



September 15, 2015

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts



**Three-Week International Festival of
Theater, Music, Dance, Literature and More**

**Kennedy Center to Host Open Playwriting Challenge
Selected Plays to be Staged as Readings during Festival**

**Throughout the Kennedy Center
May 17 to June 5, 2016**

OPENING CONCERT

Concert Hall

May 17, 2016 at 8:00 pm

In celebration of the opening of *Ireland 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts and Culture*, the concert will feature top performing artists from Ireland and the United States, joined on stage by the National Symphony Orchestra.

~ more ~

THEATER

The Abbey Theatre

The Plough and the Stars

Written by Seán O'Casey

Eisenhower Theater

May 18 – 19, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Set in a tenement house, against the backdrop of the Easter Rising in 1916, *The Plough and the Stars* is both an intimate play about the lives of ordinary people and an epic play about ideals and the birth of the Irish nation. Amidst the tumult of political upheaval, Jack and Nora Clitheroe are “like two turtle doves always billing and cooing,” much to the ridicule of their bustling neighbors. But when Ireland calls, Jack must choose between love for his wife and duty to his country. Written by Seán O'Casey, *The Plough and the Stars* was first performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin on February 8, 1926 and has remained a classic in the Irish dramatic repertoire.

The Abbey Theatre was founded as Ireland's national theater by W.B. Yeats and Lady Augusta Gregory in 1904 “to bring upon the stage the deeper emotions of Ireland.” Today, the Abbey produces an annual program of diverse, engaging, innovative Irish and international theater and invests in and promotes new Irish writers and artists.

Pan Pan Theatre

All That Fall

Written by Samuel Beckett

Directed by Gavin Quinn

Recommended for ages 16 and up

Terrace Gallery

May 19 – 20, 2016 at 7:30 pm and May 21, 2016 at 1:30 pm, 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm

All That Fall is a multi-layered composition of voices that can be experienced as a black comedy, a murder mystery, a cryptic literary riddle, or a quasi-musical score. Seated in rocking chairs, audiences are immersed into an atmospheric chamber of multiple speakers and ambient lights, experiencing Samuel Beckett's first radio play as he intended. Directed by Gavin Quinn, Pan Pan Theatre's production of *All That Fall* won the 2011 Irish Times Theatre Awards for Best Sound Design and Best Lighting Design as well as the Herald Angel Award at the Edinburgh International Festival 2013.

Since Pan Pan Theatre was established by co-directors Gavin Quinn and Aedín Cosgrove, the company has constantly examined and challenged the nature of its work and has resisted settling into well tried formulas. All works created are original, either through the writing (original plays) or through the totally unique expression of established writings. Pan Pan is committed to presenting performances nationally and internationally and developing links for co-productions and collaborations. The company has toured in Ireland, UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and China. Most recently, *All That Fall* has performed at the Barbican, WTF Brisbane Powerhouse, Sydney Festival, Edinburgh Festival, and BAM, among others.

Theatre Lovett

The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly

Written by Finegan Kruckemeyer

Directed by Lynne Parker

Performed by Louis Lovett

Family Theater

May 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm and May 21 – 22, 2016 at 1:30 pm & 4:00 pm

Louis Lovett is the sole performer in this interactive show about the adventures of Peggy O’Hegarty, who works as a packer with her parents as she sings (terribly). One day, she steps outside to discover that everyone in her city has gone. As she desperately tries to save the day, we learn about love, loss, the reassurance of goats, and the courage to sing gloriously—on or off-key. Written by Finegan Kruckemeyer and directed by Lynne Parker, *The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly* has toured extensively throughout Ireland, England, Australia, and the U.S., receiving high praise and reviews across the globe. Run by joint artistic directors Muireann Ahern and Louis Lovett, Theatre Lovett produces theater for family audiences. Theatre Lovett’s mission is to make theatre accessible to young audiences without patronizing, stereotyping, or belittling their audience’s experience and innocence. Since their foundation in 2010, they have had three Dublin Theatre Festival premieres and have toured extensively both nationally and internationally. In 2012, they were the overall winners of The David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Award.

Olwen Fouéré

riverrun

Adapted, directed and performed by Olwen Fouéré

An adaptation through the voice of the river in James Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake*

Produced by The Emergency Room and Galway International Arts Festival in association with Cusack Projects Limited

Family Theater

May 25–26, 2016 at 7:00 pm

riverrun is Olwen Fouéré’s adaptation and performance of the voice of the river Liffey (“Life,” Anna Livia Plurabelle) in James Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake*. The world premiere of *riverrun* took place at the Galway Arts Festival in July 2013. It has also been presented at the Kilkenny Arts Festival in August 2013 and at the Dublin Theatre Festival in October 2013.

Born in Galway of Breton parents, Olwen Fouéré is a leading Irish actor and creative artist. In addition to her numerous film appearances and stage credits worldwide, she has also featured in major collaborations with numerous visual artists. Olwen co-founded and artistic directed the avant-garde Operating Theatre and created TheEmergencyRoom in 2009 for the development of her ongoing projects. She has been nominated for Best Actress in the 2013 Irish Times Theatre Awards for her work on *riverrun*.

Fishamble: The New Play Company

Tiny Plays for Ireland and America

Directed by Jim Culleton

US Premiere

Recommended for ages 14 and up

Performed in English

Terrace Gallery

May 24–25, 2016 at 7:30 pm

In 2011, Fishamble invited the citizens of Ireland to submit tiny plays capturing the challenges and joys of contemporary life. Over 1,700 plays were submitted to the company, and Fishamble produced 50 of them to great audience and critical acclaim.

Prior to the festival, the Kennedy Center will host an open playwriting submission process, and Fishamble will select representative new tiny plays to present as staged readings during their engagement. Online and in person tutorials and workshops in schools and at the Kennedy Center will be held leading up to the festival to encourage those with little or no writing experience to find and share their voice and

perspective. People of all ages, from all across the United States, are encouraged to write an original play inspired by President Kennedy's life and legacy, celebrating the resilience and power of the human spirit. More information on how to submit will be announced at a later date.

Fishamble brings 20 of these plays to the Kennedy Center. This presentation offers vivid glimpses of contemporary Ireland as seen through a range of perspectives, and is directed by Fishamble's artistic director, Jim Culleton. It includes plays by international best-selling novelist Maeve Binchy, National Book Award winner Colum McCann, and writers Pauline McLynn and Joseph O'Connor.

Over the past 25 years, Fishamble: The New Play Company has produced 131 new plays, including 42 standalone plays and 89 short plays as part of longer works. Fishamble is committed to touring its work to audiences throughout Ireland and internationally.

This project is presented in Washington and New York in collaboration with the Irish Arts Center.

A Girl's Bedroom

U.S. Premiere

Written and directed by Enda Walsh

Featuring the voice of Charlie Murphy

Recommended for ages 14 and up

Performed in English

Terrace Gallery

May 28–June 5, 2016

At the age of six, a girl leaves her bedroom and family home and walks. She never stops. Until now. Enda Walsh presents his absorbing text *A Girl's Bedroom* in a theatrical installation. The installation with audio play will be presented three times per hour for an audience of five people at a time.

Enda Walsh is a multi-award-winning Irish playwright. His work has been translated into over 20 languages and has been performed internationally since 1998. His recent plays include *Ballyturk*, produced by Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival (Galway, Dublin, Cork and London, 2014); *Room 303*, shown at the Galway International Arts Festival (2014); *Misterman*, produced by Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival in Ireland, London and New York (2011-2012); and several plays for Druid Theatre Company, including *Penelope*, which has been presented in Ireland, America and London, from 2010–2011, *The New Electric Ballroom*, which played Ireland, Australia, Edinburgh, London, New York and Los Angeles from 2008-2009, and *The Walworth Farce*, which played Ireland, Edinburgh, London, and New York, as well as an American and Australian tour, from 2007-2010. He won a Tony Award for writing the book for the musical *Once* in 2012, which is currently playing on Broadway, West End, and U.S. Tour.

Charlie Murphy is an Irish television, stage, and film actress. She won the Best Television Actress Award at the Irish Film and Television Awards for her role as Siobhan in the TV series *Love/Hate*. She has just been awarded the 2015 IFTA for Best Actress, Drama, for her work on all five seasons of *Love/Hate*. She was also nominated in this year's IFTAs for Best Supporting Actress, Drama for her role in two seasons of the BBC Drama *The Village*. Charlie recently appeared in the feature film *'71*, in *Northmen* at the 2014 Zurich Film Festival, and *Philomena*. In 2012, she won "Best Actress" at the Irish Times Theatre Awards for her portrayal of Eliza Doolittle in *Pygmalion*. She most recently appeared onstage in *Our Few and Evil Days* at the Abbey Theatre/National Theatre of Ireland for Dublin Theatre Festival 2014 which has been nominated for numerous awards in the Irish Times Theatre Awards for 2015.

Fiona Shaw

Artist-in-Residence
Eisenhower Theater

Fiona Shaw will offer workshops and panel discussions for local artists, playwrights, and directors, as well as educational activities for students. This program will be developed and offered in collaboration with the Kennedy Center Education Department. Fiona will also perform in the Eisenhower Theater. More details will be announced at a later date. Fiona Shaw, born in 1958 in County Cork, studied at University College Cork and then at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London. Fiona is most prolific on the stage, both as an actor and director; however, she is also well known for her performances on film, such as *My Left Foot* (1989), *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (2001), *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2002), *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004), *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (2007), *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* (2010), *The Black Dahlia* (2006), and HBO's *True Blood* (2008). Shaw has been highly awarded for her work, including an honorary C.B.E. (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in 2001 for her services to drama and numerous awards for Best Actress from the Evening Standard Theatre Awards, Olivier Awards, and London Critics Circle Awards, as well as a Tony nomination for Best Actress in *Medea*, and the 2013 United Solo Special Award for her performance in *The Testament of Mary* on Broadway. Beyond her extensive acting career, Shaw is also an accomplished opera director, working in venues like the English National Opera and New York's Metropolitan Opera.

Dance

Colin Dunne

Out of Time

Terrace Theater

May 20 – 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Out of Time is a solo created and performed by the internationally celebrated Irish step dancer Colin Dunne and directed by Sineád Rushe. In *Out of Time*, Dunne integrates movement, film, and spoken commentary to create a provocative dialogue between his past and present. His percussive footwork is digitally processed live to create layers of sound which accompany projected archival film images of traditional dancers from the 1930s onwards, including himself as a ten year old boy. Intimate and playful, the show is both an unsentimental homage to Irish step dance and a bold investigation of Dunne's personal and artistic relationship with the tradition which has shaped his life. *Out of Time* was nominated for a 2009 UK Critics Circle National Dance Award for Best Male Dancer and a 2010 Laurence Olivier Award for outstanding achievement in dance.

Colin Dunne is a leading figure in the world of traditional Irish dance, and has made the cross over into contemporary dance and theatre. Born in 1968, he took his first Irish dance class at the age of three in Birmingham, England and won his first World Championship title at the age of nine. He is best known for his performances and choreography in *Riverdance*.

Jean Butler and Neil Martin

this is an Irish dance

Terrace Theater

May 26 – 27, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Choreographed by dancer Jean Butler and composed by cellist Neil Martin, this full-length duet explores the choreographer's intimate physical relationships with music—its rhythms and arcs, its undulations and palette. *this is an Irish dance* will premiere in November 2015 at Danspace Project in New York City. Jean Butler is a New York City-based choreographer and performer. Best known as a practitioner of Irish Dance, Butler originated the female principal roles and co-choreographed *Riverdance The Show* and

Dancing on Dangerous Ground. Trained under renowned teacher Donny Golden, Butler toured internationally as a soloist with the Chieftains for six years. Butler is currently a Lecturer in Irish Studies at New York University.

Belfast-born composer Neil Martin is a cellist and an Uilleann Piper and was encouraged to play both traditional and classical music from an early age. His work spans dance, film, theatre, television, choral, symphonic, and chamber works. A Music and Celtic Studies graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, Neil has since enjoyed a varied and rewarding career that encompasses composition, performance, and production.

Music

Camerata Ireland with the Harmony North Choir

Eisenhower Theater

May 21, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Barry Douglas and Camerata Ireland will perform a program highlighting the varied repertoire the orchestra has explored since its foundation 15 years ago. Music by Irish composer John Field (arranged by Barry Douglas) will be performed alongside orchestral music influenced by the Irish Traditional heritage – an Uilleann Pipe Concerto by Neil Martin and a Celtic Suite for orchestra and flautist Eimear McGeown. The Harmony North Choir (featuring 30 members selected from the 10,000 students taking part in the original project) will join Camerata Ireland to perform a new work specially commissioned for the performance at the Kennedy Center. The concert will close with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.5. Camerata Ireland and Barry Douglas are synonymous with performances of all of the Beethoven Piano Concerti having recorded the complete cycle and performed them around the world.

Camerata Ireland was founded in 1999 by Barry Douglas, and brings together the finest Irish musicians to celebrate the wealth of musical talent from within the island of Ireland, to present a new and positive image of Ireland and to create a unique sound that comes from the orchestra members' shared musical heritage. The orchestra comprises young musicians who are in the early stages of their professional careers and established musicians, who perform with Camerata Ireland as well as other leading orchestras and ensembles across Europe. Camerata Ireland has recorded the complete Beethoven Piano Concertos and the Triple Concerto and the orchestra performs regularly around the world in major concert halls and festivals.

Harmony North Choir consists of 11 post-primary schools in North Belfast, encompassing 10,000 young people, who will come together during 2015-16 as part of the Harmony North Project. Bringing young people, staff, parents and the wider community together in harmony in North Belfast, the project will be a symbol of unity in 2016.

Camille O'Sullivan

Terrace Theater

May 22, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Camille O'Sullivan is a vocalist, actress, and musician. Born in London of a French mother and Irish father, Camille moved to Cork, Ireland when she was a child. She studied Fine Art Painting for a year and then earned a degree in Architecture, winning the prestigious Architectural Association of Ireland Award in 2000. Camille has a respected international reputation for her interpretations of the songs of Jacques Brel, Nick Cave, Tom Waits, and Kurt Weill. She has also acted in films and theatrical productions.

Tara Erraught and Anthony Kearns in Concert

Terrace Theater

May 23, 2016 at 7:00pm

The concert features two world-class opera singers, mezzo-soprano Tara Erraught and tenor Anthony Kearns.

Praised for her rich voice, expansive range and appealing stage presence, Irish-born mezzo-soprano Tara Erraught has been called “a true rising star” by the press. A native of Dundalk, Ireland, Tara Erraught is a graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin, where she studied and continues to study with the acclaimed Royal Opera soprano Veronica Dunne. She has been a member of the opera studio at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich since 2008. During the 2016 season, Ms. Erraught performs in six productions with Bayerische Staatsoper: she creates the role of Kathleen Scott in the commissioned world premiere of Czech composer Miroslav Srnka’s *South Pole*, makes her role debut as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and sings in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, and *The Makropulos Affair*.

World-renowned tenor Anthony Kearns took American television audience by storm in 1999 as the youngest member of the wildly popular musical group, *The Irish Tenors*, with whom he has 10 CDs and five PBS specials. Mr. Kearns is a respected ambassador of Ireland to the world and has presented the music of his homeland across the globe. He has been honored to sing for three U.S. presidents. His international solo career includes high-profile celebrity engagements, major television appearances, concert tours, and collaborations with the finest orchestras, including the Boston Pops, the Chicagoland Pops, and the National Symphony Orchestra.

Alarm Will Sound

The Hunger

Composed by Donnacha Dennehy

Terrace Theater

Performed in English and Gaelic.

June 1, 2016 at 7:00 pm

The Hunger is an opera, composed by Ireland’s famed composer Donnacha Dennehy, performed by the New York-based ensemble Alarm Will Sound, and features *sean nós* singer Iarla Ó Lionáird.

The opera is based on diaries and accounts from the period of the Great Famine in Ireland (1845-1852). *The Hunger* uses historical material and contemporary documentary material to give a unique perspective on the Great Famine as well as the ongoing issues concerning famine in the present day. The principal text is Asenath Nicholson’s *Annals of the Famine in Ireland* that recounts in vivid detail the unfolding famine she directly experienced.

Alarm Will Sound is a 20-member ensemble dedicated to the creation, performance, and recording of today's music.

Born in Dublin in 1970, Donnacha Dennehy has received commissions from Dawn Upshaw, the Kronos Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Bang On A Can All-Stars, Lucilin, Contact (Toronto), Electra, the Fidelio Trio, Icebreaker, Joanna MacGregor, Orkest de Ereprijs, Orkest de Volharding, Percussion Group of the Hague, RTE National Symphony Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra (BBC Radio 3), Smith Quartet, and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players among others. Returning to Ireland after studies abroad at the University of Illinois (USA), Ircam (France) and the Netherlands, Dennehy founded the Crash Ensemble, Dublin's now renowned new music group, in 1997. Previously a tenured lecturer at Trinity College Dublin, Donnacha was appointed a Global Scholar at Princeton University in the Autumn of 2012. He was also appointed composer-in-residence for the Fort

Worth Symphony Orchestra in Texas (2013-14). In 2014 Donnacha joined the music faculty at Princeton University.

The Gloaming

The Gloaming

Eisenhower Theater

Washington DC Premiere

Performed in English and Gaelic

June 4, 2016 at 7:30 pm

The Gloaming is comprised of Iarla Ó Lionaird (vocals), Thomas Bartlett (aka Doveman – piano), Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh (hardanger), Martin Hayes (violin/fiddle), and Dennis Cahill (guitar). They are a group of virtuosic musicians each with successful individual careers. They have been recognized for extending the Irish and Celtic music traditions – both literally and metaphorically, balancing traditional rigor with an energy that seems entirely new. The group met in early 2011 to explore a new musical direction at Grouse Lodge Studios in West Meath, Ireland. The musicians discovered a shared musical aesthetic that transcended the genres for which they have become known. In the brief period of time since their formation, The Gloaming have become a much-heralded live draw in the UK and Europe, playing to capacity crowds in the world's most prestigious venues.

William Close & The Earth Harp Collective

The Earth Harp-Celtic

U.S. Premiere

Eisenhower Theater

June 5, 2016 at 7:30 pm

William Close & The Earth Harp Collective will perform the U.S. premiere of *The Earth Harp-Celtic*, their dynamic concert with conventional instruments, as well as unique and elaborate instruments created by Close. The performance will include Irish repertoire performed in new ways, and will incorporate traditional Irish instruments, bridging cultures and blending the traditional with the cutting-edge.

William Close is an installation artist and musician who has developed over 100 new types of musical instruments. He is the inventor of the majestic stringed instrument, The Earth Harp, the world's largest stringed instrument. Other instruments designed by Close include The Drum Orb, The Percussion Jacket, The Aquatar, and The Wing Harp. William Close is the Founder and Artistic Director of The Earth Harp Collective. The group works with Close's unique designs to create music-based stage shows that push the envelope of the musical experience. Close's work explores the connection between architecture and music. William studied sculpture and sound design at the Art Institute of Chicago. His installations and performances have been experienced by audiences throughout the world.

The Earth Harp is an incredibly large stringed instrument. The body of the instrument rests on the stage and the strings travel out over the audience attaching to the back of the theater, turning the theater, concert hall, architecture or landscape into the instrument. The long strings are played with violin rosin covered gloves. The player runs his hands along the strings creating beautiful cello-like tones. The Earth Harp derives its title from its first installation. The strings ran from one side of a valley 1,000 foot valley across to the other side, turning the earth into a giant harp. He has had temporary installations around the world. The strings have stretched to the top of the Seattle Space Needle, the Famous Grand Theater of Macau, The Coliseum in Rome, and been played from Hong Kong and India to Lincoln Center.

Literature

May 30-June 5, 2015

The strength and quality of Irish literature is known and regarded throughout the world, with some of the greatest authors, playwrights, and poets in the world. The literature series, curated by Maureen Kennelly of Poetry Ireland, will take place during the final week of the festival and will offer a well-rounded set of panels on the following themes: A conversation with Colum McCann, Ireland's Laureates Anne Enright and Paula Meehan, Food Poems, Novel to Screen, Foremost Irish language poets with Iarla Ó'Lionáird, Eavan Boland in conversation with Colm Tóibín, and Paul Muldoon's Picnic featuring Kevin Barry and Joseph O'Connor. These panel discussions will feature more than 20 writers, including:

Kevin Barry is the author of the novels *Beatlebone* and *City Of Bohane* and the story collections *Dark Lies The Island* and *There Are Little Kingdoms*. His awards include the IMPAC Dublin City Literary Award, the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Prize and the European Union Prize for Literature. His stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, the *Stinging Fly*, and many other journals. He also writes screenplays, stage plays and radio plays. He lives in County Sligo.

Eavan Boland was born in Dublin in 1944. The daughter of a diplomat and an expressionist painter, her family relocated to London when she was six. She later returned to Dublin for school, and she received her B.A. from Trinity College in 1966. She is the author of more than ten books of poetry, including her recent release, *A Woman Without a Country* (2014). In addition to her books of poetry, Boland is also the author of *A Journey with Two Maps: Becoming a Woman Poet*, a collection of essays, which won the 2012 PEN Award; *Object Lessons: The Life of the Woman and the Poet in Our Time*, a volume of prose, *After Every War*, an anthology of German women poets, and she co-edited with Mark Strand *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms*. Boland has received many prestigious awards including a Lannan Foundation Award in Poetry, an American Ireland Fund Literary Award, a Jacob's Award for her involvement in The Arts Programme broadcast on RTÉ Radio, and an honorary degree from Trinity. She is also a regular reviewer for the *Irish Times*, and she is currently a professor of English at Stanford University where she directs the creative writing program.

Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill was born in 1952 and grew up in the Irish-speaking areas of West Kerry and in Tipperary. She studied English and Irish at University College, Cork in 1969 and became part of a group of Irish language poets who were published in the literary magazine *Innti*. She now lives in Dublin. She has published four collections of poems in Irish, *An Dealg Droighin* (1981), *Féar Suaithinseach* (1984), *Feis* (1991) and *Cead Aighnis* (1998). The Gallery Press has published four collections of her poems, with translations into English, *Pharoah's Daughter* (translations by thirteen writers, 1990), *The Astrakhan Cloak* (translations by Paul Muldoon, 1992), *The Water Horse* (translations by Medbh McGuckian and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, 1999) and *The Fifty Minute Mermaid* (translations by Paul Muldoon, 2007). Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill held the Heimbold Chair in Irish Studies at Villanova University in 2001 and has taught at Boston College and New York University. She has received many scholarships, prizes, and bursaries and has also won numerous international awards for works which have been translated into French, German, Polish, Italian, Norwegian, Estonian, Turkish, Japanese, and English. She is a member of Aosdána and was Ireland Professor of Poetry (2001-2004) and the first Professor of Irish (language) Poetry.

Anne Enright was born in Dublin in 1962, studied English and Philosophy at Trinity College, Dublin, and went on to study for a Masters of Art in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. She is a former RTÉ television producer. A full-time writer since 1991, she has lived in Ireland for all her writing life. Her short stories have appeared in several magazines including *The New Yorker*, *Granta* and *The Paris Review*, and she won the 2004 Davy Byrnes Irish Writing Award for her story, *Honey*. Her first

collection, *The Portable Virgin*, won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature in 1991. A second collection, *Taking Pictures* was published in 2008, and her collected short stories came out the same year under the title *Yesterday's Weather*. She has also published a book of essays, *Making Babies: Stumbling into Motherhood* (2004) about the experience of becoming a mother. Her novels are *The Wig My Father Wore* (1995), shortlisted for the Irish Times/Aer Lingus Irish Literature Prize; *What Are You Like?*, winner of the 2001 Encore Award and shortlisted for the 2000 Whitbread Novel Award; *The Pleasure of Eliza Lynch* (2002); and *The Gathering* (2007) about a large Irish family gathering for the funeral of a wayward brother. *The Forgotten Waltz* (2011) won the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Her latest novel, *The Green Road*, was published earlier this year.

Colum McCann is the award-winning author of six novels and three collections of short stories. His most recent collection, *Thirteen Ways of Looking* will be published in late 2015 — already it has received outstanding pre-launch attention, including a Pushcart Prize and selection in the Best American Short Stories of 2015. Born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, he has been the recipient of many international honors, including the National Book Award, the International Dublin Impac Prize, a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the French government, election to the Irish Arts Academy, several European awards, the 2010 Best Foreign Novel Award in China, and an Oscar nomination. His work has been published in over 35 languages. He is the co-founder of the non-profit global story exchange organization, Narrative 4, and he teaches at the MFA program in Hunter College. He lives in New York with his wife, Allison, and their three children.

Poet and playwright Paula Meehan was born and reared in the north inner city of Dublin. Her family later moved to Finglas where she spent her teenage years. She studied at Trinity College, Dublin and at Eastern Washington University. She has published six award winning collections of poetry, the most recent, *Painting Rain*, in 2009. She has written plays for both adults and children, including *Cell* and *The Wolf of Winter*. *Music for Dogs: works for radio*, collects three plays concerned with suicide during the recent economic boom years in Ireland. Selections of her poetry have been published in French, German, Galician, Japanese, Estonian, Greek, and smaller selections published in other languages including Irish. Dedalus Press have recently republished *Mysterries of the Home*, seminal poems from the 1980's and the 1990's. She has been the Ireland Professor of Poetry since 2013.

Paul Muldoon was born in 1951 in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, and educated in Armagh and at the Queen's University of Belfast. From 1973 to 1986, he worked in Belfast as a radio and television producer for the British Broadcasting Corporation. Since 1987, he has lived in the United States, where he is now Howard G. B. Clark '21 Professor at Princeton University. In 2007, he was appointed Poetry Editor of *The New Yorker*. Between 1999 and 2004, he was Professor of Poetry at the University of Oxford, where he is an honorary Fellow of Hertford College. Paul Muldoon's main collections of poetry are *New Weather* (1973), *Mules* (1977), *Why Brownlee Left* (1980), *Quoof* (1983), *Meeting The British* (1987), *Madoc: A Mystery* (1990), *The Annals of Chile* (1994), *Hay* (1998), *Poems 1968-1998* (2001), *Moy Sand and Gravel* (2002), *Horse Latitudes* (2006), and *Maggot* (2010). A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Paul Muldoon was given an American Academy of Arts and Letters award in literature for 1996. Other recent awards are the 1994 T. S. Eliot Prize, the 1997 Irish Times Poetry Prize, the 2003 Pulitzer Prize, the 2003 Griffin International Prize for Excellence in Poetry, the 2004 American Ireland Fund Literary Award, the 2004 Shakespeare Prize, the 2005 Aspen Prize for Poetry, and the 2006 European Prize for Poetry.

Joseph O'Connor is the Dublin-based author of eight novels, *Cowboys and Indians*, *Desperadoes*, *The Salesman*, *Inishowen*, *Star of the Sea*, *Redemption Falls*, *Ghost Light* and *The Thrill of it All*, as well as two collections of short stories, *True Believers* and *Where Have You Been?*, and a number of stage plays and film scripts. *Star of the Sea* became an international bestseller, selling more than a million copies and winning an American Library Association Award, France's Prix Millepages, Italy's Premio Acerbi, the Nielsen Bookscan Golden Book Award, the Irish Post Award for Fiction, the *Sunday Tribune* Hennessy

Hall of Fame Award and the Prix Zepter for European Novel of the Year. It was a *Sunday Times* number one bestseller for seven weeks, and the highest-selling literary novel in its year of publication. Joseph O'Connor's fiction has often been concerned with the lives of Irish immigrants in America. He has held the prestigious Cullman Fellowship at the New York Public Library and has been Distinguished Visiting Professor at Baruch College, the City University of New York. In 2012, he received the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Literature and an Honorary Doctorate from University College Dublin. In 2014, he was appointed to the Frank McCourt Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Limerick. A frequent broadcaster, his radio diaries appear often on RTE 1, Irish national radio. A CD of his radio pieces, *The Drivetime Diaries*, reached number one in the Irish charts.

Iarla Ó'Lionáird is the vocalist with the critically acclaimed Irish-American band The Gloaming. He was born in the small town of Cuil Aodha in the Irish-speaking area of West Cork in 1964. He has worked in radio, film, and TV production, and is the lead singer for the Afro Celt Sound System. In 2003, he completed an Masters of Art in Ethnomusicology at the University of Limerick. He has performed and recorded with such luminaries as Peter Gabriel, Robert Plant, Nick Cave and Sinéad O'Connor.

Colm Tóibín was born in Enniscorthy in 1955. He is the author of eight novels including *The Blackwater Lightship*, *The Master* and *The Testament of Mary*, all of which were shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and *Brooklyn* which was awarded the Costa Prize. *The Master* was awarded the Dublin International IMPAC Literary Award in 2006. He has written two books of short stories, *Mothers & Sons* and *The Empty Family*. He has also written two plays, *Beauty in a Broken Place* and *The Testament of Mary* (The Broadway production of which was nominated for a Tony Award. His most recent novel, *Nora Webster*, was a recent recipient of the Hawthornden Literature Prize. His 2009 novel, *Brooklyn*, has recently been adapted for film and will be released later this year.

Additional Events

Educational activities will be widely present throughout the festival – some highlights will include the *Tiny Plays for Ireland and America* playwriting challenge, including a series of play development workshops and learning tools, and unique workshops with visual and performing artists, as well a series of workshops and panel discussions with artist-in-residence Fiona Shaw. Culinary events such as whiskey and beer tastings, and culinary demonstrations by Irish chefs will take place. Additional details on these, and other festival programs, will be announced at a later date.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are on-sale for donors September 15, 2015 and to the general public September 22, 2015. Tickets may be purchased in-person or on the Kennedy Center website.

FUNDING CREDITS

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For more information, please visit the Kennedy Center [website](#).

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