

RTÉ Short Story COMPETITION

IN HONOUR OF FRANCIS MACMANUS 



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RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. To be eligible to enter this competition, you must be over 18 (on or before the competition closing date), and must be either resident on the island of Ireland, or, if living abroad, hold an Irish passport. Proof of nationality and/or residency may be requested of shortlisted writers.

2. Only one entry per person is permitted. If more than one story is submitted, only the first story received will be considered.

3. Entries, in Irish or English, must (i) be original, fictional and entirely your own work; (ii) not infringe the copyright or any other rights of any third party; (iii) not be defamatory of any person or corporate body; (iv) not be under consideration elsewhere for the duration of this competition's judging process, up to the announcement of the shortlist in autumn 2026, and not have been previously broadcast or published, including online, and (v) be suitable for broadcast by RTÉ to a general audience: so excessive use of bad language, for example, should be avoided.

4. **Your story's wordcount must fall between 1800 and 2000 words, excluding the title.** Shortlisted stories will be recorded, published and broadcast exactly as submitted beyond obvious typographical errors, without any opportunity for further revision from you. So only submit your story when you are satisfied it is free from errors.

5. The competition is judged anonymously. To avoid disqualification, you must ensure that your name does not appear anywhere on your story itself, but only on the postal online entry form where requested. RTÉ will only ever use personal details for the purposes of the competition.

6. You may enter the competition by two means only: at the online Submittable form or by post. Neither email entries nor hand-delivered entries will be accepted.

Postal entries must be accompanied by an entry form, downloadable at rte.ie/writing. To receive a printed entry form in the post, email: fmacmanustories@rte.ie, or leave a message at (01) 208 3277 with your name, phone number and postal address, and request to be sent a form.

Postal entries should be typed, double-spaced on one side only of A4 paper, with pages numbered, laid out in such a way that no sentence runs over from one page to the next, and sent, with a completed entry form, to:

The RTÉ Short Story Competition in honour of Francis MacManus, Radio Centre, RTÉ, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, IRELAND. You should retain a copy of your entry as RTÉ cannot return scripts.

7. **The closing date is Friday 15 May 2026.** Postal entries received by us up to and including that date will be accepted. The deadline for online entries is midnight Irish time on Friday 15 May. This is a strict deadline; no exceptions will be made. Entries successfully submitted online will receive an automated acknowledgement to the email address provided. RTÉ will not acknowledge receipt of postal entries and does not accept any responsibility for late, lost or damaged entries. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.

8. The judges' decision is final and RTÉ will not enter into correspondence concerning any entry.

9. By submitting an entry for the competition, you hereby acknowledge and agree that the winning entries and any other shortlisted entry may be read out and reproduced and broadcast (in whole or in part) on RTÉ's radio services and via the RTÉ website and online services (including RTÉ Radio Player) as well as featured in an RTÉ podcast available for download from RTÉ and other third party platforms. You also acknowledge that the winning entries may be used by RTÉ for publicity purposes around the competition and published in full or as an extract in print or online (including without limitation RTÉ Guide, RTÉ website and other third party platforms). You also agree that in the event of being shortlisted or winning the competition, you will consent to RTÉ identifying you as the author for publicity purposes to promote the competition. Entry to the competition constitutes acceptance of these terms.

10. Employees of RTÉ are not eligible to enter the competition.

11. All 10 stories will be broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1. The winners of the top three winning stories will receive prizes of €5000, €4000 and €3000 respectively; the other shortlisted authors will each receive a fee of €300.

The prizes will be announced at an awards evening in the autumn, which all ten shortlisted writers are invited to attend. The date of this event will be flagged well ahead of time on our website.

12. You acknowledge and agree that to the extent permitted by law, RTÉ will not be liable for any loss or damage (whether such damage or losses were foreseen, foreseeable, known or otherwise) including financial and/or reputation and/or disappointment, suffered by you for entering the competition or as a result of your story being a winning entry.

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ENTRY FORM
2026



JUDGES 2026



AINGEALA FLANNERY

Aingeala Flannery is the author of *The Amusements* (Penguin), which won the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year 2023 and the John McGahern Prize. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *The Irish Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Paper Visual Art*, and *Winter Papers*, and have been broadcast on RTÉ Radio One. She is deputy publisher at *The Dublin Review* and is the current Kildare Library and Arts Service Writer-in-Residence at Maynooth University.



TRISTAN ROSENSTOCK

Tristan Rosenstock is a broadcaster with RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta, where he presents the arts series *An Cúinne Dána*. His debut book for young readers *Inis Mara (LeabhairCOMHAR)* was selected for World Book Day 2024, and he has since added two more to the *Inis Mara* series. He is co-editor of *Inside Innti - A new wave in Irish Poetry* (Cork University Press) and is literary editor of the magazine *Comhar*. He performs with traditional group *Téada*, who are celebrating 25 years on the road. He sits on the board of Poetry Ireland.



JAN CARSON

Jan Carson is a Belfast based writer who has published four novels, three short story collections and two micro-fiction collections. Her novel *The Fire Starters* won the EU Prize for Literature for Ireland, 2019. *The Raptures* was shortlisted for the An Post Irish Novel of the Year and Kerry Group Novel of the Year. Her writing has aired on BBC Radio 3 and 4 and RTE and has been translated into twenty languages worldwide. Jan was the Seamus Heaney Centre Fellow at Queen's University Belfast in 2025 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Her latest novel, *Few and Far Between* was published in April 2026.

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COMPETITION

IN HONOUR OF FRANCIS MACMANUS



2026

This annual literary competition was founded in 1986 to honour Francis MacManus (1909-1965), the Kilkenny born novelist, biographer and former Head of Talks and Features at Radio Éireann. This year marks the 40th anniversary of this hugely popular competition, which every year showcases the best new Irish writing for radio. Many of its past winners and shortlisted writers have gone on to national and international acclaim, including Claire Keegan, Danielle McLaughlin, Liz Nugent, Chris Binchy, Sarah Gilmartin, Anthony Glavin, Austin Duffy, Molly McCloskey, Colin Walsh, Stephen Walsh and Nuala O'Connor.

The overall winner will receive €5,000, while €4,000 and €3,000 will be awarded to the second and third place prize winners respectively. A further seven runners-up will receive €250 each, and all 10 shortlisted stories will be published on rte.ie/culture and broadcast in a season of new writing on RTÉ Radio 1 in the autumn, performed by some of Ireland's leading actors.

Ten stories will be selected for the shortlist, which will be announced in late autumn 2026, and all 10 writers will be invited to a special Arena programme where the judges will discuss all the stories on the shortlist and award their top prizes.

For more, see www.rte.ie/writing

ENTRY FORM



I wish to submit the following short story for inclusion in the RTÉ Short Story Competition 2026

STORY TITLE

.....

.....

NUMBER OF WORDS

.....

DATE

.....

I have read and agree to the rules of this competition.

SIGNED

.....

NAME (block capitals)

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ADDRESS

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PHONE

.....

EMAIL

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Please cut along the dotted line and return this form to:
RTÉ Short Story Competition,
Radio Centre, Donnybrook, Dublin 4

