

Now in its 6th year, Library Late has included interviews with:

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Colum McCann  
Frank McGuinness  
Dervla Murphy  
Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill  
Mark O'Halloran  
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## Irish Popular Fiction

LIBRARY  
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Hear great writers speak their minds

The National Library of Ireland has always been at the centre of Irish cultural life. Not just a place to read, but also a place to meet, write and create. Library Late continues and reinvigorates this tradition.

The Library's collection of printed books holds many historical examples of popular Irish fiction. Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897) when published were instant sensations and best-sellers of their day. Other popular Irish authors featured in the Library's collections include Charles Kickham, author of *Knocknagow; or The Homes of Tipperary* (1897), Somerville and Ross, authors of *Some Experiences of an Irish RM* (1879) and its many sequels, and Annie M.P. Smithson whose novel *Her Irish Heritage* (1918) was one of the most popular novels of its day. Against this historical backdrop, the Library will host this series of events with many of the leading contemporary writers of popular fiction in Ireland today.

Monday,  
February 28th, 2011  
at 8pm.



**The Making of a Bestseller – a panel discussion**  
chaired by broadcaster John Murray with  
**Monica McInerney, Faith O’Grady and**  
**Maria Dickenson**

The road to the top of the best seller lists is a fascinating journey but what separates a best seller from all the others that are published? Why do people love to read popular fiction? Does easier to read mean easier to write? Are there trends in the literary marketplace? What makes one manuscript stand out above all others? These and other questions will be discussed by tonight’s panel:

**Monica McInerney** is the author of the best selling novels *At Home with the Templetons* (shortlisted for the Eason Popular Fiction Book of The Year in the 2010 Irish Book Awards), *Those Faraday Girls*, *Family Baggage*, *The Alphabet Sisters*, *Spin the Bottle*, *Upside Down Inside Out* and *A Taste for It*, and the short story collection *All Together Now*, all published internationally and in translation. *Those Faraday Girls* was the Winner of the General Fiction Book of the Year 2008 at the Australian Book Industry Awards. In 2006, Monica was the Ambassador for the Australian government reading initiative Books Alive. She grew up in a family of seven in the Clare Valley Wine region of South Australia where her father was the railway stationmaster. She lives in Dublin with her Irish husband.

**Faith O’Grady** has been a literary agent with the Lisa Richards Agency since 1998. She represents writers of both fiction and non-fiction and is interested in all genres of fiction (except for science fiction and horror), She is also keen on general non fiction, including memoir, sport, cookery, humour and travel.

Always a keen reader, **Maria Dickenson** studied English at Leeds University before moving to Ireland where she worked as a librarian at TCD and DIT before joining the world of bookselling. She is currently Chairperson of the Irish Booksellers Association, was a panel member for the World Book Night selection committee, and regularly contributes to various radio and television programmes to discuss things bookish.

Wednesday,  
March 30th, 2011  
at 8pm.



**Sheila O’Flanagan** in conversation with  
broadcaster John Murray

**Sheila O’Flanagan** is the international number one best-selling author of fifteen novels and three collections of short stories. In 1998, her first book *Dreaming of a Stranger* was published while still working in the financial services sector, where she traded in foreign exchange, government and corporate bonds. Her books deal with the conflicting demands of day-to-day lives and unexpected events and include *Caroline’s Sister*, *How will I know?*, *The Perfect Man*, *He’s got to Go*, *Bad Behaviour*, *Someone Special* and *A Season to Remember*. Her books have been translated into over 20 languages. Sheila is also a Director of the Irish Sports Council.

Tuesday,  
April 12th, 2011  
at 8pm.



**Sinéad Moriarty and Cathy Kelly** in conversation  
with broadcaster John Murray

**Sinéad Moriarty** was born and raised in Dublin where she grew up surrounded by books. Growing up, Sinéad says she was inspired by watching her mother who is an author of children’s books. From that moment on, her childhood dream was to write a novel. She wrote her first book *The Baby Trail* while working as a journalist in London. She is published by Penguin and has, to date, written 7 novels. Her books have been translated into 24 languages.

Born in Belfast, **Cathy Kelly** worked in journalism as feature writer, agony aunt, film critic and columnist. While still a journalist, she decided to have a crack at writing a novel. *Woman to Woman* went straight into the Irish bestseller list. *Once In A Lifetime*, her eleventh novel published in paperback in September 2009 went to Number One within days of its release. Her books are international best-sellers in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Cathy is also an Ambassador for UNICEF in Ireland. She lives with her partner, John and six-year-old twin boys in Co. Wicklow.