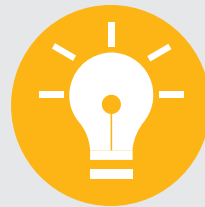




Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

Our DCU Virtual Book Club

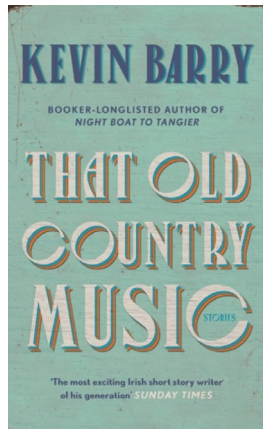


Our DCU Virtual Book Club

Connect with the DCU community through the love of reading! From February until May, DCU is hosting a virtual monthly book club for our staff community. Here is some information on the books and writers featured in this series. Enjoy!

Book in February

That Old Country Music by Kevin Barry



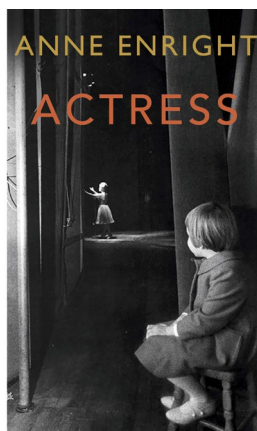
Kevin Barry has been acclaimed as one of the world's most accomplished and gifted short-story writers. In this third collection, *That Old Country Music*, we encounter a ragbag of west of Ireland characters, many on the cusp between love and catastrophe, heartbreak and epiphany, resignation and hope. These stories show an Ireland in a condition of great flux but also as a place where older rhythms, and an older magic, somehow persist. Barry's lyric intensity, the vitality of his comedy, and the darkness of his vision recall the work of masters of the genre like Flannery O'Connor and William Trevor, but he has forged a style which is patently his own.

Kevin Barry is the author of the novels *Night Boat to Tangier* (2019), *Beatlebone* (2015), and *City of Bohane* (2011) and the story collections, *There Are Little Kingdoms* (2007) and *Dark Lies the Island* (2012). *Night Boat to Tangier* was long-listed for the 2019 Booker Prize and was named one of the *New York Times* Top Ten Books of 2019 and *City of Bohane* was awarded the International Dublin Literary Award in 2013. Kevin Barry was born in Limerick but now lives in Sligo.

Review: 'Playful and beautifully crafted stories.' - *The Irish Times*

Book in March

Actress by Anne Enright



Actress is a brilliant and moving novel about fame, sexual power, and a daughter's search to understand her mother's hidden truths. This is the story of Irish theatre legend Katherine O'Dell, as told by her daughter Norah. It tells of early stardom in Hollywood, of highs and lows on the stages of Dublin and London's West End. Brilliantly capturing the glamour of post-war America and the shabbiness of 1970s Dublin, Actress is an intensely moving, disturbing novel about mothers and daughters and the men in their lives.

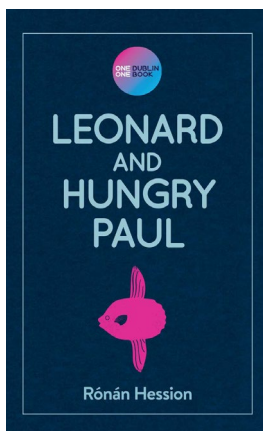
Anne Enright is from Dublin, where she lives and works. She has written two collections of stories, published together as *Yesterday's Weather*, one book of non-fiction, *Making Babies*, and six novels, including *The Gathering*, which won the 2007 Man Booker Prize, *The Forgotten Waltz*, which was awarded the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and *The Green Road*, which was the Bord Gáis Energy Novel of the Year and won the Kerry Group Irish Fiction Award. In 2015 she was appointed as the first Laureate for Irish Fiction, and in 2018 she received the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature.

Review: 'A meditative, elusive, exploratory book ... full of luscious melancholy.'
- The Guardian

Book in April

Leonard and Hungry Paul by Rónán Hession

As part of One Dublin One Book Initiative



Leonard and Hungry Paul are two quiet friends who see the world differently. They use humour, board games and silence to steer their way through the maelstrom that is the 21st Century. This book is a charming and warm-hearted look at ordinary people who have the ability to change their world, not by effort or force, but through their appreciation of all that is special and overlooked in life.

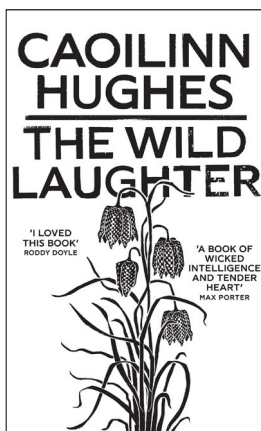
Rónán Hession is an Irish writer based in Dublin. Leonard and Hungry Paul is his debut novel. It has been nominated for a number of prizes, including the Irish Novel of the Year and the British Book Award for Best Debut. He has also been longlisted for the An Post Irish Book Awards for Short Story of the Year. Rónán's second novel, Panenka, will be published in May 2021.

One Dublin One Book aims to encourage everyone in Dublin to read a designated book connected with the capital city during the month of April every year. This annual project is a Dublin City Council initiative, led by Dublin City Libraries and encourages reading for pleasure.

'God, what a voice Ronan has. It is spectacular and already feels like a cult classic. I was absolutely hooked.' - Donal Ryan, Man Booker and Costa listed author.

Book in May

The Wild Laughter by Caoilinn Hughes



A sharp snapshot of a family and a nation suddenly unmoored, this epic-in-miniature explores cowardice and sacrifice, faith rewarded and abandoned, the stories we tell ourselves and the ones we resist. Hilarious, poignant and utterly fresh, *The Wild Laughter* cements Caoilinn Hughes' position as one of Ireland's most audacious, nuanced and insightful young writers.

Originally from Galway, Caoilinn Hughes is the author of two novels and one collection of poetry, *Gathering Evidence*. Her debut work of fiction, *Orchid & the Wasp* won the Collyer Bristow Prize, was shortlisted for the Hearst Big Book Awards, the Butler Literary Award and longlisted for the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award. Her work has appeared in *Granta*, *POETRY* Tin House, *Best British Poetry*, BBC Radio 3 and elsewhere. She has a PhD from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and she was recently Visiting Writer at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. For her short fiction, she won The Moth International Short Story Prize 2018 and an O.Henry Prize in 2019.

Review: 'A razor-sharp snapshot of a family and a nation in trouble, in language that is vital and richly inventive.' *The Irish Times*

