Kennedy Summer School

A FESTIVAL of IRISH & AMERICAN HISTORY, CULTURE and POLITICS

7th / 8th / 9th of SEPTEMBER 2017
NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD, IRELAND.

www.kennedysummerschool.ie
WELCOME

We were both delighted to be invited to take on the role as Directors of the 2017 Kennedy Summer School. Over the last five years the summer school has grown from strength to strength and it is now a significant feature of the political, social and media landscapes each September. This has made our task in seeking to attract such a broad range of contributors all the easier. Over two and a half days from the 7th to 9th of September, the Kennedy Summer School will again tackle the important topical issues in Irish and U.S. politics, with top commentators from both sides of the Atlantic.

The Trump presidency and Brexit will inevitably be important topics for discussion. We have also gathered a panel of leading historians to assess the legacy of President John F. Kennedy, 100 years on from his birth. We are also thrilled that we will be joined this year by two of the most impressive practitioners of the art of political discourse; the veteran campaign strategist Bob Shrum, who has been central to many U.S. presidential campaigns, and Cody Keenan, who was chief speech writer for President Obama.

We have also enhanced the opportunity for audience participation over the weekend by introducing a series of public interviews, including with RTE U.S. Correspondent, Caitriona Perry and the Democratic Unionist MP, Ian Paisley. Additionally, we have again, a special visit to the Kennedy Homestead for our annual Dunganstown Tea Party, a secondary schools’ event focusing on building resilience, and a special children’s book event with Ryan Tubridy. There will literally be something for everyone and we do hope you can join us for some or all of the weekend.

Larry Donnelly, Dr Brian Murphy
Directors Kennedy Summer School 2017.

The Kennedy Summer School Programme is subject to change. For up to date details and full profiles of speakers see kennedysummerschool.ie
Thursday 7th @ 6pm

Venue: New Ross Library

Launch of the New Ross Kennedy Book and Research Archive

To mark the 100th Anniversary of John F. Kennedys’ birth, the Kennedy Summer School in association with Wexford County Council, is opening a Kennedy depository at New Ross Library. A collection of books, publications, audio visual recordings and other research materials on the Kennedy Presidency, Kennedy Family, and the link between the Kennedys’ and County Wexford will be gathered and maintained for public use.

The project will be formally launched by leading historian and author Richard Aldous, who will also speak about his forthcoming book, ‘Schlesinger: The Imperial Historian’, which tells the story of the architect of JFK’s presidential legacy-and the myth of Camelot-Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

The event will also hear from Dr. David Woolner, who has been a visiting professor in the Mary Ball Washington Chair in American History at University College Dublin for 2016-17.

This is a free event but places are limited and MUST be booked in advance. To reserve a space on a first come basis, email karen@kennedysummerschool.ie to receive confirmation of ticket allocation.
Thursday 7th @ 8pm
Venue: St. Michael’s Theatre
OPENING NIGHT EVENT

Official Opening by Katherine Zappone, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, followed by a Public Interview

Katherine Zappone is a human rights campaigner, a first time Dáil Deputy, and the second ever U.S. born Minister of the Irish government. In an interview with Noel Whelan, Katherine will talk about her life, her work as a lecturer in education, her campaign, along with her wife Anne Louise Gilligan for Marriage Equality, her time as a member of Seanad Éireann, her election to Dáil Éireann, her decision to join the current government and issues which have arisen in her ministerial brief. She will also tell us of her memories of growing up in Kennedy’s America.

Followed by:
EDWARD M. KENNEDY
LECTURE 2017

Special Film Screening of ‘Condemned to Remember’

Irish Holocaust Survivor Tomi Reichental celebrates his 80th Birthday in a Dublin Mosque with Shaykh Muhammad Umar Al-Qadri before embarking on an epic journey across a Europe in turmoil.

In Poland and Slovakia Tomi confronts the “crisis of shame” that prevents an honest reckoning with the scale of local “collusion” with the Nazi extermination project.

In Bosnia, he embraces Muslim survivors of a genocide, who still search for the bones of their loved ones. Along the way Tomi puts himself in the shoes of the “new Jews” and discovers a strong common bond with refugees fleeing the hell that is Syria.

The screening will be followed by an audience discussion with Tomi Reichental and Shaykh Dr Muhammad Umar Al-Qadri, Irish Muslim Peace and Integration Council, chaired by Peter Cassells Director of the Edward M Kennedy Institute, Maynooth University.

This is a free event but places are limited and MUST be booked in advance. To reserve a space on a first come basis, email karen@kennedysummerschool.ie to receive confirmation of ticket allocation.
Niall Breslin, known as Bressie, is a former Westmeath inter county footballer, lead singer, guitarist and songwriter with pop band ‘The Blizzards’, and he was a coach on the hit TV show ‘The Voice’. He is a solo artist and a leading advocate in the area of mental health education and empowerment. His ‘My1000Hours’ blog and training initiatives set out to explore positive and proactive ways to improve emotional fitness and manage mental stress. This led to him setting up the website ‘A Lust For Life’.

Sinead McSweeney is Vice President for Public Policy and Communications for Twitter in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and is Managing Director of Twitter’s operations in Ireland. Over the course of her career she has been Director of Communications for An Garda Síochána, Director of Media and Public Relations for the Police Service of Northern Ireland and a Special Adviser to the Minister for Justice and The Attorney General. A native of Midleton, she studied law at University College Cork and qualified as a barrister in 1993. She began her working life as a parliamentary transcriber in the Dáil debates unit. None of the jobs she has worked in existed when she was in secondary school.

& More speakers to be confirmed…
Friday 8th @ 12pm
Venue: The Tholsel New Ross
Arts and Disability - Extending Access

This year the Kennedy Summer School is hosting a special event to commemorate Jean Kennedy Smith’s contribution to the Arts and Disability. This panel discussion will deal with issues surrounding art access and support for people with disabilities in Ireland and Wexford; what is currently available, and what is needed. Creating engagement in this area will also be explored, not just as participants and viewers but as practising artists as well. There will also be a special exhibition from local artists involved with CUMAS in the gallery space at St Michael's Theatre.

Pádraig Naughton
Executive Director, Arts & Disability Ireland

Elizabeth Whyte
Executive Director, Wexford Arts Centre

Senator John Dolan
CEO, The Disability Federation of Ireland

And more speakers to be confirmed...
Friday 8th @ 2.30pm
Venue: Kennedy Homestead, Dunganstown
THE DUNGANSTOWN TEA PARTY

An Afternoon of Talks, Cookery Demonstrations, Entertainment and Light Refreshments

Paul Kelly
Executive Pastry Chef, Merrion Hotel and judge on the hit TV show ‘The Great Irish Bake Off’

Kevin Dundon
Chef/Proprietor of the Dunbrody Country House Hotel & Restaurant in Co Wexford

Mike O’Connor
Assistant Head, School of Culinary Arts & Food Technology, Dublin Institute of Technology

And more speakers to be confirmed...
Friday Evening 8th @ 6.00pm
Venue: St. Michael’s Theatre
BREXIT & BORDERS

The Kennedy Summer School has gathered a panel of expert voices from Dublin, Derry, Brussels and Wexford, for an in depth discussion on Brexit and its implications for politics, trade and economics in Ireland, North and South and for the future of the European Union.

Bertie Ahern

Mark Durkan
 MP for Foyle 2005 - 2017, Former leader of the SDLP and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland

Verona Murphy
 President of the Road Haulage Association, Managing Director of DruMur Transport Limited

Tony Connelly
 RTE Europe Editor, Author of ‘Brexit and Ireland: the Dangers, the Opportunities and the Inside Story of the Irish Response’
Friday 8th @ 7.30pm

Venue: St. Michael’s Theatre

‘THE MAN BEHIND THE WORDS: SPEECH WRITING FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA’
Cody Keenan, Director of Speech Writing, White House 2013-17

In an audio-visually illustrated presentation, Cody Keenan will explore the craft and process of speech writing with a focus on particular speeches he enjoyed writing.

A 2002 graduate of Northwestern University’s Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Cody Keenan moved to Washington, DC after graduation to work for the late Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts. He later earned a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He took a full-time position on Barack Obama’s presidential campaign in 2008. In 2009, he became Deputy Director of Speech Writing at the White House and in that role he led the crafting of many renowned speeches, such as President Obama’s address after the shooting of US Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in 2011 and his eulogy for Senator Kennedy.

He was promoted to Director of Speech Writing for the Obama administration in 2013 and continued in that role through President Obama’s second term. The memorable speeches on which he has worked include the anniversary of “Bloody Sunday,” in Selma, Alabama, multiple State of the Union addresses and President Obama’s farewell speech in Chicago in January 2017.

Cody Keenan working with President Obama in the Oval Office, December 2016
Ian Paisley has been the Member of Parliament for North Antrim in Westminster since 2010. He is the DUP spokesman for Agriculture in the House of Commons and a member of the Northern Ireland Select Affairs Committee. For thirteen years prior to being a Member of Parliament he was a Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly. He was also a Junior Minister in the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister and is one of the longest serving members of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

In an extended conversation with Irish Times Columnist Noel Whelan and an audience questions and answers session, Ian Paisley will tell of his political life, his involvement in the Peace Process and his work on the Northern Ireland Policing Board. He will also give his reflections on his father’s political career and influence and the ultimate decision to enter government with Sinn Féin. Ian Junior will also discuss the prospects for politics in Northern Ireland and the restoration of power sharing government. He will set out the case for modern Unionism and the relationship it wishes to have with the Republic of Ireland. He will tell why he sees Brexit as a positive development for Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom. He will also be asked for his take on Donald Trump, on the late Martin McGuinness and on other leading politics figures on these islands and further afield.
Saturday 9th @ 11am
Venue: St. Michael’s Theatre
KENNEDY SUMMER SCHOOL
HISTORY SYMPOSIUM;
JOHN F. KENNEDY 1917-2017

CHAIR

Was JFK a Great American President?
Felix M. Larkin is a prolific author and historian on numerous aspects of Modern Irish and international history. He has been chairman of the Sick and Indigent Roomkeepers Society, academic director of the Parnell Summer School and chairman of the Newspaper and Periodical History Forum of Ireland.

Ireland in the Kennedy Era
Mary E. Daly is Professor Emeritus in Modern Irish History at University College Dublin. Subsequent to her career as a teacher and researcher of modern Irish history, she was - in 2014 - elected as the first woman President of the Royal Irish Academy in the Academy’s 229-year history. In 2015, she was appointed as a Commissioner to investigate the history of Ireland’s mother and baby homes.

Keynote: John F Kennedy’s Life and Legacy
Professor Robert Schmuhl is the Walter H. Annenberg-Edmund P. Joyce Chair in American Studies and Journalism at Notre Dame University. He is the author of more than a dozen books on Modern Irish History and a regular contributor on US affairs and elections for RTE’s Morning Ireland.
In an audio-visually illustrated public interview with Dr. Brian Murphy, Robert M. Shrum will reflect on his involvement in Edward Kennedy’s 1980 presidential election campaign and his life as a senior Democratic political strategist over five decades.

Shrum is now the Director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics and the Carmen H. and Louis Warschaw Chair in Practical Politics at the University of Southern California, where he is a Professor of the Practice of Political Science in the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He is a former political strategist and consultant who served as senior advisor to the Kerry-Edwards 2004 campaign and to the Gore-Lieberman 2000 campaign. ‘The Atlantic Monthly’ described him as “the most sought-after consultant in the Democratic Party.”


Internationally, Bob was a senior adviser to the campaign of Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and to the British Labour Party in the 2001 parliamentary campaign.

Sarah McInerney, co-presenter of Newstalk Drive, chairs a special one-hour panel of leading Irish politicians who will debate topical issues and take questions from the Kennedy Summer School audience. As the political season is about to restart after the summer recess and with Budget 2018 just weeks away there will be much to discuss. The new Taoiseach and reshuffled ministers are likely to have had three months to settle into their new positions and the panel will take a timely look at how ‘new politics’ has adjusted to the change in leadership. The panel will also give their up to date perspectives on Ireland’s approach to Brexit as negotiations between Britain and the European Union 27 are set to intensify in the autumn.

Regina Doherty TD (Fine Gael)

Mary Lou McDonald TD (Sinn Féin)

Joan Burton TD (Labour)

Lisa Chambers TD (Fianna Fail)
Saturday 9th @ 3pm

Venue: St. Michael’s Theatre

TRANSLATING TRUMP’S AMERICA FOR THE IRISH AUDIENCE

Caitriona Perry

CAITRIONA PERRY is RTE’s Washington Correspondent. She has been described as “a one woman newsroom covering a whole continent”. She has reported on the unprecedented tensions and excitement of the 2016 US presidential campaign and the turbulent early months of the Trump presidency.

She has covered many difficult stories, most notably the tragic deaths of Irish J1 students in the Berkeley balcony collapse in June 2015. For lighter news stories she has covered the Oscars in Los Angeles and in July 2014 she tracked down Garth Brooks for comment on his decision to cancel a series of concerts in Croke Park.

In an audio-visually illustrated conversation with Boston born lawyer and US politics pundit Larry Donnelly, Caitriona will tell the behind the scenes story of her four years working in her ‘dream job’, sometimes 21 hours a day in two different time zones.

Prior to becoming RTE’s Washington Correspondent, she held various posts as an anchor, reporter and programme editor within RTE and before that with Today FM.

Caitriona holds a Degree in Journalism and a Masters Degree in International Relations, both awarded by Dublin City University.
Saturday 9th @ 4.30pm

Venue: St. Michael’s Theatre

US POLITICS SESSION
DONALD TRUMP AND THE US PRESIDENCY

Bob Shrum
Professor of the Practice of Political Science, University of Southern California

Gina London
Former CNN Correspondent, Communications Consultant Expert

Bob Schmuhl
Professor of Politics and American Studies, Notre Dame

Dr. Robert M. Mauro
Executive Director of the Irish Institute and Global Leadership Institute at Boston College

John McGuirk
Political Commentator & Vice President for Corporate Communications with Rivada Networks
Saturday Evening 9th @ 6pm

Venue: New Ross Library

CHILDREN’S BOOK EVENT
With Ryan Tubridy & P.J. Lynch

Broadcaster Ryan Tubridy has long-time championed children’s reading and is now himself a children’s author. At this special Kennedy Summer School event at New Ross Library, Ryan and Children’s laureate P.J. Lynch will do readings and take question from an audience of children and adults.

Together they have created a picture book about President John F. Kennedy’s return to his ancestral home in Ireland. It is a captivating story that beautifully evokes a seminal moment in the life of JFK through the eyes of a young boy.

It captures the fevered excitement in the build-up to JFK’s visit – all evoked through the eyes of a young boy called Patrick who wants to know, more than anything, what it would feel like to shake the President’s hand.

Rooted in historical fact, and marking the centenary of JFK’s birth, it offers readers a very pure and personal take on JFK’s visit to County Wexford.
Saturday 9th @ 8pm
Venue: St. Michael’s Theatre

Kennedy Summer School Closing Event
AN AUDIENCE WITH RYAN TUBRIDY ON JFK AND MUCH MORE

Ryan Tubridy will talk about his passion for US politics and culture and all things Kennedy, and on his research for his best-selling and award winning book ‘JFK in Ireland: Four Days That Changed a President’ published in 2010. He will tell of the inspiration behind his recently published children’s book ‘Patrick and the President’, illustrated by P.J. Lynch. He will also take audience questions on memorable moments from his broadcasting career, including his current role as a day time radio presenter and presenter of the Late Late Show.
Boston Globe journalist, Kevin Cullen and Martin O’Malley, former Maryland Governor and Democratic presidential candidate catch up at the Kennedy ancestral homestead.

A full house in St. Michael’s Theatre for the 2016 Kennedy Summer School opening night.

Checking out the ‘Clinton V Trump’ ice creams at Deegan’s Deelsh are Larry Donnelly NUI Galway & KSS Director, Willie Keilthy, Chairman KSS, Karen O’Connor project manager KSS and Noel Whelan KSS Founder.
A Celebration of Wexford’s Youth Musicians

Throughout the weekend the Kennedy Summer School programme will feature a number of special performances which will celebrate the extraordinary talent of Wexford’s young musicians.

The New Ross Pipe Band

Danescastle Music Group

The Wexford Youth Orchestra String & Flute Quartet
Thursday 7th September 6pm  
**Venue:** New Ross Library  
**Launch of the New Ross Kennedy Book and Research Archive**  
**Speakers:** Professor Richard Aldous, Dr. David Woolner  
Followed by a reception

Thursday 7th September 8pm  
**Venue:** St. Michael’s Theatre  
**Official Opening Katherine Zappone Minister for Children and Youth Affairs**  
Followed by  
**Edward M. Kennedy Lecture 2017**  
Special Film Screening of 'Condemned to Remember'  
**Chair:** Peter Cassells  
**Speakers:** Tomi Reichental, Shaykh Dr Muhammad Umar Al-Qadri

Friday 8th September 10am  
**Venue:** St Mary’s Secondary School  
**Secondary Schools’ Event**  
**Building Resilience**  
Niall Breslin (Bressie)  
**What Do You Want To Do When You Grow Up?**  
Sinead McSweeney  
& more speakers to be confirmed

Friday 8th September 12pm  
**Venue:** The Tholsel, New Ross  
**Arts and Disability - Extending Access**  
**Featuring:** Pádraig Naughton, Elizabeth Whyte, Senator John Dolan  
& more speakers to be confirmed

Friday 8th September 2.30pm  
**Venue:** Kennedy Homestead, Dungansstown  
**The Dunganstown Tea Party**  
**Featuring:** Paul Kelly, Kevin Dundon, Mike O’Connor  
& more speakers to be confirmed

Friday Evening 8th September 6pm  
**Venue:** St. Michael’s Theatre  
**Brexit & Borders**  
**Speakers:** Bertie Ahern, Mark Durkan, Tony Connelly, Verona Murphy  
7pm Food for Thought, a break for wine & light snack

Friday Evening 8th September 7:30pm  
**Venue:** St. Michael’s Theatre  
**“The Man Behind the Words: Speech Writing For President Obama”**  
Cody Keenan
Friday Evening 8th September 8:30pm
Venue: St. Michael’s Theatre
The Summer School Interview
Ian Paisley MP in conversation with Noel Whelan

Saturday 9th September 11am
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Kennedy Summer School History Symposium: John F. Kennedy 1917-2017
Chair: David McCullagh
Keynote: John F. Kennedy’s Life and Legacy- Professor Robert Schmuhl
Was JFK a Great President- Professor Felix M. Larkin
Ireland in the Kennedy Era- Professor Mary E. Daly

Saturday 9th September 12pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
“The Causes That Endure”
Bob Shrum
Lunch Break 1.00- 2.00pm

Saturday 9th September 2pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Irish Politics Session: Budget, Brexit & Better Politics
Chair: Sarah McInerney Newstalk
Speakers: Regina Doherty TD (Fine Gael),
Joan Burton TD (Labour), Lisa Chambers TD (Fianna Fail),
Mary Lou McDonald (Sinn Fein)

Saturday 9th September 3pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Translating Trump’s America for the Irish Audience
Caitriona Perry
Coffee Break 4pm

Saturday 9th September 4.30pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
US Politics Session: Donald Trump and The US Presidency
Short presentations and extended panel discussions
Speakers: Bob Shrum, Bob Schmuhl, Gina London, John McGuirk,
Dr. Robert Mauro

Saturday 9th September 6pm:
Venue: New Ross Library
Children’s Book Event “Patrick And The President”
Ryan Tubridy & P. J. Lynch

Saturday 9th September 8pm:
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Closing Event
An Audience with Ryan Tubridy on JFK and Much More
Ticket Prices

Tickets: St. Michael’s Theatre.
Box Office +353 (0)51 421255 or online at www.kennedyssummerschool.ie

- Friday & Saturday Ticket €37.50
- Friday ONLY €20 or Saturday ONLY €25
- Individual Events €12.50
(Places must be booked in advance)
- Thursday Events and Saturday’s Children’s Book Event are free events, but booking is essential, to book contact karen@kennedyssummerschool.ie

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