



JOURNEY: Maria's writing celebrates life for what it is...a surprising journey

The Poet's Corner

"I believe that the need to express through words is part of an inherent human search for meaning. I was born in Catalonia, and for me, writing releases some of the friction my split loyalties, background, culture and accent create." Maria Wallace.

Maria Wallace has won the Sunday Tribune Hennessy Award, Emerging Poetry, in 2006 – alongside many other prizes over the past 20 years, too numerous to mention here. She has been published in anthologies, journals and newspapers around the world and is the founder of Virginia House Creative Writers Group (1996), which she still facilitates. In 2007, she edited and put into book form the group's work for Tallaght Soundings and she also edited *Once Upon a Time in Tallaght*, a recent publication by local writer and historian Mervyn Ennis.

Maria praises the richness of Irish traditions and folklore. Today her writing celebrates life for what it is... a surprising journey. She has been living in Tallaght for the past 37 years.

Second Shadow (2010) is her first bilingual poetry collection, English and Catalan. A second one, under the auspices of the cultural department of the Diputació of Girona, will be launched soon.

Maria will be reading some of her work in the County Library on December 5 – part of a six-week series featuring local writers.

The event is free and no booking required.

Teacher

*She never taught, but I watched her trail,
her hands threading the new, adding
colour and sound to everything she touched,*

*meaning to why a potato peel
should be thin as a whisper, well-water carried
minding each step.*

*Butterflies took to the air when she went by.
I heard many an unvoiced love tune
follow her footsteps.*

*Never vexed by my curiosity,
the best teacher I ever had,
my mother.*



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Echo on Tour



DANCING QUEENS: Scoil Rince Ni Aogain attended the North American Championships in Chicago at Halloween. The school brought the best local paper in Dublin with them and they won the championship. Jade Thompson, Béibhinn Boyce and Chloe Larkin are seen here holding *The Echo* and (inset) Jade Thompson, Shanley Doyle and Béibhinn Boyce show off their medals and trophy.

We're giving away €20 every week!

Are you heading out on a 'Stag' or 'Hen' weekend, or going to the UK for a football match? Maybe you're going on a leisurely weekend away or a big holiday to far-off places. If so, make sure you bring *The Echo* on tour. Send in a photo to news@echo.ie and if we publish it we'll send you €20, just like that!



WIN an iPad 2

The overall winner will receive an iPad 2 and their artwork will be printed on the Echo Christmas Card, sales proceeds of which will go to Teenline Ireland



THE Echo Christmas Card Competition



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The competition is open to all youths aged 13 to 18 from schools, youth projects and all our local areas. Entries must be sent to The Echo, Village Green, Tallaght, Dublin 24. Closing date for all entries is Monday November 21st

AN EXHIBITION OF THE WINNING PIECE, AND ALL OF THE ARTWORK, WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN THE SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LIBRARY FROM DECEMBER 12TH - 17TH (MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10AM - 4.30PM)

