

Dalkey Book Festival 2026

Events at a Glance

Thursday 18

LORETO ABBEY	CUALA
10:00 am	
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5:00 pm	The David McWilliams Podcast David McWilliams, John Davis, Soumaya Keynes
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6:15 pm	
6:30 pm	Standing Up to Putin: Nadya Tolokonnikova
6:45 pm	
7:00 pm	
7:15 pm	
7:30 pm	
7:45 pm	
8:00 pm	Anne Enright: Pay Attention! Anne Enright and Declan Hughes
8:15 pm	
8:30 pm	American culture: who is shaping the nation's story? Jeanine Cummins, Mark Blyth, Mary Cregan, with Finn McRedmond
8:45 pm	
9:00 pm	
9:15 pm	
9:30 pm	
9:45 pm	

Friday 19

LORETO ABBEY	CUALA	ST PATRICK'S CHURCH	SEAFRONT	HERITAGE CENTRE	TOWN HALL	
10:00 am	BYOB* Comedy ("baby") Colm O'Regan & more					
10:15 am						
10:30 am						
10:45 am						
11:00 am		Unorthodox Deborah Feldman with David McWilliams				
11:15 am						
11:30 am						
11:45 am						
12:00 pm	Clean Energy and The Dirtiest Supply Chain on Earth Nicolas Niarchos with Ruth Freeman	The Good Russian Jana Bakunina with Patrick Freyne	An Irishman's Diary Frank McNally with Caroline Erskine			
12:15 pm						
12:30 pm						
12:45 pm						
1:00 pm						
1:15 pm						
1:30 pm						
1:45 pm						
2:00 pm	Making Europe Great Again Lea Ypi, Katja Hoyer, Robert Shrimley, David McWilliams with Mark Blyth	How Physics Can Save Your Life Zahaan Bharmal with Ruth Freeman	The World After Gaza Ramita Navai, Sally Hayden, Deborah Feldman, Avi Shlaim with Pat Leahy			
2:15 pm						
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4:00 pm	Charlie Mackesy: Always Remember Charlie Mackesy	The Importance of Being Oscar Merlin Holland with Caolinn Hughes	Obama to MAGA Lionel Shriver, Cullen Murphy, Ece Temelkuran with Colm O'Regan			
4:15 pm						
4:30 pm						
4:45 pm						
5:00 pm					Gaza: Doctors Under Attack Documentary and Q&A with Ramita Navai and Frank McNally	
5:15 pm						
5:30 pm						
5:45 pm						
6:00 pm	Tim Berners-Lee: the most influential inventor of the modern world Tim Berners-Lee with Mark Little	Portrait of an Artist Colin Davidson with Mark Carruthers	Being John Banville John Banville with Caroline Erskine	China-Taiwan, Deep Dive Angelica Oung and Yanmei Xie with Bill Emmott	Mr Hoo and Other Stories John O'Donnell with Ian Robertson	
6:15 pm						
6:30 pm						
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8:00 pm	Democracy in an Age of Radicalism Robert Shrimley, Avi Shlaim, Lionel Shriver with Rory Carroll	Reimagining Ireland's Economy David McWilliams, Mark Blyth, Jennifer Bray, Finn McRedmond with Pat Leahy	Jeremy Bowen: The Battle for Truth Jeremy Bowen with Andrea Catherwood	Hungry, a Biography of My Body Katriona O'Sullivan with Barbara Scully	Irish Writers: A Kaleidoscopic Portrait Martin Doyle with Martina Devlin	Love Forms Claire Adam with Caolinn Hughes
8:15 pm						
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Saturday 20

LORETO ABBEY	CUALA	FITZPATRICK CASTLE
10:00 am	Is This What Fascism Looks Like? Robert Shrimley, Katja Hoyer, David McWilliams with Colm O'Regan	
10:15 am		
10:30 am		
10:45 am		
11:00 am		
11:15 am		
11:30 am	Sebastian Faulks: Reluctant Memoirist Sebastian Faulks with Andrea Catherwood	
11:45 am		
12:00 pm	Outsiders Jeanine Cummins with John Boyne	
12:15 pm		
12:30 pm		Understanding Iran Ramita Navai, Sally Hayden, Alan Shatter, Avi Shlaim with Colm O'Regan
12:45 pm		
1:00 pm		
1:15 pm		
1:30 pm		
1:45 pm		
2:00 pm	The Man Who Changed The World Jimmy Wales with Luke O'Neill	The Left and The Lucky Willy Vlautin and Roddy Doyle
2:15 pm		
2:30 pm		
2:45 pm		The Oil Shock: 1973 All Over Again? Mark Blyth, David McWilliams, Sony Kapoor, Soumaya Keynes with David Murphy
3:00 pm		
3:15 pm		
3:30 pm		
3:45 pm		
4:00 pm	Far-Right France Nicolas Marcoux, Victor Mallet, Jean-Baptiste Andrea, Hanna Assoulina, with David McWilliams	History of Information Chris Houghton
4:15 pm		
4:30 pm		Britain 10 Years After Brexit Sebastian Faulks, Robert Shrimley, Andrea Catherwood, Lea Ypi with Colm O'Regan
4:45 pm		
5:00 pm		
5:15 pm		
5:30 pm		
5:45 pm		
6:00 pm	What would the Founding Fathers think? Peter Frankopan, Lionel Shriver, Cullen Murphy, Fintan O'Toole with Mark Blyth	Adapt or Die: Your Future in an AI World Jimmy Wales, Sony Kapoor, Des Traynor with Jess Kelly
6:15 pm		
6:30 pm		Weimar, Life on the Edge of Catastrophe Katja Hoyer with David McWilliams
6:45 pm		
7:00 pm		
7:15 pm		
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7:45 pm		
8:00 pm	The New Rome: Fall of an Empire and the Fate of America Cullen Murphy with Fintan O'Toole	Peter Frankopan: The World in 2030 Peter Frankopan with Naoise Nunn
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Events at a Glance

Saturday 20

	ST PATRICK'S CHURCH	SEAFRONT	HERITAGE CENTRE	TOWN HALL	LORETO LECTURE THEATRE	MASONIC LODGE	THE VICO
10:00 am							Create Your Own Bookshop: A Creative Writing Workshop for Children (Age 9+) Sarah Webb
10:15 am							
10:30 am			Hugh Leonard Centenary Walk (c.75 mins) Danielle Keyes Byrne	Resisting for Peace: Can Jews and Arabs Live Together? Documentary and Q&A Hanna Assouline, Sonia Terrab with Rick O'Shea	From Personal to Universal: (Age 18+) A Writing Workshop with Miriam Mulcahy		
10:45 am							
11:00 am	The Pain of Exile Hisham Matar with Roddy Doyle	China's Next Move? Yanmei Xie, Angelica Oung and Sony Kapoor with Bill Emmott	The Heart of Portugal Afonso Reis Cabral with Barbara Scully			Every Time We Say Goodbye Ivana Sajko with Katy Derbyshire	
11:15 am							
11:30 am							Master of Monsters (Age 8+) Dave Rudden
11:45 am							
12:00 pm							
12:15 pm							
12:30 pm			Portugal: Europe's Cultural Gem Madalena Vidigal, Susana Cereja, Afonso Reis Cabral with David McWilliams			Mary Costello: A Beautiful Loan Mary Costello with Madeleine Keane	
12:45 pm	Watching Over Her Jean-Baptiste Andrea with Jennifer O'Connell	Nation of Strangers Ece Temelkuran with Rick O'Shea					Chris Houghton's Picture Books (Age 4-6) Chris Houghton
1:00 pm							
1:15 pm							
1:30 pm				Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Merve Emre, Mary Cregan with Jan Carson			
1:45 pm							
2:00 pm			In Search of Beethoven John Suchet		Worldsmiths: A Fantasy Writing Workshop (Age 16+) With Dave Rudden		
2:15 pm							
2:30 pm	Troubled Relations: Ireland & Britain Fintan O'Toole and Philip Stephens with Andrea Catherwood					Doireann Ni Ghríofa: Said the Dead Doireann Ni Ghríofa with Jennifer O'Connell	Create a Comics Character with Sarah Bowie (Age 8-12) Sarah Bowie
2:45 pm		Growing Up Communist Lea Ypi, Jana Bakunina, Katja Hoyer, Ivana Sajko with Pat Leahy					
3:00 pm							
3:15 pm							
3:30 pm			Few and Far Between Jan Carson with Barry Devlin	Women in the Picture Catherine McCormack with Caoilinn Hughes			
3:45 pm							
4:00 pm					Illuminating Translations, A Workshop (Age 18+) with Katy Derbyshire	Walking to the Foot of the Sky Miriam Mulcahy with Barbara Scully	Evil Duck and the Nest of Destiny (Age 6+) Chris Judge
4:15 pm							
4:30 pm	Literary Celebrity in the Culture War Era Rob Doyle with John Boyne	Going Nuclear Angelica Oung, Paul Behrens, Nicolas Niarchos, Mark Blyth with Rory Carroll					
4:45 pm							
5:00 pm							
5:15 pm							
5:30 pm			Wendy Erskine: The Benefactors Wendy Erskine with Roisin Kiberd	Tishani Doshi: Egrets, While War Tishani Doshi with Gary Jermyn		The Lies Between Us Jennifer Bray with Martina Devlin	
5:45 pm							
6:00 pm					Sparks of Everyday Magic Naomi Ishiguro, Dave Rudden, Brian Franklin with Jan Carson		
6:15 pm							
6:30 pm	Indignity, A Life Reimagined Lea Ypi with Ian Roberston						
6:45 pm		This Is Also A Love Story Sally Hayden with Gary Jermyn					
7:00 pm							
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7:45 pm				A Better Life: Lionel Shriver Lionel Shriver with Jennifer O'Connell			
8:00 pm							
8:15 pm							
8:30 pm	The Willy Vlautin Sessions Willy Vlautin with David Murphy and Patrick Freyne		The Boy, The Bucket and The Persistent Tide Charlie Jermyn with John Lappin				
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Sunday 21

	LORETO ABBEY	CUALA	TOWN HALL	FINNEGAN'S/HERITAGE CENTRE
10:00 am				
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11:00 am				
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11:30 am				History of the Dublin Pub Donal Fallon and Naoise Nunn FINNEGAN'S
11:45 am				
12:00 pm	AI is Theft Merve Emre, Des Traynor, Chris Houghton, Anne Enright with Ruth Freeman	Roger Casement: Local Hero, Rebel, Traitor Rory Carroll with David McWilliams	Everybody Has A Story Rónán Hession with Rick O'Shea	
12:15 pm				
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2:00 pm	The Library of Traumatic Memory Neil Jordan with Rick O'Shea		Emilio Pucci Idanna Pucci, Terence Ward with Naoise Nunn	The Flower Bearers Rachel Eliza Griffiths with Madeleine Keane HERITAGE CENTRE
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4:00 pm		An Optimist's Guide to The Future Jana Bakunina, Willy Vlautin, Angelica Oung, Sony Kapoor with David McWilliams	Experts in a Dying Field Patrick Freyne with Jennifer O'Connell	
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5:30 pm	Salman Rushdie: A Life in Writing Salman Rushdie with Merve Emre			
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7:30 pm		David O'Doherty: Highway to the David Zone David O'Doherty		
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