



Maldron Hotel, Tallaght

Saturday, 14th November 2009

The Maldron Hotel Dublin is located at Whitestown Way (just off N81/Tallaght Bypass), Tallaght, in Dublin 24.

Free underground carparking is available, and the entrance is on Whitestown Way, just opposite the Shamrock Rovers Stadium and beside the Bank of Ireland.

Bus routes: **49, 49a, 50x, 54a, 56a, 65, 65x, 75, 76, 76b, 77, 77a, 77x, 201, 202, 210**

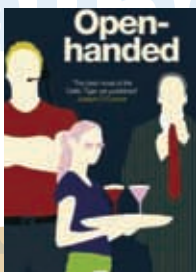
Many of these buses stop in The Square Shopping Centre. The Hotel is just across the main N81 road from the Square.

For details of timetables logon to **www.dublinbus.ie**

Luas: **Red Line - Terminus (4 minute walk)**

Booking for this event will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The booking line will be open from **10.00am** on **Wednesday 28th October 2009 (Mon-Fri)**
Tel: **086 0492815**

Please have the following details to hand:
Name, Address, Phone and Email



Born in 1970, **Chris Binchy** has worked as an embassy researcher, painter, hotel manager and trained as a sushi chef. He has written acclaimed novels about contemporary Ireland – *The Very Man*, *People Like Us* and *Open-Handed*.



Kevin Power is from Rathcoole in South Dublin County. In his late twenties, his debut novel, *Bad Day in Blackrock*, has been described by Frank McGuinness as “a piercing contemporary novel (by) an author of magnificent control, stirring the deepest compassion with restless anger”.



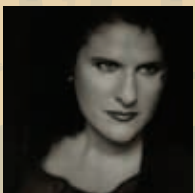
John Curran lives in Dublin where he works for Dublin City Council. A lifelong Christie fan, for many years he edited the official Agatha Christie Newsletter. He acted as a consultant to the National Trust during the restoration of Greenway House, Dame Agatha’s Devon home. He is the author of the recently published Agatha Christie’s Secret Notebooks and is currently writing a doctoral thesis on Agatha Christie at Trinity College, Dublin.



Paula Meehan was born in 1955 in Dublin where she still lives. She has received many awards, including the Marten Toonder Award for Literature, The Butler Literary Award for Poetry and the Denis Devlin Memorial Award for her six collections of poetry that include *Dharmakaya* and *Mysteries of the Home*.



Diarmaid Ferriter is professor of modern Irish history at University College Dublin. His books include *The Transformation of Ireland: 1900-2000*; *What If? Alternative Views of Twentieth-Century Ireland* and *Judging Dev, Judging Dev: A Reassessment of the Life and Legacy of Eamon de Valera* and his latest title, *Occasions of Sin: Sex and Society in Modern Ireland*.



Born in the artists’ colony of Bergin, **Judith Mok** has published two novels and three poetry collections in Dutch and a debut novel in English, *Gael*. An internationally acclaimed soprano, she now lives in Dublin, where her work is regularly published and broadcast.



Readers Day 2009
Saturday, 14th November
Maldron Hotel, Tallaght
Libraries & Arts

Running Order

10am - 10.10am Introduction

By Mayor of South Dublin County Council Mick Duff

10.10am - 10.50am New Dublin Voices: Kevin Power & Chris Binchy

A reading by and conversation with the authors of two of the most remarkable novels about modern Dublin. Kevin Power burst upon the Irish literary scene with his incendiary debut, *A Bad Day in Blackrock*, a fictional account of the death of a Dublin student outside a nightclub with strong parallels to real life event. Chris Binchy's beautifully observed third novel, *Open-handed* is a brilliant description of Celtic Tiger Dublin through the eyes of five characters - Irish and Eastern European - seeking success from wildly different starting points and becoming entangled in a web of politics, property, sex and violence.

10.50am - 11.15am John Curran: Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks

John Curran, author of the recently published *Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks*, talks about his uncovering of the 73 plain exercise books in which Christie worked out the details of her plots, and explains how he uncovered two unpublished Poirot stories amid this treasure trove along with revelations about her famous books that will fascinate anyone who has ever read or watched an Agatha Christie story.

11.15am - 11.30am Coffee Break

11.30am - 11.45am Judith Mok

The Dutch poet and soprano Judith Mok reads *Auschwitz Revisited*, a remembrance of those within her own family who died in that death camp.

11.45am - 12.15pm Paula Meehan

A reading by one of Ireland's most acclaimed living poets and a conversation with Dermot Bolger about her life and her work.

12.15pm - 12.45pm Paul Howard

Paul Howard is an award-winning journalist, author and creator of the cult character Ross O'Carroll-Kelly, whose deeds and misdeeds he has chronicled in a succession of brilliant comic novels. Described by George Hook as the greatest Irish rugby player never to make it and described by everyone else who knows him as a shallow, self-obsessed idiot, O'Carroll-

Kelly's greatest moment was leading Castlerock College to victory in the Leinster Schools Senior Cup-winning team. He later worked as an estate agent; his lack of humility, conscience and basic character convincing him that he had found his true calling before he sold his stake in Lillie's Bordello nightclub in 2006 to concentrate on what he does best - bringing pleasure to the lives of beautiful young women. Howard reads from and discusses the life of his most famous fictional character.

12.45pm - 2pm Lunch

2pm - 2.45pm Diarmaid Ferriter: Occasions of Sin: Sex and Society in Modern Ireland

Diarmaid Ferriter's new book, *Occasions of Sin*, using a huge variety of sources to chart the Irish sexual experience during the 20th century. In tackling the public and private worlds of Irish sex, this book energetically and originally engages with subjects omitted from the mainstream historical narrative and becomes a remarkable work of social history. Professor of modern Irish history in University College Dublin, Ferriter - whose other books include *The Transformation of Ireland: 1900-2000* and *Judging Dev*, will be in conversation with Dermot Bolger.

2.45pm - 3.30pm A reading by Paul Durcan

Readers Day concludes with a reading by one of Ireland's major poets, Paul Durcan. Famous for his electrifying poetry readings, this autumn Paul Durcan marks four decades of writing with a magnificent collection, *Life is a Dream: Forty Years of Reading Poetry, 1967-2007*. This brings together for the first time the poet's own choice of his life's work. Life is a Dream represents the whole range of Durcan's writing - funny and subversive; poems celebrating love and sex or tenderly and poignantly commemorating the dead. Life is a Dream reaffirms the constant vision and artistic integrity of one of the most powerful, humane and original voices in modern poetry.

timetable

Readers Day
2009
NOVEMBER 14TH

Girl, Fifteen, Walking in Ronanstown

I am walking and I shall keep walking,
Past the gangs clustered on the corners
With nothing except catcalls and jeers,

Past shuttered shops where we kissed,
Past graffiti-strewn lanes we haunted
Before his betrayal soured their magic.

I am walking past interrogating stares,
An inquisition of girls with know-all eyes.

I am Nicky-No-Name, declining all labels,
Walking tall because I know my own worth.

I refuse to look down and refuse to look back,
I shiver from the cold but not from regret,

Because I carry my destination in my heart,
Even if I still lack the words to express it yet.

Dermot Bolger

This is from a sequence by **Dermot Bolger** that reflect everyday lives and journeys. Commissioned under South Dublin County Council's In Context 3 Public Art Commission, the sequence is published by New Island, intermixed with a representative cross section of poems by poets based in South Dublin County, under the title *Night & Day: Twenty-Four Hours in the Life of Dublin*. The book will be available for purchase at Readers day and the poems can also be downloaded as posters from www.dermotbolger.com



Born in Dublin in 1959, **Dermot Bolger** is one of Ireland's best known writers. His nine novels include *The Journey Home*, *Father's Music*, *Temptation*, *The Valparaiso Voyage* and most recently *The*

Family on Paradise Pier. His debut play, *The Lament for Arthur Cleary* received The Samuel Beckett Award and the text of his Ballymun Trilogy is published this month. He devised and edited the best-selling collaborative novels, *Finbar's Hotel* and *Ladies Night at Finbar's Hotel* and has edited many anthologies, including *The Picador Book of Contemporary Irish Fiction*. He has presented and curated Readers Day since its inception and has a long association with South Dublin County, having devised and edited *Night & Day: Twenty-Four Hours in the Life of Dublin*, which merges his own poetry with that of two dozen writers from the locality and *County Lines: A Portrait of Life in South Dublin County*.



Paul Durcan was born in 1944 in Dublin. He many books include *O Westport in the Light of Asia Minor*, *Cries of an Irish Caveman*, *The Berlin Wall Café*, *A Snail in My Prime* and *The Laughter of Mothers*.

He has been honoured with numerous awards including Irish American Cultural Institute Poetry Award, the 1990 Whitebread Prize for his collection *Daddy, Daddy*, a Cholmondeley Award for poetry in 2001 and he has held the Ireland Chair of Poetry.



Paul Howard is an award-winning journalist, author and creator of the cult character Ross O'Carroll-Kelly. He was named Sports Journalist of the Year in 1998 and is the author of thirteen best-selling books, including *The Joy (the true story of an inmate's life in Mountjoy Prison)* and *The Gaffers* as well as the acclaimed *Ross O'Carroll-Kelly novels*.