

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, 2nd June 2016

National Library to host series of literary events in June

The [National Library of Ireland](#) (NLI) has today (02.06.16) announced that it will host a series of literary events throughout the month of June. The programme will be headlined by the annual Joseph Hassett Yeats Lecture, delivered by Ireland Professor of Poetry 2013-2016, Paula Meehan.

Professor Meehan's lecture is entitled 'Tradecraft, Wizardry, Revolution' and will use Yeats's masterwork 'Easter 1916' – a hundred years since it was written – to examine the confluence of energies that made him Ireland's national poet, and that sustain his power in a post-nationalist era. The lecture will take place at 7pm on Monday, 13th June, the anniversary of Yeats's birth in 1865.

Further events will range from lectures and readings, plays and performances, to a guided tour of the Library's Yeats exhibition followed by afternoon tea at the Library's Café Joly. The line-up of activities will focus on W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, and the commemoration of 1916 and will all take place at the NLI:

- **'Mr. Yeats Goes to Stratford: Shakespeare's Vision in Yeats's Irish Revival.'** Lunchtime talk by Dr Oliver Hennessy of Alabama University. In this Shakespeare 400 year, the lecture explores a number of points of contact between Yeats and Shakespeare, especially the impact on WBY of his visit to Stratford-Upon-Avon in 1901. This lecture has been supported by the British Council, and brought to the National Library by Yeats Day 2016. Thursday, 9th June, 1pm.
- **'An "Irish Mode"? The Literary Writings and Legacy of Thomas MacDonagh.'** Professor Danielle Clarke and Professor Margaret Kelleher from the School of English, Drama and Film, UCD, will discuss, in conversation, the significance of MacDonagh's writings on Shakespeare and the early modern period and on the traditions of Irish writing. Thursday, 9th June, 7pm. Free admission but booking is required at: www.ucd.ie/alumni/events.
- **'Noramollyannalivialucia: The Muse & Mister Joyce.'** A one-woman 'play for voices' performed by Curlew Theatre Company. Wednesday, 15th June, 7pm. Admission €8, booking is not required.
- **'JOYCEDI'** A one-woman show performed by Katie O'Kelly takes catapults the audience through the year which Joyce would later make famous in Ulysses. Thursday, 16th June, 1pm. Admission €10, booking is not required.
- **'Afternoon Tea and Tour: Yeats & the Irish Cultural Revival.'** Enjoy a tour of the Yeats exhibition and then delight in a mini-afternoon tea at the Library's Café Joly (€9.50). Tuesday, 21st June, 2pm.
- **'Readings from the Rising and beyond.'** Mid-summer evening of poetry and music based on Niall MacMonagle's anthology 'Windharp: poems of Ireland since 1916'. Tuesday, 21st June, 7pm. Free admission but booking is required at: learning@nli.ie.
- **'Yeats' Women.'** Written by Glynis Casson, this performance tells the story of Yeats' life and the women who supported him using his poetry to illustrate the story. Harpist and singer, Claire Roche, has put a number of the poems to music which she sings to her harp accompaniment. Wednesday, 22nd June, 7pm. Admission €20, pre-book at learning@nli.ie.
- **'Proclaiming Self and Nation: Joyce's Portrait and the Easter Rising, 1916.'** Professor Luke Gibbons will give a public lecture to mark the anniversary of the publication of 'A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man' in 1916. Wednesday, 29th June, 7pm.

Speaking about the programme of events for June, Head of Outreach at the NLI, Katherine McSharry, said: "The NLI runs a programme of events on an ongoing basis, encompassing tours, workshops, lectures, genealogy events, performances and family-focused events. We are delighted to offer our visitors a special series of literary events this month, focussing on W.B. Yeats, James Joyce and the writings and poetry of 1916.

"I am particularly happy that the Library will host the third annual Joseph Hassett Yeats Lecture on 13th June, the anniversary of Yeats's birth, and look forward to hearing Professor Meehan's fascinating insights into Yeats's work. We are very grateful for Joseph Hassett's support for this event as part of the library's programme."

Further information about the NLI's events in June is available at: www.nli.ie.

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Note to Editors

About the Library: The mission of the National Library of Ireland (NLI) is to collect, preserve, promote and make accessible the documentary and intellectual record of the life of Ireland and to contribute to the provision of access to the larger universe of recorded knowledge. It is open, free of charge, to all those who wish to consult the collections. The Office of the Chief Herald in Kildare Street and the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar are both part of the National Library. Further information is available at www.nli.ie. Follow the NLI on Twitter [@NLIreland](https://twitter.com/NLIreland), Facebook [National Library of Ireland](https://www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryofIreland), [Flickr on the Commons](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nliireland/) and [Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/nliireland).