7–17 June 2017
BELFAST BOOK FESTIVAL
belfastbookfestival.com

The Belfast Book Festival opens up the incredible worlds of literature and the imagination by allowing the best international and local writers to present their work to audiences in the most intimate and personable of settings. The Arts Council's support as principal funder reflects of our confidence in this festival to extend the appeal of all literary genres so that everyone, from the most tentative to the most seasoned of readers, has the opportunity to experience the full and inimitable pleasure of books.

Damian Smyth, Head of Literature and Drama, Arts Council of Northern Ireland

We did it again - this year's programme for the Belfast Book Festival 2017 is so ridiculously good! We have literary nourishment for your mind, body and soul. You may have noticed that the world is in a state of flux, so if you want to escape the turmoil of the planet or if you want space to reflect, then you have to join us for #belfastbook festival 2017. We have drawn talent from across the globe and closer to home, so please take a few minutes to book your festival highlights now. A huge thank you to our funders, sponsors, staff and festival goers - we can only do what we do, because of you.

Deepa Mann-Kler, Chair, Crescent Arts Centre

Design by UsFolk
Illustrations by
Nicolás Valencia of UsFolk

Booking Information

Online
www.BelfastBookFestival.com

By Telephone
028 9024 2338

In Person
Crescent Arts Centre
2-4 University Road
Belfast
BT7 1NH

Bookworm Festival Pass
£100

Are you a regular festival visitor? Would you like a festival pass which grants you access into an unlimited number of book festival events? Then look no further that our Bookworm Festival Pass! But hurry as there are only a limited number of passes available!

More details can be found online. T&C's apply.

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Wednesday 7 June

SKINTOWN

CIARÁN MCMENAMIN
WITH PAUL MCVEIGH

We are delighted to welcome Irish actor and author **Ciarán McMenamin** to kick off this year's Belfast Book Festival. His energetic, adrenaline-fuelled debut novel, **Skintown** was published earlier this year and is already receiving rave reviews.

Skintown tells the story of Vinny and his drink and drug-fuelled odyssey through fights, riots, ecstasy, sex and acid house. Reminiscent of Irvine Welsh's Trainspotting and John Niven's Kill Your Friends, Skintown is bristling with a restless energy; this superb debut is a wild ride of a novel.

"A riot of a novel written with energy and verve..." Irish Examiner

12.45PM // £7 INCLUDING LUNCH | £5 EVENT ONLY // CRESCENT ARTS

THE RULE OF THE LAND

WALKING IRELAND'S BORDER
BY GARRETT CARR

In the wake of the EU referendum, the UK's border with Ireland has gained greater significance: it is set to become the frontier with the European Union.

Garrett Carr has travelled Ireland's invisible border on foot and by canoe and he reveals the turbulent and rich history of this landscape along with the issues of nationhood, land and power surrounding it in his book **The Rule of the Land.**

From encounters with border dwellers to uncovering rituals, hidden pathways and ancient monuments, join map maker Garrett as he presents the borderland as a unique realm of its own.

5.30PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

MYRIAD ROUTES

FROM PAGE TO STAGE
WITH JANE TALBOT, HILARY MCCOLLUM AND CLAIRE SAVAGE

When you go to the theatre, do you ever wonder how the play you are watching came into being? Join **Jane Talbot** as she leads a discussion with two of Northern Ireland's leading female authors, about the journey their work has taken from page to stage.

Jane Talbot is a storyteller and a writer whose first book, **The Faerie Thorn and Other Stories,** has been adapted for the stage by Big Telly Theatre Company.

Hilary McCollum writes historical fiction and contemporary drama and in 2016, **The Pirates of Portrush** was performed in The Barracks, Belfast.

6.30PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

THE BLOOD MIRACLES

LISA MCINERNEY
WITH JAN CARSON

Join the author of the Baileys Prize-winning **The Glorious Heresies,** as she discusses her second novel, **The Blood Miracles.**

Like all twenty-year-olds, Ryan Cusack is trying to get his head around who he is. However, his boss is exploiting his dual heritage by opening a new black market route, his adored girlfriend has decided he is irreparably corrupted and he has caught the eye of an ornery grandmother who fancies herself as his saviour.

There may be a way to clear the chaos but Ryan is about to find out what he's made of and that chaos might just be in his blood.

7PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

THE PLACE I CALL HOME

ANNA LO
WITH JO EGAN

Born in Hong Kong in 1950, **Anno Lo** arrived in Belfast in 1974. **The Place I Call Home** tells the tale of her extraordinary journey. Arriving in Belfast at the height of the Troubles; working with the Chinese community and the difficulties its members faced; her time as a social worker; her extraordinary political career, including the racial harassment she experienced; and her life away from the spotlight.

Join Anna Lo as she talks to **Jo Egan** about her life, both in and out of politics and the writing of her memoir.

8.30PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

KUMUKANDA

KAYO CHINGONYI
WITH STEPHEN SEXTON
IN CONVERSATION WITH STEPHEN CONNOLLY

After stunning audiences at The Sunflower last year we are delighted to welcome back **Kayo Chingonyi** following the publication of **Kumukanda.** Kayo will read from this new collection in which issues of race, identity and masculinity are dealt with in his uniquely beautiful and heart-stoppingly tuneful style.

Kayo will be joined by one of Ireland's most exciting voices, **Stephen Sexton.** Fresh from winning **The Poetry Society's National Poetry Competition** for his poem **The Curfew,** we are looking forward to having him join us in what will most certainly be a highlight of this year's festival.

8.30PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

Thursday 8 June

CAVAFY AND THE WEEPING HORSES OF ACHILLE

A PERFORMANCE BY PADDY SCULLY

Join us for an exclusive performance as **Paddy Scully** explores the forgotten world of the levant through the life & work of the poet Constantine Cavafy.

From the deeply personal to the classically influenced, his poetry has gained universal acclaim among lovers of the word such as E M Forster, T S Eliot and many others. His reluctance to be put into print poses many questions on his personal journey through Constantinople, Alexandria, Athens and Cairo at the turn of the century. A unique changing world,

2PM | £3 // 8PM | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

TARIQ RAMADAN

ISLAM, THE ESSENTIALS

We welcome **Tariq** to the festival for a lecture and Q&A surrounding the ideas presented in his book **Islam, The Essentials.**

Hardly a day goes by without the mention of Islam. And yet, for most people Islam remains a little-known religion. Whether the issue is violence, terrorism, women's rights or slavery, Muslims are expected to provide answers and to justify what Islam is - or is not. But little opportunity exists, either in the media or in society, to describe Islam: precisely the question this book sets out to answer.

Join us for a fascinating and insightful discussion from one of the world's leading experts on modern Islam.

5.30PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY

Join 4 acclaimed short story writers as they examine the form from both a writer's and reader's perspective.

Jan Carson has published numerous novels and short stories. Her latest collection, **Postcard Stories,** is published by Emma Press.

June Caldwell's Room Little Darker, was published in 2017. **SOMAT** was published in The Long Gaze Back and was **The Sunday Times** 'favourite'.

Oisín Fagan won the inaugural **Penny Dreadful Novella Prize** for **The Hierophants** and his first collection **Hostages** was published to widespread acclaim.

Nuala O'Connor's fifth short story collection **Joyride to Jupiter** is due for release in 2017, whilst her third novel, **Miss Emily,** is currently longlisted for the 2017 **International DUBLIN Literary Award.**

6.30PM // £7 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

LAGAN ONLINE PRESENTS 12NOW: NEW ORIGINAL WRITERS

Lagan Online's **12NOW** series showcases the best up-and-coming poets and prose writers within Northern Ireland. Over two nights, the Book Festival will provide a platform for an airing of stunning and stirring literature. This event sees **Tory Campbell, Jamie Guiney, Anne Harris, Paula Matthews, Matthew Rice,** and **Ross Thompson** showcasing their work.

Be sure to catch these writers at the start of their promising careers.

8PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

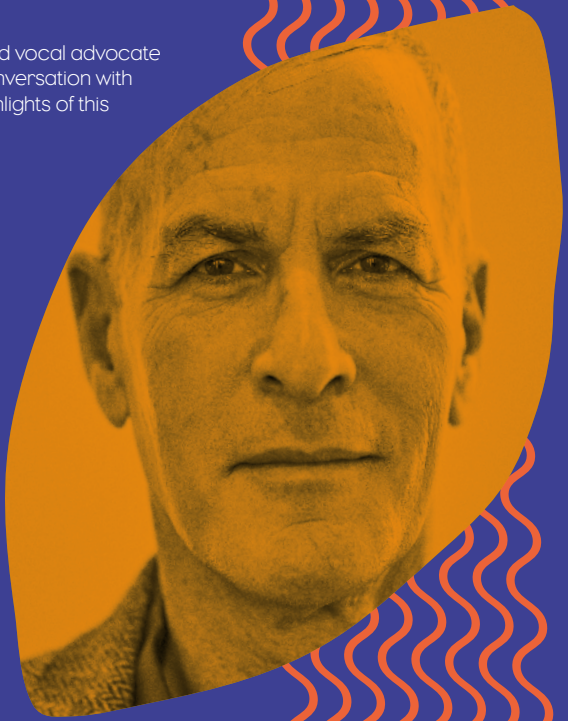
NORMAN FINKELSTEIN

IN CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM CRAWLEY

We are pleased to welcome to this year's Festival, renowned American political scientist, activist, distinguished professor, and prolific author, **Norman Finkelstein.**

The son of survivors of the Nazi holocaust, Finkelstein is an outspoken and frank critic of the Israeli government's policies towards the Palestinian people.

An undoubtedly ground-breaking yet austere scholar, and vocal advocate of the two-state solution, Norman Finkelstein will be in conversation with **William Crawley** for what promises to be one of the highlights of this year's festival.



8PM
£12 | £10
METHODIST COLLEGE

Thur 8 Jun

MY DAD WROTE A PORNO - LIVE!

Imagine if your dad wrote a dirty book. Most people would try to ignore it and pretend it had never happened - but not Jamie Morton. Instead, he decided to read it to the world and the international smash hit podcast, **My Dad Wrote A Porno** was born.

With 50 million downloads internationally and their live show having recently sold out the Sydney Opera House, the Belfast Book Festival is delighted to welcome the three stars of the hilarious podcast, Jamie, James and Alice to the city for an evening of toe-curling, saucy prose.

8PM
£18 | £16
MANDELA HALL
18+

Seamus Heaney HomePlace
Life, Literature & Inspiration

A home to go to

June Highlights

Helen Vendler in Conversation

Saturday 10 June, 4pm | Tickets £5

Seamus Heaney dedicated 'The Spirit Level' collection to Helen Vendler and this is a unique opportunity to hear one of the world's most distinguished literary critics speaking live from the US.

The Flaggy Shore

Saturday 10 June, 7.30pm | Tickets £10

An evening of words and music celebrating the landscape of The Flaggy Shore in County Clare, which Heaney commemorated in his poem 'Postscript'.

Lyngo Theatre Company: There and Back Again - An Odyssey

Sunday 18 June, 2pm and 4pm
Tickets £5/£3

Prepare for giants, ghosts, Greeks and great adventure as Patrick Lynch (star of CBeebies) reinvents the story of 'The Odyssey' for a family audience.

Tel: 028 7938 7444
www.SeamusHeaneyHome.com

Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Friday 9 June

ABDULRAZAK GURNAH

We are pleased to welcome the **Booker Prize** shortlisted author of **Paradise** to discuss his life in writing and the themes at the heart of his elegant, evocative and superb novel **Gravel Heart.**

Lonely teenager Salim, travels from Zanzibar to London but nothing prepares him for the biting cold and seething crowds of the hostile city.

Evoking the immigrant experience with unsentimental precision and profound insight, **Gravel Heart** is a powerfully affecting story of isolation, identity, belonging and betrayal, and is **Abdulrazak Gurnah's** most dazzling achievement.

5.30PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

DISMEMBERED

POLLY TOYNBEE & DAVID WALKER

What is the state and what has it ever done for you? More than you think. The state houses, educates and employs us and protects us on the street and in the wider world. However, in recent years the government has depleted funding and resources and has mounted an ideological assault on the public sector through the media.

Well renowned journalists and Guardian columnists, **Polly Toynbee** and **David Walker,** have travelled around Great Britain gathering the voices of the people who make up the state. This book is their story. Join us for an evening lecture on the dismemberment across our nation state: a fragmented NHS, a reduced police force, divided schools and a vulnerable military.

6.30PM // £10 | £8 // CRESCENT ARTS

SOLIDARITY POETRY AWARDS NIGHT

This year, Belfast charity **Tools for Solidarity,** have launched an exciting new poetry competition. With entries being received from all over the world, judges **Deirdre Cartmill** and **Maria McManus** have selected the winner, which shall be announced at this award ceremony.

Comedian and writer **Tim McGarry** will host the evening, which will include refreshments. If poetry and solidarity give you a thrill....this night is for you.

7.30PM // CRESCENT ARTS
SUGGESTED DONATION £3 // ALL PROCEEDS GO TO TFS

THE FESTIVAL POETRY SLAM

Poetry NI proudly presents The Belfast Book Festival Poetry Slam!

Open to all poets, we invite you to take the mic and share your work in front of a lively and appreciative audience, with new readers always welcome.

To enter, simply register on the night and names will be drawn out at random, with each poet invited onstage to read. Slots will be limited, so it's first come, first served!

The winner will receive the inaugural **Brian Bailey Memorial Cup,** in tribute to the much missed poet and pioneer of the Belfast live poetry scene. Poems in tribute to Brian will also be read out.

9PM // £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

NOVEL FAIR

- Described by *The Irish Times* as a 'Dragon's Den for writers', the Greenbean 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 20 October 2017.

See www.irishwriterscentre.ie for further details and T&Cs.

Irish Writers Centre
Áras Scríbhneoirí na hÉireann

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E info@writerscentre.ie
W www.irishwriterscentre.ie

Saturday 10 June

GRITTY YOUNG THINGS

WITH SHIRLEY-ANNE MCMILLAN AND SHEENA WILKINSON

Radical young adult fiction deals with everything from teenage pregnancy, homelessness, sexual and physical abuse to homophobia, illness and family dysfunction. More and more writers have begun approaching the genre as an opportunity to not only tell their own stories but to offer young readers a thirsting for more serious and realistic stories, mature reading experiences to reassure, galvanise and inspire.

Join two of Northern Ireland's finest writers of Young Adult fiction, **Shirley-Anne McMillan** and **Sheena Wilkinson** as they discuss their latest works and this fascinating genre.

12.45PM // £7 INC. LUNCH | £5 EVENT ONLY // CRESCENT ARTS

TROUBLE IS OUR BUSINESS

NEW STORIES BY IRISH CRIME WRITERS

Irish crime writers have long been established on the international stage as bestsellers and award winners. Now, for the first time ever, the best in contemporary Irish crime novelists have been brought together in one volume. Author, editor and journalist **Declan Burke** will be leading the conversation on Irish crime writing with **Louise Phillips, Julie Parsons** and **Stuart Neville.**

2PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

THE EDGE

DERMOT BREEN
WITH JOE MAHON

In January 2015, **Dermot Breen** was devastated by the death of his wife Jacqui due to ovarian cancer at the age of 54. **The Edge** tells the story of how he decided to undertake an arduous 38 day pilgrimage around the 1,000km Ulster Way, both in Jacqui's memory and to raise funds for cancer research.

However, the physical journey is just one of the odysseys in his book. Dermot exposes the raw feelings of loss and despair he experienced during the weeks and months following his wife's death. Guided by his angels and demoralised by his demons, he will discuss how his walk literally brought him right to the edge and back.

3PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

HOPDANCE

Marilynn Richtarik presents Stewart Parker's Hopdance

In the great tradition of Irish autobiographical fiction **Stewart Parker's** poignant novel, **Hopdance,** depicts events surrounding the amputation of his left leg when he was an undergraduate at Queen's University Belfast.

This posthumously edited work, largely written in the early 1970s, is published for the first time this spring by **The Lilliput Press.**

Marilynn Richtarik took upon herself the task of preparing **Hopdance** for publication and is the author of the acclaimed biography Stewart Parker: A Life. A Professor of English at Georgia State University in Atlanta, she has spent this spring semester at QUB as a **US Fulbright Scholar.**

4PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

HEAT SIGNATURE

SIOBHAN CAMPBELL
BOOK LAUNCH

We are delighted to have **Siobhan Campbell** launch her new collection of poems, **Heat Signature** at this year's book festival.

This intelligent and provocative collection, from the Irish poet, resists rapture and/or easy solutions, it rather glories in difficulty: the cussed, intractable nature of humanity, of a natural world beset with swarming bees, weeds and feral horses. There is a beautiful balance throughout between the forthright and the ironical.

Heat Signature continues her fascination with her homeland in all its incarnations, both ancient and modern.

4PM // FREE EVENT // NO ALIBIS

ATTACK OF THE FIFTY FOOT WOMEN

CATHERINE MAYER

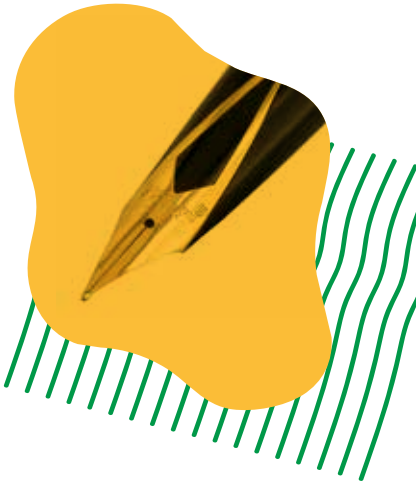
Not a single country anywhere in the world has achieved gender equality. In more than a few countries, progress for women has stalled or is reversing. While campaigning for the Women's Equality Party, she noticed that many people found it hard to envisage a gender-equal world. With reference to her insightful, revelatory, often hilarious, and hugely inspiring book, she will discuss this world and share inside views and experiences.

A former editor at large of **TIME Magazine** and co-founder of the **Women's Equality Party,** Mayer was named on the **Evening Standard's 2016 Progress 1000 list** comprising of London's most influential people.

In association with Women's Equality Party Northern Ireland branch you are warmly invited to stay on after the talk to meet Catherine more informally.

6PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

THE SQUAT PEN



The Squat Pen brings together up and coming writers and performers of poetry, music and prose, alongside those more established.

Running regular events in Belfast and across the island of Ireland since 2013, The Squat Pen has appeared at the John Hewitt International Summer School in Armagh, at Ó Bhéal in Cork and on BBC Radio.

Hosted by poets **Ray Givans** and **Paul Jeffcutt,** the evening promises to deliver a showcase filled with riches, a cornucopia of words and music.

7PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

PAGE TO STAGE

Belfast Comedy Writers 12 Hour Comedy Challenge

Twelve writers, four actors, twelve hours and loads of laughs.

Belfast Comedy Writers have assembled three teams of new and experienced writers to come together and write a new comedy performance from scratch and within 12 hours.

Writing will begin on Saturday morning and the teams will have 6 hours to write their material before a group of experienced comedy performers will have 6 hours to bring the writing to life in a performance later that day.

So come down to the Crescent Arts Centre to see the results of this unique experiment.

9PM // £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

MY BACK PAGES

AN EVENING OF BOB DYLAN

Less than a year ago, Bob Dylan surprised us all by winning the **Nobel Prize for Literature** and we are delighted to host this special evening examining his life in books.

Local musicians, **Jamie Neish** and **LARKS** along with local writer, **Jan Carson** present an evening focused on Dylan's music and the writers who've both influenced him as a songwriter and been influenced by his music.

With live music, readings, Bob Dylan bingo and themed edibles, this evening is a fantastic chance to celebrate Dylan's words and music with other fans and is a night not to be missed!

8.30PM
£10 | £8
CRESCENT ARTS

Sunday
11 June

SECRETS OF THE NORTH

ANTHONY QUINN AND NEIL HEGARTY

Join us for this lunchtime conversation as **Anthony J Quinn** and **Neil Hegarty** discuss the hidden landscapes of their Irish border novels and the corrosive power of the past.

Anthony J Quinn is an award-winning author of seven novels. His debut book, **Disappeared** was a **Daily Mail Crime Novel of the Year,** was picked by **The Sunday Times** as one of the best books of the year and was shortlisted in the US for a **Strand Literary Award.**

Neil Hegarty books include **The Story of Ireland** and **Frost: That Was the Life That Was.** His debut novel **Inch Levels** has been shortlisted for the 2017 **Kerry Group Novel of the Year Award.**

12.45PM // £7 INC. LUNCH | £5 EVENT ONLY // CRESCENT ARTS

POETRY AND PANCAKES

The Belfast Book Festival welcomes all poetry lovers to **Cafe Iho** for an afternoon of delicious brunch and delectable poetry. Mingle with fellow lyric lovers and wordsmiths over Cafe Iho's signature vegan pancakes and speciality coffees and teas, before readers and writers of all styles and genres take to the mic, in the first of Cafe Iho's open mic **Poetry and Pancakes** afternoon brunches.

12.30PM // CAFE IHO, STRANMILLIS
£8 (PAY ON DOOR) INCLUDES TEA/COFFEE, PANCAKES & POETRY

THE LIFE OF A PAINTER

JOHN LAVERY
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY CONOR MAGUIRE

From humble beginnings, orphaned as a child and farmed out to a family in Moira, **John Lavery** went on to live in the higher echelons of society. Painting his first picture at the age of 20, he would later become one of the most renowned portrait painters of his era.

Having taught Churchill to paint, and counting lords, ladies, politicians and royalty among his friends, Lavery became a critical player at the time when the Irish treaty was being signed.

This one-man show has been adapted for stage by **Conor Maguire** from John Lavery's 1940 Autobiography, **The Life of a Painter.**

2PM & 8PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

LAST EXIT TO INISHOWEN

In conversation with Andrea Carter and Neil Hegarty

Neil Hegarty and **Andrea Carter** have both chosen to use the Inishowen Peninsula as the backdrop to their novels. Join these two novelists as they discuss their work, their life in writing and what it was that drew them to set their work in this historically rich and picturesque location.

Neil Hegarty's haunting debut novel **Inch Levels,** is set in the harsh yet beautiful landscape of Ireland's north coast and has been shortlisted for the 2017 **Kerry Group Novel of the Year Award.**

Andrea Carter has written a series of crime novels set in Inishowen. **Death at Whitewater Church** was published in 2015 and **Treacherous Strand** in 2016. **The Well of Ice** will be published this October.

2.30PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

LITERARY ISSUES

Join three of Ireland's most exciting literary magazines for an afternoon of readings from contributors from their newest issues.

The Tangerine is a Belfast-based magazine of new writing. The Tangerine includes features, reportage, commentary, fiction, poetry, illustration and photography.

The Stinging Fly was established in 1997 to seek out, publish and promote the very best new Irish and international writing.

Banshee Lit is an exciting & contemporary journal with new writing from Ireland & around the world. Featuring short stories, flash fiction, poetry, personal essays and interviews.

4PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

JAMAICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

DR LIVINGSTONE THOMPSON

We welcome Dr Livingstone Thompson to the festival this year for a talk on his already critically acclaimed study, **Jamaica in the 21st Century.**

Trawling through public discourse and debates in Jamaica, this book distills and surfaces the main issues that captured the attention of the public: education, crime, the church, politics, homosexuality and human sexuality, to name but a few.

Many of the issues that preoccupy us at this time are issues that have been addressed before. This book is designed to aid memory and to help us see the progress that has been made and to avoid reinventing the wheel.

6PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

Monday
12 June

AN AMERICAN DECADE

A DISCUSSION WITH RICHARD ARONOWITZ

The highly regarded author of **Five Amber Beads** and **It's Just the Beating of my Heart** joins us to read from and discuss his latest novel **An American Decade.**

Evocative, heartfelt and beautifully written, the novel connects the current political climate with that of the tumultuous 1930s; a decade in which the world changed forever!

It tells the tale of Christoph who leaves Germany in 1930 and finds success on Broadway. As the decade unfolds he witnesses the rapid rise of American organisations sympathetic to Hitler but as the horror of Nazism closes in, he is forced to act and sets sail across the Atlantic in search of a hidden piece of his history.

6PM // £7 | £5 // BULLITT HOTEL

ON THE EDGE

Join three of Ireland's finest short story writers **Rosemary Jenkinson, Mia Gallagher** and **Martina Devlin** for an evening of taboo-busting, transgressive tales. Each author will read an extract from their work, which shall be followed by a discussion of how to produce challenging contemporary literature.

Rosemary Jenkinson's two short story collections are **Contemporary Problems Nos. 53 &54** and **Aphrodite's Kiss.**

Mia Gallagher is the author of two acclaimed novels: **HellFire** and **Beautiful Pictures of the Lost Homeland,** which featured in the **Irish Times Book Club.**

Martina Devlin is a best selling author and award-winning journalist who started writing fiction after winning the **Hennessy Literary Award.**

6.30PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

MY BODY, MY LIFE

REAL STORIES ABOUT ABORTION

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act: an Act that does not apply to Northern Ireland. Since this act was introduced, tens of thousands of women from Northern Ireland have travelled and paid for abortions in England. Abortions are not rare in Northern Ireland, and across the UK one in three women will have an abortion in their lifetime.

This event presents videos and books telling stories about abortion. These stories are women's own words about their abortions, and remind us that any woman may need an abortion at some point in their lives. These stories show how easy it can be to be pregnant when you don't want to be, and they also show how women may experience very different emotions - relief, ambivalence, sadness, empowerment - as they decide what to do with their lives.

We will also have a space where women can share their own abortion stories if they wish to do so.

7PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

LOOKING FOR LEGENDS

LISA CAREY & ALAN MCMONAGLE

An event for fans of epic, character-driven novels: two writers explore different sides of Irish life in two very different novels.

In **Lisa Carey's Stolen Child,** a community is in decline and its way of life is under threat. But when a dazzling stranger comes to the island, a complicated web of betrayal, fear and desire culminates in one shocking night that will change the island forever.

In **Alan McMonagle's Ithaca,** 11 year old Jason is preoccupied with the thoughts of a Da he never knew whilst his vodka-swilling Ma is busy entertaining her latest boyfriend. Jason escapes to the Swamp where he meets a girl, a being as lost as himself, and with even less regard for reality.

7PM // £6 | £4 // WATERSTONES

THE BEST NEW BRITISH AND IRISH POETS 2017

Among the 50 poets and poems selected by **Luke Kennard** for inclusion in **The Best New British and Irish Poets 2017,** are five Northern Irish poets: **Emma Must, Joe Lines, Susannah Dickey, Matthew Rice** and **Geraldine O'Kane.** Come along and hear these Northern Irish poets read their poems together with a short selection of other new work from each of them.

The anthology includes a diverse and lively group of writers from across these isles: some of the most interesting new voices writing in the English language today.

8PM // £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

Tuesday
13 June

FOR THE SINS OF MY MOTHER

MARIE THERESE RODGERS-MOLONEY WITH DARRAGH MACINTYRE

The BBC's **Darragh MacIntyre** talks to **Marie Therese Rogers-Moloney** about her extraordinary life and memoir.

Marie Therese was abandoned to a life of misery in a Nazareth House Orphanage, one of the institutions investigated by the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry. Her story is about the resilience of the human spirit and the need we all have to discover who we really are.

12.45PM // £7 INC. LUNCH | £5 EVENT ONLY // CRESCENT ARTS

AN EVENING WITH THE DOIRE PRESS

The Belfast Book Festival is pleased to welcome two of Doire Press's most exciting short story writers: **Martin Malone** and **Helena Mulkern.**

Prolific author Martin will be reading from **This Cruel Station.** The stories explore what it is like to be Irish in today's society. Inspired by observations and interactions, Malone has created a series of authentic and evocative voices that are both brave and daring, yet fearful.

Helena's debut short story was shortlisted for the **Hennessy New Irish Writing Award.** Over 20 of her stories have since been internationally anthologised, including one that was shortlisted for the **Pushcart Prize** and another for the **Francis MacManus Short Story Award.** She will read from her fiction debut, **Ferenji and other Stories.**

6.30PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

THE GLASS SHORE

SHORT STORIES BY WOMEN WRITERS FROM THE NORTH OF IRELAND

Winner of **Best Irish Published Book of the Year 2016, The Glass Shore,** edited by award-winning broadcaster, critic and editor **Sinéad Gleeson,** is an intimate and illuminating insight into a previously underappreciated literary canon. The event will be chaired by Sinéad who will be joined by 3 leading authors to talk about short stories and women's voices.

Sinéad Gleeson is the editor of two previous anthologies, **Silver Threads of Hope** and **The Long Gaze Back: An Anthology of Irish Women Writers,** which won **Best Irish Published Book** at the 2015 **Irish Book Awards.** She presents The Book Show on RTÉ Radio 1.

Jan Carson is a writer based in Belfast whose first novel, **Malcolm Orange Disappears** was published in 2014. 2017 sees the publication of her flash fiction anthology, **Postcard Stories.**

Rosemary Jenkinson was born in Belfast and studied Medieval Literature at Durham University. Her first collection of short stories, **Contemporary Problems Nos. 53 & 54,** was published in 2004, and a second, **Aphrodite's Kiss,** in 2016.

Bernie McGill is the author of **Sleepwalkers,** a collection of stories shortlisted in 2014 for the **Edge Hill Short Story Prize.** Her second novel, **The Watch House,** will be published in August 2017.

5.30PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

THE UNMUMSY MUM DIARY

IN CONVERSATION WITH SARAH TURNER

The Unmumsy Mum, Sarah Turner will share with us a year in her life as a mum, wife, blogger and bestselling author.

The Unmumsy Mum Diary is as honest as it is hilarious. It takes a peek into **Sarah's** innermost thoughts that will leave you in no doubt that, on those days when you feel you are not quite cut out for the job, you are most definitely not alone. With trademark candour and sense of humour, Sarah documents the good days and the bad days, the giggles and the tantrums.

Sarah Turner lives in Devon with her husband and their two boys. She started writing as **The Unmumsy Mum** after becoming disillusioned with the other parenting literature she had read online. Everybody seemed to be coping so well. Where were the tales of mums tearing their hair out after yet another sleepless night and endless re-runs of Peppa Pig? She made a vow then and there to document the reality of parenting, and **The Unmumsy Mum** was born.

7PM // £10 | £8 // CRESCENT ARTS

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RNIB's Talking Books service is a lifeline to the outside world for people who are blind or partially sighted.

www.rnib.org.uk/sponsortalkingbooks | #BooksChangeLives

THE GREAT ESCAPE

WITH SIR GEORGE BAIN AND MARTINA DEVLIN

To celebrate its 13th Anniversary, **The John Hewitt Society** is hosting a series of talks chaired by **Sir George Bain,** which review how society has changed in that time and considers what further changes are needed.

We are delighted to partner with The Society in presenting this event in which best selling author and Award winning journalist, **Martina Devlin** will discuss how the position of women in Ireland, both North and South, has changed and the changes which are still required.

Her latest book **About Sisterhood** is set in the near future in a world ruled by women.

8PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

EMMA PRESS LAUNCH

Come along to the the launch of two new poetry pamphlets from **Emma Press: Padraig Regan's Who Seemed Alive** and **Altogether Real** and **Zosia Kuczyńska's Pisanki.**

Regan's pamphlet brings together art history in a way which is playful and inquisitive. Other poems focus on the representation of the human body as they discover responses to paintings.

In 1940, a young girl is taken from her home in Eastern Poland to Siberia; in 1942, she boards a train. 70 years later, that journey is reimagined by her granddaughter, **Kuczyńska. Pisanki** tells the story of her maternal grandmother, coming to England and confronting some of the big questions of art and history.

8.30PM // £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

Tailored business telecoms, as Standard.

"We have been a customer of Standard Utilities for over 2 years now. They support our Dublin and Belfast offices and we find them an excellent company to do business with".

Noel Kelly, Visual Artists Ireland

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Wednesday 14 June

THE WEIGHT OF HIM

ETHEL ROHAN
WITH PAUL MCVEIGH

The Weight of Him tells the story of Billy. At 400 pounds, Billy can always count on food. Food has always made everything better, until the day Billy's beloved son Michael takes his own life.

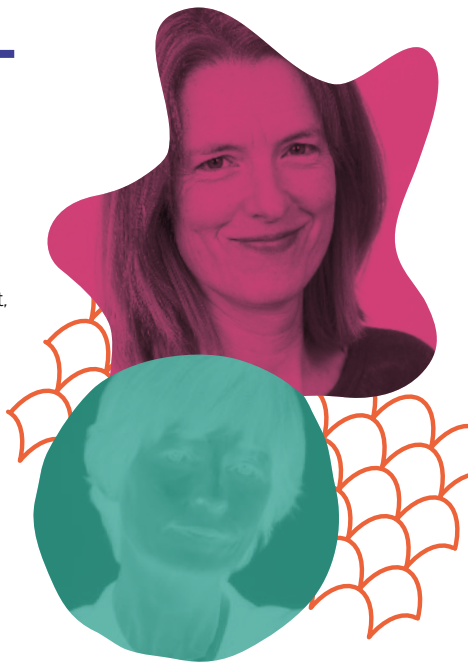
Determined to make a difference in Michael's memory, Billy undertakes a public weight-loss campaign, to raise money for suicide prevention. However, Billy's dramatic crusade appalls his family, who want to simply try to go on.

This is Rohan's first novel and it won the inaugural **Plumeri Fellowship** and was named an **Amazon Best Book.**

12.45PM // £7 INC. LUNCH | £5 EVENT ONLY // CRESCENT ARTS

CONNECTED

PAULA MCGRATH AND SOPHIA HILLAN



Join us for an evening of fiction and friction as **Paula McGrath** and **Sophia Hillan** present their latest works.

Sophia Hillan's How We Danced explores the gap between memory and desire, reality and illusion, in the search for those things that cannot, in the end, be taken away.

In **Paula McGrath's A History of Running Away** it's the 1980's and Jasmine wants to box but it's illegal for girls in Ireland. In 2012, a gynaecologist agonises about a job offer which would mean escapism from her Dublin hospital. In Maryland, Ali's mother has died so she hooks up with a biker gang to escape the grandparents she didn't know existed.

5PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

HARVESTING A PAPER SWAN

RUTH GILLIGAN & LISA HARDING

Join **Jan Carson** as she chats with novelists **Ruth Gilligan** and **Lisa Harding** about their dark and redemptive new novels and their lives in writing.

Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan is **Ruth's** fourth novel, and was inspired by the history of the Jewish community in Ireland. With 3 intertwining narrative strands, it is a novel about immigration, diaspora, storytelling and what it means to truly belong.

Harvesting is **Lisa's** first novel and is heartbreaking, funny, gritty and breathtakingly beautiful, evoking a world where redemption is found in friendship and unexpected acts of kindness. As two girls are thrown together in a Dublin brothel in a horrific twist of fate, a peculiar and important bond is formed...

6.30PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

A BEE'S BREAKFAST

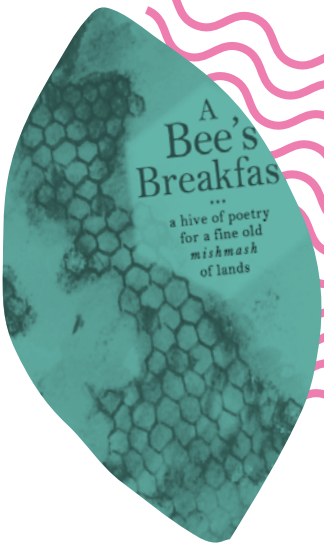
The Bee's Breakfast hums the area currently known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It might, in the future be quite different.

The events of 2016 have led to **Beautiful Dragons** devoting their 2017 collaboration to it.

Come and hear poems that are celebratory, smart, funny and stormy and find out how a project that grew through a snowball effect, now has poets all over the world involved.

Served by **Beautiful Dragons** collaborations including **Trish Bennett, Rebecca Bilkau, Stephanie Conn, Moyra Donaldson** and **Noel Duffy.**

8PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS



WHAT WOULD BEYONCÉ DO?

LUISA OMIELAN
IN CONVERSATION WITH SARAH FIRBY

You know when you find yourself approaching 30 and your dreams are broken? You've got a temping career going nowhere, a student debt that's mounting and you've just had to move back into your mum's house. Then, to top it all off, you get absolutely annihilated with heartbreak because of an ex, who is just 'not ready' but then manages to be ready, a week later, with someone else.

And it is here, at your lowest point, that one of your best friends decides to remind you that you are the same age as Beyoncé.

FML.

The Belfast Book Festival is ridiculously excited to welcome the brilliant stand-up comedian and author **Luisa Omielan.** Hilariously funny, wonderfully uplifting and brutally honest, Luisa's memoir shows us all that there is no situation in which Bey can't save the day. She chats with **Sarah Firby** about how you turn your life around by answering the one mantra every person needs in their life: **What Would Beyoncé Do?**

8PM // £10 | £8 // CRESCENT ARTS

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Thursday
15 June

TARA'S LOCKET - A VR STORY

WITH STEPHEN SHAW

Big Motive has spent the last eighteen months working towards the creation of a virtual reality (VR) experience for children, culminating in the recent release of **Tara's Locket** for iOS and Android.

Come along and join us for a lunchtime talk that will cover the creative process and challenges of bringing a story, bound by two dimensions, to life as a completely immersive, three-dimensional world.

12.45PM // £7 INC. LUNCH | £5 EVENT ONLY // CRESCENT ARTS

SOMETHING ABOUT HOME

BOOK LAUNCH

Join us for an evening of poetry and prose to launch an exciting anthology of new writing on the themes of migration, identity and belonging.

Something About Home features 60 original works and provides an invigorating array of creative responses to the experience of living with, and between, two worlds.

Assembled by editor **Liam Harte,** the anthology is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. It features the work of over a dozen writers who live, work or study in the city and its environs and who took part in a workshop led by the acclaimed poet **Moyra Donaldson,** who will read at this event.

5PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

LAGAN ONLINE PRESENTS 12NOW: NEW ORIGINAL WRITERS

Lagan Online offers a platform to promote contemporary voices from Northern Ireland through the **12NOW** series of New Original Writers. Every writer needs readers in order to thrive; we seek to connect great writers with new audiences, offering the first steps in a career path that closely supports and nurtures up-and-coming talent.

Join us this evening for the second in the **12NOW** series of events at this year's Belfast Book Festival, featuring readings from **Peter Adair, Olive Broderick, Patricia Devlin-Hill, Paul Doran, David Mitchell** and **Claire Savage.**

6.30PM // £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

DARK CHAPTER

WINNIE LI

Inspired by true events, this is a story of the dark chapters and chance encounters that can irrevocably determine the shape of our lives.

On a bright spring afternoon in West Belfast, two paths collide during a horrifying act of violence. In the aftermath, each is forced to confront the chain of events that led to the attack.

Winnie M Li is a writer, producer, and sexual assault activist. Her debut novel, **Dark Chapter,** is a harrowing fictional crime story based on her experience of assault, which has been recognized by awards including **CWA Debut Dagger's Highly Commended** title.

7PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

ANIMAL

SARA PASCOE
WITH SARAH FIRBY

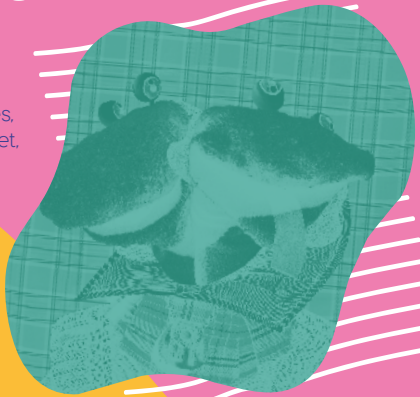
We are excited to welcome to the Belfast Book Festival stage comedian and author **Sara Pascoe** as she discusses her hilarious debut book **Animal.**

Animal explores theories of how the female body evolved alongside cultural analysis and personal experience. The book provides a fascinating insight into the forces that mould and affect modern women - and it's packed full of jokes too.

Sara has appeared on **Live at The Apollo, Mock the Week, QI, Room 101, Never Mind the Buzzcocks** and **8 out of 10 Cats** as well as acting in **Twenty Twelve** and **The Thick of It** and writing columns for **The Guardian.** We are delighted that she can join us at this year's festival in conversation with Sarah Firby.

8PM // £12 | £10 // BLACK BOX // 16+

SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK PUPPET THEATRE DO SHAKESPEARE



Earth's funniest footwear return with a brand new show of songs, sketches, socks & violence, taking on The Bard Of Avon himself. Howl at their Hamlet, roar at their Romeo & Juliet, and peer into their Coriolanus. Plus all the usual satirical nonsense from the Two Gentlesocks Of Verrucca.

This is the Socks' 9th all-new hour long show, fresh from the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe. Following their sellout success with such shows as **Socks In Space** and **Minging Detectives,** this year they've risen to the challenge of Shakespeare.

8PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS // 16+

MAIRTÍN CRAWFORD AWARD & THE LAUNCH OF NO ENEMY BUT TIME

THE POETRY OF MAIRTÍN CRAWFORD & NAOMI FOYLE

This momentous event will reveal the winner of the first ever Belfast Book Festival Mairtín Crawford Award.

Mairtín Crawford died on Sunday IIth of January, 2004. For 8 years, Mairtín worked as a part time creative writing tutor at the Crescent Arts Centre and it is this period that many of those who read his work and followed his work regard as the most promising period of his career. This award pays tribute to **Mairtín.**

Organised in conjunction with **Moyra Donaldson** and in association with the **Irish Writers Centre,** this Award will be an inaugural event.

Join us for this special event in which the editor of **Mairtín's** posthumously published **Selected Poems, Naomi Foyle,** will launch her poetry pamphlet, **No Enemy But Time,** and the friends and literary colleagues of **Mairtín** gather to celebrate and read selections from **Mairtín's** own work.

"Mairtin wrote as he lived, with a combination of intelligence and daring, revolutionary spirit and generosity of heart"
- Moyra Donaldson

8.30PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

Irish Writers Centre
Áras Scríbhneoirí na hÉireann

The Tangerine

a magazine of new writing

The Tangerine is a Belfast-based magazine, covering arts and culture. It is published three times a year, and includes poetry, fiction, non-fiction, photography and illustration.

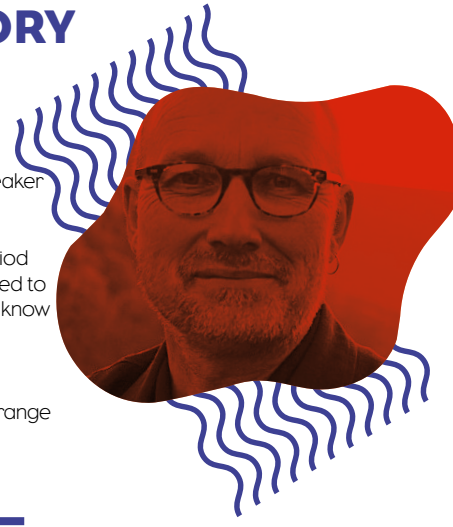
Issue two on sale now

thetangerinemagazine.com **thetangerinemag** **thetangerinebelfast**

Friday 16 June

A NEARLY INFALLIBLE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION

NICK PAGE



To mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation prolific author, speaker and applied ranter **Nick Page** has written a book on the subject.

Nick brings his skills as an unlicensed historian to bear on this key period in European (and world) history in order to uncover everything you need to know about the Reformation - with a fair few bits you never wanted to know thrown in for good measure.

In-depth research, historical analysis and cutting-edge guesswork combine to scintillating effect in this fast-moving examination of the strange and wonderful whirlwind that was church life in late medieval Europe.

4.30PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

A POETRY READING

WITH ANDY EATON AND TESS TAYLOR

Andy Eaton's first pamphlet **Sprung Nocturne** was published by The Lifeboat Press in 2016. His poems have appeared in **Copper Nickel, Crab Orchard Review, Magma** and **Narrative** and he is a lecturer at Oxford Brookes University.

Tess Taylor is the author of two books, **The Forage House** (2013), and **Work and Days** (2016), published by **Red Hen Press.** She is the chair of the poetry committee of the **National Book Critics Circle** and her work has appeared in **The Atlantic, Boston Review** and **The Times Literary Supplement.** She is currently a visiting **Fulbright Scholar** at Queen's.

Join these two poets for an afternoon reading with drinks and canapés in association with **The Lifeboat.**

4.30PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

SPACE ODYSSEYS

WITH NAOMI FOYLE & JO ZEBEDEE

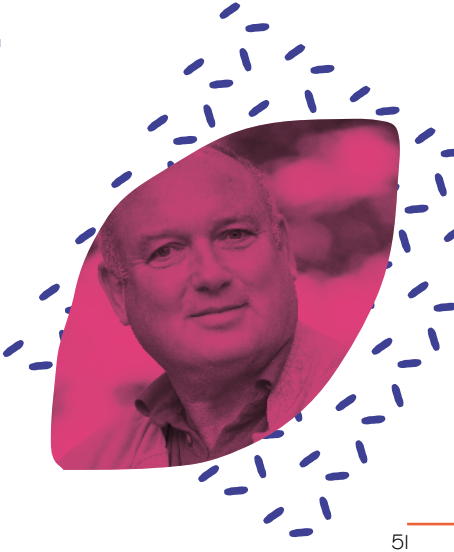
George Orwell, Ray Bradbury and even Margaret Atwood turned to the genre of science fiction when the reality of the world they lived in proved too lacklustre a place to home some of their most iconic and thought-provoking characters and stories.

Sci-Fi can ask questions other genres cannot; will human principles and sentiments change or endure in a far-flung future? Is it only a matter of time before an AI-operated super-computer takes over the world by building an army of indestructible super-robots with the intention of crushing humanity beneath their alloy feet?

Join authors **Naomi Foyle** and **Jo Zebedee** as they discuss these and many other questions surrounding Sci-Fi writing and read from their own forays into literature's arguably most loved and most read genre.

5.30PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

LOUIS DE BERNIÈRES



We're delighted to welcome the author of the bestselling book, **Captain Corelli's Mandolin, Louis De Bernières** as he joins us to talk about about his latest novel **Blue Dog** - the beautiful prequel inspired by the adaptation of its predecessor **Red Dog,** to the big screen.

The always prolific author will also touch on his recently published novel, the critically acclaimed **The Dust That Falls From Shadows,** as well as look at his latest collection of poetry **Of Love and Desire.** This event is set to be one of the literary highlights of this year's festival.

6.30PM // £8 | £6 // CRESCENT ARTS

ANOTHER DAY IN THE DEATH OF AMERICA

GARY YOUNGE
IN CONVERSATION WITH ELIZABETH NELSON GORMAN

On 23 November 2013, 10 children were shot dead. They fell in suburbs, hamlets and ghettos. None made the national news. It was just another day in the death of America, where on average 7 children and teens are killed by guns daily.

Editor-at-large at **The Guardian, Gary Younge** picked this day at random, searched for their families and told their stories. What emerges is a sobering, searing, portrait of youth and guns in contemporary America.

This is a book, which will lead the news agenda on publication and will leave the reader knocked sideways by its emotional power.

7PM // £8 | £6 // CRESCENT ARTS

POLARI LITERARY SALON

London's award-winning LGBT literary salon **Polari** has come to Belfast. Now in its 10th year, **Polari** has been showcasing the best in established and emerging LGBT literary talent since 2007. Curated and hosted by author **Paul Burston, Polari** features a mixture of visiting and local guests including Belfast author **Paul McVeigh,** performing their own unique work.

Polari began in the upstairs room of a bar in Soho. Events are now held monthly at the Southbank Centre and feature the best in established and emerging LGBT literary talent.

8PM // £8 | £6 // SUNFLOWER BAR

THE STRANGE DEATH OF EUROPE

DOUGLAS MURRAY
WITH DANIEL JEWESBURY

The Strange Death of Europe is a highly personal account of a continent and culture caught in the act of suicide. Declining birth-rates, mass immigration and cultivated self-distrust and self-hatred have come together to make Europeans unable to argue for themselves and incapable of resisting their own comprehensive change as a society.

Told from this first-hand perspective, and backed with impressive research and evidence, the book addresses the disappointing failure of multiculturalism, Angela Merkel's U-turn on migration, the lack of repatriation and the Western fixation on guilt. **Murray** travels to Berlin, Paris, Scandinavia, Lampedusa and Greece to uncover the malaise at the very heart of European culture and to hear the stories of those who have arrived in Europe from far away.

Douglas Murray is Associate Editor of **The Spectator** and writes frequently for a variety of other publications. In conversation with **Daniel Jewesbury, Murray** will discuss the bigger issues which lie behind our continent's death-wish, answering the question of why anyone, let alone an entire civilization, would do this to themselves?

8PM
£10 | £8
CRESCENT ARTS CENTRE

STRENGTHENING THE NORTHERN BRIDGE

MORRISSEY, POLLEY AND BERGIN

Sinéad Morrissey's departure for Newcastle University is imminent and, together with **The John Hewitt Society,** we have invited two of **Sinéad's** new colleagues to read with her; **Tara Bergin** and **Jacob Polley.**

Tara Bergin was the recipient of the **Seamus Heaney Centre Prize** for her debut collection, **This is Yarrow** (Carcanet, 2013) and **Jacob Polley's** most recent accolade is the 2016 **T S Eliot Award** for **Jackself** (Picador). The readers will be introduced by **Sinéad's** students from the **Seamus Heaney Centre; Andy Eaton, Emma Must** and **Stephen Sexton.**

Sinéad Morrissey has published six collections of poetry. Her awards include the **Patrick Kavanagh Award,** first place in the **UK National Poetry Competition,** a **Lannan Literary Fellowship, The Irish Times Poetry Prize** (2009, 2013) and the **T S Eliot Prize** (2013). In 2016 she was awarded the **E M Forster Prize** from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She has served as Belfast's inaugural **Poet Laureate.** Her latest collection, **On Balance,** is the **Poetry Book Society Choice** for Summer 2017.

8.30PM // £8 | £6 // CRESCENT ARTS

Saturday 17 June

THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SHED

MEN'S BOOK BRUNCH

You're invited to a very special 'book brunch' taking place during the festival, organised by **'The Book Well' Christian bookshop.**

It features two very special guests; **Justyn Rees Larcombe,** a recovering gambling addict who will be discussing how he overcame his addiction and how he helps others cope with their own addictions. Plus **Nick Page,** who will be chatting about **Men, Spirituality and the Mid Life Crisis.**

Although the subject matter is aimed towards men, all are welcome to attend. Tickets include a cooked brunch and booking is essential.

10AM - 2.30PM // £10 // BOOK VIA THE BOOK WELL
SKAINOS CENTRE, NEWTOWNARDS ROAD

MAGICAL MASQUERADE

CLAIRE SAVAGE
BOOK LAUNCH

The Belfast Book Festival is delighted to host the launch of **Claire Savage's** fantasy novel for children, **Magical Masquerade.**

One girl. Two magical quests. Three riddles will set her free.

Magical Masquerade was inspired by the myths and landscape of the North Coast and tells the story of 10 3/4 year-old Felicity Stone, who is whisked away to the Fairy Realm. To escape, she must solve three riddles, while also unravelling the mystery of the enchanted pebbles, which have been stolen and are causing disarray in the kingdom...

12PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

WOMEN ALOUD NI

READATHON AND MASS SIMULTANEOUS READING

Women Aloud NI celebrates the work of women writers based in or from Northern Ireland.

Come along and listen to 50 women writers read from their work both individually and together. This a wonderful chance to get a sense of the extraordinary diversity and richness of the women's writing scene in the North, and to get to know the names of some of our finest emerging and established female writers. The list of readers includes:

Jane Talbot, Felicity McCall, Tara West, Jo Zebedee, Dominique Hoffman, Catriona King, Hilary McCollum, Mary Montague, Elizabeth McGeown, Olive Broderick, Stephanie Conn, Shirley-Anne McMillan, JS Comiskey...and more!

2PM // £6 | £4 // CRESCENT ARTS

TEMPLAR POETS

Templar Poetry have launched two eagerly anticipated poetry titles from **Paul Maddern** and **Olive Broderick.**

Paul Maddern launches his new pamphlet **Pilgrimage** alongside **Olive Broderick** launching her first collection **Night Divers.**

From the letters of the artist Paul Nash to reminiscences of life on Castro St, San Francisco, at the heart of **Pilgrimage** is the contemporary and historical loss of family and friends.

Night Divers begins off the East Coast of Australia, moving on to New Zealand, before settling in Northern Ireland. While the moon and the foundation in personal experience are constants; the voice, locations and time itself shift and move, allowing the reader to enter the collection at any point.

5PM // FREE EVENT // CRESCENT ARTS

CATHERINE DUNNE

IN CONVERSATION WITH FEDERICA FERRIERI

Award-winning Irish author **Catherine Dunne** will be in conversation with Italy's **Honorary Consul, Federica Ferrieri** discussing the various madnesses of the writing life, the perils of translation and the challenges currently facing the humble book.

Catherine, who was recently long-listed for the inaugural **Laureate for Irish Fiction,** is the author of ten novels and one work of social history; **An Unconsidered People,** which explores the lives of Irish immigrants in London in the 1950s.

7PM // £7 | £5 // CRESCENT ARTS

THE LIFEBOAT

Now a festival staple, **The Lifeboat** poetry readings return, this year featuring **Rebecca Perry, Joey Connolly** and **Susannah Dickey.**

Rebecca Perry's first collection **Beauty/Beauty** was published in 2015 and was shortlisted for the **T. S. Eliot Prize.** Her pamphlet, **Little Armoured** won the **Poetry Wales Purple Moose Prize** and was a **Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice.** She co-edits the online journal **Poems In Which.**

Joey Connolly's first collection **Long Pass** was published by Carcanet in 2017. He received an **Eric Gregory** award in 2012, and his poetry was featured in Carcanet's **New Poetries VI.** He co-founded the poetry magazine **Kaffeeklatsch.**

Susannah Dickey has just finished a BA in English with Creative Writing at Queen's University Belfast. Her poetry has appeared in **Poetry Ireland Review, Ambit** and **The Tangerine.** She was the winner of the inaugural **Verve Poetry Festival** competition.

8PM // FREE EVENT // SUNFLOWER BAR

OSCAR WILDE'S THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE

LONDON'S WILL BUTTERWORTH QUARTET FEATURING ACTOR ADAM TURNS

Will Butterworth has written a suite of original music inspired by the **Oscar Wilde** story **The Nightingale and the Rose.** The suite employs beautiful melodies and rich and dark harmony to retell **Wilde's** story of love and sacrifice, and comes to a dramatic crescendo as the final song of the nightingale is performed. The group uses these melodies as starting points for improvisation, and the result is riveting and exhilarating music making.

Originally this music was composed as solo piano music for a story book, but it has grown into a fully formed, dynamic jazz suite. The evening begins with a performance of the short story, featuring local actor **Adam Turns.**

Will Butterworth	Piano
Seb Pipe	Alto Sax
Nick Pini	Bass
Pete Ibbetson	drums

"Talented modern jazz pianist who plays with spacious and fractious beauty. A rising Brit-Jazz piano star." - Time Out

"There's no look-at-me excess, just intensely worked harmonic invention. One to watch out for" - Phil Johnson, The Independent

8.30PM
£10 | £8
CRESCENT ARTS

Workshops

Turning a short story into a novel
With Paul McVeigh

Saturday 10 June

£30 | £25
10am - 1pm

Crescent Arts Centre

UsFolk presents
Stephen Maurice Graham:
Alternative Comic Book Workshop

Saturday 10 June

£35 | £30
11am - 5pm

Crescent Arts Centre

Postcard Story Workshop
With Jan Carson

Saturday 10 June

£22 | £20
2pm - 4pm

Crescent Arts Centre

Mastering character, landscape and plot in crime fiction
A workshop with Anthony Quinn

Sunday 11 June

£22 | £20
2.30pm - 5.30pm

Crescent Arts Centre

What we ignore will not forgive us
A workshop with Moyra Donaldson

Sunday 11 June

£22 | £20
2.00pm - 5.00pm

Crescent Arts Centre

IQ for Creative Writers - The Art of Asking Questions
A workshop with Sean Hillen

Tuesday 13 June

£16 | £14
7pm

Crescent Arts Centre

The Crescent Writers Read

Wednesday 14 June

Free Event
7.30pm - 9.30pm

Crescent Arts Centre

Write To Awaken: A creative path to transformation
With Belinda Bennetts

Saturday 17 June

£25 | £20
11am - 3.30pm

Crescent Arts Centre

Everything A Debut Novelist Needs to Know
With Paul McVeigh

Saturday 17 June

£25 | £20
2pm - 5pm

Crescent Arts Centre

Special Events

Pre-Festival Event
Michael Longley - The Launch of Angel Hill
Thursday Ist June
Free Event
Creat Hall - Queen's University

Michael Longley's Collected Poems was published by Jonathan Cape in 2006. He has been awarded the **Hawthornden Prize,** the **T.S. Eliot Prize,** and the **Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.** This reading marks the publication of his new collection, **Angel Hill.**

Gender Ideologies - Korea
Belfast Photo Festival
4 - 24 June
Free Event
Crescent Arts Centre Gallery

Focusing on trends in cultural preference, Korean artists have explored sexuality, gender, socialization and identity, while also highlighting associated relationships with consumerism.

From the lengths to which people will go to achieving societies perceived perfection of gender appearance, to body sections presented as the objects of desire.

Outreach

An important part of the Book Festival is the work we do in the community. All of these events are free to attend, but we recommend that you book your place, as space is limited.

Scene Steal: A Play Script Writing Workshop for Young People
With Andrea Grimason

Thursday 8 June
10am - 12pm

Words Alive:
'Spreading Our Wings'

Thursday 8 June
2pm

Words For Wellbeing
With Catherine McInerney

Saturday 10 June
11am - 1pm

Children's workshop (8-12 yrs)
With author Nigel Quinlan

Monday 12 June
4pm-5.30pm

Crescent Arts Centre Book Club Tea Party

Tuesday 13 June
7pm

For further information about any of the Outreach Events please contact outreach@crescentarts.org

The Tangerine

a magazine of new writing

The Tangerine is a Belfast-based magazine, covering arts and culture. It is published three times a year, and includes poetry, fiction, non-fiction, photography and illustration.

Issue two on sale now

thetangerinemagazine.com **thetangerinemag** **thetangerinebelfast**

Booking Information

Online
Booking your tickets online is easy. Simply go to BelfastBookFestival.com, pick your favourite events and pay online through our secure system to get an email with your tickets (PDF) sent to you instantly.

In Person/ By Telephone
You can purchase your tickets by calling us on (028) 9024 2338, or in person by coming to the Crescent Arts Centre.

Refunds
Festival Tickets cannot be refunded once purchased unless the event is cancelled or postponed. In this event, refunds must be claimed from point of purchase. All tickets for events are non transferable after purchase.

Accessibility
We endeavor to make the Festival as accessible as possible. We recommend that we are notified when booking of any specific requirements so that we can adequately provide for your needs and confirm accessibility. A 2 for the price of I offer is also available in the case of an attendee requiring assistance – please contact us when booking to arrange this.

Free Events
Availability for free events is 'first come, first served'. Tickets for free events should be booked in advance if specified in individual event listings.

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BELFAST BOOK FESTIVAL

Family Fun Day

Saturday 10 June
11am - 3pm
Lower Crescent Park

Facepainting

Storytelling

Arts & Crafts

Lawn Games

Books Galore

Entertainment

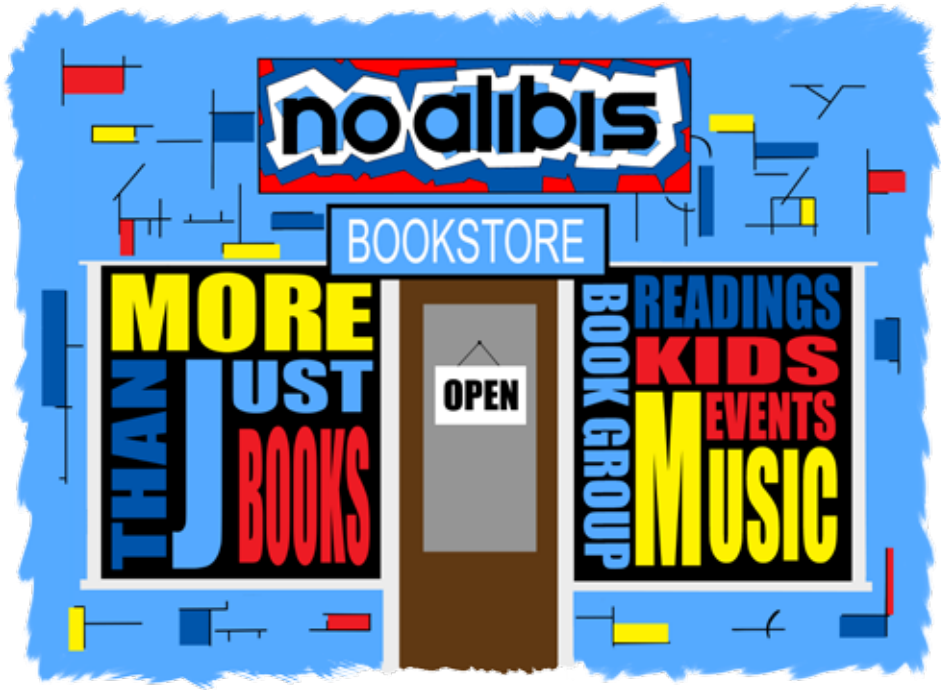
Come on down to the merry old land of Oz and enjoy a great day out with the family!

Follow the yellow brick road, follow the yellow brick road and join us for the Belfast Book Festival Family Fun Day **in partnership with Belfast City Council!**

Join Dorothy, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow for a jam-packed day full to the brim with fun activities the whole family can enjoy! Best of all our Family Fun Day is FREE to attend!

Plus, we are delighted to be joined by **The Fine and Dandy Market.**

In partnership with Belfast City Council



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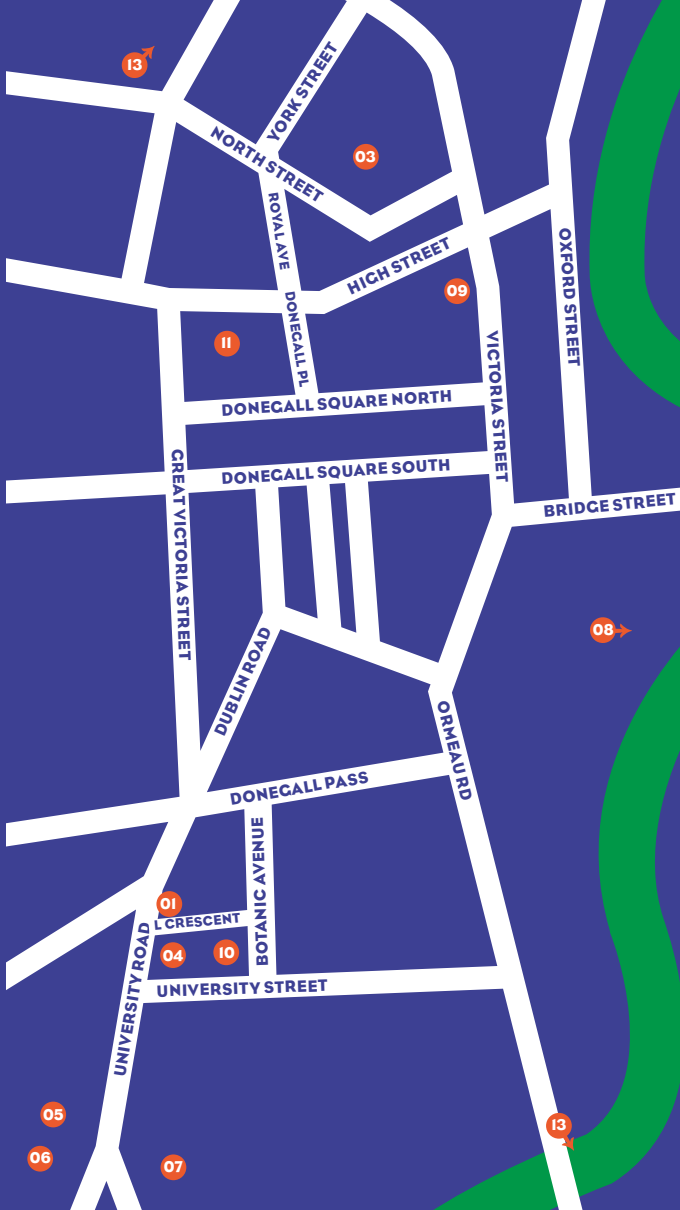
BELFAST BOOK FESTIVAL

Locations

1. Crescent Arts Centre
2. The Black Box
3. The Sunflower Bar
4. Lower Crescent Park
5. Mandela Hall
6. Methody College
7. Cafe iho
8. Skainos Centre, New'ards Rd
9. Bullitt Hotel
10. No Alibis
11. Waterstones



At a glance

Wednesday 7 June		
Ciaran McMenamin	12.45pm	Crescent Arts
Garrett Carr	5.30pm	Crescent Arts
Myriad Routes From Page to Stage	6.30pm	Crescent Arts
Lisa McInerney	7.00pm	Crescent Arts
Anna Lo	8.30pm	Crescent Arts
Kayo Chingonyi/Stephen Sexton	8.30pm	Crescent Arts

Thursday 8 June		
The Weeping Horses of Achilles	2.00pm	Crescent Arts
Tariq Ramadan	5.30pm	Crescent Arts
The Art of the Short Story	6.30pm	Crescent Arts
The Weeping Horses of Achilles	8.00pm	Crescent Arts
Lagan Online - 12 NOW	8.00pm	Crescent Arts
Norman Finkelstein	8.00pm	Methodist College
My Dad Wrote A Porno	8.00pm	Mandela Hall

Friday 9 June		
Abdulrazak Gurnah	5.30pm	Crescent Arts
Polly Toynbee & David Walker	6.30pm	Crescent Arts
Solidarity Poetry Awards Night	7.30pm	Crescent Arts
Poetry Slam	9.00pm	Crescent Arts

Saturday 10 June		
Gritty Young Things	12.45pm	Crescent Arts
Trouble is Our Business	2.00pm	Crescent Arts
Dermot Breen - The Edge	3.00pm	Crescent Arts
Marilyn Richtarik	4.00pm	Crescent Arts
Heat Signature Book Launch	4.00pm	No Alibis
Attack of the Fifty Foot Woman	6.00pm	Crescent Arts
The Squat Pen	7.00pm	Crescent Arts
My Back Pages - Bob Dylan	8.30pm	Crescent Arts
12 Hour Comedy Challenge	9.00pm	Crescent Arts

Sunday 11 June		
Secrets of the North	12.45pm	Crescent Arts
Poetry and Pancakes	12.30pm	Cafe Iho
John Lavery - Life of a Painter	2.00pm	Crescent Arts
Last Exit to Inishowen	2.30pm	Crescent Arts
Literary Issues	4.00pm	Crescent Arts
Jamica in the 21st Century	6.00pm	Crescent Arts
John Lavery - Life of a Painter	8.00pm	Crescent Arts

Monday 12 June		
On the Edge	6.30pm	Crescent Arts
My Body, My Life	7.00pm	Crescent Arts
Looking for Legends	7.00pm	Waterstones
Best New British and Irish Poets 2017	8.00pm	Crescent Arts
An American Decade	8.00pm	Bullitt Hotel

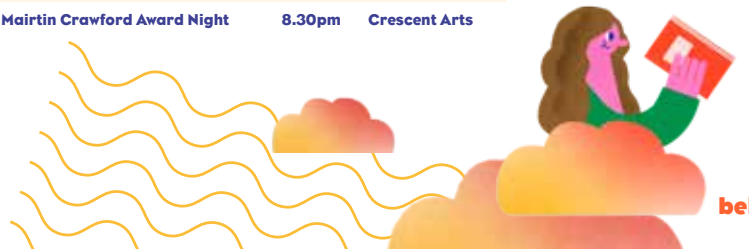
Tuesday 13 June		
For The Sins of My Mother	12.45pm	Crescent Arts
The Glass Shore	5.30pm	Crescent Arts
An Evening with The Doire Press	6.30pm	Crescent Arts
The Unmumsy Mum Diary	7.00pm	Crescent Arts
The Great Escape	8.00pm	Crescent Arts
Emma Press Launch	8.30pm	Crescent Arts

Wednesday 14 June		
The Weight of Him	12.45pm	Crescent Arts
Paula McGrath and Sophia Hillan	5.00pm	Crescent Arts
Ruth Gilligan and Lisa Harding	6.30pm	Crescent Arts
The Crescent Writers Read	7.30pm	Crescent Arts
A Bee's Breakfast	8.00pm	Crescent Arts
What Would Beyonce Do?	8.00pm	Crescent Arts

Thursday 15 June		
Tara's Locket	12.45pm	Crescent Arts
Something About Home Launch	5.00pm	Crescent Arts
Lagan Online - 12 NOW	6.30pm	Crescent Arts
Dark Chapter - Winnie Li	7.00pm	Crescent Arts
Sara Pascoe	8.00pm	Black Box
Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre	8.00pm	Crescent Arts
Mairtin Crawford Award Night	8.30pm	Crescent Arts

Friday 16 June		
Nearly Infallible History of The Reformation	4.30pm	Crescent Arts
Poetry Reading with A.Eaton and T.Taylor	4.30pm	Crescent Arts
Space Odysseys	5.30pm	Crescent Arts
Louis de Bernieres	6.30pm	Crescent Arts
Gary Younge	7.00pm	Crescent Arts
Polari Literary Salon	8.00pm	The Sunflower
Douglas Murrray	8.00pm	Crescent Arts
Strengthening The Northern Bridge	8.30pm	Crescent Arts

Saturday 17 June		
Men's Book Brunch	10.00am	Crescent Arts
Magical Masquerade	12.00pm	Crescent Arts
Women Aloud NI Readathon	2:00pm	Crescent Arts
Templar Poets	5.00pm	Crescent Arts
Catherine Dunn	7.00pm	Crescent Arts
The Lifeboat	8.00pm	The Sunflower
Oscar Wilde - Nightingale and the Rose	8.30pm	Crescent Arts



BELFAST BOOK FESTIVAL

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Over 100 Events & Workshops Across Belfast

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The Crescent Arts Centre

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