

Limerick County Council  
Arts Office Presents

# éigse

Michael Hartnett

Literary & Arts Festival

2010

Newcastle West,  
Co. Limerick  
22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April



# Éigse Michael Hartnett

Literary & Arts Festival

## Introduction:

On behalf of Limerick County Council I would like to welcome you to the eleventh annual Éigse Michael Hartnett Festival, County Limerick's prestigious literary & arts weekend. Reflection and inspiration are the two words that best describe this year's programme. Leading Irish and International poets, writers and thinkers jostle with musicians, dancers, singers and storytellers, what Michael Hartnett termed 'the harp side of the Irish coin'. Events that are bound to enthuse, stimulate, inspire, and occasionally bemuse, celebrate the literary and oral legacy of Michael Hartnett, the poet and man. Hosted throughout the town of Newcastle West, in the library, schools, the courthouse, church, hospital and pubs, the breadth of the programme creates an ambience of warmth and conviviality that lends itself to lively gatherings and easy conversation.

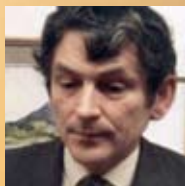
Éigse Michael Hartnett opens on Thursday, April 22nd – 24th.

*Bí linn agus fáilte.*

Joan Mac Kernan  
County Arts Officer

## Micheál Ó hAirtnéide 1941-1999

Rugadh Micheál Ó hAirtnéide i Chaisléan Nua Thiar i 1941. Thosnaigh sé ag scríobh go luath ina shaol agus d'fheach sé ar féin mar oidhre ar thraidisiún liteartha na bhfilí Gaeilge. Le linn a shaoil, d'fhoilsigh sé os cionn fiche gcnuasach filíochta: dhein sé aistriúcháin ó theangacha éagsúla chomh maith. Deineann Éigse Michael Hartnett céiliúradh ar an dtraidisiún liteartha agus ar an dtraidisiún béil: ar Mhícheál Ó hAirtnéide mar fhile agus mar fhear.



## Déardaoin / Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

- 11.00 a.m.** **'Tom Crean – Iceman'**. Author **Michael Smith** will recount the endeavours of Antarctic explorer Tom Crean in the county's primary schools.
- 12.00 noon** **'Making it Happen'** - Writer and explorer **Mark Pollock** will visit post primary schools
- 1.15 p.m.** **'An Unsung Hero – Tom Crean'**. Author **Michael Smith** will give a lunch time presentation on the endeavours of Antarctic explorer Tom Crean based on his book for adults.  
**Venue:** Adare Library  
General Audience - Admission Free / All Welcome
- 8.00 p.m.** **Official Opening** of Éigse Michael Hartnett by the Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, **Councillor David Naughton**  
**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Abbot Mark Patrick Hederman OSB**  
**on *'Irish Poets, learn your trade: Poetry as speaking Truth'***  
Music by **Mike** and **Ken Hinchy** of High Society  
**Venue:** Newcastle West Library  
Bí linn agus fáilte / All Welcome



## Dé hAoine / Friday 23rd April

- 9.30 a.m.** **Readings** with poet **Gearóid Mac Lochlainn** in post-primary schools.
- 10.30 a.m** **Dorothy DooLittle's Magical Adventure** - Puppet shows for children aged 4 to 7 on the exploits of Dorothy DooLittle performed by **Cora Fenton** and **John Sheehy** of **Call Back Theatre Co.**  
**Venue:** Newcastle West Library
- 1.15 p.m.** **'An Unsung Hero – Tom Crean'**. Author **Michael Smith** will give a lunch time presentation on the endeavours of Antarctic explorer Tom Crean based on his book for adults.  
**Venue:** Newcastle West Book Store, The Market Yard, Newcastle West  
General Audience - Admission Free / All Welcome
- 3.00 p.m.** **Session of storytelling** with storyteller **Batt Burns** in St Ita's Community Hospital, Newcastle West.
- 8.00 p.m.** **Poetry Readings** with **Jorie Graham** and **Eileen Sheehan** with music and song by **Roisín Elsafty**.  
**Venue:** The Courtenay Lodge Hotel, Newcastle West.  
Táille isteach €10 / Admission €10
- 10.00 p.m.** ***The Aran Islands* - A Dramatic Recital of J.M. Synge's work** adapted by **Eamon Grennan** and performed by **Tegolin Knowland** and **Sean Coyne**, The Aran Islands records Synge's impressions of the natural and human character of Inishmaan. Adapted for two voices, it is partly a romantic lyrical evocation of this wild place, partly a series of anecdotes, partly an almost anthropological study of the people's lives, their habits and their folk-tales.  
**Venue:** Desmond Hall, The Square, Newcastle West.  
Táille isteach €7 / Admission €7

## Dé Sathairn / Saturday 24th April

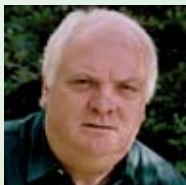
- 11.00 a.m.** **Michael Hartnett Memorial Lecture: Fintan O'Toole** will give this year's lecture on '*Secular Prayers: Michael Hartnett, Enchantment and Disenchantment.*'  
**Venue:** Courtenay Lodge Hotel, Newcastle West  
Táille isteach €7 / Admission €7
- 11.00 a.m.** **Tegolin Tales Theatre Company:** Dramatic masked performances of fairytales for children aged **3 to 8** years with actors **Tegolin Knowland** and **Sean Coyne.**  
**Venue:** Newcastle West Library  
Admission Free / All Welcome
- 3.00 p.m.** ***The Hartnett Viva Voce:***  
Join us for a lively afternoon of poetry, song and story. Participate in the '*Open Mic*' where prize money will be awarded for the best performed original poem and the best performed Hartnett poem. Prize money of €300 for the Viva Voce winner in the original poem category and €100 for best read Hartnett Poem.  
Viva Voce adjudicating panel: Eileen Sheehan, Gabriel Fitzmaurice & John Cussen  
**Venue:** Ned Lynch's, The Square, then onto Cartlidge's Pub, Maiden Street.  
Bí Linn agus Fáilte / All Welcome
- 8.00 p.m.** **Poetry Reading** with **Rita Ann Higgins,** **Gearóid Mac Lochlainn** and music and song with **Dorota Koncziwska**  
**Venue:** The Courthouse, Gortboy, Newcastle West.  
Táille isteach €10 / Admission €10
- 10.00 p.m.** **Kick Up Your Heels** – Join us and round off Éigse Michael Hartnett 2010 with story, song, sean nós dancing, poetry and banter.  
**Venue:** The Courtenay Lodge Hotel, Newcastle West  
Bi Linn agus Fáilte / All Welcome

A flock of birds is shown in flight against a teal background. The birds are dark silhouettes, scattered across the upper half of the image. The overall scene is serene and evokes a sense of freedom and nature.

Thinking in English,  
Dreaming in Irish

Ag Cuimhneamh as Béarla,  
Ag Taibhreamh as Gaeilge

Éigse Guests / The harp side of the Irish coin



**Michael Smith**



**Mark Pollock**



**Abbot Mark Patrick  
Hederman OSB**

## **Michael Smith**

Michael Smith is the best-selling author of *An Unsung Hero – Tom Crean*, which was a No 1 in Ireland and *Tom Crean – Iceman*, the popular children's adaptation, which led to the story being taught in Irish schools for the first time. He is an authority on the history of Polar exploration who has written seven books, appeared in TV and radio documentaries, contributed to many newspapers and magazines and lectured extensively on the subject. Michael began writing books after an award-winning career as a leading newspaper journalist, specialising in business and politics. He was Political Correspondent, Industrial Editor and Transport Editor of *The Guardian*, City Editor of the *London Standard* and Business Editor of *The Observer*.

## **Mark Pollock**

Since losing his sight in 1998 at the age of 22, while a student at Trinity College, Mark Pollock has had to dig deep to redefine his life. This he has done. Through his experiences as an elite athlete, a blind man and author, Mark has become a highly successful motivational speaker travelling across the globe. His book *Making it Happen* draws on his experiences after losing his sight and then racing in the world's most extreme environments – deserts, oceans, mountains and Polar Regions. In January 2009 he set himself his biggest challenge to date and became the first blind man to reach the South Pole, redefining what is possible.

## **Mark Patrick Hederman OSB**

Mark Patrick Hederman is Abbot of Glenstal Abbey, Co. Limerick. He was a founder editor of *The Crane Bag* magazine and is the author of numerous books. These include *Kissing The Dark*, *Manikon Eros* and *Symbolism, Walkabout, Life as Holy Spirit; Tarot: Talisman or Taboo?*, *The Haunted Inkwell*. His latest book is *Underground Cathedrals* about the work of artists in Ireland. He has taught literature in the United States and Nigeria and held the posts of librarian in Glenstal Abbey and headmaster in the post-primary school attached to the Abbey.



**Gearóid Mac Lochlainn**



**Call Back Theatre**



**Batt Burns**

## **Gearóid Mac Lochlainn**

Ground breaking performance poet Gearóid Mac Lochlainn's work has won many awards at home and internationally including the Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2002. His work has been translated into several languages. He has been writer in residence at Queens University, Belfast and the University of Ulster. He was also the subject of a TG4 documentary *Idir Dha Chomhairle*. In 2007 he was also a fellow at The William Joiner Centre for the Study of War and Social Consequences at University of Massachusetts, Boston. He received a major Arts Council NI Award for poetry in 2006. He has published four collections of poetry in Irish and English, *Babylon Gaeilgeoir*, *Na Scéalaithe*, *Sruth Teangachal Stream Of Tongues*, and *Rakish Paddy Blues*

## **Call Back Theatre**

Cora Fenton and John Sheehy founded Call Back Theatre Company in August 2002 after graduating from Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, Cork, in Performance Theatre. They tour their productions to festivals throughout the country as well as performing in theatres, community centres and libraries. Some of their recent productions include *Secrets and Stories*, an adaptation of Paddy Kennelly's work, *The Tailor and Ansty* by Eric Cross and *Vanity, Vapours and Dizzy Debutantes*, an adaptation of Ruth Draper's work. They have also developed an educational strand, touring schools with their puppet productions on healthy eating, bullying etc. Call Back are no strangers to Éigse Michael Hartnett where they have regularly performed work commissioned by Limerick County Arts Office.

## **Batt Burns**

Batt Burns was formerly a primary school principal in the village of Sneem and began a second career as a Seanachie after he won The All-Ireland Teachers Talent Competition in Dublin in 1983. He has worked extensively in the United States and has also featured at major international story-telling festivals.



**Eileen Sheehan**



**Jorie Graham**



**Róisín Elsafty**

## **Eileen Sheehan**

Eileen Sheehan has two poetry collections published, *Song of the Midnight Fox* and *Down the Sunlit Hall*. She is the winner of the inaugural *Writers' Week Listowel Poetry Slam* and the *Brendan Kennelly Poetry Award 2006*. Her work has been much anthologised including *The Watchful Heart: A New Generation of Irish Poets*, *The Open Door Book of Poetry*, *Our Shared Japan* and *The Echoing Years: An Anthology of Irish & Canadian Poetry*. Her poems also feature in the *TEXT: A Transition Year English Reader*. She was the County Limerick Poet in Residence in 2008/2009.

## **Jorie Graham**

Pulitzer Prize winning poet Jorie Graham is the author of numerous collections, including *Sea Change*, *Never*, *Swarm*, *The Dream of the Unified Field: Selected Poems 1974-1994*, *Materialism*, *Region of Unlikeness*, *The End of Beauty*, *Erosion*, and *Hybrids of Plants and of Ghosts*. She has also edited two anthologies, *Earth Took of Earth: 100 Great Poems of the English Language* and *The Best American Poetry 1990*. Other poetry honours include a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship and the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award from The American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. She has taught at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and is currently the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard University. She served as a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets from 1997 to 2003. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and in France.

## **Róisín Elsafty**

Róisín Elsafty returns to Éigse Michael Hartnett having performed at the festival in 2007 to great acclaim. She comes from Connemara, in the West of Ireland and grew up in a musical family. She has been singing sean-nós from an early age, inspired by her mother, Treasa Ní Cheannabháin Elsafty. She has traveled widely with her art, performing, demonstrating and teaching sean-nós. She has collaborated with Dónal Lunny and has performed as part of the group *The Irish Consort*. Róisín's first solo album "*Má bhíonn tú liom bí liom*" was released in mid-Jan 2007 on the Vertical Records label to much accolade.



**Tegolin Knowland &  
Sean Coyne**



**Fintan O'Toole**

## **Tegolin Knowland and Sean Coyne**

Tegolin Knowland and Sean Coyne are the founder members of *Tegolin's Tales Theatre* a children's theatre company based in Connemara. Sean is also a co-founder of *Hob Nailed Boots Theatre Company*. They have toured extensively throughout Britain and Ireland with both companies. Their dramatic reading of J.M. Synge's *The Aran Islands* has won great acclaim with the female voice of Tegolin portraying the more lyrical side of Synge and the male voice of Sean, the more factual side.

## **Fintan O'Toole**

Fintan O'Toole is one of Ireland's leading political and cultural commentators. Born in Dublin in 1958, he has been drama critic of *In Dublin* magazine, *The Sunday Tribune*, the *New York Daily News*, and *The Irish Times* and Literary Adviser to the Abbey Theatre. He edited *Magill* magazine and since 1988, has been a columnist with the *Irish Times*. His work has appeared in many international newspapers and magazines, including *The New Yorker*, the *New York Review of Books*, *Granta*, *The Guardian*, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. Awards include the *AT Cross Award* for Supreme Contribution to Irish Journalism (1993), the *Justice Award* of the Incorporated Law Society (1994) and the *Millennium Social Inclusion Award* (2000). He has also broadcast extensively in Ireland and the UK, including a period as presenter of BBC's *The Late Show*. Books include *Ship of Fools: How Stupidity and Corruption Sank the Celtic Tiger*, *The Irish Times Book of the 1916 Rising*, *White Savage: William Johnson and the Invention of America*, *After the Ball*, *Shakespeare is Hard but so is Life*; *The Irish Times Book of the Century*; *A Traitor's Kiss: The Life of Richard Brinsley Sheridan*, *The Lie of the Land: Selected Essays*, *The Ex-Isle of Erin*, *Black Hole*, *Green Card*, *Meanwhile Back at the Ranch*, *A Mass for Jesse James* and *The Politics of Magic*.



**Rita Ann Higgins**



**Dorota Konciewska**

### **Rita Ann Higgins**

Rita Ann Higgins was born in Galway and divides her time between Galway and Spiddal. She has published eight collections of poetry, five with Salmon publishing and three with Bloodaxe. *Throw in the Vowels*, New and Selected Poems was her latest from Bloodaxe. Later this year sees the publication of a book of her essays and poems with Salmon. Forthcoming from Bloodaxe in 2011 is a new collection of poetry. She is a member of Aosdána.

### **Dorota Konciewska**

Dorota Konciewska is a Polish composer, singer and multimedia artist living in Ireland. From an early age she was an active jazz singer and became interested in singing using extended techniques, and electronic manipulations. She holds a degree in Visual Communication and Computer Design and MA in Music Technology from University of Limerick. Dorota is a composer, performer of voice and live electronics scene. Other recent work engages video art, mixed media installations and cross-audiovisual genre projects. Authentic expression is at the heart of her work. She has been collaborating with numerous international performers, sound artists, dancers, and film directors. Her work has been commissioned by art institutions, broadcasted, and also presented on international art festivals.

# éigse

Michael Hartnett  
2010

Co-ordinator: Joan Mac Kernan, County Arts Officer  
Committee: Bríd Bradshaw, John Cussen, Aileen Dillane,  
Gabriel Fitzmaurice, Janette Madigan,  
Vincent McDonnell, Mike MacDomhnaill,  
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