

LEAVES

FESTIVAL OF WRITING & MUSIC

8-11th
November 2023

Celebrating
Writing
and Music
in Laois



ONLINE BOOKING AT
dunamais.ie

Contributors:

- Aingeala Flannery • Anne Enright • John Banville • Andrea Carter •
- Colin O'Mahoney • Donal Ryan • Ultan Conlon • Michelle Mulcahy •
- Ann-Marie Kelly • Emily Hourican • John Drennan • Alex Clark •
- Molly Donnery and Cathal Crowley •

Find us:    www.leavesfestival.ie



Laos County
Library Service

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



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DUNAMAISE
ARTS CENTRE



DOWNTOWN
Portlaoise

LAOIS
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For tickets or to check out the full programme of events see
www.leavesfestival.ie or www.dunamais.ie.

Tickets can also be booked directly from Dunamais Box Office,
tel: 057 866 3355.

On Social:

-  www.facebook.com/leavesliteraryfestival
-  twitter.com/leavesfestival
-  www.instagram.com/leavesfestival

www.leavesfestival.ie



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Leaves Festival 2023, is brought to you by the Laois Arts Office in association with the Laois County Library Service, Dunamaisé Arts Centre and funded by Laois County Council, The Arts Council and Creative Ireland Laois.



Welcome

The Leaves Festival 2023 brings the best of Irish writing and music to County Laois in November. We are delighted to welcome Aingeala Flannery, as Leaves Festival Writer-in-Residence.

Aingeala's book, 'The Amusements', was selected in 2023, as the Leaves Festival One-County-One-Book. Aingeala looks forward to meeting people of all ages for conversations and workshops at the public and closed events she will embark upon. We are delighted that the recently opened Portlaoise Library will be a new venue for all to enjoy during the Leaves Festival.

The Leaves Festival is a great opportunity to hear from contemporary writers, enjoy the art of conversation and listen to musicians.

Thank you to the Festival Team who have worked hard to bring the Leaves Festival to you. Thank you also to the volunteers who join us during the festival.

Bain taineamh as an bhféile, más cuairteoir don chéad uair thú nó cuairteoir rialta chuig an bhféile thú.

Muireann Ní Chonail
Laois Arts Officer

One County One Book

All of County Laois are reading
'The Amusements' by Aingeala Flannery



Find a copy at your local library or in your local bookshop.

8-11th
November 2023

Come To Meet The Author at the Leaves Festival

8th Nov Wednesday

2:00 pm
Aingeala Flannery Reading and Conversation
Portlaoise Prison



6:00 pm
An Invitation to the Kennedys with Emily Hourican
Dunamaisé Arts Centre



Emily Hourican's latest novel is inspired by real-life events in 1930s London society. Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy has recently arrived from Boston, and as the daughter of the US ambassador, she is at the centre of the most elite social circles. But when she falls for a duke-in-waiting, she realises there are plenty of people who think she doesn't belong. Her new friend Lady Brigid Guinness has no interest in love, marriage or society connections. But her brother-in-law Chips Channon has other ideas...

Emily Hourican is a journalist and author. She has written features for the Sunday Independent for fifteen years, as well as Image magazine, Condé Nast Traveler and Woman and Home. Her debut novel, The Privileged, was shortlisted for the 2016 Irish Book Awards in the Best Commercial Fiction. She lives in Dublin with her husband and three children.

Ragged Trousers is an exhibition of new paintings by Laois artist Paddy Critchley

Dunamaisé Arts Centre

>> Runs until 11 November <<

FREE to visit during opening hours

8:00 pm
Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret
Dunamaisé Arts Centre

BOOKING:
Dunamaisé Arts Centre / Tickets €8/€5



A beloved and best-selling classic comes to the big screen with this adaptation of Judy Blume's Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret. Starring Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates, and Abby Ryder Fortson as Margaret, this timeless, coming-of-age story has transcended decades and spoken to generations. At 11, Margaret is moving to a new town and beginning to contemplate everything about life, friendship, and adolescence. She relies on her mother (McAdams), who offers loving support but is herself finding her own footing in a new place, and her grandmother Sylvia (Bates), who is coming to terms with finding happiness in the next phase of her life. For all three, questions of identity, one's place in the world, and what brings meaning to a life will draw them closer together than ever before. Written and directed by Kelly Fremon Craig.

9th Nov Thursday

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Aingeala Flannery Reading and conversation for 2nd level students
Mountmellick Library

BOOKING:
Tel: 057 864 4572
Email: mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Coming of age in small town. Writer in residence, Aingeala Flannery reads from her award-winning novel The Amusements, and discusses it with Ann-Marie Kelly.

FREE



1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Aingeala Flannery Writer's Workshop for Adults
Mountmellick Library

BOOKING:
Tel: 057 864 4572
Email: mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Character Building. Writer in residence, Aingeala Flannery, author of award-winning novel The Amusements delivers a writing workshop on how to create memorable characters.

FREE

11:00 am
Café Concert, Ultan Conlon
The Hare's Corner, Mountmellick

Fresh from a September 2023 launch of his new album 'The Starlight Ballroom', join Ultan in the intimate café setting. This solo show showcases Ultan's continued evolution as a compelling songwriter. Revel in the touching stories, soul-stirring melodies, and Conlon's clear, melodic vocals. Enjoy a coffee and Ultan's inimitable style.

FREE

2:30 pm
Afternoon Melodies with Ultan Conlon
Mental Health Dept of Rehabilitation and Recovery, Link Centre St Fintan's Healthcare Campus, Portlaoise

In a closed event exclusively for residents and service users, this concert promises to bring an enriching atmosphere with Ultan's emotive and melodic music.

FREE

7:00 pm
Donal Ryan with Music by Ultan Conlon

Portlaoise Library
BOOKING:
Tel: 057 862 2333
Email: portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie



Join award-winning Irish author Donal Ryan at Portlaoise Library as he talks about writing, literature and his most recent novel, The Queen of Dirt Island. Donal will also be joined by Irish singer/songwriter Ultan Conlon, who will perform from his fifth record, The Starlight Ballroom. Ultan's performances have been described as a "rare treat filled with original music, beguiling backstories & loud laughter which make for a wonderful, uplifting evening".

Irish singer-songwriter ULTAN CONLON anchored his distinctive sound and sensibility in Los Angeles, California with Grammy Award-winning David Garza (Fiona Apple) who produced Ultan's 5th record, The Starlight Ballroom. It was launched this September. Mary Coughlan grabbed & recorded Ultan's songs "Hall of Mirrors" and "The Lumberjack" while John Martyn was touched by subsequently recorded "Really Gone". The Starlight Ballroom, a Ballroom of Romance in Westport Co Mayo, opened its doors in the early 60s, hosted international & national acts of the day who thrilled thousands of dance goers until it closed in 1981. Roy Orbison played The Starlight in 1969 Ultan's performances have been described as a "rare treat filled with original music, beguiling backstories & loud laughter which make for a wonderful, uplifting evening".



10th Nov Friday

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Aingeala Flannery - Reading and conversation for local 2nd level Schools
Dunamaisé Arts Centre
BOOKING:
Dunamaisé Arts Centre



So, you wanna be an artist? Writer in residence, Aingeala Flannery, author of The Amusements in conversation with Aoife Barry, on her journey from reluctant student to award-winning author.

1:00 pm
Aingeala Flannery, Writer's Workshop (Adults)
Dunamaisé Arts Centre
BOOKING:
Dunamaisé Arts Centre / Tickets €30



Aingeala Flannery is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster. She has completed an MFA in Creative Writing at University College Dublin. Her short story 'Visiting Hours' was the winner of the 2019 Harper's Bazaar Short Story Competition. In 2020 and 2021, she was awarded a Literature Bursary by the Arts Council of Ireland. The Amusements, her first book, was the winner of the 2023 Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award in association with Listowel Writers' Week.



8:00 pm
Telling Stories
Aingeala Flannery, Anne Enright in conversation with Alex Clark
Live Music with Molly Donnery and Cathal Crowley
Dunamaisé Arts Centre
BOOKING:
Dunamaisé Arts Centre / Tickets €15



In this unique event, Leaves Festival writer in residence Aingeala Flannery will discuss reading and writing fiction with award winning novelist Anne Enright. Aingeala was writing her first novel The Amusements while working on her MFA in creative writing at University College Dublin. Anne Enright's most recent novel, The Wren had recently been published to rave reviews. Journalist Alex Clarke will chair the evening.

Molly Donnery is a critically acclaimed traditional Irish and contemporary singer from county Laois. Best known for her vocals with emerging band The Haar, Molly's style combines the emotive storytelling of the tradition with modern techniques and improvisation. Having recently graduated from Film and Theatre Studies in Trinity College Dublin, Molly is currently balancing life as a freelance film producer while working on her debut ep as a solo artist, which she is planning on releasing this coming winter.

Cathal Crowley is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and theatre-maker from Cork. Whilst studying Music and Psychology in Trinity College Dublin, he sang at major festivals. The Spring of 2023 saw Cathal's Dublin theatre debut in Smock Alley Theatre, with 'The Wholly Divided Trinity Conspiracy of Queen Elizabeth (near Dublin)', in which he co-wrote, directed and performed the lead role.

11th Nov Saturday

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Comic Book Workshop with Colin O' Mahoney
Portarlinton Library
BOOKING:
Tel: 057 864 3751
Email: portarlintonlibrary@laoiscoco.ie



Anyone can make comics! In this short workshop, you will learn the basics of coming up with ideas, designing your characters, and putting pen to paper to draw your own comics. Comics are an easy and fun way to tell stories of any kind, and anyone can learn how and get started straight away.

FREE

12:00 pm
Stand By Me, Spoken Word Event with Ann-Marie Kelly
Dunamaisé Arts Centre
BOOKING:
Dunamaisé Arts Centre

On Saturday November 11th, Broadcaster Ann-Marie Kelly brings together a collection of voices of all ages to speak under the theme 'Stand by me.'

FREE



The lunchtime gathering will tell stories about friendship, loyalty and overcoming. Sharing stories and music, fun and chatting, that's what it's all about. Like Ann Marie Kelly's previous successful Outdoor Spoken Word event 'If the Walls had Ears', the audience will be invited to take part to share their own stories, if they wish.

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Comic Book Workshop with Colin O' Mahoney
Portlaoise Library
BOOKING:
Tel: 057 862 2333
Email: portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie



John Banville and Andrea Carter will read and discuss their latest books with journalist John Drennan. John Banville's The Lockup is set in 1950s Dublin. In a lock-up garage in the city, the body of a young woman is discovered - an apparent suicide. But pathologist Dr Quirke and Detective Inspector Strafford soon suspect foul play. Andrea Carter's Death Writeshow begins in Early summer in Carter's fictional Inishowen town of Glendara. The big news is that Gavin Featherstone, the peninsula's bestselling but reclusive writer, has been persuaded to take part the town's literary festival but he collapses and dies onstage...

