Guest Readers & Performers

Vona Groarke is a native of Edgeworthstown, County Longford. She is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently Spindrift (2009), published by Gallery Press. She won the Strokestown International Poetry Award in 1999. Her poetry has also been honoured with the Forward Prize, and the Michael Hartnett Award. A member of Aosdána, Vona teaches at the Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester.

Nerys Williams is from Carmarthenshire in West Wales. A recipient of a Fulbright scholar’s Award, she lectures in American Literature at UCD. Nerys’s first volume of poetry, Sound Archivist (Serenn, 2011), won the Rupert and Eilthea Strong first volume prize last year.

Lorna Shaughnessy has published two collections of poetry. Torching The Brown River and The Witness Tree (Salmon Poetry). She has also published two translations of contemporary Mexican poetry, Mother Tongue; Selected Poems by Pura López Colomé (Arlen House); and If We Have Lost Our Oldest Tales by Maria Baranda (Arlen House). She lectures in the Department of Spanish, NUI Galway.

Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin’s collections of poetry include Acts and Monuments (1972), The Magdalene Sermon (1989), The Girl Who Married The Reindeer (2001) and The Sun-Fish (2010) for which she was awarded the Griffin Prize for Poetry. She won the Patrick Kavanagh Award in 1973. A founder and co-editor of The Journal Cyphers, she is a Professor Emeritus in the School of English at Trinity College Dublin.

Martin Veiga lectures in Hispanic Culture, Spanish language and literature at the Department of Hispanic Studies in UCC, where he directs both the Centre for Creative Writing and the Irish Centre for Galician Studies. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his literary and translation work, including the Premio Esquilo de Poesía (2005).

Terry McDonagh is from County Mayo and lives between the West of Ireland and Germany. His poetry collections include A World Without Stone: New and Selected Poems, A Song for Joanna, Boxes and Cill Aodáin and Nowhere Else, all from Blá Buachaille Press, and most recently, The Truth in Mustard. His new collection Ripple Effect will appear this summer (Arlen House). www.terry-mcdonagh.com

Karen McDonnell is studying for a BA, with a specialism in Creative Writing, at NUIG. As part of her writing studies she has completed a poetic song-cycle on women in history. Recently, a poem from the song-cycle – ‘Aubade’ – won the National University of Ireland Galway poetry competition. She is working on a poetry collection, People this Little World.

Michael Schmidt’s books of poetry include the Poetry Book Society’s Ten Poets from the New World (1984) and Selected Poems 1972-1997. Editorial and managing director of Carcanet Press, and founder and general editor of PN Review, Michael received an OBE in 2006 for services to literature. He is Professor of Poetry at the University of Glasgow and a general editor of PN Review.

Iggy McGovern is Professor of Physics at Trinity College Dublin. He has published two collections of poetry, The King of Suburbia and Safe House (Dedalus Press). His work has received a number of awards, including the Hennessy Literary Award for Poetry and the Glen Dimplex New Writers Award for Poetry. He is the editor of the anthology 2012: Twenty Irish Poets Respond to Science in Twelve Lines. www.iggymcgovern.com

Caoimhin Mac Giolla Léith is a critic and Senior Lecturer in the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics at University College Dublin. He has published books and essays on various aspects of Gaelic literature, both medieval and modern. He has also written extensively on contemporary art and has curated exhibitions internationally.

Eleanor Tiernan is a regular contributor to RTE television and radio productions. As writer, actor and stand-up she has made guest appearances on such shows as The Panel, The Republic of Telly, and Tonight With Craig Doyle. Most recently she was acclaimed for her writing and acting in RTE’s Irish Pictorial Weekly. @eleanortiernan

Sarah Clancy has been shortlisted for the Patrick Kavanagh Award and the Listowel Poetry Collection Award. Her two books of poetry are Stacey and the Mechanical Bull (Lapwing) and Thanks for Nothing, Hippies (Salmon). She won the Cúirt International Festival of Literature Grand Slam in 2011.

Michael Griffin is Lecturer in English in the School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication at the University of Limerick. His edition of The Selected Works of Thomas Dermody was published by Field Day Press last year. His book Enlightenment in Ruins: The Geographies of Oliver Goldsmith will be published this summer by Bucknell University Press.

Maídra Woods’ poetry collections include Decimal D. Sec Drinks in a Bar in Marrakesh (1970), Knowledge in the Blood, New & Selected Poems (2001); Artichoke Wine (2006); and The Colard Dimension (2010). His Collected Poems was published by Dedalus Press in 2012. In 1975, he co-founded the literary journal Cyphers and he continues to serve as its editor. He is a member of Aosdána.

Gerald Dawe has published seven collections of poetry with The Gallery Press, including Points West (2008) and Selected Poems (2012). He is professor of English at Trinity College where he directs the postgraduate writing programme. His other publications include a memoir, My Mother-City (2007). The American novelist Richard Ford has written the following of Gerald Dawe: “It’s as if what he has to tell us is so vital that clarity - such a virtue - is a moral matter.”

Tony Walsh, aka Longella, is one of the UK’s most renowned performance poets. His work has been published in the UK, the US and Russia, commissioned by BBC television and radio, and showcased at numerous international poetry festivals including Ledbury and StAnza. He performed at the Royal Shakespeare Company’s 50th anniversary celebrations, and was also poet in residence for the Glastonbury Festival. Tony’s performance at Strokestown will mark the Irish launch of his debut collection. www.longella.co.uk

Alice Lyons was born in New Jersey and lives in County Roscommon. She won the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award in 2002, and has been the recipient of the Ireland Chair of Poetry Bursary and also bursaries in literature and film from The Arts Council. Her IFTA-nominated poetry film The Polish Language, co-directed with Orla Mc Hardy, has been screened worldwide. www.alicelyons.ie

Rita-Ann Higgins is a native of Galway. She has published nine collections of poetry, the most recent being Ireland is Changing Mother (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe), and a memoir in prose and poetry entitled Hurting God (Bloodaxe). She has also written six stage plays and a screenplay. She is a member of Aosdána. www.ritaanngizens.com

We Banjo 3’s debut album Roots of the Banjo 3 was voted 2012 Irish Times Trad Album of the Year. The band comprises four multi-award winning, and multi-instrumentalist Galway natives: Enda Scalll, Fergal Scalll, David Howley and Martin Howley. Having completed two sold out Irish tours in the past year, this summer their second US tour will include a much-anticipated return to the prestigious Milwaukee Irish Fest. www.webanj03.com

Strokestown International Poetry Festival

Stokestown, Co Roscommon

May 3rd-5th 2013

An Invitation to Poetry
2013 Strokestown International Poetry Festival Programme

Friday, May 3rd

6.30pm, Strokestown Park House:
Roscommon Primary & Secondary Schools Poetry Awards

7.30pm, Strokestown Park House:
Official Opening by Senator Catherine Noone, Music and Poetry Reading
Strokestown Choral Group, followed by readings by Yona Groarke & Nerys Williams, introduced by Philip Coleman.

10pm, Percy French Hotel:
Percy French Prize for Comic Poetry
Readings and prize-giving, with comedian Eleanor Tiernan and the Percy French Prize for Comic Poetry shortlisted poets.

Saturday, May 4th

10am-10.45am, Strokestown Park House:
Poetry Reading
Sarah Clancy & Karen McDonnell.

11am-12.15pm, Strokestown Park House:
The Art of Poetry in Translation
Readings by Lorna Shaughnessy & Martín Veiga, followed by a presentation and discussion of poems specially translated for the occasion by the poets.

1pm-2pm, Strokestown Park House:
Poetry and Film
A reading by Alice Lyons, followed by a screening and discussion of her poem-film The Polish Language.

3pm-3.45pm, Strokestown Park House:
Poetry Reading
Terry McDonagh & Eiléan Ní Chuillíneáin.

4.15pm-5pm, Strokestown Park House:
Performance Poetry
Tony Walsh.

5.30pm-6.30pm, Strokestown Park House:
Favourite Poems
Readings of favourite poems selected by the 2013 Strokestown International Poetry Award Shortlisted Poets: Candy Neubert, Emma Must, Mark Granier, Jennifer Copley, Mary Rozmus West, Jude Nutter, Juliet Aykroyd, Alison Prince, Erin Fornoff, John Whitworth.

8.15pm, Strokestown Park House:
The 2013 Strokestown International Poetry Awards
Readings of shortlisted poems and prize-giving, with judges Michael Schmidt & Iggy McGovern. Followed by reception, followed by music and craic in the pubs of Strokestown.

Sunday, May 5th

12pm-1pm, Strokestown Park House:
Oliver Goldsmith, the Midlands and Music
Lecture by Michael Griffin, University of Limerick.

2pm-2.50pm, Strokestown Park House:
Poetry Reading
Gerald Dawe & Rita-Ann Higgins.

3pm-3.50pm, Strokestown Park House:
Poetry Journal Launch.
The launch of Cyphers issue 73.

4pm-5.30pm, Strokestown Park House:
The 2013 Duais Cholmcille Poetry Awards
Readings by shortlisted Irish Language and Scots Gaelic poets Peadar Ó hAllaigh, Peter Mackay, Maoilios Caimheul, Gabriel Rosenstock, Lewis MacKinnon, and Gregoir Ó Duill, followed by prize giving, with judge Caoimhín Mac Giolla Leith.

6.30pm, Strokestown Park House:
Poetry Reading
Macdara Woods & Iggy McGovern.

8.30pm, Strokestown Park House:
Traditional Irish Music
We Banjo 3.

Festival concludes with music and craic in the pubs of Strokestown.

An Invitation to Poetry

Welcome to the 2013 Strokestown International Poetry Festival.

We like to think of Strokestown as representing ‘an invitation to poetry’, and the festival continues to extend this invitation to our audiences and to our guest poets through the faithful support of local sponsors, Strokestown Park House, Percy and Maureen Hanly Spar Supermarket, the Percy French Hotel, and through the generous annual support of the Arts Council and Colmcille.

All the poetry events in this year’s programme are free. Tickets for We Banjo 3 on Sunday night, priced at €5, can be purchased from the festival bookshop in the dining room of Strokestown Park House, from any committee member, and on the door before the gig on Sunday, from 8.15pm.

We hope you enjoy the weekend, and suggest now, having accepted an invitation to poetry, that you make yourself at home.

Martin Dyar
Festival Director
strokestownpoetry.org @strokestownpoem /StrokestownPoetryFestival