NATIONAL LIBRARY of IRELAND

PRESS RELEASE **May 20th, 2010**

Leading Hollywood Star to open month-long Yeats Celebration

Award-winning actress and director **Anjelica Huston** will be joined by a host of other leading names from the world of music, stage, screen, visual arts, politics, literature and academia at the National Library of Ireland this June for its annual month-long celebration of the life and works of William Butler Yeats. With the programme now in it's 4th year, 'Summer's Wreath 2010' offers free public readings, reflections, lectures and performances and will feature many prominent female contributors this year echoing the passionate and complex relationship which Yeats had with women throughout his life.

The four-week celebration will open on Wednesday, June 2nd, 2010 at 7.30pm when **Anjelica Huston**, in conversation with radio and television broadcaster John Kelly, will reflect on her love of Yeats's poetry. Huston, who has received multiple Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and Emmy nominations for her body of work continues her family's legacy in film, which began with her grandfather Walter Huston and her father, John Huston. **Professor Germaine Greer**, widely recognised as one of the leading contemporary cultural commentators and author of one of the most influential texts of the feminist movement *The Female Eunuch* will deliver a lecture *Yeats and Women: Desire and Dread* on Wednesday, June 23rd at 7.30pm**.** Internationally acclaimed spiritual singer **Nóirín Ní Riain** together with **Abbot Mark Patrick Hederman** of Glenstal Abbey will present an evening of poetic reflection and music on Tuesday, June 15th at 7.30pm. **Cerys Matthews**, former lead singer with the Welsh rock band Catatonia, will share her love for the magic found in Celtic poetry and song including the poetry of WB Yeats on Monday, June 21st at 7.30pm.

Irish born jazz vocalist **Christine Tobin**, described by The Guardian as "a jewel of the London jazz scene" and who has been influenced by a diverse range of singers and

poets including WB Yeats will arrange a special selection of Yeats's poetry on Monday, June 28th at 7.30pm accompanied by **Phil Robson**, *guitar* and **Liam Noble**, *piano*.

'Summer's Wreath' will conclude on Wednesday, June 30th at 8pm with vocalist, artist and composer **Gavin Friday**. In this unique event, Friday will present his selection of Yeats's work and will be accompanied by master musicians **Martin Hayes** and **Dennis Cahill**.

Other participants in 'Summer's Wreath 2010' include the highly acclaimed stage, screen and television actor **David Kelly**, writers **Polly Devlin**, **Brian Keenan, Mary O'Donnell and Declan Lynch**, politician **Mary O'Rourke**, writer and critic **Brian Fallon**, news-reader and presenter **Eileen Dunne** and illustrator **Annie West.** A one-day immersion course for amateurs and lovers of poetry will also be held at the Library on Monday, June 14th, 2010 focusing on *Yeats and the Poetry of Love*. The Library will also host the first public screening of a lecture on Yeats delivered as part of a master class at Harvard University Humanities Center in October 2008 by **Professor Helen Vendler**. The A. Kingsley Porter University Professor at Harvard, Professor Vendler has written books on Yeats, Keats, Stevens and Seamus Heaney among others and is a frequent reviewer of contemporary poetry in journals such as *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The New Republic.*

Born on 13th June 1865, William Butler Yeats became one of the greatest Irish figures in world literature. The National Library of Ireland holds the single-most important archive of his work, which features in its award-winning exhibition *Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats*. 'Summer's Wreath 2010' takes place from Wednesday, June 2nd - June 30th, 2010 and is kindly supported by The Merrion (special pre-event supper available at The Merrion Cellar restaurant for the duration of the programme). Admission to all events is free but some events must be booked in advance. For further information, see **www.nli.ie** or telephone 01 603 0277 for bookings or a brochure.

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