Words on the Street
a European literature trail

Thursday
7th September 2017
6:30 – 9:00pm
free readings
Parnell Square
Cultural Quarter
Words on the Street

2017

a European literature trail

Crossing political and literary borders – Words on the Street will take you on a journey across the cultural landscape in an evening of celebrity readings of work by contemporary European authors – in locations around the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter.

Parnell Square is the second oldest of Dublin’s squares, after St. Stephen’s Green. It was built in 1766 as Mosse’s Gardens, before being named Rutland Square in 1784, and finally Parnell Square in 1934.

In 1834 it was remarked that while the gentry and nobility lived in the south side Georgian squares, the north side squares were inhabited by prosperous merchants and government officials. Up to the mid-1880s this remained the case.

Parnell Square will be the home of the new City Library as part of the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter which is planned for development on the Coláiste Mhuire site.

Treat your eyes and ears to a new experience – hear voices from ten European countries, across a range of interesting venues you may not have visited before.

The first reading at each venue will start at 6:30pm and the last one at 9:00pm. Each reading takes approximately 15 minutes and is repeated on the hour and half hour. No booking required.
Austria

Read by Sharon Ní Bheoláin at Belvedere House

Three of the readings will be in Irish, with a printed version in English available on the night.

Sharon Ní Bheoláin is best known as co-anchor of RTÉ’s flag-ship news programme Six One. Over two decades in broadcasting she has presented and reported across all of RTÉ’s main television news bulletins. Her feature reports have aired on Prime Time. She has guest presented The Week in Politics and is the main presenter of Leaders Questions in the Dail. In 2003 Sharon fronted RTÉ’s learning Irish series Turas Teanga. She began her career in Nuacht RTÉ. She is a passionate advocate of animal welfare and an Ambassador for NGO ActionAid promoting education rights for girls in developing countries.

Belvedere House was built for George Rochfort, the second Earl of Belvedere in 1775. In 1841 the house was bought by the Society of Jesus to accommodate their growing boys’ school. This building still remains as part of the College today and renovations were completed in November 2014. The outstanding feature of the house is the stucco-work on the stairwell and first-floor reception rooms. Michael Stapleton was responsible for this work and was probably the architect. The decorated stairway and its ceiling in Belvedere House is a good example of the Adamesque style popularised by Robert and James Adam.
A Whole Life
By Robert Seethaler
Translated by Charlotte Collins

Robert Seethaler was born in Vienna and divides his time between his home town and Berlin. He is the author of five novels, including The Tobacconist, which has sold more than 200,000 copies in Germany, and A Whole Life, which has sold more than 100,000 copies in Germany.

A Whole Life was shortlisted for the 2017 International Dublin Literary Award, which is sponsored by Dublin City Council. Nominations are submitted by libraries in major cities throughout the world. A Whole Life was nominated by Cork City Libraries and libraries in Germany and Austria.

Robert Seethaler also works as an actor, most recently in Paolo Sorrentino’s Youth.
Situated in the heart of Dublin city, Belvedere College is a school for boys founded in 1832. It continues today a tradition rooted in the Jesuit approach to education. The school currently has 1,005 pupils enrolled and has a number of famous alumni in the world of the arts, politics, sport, science and business. Take time to view the display of material from James Joyce’s student days at the college.

Katherine Lynch is a well-known actor and comedian. She has starred in several television series including Working Girls, Wonder Woman, Katherine Lynch’s Single Ladies and Wagons Den. She toured nationwide to sell-out audiences, including performing for 16 nights at Vicar Street to over 50,000 people. She was a contestant on RTE’s Dancing with the Stars. Katherine regularly reviews books on The Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk FM. She is a grand-niece of poet Patrick Kavanagh.

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Read by Katherine Lynch at Belvedere College
Denmark

*A Fighting Pig’s Too Tough To Eat*

*By Suzanne Brøgger*

*Translated by Marina Allemano*


Malta

*Rita (The Name They Left Behind)*

*By Clare Azzopardi*

*Translated by Albert Gatt*

*Clare Azzopardi* (1977) is an award-winning writer who writes for both children and adults. She is the Head of Department of Maltese at the University of Malta Junior College and for the past several years has been an active member of Inizjamed, an NGO whose mission is to promote literature in Malta and abroad. With Inizjamed, she has co-organised literary festivals and workshops, often in collaboration with Literature Across Frontiers (LAF). Her work has been translated into several languages and has appeared in a number of collections including *Transcript, In Focus, Cúirt 21, Skald, Words without Borders* and *Novel of the World*. Her play *L-Interdett Taħt is-Sodda* was published in French (Éditions Théâtrales, 2008) and in Arabic (I-ACT, 2009). Azzopardi has also published 2 books of short stories for adults, both of which won the National Book Prize for Literature—*Il-Linja ‘l-Ħadra’ (The Green Line)* and *Kulħadd halla isem warajh (The names they left behind)*. Her latest collection will be also published in Croatian and Hungarian. Clare Azzopardi took part in several festivals and in 2015 she was chosen as one of Europe’s New Voices.
Housed in a stunning 18th century Georgian building, the James Joyce Centre is dedicated to promoting understanding of the life and works of James Joyce. Set over three floors, the Centre covers Joyce’s life and work with a permanent interactive exhibition on Ulysses. It houses the door of Number 7 Eccles Street, home to Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of Ulysses. There are free audio tours of the building, Joycean walking tours around Dublin city, regular lectures, events and educational courses. The James Joyce Centre is also the coordinating body for the Bloomsday Festival, which will take place from June 11th – 16th in 2018.

France & Spain

Read by Bryan Murray at James Joyce Centre

Bryan Murray was an Abbey Theatre actor for seven years and has also been a member of The Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre Company in the UK. He is probably best known for his many TV roles, including Fitz in Strumpet City, Flurry Knox in The Irish RM, Shifty in Bread, (for which he won BBC TV Personality of The Year) Harry Cassidy in Perfect Scoundrels, Trevor Jordache in Brookside and currently plays Bob Charles in Fair City. He presented the IFTA nominated documentary series The Tenements for TV3 and the four part documentary series The Big House – also for TV3. He has just finished filming The Professor and the Madman with Mel Gibson and Sean Penn.
France

And My See-Through Heart

By Véronique Ovaldé

Translated by Adriana Hunter

Véronique Ovaldé was born in 1972 and lives in Paris. She is a writer, works in the publishing sector but also regularly collaborates with performing artists. She is the author of many novels, including And My See Through Heart which won the Prix France Culture Télérama.

Spain

The Hotel Life

By Javier Montes

Translated by Ollie Brock with Lorna Scott Fox

Javier Montes was born in Madrid 1976. He was awarded the José María de Pereda prize for his first novel, Los Penúltimos (The Penultimate), which he followed with Segunda Parte (Second Part). Along with Andrés Barba he won the Anagrama de Ensayo prize for La Ceremonia del Porno (Porn Ceremony), and was also one of the co-creators of After Henry James. In 2010, Granta included him on their list of the best young authors currently writing in Spanish, and his stories have appeared in numerous collections including Puros Cuentos (Telling Tales) and Life in Cities, An Anthology of European Contemporary Writers (2009). His last book published is Varados en Río (Stranded in Río). He is a regular contributor to publications including Granta UK, ARTnews, The Brooklyn Rail, Literary Hub, ABC Cultural, El País, and has curated a number of exhibitions, including Beckett Films at the CAAC in 2011. Critics from numerous countries who have enthused over his novels include Michael Kerrigan, who wrote in the Times Literary Supplement ‘Montes evokes a grandiose world, where he comments on the Statism of life beyond apparent change’.
Johnny Ward is an award-winning actor from Dublin. He is currently playing the role of Ciaran Holloway on RTE’s *Fair City*. Johnny is best known for his performance in *Love Hate* where he starred as Pauley. In 2015 he worked in South Africa alongside Ron Howard and Pierre Morel, playing the male lead Broud in Fox TV’s *The Clan Of The Cave Bear*. He played Vinny in the 2014 RTE comedy *The Centre* and was in the last Kirsten Sheridan film *Dollhouse*, which was released in December 2012, where he starred as Eanna. From April till September 2011 Johnny toured Ireland and the U.K. as Ray Dooley in Martin McDonagh’s *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. He played the lead in the short film, *Two Hearts*, which swept the boards across Europe, winning best short film at festivals throughout Europe. In August 2010, he also had a leading role in the feature film *This Must Be the Place* where he starred alongside Oscar Winner Sean Penn.

Poetry Ireland connects people and poetry. They are committed to achieving excellence in the reading, writing and performance of poetry throughout the island of Ireland. Poetry Ireland receives support from The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and The Arts Council of Northern Ireland and enjoys rewarding partnerships with arts centres, festivals, schools, colleges and bookshops at home and abroad. Their commitment to creating performance and publication opportunities for poets at all stages of their careers helps ensure that the best work is made available to the widest possible audience, securing a future for Irish poetry that is as celebrated as its past. In September 2016 Poetry Ireland moved into its beautiful new home in Dublin’s Parnell Square. They have ambitious and innovative plans for the redevelopment of this expansive Georgian townhouse as an all-island institution dedicated to poetry in all its forms. When complete, this development will house the Seamus Heaney Working Library, a contemporary performance space and a café.
Wolfgang Herrndorf was born in Hamburg in 1965. He studied art, contributed drawings to several publications, and began to write relatively late in his career. He was declared the ‘Doyen of Pop Literature’ and was awarded numerous prizes for his novel Tschick (Why we took the Car). His novel Sand won the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair 2012 and has also been translated into English. Wolfgang Herrndorf died in August, 2013.

Stefano Benni is widely considered one of Italy’s foremost novelists. His trademark mix of biting social satire and magical realism has turned each of his books into a national bestseller. His many novels include Bar Sport, The Company of Celestini, The Cafe Beneath the Sea, and now the remarkably successful Margherita Dolce Vita. Benni is also the author of several volumes of essays and poetry and many collections of short stories. He lives in Bologna, Italy.
The Dublin Writers’ Museum was opened in 1991 to house a history and celebration of literary Dublin. Situated in a magnificent 18th century mansion in Parnell Square, the collection features the lives and works of Dublin’s literary celebrities over the past three hundred years. Swift and Sheridan, Shaw and Wilde, Yeats, Joyce and Beckett are among those presented through their books, letters, portraits and personal items. The museum holds exhibitions, lunchtime theatre and readings and has a special room devoted to children’s literature.

Rick O’Shea has been a radio presenter with RTE since 2001. He curates literary events and festivals and is also one of Ireland’s most prominent hosts of public author interviews and panels with recent guests including Jessie Burton, Alan Cumming, Booker Prize winner Paul Beatty, Hannah Kent, Eoin Colfer, Liz Nugent, Michael Chabon, Tracy Chevalier, Donal Ryan and Graham Norton. He also runs The Rick O’Shea Book Club – Ireland’s largest book club.

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Poland

*Rage*

*By Zygmunt Miloszewski*

*Translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones*

**Zygmunt Miloszewski** is an award-winning Polish novelist and screenwriter. His first two mysteries featuring prosecutor Teodor Szacki, *Entanglement* and *A Grain of Truth* (both translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones and published by Bitter Lemon Press) have received international recognition, making him the #1 bestselling author in Poland and one of the world’s best-known contemporary Polish writers. Miloszewski has won the Polityka Passport for Polish literature. He’s also twice won the High Calibre Award for the best Polish crime novel and earned two nominations to the French Prix du Polar Européen for the best European crime novel.

Romania

*The Most Beautiful Woman in the World*

*By T.O. Bobe*

*Translated by Alistair Blyth*

Abbey Presbyterian Church celebrated its 150th year on the current site in Parnell Square in 2014. Previously known as Rutland Square Church, this magnificent building, paid for by Dublin merchant Alexander Findlater, amalgamated with Union Chapel following its destruction during the Easter Rising. With the Chapel being located in Abbey Street and the Rutland Square congregation hailing from Mary’s Abbey, the name change was considered acceptable to all. To Dubliners (certainly to James Joyce) it will always be known as Findlater’s Church even though he was never a Presbyterian. Today the building houses a multinational Presbyterian congregation as well as the thriving Betel Pentecostal Church (Romanian). With its expressed interest in the arts, the congregation warmly welcomes this opportunity to part host Words on the Street 2017.
Kit de Waal was born in Birmingham to an Irish mother, who was a foster carer, and a Caribbean father. She worked for fifteen years in criminal and family law, was a magistrate for several years and sits on adoption panels. She used to advise Social Services on the care of foster children, and has written training manuals on adoption and foster care. Kit’s writing has received numerous awards including the Bridport Flash Fiction Prize 2014 and 2015 and the SI Leeds Literary Reader’s Choice Prize 2014. My Name Is Leon, her first novel, won the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award in 2017 and was shortlisted in the First Novel category at 2016’s Costa Book Awards and also for the Desmond Elliott Prize, 2017. She has two children.
Belvedere House
Sharon Ní Bheoláin

Austria
As Gaeilge: 6:30, 7:30, 8:30
In English: 7:00, 8:00, 9:00

Not suitable for large motorised wheelchairs

Belvedere College
Katherine Lynch

Denmark
6:30, 7:30, 8:30

Malta
7:00, 8:00, 9:00

James Joyce Centre
Bryan Murray

France
6:30, 7:30, 8:30

Spain
7:00, 8:00, 9:00
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3. James Joyce Centre
4. Poetry Ireland
5. Dublin Writers’ Museum
6. Abbey Presbyterian Church
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www.dublincityofliterature.ie

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Katherine Lynch  Johnny Ward  Kit de Waal

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