

american
conference
for
írish studies/west

19th
annual meeting

**The Grove Hotel
Boise Idaho
October 10-12, 2003**

ACIS/West is grateful to the following generous sponsors:

Dónal Denham, Consul General of Ireland (San Francisco)

Idaho Humanities Council

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Richard Klautsch, Chair, Department of Theatre Arts

James Munger, Chair, Department of Biology

English Majors Association

presenters

Medbh McGuckian Queen's University Belfast



It had taken me more than an hour
To come to life, under the rose-encrusted
Influence of the star-driven morning.

— from *My Carmelite Family*

McGuckian says of her poetry, "My words are traps/through which you pick your way." Her intensely personal poems deal primarily with femininity and motherhood and familial relationships. Seamus Heaney noted that "Her language is like the inner lining of consciousness, the inner lining of English itself, and it moves amphibiously between the dreamlife and her actual domestic and historical experience as a woman in late twentieth century Ireland." *The New Yorker* recognized that "Her dreamlike poems underscore the notion that one finds clarity by repeatedly stepping outside one's usual frame of reference."

She has published several collections including: *The Flower Master* (1982), *Venus and the Rain* (1984), *On Ballycastle Beach* (1988), *Marconi's Cottage* (1991), *Captain Lavender* (1994), *Selected Poems* (1997), *Shelmalier* (1998), *Drawing Ballerinas* (2001) and *The Face of the Earth* (2002). Among her numerous awards are the Eric Gregory Award (1980), the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature (1982), the Alice Hunt Bartlett Award (1983), the Cheltenham Award (1989), the Bass Ireland Award for Literature (1991), and the Ireland Funds Literary Award (1998).

She attended Queen's University Belfast where she studied English and took classes from Seamus Heaney. She earned her M.A. in 1974, after which she began teaching English at the secondary school level. In 1986 she became the first woman writer-in-residence at Queen's University Belfast.

Medbh McGuckian's reading is sponsored in part by a grant from the Idaho Commission on the Arts and by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Dr. Ronald J. Russell
Trinity College Dublin

An expert in Applied Microbiology and Immunology, Dr. Russell has provided environmental and scientific consultancy to the Irish government, the EU, the EC, the World Bank, the UK, and a wide range of national and international businesses. He represents Ireland at the UN in relation to formulating protocols for verification of the Convention on Biological Weapons and Toxins. He will discuss the Irish response to environmental issues.

Dr. Russell's lecture is sponsored in part by the Cultural Relations Committee (Irish Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism).



Ronan Noone
Irish Playwright

Boston Magazine has given a 2003 Best of Boston award to playwright Ronan Noone as Best Young Playwright saying he "slings killer blarney" and noting the rave notices for the first two parts of the Baile trilogy produced in the 2002-03 season.

The final play, *The Gigolo Confessions of Baile Breag* (Town of Lies), opens in January at Sógán Theatre Company in Boston.

The first two plays in the trilogy, *The Lepers of Baile Baiste* and *The Blowin of Baile Gall*, received premieres during the 2002-03 season from the Sógán Theatre and Boston Playwrights' Theatre, respectively. *The Lepers of Baile Baiste* won the 2002 National Student Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and an IRNE award for Best New Play. *The Blowin of Baile Gall* won the 2003 Elliot Norton award for Outstanding New Script and an IRNE Award for Best New Play. Irish-born playwright Ronan Noone (above) completed his MA in Creative Writing at Boston University in 2001. Ronan won a 2003 Best of Boston award as Best Young Playwright from *Boston Magazine*.

Ronan Noone's lecture is sponsored in part by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council.



program

Friday, October 10

11:00-5:00

Registration — Ballroom

12:45-2:15

IRELAND'S WOMEN

Moderator: Virginia Mack, Central Washington University

"The LION plays upon the HARP too loud': Irish Politics in Early Children's Poems"

Donelle Ruwe, Northern Arizona University

"Medbh McGuckian: The Poetry Master"

Tammy Bowles, Portland State University (OR)

"Women and Irish Dance in San Francisco, 1900-1935"

Lynn Lubamersky, Boise State University (ID)

"Ballymun, Forty Years On"

Ann Owens Weekes, University of Arizona

2:30-4:15

IRISH DRAMATISTS

Moderator: Eileen Kearney, Texas A & M University

"Yeehaw! Playing Cowboys and Indians in the Work of Sebastian Barry"

Sharon Braden, University of California/Davis

"Creative Synergy: Violence and the Irish Dramatist"

Claudia Harris, Brigham Young University (UT)

"The Jezebel Witch' — Marked Body, Marked Destiny: Adultery and Witchcraft in Marina Carr's *By the Bog of Cats*"

Dannii McLin, Boise State University (ID)

"From Marxism to Multiculturalism: Irish Autobiographical Writing after Independence"

Bernice Schrank, Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada)

"Challenging the Audience: The Political Function of Tragicomic Structure in *The Dreaming of the Bones* and *Purgatory*"

Maureen S. G. Hawkins, University of Lethbridge (Alberta, Canada)

5:00

No Host Reception — Ballroom

Welcome: Donal Denham, Consul General of Ireland/San Francisco

6:00

DINNER — Ballroom

Sponsored by the Consul General of Ireland/San Francisco

7:00

Vans to Boise State campus leave from main entrance to Grove Hotel

- 7:30 Boise State Theatre Arts production of Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*
"Talk About It" — Post-performance discussion of Beckett and *Endgame*. Morrison Center Stage II, Boise State campus
 Moderator: Leslie Durham, Boise State University (ID)
 Ronan Noone, Worcester State College (MA)
 Eileen Kearney, Texas A & M University
 Charlotte Headrick, Oregon State University

Saturday, October 11

- 8:30-10:00 **THE IRISH IN WESTERN NORTH AMERICA**
 Moderator: Susan Reese, Portland State University (OR)
 "The Irish and Montana Politics"
 Marc Johnson, The Gallatin Group (Boise ID)
 "Hugh Quigley: A Tall Tale Unwrapped"
 Johana Schwartz, Stanford University (CA)
 "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Road: Kerouac's and McCann's Peregrinations into the American West"
 John F. Healy, Central Methodist College (MO)
 "Examining the Dispossessed: Paintings of Erskine Nicol and Paul Kane"
 Susan Smallwood Herold, University of Northern Colorado
- 10:15-11:15 **PARALLEL RESISTANCE AND RENEWAL: LESSONS FROM IRISH AND LAKOTA EXPERIENCES**
 * Paul Robertson, Oglala Lakota College, Pine Ridge Reservation (SD)
 Brenda Freeman, Nagi Kicopi, Pine Ridge Reservation (SD),
 Northwest Nazarene University (ID)
 Kenneth Coll, Boise State University (ID)
- 11:30-12:30 **THE IRISH RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
 Dr. Ronald Russell, Trinity College Dublin
 Introduction: Michael Blain, Boise State University (ID)
- 12:30-1:00 **BUSINESS MEETING**
- 1:00-2:30 **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
- 2:30-3:30 **IRISH DRAMA, SINNING WITHOUT COMMITTING A SIN: HOW THE MACABRE HUMOR IN IRISH DRAMA CONTINUES TO EVOLVE OUT OF A PAGAN SPIRIT**
 Playwright Ronan Noone, Worcester State College (MA)
 Introduction: Charlotte Headrick, Oregon State University

- 4:00-5:30 **IRELAND'S WEST**
 Moderator: Bill Potts, Oregon State University
 "The Painter of the Western World: Paul Henry and Connacht"
 Robert F. Garratt, University of Puget Sound (WA)
 "Cattle Rustling, Ringsend, and Flann O'Brien's Wild West"
 Steve Arkin, San Francisco State University (CA)
 "Accepting the West in Oneself in Eilís Ni Dhuibhne's *The Dancers Dancing*"
 Jeanette Shumaker, San Diego State University (CA)
 "MacNeice on Holiday in Iceland and Ireland: From Sarcasm to Commitment"
 Brian Dillon, Montana State University

6:00 No Host Reception and Irish Dancers-Ballroom

- 6:30 **BANQUET — Ballroom**
 Hosted by Boise State University

- 7:30 **POETRY READING**
 Medbh McGuckian, Queen's University Belfast
 Introduction: Helen Lojek, Boise State University (ID)

Sunday, October 12

- 8:00-9:30 **BREAKFAST DISCUSSION: An Institute for Irish Studies in the West?**
 Moderator: Donal Denham, Consul General of Ireland
 Margaret McPeake, New College of California
 Ann Owens Weekes, University of Arizona
- 9:45-11:15 **WRITING IRISH LIVES**
 Moderator: Audrey Eyer, Pacific Lutheran University (WA)
 "Crime and Punishment in Joyce and Eco"
 Marguerite Quintelli-Neary, Winthrop University (SC)
 "Swimming Lessons: Poetry by Anne Fitzgerald"
 Anne Fitzgerald, Abbey Theatre Dublin
 "How *Confessions of a Shanty Irishman* Came into Being"
 Michael Corrigan, Idaho State University
 "Writing *Stealing Sunlight*"
 Angie Blain, Boise State University (ID)
- 11:30-1:00 **IRISH/IRISH AMERICAN ISSUES**
 Moderator: James Walsh, San Jose State University (CA)
 "The Coming of the Black and Tans: British Policy and the Irish Troubles"
 Martin F. Seedorf, Eastern Washington University

(continued)

"From Home Rulers to Sinn Feiners: The Transformation of
Irish-Canadian Nationalist Identity, 1912-1925"

Robert McLaughlin, University of Maine

"Image and Pseudo-Image: What Do Americans Expect
when Seeking Their Ancestors in Ireland?"

Nina M. Ray and Gary McCain, Boise State University
(ID)

"The Leadville Irish"

James P. Walsh, University of Colorado/Boulder

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