

ALANNAH HOPKIN – CV

Nationality: Irish. Resident in Kinsale, Co Cork since 1982
Member National Union of Journalists, Cork Branch
Member *Association International des Critiques D'Art* (AICA), Ireland

1974 B.A. Honours - English - Queen Mary, University of London

1976 M.A. Sociology of Literature, University of Essex. Thesis ‘A Formalist Study of *Under the Volcano* by Malcolm Lowry’

1976-1982 London-based freelance writer contributing to *Evening Standard, Time Out, Sunday Times, The Guardian, Over21, Ms. London, Irish Times, Books & Bookmen etc.*

BOOKS

1982 *A Joke Goes A Long Way in The Country* (novel) Hamish Hamilton, London, Atheneum, New York and Sphere Books, London

1985 *The Out-Haul* (novel) Hamish Hamilton, London, and Sphere Books, London

1989 *The Living Legend of Saint Patrick*, Grafton Books, London, St. Martin's Press, New York

1991 *Inside Cork* a book-length visitors' guide to the county, The Collins Press, Cork

2008 *Eating Scenery: West Cork, the People and the Place*, The Collins Press, Cork.
Reprinted 2012 as *West Cork, the People and the Place*

2010 *The Ship of Seven Murders – A True Story of Madness and Murder* The Collins Press, Cork, co-author Kathy Bunney

2016 *On the Banks – Cork City in Poetry and Song*, editor, The Collins Press, Cork

2021 *A Very Strange Man – A Memoir of Aidan Higgins* - to be published by New Island Books, Dublin in Spring, 2021

SHORT STORIES 1996 – 2020

Short stories published in *Image, Books Ireland, London Tales, The Literary Review, New Irish Poetry and Prose* (Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, New Jersey), *The London Magazine, Stand, The Cork Review* etc.

‘Quiet Quarter’ pieces broadcast on RTE Lyric FM and anthologised. ‘Sunday Miscellany’ pieces broadcast on RTE and anthologised in *Fifty Years of Sunday Miscellany* (New Island, 2019)

2014 Short story ‘White’ shortlisted for the Francis McManus Prize on RTE Radio and broadcast.

2017 *The Dogs of Inishere*, a collection of the best of my stories from the past thirty years, was published by Dalkey Archive Press in Europe and the US on 21 April, 2017

2021 *A Very Strange Man: A Memoir of Aidan Higgins* published by New Island, Dublin, April 2021

JOURNALISM

1982 -2021

Reviewer of fiction, biography and letters for various publications including the *Irish Times*, the *Financial Times*, the *Irish Examiner*.

Travel writing published by the *Evening Standard*, *Financial Times*, the *Irish Times*, *Ireland of the Welcomes*, *Cara Magazine* (Aer Lingus), the *Irish Examiner* etc.

Currently a regular contributor to the 'Irishwoman's Diary' in the *Irish Times* and Sunday Miscellany on RTE Radio

Author and updater of many guidebooks to Ireland including Insight, Berlitz and Fodor's

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

1995 to 2015

On Poetry Ireland's Writers in Schools panel, creative writing workshops for transition year students at Colaiste Choilm, Ballincollig, St Als, Carrigtwohill, Carrigaline Community School, Castletownbere CS, etc.

2005, 2006, 2013

Workshop leader on *The Unfinished Book*, a transition year creative writing project of 20 creative writing sessions in schools in local libraries for Cork City Libraries.

2013

Four two-hour writing workshops at UCC, *The Uncanny: Ghosts and Horror Stories* for the Cork International Short Story Festival and UCC's Creative Writing M. A.

2017

Evening course of four two-hour sessions on short story writing for the Munster Literature Centre open to general public

2018

Day-long master class for Carlow University (Pittsburg, PA)'s MFA in Creative Non-fiction at Trinity College, Dublin. Invited again in 2019, but event cancelled due to pandemic.

RESIDENCIES

August 2015, February 2017, August 2020 – residencies at Cill Rialaig artists' village, Bolus Head, Ballinskellig, Co Kerry

February-March 2018 – Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Harry Ransom Centre, University of Texas, Austin for four weeks at the invitation of Stephen Ennis, HRC Director, to research a memoir of my late husband, Aidan Higgins

October, 2020 – Awarded Frank O'Connor International Short Story Fellowship by Munster Literature Centre, Cork City Council and University College Cork.

<https://www.munsterlit.ie/foc%20fellowship.html>

October 7 -10 - Four two-hour sessions on short story writing for 12 participants delivered online via Zoom on consecutive days for the Cork International Short Story Festival

October- December, 2020 Visiting Fellow giving eight week course in the short story for students on Creative Writing M.A. at University, College, Cork

14 December, one-hour lecture to full group of first year students on the short story.

FESTIVALS ETC

1996, 2004 Waterford/Seán Dunne Writer's Weekend, solo readings and panel discussions

2005-2009 Kinsale Arts Week, voluntary programmer of writing programme presenting Paul Durcan, Derek Mahon, Jennifer Johnston, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, John Banville and others

2011 Judge for Frank O'Connor Award (€35,000) for best short story collection, won by Edna O'Brien

2011 Judge with Eoin McNamee for Cork County Council's *From the Well* short story competition, won by Danielle McLaughlin

2012 On stage interview with Anita Desai for West Cork Literary Festival, plenary event

2012-14 Programming foreign writing strand for Cork City Library's LitFest; paper on Robert Bolaño with Nuala Finnegan of UCC's Department of Hispanic Studies

July, 2019 - Live event talking about Aidan Higgins with Sally Phipps, biographer of Molly Keane on creativity in older writers for the Samuel Beckett 'Happy Days' festival in Enniskillen

2004-2021 On-stage interviews for the Cork International Short Story Festival with various writers including Sara Maitland, William Wall, Carlo Gébler, Helen Dunmore, Bret Anthony Johnson, Ron Rash