

Dublin and Belfast have *Fallen* for Two Cities One Book Festival

#2cities1book

In a new twist to the Dublin: One City One Book festival, Dublin and Belfast join together in a Two Cities One Book initiative as part of Ireland's 2016 commemoration programme. An tArdmhéara Críona Ní Dhálaigh launches the programme of over 70 events on Wednesday 9th March, 2016 at 11 a.m. in the Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

Speaking at the launch an tArdmhéara Críona Ní Dhálaigh said "I am delighted to announce the exciting programme of events planned for this year's festival, which focuses on the wonderful novel *Fallen* by Lia Mills. The festival is an important contribution to Dublin City Council's 1916 centenary programme and the participation of Libraries NI adds a new and exciting dimension to the festival. Tá mé cinnte go mbeidh an-éileamh ar an leabhar agus go mbainfidh léitheoirí Bhéal Feirste agus Bhaile Átha Cliath taitneamh as an úrscéal staire fíorthráthúil seo."

Lia Mills' novel *Fallen*, published by Penguin Random House, is this year's chosen book and tells the story of Dubliners against the backdrop of the dramatic events of World War 1 and Easter Week 1916. Festival event highlights include a *Two Cities One Book Day in Belfast* which includes coach to Belfast with lunch in Belfast City Hall followed by a tour of the Ulster Museum on Saturday 16th April, 2016 and a *Two Cities One Book Day in Dublin* for visitors from Belfast on 29th April which includes a tour of the 'Proclaiming a Republic' exhibition in the National Museum.

Lia Mills commented: "*Fallen* is dedicated to the city of Dublin, so I'm beyond delighted that the city has chosen it for its One City One Book festival this year. I'm especially happy that Dublin and Belfast have made it a joint selection, and that book clubs in Dublin have been twinned with book clubs in Belfast to read it. The programme is impressive and ranges far beyond one novel: it's a celebration of reading, and highlights the great and necessary work that librarians and libraries do in our communities."

Dublin City Librarian, Margaret Hayes especially recommends the flagship event on 20th April in 'Findlater's' Church, Parnell Square - *All Sorts of Wild Reports*. This features dramatised descriptions of Easter Week in Dublin taken from diaries and letters of a diverse group of women who experienced the Rising at first hand. With actors Catherine Byrne, Rose Henderson, Jennifer O'Dea and Kerrie O'Sullivan, and musicians and singers of the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

The Road to the Vote in Newman House, St Stephen's Green on Monday, 18th April will see Anna Carey, Nell Regan and Jeanne Sutton engage in a lively discussion, chaired by Rick O'Shea, on the suffragette movement in both Dublin and Belfast in 1916.

Still time for students to enter '*Write Here, Write Now 2016, A Story of Ireland*' an all-Ireland creative writing competition organised by *Hot Press* magazine as part of this year's Two Cities One Book Festival. Check out www.hotpress.com

The Festival is organised by Dublin City Council's Public Library Service and this year is a joint initiative with Libraries NI (the library authority for Northern Ireland). Readers in both Dublin and Belfast will create one big book club as they read the novel and enjoy the packed programme of events in both cities. Many events are free and full details are now available on www.dublinonecityonebook.ie/programme

Dublin: One City One Book is part of the Ireland 2016 Commemoration Programme and is supported by publishers Penguin Random House, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund.