



MARK PATRICK HEDERMAN  
GERARD STEMBRIDGE  
KERRY HARDIE  
PETER SIRR  
CATRIONA CROWE  
MARY COSTELLO  
SEANIE BARRON  
MICK HANLY  
PETER BROWNE  
BRIAN HARTNETT  
NÚRIA VIZCAINO ESTRADA  
THE HIT MACHINE DRUMMERS  
KEITH MCCOY  
COLM KEEGAN  
EDWARD O'DWYER  
AILEEN NIX  
GABRIEL FITZMAURICE  
TOM MOLONEY  
SEAMUS HENNESSY

# éigse

Michael Hartnett  
Literary & Arts Festival

Thursday, Oct 6 - Sunday, Oct 9

NEWCASTLE WEST  
CO. LIMERICK

POETRY | PROSE | MUSIC | FILM | SONG | WORKSHOPS  
SCHOOL VISITS | OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT | ONLINE

## INTRODUCTION

Céad Míle Fáilte to Hartnett country, to Newcastle West and to this year's Éigse Michael Hartnett. We hope you will enjoy this year's festival, with its diverse range of events and the many talented and interesting guests, poets, writers, musicians and artists we have brought together in the programme.

This year, we are proud to announce that, thanks to the generosity of Limerick City and County Council, we have been able to increase the value of the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award to €8,000. We have also been enabled to host a number of workshops as well as having the support of Ella Daly in the organising of the festival.

We are also pleased to be able to add to this year's programme with our Salad Sunday, a nod to Hartnett's humorous ballad, and a community-focused day of family fun and entertainment.

Éigse continues to be a festival that honours the memory and work of Michael Hartnett and we are particularly happy this year to be taking the festival beyond Newcastle West to Camas and Ashford, in partnership with the Killeedy Development Association. Other partners this year include Askeaton Contemporary Arts and Newcastle West Film Club.

Be assured of a warm welcome in Newcastle West. We invite you to wander the town that Hartnett grew up in, to retrace his steps from Maiden Street to Assumpta Park, to read some of his work on the poetry boards displayed in shops, bars and restaurants, to enjoy the town's warm hospitality and to come along, to one, more, or all of the events in our programme.

## Michael Hartnett 1941-1999

Michael Hartnett was born in September 1941 and by the time of his death at the age of fifty eight, he had created a significant body of work, including a dozen books of poetry from The Gallery Press alone, some published posthumously. He was a scholarly man of wide reading whose literary achievement involved shape-shifting between English and Irish, two very different languages in historical collision, in addition to a rich harvest of translation, mainly from Irish but also from Spanish, Chinese, German and Latin.

Rugadh Míchéal Ó hAirtnéide i 1941 agus tógadh i gCaislén Nua Thiar é. Thosaigh sé ar shlí na filíochta go luath ina shaoil agus bhreathnaigh sé air féin mar oidhre aré thraidisiún liteartha na bhfilí Gaelacha. Le linn a shaoil, d'fhoilsigh sé fiche gcnuasach filíochta agus rinne sé aistriúchán aré theangacha éagsúla chomh maith. Déanann Éigse Mhicil Uí hAirtnéide céiliúradh ar an traidisiún liteartha mar aon leis an traidisiún béil, ar Mhíchéal mar fhile and mar fhear.

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### GERARD STEMBRIDGE

Born in Limerick, Gerard is a writer/director. His film work includes *Guilttrip*, *About Adam*, *Ordinary Decent Criminal*, *Nora* (co-written with Pat Murphy), and *Alarm*. He has also written for television, *The Truth about Claire* and *Black Day at Black Rock*. Theatre plays include *Love Child*, *The Gay Detective* and *That Was Then*. He is well-known for his radio work with Dermot Morgan (Scrap Saturday). He has published five novels: *According to Luke*, *Counting Down*, *Unspoken*, *The Effect of Her* and *What She Saw*. He is this year's guest speaker at the official opening.

**THURSDAY 8PM**  
*at the Library. Free event*



### BRIAN HARTNETT

Brian has had an interest in music all his life and discovered Elvis Presley at 16, which led him to singers like Nat King Cole, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra. At the age of 18 he became interested in classical singing and later began his vocal studies. He has performed at numerous venues throughout the country, including the National Concert Hall, Dublin and Thomond Park in Limerick. He has also been broadcast on national radio and television and local radio. Brian's voice could be described as a classical crossover voice and he has an extensive repertoire ranging from classical and musicals to jazz, swing and easy listening. He lives in Newcastle West.

**THURSDAY 8PM**  
*at the Library. Free event*



### THE HIT MACHINE DRUMMERS

The Hit Machine Drummers are a brotherhood of rhythmic warriors who enthrall and entertain with dynamic, captivating drumming. Clad in authentic kilts, boots and military style vests, they are a commanding, driving presence. The pulse of life. The rhythm of a heartbeat. The beat of a well tuned drum. Rhythm is an instinct that pulls on everyone. Come along to their outdoor performance and feel the power of their beat. They will be joined in a lantern parade to the library by members of Foróige.

**THURSDAY 7PM**  
*at the Square followed by Lantern Parade. Free event*



### POETRY AWARD WINNER (Eleanor Hooker)

The winner of this year's Michael Hartnett Poetry Award will be presented with her prize at the official opening on Thursday night. This is a chance to hear her work in the informal setting of our coffee morning.

**FRIDAY 11AM**  
*Upstairs at Marguerite's, The Square. Free event*



### MARK PATRICK HEDERMAN

Mark Patrick has been a monk for over 50 years at the Benedictine monastery of Glenstal Abbey, Co Limerick. He has been abbot of the community and headmaster of the school there. Born in Ballingary, Co Limerick, his latest book, *Crimson and Gold: Life as a Limerick*, is a humorous account of the changing face of Ireland as he experienced it since the 1950s. His other, more recent publications include *The Opal and the Pearl*, (2017) and *Living the Mystery* (2019), published by Columba Press, Dublin.

**FRIDAY 1PM**  
*Reading and light lunch with Mark Patrick at the Desmond Complex. Admission: €10*



### SEANIE BARRON

Seanie Barron roams around his native Askeaton, looking for wooden branches left in a field or ditch, or growing in a bush. He then collects and shapes them into walking sticks. In this new collection, surreal forms and shapes of Barron's making reference wasps, salmon, snakes, ice skaters and cocktail parties. Over the last decade his sticks have been exhibited throughout the world. The Sculptural Imagination of Seanie Barron explores the uniqueness of Barron's approach. The sticks have been described by Jon Woods as "sculptural objects that glow and sing their mysterious songs in ways that continue to enchant and enthrall."

*A touring exhibition with South Tipperary Arts Centre Clonmel and Askeaton Contemporary Arts.*

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
*in The Red Door Gallery*



### KEITH McCOY

Keith is a native of Newcastle West who was schooled in Monagea and then at St Ita's Secondary School, before heading off to university in London nearly 30 years ago. He qualified as a nurse there and since then has completed master degrees in mental health and business. He lives in Manchester and still works in mental health. In recent years he has started to write novels, firstly the mental health dark comedy, *Hello Larry Barry*, and then an action and adventure one, *The Jude Crew*. Newcastle West played a part in both novels, he explains. He is currently working on a crime fiction novel, due for release next year.

#### FRIDAY 6PM

Book launch and reading at the Longcourt House Hotel. Free event



### KERRY HARDIE

Kerry Hardie's eighth collection *Where Now Begins* (Bloodaxe Books) was published in 2020. Her seventh, *The Zebra Stood in The Night*, was shortlisted for the Irish Times Award. She has won many prizes including the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award, the Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Award, The Suspended Sentence Award, The Laurence O'Shaughnessy Award, the IOTA chapbook Award and The Irish National Poetry Prize. She has written two novels and a voice play broadcast on RTE which has also been performed live. Her short stories have been published in Ireland, Switzerland, France and the US, and she has just completed another novel. Her work has been widely translated and has been much anthologized in Ireland, the U.S. and the U.K. She lives in Kilkenny and is a member of Aosdána.

#### FRIDAY 8PM

Reading at Longcourt House Hotel. Admission: €10



### PETER SIRR

Peter lives in Dublin. The Gallery Press has published all his eleven poetry collections since *Marginal Zones* (1984). His most recent collection, *The Gravity Wave* (2019) was a Poetry Society Recommendation and won the 2020 Farmgate Café National Poetry Award. Peter is also a past winner of the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award. His essay collection, *Intimate City: Dublin Essays* (2021) reflects a long-standing attachment to and obsession with the Dublins of past and present. He is a member of Aosdána.

#### FRIDAY 8PM

Reading at Longcourt House Hotel. Admission: €10



### NÚRIA VIZCAINO ESTRADA

Cellist Núria is from Barcelona where she studied in the Conservatori Superior del Liceu under Professor Erica Wise. She combined these studies with a teaching degree and several orchestral experiences all over the world, both of which she considers one of the best ways of growing as an individual but also as part of our society. She loves to perform Bach, but performs across a diverse range of composers and musical styles. She is currently studying for her MA in Classical String Performance at the University of Limerick.

#### FRIDAY 8PM

Longcourt House Hotel with Kerry Hardie and Peter Sirr. Admission: €10





## FILM

One of 2022's must-see films, *An Cailín Ciúin* is an Irish-language film with subtitles that has broken Irish box office records. Based on author Claire Keegan's novel *Foster*, it stars Carrie Crowley and Andrew Bennett with a mesmerising performance by young newcomer Caitríona Clinse as Cáit. *An Cailín Ciúin* is set in early 1980s Ireland and follows Cáit, a young girl whose family send her to her mother's cousin to be cared for while her mother has another baby.

Seanie Barron: *Only in Askeaton* dips into the life and work of wood artist Seanie Barron who creates imaginative and playful walking sticks, some of which are on exhibition at the Red Door Gallery. The short film, directed by Michael Holly, was made under the auspices of Askeaton Contemporary Arts and won the Audience Prize for Best Short Film at the Cork International Film Festival 2021.

These screenings are in partnership with the Newcastle West Film Club and Askeaton Contemporary Arts.

### FRIDAY 8PM

Screening at *Desmond Complex*. Admission: €8



## DANCE FILM

*Calling Me Home* and *In Time* are two short, integrated dance films choreographed by dance artist Mary Hartney. *Calling Me Home*, which features dancers from the Brothers of Charity, Newcastle West along with guest dancers, is an interpretation of Jonathan Bryan's book *Eye Can Write*. *In Time* is the last poem written by Seamus Heaney. It was written for his granddaughter, Síofra less than a fortnight before his death in 2013. The themes explored are energy, balance and outbreak. The dancers from Enable Ireland, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick are joined by guest dancers. Both films were made as part of integrated dance programmes supported by the Limerick Culture and Arts Office.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY AT 3PM** each day  
at the *Red Door Gallery*. Free event



## CATRIONA CROWE

Catriona is former Head of Special Projects at the National Archives of Ireland and managed the Census Online Project, which placed the Irish 1901 and 1911 censuses online free to access. She is editor of Dublin 1911, published by the Royal Irish Academy in late 2011 and presented the RTE documentaries *Ireland before the Rising* in 2016, and *Life After the Rising* in 1919. She is an Honorary President of the Irish Labour History Society and a former President of the Women's History Association of Ireland. She is Chairperson of the SAOL Project, a rehabilitation initiative for women with addiction problems, based in the North Inner City and also Chairperson of the Inner City Renewal Group, City. Catriona is a member of the Royal Irish Academy. She will deliver the Michael Hartnett Memorial Lecture on: How did Ireland do in its decade of centenaries?

### SATURDAY 11AM

*Desmond Complex*. Admission: €10.



## PETER BROWNE

Dubliner Peter started playing traditional music at the age of six and learned the willeann pipes from three of the great players of modern times, Leo Rowsome, Séamus Ennis and Willie Clancy. He played with the groups Raftery and 1691 and later played pipes and flute with The Bothy Band. In the early 1980s, he toured Europe and North America and made two groundbreaking albums of music and song together with: Philip King, Rince Gréagach and Seacht Nóiméad Déag chun a Seacht. He has also contributed as a session musician to albums featuring Paul Brady, Maura O'Connell, Mick Hanly and The Chieftains among others. An Oireachtas piping champion, he worked for over 40 years in RTE and is known for programmes such as *The Rolling Wave*, *Sounds Traditional*, *Áirneán*, *Céilí House*, *Ulster Folk*, *Mo Cheol Thú* and *The Long Note*.

### SATURDAY 1.30PM

*Desmond Complex*. Free event



### MARY COSTELLO

Mary Costello's short story collection, *The China Factory* (2012), was nominated for the Guardian First Book Award and the Irish Book Awards. Her novel, *Academy Street* (2014), won the Novel of the Year Award and the overall Irish Book of the Year in 2014. It was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award, the Costa First Novel Prize, and the EU Prize for Literature, among others, and has been translated into many languages. Her second novel, *The River Capture* (2019) was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards, the Kerry Group Novel of the Year and the Dalkey Novel Award. Originally from Galway, Mary lived in Dublin for many years and recently moved back to Galway.

#### SATURDAY 8PM

*Longcourt House Hotel. Admission €15* (includes Mick Hanly concert)



### MICK HANLY

One of Ireland's foremost singer/songwriters, Mick was born and reared in Limerick, and began his career as a folk singer in Dublin in 1971. His professional debut was as the opening act for Planxty's first Irish tour. In the following years, his musical journey moved between Trad, Country, Rock, and Contemporary, and he toured the UK, Europe, and the US in a variety of different guises: doubling with Andy Irvine as a folk act on the European circuit in the early eighties, as lead singer with Moving Hearts, and lead singer/writer with Rusty Old Halo. The tours were interspersed with album releases (fourteen in total). He has won two BMI awards (1 million Radio plays and Most Played Country Song in the US in 1992) for his song Past The Point Of Rescue as well as two Hot Press and two National Entertainment awards. His songs have been recorded by numerous artists: Moving Hearts, Christy Moore, Dolores Keane, Ronnie Drew, Mary Black and Delbert McClinton. His 16th album is due out in 2022.

#### SATURDAY 9.15PM

*Longcourt House Hotel. Admission €15*



### GABRIEL FITZMAURICE

Gabriel Fitzmaurice, from Moyvane, Co. Kerry where he still lives, taught for over thirty years in his local primary school. He is author of more than sixty books, including collections of poetry in English and Irish as well as several collections of verse for children, volumes of essays and collections of songs and ballads. He has translated extensively from the Irish and has edited a number of anthologies of poetry in English and Irish. Poems of his have been set to music and recorded by Brian Kennedy and performed by the RTÉ Cór na nÓg with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. An Honorary Member of the Széchenyi Academy of Letters and Arts in Hungary, he is a recipient of the Listowel Writers' Week John B. Keane Lifetime Achievement Award. He frequently broadcasts on radio and television on culture and the arts.

#### SUNDAY 1PM

*Desmond Complex. Launch of new edition of Farewell to Poetry. Free event.*



### TOM MOLONEY

Tom Moloney is a retiree. As he continues to breathe in and out, not only is he up and at it, he is energized, and inspired, by Brendan Kenneally's advice about living in *Begin Again*.

Not that Tom has abandoned entirely the many facets of his former life, in particular, the whisperings of his Muse; more accurate to say he is testing the view of practitioners of the two arts when they suggest that poetry and the short story are intimately related.

For the record, Tom has published two collections of poetry: *My Register* (2009) and *Killing Time* (2015). He has also published a novel, *Getting the Nod from Himself* (2015). *Overcoming the Joy and other Yearnings* is his first collection of short stories.

#### SUNDAY 2PM

*Desmond Complex. Launch of Overcoming the Joy and Other Yearnings. Free event.*

## WORKSHOPS

Fostering the creativity of young people is an important part of Éigse and we are delighted that, this year, we were able to host a number of writing and visual art workshops. Students from Desmond College and Scoil Mhuire agus Ide worked with Colm Keegan to create their own Spoken Word performances which can be viewed, on screen, at the Red Door Gallery.

Members of Foróige worked with Aileen Nix to create lanterns for the Lantern Parade and also took part in poetry workshops with Edward O'Dwyer. Their poems can be seen and enjoyed on posters throughout the town.



### COLM KEEGAN

An award winning writer and poet from Dublin, Colm's debut collection *Don't Go There* was released to critical acclaim and his latest collection *Randomer* is now available from Salmon Press. He judges the Waterford Poetry Prize and was guest editor of Poetry Ireland Review for May 2022. He has also written a number of plays and was a co-founder of Lingo, Ireland's first Spoken Word festival.

He has developed numerous creative writing projects for schools and organisations across the country including *South Dublin Epic* and *Inklinks*, and has been awarded several residencies including the Lexlcon, Ireland's largest public library. He is currently Artist in Residence with Dept of Education at Maynooth University.

His latest programme *Writing Home*, developed to support homeless service users through the pandemic and developed with Kilkenny County Council, won a LAMA award for best education initiative 2021.

Colm worked with students from SMI and Desmond College who created a Spoken Word film to be screened at the Red Door.



### EDWARD O'DWYER

Edward is a secondary school teacher from Limerick writing both poetry and fiction. His third collection of poetry, *Exquisite Prisons*, is due in 2022 from Salmon Poetry, and follows *The Rain on Cruise's Street* (2014), which was Highly Commended in the Forward Prizes, and *Bad News, Good News, Bad News* (2017), which contains the poem, *The Whole History of Dancing*, which won the Best Original Poem award at Éigse Michael Hartnett 2018.

He has represented Ireland at Poesiefestival in Berlin, took part in Poetry Ireland's Introductions Series, and was shortlisted for a Hennessy Award. His first short story collection, *Cheat Sheets*, features in The Lonely Crowd journal's 'Best Books of 2018' list. He is the current Poet Laureate of Adare, elected by Poetry Ireland for their Poetry Town initiative in 2021.

Edward worked with members of Foróige for Éigse and their poems can be seen on posters around town.



### AILEEN NIX

Aileen is a creative Fine Art artist based in Newcastle West with an excellent eye for aesthetics. She is experienced in a broad range of mediums. Aileen graduated from the Limerick School of Art and Design in 2015 with a degree in sculpture and combined media. With strong communication and listening skills, and an ability to work effectively in dynamic and diverse teams, Aileen really enjoys socially engaged art projects. Aileen's work has been exhibited in the RDS, Dublin, at K-Fest in Killorglin, Co Kerry and in the Red Door Gallery, Newcastle West. Aileen worked with members of Foróige for Éigse to create lanterns for the Lantern Parade.



## SALAD SUNDAY

Salad Sunday is a new addition to the Éigse Michael Hartnett programme and celebrates one of Michael Hartnett's most amusing poems, *The Balad of Salad Sunday*, which pokes fun at an incident in Newcastle West which turned out to be a non-event. Salad Sunday is intended as a fun, entertaining event for the community and will take place in the Square, the Red Door Gallery and the Desmond Complex. Throughout the afternoon, we will have live music on stage, as well as street food and market stalls. There will be dramatic recitations of *The Ballad of Salad Sunday* along with recitations of *The Maiden Street Ballad*, another long-time popular favourite of Michael's. Newcastle West's ever popular MC, the broadcaster and teacher Seamus Hennessy will be on stage throughout the afternoon. The Seanie Barron exhibition of walking sticks will continue at the Red Door Gallery where there will also be continuous screenings of Spoken Word. Local artists will exhibit and there will be readings from Broadford's Tom Moloney and from well-known poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice.

Admission to all events is free. Come along and join in the fun.

## SPOKEN WORD

Students from Scoil Mhuire agus Ide and Desmond College who took part in workshops with poet Colm Keegan have performed their work, live to camera. Watch and listen to them perform on screen in The Red Door Gallery. Posters of poems written by Foróige members will be exhibited around the town.

## READINGS

At 1pm, in the Desmond Complex, poet and singer Gabriel Fitzmaurice will launch the reprint of his final collection, *Farewell to Poetry*.

## BROADFORD MAN

At 2pm, Tom Moloney from Broadford will launch his latest book, a collection of short stories, *Overcoming the Joy and other Yearnings*. The event will take place in the Desmond Complex.

## AT A GLANCE

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

**7pm:** The Hit Machine Drummers perform in the Square and lead a Lantern Parade to the library where they will perform outside. **Free**

**8pm:** Official opening of Éigse Michael Hartnett by the Mayor of Limerick, City and County, Francis Foley. Guest speaker Gerry Stenbridge with songs by Brian Hartnett. The Michael Hartnett Poetry Award 2022 will be presented.

**Newcastle West Library. Free**

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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

**11am-4pm:** Seanie Barron exhibition  
**The Red Door Gallery. Free**

**11am:** Poetry and Coffee: Hear this year's winner of the Hartnett Poetry Award.  
**Upstairs in Marguerites, The Square. Free**

**1pm:** Mark Patrick Hederman will read from *Crimson and Gold: Life as a Limerick*. Light lunch served. **Admission: €10**

**3pm:** Screening: Dance Films  
**Red Door Gallery. Free**

**6pm:** Book launch with Keith McCoy  
**Longcourt House Hotel. Free**

**8pm:** Screen of *An Cailín Ciúin* and also of *Seanie Barron: Only in Askeaton*. **Adm: €8**

**8pm:** Poems and Melody with Kerry Hardie, Peter SIRR and cellist Núria Vizcaino Estrada  
**Longcourt House Hotel. Adm: €10**

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

**11am:** The Michael Hartnett Memorial Lecture with Catriona Crowe  
**Longcourt House Hotel. Adm: €10**

**11am-4pm:** Seanie Barron exhibition continues **The Red Door Gallery. Free**

**1.30pm:** On Tour with Michael Hartnett. Peter Browne will present a mix of anecdotes, memories and recordings from his tour of Scotland with Michael, along with tunes from the master piper. **Desmond Complex. Free**

**3pm:** The Hartnett Tour: a bus tour with a difference taking in Camas, home of Michael Hartnett's grandmother Bridget Halpin, the Poet's Corner at Killeedy Eco-Park and finishing with tea and tunes at the Tigh Cheoil in Ashford. The tour will be led by Vincent Hanley.

**Starting from Desmond Complex. Adm: €10**

**3pm:** Screening: Dance Films,  
**Red Door Gallery. Free**

**8pm:** Author Mary Costello in conversation and reading from her work.  
**Longcourt House Hotel. Adm: €15**  
*(includes Mick Hanly concert.)*

**9.15pm:** Mick Hanly in concert  
**Longcourt House Hotel. Adm: €15**

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### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

**Salad Sunday**, live music, street food, market stalls, readings, art and recitations, 1pm to 3pm  
**The Square, the Red Door Gallery and the Desmond Complex.**

Tickets will be sold at the different venues and can also be booked in advance. Booking is recommended particularly for the Lunchtime Reading with Mark Patrick Hederman and for the Hartnett Bus Tour. Go to [www.eigsemichaelhartnett.ie](http://www.eigsemichaelhartnett.ie)

**Organising Committee:**

Mary Carroll, John Cussen, Vincent Hanley, Rachel Lenihan, Rose Liston, Rossa McMahon, Vicki Nash, Norma Prendiville.

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Limerick Arts Office Pippa Little, Aoife O'Connell, Lizanne Jackman and team. Additional support from Ella Daly.

**For more information:**

[www.eigsemichaelhartnett.ie](http://www.eigsemichaelhartnett.ie)

t 087 3615411

e [info@eigsemichaelhartnett.ie](mailto:info@eigsemichaelhartnett.ie)

@ [@eigse\\_michael\\_hartnett](https://www.instagram.com/eigse_michael_hartnett)

t [@eigseMHartnett](https://twitter.com/eigseMHartnett)

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