



éigse

Michael Hartnett
Literary & Arts Festival

NEWCASTLE WEST CO. LIMERICK

A p r i l 6 t h - 8 t h , 2 0 1 7



Michael Hartnett Literary & Arts Festival

Fáilte

Over the next few days, in various venues around the town, Michael Hartnett's 'people' will gather to celebrate and remember the poet and the man. In listening to readings, attending art installations, in the schools, Desmond Complex, the Library, the Red Door Gallery or drinking a few pints with old friends in quiet nooks and crannies of The Square and Maiden Street, a remarkable and beautiful dynamic will occur: the making plural of what is most often a lone pursuit, the reading and appreciation of poetry, perhaps particularly so, the poetry of Michael Hartnett.

The idea of 'a people' is, of course, central in Hartnett's poetry. Who he wrote to and for, is a concern which runs throughout his poems, at times prompting affirmation,

My dead father shouts
From his eternal Labour:
"These are your people!"

at times descending to maudlin discontent:

Dying in exile.
To die without a people
is the real death.

He wrote a body of work which he was proud of, expressing the essence of his people, people like Bridget Halpin, John Kelly the blacksmith and his son Sean, John Cussen, Des Healy, Ned O'Dwyer, in such a way as to bring him ease. These poems, and his parallel documenting of his process, are examples of what makes Hartnett such a great poet. It ensures that we, as readers and lovers of his poetry, become his 'people' too and so we gather here this weekend in his native town to honour his achievements and his memory.

So over the coming days, let's do justice to that epithet; remember and celebrate, laugh when Dermot Bolger tells Hartnett's cheese grater joke, say a silent prayer when a sad remembrance is shared, give all of our intellects to each debate. Most importantly let's do so with love. That's what he deserves. There is no 'real death' for Michael Hartnett.

On behalf of the Éigse Michael Hartnett Committee, Limerick City and County Council and Limerick Arts Office, we would like to welcome all our visitors to this year's Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival.

We'll see ye up town!!

Organising Committee: John Cussen, Vincent Hanley, Rachel Lenihan, Rossa McMahon, Vicki Nash, Norma Prendeville.



Main Photography: Dermot Lynch



Photo courtesy of Limerick Leader

Micheál Ó hAirtnéide 1941-1999

Michael Hartnett was born on 18 September 1941 in the St. Nessel's Maternity Hospital at Croom, County Limerick. By the time of his death at the age of fifty-eight in 1999 he had created a significant body of work, including a dozen books from The Gallery Press alone, some published posthumously. He was a scholarly man of wide reading whose literary achievement involved shape-shifting between English and Irish - two very different languages in historical collision - in addition to a rich harvest of translation, mainly from Irish, but also from Spanish, Chinese, German and Latin.

D'fhas Micheál Ó hAirtnéide i gChaisleán Nua Thiar. Thosaigh sé ag scríobh go luath ina shaol agus d'fhéach sé air féin mar oidhre ar thraidisiún liteartha na bhfilí Gaelacha. Le linn a shaoil, d'fhoilsigh sé níos mó ná fiche gnuasach filíochta, agus rinne sé aistriúcháin ar theangacha éagsúla chomh maith. Déanann Éigse Mhicil Uí Airtnéide céiliúradh ar an traidisiún literartha mar aon leis an traidisiún béil - ar Mhicheál Ó hAirtnéide mar fhile agus mar fhear.



éigse Events

Thursday 6th April
7.30pm

Official Opening of Éigse Michael Hartnett 2017 by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon

Presentation of Michael Hartnett Poetry Award 2017
Judges: Paddy Bushe and Doireann Ní Ghríofa

Philomena Lee in conversation with Seamus Hennessy

Venue: Newcastle West Library, Gortboy
Saor in Aisce/Free Admission/All Welcome

Thursday 6th April

Club na hÉigse in The Snug, Church Street follows the opening.



Friday 7th April
10.30 am

Best Loved Poems with Gabriel Fitzmaurice

Venue: Marguerite's, No. 8 The Square, (Upstairs)
Saor in Aisce / Free admission. Refreshments extra.

Friday 7th April
11.30 am

In Time, and Silently.

Inspired by a poem Seamus Heaney wrote for his granddaughter just before his death, **Mary Hartney** choreographed three dances. Performed by disabled and non-disabled dancers from Rathfredagh Cheshire Home, Hazelwood College and Desmond College who participate in Limerick Arts Office's Integrated Dance Programme. Local dancer **Jesse McCormack** will perform a duet with **Sean O'Gorman** of Brothers of Charity.

'Silent Moves' a short film by **Aideen Barry** will be shown. Inspired by the black and white films of Buster Keaton, it carries a strong message about attitudes towards disability while being funny, moving and beautiful to watch.

Venue: Desmond Complex, Gortboy
Saor in Aisce / Free Admission / All Welcome

Friday 7th April
11.00am & 2.30pm

Gaeilge Tamagotchi - Manchán Magan

The Irish language has 4,400 different words merely to describe someone, to convey their character, their demeanour, their shape or stature. They are rarely used now. Many are already dead. Would you be willing to adopt one? Mind it? Cherish it with your tongue? Name a pet or loved one after it? As a participant you will wind through a labyrinth of pure Irish linen to receive an endangered Irish word from Máchan Magan himself and agree to nurture, nourish and take guardianship of your very own endangered word.

Whelan's D'Terrace. Maiden Street
Saor in Aisce / Free Admission / All Welcome

Friday 7th April
12.30pm

Wandering Words in Amazing Places

Performance Art, Poetry and Music with Micheál Rowsome and Stanzas.
Venue: Meet at Michael Hartnett's Statue, The Square
Saor in Aisce / Free Admission / All Welcome

Friday 7th April
2.00pm

A picture paints a thousand words... or is other words... Poetry is easy, if you are good at poetry.

Art Exhibition by Michéal Rowsome

This is a collection of prints made in response to poetry - a collage of found images, photos, and drawings, combined digitally.

The first series of images was created to accompany the launch of Paul Dunworth's debut album "The Poet" - 12 of Michael Hartnett's poems put to original compositions. Additional prints were made in response to other poems/poets. The images are experiments, in media, subject, and tone.

Venue: Red Door Gallery, The Square
Saor in Aisce / Free Admission



Friday 7th April
3.00pm

Storytelling, Music and Song

with Daisy Kearney, Donie Lyons and May Daly
Venue: St. Ita's Community Hospital
Saor in Aisce / Free Admission / All Welcome

Friday 7th April
8.00pm

A Kind of Homecoming...

Poetry Reading with Bernard O'Donoghue and Caitriona O'Reilly with musical interlude by Michael Collins.

Venue: The Red Door Gallery
Admission: €10*

Friday 7th April

Club na hÉigse in The Forge Inn, Maiden Street



Saturday 8th April
11.00am

Michael Hartnett Memorial Lecture

Remembering Michael Hartnett by Dermot Bolger

Venue: City and County Council Offices, Gortboy. Admission: €10*

Saturday 8th April
12.30 pm

Wandering Words and Dance

Join Stanzas and Micheál Rowsome for a part scripted, part improvised performance dealing with the challenges of creation and the process of making art.

Venue: Starting at the Michael Hartnett Statue and then to the Red Door Gallery

Saturday 8th April
2.15 pm

Michael Hartnett's Newcastle West with Des Healy. Assembling in The Square and visiting many of the places and poems synonymous with his name. Returning to Ned Lynch's in time for Poetry Slam!

Venue: Meet at Michael Hartnett Statue
Saor in Aisce / Free Admission / All Welcome

Saturday 8th April
3.30 pm

Poetry Slam

Venue: Beginning in Ned Lynch's Bar, The Square, and continuing in Whelan's Bar, Maiden Street
Saor in Aisce / Free Admission / All Welcome

Saturday 8th April
3.30 pm

Timeless:
A Reading with Jennifer Johnston and Paddy Bushe, with musical interludes by Diarmuid O'Brien

Venue: City and County Council Office
Admission: €10*

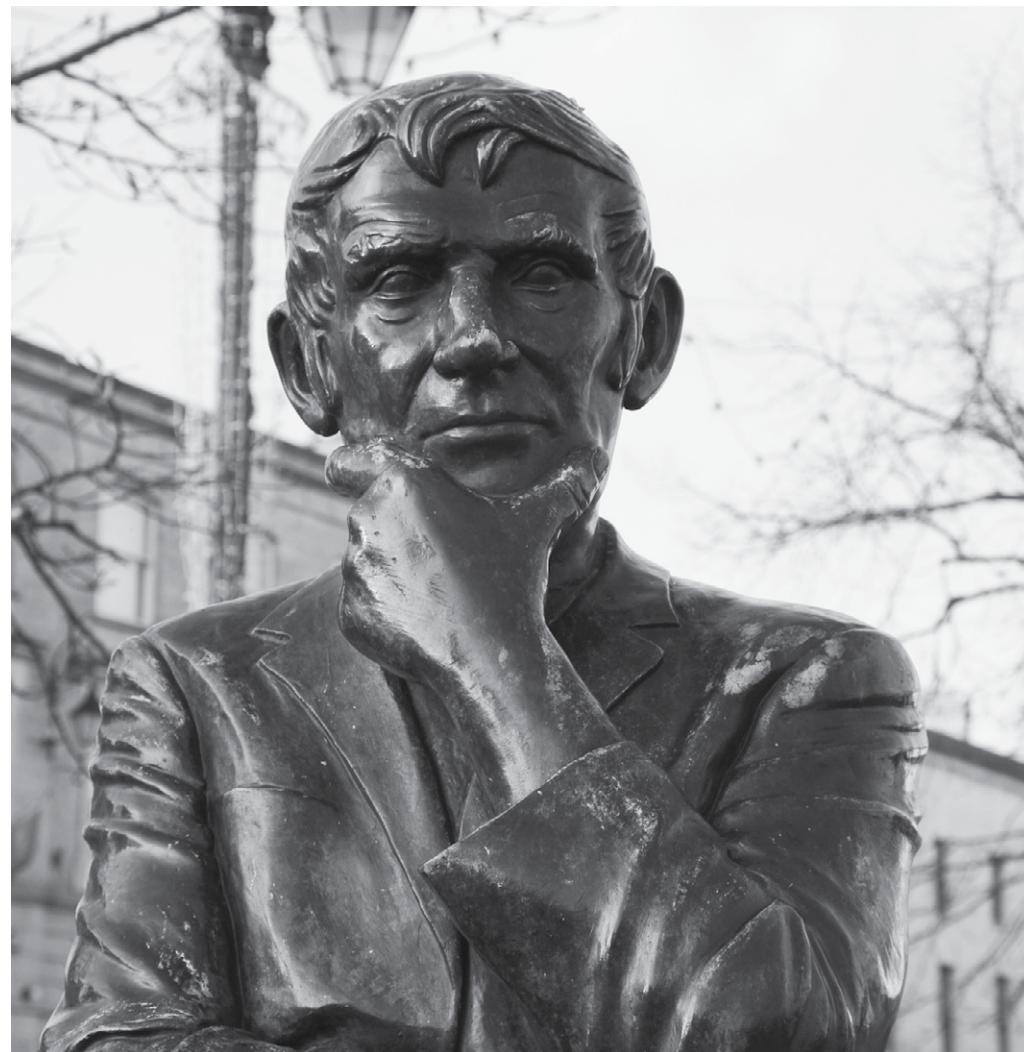
Saturday 8th April

Club na hÉigse Cleary's Bar, South Quay

* Online pre-book recommended for certain events. Limited spaces available.

www.limetreetheatre.ie

Box Office 061-953400





éigse Guests



Philomena Lee

Philomena Lee was born in Newcastle West but when, at the age of 18, she became pregnant, she was sent to Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea, a home for unwed mothers. After giving birth to her son, she lived and worked there with her child until she was 22 when she was forced to sign adoption papers. Her son then aged 3, was taken to the US. The extraordinary story of her search for that son, Michael, in later life is told by Martin Sixsmith in his book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee*. It was a story that became known world-wide through the film *Philomena* in 2013. Philomena moved to England as a young woman, where she worked as a nurse. She married and reared two other children. She continues to be an advocate for adoption rights.



Jennifer Johnston

Jennifer Johnston, one of Ireland's leading writers, was born in 1930 in Dublin. She is the daughter of Denis Johnston and actress/director Shelagh Richards. During her sterling career, she has produced 20 novels and a number of plays. She was shortlisted for the Booker Prize (*Shadows on our Skin*, 1977), won the Whitbread Book Award for *The Old Jest* in 1979 and a Lifetime Achievement from the Irish Book Awards. She is a member of Aosdana. Her latest novel *Naming the Stars*, as with many of her works, is an exploration of and the quiet unveiling of deeply buried family secrets. Her *Invisible Worm* (1992) took its title from Blake: (O Rose thou art sick;/The invisible worm,/That flies in the night/ In the howling storm:/ Has found out thy bed/ Of crimson joy:/ And his dark secret love/ Does thy life destroy.)



Dermot Bolger

Born in Dublin in 1959, Dermot Bolger is one of Ireland's best known writers. His thirteen novels include *The Journey Home*, *The Valparaiso Voyage*, *The Family on Paradise Pier*, *New Town Soul*, *The Fall of Ireland*, *Tanglewood* and most recently *The Lonely Sea and Sky*. His first play, *The Lament for Arthur Cleary*, received the Samuel Beckett Award. His numerous other plays include a stage adaptation of Joyce's *Ulysses* which toured China in 2016 and will be staged by the Abbey Theatre in the 2017 Dublin Theatre Festival. His *New and Selected poems*, *That Which is Suddenly Precious*, appeared in 2015. As founder of Raven Arts Press, Bolger published three volumes of poems by Michael Hartnett, including *Inchicore Haiku*, and stayed with the poet and his family in Newcastle West while editing the Raven edition of Michael Hartnett's *Selected Poems* in 1984.



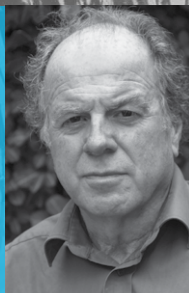
Bernard O'Donoghue

Bernard O'Donoghue was born in Cullen in North Cork in 1945 and he still spends part of the year there. Since 1965 he has lived in Oxford where he is now an Emeritus Fellow in English at Wadham College. He has published seven books of poems, of which the most recent is *The Seasons of Cullen Church* (Faber 2016), as well as critical books on medieval poetry and modern Irish poetry, especially the writings of Seamus Heaney.



Caitriona O'Reilly

Caitriona O'Reilly was born in Wicklow and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where she completed a Ph.D. in American Literature. She has published three full collections of poetry with Bloodaxe Books. *The Nowhere Birds* (2001) was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and was awarded the Rooney Prize in Irish Literature; *The Sea Cabinet* (2006), a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, was shortlisted for the Irish Times Poetry Now Award. *Geis* (2015) was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and is jointly published by Bloodaxe Books and Wake Forest University Press in the United States. It was shortlisted for the 2016 Pigott Prize and was the winner of the 2016 Irish Times Poetry Now Prize. Caitriona O'Reilly also writes literary criticism.



Paddy Bushe

Paddy Bushe is a poet, editor and translator. Born in Dublin in 1948, he has lived in Kerry since 1973. He has published ten collections of poetry, eight in English and two in Irish, as well as four books of translations. He edited *Voices at the World's Edge: Irish Poets on Skellig Michael* (Dedalus 2010), an anthology of work written after overnight visits to the island by some of Ireland's finest poets in both languages. He has translated the collected poems of the renowned Scottish Gaelic poet Somhairle MacGill-Eain (Sorley MacLean) into Irish. His most recent collection, *On A Turning Wing* (Dedalus 2016), has been shortlisted for the Irish Times-Poetry Now Award. He received the Michael Hartnett Award for Gile na Gile (Coiscéim, 2006), a book which was also awarded Duais an Oireachtais that year. He is a member of Aosdána.



Manchán Magan

Manchán is a writer and documentary-maker. He has written books on his travels in Africa, India and South America and two novels. *Manchán ar Seachrán* graphically describes his journey from Dublin to Nairobi in an old army truck while *Angels and Rabies: A Journey through the Americas*, published by Brandon in 2006, describes his various adventures in North and South America. His debut novel, *Oddballs: A novel of Affections* is a richly amusing novel of loners and eccentrics, a kooky, deranged love story with its heart in just the right place. He also writes occasionally for *The Irish Times*, reports weekly on travel for *The Right Hook*, and has presented dozens of documentaries on issues of world culture for TG4, RTÉ & Travel Channel.



Des Healy

Des Healy was a classmate and life-long friend of Michael Hartnett and has an intimate and encyclopaedic knowledge of the town and the haunts favoured by the poet. After sitting his Leaving Cert in St. Ita's Secondary School in Newcastle West, Des went to UCD and qualified as a Secondary teacher and taught in Kenya before coming back to take up a position in his former alma mater. He went on to become Principal of the school in the early eighties and after the death of Jim Breen he assumed the role of Manager. He was, along with Sr. Dominica (R.I.P.) and others, instrumental in securing the new state of the art secondary school, Scoil Mhuire agus Ide, for the town, which opened its doors in 1992.



Seamus Hennessy

Newcastle West born Seamus Hennessy has been a familiar voice on radio and at celebrity events for many years. His early career in broadcasting was spent hosting the popular radio show *Good Morning Limerick* and later *The Today Show*. He has also worked as a columnist with *The Irish Examiner* and features regularly on the national airwaves as a freelance journalist. Seamus is currently engaged with the Post Grad Journalism Course at The University of Limerick. He has also spent the last 20 years involved with education at The Cistercian College in Roscrea.



Micheál Rowsome

Micheál Rowsome is a multidisciplinary artist. He is a graduate of SMASH BERLIN, an intensive experimental physical-performance program in Germany. Following a sustained period of collaborative work in 2014 with international artists at Ponderosa Dance and SMASH BERLIN, he has returned to Ireland to create new work. His performances are a mixture of dance, movement, storytelling, poetry and folktale. He is working on a book, Beautiful People, Beautiful Place / Daoine Álainn, Áit Aoibhinn, a celebratory photo documentary of his native Newcastle West (2012 - 2015). Micheál will have an exhibition in the Red Door Gallery during Éigse including many of the images which were used to accompany the launch of Paul Dunworth's debut album "The Poet" in 2016. The images are experiments, in media, subject, and tone.



Stanzas

Stanzas represent a group of emerging Limerick poets and writers. It gives young writers and performers an opportunity to express themselves, develop their craft, and meet interesting, like-minded people. This is their second year appearing at our Éigse and we are delighted to welcome them back after their very successful collaboration with local artist, Micheál Rowsome, last year. This year the ensemble propose another adventurous programme when they present "Wandering Words", a noontime perambulation incorporating poetry, performance and song. We encourage lunchgoers to join these poets, storytellers and musicians as they weave their work through the streets of Newcastle West in an attempt to respond to Hartnett's famous poem, A Farewell to English. The event shall start at the Michael Hartnett statue at noon, and will wander on from there.



Mary Hartney

Mary Hartney initiated an integrated dance programme in Co. Limerick in 2005. The integrated dance programme continues to be supported by Limerick City and County Council. This programme which is now an integral part of the transition year studies in 6 post primary schools in west Limerick, engages disabled and non-disabled dancers in creating and performing dance. Mary cofounded Spoken Dance, a company established in 2011 with disabled and nondisabled dancers. She studied at the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance in London. She has an MA in dance from the University of Limerick. In 2013 she received an award from Limerick County Council for her contribution to the arts in County Limerick.



Mike Mac Domhnaill

Rugadh Mike Mac Domhnaill i gCluain Cath, Co. Luimnigh sa bhliain 1953. D'aistrigh an chlann go Caisleán Nua i 1957 ar bhás a athar. Scríbhneoir dhá-theangach é. Mike won RTE's Francis Mac Manus Short Story Award in 2013. His short story collection, Sifting, was published last autumn by Liberties Press. He has had numerous poems and short stories published in Nua-Aois, An Cloigeann is a Luach, The Stony Thursday Book, Microphone On, Dal gCais, LÁ, Weekly Observer, Limerick Leader and Feasta. He has two books of poetry: Mac Baintrí/Widow's Son and Macalla Maidu (Coiscéim). He lives in Newcastle West.



Daisy Kearney

Renowned West Limerick storyteller Daisy Kearney learnt her first stories from her mother at her Athea home. Now living in Ballyhahill, Daisy will be joined by her friends, Donie Lyons and May Daly, both from Glin. Donie is an exceptional and talented exponent of the West Limerick style on the side flute but is also a singer. May Daly is highly regarded for her singing and has a great store of songs.



éigse

At a Glance

* Online pre-book recommended. Limited spaces available.
www.limetreetheatre.ie Box Office 061-774774

Thursday 6th April

7.30pm **Official Opening** by Mayor Kieran O'Hanlon
 Seamus Hennessy in conversation with Philomena Lee.

Venue: Newcastle West Library, Gortboy. Free Admission

Friday 7th April

10.30am **Best Loved Poems** with Gabriel Fitzmaurice

Venue: Marguerite's, No. 8, The Square. Free Admission

11.30am **In Time, and Silently...**
 Integrated Dance

Venue: Desmond Complex
 Free admission.

11.00am & 2.30pm **Gaeilge Tamagotchi**
 Manchán Magan

Venue: Whelan's D'Terrace, Maiden Street. Saor in Aisce/Free Admission/All Welcome

12.30pm **Wandering Words in Amazing Places!** - Micheál Rowsome and Stanzas

Venue: Meet at Michael Hartnett's Statue, The Square. Free Admission

2.00pm **Opening of Art Exhibition by Micheál Rowsome**

Venue: Red Door Gallery, The Square. Free Admission

Friday 7th April

3.00pm **Storytelling, Music and Song** with Daisy Kearney, Donie Lyons & May Daly

Venue: St. Ita's Community Hospital
 Free admission/All Welcome

8.00pm **'A kind of Homecoming...' Poetry Reading** with Bernard O'Donoghue and Cathriona O'Reilly

Venue: Red Door Gallery, the Square. Táille: €10*

Saturday 8th April

11.00am **Michael Hartnett Memorial Lecture** by Dermot Bolger

Venue: Limerick City & County Council Offices, Gortboy. Táille: €10*

12.30pm **Wandering Words and Dance - with Micheál Rowsome and Stanzas**

Venue: Meet at Michael Hartnett's Statue, The Square and then to The Red Door Gallery

2.15pm **Michael Hartnett's Newcastle West - with Des Healy**

Venue: Michael's Statue.
 Free Admission/All Welcome

3.30pm **Poetry Slam**

Venue: Beginning in Ned Lynch's Bar, The Square & continuing in Whelan's Bar, Maiden St. Free Admission/All Welcome

8.00pm **Timeless: A reading with Jennifer Johnston and Paddy Bushe**

Venue: Limerick City & County Council Area Office, Gortboy. Táille: €10*

* Online pre-book recommended
for certain events.
Limited spaces available.
The Limetree Theatre, Limerick's
premier venue, is Eigse's ticket
management partner.

For booking, see
www.limetreetheatre.ie
Box Office 061-953400

Limerick Arts Office
Sheila Deegan, Aoife Potter-Cogan,
Lizanne Jackman, Pippa Little,
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With thanks to
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Merchants Quay, Limerick

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