

YARN

STORYTELLING
FESTIVAL

8 – 18 November 2025





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Welcome to YARN Storytelling Festival 2025! Now in our 16th year we are thrilled to be bringing you a bustling programme of oral storytelling events once again this Samhain.

YARN Storytelling Festival is a non-profit making community festival that strives to bring people together to connect through the power of oral storytelling. It is organised and run by Mermaid Arts Centre.

This year we are able to bring events around the County, partnering with the Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely, Wicklow Wolf Brewery in Newtownmountkennedy, The Glenmalure Lodge and Lynham's of Laragh. Thanks to the kind support of Wicklow Arts Office, helping us to make this happen.

We are very grateful to the Arts Council of Ireland for their continued support of our International Residencies. This year we have partnered with both the World Storytelling Café and the Storytellers Union for Cultural Innovation and the Art of Storytelling on two separate residency exchanges (see pgs. 4+5). We are very thankful to both Killruddery House & Gardens and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco to Ireland for their continued support.

This brochure details the public events. Behind the scenes storytellers are performing in schools and community groups. Many thanks to all who work together to make this possible.

A big shout out also to the Municipal District Bray and The Harbour Bar for their unwavering support of the festival and to Creative Producer Danielle Lynch for her tireless work on delivering the magic!

Read on for full details of all events. For ticketed events book through mermaidartscentre.ie or by calling the Box Office team on 01 272 4030.

Join us and let a story weave its magic on you!

Aoife Demel - Mermaid Arts Centre's Artistic Director



International Residencies

YARN Storytelling Festival is thrilled to have been awarded the Arts Council International Residency Initiative Scheme support again this year, giving us the opportunity to expand our oral storytelling connections with both the World Storytelling Café and Storytellers Union for Cultural Innovation and Art of Storytelling in Marrakech.

This year, two Irish oral storytellers, Eimear Burke and Joe Brennan, each travelled to Morocco and in return we welcomed two Moroccan storytellers, Zouhair Khaznaoui and Zakia Elyoubi to Ireland.

These residency partnerships celebrate the deep connection that exists between Morocco and Ireland forged through our shared oral storytelling tradition. The residency programme is kindly supported by Killruddery House and Gardens, who will host Zakia in November during the YARN Storytelling Festival.

Threads of the Invisible – Zouhair Khaznaoui (Morocco) & Eimear Burke (Ireland)

Threads of the Invisible is a unique cross-cultural storytelling and artistic residency uniting two ancient oral traditions from Ireland and Morocco. A collaboration between Mermaid Arts Centre and the Storytellers Union for Cultural Innovation and Art of Storytelling, the project brings together renowned Irish Druid and storyteller Eimear Burke and Moroccan storyteller and cultural innovator Zouhair Khaznaoui.

The heart of the residency was a shared exploration into the spiritual and metaphysical traditions of both cultures – examining beliefs and practices around healing, the unseen realms, and mythological beings such as djinn, druids, chouafa, mqadem, and fairies. Through research visits, immersive fieldwork, and creative storytelling, the artists seek to uncover common threads that connect the spiritual fabric of Celtic and Amazigh-Arabic-African heritage.

Zouhair Khaznaoui & Eimear Burke showcased their collaboration in development in Mermaid on 9th August and again in Marrakech on 20th September.

Zakia Elyoubi (Morocco) & Joe Brennan (Ireland)

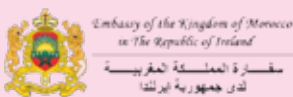
Our second international residency is a partnership between the YARN Storytelling Festival and the World Storytelling Café.

In August 2025, storyteller Joe Brennan travelled to Marrakech where he spent two weeks immersing himself in Moroccan culture and sharing traditional Irish stories with audiences. There he also met with artist Zakia Elyoubi and they began collaborating on a new storytelling piece.

As part of the YARN Storytelling Festival in November Zakia Elyoubi will come to Ireland on residency, kindly hosted by Killruddery House & Gardens. Here she will have the opportunity to share traditional Moroccan tales with Irish audiences.

Joe and Zakia will bring their collaborative performance entitled *From Desert Sands to Island Shores* to the stage at Mermaid Arts Centre on Friday 14th November at 8pm (pg. 15).

This YARN Residency Finalé event is kindly supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Ireland.



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Saturday 8 November:

- 11am | pg. 8 Family Storytelling at Ballywaltrim Library with Sinéad O'Brien
- 1pm | pg. 8 Slow Stitches: Sewing as a mindful practice with Ciara Brehony
- 2pm | pg. 9 Killruddery Family Tales with Zakia Elyoubi
- 8pm | pg. 9 Sinéad O'Brien: No One is Coming

Sunday 9 November:

- 11am | pg. 10 Liz Weir: Boom Chicka Boom Workshop
- 2.30pm | pg.10 Inni-K: An Invitation to Sing
- 8pm | pg. 11 Inni-K: Album Launch Live

Tuesday 11 November

- 8pm | pg.11 Daniel Morden: Folk Horror Stories

Wednesday 12 November

- 8pm | pg. 12 Fireside Tales at Glenmalure Lodge
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Thursday 13 November

- See website for times | pg.13 There's something about the Hares: A WhatsApp Ghost Story
- 8pm | pg. 13 Bray Maritime History; Celebrating a Century on the Waves
- 8pm | pg. 14 An Evening of Stories with Candlelit Tales at Lynham's of Laragh

Friday 14 November

- 11am | pg. 14 Tales Along the Road
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Saturday 15 November

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- 2pm | pg. 17 Killruddery Family Tales with John Row
- 5pm | pg. 17 The Snug Storytelling Sessions with Moth & Butterfly
- 8pm | pg. 18 A Wolf Shall Devour the Sun
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Sunday 16 November

- 2 & 4pm | pg.19 The Speks
- 2pm | pg. 19 Tales with Baden Prince
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- 4pm | pg. 20 The Snug Storytelling Sessions with Hearth & Fire Sessions

Tuesday 18 November

- 4pm | pg.21 Little Bray Writers Group presents Stepping Stones



Family Storytelling at Ballywaltrim Library with Sinéad O'Brien (IRL)

Date: **Saturday 8 November**

Time: **11am – 12pm**

Venue: **Ballywaltrim Library**

Suitable For: **5+ years**

Tickets: **Free Admission, No Booking Required**

Come along to Ballywaltrim Library for an enchanting family storytelling session with storyteller Sinéad O'Brien, (Ireland).

Kindly supported by Killruddery House & Gardens Killruddery Family Storytelling with Zakia Elyoubi (Morocco)

Date: **Saturday 8 November**

Time: **2pm – 3pm**

Venue: **Shoot Room, Killruddery Market Square**

Suitable For: **5+ years**

Tickets: **Free Admission, No Booking Required**

A unique opportunity to share in some Moroccan storytelling magic with International Storyteller in Residence, Zakia Elyoubi (Morocco).



Ciara Brehony Presents Slow Stitches: Sewing as a Mindful Practice

Date: **Saturday 8 November**

Time: **1pm – 4pm**

Venue: **Bray Town Hall (Upstairs)**

Suitable For: **Adults**

Tickets: **€25**

In this hand-stitching class, we'll explore slow processes that allow thinking time & a real connection to what we are making.

Sinéad O'Brien (Ireland) Presents No One is Coming

Date: **Saturday 8 November**

Time: **8pm**

Venue: **Bray Town Hall (Upstairs)**

Suitable For: **16+ years**

Tickets: **€15**

Fresh from it's award winning Off-Broadway debut (winner of Origin's 1st Irish 2025 BEST PLAY award) *No One is Coming* mixes epic Irish myth with heartrending personal stories.



Liz Weir (Northern Ireland) Presents Boom Chicka Boom

Date: **Sunday 9 November**
Time: **11am – 1pm**
Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**
Suitable For: **8 – 14 years**
Tickets: **€20**

Join storyteller Liz Weir for a fun workshop during which young people will hear stories and have the chance to try telling stories for themselves. Liz will share tips on how to tell stories and will help participants gain confidence and find their voices.



Inni-K Album Launch Live

Date: **Sunday 9 November**
Time: **8pm**
Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**
Suitable For: **16+ years**
Tickets: **€22/20**

Join Inni-K and her band live - in celebration of her fourth studio album. Renowned for her ever-evolving sonic landscapes and creative vision, Inni-K returns with the launch of her fourth studio album – a powerful new collection of nine original songs.



Inni-K: An Invitation to Sing

Date: **Sunday 9 November**
Time: **2.30pm – 4pm**
Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**
Suitable For: **16+ yrs**
Tickets: **€18**

Join Inni-K for an engaging singing workshop, where she will teach both a traditional sean-nós song and one of her own compositions from her new album. You'll even have the opportunity to join her and her band on stage later that evening – if you'd like (a separate ticket is required).



Daniel Morden (Wales) Presents Folk Horror Stories

Date: **Tuesday 11 November**
Time: **8pm**
Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**
Suitable For: **16+ years**
Tickets: **€15**

Join award-winning author and storyteller Daniel Morden as he tells the tales others usually don't dare to share.... Expect shapeshifters, foolhardy pacts and unquiet graves. Don't expect happily ever after!



Kindly supported by Wicklow Arts Office
Fireside Tales at Glenmalure Lodge

Date: **Wednesday 12 November**

Time: **8pm**

Venue: **Glenmalure Lodge**

Suitable For: **Adults**

Tickets: **Free, no booking required.**

What better way to spend a winter's night than by the fire in the company of two cracking storytellers? In the unique and evocative setting of Glenmalure Lodge, Daniel Morden (Wales) and Diarmuid O'Drisceoil (Ireland) will transport you, using the timeless enchantment of the human voice.



**There's Something About the Hares:
A WhatsApp Ghost Story**

Date: **Thursday 13 – Saturday 15 November**

Time: **Various Times – See Website**

Venue: **Online, Through WhatsApp**

Suitable For: **15+ years**

Tickets: **€5**

The performance will take place in a private WhatsApp conversation through text messages, images, voice notes and videos. Your responses and interactions have a direct impact on how the story plays out, so choose wisely, someone's life may depend on it.



Catherine Brophy (Ireland) Presents
A Fortunate Life

Date: **Wednesday 12 November**

Time: **8pm**

Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**

Suitable For: **16+ years**

Tickets: **€15**

Born, reared & educated in Dublin, Catherine links stories of her family & life in an Ireland that has changed hugely during her lifetime. The stories are all entertaining and might even make you laugh out loud.



**Bray Maritime History;
Celebrating a Century on the Waves**

Date: **Thursday 13 November**

Time: **8pm**

Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**

Suitable For: **12+ years**

Tickets: **€20 Adult | €12 Child**

A fundraising event for Bray's Sailing Club, Rowing Club & Sea Scouts. Enjoy captivating stories & rare video footage capturing both cherished traditions & exciting new events, celebrating Bray's enduring maritime spirit.



Kindly supported by Wicklow Arts Office
An Evening of Stories with Candlelit Tales at Lynham's of Laragh

Date: Thursday 13 November
Time: 8pm
Venue: Lynham's of Laragh
Suitable For: Adults
Tickets: Free, no booking required.

Join us for a magical night of storytelling with Candlelit Tales, where myth and music come alive. Experience captivating stories brought to life with original musical scores from two expert storytellers with a love for Irish Mythology.

Joe Brennan (Ireland) & Zakia Elyoubi (Morocco)
YARN Residency Finalé: From Desert Sands to Island Shores

Date: Friday 14 November
Time: 8pm
Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre
Suitable For: 14+ years
Tickets: €15

An Irishman and a Moroccan woman share wisdom across land, gender & time. A highlight of our festival, marking our International Residency Partnership (see pg. 5).



Liz Weir (Ireland) & the Children from St. Kieran's School for Travelling Children Present
Tales Along the Road

Date: Friday 14 November
Time: 11am
Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre
Suitable For: 5+ years
Tickets: Free, but booking required.

We're delighted to continue our project with St. Kieran's School. The children will be joined on stage by singer & storyteller Thomas McCarty.

Órla Mc Govern (Ireland) Presents
Through this Window, A Story: An Improvisation Workshop

Date: Saturday 15 November
Time: 11am – 2pm
Venue: Mermaid Arts Centre
Suitable For: Adults
Tickets: €30

Join us for this workshop, exploring the art of storytelling through the lens of improvisation.



Family Storytelling at Bray Library with Baden Prince (UK)

Date: **Saturday 15 November**

Time: **11am – 12pm**

Venue: **Bray Library, Eglinton Road**

Suitable For: **5+ years**

Tickets: **Admission free**

Come along to Bray Library for an enchanting family storytelling session with storyteller Baden Prince (UK).



Kindly supported by Killruddery House & Gardens Killruddery Family Storytelling with John Row (UK)

Date: **Saturday 15 November**

Time: **2pm – 3pm**

Venue: **Shoot Room, Killruddery Market Square**

Suitable For: **5+ years**

Tickets: **Free Admission, No Booking Required**

A unique opportunity to share in some storytelling magic with storyteller John Row (UK) in the cosy surroundings of the Shoot Room.



Supported by Wicklow Wolf Brewery & Wicklow Arts Office The Snug Storytelling Sessions with Macdara Yeates & Wynton Moore

Date: **Saturday 15 November**

Time: **2pm**

Venue: **Wicklow Wolf Brewery, Newtown Mt Kennedy**

Suitable For: **Adults**

Tickets: **€20**

Join us in The Snug for an afternoon of song, music, story for voice and the Uilleann Pipes with Macdara Yeates, Wynton Moore & more to be announced.



Supported by Wicklow Wolf Brewery & Wicklow Arts Office The Snug Storytelling Sessions with Moth & Butterfly

Date: **Saturday 15 November**

Time: **5pm**

Venue: **Wicklow Wolf Brewery, Newtown Mt Kennedy**

Suitable For: **Adults**

Tickets: **€20**

Join us in The Snug for an evening of eclectic storytelling from Moth & Butterfly, with special guest Daniel Galvin.



**Dougie Mackay (Scot.) & Jemima Thewes (Scot.):
A Wolf Shall Devour the Sun**

Date: **Saturday 15 November**

Time: **8pm**

Venue: **The Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely**

Suitable For: **8+ years**

Tickets: **€12**

Respected in myth yet cast as villain, the wolf once roamed Scotland until its extinction in the 18th century. Through live music, shadow puppetry & animation, stories about our oldest ally ask: in the wolf's absence, what is lost?



The Speks

Date: **Sunday 16 November**

Time: **2pm & 4pm**

Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**

Suitable For: **2 – 92 years!**

Tickets: **€11**

The Speks present a lively show of nursery rhymes & sing-along songs set to acoustic Irish music which will have adults and kids jumping in their seats! Their hand-clapping, toe-tapping, hearty-laughing show is about life on Glasses Island – a magical island off Co. Clare where everybody wears glasses!



**John Row (UK), Baden Prince (UK) &
Danni Cullen (Ireland) Present
3Bcome Taller: Breaking Barriers**

Date: **Saturday 15 November**

Time: **8pm**

Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**

Suitable For: **Adults**

Tickets: **€15**

Fresh from their Guinness World Record-breaking exploits at this year's International Storytelling Festival in Marrakech, Morocco, these three tellers will tell you a myriad of tales.

**Kindly Supported by The Harbour Bar
Tales with Baden Prince (UK)**

Date: **Sunday 16 November**

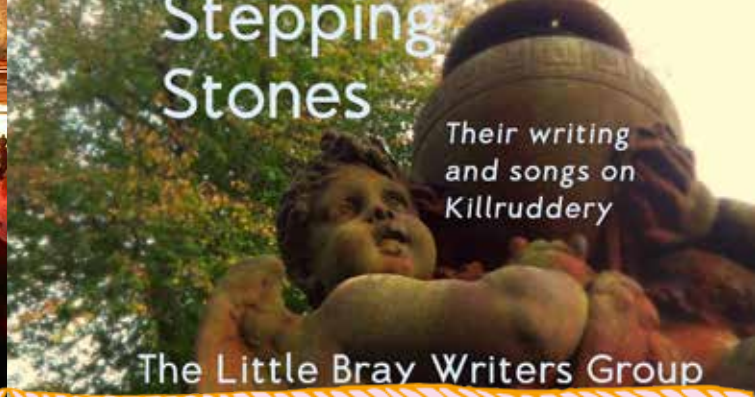
Time: **2pm - 3pm**

Venue: **The Harbour Bar, Bray (Upstairs)**

Suitable For: **12+ years**

Tickets: **Donations at the door for RNLI Wicklow Lifeboat Station.**

Join us for a cosy afternoon where Baden Prince (UK) will tell enchanting tales in the wonderful surroundings of The Harbour Bar.



Kindly Supported by The Harbour Bar
YARN Festival Story Circle

Date: **Sunday 16 November**

Time: **3.30pm – 5pm**

Venue: **The Harbour Bar, Bray (Upstairs)**

Suitable For: **Adults**

Tickets: **Donations at the door for RNLI Wicklow Lifeboat Station.**

Join us for a relaxed story swap bringing our year's Story Circle to a close. Our Bean an Ti (MC) will be Danni Cullen.

Little Bray Writers Group Present
Stepping Stones

Date: **Tuesday 18 November**

Time: **8pm**

Venue: **Mermaid Arts Centre**

Suitable For: **Adults**

Tickets: **Free, But Booking Required**

Enter the world of Killruddery Gardens through the stories and song of the Little Bray Writers Group as the magic of Killruddery is transmitted through a series of lovely responses.



Supported by Wicklow Wolf Brewery & Wicklow Arts Office
The Snug Storytelling Sessions with Hearth Fire Sessions

Date: **Sunday 16 November**

Time: **4pm**

Venue: **Wicklow Wolf Brewery, Newtown Mt Kennedy**

Suitable For: **Adults**

Tickets: **€20**

Join us in The Snug for an afternoon of ancient myth, contemporary storytelling, post-folk music, & physical artistry with Scottish tellers Dougie Mackay & Jemima Thewes.



Monthly YARN Story Circle

Date: **First Wednesday of the Month***

Time: **7pm**

Venue: **Bray Town Hall (Upstairs)**

Age Suitability: **Adults**

Tickets: **Pay What You Can from €3**

Love storytelling? Join us on the first Wednesday of the month in *February, March, April, May & June. We break for the summer & return for September & October, before culminating in the Story Swap at the YARN Storytelling Festival in November.

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Thank You!
Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

Arts Council of Ireland

Connect BYNP

Courthouse Arts Centre

Embassy of Morocco to Ireland

Killruddery House & Gardens

Lynham's of Laragh

Municipal District of Bray

Poetry Ireland

Storytellers Union, Marrakech

St. John of God's

The Glenmalure Lodge

The Harbour Bar

Wicklow Arts Office

Wicklow County Council

Wicklow Libraries

World Storytelling Café, Marrakech

Wicklow Wolf Brewery

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Killruddery Shoot Room, YARN 2022, Bríd O'Donovan.





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