

Biographical Notes for UL Creative Writing Festival – Prose programme

Kevin Barry

Kevin Barry is the author of the highly acclaimed novel *City of Bohane* and two short-story collections, *Dark Lies the Island* and *There Are Little Kingdoms*. He was awarded the Rooney Prize in 2007 and won the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award in 2012. For *City of Bohane*, he was short-listed for the Costa First Novel Award and the Irish Book Award, and won the Author's Club Best First Novel Prize, the European Union Prize for Literature, and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His short fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker* and elsewhere. He lives in County Sligo in Ireland. His *Night Boat to Tangier*, published in 2019, was longlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize.

Sebastian Barry

Sebastian Barry is an internationally acclaimed playwright and novelist whose works include *The Steward of Christendom* and *The Temporary Gentleman*. He was appointed Laureate for Irish Fiction in 2019. Sebastian's literary career began in poetry before he began writing plays and novels. He has been twice shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for his novels *A Long Long Way* (2005) and *The Secret Scripture* (2008), the latter of which won the 2008 Costa Book of the Year and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. His 2011 novel, *On Canaan's Side*, was longlisted for the Booker. In January 2017, Sebastian was awarded the Costa Book of the Year prize for *Days Without End*, becoming the first novelist to win the prestigious prize twice

Kit De Waal

Mandy Theresa O'Loughlin (born 26 July 1960), known professionally as Kit de Waal, is a British/Irish writer. Her debut novel, *My Name Is Leon*, was published in June 2016. After securing the publishing deal with Penguin, De Waal used some of her advance to set up the Kit de Waal Creative Writing Fellowship to help improve working-class representation in the arts. De Waal has also published short stories, including the collection *Supporting Cast* (2020). Kit's memoir *Without Warning and Only Sometimes* (described by The Bookseller as 'extraordinary') is published this summer. Kit is an honorary Adjunct Professor at UL Creative Writing.

Roddy Doyle

Roddy Doyle is the author of many novels, plays, screenplays, and dozens of short stories. Several of his books have been made into films, beginning with *The Commitments* in 1991. Doyle's work is set primarily in Ireland. He established the Fighting Words educational/creative writing organisation. He was awarded the Booker Prize 1993 for his novel, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*.

Louise Kennedy

Louise Kennedy grew up in Holywood, Co Down. *The End of the World is a Cul de Sac*, her internationally acclaimed debut short story collection, was published by Bloomsbury and appeared on many Book of the Year lists. She lives in Sligo. Her latest novel *Trespases* is receiving rave reviews internationally.

Sheila Killian

Sheila Killian is a writer based outside Limerick City. She teaches at University of Limerick. Her fiction, poetry and travel writing have won awards in Ireland and the UK, and her work has been broadcast on RTE Radio. Her first novel, *Something Bigger*, was published this year and has been described by Donal Ryan as ‘tense, gripping and beautifully written.’

Lisa McInerney is an Irish novelist, short story writer, essayist, editor and screenwriter. Her novel, *The Glorious Heresies*, was the 2016 winner of the Bailey’s Women’s Prize for Fiction, and *The Blood Miracles* and *The Rules of Revelation* garnered ecstatic reviews. Lisa’s short work has featured in *Winter Papers*, *Extra Teeth*, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Granta*, *BBC Radio 4* and in various prestigious anthologies. She has been a contributing editor at Irish literary magazine *The Stinging Fly* since 2018.

Danielle McLaughlin

Danielle McLaughlin’s debut novel *The Art of Falling* was published in January 2021 and is shortlisted for the Dublin Literary Award, the world’s largest prize for a single book. Her debut collection of short stories, *Dinosaurs On Other Planets*, was published in Ireland in 2015 by *The Stinging Fly Press* and in the UK and the US & Canada by John Murray and Random House in 2016. In 2019 she was awarded a Windham-Campbell Prize for fiction. Her stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*.

Sarah Moore Fitzgerald

Sarah Moore Fitzgerald is an award-winning teacher, researcher and novelist and is a key part of the UL creative writing team with Joseph O’Connor and Donal Ryan. She’s the author of seven novels and has been shortlisted for literary awards including the Waterstones Prize, The Irish Book Awards, and The Jack Harte Award. Her latest novel *The Shark and the Scar* will be published in June 2022. Her work has been adapted for the stage and translated into twenty languages.

Joseph O’Connor

Joseph O’Connor’s 2019 novel *Shadowplay* won the Eason/An Post Irish Novel of the Year Award, was shortlisted for five further prizes across France, Ireland and the UK, including the Costa Novel Award 2020, and became a UK bestseller when it was selected for the WH Smith/Richard and Judy Book Club. He is the author of 21 books, including the million-selling novel *Star of the Sea*, published in 40 languages. His awards include France’s Prix Millepages, Italy’s Premio Acerbi, an American Library Association Award, the Nielsen Bookscan Golden Book Award and the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Achievement. He was Ireland’s first winner of France’s Prix Littéraire Européen Madeleine Zepter for

European Novel of the Year. He holds the Frank McCourt Chair of UL Creative Writing and is director of the UL Creative Writing Festival.

Donal Ryan

Donal Ryan has won numerous literary awards, among them the European Union Prize for Literature and the Guardian First Book Award. He was the first Irish winner of the Prix Jean Monet de Littérature Européenne. Donal was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2013 for his debut novel, *The Spinning Heart*, and again in 2018, for his fourth novel, *From A Low And Quiet Sea*. His books have been adapted for stage and screen and translated into over twenty languages. *The Spinning Heart* was voted Irish Book of the Decade in 2016. His novel *Strange Flowers* (2020) entered the Irish bestsellers' list at number one and won the Eason An Post Irish Novel of the Year Award. His hugely anticipated next novel *The Princess of Dirt Island* is published in June. Donal has lectured in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick since 2014.

Biographical Notes for UL Creative Writing Festival – Poetry programme

Dr Emily Cullen is the Meskell UL-Fifty Poet in Residence and she teaches on the MA in Creative Writing. Emily has published three collections: *Conditional Perfect* (Doire Press, 2019), *In Between Angels and Animals* (Arlen House, 2013) and *No Vague Utopia* (Ainnir Publishing, 2003).

Seán Hewitt's debut collection, *Tongues of Fire* (Cape, 2020), won The Laurel Prize in 2021, and was shortlisted for The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award 2020. His memoir, *All Down Darkness Wide*, will be published in July 2022. He lives and works in Dublin.

Dr Rachael Hegarty's debut, *Flight Paths Over Finglas* (Salmon, 2017) won the Shine Strong Award in 2018. Her *May Day 1974* (Salmon, 2019) and *Dancing with Memory* (Salmon, 2021) earned national and international acclaim. Rachael's kids say she uses F-words too much: Finglas, feminism and feckin' poetry.

Jane Clarke is the author of two poetry collections, *The River* and *When the Tree Falls* (Bloodaxe Books 2015 & 2019), and an illustrated chapbook, *All the Way Home*, (Smith|Doorstop 2019).

A poet and singer-songwriter, **Christie Kandiwa** was born in Zimbabwe and raised in Ireland. Her work is influenced by blending her Zimbabwean cultural heritage and her Irish upbringing and intertwines Southern-African myths and local languages and forms.

Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi is a poet, communications officer and content creator. She was born in Nigeria and grew up in Dublin. She has performed in festivals, cultural events and workshops around Ireland and worked with various arts organisations and publishing agencies.

ALSO

Eoin Devereux is a poet, editor and sociologist from Limerick. He has published extensively on such topics as fandom, media, David Bowie, Morrissey, and The Fall, and writes and performs a regular radio series with Gavin Friday. Eoin recently edited the warmly received poetry broadsheet *April Is The Cruellest Month*. He lectures in Sociology at UL and leads UL's unique Creative Writers in the Community module.

Ogham Stone 2022, UL's annual creative writing journal with guest writers Kevin Barry, Emily Cullen, Eoin Devereux, Nikki Markham, Annamae Muldowney, Joseph O'Connor, Aaron Smith and D.S.Slaney, plus submissions of new prose and poetry from many writers, including winners of a competition celebrating 50 years of UL.