

Manifesto.

WRITING AND IDEAS STAGE

Curated by Sinéad Gleeson

SATURDAY

12.00 - 12.45

NEW IRISH WRITING & READINGS: Khanyisile Mbukwane and Dylan Brennan with Elaine Feeney.

Khanyisile Mbukwane is an Irish-based writer, presenter, and actress. Originating from South Africa, they have performed at Black Queer Bookclub & R.A.P Party at the Abbey Theatre, Body & Soul. They have been published in Tongues, Breaking Ground Ireland, District Magazine, & lambeyouthfulUK, just to name a few. Dividing his time between Mexico and Ireland, Dylan Brennan writes poetry and prose. He is a recipient of the Ireland Chair of Poetry Bursary award. In 2022 he won the inaugural Drumshanbo Written Word Weekend Poetry Film Award for 'Four Attempts at Making a Human', a poetry film in collaboration with Jonathan Brennan. He has read at literary festivals in Colombia, Nicaragua, Mexico, Italy, Ireland and USA and has twice been recipient of a Culture Ireland Travel Grant. Most recently he was awarded an Arts Council literature bursary. His second collection *Let the Dead* (2023), is available now from Banshee Press. Elaine Feeney writes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. She has published three poetry collections including *The Radio was Gospel & Rise*. Her debut novel *As You Were* won Dalkey Book Festival's Emerging Writer Prize, The Kate O'Brien Prize, Society of Authors' McKitterick Prize, and was shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards and the Rathbones-Folio Prize. She featured widely on Best of 2020 lists and Feeney was chosen by The Observer as a top ten debut novelist. Her second novel *How to Build a Boat* was published in 2023 (Harvill Secker) and is longlisted for the Booker Prize; and a new poetry collection, *All the Good Things You Deserve* (Harvill Secker) is forthcoming in 2024.

13.00 - 13.45

NELL MESCAL & CLARA TRACEY: Music and song-writing - with Anna Carey.

Nell Mescal is a 20-year-old singer and songwriter from Maynooth in Kildare, Ireland. She has been singing all her life and has been performing in groups and choirs for as long as she can remember. This young emerging talent began writing music when she was just 13 years old and finally took the decision to make music her career during the pandemic, something that in hindsight, has given her the time and space to focus on her sound and what she wants to articulate in her songs. Originally from Fermanagh, Clara fell in love with the piano at a young age but it was only after moving to France in her early twenties that she discovered her passion for songwriting. Her first performances took place in intimate jazz cafes and the French language still inspires and permeates her sound. On her debut album "Black Forest", Tracey dreams up widescreen, self-contained worlds, masterfully offsetting the psychic backwash of an upbringing in 1990s Northern Ireland with a sense of sexual liberation that can be traced to her Paris chapters spent in the posthumous company of Colette, Anais Nin and Angela Carter. Anna Carey is a writer from Dublin and a regular contributor to the Irish Times and RTE. Her first novel, *The Real Rebecca*, won the Senior Children's Book of the Year prize at the 2011 Irish Book Awards. Her latest book, *The Boldness of Betty*, is set during the 1913 Lockout and was shortlisted for both the 2020 Irish Book Awards and the 2021 KPMG Children's Books Ireland awards. Her first play, *The Making of Mollie*, will be staged by the Ark Theatre in 2024.

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14.00 - 14.45

VENUS PATEL AND AMANDA COOGAN - in conversation about performance art, the body as canvas and political activism in art with Sinéad Gleeson.

Venus Patel is an experimental film and performance artist based in Dublin. Her work concerns her experience as a trans femme of colour, trying to navigate the world. Through the use of costuming, loose gender expression, and public performance, she encapsulates the campy blend of her queer identity. Venus questions the heteronormative society we live in, why the need to conform is so heavily enforced, and how that affects the perceptions of ourself, others, and the world around us. Although her work deals with serious subject matter, she utilises a unique mix of humour, absurdity, and abjection to create multifaceted performances and experiences. Amanda Coogan is an internationally recognised and critically acclaimed artist working across the medias of live art, sculpture, installation and photography. Her works are immersive, non-verbal, embodied experiences. Her expertise lies in her ability to condense an idea to its very essence and communicate it through her body. Sign Language is a touchstone, born hearing to Deaf parents, this visual and manual upbringing deeply informs her practice. She is celebrated for her compelling durational performances. Her practice moves freely between solo performances, dynamic group works and living installation. She explores contested sites and minority narratives, distilling these into urgent contemporary performances. Sinéad Gleeson's debut collection of essays: *Constellations: Reflections from Life* was published in April 2019 by Picador. It has been sold to various countries, including the US, France, Germany, China, the Netherlands, Korea and Brazil. Previously her essays have been published in *Granta*, *Winter Papers* (edited by Kevin Barry and Olivia Smith) *Gorse*, *Elsewhere: A Journal of Place*, *Autumn: An Anthology for the Changing Seasons* and *Banshee*. A forthcoming essay has been commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for their Essay slot and will be broadcast this Autumn. Sinéad's short stories appear in *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories* (Faber, May 2019), *Repeal the 8th*, *The Broken Spiral* and *Looking at the Stars* and her poetry has featured in the anthologies *Autonomy*, *Washing Windows? Irish Women Write Poetry and Reading the Future*. (both Arlen House). Sinéad is the curator of the Manifesto Stage in MindField at Electric Picnic.

15.00 - 15.45

SINÉAD O'CONNOR - REFLECTIONS Maija Sofia, Elaine Feeney, Tara Flynn and Sinéad Gleeson.

Maija Sofia is a musician and writer from rural Galway who works between the overlapping worlds of music, text and performance. Her debut album *Bath Time* was released in 2019 to widespread critical acclaim and was shortlisted for the Choice Music Prize. She is a recipient of the Next Generation award and has been commissioned to write new music by The National Concert Hall, Cork Midsummer Festival, Solas Nua in Washington DC, SIRIUS Arts Centre and Dublin Digital Radio. Her writing has been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *Banshee* and elsewhere and her upcoming album *True Love* will be released this autumn. Elaine Feeney writes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. She has published three poetry collections including *The Radio* was *Gospel & Rise*. Her debut novel *As You Were* won Dalkey Book Festival's Emerging Writer Prize, The Kate O' Brien Prize, Society of Authors' McKitterick Prize, and was shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards and the Rathbones-Folio Prize. She featured widely on Best of 2020 lists and Feeney was chosen by The Observer as a top ten debut novelist. Her second novel *How to Build a Boat* was published in 2023 (Harvill Secker) and is longlisted for the Booker Prize; and a new poetry collection, *All the Good Things You Deserve* (Harvill Secker) is forthcoming in 2024. Tara is an actor and writer in theatre, film, radio and TV. Her one-woman shows *Not A Funny Word* and *Haunted* (THISISPOPBABY and the Abbey Theatre) played to acclaim on the Abbey's Peacock stage. TV includes *Irish Pictorial Weekly*, *Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle* and *Line of Duty*. She's written three books, *You're Grand*, *Giving Out Yards* and *Rage-In*. Tara is a popular host and MC. She co-hosts the comedy problem-solving podcast *Now You're Asking* with author Marian Keyes on BBC Radio Four and BBC sounds.

Sinéad Gleeson's debut collection of essays: *Constellations: Reflections from Life* was published in April 2019 by Picador. It has been sold to various countries, including the US, France, Germany, China, the

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Netherlands, Korea and Brazil. Previously her essays have been published in Granta, Winter Papers (edited by Kevin Barry and Olivia Smith) Gorse, Elsewhere: A Journal of Place, Autumn: An Anthology for the Changing Seasons and Banshee. A forthcoming essay has been commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for their Essay slot and will be broadcast this Autumn. Sinéad's short stories appear in Being Various: New Irish Short Stories (Faber, May 2019), Repeat the 8th, The Broken Spiral and Looking at the Stars and her poetry has featured in the anthologies Autonomy, Washing Windows? Irish Women Write Poetry and Reading the Future. (both Arlen House). Sinéad is the curator of the Manifesto Stage in MindField at Electric Picnic

16.00 - 16.45

IAN MALENEY AND KERRI NÍ DOCHARTAIGH on landscape, folklore and ideas of home – with Derek O'Connor.

Ian Maleney is a writer from Co. Offaly. His first book of essays, Minor Monuments, was first published in 2019 and was recently reissued in paperback. His writing has appeared in The Guardian, The New Statesman, and Esquire. He is the founder of Fallow Media and the producer of the multi-award-winning podcast series, The Witness: In His Own Words. Kerri ní Dochartaigh is a mother, writer and grower. She writes about place, nature and motherhood for The Guardian, The BBC, RTE, The Irish Times and others. Her first book, Thin Places, was published by Canongate in Spring 2021, for which she was awarded the Butler Literary Award 2022, and highly commended for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2021. Cacophony of Bone was published by Canongate in May 2023 and is on the longlist for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing. She lives in the west of Ireland with her family. Derek O'Connor is an Irish writer and filmmaker, and one half (with Ian Whelan) of the award-winning film-making duo Doris/Magee. Their film Ponydance: An Scannan won a 2014 Celtic Media Award, in the Young People's category. His short documentary The Prince Of Ballyfermot won the 2015 Ulster Media Award. O'Connor has also written for a number of TV shows, including several episodes of the BAFTA and IFTA-winning CBBC children's series Roy. He was Commissioning Editor of Irish style magazine dSIDE, and has written about popular culture for The Irish Times, The Sunday Tribune, The Donegal Democrat, The Sunday Business Post, Sight & Sound, V Magazine, Dazed & Confused, Tokion and Image Magazine.

17.00 - 17.45

THE RISE OF FOLK MUSIC: Niamh Bury & Joe Potter of The Night Larry Got Stretched and Brian Macgloin (Ye Vagabonds) with Patrick Freyne.

Niamh Bury is a singer, songwriter and musician from Dublin. In recent years, she has performed at home and abroad, sharing the stage with acts like Ye Vagabonds, Martin Hayes and Cinder Well. Along with doom folk supergroup ØXN, Niamh was recently among the first new artists to be signed to Ireland's iconic folk label, Claddagh Records, in over eighteen years. Her debut album is due for release early next year. Joe Potter is a singer, multi-instrumentalist, music producer and sound artist from Norwich. He is influenced by the traditional singing of his native Norfolk, especially singers like Peter Bellamy, Harry Cox and Walter Pardon. Along with Niamh Bury and others, Joe organises The Night Before Larry Got Stretched session in the Cobblestone, which has become an important home for Dublin's traditional and folk singing community over the last decade. Brían Mac Gloinn is a singer, songwriter, musician and producer best known as one of Ye Vagabonds, the band he formed with his brother Diarmuid. As well as writing and singing original songs, Brían has a strong connection to the singing tradition of Ulster and of his mother's native Arranmore Island, where he spends much of his time. He co-founded bilingual traditional singing & music festival Féile Róise Rua on the island. Based in Co. Wicklow, Brían is currently working on a new series of radio documentaries, producing albums and writing in preparation for another album with Ye Vagabonds. Patrick Freyne spent most of his twenties trying to be a rock star before turning to the much more stable and secure world of print journalism. He has had short stories and essays published in The Dublin Review, Banshee, Tolka, Winter Papers and The Art of the Glimpse and is a features writer at the Irish Times. His book of essays, OK, Let's Do Your Stupid Idea, was published by Penguin Sandycove in 2020. It was nominated for an Irish Book Award, longlisted for the Rathbones Prize and shortlisted for the Dalkey Prize.

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18.00 - 19.30

THEY LIVE: A Big Sexy Queer Cabaret with GoblinsGoblinsGoblins, The Wild Geeze Anziety, Tadhg is T A D H G and DJ 3vIL Tw1nk .

GoblinsGoblinsGoblins - Speak The Devil's name and they shall appear...GoblinsGoblinsGoblins is a drag queen and stand up comedian who has been confused for neither. They have tried to get into acting school twice and failed. They have competed in multiple competitions and never won, but treasure the real prize: the friends they've made along the way. They did win a Dublin Fringe Award which was nice. Their speciality is creating characters that range from passive to fully aggressive. Anziety - Dublin drag queen & founder of SIS, Anziety is a gender bending queen with high energy performances and killer looks ready to slay any stage. The Wild Geeze - If you're into dark humour, burlesque, music, talks of dismantling the agricultural patriarchy and vagina puppets? Then The Wild Geeze are for you! Check out their Rap Song about planting trees & licking Gee's "Any Oaks?" Tadhg - The pianist, the songwriter, the vocalist, the fashion designer. No matter the medium Tadhg's artistry is always surprising, authentic and above all else, thrillingly entertaining. As a solo artist Tadhg's commanding vocals and virtuosic piano playing have wowed cabaret audiences across the country. While his big band extravaganza pushes Irish musicianship and live entertainment to its highest level. Tadhg has brought his larger than life show to Ireland's most notable stages, festivals and events. Being a proud Gaeilgeoir, Tadhg also takes immense pride in bringing a powerful queer perspective and presence to the Irish language and music scene. DJ 3vIL Tw1nk - DJ 3vIL Tw1nk is a dj, a mother, a daughter and a bitch. He DJs all the time, and when he's not DJing he's smoking. He is the boom boom beat that will make you move your feet.

SUNDAY

12.00 - 12.45

AISSLING BEA in conversation with Tara Flynn.

Aisling Bea is an award-winning stand-up comedian, writer, and actor. She is the creator, executive producer, and star of smash-hit comedy-drama This Way Up, which won her a BAFTA for Breakthrough Talent. As seen on Live At The Apollo, 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown, Would I Lie To You?, QI, Taskmaster, The Last Leg, Travel Man, Big Fat Quiz, The Graham Norton Show and Celebrity Gogglebox. Tara is an actor and writer in theatre, film, radio and TV. Her one-woman shows Not A Funny Word and Haunted (THISISPOPBABY and the Abbey Theatre) played to acclaim on the Abbey's Peacock stage. TV includes Irish Pictorial Weekly, Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle and Line of Duty. She's written three books, You're Grand, Giving Out Yards and Rage-In. Tara is a popular host and MC. She co-hosts the comedy problem-solving podcast Now You're Asking with author Marian Keyes on BBC Radio Four and BBC sounds.

13.00 - 13.45

LOUISE KENNEDY in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson.

Louise Kennedy grew up in Hollywood, Co Down. Her short story collection, The End of the World is a Cul de Sac (2021) won the John McGahern Prize. Her debut novel, Trespasses (2022), was shortlisted for the Women's Prize and won Novel of the Year at the An Post Irish Book Awards, Book of the Year (Debut) at the British Book Awards, and the McKitterick Prize. She lives in Sligo. Sinéad Gleeson's debut collection of essays: Constellations: Reflections from Life was published in April 2019 by Picador. It has been sold to various countries, including the US, France, Germany, China, the Netherlands, Korea and Brazil. Previously her essays have been published in Granta, Winter Papers (edited by Kevin Barry and Olivia Smith) Gorse, Elsewhere: A Journal of Place, Autumn: An Anthology for the Changing Seasons and Banshee. A forthcoming essay has been commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for their Essay slot and will be broadcast this Autumn. Sinéad's short stories appear in Being Various: New Irish Short Stories (Faber, May 2019), Repeal the 8th, The Broken Spiral and Looking at the Stars and her poetry has featured in the anthologies Autonomy, Washing Windows? Irish Women Write Poetry and Reading the Future. (both Arlen House). Sinéad is the curator of the Manifesto Stage in MindField at Electric Picnic

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14.00 - 14.45

SURVIVING THE ARTS

with Carl Austin, Grace Dyas and Patrick Barrett (Arrivalists) in conversation with Patrick Freyne.

Carl Austin is an American screenwriter who has worked in the industry for over twenty years, best known for his work on the long-running series THE BILL (ITV) and FAIR CITY (RTE). He currently has a number of film and television projects in development, including a period drama about the gang wars in eighteenth-century Dublin. Grace Dyas is an artist, activist, writer, director, producer and performer who lives and works between south inner-city Dublin and Inis Oirr, Aran Islands. I've made films, plays, live performances and projects with people who had never done art before. I've made art mostly about all facets of addiction, but also prostitution, sex work, the history of government corruption around social housing, casual sex, the conflict with the English in Ireland, the referendum on abortion and the legacy of Church and State abuse in Ireland, mostly with survivors of Magdalene Laundries. Her first feature film, Waiting Day, supported by Screen Ireland and written by Lynn Ruane premiered at the 2023 Galway Film Fleadh. Patrick M Barrett's musical life extends across many decades, from his early days as the bass player with Ten Speed Racer, a long-time collaboration with Joe Chester as the critically-acclaimed The Hedge Schools and more recently, his solo work under the moniker, Arrivalists. Patrick Freyne spent most of his twenties trying to be a rock star before turning to the much more stable and secure world of print journalism. He has had short stories and essays published in The Dublin Review, Banshee, Tolka, Winter Papers and The Art of the Glimpse and is a features writer at the Irish Times. His book of essays, OK, Let's Do Your Stupid Idea, was published by Penguin Sandycove in 2020. It was nominated for an Irish Book Award, longlisted for the Rathbones Prize and shortlisted for the Dalkey Prize.

15.00 - 15.50

SALLY HAYDEN AND BULELANI MFACO on telling the stories of migration and asylum with Patrick Freyne.

Sally Hayden is a journalist and the author of 'My Fourth Time, We Drowned: Seeking Refuge on the World's Deadliest Migration Route'. It won the 2022 Orwell Prize for Political Writing, An Post Irish Book of the Year, and was included on lists of best books of the year by outlets including the New Yorker, the Guardian, the Sunday Times and the Financial Times. She has reported across Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and currently works as the Africa correspondent for the Irish Times. "Growing up in the apartheid ghetto of Khayelitsha in Cape Town, Bulelani Mfaco became involved at an early age in protests for adequate housing & access to land with Abahlali BaseMjondolo, health care in the Khayelitsha Health Forum, and improved policing in neighbourhood watches. In 2017 he claimed asylum, seeking protection from violence and targeted killings of LGBTQ+ people. He is one of the Spokespersons for the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI) where he is campaigning for the right to work for all asylum seekers, and to end Direct Provision." Patrick Freyne spent most of his twenties trying to be a rock star before turning to the much more stable and secure world of print journalism. He has had short stories and essays published in The Dublin Review, Banshee, Tolka, Winter Papers and The Art of the Glimpse and is a features writer at the Irish Times. His book of essays, OK, Let's Do Your Stupid Idea, was published by Penguin Sandycove in 2020. It was nominated for an Irish Book Award, longlisted for the Rathbones Prize and shortlisted for the Dalkey Prize.

16.00 - 16.45

COLM BAIRÉAD & KATIE HOLLY

talk Irish film, Oscars and making movies in Ireland - with Derek O'Connor.

Colm is a screenwriter and director with a diverse filmography in both documentary and narrative film. His short films have garnered awards worldwide and his documentary work has earned him numerous Irish Film & Television Academy award nominations and wins. In 2012, he received a distinction from the Screen Directors' Guild of Ireland for his "outstanding work as a director in the Irish language". Colm's first narrative feature film was An Cailín Ciúin (The Quiet Girl) which became the highest-grossing Irish-language film of all time, received two BAFTA nominations and an Academy Award nomination for International Feature Film. Katie owns and runs Keeper Pictures (formerly Blinder Films) through which

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she has produced critically acclaimed features including Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman's EXTRA ORDINARY starring Maeve Higgins, Whit Stillman's LOVE & FRIENDSHIP starring Kate Beckinsale, Conor Horgan's THE QUEEN OF IRELAND about activist and icon Panti Bliss and Sophie Fiennes' GRACE JONES: BLOODLIGHT & BAM! She is a former board member of Screen Ireland, and a member of BAFTA, IFTA and the European Film Academy. She is the founder and co-creative director of X-Pollinator, an initiative to address the lack of diversity in the Irish Screen industry. Derek O'Connor is an Irish writer and filmmaker, and one half (with Ian Whelan) of the award-winning film-making duo Doris/Magee. Their film Ponydance: An Scannan won a 2014 Celtic Media Award, in the Young People's category. His short documentary The Prince Of Ballyfermot won the 2015 Ulster Media Award. O'Connor has also written for a number of TV shows, including several episodes of the BAFTA and IFTA-winning CBBC children's series Roy. He was Commissioning Editor of Irish style magazine dSIDE, and has written about popular culture for The Irish Times, The Sunday Tribune, The Donegal Democrat, The Sunday Business Post, Sight & Sound, V Magazine, Dazed & Confused, Tokion and Image Magazine. While based in New York, he co-created and edited the cult satirical website blogorrah.com, and remains a contributor to its successor, broadsheet.com. He also edited U2's fan club magazine Propaganda and Film West Magazine. Derek is a regular Leviathan collaborator and is editor of the RTÉ Culture website.

17.00 - 17.45

SARAH BREEN AND EMER MCLYSAGHT on the end of Aisling - with Tara Flynn.

Emer McLysaght and Sarah Breen are co-authors of the bestselling, award-winning Aisling series. Together their books have sold more than 400,000 copies. Emer McLysaght has worked extensively in journalism and radio and is a columnist at The Irish Times. Sarah Breen's background is in print journalism, specifically magazines. She writes a parenting column at the Sunday Times Ireland and dreams of the day Oasis will reunite. Tara is an actor and writer in theatre, film, radio and TV. Her one-woman shows Not A Funny Word and Haunted (THISISPOPBABY and the Abbey Theatre) played to acclaim on the Abbey's Peacock stage. TV includes Irish Pictorial Weekly, Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle and Line of Duty. She's written three books, You're Grand, Giving Out Yards and Rage-In. Tara is a popular host and MC. She co-hosts the comedy problem-solving podcast Now You're Asking with author Marian Keyes on BBC Radio Four and BBC sounds.