

Kildare Readers Festival 2015

Programme of Events



Welcome to Kildare Readers' Festival 2015

Kildare Readers Festival is brought to you by *Kildare County Library and Arts Service*. Our ethos is to connect our readers with authors and artists, working to bring the very best from the world of literature to our audiences through the provision of exciting, innovative and accessible events. Since its inception in 2010, our festival audiences have continued to grow, and this year, our sixth, will present an entertaining schedule as equally exciting as in previous years. With regular favourites such as *Ten Books You Should Read*, *Sunday Morning Sessions*, and our fabulous schedule of *Fringe Events*, we also look forward to presenting some exciting guests and themed events this year. So keep checking in with our official **Website** and our **Facebook Page** for updates.

We are committed to ensuring that our festival remains accessible to all, and so **All Events are FREE of charge**, though bookings are essential through our Box Office at Riverbank 045 448327 / www.riverbank.ie

STAY CONNECTED AND WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED!

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WEBSITE: <http://www.kildarereadersfestival.ie/>

TWITTER: @kildarelibrary #KildareReadersFest15



Honouring Voices

Adapting Hanna Greally's *Bird Nest Soup* for stage with panel discussion

Thur Oct 15th | 2.30pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

Hanna Greally's autobiographical book *Bird's Nest Soup* gave voice to thousands of human stories that were kept hidden in care facilities and has become an important document of women's history, and also of our social and institutional history. Following on from 2014's Shelf Help Narratives, this year the festival has once again teamed up with Kildare County Council's Arts and Wellbeing Specialist, **Carolann Courtney** to offer an exploration in how one woman's story is adapted from story to stage. In this panel discussion, the artistic team of Creator / Performer, **Andrea Scott** and Writer, **Gill McCaw** will reflect on the reasons they wanted to realize Hanna's story on stage as, "*Lunatic There I Go*", the play, which invites audiences to intimately experience and reflect upon Hanna's story of 18 years living in St. Loman's psychiatric institute during the 1940s and 1950s. Visual Artist **Alan Counihan** will chair the panel complimenting the discussion with his account of *PERSONAL EFFECTS: a history of possession 2012-14*. A project which grew out of an engagement with the personal effects of past patients from The Richmond Asylum – later known as St Brendans Hospital, in Grangegorman, Dublin. They will also share their thoughts on the sense of responsibility they have felt to Hanna, her mother, and those who lived with her in St. Loman's Hospital, and also to the employees of the institution itself in realizing the production.



Tomi Reichental: I was a Boy in Belsen

Tomi Reichental interviewed by James Durney

Thu Oct 15th | 5.30pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

In 1944, at just nine years of age, **Tomi Reichental** was rounded up by the Gestapo and deported to Bergen Belsen concentration camp. When he was liberated in April 1945, Tomi discovered that thirty-five members of his extended family had been murdered. Living in Ireland since 1959, Tomi now regularly gives talks on his life, which has also been documented through the films, 'Till the Tenth Generation' and 'Close to Evil'. *I was a Boy in Belsen* was published in 2011 and he is currently writing his second book. Tomi will share the experiences of his extraordinary life with author and Kildare Historian-in-Residence, James Durney.



Things that go bump in the night...and why we love them!

Thur Oct 15th | 8pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

Join authors **Kim Newman** and **Maura McHugh** as they take a look back at the classic horror novels and ask the questions: Why have they endured? Why do they still scare us? They will also talk about how literature from the horror genre has influenced their own work and how classic monsters are continually re-imagined for new generations of horror fans. A wonderful evening of the 'macabre' for anyone with a love of horror and monsters, not only haunting their dreams, but their bookshelves as well!

Kim Newman is a novelist, critic and broadcaster. Author of several works including *An English Ghost Story*, *Horror!: The Definitive Companion to the Most Terrifying Movies Ever Made* [with James Marriot] and the *Anno Dracula* series, he is also a contributing editor to *Sight & Sound* and *Empire* magazines (writing *Empire's* popular Video Dungeon column). Kim has also scripted several radio and television documentaries.

Maura McHugh's short stories have appeared in anthologies, journals, and magazines. She has written several award-nominated comic book series, including co-writing *Witchfinder* with Kim Newman for Dark Horse Comics. She is also a screenwriter, playwright, critic, and has served on the juries of international literary, comic book, and film awards.



Adaptation: McCabe & McNamee on Film

Writer in Residence, Eoin McNamee, with special guest Pat McCabe, talk about the transition from page to screen

Fri Oct 16th | 8pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

Authors **Patrick McCabe** and **Eoin McNamee** will talk about the transition of their works from page to screen. Selected scenes from both author's films will be screened with readings from the texts that inspired them, and they will also discuss what is lost and what is gained between the page and the projector.

Eoin McNamee is our newly appointed Writer-in-Residence in partnership with the National University of Maynooth and Kildare Library & Arts Service. A prolific author, his novels include *Resurrection Man*, later made into a film and *The Blue Tango*, which was long listed for the Booker Prize. His latest work, *Blue Is The Night* won the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award 2015 at the opening night of Listowel Writers' Week, the biggest prize awarded for a book published by an Irish author.

Patrick McCabe has written many novels, including the acclaimed *The Dead School*. He also wrote *The Butcher Boy* and *Breakfast on Pluto*, both of which were adapted to film, and directed by Neil Jordan. A member of Aosdana, Patrick is married to artist Margot Quinn. He is currently working with CorcaDorca Theatre Company on the play, *Sacrifice at Easter*.



Ten Books You Should Read!

John Lonergan and Nell McCafferty | Stories for the Ear Awards to follow

Sat Oct 17th | 11am | Riverbank Arts Centre

John Lonergan and **Nell McCafferty** will each discuss five of their favourite books and why they think you should read them!

John Lonergan was Governor of Mountjoy Prison until his retirement in 2010. He has written an account of his experiences *The Governor, the life and times of the man who ran Mountjoy*. An advocate of reading, he also regularly speaks on social issues.

Nell McCafferty is a journalist, playwright, civil rights campaigner and feminist. In her journalistic work she has written for *The Irish Press*, *The Irish Times*, *Sunday Tribune*, *Hot Press* and *The Village Voice*.

This event will also host readings and the presentation to winners of the **2015 Stories for the Ear Awards**



Ceol Binn na Filíochta

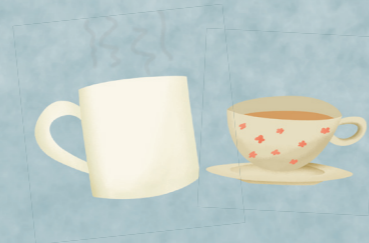
Aifric MacAodha, Gabriel Fitzmaurice, Treasa Harkin, Éanna Drury and Deirdre Hurley

Sat Oct 17th | 2pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

Bí gí reidh na lámha a chur le chéile do ócáid iontach, chorraitheach, anamúil le filí cáiliúla **Aifric Mac Aodha** agus **Gabriel Fitzmaurice** i gcomhlúadar le ceoltóirí croíúlachta **Treasa Harkin**, bosca ceoil; **Deirdre Hurley**, fliúit agus **Éanna Drury**, píobaí uilleann.

This is an event not to be missed for lovers of language and music!

Join well-known poets **Aifric MacAodha** and **Gabriel Fitzmaurice**, accompanied by distinguished traditional musicians **Treasa Harkin**, accordion; **Deirdre Hurley**, flute and **Éanna Drury** on pipes for a miscellany of poetry and traditional music.



Wild Hibernia

Peter Murphy with Louise O'Neill, Mike McCormack

Sat Oct 17th | 3.30pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

Peter Murphy, with Mike McCormack and Louise O'Neill will discuss the current rise of exciting literature that is somewhat different than the norm...

Peter Murphy, from Wexford, is a writer, spoken-word performer, musician and journalist. His debut novel, *John the Revelator* was shortlisted for both the Costa First Novel Award and the Kerry Group Prize for Fiction. His second novel, *Shall We Gather at the River*, once described by Kevin Barry as 'A wild inventive butt-kicker' and by Metro as 'Thrillingly unpredictable, if not downright malevolent', was published in 2013. Peter's band, *The Revelator Orchestra* released their second album *The Brotherhood of the Flood* in 2014. He is currently working on his third novel and a long-prose poem.

Mike McCormack from Galway, is the author of two collections of short stories *Getting it in the Head* [New York Times Notable Book of the Year] and *Forensic Songs*. He has also written two novels *Crowe's Requiem* and *Notes from a Coma*, shortlisted for the Irish Book of the Year in 2006, and is the recipient of several awards including the Rooney Prize and a Civitell Ranieri Fellowship.

Louise O'Neill from West Cork is the author of *Only Ever Yours*, winner of multiple awards including the inaugural YA Book Prize in 2015. Her second novel, *Asking For It*, has just been published and is already receiving rave reviews.



TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Thursday October 8th		
8pm	Fringe Event: Dennis O'Driscoll: An evening dedicated to his posthumous work, <i>Update</i>	Alice's Restaurant, Naas
Tuesday October 13th		
7pm	Fringe Event: North Kildare KRF Short Story Awards with Hazel Gaynor	NUI Maynooth Library
Wednesday October 14th		
7pm	Fringe Event: South Kildare KRF Short Story Awards with Emily Gillmor Murphy	Kildare Town Library
Thursday October 15th		
2.30pm	Honouring Voices: Adapting Hanna Greally's <i>Bird Nest Soup</i> for stage with panel	Riverbank Arts Centre
5.30pm	I Was a Boy in Belsen: Tomi Reichental interviewed by James Durney	Riverbank Arts Centre
8pm	Things That Go bump in the Night... and why we love them! With Kim Newman and Maura McHugh	Riverbank Arts Centre
Friday October 16th		
5.30pm	Fringe Event: Alternative Publishing Routes for Writers with Vanessa O'Loughlin, James Durney, James Lawless, and Hazel Gaynor. Facilitated by Mario Corrigan. Cecil Day Lewis Awards to follow, presented by Hazel Gaynor	Newbridge Library

**All events are FREE of charge, but are ticketed, so booking is essential.
Book online at www.riverbank.ie or call Box Office on 045 448327**

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
8pm	Adaptation: McCabe and McNamee on Film Writer in Residence, Eoin McNamee with special guest Pat McCabe, talk about the transition from page to screen.	Riverbank Arts Centre	
Saturday October 17th			
11am	10 Books You Should Read: John Loneragan and Nell McCafferty Stories for the Ear Awards to follow	Riverbank Arts Centre	
2pm	Ceol Binn na Filíochta Aifric MacAodha, Gabriel Fitzmaurice, Treasa Harkin, Éanna Drury and Deirdre Hurley	Riverbank Arts Centre	
3.30pm	Wild Hibernia: Peter Murphy with Louise O'Neill and Mike McCormack	Riverbank Arts Centre	
6.30pm	KRF Notebook Launch with guest speaker	Cafe/Gallery	
8pm	W.B. Yeats: A Life and Death Less Ordinary Chaired by Mary O'Donnell, with Anthony Quinn, Frank Shovlin and Maurice Sweeney	Riverbank Arts Centre	
Sunday October 18th			
11am	Sunday Session 1: Dermot Bolger interviewed by Joseph O'Connor	Riverbank Arts Centre	
12.30pm	Sunday Session 2: Dermot Bolger and Nuala O'Connor	Riverbank Arts Centre	
2.30pm	The Dubliners Dilemma: Performance based on ' Dubliners ' by James Joyce	Riverbank Arts Centre	

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KRF Notebook Launch

Sat Oct 17th | 6.30pm | Cafe/Gallery

If you only see one exhibition in your lifetime, this is the one to see! The KRF Notebook Project now extends to over 200 moleskin notebooks made by writers, film-makers and visual artists from all over the world.

By open invitation, artists were invited to write, draw, paint, paste, construct / deconstruct a standard A5 moleskin notebook in a creative way. Each notebook has been kindly donated by participating artists to Kildare County Council to become part of a permanent touring collection.

You can view excerpts from all of the notebooks donated to date at www.kildarenotebookproject.com but nothing beats spending an afternoon spent immersing yourself in this mesmerising, visual and often personal exhibition.

An exhibition of the notebooks will be on display in Riverbank Arts Centre as part of Kildare Readers Festival 2015.



W.B. Yeats: A life and death less ordinary...

Chaired by Mary O'Donnell, with Anthony Quinn, Frank Shovlin and Maurice Sweeney

Sat Oct 17th | 8pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

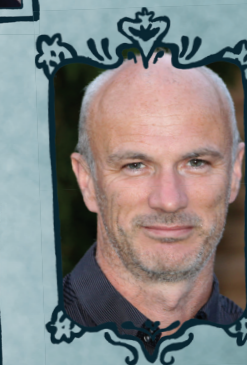
Author **Mary O'Donnell** will chair a delightful evening dedicated to the life and work of Yeats. Joining her will be author, **Anthony Quinn**, film director, **Maurice Sweeney** and academic and poet, **Frank Shovlin**. There will also be readings from some of **Yeats'** works.

Mary O'Donnell's most recent novel is *Where They Lie* (New Island Books). Other fiction includes the best-selling novels, *The Light Makers*, *Virgin and the Boy*, *The Elysium Testament*, and her short story collection, *Storm Over Belfast*. Her seventh collection of poetry, *Those April Fevers*, was published in 2015 by Arc UK. An award winning author, with previous residencies at the Princess Grace Irish Library, Monaco, and the Irish College in Paris, Mary currently teaches creative writing at Carlow University, Pittsburgh. She is also a member of Aosdana.

Anthony J. Quinn is an author and journalist. His debut novel, *Disappeared* was shortlisted for a Strand Literary Award in the United State and was listed by Kirkus Reviews as one of the top ten thrillers of 2012. After its UK publication in 2014, *Disappeared* was selected by the Daily Mail and the Times as one of the best crime novels of the year. *The Blood Dimmed Tide* [featuring Yeats as a character] and his latest book is *Border Angels*. His short stories have been short-listed twice for a Hennessy/New Irish Writing Award.

Maurice Sweeney is the director of RTE's award winning documentary *No Country for Old Men*, a study of the later works of Yeats. He has also directed the acclaimed *Saving the Titanic* and *Cromwell in Ireland*. He was the first Irish director to win a Gold Shark at the International Advertising Festival, Kinsale, and other work includes *Three 60*, the highly acclaimed series on disability in Ireland, and *That Was Then, This is Now*, specially commissioned as part of RTÉ's celebrated 'Time of Our Lives' season. In 2006, he won the IFTA for Best Sports Feature for RTÉ's *Micheál: The Sound of Sunday* and that same year he also won the IFTA for Best Single Documentary for *Flann O'Brien: The Lives of Brian*.

Frank Shovlin lectures at the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool and is one of Ireland's leading literary scholars. With extensive knowledge of the life and works of Yeats, he has contributed writings to several academic publications and is also the author of *Journey Westward: Joyce, Dubliners and the Literary Revival, 2014*

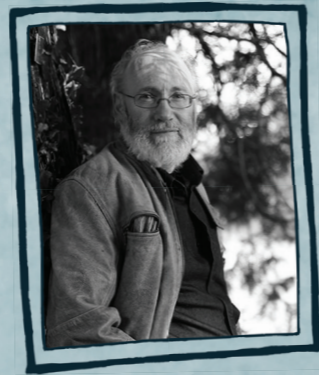


Sunday Session 1: Dermot Bolger interviewed by Joseph O'Connor

Sun Oct 18th | 11am - 12pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

Sunday Session Part One: **Dermot Bolger** is renowned for his continued support of authors and literary festivals, and since the beginnings of Kildare Readers Festival, has year after year, offered us support, bringing us amazingly talented guests, informative discussions and much fun and laughter. This year, acclaimed author Joseph O'Connor will turn the focus on one of our festival's favourite people to talk about his life and work. Not to be missed!

Joseph O'Connor is the author of eight novels: *Cowboys and Indians* (short-listed for the Whitbread Prize), *Desperadoes*, *The Salesman*, *Inishowen*, *Star of the Sea*, *Redemption Falls*, *Ghost Light* and *The Thrill of it All*, as well as the short story collections, *True Believers* and *Where Have You Been?*. He has also written radio diaries, film scripts and stage-plays including the multiple award-winning *Red Roses and Petrol* and an acclaimed adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's novel *My Cousin Rachel*. He has received an honorary Doctorate in Literature from University College Dublin, the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature, and in 2014, was appointed Frank McCourt Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Limerick.



Sunday Session 2: Dermot Bolger and Nuala O'Connor

Sun Oct 18th | 12.30pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

Sunday Session Part Two: In conversation with **Dermot Bolger**, **Nuala O'Connor** will discuss the challenges and particular rewards of writing historical fiction which blends in real life figures like Emily Dickinson interacting with characters who are figments of the author's imagination, so that the writer remains factually true to a particular place and time while also allowing their imagination the freedom to roam, invent and create true fiction.

Dermot Bolger is one of Ireland's best known writers with twelve published novels including *The Journey Home*, *The Family on Paradise Pier*, *A Second Life* and his latest, *Tanglewood*, published this summer. His debut play, *The Lament for Arthur Cleary*, received the Samuel Beckett Award and his numerous other plays include *The Ballymun Trilogy*. His acclaimed stage adaptation of James Joyce's *Ulysses* has just toured of China. His ninth collection of poems, *The Venice Suite: A Voyage Through Loss*, appeared in 2012 and his selected Poems, *That Which is Suddenly Precious*, appeared in autumn 2015. As an 18-year-old factory hand, Bolger founded the radical Raven Arts Press. He has edited many anthologies, has been Writer Fellow at Trinity College, Dublin, and in 2012 was named Commentator of the Year at the Irish Newspaper awards.

Nuala O'Connor's third novel, *Miss Emily*, about the poet Emily Dickinson and her Irish maid, has been recently published by Penguin USA, Penguin Canada and Sandstone (UK). Her critically acclaimed second novel *The Closet of Savage Mementos* appeared in 2014, also from New Island and was shortlisted for the Kerry Irish Novel of the Year Award 2015. She has also published four short story collections, the most recent *Mother America* appeared from New Island in 2012.



The Dubliners Dilemma

Sun Oct 18th | 2.30pm | Riverbank Arts Centre

Declan Gorman's solo show, *The Dubliners Dilemma*, has been hailed at home and abroad as "ingenious". Set in 1914 it opens with London publisher Grant Richards determined to re-read 'Dubliners' eight years after first rejecting the manuscript out of fear it might breach obscenity laws. As the streets of Dublin and the racy, comic tales of Joyce's childhood and young adult world spring to vivid life around him, Richards relives his frustrating correspondence with the petulant Irish writer. Should he risk everything now, second time around, and launch this volatile but brilliant genius on a world about to descend into the madness of war?



SAVE THE DATE!

Moonfish Theatre's production of *Star of the Sea*, based on the best selling novel written by Joseph O'Connor, is coming to Riverbank on **Friday 9th** and **Saturday 10th** of October. Moonfish are 'Theatre Company in Residence' at Riverbank Arts Centre.

Fringe Events

Dennis O'Driscoll:

An evening dedicated to his posthumous work *Update*

Thu Oct 8th | 8pm | Alice's Restaurant, Naas

Following on from last year's hugely popular "Walking Out – an evening celebrating the work of Dennis O'Driscoll", Alice's Restaurant is delighted to host "Update". An apt title, bearing the same name as "an outstanding poem" in the new collection of 33 poems providing a substantial update to the body of his published work.

Join **Éibhlin Ni Chearbhaill** with readers, **Mary McHugh**, **Martina Clancy**, **Philip Heak** and musicians **Caron Hannigan** on violin and **Conor Mahony** on classical guitar to experience "the inimitable humour, the searching eye, and the characteristic wit and wisdom of **Dennis O'Driscoll**".

Dennis O'Driscoll's books include nine collections of poetry, two of essays, two of literary quotations and *Stepping Stones: Interviews with Seamus Heaney*. Although born in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, this renowned poet, essayist and critic, lived in Naas until his untimely death in December 2012.



KRF Short Story Awards

Tue Oct 13th | 7pm | NUI Maynooth Library

Kildare Readers Festival are pleased to announce our inaugural **Short Story Competition**. Following a series of workshops in the North [facilitated by **Hazel Gaynor**] and South [facilitated by **Emily Gillmor Murphy**] of the county, two themes, Journey and Equine were selected for the competition. The quality of the entries received was exceptional, and invitations will be sent to all entrants and winners to attend as we present festival awards at two venues:



'Journey' Awards, judged by author **Oona Frawley**, will be presented to the winner and two runners-up for **North Kildare at Maynooth College Library, NUIM Campus, Maynooth, County Kildare. Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00pm.**



Wed Oct 14th | 7pm | Kildare Town Library



'Equine', Awards, judged by author **John MacKenna**, will be presented to the winner and two runners-up for South Kildare at **Kildare Library, Kildare Town. Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00pm.**

Alternative Publishing Routes for Writers

Fri Oct 16th | 5.30pm | Newbridge Library

Kildare writer and librarian, **Mario Corrigan** will chair an informative discussion on the changing landscape of publishing, and in particular, the alternative routes that writers can pursue to get their work out to readers. Mario will be joined by **Vanessa O'Loughlin**, **Hazel Gaynor**, **James Lawless** and **James Durney**. This event will take place in Newbridge Library.

Vanessa O'Loughlin is Ireland's leading literary scout, the founder of The Inkwel Group and of the online national writing resources magazine www.writing.ie. The current Chair of Irish PEN, she is also the Irish and Eurozone Adviser to the international organisation, The Alliance of Independent Authors.

Hazel Gaynor is the author of New York Times best seller *The Girl Who Came Home* which is also the RNA Historical Romantic Novel of the Year. Her new novel is *The Memory of Violets* and she has contributed to the soon to be published anthology, *Fall of Poppies, stories of love and the great war*. She was also the recipient of the Kildare County Council Cecil Day Lewis Award for Emerging Writers in 2012.

James Lawless is the author of several novels, including *Peeling Oranges*, *Finding Penelope* and *Knowing Women*. He has also written a meditation on modern poetry, *Clearing the Tangled Wood - Poetry as a Way of Seeing the World*. In 2014, he published a children's book of short stories, *The Adventures of JoJo*, and his latest work, *Noise and Sound Reflections*, was published in May 2015.

James Durney, award winning author and Kildare Historian-in-Residence, has written a number of books on both Irish and international history including *Irish Casualties in the Korean War 1950-53* and *In A Time of War 1914-1918*. James has worked with Irish language national broadcaster, TG4 on the development of their documentary series 'Mobs Mheiriceá'. He was also consultant and chief researcher on 'War Stories' from Irish national broadcaster RTE.

The event will also host the presentation to winners of the 2015 Cecil Day Lewis Awards.



1916 Commemorative Publications

As part of Kildare's Decade of Commemoration, and in particular reference to the **Easter Rising of 1916**, the following publications will be available to purchase at the festival this year. These titles will be launched in conjunction with the unveiling of a statue of '...the greatest of the Fenians' and the financier of the 1916 Rising...!', **John Devoy**, born in Kill, County Kildare.

The 1916 Rising and Kildare: James Durney

On Easter Monday 1916 1,600 men, women and children went out to fight for an independent Ireland. They faced the biggest and strongest empire in the world. The battle raged in Dublin for six days and resulted in 500 deaths and the destruction of many parts of the city. While mainly a Dublin affair many of the Volunteers were from outside the city; two dozen Kildare men and women took part in the Rising, including fifteen who walked from Maynooth to the GPO. Eight Kildare natives were killed in the Rising, while dozens more were wounded or imprisoned in the aftermath. The subsequent executions of the leaders of the Rising by the British awakened a generation to the cause of Irish freedom.

Through Peace and War. Kildare County Council in the years of revolution, 1899-1926: Tom Nelson

Kildare County Council met for the first time on 22 April 1899. Tom Nelson's study follows the setting up and administration of the Council through the 'revolution' in local politics in the 1890s, the First World War, 1916 Rising, War of Independence and subsequent Civil War, and the setting up of the Irish Free State. We get to know the personalities – unionist, nationalist and republican – who formed the Councils through those turbulent years.

Irish Rebel: John Devoy and America's Fight for Ireland's Freedom : Terry Golway

New revised edition of the critically acclaimed and seminal biography of John Devoy, by New York best-selling author Terry Golway. Described by Patrick Pearse as "...the greatest of the Fenians", John Devoy was the true architect of the Irish Independence movement and of Irish America, and his extraordinary life is beautifully portrayed in Golway's compelling narrative.

