

TOWERS AND TALES

Children's Book Festival

Saturday 4th May 2024

Lismore, Co. Waterford

i AM TEN



FESTIVAL TEAM

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Elaina Ryan
Fiona Kearney
Julian Mack
John Huddy

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Elaina Ryan

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Denis Nevin (Castle Manager)
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Rachel O'Hara (Lismore Castle Arts)
Gael Byrne (Lismore town representative)
Aisling Fitzgerald (Towers and Tales)
Niamh Baldwin (Waterford Libraries)
Loretta Kinsella (Waterford Libraries)

Lismore Castle Arts

Paul McAree (Curator)
Alan Boardman (Programme & Operations Manager)
Liza Foley (Exhibitions Coordinator)
Rachel O'Hara (Arts Engagement Facilitator)

Producer

Aisling Fitzgerald

Festival Designer

Olan Wrynn

Assistant Producer

Pax Ó Faoláin

Production Assistant

Meg Ahearne

Special thanks to our partners, funders, donors and all of those who contribute as volunteers to Towers and Tales Children's Book Festival.

Visit us at Lismore Castle, Co. Waterford, Ireland
or on our website: www.towersandtalesfestival.ie
or contact us on: e: towersandtales@gmail.com



WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome you to Lismore Castle for the tenth year of Towers and Tales, and if you have visited before – welcome back! As ever, the festival offers a fantastic lineup of authors and illustrators as well as all sorts of activities to thrill and delight visitors of all ages.

Our dream and that of the organisers and fellow founders is to give young audiences magical experiences with books, reading, storytelling and drawing that will stay with them for years to come.

We know that not everybody is able to attend the festival itself so we are especially grateful to all the authors and illustrators who visit schools and libraries in the area on the Friday before the festival. This is made possible thanks to our partnership with the amazing team at Waterford libraries.

The festival is one of our highlights of the castle year and one we all look forward to. Every year brings something new and there are always surprises to look out for.

Of course none of this would be possible without the passion and commitment of all our supporters, volunteers, helpers, sponsors, collaborators, committee members and of course the Festival Creative Team.

So thank you to everyone who has helped to bring the festival to life this year and thanks also to YOU for choosing to visit Lismore and for helping us create such a memorable day. Here's to the next ten years!

If social media is your thing please share your memories, using #towersandtales but most of all we hope you all have a fantastic and inspired day in Lismore.

William and Laura Burlington

Being ten is a big deal and we can't wait to celebrate with you at Lismore Castle and town this May. We are truly ecstatic to bring you the tenth anniversary programme of Towers and Tales Children's Book Festival and welcome some incredible authors and illustrators to the party.

Writing, drawing and storytelling sit at the heart of the adventure that awaits you where events and workshops with our guest authors and illustrators will take over the Castle Courtyard, Gardens, Stable Yard, Banqueting Hall, Gallery and lots of special places around Lismore Town. Sadhbh and Brian are ready for some sofa-snuggles and big adventures in the great outdoors with Rua. For all you budding pranksters, get ready to meet our queen of Norse myth, Louie and the cunning trickster God, Loki! If you ever wanted to make your own comic book – look no further than the workshop with Sheena, and Steven is full steam ahead for an exciting Shifty McCifty and Slippery Sam escapade. Space lovers, we can't wait for you to visit our Planetarium where Eve and Alex will literally take you out of this world!!

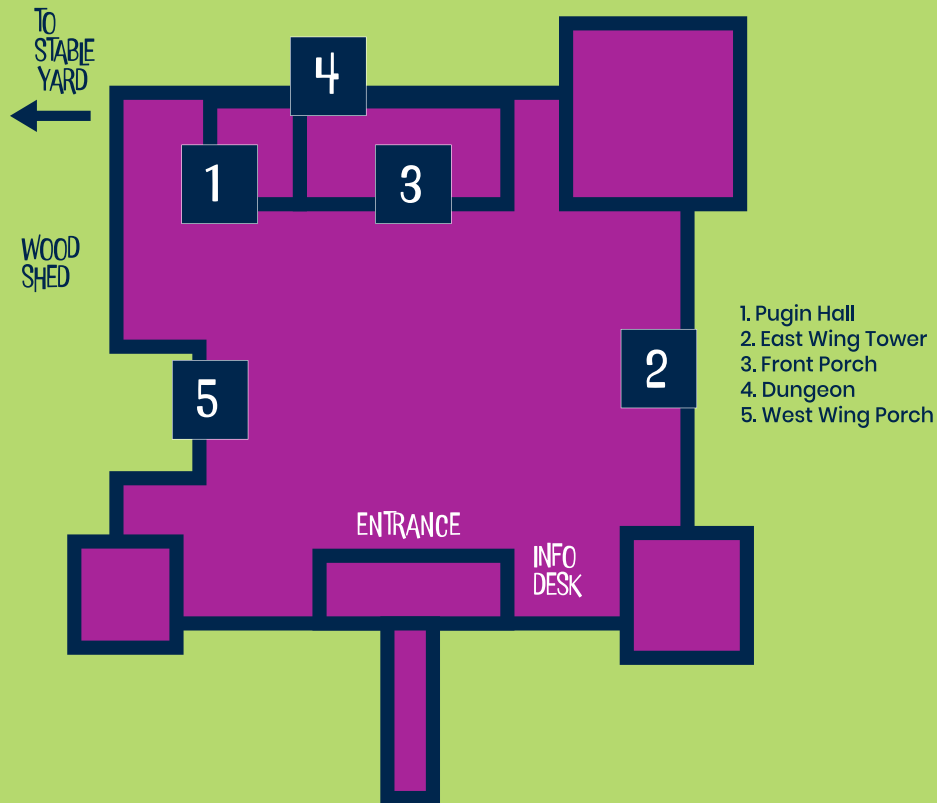
Celebrating its tenth year, Towers and Tales Festival has proved year after year to provide a magical and inspirational festival for young audiences with unforgettable creative experiences in celebration of books, stories and illustration. This year, we bring you even more events and excitement! So book-lovers get ready for a whirlwind! There's toe-tapping with Ceol Connected, Street Art storytelling and puppetry with Elisa and Cork Circus Factory, Stories, Songs and Silliness with Pádraig in the Library, garden Scéal Trails, forest Story Trails and doodling until your arm falls off (only kidding). You can Sketch and Stroll through the beautiful gardens at the Castle, visit ChildVision in the East Wing Tower and don't forget about the trusty Book Doctors who are at the ready in the Courtyard with your book prescription.

Our 2024 Festival Exhibition hosts the wonderful work of Brian Fitzgerald with prints from Bunny's Most Fabulous Vacation Ever! You can visit The Vault Café during the festival and for a week or two after to see the journey of Bunny unfold.

We also have a wonderland of free events throughout the Festival Hub where you can be curious, be inspired and celebrate the wonderful world of books. And when you need a rest from all the reading and excitement, hang out in the Stable Yard or the Gallery café for some delicious treats. So, what are you waiting for? We're ready to get this magnificent book party started and can't wait to see you!

Elaina Ryan, Niamh Sharkey and Aisling Fitzgerald (Creative Team)

LISMORE CASTLE FESTIVAL MAP



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

EXHIBITION

‘Little Irish Folklore Friends’

Friday 3rd May – Friday 17th May 2023 The Vault Café



Our 2024 Festival Exhibition hosts the wonderful work of illustrator Brian Fitzgerald with prints from Little Irish Folklore Friends by Niamh Donnellan. You can visit The Vault Café during the festival weekend and for two weeks after to meet everyone’s favourite creatures from Irish folklore!

In this charmingly illustrated collection of rhyming stories these naughty little fairies, pucas and wisps learn to turn frowns upside down and go from frightening to fun! Join Liam the Leprechaun, Betty the Banshee and Pádraig the Púca; Willow the Wisp, Fiadh the Fairy and Sean the Selkie for lots of bedtime giggles.

Brian Fitzgerald

Brian is an award-winning, Irish illustrator who lives and works in Dún Laoghaire. His earliest illustrations often featured the sheep and horses seen from his childhood home on the Curragh plains. Brian has worked continuously as an illustrator since graduating from NCAD in Dublin. From his first picture book commission in 2010, he was hooked and has focused on picture books ever since receiving international recognition (Inaugural winner of the International Silent Book in Bologna, 2014) for his award-winning book Bounce Bounce. In 2015 he met with Harriet Ziefert in New Jersey and has collaborated ever since, Be Thankful For Trees. Other collaborations include Gabriel Rosenstock An Eala Órga and Óró na Círcíní agus scéalta eile ón Afraic, Usborne Atlas sticker picture books (2017), Lula Bell I don’t want to go to School (Little Tiger Press), with O’Brien Press; Elena Browne You can do it Rosie, Éanna Ní Lamhna Wonders of the Wild (2023). With Futa Fata; Amuigh Faoin Spéir, by Sadhbh Devlin, Gealach agus Grian by Muireann Ní Chíobháin and Jeanne Willis on The Bear Who Had Nothing to Wear (Scallywag Press) and The Rattlin’ Bog (Barefoot Books). Brian’s first author illustration book Bunny’s Most Fabulous Vacation Ever! releases May 2024 (Red Comet Press).

Saturday

SADHBH DEVLIN | AUTHOR

Sadhbh Devlin is an award-winning writer of adorable Irish language picturebooks. Her book, *Geansaí Ottó (Futa Fata, 2020)*, won the LAI:Book of the Year Award in 2021 and became Ireland's first outdoor Scéal Trail. Her book *Amuigh Faoin Spéir (Futa Fata 2022)* won *Gradam Réics Carló* in 2023. Sadhbh was the Dublin City University Irish Language Writer in Residence for 2022. She lives in Co. Wicklow with her husband, twin daughters and a naughty kitten called Pico.

RECENT WORK:

Amuigh Faoin Spéir with Brian Fitzgerald (*Futa Fata, 2022*) for age 4+
Geansaí Otto with Róisín Hahessy (*Futa Fata, 2021*) for age 4+
Beag Bideach with Róisín Hahessy (*Futa Fata, 2018*) for age 5+

RECENT AWARDS:

Winner: *Gradam Réics Carló, 2023* (*Amuigh Faoin Spéir*)
Shortlisted: *LAI Biennial Book of the Year Award* (*Amuigh Faoin Spéir*)

EVENTS

Amuigh Faoin Spéir | Event

12.30 p.m. | Pugin Hall | €7.50 / €2.50 | for age 5-8

Join author Sadhbh Devlin, illustrator Brian Fitzgerald and their little friend Rua on a big adventure *Amuigh Faoin Spéir!* Rua is delighted that the weekend is here. He's looking forward to lying on the sofa and watching his favourite cartoons all day. Mummy is happy that it's the weekend too, but she has a completely different plan... *Amuigh Faoin Spéir* is all about sofa-snuggles and big adventures in the great outdoors. Sadhbh will read the story and then Brian will help us all make some amazing art!

Bí i gcuideachta údar Sadhbh Devlin, maisitheoir Brian Fitzgerald agus a gcara beag Rua ar eachtra mhór *Amuigh Faoin Spéir!* Tá Rua breá sásta go bhfuil an deireadh seachtaine ann agus gur féidir leis luí siar ar an tolg le breathnú ar chartúin ar feadh an lae. Tá Mamá sásta go bhfuil an deireadh seachtaine ann freisin ach tá plean iomlán éagsúil aici siúd don lá... Léifidh Sadhbh an scéal agus ansin taispeánfaidh Brian dúinn conas ealaín álainn a chruthú!

This is a bilingual Gaeilge/English event.

This event is presented with author Sadhbh Devlin and illustrator Brian Fitzgerald

Children must be accompanied by an adult, tickets are required for adults & children.

Nature Ninjas with Sadhbh Devlin | Workshop

3 p.m. | Paxton's Vinery | €10 (Carers free) | for age 4+

Rua is delighted that the weekend is here. He's looking forward to lying on the sofa and watching his favourite cartoons all day. Mummy is happy that it's the weekend too, but she has a completely different plan! Sadhbh will read from her new picturebook *Amuigh Faoin Spéir* (illustrated by Brian Fitzgerald) and the children will design their very own Nature Ninjas!

This event will be delivered mostly in English; Sadhbh will read from her book in Irish, translating as she goes. Suitable for children with any level of Irish, or none!

Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the workshop.



Saturday

LOUIE STOWELL | AUTHOR

Louie Stowell worked in children's publishing for 15 years before becoming a full-time writer. Her debut novel for children, *The Dragon in the Library*, came out in 2019, followed by two more in the series, *The Monster in the Lake* and *The Wizard in the Wood*. In 2021 she published *Otherland*, a middle grade novel (very) loosely based on Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, with a touch of *Queenie* from *Blackadder*. Translated into 29 languages and counting, Louie's bestselling and multi-award-winning *Loki: A Bad God's Guide* series began in 2022 and, if she has anything to do with it, will go on for many years. She also writes short stories and writes and draws comics. Louie lives in Hackney with her wife, Karen, her dog, Buffy, and a nameless creepy puppet that is probably cursed.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Ruling the World (Walker Books Ltd, 2023) for age 9-12 years
Loki: Tales of a Bad God - World Book Day book 2024 (Walker Books Ltd, 2024) for age 9-12 years

RECENT AWARDS:

Winner: *The Children's Book Award, 2023* (*Loki: A Bad God's guide to Being Good*)
Winner: *Sheffield Children's Book Award, 2023* (*Loki: A Bad God's guide to Being Good*)

EVENTS

Loki: A Bad God's Guide with Louie Stowell | Event

10.30 a.m. | Pugin Hall | €7.50 / €2.50 | for age 9+

Have you ever wondered what Loki, the mischievous shape-shifter and cunning trickster god would be like if they were banished to Earth in the form of an eleven-year-old? Well, look no further – this is the event for you! Join author and Norse myth super fan Louie Stowell in this interactive event to hear all about Loki, Thor, and her bestselling series *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to...* Packed full of fun and cool facts, this event will be perfect for pranksters with a silly streak!

Please note this same event will be presented at Lismore Heritage Centre at 2 p.m.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, tickets are required for adults & children

Loki: A Bad God's Guide with Louie Stowell | Event

2 p.m. | Lismore Heritage Centre | €7.50 / €2.50 | for age 9+

Have you ever wondered what Loki, the mischievous shape-shifter and cunning trickster god would be like if they were banished to Earth in the form of an eleven-year-old? Well, look no further – this is the event for you! Join author and Norse myth super fan Louie Stowell in this interactive event to hear all about Loki, Thor, and her bestselling series *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to...* Packed full of fun and cool facts, this event will be perfect for pranksters with a silly streak!

Please note this same event will be presented in Pugin Hall at 10.30 a.m.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, tickets are required for adults & children.

Saturday

SHEENA DEMPSEY | AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Sheena Dempsey is a children's book author and illustrator from Cork. She has illustrated lots of titles during the last decade including *Yoga Babies* by Fearné Cotton, *Mermaid School* by Lucy Courtenay and Dave Pigeon and *Bad Panda* by Swapna Haddow. *Pablo and Splash* is her first graphic novel. She lives by the sea in Folkestone Kent with her husband Mick and their greedy greyhound Jeremy.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Pablo and Splash
(Bloomsbury, 2024) for age 5–8 years

Bad Panda with Swapna Haddow
(Faber & Faber, 2021) for age 7–9 years

Dave Pigeon with Swapna Haddow
(Faber & Faber, 2016, 2018, 2023) for age 8–10 years

Yoga Babies with Fearné Cotton
(Anderson Press, 2017) for age 2–4 years

RECENT AWARDS/ NOMINATIONS:

Winner: Coventry Inspire Book Awards 2023
(*Bad Panda*)

Appointed: World Book Day illustrator, 2023
Bookshop Mayhem (*Dave Pigeon*)

Shortlisted: Alligator's Mouth 2022 and 2020,
(*Bad Panda* and *Dave Pigeon*)

Winner: Sheffield Book Awards 2018, Toddler
Category (*Yoga Babies*)

EVENTS

Meet Pablo and Splash! | Event

12 p.m. | Lismore Heritage Centre | €7.50 / €2.50 | for age 7–9

Penguin pals Pablo and Splash are best friends – but polar opposites! When fearless Splash gets fed up to her flippers of freezing her beak off on the ice, she leads Pablo on a time-bending adventure that is bigger than either of them could have imagined. This event will be jam-packed with fun penguin facts, a behind-the-scenes look at creating graphic novels and a chance to help create a new story with author and illustrator Sheena Dempsey. *Children must be accompanied by an adult, tickets are required for adults & children.*

Dynamic Duos – Make Your Own Comic | Workshop

3 p.m. | Lismore Library | €10 | for age 8–10 | (Carers free)

Have you ever wanted to make your own comic books? Join Sheena Dempsey, the creator of *Pablo and Splash* and illustrator of the *Bad Panda*, *Mermaid School* and *Dave Pigeon* series, to find out how to create characters that jump (or fly or swim!) off the page. In this interactive workshop, Sheena will give you all the tools you need to write and draw your own brilliant comic book, and share lots of top tips about becoming a writer and illustrator. *Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the workshop.*



Saturday

EVE McDONNELL | AUTHOR & ARTIST

Eve McDonnell is a children's author, artist and Wonderlarker who lives halfway up a hill in Co Wexford. She is an author of historical fantasy novels for 8–12 year-olds, including the award winning *Elsetime*, and the Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024 nominated book, *The Chestnut Roaster*. Her next book, *The Last Boy*, publishes in autumn 2024 with *Everything With Words*. The best part of Eve's job is facilitating creative writing and crafting workshops in libraries, schools, writing clubs and festivals.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Elsetime (*Everything with words*, 2020) for age 8+

The Chestnut Roaster (*Everything with words*, 2022) for age 10+

The Last Boy (*Everything with words*, 2024) for age 10+

RECENT AWARDS/ NOMINATIONS:

Elsetime (*Everything with words*, 2020)

Winner: The Wells Festival of Literature Children's Book Award, 2017

Shortlisted: The Spellbinding Book of the Year Award, 2021

Shortlisted: The Awesome Book Award, 2022

The Chestnut Roaster (*Everything with words*, 2022)

Nominated: Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing, 2024

Shortlisted: The Redhill Academy Trust Children's Book Award, 2022

Longlisted: The Spark! Book Awards, 2022

Awarded: A Guardian Best Book of the Year, 2022

Awarded: The Times Book of the Week, 2022

EVENTS

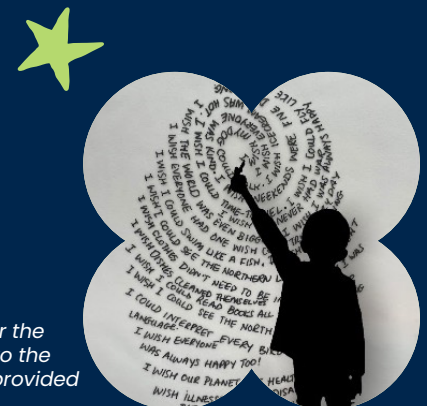
Will You Wish Upon a Star? | Workshop at the Towers and Tales Planetarium
10.30 a.m. | 2 p.m. | 4 p.m. | The Red Hall | €10 (Carers free) | for age 7+

In Eve's next novel *The Last Boy*, a small, unwanted 'climbing boy' is sold to a cruel Master Sweep, so when a storm of stars fills the sky, he casts his wish upon each star to be the last climbing boy, ever. It's a big wish for a little boy, but wishes exist in hope-filled hearts – they are the tiny seeds of huge change, they create dreams of better things, and, best of all, they bring smiles and delicious anticipation!

Join Eve in the **Towers and Tales Planetarium** for a magical, wish-filled event. What would you wish for? Dogs that talk, or marshmallows for tea? A big change to our world, or a little change to your day? We'll create our giant Wishprint before turning our eyes to the skies. Under a phenomenal storm of stars, we'll cast our wishes, and wonder... will they come true?

Includes an exclusive pre-publication reading from The Last Boy.

Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the workshop. Please note access to the planetarium is for children only, chairs will be provided for adults to relax in the venue ..



Saturday

BRIAN FITZGERALD | AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Brian Fitzgerald is an award-winning, Irish illustrator who lives and works in Dún Laoghaire. His earliest illustrations often featured the sheep and horses seen from his childhood home on the Curragh plains. Brian has worked continuously as an illustrator since graduating from NCAD in Dublin. From his first picture book commission in 2010, he was hooked and has focused on picture books ever since receiving international recognition (Inaugural winner of the International Silent Book in Bologna, 2014) for his award-winning book *Bounce Bounce*. In 2015 he met with Harriet Ziefert in New Jersey and has collaborated ever since, *Be Thankful For Trees*. Other collaborations include *Gabriel Rosenstock An Eala Órga and Óró na Circíní agus scéalta eile ón Afraic*, *Usborne Atlas sticker picture books (2017)*, *Lula Bell I don't want to go to School (Little Tiger Press)*, with O'Brien Press; *Elena Browne You can do it Rosie*, *Éanna Ní Lamhna Wonders of the Wild (2023)*. With *Futa Fata*; *Amuigh Faoin Spéir*, by Sadhbh Devlin, *Gealach agus Grian* by Muireann Ní Chíobháin and *Jeanne Willis on The Bear Who Had Nothing to Wear (Scallywag Press)* and *The Rattlin' Bog (Barefoot Books)*. Brian's first author-illustrator book *Bunny's Most Fabulous Vacation Ever!* releases May 2024 (Red Comet Press).



RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Bunny's Most Fabulous Vacation Ever! (Red Comet Press, 2024) for age 4–8 years
The Rattlin' Bog with Jessica Law (Barefoot Books, 2024) for age 3–7 years
Gealach agus Grian with Muireann Ní Chíobháin (Futa Fata, 2023) for age 5–8 years
The Bear Who Had Nothing to Wear with Jeanne Willis (Scallywag Press, 2023) for age 3+
Be Thankful for Water with Harriet Ziefert (Red Comet Press, 2022) for age 4–8 years

RECENT AWARDS/ NOMINATIONS:

Winner: *Gradam Réics Carló*, 2023 (*Amuigh Faoin Spéir*)

EVENTS

Amuigh Faoin Spéir | Event

12.30 p.m. | Pugin Hall | €7.50 / €2.50 | for age 5–8

Join author Sadhbh Devlin, illustrator Brian Fitzgerald and their little friend Rua on a big adventure *Amuigh Faoin Spéir!* Rua is delighted that the weekend is here. He's looking forward to lying on the sofa and watching his favourite cartoons all day. Mammy is happy that it's the weekend too, but she has a completely different plan... *Amuigh Faoin Spéir* is all about sofa-snuggles and big adventures in the great outdoors. Sadhbh will read the story and then Brian will help us all make some amazing art!

Bí i gcuideachta údar Sadhbh Devlin, maisitheoir Brian Fitzgerald agus a gcara beag Rua ar eachtra mhór *Amuigh Faoin Spéir!* Tá Rua breá sásta go bhfuil an deireadh seachtaine ann agus gur féidir leis luí siar ar an tolg le breathnú ar chartúin ar feadh an lae. Tá Mamaí sásta go bhfuil an deireadh seachtaine ann freisin ach tá plean iomlán éagsúil aici siúd don lá... Léifidh Sadhbh an scéal agus ansin taispeánfaidh Brian dúinn conas ealaín álainn a chruthú!

This is a bilingual Gaelige/English event.

This event is presented with author Sadhbh Devlin and illustrator Brian Fitzgerald. Children must be accompanied by an adult, tickets are required for adults & children.

The Bear Who Had Nothing to Wear | Workshop

4 p.m. | Pugin Hall | €10 (Carers free) | for age 5+

Most teddy bears let their owner decide, but Albie would not, for a bear has its pride. Albie is a well-dressed teddy bear with an outfit for every occasion – from fairy to pirate, cowboy to elegant city gent. Come and hear illustrator Brian Fitzgerald read from *The Bear Who Had Nothing to Wear* (written by Jeanne Willis) and create a brand new character with their own unique style! Teddies of all kinds are very welcome to come.

Children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the workshop.

Bring your
Teddy Bear



Saturday

STEVEN LENTON | AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Steven Lenton is a multi-award winning author/illustrator and the creator of the Genie and Teeny series. He has illustrated many books, including an adaptation of *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* and *Octopus Shocktopus* by Peter Bently, *Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam* series by Tracey Corderoy and *Dino Dad* by CBeebies star Andy Day. Steven has his own children's book podcast called 'Studiomate Steve'. He lives in Brighton with his French bulldog, Big-Eared Bob.

RECENT WORK:

Dino Dad (Puffin, 2024) for age 5-8 years

Genie and Teeny - Wish Upon a Star (Harper Collins, 2023) for age 5+

How To Grow A Dragon (Puffin, 2023) for age 4-6 years

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam: Train Trouble (Nosy Crow, 2023) for age 3+

Genie and Teeny - Make A Wish (Harper Collins, 2021) for age 5+

How To Grow A Unicorn (Puffin, 2021) for age 4-6 years



RECENT AWARDS:

Winner: FCBG Children's Book Award, 2022 (*Octopus Shocktopus*)

EVENTS

Genie and Teeny | Event

10 a.m. | Lismore Heritage Centre | €7.50 / €2.50 | for age 6+

Join award-winning illustrator Steven Lenton who will make all your bookish wishes come true with his magical and fun *Genie and Teeny* series. Grant the Genie is not very popular. He's been cast out of Genie World and is now on Earth without a lamp to call home. Grant is terribly lonely, but one day a puppy called Teeny comes along, and Grant is in for many adventures, from kidnapping to escaping angry crocodiles! In this interactive event, Steven Lenton will introduce *Genie and Teeny's* capers and our audience will get to draw along – paper and pencils at the ready!

Children must be accompanied by an adult, tickets are required for adults & children.

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam – Train Trouble | Event

2 p.m. | Pugin Hall | €7.50 / €2.50 | for age 4+

It's full steam ahead for an exciting *Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam* escapade! Shifty and Sam are a pair of doggy detectives. They've given up a life of crime to become the best bakers in town – and to solve a mystery or two! Meet illustrator Steven Lenton as he reads from his favourite Shifty and Sam stories, including one on board the Pawrient Express. Draw along with Steven and see how he creates the crime-busting canine team of Shifty and Sam. All aboard!

Children must be accompanied by an adult, tickets are required for adults & children.



Saturday

ALEX T. SMITH | AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR



Alex T. Smith has drawn and written stories since he could hold a pencil. After considering several career options (space traveller, cake maker, professional rabbit), Alex decided to train to do the job he'd wanted to do since he was five – an illustrator specializing in the world of children's publishing. Alex graduated with a first-class degree in Illustration in 2006 and also won second place in the Macmillan Prize for Illustration. Since then Alex has gone on to work for a wide variety of clients as well as writing and illustrating his own picture books, many of which have won prizes and have been read on TV during the Bedtime Hour on the CBeebies channel. Alex is also the creator of the bestselling Claude series for early readers, which appear in their own TV series on Disney Junior. When not working, Alex enjoys doodling in his sketchbook, reading, people-watching and eavesdropping. He is also a big fan of cake and a nice cup of tea. He lives with and under the constant 'supervision' of his canine companions.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Astrid and the Space Cadets: Attack of the Snailiens! (Macmillan, 2024) for age 5-8 years
Mr. Penguin Series Book 1-3 (Hodder Children's Books, 2020-2021) for age 8-12 years
Claude Series Book 1-7 (Hodder Children's Books, 2015-2020) for age 7-9 years

RECENT AWARDS/ NOMINATIONS:

Highly Commended: Macmillan Prize for Children's Picture Book Illustration 2005
2nd Prize: Macmillan Prize for Children's Picture Book Illustration 2006
Shortlisted: Best Emerging Illustrator - The Book Trust 2008
Longlisted: The Greenaway Medal, 2009
Nominated: Blue Spruce Award (Canada)
Winner: Picture Book Category - Coventry Inspiration Book Awards
Winner: Dundee Children's Book Award 2011
Winner: Stockport Children's Book Award 2011
Shortlisted: Sheffield Children's Book Award 2011
Longlisted: The Greenaway Medal, 2013 (Two Books)
Shortlisted: AOI Illustration Awards 2013 (Children's Book category)

EVENTS

Astrid & The Space Cadets Planetarium | Workshop
12.30 p.m. | The Red Hall | €10 (Carers free) | for age 5-8

5,4,3,2,1...are you ready for lift off with author illustrator Alex T. Smith and his brand new series Astrid and the Space Cadets? Get ready to visit the **Towers and Tales Planetarium** with Alex as he introduces Astrid Atomic, a 6 year old, who goes to bed every night just like every other 6 year old. But unlike other 6 year olds she doesn't stay there. As soon as the Space Cadet siren goes off, WHOOSH she blasts off on board the spaceship Stardust. Alex will lead an out of this world art adventure to create your own aliens and will tell us all about Astrid and her pals Beryl, Professor Quackers and Zoink and their crazy, adventurous missions!

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please note access to the planetarium is for children only, chairs will be provided for adults to relax in the venue .

Astrid & The Space Cadets | Event
4 p.m. | Lismore Heritage Centre | €7.50/€2.50 | for age 5-8

5,4,3,2,1...are you ready for lift off with author illustrator Alex T. Smith and his brand new series Astrid and the Space Cadets? Join Alex as he introduces Astrid Atomic, a 6 year old, who goes to bed every night just like every other 6 year old. But unlike other 6 year olds she doesn't stay there. As soon as the Space Cadet siren goes off, WHOOSH she blasts off on board the spaceship Stardust. Alex will lead an out of this world draw along and tell us all about Astrid and her pals Beryl, Professor Quackers and Zoink and their crazy, adventurous missions!

Please note this event is repeat event of the smaller Planetarium event at 12.30 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult, tickets are required for adults & children.



FESTIVAL TIMETABLE

Saturday	Event Name	Artist	Type	Location	Age
10 a.m.	Genie & Teeny	Steven Lenton	Event	Lismore Heritage Centre	5-8
10.30 a.m.	Loki: A Bad God's Guide	Louie Stowell	Event	Pugin Hall	9+
10.30 a.m.	The Last Boy Planetarium	Eve McDonnell	Workshop	The Red Hall	7+
12 p.m.	Meet Pablo and Splash!	Sheena Dempsey	Event	Lismore Heritage Centre	7-9
12.30 p.m.	Amuigh Faoin Spéir	Sadhbh Devlin & Brian Fitzgerald	Event	Pugin Hall	5-8
12.30 p.m.	Astrid & The Space Cadets Planetarium	Alex T. Smith	Workshop	The Red Hall	5-8
2 p.m.	The Last Boy Planetarium	Eve McDonnell	Workshop	The Red Hall	7+
2 p.m.	Loki: A Bad God's Guide	Louie Stowell	Event	Lismore Heritage Centre	9+
2 p.m.	Shifty McGinty	Steven Lenton	Event	Pugin Hall	4-7
3 p.m.	Nature Ninjas	Sadhbh Devlin	Workshop	Paxton's Vinery	4+
3 p.m.	Dynamic Duos - Make Your Own Comic	Sheena Dempsey	Workshop	Lismore Library	8-10
4 p.m.	Astrid & The Space Cadets	Alex T. Smith	Event	Lismore Heritage Centre	5-8
4 p.m.	The Last Boy Planetarium	Eve McDonnell	Workshop	The Red Hall	7+
4 p.m.	The Bear Who Had Nothing to Wear	Brian Fitzgerald	Workshop	Pugin Hall	5+

FESTIVAL HUB TIMETABLE

Saturday	Event Name	Host	Location	Age
All day	Book Swap	Waterford City & County Library Services	Courtyard (Tent)	All Ages
All day	Inspiration Station	Lismore Castle Arts	Gallery Lawn	All Ages
All day	Eason Bookshop	Eason	Stable Yard	All Ages
All day	Doodle Wall	Towers & Tales	Mary Feenys Yard (Wood shed)	All Ages
All day	Knock For A Story	Towers & Tales	Front porch	6+
All day	Scéal Trail Story Trail Amuigh Faoin Spéir	Towers & Tales	Castle Gardens	All Ages
All day	Foodie Stable Yard	Towers & Tales	Stable Yard	
All day	Childvision Camp	Childvision	Courtyard East Wing Tower	All Ages
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.	Song Tales Sa Spéir	Ceol Connected	Stable Yard	All Ages
10 a.m. - 12 & 3 p.m.	Castle Flags	The Glucksman	Courtyard (Tent)	5-7 years
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Children's Book Ireland Book Clinic	Children's Books Ireland	Courtyard (Tent) & West Wing porch	All ages
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	The Story Behind The Mask	The Glucksman	Courtyard (Tent)	8-10 years
1 & 3 p.m.	51 Removals	Elisa Gallo Rosso	Centre Courtyard Lawn	All Ages
12 p.m. - 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Sketch & Stroll	Jennifer Farley & Olivia Golden	Lismore Gardens	6+
10 a.m.	Stories, Songs & Silliness	Pádraig Wallace	Lismore Library	0-4
12 p.m.	Stories, Songs & Silliness	Pádraig Wallace	Lismore Library	4-7
11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. - 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Dungeon Doodle	Lismore Castle Arts	Lismore Castle Dungeon	6+

FESTIVAL HUB

The festival hub is the heart of Towers and Tales. Join us here for doodling, knock on the Castle door for a story, create characters with the team from Glucksman Gallery or get a reading prescription from your favourite Children's Books Ireland Book Doctors.

TICKETED EVENTS

DUNGEON DOODLE

Who dares to enter Lismore Castle's dark and eerie dungeon? Join the Lismore Castle Arts Team to draw your own glow in the dark monsters, ghouls and ghosts on the walls of the castle's creepiest place.

11 a.m., 12.30 p.m., 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. |

Lismore Castle Dungeon | €5 | for age 6+



SKETCH AND STROLL

Illustrators Olivia Golden and Jennifer Farley take you on a creative sketching journey around the magical Lismore Castle Gardens where you can discover the wonder of the petals, trees and grassy banks.

12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. | Lismore Castle Gardens | €5 | for age 6+

STORIES, SONGS & SILLINESS | PÁDRAIG WALLACE

Join musician and super fan of books Pádraig Wallace on a musical adventure with stories, songs and silliness. Compose your very own diddle or dum and hear stories of famous musicians and song birds from the world of picture books.

10 a.m. | Lismore Library | €5 (Carers free) | for age 0-4

12 p.m. | Lismore Library | €5 (Carers free) | for age 4-7

FREE EVENTS [ONLINE REGISTRATION]

CASTLE COURTYARD WORKSHOPS | THE GLUCKSMAN

Castle Flags

Castle flags have long been used to identify the owners and its occupants as well as to send messages to approaching travellers, armies or neighbouring castles. In this fun hands on workshop we will be making flags that share messages or that represent our families. Under the guidance of the Glucksman's talented facilitators, children will be using pencils, crayons, card and sticks to create their own magical flags.

10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. | Castle Courtyard | Free Online Registration | Age 5-7 years

The Story behind the Mask

Become a superhero, a celebrity pop star, a mysterious villain or a scary ghoul in this fun mask making workshop. Participants will work under the guidance of the Glucksman's facilitators to learn simple card folding and illustration techniques that will help them to create their own characters and stories.

11 a.m. and 2 p.m. | Castle Courtyard | Free Online Registration | Age 8-10 years

FREE ALL-DAY EVENTS

BOOK SWAP | WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

Bring a book, pick a book! The library team will be on hand to help, and will be offering free library membership all day.

All Day Event | Castle Courtyard | Free

INSPIRATION STATION | LISMORE CASTLE ARTS

Join Lismore Castle Arts on the Gallery Lawn and enter the wonderful world of creativity. Let your imagination run wild on an arts and crafts adventure.

All Day Event | Gallery Lawn | Free

SCÉAL TRAIL [STORY TRAIL] | AMUIGH FAOIN SPÉIR (Sadhbh Devlin agus Brian Fitzgerald)

Tá Rua breá sásta go bhfuil an deireadh seachtaine ann agus gur féidir leis luí siar ar an tolg agus féachaint ar chartúin ar feadh an lae. Ach tá plean iomlán éagsúil ag Mamaí don lá. B'fhearr le Rua fanacht sa bhaile, áit a bhfuil sé teolaí, tirim agus glan – ach an éireoidh leis? Scéal lán le háilleacht an nádúir agus lán croí.

Beidh deis ag léitheoirí óga a bheith amuigh faoin spéir agus scéal Rua a leanúint ar Scéal Trail speisialta a bheas in airde le linn na féile.

The way Rua sees things, Saturday is for lying on the sofa and watching cartoons all day. But Mum has a completely different plan of action. Amuigh Faoin Spéir is a joyful celebration of the beauty of nature and the special sofa-snuggles that follow a big adventure in the great outdoors.

Young festival-goers will have the opportunity to follow Rua's story and in his footsteps by embracing the great outdoors and following a very special Scéal Trail.

All Day Event | Castle Gardens | Free | All Ages

BOOK SHOP | EASON

Pick up a book from your favourite festival artist.

All Day Event | Stable Yard

THE DOODLE WALL | FESTIVAL ARTISTS

Festival artists can be found at the doodle wall drawing during the day. Make your own mark and create your own characters on our giant doodle wall.

All Day Event | Woodshed | Free



KNOCK FOR A STORY

The most intimate event of the festival. Only 6 people at a time enter the front porch and enjoy readings throughout the day from festival artists and some special guests.

All Day Event | Front porch | Free | 6+



CHILDVISION CAMP

Come and join the Childvision team and learn a new way of experiencing the world. Take part in fun games where you can 'crack the code' using Braille, complete puzzles while in the total darkness of a blindfold and enjoy sensory stories that will ignite your imagination.

All Day Event | Castle Courtyard | Free Event | All Ages

51 REMOVALS | ELISA GALLO ROSSO

In association with Promenade and supported by Cork Circus Factory

"The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there" JP Hartley

Binah has moved 51 times in her life, across continents, seasons, and time differences. From Italy to Egypt, Mexico to England, her world moving with her in cardboard boxes and trolleys as she travels the world in the search of a forever home. Now in Ireland, help her adjust to her new surroundings, unpacking the memories and belongings she carries in this playful and interactive street show that asks us all to consider the meaning of home?

51 Removals is presented in association with Promenade, funded by the Arts Council and Cork City Council Arts Office and supported by Circus Factory.

1 p.m. & 3 p.m. | Castle Courtyard & Gardens | Free | All Ages



SONG TALES SA SPÉIR | CEOL CONNECTED

Get ready for a live music extravaganza like no other with SongTales sa Spéir.

Join Ceol Connected in the treetops where a toe-tapping, tale-telling, hip-shaking hooley awaits! With mesmerising music and songs by some of Ireland's finest musicians, you can look forward to a wonderfully interactive show that will have audiences of all ages hooked.

SongTales sa Spéir is full of imagination, magic and beautiful songs that transports each and every child and young person to a brand new exciting world.

12 p.m. & 2 p.m. | Stable Yard | Free | All Ages



BOOK CLINIC | CHILDREN'S BOOKS IRELAND

Are you a young reader? Looking for a new series to delve into? Feeling uninspired by your bookshelves at home? Do you need a prescription for a new read? Then pop along to the Children's Books Ireland Book Clinic where the Book Doctors will be ready to offer the best advice for young readers. Children will leave with a Reading Passport, and a prescription for their next read to take to their local bookshop or library. The Book Clinic is free but online registration is required - early booking is strongly advised. Please book one 15-minute slot per child.

12 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Castle Courtyard | Free on-the-day Registration | All Ages

SCHOOLS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMME

SCHOOL VISIT

Meeting an author or illustrator in person is the perfect way to enthuse and encourage young minds to explore the world of books. To make sure as many young people as possible experience the magic of Towers and Tales we have partnered with Waterford City and County Library Services to take our authors and illustrators into schools, libraries and venues across the county on Friday April 28th. In 2023 over 1500 children met with an author or illustrator in their school and local library with 23 schools involved. 2024 will see even more schoolchildren get a taste of our programme.

BOOKBAG

Bookbag is a children's book-gifting initiative that aims to get books into the hands of as many primary school children as possible and is key to the ethos of Towers and Tales. This project was established by Niamh Sharkey, one of our Artistic Directors, during her time as Laureate na nÓg, and is a joint initiative of Brown Bag Films and Children's Books Ireland. This year, one lucky school will receive a library of books. For information on our schools and book-gifting programme you can contact nbaldwin@waterfordcouncil.ie



OUR PARTNERS



LISMORE CASTLE





TOWERS AND
CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

TOWERS AND TALES

Children's Book Festival



www.towersandtalesfestival.ie

e: towersandtales@gmail.com

