

LEAVES

FESTIVAL OF WRITING & MUSIC

5-10th
November 2019

Celebrating
Writing
and Music
in Laois



FESTIVAL
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www.leavesfestival.ie

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dunamaisie.ie

LEAVES

FESTIVAL OF WRITING & MUSIC

LEAVES FESTIVAL OF WRITING AND MUSIC 2019

FÁILTE

The Leaves Festival of Writing and Music celebrates the diversity and richness in today's literary, music, theatre and film scene. Leaves aims to excite and engage with audiences young and old.



Occurring as it does, in that lull before the rush of Christmas, lends Laois's Leaves Festival its own unique intimacy: an unhurried space for writers and audiences to meet in a relaxed atmosphere and luxate in their shared love of books. This friendly ambiance and lively exchange of ideas has allowed it to evolve a cherished place in Ireland's literary calendar.

Dermot Bolger

Leaves Curator for 2019



We have a jam-packed festival for all to enjoy this year. There are opportunities to hear what Samuel Beckett was like from master photographer John Minihan. Hear the stories behind the stories as told by John Sheahan, Christine Dwyer Hickey and Joseph O'Connor to name but a few of our amazing contributors. Come and enjoy the art of conversation, listen to musicians and appreciate film and theatre. We look forward to sharing some of the magic that is in store.

Muireann Ní Chonaill

Arts Officer and Leaves Festival Coordinator

5th
Nov
Tuesday



VENUE:

Dunamaisé
Arts Centre

€10

8 pm

MANCHÁN MAGAN ARÁN & IM

A bi-lingual performance in which Manchán bakes bread while offering insights into the wonders of the Irish language. A celebration of language, land and local Irish food, with freshly baked sourdough for the audience to slice and spread with butter they churn themselves. (Irish not essential to enjoy.)

Supported by Creative Ireland Laois, as part of the Creative Ireland Programme in partnership with Laois County Council.

BOOKING:

<https://dunamaisé.ticketsolve.com/shows/873607788>

6th
Nov
Wednesday

VENUE:

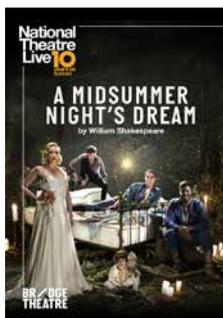
Dunamaisé
Arts Centre

10 am & 2 pm

ARÁN & IM with Manchán Magan – School Performance

FREE
to Schools

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: ☎ 057 86 63355



VENUE:

Dunamaisé
Arts Centre

€15/€12

7 pm

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

National Theatre Live presents:

“The course of true love never did run smooth...”

Sit back in Dunamaisé and enjoy, as the audience in London follow the action on foot through a theatre transformed into a forest - a dream world of flying fairies and moonlight revels, in this gloriously immersive staging of Shakespeare's most famous romantic comedy. Starring: Gwendoline Christie (Game of Thrones).

BOOKING:

<https://dunamaisé.ticketsolve.com/shows/873607912>

7th
Nov
Thursday



VENUE:

Portlaoise Library

FREE

8 pm

ARTHUR BROOMFIELD
with Laois Writers Group

Laois Writers Group is hosting the launch of Arthur Broomfield's new poetry book, 'The Giant's Footsteps in the Rock of Dunamaisé'. Arthur will be joined on the evening by Ballyfin sean nós singer Paddy Fitzpatrick. Paddy's ballads are honest and beautiful depictions of life in the Slieve Blooms.

BOOKING: ☎ 057 86 22333



VENUE:

Dunamaisé
Arts Centre

€18/€16

8 pm

CLASS, Verdant Productions

Written & directed by Iseult Golden & David Horan
Cast: **Sarah Morris, Stephen Jones, Will O'Connell**

A parent-teacher meeting goes very wrong in this funny, heartbreaking and beautifully observed new play about learning difficulties: in school, in life, wherever.

BOOKING:

<https://dunamaisé.ticketsolve.com/shows/873607912>

8th
Nov
Friday



VENUE:

Abbeyleix Library

FREE
for schools

10 am

MYTH & MAGIC THEME ILLUSTRATION
WORKSHOP by Wayne O'Connor

Sligo based visual artist and illustrator Wayne O'Connor brings his study illustration workshop to Laois children. His use of imagery is inspired by an interest in mythology, fantasy and science fiction games, film and literature. Wayne works predominantly in pen and ink. "His shows are very energetic and he tends to go a bit crazy, which children love".

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: ☎ 057 87 30020

8th
Nov
Friday



VENUE:

Dunamaisé
Arts Centre

€20

10 am - 1 pm

WRITING WORKSHOP

with Enda Wyley - Poetry in the Making

Enda Wyley is an award-winning Irish poet, teacher and children's author. She has published five collections of poetry and her work has been widely broadcast and anthologised. In this workshop discover ways to make your poems succeed through the power of imagery.

BOOKING:

<https://dunamaisé.ticketsolve.com/shows/873607916>



VENUE:

Portlaoise Library

FREE

11 am

OUTLANDERS

Stories of the Displaced by Séan Ó Tuathaigh

What would you do to survive? What sacrifices would you endure for a better life? Would you swim a vast river? Would you trek across a desert or float through a malarial rainforest? How about breaking out of a slave plantation? Boarding a leaky ship? Escaping a siege? Outlanders offers a glimpse into the lives of the displaced, not through screen or newsfeed, but through the very eyes of those who survived.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: ☎ 057 86 22333



VENUE:

Mountmellick
Library

FREE
for schools

12 pm

ROALD DAHL THEME ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP with Wayne O'Connor

Sligo based visual artist and illustrator Wayne O' Connor 2nd workshop brings alive the anarchic work of everyone's favourite author, Roald Dahl. This event combines high energy storytelling, live drawing and audience participation. Guaranteed to send pupils and teachers home laughing.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: ☎ 057 86 44572

8th
Nov
Friday



SCHOOL VISITS with Enda Wyley

Award winning poet, teacher and children's author **Enda Wyley** will pay a visit to a number of Laois schools on Friday 8th November. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to hear from a highly regarded contemporary writer and to inspire their work.



8 pm

"THREE IRISH VOICES"

Joseph O'Connor and Christine Dwyer Hickey in conversation with Dermot Bolger with music by Sibéal Ní Chasaide



An evening where the written word comes alive, aloud and off the pages. **Joseph O'Connor, Christine Dwyer Hickey** in conversation with **Dermot Bolger** will chat about the challenges of writing fiction that brings in the lives of real people. **Joseph O'Connor** will read from his new book *Shadowplay*. This is a humorous retelling of Bram Stoker's life. In the novel our hero is involved in a love triangle with two giants of the Victorian stage. **Christine Dwyer Hickey** will also read from her latest novel. *The Narrow Land* tells the story of ten year old Michael who forges an unlikely friendship with the artists Jo and Edward Hopper. Her writing shows a deep understanding of human weakness, longing and regret.

Sibéal Ní Chasaide will bring her unique haunting contemporary sean-nós music to this wonderful evening.

VENUE:

Dunamaisé
Arts Centre

€15/€12

BOOKING:

<https://dunamaisé.ticketsolve.com/shows/873607801>

9th
Nov
Saturday



VENUE:

Dunamaisé
Arts Centre

€20

10 am - 1 pm

WRITING WORKSHOP

with Christine Dwyer Hickey

Join **Christine Dwyer Hickey**, one of Ireland's most beloved writers, in an informal workshop to chat about aspects of writing your novel. Christine will work with you to delve into your concerns, it may be regarding the plot, characters, dialogue and location. An immersive workshop for any budding novelist.

BOOKING:

www.dunamaisé.ie



VENUE:

Dunamaisé Arts Centre

FREE

2 pm

INSPIRED STORYTELLING

Young Curators Exhibition

As part of the Young Curators exhibition families are invited to "Inspired Storytelling". Families will be encouraged to tell tall tales from their imagination, sparked by the artworks on display.



VENUE:

Dunamaisé
Arts Centre

€7/€5

3 pm

JOHN MINIHAN

Legendary Photographer

In a rare public conversation with Dermot Bolger, **John Minihan**, one of Ireland's most distinguished living photographers, especially noted for his portraits of writers (Beckett in a Paris Café), artists (Francis Bacon), and celebrities (Princess Diana) presents his fascinating slideshow of his world famous photographs. This is a must for lovers of literature and photography.

BOOKING:

<https://dunamaisé.ticketsolve.com/shows/873607806>

9th
Nov
Saturday



VENUE:

St Peters Church
of Ireland

€15/€12

8 pm

**“AN IRISH LEGEND” John Sheahan
in conversation with Dermot Bolger,
with a reading by Niamh Boyce**

The great **John Sheahan** in conversation with **Dermot Bolger** and prose by **Niamh Boyce**. Legendary John Sheahan, violinist, last surviving member of the original Dubliners, acclaimed composer and poet will read from his novel Fiddle Dreams and entertain with some of his incredible tunes. If we are lucky we'll hear 'The Marino Waltz'!

Niamh Boyce, award winning novelist and poet, will read from her latest novel Her Kind. Enjoy an eclectic mix of chat, novel excerpts, poetry readings, nostalgic stories and well-loved tunes. The intimate & cosy setting of the 18th Century St Peter's Church is the perfect backdrop for this truly special event of the Leaves Festival.

BOOKING:

<https://dunamaiseticketsolve.com/shows/873607789>

10th
Nov
Sunday



VENUE:

Ballintubbert
Gardens and
House and St.
Bridget's Church

€25

2:30 pm

**“BALLINTUBBERT, A HOUSE FULL OF
CHARACTERS” with John MacKenna
and guests**

Ballintubbert Gardens and House in collaboration with St Bridget's Church welcome you to the closing event of the Leaves Festival. Join us in celebrating the characters who once called Ballintubbert home. Enjoy music and readings in the church where Poet Laureate Cecil Day Lewis's father once ministered, led by short story writer, playwright and novelist John MacKenna. Return to Ballintubbert House to enjoy supper and an atmospheric evening of literary discussions with John MacKenna and special guests.

BOOKING:

Contact Dominique at Ballintubbert House on ☎ 087 312 7639

Not included in the Festival Pass.

CONTRIBUTORS



**Dermot
Bolger**

Born in Dublin in 1959, Dermot Bolger is one of Ireland's best known writers. His most recent play, *Last Orders at the Docksides*, was staged by the Abbey Theatre in the 2019 Dublin Theatre Festival. His fourteen novels include *The Journey Home*, *Tanglewood*, *The Lonely Sea and Sky*, *The Family on Paradise Pier* and his just published, *An Ark of Light*. Bolger writes for Ireland's leading newspapers, and in 2012 was named Commentator of the Year at the Irish Newspaper awards.



**John
Minihan**

John Minihan's world famous photograph of having coffee with Beckett in a Paris cafe has become one of the iconic images of the twentieth century. In a rare public interview with Dermot Bolger, Minihan – one of Ireland's most distinguished living photographers who is especially noted for his portraits of writers – discusses his friendship with Beckett, which started when he showed Beckett his famous photographs of the last ever wake to be held in his native Athy.



**John
Sheahan**

John Sheahan is one of Ireland's best known musicians. Born in Dublin in 1939, he was a member of The Dubliners from 1964 to 2012. He has played with musicians the world over and has guested on numerous folk, traditional and rock recordings. His own compositions, among them, *The Marino Waltz* and *Autumn in Paris*, have become essential elements of the Irish musical repertoire. Over the years, he has been in demand as a studio musician, and has contributed to the recordings of such artists as Kate Bush, Rod Stewart, Dolly Parton, Terence Trent D'Arby, and The André Rieu Orchestra.



**Joseph
O'Connor**

Novelist, screenwriter, playwright and broadcaster, Joseph O'Connor was born in Dublin. He is the author of nine novels including *Star of the Sea*, *Ghost Light* (Dublin One City One Book novel 2011) and *Shadowplay* (June 2019). Among his awards are the Prix Zepter for European Novel of the Year, France's Prix Millepages, Italy's Premio Acerbi, an American Library Association Award and the Irish Pen Award for Outstanding Achievement in Literature. Twice-Booker Prize-winner Peter Carey has written, 'There are few living writers who can take us back in time so assuredly, through such gorgeous sentences. Joseph O'Connor is a wonder, and *Shadowplay* is a triumph.'



**Christine
Dwyer Hickey**

Christine Dwyer Hickey is one of Ireland's best-known writers. She is the author of many novels, including *The Cold Eye of Heaven* that won the Irish Novel of the Year 2012 and nominated for the International IMPAC award; *Tatty* which was nominated for The Orange Prize and will be Dublin's One City One Book choice for 2020. "*Last Train from Liguria*" was nominated for the Prix L'Européen de Littérature. Her work has been translated into many European languages. She will read from her latest novel, *The Narrow Road*, which is set in 1950 Cape Cod and deals with the marriage of the painters Edward and Jo Hopper.



**Niamh
Boyce**

Hennessy XO New Irish Writer of The Year in 2012, Niamh's Boyce's debut novel *THE HERBALIST* (Penguin), won Sunday Independent Debut of the Year at the Irish Book Awards and was nominated for an IMPAC. Her fiction and poetry have been broadcast, adapted for stage and anthologised, most recently in 'The Long Gaze Back,' 'The Hennessy Anthology' and 'Hallelujah for 50 Foot Women.' Her second novel, *HER KIND* (Penguin Random House) is based on the Kilkenny Witchcraft Trial of Alice Kytler. Nominated for the EU Prize for literature, the judges called *Her Kind*, 'as searing a critique of our own times as is Arthur Millar's *The Crucible*'.



**Manchán
Magan**

Manchán Magan is a writer and documentary-maker. He has written books on his travels in Africa, India and South America and two novels. He writes regularly for *The Irish Times*, reports on travel for various radio programmes, and has presented dozens of documentaries on issues of world culture for TG4, RTÉ & Travel Channel. He lives in an oak wood, with bees, hens and veg, in a slightly confused house, with a grass roof, near Lough Lene, Co Westmeath.



**Sibéal
Ní Chasaide**

Sibéal, "A young woman of the new Ireland" (Irish Independent). Sibéal Ní Chasaide's unique vocal qualities and singing style command attention wherever she appears. Her remarkable versatility in capturing mood her vocal technique with its rich overlay of sean-nós, makes her singing style immediately recognisable and unmistakable. Her album *Sibéal*, features a variety of songs sung both in Irish and English, with lush orchestrations by Irish composer Patrick Cassidy.



**Enda
Wyley**

Enda Wyley is a poet, teacher, and children's author. She has published five collections of poetry with Dedalus Press; Borrowed Space, New and Selected Poems (2014), To Wake to This (2009), Poems for Breakfast (2004), Socrates in the Garden (1998), and Eating Baby Jesus (1993). A new sixth collection, The Painter on his Bike, is due from Dedalus Press 2019.



**Wayne
O'Connor**

Wayne O'Connor is a Freelance illustrator based in Sligo. He works predominantly in Digital Mediums. His imagery is inspired by his interests in Mythology, Fantasy and Science Fiction games, film and literature.



**Séan
Ó Tuathaigh**

Séan Ó Tuathaigh was born and raised in Sligo and has an M. Phil in Creative Writing from TCD. Before that course, he taught English in Hanoi, Vietnam. After graduation, in 2016, he moved to the US for 18 months, where he worked as a refugee biographer in a resettlement agency and, following that experience, he wrote Outlanders.



**Arthur
Broomfield**

Arthur Broomfield is a poet and Beckett scholar from Laois. His recent publications are his poetry collection Cold Coffee at Emo Court and The Empty Too. His poems have been widely published in Ireland, the UK and USA. Dr Broomfield was awarded his Ph.D in English literature by Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick in 2008.



**John
MacKenna**

John MacKenna is the author of nineteen books (fiction, poetry and memoir); a dozen stage plays and four radio plays. He is a winner of the Irish Times; Hennessy and C Day Lewis Awards for literature and a Jacobs Radio Award for his documentary series with Leonard Cohen. He teaches creative writing at NUI Maynooth and lives in Co Carlow.



**Paddy
Fitzpatrick**

Paddy Fitzpatrick is a prolific singer-songwriter of renown from Ballyfin, Laois. Paddy sings with a lived-in voice, a slightly husky more than a honeyed affair, in the vein of the great ballad singers of the 1960's. Slieve Bloom Sean Nós captures the beauty and ruggedness of life in the Slieve Blooms.

Festival Team:

Muireann Ní Chonaill, Arts Officer

Bernie Foran, Laois Libraries

Bridie Keenan, Assistant Arts Officer

Patricia O'Rourke, Clerical Officer

Michelle de Forge, Director Dunamais Arts Centre

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The Arts Office acknowledges the support of the Arts Council, Creative Ireland, Creative Ireland Laois & Poetry Ireland.

For more information on the Leaves Festival and the Laois Arts Programme contact:

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W: www.leavesfestival.ie

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