

66TH YEATS
INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER SCHOOL
YEATS' OTHER WORLDS



JULY 23 — AUGUST 1 2025



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We extend our sincere thanks to our patron,
Caitríona Yeats, all our funders, sponsors, members, staff,
volunteers and donors who help us to run the longest-
running literary summer school in the world.

WEDNESDAY JULY 23RD

Registration for all students

12 noon

Yeats Building F91 DVY4

Welcome Session with School Directors

6.00pm

Music and beer

7.00pm

Students only



All lectures and readings will take place at
Methodist Church, Wine Street, Sligo, F91 HY48

THURSDAY JULY 24TH

Rob Doggett

9.30am

'Yeats' (Other) Worlds:
A Contextual Introduction'

Susan O'Keeffe

11.15am

'Sea, Spirits & Stories: the 'sorcery' of Sligo'

Parallel Sessions

2.00pm

1. Jack B Yeats: 'The Dreaming Road'
 2. 'Yeats and his Books' Lucy Collins
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Official Opening of the

6.00pm

66th Yeats International Summer School

Alan Gilsenan: Opening Address

'WB Yeats and the Natural World'

Poet in residence Vona Groarke reads a specially
commissioned work

In collaboration with NLI

Welcome Dinner

8.00pm

Hosted by

Sligo Tourist Development Association

Glasshouse Hotel

Students only



FRIDAY JULY 25TH

Lucy Collins

9.30am

‘Yeats and the Irish Revival’

Niall Henry

11.15am

‘Yeats’ Theatre’

Rose of Innisfree

3.00pm

Boat trip across Lough Gill to
The Lake Isle of Innisfree

Film

7.30pm

‘Lily and Lollie: The Forgotten Yeats Sisters’

Followed by discussion with

Angela Griffith TCD

with pizza and beer



SATURDAY JULY 26TH

Rebecca Massey

10.00am

Watercolour Workshop

to 1.00pm

inspired by the work of Elizabeth Yeats

(Separate booking)

Vona Groarke

10.00am

Day One - Poetry Workshop

to 3.30pm

(Separate booking)

Bus Trip

4.00pm

Glencar Waterfall and Drumcliffe Church

to 6.00pm

Donal Ryan

8.00pm

Irish author reads from his works



SUNDAY JULY 27TH

Vona Groarke

10.30am

Day Two - Poetry Workshop

to 3.30pm

(Separate booking)

Knocknarea Hike

10.00am

Guided walk to the top of
Knocknarea Mountain

Yeats Town Walk

4.00pm

Meet at Yeats Building

to 5.00pm

Vona Groarke

8.00pm

Reads from her collections



MONDAY JULY 28TH

Peter McDonald

9.30am

‘The World’s Bane:

Yeats’ Oppositional Otherworld’

Sinéad Dolan

11.15am

Workshop: Storyboarding for video and film

Ulysses for Lunch

1.15pm

Readings by Paul Murray, great-grand
nephew of May Murray, Joyce's mother

Seminars

2.00pm to 5.00pm

Students only

& 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Traditional Irish Music

8.00pm

with young players

Yeats Building

Students only



TUESDAY JULY 29TH

Fran Brearton

9.30am

‘Yeats and Dreams’

James and Sally North

11.15am

‘Yeats, the Tarot & the Golden Dawn’

Lunchtime

1.15pm

‘A Labyrinth of Images -
Experiencing the Tarot’

Seminars

2.00pm to 5.00pm

Students only

& 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Irish dancing

8.00pm

Learn the steps with our tutors

Methodist Church

Students only



WEDNESDAY JULY 30TH

Melinda Szuts

Practice-based performance session

9.30am
to 12.30pm

Drop-in consultation sessions

Students only

1.00pm

Seminars

Students only

2.00pm to 5.00pm
& 3.00pm to 5.00pm

‘Gallery Goes...’

8.00pm

Gallery Press presents three poets:

Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin

Peter Sirr

Kelly Michels

Supported by The Arts Council



THURSDAY JULY 31ST

Eric Falci 9.30am
'Yeatsian Lyric as Otherworld'

International Yeats Society 11.30am
Yeats Conversations

Ukulele Sligo 1.15pm
Fun session with local ukulele players

Seminars 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Students only & 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Open Mic 7.00pm
Sharing your own work and favourite works to 9.00pm
Oak Moon Café

'Magnata' 9.00pm
Experimental music to 10.00pm
Oak Moon Café



FRIDAY AUGUST 1ST

Tara Stubbs

9.30am

‘Yeats and his Global Critics’

Student Presentations

11.30am

Seminars

2.00pm to 5.00pm

Students only

& 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Harp tribute:

7.30pm

to Gráinne Yeats in this centenary year
of her birth, Yeats Building

Closing Party

8.00pm

Yeats Building

Students only



Lecturers include:

Fran Brearton

Fran Brearton is Professor of Modern Poetry at Queen's University Belfast. Her books include *The Great War in Irish Poetry* (2000), *Reading Michael Longley* (2006) and, as co-editor, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Poetry* (2012) and *Incorrigibly Plural: Louis MacNeice and his Legacy* (2012). She was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 2018.

Lucy Collins

Lucy Collins is Associate Professor of Modern Poetry in the UCD School of English, Drama and Film. She has published on modern poetry from Ireland, Britain and America, including *Poetry by Women in Ireland: A Critical Anthology 1870-1970* and *Contemporary Irish Women Poets: Memory and Estrangement*. She is co-founder of the Irish Poetry Reading Archive.

Rob Doggett

Rob Doggett is Professor of English at the State University of New York, Geneseo. He is the general editor of the *Journal of International Yeats Studies* and has edited editions of Yeats's works for Penguin.

He has published widely on Yeats and is the author of *Deep-Rooted Things: Empire and Nation in the Poetry and Drama of William Butler Yeats* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2006).

Eric Falci

Eric Falci is Professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Continuity and Change in Irish Poetry, 1966-2010* (2012), the *Cambridge Introduction to British Poetry, 1945-2010* (2015), *Late Along the Edgelands* (2019), and *The Value of Poetry* (2020), as well as a number of essays on Irish and British poetry. With Paige Reynolds, he co-edited *Irish Literature in Transition, 1980-2020* (2020).

Alan Gilsenan

Alan Gilsenan is an award-winning Irish film-maker, writer, and occasional theatre director. His innovative and acclaimed work extends from experimental visual 'poems' to provocative cinema documentaries. He directed a number of landmark documentary films about Ireland for Channel 4, including *The Road To God Knows Where* and *Stories from the Silence*. His *A Vision: A Life of WB Yeats*, presents an experimental life of the famous poet. Other work in the arts includes intimate portraits of poet Paul Durcan in *The Dark School* and of the playwright Tom Murphy in *Sing On Forever*. His new film, *We only Want the Earth: The Life & Ideas of James Connolly*, has just been released.

Vona Groarke

Vona Groarke has published thirteen books with The Gallery Press, including eight original poetry collections, and two translations from the Irish, most recently *Woman of Winter* (2023). *Hereafter: The Telling Life of Ellen O'Hara* (NYU Press) appeared in 2022. A Cullman Fellow at the New York Public Library 2018-19 and former editor of *Poetry Ireland Review*, she has taught at the University of Manchester since 2007. She is the current Writer in Residence at St John's College, Cambridge.

Niall Henry

Niall Henry is artistic director of Blue Raincoat Theatre Company, Sligo. The company and its performance space The Factory were founded in 1991. It is a venue-based professional theatre ensemble and its significant repertoire includes Flann O'Brien, WB Yeats, JM Synge and Samuel Beckett. New devised works include *Shackleton*, *The School Days of Thaddeus K*, *Hunting Darwin* and *The Last Pearl*.

Peter McDonald

Peter McDonald is an Irish poet, and critic, whose most recent volume of poems, *One Little Room*, was published in 2024. He is editing *The Poems of W.B. Yeats* for Longman/Routledge: three volumes have appeared so far (covering Yeats up to 1910), and Volume Four (covering 1911-1918) is in preparation. He was Professor of British and Irish Poetry at the University of Oxford from 1999-2023, and is an Emeritus Student of Christ Church, Oxford.

Susan O'Keeffe

Susan O'Keeffe is Executive Director of Yeats Society Sligo. She established the Yeats Day Festival in 2012 to mark the poet's birthday. She was chair of Yeats 2015, the global year-long celebration of the 150th birthday of WB Yeats. It was part of the official Decade of Centenaries, organised by the Government of Ireland. She is a former member of Seanad Éireann. She is a former producer/director at BBC Current Affairs in Manchester, London and Belfast.

Donal Ryan

Donal Ryan is author of seven novels and one short story collection. His debut novel, *The Spinning Heart*, was shortlisted for the Impac Dublin Literary Award, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2013, and was recently voted Irish Book of the Decade. His most recent novel, *Heart, Be at Peace* (2024) was the Irish Book Award's Book of the Year. His work has been translated into over a dozen languages.

Tara Stubbs

Tara Stubbs is Professor of Modern and Contemporary Literature at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education, and a fellow of Kellogg College Oxford. She is the author of *American Literature and Irish Culture, 1910-1955: The Politics of Enchantment* (2013), and *The Modern Irish Sonnet: Revision and Rebellion* (2020), and is Book Reviews Editor for International Yeats Studies.

Melinda Szuts

Melinda Szuts is a director and lecturer in drama and theatre studies. She lectures on the history of drama and theatre, directing and dramaturgy. Her fields of research are physical theatre, theories of space and place, and applied space dramaturgy. She has directed many of W. B. Yeats's dance plays.





The Yeats International Summer School is a multi-disciplinary arts festival, celebrating WB Yeats, his family and their deep ties with Sligo, town and county, landscape and sea.

The ten-day event includes walks, talks, readings, academic lectures, open mic, watercolour and poetry workshops, Irish music & dancing, history, poetry and literature. It attracts many international visitors, along with local and national attendees. Our aim is to create an accessible, open, equal and unique literary experience.



Tickets and package tickets for events at
Yeats International Summer School
are available on our website:

www.yeatssociety.com

Contact us



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