

# John W Sexton



**COUNTY** Kerry

**GENRE** Poet, Short-Story Writer, Children's Writer

**SESSIONS** Reading and Q&A, Creative Writing Workshop, Master Class

**AGE GROUP** 7 - 10, 16 – 18 Primary, Post Primary

## **PUBLICATIONS/REPertoire/PRODUCTIONS & BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE**

John W Sexton is the author of six poetry collections including *The Prince's Brief Career*, (Cairn Mountain Press, 1995), *Shadows Bloom / Scáthanna Faoi Bhláth*, a book of haiku with translations into Irish by Gabriel Rosenstock (Doghouse, 2004), *Vortex* (Doghouse, 2005), *Petit Mal* (Revival Press, 2009), *The Offspring of the Moon* (Salmon Poetry 2013) and *Futures Pass* (Salmon Poetry 2013). He also

created and wrote *The Ivory Tower* for RTÉ Radio, which ran to over one hundred half-hour episodes from 1999 to 2002. Two novels based on the characters from this series have been published by the O'Brien Press: *The Johnny Coffin Diaries* and *Johnny Coffin School-Dazed*, which have been translated into both Italian and Serbian. He has recorded an album with legendary Stranglers frontman, Hugh Cornwell, entitled *Sons of Shiva*, which has been released on Track Records. He is a past nominee for The Hennessy Literary Award and his poem *The Green Owl* won the Listowel Poetry Prize 2007. Also in 2007 he was awarded a Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship in Poetry.

For teens and children he has facilitated and edited many publications, including:

*Rhyme Rag #3* (2007), and was also the first editor of the online version of the journal for eighteen months from 2015. Published by Kilkenny Arts Office.

*The Unfinished Book* 2008-2012 and again in 2016. Published by Cork City Council and Cork City Library Service.

*Ó Mo Pheann Féin* (2011), Editors John W. Sexton & Eileen Sheehan. Published by Kerry Education Service/Poetry Ireland/Kerry Library.

*Transmogrified Lives: Anthology of Short Fiction by Cork Teenagers* (2015). Published by Cork City Library Service.

He was Story Editor for the Cork City Graphic Novel Project for six years: selecting for and

editing *Redshift* (2009), *Syzygy* (2010), *Interstice* (2011), *Fractals* (2012), *Discordia* (2013) and *Möbius* (2014). All published by Cork City Library.

#### **SESSION DETAILS**

Workshop sessions begin at a minimum of one hour, but two hours is preferable if this can be accommodated by the school timetable. I generally give workshops on story construction, covering the creation of a coherent plot, characterisation, motivation and description. I also give poetry workshops, looking at subject, form and style.