

## Press Release

### New Creative Writing Mentoring Programme

Mentoring is one of the most effective supports artists can receive as they struggle to develop their talents and their crafts. In the tradition of the master craftsman and his apprentice the aspiring artist learns at first hand how to develop and hone his or her talents directly from an established artist.

Longford County Arts Office is currently offering the opportunity for a small number of poets and prose writers to participate in a ten week mentoring programme with writers Noel Monahan and Alan McMonagle.

The prose and poetry programmes are for primarily, committed beginners and those who may have been writing for some time. A brief course descriptor is attached. Both classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in Templemichael College Longford starting on Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Alan McMonagle has published two collections of short stories. *Liar Liar*, his first collection (Wordsonthestreet, 2008) was nominated for the Frank O'Connor Award for the short story. The title story from his second collection, *Psychotic Episodes* (Arlen House, 2013) was nominated for a Puchcart Prize. Alan has received awards for his work from the Professional Artists' Retreat in Yaddo (New York), the Fundación Valparaiso (Spain), the Banff Centre for Creativity (Canada) and the Arts Council of Ireland. He has contributed stories to many journals in Ireland and North America including *The Adirondack Review*, *The Valparaiso Fiction Review*, *Natural Bridge*, *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, *Southword* and *The Stinging Fly*. A radio play *Oscar Night* has just been produced by RTE. Alan holds an MA in Writing from NUI, Galway.

Noel Monahan is the well-known, Granard born, national award winning poet and dramatist will work with poets on such topics as; the stirring of a poem, the line as a basic unit of a poem, the mass of language, word, syllables, editing , the final form of a poem and getting published and poetry outlets.

Places are free, strictly limited and will be apportioned on a competitive basis. To enter the competition for a place on this Creative Writing Mentoring Programme you simply send a sample of your work, in the case of poetry: five poems and in the case of prose, a piece of approximately 300 – 500 words. The work must be the applicants own but need not have been written specifically for this programme. All applications should be e-mailed with the applicants name and contact details only to, [fkennedy@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:fkennedy@longfordcoco.ie) before 5.00pm Tuesday 4th February. The winners names will be announced on [www.virtualwriter.ie](http://www.virtualwriter.ie) .

## Prose Mentoring Programme

### With - Alan McMonagle

A ten week course in prose writing for the committed beginner and those who may have been writing for some time

The course will cover -

- Looking at the basics - ideas, plots, characters and dialogue
- Editing and polishing your work.
- Developing the structure and flow of your writing
- Learning to avoid the pitfalls often encountered in putting together a piece of writing.
- A gentle introduction to sending out work for publication

With these directions in mind, we will look at selected excerpts from well-known authors from which to draw inspiration. We will look at each other's writing. There will be writing exercises, an occasional assignment, prompts for tapping into the imagination and getting the pen moving. The pace will be gentle and progressive. Feedback will be generous and constructive.

### Bio Note:



**Alan McMonagle** has published two collections of short stories. *Liar Liar*, his first collection (Wordsonthestreet, 2008) was nominated for the Frank O'Connor Award for the short story. The title story from his second collection, *Psychotic Episodes* (Arlen House, 2013) was nominated for a Puchcart Prize.

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# Poetry Mentoring Programme

**With - NOEL MONAHAN**

This course is suitable for beginners and those who have written some poetry.

The programme will deal with all aspects of Poetry Writing.

The course will cover the following headings:

- POETIC INSPIRATION
- RESPONDING TO A POEM
- FINDING A FORM FOR YOUR POEM
- ARRANGING YOUR WORK ON THE PAGE
- RHYTHM AND LINE BREAKS
- EDITING A POEM
- HOW TO GO ABOUT GETTING YOUR POETRY PUBLISHED

## **NOEL MONAHAN - BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Noel Monahan has published five collections of poetry. His most recent publication was “Curve of The Moon” published by Salmon poetry in 2010. His literary awards include:



The SeaCat National Award organised by Poetry Ireland, The Hiberno-English Poetry Award, The Irish Writers’ Union Poetry Award, The William Allingham Poetry Award and The Kilkenny Poetry Prize for Poetry. In 2001 he won The PJ O’Connor RTE Radio Drama Award for his play “Broken Cups” and in 2002 he was awarded The A.S.T.I.

Achievements Award for his contribution to literature at home and abroad and in 2012 Arts & Entertainment Award, Shannonside/Northernsound Radio. His work has been translated into Italian, French, Romanian and Russian. His most recent plays include: “The Children of Lir” performed by

Livin’ Dred Theatre and “Lovely Husbands”, a drama based on Henry James’ work and performed at the inaugural Henry James Literary Festival, 2010. Noel co edits Windows Publications with poet Heather Brett. His poetry was prescribed text for the Leaving Certificate English Course 2011 and 2012. His modern Irish version of Buile Suibhne was set to a full musical score by composer Paul Flynn and performed in Kilmore Cathedral in 2012. Noel Monahan holds an MA in Creative Writing. Where The Wind Sleeps, New & Selected Poems by Noel Monahan, will be published by Salmon in May of this year