



**'I CANNOT RECOMMEND IT HIGHLY ENOUGH'**  
**RYAN TUBRIDY, RTÉ RADIO**

**'WHEN I THINK OF GHOST LIGHT, THE WORDS CLIMB OVER EACH OTHER TO BE FIRST IN THE QUEUE, BRILLIANT, BEAUTIFUL, EXHILARATING, HEARTBREAKING, MASTERLY. IT'S THAT GOOD.'**  
**RODDY DOYLE**

**'AS I READ GHOST LIGHT, I FOUND MYSELF GOING MORE AND MORE SLOWLY, BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO MISS A SINGLE SENTENCE. I FOUND MYSELF CALLING FRIENDS AND READING PASSAGES ALOUD TO THEM OVER THE PHONE. THIS IS A RARE EXPERIENCE INDEED. IT IS A RARE AND WONDERFUL BOOK.'** **MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, PULITZER PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR OF THE HOURS**

**'A BOOK SO BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN I DID NOT WANT IT TO END'** **IRISH TIMES**

## A NOVEL BREAK

Win an opportunity for you and your book club, co-workers, neighbours, friends or family to meet Joseph O'Connor, author of *Ghost Light!*  
 Dates available: 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of April. Post or email your name, proposed location of meeting, group size and preferred time of meeting to [catherine.duffy@dublincity.ie](mailto:catherine.duffy@dublincity.ie) or Catherine Duffy, Dublin One City One Book, Dublin City Library & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. **Closing date: 31st March 2011**

## SHORT STORY COMPETITION

To celebrate the choice of Joseph O'Connor's *Ghost Light* for Dublin: One City, One Book Festival 2011, Dublin City Public Libraries, in association with Dublin UNESCO City of Literature are running a short story competition for previously unpublished authors, which must incorporate this *Ghost Light* quote "He was the sort of man who makes you think the movement of foliage might be causing the breeze." Entries no more than 1,000 words should be submitted by email to [catherine.duffy@dublincity.ie](mailto:catherine.duffy@dublincity.ie). Closing date: 31st March 2011. The winning entry\* will be published on Dublin: One City, One Book [www.dublinonecityonebook.ie](http://www.dublinonecityonebook.ie) and Dublin UNESCO City of Literature [www.dublincityofliterature.ie](http://www.dublincityofliterature.ie) and the winner will receive a €100 book token. \*Please note: The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

VINTAGE BOOKS [www.vintage-books.co.uk](http://www.vintage-books.co.uk)

## DUBLIN: ONE CITY, ONE BOOK EVENTS

### Saturday April 9th 6pm Juno and The Paycock (1930)

A film directed by Alfred Hitchcock, featuring Molly Allgood/Máire O'Neill as Maisie Madigan, Molly's sister Sara stars in the title role.  
 Irish Film Institute, 6 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2  
 Booking essential. Tel: 01 679 3477 or online at [www.ifi.ie](http://www.ifi.ie)  
 Standard IFI ticket prices apply.

### Sunday April 10th 4pm

**Patti Smith: Dream of Life (2008)**  
 A documentary about the writer, artist, poet, photographer, singer and music heroine of Joseph O'Connor. As Molly was muse and collaborator to J.M. Synge, so too was Smith's inspiration, lover and partner to Robert Mapplethorpe.  
 Irish Film Institute, 6 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2  
 Booking essential. Tel: 01 679 3477 or online at [www.ifi.ie](http://www.ifi.ie)  
 Standard IFI ticket prices apply.

### Monday 11th April – Friday 15th April 11:13pm

**RTÉ Radio One's Book on One** features Joseph O'Connor reading from *Ghost Light*.

### Tuesday 12th April 6pm The Language of Synge

Dr Declan Kiberd discusses Synge, the Irish language and the use of Hiberno-English in Joseph O'Connor's *Ghost Light*.  
 The Abbey Theatre Bar, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1  
 Booking essential. Admission €3 (Free for Abbey Theatre members)  
 Booking Tel: 01 878 7222 or online [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

### Thursday 14th April 1pm Dress in the Edwardian Era

Alex Ward traces the evolution of costume in the early 21st Century.  
 The National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
 Admission free. Booking not necessary.  
 Further information: 01 603 0200 or e-mail: [info@nli.ie](mailto:info@nli.ie)

### Thursday 14th, Friday 15th & Saturday 16th April 1.15pm Synge's Changeling

A performance of love, loss, music, drama and passion highlighting the life of Molly Allgood (Máire O'Neill) – J.M. Synge's 'Changeling'.  
 St. Ann's Church, Dawson St, Dublin 2  
 Admission €5. Tickets available at door.

### Thursday 14th April 6:30pm Synge and The Poetry of Gerard Dawe

Gerard Dawe discusses Synge's work through his own poetry.  
 Dundrum Library, Upper Churchtown Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14  
 Admission free. Booking essential.  
 Booking Tel: 01 298 5000 or email: [dundrumlib@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:dundrumlib@dlrcoco.ie)

### Saturday 16th April 11am – 2pm

**Keep an eye out for J.M. Synge** (actor, Stephen Holland) reading from *Ghost Light* at bookshops and on the city streets.

### Sunday 17th April 1:30pm John Millington Synge – Art & the West

Dr Eimear O'Connor examines Synge's artistic response to the West of Ireland through his own photography and text.  
 Dublin City Gallery, the Hugh Lane, Charlemont House, Parnell Square North  
 Admission free.  
 Early arrival is recommended.  
 Information Tel: 01 222 5550 or email: [info.hughlane@dublincity.ie](mailto:info.hughlane@dublincity.ie)

### Tuesday 19th April 6pm The Real Molly Allgood

Professor Anthony Roche gives an insightful account of the real Molly Allgood, muse of J.M. Synge, original Pegeen Mike and celebrated international actress of stage and film.  
 The Abbey Theatre Bar, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1  
 Booking essential. Admission €3 (Free for Abbey Theatre members)  
 Tel: 01 878 7222 or online [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

### Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd April 1.15pm

**Ghost Light Lunchtime Readings at the Irish Writers' Centre**  
 Enjoy a lunchtime treat with readings from *Ghost Light*.  
 Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square North, Dublin 1  
 Admission: €5. Booking Tel: 01 872 1302 or email: [info@writerscentre.ie](mailto:info@writerscentre.ie)  
 Discounted lunch at Chapterhouse Café, Dublin Writers' Museum, 17 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 for ticket holders.

### Wednesday 20th April 7pm Ireland's Greatest Woman – Scenes from the life of Lady Augusta Gregory

Ronnie O'Gorman, (Director of Lady Gregory of Coole – An Autumn Gathering), will discuss Lady Gregory and Abbey Theatre.  
 The National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
 Admission free. Further information Tel: 01 603 0200 or email: [info@nli.ie](mailto:info@nli.ie)

### Monday 25th April 2 – 4pm Dance to the Tune of J.M. Synge and Molly Allgood's Dublin

An informal dance workshop featuring the music of Edwardian Dublin.  
 Ballroom, Farmleigh House, Castleknock, Dublin 15.  
 Admission free. Further information Tel: 01 815 5981 or email: [farmleighinfo@opw.ie](mailto:farmleighinfo@opw.ie)

## DUBLIN: ONE CITY, ONE BOOK EVENTS

### Tuesday 26th April 6pm Synge for your Supper

Poetry, prose and song inspired by J.M. Synge.  
 Abbey Theatre, 26 Lower Abbey Street  
 Booking essential. Admission €3 (Free for Abbey Theatre members)  
 Tel: 01 87 87 222 or online [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

### Wednesday 27th April to Friday 29th April 8pm

**Timeless Voices**  
 Dalkey Players present an evening of excerpts from the plays and poetry of Synge, O'Casey, Yeats and Lady Gregory.  
 The Vico, upstairs in The Queens pub, Dalkey, Co. Dublin  
 Admission €10 (Concessions €8)  
 Booking Tel: 087 991 9261 or email: [dalkeyplayers@hotmail.com](mailto:dalkeyplayers@hotmail.com)

### Thursday 28th April 1pm

**Living in Dublin 100 years ago**  
 James Scannell uncovers the politics and lifestyles of some of our recent ancestors.  
 Central Library, Ilac Centre, Henry Street, Dublin 1  
 Admission free. Booking essential.  
 Booking Tel: 01 873 4333 or email: [openlearning@dublincity.ie](mailto:openlearning@dublincity.ie)

### Thursday 28th April 5pm

**A Ghost Light Walk: Edwardian Dublin The Life and Times of J.M. Synge and Molly Allgood**  
 (Duration approx. 90mins)  
 Guided by Pat Liddy, this walk will focus on the places and characters of *Ghost Light*. Tour begins at Abbey Theatre and concludes at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Join us afterwards for Curtain Call in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Admission free. Booking not necessary

### Thursday 28th April 7pm Curtain Call in St. Patrick's Cathedral

The love affair between Abbey actress, Molly Allgood and playwright J.M. Synge is captured in the letters of Molly Allgood. Dramatised readings and music with Joseph O'Connor, Kathy Rose O'Brien and musicians of RIAM. St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8  
 Admission free. Booking not necessary

## EXHIBITIONS

### Trinity College Long Room/ The Book of Kells

See the typewriter and camera used by J.M. Synge, early editions of Synge's work will also be on display.  
 Mon – Sat 9:30am – 5:00pm;  
 Sun 12:00pm – 4:30pm.  
 (April 22nd & 25th 12pm – 4:30pm)  
 Admission **Reduced fee of €6.50 with Dublin One City One Book Programme**

### Synge and The National Library

Synge's books and manuscripts on display at The National Library's Joly Café.  
 Mon – Wed: 9.30am – 7pm; Thurs & Fri: 9.30am – 4.45pm; Saturday: 9.30am – 4.30pm (Closed April 22nd, 25th & 26th)  
 Admission free. Further information Tel: 01 603 0200 or email: [info@nli.ie](mailto:info@nli.ie)

### Ghost Light: J.M. Synge and Molly Allgood at Farmleigh House

Farmleigh Guided Tour, see rare Synge books and manuscripts from the Benjamin Iveagh Library.  
 Thurs to Sun and Bank Holidays  
 Farmleigh House, Castleknock, Dublin 15.  
 Admission free. Booking not necessary.  
 Further information Tel: 01 815 5900 or online [www.farmleigh.ie](http://www.farmleigh.ie)

### Dramatis Personae: J.M. Synge and his fellow-authors at The Dublin Writers Museum

Books, photographs and other items from the Dublin Writers Museum collection.  
 Dublin Writers Museum, 18 Parnell Square North, Dublin 1  
 Mon – Sat: 10am – 5pm; Sun: 11am – 5pm (April 22nd & 25th 11am – 5pm)  
 Admission: Adult €7.50 Concession €6.30 Children €4.70 Family €21

### Abbey Theatre Posters at The Pearse Museum

Playboys, Paycocks and Playbills: Abbey Theatre poster design from the 1970s and 1980s.  
 The Pearse Museum, St. Enda's Park, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin.  
 Mon – Sat: 9.30am – 5.30pm; Sun & Bank Holidays: 10.00am – 5.30pm.  
 Admission free.  
 Further information Tel: 01 493 4208 or email: [brian.crowley@opw.ie](mailto:brian.crowley@opw.ie)

### Teach Synge

The playwright's love of the Aran Islands has been acknowledged with the opening of the beautifully restored Synge Museum on Inis Meáin – a must for all Synge fans.  
 Open from June – September  
 Further information [www.islandsofireland.com](http://www.islandsofireland.com)

### Synge Summer School 30 June – 3 July 2011

Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow  
 This year's summer school will include a seminar on *Ghost Light*.  
 Booking: [www.synge Summerschool.org](http://www.synge Summerschool.org)

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/pages/Dublin-One-City-One-Book](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dublin-One-City-One-Book)

### Twitter

[www.twitter.com/1city1book](http://www.twitter.com/1city1book)



'BRIMMING WITH SYMPATHY AND SKILL'

Irish Times

# GHOST LIGHT



JOSEPH O'CONNOR

**DUBLIN: ONE CITY, ONE BOOK**  
**APRIL 2011**

VINTAGE BOOKS [www.dublinonecityonebook.ie](http://www.dublinonecityonebook.ie)



# DUBLIN: ONE CITY, ONE BOOK APRIL 2011

## ABOUT THE BOOK

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

# DUBLIN: ONE CITY, ONE BOOK EVENTS



Since its inception in 2006, the award-winning Dublin: One City, One Book Festival has succeeded in capturing the imagination of not only Dubliners, but also readers worldwide.

This year's choice of Joseph O'Connor's *Ghost Light* is really exciting, featuring as it does, a contemporary take on one of our most iconic dramatists, John Millington Synge – and his relationship with noted Abbey Theatre actress, Molly Allgood.

In a city which now proudly boasts designation as a UNESCO City of Literature, *Dublin: One City One Book* provides a unique opportunity to promote the work of a successful modern writer whilst at the same time celebrating one of the most productive periods of creativity in Dublin's literary past.

The *Dublin: One City, One Book Festival* is the result of collaboration amongst a range of partners and I would like to thank everybody for their wholehearted participation in keeping the city's great literary tradition alive and well.

Lord Mayor of Dublin

*Dublin: One City, One Book* is an award-winning Dublin City Council initiative, led by Dublin City Libraries. The idea is a simple one. We want to encourage everyone to read a book connected with the capital city, either by subject or by author, during the month of April every year. This initiative presents the opportunity to:

- promote reading for entertainment and educational purposes
- encourage people to use their local libraries and book clubs
- promote a city which boasts one of the world's greatest literary heritages including four Nobel Laureates

[www.dublinonecityonebook.ie](http://www.dublinonecityonebook.ie)



VINTAGE BOOKS



**Dublin, 1907. A young actress begins an affair with a damaged older man, the leading playwright at the theatre where she works.**

Outspoken and flirtatious, Molly Allgood is a Catholic girl from the slums of Dublin, dreaming of stardom in America. Her lover, John Synge, is a troubled genius, whose life is hampered by convention and by the austere and God-fearing mother with whom he lives. Their affair, sternly opposed by friends and family, is quarrelsome, affectionate and tender.

Many years later, Molly, now a poverty-stricken old woman, makes her way through London's bomb-scarred city streets, alone but for a snowdrift of memories. Her once dazzling career has faded but her unquenchable passion for life has kept her afloat.

To find out more about Joseph O'Connor's novels visit [www.josephoconnorauthor.com](http://www.josephoconnorauthor.com)

**'A TOUR DE FORCE...  
A LOVE STORY THAT  
IS AS COMPLEX AS  
IT IS BEAUTIFUL'**

**SUNDAY BUSINESS POST**



### JOSEPH O'CONNOR

was born in Dublin. He is the author of the novels *Cowboys and Indians* (short-listed for the Whitbread Prize), *Desperadoes*, *The Salesman*, *Inishowen*, *Star of the Sea* and *Redemption Falls*, as well as a number of bestselling works of non-fiction. He has also written film scripts and stage plays including the award-winning *Red Roses and Petrol*. His novel *Star of the Sea* was an international bestseller, selling more than a million

copies and being published in 38 languages. It won France's Prix Millepages, Italy's Premio Acerbi, the *Irish Post* Award for Fiction, the Nielsen Bookscan Golden Book Award, an American Library Association Award, the Hennessy/*Sunday Tribune* Hall of Fame Award, and the Prix Litteraire Zepter for European Novel of the Year.

He was recently voted 'Irish Writer of the Decade' by the readers of *Hot Press* magazine. He broadcasts a popular weekly radio diary on RTÉ's *Drivetime* with Mary Wilson and writes regularly for the *Guardian Review* and the *Sunday Independent*. In 2009 he was the Harman Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at Baruch College, the City University of New York. His most recent novel *Ghost Light* was published in June 2010 to rave reviews internationally and spent nine weeks as a number one Irish bestseller.

[www.josephoconnorauthor.com](http://www.josephoconnorauthor.com)

**'O'CONNOR'S CROSS-CUTTING BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT IS CONFIDENT AND ASSURED... (HE) REVELS IN THE POLYPHONY OF LANGUAGE. GHOST LIGHT IS A TENDER AND COMPASSIONATE LOVE STORY, AND A FINE STEPPING STONE TO THE MAJESTY OF SYNGE.'**

**TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT**

### Friday 1st April 7pm

**Joseph O'Connor on Lyric FM My Music**  
Joseph O'Connor is Aedin Gormley's guest on *My Music*. His music choices link to his novel *Ghost Light* and include *The Last Rose of Summer* sung by Nina Simone. Ronnie Drew and The Dubliners version of *The Twangman* also features.

### Saturday 2nd April 11am – 2pm

**Keep an eye out for J.M. Synge** (actor, Stephen Holland) reading from *Ghost Light* at bookshops and on the city streets.

### SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 7:30PM THE MUSIC OF GHOST LIGHT: AN EVENING WITH JOSEPH O'CONNOR AND FRIENDS

**FEATURING LIVE PERFORMANCES FROM SINÉAD O'CONNOR, CAMILLE O'SULLIVAN, STEVE COONEY, EIMEAR QUINN, CIARA SIDINE, FISHAMBLE: THE NEW PLAY COMPANY, ROBBIE OVERSON, CONOR BRADY AND SURPRISE MUSICAL GUESTS. GUEST PRESENTER AND IRISH THEATRE DIRECTOR, PHILIP KING.**  
*The Abbey Theatre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1*  
Booking essential. Admission €25 (Concessions €20) Tel: 01 878 7222 or online [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

### Monday 4th April 6pm

**The Poetry of John Millington Synge with Dr P.J. Mathews**  
P.J. Mathews lectures at The School of English, Drama and Film, UCD. His main research interest is in the literature and culture of the Irish Revival, including Abbey Theatre and J.M. Synge.  
*Dublin City Library & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2*  
Admission free. Booking essential. Tel: 01 674 4806/4873 or email: [dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie](mailto:dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie)

### Tuesday 5th April 3pm

**Writers and Rebels**  
Learn what it was like to be a rebel writer in Ireland with Michael Moylan's children's workshop. Using antiques, costumes and games become a rebel writer for a day – discover what food they ate, what games children played etc.  
*Ballyfermot Library, Ballyfermot Civic Centre, Ballyfermot Road, Dublin 10*  
Admission free. Booking essential. Tel: 01 626 9324/01 626 9325 or email: [ballyfermotlibrary@dublincity.ie](mailto:ballyfermotlibrary@dublincity.ie)

### Tuesday 5th April 7pm

**The Poetry of J.M. Synge**  
Dr P.J. Matthews discusses the poetry of J.M. Synge in Rush's recently restored library. *Rush Library, Chapel Green, Rush, Co. Dublin* Admission free. Booking essential. Tel: 01 870 8414 or email: [rushlibrary@fingalccoco.ie](mailto:rushlibrary@fingalccoco.ie)

### Tuesday 5th April 8pm

**Deirdre of the Sorrows by J.M. Synge**  
A public reading of Synge's last play, unfinished at the time of his death.  
*Abbey Theatre Rehearsal Room, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1*  
Booking essential. Admission €6 (€4 for Abbey Theatre members) Tel: 01 878 7222 or online [www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)

### Wednesday 6th April 3pm

**Writers and Rebels**  
Learn what it was like to be a rebel writer in Ireland with Michael Moylan's children's workshop. Using antiques, costumes and games become a rebel writer for a day – discover what food they ate, what games children played etc.  
*Raheny Library, Howth Road, Dublin 5.*  
Admission free. Booking essential. Tel: 01 831 5521 or email: [rahenylibrary@dublincity.ie](mailto:rahenylibrary@dublincity.ie)

### Wednesday 6th April 7pm

**Gallous Stories and Dirty Deeds**  
Talk on Synge and Irish Theatre by Dr Patrick Loneragan  
*National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2*  
Admission free. Booking not necessary. Further information Tel: 01 603 0200 or email: [info@nli.ie](mailto:info@nli.ie)

### Each Thursday in April

**2:30pm – 5pm**  
*Dublin By Bike Tours* guides you through Dublin's literary heritage. Meet in front of the National Gallery, Merrion Square West, Dublin 2  
Charge €25 Booking Tel: 086 837 5955 or online [www.dublinbybike.ie](http://www.dublinbybike.ie)

### Thursday 7th April 6:30pm

**Living in Dublin 100 years ago**  
James Scannell uncovers the politics and lifestyles of some of our recent ancestors.  
*Raheny Library, Howth Road, Dublin 5*  
Admission free. Booking essential. Tel: 01 831 5521 or email: [rahenylibrary@dublincity.ie](mailto:rahenylibrary@dublincity.ie)

### Each Friday in April at 10am

*Dublin City Bike Tours'* special focus on Dublin's literary heritage. Meet in the lobby of Isaac's Hostel, 2-5 Frenchman's Lane, off Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin 1  
Charge from €20 Booking online [www.dublincitybiketours.com](http://www.dublincitybiketours.com)

### Saturday April 9th 11am – 2pm

**Keep an eye out for J.M. Synge** (actor, Stephen Holland) reading from *Ghost Light* at bookshops and on the city streets.