

PRAIRIE SCHOONER

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Prairie Schooner Winter 2011 Irish Issue Launch AUTHOR BIOS



Deanie Rowan Blank

Blank is the recipient of a W. B. Yeats Pierce Loughran Scholarship. Her poetry has appeared widely in literary journals and was performed by the East Haddam Stage Company. She was a Sunken Garden Poetry Festival Tenth Anniversary Prize finalist. Her focus on writing follows her retirement as a state and national health program developer.

She currently is preparing a poetry collection in which the title poem reflects a person's unique nature and humanity's peculiar sameness through the sincere narrative of one woman's real and visceral experiences during a single day. She also is adapting this long narrative poem into a one-act play. Her winning haiku will appear on products and publications of the ITO EN Oi Ocha, co-sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Nuala Ní Chonchúir

Ní Chonchúir is from Dublin and lives in Galway, Ireland. She is a novelist, short story writer, and poet. Her debut novel, *You* (New Island), was called "a heart-warmer" by *The Irish Times*; her third poetry collection is *The Juno Charm* (Salmon Poetry). Her fourth short story collection, *Mother America* (New Island), is forthcoming. Nuala's story "Peach," in the current issue of *Prairie Schooner*, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. www.nualanichonchuir.com

(photo credit: Emilia Kryzstofiak)





Sandra Bunting

Bunting is a poet and a member of the editorial board of *Crannóg*, a literary magazine based in Galway. An animal-lover, Sandra was at one time *au pair* to a baby gorilla in France. Since then she has worked in journalism, established her own English as a Foreign Language school and taught at the National University of Ireland, Galway. After living in the west of Ireland for more than twenty years, she recently moved to Montreal, where she now lives.

Bunting is the author of the chapbook *Lake of Phantoms* (Mercutio Press) and the collection *Identified in Trees* (Marram Press). She was a member of the Galway Writers' Workshop. Her poems have appeared in literary publications worldwide. She is presently working on a new poetry collection and a non-fiction book about the Claddagh, now a part of Galway, but at one time an extremely independent and traditional Celtic fishing village. She also works in silk painting, printmaking, and artistic bookbinding.

Aidan Rooney

Aidan was born and grew up in Monaghan, Ireland in 1965. After graduating *cum laude* from Maynooth College, National University of Ireland – where, in 1982, he won the Guinness Literary Award for Poetry – he lived and taught in Ireland, France, and Texas for a number of years before moving to New England. He has won the W.B. Yeats Society of New York Poetry Competition and received the Sunday Tribune / Hennessy Cognac award for New Irish Poetry. His poetry has been published widely in Europe and North America, and his first collection, *Day Release* (Gallery P), was heralded as “the first entry of a lasting signature in contemporary Irish poetry.” His work has appeared recently in *Salamander* (USA), *Horizon Review* (England), and *The Shop* (Ireland), and in the anthologies *The New Irish Poets* (Bloodaxe), *Staying Alive* (Bloodaxe), *180 More* (Random House), and *Seriously Funny* (Georgia). His second collection is *Tightrope* (Gallery P). Aidan lives with his family in Hingham, Massachusetts, and teaches at Thayer Academy.

