



biographies

Booking for this event will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The booking line will be open from 9.30am on Monday 22nd October 2007.

Tel: 01 4149029

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



Born in Dublin in 1959, Dermot Bolger's nine novels include **The Woman's Daughter**, **The Journey Home**, **The Valparaiso Voyage** and most recently **The Family on Paradise**

Pier. A poet and award-winning playwright, Bolger devised the best-selling collaborative novels, **Finbar's Hotel** and **Ladies Night at Finbar's Hotel**, which have been published in a dozen countries, and has edited many anthologies, including

→ **The Picador Book of Contemporary Irish Fiction**. He has been The Writer Fellow in Trinity College, Dublin, Writer in Residence with South Dublin County Council and is currently a resident artist in the **In Context 3**, South Dublin County Council's Per Cent for Art programme. His **In Context 3** play, **Walking the Road**, recently played to acclaim in Ireland, Belgium and England and his current poem sequence, **County Lives**, is on display on locations across South Dublin County. He has facilitated Reader's Day since its inception, in compensation for being the worst library assistant in the County's history.



Bernard Farrell was born in Sandycove, Co Dublin. One of Ireland's most popular playwrights, his plays include **I Do Not Like Thee, Dr. Fell**; **All in Favour Say No**; **All**

The Way Back **Forty-Four Sycamore**; **The Last Apache Reunion** and **Lovers At Versailles** (Abbey Theatre, 2002). His work has been translated into several languages and has been produced in many countries. He will be in conversation with Dermot Bolger about his life as a playwright.



Mary Lavin – who was born in Massachusetts, USA, in 1912, but she lived in Ireland from 1921 – was one of the major short story writers of the twentieth century. Her short stories

are: **Tales from Bective Bridge** (1942) **The Patriot Son** and other Stories (Michael Joseph, 1956); **Selected Stories** (New York: Macmillan 1959); **In the Middle of the Fields** and other Stories (1967); **Happiness** and other Stories (1969) and **Collected Stories** (1971). She received numerous awards, including two Guggenheim Fellowships and The Katherine Mansfield Prize and was elected a Saoi, Aosdana's highest honour, in 1992. She died in 1996.

In conversation with Dermot Bolger, Mary Lavin's eldest daughter, the poet **Elizabeth Walsh Peavoy**, recalls her mother's life in Meath and Dublin and talks about what it was like to grow up with such an extraordinary presence.



Catherine Dunne was born in Dublin in 1954. Her novels are **In The Beginning** (London, Jonathan Cape, 1997); **A Name for Himself** (Jonathan Cape, 1998); **The Walled Garden**

(London, MacMillan, 2000); **Another Kind of Life** (London, Picador, 2003); and **Something Like Love** (MacMillan, 2006). She has also published a study of Irish emigrants in London, **An Unconsidered People**.



SOUTH DUBLIN LIBRARIES & ARTS



Readers Day
2007
NOVEMBER 10TH

Wedded

This is what I am wedded to:
The bus journey in the dusk,
Tailbacks, roadworks, queues,
Tired faces staring into space
Thrown forward in our seats
As the driver applies the brakes,
Intrusive glimpses into lives
As strangers chat on phones.

The name carved on a boulder
At the entrance to our estate,
The sweep of curving rooftops,
The bicycles left on the path,
Hopscotch marked out in chalk.

The light in the kitchen window
When she gets home before me,
The bustle of pots, the radio
Blathering about the outside world,
A scent of spices as she says hello,
Busy stirring a dish at the stove.

The voice of the woman I wed,
Who makes every aspect blessed,
This kitchen, this suburban street,
This bus trip like a pilgrimage
Back to where I may finally lie
With my bride amid shoals of roofs,
Amid the vast galaxies of estates,
Amid the myriad specks of light,
In the place where I am safe,

Dermot Bolger



From **County Lives**, a sequence of poems by **Dermot Bolger**, primarily in the voices of commuters undertaking everyday journeys across South Dublin County. Commissioned by South Dublin County Council through In Context 3 and funded under the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Per Cent for Art Scheme, these poems are being displayed in locations across the County between September 2007 and Sept 2008. Their texts can be downloaded at <http://incontext.southdublin.ie/> where comments may also be left for the author.

Between the January 1st and March 30th 2008, people who live or work in South Dublin County are invited to submit to the author, via this website, up to three original poems that reflect some aspect of their lives within the county. In September 2008, the full text of County Lives will be published, consisting of Dermot Bolger's original sequence interlinked with a representative cross section of submitted poems by other authors.

Running order:

10am-10.10: Introduction by Mayor Billy Gogarty.

10.10 – 10.20: County Lives – a short reading by Dermot Bolger from his In Context 3 sequence of poems in the voices of South Dublin County commuters

10.30 – 11.00: Deirdre Purcell reads from her recent bestselling memoir, *Diamonds and Holes in My Shoes*, and discusses her Dublin childhood.

11.00 – 11.30: In 1988 Paddy Doyle's mould-breaking and celebrated, *The God Squad*, exposed for the first time the hidden reality of an institutionalized childhood in Ireland. Paddy Doyle discusses his remarkable life in conversation with Dermot Bolger.

11.30 – 11.45: - Coffee 11.45 – 12.15: Bernard Farrell is one of Ireland's most popular playwrights. In conversation with Dermot Bolger, he discusses his life and work. **12.15 – 12.45:** A reading by Carlo Gébler from his acclaimed autobiography, *Father and I: A Memoir*.

12.45 – 1.45 - Lunch 1.45 – 2.15: The poet Elizabeth Peavoy remembers her mother, Mary Lavin, one of the twentieth century's greatest short story writers, in conversation with Dermot Bolger. **2.15 – 2.50:** One of Ireland's most cherished actresses and writers, Pauline McLynn reads from her acclaimed latest novel. **2.50 – 3.00pm - Break 3.00pm:** The acclaimed novelist Catherine Dunne brings Readers Day to a fitting close with a reading from her work.

timetables



Pauline McLynn was winner of Best Comedy Actress on British TV in 1996 for her role as Mrs. Doyle in the BAFTA award winning comedy series **Father Ted** for C4.

In addition to her film and television work she is also a well-loved face on the Irish Stage and a seasoned radio performer, best known on radio for her work on Gerry Stembridge and Dermot Morgan's legendary satire series **Scrap Saturday**. She has published six best-selling novels, **Something for the Weekend** (1999), **Better Than A Rest** (2001), **Right on Time** (2002), **The Woman on the Bus** (2004), **Summer in the City** (2005) and most recently, **Bright Lights and Broken Promises**.



Paddy Doyle was born in Wexford in 1951. His mould-breaking autobiography **The God Squad** was originally published in Ireland by Raven Arts Press in 1989, and published by Corgi (London) in 1990. It was in the best-seller lists in Britain and Ireland for several weeks, and has been translated into Danish, German and Japanese.

It still has consistently high sales, periodically boosted by scandals concerning traumatic abuse by religious, especially those rooted in the Irish orphanages of the 1950s, which **The God Squad** brought to public notice. Currently working on the sequel, Paddy Doyle lives in Co Longford.



Deirdre Purcell enjoyed careers in broadcasting with RTE, journalism with the Irish Press and Sunday Tribune and acting with the Abbey Theatre before she became the acclaimed and best-selling author of

eleven novels, including **A Place of Stones, Falling for a Dancer** (Town House /Macmillan, 1993), which was filmed, starring Liam Cunningham and **Love Like Hate Adore** (Town House, 1997), which was short-listed for the Orange Prize. In 2006 she published the acclaimed memoir, **Diamonds and Holes in My Shoes**, which she will be reading from at Reader's Day and discussing her Dublin childhood.



Carlo Gébler was born to the writers Edna O'Brien and Ernest Gébler in Dublin in 1954. He moved to London with his mother in 1958. His novels include **The Eleventh Summer**; **August in July**; **Work and**

Play; **Malachy and His Family** and **How To Murder a Man**. His non-fiction books include **Driving Through Cuba**; and **The Glass Curtain**; **Inside an Ulster Community**. He will be reading from his acclaimed autobiography, **Father and I: A Memoir**.

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