

TradWife Movement

Is it as Innocuous as it Looks?

One woman's harrowing true story



Also:

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Hollywood's Golden Age, and it's abuse of children

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The Covid-19 pandemic has taken its toll on us, like it has on many other magazines, organisations and businesses globally.

Unfortunately we are faced with a landscape that has irreversibly changed since the Big Issue first hit the streets in 1995. To meet this challenge Ireland's Big Issue must also change.

We have reluctantly decided, albeit with a heavy heart, to host the magazine digitally only for the foreseeable future.

From now on, Ireland's Big Issue will focus our support on the Irish Homeless Street Leagues. This volunteer-driven, non-profit has been using the power of sport to transform the lives of men and women who've found themselves affected by social exclusion all across Ireland - north and south. By continuing to support the magazine online you'll be helping to develop resilient individuals and stronger communities, connecting people and promoting equality and diversity, inspiring and motivating those affected by social issues.

We will also be adjusting the content to reflect the times we live in whilst endeavoring to provide an informative and enjoyable read.

We thank you for your support to date and ask that you continue to help us. As there is no charge for Ireland's Big Issue we do need your support to continue highlighting the issues that impact our lives and bring you a truthful, balanced view of what is happening in our world.



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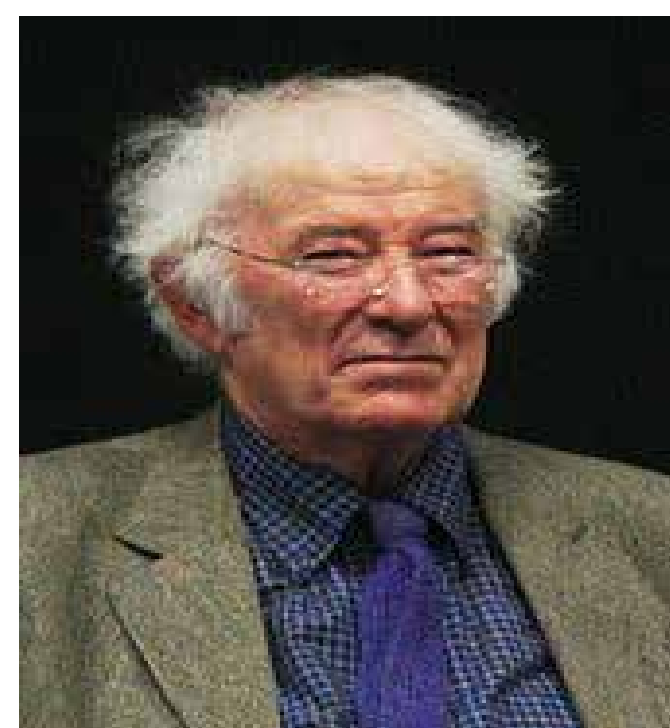
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Rechargeable batteries are great for storing energy but battery researcher Wesley Chang explains the chemistry at low temperature.



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Shaun Anthony takes a look at the so-called Golden Age of Hollywood, where child abuse occurred in plain sight, in this first of a two-part series.



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Eamonn Ceannt: Revivalist, Commandant and Martyr.

The 'Proclamation of the Republic' was read in front of the GPO in Dublin on Easter Monday 1916. The document was a formal assertion of the Irish Republic as a sovereign, independent state, and also a declaration of rights. Over the next series of editions Liz Scales will be taking a look at the lives of each of the signatories.

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Letter to my Younger Self - Nicolas Padamsee

Each issue we ask a well-known person to write a letter to their 16-year-old self. This issue Nicolas Padamsee (33), editor of Arts Against Extremism and the author of The Observer's Best New Debut Novel takes on the challenge.



Dear 16-year-old me,

So, first things first ...

You hope to become a singer-songwriter. I hate to break this to you but it won't happen, not even close. You cannot hold a tune and you will never manage to hold a tune.

I know, I know. But that's the way it is. Yes, I know. Brutal ... Alas.

Right, with that bombshell out of the way, let's move on.

You will never feel more pressure than when competing in Pro Evolution Soccer PlayStation tournaments. Nothing will compare. (I would like to tell you that you shouldn't feel pressure, that in the big picture the outcome will be irrelevant, but the truth is that even in your thirties you will occasionally remember certain matches and wish you had made different decisions. If only you had squared the ball instead of shooting ... If only you had put that penalty down the middle ...)

In the summer after months of eager anticipation for the World Cup you will travel to Gelsenkirchen to watch England v Portugal – and end the night supine on a train platform, along with hundreds of other teary England fans. You will somehow feel even worse than you did in 2004, 2002, 2000 and 1998. For the next two weeks you will be utterly inconsolable. And there will be much more sporting heartbreak to come. But all the lows will be worthwhile when England finally win a penalty shootout in 2018 – the celebrations will be so frenzied that your friend will suffer a concussion – and you will even be in Wembley Stadium when England beat Germany in 2021.

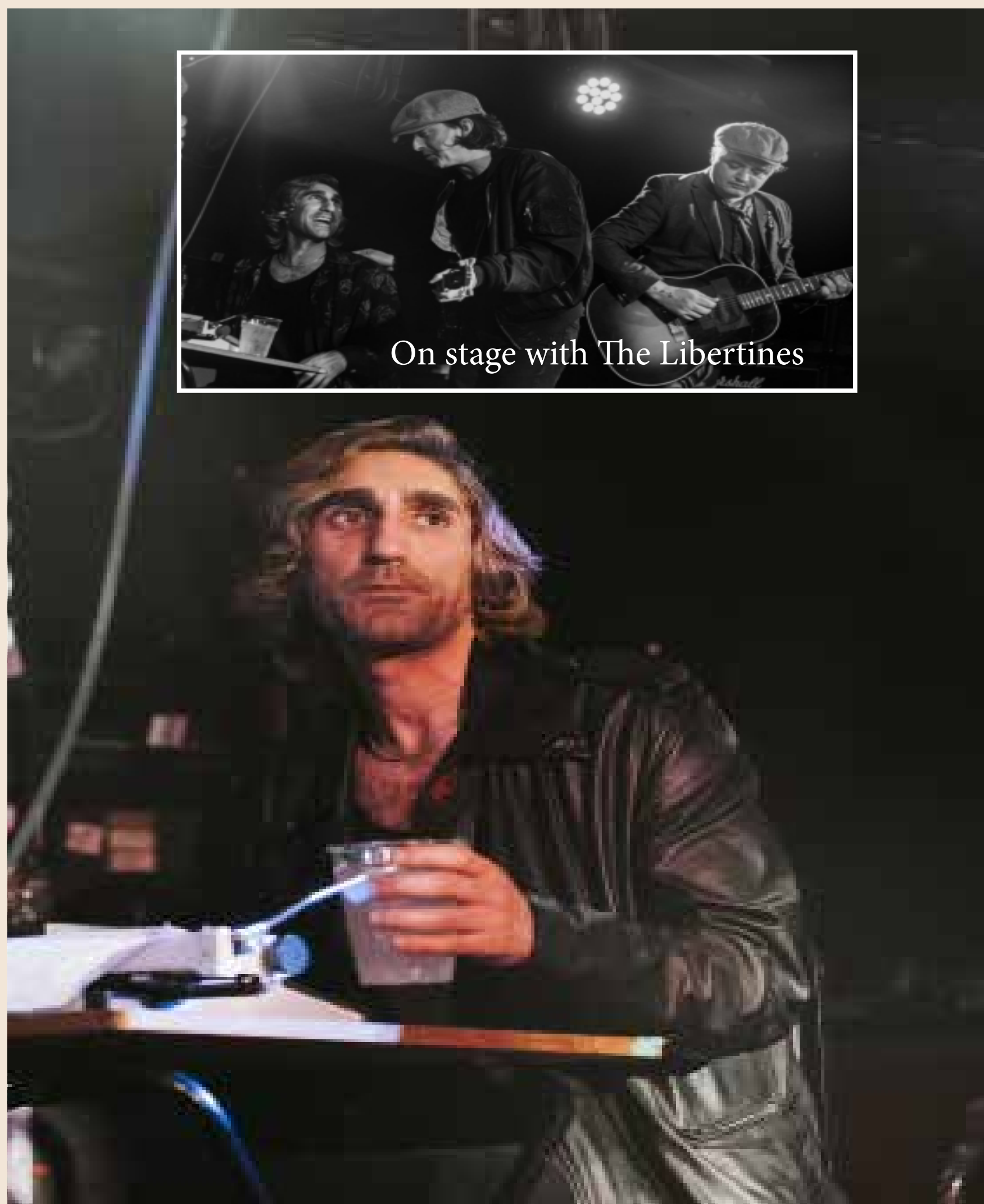
There is little you enjoy more than watching Only Fools and Horses, Yes, Minister and Fawlty Towers with Dad – savour every second. Because the opportunity will be taken away too soon.

You have had zero romantic success. Bad news: You will continue to have zero romantic success for the foreseeable future. This will be bruising. I'm sorry. Good news: You will eventually meet someone who will brighten every day with her humour, wit, intelligence and charm.

Your first Glastonbury will be so wet that there will be puddles in your tent. Perhaps consider bringing some wellies or at least Dr Martens. And bring more Pringles and dry roasted peanuts so that you won't be reduced to downing a jar of cold Dolmio sauce when your stove breaks.

You will soon pick up Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment for the first time and it will be the most powerful

reading experience of your life. In your thirties you will write a novel, *England is Mine*, influenced by it, and in doing so you will find a way to provide meaning and form to your lack of identity and belonging and your fears as well as celebrating what matters most to you.



On stage with The Libertines

Your favourite musician is Peter Doherty. He spurred your interest in literature. You started writing poetry and journalling after reading *The Books of Albion*. You fell in love with Siegfried Sassoon's 'Suicide in the Trenches' after watching him recite it on an Artsworld documentary. You bought Rimbaud's *Illuminations*, Baudelaire's *Flowers of Evil* and Genet's *Our Lady of the Flowers* after he cited them in interviews. You regularly take the train to East London to see him perform at the Rhythm Factory and then wander the streets of Whitechapel and/or sleep in Liverpool Street station, waiting for the first train back to Shenfield (and a hazy day of school). You will see him dozens of times – solo, and as part of The Libertines and Babyshambles – over the next decade. These will be among your most prized memories.

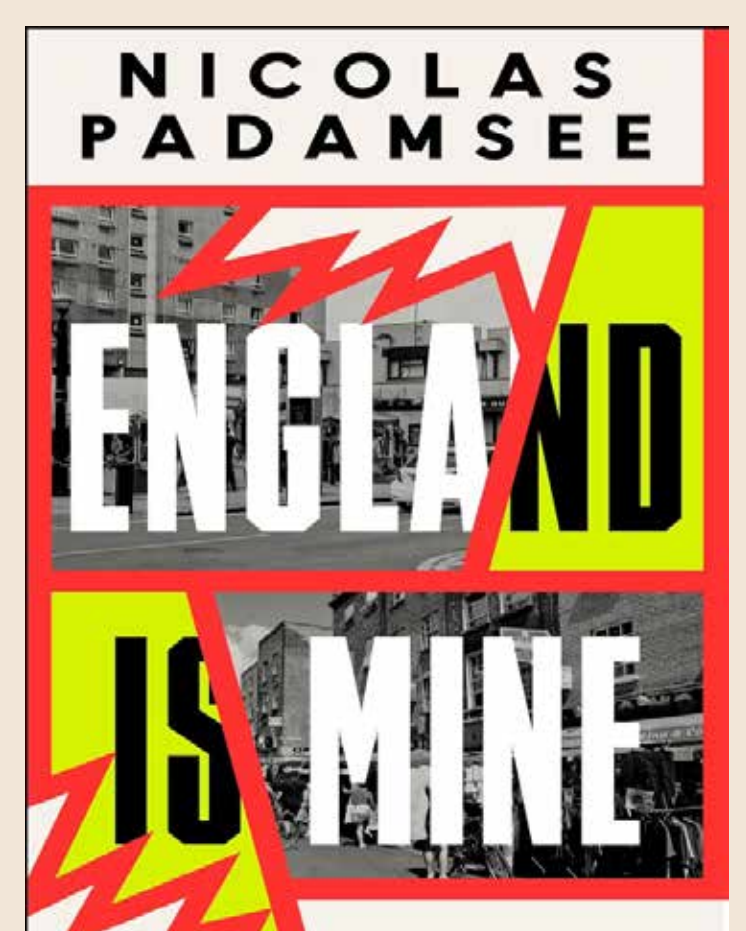
But what I will tell you next will blow your mind ...

One day he will read *England is Mine* and find it heartbreaking. He will reach out to you online and invite you to come to a show to chat about it. He will tell you his favourite moments and lines and want to discuss the decisions you made in writing and editing it. He will then, unbelievably, bring you on stage to do some stream-of-consciousness writing on his typewriter during the show. He will say, 'We are the Libertines, together with Nicolas Padamsee.' Afterwards, you will have an ice bath backstage and he will raise a toast to the success of *England is Mine*.

you
will find a way to
provide meaning and form to
your lack of identity

All of this is to say: there will be many twists and turns – and moments of terrible sadness and hopelessness – but your dreams will come true, and then some.

England is Mine by Nicolas Padamsee, published by Serpent's Tail is available from all good bookshops and online.



TradWife Movement - *Is it as Innocuous as it Looks?*

Sam McMurdock takes a look at the TradWife lifestyle and talks to one woman who lived that life and ended up penniless.



The Tradwife movement has exploded on TikTok with almost 18 million views on the hashtag #tradwives alone. Influencers like YouTube and TikTok content creator Estee Williams (26), who considers her “purpose in life” to “serve my husband’s every need” somehow attract scores of teens and 20s females who seemingly hanker after the perceived wholesomeness and simplicity of bygone days.

Estee, like many of these Tradwives models a 1950s aesthetic - hair curled, poodle skirt dresses and soft, delicate mannerisms. In some ways its easy to see why young women see Estee and similar influencers as living enviable lifestyles - after all, there’s escapism in the fantasy of relinquishing control, not having to worry about exams, getting into college or university, excelling at a job interview or dealing with the strains of adult life.

Tradwives don’t believe that women need an education, they showcase homely, spotlessly clean homes and advocate men being the breadwinner who’s in charge of the finances, pays the bills and makes all the decisions. Tradwives claim they are stress-free as they serve their husband, not a boss.

**I threw
myself into serving his
every need**

I recently spoke with an ex-Tradwife who agreed to have a chat as long as no identifiable details were revealed. For this reason names, location and manner of business have been changed.

*Brenda is an attractive 44-year-old from *Armagh born into a strict minority religious community,

“From as early as I can remember I knew I had a purpose - to find a husband and have babies. My role was to be agreeable, available and joyful at all times. I didn’t question it. I was home schooled and during my childhood I was happy but looking back I feel saddened my upbringing primed me for the situation I ended up in.”

Brenda married *Thomas when she was 16 and he was 25, “I was a romantic and to me I was part of a fairytale love story. Our families were close, but financially very different. Thomas’ family had generational wealth and when he asked my father if he could court me, he said yes. To me he was really sophisticated. He’d been to university and travelled. A month into courting he asked me to marry him. We were married two months later.

“We had a beautiful home and car and my husband had a good job working for the family business. We would have clients coming over from the U.K and beyond and my husband and I would often be out with his mother and father dining in nice restaurants.....

“Every Sunday Thomas gave me housekeeping, it was plenty to buy groceries so it never struck me to ask questions or request access to a bank account.”

When did the problems start to emerge?

“When we were married a year or so his father asked why we had no babies yet. I noticed Thomas’ jaw clench. When his father left I asked if he was okay and he said,

‘There must be something wrong with you ... you should’ve been pregnant by now.’

I said the problem was definitely me because I’d been a late developer and joked, ‘I’ll just have to try harder.’ He laughed and looking back I remember thousands of these interactions where I would make a scapegoat out of myself to make him feel good.



“We tried and tried to get pregnant and nothing happened and one day in his parents’ kitchen, with his brother and wife present, Thomas announced that we couldn’t get pregnant because I had a hormone imbalance. This was news to me but I smiled graciously and accepted their sympathies.

“As time went on I kept the home and filled my days with cleaning and cooking. My father-in-law had said in passing that I was really good entertaining clients and asked Thomas if I’d like to be a receptionist at the main outlet. I was delighted and really shocked that my husband said yes.

**...your
financial security is
hinged solely on your
husband finding you
attractive...**

“I loved my job. After a few months I asked Thomas how much I was being paid and where my wages were going. He was furious. Didn’t I realise how lucky I was having a husband who allowed me to work? He went on to say that he didn’t appreciate my tone or my sassy attitude and that is why women who develop independent spirits become repulsive to their husbands. I was so upset. ‘I’m sorry, I’m sorry’ I kept repeating but he became very cruel stating that the only reason he let me work with his parents was because I was no use in producing children, so in effect, a waste of a wife. I was devastated. ‘I’ve a good mind to put an end to this job,’ he said. I just kept apologising over and over, begging him to forgive me but he gave me the silent treatment the rest of the day.

“In bed that night he said, ‘Don’t I give you everything you need? Your money is in our bank account but maybe you think you are head of the home now, do you? Do you want to take over? Is that what you want?’ I begged him to forgive me and actually agreed with him, that working was making me mean spirited. I heard him on the phone with his father the next morning saying he’d had to put his foot down, he was putting up with no more of my usurping his authority and his dad should bring *Rose in [my sister-in-law] until they find a replacement. I was heartbroken but believed I deserved this for disrespecting his authority.”



So, were you back to being at home all day?

“Yes, but I was happy because Thomas said he felt he had his wife back. I threw myself into serving his every need, from the moment I woke. I put all his needs before my own and met his every request with a smile. I felt I’d flown too close to the sun I couldn’t evoke that response again, so I met his every sexual request enthusiastically and spent hours in the kitchen daily.

“As the years went by I remained in this constant routine. Always fearful of displeasing, so in many ways I was always acting. I fell into depression, but I had to hide it. In our world women have a permanent smile... have

you ever seen that family, The Duggars on TV? That was my life... smiling constantly. But I was so sad inside.”

“I went to the doctor and she gave me antidepressants. She offered to send me to a therapist but our faith doesn’t agree with secular therapy.

“I slowly started to improve a bit but one morning I awoke vomiting. This went on for a few days and despite believing I was barren, I discovered I was pregnant. *Molly was born 7 months later. Apart from a photoshoot where he was very hands on, Thomas showed little interest and began making remarks about my weight and said it was to ‘motivate me’. In a bid to keep him attracted to me I started eating once a day and exercising quite intensely. In 2014 we had our second daughter *Lily and a couple of weeks after giving birth he was angry that I wasn’t making myself ‘sexually available’.“I was going out of my way to make myself available - no matter how tired I was. I’d caught him several times clearly enjoying porn on his phone and each time he’d made it my fault and I’d actually ended up apologising to him.

“Breaking point came when Lily was just under 3 months old. I had stumbled upon questionable porn DVDs for a straight man and the next evening when I was nursing Lily a message came through on his iPhone. You know how it pops up and you can see some of the lines of the message? Well, this was very explicit. I confronted him, asking him how his father would feel if he knew he harboured these desires and he swung for me, knocking me to the floor with Lily in my arms, shouting ‘You’re insane..... they’ll lock you up..... you’re seeing things. I tried to get off the floor and he slapped me around the face..... I grabbed my daughters and fled to my parents. They suggested I go home and me and Thomas seek advice from [name of religion’s head]. I got in the car and left.... I drove and drove but I was aware I’d nowhere to go. I don’t know why I taken this, or indeed kept it but I’d hidden a Women’s Aid contact card I’d secretly pocketed at the doctor’s surgery in my purse behind a ripped seam and phoned them. I was broken and demoralised when they found me.

How long ago was that?

“Nine years.”

I had stumbled upon questionable porn DVDs for a straight man

And what’s happened since then.

“I moved 90 miles away. I needed a fresh start. I’m aware that the story is, I was shunned for cheating on Thomas. A fellow apostate told me that [laughs]. Our community sticks together Thomas paid child support once then claimed he was out of work. I have no money, I had no bank account, the home we lived in, according to my husband was rented from a family member ... the family have surrounded and protected him and I have been left with nothing. My name was on nothing. He claims he owns nothing. I know he’s lying. I have a 12-year-old and a 9-year-old and I rely on help from my local food bank. Four years ago when Lily started school I was able to start looking for part-time work but I’ve no qualifications. I got a minimum wage job at a fast food chain as a cleaner. Without the food bank we wouldn’t survive.”



What do you think when you see the TradWife content online?

“It makes me [swear word] angry. Do they know that relinquishing your autonomy means you’re risking your welfare and that of your children? In effect, your financial security is hinged solely on your husband finding you attractive, and or obedient. That’s a dangerous position. Another thing that gets me ... these TradWives online, they tell their very young female audience they shouldn’t go to college or work yet what are they doing ? making content which results in ad revenue? They are complete hypocrites? They are destroying lives. I’m terrified my girls will ever stumble upon that content and find it appealing.”



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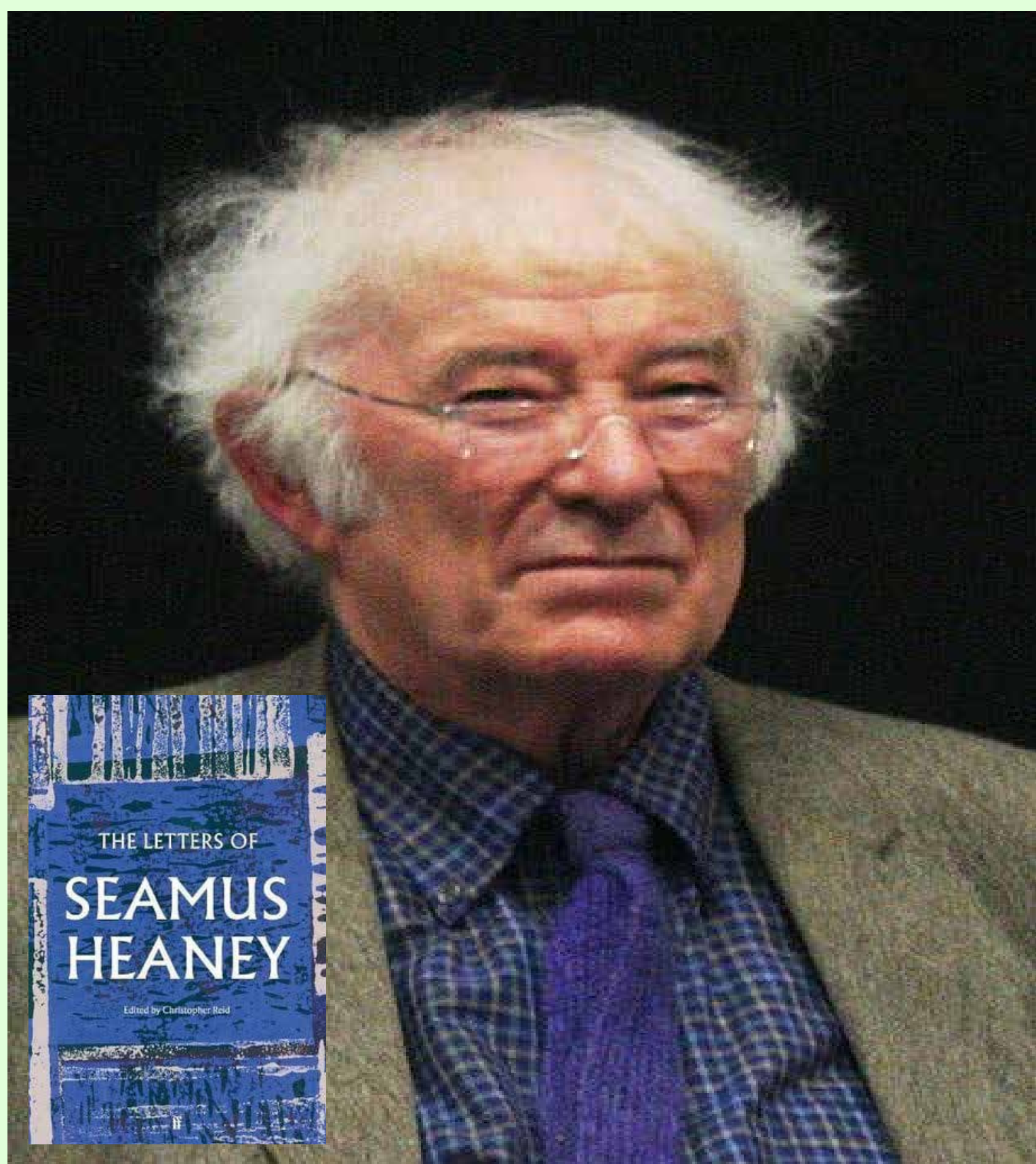
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SEAMUS HEANEY

Eleven years after his death, the generosity and warmth of his rich poetic voice endures, Fran Brearton reports.



The English war poet Wilfred Owen once wrote, “Celebrity is the last infirmity I desire.” Killed in France at the age of 25, unpublished and unknown, “celebrity” for Owen was a posthumous phenomenon. By contrast, celebrity status for the Irish poet Seamus Heaney – “Famous Seamus” – came early in his life.

The eldest of nine children raised on a small farm called Mossbawn in County Derry – which was so crucial to his imaginative development – his first collection, *Death of a Naturalist*, was accepted for publication by Faber when he was just 26.

Thirty years later, he became the fourth Irishman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature following Shaw, Yeats and Beckett. By the time of his death in 2013, Heaney’s books accounted for some two-thirds of the sales of contemporary poets in the UK.

Always conscious of Owen’s example, as well as Yeats, Frost or the Romantic poets, Heaney shares with them all the unusual capacity to reach a much larger audience than poetry generally enjoys.

Readers felt his death in 2013 as a personal loss, bereft as they were of a familiar and intimate voice that had accompanied them through half a century’s life of writing, with Heaney’s own story woven into the turbulent story of Ireland.

A life in letters

The recently published edition of Heaney’s letters, edited by poet Christopher Reid, is a marvellous addition for an audience always hungry for more Heaney.

Beginning with his “new life” in 1965 – marriage, house-buying in Belfast, manuscript acceptance – it bears witness to what Reid calls “the sheer outward-facing busyness” of Heaney’s life. It was a busyness that brought, alongside celebrity, increasingly obvious pressures on a poet always generous with himself, his time and his work.

he became the fourth Irishman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, following Shaw, Yeats and Beckett

It’s unsurprising that as his fame grew, so too did the demands made on him. And as writer Bel Mooney noted recently, although

“all of us who wanted a piece of him could have been fobbed off”, he was just too nice”.

The letters – abundant and revelatory, evidencing, as Reid puts it, Heaney’s “delight in his own fertile rhetoric” – are a treasure trove of delights for the reader. But they prove Owen’s point about the challenges of celebrity, too:

“Excuse the stationery ... this jotter is to hand”; “Please forgive me for not being in touch”; “Please excuse the pencil, I’m on the plane ...”; “You deserved to hear from me before this”; “Hurriedly, with love – Seamus”.

The generosity and warmth of the poet as a public figure is, of course, one of the reasons why he was and is beloved by many – not least those who, in huge numbers, encountered him in person through a lifetime of lectures, readings, workshops and launches. He once joked that one day his unsigned books would be more valuable.



Faith in poetry

That warmth and generosity came at a cost to Heaney personally, as he struggled to protect from public scrutiny those

“whole areas of one’s life that one wants to keep free from the gaze of print”.

He wanted to shield as well those elements of his “remembered soul landscape” that were the source of his inspiration – what Wordsworth termed “the hiding-places of my power”.

Protect them he did since it is, in the end, the imaginative generosity of the poems themselves, not the personal generosity of the man, that ensures his legacy. It does so in part because of Heaney’s faith in the poem – as answering to no agenda other than its own being, operating as its own “vindicating force”, undiminished by, and existing outside of, the noise and “busyness” of life.

In his 1995 Nobel lecture, Heaney spoke of poetry’s

“gift for telling truth” – and beyond that, its capacity “to be not only pleurably right, but compellingly wise”. It might even be “a retuning of the world itself”.

“all
of us who wanted a
piece of him could have been
fobbed off”, he was just too
nice”.

Few contemporary poets have devoted so much time to writing a defence of poetry as Heaney; fewer still have done so in terms so protective of poetry’s autonomy. Irish poet Leontia Flynn writes of finding herself “nearly as grateful for his defence of poetry as ... for his poems”.

Heaney’s capacity to “credit marvels” in the world around him is, quite literally, the gift that keeps on giving. As he writes in his poem *Fosterling*:

Me waiting until I was nearly fifty
To credit marvels. Like the tree-clock of tin cans
The tinkers made. So long for air to brighten,
Time to be dazzled and the heart to lighten.

In one of his finest lyrics, *The Harvest Bow*, the “throwaway love-knot of straw” plaited by his father is echoed in the intricate weaving, “twist by twist”, of its harvest bow of words.

Its “golden loops” are a gateway to the past, and as we follow Heaney’s “homesick” memory of walking peaceably with his father, the beautifully crafted love-knot encircles and cradles an entire community and a way of life. The bow is a still a “frail device”. Like poetry, it is both transformative and under threat; but most importantly, it endures.

A decade after his death, Heaney’s voice, like the harvest bow, is “burnished by its passage, and still warm”.

Author: Fran Brearton

Professor of Modern Poetry, School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen’s University Belfast

First published on *The Conversation*

Inside the Global Arms industry

What a secretive London trade fair reveals about international weapons sales. Jill Gibbon reports.



One of the world’s largest arms fairs, Defence and Security Exhibition International (DSEI), takes place every two years at the ExCeL centre, a vast exhibition space in London Docklands. The venue usually hosts food, cosmetics and car events, but DSEI is a trade show for weapons.

Instead of consumer products, “combat-tested” drones hang from the ceiling, tanks are parked on the carpet, and “battle-proven” missiles are suspended over mock mountain ranges.

Screens project spectacular explosions with filmic music. Sales staff circulate with wine, beer and toy fighter jets. Executives forge alliances over burgundy and steak. And reps hand out glossy carrier bags filled with sweets and catalogues giving weapon specifications.

Screens project spectacular explosions with filmic music. Sales staff circulate with wine, beer and toy fighter jets

The arms industry is justified as necessary for defence. However, the experience of the fair suggests that it has an additional purpose. Here, missiles are treated as global commodities, and warring regimes as clients and business partners. The fair gives an insight into how arms sales to Israel can continue despite the horrific bombardment of Gaza.

At the end of the cold war, the arms industry was restructured as part of the wider processes of globalisation. Arms companies merged into multinationals, establishing factories and subsidiaries around the world and building global markets. Weapons systems became joint ventures produced by several companies for international sales.

Arms fairs emerged in the 1990s as networking venues for this globalised weapons industry. DSEI describes itself as “a gilt-edged opportunity to reach key personnel – some chequebook ready” from around the globe. However, it is not open to everyone. Arms fairs are secretive events, closed to the public. When DSEI is on, ExCel is circled by police, security guards and riot fences.

I’m an artist and visit DSEI as a play on official war art, a tradition where artists are commissioned to draw in war zones. My aim is to draw what official war art leaves out – the role of UK and US industry in global conflict.

I’ve visited DSEI under a number of guises, including as a security consultant wearing a suit and paste pearls. Over the years, I’ve learned to act the part, strolling up and down the aisles viewing displays like a prospective client.

Inside an arms fair

The latest DSEI, which took place in September 2023, was particularly busy with more than 1,500 exhibitors,

36 international pavilions, and dignitaries and delegations from nearly 100 countries in attendance. Guests included regimes currently involved in wars, human rights abuses and repression. Bahrain, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel and Saudi Arabia were all there.

Saudi Arabia provides perhaps the best example of the problem with the DSEI admissions policy. According to research by Oxfam, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen used US and UK-made weapons to kill 87 civilians and wound 136 people in just one year of war between January 2021 and February 2022. US and UK-made fighter jets were used in a further 13 airstrikes on hospitals and clinics.

In response, a spokesperson for the UK Department for International Trade said: “We consider all our export applications thoroughly against a strict risk assessment framework and keep all licences under careful and continual review as standard.”



In 2019, a missile hit a school bus in a Saudi-led airstrike on Yemen, killing 51 civilians including 40 children. It was established that the weapon was made by Lockheed Martin, one of the top US defence contractors.

The Arms Trade Treaty, which entered into force in 2014, prohibits selling weapons for attacks on civilians. Yet Saudi Arabia was welcome at DSEI in 2023.

Exhibitors also come from around the world. Israel has a dramatic pavilion dominated by racks of missiles produced by leading Israeli defence technology companies, Rafael and IAI.

Showing how the lines between countries blur, Elbit Systems UK is nestled within the Israel stand with a display of military drones. Names like Skylark, Sky Strike, Bird of Prey and Thor sanitise the lethal hardware with references to nature and mythology.

The fair gives an insight into how arms sales to Israel can continue despite the horrific bombardment of Gaza

Next to this, UVision, another Israeli defence company, shows Hero loitering weapons. These are suicide drones that can fly to an area and hover for extended periods while waiting for a target to destroy. Sales reps offer fresh fruit and chocolates embossed with the company logo and a flying drone.

The world’s largest exporter of weapons, the US, has the most expansive pavilion. One stall has calendars with a young woman posed on the front cover, leaning towards the viewer on a weapons mount. Other stalls offer toys and pretzels, alongside military equipment.

At DSEI in 2021, the US-Swiss company TE Connectivity gave out pens that transform into toy military drones. TE makes electrical components for the aerospace industry and is included in a list of the foreign companies that have been identified in Russian weapons.

Global weapons industry

Multinational arms corporations hover between nationally sponsored pavilions, demonstrating their global allegiances. BAE Systems has a multi-level stand spanning two aisles.

It shows a telescoped armament system, an all-terrain tracked vehicle, drones and a submarine, interspersed with arrangements of flowers and expressionless security guards, who stand at regular intervals observing the crowds. Illuminated stairs give access to the higher levels of the stand, but without a VIP pass, I am turned away.

BAE Systems is a major partner in the F-35 fighter jet, a complex and expensive weapons system that involves many companies and countries. According to the prime contractor, Lockheed Martin, the UK industry will supply 15% of every F-35 produced. Danish company Terma is also involved and gives out blue jet-shaped badges to assert its contribution.

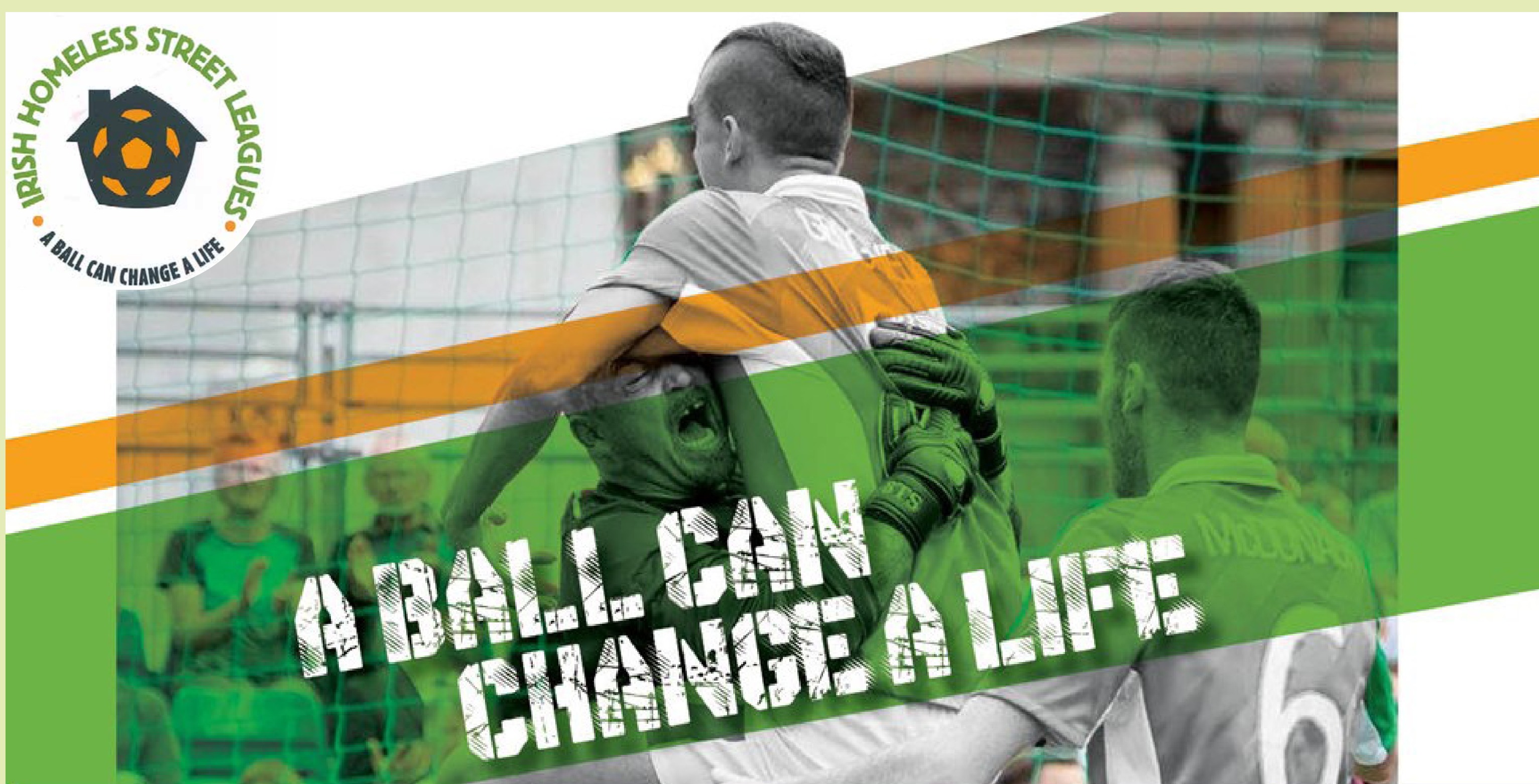
Israel was the first country to buy the F-35 through the US government's foreign military sales process, receiving the first jets in 2016. And in February 2024, Lockheed Martin said Israel plans to buy a third squadron of F-35s.

In one discrete corner of the fair, there is a small medical section with equipment for military emergencies. Here, in the shadow of missiles and tanks, there is a pile of anatomically correct human hearts, offered as stress toys.

In response to this article, a TE spokesperson said:

TE Connectivity complies with all export controls and sanctions that apply to its business globally and has fully complied with all sanctions imposed on Russia following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Additionally, TE has not shipped any product from any TE location to Russia since the sanctions were imposed, beginning in March 2022. TE is firmly committed to its policy of no direct or indirect shipments of its products to Russia and will continue to communicate this policy with its distribution partners.

Author Jill Gibbon Reader in Drawing, Leeds Beckett University
First published on The Conversation



A BALL CAN CHANGE A LIFE

And YOU can make it happen!

By holding a **fundraiser** for the Irish Homeless Street Leagues, **you** will assist us in reintegrating hundreds of men & women who have experienced homelessness, addiction and social isolation, back into society through sport.

If you are interested, please click the **SUPPORT** button on our website

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**Congratulations and best wishes to all who participated
in the Homeless Street Soccer Finals on April 24th**



www.unitetheunionireland.org

Lithium-ion batteries don't work well in the cold

Rechargeable batteries are great for storing energy but battery researcher Wesley Chang explains the chemistry at low temperatures.



Rechargeable batteries are great for storing energy and powering electronics from smartphones to electric vehicles in cold environments, however, they can be more difficult to charge and may even catch on fire.

I'm a mechanical engineering professor who's been interested in batteries since college. I now lead a battery research group at Drexel University.

In just this past decade, I have watched the price of lithium-ion batteries drop as the production market has grown much larger. Future projections predict the market could reach thousands of GWh per year by 2030, a significant increase.

But, lithium-ion batteries aren't perfect – this rise comes with risks, such as their tendency to slow down during cold weather and even catch on fire.

Behind the Li-ion battery

The electrochemical energy storage within batteries works by storing electricity in the form of ions. Ions are atoms that have a nonzero charge because they have either too many or not enough electrons.

When you plug in your electric car or phone, the electricity provided by the outlet drives these ions from the battery's positive electrode into its negative electrode. The electrodes are solid materials in a battery that can store ions, and all batteries have both a positive and a negative electrode.

Electrons pass through the battery as electricity. With each electron that passes to one electrode, a lithium ion also passes into the same electrode. This ensures the balance of charges in the battery. As you drive your car, the stored ions in the negative electrode move back to the positive electrode, and the resulting flow of electricity powers the motor.

**be more
difficult to charge and
may even catch on fire.**

When a lithium-ion battery delivers energy to a device, lithium ions – atoms that carry an electrical charge – move from the negative electrode, the anode, to the positive electrode, the cathode. The ions move in reverse when recharging. Argonne National Laboratory, CC BY-NC-SA

While AA or AAA batteries can power small electronics, they can be used only once and cannot be charged.

Rechargeable Li-ion batteries can operate for thousands of cycles of full charge and discharge. For each cycle, they can also store a much higher amount of charge than an AA or AAA battery.

Since lithium is the lightest metal, it has a high specific capacity, meaning it can store a huge amount of charge per weight. This is why lithium-ion batteries are useful not just for portable electronics but for powering modes of transportation with limited weight or volume, such as electric cars.

Battery fires

However, lithium-ion batteries have risks that AA or AAA batteries don't. For one, they're more likely to catch on fire. For example, the number of electric bike battery fires reported in New York City has increased from 30 to nearly 300 in the past five years.

Lots of different issues can cause a battery fire. Poorly manufactured cells could contain defects, such as trace impurities or particles left behind from the manufacturing process, that increase the risk of an internal failure.

Climate can also affect battery operation. Electric vehicle sales have increased across the U.S., particularly in cold regions such as the Northeast and Midwest, where the frigid temperatures can hinder battery performance.



Batteries contain fluids called electrolytes, and cold temperatures cause fluids to flow more slowly. So, the electrolytes in batteries slow and thicken in the cold, causing the lithium ions inside to move slower. This slowdown can prevent the lithium ions from properly inserting into the electrodes. Instead, they may deposit on the electrode surface and form lithium metal.

If too much lithium deposits on the electrode's surface during charging, it may cause an internal short circuit. This process can start a battery fire.

Making safer batteries

My research group, along with many others, is studying how to make batteries that operate more efficiently in the cold. For example, researchers are exploring swapping out the usual battery electrolyte and replacing it with an alternative electrolyte that doesn't thicken at cold temperatures. Another potential option is heating up the battery pack before charging so that the charging process occurs at a warmer temperature.

My group is also investigating new types of batteries beyond lithium ion. These could be battery types that are more stable at wider temperature ranges, types that don't even use liquid electrolytes at all, or batteries that use sodium instead of lithium. Sodium-ion batteries could work well and cost less, as sodium is a very abundant resource.

**electric bike
battery fires in New
York City has increased
from 30 to nearly 300**

Solid-state batteries use solid electrolytes that aren't flammable, which reduces the risk of fire. But these batteries don't work quite as well as Li-ion batteries, so it'll take more research to tell whether these are a good option.

Lithium-ion batteries power technologies that people across the country use every day, and research in these areas aims to find solutions that will make this technology even safer for the consumer.

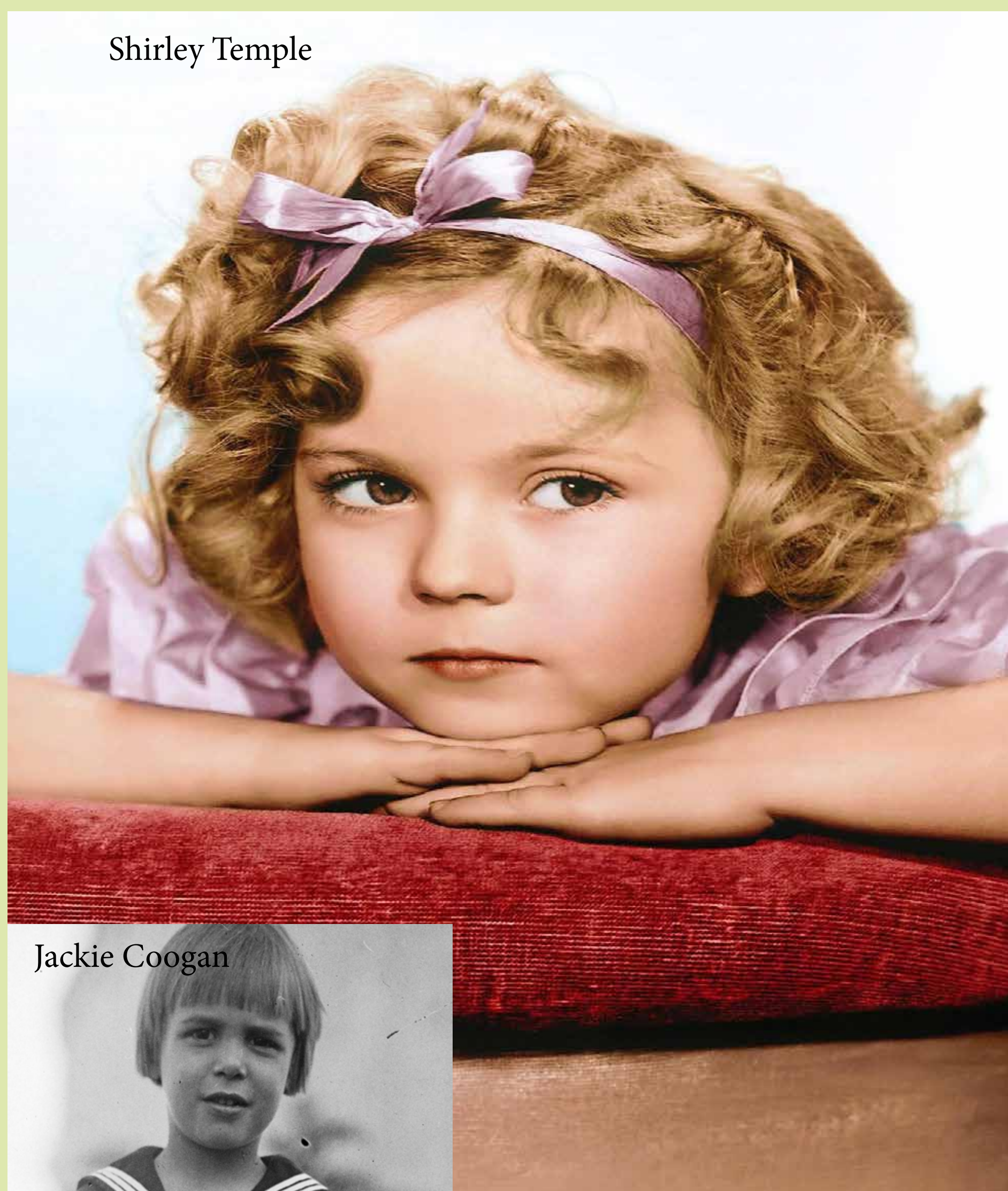
Author Wesley Chang Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics, Drexel University

First published on The Conversation

The 'Golden Age' of Hollywood?

Shaun Anthony takes a look at the so-called Golden Age of Hollywood where child abuse occurred in plain sight in this first of a two-part series.

“When a movie says, No animals were harmed during the making of this film, why do we not have the same disclaimed for children?” Paul Petersen, former child actor.



The Golden Age of Hollywood is often associated with glamour, opulence, and scandal, a time when many of the greatest films of all time came into existence. Despite being a great time for magnificent movies, unfortunately under a tight studio system stars were very much the property of the studios with every waking hour accounted for. We often hear how this system affected stars like Rita Hayworth and other adults but what about their most vulnerable performers? If it was bad for adults what was it like for children who were essentially handed over to the studios, often by blindsided parents who were hungry for fame and fortune.

**children
were handed over to studios by
blindsided parents, hungry for fame and fortune.**

Jackie Coogan

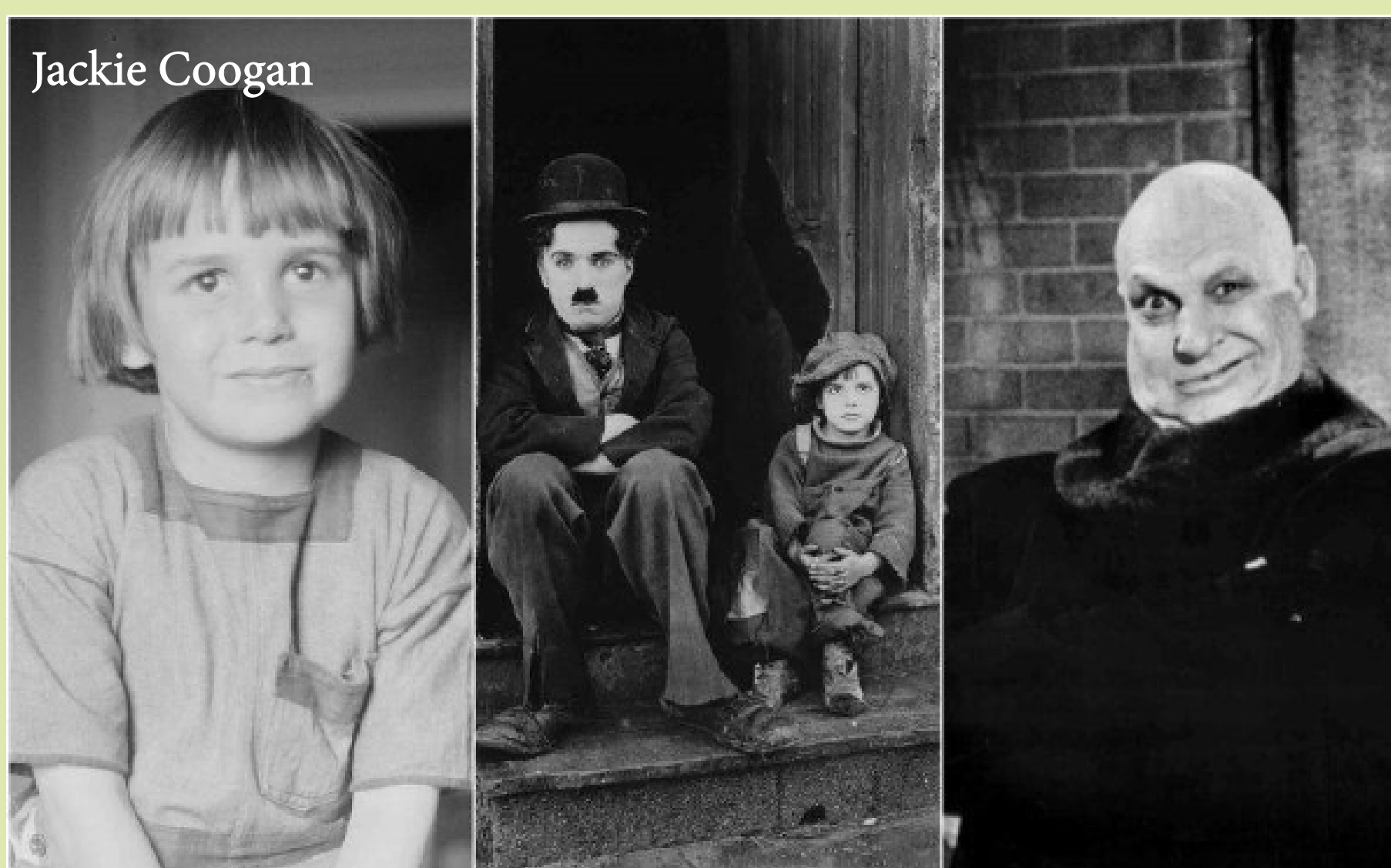
Jackie Coogan is often considered the first child star. Working from infancy, he was discovered by Charlie Chaplin at the age of 3 and immediately cast in films like *A Day's Pleasure*, however, his big break would come in 1921, at the age of just 6 in *The Kid* - a film still considered one of the most famous of all time. Suddenly Coogan's image was everywhere - there was even a Jackie Coogan doll wearing his signature dungarees and flat cap. Coogan was a huge star and was starring in countless films each year including *Oliver Twist* and *Tom Sawyer* and making a fortune - or so he thought. At 21 when he gained access to his earnings he discovered there was nothing, his mother and step-father had spent every penny of his \$4m fortune on endless luxury cars, fur coats, expensive jewellery and opulent living. \$4m in the 1920's would be equivalent to \$63.3 million today. Their reasoning? Jackie was "a bad boy who didn't deserve any money!"

Coogan sued his parents and this led to The Coogan Act being established (also known as the California Child Actor's Bill) which is used to this day, safeguarding a portion of child actor's earnings for when they reach the age of majority - and also, very importantly to protect them from exploitation and abuse.

One can only imagine Coogan's rage - not only was his account empty, but he'd had to endure up to 16 hours a day on set with no schooling and mental, physical and psychological abuse levied towards him for the slightest errors, yet Coogan, was not alone, countless other child stars suffered, some more than others..

Shirley Temple

Despite Coogan being the first child star, Shirley Temple was definitely the biggest. A natural talent, her foray into film was in a series of shorts called *Baby Burlesque* at the age of 3, showing tots acting like adults, often spoofing popular movies of the time. In one titled *War Babies*, Shirley plays a prostitute trading hugs for sweets. Behind the scenes, filmmakers Charles Lamont and Ray Nazarro would send the toddlers to the Punishment Room for ‘crimes’ like ‘time-wasting.’ One particularly cruel chastisement within the room was a tiny soundproof chamber, in complete darkness with just a block of ice. The chamber was so small that a child either had to stand in an uncomfortable position or concede and sit on the block of ice. Temple would speak in later years of her terror in the small black box but many other children were terrified of the Punishment Room for the severe spankings and reprimands, which usually involved a lot of mental abuse.



Children were not allowed time off and despite being promised two hours schooling, would rarely, if ever receive this. Temple, as a tiny child suffered from a punctured eardrum and was forced back to work just hours later, another time after a severe injury to her foot, she was forced to dance on her injury or be taken to the ice block for time-wasting. Whilst still a small child, Shirley stated that (an unnamed) MGM executive had exposed himself to her and frightened and embarrassed began to laugh, resulting in the executive becoming incensed with rage and throwing her out by the arm. Sadly this was just the beginning of a long reign of sexual harassment and she’d later describe the culture at the time of being “populated with copulating tomcats.”

Jackie Cooper

In the 1930s Jack Cooper was one of the biggest stars in the world. Known as ‘America’s Boy’, he was the youngest child (to this day) to be nominated at the Academy Awards for Best Actor at the age of 9. Coming from a poor family, Jackie and his granny started working as extras to put food on the table and he was soon spotted and began working on *Our Gang* shorts. His break-out role would be in the 1931 Best Picture nominee *Skippy*. Jackie played the eponymous role and watching this film its easy to see why he was so popular, in his crying scenes he had such attention to detail, from his voice tremors to choking on his saliva - but this was not acting - sadly. To make Jackie cry, he was subject to some of the cruelest psychological abuse imaginable. During the first crying scene in *Skippy*, when the director was unhappy with his performance, his grandmother physically punished him harshly on-set in front of cast and crew. Realising how realistic his sobs were, granny was kept nearby for further crying scenes and she’d be employed to slap him, dig her nails into his skin, beat him and if all else failed would kick him. On one occasion Cooper was in so much pain he couldn’t physically do the scene, so his grandmother told him his sick mother would die if he didn’t do it, and do it well - and if she died, it would be his fault. His grandmother then said she was leaving him for the director (Norman Taurog) to deal with and Taurog, knowing how much Jackie loved the *Skippy* outfit told him he had no talent, he couldn’t act, he was going to give the outfit to another boy, his mother and grandmother would be very upset with him and his mother would probably get so sick, she’d die,

“The tears suddenly flowed ... the thought of another boy getting my *Skippy* costume and everybody hating me was enough....I was very upset and Norman began filming the scene. At the end I was given an ice-cream cone and was told I was a good boy but I was devastated,” he would later recall.

**his mother and step-father
had spent every penny of his \$4m
fortune**

The next day was another crying scene and Taurog had a sick idea. Jackie loved his little lapdog and brought him on set each day so when Coogan didn’t perform a crying scene to Norman’s satisfaction, he walked over, took the dog and said, “You don’t deserve a dog” and handed the little terrier over to a crewman alongside a gun. Jackie was in hysterics begging for the dog’s life, prostrate on the floor. He later recalled the incident, still deeply affected by the memory,

“The set was deathly still. I couldn’t see my dog. Then I heard a single shot. It echoed for a moment. Then, total silence. I could visualise my dog. Bloody from that one shot. I began sobbing so hysterically that it was almost too much for the scene.”

When filming wrapped, Jackie was handed his dog back and that night he became very ill; he couldn’t be consoled and would not allow the dog out of his arms; vomiting violently; a doctor was brought to the set and,

“gave me an injection that knocked me out.... they had pushed me beyond the edge.”

I must say, watching this film, aware of how these scenes were extracted is deeply unsettling. Norman Taurog won an Academy Award for Best Director for the film - and sadly, after this nomination, MGM knew they wanted more of the same from their little money-spinner and over the next few years used the same tactics to get their scenes, nicknaming him Buckets of Tears.



Joan Crawford with Jackie Cooper

By the age of 7 Jackie was starting to get wise to these cruel tactics and whilst filming Peck's Bad Boy, stood up for himself, however, the director stepped over to him and said, "You're fired" and said his grandmother would be coming to the studio to deal with him. At that Cooper burst into tears and the director stated, "There it is" and demanded he perform the scene. Whilst filming Treasure Island in 1934, Louis B Mayer demanded more extreme treatment to ensure they obtained scenes "as the audience come to see Jackie cry".

Between 1931 and 1937 Jackie had filmed 21 incredibly emotional movies - that's a lot of filming for a child and was frequently exhausted but forced to work. It is claimed the studio ensured filming was 'just' 11 hours-per-day, but in actual fact, Jackie, by the age of 10 still hadn't learned to read and write as he'd had no schooling, so it's believed he could well have been working 16 hour days.

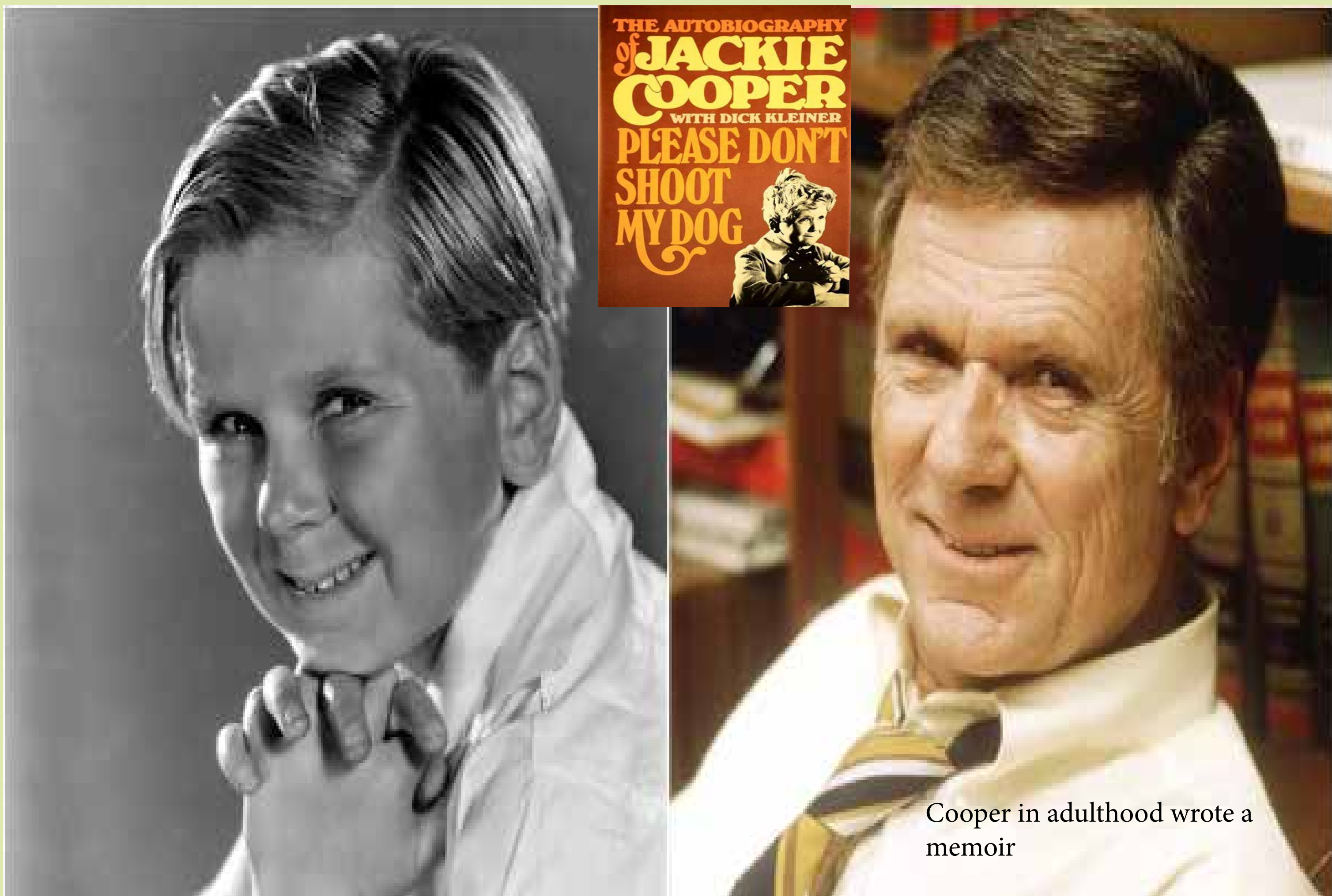


Jackie Cooper - Youngest Academy Award nominee for Best Actor - but sadly his crying was real... he was not acting!

Looking at movie stills I noticed a lot of questionable cinematography in countless Cooper films - a theme I noticed was young Jackie looking lovingly into the eyes of adult males. There was a definite sexual tone and upon a cursory Google search read that during this time male prostitutes' most common request was to impersonate Cooper.

Cooper would later state how Norman Taurog's wife was sexually molesting him from the age of 7.

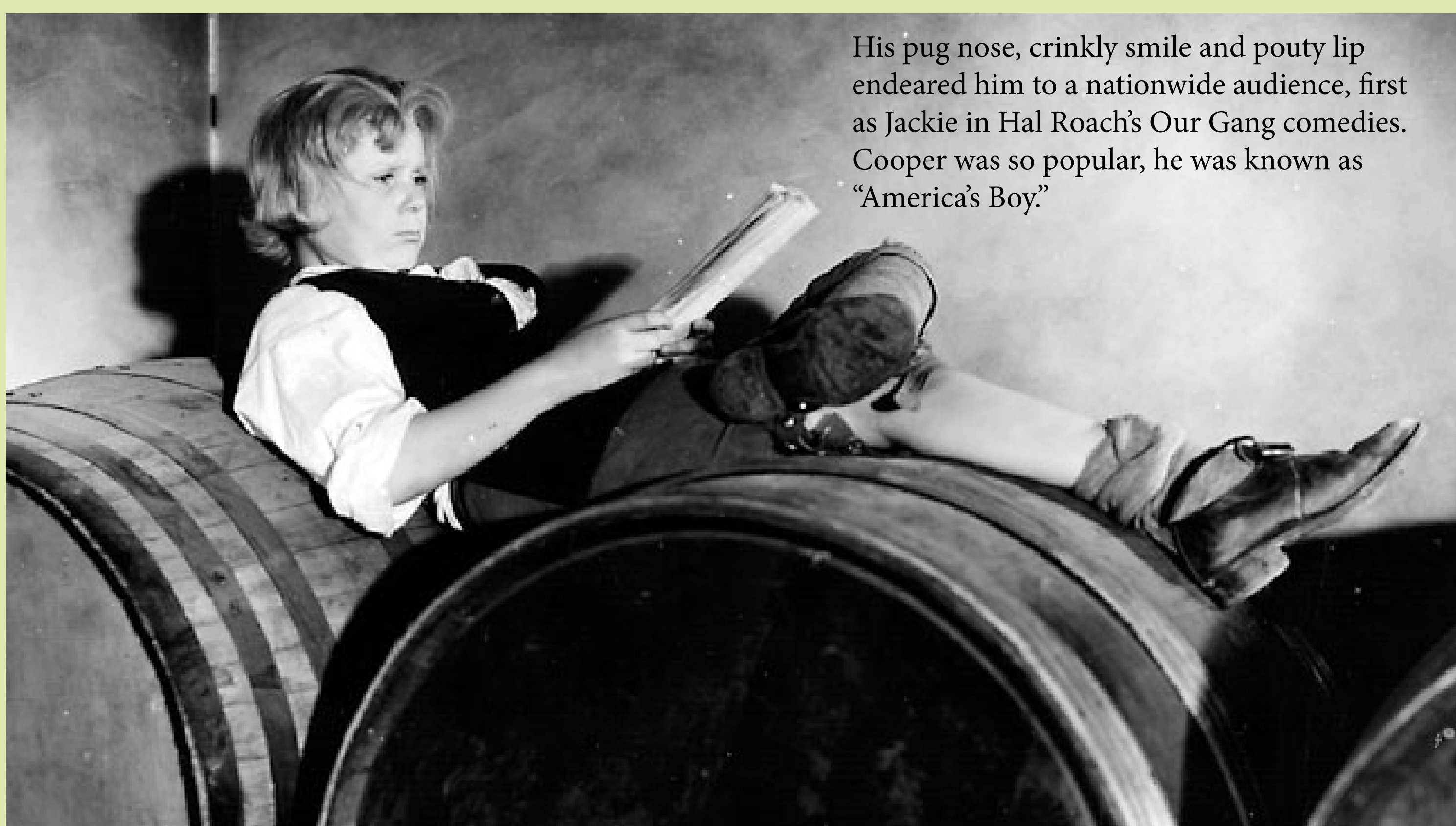
Hollywood has always had a dark undercurrent and Cooper would later state how Norman Taurog's wife was sexually molesting him from the age of 7. When recounting how he'd been (what we'd now call groomed), he said, "MGM told me I had to greet all adults with a kiss on the mouth." He spoke of being groomed by Joan Crawford who took him to her house (alone) from the age of 9 and when he'd barely become a teenager had sex with him.



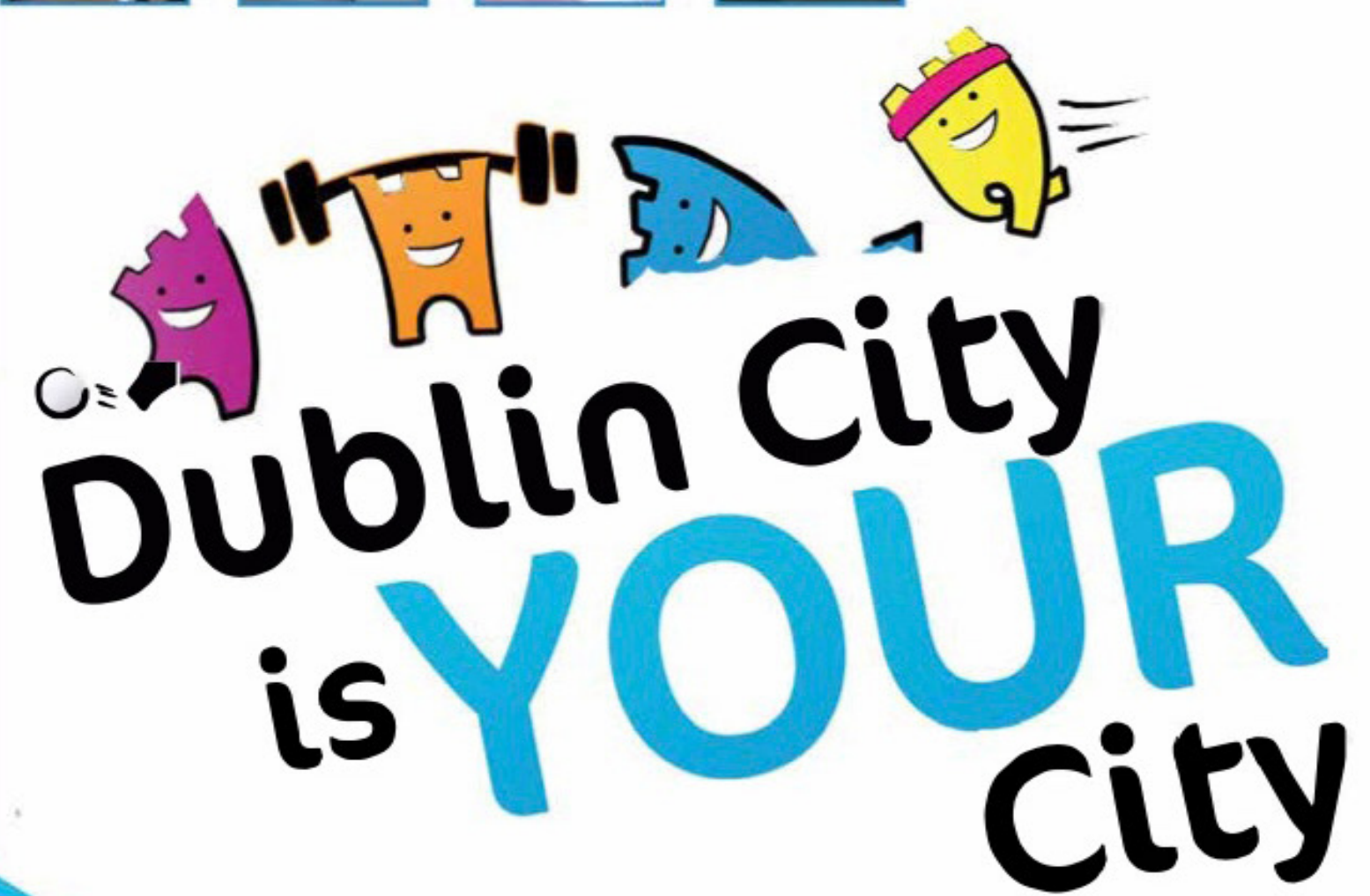
It would be nice to think that Jackie could enjoy his earnings when he came of age, however, he was the breadwinner for the family and his mother had a string of questionable boyfriends, many of whom abused him. It seems many men wanted to court his mother Jacqui as she was ill and they hoped they could adopt Jackie and have control of his earnings. His mother married a man named CJ Bigelow who embezzled young Jackie's fortune, so he had nothing to show for his nightmare of a childhood.

during this
time male prostitutes'
most common request was to
impersonate Cooper.

Thankfully these days laws are in place and there's a degree of safety for young stars - but how far have we really come when we look at the abuse faced by Disney and Nickelodeon stars like Jeanette McCurdy and Amanda Bynes.



**Congratulations and best wishes to all who participated
in the
Homeless Street Soccer Finals on April 24th**



**Dublin City Council
Sport & Recreation Services**

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/sports-and-leisure>

- Aughrim St Sports Hall**, Stoneybatter, D7. (01) 8388085
- Tony Gregory Community**, Youth & Sports Centre, Ballybough, Dublin 3. (01) 2228584
- Sports & Fitness Ballyfermot**, Le Fanu Pk. Ballyfermot, D10. (01) 2228580
- Sports & Fitness Ballymun**, Main St Ballymun, D9. (01) 2228240
- Cabra Parkside Community & Sport Complex**, Ratoath Rd, Cabra, D7. (01) 2227559
- Clogher Road Sports Hall**, Clogher Road, Crumlin, D12. (01) 2228594
- Clontarf All Weather Pitches**, Alfie Byrne Road, Clontarf, D3. (01) 2226578
- Sports & Fitness Finglas**, Mellows Rd, Finglass, D11 (01) 2228620
- Glin Road Sports Hall**, Coolock, D17. (01) 8478177
- Inchicore Community Sports Hall**, St. Michael's Estate, Off Bulfin Road, Inchicore, D8. (01) 2228562
- Sports & Fitness Irishtown**, Irishtown, D4. (01) 2223801
- Sports & Fitness Markievicz**, Townsend Street, D2. (01) 2226130
- Poppintree Sport & Community Facility**, Balbutcher Lane, Poppintree, D11. (01) 2223985
- St. Catherine's Sports Centre**, Marrowbone Lane, D8. (01) 2227542
- Coolock Swimming Pool**, Northside Shopping Centre, Coolock, D17. (01) 8477743
- East Wall Water Sports Centre**, Alfie Byrne Rd, D3. (01) 2225579
- Municipal Rowing Club**, Longmeadows, Islandbridge, D8. (01) 6779746



**MANDATE
TRADE UNION**



Mandate members at the 2022 Biennial Delegate Conference

**ESSENTIAL WORK
FAIR PLAY
DECENT WAGES**

THE UNION FOR RETAIL, BAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORKERS IN IRELAND

Benefits of Mediterranean Diet Highlighted Ahead of World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day on May 19



With World IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease) Day taking place on Sunday May 19, a leading consultant is urging people to adopt a Mediterranean diet as it may reduce the risk of the disease.

IBD causes inflammation, swelling and ulceration of the intestines, with the two most common types of IBD being Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. There are approximately 40,000 people living with the disease here. The most common symptoms are urgent and frequent bowel motions sometimes with blood, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, and nausea/vomiting. It is thought that genetics, gut bacteria, and the environment, may influence the onset of IBD.

While there is currently no cure, early diagnosis and treatment can help to stabilise the disease and provide a normal quality of life.

Prof. Glen Doherty, consultant gastroenterologist at St Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin, notes:

“We have seen a significant increase in the prevalence of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in the population over the last number of decades. Specifically, in the paediatric population, doctors at CHI Crumlin have noticed a three-fold increase in new cases over a ten-year period. We see similar trends in adults and, overall, both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis now affects an estimated one in every 125 people.

“There is growing evidence to suggest that the development of inflammatory bowel disease may be related to things that the gut is exposed to in the world we live in, such as changes in gut bacteria from overuse of antibiotics or things in our diet. This is because our gut bacteria eat what we eat. There may also be a genetic component in many individuals as well. Ultra-processed foods made with the use of preservatives, emulsifiers and stabilisers, may be having an effect too. Eating a Mediterranean diet, consuming lean meats and fish, fresh fruit, vegetables, olive oil, and so on, and avoiding ultra-processed foods, may help to reduce our risk.”

Marking World IBD Day, and celebrating 40 years since its foundation, Crohn's and Colitis Ireland will host a conference in Cork city on May 19. People can attend in person or join the livestream – registration is free to members and now open at www.crohnscolitis.ie

For more information on the services offered by Crohn's and Colitis Ireland, call the Support Line on 01 531 2983 (Mon/Wed/Fri, 9.30am-12.30pm). People with IBD interested in taking part in research can find out more at www.initiativeibd.ie



Because laughter is the best medicine!

Bob was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife was really angry. She told him “Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in 6 seconds AND IT BETTER BE THERE!” The next morning he got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a box gift-wrapped in the middle of the driveway. Confused, the wife put on her robe and ran out to the driveway, brought the box back in the house. She opened it and found a brand new bathroom scale. Bob has been missing since Friday.

Since youngsters of today have their own Texting Codes (LOL, OMG, TTYL, LMAO, etc,) the oldies decided not to be outdone by these kids and have now developed their own codes too.

ATD – At the doctors

BFF – Best friends funeral

BTW – Bring the wheelchair

BYOT – Bring your own teeth

FWIW – forgot where I was

GGPLW - Gotta go pacemaker battery low

GHA – Got heartburn again

TFT - Texting from toilet

A wife got so mad at her husband she packed his bags and told him to get out. As he walked to the door she yelled, “I hope you die a long, slow, painful death.”

He turned around and said, “So, you want me to stay?”

A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can.

A year later, there’s another knock at the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says, “What was that all about?”

My girlfriend and I are trying this whole “long distance relationship” thing.

I have to stay 100 feet away from her at all times. Also, the police say I should stop referring to her as my girlfriend.

The wife and I took a long, leisurely drive out to the country and pulled over to fill up our car’s gas tank and tires... She was surprised to see that the station had a fee to fill the tires and asked me, “Why in the world do they charge for AIR?!”

I responded, “Inflation.”

Tim decided to tie the knot with his long time girlfriend. One evening, after the honeymoon, he was organizing his golfing equipment. His wife was standing nearby watching him. After a long period of silence she finally speaks: “Tim, I’ve been thinking, now that we’re married maybe it’s time you quit golfing. You spend so much time on the course. You could probably get a good price for your clubs.”

Tim gets this horrified look on his face.

She says, “Darling, what’s wrong?”

“For a minute there you were beginning to sound like my ex-wife.”

“Ex-wife!” she screams, “I didn’t know you were married before!”

“I wasn’t,” he replied.

My daughter want’s the new iPhone for her birthday. I told her she will get one as long as she has good grades, does her chores, and follows the house rules. Otherwise she will get a cheaper phone. It’s my way or the Huawei.

After a prolonged drought when the rain came, all the animals in the forest were happy except the Kangaroo. When the others asked him what the reason was for such sadness, the Kangaroo revealed that the rain meant that all its kids would now be playing inside.

Britain’s oldest woman turned 114 today. When asked the secret of her longevity, she attributed it to taking a walk at midnight every night. When quizzed on whether she was concerned about the increase in muggings in recent years, she said that she was not, and would continue mugging people as long as her health holds out.

Did you hear about the archeologist who got fired?

His career was in ruins.

Got a good joke you’d like to share?

Why not Tweet us on X (formerly Twitter)
@BigIssueIreland

A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH

Phrase:	Translations:	Pronunciation:
Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir	Time is a good storyteller.	iss mah un shkay-lee un im-sheer
Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin	There's no hearth like your own hearth.	neel ain chin-tawn mar duh hin-chawn fayn
Fan amach as mo shlí!	Stay out of my way!	Fan am-akh oss muh shlee
Cá bhfuil mo chlaidheamh?	Where is my sword?	Kaw will muh khlah-iv

Word Power

Over the next few issues we'll be attempting to increase your word power. Have a look at the words below and afterwards see if you know their meaning.

Word	Pronunciation	Answers
1. Sesquipedalian	Ses-qui-i-day-le-an	1. Tending to use long words.
2. Serendipity	Sair-in-dip-it-ee	2. The occurrence of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.
3. Lethologica	Leath-a-log-e-ka	3. The inability to remember a particular word or name when needed.
4. Quockerwodger	Kwok-ur-wod-jur	4. A wooden puppet controlled by strings, especially a politician controlled by someone else.
5. Defenestration	De-fen-us-ray-shun	5. The act of throwing someone or something out of a window.
6. Abet	Uh-bet	6. Encourage or assist (someone) to do something wrong
7. Calumny	Kal-uhm-nee	7. A false and malicious statement designed to injure the reputation of someone
8. Cupidity	Ku-pid-it-ee	8. Greed for money or possessions.
9. Iconoclast	I-kon-o-klast	9. A person who attacks or criticizes cherished beliefs or institutions.
10. Invective	In-fect-if	10. Insulting, abusive, or highly critical language.
11. Mollify	Maul-iff-aye	11. Appease the anger or anxiety of (someone).
12. Plaudits	Plaw-dits	12. An expression of praise or approval.

How did YOU score?
10 or more - Perfection!
6-9 Brilliant.
3-5 Well done.
0-2 Must do better.

S C R E E N

S C E N E

Mother of the Bride ***

Starring: Brooke Shields, Miranda Cosgrove
Run Time: 93 mins
Streaming: Netflix
Available: 9th May.

Lana's daughter Emma returns from abroad and drops a bombshell: she's getting married. In Thailand. In a month! Things only get worse when Lana (played by the eternally youthful Brooke Shields) learns that the man who captured Emma's heart is the son of the man who broke hers years ago. Younger viewers will recognise Emma from School of Rock and iCarly.

This one's a bit of a slapstick comedy but don't let that put you off as the excellent casting really makes this movie shine.



The Idea of You ****

Starring: Anne Hathaway, Nicholas Galitzine
Run Time: 115 mins
Streaming: Prime
Available: 2nd May

Based on the acclaimed, contemporary love story of the same name, The Idea of You centres on Solène (Anne Hathaway), a 40-year-old single mum who begins an unexpected romance with Hayes Campbell (Nicholas Galitzine), the 24-year-old lead singer of August Moon, the hottest boy band on the planet. When Solène must step in to chaperone her teenage daughter's trip to the Coachella music festival after her ex bails at the last minute, she has a chance encounter with Hayes, and there is an instant, undeniable spark. As they begin a whirlwind romance, it isn't long before Hayes's superstar status poses unavoidable challenges to their relationship, and Solène soon discovers that life in the glare of his spotlight might be more than she bargained for.



The Beach Boys **

Starring: Brian Wilson, Mike Love
Streaming: Disney+
Run Time: 90 mins
Available to stream: 24th May

The Beach Boys is a celebration of the legendary band that revolutionised pop music, and the iconic, harmonious sound they created that personified the California dream, captivating fans for generations and generations to come.

The documentary traces the band from humble family beginnings and features never-before-seen footage and all-new interviews with The Beach Boys' Brian Wilson, Mike Love, Al Jardine, David Marks, Bruce Johnston, plus other luminaries in the music business, including Lindsey Buckingham, Janelle Monáe, Ryan Tedder, and Don Was. Viewers will also hear from the group's Carl and Dennis Wilson in their own words, plus view a new interview with Blondie Chaplin and hear audio from Ricky Fataar.

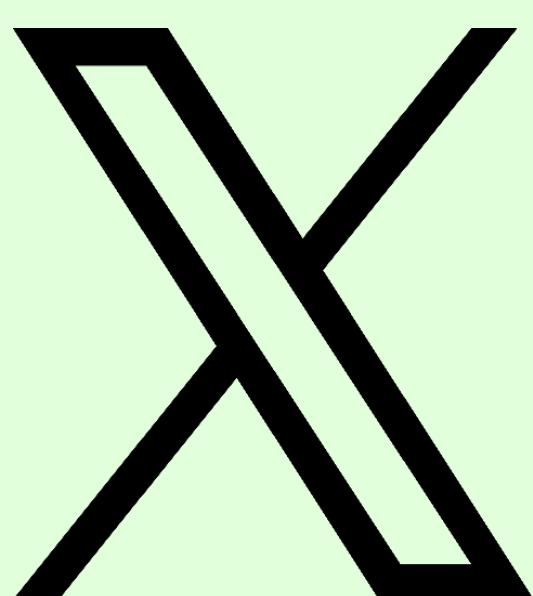


Garfield ***

Starring: Chris Pratt, Harvey Guillén.
Streaming: At the cinema
Run Time: 113 mins.
Available to watch: Currently

Greed is good – and nobody does gluttony like Garfield. A generation after Bill Murray's live-action reboot, our favourite fat cat returns to his comic-strip roots, with Chris Pratt handling the voice work through a mouthful of lasagne.

Come along for the ride as the tubby tabby and his dimwit canine companion Odie (Harvey Guillén) are jolted from their pampered existence for an adventure alongside Garfield's long-lost father Vic – a streetwise alley cat voiced by Samuel L. Jackson.



What are you streaming?
Tweet us @BigIssueIreland

Congratulations and best wishes to all who participated in the Homeless Street Soccer Finals on April 24th

Jim
O'CALLAGHAN TD

FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Please contact me if I can assist you in any way.
jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie
(01) 618 3134

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CATHERINE CONNOLLY
Independent TD

Congratulations & best wishes to all involved in Finals Day



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Councillor
GUSS O'CONNELL



South Dublin County Council,
Independent Community Representative for
Palmerstown - Fonthill.

47 Palmerstown Green, Palmerstown, Dublin 20
Tel 626 8554 or 087 6838 254
email goconnell@cillrs.sdublincoco.ie
www.gussoconnell.com

Homeless Street Soccer Finals

24th April 2024

24 teams & 200 players made for a competitive day at Street Soccer Finals 2024.

Wednesday 24th April saw the all Ireland Street Soccer Finals take place in Andy Moore Park, Postal Club, Tallaght, with 24 teams, male & female participating in their respective competitions. Teams from Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Cork, Limerick Mullingar, Longford and Portlaoise showed their silky skills in a competitive and sporting tournament.

The Men's All Ireland winners, Longford edged out Dublin 2-0 in an enjoyable well contested encounter.

In the ladies competition, Dublin Ladies dominated their game against last year's finalists, winning by 5-0.

Attending and presenting trophies were Ireland football legend Niall Quinn, SDCC Mayor Alan Edge, along with sponsors AMS Joanne Reynolds, Father Peter McVerry, Orla McGovern Dept Youth & Children, TDs.

Many thanks to sponsors AWS and all who supported the event and made it possible. A special word of thanks to all the players, whose enthusiasm and sportsmanship made it such a special day.

Footnote: Comprehensive review in our Next edition June



Ladies winners Dublin with SDCC Mayor Alan Edge



Niall Quinn meets the ladies teams

Congratulations and best wishes to all who participated in the Homeless Street Soccer Finals on April 24th



Louise O Reilly TD

Dublin Fingal

Congratulations and best wishes to all involved in Finals Day

01 6183093

Email:

louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie

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CHRIS

ANDREWS TD

Your Sinn Féin TD for Dublin Bay South and Spokesperson on Sport



If you are in need of assistance or advice, please feel free to contact me by email:

✉ chris.andrews@oir.ie

or by phone

on: ☎ **0894379644**

Change Starts Here

Sinn Féin

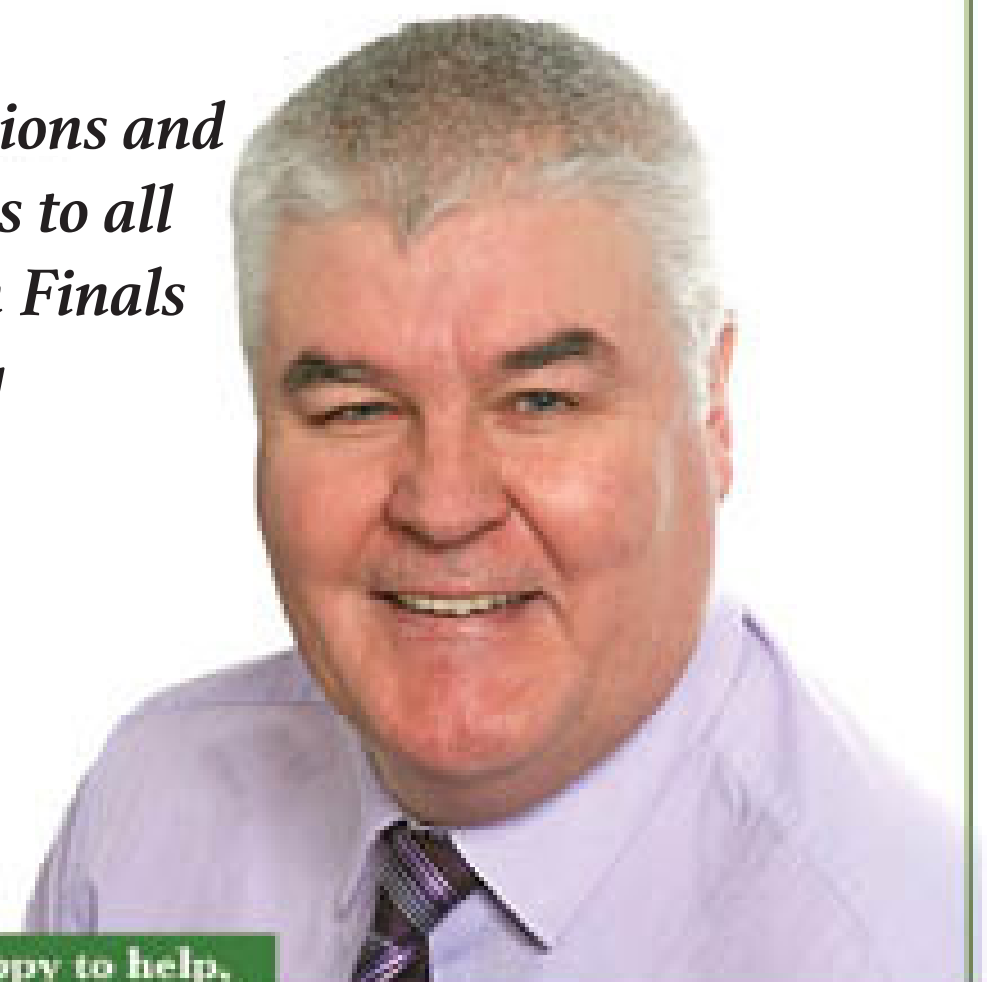


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Congratulations and best wishes to all involved in Finals Day



I am always happy to help, should you need me.

Johnny Mythen TD Co. Wexford

Phone: 037 114 2100

Email: john.mythen@oir.ie



Well done to everyone who participated in the Homeless Street Soccer finals on April 24



Irish Homeless Street Leagues

A National Lottery Good Cause

A non-profit organisation that uses the power of sport to help people experiencing social exclusion to get back into the community.



“ ”

It's had a huge impact on my life. In my teenage years I struggled a lot with my mental health and life was very difficult for me, to the point where I ended up sofa surfing for a while. Since joining the Moyross team, I've been supported in every way physically and mentally by my managers, teammates and supporters. Everyone on our team is so accepting, because a lot of people have had the same struggles.

Chantel Pearse

Goalkeeper with the Moyross branch of the Irish Homeless Street Leagues

National Lottery Players raise over €4 MILLION*
every week for Good Causes. **You Make This Possible.**

*Based on 2022 Financials

ÉAMONN CEANNT: REVIVALIST, COMMANDANT AND MARTYR

The ‘Proclamation of the Republic’ was read in front of the GPO in Dublin on Easter Monday of 1916. The document was a formal assertion of the Irish Republic as a sovereign, independent state, and also a declaration of rights. Over the next series of editions Liz Scales will be taking a look at the lives of each of the signatories.



Éamonn Ceannt was born Edward Thomas Kent in the police barracks at Ballymoe, a little village overlooking the River Suck in Co. Galway; he was the son of James Kent, an officer in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and his wife, Joanne Galway. James was transferred to Ardee, Co. Louth, where young Éamonn attended the De La Salle national school, becoming an altar boy; he would remain a devout Catholic for the rest of his life. The Ceannts next relocated to Drogheda, where he attended the Christian Brothers' school at Sunday's Gate. When James retired in 1892, the family settled in Dublin; there, Éamonn attended the O'Connell Schools on North Richmond Street, run by the Christian Brothers (Ceannt achieved excellent results in his final exams prior to leaving school. After finishing he was presented with the opportunity to work for the civil service but turned down this position as he felt he would be working for the British). He attended UCD and after graduation found employment with Dublin Corporation in the rates department and later the city treasury office.

**“the
right of free speech, of
public meeting and of organising
for a lawful purpose ought to be
unquestioned and unquestionable.”**

Ceannt was described by ex-pupils and workplace colleagues as quite a cold person who was difficult to get along with but those in his inner circle would later speak of his “cold exterior” being “a mask he wore” around those he did not know or trust. In fact, later in life, the letters he would write his wife Áine really exhibited a playful, tongue-in-cheek sense of humour. In one letter he wrote,

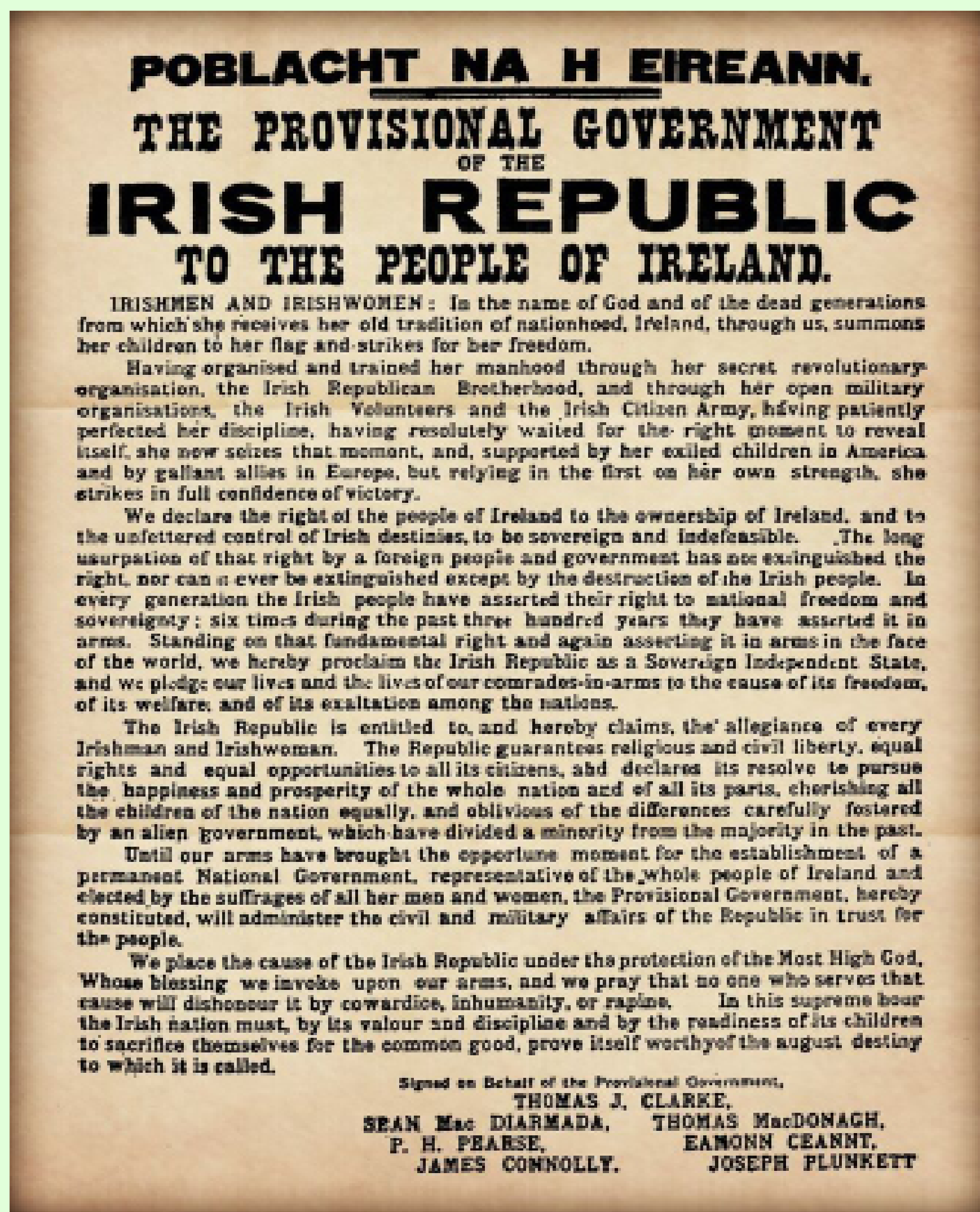
“No news to tell at all little girl but to remind you that in a few months' time, with the help of God, you will have become my prisoner forevermore . . . a new little wife you'll be that first day, owned by a man, bossed by a man, loved by a man.”

Reviving a Love in Irish Heritage

Éamonn loved Irish music and cultural activities and at the age of 17 joined the central branch of the Gaelic League, where he met Patrick Pearse and Eoin MacNeill. Very quickly he became fluent in the Irish language and went on to teach the language at various Gaelic League branches, gaining a reputation as an excellent teacher, a passionate communicator and an accomplished musician on the Uilleann pipes and other wind instruments. It was through the Gaelic League that Ceannt first met his wife, Frances Mary O'Brennan (known as Áine). She came from a deeply nationalist family, both of her sisters were also involved in the nationalist movement, Áine joined the League sharing a passionate interest in Irish culture (a real meeting of hearts and minds, the pair would go on to get married in June 1905 and welcome a baby son, Ronan the following year).

In February of 1900 Éamonn was involved in setting up the Dublin Pipers' Club and became secretary. He managed to acquire a printing press and would print the journal, *An Píobaire*, (the first issue appearing on

5 July 1901) a publication designed to publicise the club. Ceannt's musical talents earned him a gold medal at the 1906 Oireachtas and whilst leading a group of Irish athletes in Rome in 1908, he played the Uilleann pipes for Pope Pius X.



Éamonn had left-wing sympathies and was involved in the unionisation of his fellow workers in Dublin Corporation, eventually becoming chairman of the Dublin Municipal Officers' Association. He publicly supported the workers in the Wexford lock-out of 1911 (forerunner of the Dublin Lock-out of 1913) saying,

“the right of free speech, of public meeting and of organising for a lawful purpose ought to be unquestioned and unquestionable.”

**The British did not have
the civility to tell Éamonn's wife
he had been executed.**

His first serious involvement in national politics, however, was in 1907 when he joined Arthur Griffith's new political party, Sinn Féin, which opposed Home Rule, promoted the concept of national self-reliance, and aimed at national independence; he was eventually elected to the national council of Sinn Féin. It appears that he was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood by Seán MacDiarmada on 12 December 1912. On the foundation of the Irish Volunteers in November 1913, he was elected to the provisional committee, becoming involved in raising finance for the procurement of arms; he was present at both the Howth and Kilcoole importations.

Easter Rising

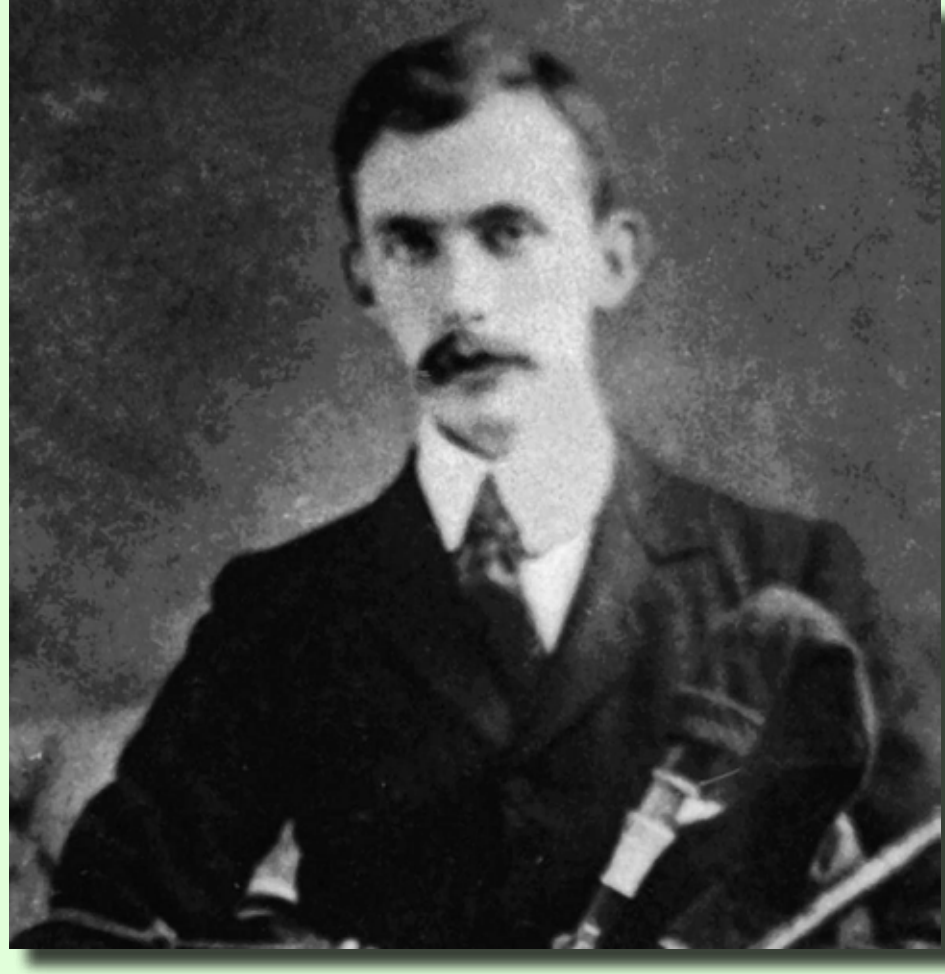
In May 1915, the IRB Military Council, consisting of Joseph Plunkett and Seán Mac Diarmada and Ceannt, began plans for a rebellion. Ceannt was one of the seven men to sign the Proclamation of Independence for the Irish Republic and had been appointed Director of Communications. He was made commandant of the 4th Battalion of the Volunteers, and during the Rising was stationed at the South Dublin Union, with more than 100 men under his command.

The South Dublin Union controlled a large area south of Kilmainham around Dolphin's Barn. As the 3rd Royal Irish came to Mount Brown, a section of Ceannt's battalion under section commander John Joyce opened fire, killing a number of soldiers. The British could not break through to Dublin Castle, and so brought up more troops from Kilmainham Barracks. A ceasefire allowed casualty retrieval. The Volunteers drove back repeated assaults from determined regimental attacks. Ceannt used a contingent at the Marrowbone Lane Distillery to enflame the passing soldiers; grinding attacks broke through to the Women's Infirmary. On Tuesday 25 April, the British could have closed off the battle, but failed to press home the advantage when the 4th Royal Dublin Fusiliers arrived, and Ceannt continued to hold out with 20 times fewer men. On Thursday 27 April, a British battalion made south, as far as the Rialto Bridge, when Ceannt's outposts opened fire.

The British were forced to tunnel into the buildings and, as Ceannt's numbers reduced, it was increasingly involved in close-quarter fighting. His unit saw intense fighting at times during the week but surrendered when ordered to do so by his superior officer Patrick Pearse.

Ceannt looked after “the humblest of those who had served under him.”

After the unconditional surrender of the 1916 fighters, Eamonn Ceannt along with the other survivors were brought to Richmond Barracks to be detained. On Monday 1 May, plain clothes detectives known as the “G-men” identified the leaders of the Rising, Ceannt being one of them. While Ceannt was being picked for trial, volunteer James Coughlan remembers him being determined to look after the welfare of “the humblest of those who had served under him.”



Death Penalty

Éamonn was tried under court martial as demanded by General Maxwell who was determined to impose the death penalty upon Ceannt and the other leaders of the Rising, however, he faced legal issues which prevented him from doing so: the death penalty was only allowed to be used if one was found aiding the enemy, in this case Germany. Not until Maxwell acquired a letter from Patrick Pearse addressed to his mother, regarding the communication with the Germans was he legally allowed to deploy the death penalty. From this point, Ceannt and his comrades began facing the likelihood of facing a firing squad.

This generation can claim to have raised sons as brave as any that went before. And in the years to come Ireland will honour those who risked all for her honour at Easter 1916.

On Tuesday 2 May, Éamonn Ceannt was sent for court-martial. His trial was a travesty with witnesses saying Ceannt was over at Jacob’s Biscuit Factory. He called John MacBride in his defence and wanted to call Thomas MacDonagh, Jacob’s commandant, but was told MacDonagh was “not available” – he had been executed that morning.

He was sentenced to death and transferred to Cell 88 of Kilmainham Gaol. He wrote words of advice in his cell for future battles,

“I leave for the guidance of other Irish Revolutionaries who may tread the path which I have trod, this advice: Never to treat with the enemy, never to surrender at his mercy, but to fight to a finish. I see nothing gained but grave disaster caused by the surrender, which has marked the end of the Irish insurrection of 1916...the enemy has not cherished one generous thought for those who withstood his forces for one glorious week.”

He then penned a letter to his wife,

“My dearest wife Áine, not wife but widow before these lines reach you. I am here without hope of this world, without fear, calmly awaiting the end . . . What can I say? I die a noble death for Ireland’s freedom. Men and women will vie with one another to shake your dear hand. Be proud of me as I am and ever was of you.”

Just before he was marched out to the Breaker’s Yard to be executed on 8 May 1916, aged just 34, Father Augustine said to him,

“When you fall, I will run out and anoint you”
“Oh,” replied Ceannt, “that will be a grand consolation, Father.”

The British did not have the civility to tell Éamonn’s wife he had been executed. She traveled to the Church Street Priory to find out what had happened him. “He is gone to heaven,” she was told.

He was buried at Arbour Hill.

Sadly Éamonn Ceannt is the least well-known signatory but he is still remembered in the annals of Irish history. Galway City’s Ceannt Station is named in his honour as well as Éamonn Ceannt Park in Dublin and Ceannt Fort in Dublin 8 was renamed in his honour, having been laid out in 1917-1922 by Dublin Corporation and originally named McCaffrey’s Estate.



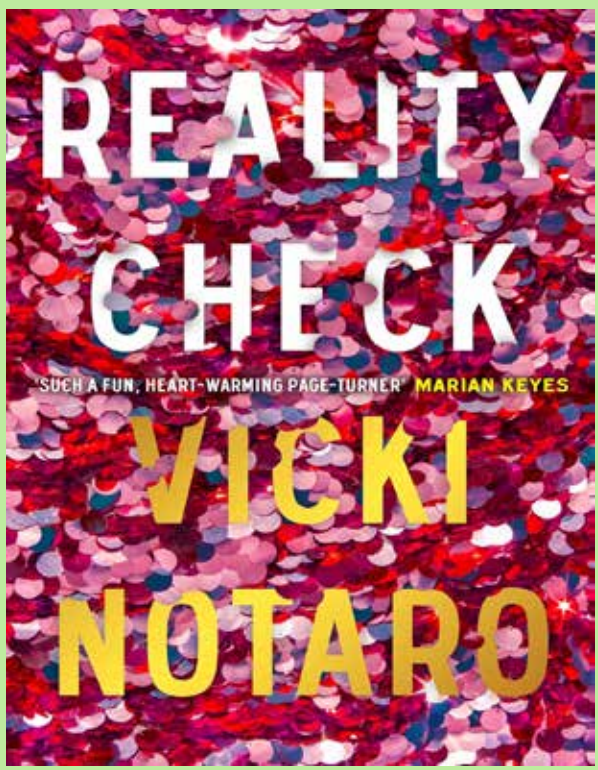
William Kent and Éamonn Ceannt with their father James in a family photo taken before 1912. Back row: William, Richard, Michael, Éamonn, Áine (née Brennan). Front row: James Patrick, Elizabeth (née Cummins), James Snr, Nell Casey (née Kent), Jack Casey.

Patricia Scanlan's Book Club



Patricia Scanlan was born in Dublin, where she still lives. She is a #1 bestselling author and has sold millions of books worldwide. Her books are translated in many languages. Patricia is the series editor and a contributing author to the award winning Open Door Literacy series. In this monthly feature, Patricia brings you her favourite reads of the moment.

Reality Check – Vicki Notaro – Sandycove



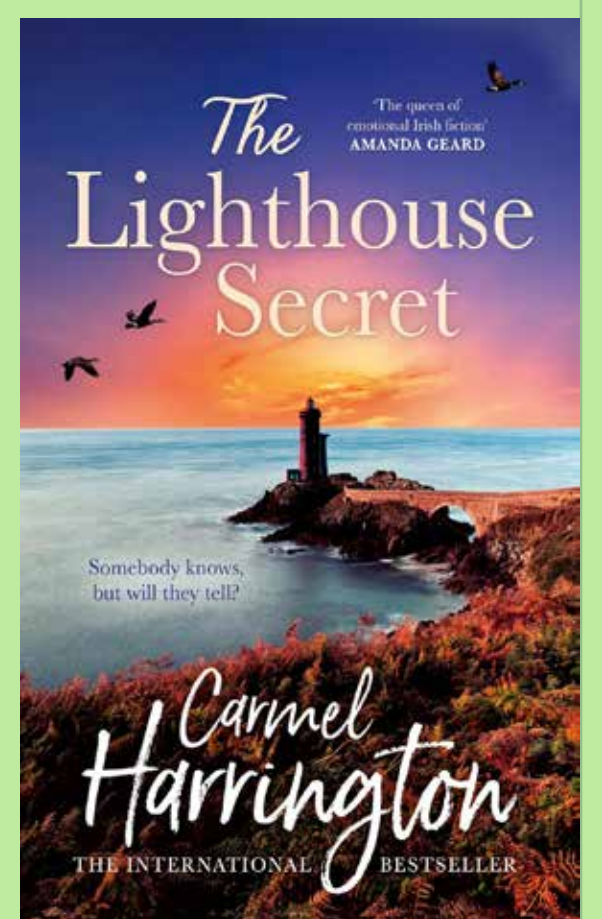
Portia Daniels' life is sorted. She has a perfect man (Jason, a hot TV producer from Ireland), a perfect apartment (in lower Manhattan), a perfect job, (writing for TV). Best of all for her, unlike the rest of her family, she lives in perfect obscurity.

On the other hand, it's all drama with her mother, Dessie, Kerry-born queen bee of hit reality show, Ladies of Los Angeles, and sisters, Vinnie, a supermodel-turned-Insta-guru and Ariel, a Tik-Tok teen sensation. When Jason drops a bombshell that leaves her life in tatters, Portia flees to be with her family. Her timing could not be worse though as scandal engulfs Vinnie's empire and Ariel bratty behaviour gets out of hand. As for Dessie, she is clearly hiding something. It seems like the glamour and gossip on which

Dessie built her empire might just be its downfall. But maybe Portia has been fooling herself about living a 'real' life? She might be about to get as big a wake-up call as her mother and sisters. From the bright lights of LA to the rugged charm of west Kerry, Reality Check is a delicious look behind the scenes of what really goes down in Tinseltown.

The Lighthouse Secret – Carmel Harrington – Harper Collins

1951, Ireland. On the windswept Cork coast, the lighthouse-keepers' wives wait, watching the sea. Their husbands are coming home. But one secret can never be revealed. 2023, Maine. Decades later, Mollie Kenefick receives an anonymous note: Family secrets never stay buried. The only person she can ask is her grandmother – however, Beth made a vow that she swore never to break. But someone knows what happened that summer in 1951, and it seems they're not happy keeping silent . . . Family secrets never stay buried!



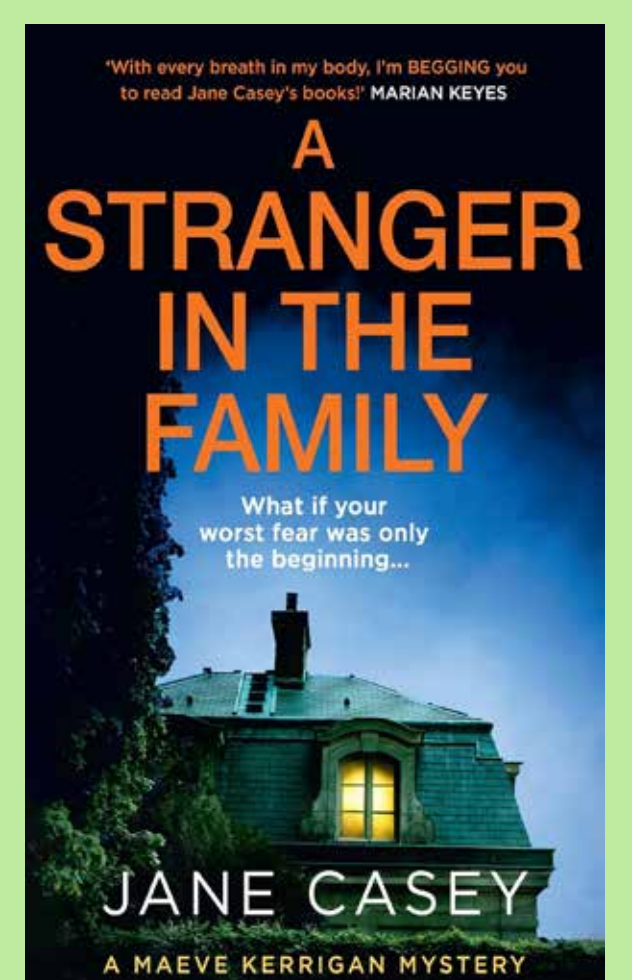
The Honeymoon Affair – Sheila O'Flanagan – Headline Review



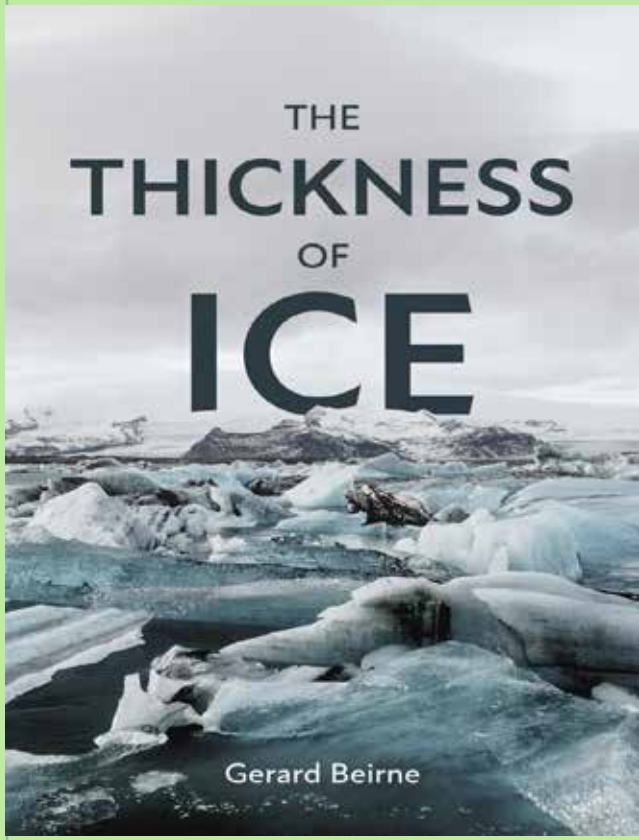
Izzy is in the Caribbean on the honeymoon-that-isn't after her fiancé broke her heart. She's not looking for someone new. But when she meets Charles Miller, a successful writer holidaying alone, the electricity is undeniable. And what does she have to lose? In Ireland, Charles's ex-wife and agent Ariel flits from party to party, glamorous and poised. She's in constant contact with Charles. They're very close. Ariel wonders if they should get back together. She's an independent woman, but she liked being part of a power couple. And she's sure she only has to say, and they'll pick up where they left off. No matter how in control of life you think you are, it can shock and surprise you. As Izzy, Ariel and Charles are about to find out . . .

A Stranger in the Family – Jane Casey – Hemlock Press

Every mother's worst nightmare . . . When nine-year-old Rosalie Marshall vanished from her bed one summer night, her disappearance tore her family apart. Now, sixteen years later, her mother Helena is found dead, her husband by her side. It looks like a straightforward murder-suicide but DS Maeve Kerrigan and DI Josh Derwent soon discover nothing about this case is straightforward. The Marshalls have been keeping secrets. And someone is prepared to kill to hide the truth. Until Maeve finds out what happened to Rosalie, no one will be safe . . .



The Thickness of Ice – Gerard Beirne – Baraka Books

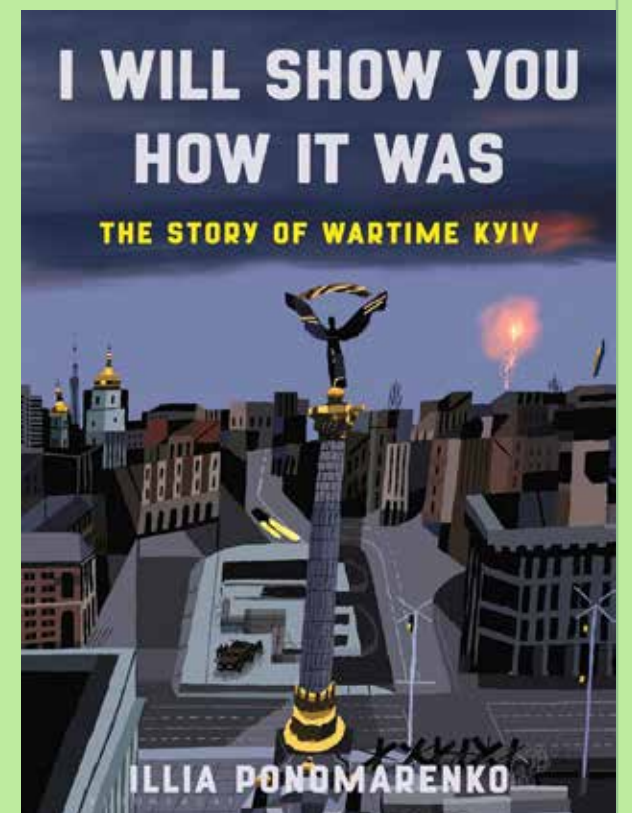


The Thickness of Ice is a tender and tragic tale set in the remote sub-arctic tundra, in the small town of Churchill with a transient population on Hudson Bay. The barren icy landscape pervades the characters' lives and relationships. As the novel opens Wade confesses that he was responsible the death of his best friend Jack, out on the tundra, three years after meeting him. They had been arguing about a Dene woman, Tess, they were both in love with. Jack's body was never found, and Wade never admitted to the act. It was assumed that Jack had left abruptly. However, many years later, Wade meets Esther who moves to Churchill to live with him. She hears the story of Jack's disappearance. For Wade's sake, she determines to resolve what happened to Jack and

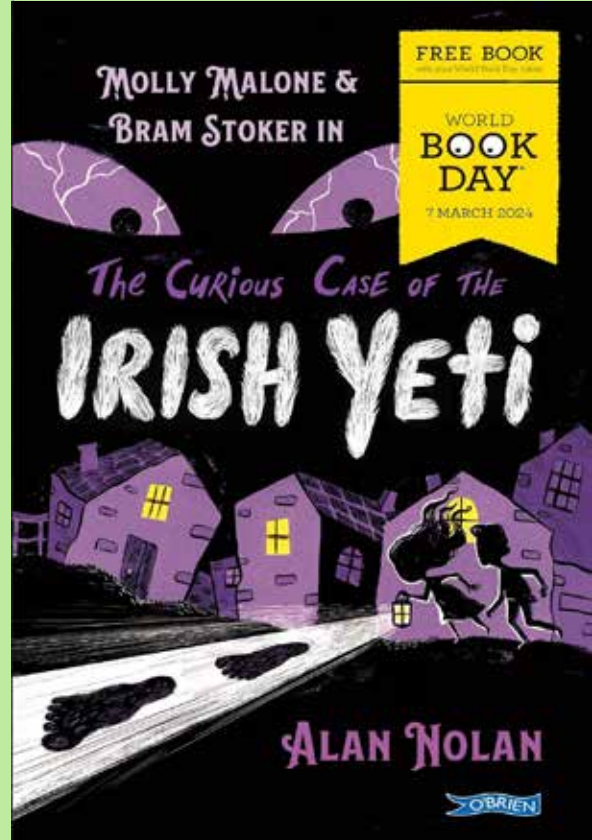
bring some closure.

I Will Show You How It Was: The Story of Wartime Kyiv – Illia Ponomarenko – Bloomsbury Publishing

In late February 2022, a series of missiles and rocket strikes began falling upon Ukraine, as the Russian military barrelled over the border and fanned out across the country. First they took Chernobyl, then Kherson, then Mariupol. Time stood still as the world waited for Ukraine to flatten underneath the boot of its neighbour. Meanwhile, on the front lines in the capital city, Kyiv Independent reporter Illia Ponomarenko was seeing a different story unfold: after months-years-of waiting for this long-feared attack, Ukraine was fed up and ready to fight back. The Russians bogged down hard in combat east and west of Kyiv. They got exhausted. They screwed up logistics. They sustained heavy losses. Their unbelievably overconfident blitz was failing. I Will Show You How It Was is Illia Ponomarenko's heart-wrenching memoir of the war on his homeland, offering a fiery diatribe against Russian hypocrisy and a moving look at what is being lost. But it's also a story of pride and even elation as Ukrainian forces come together, find their mojo, and oust the invaders from Kyiv. The most powerful and personal chronicle of the war to date, I Will Show You How It Was is an exceptional literary achievement, chronicling a stunning feat of resistance and a courageous people set on a miraculous victory.



The Curious Case of the Irish Yeti: Molly Malone & Bram Stoker (Molly and Bram) – Alan Nolan – O'Brien Press



Dublin, 1859: All the dogs are disappearing! The city is in trouble. With no guard dogs, thieves are running riot. With no sheepdogs at Smithfield Market, the city is overrun with sheep and goats. And the cats are getting totally out of control! The dwindling pup-ulation is being blamed on the Irish Yeti, a terrifying beast with snow-white fur and glowing eyes. When Molly Malone's own dog goes missing, she sets off on the trail of the monster, with help from her friend Bram Stoker and the Sackville Street Spooks. Can the gang save the dogs AND save the day?

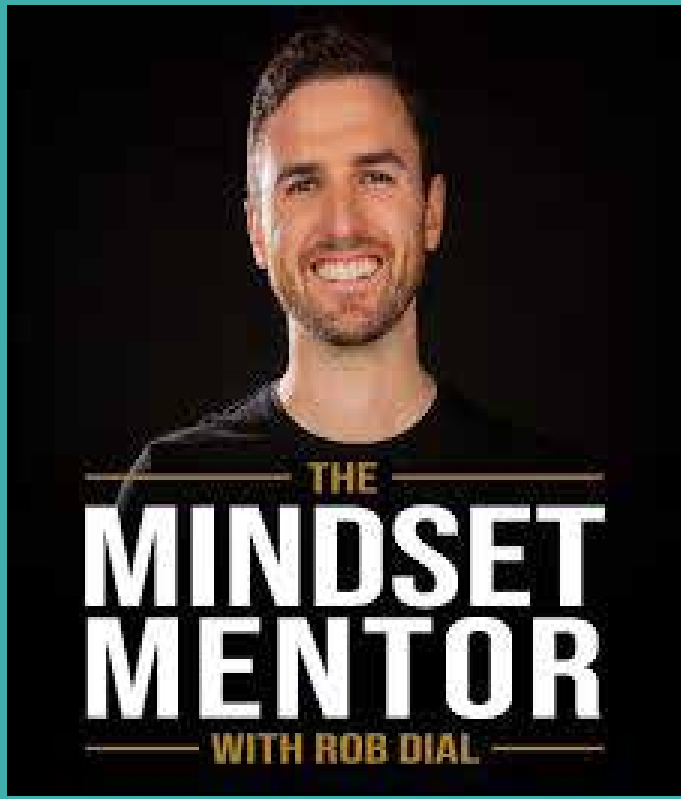
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The Podcast Review

We source the best selection of podcasts each issue. This time we bring you, The Mindset Mentor, The Joyous Health Podcast, Dara Ó Briain’s Timewasters and History’s Secret Heroes.

The Mindset Mentor (Life)



The Mindset Mentor is designed for anyone desiring motivation, direction, and focus in life. Host Rob Dial has amassed a passionate following of over 3 million social media followers, including business professionals, entrepreneurs, and small business owners with his expertise and passion for helping motivate people to become the best version of themselves. In this podcast, Rob blends neurology, neurobiology, psychology, early childhood development, cognitive behavioral therapy so that you can understand the way your brain and body work together, because when you understand yourself, it makes it much easier to make a plan to change and succeed. If you’re ready to take your life to the next level, tune in.

The Joyous Health Podcast (Health)

The Joyous Health Podcast is here to bring a dose of joy to your day, maybe a few laughs and some healthy inspiration as we explore food and nutrition, well-being, beauty, family and entrepreneurship. Hosted by Joy McCarthy, the founder behind the internationally recognised health and wellness brand, Joyous Health—she is also a holistic nutritionist and two-time bestselling author.



Dara Ó Briain’s Timewasters (Laughs)

This is a panel show all about those moments in our lives we’ll never get back! Dara Ó Briain invites two comedians to compete with their best stories of when their lives and time have been most wasted. From relationships that were never going anywhere, hours spent on call waiting, pointless DIY projects, failed attempts at self-improvement, to weird hobbies and misunderstood technology – strap in for a joyfully (and occasionally painfully) relatable celebration of our completely misspent lives.

History’s Secret Heroes (History)

Helena Bonham Carter shines a light on extraordinary stories from World War Two. Join her for incredible tales of deception, acts of resistance and courage.



How to:

Search “Google podcasts” in the Play Store app (if you’ve an Android phone). iPhones comes with Apple podcasts app installed. Open the app and type in the name of the podcast you want or you can just browse categories whilst there.

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