

Issue: 12th March 2021

- **Dalkey Book Festival and Zurich Insurance announce Dalkey Literary Awards 2021**
 - **Dalkey Literary Awards boast significant prize fund of €30,000**
- **Dalkey Book Festival dates are announced: Friday 18th to Sunday 20th June 2021**
 - **The online festival this June will have a spectacular line up bringing a special energy to the digital space**

The Dalkey Book Festival, in conjunction with Zurich Insurance, is announcing the Judging panel for the [Dalkey Literary Awards](#) 2021. This is the second year of the Dalkey Literary Awards, a prestigious awards programme for writers in Ireland that boasts a total prize fund of €30,000.

The launch of the Dalkey Literary Awards in 2020 marked a major new step for the highly popular Dalkey Book Festival, which has grown in size and reputation since its 2010 debut with the support of Zurich Insurance.

The awards, held annually, recognise writers in two categories: 'Novel of the Year' and 'Emerging Writer'. Writers resident or born in Ireland and published in Ireland or the UK in 2020, will be recognised by the awards. The winner of the 'Novel of the Year' will walk away with €20,000, while the writer crowned 'Emerging Writer' will receive €10,000. The Emerging Writer winner will also earn a spot at the Dalkey Book Festival on Saturday 19th June, appearing alongside the three judges of that award with the chance to talk about their work and what winning the award means to them.

The shortlist for each category is proposed by a designated Nominating Panel made up of 19 well-known critics, writers and public figures within the Irish literary scene. Nominations were also accepted from publishers. Each category has three judges who review the shortlisted nominees and select one overall winner.

The judging panel for Novel of the Year are: Róisín Ingle (chair), Paschal Donohoe and Sinéad Gleeson.

The judges for the Emerging Writer award are: Dearbhail McDonald (chair), Declan Hughes and Aideen Howard.

David McWilliams, Co-Founder of Dalkey Book Festival said: "In light of the devastating effect on writers of the pandemic and lockdown, this is a generous act to encourage writing and reward brilliance."

Sian Smyth, Director of Dalkey Book Festival said: "We understand how difficult it is financially for writers and we hope that this award will serve to provide some financial stability to our most creative minds. These awards are something the festival has always wanted to do and we are delighted that Zurich continues to support the arts in this tremendously difficult year for writers as all book launches, signings and festivals go online without the presence of a physical audience."

Neil Freshwater, CEO Zurich Insurance plc said: "Zurich is proud to support writers, literature and creativity in Ireland through its longstanding partnership with the Dalkey Book Festival. The success of the inaugural Dalkey Literary Awards in 2020 was built on the passion of contributors to provide

support and hope during a very difficult time. In 2021, as an online festival and awards ceremony, we look forward to once again supporting and celebrating the immense talent Ireland has to offer.”

ENDS

Further Information:

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ABOUT THE DALKEY LITERARY AWARDS

On 12th March 2021, Dalkey Book Festival and Zurich announced the Dalkey Literary Awards 2021. Held annually, the awards are in two categories: ‘Novel of the Year’ and ‘Emerging Writer’. The awards are for writers resident in or born in Ireland and published in Ireland or the UK in 2020.

For more information about the awards, please see: <https://www.zurich.ie/dalkey-literary-awards/2021>

ABOUT THE DALKEY BOOK FESTIVAL

Set in the beautiful seaside town of Dalkey in County Dublin, the Dalkey Book Festival has been playing host to some of the greatest authors and thinkers from across the globe since 2010. The festival celebrates literature, theatre, film and comedy as well as ideas, exploring the worlds of science, technology, current affairs, new politics and global trends.

ABOUT ZURICH IN IRELAND

Zurich is one of Ireland’s leading insurance providers, offering a wide range of general insurance and life insurance products and services. Zurich Ireland entities employ over 1,000 people across locations in Dublin and Wexford.

ABOUT ZURICH INSURANCE GROUP

Zurich Insurance Group (Zurich) is a leading multi-line insurer that serves its customers in global and local markets. With about 53,000 employees, it provides a wide range of property and casualty, and life insurance products and services in more than 210 countries and territories. Zurich’s customers include individuals, small businesses, and mid-sized and large companies, as well as multinational corporations. The Group is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, where it was founded in 1872.

DALKEY LITERARY AWARDS JUDGES

Aideen Howard

Dearbhail McDonald

Declan Hughes

Paschal Donohoe TD

Róisín Ingle

Sinéad Gleeson

DALKEY LITERARY AWARDS NOMINATING PANEL

Andrea Catherwood

Barbara Scully

Bridget Hourican

Christine Dwyer Hickey

Cormac Kinsella

Fiach Mac Conghail

Fiona Hedigan

Gary Jermyn

Jennifer O'Connell

Kay Sheehy

Lia Mills

Madeleine Keane

Marta Starosta

Martin Doyle

Martina Devlin

Neil Hegarty

Rick O'Shea

Susie Lopez

FAQs

Prize: The total prize fund is €30,000. The winner of the Novel of the Year award receives €20,000 and the winner of the Emerging Writer award receives €10,000. In addition, the winner of the Emerging Writer Award will win a spot at the Dalkey Book Festival in June, appearing with the judges of that award to talk about their work and what winning the award means to them.

How do the Dalkey Literary Awards work? The Awards support writers resident in, or born in Ireland, and published in Ireland or the UK in 2020. There are two categories: Novel of the Year and Emerging Writer. There is a Nominating Panel made up of 19 nominators including writers, literary agents, booksellers, academics and journalists. The Nominating Panel together nominate books published in 2020 by Irish writers and arrive at a shortlist of up to six books for each category. There are two distinct judging panels, one for each category, both made up of three members, typically an author, a journalist and a person in the public eye with a love of reading. Each judging panel then reads the shortlisted books for the relevant category before meeting on two occasions to agree one winner.

How do I enter a book? Books are nominated by the Nominating Panel. Publishers were also invited to submit their nominations, up to a maximum of five titles in each category. Nominations from publishers closed on 12th February 2021. Books must have been published in Ireland or the UK in 2020 and must be by an Irish writer or writer resident in Ireland. To accept being shortlisted, writers must agree to attend the Awards ceremony in Dalkey in June 2021.

What is an “Emerging Writer”? An Emerging Writer is widely-defined as (and includes, but is not limited to) writers of fiction, non-fiction, literary history, biography, memoir, collections of poetry, essays and short stories. Emerging writers may include writers of published books and emerging writers may be of all ages.

What is an “Irish” writer? Authors need not be Irish but if not then they must have been resident in Ireland for at least six months in each of the previous three years.

SHORTLISTS

The shortlists for both award categories will be revealed in April 2021.

AWARD CEREMONY/Winners

The winners will be announced in June 2021.

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