

# 2006 Baffle Festival Programme

*October 27th - 29th 2006*

*Loughrea, Co. Galway*

## **Oct. 27th Friday**

*8.00p.m.*

Opening of festival. Wine and cheese reception at O'Dea's Hotel, with Michael Fahy speaking on Fr. Anthony Fahy. Ceol agus filíocht le Lasairfhíona Ní Chonaola and Michael Gorman. Followed by music from Argentina by The Hernandez Dunne Duo. Admission: 10 euro

## **October 28th. Saturday**

*11.00a.m.*

Writing workshop with Geraldine Mills at Loughrea Library, sponsored by the Irish Writer's Centre. Numbers limited, so please book early!  
Admission: 15 euro.

*3.00p.m.*

O'Dea's Hotel.  
Readings and open mic.

*7.30 - 8.30pm.*

Registration at O'Dea's Hotel, for "Baffle Bard 2006".  
Theme: Where are we now? Entry fee for poetry competition: 5 euro

*9.00pm.*

Heats of the poetry competition in assigned venues.

## **October 30th Sunday**

*12 midday*

Slatefort House Restaurant.

Launch of Salmon: A Journey in Poetry a celebration of twenty five years of poetry at the BAFFLE Brunch with readings by Salmon poets. M.C. Declan O'Brien. Admission: 20 euro, (includes brunch and transport.) Bus leaves O'Dea's hotel at 11.45am. sharp.

*8.00pm.*

O'Dea's Hotel. Music from The Hernandez Dunne Duo and tango dancing from Monina Paz and Julian Brigatti, followed by the final of the Baffle Bard 2006, adjudicator Jessie Lendennie. Also featuring The People's Choice. Admission: 10 euro

*For information, please contact Mary Ida Kelly, 086 3956921, email: [info@baffle.ie](mailto:info@baffle.ie), or [www.baffle.ie](http://www.baffle.ie)*

## **Baffle**

The Bowes Academic Fellowship and Fraternity of Literary Esoterics had its conception in 1984 in a small but select, and sadly now extinct, drinking establishment in Loughrea Co. Galway named Bowes-Kennedy. It was there through the stimuli of alcohol, nicotine and general camaraderie that a suitably inebriated gathering found itself talking along the lines of Anthony Hope's: "I wish you would read a little poetry sometimes, your ignorance cramps my conversation".

Thus BAFFLE was created with the intention of forming a catalyst of poets where there would be no censorship of language, revelation, humour, or innovation. Indeed these attributes would only serve to emphasise and enhance MacCauley's adage "Perhaps no person can be a poet, or even enjoy poetry without a certain unsoundness of mind."

### **The Original Poetry Slam ...and, much, much more! A unique view on poetry and life.**

Since its inception, the group has met regularly for the performance of their works, the venue being one of the local pubs. The basic concept being that participants compose and perform a poem on a given theme, which is announced a few weeks in advance to give aspiring poets time to hone their craft. Of course, some poets are notorious for scribbling their final lines soon after reaching the pub, and we really should not mention the people who only begin writing when they get there! All are welcome to perform, especially new poets. The group consists of a melange of locals, and "blow-ins" from every corner of Ireland, not to mention our members from Germany and Britain. We are also strongly affiliated with the Portumna group, organised by Noelle Lynskey.

**Publications:** Five volumes of poetry have been published. The most recent volume married poems with the work of local artists, creating a visually stunning book.

**Film:** The group was the subject of a documentary film made in conjunction with The Galway Film Centre's ID Productions. It was filmed at the Galway Film Fleadh in 2001.

**Awards:** The BAFFLE group has been the recipient of two Galway Regional Arts awards. One award was for the achievement of the group itself and the other was for the Festival.

**Festival:** The BAFFLE Festival was established in 1997 and has been an annual event ever since. It takes place over the October bank holiday weekend and has become the place to be for poetry and craic that weekend! The festival is built around a themed poetry competition, with readings and workshops by writers and poets happening at different venues throughout the town. Guests at the festival have included: Rita Anne Higgins, Michael Coady, the late Michael Hartnett, who was a great friend to BAFFLE, Pat McCabe, Joseph O'Connor, Senator David Norris, John Walsh, Louis De Paor, Theo Dorgan, Paula Meehan, Pat Boran, Tony Curtis, Joe Woods, Patrick Deeley, Maighread Medbh, Pauline McGlynn, Ré O Laighléis, and many, many others. Also, we must mention our stand-up man, Declan O'Brien, (the bard from the Gerry Ryan Show) who entertains us so hilariously every year, and shows us the real meaning of "performance poetry"!