

SYNGE SUMMER SCHOOL



Synge

RATHDRUM, CO. WICKLOW, IRELAND

DATE 30th June – 3rd July 2011

WEBSITE www.syngesummerschool.org

EMAIL info@syngesummerschool.org

This year, the Synge Summer School celebrates its twentieth birthday. Many things have changed since 1991, yet Irish drama has retained its capacity to reflect upon and engage with our society – and to change it too.

In the 2011 School, we'll consider how Irish theatre responds during times of crisis: not just the present economic disaster, but earlier events like the Troubles, the War of Independence, and so on. By thinking about how Irish theatre has changed our country in the past, we hope to identify some ways in which it might transform our present.

As always, the figure of John Millington Synge will be central to events, but we'll hear about a range of other Irish authors too. There will also be a special focus this year on Irish women dramatists, with lectures and seminars on that topic, an opportunity to hear from the Abbey's Literary Manager Aideen Howard, and the performance of two plays by the exciting young writer Una McKeivitt.

We also host a special lecture by Colm Tóibín, who will be discussing his memories of Irish theatre during the 1980s, the era of Brian Friel's *Faith Healer* and Tom Murphy's *Bailegangaire*.

The Synge Summer School is also an opportunity to meet new people, and to relax in the peaceful setting of Avondale House and Forest Park. We'll be arranging a tour of Synge Country, which will take in some of Wicklow's most beautiful places – and there will also be a visit to the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray. As always, the School is open to anyone with an interest in Irish drama. Our participants come from all walks of life, all parts of Ireland, and from many different countries around the world.

We look forward to welcoming you to Rathdrum for what promises to be a pleasant and stimulating (long) weekend.

Patrick Lonergan
Director
Patrick.Lonergan@nuigalway.ie

LECTURES

- Christopher Collins, "The Lord Protect us from the saints of God!': Saints, Sinners and Synge."
Aideen Howard, "New Writing and New Writers at the Abbey Theatre"
Cathy Leeny, "All Over Again: New Beginnings in Irish Theatre?"
Patrick Lonergan, "Irish Drama in Times of Crisis"
James Moran, "Synge and Ezra Pound"
Chris Morash, "There Does Be A Power of Young Men Floating Round in the Sea:" Space, Place and Placelessness After Synge.
Aisling Mullan, "Synge's Mediation of Scripture and Primitive Custom in *The Shadow of the Glen*."
Riana O'Dwyer, "That's how I spell IRELAND": Tom Murphy's drama from 1959 to 2009.
Emer O'Toole, "Intercultural Playboys: Contemporary Conflicts."
Fintan Walsh, "Saving Ulster from Sodomy and Hysteria: Sexual and Political Performance in Northern Ireland."

SPECIAL EVENTS

- "Darkening the Past; Lighting up the Future: Irish Theatre in the 1980s". A lecture about Irish theatre in the 1980s by Colm Tóibín.
Performances of Una McKeivitt's *565+* and *Victor and Gord* at the Mermaid Arts Centre. Followed by post-show discussion.

SEMINARS

- Synge and Contemporary Irish Drama
Contemporary Irish Women Dramatists
Joseph O'Connor's *Ghost Light*
Queer Theatre and Performance

OTHER EVENTS

- Tour of Synge Country
Book Launch: *Synge and His Influences: Centenary Essays from the Synge Summer School*
Tour of Avondale House and Park
Traditional Irish night

GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUES

Conference Centre, Avondale House; Brockagh Centre, Laragh.

TRANSPORT

A daily train and bus service to Rathdrum is available from Dublin city centre. During the School transport will be arranged for school outings. Unrestricted parking is available at all the School venues.

REGISTRATION

Thursday 30th June 2011, 12.00 –13.30, Avondale House.

LECTURES

There will be two lectures each day, with coffee break between lectures. All events are in the Conference Centre, Avondale House unless otherwise stated in the programme.

SEMINARS

Participants may choose to attend one of four seminars; details of seminars are available on the website.

THEATRE AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Visit to Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray; Special Lecture by Colm Tóibín; Tour of Synge Country; Tour of Avondale House and Park.

FEES

The fee for 2011 is €250. (A special rate of €130 is available to fulltime students – please see our website for further details). This fee includes all lectures, readings, theatre outings, transport to venues (other than Avondale House).

APPLICATION

The application form overleaf should be completed and returned with deposit by 31st May 2011. The balance of fees must be paid on acceptance. **Places at the school are limited so you are urged to apply early.** The School is intended for those with an interest in Irish Theatre and is **definitely not** restricted to university students or graduates.

ACCOMMODATION

A variety of accommodation is available in the area of the School; on site at the Avondale Annexe, local B & Bs and Hotels. Please see our webpage for more information and booking details.

**Full programme is available on
www.syngesummerschool.org**

SYNGE SUMMER SCHOOL 2011 APPLICATION FORM

Please return this form with a deposit of €50 per person to
The Secretary, Mrs Liz Elkinson,
Ballinatone, Greenane, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.
Email: info@syngesummerschool.org

Forms must be returned by 31st May 2011.
All places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The balance of the fee is due on acceptance of application. If you subsequently withdraw, the deposit will **NOT** be refunded.

Surname

Title

First Name

Address

.....

.....

Email

SEMINARS

Seminars are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If your first choice has been over-subscribed when we receive your form, we will contact you.

Please choose **one** of the four seminars:

- Joseph O'Connor's *Ghost Light*
 Queer Performance
 Synge and Contemporary Irish Drama
 Drama by Irish Women

COST

Full rate: €250

Student rate: €130 (please send photocopy of Student ID with form)

The fee covers access to all lectures, participation in one seminar, the visit to the theatre on Friday night (including transportation from Avondale House and one ticket to the play), the visit to the reading on the Saturday night (including transportation from Avondale House and one ticket to the reading), and tours of Avondale House and Synge Country.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PROGRAMME INCLUDE:



- ▶ Lectures and seminars by leading scholars of Irish Drama. As always, they will focus not only on the works of J.M. Synge but also on many other Irish writers.
- ▶ A lecture by Colm Tóibín, novelist and dramatist, entitled "Darkening the Past; Lighting up the Future: Irish Theatre in the 1980s".
- ▶ A busy social programme, which includes a visit to the Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, for a production of Una McKeivitt's *565+* and *Victor and Gord*.
- ▶ A tour of Synge Country and Avondale House.



CONTACT DETAILS

Website: www.syngesummerschool.org
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City of Literature