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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme

áras cultúir
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Am Scríbhneoireachta

Ceiliúradh ar Chruthaitheacht & Scríbhneoireacht i bhFine Gall

The Write Time

A Celebration of Creativity & Writing in Fingal



2ú-15ú Samhain

2nd-15th November

fingal.ie

Quoth the Raven...

Quoth the raven *'Nevermore'*, but Fingal's Write Time festival returns for 2026. Perched on a bust of Pallas Athena, Edgar Allan Poe's raven taunts the scholar as he reads, but Fingal's raven supports and encourages writers and readers who ponder *"over many a quaint and curious volume"*. Athena is the goddess of wisdom and craft, and the raven represents the scholar's unending grief. It is at this intersection of intellect, emotion and skill that we find the great literature we celebrate during The Write Time.

The Write Time festival is Fingal Libraries' annual celebration of creativity and writing. Once again, we will be running a library programme of talks and workshops in our branches, culminating in a showcase event in the Carnegie Free Library.

The showcase will take place on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November. The weekend will feature conversations with some of Ireland's greatest literary talent, including Roddy Doyle, Dr Katriona O'Sullivan, Emma Dabiri, Dr Marie Cassidy and many more.

In the lead-up to the weekend, we have library events including author talks from bestselling author Sheila O'Flanagan, multi-award winner Claire Kilroy and Booker Prize nominated debut author Djamel White. Expert-led workshops this year will take attendees through the entire writing journey. From getting started in different genres to getting published and making a living, there's something for writers at all levels.

The Write Time festival is supported by Creative Ireland. Fingal Libraries would also like to extend our thanks to the festival curator, author Kevin Curran. The cover illustration of the raven on the bust of Pallas was created by library staff member Freddie Barnes, who also created the logo (the Fingal raven on the clock of the Carnegie Library, Balbriggan).

Swords Welcomes Poet in Residence

Enda Coyle-Greene

Fingal Libraries and the Fingal Arts Office have been delighted to appoint Fingal poet Enda Coyle-Greene as the inaugural Swords Cultural Quarter Poet in Residence for 2026-2027. This new year-long residency puts poetry at the heart of one of Fingal's most significant cultural developments.

Based at The Carnegie, Swords, Enda's work in her residency will connect arts, libraries and communities across Swords and Fingal in the lead-up to, and beyond, the opening of Culture House. Over the course of her residency, Enda will develop a new body of creative work while delivering a public programme of readings, workshops, mentoring and community engagement activities. The residency will conclude with a public showcase celebrating the work created during the year and the communities who have participated.

Enda hopes to make poetry welcoming and accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. Building on her experience as a workshop facilitator and member of Poetry Ireland's Writers in Schools panel, she plans to work with schools, adult learners, emerging writers and community groups, encouraging people to discover and develop their own creative voices.

Alongside the public programme, Enda will use the residency to develop a new poetry collection inspired by Fingal's landscapes and communities. The collection will explore themes including climate change, artificial intelligence and the importance of maintaining our shared humanity in a rapidly changing world.



Enda will be the MC at The Write Time literary showcase on the 14th and 15th November in the Carnegie Free Library, Swords. She will also run poetry workshops as part of the library programme.

The Write Time Events at a Glance

The Write Time in Libraries

Monday, 2nd November		
How to get Published	Malahide Library	6:00pm
Djamel White: All Them Dogs	Donabate Library	6:45pm
Wednesday, 4th November		
Dave Rudden: Worldsmith	Howth Library	6:15pm
Making a Living as a Writer	Blanchardstown Library	6:30pm
Thursday, 5th November		
Poetry Workshop	Skerries Library	6:15pm
Saturday, 7th November		
Life Lessons from Fairytales	Baldoyle Library	10:00am
Monday, 9th November		
Poetry Workshop	Swords Library	6:15pm
Wednesday, 11th November		
Claire Kilroy in Conversation	Rush Library	6:30pm
Thursday, 12th November		
Getting Creative with Words	Rush Library	6:15pm
Sheila O'Flanagan in conversation	Balbriggan Library	6.45pm
Friday 13th November		
Memoir Workshop	Balbriggan Library	10:00am

The Write Time in the Carnegie

Saturday, 14th November		
Rónán Hession in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	12.30pm
Rob Doyle in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	1:45pm
Doireann Ní Ghríofa in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	3:00pm
Emma Dabiri in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	4:15pm
Dr Marie Cassidy in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	5:30pm
Sunday, 15th November		
Debut Authors in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	12:30pm
Leon Diop in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	1:45pm
Edel Coffey in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	3:00pm
Dr Katriona O'Sullivan in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	4:15pm
Roddy Doyle in Conversation	Carnegie Free Library, Swords	5:30pm

Tramp Press: How to get Published



Join Tramp Press for a discussion on how to get ready to submit your manuscript! We'll talk about preparing your work and sending to publishers and agents. We'll talk in detail about the avoidable pitfalls that many authors fall into. Bring your questions and we'll do our best to tell you everything you need to know about the man behind the green curtain!

Malahide Library	Monday, 2nd November	6:00pm - 7:30pm

To reserve a place, please contact Malahide Library.

Djamel White: All Them Dogs



For the first author talk of the Write Time festival 2026, Djamel White will join us to talk about his debut novel, the 2026 Booker Prize longlisted *All Them Dogs*. Described by the Irish Times as "one of the debuts of the year", *All Them Dogs* follows Tony Walsh's return to gangland Dublin, where he finds himself drawn to another criminal associate. Djamel will discuss this gripping story of violence, lust and greed with author Seán Farrelly.

Donabate Library	Monday, 2nd November	6:45pm - 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please contact Donabate Library.

Dave Rudden - Worldsmith



From fraught romantasies to war on a universal scale, fantasy as a genre has never been more popular. It's also a daunting genre to write. How do you balance world-building, character development, and a pacy, propulsive plot?

Join *Sunday Times*-bestselling fantasy author Dave Rudden as he provides you with a blueprint to your world-smithing - from crafting unique cultures to complex magic systems to your own unique narrative voice. Packed with practical advice and industry experience, this workshop is perfect for the new and ambitious writer or an experienced scribe seeking to take their manuscript one step further. Dave Rudden's adult debut *Sister Wake* was called 'the rare epic fantasy that delivers on all levels' by Andrea Stewart, author of the *Bone Shard Daughter*. He has taught hundreds of workshops on fantasy, craft, and how to make your work stand out in a crowded genre.

Howth Library	Wednesday, 4th November	6:15pm - 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please contact Howth Library.

Making a Living as a Writer





A returning event from last year, author Shane Hegarty will chair this panel of writers discussing what everyone in the arts wants to know, but nobody wants to talk about – getting paid. Panelists from different backgrounds and genres will talk about fair pay, supplementary work and how much of a writing career is actually spent writing. Author and illustrator Margaret Anne Suggs, author Fíona Scarlett and poet Christodoulos Makris will share their insights into the business side of a writing career, not to be missed by those interested in writing as a job.

Blanchardstown Library	Wednesday, 4th November	6:30pm - 7:30pm

To reserve a place, please book via the Fingal Libraries Eventbrite page.

Poetry Workshop with Enda Coyle-Greene



What is it about poetry that makes it human and real? In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, step away from your busy day with SCQ Poet-in-Residence Enda Coyle-Greene, and with support, advice and prompts, explore your own creativity to discover where poetry can lead you.

Skerries Library	Thursday, 5th November	6:15pm - 7:45pm
Swords Library	Monday, 9th November	6:15pm - 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library branch hosting the event.

Life Lessons from Fairytales with Anne McDonald



Do you remember what your favourite fairy tale was when you were a child? Would you like to revisit them as an adult and rediscover the magic? If you loved *Snow White* or *Red Riding Hood*, *The Three Little Pigs* or *The Elves & the Shoemaker*, come along to Baldoyle Library for a creative writing workshop.

This 2 hour workshop with Anne McDonald will explore the magic and mystery of everyday fairytales, the inspiration we can find from myths & fairytales symbols, motifs & cultural differences of common fairytales and the wisdom of Aesop's Fables.

Baldoyle Library	Saturday, 7th November	10:00am - 12:00pm

To reserve a place, please contact Baldoyle Library.

Claire Kilroy in Conversation



Claire Kilroy is the author of five novels, most recently the universally acclaimed *Soldier, Sailor* in 2023. As well as being named one of the best books of the year by numerous outlets, it was shortlisted for the 2024 Women's Prize for Fiction, the Sky Arts Literature Award and the Irish Novel of the Year. Claire will be in conversation with journalist Lauren Murphy, co-founder of the Rush Festival of Writing.

Rush Library	Wednesday, 11th November	6:30pm - 7:30pm

To reserve a place, please contact Rush Library.

Getting Creative with Words with Felicia McCarthy



This class is for anyone interested in kick starting their creative writing spirit. Whether you are a writer of poems, fiction, memoir or a diary, bring your notebooks and I will bring the prompts to inspire a new beginning.

Rush Library	Thursday 12th November	6:15pm - 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please contact Rush Library.

Sheila O'Flanagan in Conversation



Sheila O'Flanagan is the award-winning author of more than 30 contemporary novels and short stories, all of which have been international best sellers. Her latest book, *Secrets Between Friends*, is a sparkling tale of travel, friendship and second chances. Sheila is a great champion of libraries, recently telling The Independent "Libraries are medicine for the soul". Sheila will be in conversation with librarian Lori Moriarty.

Balbriggan Library	Thursday, 12th November	6:45pm - 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please book via the Fingal Libraries Eventbrite page.

Memoir With Music From Our Youth with Anne McDonald



Do you remember the first time you bought a record, cassette tape, CD? Watching Top Of The Pops to find out who was No 1? Hanging a poster of your favourite popstar on your wall or saving up to buy a ticket for a concert?

If you would like to see what happy memories you can use to create poems or stories, join Anne McDonald for a 2 hour interactive workshop to explore who your favourite singers/bands were, what you danced to when you were young and what your wore to your first dinner dance, disco or céilí!

Balbriggan Library	Friday, 13th November	10:00am - 12:00pm

To reserve a place, please book via the Fingal Libraries Eventbrite page.

CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY

14TH - 15TH NOVEMBER
SATURDAY - SUNDAY

Please book your place for The Write Time in the Carnegie events via the Fingal Libraries Eventbrite page.

Please scan the QR code to book your place via Eventbrite.

Rónán Hession in Conversation



Rónán Hession is an Irish writer and musician. His fiction has been translated into eleven languages and has been nominated for several major prizes. His most recent novel, *Ghost Mountain*, about a mountain that suddenly appears and sends ripples through the surrounding community, was a Book of the Year in Review 31 and The Irish Independent. Rónán will be in conversation with author Henrietta McKervey.

Saturday 14th November	12:30pm - 1:30pm

Rob Doyle in Conversation



Rob Doyle is the Dublin-born author of several internationally acclaimed books. His most recent novel, *Cameo*, is a literary satire about an Irish novelist named Ren Duka, whose sudden runaway success begins to blur the lines between his novels and reality in a polyphonic comedy. Rob will be in conversation with poet Dave Lordan.

Saturday 14th November	1:45pm - 2:45pm

Doireann Ní Ghríofá in Conversation



Poet and author Doireann Ní Ghríofa's books hopscotch between genres and times, and her days are often spent in archives, trying to eavesdrop on the Dead. Her most recent book, *Said the Dead*, blends history and ghost story as forgotten women's voices rise from an abandoned Cork hospital. Doireann will be in conversation with author Belinda McKeon.

Saturday 14th November	3:00pm - 4:00pm

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland Programme

Emma Dabiri in Conversation



Emma Dabiri FRSL is an award winning broadcaster and Sunday Times best selling author of *Don't Touch My Hair*, *What White People Can Do Next* and, most recently, *Disobedient Bodies*. This is a radical essay about detangling beauty ideals from patriarchy and capitalism and embracing your unruly beauty. Emma will be in conversation with author and festival curator Kevin Curran.

Saturday 14th November	4:15pm - 5:15pm

Dr Marie Cassidy in Conversation



Dr Marie Cassidy is the former Irish State Pathologist who performed thousands of postmortems and investigated hundreds of murders over a 30-year career. She is also a bestselling author and her latest book, crime novel *Deadly Evidence*, was an instant number one bestseller in Ireland. Marie will be in conversation with author Gill Perdue.

Saturday 14th November	5:30pm - 6:30pm

Debut Authors in Conversation



Seán Farrelly's 2026 debut, *Tom Burne has Left the Chat*, is a young adult novel about grief, mental health and the online legacy of those who have died. Ruth McKee's debut novel, *Wild Iris*, follows Eve as she enters a psychological crisis over an Easter weekend. The two will discuss the challenges and triumphs of releasing a debut novel with writer and librarian Jackie Lynham.

Sunday 15th November	12:30pm - 1:30pm

Leon Diop in Conversation



Leon Diop is the co-founder of the *Black & Irish* organisation, and the co-author of the An Post Book Award-winning *Black & Irish* book. His memoir, *Mixed Up: An Irish Boy's Journey to Belonging* was released in 2025. Leon will be in conversation with Assistant Professor of Black Studies in the Department of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin, Dr Philomena Mullen.

Sunday 15th November	1:45pm - 2:45pm

Edel Coffey in Conversation



Edel Coffey is a journalist and author of three number one bestselling novels. Her latest novel, *In Glass Houses*, is a twisty thriller about a journalist who finds herself drawn back into the crime that ended her career. Edel will be in conversation with journalist Lauren Murphy.

Sunday 15th November	3:00pm - 4:00pm

Dr Katriona O'Sullivan in Conversation



Dr Katriona O'Sullivan is a professor of psychology in Maynooth University and a regular commentator on the BBC and across Irish and international media. Her first book *Poor* was an Irish bestseller and won Biography of the Year and Newcomer of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. *Hungry: A Biography of my Body* is her powerful new memoir. Katriona will be in conversation with author Louise Nealon.

Sunday 15th November	4:15pm - 5:15pm

Roddy Doyle in Conversation



Roddy Doyle is the award-winning author of 13 novels including the Booker Prize-winning *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* and, most recently, *The Woman Behind the Door*. He has also written several children's books, biographies, short stories and scripts that have made him the definitive writer of working-class Dublin. Roddy will be in conversation with author and festival curator Kevin Curran about the iconic *Barrytown* trilogy and the television show *Family*.

Sunday 15th November	5:30pm - 6:30pm

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland Programme

About the Authors



Enda Coyle-Greene is one of Ireland's most respected contemporary poets. Her work has been widely published, anthologised, broadcast and adapted for film in Ireland and internationally. She is the author of three poetry collections published by Dedalus Press: *Snow Negatives*, winner of the Patrick Kavanagh Award, *Map of the Last* and *Indigo, Electric, Baby*. A resident of Skerries for over forty years, she is co-founder and Artistic Director of Fingal Poetry Festival and has extensive experience mentoring writers and facilitating creative writing workshops throughout Ireland. Enda has been appointed as the inaugural Swords Cultural Quarter Poet in Residence.



Marie Cassidy became a forensic pathologist in 1985, working in Glasgow before coming to Ireland as Deputy State Pathologist and later State Pathologist. Over a 30-year career, she performed thousands of postmortems and investigated hundreds of murder cases, pioneering advances in forensic science. She is the bestselling author of *Beyond the Tape and Body of Truth*, and her latest book, *Deadly Evidence*, was an instant number one bestseller in Ireland. Marie also fronted the critically acclaimed RTÉ series, *Dr Cassidy's Casebook*, and has contributed to numerous documentaries.



Edel Coffey is a journalist and author of three number one bestselling novels. She is a regular contributor to *The Irish Times*, *RTÉ*, *Today FM* and *Newstalk*. Her debut novel, *Breaking Point*, won the An Post Irish Book Award for crime novel of the year. She lives in Galway with her husband and children.



Kevin Curran's third novel, *Youth*, was published to critical acclaim by The Lilliput Press in 2023. It was an Irish Times, Sunday Independent & RTÉ Culture Best Book of 2023. It was also a Colm Toibin's Laureate for Fiction's Book Club choice for 2024. The paperback edition was published February 2025. He has published two other novels, *Beatsploitation* (2013) and *Citizens* (2016). As well as writing non-fiction for the *Guardian* and the *Observer*, he has also published short stories, most notably in *The Stinging Fly Best of 20 year* anthology and the *One Dublin*, *One Book Best of 21st century Dublin writing* anthology. For over fifteen years he has been teaching in his home town in Balbriggan, Co Dublin. His new novel, *Once Upon a Time in Dublin*, will be published in 2027.



Emma Dabiri FRSL is an award winning (Cannes Lion, Gold Medal of Honorary Patronage University Philosophical Society and Praeses Elit Award) broadcaster and Sunday Times best selling author of *Don't Touch My Hair, What White People Can Do Next* and *Disobedient Bodies*. She spent over a decade as a teaching fellow in the Africa department at SOAS University of London. In 2022 she was appointed Heimbold Chair of Irish Studies at Villanova University in PA. Emma is a Contributing Editor at *ELLE UK* and regular contributor across national media. She has presented numerous history, arts and culture series on both TV and radio including *Journeys into Afrofuturism BBC's Back in Time and Britain's Lost Masterpieces*.



Leon Diop is a mixed-race man from Tallaght, Dublin. Leon graduated from Maynooth with a degree in psychology before going on to be Maynooth Students' Union President for two terms. In June of 2020 he founded *Black and Irish*, an organisation working on the behalf of Black and mixed-race people in Ireland. He is the co-author of the award winning book, *Black and Irish: Legends, Trailblazers and Everyday Heroes* and a host of the *Black and Irish* podcast. He currently serves on the board of the Childhood Development Initiative, Tallaght and Work Equal. In September 2024, Leon was named as a European Leader for the Obama Foundation.

About the Authors



Rob Doyle is the Dublin-born author of several internationally acclaimed books: *Threshold, Autobibliography*, *This Is the Ritual*, *Here Are the Young Men*, which has been adapted for film starring Anya Taylor-Joy, and most recently, Cameo (W&N). His books have been nominated for various prizes and translated into several languages. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Observer*, *New Statesman*, *Dublin Review* and many other publications.



Roddy Doyle is the author of thirteen novels, including the *The Commitments*, *The Snapper*, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, for which he won the Booker Prize in 1993; *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors*, and, most recently, *The Woman Behind the Door*. He has also written three collections of short stories, eight books for children, the *Two Pints* series, and memoir of his parents, Rory and Ita. He co-wrote *The Second Half*, with Roy Keane, and Kellie, with Kellie Harrington. He co-wrote the screenplay for *The Commitments* and wrote the scripts for *The Snapper and The Van*. His most recent screen work was the script for *Rosie*, released in 2018. His four-part TV series, *Family*, was produced by the BBC in 1994. He has also written for stage, including the book of *The Commitments* musical. He is a co-founder of *Fighting Words*, which was set up to help and encourage children and young people throughout Ireland to write creatively. He lives in Dublin.



Seán Farrelly is a writer based in Dublin. He has had four plays produced and two short stories published in the Irish Times as part of a young writers' supplement. He has worked as a writing mentor and workshop facilitator since 2018. His first book *Tom Burne Has Left the Chat* was published in 2026, the first of a two-book deal with Faber.



Shane Hegarty is a Skerries-based author of books for children. Series such as *Boot and Darkmouth* have been translated into 20 languages and his books have been shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards, Waterstones Children's Book Prize and, most recently, the Laugh Out Loud Awards. His most recent book, *Minotaur Boy*, is out now. He is also the Creative Director of The Magic of Stories, Fingal's Festival of Children's Literature held in Swords Castle each year.



Rónán Hession is an Irish writer and musician. His fiction has been translated into eleven languages and has been nominated for several major prizes. *Leonard and Hungry Paul* was selected by Dublin City Council as the 2021 One Dublin One Book. It was also chosen by the Sunday Times and the Irish Times as one of the 50 Great Irish Novels of the 21st Century. It has been adapted for an IFTA-nominated six-part BBC series narrated by Julia Roberts, and is on the Irish secondary school curriculum. Ronán's second novel *Panenka* was shortlisted for Irish Novel of the Year. His third novel, *Ghost Mountain*, was a Book of the Year in Review 31 and The Irish Independent. Rónán's fourth novel *Richard Heart Julianne* will be published in 2027. As Mumblin' Deaf Ro, he has released three albums of storytelling songs. His third album *Dictionary Crimes* was nominated for the *Choice Music Prize* for Irish Album of the Year.



Claire Kilroy is the author of five novels, *All Summer*, (Faber, 2003), *Tenderwire*, (Faber, 2006), *All Names Have Been Changed*, (Faber, 2009), and *The Devil I Know* (Faber, 2012). In 2023, after an eleven year silence, her fifth novel, *Soldier Sailor*, about the early years of motherhood, was published to universal acclaim. *The Times* selected it as the Times Novel of The Year, and it was named a Best Book by *The Sunday Times*, *The Irish Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, *The Telegraph*, *The New Statesman*, *The Economist*, *The Irish Examiner*, *The Journal*, *The Irish Independent*, *Vogue*, and *The Independent*. It was shortlisted for the *2024 Women's Prize for Fiction*, the *Sky Arts Literature Award* and the *Irish Novel of the Year*. She studied at Trinity College and lives in Dublin.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland Programme

About the Authors



Dave Lordan is a seminal figure in Irish fiction's new wave whose work as mentor and editor for *The Stinging Fly* and anthologist for RTÉ and New Island Press launched many contemporary writing careers. His own uncategorizable *First Book of Frags* remains unmatched in the 21st century for its novelty and daring and was excerpted for inclusion alongside Joyce, Beckett, et al in Rob Doyle's *The Other Irish Tradition*, the first and only anthology of the Irish Experimental Tradition, published by Dalkey Archive Press. Read him at: www.davelordanpoetry.com



Jackie Lynam is a writer and librarian from Dublin. Her poems have been published in several journals and anthologies, and she has been shortlisted for the Anthony Cronin International Short Poem Award and RTÉ's *The Prompt* writing competition. Her writing has also featured in *Irish Independent* and on RTÉ Radio 1's *Sunday Miscellany* programme. Her chapbook *Traces: Poems and Essays* was published in 2023.



Christodoulos Makris has published five books of poetry, as well as several pamphlets, artists' books, digital projects, audiovisual works and other poetry objects. His work has appeared in *Granta*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Guardian*, *The Irish Times*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, and elsewhere. He is the poetry editor at gorse journal.



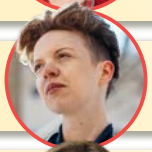
Felicia McCarthy is a poet whose first collection *My Country is the Whole World* placed in The International Poetry Book Awards in 2024. She has facilitated writing workshops in Fingal libraries over the last three years.



Anne McDonald is an award-winning poet, playwright and artist. She has recently won the 12th Annual Bangor Poetry Competition (2025) and the Keshkerrigan Short Story Competition (2025). Her poetry collection *"Crow's Books"* was published in 2020. She has had short stories and poems published in print and online journals, and her work has been reviewed and broadcast on RTÉ Radio. Anne was awarded the Cill Rialag Writing Residency and the John Hewitt Summer School Residency.



Ruth McKee is a novelist and short fiction writer, twice-shortlisted for the *Hennessy Literary Awards* and a winner of the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair. *Wild Iris* (Dedalus) is her critically acclaimed debut novel, described by John Banville as *'wonderfully inventive...funny, moving and vastly entertaining.'* She's the editor of *Books Ireland, The Irish Writers Handbook* and the host of the *Burning Books* podcast.



Belinda McKeon is the author of the novels *Solace* (2011) and *Tender* (2015). She directs the MA in Creative Writing at Maynooth University.



Henrietta McKervey's fifth novel is *The Woman in the Water*, inspired by a 'lost' character in Daphne du Maurier's suspense classic *Rebecca*. She has a Hennessy First Fiction Award and won the inaugural Maeve Binchy Travel Award. She curates the ECHOES Maeve Binchy literary festival, programmed International Literature Festival Dublin, and contributes on arts, culture and entertainment to the *Irish Times*, *Sunday Independent* and the *Brendan O'Connor show* on RTÉ Radio 1.

About the Authors



Lori Moriarty is a librarian known as "Lorithelibrarian" on TikTok. She also works for Children's Books Ireland as both a Book Doctor and reviewer for Inis. After completing an M. Phil. in Popular Literature at Trinity and teaching at UCD for several years, Lori realised she much preferred chatting about books and reading with people and has worked in Libraries since 2016.



Dr. Philomena Mullen is Assistant Professor of Black Studies in the Department of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin, and director of the MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict. Her research focuses on African-Irish identity and the overlooked history of people of African descent in Ireland across recent decades and earlier periods. As an African-Irish woman who grew up in the industrial school system for 16 years, she brings a lived perspective to her work on the historical presence of people of African descent in Ireland before and after the Celtic Tiger era.



Lauren Murphy is an Arts & Culture journalist and has been a regular contributor to *The Sunday Times*, *The Irish Times*, *The Irish Independent*, *RTÉ* and many others since 2008. She is the co-founder of Rush Festival of Writing, a literary festival held in North County Dublin and co-host of *Get Around to It*, a weekly podcast exploring the Irish arts and culture scene.



Louise Nealon is a writer from County Kildare. Her debut novel, *Snowflake*, released in May 2021, won Newcomer of the Year at the An Post Book Awards and was chosen for the One Dublin One Book campaign in 2024. Her second novel, *Everything that is Beautiful* was published in April 2026 and became an instant Irish bestseller. She lives in Belfast.



Doireann Ní Ghríofa's books hopscotch between genres and times, and her days are often spent in archives, trying to eavesdrop on the Dead. *A Ghost in the Throat* finds an 18th century poet haunting a young mother, leading her through visions of blood, milk, lust, and murder. Written on the rooftop of a free car park in Cork, it went on to be translated into 20 languages, and was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. She is also the author of several books of poetry, each a deepening exploration of birth, death, desire, and domesticity. Her most recent book, *Said the Dead*, was published last May.



Sheila O'Flanagan is the award-winning author of more than 30 contemporary novels and short stories, all of which have been international best sellers. She has written one historical novel based on the life of her grandmother during the Irish War of Independence, and has also contributed to various anthologies, most recently *Banshee*, a retelling of traditional Irish folk stories. In her spare time she plays badminton, pickleball and padel with varying levels of success.

About the Authors



Dr. Katriona O'Sullivan is a professor of psychology and the number 1 bestselling author of *Hungry: A Biography of My Body*. Her first book *Poor* was also an Irish bestseller and won Biography of the Year and Newcomer of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. *Poor* has been translated into seven languages, adapted into a sold-out play at Dublin's Gate Theatre, and remained in Ireland's top-ten nonfiction chart for two years. A regular commentator on the BBC and across Irish and international media, she has spoken at Westminster, the UN and UNESCO. Born in Coventry to Irish parents, her early life was marked by poverty, addiction, teenage pregnancy and homelessness. In 1998, she moved to Dublin, where she entered Trinity College through the access programme and went on to earn a PhD in psychology. Now a professor at Maynooth University, she directs the National Centre for Inclusive Higher Education and leads the award-winning STEM Passport for Inclusion, which has supported over 10,000 young people from underserved communities into higher education and high-status careers.



Dave Rudden is the author of multiple award-winning series for adults and young people, including *Knights of the Borrowed Dark and Tales of Darkisle*, as well as extensive work for stage and screen. His new fantasy trilogy for adults, the Sunday Times-bestselling *Sister Wake*, draws heavily on Irish mythology and rebellion history, and has been called a *'brilliant, rebellious scream of a novel'* by R.S. Garcia and *'a politically charged epic'* by the *Irish Times*.



Fíona Scarlett is from Dublin but now living in Co. Kildare, with her husband and two children. Her debut novel *Boys Don't Cry* was published by Faber & Faber in April 2021 and was an instant *Irish Times* Bestseller. It was shortlisted for *Newcomer of the Year* in the Irish Book Awards, the Kate O'Brien first novel award and was an Arts Council Literature Bursary Award recipient. She was named as one of An Post Irish Book Awards *'New Voices 20 Best New Irish Writers'* in 2024 and her second novel *May All Your Skies Be Blue* was published in February 2025. She is adapting *Boys Don't Cry* for screen in conjunction with Vico Films, alongside working on her third novel. She is also a passionate creative writing educator, with a true commitment to accessibility, to dismantling barriers that prevent people from seeing themselves as writers. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Limerick.



Margaret Anne Suggs is an illustrator, author and lecturer. Her work, *'Home Is Where the Heart Is'* (birdhouses narrating her immigrant experience) has been exhibited across Ireland. She has published nationally and internationally on themes of migration, belonging and nature. Her illustration work has been selected for the Bratislava Illustration Biennial, the Golden Pen of Belgrade and nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal in Illustration. An archive of her illustration work is held in the National Library of Ireland. Mags is a member of Illustrators Ireland and is the Administrator of the Silent Book Collections for IBBY Ireland. She was the Jury Chairperson for the 2023 Bratislava Illustration Biennial and is currently serving on the International Jury for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards. She can usually be found scribbling in her sketchbook.



Tramp Press was launched by Lisa Coen and Sarah Davis-Goff in 2014 to find, nurture and publish exceptional literary talent. Tramp Press authors have won Irish Book Awards, the International DUBLIN Literary Award (formerly the IMPAC), the Goldsmiths Prize, the Rooney Prize, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, a Lannan Fellowship, the Davy Byrnes Award, the Hennessy New Irish Writing Award, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, and the Kate O'Brien Award. They have been nominated and shortlisted for many more, including the Booker Prize, the Costa, the Desmond Elliott Prize, the Michel Déon Prize, the Republic of Consciousness Prize, the Guardian First Book Award, the Rathbones Folio Prize and the Swansea University Dylan Thomas Prize.



Djamel White is a writer from Dublin, Ireland. He holds an MFA from University College Dublin and is the recipient of a Literature Bursary Award and an Agility Award from the Arts Council of Ireland. His debut novel, *All Them Dogs* was longlisted for the 2026 Booker Prize.

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