breathnach**, as they discuss their powerful and daring debut collections. The personal essay is experiencing a renaissance; the genre is gaining speed. Join Kevin and Sinead as they discuss the essay and the room it offers for talking about themes as diverse as art, pornography, the body, politics, and grief in starkly truthful ways.

6.30pm

£7 | £5

The Crescent



## Will Self

### In conversation with Michael Hughes

Since he burst onto the scene in 1991 **Will Self** has astounded the literary world with his signature wit and satire in twelve novels, six short story collections and seven collections of non-fiction.

Extravagant and grotesquely fantastical, Will's writing shifts our perspective by creating a variety of vastly unstable versions of the world. His extensive career reaches beyond the novel towards the factual, as a frequent contributor to BBC Radio 4, The Guardian, The New York Times, the New Statesman, and many more.

Join Will in conversation with Northern Irish novelist **Michael Hughes**.

8.00pm

£12 | £10

The Crescent



# The Seamus Heaney Centre Presents ...TIME

Throughout 2019 **The Seamus Heaney Centre**, in association with **The Crescent**, have presented an evening where participants have seven minutes to present on a theme, whether poetry, prose, drama, show-and-tell, original work, or something revisited.

With the Heaney Centre's diverse set of writers to draw on, presentations can take any form. Join us for the next in the series, the theme of TIME.

8.30pm  
**A Free Event**  
The Crescent



# SATURDAY 8 JUNE



## Drag Story Time

With Electra & Dickie Bow

**Drag Story Time** brings your favourite childhood stories to life through the art of drag! Join **Electra** and **Dickie Bow** for an afternoon of family friendly fun, where they will read from books that will take you on an adventure filled with laughter and colour and teach you to be you! **Drag Story Time** has been in libraries and venues across Northern Ireland, championing individuality and inclusivity amongst its young audiences, and is now coming to The Belfast Book Festival! Featuring singalongs and dancing, this event is suitable for all ages and families.

12pm

**A Free Event**

The Crescent

## Lord David Owen

Hubris: The Road to Donald Trump

With Seamus McKee

In today's political climate we are faced with world leaders who are narcissists, depressives and alcoholics, affected by hubris and driven by religious beliefs, but none are more threatening to the current world order than Donald Trump, President of the United States. In **Lord David Owen's** new book, the former MP, Foreign Secretary, doctor and founding member of the SDP, offers us a new way of seeing Trump, placing him within a historical, political, philosophical and medical context. Examining the mental and physical conditions of past and present political leaders to show us that what went before paved the way to President Trump. Join Lord Owen, in conversation with BBC's **Seamus McKee**, as the two discuss Trump, hubris, health and narcissism.

2pm

**£10 | £8**

The Crescent



## Crime at The Crescent

### Creative Surgery

With Katherine Armstrong, Vanessa O'Loughlin, Catriona King, Claire Allan & Anthony Quinn

Have you always wanted to speed-date but were too nervous? Come and speed-date with these crime writing industry experts, from literary scouts to editors to novelists, as they offer advice on how to edit a manuscript, pitch to agents and publishers, build your author profile and network as a writer.

2pm

**£7 | £5**

The Crescent

### Crime at The Crescent: Panel Discussion

With Anthony Quinn, Claire Allan, Sam Blake and Katherine Armstrong  
Chaired by Sharon Dempsey

**Crime at The Crescent** promises to delve into the world of detectives and villains, suspense and mysteries, thrilling plots and satisfying endings, as these crime novelists and editors discuss the ins and outs of writing crime. From thrillers to spies, whodunits to locked room mysteries, come and detect the true meaning of crime writing in Ireland today.

4pm

**£8 | £6**

The Crescent





## Emma Dabiri

### Don't Touch My Hair

Recent years have seen the conversation around black hair reach tipping point, yet detractors still proclaim, 'It's only hair!' when it never is. A teaching fellow in the Africa department at SOAS University of London, a television presenter, radio broadcaster and acclaimed writer, we're thrilled to welcome **Emma Dabiri** to this year's Belfast Book Festival. Touching on everything from women's solidarity and friendship, to forgotten African scholars, to the dubious provenance of Kim Kardashian's braids, **Don't Touch My Hair** proves that far from being only hair, black hairstyling culture can be understood as an allegory for black oppression and ultimately, liberation.

4pm  
£8 | £6  
The Crescent



## Connal Parr

### The Protestant Imagination

Protestant working-class communities are often accused of having 'no culture' other than the Orange Order and marching bands. However, **Connal Parr's** book **Inventing the Myth: Political Passions and the Ulster Protestant Imagination**, shows an alternative culture emerging through a range of dramatists and writers from a Protestant working-class background, many of whom were involved in progressive causes and Labour politics. Shortlisted for the **Ewart-Biggs Literary Prize** and the **Royal Historical Society's Whitfield Prize**, this elegantly-written book shatters a number of myths along the way and is sure to provoke debate and discussion for years to come. Join us to hear Connal discuss the themes of politics and culture in Ireland, as they emerge through Ulster Protestantism.

4.30pm  
£8 | £6  
Strand Arts Centre



## Naomi Wolf

### Outrages: Sex, Censorship and the Criminalisation of Love In Conversation with Hubert O'Hearn

Join **Naomi Wolf**, one of the most influential feminists of our time, as she discusses her new book **Outrages** and her fascinating career as a social activist, bestselling author, journalist and former political advisor to Al Gore and Bill Clinton.

Following the publication of her controversial, international bestseller **The Beauty Myth**, in 1990, Naomi Wolf became one of the most prominent voices of third wave feminism. She has continued to publish books at the forefront of contemporary feminist thought, including **Vagina** and **The End of America**.

**Outrages** explores the pervasive and persistent effect that The Obscene Publications Act of 1857 has had on British and American society, gay and women's rights and Western culture and literature. From policing speech, to the rise of homophobia, to artists whose lives were shadowed by jeopardy, such as Walt Whitman, Oscar Wilde and Christina Rossetti, this book asks whether morality should be a legal concept, and what happens when it becomes one.

6pm  
£12 | £10  
The Crescent



## Doire Press Poetry Launch

Glen Wilson & Moyra Donaldson  
With Damian Smyth & Mel McMahon

Join us for the launch of two exciting new poetry collections by **Glen Wilson** and **Moyra Donaldson**. Glen's debut collection **An Experience on the Tongue** takes us on a journey around the world, all the while revelling in the natural world and a whole host of characters. He is the winner of the 2017 **Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing**. Moyra's eighth collection **Carnivorous** draws on myth, nature and memory to illuminate the extraordinary in the ordinary. The poet expands upon her previous themes of fluidity of the self and time, making sense of humanity's need for order, in intimate, beautiful poems. She is an award winning and critically acclaimed poet and creative writing facilitator.

6pm  
A Free Event  
The Crescent

## The River Mill Presents:

Miriam Gamble, Eoghan Walls & Alex Wylie  
With Paul Maddern

Join **Paul Maddern** in welcoming three fantastic poets for a celebration of their new collections. **What Planet?** is **Miriam Gamble's** third collection. It is dark, poignant and uproarious, setting the individuality of perception and the inventiveness of memory against fixed certainties, probing the chaos and madness of this post-truth world. **Pigeon Songs** is **Eoghan Walls'** second collection and is steeped in themes of love and loss. Holding the pigeon as a totem for the dichotomy of down-to-earth physicality and the astonishing ability to take flight. **Secular Games** is **Alex Wylie's** debut collection. Reaching across time and space, in exacting, sensuous, restless language, these poems range from ninth-century Japan, to Renaissance Italy to intergalactic travel to the surface of Venus.

8pm  
£8 | £6  
The Crescent



## Cake Daddy

Ross Anderson-Doherty

Returning to Belfast after a sell-out Australian tour, we are delighted to welcome to the Belfast Book Festival **Cake Daddy**.

Cake Daddy is a deliciously indulgent musical extravaganza that explores what it means to be fat in a fat-phobic world.

This brilliant, interactive performance plunges belly deep inside one gorgeous queer man's experience of fat/ness, refusing to diet or apologise for taking up space, and laying bare the fortitude and fabulosity required to step into the world as a fat person today.

So come with us on a uniquely personal and hilarious journey, that angrily and uproariously unpacks the intricacies of fatness through song, conversation and cake.

Cake Daddy's gonna make your cake RISE!

9.30pm  
£15 | £13  
The Crescent







**JOHNS ELLIOT**

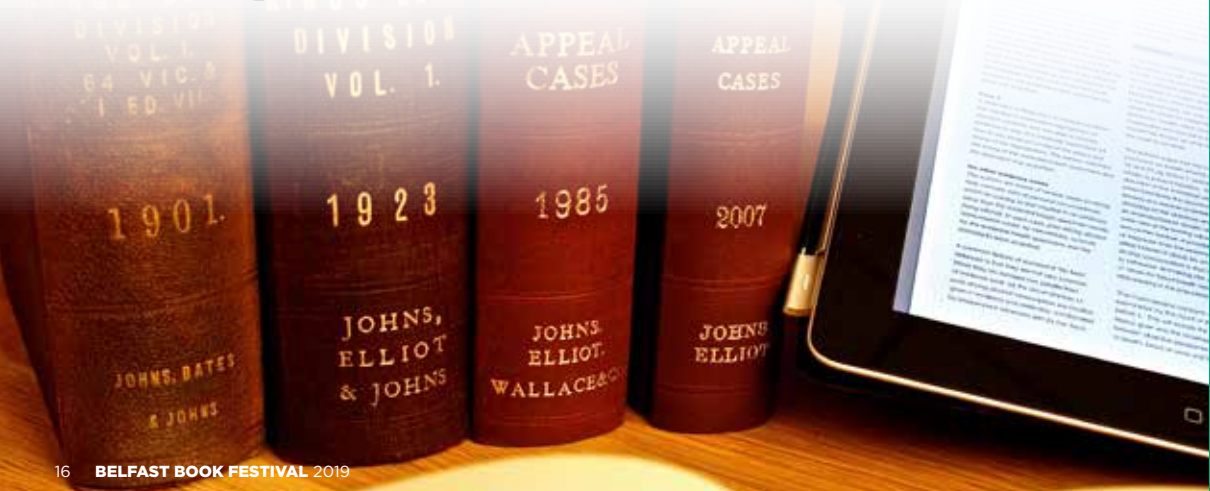
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**SUNDAY  
9 JUNE**



## Scarlet Ink: Belfast Women Crime Writers

With Kelly Creighton, Catriona King  
& Sharon Dempsey  
Chaired by Sharon Thompson

Agatha Christie, Ruth Rendell, PD James. Women have shattered the glass ceiling of crime writing with all manner of instruments and continue to do so to this day. These wonderful writers have produced a whole host of bestsellers which have contributed to crime writing in Ireland, the UK and internationally. Join us as we welcome to the Festival's stage, four of Belfast's leading women Crime Writers as they share with you their thrilling stories.

2pm  
£7 | £5  
The Crescent



## Literary Issues

The Stinging Fly & The Tangerine

Join two of Ireland's most exciting literary magazines for an afternoon of readings from contributors to their newest issues. **The Tangerine** is a Belfast-based magazine of new writing established in 2016, publishing poetry, short stories, long-form essays, reviews, illustrations and photography. **The Stinging Fly** was established in 1997 to seek out, publish and promote the very best new Irish and international writing.

2.30pm  
£7 | £5  
The Crescent



## 'Don't Anticipate the Ending' A Life's Work in Progress

Brian Friel Archive Performance  
with Zosia Kuczyńska, Jessie Keenan & Robbie Blake

Drawing on **Brian Friel's Dancing at Lughnasa**, this illustrated talk explores the ways in which the major Irish playwright has influenced the work of contemporary artists. This exciting new work by emerging artists, **Dr. Zosia Kuczyńska, Jessie Keenan** and **Robbie Blake**, combines scholarship, movement and sound to explore the relationship between archives and performance. They will ask how we can take archived work beyond the library to set a legacy not in stone but in motion. This event is part of an **Irish Research Council** postdoctoral fellowship by Dr. Zosia Kuczyńska, featuring archive materials from the **Brian Friel Papers** (reproduced courtesy of the **National Library of Ireland** and by kind permission of the **Brian Friel Estate**).

4pm  
£6 | £4  
The Crescent



## Belfast Stories Anthology

Edited by Paul McVeigh & Lisa Frank  
With Damian Smyth

Join **Doire Press** for the launch of **Belfast Stories**. It is a collection of short fiction set throughout the neighbourhoods of the city, written by both established and emerging writers, who live in or have a strong connection to Belfast. Some of the writers in **Belfast Stories** include: **Jan Carson, Wendy Erskine, Caoilinn Hughes, Michael Nolan, David Park, Glenn Patterson, Ian Sansom, Dawn Watson** and **Shannon Yee**. The preface and photos are by **Malachi O'Doherty**. This launch event will include readings by some of the writers featured in the anthology, including **Jan Carson, Bernie McGill, Dawn Watson** and **Shannon Yee**, among others, and will be launched by **Damian Smyth**.

5pm  
**A Free Event**  
The Crescent



The Seamus Heaney Centre presents

## Tracy K Smith

Introduced by Gail McConnell

We are delighted to welcome the **Poet Laureate of the United States, Tracy K Smith**, to the Belfast Book Festival.

Tracy is the author of four poetry collections, including **Life on Mars**, which won the **Pulitzer Prize** and **Wade in the Water**, which was shortlisted for the **T S Eliot Prize**.

Her poetry is both lyrical and political, combining beautiful, serene language with an undercurrent of the vast, haunted unknown. Tackling themes from human desire and grief, to race and faith, Tracy K Smith's poetry is inquisitive, transcendent and luminous.

This event is in partnership with **The Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, Queen's University**.

6pm  
**A Free Event**  
The Crescent



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## Gerald Dawe

In Another World: Van Morrison and Belfast

Join **Gerald Dawe** as he takes us on a unique trip through Belfast and beyond. This journey explores the relationship between northern writers and popular music in an illustrated talk that is soulful and inventive as it dives into the work of Michael Longley, Van Morrison, Derek Mahon, Jimmy Kennedy, Stuart Parker, Leontia Flynn, Lucy Caldwell and Geraldine Quigley, to explore the mystic world of poetry and music. Gerald Dawe has published over twenty books of poetry and prose and a new poetry collection will be published later this year.

7pm  
**£8 | £6**  
The Crescent



## The North Magazine Launch

With Nessa O'Mahony, Jane Clarke, Ann Sansom & Peter Sansom

Join the editors of **The North**, one of the UK's most prestigious poetry magazines, for the launch of a special Irish poetry issue. Guest edited by **Jane Clarke** and **Nessa O'Mahony**, this issue of **The North** provides a showcase of the finest writing of, and about, poetry in Ireland today. The issue includes 120 new poems by 107 poets along with reviews and feature articles that offer a snapshot of Irish poetry today. Come and celebrate poetry with readings by **Maureen Boyle, Stephanie Conn, Paula Cunningham, Moyra Donaldson, Gaynor Kane, Maria McManus, Joan Newmann, Kate Newmann, Heather Richardson, Damian Smyth** and **Shelley Tracey**.

8.30pm  
**A Free Event**  
The Crescent





## Reni Eddo-Lodge

In Conversation with Emma Dabiri

In 2014 **Reni Eddo-Lodge**, who was already an award-winning journalist, posted a piece on her blog entitled, "Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race".

Born out of her frustrations with the way in which discussions of race and racism in Britain were being led by those who weren't affected by it, her words hit a nerve and the post went viral. Galvanised by the clear hunger for open discussion, Reni decided to dig deeper.

The consequent multi-award winning book, **Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race** explores issues from eradicated black history to the political purpose of white dominance, whitewashed feminism to the inextricable link between class and race.

We are thrilled to have Reni join us at the Belfast Book Festival to discuss, in conversation with **Emma Dabiri**, her illuminating, searing and essential exploration of what it is to be a person of colour in Britain today.

8pm

£12 | £10

The Crescent



# MONDAY 10 JUNE



## Michael Hughes

Country

In conversation with Stephen Connolly

**Michael Hughes** performs a literary feat in his latest novel **Country**. Taking inspiration from the oldest tale of all, **Homer's Iliad**, he tells the tale of Northern Ireland in 1996, on the brink of ceasefire after twenty-five years of conflict. When an IRA man's wife turns informer, he and his brother gather old comrades for an assault on the local army base. But when the squad's sniper refuses to fight, the SAS are sent in to crush them before it can wreck the fragile truce and drag the whole region back to the darkest days of The Troubles. This novel explores the brutality of armed conflict and the bitter tragedy of those on both sides who offer their lives to defend their country.

6pm

£7 | £5

The Crescent



## Laura Thomas

Just Eat It

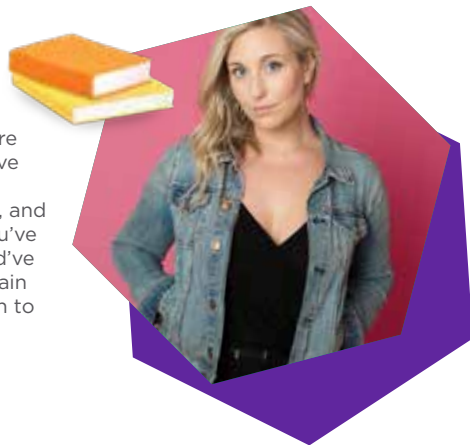
With Sarah Firby

Have you ever been on a diet? Compared your waistline to someone else's? Felt guilty about eating a doughnut? You are not alone. Join **Laura Thomas** as she talks us through intuitive eating. **Just Eat It** is not just a book. It looks to free us from restrictive dieting, disordered eating and punishing exercise, and rejects the guilt and anxiety associated with eating. So if you've ever spent time worrying about your weight when you could've been doing something useful, come and listen to Laura explain that with intuitive eating there are no rules except one: listen to your body and mind.

6pm

£8 | £6

The Crescent



## Reimagining Global Abortion Politics

Fiona Bloomer & Claire Pierson

In Conversation with Elizabeth Nelson

What are the contemporary global issues in the politics of abortion? Why do people in different countries have varying levels of access to abortion? These are the key questions posed by **Fiona Bloomer**, **Claire Pierson** and **Sylvia Estrada Claudio** in their new book **Reimagining Global Abortion Politics**, which looks at abortion around the world. Join **Elizabeth Nelson** in conversation with Fiona and Claire as they talk about what motivated them to write the book and the global trends in abortion politics, including societal influences, such as religion, nationalism and culture, the impact of international human rights' norms, the role of activists and the growing focus on reproductive justice.

7.30pm

A Free Event

The American Bar

## Dr. Richard Shepherd

Unnatural Causes: The Life and Many Deaths of Britain's Top Forensic Pathologist

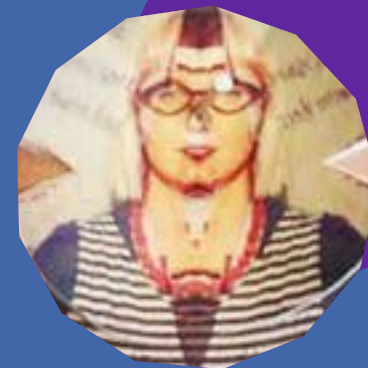
Brutally honest, often funny and at times downright bizarre, **Unnatural Causes** charts the 25 year long career of **Dr. Richard Shepherd**, the UK's foremost forensic pathologist, who has a unique passion for discovering the truth that a body leaves behind in the wake of death. Richard's obsession with deciphering the puzzles of his silent patients has led to his working on over 23,000 cases, including 9/11, the Bali Bombings and the deaths of Princess Diana and Stephen Lawrence. The continued exposure to some of the worst acts of violence imaginable inevitably took its toll, and Richard was eventually diagnosed with PTSD, although it has not dampened his faith in humanity. Come and listen to this vivid account of human frailty and resilience.

8pm

£10 | £8

The Crescent

This event is sponsored by  
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SOLICITORS

# Paul Maddern

The Tipping Line

With staging by Mícheál McCann

"For you, I'll create an amphitheatre" begins **Paul Maddern's** poem **The Tipping Line**.

Come and be enchanted by **Paul Maddern** as he takes us on a journey from Donegal to Bermuda, from Leeds to London to New York, exploring the multitude of life and the flux of the wor(l)d.

From Shakespeare to Paul Nash, Camden market to catalogues of soldiers' possessions, and all the paraphernalia in between, this unique exploration of poetry reaches out from the page and comes to life before our eyes. Innovative and exciting, this performance will be a poignant mixture of words, music and images.

8pm

£8 | £6

The Crescent



# TUESDAY 11 JUNE



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Northern Ireland

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## Cancer Focus NI 50th Anniversary Literary Journal Launch

**Cancer Focus NI** supports people on their cancer journey through a number of creative therapies. To celebrate their **50th anniversary**, the charity is holding an event to showcase the creative therapies used, including the launch of a literary journal written by those who have used their services. Writers will perform readings of their work, many of which will be in the literary journal. There will also be input from their art therapy group who have produced a quilt to mark the 50th anniversary and the evening will be rounded off by the Cancer Focus NI **Sing for Life Choir**. Register at [cancerfocusni.org](http://cancerfocusni.org)

5.30pm  
**A Free Event**  
The Crescent



## Deric Henderson & Ivan Little

**Reporting The Troubles: Journalists tell the stories of the Northern Ireland conflict**  
In conversation with **Seamus McKee**

Marking fifty years since the beginning of The Troubles, this new book brings together over sixty stories from the journalists who were on the ground during the 30-year conflict. From eyewitness accounts of major atrocities, to meeting bereaved relatives, to dealings with paramilitaries and the state, these journalists reveal how they traversed the landscape of The Troubles with an absolute commitment to telling the truth. Join the editors **Deric Henderson** and **Ivan Little**, who will be in conversation with **Seamus McKee**, talking about the stories in the book and how they ended up with a compelling multi-voiced account of one of the most turbulent periods in recent history.

6pm  
**£8 | £6**  
The Crescent



## Medbh McGuckian

In conversation with **Padraig Regan**

**Medbh McGuckian's** poetry is all-encompassing, from the richness of the interior to the vastness of the world. This is a poet who can talk at once about the intensity of being a human, and the complexities of the world. She questions the constructions of power and gender and offers a unique perspective on what it is to be a woman in Ireland today. Medbh has published 15 collections of poetry and has won numerous prizes, including **The Rooney Prize**. Come and hear as Medbh reads from her work and will be in conversation with **Padraig Regan**.

6.30pm  
**£7 | £5**  
Baltic at Bullitt Hotel



## Jack Monroe

In Conversation with **Elizabeth Nelson**

A food writer, journalist and fearless campaigner, we're delighted to welcome **Jack Monroe** to Belfast. Jack isn't just another "celebrity chef". If you've ever struggled to make a dish because the recipe calls for an exotic ingredient you've never heard of that costs as much as your weekly shop, then Jack's **Tin Can Cook**, is the recipe book for you. Doing away with the effort; all her dishes are exciting and new, but you won't have to go further than the supermarket. Join Jack as she discusses why **Tin Can Cook** is not only timely in this age of austerity but what it says about the society in which we live in; that a recipe book like this, to so many people in Britain today could prove to be an essential addition to their kitchen.

7.30pm  
**£12 | £10**  
The Black Box



## Terry Waite

### Solitude

**Terry Waite** was kept hostage in Beirut for a total of 1,763 days: four years in almost total solitude. In this fascinating book, Terry travels the world to explore what solitude means to a variety of people: from those in the intelligence services, to a man who chose to live in the Australian outback, from Stalin's daughter to convicted murderers. Come and listen to Terry as he explores his own solitude amidst the solitude of others and in doing so will make the case for how solitude can be a rich and important experience in today's frantic world.

7.30pm

£10 | £8

The Crescent



Poetry NI presents

## Incoming

Join **Colin Dardis**, **Linda McKenna**, **Geraldine O'Kane** and **Ross Thompson** for a showcase of forthcoming work from four of the most promising poets Northern Ireland currently has to offer. With a multitude of awards and competition listings between them, this reading will offer a snapshot of the full-length collections to come in the year ahead and manuscripts in progress. Don't miss this unique opportunity to catch a sneak preview of four singular and remarkable, emerging voices.

8pm

A Free Event

The Crescent



## The Lifeboat

With Caitlin Newby & Scott McKendry

Join **The Lifeboat** in launching two brand new poetry pamphlets by **Caitlin Newby** and **Scott McKendry**. Exuberant, imaginative and truly distinctive, their poetry journeys through North Belfast, France, America and beyond, taking in the multitude of the world and transforming it before your very eyes. With a diverse cast of characters, from Chagall to the RUC, Berger to Lenin, these poets write the weird and the wonderful with an infectious humour and emotional resonance.

8.30pm

A Free Event

The Sunflower Bar

Poetry NI presents

## The Belfast Book Festival Poetry Slam

Open to all poets, we invite you to take the mic and enter our annual poetry slam competition. Share your work in front of a lively and appreciative audience, with new readers always welcome. To enter, just register at the start of the night; names will be drawn out at random, with each poet invited onstage to read. The winner will receive the **Brain Bailey Memorial Cup**, in tribute to the much missed poet and pioneer of the Belfast live poetry scene. Available slots will be limited to 22 due to time constraints, so it's first come, first served! For full rules of entry, please see [poetryni.com/slam\\_rules](http://poetryni.com/slam_rules)

9.30pm

£5

The Crescent



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**WEDNESDAY**  
**12 JUNE**





## Breaking New Ground

Teachers, librarians and parents all know how important it is for young readers to access great books that inspire and enthrall. But children's books also need to reflect the diversity of our world, our communities and families. **Breaking New Ground** is a beautifully designed catalogue which champions and celebrates over 100 British children's writers and illustrators of colour. Come and learn more about how and why children from all backgrounds deserve to see each other in the books they read. This is a free event open to all the public but especially beneficial to teachers and librarians. To register, please email [sean@pop-up.org.uk](mailto:sean@pop-up.org.uk).

4pm

**A Free Event (Limited spaces available)**

The Crescent

## The Art of the Short Story

With Jan Carson, Wendy Erskine & Jamie Guiney

*"The short story apologizes for nothing. It exults in its shortness,"* said Stephen Milhauser. The short story is a unique form. A condensed expression of ideas and words, both reading and writing short stories are very different experiences to reading or writing novels. Join some of our finest Northern Irish short story writers for an in-depth discussion on the creative process of short story writing, and reading. **Jan Carson, Wendy Erskine** and **Jamie Guiney** will be discussing what drew them to the short form, the special skills involved in writing short stories, their influences and the present and future of the short story. **Book via Watersones, Belfast.**

6pm

**£5**

Waterstones



## Prue Leith

The Lost Son  
With Kerry McLean

What many people don't realise about renowned chef, restaurateur, food writer and judge of **The Great British Bake Off**, **Prue Leith**, is that she is also the author of seven romantic novels.

Dive into the scandalous world of **The Angelottii Chronicles**, an epic saga that traces the lives of the Angelotti family through love, loss and the restaurant industry. In this final instalment, a son, given up for adoption during the war, returns home with devastating consequences that threaten the stability of the family and the restaurant empire that has taken fifty years to build.

Come on down and join Prue Leith in conversation with **BBC Radio Ulster's Kerry McLean**, as they talk books, cakes and necklaces.

6.30pm

**£12 | £10**

The Crescent

This event is sponsored by **Bullitt Hotel**



The Seamus Heaney Centre presents

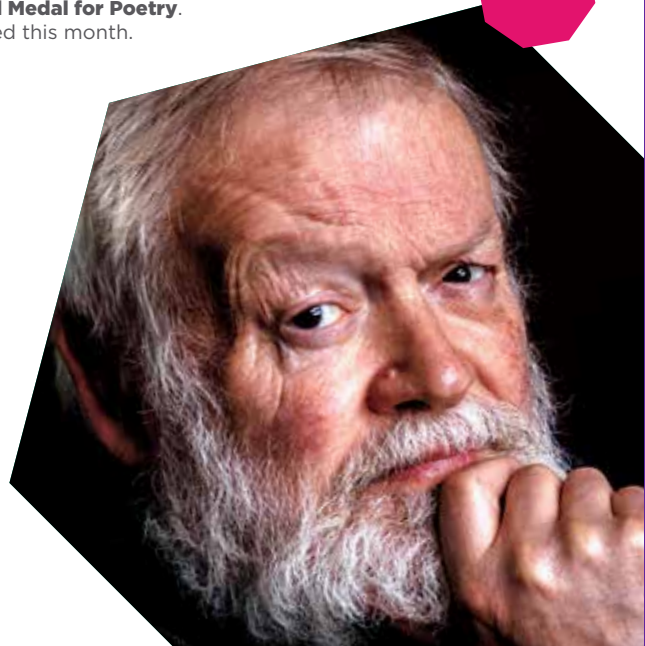
## Michael Longley at 80: A Celebration

In celebration of the 80th birthday of renowned poet and national treasure **Michael Longley**, come and listen to the man himself reading poetry and in conversation, alongside readings of his work by students and colleagues, and a musical performance of Michael's poems by **Duke Special**.

Michael's poetry is deeply meditative, emotional and at times provocative. He delves into the poetry of Homer to cast light upon contemporary concerns, while at the same time delights in the natural world and the beauty of language.

He has published eleven books of poetry, most recently **Angel Hill**. He has been awarded many prizes, including the **T S Eliot** and the **Yakamochi Medal**, a **CBE** and the **Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry**. His pamphlet **A Stream's Tattle** will be published this month.

7pm  
**A Free Event**  
The Great Hall, Queen's University



## Jamie Bartlett

The People Vs Tech: How the Internet is Killing Democracy (and how we save it)

**The People Vs Tech: How the Internet is Killing Democracy** (and how we save it) is the new book from bestselling author, **Jamie Bartlett**. Each week the news is full of stories about 'big tech', Russian hackers and Facebook's growing role in politics. Under all of this noise is a simple truth; digital technology and democracy are incompatible. So what do we do? Jamie Bartlett proposes some answers. This event is part of the **Web 20** series in partnership with the **British Council NI** and focuses on the impact of the web on our lives, 30 years since the World Wide Web was launched. **To book your place visit [NIScienceFestival.com](http://NIScienceFestival.com)**

7pm  
**£7 | £4**  
14+ years  
The MAC



CinePunked Presents

## Burn All Books

Join us for a heated panel discussion on censorship in literature and cinema, inspired by Ray Bradbury's novel and the **François Truffaut** film adaptation of Fahrenheit 451. Who is to say what we should and shouldn't read? Should we ban books? Which books would you like to eradicate? The panel includes CinePunked's own **Robert JE Simpson** and **R.B. Kelly** plus **Steven Rainey** and **Neil Sedgewick**. Post panel, join us for a ceremonial book burning. Bring along a book you'd like to see go up in flames and join the debate.\*

*\*All titles to be pre-registered before the ceremony. Sacred texts will not be permitted for the burning. Contact [Cinepunked.com](http://Cinepunked.com) to register your chosen book.*

7.30pm  
**£10 | £8**  
Babel at Bullitt Hotel





## Shane Koyczan

Supported by Alice McCullough

Internationally celebrated Canadian spoken word poet **Shane Koyczan** is bringing his exciting performance to Belfast for the first time ever and we are delighted to welcome him to the Festival. Navigating social and political territory with furious energy and a tender humanity in high gear rhythmic verse, Shane is someone not to be missed.

Turning his hand to more than spoken word, Shane has written a verse novel, a graphic novel, libretti and many songs. His first collection, **Visiting Hours**, won **Best Book of the Year** from The Guardian and The Globe and Mail, he is a **U.S. Slam Champion** and he performed at the opening ceremony of the **2010 Winter Olympics**.

Come on this poetic journey with a 21st century virtuoso.

8.30pm  
**£12 | £10**  
The Crescent

# THURSDAY 13 JUNE





## Paul Muldoon

With Stephen Connolly

Paul Muldoon's career spans decades and genres. He is a poet, lyricist, librettist, translator, critic, editor and professor. He has won an array of literary prizes including the **Pulitzer**, the **T S Eliot**, and the **Griffin International Prize for Excellence in Poetry**. With twelve major collections from **New Weather** to **Quoof**, **Moy Sand** and **Gravel** to **One Thousand Things Worth Knowing**, Paul Muldoon is one of our most prolific and celebrated contemporary poets. Come and listen, as Paul reads his work and in the company of **Stephen Connolly** discusses his multifaceted poetry and career.

6pm

£10 | £8

The Crescent



## Dawn Watson & Conor Cleary

The Stack of Owls is Getting Higher & Priced Out

Join **Dawn Watson** and **Conor Cleary** for the launch of two new pamphlets by **Emma Press** that offer a striking sidelong perspective on contemporary life and relationships. From the ominous landscapes of the American South to the 'faux colonnades' of 1980s Tralee, taking in raw explorations of personal awakening and Twitter threads about medieval bees, these poets explore how the physical and economic landscapes in which we exist shape our inner lives, with a winning blend of wit and vivid observation.

8pm

A Free Event

Baltic at Bullitt Hotel



## Alan Johnson

In My Life

With Steven Cockcroft

Come with us on a journey to a world that is no longer, as **The Sunday Times** bestselling author **Alan Johnson** tells his story of growing up with a passion for music in a London that has long gone.

A world of Dansettes and jukeboxes, Bowie and Springsteen, smoky coffee shops and dingy dance halls, Bob Dylan and The Beatles, Alan talks us through his life as a young aspiring musician, a postman, a prominent Union member, an MP and member of the New Labour cabinet.

**In My Life** is Alan Johnson's third memoir, following on from **This Boy**, winner of the **Orwell Prize** in 2013, and **Please Mister Postman**, winner of the **National Book Award for Autobiography** in 2014.

8pm

£12 | £10

The Crescent

This event is sponsored by  
**Johns Elliot Solicitors**

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## Beckett into Music

Musical performance by Benjamin Dwyer,  
Maya Homburger, Barry Guy & Barry McGovern

Join us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Samuel Beckett** winning the Nobel Prize for Literature by immersing yourself in beautiful original compositions inspired by Beckett's writing.

**What is the Word** is a musical meditation on three pieces of writing by Samuel Beckett, **Neither**, **Worstward Ho** and **What is the Word**, composed by **Benjamin Dwyer** for electric guitar, double bass, violin and voice.

As a prelude to **What is the Word** there will be three short performances; **Six Residua**, **Hommage a Eberhard Feltz**, and **Fizzles**. This promises to be a beautiful, poignant musical performance in celebration of one of Ireland's greatest writers.

8pm  
£12 | £10  
The Crescent



# FRIDAY 14 JUNE



## The Fantastical Mirror: Science Fiction Across Boundaries

A panel discussion with Jo Zebedee, Byddi Lee & Patrick McLaughlin

Science fiction is the 'mirror' genre, which gives a safe place to reflect on the world around us. Yet, in Northern Ireland the genre does not have the visibility that might be expected. This panel will explore what is happening in the genre locally and why it has not, as of yet, gained prominence in Northern Ireland. Is it a lack of people writing the genre, a lack of visibility for those who do, or does infrastructure and how we support writing and writers have a part to play, too? **Book via Watersones, Belfast.**

3pm  
£3  
Waterstones

## Common People: An Anthology of Working-Class Writers

With Kit de Waal, Paul McVeigh & Louise Doughty

This new anthology of writing has been collated by **Kit de Waal** in response to a concern that the working-class voice is still a marginalised one. Bringing together thirty-three contributors, **Common People** is a book of essays, poetry and memoir that reflects upon the diverse experiences of growing up working-class. It is a celebration told through the eyes of some of our most celebrated writers and brand new as-yet-unpublished writers. Join **Kit de Waal**, **Paul McVeigh** and **Louise Doughty** as they discuss writing that seeks to illuminate the voices of the many not the few.

6pm  
£10 | £8  
The Crescent



## Leontia Flynn

In conversation with Susannah Dickey

**Leontia Flynn's** poetry is funny and observant, covering vast landscapes in a wry, restless voice. Whether writing about the instability of being an adult and a mother, or the constructed nature of childhood, playing with an obsession with the Internet and nostalgia, or travelling on journeys around the world, her poetry is mischievous and surprising. She has published four collections of poetry, most recently, **Profit and Loss** and **The Radio**, both shortlisted for the **T S Eliot Prize**. Come and hear as Leontia reads from her work and is in conversation with **Susannah Dickey**.

6.30pm  
£7 | £5  
Baltic at Bullitt Hotel

## Ian Sansom

The Sussex Murder  
With David Torrns

Come with us on a magical mystery journey into the wonderful mind of novelist **Ian Sansom** with the fifth instalment of his County Guides: **The Sussex Murder**. Watch as our intrepid trio, Morley, Miriam and Sefton, plunge once again into the dark heart of England. Set in 1937, with Hitler, Mussolini and Pope Paul V on fire. Fireworks explode and flaming tar barrels are being dragged through the streets. Bonfire Night in Lewes, Sussex, is the closest England comes to Mardi Gras, and there's trouble ahead. When Sefton finds a woman's body floating in a lido, the mystery begins. Is it a misadventure or could it be ... murder? Join Ian in conversation with **David Torrns**, as they too get caught up in the chaos and the mystery.

7.30pm  
£8 | £6  
The Crescent





## Paul Mason

Clear Bright Future:

A Radical Defence of the Human Being  
In conversation with Elizabeth Nelson

Join us in welcoming renowned journalist and commentator **Paul Mason** back to the Belfast Book Festival, as he discusses his new book **Clear Bright Future: A Radical Defence of the Human Being**.

In this book, Paul travels around the world trying to make sense of the threats that face humanity today, including authoritarian politicians, the destruction of verifiable truth and the rise of intelligent machines.

From the riot in Washington DC during Trump's inauguration, to a remote Pacific island whose indigenous people are struggling with the after-effects of colonialism, Paul Mason reflects upon the effects of technology in the current political climate, suggesting that it could be our saviour if only we can remain in control.

Come and bask in this brilliant mind, as Paul identifies the pervasive secular fatalism that endangers humanity's claims to agency, rights and consciousness, and suggests a solution: that humanity must rekindle a shared moral philosophy and regain a collective concept of human nature in order to shape our resistance and reassert control.

8pm

£15

The Crescent



# SATURDAY 15 JUNE



## Alex T. Smith

### Mr Penguin and The Fortress of Secrets

Come along and meet author and illustrator **Alex T. Smith** and hear about Alex's latest creation and his most recent book: **Mr Penguin and The Fortress of Secrets**. Alex will also introduce the much-loved character of Claude and will give a behind-the-scenes view of the making of the new Claude TV series made by BAFTA-winning local studio, **Sixteen South**. He will even teach you how to draw Claude.

12pm

£5

4+ years

The Crescent

This event is in partnership with **BookTrust**



## The Open University 50th Anniversary Readings

Celebrate **The Open University's 50th birthday** with an array of readings from Irish writers published the year the university was founded. Since 1969 the OU has been the leading university for flexible, innovative teaching and world-leading research, providing access to education for everyone and helping to transform lives. Join us as we mark the occasion with poetry and polemic, fact and fiction, journalism and journeying, with people reading from the work of Seamus Heaney, Janet McNeill, James Plunkett, Iris Murdoch, James Simmons and many more. Come and celebrate 50 years of education for all.

2pm

**A Free Event**

The Crescent



## Donald McRae

### In Sunshine or Shadow: How Boxing Brought Hope in the Troubles

Multi-award-winning author **Donald McRae's** stunning new book is a powerful tale of hope and redemption across the sectarian divide in Northern Ireland - thanks to boxing. **In Sunshine or Shadow** tells the story of Gerry Storey and the Holy Family gym in Belfast. It is a story of how the violent business of boxing became a haven of peace and hope during the Troubles thanks to a remarkable and compassionate man, told through intimate interviews with key characters. Join Donald to talk about this remarkable story and a remarkable man. **Book via Waterstones, Belfast.**

2pm

£5

Waterstones

## Of the Warm South

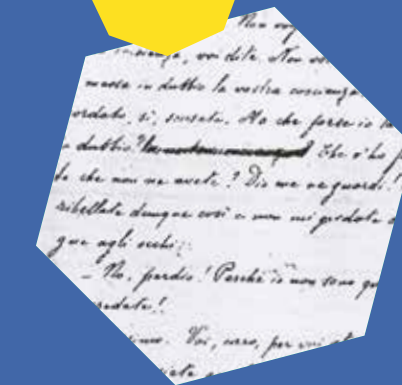
### With Dr. Federica Ferrieri & Dr. Tess Maginess

They are among us. They write novels and poems and plays, published or still unpublished, both in English and in their own language and sometimes even in their local dialect. They're the Italian writers and aspiring writers of Northern Ireland and they're very much looking forward to meeting you through a discussion mediated by **Dr. Federica Ferrieri** (Honorary Italian Consul) and **Dr. Tess Maginess** (Queen's University Belfast). Is Northern Ireland a muse for Italian writers? Is there any Italianness left in their work? You'll be able to ask them yourselves.

3pm

£7 | £5

The Crescent



## Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

### Twelve Thousand Days: A Memoir of Love and Loss In Conversation with Bernie McGill

**Twelve Thousand Days** is the poignant memoir of a marriage of 30 years between renowned writer **Éilís Ní Dhuibhne** and folklorist Bo Almquist. In the aftermath of Bo's death, Éilís wrote about love and grief, capturing the beauty of a relationship that spanned decades whilst also illuminating the complexities and compromises of being in love. This love story between Éilís and Bo is interlaced with observations on Irish life, culture and morality. Join Éilís in conversation with **Bernie McGill** as they discuss writing, memoir and life after loss.

4pm  
£7 | £5  
The Crescent



## Mariam Khan

### It's Not About The Burqa

What does it mean, exactly, to be a Muslim woman in the West today? According to the media, it's all about the burqa. According to **Mariam Khan**, and the host of Muslim women writers that she has anthologised in this book, there's a lot more to it. Come and listen to Mariam as she brings us a wide and diverse range of Muslim women talking frankly about the hijab and wavering faith, love and divorce, feminism, queer identity and sex, and the threats of a disapproving community and a racist country. Mariam Khan is an intersectional feminist, diversity-in-books pusher and freelance writer.

5pm  
£8 | £6  
The Crescent



## Mairtín Crawford Awards

### Short Story and Poetry

The Belfast Book Festival is proud to present the **Mairtín Crawford Awards for Poetry and Short Story 2019**.

The awards are aimed at writers working towards their first full collection of poetry or short stories, to celebrate the life and work of Belfast poet Mairtín Crawford. The judges for **The Poetry Award** are **Moyra Donaldson, Paul Maddern** and **Matt Kirkham**. Short-story writer **Wendy Erskine** is judging **The Short Story Award**.

Join us for the prize-giving where the judges will announce the winners, followed by readings from the winning submissions. This year's winners will receive £500, a three night stay at **The River Mill** and advice from the editors of **The Tangerine** to work towards publication in the magazine.

We would like to thank sincerely our principal sponsor **NIPR Books**, and **The River Mill** for all their wonderful support.

7.30pm  
**A Free Event**  
The Crescent



**The Tangerine**





## Being Various Edited by Lucy Caldwell

With Lisa McInerney, Nicole Flattery & Paul McVeigh

Celebrate the current golden age of the short story in Ireland with the publication of **Being Various**. A spellbinding selection of Ireland's most exciting new writers anthologised by Belfast's own **Lucy Caldwell**, who will be in conversation with three of the writers. **Lucy Caldwell** is the author of three novels, several stage plays and radio dramas, and a collection of short stories. **Nicole Flattery's** debut short story collection **Show Them a Good Time** is published this year by The Stinging Fly Press and Bloomsbury. **Lisa McInerney** is the author of two novels, **The Glorious Heresies** and **The Blood Miracles**. **Paul McVeigh** is the author of **The Good Son** and the co-founder of the London Short Story Festival.

6pm  
£10 | £8  
The Crescent



## Strolling through Ulysses!

A One Man Play

Written & Performed by Robert Gogan

Seduction, adultery, drunken orgies, bar room brawls, filthy shenanigans on a beach, and urinating in a back garden ... If you've always wondered what makes **Ulysses** the greatest Irish novel ever to be written, then join **Robert Gogan** as he takes you on a journey through Dublin, and watch as the curious events and quirky characters of the novel come to life before your very eyes. Hilarious, entertaining and informative, this one-man play proves true James Joyce's declaration 'there is not one serious line' in *Ulysses*. At once comical, descriptive and complex, this whistle-stop tour will blow you away as it traverses James Joyce's extraordinary and celebrated novel - hold onto your hats, take a deep breath and dive on in!

8.30pm  
£10  
16+ yrs  
Accidental Theatre



## The Politics of Fiction

A panel discussion with  
Roddy Doyle, John Boyne & Kit de Waal  
Chaired by Paul McVeigh

Do fiction writers have a responsibility to engage with politics? The line between fiction and nonfiction is constantly blurred, especially in the post-truth climate of today. Fiction reflects the world around us and the world around us at this particular moment is in crisis: politically, socially and culturally.

And so, in this tumultuous political climate, this panel will raise, and attempt to answer questions such as, whether fiction writers hold a responsibility to engage with and write about politics?; whether fiction can affect politics?; and whether all fiction is political?

Making up stories is an inherently political act, but that doesn't mean that the stories are about politics. Does fiction have the ability to change minds? Come and enter into the conversation with these four writers as they discuss and shed light upon a question of pressing importance.

8pm  
£12 | £10  
The Crescent



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# BLOOMSDAY 16 JUNE

The most iconic day  
in the Irish literary  
calendar - celebrate  
Bloomsday in the  
company of The Belfast  
Book Festival and some  
of Dublin and Ireland's  
finest writers.

## “Yes” Molly’s Soliloquy

An Adaptation to Stage by Conor Maguire

Based on Chapter 18 of Ulysses by James Joyce

We’re kicking off **Bloomsday** with a unique performance, commissioned specially by the Belfast Book Festival and adapted for the stage by **Conor Maguire**. This brunch-time event “**Yes**” **Molly’s Soliloquy** is a theatrical adaptation based on Chapter 18 of **James Joyce’s Ulysses**. Molly Bloom lies in bed, her husband Leopold having returned home and fallen asleep beside her and so begins one of Joyce’s most breathless, raunchy and explosive pieces of writing. Molly reminisces on memories of past affairs, her current liaison with Blazes Boylan, her suspicions regarding Leopold Bloom’s clandestine sexual encounters and her early days with Bloom. We are delighted to partner with Bullitt Hotel to bring this piece of special theatre to the festival. Space is limited. There are further performances at The Crescent on 17 and 18 June, which can be booked through **CrescentArts.org**

12pm

£22 | £20 (includes Brunch, a choice of cocktails & tea or coffee)

18+ yrs

Babel at Bullitt Hotel

## Wendy Erskine & Nicole Flattery

Sweet Home & Show Them a Good Time

Both **Wendy Erskine** and **Nicole Flattery** have burst onto the literary scene in the last year, with debut collections published by **The Stinging Fly** being picked up by UK publishers for further release. Writing in deft, wry voices about themes of love, regret, sorrow and desire, with characters as diverse as reclusive rock-icons, lonely women and beleaguered students, these two writers will haunt your thoughts long after hearing them. Come and sink into the world of these stories, cruel and tragic, yet compelling and wonderful.

3pm

£7 | £5

The Crescent



## Kevin Barry

Night Boat to Tangier

Join us in welcoming Irish novelist **Kevin Barry** with his much anticipated third novel, **Night Boat to Tangier**. Drenched in sex, death and narcotics, this novel tells the tale of two faded Irish gangsters as the world falls apart around them. One has lost a lover, the other a daughter. Obsessed with violence, old magic and the mysteries of love, this tragicomic masterwork is both mordant and hilarious, lyrical yet laden with menace. Kevin Barry has written two previous novels, **Beatlebone**, which won the **Goldsmiths Prize**, and the multi-award-winning **City of Bohane**. He has also written two short story collections **Dark Lies the Island** and **There are Little Kingdoms**, which won the **Rooney Prize for Irish Literature**.

5pm

£7 | £5

The Crescent

## Famished

A performance by Cherry Smyth, Ed Bennett & Lauren Kinsella

**Famished** explores the Irish Famine through poetry, music and song. Voicing a collective lament, this performance offers audiences the space to experience cultural and political history in an innovative and healing way. Examining the role of colonialism on the largest migration of the nineteenth century, **Cherry Smyth** draws inspiration from the ‘coffin ships’ that crossed the Atlantic to form this poetic sequence, which also gives voice to and explores the effect of the Famine on women. Working in collaboration with musician **Ed Bennett** and vocalist **Lauren Kinsella**, this multi-vocal work makes an important contribution to understanding a key historical event. Come and experience this beautiful and delicate exploration of the Irish Famine.

6pm

£10 | £8

The Crescent





## John Boyne

**My Brother's Name is Jessica**

**John Boyne** is the author of numerous best-selling novels, including **The Absolutist**, **The Heart's Invisible Furies** and **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas**, which was a **New York Times** number one bestseller and adapted into a feature film. We are delighted to welcome the Dublin-born writer to Belfast to discuss his multifaceted writing career, from his adult novels, the latest being **A Ladder to the Sky**, which **The Observer** described as 'a deliciously dark tale of ambition, seduction and literary theft', to his Young Adult fiction, including the new release **My Brother's Name is Jessica**, a story about growing up as a transgender woman in Ireland.

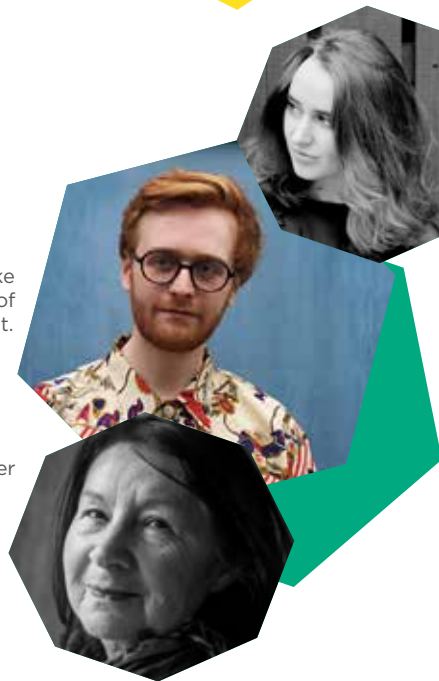
6.30pm  
£10 | £8  
The Crescent

## In a Small Back Room

**Medbh McGuckian, Padraig Regan  
& Susannah Dickey**

Join three marvellous poets as they read a selection of their work. Captivating, magical and whimsical, fall under their spell as they take us on a tour from the dream-world to the political, the backstreets of Belfast to ancient Greece, the mischievous to the strikingly poignant. **Medbh McGuckian** is the author of 15 collections of poetry, most recently **Blaris Moor** and **Love, the Magician**. **Padraig Regan** is the author of two poetry pamphlets, **Delicious** and **Who Seemed Alive & Altogether Real**. **Susannah Dickey** is the author of two poetry pamphlets, **I had some very slight concerns** and **genuine human values**. Her debut novel, **Tennis Lessons**, will be published in summer 2020 by Doubleday.

7pm  
£6 | £4  
Baltic at Bullitt Hotel



## Roddy Doyle

**Charlie Savage**  
In conversation with Glenn Patterson

We are delighted to welcome acclaimed novelist **Roddy Doyle** to the Belfast Book Festival. Hilarious and poignant in equal measure, Roddy's new book **Charlie Savage** tells the story of a middle-aged Dubliner with an indefatigable wife, an exasperated daughter and a drinking buddy who's realized that he's been a woman all along.

Roddy Doyle's writing illuminates the everyday, following his protagonist who tries to keep up with, and is often bewildered by, the modern world around him.

**Charlie Savage** is Roddy's twelfth novel, following on from such renowned works such as **The Van**, **The Commitments** and **Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha**, which won the **Man Booker Prize** in 1993. Join us in celebrating a brilliant novelist as he sheds light upon the modern world in conversation with Belfast novelist **Glenn Patterson**.

8pm  
£14 | £12  
The Crescent





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# WORKSHOPS at The Crescent

The Belfast Book Festival is more than just events. We have a whole host of creative workshops on offer, led by some of the authors and poets who are taking part in the Festival. Join them as they share their knowledge, wisdom and know-how. All the workshops are suitable for everyone and anyone with a writing itch to scratch.

**Susannah Dickey**  
Writing the Prose Poem

Saturday 8 June  
1 - 3pm  
£22 | £20

**Jan Carson**  
Novel Writing for  
Beginners

Saturday 8 June  
4 - 6pm  
£22 | £20

**Belinda Bennetts**  
Write To Awaken

Sunday 9 June  
1 - 5pm  
£44 | £38

**Sam Thompson**  
Sentence & Story  
Structure

Sunday 9 June  
2 - 4pm  
£22 | £20

**Writing for  
Wellness Workshop**  
With Sharon Dempsey  
& Cancer Focus NI

Thursday 13 June  
2 - 4pm  
**A Free Event**  
(Register with [CancerfocusNI.org](http://CancerfocusNI.org))

**Colin Dardis &  
Geraldine O’Kane**  
Write to Mental Health

Saturday 15 June  
12 - 2pm  
£22 | £20

**Tara McEvoy**  
Writing Reviews

Saturday 15 June  
3 - 5pm  
£22 | £20

**Neil Heggerty**  
Reading as a Writer

Saturday 15 &  
Sunday 16 June  
£100



The  
Crescent

# FAMILY FUN DAY



In partnership with Belfast City Council, our Family Fun Day is set to take over Lower Crescent Park once again.

Join our free family fun day and introduce your little'uns to the wonderful world of books.

There's a whole host of activities on offer throughout the day including: art workshops, storytelling, face painting, a puppet adventure, a book trail, poetry aloud, interactive storytelling, sensory storytelling, entertainment, lawn games, a children's movie, a craft stall, a poetry jukebox, and lots more!

Best of all, our Family Fun Day is FREE for all to attend, so why not pack a picnic and join us for a great day out!

Join us for  
A Book Adventure  
**Saturday 15 June**  
12pm - 4pm

**A FREE  
EVENT!**



In partnership with  
**Belfast  
City Council**



# Community Activities

## Writers in Schools

### BookTrust Northern Ireland Schools' Visit

We are delighted to announce a brand new partnership with **BookTrust Northern Ireland**. Together we will deliver an exciting and valuable project which will offer local children and schools a free visit from a well-known authors and illustrators to promote a genuine passion of reading for pleasure from an early age.

These schools visits will be a wonderful opportunity for children to meet a successful writer and help them to take those first valuable steps towards a love of literature and a life-time of finding inspiration, comfort, intrigue and fascination in the written word.

## Book Club

Join The Crescent's Book Club for their annual Belfast Book Festival Tea Party!

Come along and engage in the discussion, or sit back, relax and enjoy listening to the thought-provoking conversation about this month's exciting new book.

To register your interest in this event, email [Outreach@CrescentArts.org](mailto:Outreach@CrescentArts.org)

Wednesday 12 June  
7pm

**A Free Event**  
The Crescent



# Booking Information & Sponsors

## Online

Booking your tickets online is easy. Simply go to [BelfastBookFestival.com](http://BelfastBookFestival.com), pick your favourite events and pay online through our secure system to get an email with your tickets (PDF) sent to you instantly.

## In Person/ By Telephone

You can purchase your tickets by calling us on (028) 9024 2338, or in person at The Crescent.

## Refunds

Festival Tickets cannot be refunded once purchased unless the event is cancelled or postponed. In this event, refunds must be claimed from point of purchase. All tickets for events are non transferable after purchase.

## Accessibility

We endeavour to make the Festival as accessible as possible. We recommend that we are notified when booking of any specific requirements so that we can adequately provide for your needs and confirm accessibility. A 2 for the price of 1 offer is also available in the case of an attendee requiring assistance – please contact us when booking to arrange this.

## Free Events

Availability for free events is 'first come, first served'. Tickets for free events should be booked in advance if specified in individual event listings.

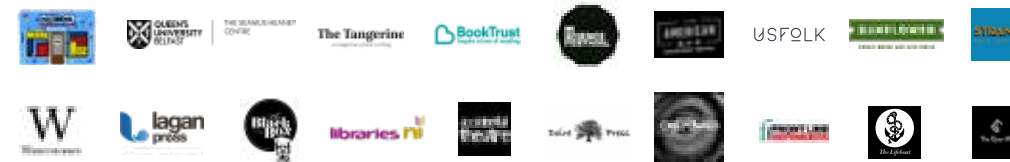
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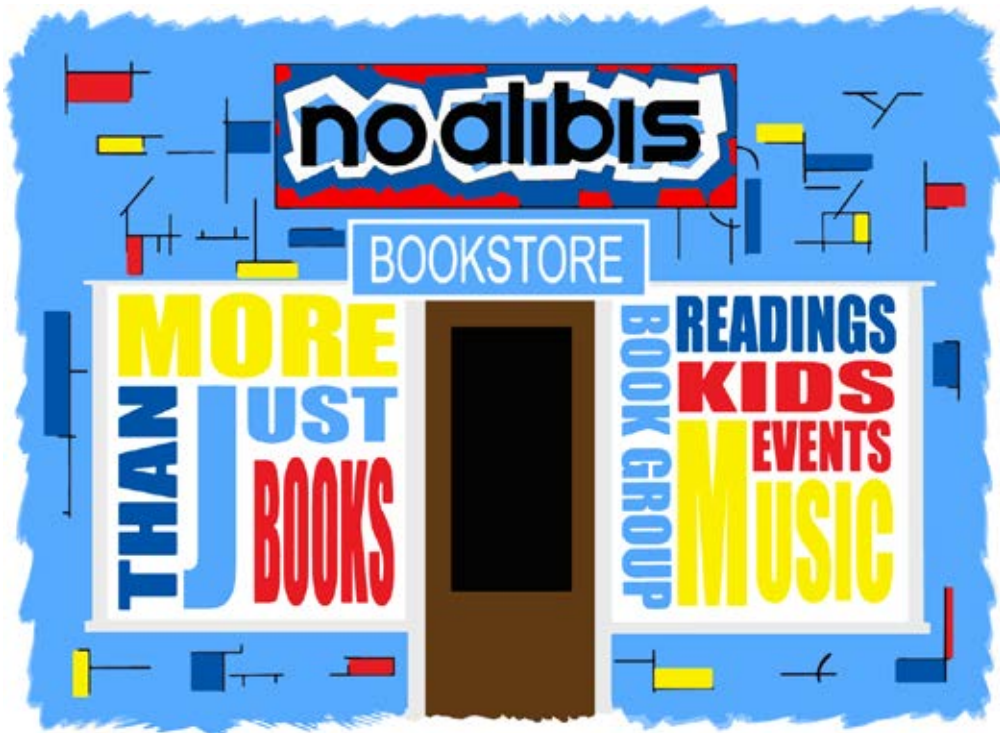
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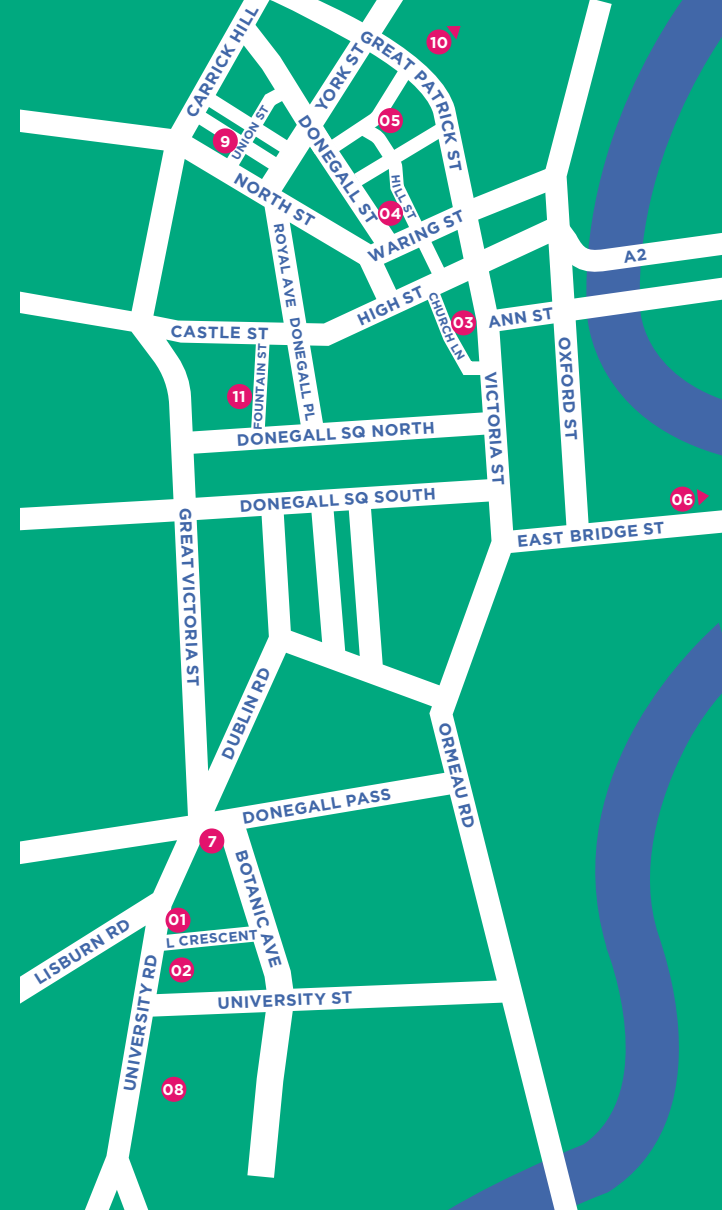




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# MAP

- 1 The Crescent
- 2 Lower Crescent Park
- 3 Bullitt Hotel
- 4 Black Box
- 5 The MAC
- 6 Strand Arts Centre
- 7 Accidental Theatre
- 8 The Great Hall, Queens University
- 9 The Sunflower Bar
- 10 The American Bar
- 11 Waterstones



**FRIDAY 7 JUNE**

David Kogan	6pm	The Crescent
Sinéad Gleeson & Kevin Breathnach	6.30pm	The Crescent
Will Self	8pm	The Crescent
Seamus Heaney Centre Presents... TIME	8.30pm	The Crescent

**SATURDAY 8 JUNE**

Drag Story Time	12pm	The Crescent
Crime at The Crescent: Creative Surgery	2pm	The Crescent
Lord David Owen	2pm	The Crescent
Crime at The Crescent: Panel Discussion	4pm	The Crescent
Emma Dabiri - Don't Touch My Hair	4pm	The Crescent
The Protestant Imagination	4.30pm	Strand Cinema
Naomi Wolf	6pm	The Crescent
Doire Press Poetry Launch Glen Wilson & Moyra Donaldson	6pm	The Crescent
The River Mill Presents: Miriam Gamble, Eoghan Walls & Alex Wylie	8pm	The Crescent
Cake Daddy	9.30pm	The Crescent

**SUNDAY 9 JUNE**

Scarlet Ink: Belfast Women Crime Writers	2pm	The Crescent
Literary Issues	2.30pm	The Crescent
'Don't Anticipate the Ending' A Life's Work in Progress Brian Friel Archive Performance	4pm	The Crescent
Belfast Stories Anthology Launch	5pm	The Crescent
Tracy K Smith	6pm	The Crescent
Gerald Dawe - In Another World: Van Morrison and Belfast	7pm	The Crescent
Reni Eddo-Lodge	8pm	The Crescent
The North Magazine Launch	8.30pm	The Crescent

**MONDAY 10 JUNE**

Michael Hughes	6pm	The Crescent
Laura Thomas	6pm	The Crescent
Reimagining Global Abortion Politics	7.30pm	The American Bar
Dr Richard Shepherd	8pm	The Crescent
Paul Maddern - The Tipping Line	8pm	The Crescent

**TUESDAY 11 JUNE**

Cancer Focus NI 50th Anniversary Literary Journal Launch	5.30pm	The Crescent
Reporting The Troubles	6pm	The Crescent
Medbh McGuckian	6.30pm	Baltic at Bullitt Hotel
Jack Monroe	7.30pm	The Black Box
Terry Waite	7.30pm	The Crescent
Poetry NI Presents Incoming	8pm	The Crescent
The Lifeboat Pamphlet Launch	8.30pm	The Sunflower Bar
The Belfast Book Festival Poetry Slam	9.30pm	The Crescent

**WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE**

Breaking New Ground	4pm	The Crescent
The Art of the Short Story	6pm	Waterstones
Prue Leith	6.30pm	The Crescent
Michael Longley at 80: A Celebration	7pm	The Great Hall at Queen's
Jamie Bartlett	7pm	The MAC
Cinepunked Presents Burn All Books	7.30pm	Babel at Bullitt Hotel
Shane Koyczan	8.30pm	The Crescent

**THURSDAY 13 JUNE**

Paul Muldoon	6pm	The Crescent
Alan Johnson	8pm	The Crescent
Dawn Watson & Conor Cleary	8pm	Baltic at Bullitt Hotel
Beckett into Music	8pm	The Crescent

**FRIDAY 14 JUNE**

The Fantastical Mirror: Science Fiction Across Boundaries	3pm	Waterstones
Common People Anthology Launch	6pm	The Crescent
Leontia Flynn	6.30pm	Baltic at Bullitt Hotel
Ian Sansom	7.30pm	The Crescent
Paul Mason	8pm	The Crescent

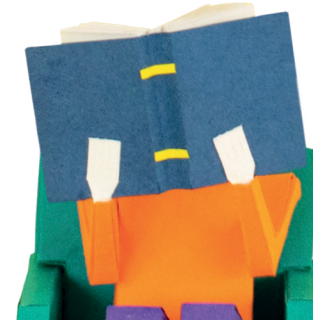
**SATURDAY 15 JUNE**

Alex T. Smith Mr Penguin and The Fortress of Secrets	12pm	The Crescent
The Open University 50th Anniversary Readings	2pm	The Crescent
In Sunshine or Shadow: How Boxing Brought Hope in the Troubles	2pm	Waterstones
Of The Warm South	3pm	The Crescent
Éilís Ní Dhuibhne	4pm	The Crescent
Mariam Khan	5pm	The Crescent
Being Various, New Irish Short Stories	6pm	The Crescent
Mairtin Crawford Awards	7.30pm	The Crescent
The Politics of Fiction Panel	8pm	The Crescent
Strolling through Ulysses!	8.30pm	Accidental Theatre

**SUNDAY 16 JUNE**

"Yes" Molly's Soliloquy	12pm	Babel at Bullitt Hotel
Wendy Erskine and Nicole Flattery	3pm	The Crescent
Kevin Barry	5pm	The Crescent
Famished	6pm	The Crescent
John Boyne	6.30pm	The Crescent
Medbh McGuckian, Padraig Regan & Susannah Dickey	7pm	Baltic at Bullitt Hotel
Roddy Doyle	8pm	The Crescent

# AT A GLANCE







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