

Irish  
Writers  
Centre

Áras  
Scribhneoirí  
na hÉireann

# Spring Programme 2018

*Clár an Earraigh*

19 Parnell Square  
Dublin 1

# *A scríbhneoir, a chara,*

Spring brings with it a new programme designed to complement our branding, our new strategy, and our aspirations to connect with new audiences, young and old(er). This is reflected in our partnerships with **Sarah Webb** in setting up a writing club for children and in partnering with Bealtaine with our daytime courses. And of course, everything else is for everyone else of middle years.

Masterclasses are a great way of learning expansively and we have two excellent series for writers of children's books and of the short story. **Ferdia MacAnna** is back with a screen and film writing course culminating in a short film produced by the group – skills and craic in equal measure! We're delighted to welcome Northern writers **Hilary McCollum** and **Jo Zebedee** to lead our new LGBTQ and Sci-Fi courses respectively, as well as **Kerry Ryan** from London who invites you to *Write Like a Grrrl*.

We continue to deliver our Cavan and Northern Ireland programmes. You might like to sample *Blogwriting* with **Mick Fealty** or *Novel Writing* with **Bernie McGill** – in particular, look out for a roving Northern writer-in-residence on a train near you!

Our membership scheme kicks off again in January, and there is the easy option of clicking the annual renewable button. Becoming a member is the best way to become part of our literary community and new members can gain a free month by signing up in December 2017. Looking forward to seeing you soon in the Centre, or at a partner venue around the island.

**Valerie Bistany, Stiúrtóir.**

## *Team at the Irish Writers Centre*



**Valerie Bistany**  
Director



**Bernadette Greenan**  
Education Programmer



**Kate Cunningham**  
Comms and Events Officer



**Clodagh Swords**  
Development Officer



**Arnold Fanning**  
Reception Administrator



**Orla Martin**  
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 in Irish and English. We offer creative writing courses, professional training, information, networking opportunities, cross-border programmes and events in venues all over the island, and from our beautiful Georgian building on Parnell Square in the heart of Dublin's Cultural Quarter.

In 2017, with the support of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, we have been able to provide a range of services and networking opportunities for Northern and Southern writers to connect, including the award-winning **WomenXBorders** for International Women's Day and our bespoke intervention project XBorders, aimed at emerging writers, which worked so well that we're doing it again, this time exploring a conciliatory theme entitled Accord.

We are rolling out our five-year strategy (2017-2021) to meet the needs of the current writer as well as a new generation of writers, in particular reaching out to attract younger writers into the IWC. A second goal is to bring our fantastic Irish writers to an international audience by delivering world-class creative writing courses online. Finally, we seek to connect more with Irish language writers and also to be an integral partner in the development of Dublin's new Cultural Quarter.

The Irish Writers Centre is governed by a voluntary board of directors, chaired by **Liz McManus**. They are: **Martina Devlin, Hilary Fennell, James Harpur, Anne Larchet, Paul Moore, Luán Ó Braonáin, Mary O'Donnell** and **Rossa Ó Snodaigh**. We are delighted to welcome our newest Board members this spring, **Jenni Barrett** and **Deirdre Lillis**.

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 í 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 in Irish and English. Support us and you support Irish writers around the country, and become part of the Irish writing community in Ireland. See [www.irishwriterscentre.ie/membership](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie/membership) for more information.

Standard membership of the IWC costs just €50 per annum and only €30 for students, the unwaged, parenting alone and the over 65s. Membership runs until December 31, 2018.

**Like what you see?**

*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 one-to-one 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 being listed 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](http://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 with 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 supports for writers. Our mission is to support, promote and inform writers and we provide a comprehensive service for professional writers ranging from day-long workshops and residencies, bursaries and mentoring. Also, we provide accomplished writers with a range of employment opportunities including facilitating courses, presenting at festivals, participating in selection panels, and acting as curators and mentors.



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



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**Residencies and bursaries** provide Writers-in-Residence (WIRs) with time and space to write or to connect with local communities. Annual residencies include:

- an inaugural residency in partnership with the **Tyrone Guthrie Centre** named after IWC founder, the Jack Harte Bursary
- an international residency in **St. Mark's Church, Florence**
- seven residencies for IWC professional members in **Cill Rialaig, Kerry**
- one Irish language bursary in association with **Anam Cara** in the Beara Peninsula, Cork
- an Online WIR
- last autumn we instigated a new Writers' Exchange between **Bergen, Norway** and **Anam Cara** supported by the Norwegian Embassy

## **New residencies in 2018:**

- a roving WIR in partnership with **Irish Rail** and **Translink**
- Community WIRs are with **Dublin Youth Theatre, The Rainbow Project, Foyle and Women's Aid, Belfast**
- Two Dublin City WIRs in partnership with **UNESCO City of Literature**

# Spring Courses 2018 • *Cúrsaí an Earraigh 2018*

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 borradh*

**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 the writer to work on essential skills that are part and parcel of being a professional writer in the public eye.

## MID-WEEK COURSES • *CÚRSAÍ LÁR-SEACHTAINÉ*

### 6-Week Starter Kit with PAULA MCGRATH

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

This starter course will explore elements of the writing craft such as character, voice, dialogue, and basic editing. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss and receive feedback on their work in a supportive and encouraging environment.



### Second Thursday Writing Club for Children\* with SARAH WEBB

THUR 8 & 22 FEB, THUR 8 & 22 MARCH • 4.00PM – 5.30PM • 4 WEEKS • €60

Does your child love writing stories and poems? Is she or he working on their own book? Would they like to learn more about crafting their work and meet and share ideas with other keen young writers? Then the Second Thursday Writing Club is for you. \*For ages 9 to 12.



### Writing for Children and Teenagers with SARAH WEBB & HELEN CARR

THUR 8 FEB • 6.00PM – 8.00PM • 10 WEEKS • €300/€280 MEMBERS

Back with a twist, Sarah Webb will be joined for some classes by O'Brien Press Editor, Helen Carr as they discuss the children's book world and how to catch an agent or editor's eye. Suitable for beginner and emerging writers.



### Beginner's Fiction with TANYA FARRELLY

THUR 15 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 10 WEEKS • €280/€260 MEMBERS

This workshop will focus on the key aspects of fiction writing. We will explore ways to create intriguing characters, examine types of plot, and discover how to write "real" dialogue, as well as considering point of view, the importance of conflict, and how to use setting.



### **Begin your Novel with DAVID BUTLER**

**TUES 20 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 10 WEEKS • €280/€260 MEMBERS**

In this ten-week course, facilitator **David Butler** will help you to workshop your novel-in-progress by examining areas such as point-of-view, structure, effective openings, humour, dialogue, irony, etc., in order to help you create a page-turning work of fiction.



### **Poetry, Prose and Memoir with JEAN O'BRIEN**

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

This course is for writers starting out and beginners trying to find their genre, be it in fiction, memoir, short story, poetry or a novel. You will explore different writing genres with hands-on exercises and workshoping the participants' own work.



### **Teens Mid-Term Writing Camp with DEIRDRE SULLIVAN**

**TUES 27 – THUR 29 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 3 DAY • €150**

This workshop for young adult writers will focus on creating pieces of work to edit and develop over three days. The participants will work on stories, characters and worlds, and explore what works and doesn't work in the fiction they consume.



### **Write Now with RON CAREY**

*in association with the Bealtaine Festival*

**TUES 3 APRIL • 2.00PM – 4.00PM • 10 WEEKS • €280/€260 MEMBERS**

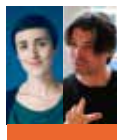
In a friendly and supportive environment, this personalised course will work to achieve your goals, whether in short fiction, the novel or poetry. Each module will explore the craft of writing in an entertaining and enjoyable way, with guest writers along the way to motivate and inspire you.



### **Writer's Surgery: Poetry Workshops with JESSICA TRAYNOR & ADAM WYETH**

**MON 5 FEB • 6.30PM-8.30PM • 6 WEEKS • €165/€150 MEMBERS**

Jessica Traynor and Adam Wyeth are offering a space for your poems to be workshoped with feedback from the audience and Adam and Jessica giving a final summary of detailed analysis, constructive feedback and concrete suggestions for further improvement.



### **Memoir with IVY BANNISTER**

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

This course will cover the basics of writing memoir with examples from the masters. The class will suit both those who are continuing work on a memoir, and new memoirists with previous writing experience.



### **The Children's Book Masterclass Series\* with Multiple Experts in association with Children's Books Ireland**

**TUES 13 FEB • 6.30PM-8.30PM • 9 WEEKS • €250/€230 MEMBERS • €195 ANY 6 CLASSES**  
Join CBI, Gráinne Clear, Adrienne Geoghegan, Conor Hackett, Oisín McGann and others on this eight-week journey into the world of writing children's books. \*For further details see [www.irishwriterscentre.ie/childrensbooks](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie/childrensbooks)



### **Finish your Novel with CONOR KOSTICK**

**TUES 20 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 10 WEEKS • €280/€260 MEMBERS**

This is a practical course for writers who are part way through writing a novel. Participants will workshop together to further the progress of their manuscripts, as well as engage in discussions on a weekly topic which are designed to strengthen the quality of their writing.





## Masterclass Series on the Short Story\* with MULTIPLE AUTHORS

WED 14 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 8 WEEKS • €250/€230 MEMBERS

Join **Claire-Louise Bennett**, **Danielle McLaughlin**, **Alan McMonagle**, **Aiden O'Reilly** 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/shortstory18](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie/shortstory18)



## Screenwriting and Filmmaking with FERDIA MAC ANNA

TUES 6 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 9 WEEKS • €250/€225 MEMBERS

This special nine-week course will focus on developing an original short film screenplay. In the final two weeks there will be a special component whereby students will produce a short film with an industry professional.



## Creative Non-Fiction with ROB DOYLE

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

In this course participants will explore brilliant writing that pushes the boundaries of non-fiction. Through a series of exercises and readings, participants will try out a variety of creative approaches to writing non-fiction such as autobiography, the essay, critical writing, travel writing and more.



## The Art of the Spoken Word with KARL PARKINSON & JESSICA TRAYNOR

WED 7 MARCH • 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** will guide participants through the technicalities of the form.



## Edit your Novel\* with BRIAN LANGAN

THUR 15 FEB • 6.30PM – 8.30PM • 8 WEEKS • €240/€220 MEMBERS

This course will look at providing clear guidelines on honing your own fiction writing, with sessions focusing on elements such as structure, voice, character, setting and plot. \*Writers will be asked to submit 10,000 words and a synopsis of a work-in-progress two weeks before the course commences.



SPECIALISED

PROF. DEV.

# Join us for our Open Day – January 2018

## SAT 27 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
- Join Inkslingers – our popular and longest running writing group
- Information session on our Novel Fair
- Drop into a New Irish Communities session, an open creative writing group for non-native English speakers
- Presentation on our Professional Development initiatives for writers
- Free tea, coffee, cake and biscuits
- Free tours of the building

*It makes such a difference (to writers) to have the variety of useful events and workshops you provide as well as a venue where you always feel welcome!*

*Louise Couper, Professional Member of the IWC*



## WEEKEND COURSES • CÚRSAÍ DEIREADH SEACHTAINE

### Travel Writing with MANCHÁN MAGAN

SAT 10 FEB • 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.

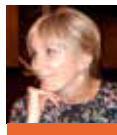


SPECIALISED

### Voice, Character and Dramatic Action with LISA HARDING

SAT 17 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

Over one day you will explore the essential aspects of finding an authentic voice. You will look at what makes a narrative voice compelling; how voice and dialogue can help to build character, drive the story and produce dramatic tension.



EMERGING

### Mindshift: The Art of Self-Publishing with VARIOUS SPEAKERS

SAT 24 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €60/€50 MEMBERS

Join Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin, Louise Phillips, Jo Zebedee and others on these professional development sessions aimed at established and emerging writers. The focus will be on getting started, editing and design, marketing, and the financial aspects of self-publishing. For further details see [www.irishwriterscentre.ie/selfpublishing](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie/selfpublishing)



PROF. DEV.

### Writing LGBTQ Characters with HILARY MCCOLLUM

SAT 3 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

Many writers are seeking to reflect greater diversity in their work. In this practically-focused one-day course, participants will have the chance to explore what is different (and what is the same) about writing lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\* and queer (LGBTQ) characters.



EMERGING

### Short Story Workshop with DANIELLE MCLAUGHLIN

SAT 3 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

Where do stories come from? Do we find them, or do they find us? On this one-day course we will undertake writing exercises designed to generate new stories and consider such things as how to begin, plot, dialogue, setting and how to write endings that work.



BEGINNER

### Sci-Fi/Dystopian Fiction with JO ZEBEDEE

SAT 24 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

What makes science fiction different from other genres? Does it - and should it - present a mirror into our own world? And why does so much SF incorporate dystopian themes? This workshop seeks to use critical analysis to explore such matters.

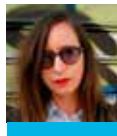


SPECIALISED

### Autofiction with JOANNA WALSH

SAT 7 APRIL • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 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.



SPECIALISED

### Submitting to Publishers with TRAMP PRESS

SAT 7 APRIL • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This one-day course with Sarah Davis Goff and Lisa Coen will focus on getting your novel ready for submission to publishers and agents. You will hear about ways to stand out in a crowded slush pile, how to target the right people and the pitfalls to avoid while presenting your work.



EMERGING

## Write Like a Girl with KERRY RYAN

SAT 21 APRIL • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

In this one-day course, aimed at women writers, you'll learn how to push through doubt, reduce fear of the blank page, become disciplined in your practice and enjoy writing so much more. You'll also become skilled in characterisation, dialogue and other essential writing techniques.



BEGINNER

## From First Draft to First Novel with WILLIAM RYAN

SAT 21 APRIL • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €80/€70 MEMBERS

This workshop is aimed at writers who have either completed their novel or are working on a first draft, as well as beginners who hope to turn a promising idea into something more. It will focus on plot, central and subsidiary characters, setting, research, flow and opening chapters.



EMERGING

## New Irish Communities

Drop in sessions • Starts Sat 17 Feb 11.00am – 1.00pm • 8 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, Tanya Farrelly and others every Saturday 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](http://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**



## NOVEL FAIR

- Described by *The Irish Times* as “Dragon’s Den for writers”, the Novel Fair is an Irish Writers Centre initiative which aims to introduce up-and-coming writers to top publishers and literary agents.
- Aspiring novelists, this is your opportunity to bypass the slush pile, pitch your idea and place your novel directly into the hands of publishers and agents.
- Submit 10,000 words by Fri 19 October, 2018.
- 2019 Launch: Thur 19 April, 2018

See [www.irishwriterscentre.ie](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie) for further details and T&Cs.



A vortex of creativity;  
supporting aspiring and  
established writers

President of Ireland,  
Michael D. Higgins

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W [www.irishwriterscentre.ie](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie)



## Mindshift: From Page to Stage with VARIOUS EXPERTS in association with the Lyric Theatre, Belfast

LYRIC THEATRE, BELFAST • SAT 27 JAN • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €28/£25

Join Stacey Gregg, Rosemary Jenkinson, Rebecca Mairs and other experts who will present on the opportunities available to emerging playwrights in Northern Ireland and beyond. For further details see [www.irishwriterscentre.ie/pagetostageni](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie/pagetostageni)



PROF. DEV.

## Creative Non-Fiction with ROB DOYLE

BELFAST • SAT 17 FEB • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €28/£25

In this course participants will explore brilliant writing that pushes the boundaries of non-fiction. Through a series of exercises and readings, participants will try out a variety of creative approaches to writing non-fiction such as autobiography, the essay, critical writing, travel writing and more.



SPECIALISED

## Novel Writing\* with BERNIE MCGILL

DERRY • TUES 27 FEB • 7PM – 9PM • 8 WEEKS • €88/£80

In this 8-week course, we will look at: structuring work; writing openings with impact; developing setting; creating credible characters; selecting point of view; writing dialogue; editing and redrafting; outlets for completed work. \*Participants should come with a 250-word outline for a novel.



EMERGING

## Propel: Learn to be your own Editor with CONOR KOSTICK

BELFAST • SAT 3 MARCH • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €28/£25

A crucial part of the journey from invention to publication is the editing stage. Here, you'll learn techniques to distance yourself from your draft and become an effective editor, both in respect to grammar, but more importantly, voice, characterisation and overall impact.



EMERGING

## Poetry Workshop with ERIN HALLIDAY

DERRY • DATE TBC • 7.00PM – 9PM • 6 WEEKS • €66/£60

For emerging or advanced poets who are interested in receiving critique, this course will provide constructive workshop-based analysis and review of their body of work. Participants will develop their critical skills through study of contemporary poetry in publication alongside self-evaluation.



EMERGING

## Blogwriting with MICK FEALTY

DERRY • DATE TBC • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €28/£25

Over the past two decades blogging has gone from strength to strength and has become an established part of the literary, journalistic, professional, and social landscape. Here you will get an overview of the entire blog process.



EMERGING

## Mindshift: A Guide to Publicising your Work with VARIOUS EXPERTS

DERRY • DATE TBC • 10.30AM – 4.30PM • 1 DAY • €28/£25

This is a highly practical day where writers, festival curators, publicists and journalists discuss their own experiences in promotions and offer advice on gaining recognition in the industry. For further details see [www.irishwriterscentre.ie/promoteyourwork](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie/promoteyourwork)



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# One-to-One Mentoring

**All writers can benefit** from the guidance and encouragement of **One-to-One Mentoring** no matter what stage you're at in your 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**.

*'Sarah's enthusiasm for YA is infectious, and her guidance invaluable in terms of both building confidence and in pointing out character flaws, plot holes and pacing issues.'*

Triona Campbell on one-to-one mentoring with **Sarah Webb**.

**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](http://www.irishwriterscentre.ie/mentor)**, the Professional Development section of our website, to see what writers and industry professionals are available.

# Around the Country & Beyond

As a national resource centre for Irish literature, we're always aiming to connect with writers and audiences outside of the capital. This year we have already travelled all around the island and we will continue to bring more of our offerings from home base to various parts of the country.

**The Irish Writers Centre Cavan Literary Programme**, launched in May, continued on throughout the autumn with **Brian Langan's** *Edit Your Novel* and **Brian Leyden** leading participants through their paces in *Writing for Radio*.

In Northern Ireland, we had a full programme of courses across all genres including **Gerard Brennan** with **CSNI: Crime Scene Northern Ireland** in Belfast, and **Patsy Horton** from **Blackstaff Press** sharing her publishing know-how. We also partnered with Queens University Belfast to bring our well-known **Publishing Day** to the Crescent Arts Centre. With **Brian Langan**, **Faith O'Grady**, and publicist **Jim Meredith** giving advice on publishing and promoting, and **Nuala O'Connor** revealing her own

experiences as a writer, it was a valuable and interesting day for writers. Northern Irish writers, be sure to check our website and newsletter for information on how to avail of free professional membership and mentoring opportunities.

For spring 2018 we will be expanding our Northern Ireland programme yet again, bringing **Rob Doyle** to Belfast for a one day *Creative Non-Fiction* workshop as well as *Novel Writing* with **Bernie McGill** and *Editing Your Own Work* with **Conor Kostick**. We'll also have professional development offerings from the Mindshift series for playwrights (*From Page to Stage*) and, an intensive day on publicising your work. The new year will also see us back in Cavan with courses in **Poetry**, **Memoir**, **Creative Non-Fiction** and more.

Regular visitors to our website will notice that we have new pages for events and courses in Northern Ireland and Around the Country - keep your eyes peeled for more over the coming months!



Launch of Irish Writers Centre Cavan programme with Director, Valerie Bistany, Louise Phillips, Minister for Arts Heather Humphreys, Ketty Elisabeth and Mia Gallagher

# IWC Events Programme

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As always we've had a busy autumn as we kicked off the season with **Culture Night 2017** in a bilingual celebration of contemporary Irish writing. In a first for the Centre, we hosted a **Teen Writers Showcase** while the writers on our Soapbox, including **Jennifer Johnston** and **June Caldwell**, took to the stage with newly commissioned work on the pros and cons of writing in the wake of Irish literary giants. October brought **Tóg an Mic**, the special 'as Gaeilge' edition of our monthly open mic and in November we crossed the Liffey with **Takin the Mic** and **Poetry Northern Ireland** as part of **Dublin Book Festival**. The festival also continued our Women in Literature series with **Stand in Awe of All Mná**, an innovative half-day event to shine focus on gender in the literary industry. November showcased Cavan writers in **Looking for the Right Word** putting Cavan writers centre stage with readings from **Michael Harding** and **Pat McCabe**, and special guests, local band, **The Strypes**. 2017 will culminate in a celebration of the IWC community with our annual **Members' Christmas Party**, featuring readings from our new Dublin City Writers-in-Residence, **E.M. Reapy** and **Declan Burke**.

As well as these exciting milestones, as always we continued to grow and develop our regular events at the centre. The **Irish Times Book Club** has welcomed an exciting line-up of authors including **Jennifer Johnston** and **Sally Rooney**, and **Takin The Mic** has continued on the last Friday of each month bringing an ever-growing number of great performers to a captive audience.

2018 will begin with **Nollaig na mBan**, in partnership with **Banshee Journal**. **Sinéad Gleeson** will host our Soapbox showcase featuring **Nuala O'Connor**, **Anna Carey**, **Alison Spittle** and **Éilís Ní Dhuibhne**. January will also mark the beginning of the second iteration of our cross border project, **XBorders: Accord** where, again, we will bring writers from across the island together to explore the themes of borders and diplomacy. In March to mark **International Women's Day** we will host the second annual **Women XBorders** event. On Saturday 14 April, we are hosting a great **UNESCO One City One Book** day of free short story workshops and an **Art of the Anthology** panel discussion to celebrate **The Long Gaze Back**, this year's featured book.

Be sure to sign up to our newsletter or visit our website to see what other IWC activities we'll be bringing on the road in 2018.



## Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing

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Carole Craig, MFA Class of 2016

For further advice on the programme and guidance on submitting:  
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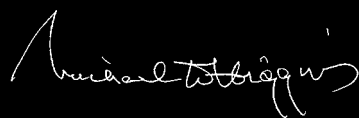


Joseph O'Connor

Ambassadors of the Irish Writers Centre

"Here, in 19 Parnell Square, a genuine community has grown and flourished. It, like all truly functioning communities, has had to craft its own ethic of solidarity, one that is based on equality, full participation and genuine respect for the many differing voices that makes up its whole.

It is for that reason that I am very proud to be Patron of the Irish Writers Centre."



President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins,  
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