

Irish
Writers
Centre

Áras
Scribhneoirí
na hÉireann

Spring Programme 2019

Clár an Earraigh

19 Parnell Square
Dublin 1

A scríbhneoir, a chara,

Spring 2019 is going to be fantastic. We have amazing new writers facilitating with us, new opportunities particularly for young writers, we're going to the States again with **Bualadh Boston Literary Showcase**, and we're offering workshops for the first time in **Kildare, Louth, and Mayo** with local arts venues – as well as continuing our supports in **Cavan and Northern Ireland**.

So without further ado, the highlights are: creative non-fiction with **Kevin Breathnach** and **Caelainn Hogan**; film directors **Oonagh Kearney** on story and female film characters and **Tom Hall** on pitching screen scripts; **Sheila O'Flanagan** on commercial fiction; **Cat Hogan** on creativity and mental health; **Kristina Yee** on animation; **Ciarán Marcantonio** (editor of *Rogue Comics*) on the graphic novel; and we see the welcome return of **Patsy Horton, Brian Langan** and **Sallyanne Sweeney** on editing and beating that slushpile, especially useful for those writers thinking of submitting to next year's **Novel Fair**.

It's very exciting that **Evelyn Conlon, Wendy Erskine, David Hayden** and **Lisa McNerney** are featured on our *Propel: Short Story Masterclass Series*, and we welcome new and old friends to the Centre this spring including **Eoin McNamee, Henrietta McKervey, Alan McMonagle, Jessica Traynor, Pat Boran** and **Sarah Moore Fitzgerald**, and songwriters **John Spillane** and **Eleanor MacEvoy**. A big draw in April will be the excellent **A.L. Kennedy**, a brilliant facilitator, not to be missed.

Young writers, keep your eyes peeled for the new **Marian Keyes Young Writer Award**, and also **Young Writer Delegate** opportunities at **Cúirt** and **ILFDublin**. Are you signed up to our newsletter?

This is the time of year to join up. **Becoming a Member or a Friend** is the best way to become part of our literary community, and until Jan 31st only, you have the option of clicking the annual recurring button. If you do join, don't forget that you can work in the IWC on weekdays – the best value hotdesk in town. See you soon in the IWC, or at a partner venue around the island.

Valerie Bistany, Stiúrthóir.

Team at the Irish Writers Centre



Valerie Bistany
Director



Orla Martin
IWC Administrator



Lisa de Jong
Comms and Events Officer



Bernadette Greenan
Education Programmer



Kiki Drost
Projects Administrator



Arnold Fanning
Reception Administrator



Helen Mulvany
Weekend Administrator



Paul Fitzgerald
Maintenance



The **Irish Writers Centre** is the national resource organisation for writers on the island of Ireland. For over a quarter of a century, the IWC has provided professional supports to meet the needs of writers of all forms and genres, at all stages of their development. We offer creative writing courses, professional training, information, networking opportunities, cross-border programmes and events in venues all over the island, abroad, and from our beautiful Georgian building on Parnell Square in the heart of Dublin's newest Cultural Quarter.

We continue to find ways for writers to connect, in particular by expanding the Centre's evolving community of writers across the island. Our work continues with the third incarnation of **XBorders**, our cross-border programme which brings up to 20 emerging writers together over five months to create new work. The theme this time around is **Transition** in its widest context and in its potential for activism and art.

Our five-year strategy (2017-2021) commits to meeting the needs of all writers, with a

special focus on the next generation. First initiated at **Cúirt International Festival of Literature** this year, the **IWC Young Writer Delegates Programme** is intended to give young writers an opportunity to immerse themselves in a literature festival, soak up the atmosphere and to contribute to the festival as active participants. We connected in a similar vein with Dublin Book Festival this November where the selected four young writers were given festival passes, four days of full literary immersion in its events and activities, and support from a bespoke mentor, Elizabeth Reapy, and the IWC team.

The Irish Writers Centre is governed by a voluntary board of directors, chaired by **Liz McManus**. They are **Martina Devlin, James Harpur, Hilary Fennell, Paul Moore, Luán Ó Braonáin, Mary O'Donnell, Rossa Ó Snodaigh, Jenni Barrett, Deirdre Lillis and Susanne Dirks**.

We continue to open our doors to our members, writers, readers, literature industry professionals and the general public and look forward to seeing you at the Centre soon.

Become an IWC Member!

Bí i do bhall d'Áras Scríbhneoirí na hÉireann!

For over a quarter of a century, the IWC has provided professional support to meet the needs of writers of all forms and genres, at all stages of their development. Support us and you support writers around the island, and become part of the writing community in Ireland. See www.irishwriterscentre.ie/membership for more information.

Standard and professional memberships of the IWC cost just €50 per annum and only €30 for students, the unwaged, parenting alone and the over 65s. Membership runs until 31 Dec 2019.

*A special
thank you goes out to
**O'Shea Barry
Solicitors**
Consider becoming
a donor of the Irish
Writers Centre!*

STANDARD MEMBER BENEFITS

- Discounts on bookings
- Use of workspace in beautiful Georgian surroundings 10am – 5.30pm, Mon – Fri
- Free Wi-Fi
- The opportunity to mingle with other writers at launches and events
- Information on opportunities, competitions and events
- Annual members showcase

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER BENEFITS

All the benefits of Standard Membership plus:

- consideration given for all employment opportunities including mentoring and course facilitation
- eligibility for all WIRs/bursaries
- opportunity to act as Member Nominee on IWC Board
- eligibility to be on selection panels for all IWC opportunities

ORGANISATION MEMBER BENEFITS

- €250 / €150 Not-For-Profits
- Up to two free daytime classroom meeting spaces
- Priority consideration for additional bookings plus 20% discount
- Priority consideration for joint programming and professional development initiatives
- Potential representation on the Board of the IWC
- Invitations to high profile events

FRIENDS MEMBER BENEFITS

For €250 or more:

- be named as a Friend on our website in the calendar year of your donation as well as in our print programme
- have priority on two complimentary tickets to any special Irish Writers Centre event
- receive all the benefits of our standard and professional members

Benefits to Friends increase according to the amount donated. For more information see www.irishwriterscentre.ie

Writers' and Artists' Social Welfare Initiative

In June 2017, the Irish Writers Centre welcomed the launch of a new pilot initiative which acknowledges the professional status of writers and artists applying for Jobseeker's Allowance. The pilot is being developed in partnership between the Department of Social Protection and the Department of Culture, as part of a key commitment to artists under the Creative Ireland programme. The Irish Writers Centre can issue Professional Members a certificate which will confirm you as a Professional Member of the IWC and which will be accepted as evidence of your professional status when applying for Jobseeker's Allowance.

Professional Development

As a resource organisation, a primary aim of the Irish Writers Centre is to provide various services for writers. Our mission is to support, promote and inform writers, and we provide comprehensive services for professional writers ranging from day-long workshops and residencies, to bursaries and mentoring.

We also provide accomplished writers with a range of employment opportunities, including facilitating courses, presenting at festivals, participating on selection panels, and acting as curators and mentors.



Florence, Italy

Continuous professional development is as important to writers as to any other professional. In recognition of this, our **Mindshift** and **Propel** series seek to inform, advise and upskill writers in their career as artist, as facilitator, as networker, as self-promoter and as tax payer.



Anam Cara, Beara Peninsula

We have two types of **Writers-in-Residence** (WIR) – one for writers to have time and space to write, and the second is a community engaged residency model, where writers act as facilitators working with marginalised or special interest groups.

This year our **residencies/projects** are:

- the **Jack Harte Bursary** in partnership with the **Tyrone Guthrie Centre**
- an international residency in **St. Mark's Church, Florence**
- seven residencies for IWC professional members in **Cill Rialaig, Kerry**
- two Irish language bursaries in association with **Anam Cara Writer's and Artist's Retreat**, providing all-inclusive individual and workshop retreats on the Beara Peninsula
- an **Online WIR**
- a roaming WIR in partnership with **Irish Rail** and **Translink: NI Railways**
- a community WIR with the **Irish Wheelchair Association**
- two Dublin City WIRs in partnership with **UNESCO City of Literature**
- **IWC/Cúirt Young Writer Delegates Programme** as part of **Cúirt International Festival of Literature, Galway**
- **IWC/DBF Young Writer Delegates Programme** as part of **Dublin Book Festival**
- a new **Irish Language Writer-Led Literature project**
- a new **Local WIR** with **DALC** and **Bealtaine Writers Group**
- **XBorders: Transition** a cross-border engagement for emerging writers

Spring Courses 2019 • *Cúrsaí an Earraigh 2019*

Our courses are loosely divided into colour-coded headings, designed to help you identify your own level as a writer and to encourage you to try new courses:

Beginner

Tosnaitheoir

FOR THE NOVICE WRITER to help you find your way into your own writing through practical, creative and supportive means with an experienced professional facilitator.

Emerging

Ag barradh

FOR WRITERS who have attended courses in the past, the emerging series will allow you to perfect your skills and develop your creative abilities.

Specialised

Sainspéis

WORKSHOPS FOR WRITERS who are eager to step out of their comfort zone or to gain new ideas and skills in different forms, genres, or styles.

Prof. Development

Forbairt Ghairimiúil

LED BY INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS, these workshops are designed to help you work on essential skills that are part and parcel of being a professional writer in the public eye.

MID-WEEK COURSES • *CÚRSAÍ LÁR-SEACHTAINE*

Second Thursday Writing Club for Children with OISÍN MCGANN

THUR 31 JAN, 14 & 28 FEB, 14 & 28 MARCH, 11 APRIL • 4.00PM – 5.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €90

Suitable for all children ages 9 to 12 who love writing, even those who have yet to decide what they want to do with it. There will be short exercises with a view to writing a full story towards the end of the six weeks.



Starter Kit in Creative Non-Fiction with KEVIN BREATHNACH

MON 4 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

This starter course will explore elements of non-fiction such as memoir, social commentary, cultural criticism, and the construction of narrative space and time. Participants will produce material by responding to prompts such as photographs, film stills, and biographical texts.



6-Week Starter Kit with NIAMH BOYCE

TUES 5 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

This course is suitable for those new to writing, or interested in getting back to writing. Fun but focused, the core of this course will be weekly writing exercises. Through these, participants will create and shape new fictions.



Beginner's Fiction with TANYA FARRELLY

TUES 5 FEB • 2.00PM – 4.00PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

Attendees will look at the key aspects of fiction writing, exploring how to create intriguing characters, generate plot, and use dialogue effectively. You will also look at the importance of point of view, conflict and setting in stories.



Beginner's Creative Writing with PAT BORAN

WED 6 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 10 WEEKS • €280/€260 MEMBERS

Using a variety of guided exercises and games, participants of this course will produce and edit a range of new work, from poetry to short fiction, with the aim of applying their new-found skills to work beyond the workshop environment.



Start Writing for Children and Teenagers with OISÍN MCGANN

THUR 14 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

These six-weeks will cover the basics of storytelling and the specific aspects of writing for children and young adults. There will be short exercises, as well as advice on how to get published and develop your own career.



Beginner's Fiction with DAVID BUTLER

WED 6 MARCH • 11.00AM – 1.00PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

Participants on this course will look at examples of successful writing in order to inspire their own work. The sessions will focus on how and where to start, creating a voice, character building, handling narrative structure, and building tension.



6-Week Starter Kit with CETHAN LEAHY

THUR 14 MARCH • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

By looking at the various aspects of the craft (voice, dialogue, structure) participants will explore successful writers in a variety of mediums, pin down what makes their words sing and discuss how to learn from them for their own work.



Teens Spring Writing Camp with DEIRDRE SULLIVAN

TUES 16 - THURS 18 APRIL • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 3 DAYS • €150

This course, for teens aged 14-17, will focus on creating pieces of work to edit and develop over three days. The participants will work on building stories, characters and worlds, while exploring what works and doesn't work in the fiction they consume.

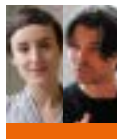


Writer's Surgery: Poetry Workshops

with JESSICA TRAYNOR & ADAM WYETH

MON 4 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €175/€160 MEMBERS

This course will offer a space for your poems to be workshopped with feedback from fellow participants. Facilitators Adam and Jessica will give a final summary of detailed analysis, constructive feedback and concrete suggestions for further improvement.



Masterclass Series on the Short Story* with MULTIPLE AUTHORS

WED 20 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 8 WEEKS • €250/€230 MEMBERS

Join Evelyn Conlon, Wendy Erskine, David Hayden, Lisa McInerney and others over eight sessions to discover new ways to get to the heart of what makes short fiction one of the most engaging forms of modern literature. *For further details see www.irishwriterscentre.ie/shortstory19



Focus Your Form: Research with HENRIETTA MCKERVEY

MON 25 MARCH • 6.00PM – 8.30PM • 2 WEEKS • €90/€80 MEMBERS

These workshops will explore the how-what-where of various research sources and look at how too much research can create as big a problem as too little. Each session will include a mix of tips, useful advice and practical exercises.



Focus Your Form: Setting with EGIN McNAMEE

MON 8 APRIL • 6.00PM-8.30PM • 2 WEEKS • €90/€80 MEMBERS

By perceiving the setting of your surroundings properly, the concrete and psychic structures yield themselves up to you. These comprehensive sessions will explore how to hone your storytelling techniques by creating a convincing setting in your fiction.



Autofiction with JOANNA WALSH

MON 4 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

Autofiction is not memoir or personal essay, nor is it fiction. It offers ways to write about personal experience that transcend the limitations of traditional autobiography. Discover how to experiment with writing your own experiences from a variety of different angles.



Writing for Animation with KRISTINA YEE

TUES 5 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

This course will cover form and technique, project development, and necessary industry knowledge. Participants will workshop their own ideas, getting written materials in shape for the next phase of development, and formulating a plan for future action.



Screenwriting with LINDSAY JANE SEDGWICK

WED 20 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 8 WEEKS • €220/€200 MEMBERS

This course will furnish participants with the tools to move from an idea to a finished script, exploring effective character development and structure - from the individual scene to the completed screenplay - and everything in between.



Memoir with MARY ROSE CALLAGHAN

THUR 21 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 8 WEEKS • €220/€200 MEMBERS

This course will explore successful approaches to memoir and look at how writing a memoir can be approached in the same way as a novel, with characters, structure and a timeline. The atmosphere of the course will be supportive and encouraging.

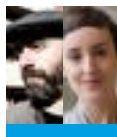


The Art of the Spoken Word

with KARL PARKINSON & JESSICA TRAYNOR

WED 27 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

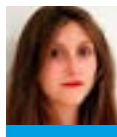
This course takes a two-pronged approach at spoken word poetry as Karl Parkinson focuses on the art of performance, the truth, delivery and connection to the audience, while Jessica Traynor guides participants through the technicalities of the form.



Creative Non-Fiction* with CAELAINN HOGAN

THUR 28 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 8 WEEKS • €240/€220 MEMBERS

Explore the dynamic potential of non-fiction to document reality and experience, dipping into reportage, autobiography, essay and oral history, while incorporating the basics of shoe-leather journalism. **Feedback and edits will be provided for assignments completed during the course.*



Comics and the Graphic Novel with CIARÁN MARCANTONIO

TUES 12 MARCH • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

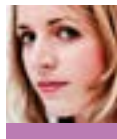
Over six weeks this course will explore everything you need to know to independently create and publish your own comic, from structuring a script to working with collaborating artists, colourists, letterers and editors. It will also cover the publishing process.



Arts Journalism with NADINE O'REGAN

TUES 26 FEB • 6.45PM – 8.45PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS

These classes will focus on how to structure an article, select suitable subject matter and keep audiences engaged. Different forms of arts writing will be explored with students receiving detailed feedback on their efforts.



The Publishing Training Centre, Dublin

Advanced Copy-Editing with MARGARET AHERNE

in partnership with PUBLISHING IRELAND

THUR 4 APRIL • 9.30AM – 5.00PM • 1 DAY • €295/€265 MEMBERS

A one-day masterclass for experienced editors ready to hone their skills and tackle complex texts with confidence. The day will involve exercises to tackle a range of material that presents challenges in comprehension, structure and consistency. This course contributes to PUB 14 and PUB 19 of the Book & Journal Publishing National Occupational Standards.



Join us for our Open Day - January 2019

SAT 26 JAN • 11.00AM-3.00PM

Places will be held on a first-come, first-served basis

- Free creative writing classes - includes prose and poetry sample classes
- Information session on our Novel Fair
- Presentation on our Professional Development initiatives for writers
- Free tours of the building
- Join Inkslingers – our popular and longest running writing group
- Drop into a New Irish Communities session, an open creative writing group for non-native English speakers
- Free tea, coffee, cake and biscuits

It makes such a difference [to writers] to have the variety of useful events and workshops the Centre provides as well as a venue where you always feel welcome!

Louise Couper, Professional Member of the IWC

New Irish Communities

Drop in sessions • Starts Sat 16 Feb • 11.00am – 1.00pm • 10 Weeks • €5 per session

- A writing community perfect for non-native English speakers* with an interest in creative writing. **Some proficiency in English is recommended*
- Join seasoned facilitators **Mark Granier** and **Liz Farsaci** at the Irish Writers Centre for two hours of creative writing exercises with feedback on your work
- Become part of our online community: New Irish Communities – Creative Writing for Non-Native English Speakers on Facebook. For further details see www.irishwriterscentre.ie/newirish
- Share your life experiences through new pieces of poetry or prose – and do it well in English

'When I arrived in Dublin I felt I was living in two different worlds...The New Irish Communities Group at the Irish Writers Centre helped me to overcome my sense of displacement and quickly made me feel at home.'

Gretha Viana



WEEKEND COURSES • CÚRSAÍ DEIREADH SEACHTAINE

Mindshift: Edit your Novel* with BRIAN LANGAN

SAT 12, 19 & 26 JAN • 10.00AM – 4.30PM • 3 DAYS • €270/€250 MEMBERS

This intensive course will involve workshoping and editing your work through a collaborative process. *Writers will be asked to submit 10,000 words and a synopsis of a work-in-progress by Wed 19 Dec 2018. Ideal for Novel Fair 2019 finalists.



PROF. DEV.

Mindshift: Pitching your Script with TOM HALL

SAT 9 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €60/€50 MEMBERS

This one day seminar is designed to help the aspiring screenwriter develop effective strategies for transitioning from novice to professional. Topics include DIY approaches, the world of agents/managers and producers, navigating the landscape of TV and film financing and building industry relationships.



PROF. DEV.

Commercial Fiction with SHEILA O'FLANAGAN

SAT 9 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This workshop will explore how to transform your ideas into a structured novel, how backstory and dialogue can help create engaging characters, the importance of editing and pathways to publication. Approaching agents and relationships with publishers will also be covered.



SPECIALISED

Propel: Universal Storytelling Techniques with HUGH TRAVERS

SAT 16 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

Many writers work across multiple genres from page to stage to screen. This workshop teaches techniques to generate story ideas and identifies key tools that can help build foundations for your story and find what medium it is best suited to.



EMERGING

The Power of the Pen with CAT HOGAN

SAT 23 FEB • 10.30AM – 1.30PM • 3 HOURS • €40/€35 MEMBERS

This session will explore the benefit of 'bibliotherapy' - creative arts therapies with the purpose of healing - and the therapeutic value of writing. Imagination, self-awareness, empathy and conflict resolution will be some of the themes covered.



BEGINNER

Propel: Beat the Slushpile with SALLYANNE SWEENEY

SAT 23 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This workshop will cover how to write a winning query letter, synopsis and pitch, along with an overview of the publishing industry. With feedback on each participant's material you will leave armed with everything you need to ensure a stand-out submission.



EMERGING

Feature Writing with ANNA CAREY

SAT 2 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This workshop will cover how to generate magazine and newspaper feature ideas, find case studies, research topics and pitch ideas to editors, as well as advising participants on how to construct an entertaining and informative article.



SPECIALISED

Science Fiction and Fantasy with IAN McDONALD

SAT 2 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This course will explore science fiction as a way of looking at the world. It will cover the false dichotomy between plot and character and look at which part of the world you show from the novum to the whole-wide-world.



SPECIALISED

Travel Writing with MANCHÁN MAGAN

SAT 9 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

The art of great travel writing is simply good storytelling: a gripping narrative with believable characters and an evocative sense of place. Learn to meld anecdote, insight and a sense of place into a timeless piece of writing for publication or personal memoir.



SPECIALISED

Mindshift: My Career as a Non-Fiction Writer with CAELAINN HOGAN

SAT 9 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

From news features to book-length projects, this workshop will focus on pursuing ambitious non-fiction stories and the key to pitching successfully. International fellowships and grants, developing contacts, and negotiating commissions will also be covered.



PROF. DEV.

From Fact to Fiction with NIAMH BOYCE

SAT 23 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This workshop will explore how true stories can inspire a work of fiction. Participants will look at character, voice, setting, first draft, research, 'how much truth, how much fiction,' and revision. Suitable for beginner and emerging writers.



BEG/EMERG

Novel Writing with SARAH MOORE FITZGERALD

SAT 23 & 30 MARCH • 11.00AM-5.00PM • 2 DAYS • €160/€135 MEMBERS

These two sessions will cover a range of topics related to the process of novel writing including how to be creative, plot and structure, sharing your work, time management, networking with peers and developing your publishing strategy.



EMERGING

Representing Women on Screen with OONAGH KEARNEY

SAT 30 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

There is a growing appetite for narratives that relate to female lived experiences. This workshop is for anyone curious about diverse/female characterisations and will look at ways of valuing lived experiences towards dramatising their potential within a narrative fictional screenplay.



SPECIALISED

Historical Fiction with ANNA CAREY

SAT 6 APRIL • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This course will guide would-be historical fiction writers through the practicalities of the genre. Participants will explore historical research, from newspaper archives to old guidebooks, and learn how not to get bogged down when writing their story.



SPECIALISED

Songwriting with JOHN SPILLANE

SAT 13 APRIL • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This workshop will guide participants to produce a finished song with encouraging feedback and practical advice offered throughout the day. Storytelling in songwriting will be explored, along with the magical, chemical reaction that happens when words and music meet.



SPECIALISED

Fiction Workshop with A.L. KENNEDY

SAT 27 APRIL • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This workshop will allow participants to revisit the basic principles of communication in prose and then to explore the natural consequences of those principles. Those attending should leave with a clear sense of the simplicity of prose.



EMERGING

AROUND THE ISLAND • AR FUD AN OILEÁIN

Telling Your Story | A Female Voice with MIA GALLAGHER

in partnership with DROICHEAD ARTS CENTRE

LOUTH • TUES 22 JAN • 7.00PM – 9.00PM • 6 WEEKS • €95

Join award-winning author Mia Gallagher on a journey of discovery, exploring the work of outstanding female authors while learning to develop your own writing voice. Each workshop will include a discussion on work by a mix of Irish and international authors.



BEG/EMERG

Creating a Scene: Playwriting with ROSEMARY JENKINSON

DERRY/LONDONDERRY • SAT 2 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €28/£25

Workshop attendees will be challenged to come up with fresh, cutting-edge ideas as they learn how to navigate the competitive world of contemporary theatre. Expect insights on interacting with dramaturgs, actors and directors, and practical scriptwriting tips for all levels.



SPECIALISED

Novel Writing* with BERNIE MCGILL

DERRY/LONDONDERRY • SAT 9 & 23 FEB, SAT 9 & 23 MARCH • 10.00AM – 2.15PM • 4 WEEKS • €88/£80

Participants will look at structuring work, writing openings with impact, developing setting, creating credible characters, selecting point of view, writing dialogue, editing and redrafting, and outlets for completed work. **Participants should come with a 250-word outline for a novel.*



EMERGING

Mindshift: Edit Your Novel with PATSY HORTON

BELFAST • MON 18 FEB • 7.00PM – 9.00PM • 6 WEEKS • €66/£60

This course will teach you how to edit your novel and how to pitch to publishers. Examining the various elements of fiction writing, the course will look at how to get from your early draft to a finished novel.



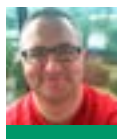
PROF. DEV.

Teens Writing Camp with OISÍN MCGANN

in partnership with RIVERBANK ARTS CENTRE

KILDARE • TUES 19 - THUR 21 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 3 DAYS • €120

Suitable for all teens, aged 14-17, who love writing, even those who have yet to decide what they want to do with it. There will be short exercises with a view to writing a full story towards the end of the three days.



BEGINNER

Mindshift: Edit your Novel* with BRIAN LANGAN

CAVAN • THUR 28 FEB • 7.00PM – 9.00PM • 6 WEEKS • €35

This six-week course will involve workshoping and editing your work through a collaborative process. **Writers will be asked to submit 10,000 words and a synopsis of a work-in-progress two weeks before the course commences.*



EMERGING

Mindshift: The Business of Writing with VARIOUS SPEAKERS

BELFAST • SAT 23 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €28/£25

These sessions are aimed at established and emerging writers and will focus on the business aspect of writing including writing applications, copyright and contract law, and managing your taxes. *For further details and full line-up see www.irishwriterscentre.ie/businessofwriting19*



PROF. DEV.

A Guide to the Short Story with ALAN McMONAGLE

in partnership with THE LINENHALL ARTS CENTRE

MAYO • SAT 6 APRIL • 11.00AM – 5.00PM • 1 DAY • €45

This course will steer participants through the elements of an effective short story. You will examine openings, voice, tone, point-of-view, characterisation, dialogue, language, setting and endings; examine what a short story attempts to achieve, and apply to prompt-based exercises.



BEGINNER

One-to-One Mentoring



All writers can benefit from the guidance and encouragement of **One-to-One Mentoring** no matter what stage they are at in their career.

The Irish Writers Centre has developed a panel of published and experienced writers willing to act as mentors to help you make your writing as good as it can be.

This programme is aimed at intermediate and advanced level writers looking for professional input.

Fees go directly to the mentor, bar a token administration fee.

'The outcome of Bernie's mentoring helped me tremendously and I have no doubt played a significant part in my second manuscript being a finalist in this year's Novel Fair.'

Séan Mackel on one-to-one mentoring with **Bernie McGill**.

'I found the IWC mentoring experience very beneficial...Whether one is a novice or more experienced, the process would be of benefit to writers at all stages of development.'

Mary Montague on one-to-one mentoring with **Mia Gallagher**.

Meet with an experienced mentor of your choice who will:

- read your work in-depth
- provide you with a written report in advance of your meeting
- meet one-to-one for an hour and a half to provide further feedback and give direction.

Go to www.irishwriterscentre.ie/mentor, the Professional Development section of our website, to see what writers and industry professionals are available.



American College Dublin *in association with* **Irish Writers Centre**



Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing

American College Dublin, a constituent college of Irish American University, is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

- Offers aspiring or published writers a one-year course which examines the process and composition of prose fiction
- A combination of critical workshops and individual mentoring guides students towards completing either a novel or a short story collection.
- Considers the creative writing process from intellectual, psychological, economic and cultural angles.
- Emphasises the business and professional environment of writing, with seminars and masterclasses presented by agents, publishers and established writers.

'I would earnestly recommend the programme to anyone I know who is interested in studying writing. Every single staff member who works at ACD - whether it be behind the scenes or in the classroom - were welcoming, friendly, and extremely helpful. The professors were inspiring, knowledgeable, and genuinely interested in my course work - and also in my well-being while I was staying in Dublin. It was an absolute pleasure being a part of this program.'

Allison Schmidt, MFA Class of 2018

For further advice on the programme and guidance on submitting:
www.amcd.ie 01-676-8939 admissions@amcd.ie

Around the Island



As the national resource Centre for literature in Ireland, we are always aiming to connect with writers and audiences outside of the capital. In 2018, we travelled around the island to engage with artists from various parts of the country, and we will continue to do so in the year ahead.

In October, we visited **Cavan** for the **Bailieborough Poetry Festival** where we launched our *Poetry Masterclass* with **Moyra Donaldson**, **Colm Keegan**, and **Noel Monahan**. Cavan writers also had the opportunity to attend *Finish Your Novel* with **Conor Kostick** and *Memoir* with non-fiction writer **Selina Guinness**.

Autumn 2018 also saw the return of our XBorders project. Now in its third incarnation, the first **XBorders: Transition** event took place at the Centre in November with **Rory O'Neill (a.k.a. Panti Bliss)** as our inaugural speaker. We were also delighted that **Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan**, was able to launch this event. The XBorders project aims to connect up to 20 emerging writers from both sides of the border with intensive workshops facilitated by **Maria McManus** that take place in the IWC,

the **Robinson Library** in **Armagh** and in the **Crescent Arts Centre** in **Belfast**.

This spring sees the welcome return of our **Roaming Writer-in-Residence**, an exciting project for one lucky writer who will travel around the island by train and engage with fellow travelers on their way to deliver creative writing workshops to students from different universities. We will also be seeking an **Online Writer-in-Residence** so watch this space.

We will continue to extend our partnerships with arts venues around the country in spring 2019 as part of our support to writers outside of the capital. The **Linenhall Arts Centre** in **Castlebar** will host **Alan McMonagle** for *A Guide to the Short Story* in April while **Droichead Arts Centre** in **Drogheda** will look at the rise of fiction from female writers over six weeks with **Mia Gallagher**.

We will have more partnerships to announce in 2019, so keep your eyes peeled for where we may provide literary supports in the coming months. We aim to come to your location if we can, so let us know how we can help.



IWC Events Programme

Our events programme continues to keep us engaged with IWC members and audiences up and down the country. September kicked off our autumn season with our booked-out **Open Day**, giving people the opportunity to visit and explore the Centre and to get a taste of the workshops and courses we offer throughout the year.

We opened our doors again to audiences new and old for **Culture Night 2018**. Four events took place over the evening with **Frank Buckley** showcasing the Centre's stunning art collection, a **Teen Writers Showcase**, a **Writers Soapbox** and a **Publishers Showcase**.

Autumn 2018 was a busy time in respect of our offerings in the Irish language. As well as a special edition of our **Tóg an Mic** (*Takin' the Mic*), hosted by **Ciara Ní É**, we also launched the first of our new Writer-Led bursaries, awarded to **REIC** for a new project of **físdánta** (video poems), now available for viewing on our YouTube channel. Guaranteed compulsive viewing, even for those who don't speak *as Gaeilge*!



Frank Buckley showcases the IWC art collection



Ciara Ní É hosts Tóg an Mic

Takin' the Mic as Béarla also returned in October in partnership with the **Red Line Book Festival**. A bilingual affair, host and musician, **Marcus Mac Conghail**, encouraged readers to perform in Irish and in English, while guest performances from **Sarah Clancy**, **David Butler** and **Henrietta Mc Kervey** played a blinder. The final *Takin' the Mic* of the year was curated in collaboration with **Dublin Book Festival** at Smock Alley and was hosted by writer **Sarah Maria Griffin**, featuring poet **Clara Rose Thornton** as guest performer.

As always, we closed out the year with our annual **Members' Christmas party**, where we invited friends and members to join us in raising a glass to another successful year of writing and literature in our lovely house in Parnell Square.

Be sure to sign up to our newsletter or visit our website to see what other IWC activities we'll be showcasing in 2019.

A LANDMARK ANTHOLOGY OF ESSAYS BY SOME OF IRELAND'S FOREMOST CONTEMPORARY WRITERS

'One of the most refreshing Irish-published books this year'

Nadine O'Regan, *The Sunday Business Post*

Specially commissioned to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Irish Writers Centre

'As soon as we took possession of Number 19 we could feel the power of the place'

Peter Sirr

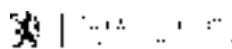
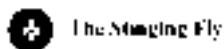
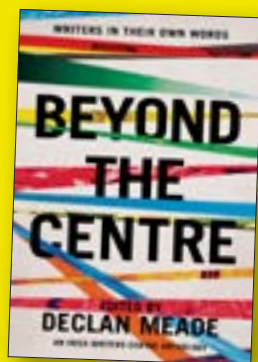
'The working-class writer is obliged to steel herself to ignore the class barriers in the arts'

Lisa McInerney

'Sometimes writing no longer seems like the thing I do, it seems like the thing I am'

Kevin Barry

Published by New Island and available from all
good bookstores or online at www.newisland.ie



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Like what you've heard so far? Tell your friends and share the
news by joining the IWC Community online!

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For up-to-date information on our news and events sign up to our
newsletter at www.irishwriterscentre.ie/signup