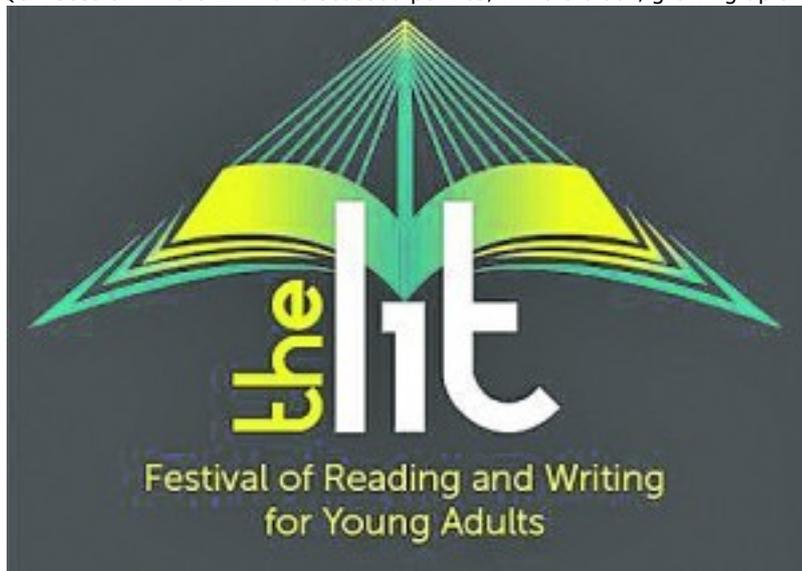


An Incredible LIT Festival

The second annual LIT Festival kicked off in St Patrick's Gateway, with members of Waterford Youth Arts (WYA) Creative Writing group reading their poems and prose live to an audience. Covering a wide range of topics there were many great pieces on the night, one that stood out in particular was a poem in Irish on LGBT issues in Ireland which was definitely a first. This was followed by a meeting with writer, poet and screen writer Emmet Kirwan who performed several pieces on the night including 'Heartbreak' - part of his play 'Dublin Old School' - as well as several heartfelt poems on his family and significant other.

During the course of the evening he was also interviewed by LIT member Isobel Tiernan, which was followed by an audience Q&A session where Emmet discussed politics, writers block, growing up and much more.



On Saturday, October 10th, eight well-supported workshops were held. A workshop that stood out was one staged by Stephen Murray at Garter Lane Studios, which was all about crafting a poem from scratch, with attendees learning the tricks of the trade during a fantastic two hour session. Some of the poems that the young people created were really insightful, showing just how good Stephen is as a teacher and how well talented these young people are.

Another great workshop was Abby Olivera's workshop at the Central Library, where Abby focused on the theme of voice both written and spoken, using a combination of spoken word poetry, storytelling, creative writing and group exercises, with the purpose of developing their own voice as a reader and a writer.

In the afternoon, attendees caught up with some of the people who took part in the Writers In Training event which was a collaboration between Waterford Youth Art's and Irish Rail, Young people from Dublin, Carlow and Kilkenny joined the 10.15am train from Heuston where they got artistic inputs from writers Karl Parkinson and Darren Donohue.

That evening, the LIT team launched their official creative writing fanzine called 'The Pass Around' in the Vintage Tea Rooms, which is due to be published every two months. The Festival came to a close with 'Modwords vs The LIT' at St Patrick's Gateway, where the Lit team faced off against Anna Jordan and the Modwords gang, a smashing conclusion to an awesome festival.