

UL/ Frank McCourt Creative Writing Summer School,

New York

June 22nd-25th 2017

In partnership with Glucksman Ireland House, NYU, and the Irish Arts Center, New York, and with the generous support of the Shannon Airport Authority, Shannon, Ireland.

Led by Professor Joseph O'Connor, broadcaster and acclaimed novelist ('Star of the Sea') and Frank McCourt Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Limerick, this weekend offers an introduction to creative writing taught by award-winning staff of the MA in Creative Writing at University of Limerick, and special guests.

Teaching will include sessions and workshops led by:

Joseph O'Connor author of eight novels including 'Ghost Light', 'The Thrill of it All' and the million-selling 'Star of the Sea', published in 45 languages, winner of the PEN Award for Outstanding Achievement in Irish Literature and the Prix Zepter for European Novel of the Year.

Donal Ryan multiple-award winning author of 'The Spinning Heart' (Irish Novel of the Decade prize), 'The Thing About December' and 'All We Shall Know', winner of The Guardian First Novel Prize and the EU Award For Fiction.

Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald acclaimed Young Adult author ('The Apple Tart of Hope') and lecturer on time management and motivation for writers.

Dr Kerry Neville award-winning short story writer ('Necessary Lies'), teacher on the Creative Writing MFA at Georgia College and State University, essayist, memoirist, journalist, frequent contributor to the Huffington Post.

Mary O'Malley celebrated Irish poet ('Playing the Octopus'), translator, and Creative Writing teacher, Recent Writer Fellow at the University of Limerick.

Professor Eoin Devereux writer, co-editor of 'David Bowie: Critical Perspectives' and 'Morrissey: Fandom, Representations and Identities', Co-Founder of the Popular Music and Popular Culture Research Cluster at UL.

Darragh McKeon Creative Writing teacher and author of Creative Writing teacher and author of internationally acclaimed and widely translated debut novel 'All that is Solid Melts into Air'.

Lisa Dwan has been described as the world's leading Beckett actor. Recent theatre work includes her one woman show of her selection of Beckett's prose No's Knife (Old Vic Theatre, London), Shining City (Irish Repertory Theatre, New York) and a workshop performance of Beckett's Text for Nothing (White Light Festival at the Lincoln Centre). Originating at the Royal Court, London before transferring to the West End, Lisa's Beckett Trilogy Not I, Footfalls and Rockaby has played worldwide, at venues including the Barbican Centre, Southbank Centre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, NYU Skirball Centre, Perth Festival, Paris, Hong Kong, Boston, Los Angeles and Toronto. Film work includes An Afterthought, Oliver Twist, The Tailor of Panama and Bhopal - A Prayer for Rain in which she appeared with Martin Sheen. Lisa writes, presents, lectures and teaches regularly on theatre, culture and Samuel Beckett and has worked with BBC radio and television, NPR, The Guardian, the Telegraph, ÉCOLE Normale Supérieure, Trinity College Dublin, Oxford University and Princeton. She recently completed a documentary for the BBC on Beckett and Dante and has been commissioned to write a book on Beckett by Virago. Lisa was recently Artist in Residence at the School of Art and Ballet in NYU and has held an Atelier residency at Princeton University.

Iarla Ó Lionáird is the singer with Irish-American trad supergroup The Gloaming and tours the world with them, filling major venues and garnering ecstatic reviews. The New York Times has described his voice as "magnificently expressive" and The Guardian has termed him "one of the most dramatic voices in contemporary music". An exponent of the traditional [sean-nós](#) style, Iarla was a member of the [Afro Celt Sound System](#) and has recorded several acclaimed solo albums for [Real World Records](#) in addition to his multiple award-winning work with The Gloaming. Memorably, he appeared in the 2015 film [Brooklyn](#), based on the acclaimed Colm Toibin novel, singing an [acapella](#) version of the Irish folk song "Casadh an tSugain".

Further guests to be announced.

The UL/McCourt Creative Writing Summer School is open to application from everyone, whether resident in New York or willing to travel from Ireland for the event. No previous writing experience is required, but enthusiasm and willingness to prepare for the programme of lectures and workshops is a must.

Price \$300/\$200 student/unwaged.

Numbers are strictly limited, so book early to avoid disappointment, at <http://frankmccourt.ulfoundation.com/>

Informal Queries are welcome at ULNY@UL.IE

PROGRAMME*

THURSDAY JUNE 22ND

6 pm – 8 pm

Cocktails/Welcome Reception, Consulate General of Ireland, 345 Park Avenue between 51st and 52nd St, 17th Floor, New York 10154. (Photo ID required for entry)

FRIDAY JUNE 23rd

1pm

Registration and orientation for all at Glucksman Ireland House, One Washington Mews, Fifth Avenue near Washington Square Park.

Participants will be put into three seminar groups, A, B and C.

1.30pm

Introduction (for all attendees), Professor Joseph O'Connor
Introduction to and aims of the weekend.

2.00pm

Lecture (for all attendees), Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald
Creativity for writers: A focus on the creative process and effective approaches to getting started.

3.30 - 5.30pm Workshop Seminar I

Group A - Poetry in the City, Mary O'Malley.

Group B - Writing Memoir and Longer Fiction, Kerry Neville
Group C – All We Shall Know: Short Stories to Novels, Donal Ryan

7-7:45 pm Iarla Ó Lionáird (with Professor Joseph O'Connor)

7 pm- 9 pm Auditorium, Readings and 'In-Conversation' session with Joseph O'Connor, Donal Ryan, Darragh McKeon, Mary O'Malley, Kerry Neville and refreshments.

SATURDAY JUNE 24th

9.45 am

Arrival at Glucksman Ireland House

10am sharp -11am

Main Room, Lecture (for all attendees),

Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald

'Project-managing your novel: from pitch to publication.

11.15 - 1.15pm Workshop Seminar II.

Group A – Writing Memoir and Longer Fiction, Kerry Neville
Group B – All We Shall Know: Short Stories to Novels, Donal Ryan

Group C – Poetry in the City, Mary O’Malley

1.15 -2.15

Lunch (included in cost). Sandwiches served.

2.15 – 4.15pm Workshop Seminar III

Group A – All We Shall Know: Short Stories to Novels, Donal Ryan

Group B – Poetry in the City, Mary O’Malley

Group C – Writing Memoir and Longer Fiction, Kerry Neville

4.30 – 5.30pm Main Room, Lecture (for all attendees)

Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald Managing time and dealing with feedback: two essential elements for writers.

6-6:45 pm Lisa Dwan A Unique Perspective on Reading and Acting Beckett

7 pm – 9 pm Readings and Open Mic session with students, lecturers (Optional)

SUNDAY JUNE 25th

9.45 for 10 am sharp. Glucksman Ireland House

10am – 11pm Main Room. Illustrated Lecture with music and video:

David Bowie: I’m Pierrot, I’m Everyman... Professor Eoin Devereux

11.15 – 1pm Literary Brunch (food and refreshments included),

Lecture and Open Mic, McSorleys, 15 E7th Street,

(at Third Avenue) NY 10003 (A ten minute walk from

Glucksman Ireland House)

Contact Summer School Co-Ordinator: Email ULNY@ul.ie

*Subject to Change

WORKSHOPS DETAILS

Poetry in the City **Mary O'Malley**

The session will look at poems from three different poets and three different cities: Frank O'Hara's 'Lunch Poems', Thomas Kinsella's 'Centre City' poems from Dublin, and a translation from the Irish of two poems about Galway, 'The Lamplighter' by the Aran Island poet Mairtin O' Direain and 'Galway' by Micheal Mac Liammoir, co-founder of Dublin's world-famous Gate Theater. Participants will begin work immediately on their own poems, based on suggestions and exercises, including 'lunch time' note-taking.

We will take a look at the different approaches used by poets to writing about New York, from Robert Lowell's prison poem to John Ashbery. The aim is to write at least three poems, and to take an in-depth look at our way of reading poems.

Writing Memoir and Longer Fiction: How To See the Forest Through the Trees **Kerry Neville**

This session will explore how we might expand a brief, concentrated short story or personal essay into a long story or long-form essay, one that stores time and revels in the necessary extravagance of words and ideas at play. How do we move from a single thread to a complexly woven tapestry? How can a longer length allow us to explore the tangles that we trim when brevity is the aim? Participants are invited to bring one of their short stories or short personal essays for use in our exercises.

Creativity for writers: a focus on the creative process and effective approaches to getting started

Professor Sarah Moore

This session will draw on research in creativity to help support your own creative practice and processes. Together, we'll explore some of the proven ways that good writing habits can be initiated and nourished. We'll engage in writing exercises and reflect on approaches designed to feed your fluency. The main purpose of this session will be to banish the voices of doubt that often haunt people's early creative efforts while also keeping a strong eye on how the quality of your writing can grow and strengthen over time.

Project managing your novel: from pitch to publication

Professor Sarah Moore

This instructive, practical and informative session will take participants through the business of treating a novel as a project that needs to be managed. It will include tips and advice on developing a strategy for getting published, targeting your work, contacting agents, working with editors, the different phases of the editorial process, publishing timelines, launching, publicity and marketing.

We'll talk about networking and demystify elements of the sometimes-baffling world of publishing. We'll also look at constructive ways to deal with and respond to discouraging rejection and how to spot hints of encouragement in formal reactions from publishers or agents.

Managing time and dealing with feedback: two essential elements for writers

Professor Sarah Moore.

Whatever your situation, finding and managing time to write is likely to present some challenges. In this session we'll discuss how to take control of the limited time you have for writing. Seeking and getting feedback on your work in progress is another important challenge for writers. We know feedback is useful, so why does it so often overwhelm or derail our work? This session will also look into some of the best ways to seek and utilize feedback that will help you and your writing to flourish.

Suggested readings for Prof Moore's three workshops:

- King, Stephen (2010) *On writing: a memoir of the craft, 10th anniversary edition* New York, Simon & Schuster.

- Ray, Robert and Norris, Bret (2005) *The Weekend Novelist*, London, A&C Black.
- Scott Bell, James (2004) *Plot and Structure* Cincinnati, Writers' Digest Books.
- Zerubavel, E. (1999) *The Clockwork Muse*, Cambridge MA, Harvard University Press.

All We Shall Know: Short Stories to Novels **Donal Ryan**

In my workshop we'll discuss voice and writing in voices: the distinctions between them, the perils and pitfalls that we all encounter on the path to narrative harmony, the payoffs for the writer when he or she encounters that moment when things start to click into place and feel right, and how best to recognize that moment.

We'll also discuss writing in the first person: the strange intimacy that can develop between writer and character; the limitations and frustrations of the mode; and (to awkwardly paraphrase French novelist Olivier Adam) the art of tuning one's internal radio receiver to the exact right frequency so that all one must do is listen.

I'll talk about my own struggle with self-consciousness and doubt, how I eventually managed to put them aside, and the limitless power and freedom to be gained from heeding Frank McCourt's advice to keep it simple, keep it real and be your own writer.

Attendees might find these novels interesting:

- *Between Dog and Wolf* by Elske Rahill.
- *The Black Snow* by Paul Lynch.
- *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing* by Eimear McBride.

I also recommend *Maiden Names*, the debut poetry collection of Martin Dyar.

The novels are all available online and on Kindle. *Maiden Names* is available from kennys.ie, who deliver worldwide.

‘Star of the Sea’, a reading by Joseph O’Connor, followed by a relaxed and informal ‘in-conversation’ session on writing, with further readings by Joseph, Sarah Moore, Donal Ryan, Darragh McKeon and Kerry Neville.

‘David Bowie: I’m Pierrot, I’m Everyman...’

Illustrated Lecture by Professor Eoin Devereux

One of New York City’s most famous residents, the late David Bowie drew upon a raft of influences in creating his considerable creative output. Working across a range of genres, Bowie made ample use of literary and other sources in creating his various personae. In my talk I will focus, in particular, on Bowie’s use of the figure of Pierrot the happy/sad clown. I will discuss the history and cultural significance of Pierrot and Bowie’s life-long connections with him. I will then examine in detail Bowie’s most recent use of Pierrot in his home-produced video for his 2013 song ‘Love Is Lost’. My talk will conclude by re-asserting the importance of musical drama and of the Pierrot figure not just in terms of understanding ‘Love is Lost’, but also in terms of Bowie’s overall career. The talk will include music and video.

Suggested Reading:

David Bowie Critical Perspectives edited by Eoin Devereux, Aileen Dillane and Martin J. Power, Routledge (New York) 2017.

Lisa Dwan

For the UL Frank McCourt Summer School, Lisa will be sharing her unique perspective on reading and acting Beckett and will be giving a reading from his work.

Iarla Ó Ionáird (with Professor Joseph O’Connor)

In a unique and intimate event for the UL Frank McCourt Summer School Iarla, will perform with novelist and UL Creative Writing professor, Joseph O’Connor, who will be reading from his international bestselling novel of the Irish Famine, "Star of the Sea". An interplay of words and music that is absolutely not to be missed.