

imagina el mundo NOBO DIGONTER KOLPONA

تَخَيَّلِ الْعَالَمَ *imagine the world* কল্পনায় জগত

logathe patti chindikyuga *samblaigh an domhan*

कल्पना दुनिया की DYCHMYGWCH Y BYD *waza dunia*

FESTIVAL REPORT

HAY FESTIVAL KELLS 2013



HAYFESTIVAL.ORG

AFRICA AMERICAS ASIA EUROPE MIDDLE EAST

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‘A FANTASTIC LITERARY FESTIVAL, WHERE FOR THE FIRST TIME KELLS LOOKED THROUGH THE LENS OF THE HAY FESTIVAL AND IMAGINED THE WORLD.’

Olivia Kiernan, novelist

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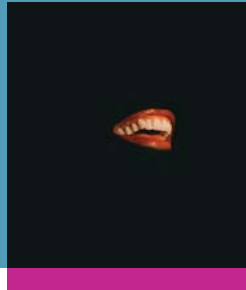


Jeanette Winterson

‘One minute there was nothing much happening. Then it all happened. Hay Festival Kells came into the world, accompanied by the bang-bang-bang of a trio of literary firecrackers.’

Arminta Wallace, The Irish Times

The Festival



HAY FESTIVAL KELLS, 28–30 JUNE 2013

The inaugural Hay Festival Kells took place from 28 to 30 June 2013, with three days of events to delight and inspire all ages. The events ranged from the profoundly local to national and international, with some in Irish, some in English and some with a delightful smattering of Welsh thrown in.

Over the past ten years Hay Festival has become a global organization, producing events across five continents in countries including Spain (Segovia), Colombia (Cartagena de Indias, Riohacha and Bogotá), Kenya (Storymoja in Nairobi), India (Kerala), Bangladesh (Dhaka), Mexico (Xalapa), Hungary (Budapest), Lebanon (Beirut) and now Ireland (Kells).

Hay Festival has collaborated with the creators of other successful arts festivals in Italy (Mantova) and Brazil (Parati). The Festival also runs the B39 project, set in Bogotá (2007) and Beirut (2010), working with UNESCO’s World Book Capital project to promote the best young writers.

Hay Festival Kells had its UK launch at the 2013 Hay Festival in Wales with special guests Sinéad Cusack and Lisa Dwan. The launch in Ireland, in June, was held in the Long Room of Trinity College Dublin, in the auspicious and magnificent surroundings that also house The Book of Kells. This latter launch announced the collaboration between the College and Hay Festival Kells.



Germaine Greer



Festival opening event



The 2013 festival was the first Hay Festival Kells and celebrated local, national and international relationships in Ireland. The festival attracted around 10,000 visitors to the town and drew inspiration from the historic Book of Kells, which has been housed since the 1600s in the world famous Trinity College Dublin. Alongside literary stars and entertainment, the festival offered a feast of workshops for adults and children of all ages, working on animation, graphic art, graphic novels, calligraphy and creative writing. Also part of the festival was a screening of the Oscar-nominated animated film *The Secret of Kells*, while Hay Festival Chair Revel Guest launched the international sale of stills from the film.

An additional theme was the comparison between the pressures on the native languages of the Welsh and Irish festivals. Irish language literature was celebrated, with the presence of some of the best-known Irish language writers, both for adults and for children. A fully stocked Irish language bookshop in a central location in the town was created and remained open over the whole festival weekend.

Around the town, freshly painted and flower bedecked, ten 'pop-up' bookshops were created and manned. The bustle in the town was also increased by the numerous art exhibitions curated especially for the weekend.

RTÉ made live radio broadcasts with participating artists and organisers before and during the festival. A particular highlight was the Arena Arts programme broadcast on the Friday evening. Local radio station LMFm ran programmes and interviews from the foyer of the Headfort Arms Hotel in the centre of the town.

The fifty-one festival events themselves reflected the eclectic mix people have come to expect from any Hay Festival. Hundreds of people packed into the venues to hear a huge range of speakers, from literary giants Germaine Greer, Jeanette Winterson and John Banville, to the insight provided by the historical and environmental debates, via the drama of Lisa Dwan's version of Beckett's *Not I* and the angelic voice of Alex Valentine. Poetry fans were well catered for, in both English and Irish, with Owen Sheers, Frank McGuinness, Nerys Williams and Gabriel Rosenstock. And on the lighter side, Brendan Lynch of *Great British Bake Off* fame enthralled a packed house, while Fred Cooke and David O'Doherty presented their own comedic views of life.

The Festival in words



“What better place for a book festival than the birthplace of the most famous ancient Irish manuscript?”

CATHY DILLON, THE IRISH TIMES

“As the inaugural Hay Festival Kells kicked off in a frenzied, celebratory street-party atmosphere of bunting, colourful hanging baskets and unbridled passion for the printed word.”

LIZ HUNT, THE TELEGRAPH

“Some had known what to expect, most didn't. Mouth – Dwan's bright red lips, teeth and tongue are all that are visible, lit by a single harsh light and apparently floating around eight foot above the stage – was the first shock. The second was the fierce passion of the words that spewed forth at frantic pace.”

LIZ HUNT, THE TELEGRAPH

“I'm at the Hay Festival in Kells. I'm intrigued by Hay-on-Wye's propensity to shake itself out of its Home Counties-ish comfort zone and shift its festival to new locations. Their Hay Festival in Cartagena, Colombia, is a particularly delightful concept.”

MANCHÁN MAGAN, SUNDAY TIMES IRELAND

“One minute there was nothing much happening. Then it all happened. Hay Festival Kells came into the world, accompanied by the bang-bang-bang of a trio of literary firecrackers.”

ARMINTA WALLACE, THE IRISH TIMES

The Festival in words



“Whoosh! Out of the blackness of the Breslin Stage at the St Vincent de Paul Theatre blazed Lisa Dwan’s astonishing performance of Beckett’s short play Not I. Pow! From the unpromising topic Shakespeare’s Lovers, Germaine Greer fashioned a dazzling lecture which held 500 people spellbound from start to finish. Wham! Armed with nothing more than a glass of water and a copy of her memoir Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?, Jeanette Winterson delivered a reading which combined the timing of a stand-up comedian with the insight of a poet.”

ARMINTA WALLACE, THE IRISH TIMES

“It’s a super programme and an ideal setting.”

IRISH DAILY MAIL

“Is cúis áthais dúinn go raibh áit faoi leith ag litríocht na Gaeilge i gcaitheamh na féile agus go raibh an-tóir ar na himeachtaí a reáchtáladh le freastal orthu siúd gur spéis leo an réimse seo. Bhí lúcháir orainn go raibh deis againn roinnt de mhórscibhneoirí ár linne a chur ar ardán i gcaitheamh an deireadh seachtaine agus go raibh freastal déanta ar gach réimse aoise lena linn. Bhí ríméad orainn go raibh rath speisialta ar na himeachtaí a bhí dírithe ar an aos óg ach go háirithe agus éileamh chomh mór san i gceist dóibh go raibh orainn suíomh níos fairsinge ná mar a bhí beartaithe a aimsiú. Níl aon amhras ach gur chuir An Siopa Leabhar, a bhí i lár an aonaigh i rith na féile go léir, go mór leis an bhfreastal seo chomh maith.”

TIARNÁN DE HÁL OF BLIAIN NA GAEILGE

The Festival in words



“Thank you for shedding a warm, glowing light on Kells and its rich bibliographical history.”

DONAL O HAODHA

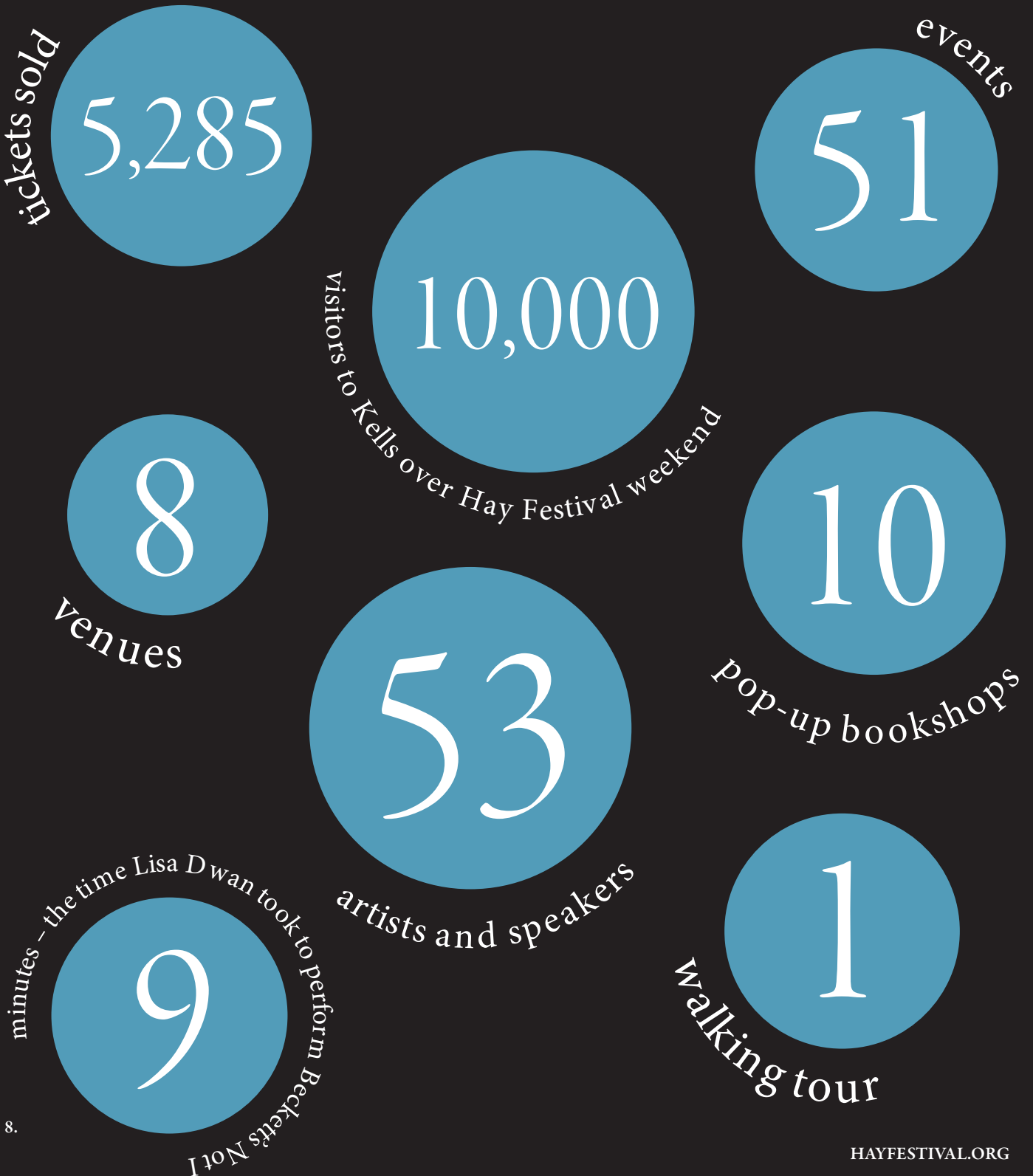
“But the thing that made it so special was the people. The joy and enthusiasm and energy of everyone involved was extraordinary.”

JENNY VALENTINE, AUTHOR OF FINDING VIOLET PARK

“The sun shone, but the real warmth came from the huge audiences and attentive festival workers who achieved that delicious balance between relaxation and organisation. The town is the perfect size for such an event and seemed delighted to be filled to the brim with book-lovers. It is easy to imagine the name Kells being linked instantly not just to a great work of literature but a great literary festival.”

GERRY STEMBRIDGE, AUTHOR OF UNSPOKEN

The Festival in numbers



The authors



Germaine Greer



Brendan Lynch



Lisa Dwan



Maidhc Dainín Ó Sé, RIP



John Banville



David O'Doherty



Jeanette Winterston



Alex Valentine



Fred Cooke



Owen Sheers



Jenny Valentine



DBC Pierre

Media coverage



INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

Daily Telegraph (UK)

Travel feature about Hay Festival coming to the town – 22 May

Festival feature – 30 June



IRISH MEDIA COVERAGE

Metro Herald

Daragh Reddin preview on Shelf Life Books pages – 25 April

The Irish Times

Saturday Magazine: Inclusion in What's Hot line-up – 27 April

Arts pages: Inclusion in feature on literary festivals – 2 May

Word for Word literary column preview – 25 May

Social pages: Trinity launch event – 22 June

Arts pages: Feature with Lisa Dwan on her performance at Kells – 24 June

Culture Blog: The Weekend Begins from Kells – 28 June

News story: What's on in Ireland for the weekend – 29 June

Frank McNally included mention in Irishman's Diary – 29 June

Culture Blog: And Then There Were Three – 30 June

Armintha Wallace: Festival review – 1 July

Culture Blog: Bogs, boys and absolute brilliance – 1 July



The Gloss Magazine

Festival preview on news pages – June issue

Image Magazine

Festival preview on culture pages – June issue

Irish Independent

Day & Night Magazine: Hay Festival story – 7 June

Day & Night Magazine: preview in Culture Guide – 14 June

Culture page: Festival mention in Culture Charts – 15 June

Theatre pages: Preview feature on Lisa Dwan's performance – *15 June*

Day & Night Magazine: included in Critic's Guide to Going Out – *28 June*

A-Z of Summer Family Fun feature: Hay Festival as the 'H' entry – *20 June*

Sunday Business Post

Magazine feature on 4 best upcoming arts festivals including Kells – *9 June*

Meath Chronicle

Feature about Hay Festival Kells – *12 June*

News story about the success of the Festival, planned return in 2014 – *2 July*

Sunday Times

Time & Place: double page feature on Lisa Dwan – *16 June*

Sunday Independent

Books pages: Preview feature on the Festival – *23 June*

Irish Daily Mail

The Inside Track: Feature interview with Lisa Dwan – *21 June*

Hay Festival Kells included in the week's must-see events – *28 June*

The Sunday Times

My Week feature: Manchan Magan's week leading up to the Festival – *30 June*

RADIO & TV COVERAGE

Newstalk

Moncrieff: Sean Moncrieff interview with Lisa Dwan – *16 May*

RTE Radio One

Today with PK: John Banville interview – *6 June*

Arena: Live studio interview with Mark Smith about Hay Festival Kells – *18 June*

Morning Ireland: Interviews with Lyndy Cooke, Mark Smith, John Fitzgerald and Nerys Williams for News Report – *various dates*

Arena: Sean Rocks' live broadcast of the 1-hour programme from Kells, with guests including Germaine Greer, Alex Valentine, Owen Sheers, Gabriel Rosenstock, Fred Cooke and Geraldine Gaughran – *28 June*

Radio LM FM

The Late Lunch: Myles Dungan interview promoting the Festival – *6 June*

Daragh Nelson: Interview with David O'Doherty ahead of his gig at Hay Festival Kells – *25 June*

Daragh Nelson: Broadcast show from Kells with interviews with winner of Bank of Ireland colouring competition, Rebecca Beirne, and judge Brian MacMahon – *27 June*

Daragh Nelson: Live broadcast from the Festival with guests including Geraldine Gaughran, Tomm Moore, Nerys Williams, Fred Cooke and Christine Kostik – *28 June*

Today FM

The Last Word: Manchan Magan interview – *21 June*

TG4

Nuacht Loretta Ní Ghabháin visited Kells, interviewed Tiarnán de Hál and did a tour of the town for Irish language news story about Hay Kells – *21 June*

RTE TV

Six One News & 9pm News: Richard Dowling attended the Festival and filmed report from the town for evening news with Geraldine Gaughran and Germaine Greer – *28 June*

ONLINE COVERAGE

irishtimes.com

How to draw Brendan from *The Secret of Kells*

irishliterarytimes.com

Hay Festival Kells advance notice

writing.ie

The Hay Festival comes to Kells

entertainment.ie

Hay Festival Kells preview

eventmagazine.co.uk

Hay Festival moves into Ireland

gaelport.com

Hay Festival Kells preview

foinse.ie

Hay Festival Kells preview

meathtoday.com

Germaine Greer and John Banville to appear at Hay Festival Kells

kellsonline.ie

Hay Festival Kells advance notice

literaryfestivals.co.uk

Hay Festival Kells notice

nomoreworkhorse.com

Hay Festival Kells review

irishwritingblog.wordpress.com

Review of Lisa Dwan at Hay Festival Kells

tcd.ie

Festival launch piece

discoverireland.com

Hay Festival Kells listing

publibookireland.com

Festival launch piece

irishcountryhotels.com

Festival events preview

finegael.org

Hay Festival Kells notice

goodreads.com

Festival review

eirgrid.com

Festival sponsor information

gallerypress.com

Events line-up

worldirish.com

Festival preview

behindthebookshelf.co.uk

Festival preview

themeathherald.com

Festival preview feature

emergingwriter.ie

Event preview blog

welovetown.com

Event preview

bordgaisenergybookclub.ie

Festival preview

aonbhus.blogspot.ie

Preview blog

lecool.com

Online advert

Sponsors

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THE IRISH TIMES

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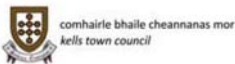
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Rose Garden

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FloWeb Design

Hogan's Farm

Photos: Finn Beales