

Press release · [February 4, 2015](#)

## GOETHE-INSTITUT LAUNCHES “GERMANY@HOME” LITERATURE PROGRAMME – AND A QUEST FOR IRISH HOMES TO HOST IT

**In 2015, the Goethe-Institut is bringing German authors to Irish homes. Gemany@Home is a series of literary evenings featuring German writers that will take place in the comfort of a real home.** In an informal atmosphere, Irish lovers of literature can listen and talk to renowned German authors like Bernhard Schlink or Theresia Walser, sometimes accompanied by an Irish author. English translations of German texts will be provided at the events.

*“With Germany@Home, the Goethe-Institut wants to establish a new format for literature that has become quite fashionable in Berlin, as we try to win over a new audience for contemporary writing”, explains Mechtild Manus, director of the Goethe-Institut. “Also, with this series, we turn a disadvantage into an advantage. While our building and auditorium at 37 Merrion Square is being refurbished to its Georgian glory, we can find refuge in the cosiness of Irish homes.”*

The first Germany@Home event on February 27- featuring German writer **Mirko Bonné** - takes place in the home of the German Embassy’s first secretary Peter Adams in Blackrock, Co. Dublin. The second on March 4 sees Goethe-Institut Director Mechtild Manus host Irish short story writer **Claire Keegan** as she reads with Berlin author **Judith Hermann**, a great admirer of Keegan’s prose, in her Dublin Docklands apartment.

Upcoming events in the series, organised by landscape architect and visual artist Sophie Gräfin von Maltzan, will feature Theresia Walser and Nadja Küchenmeister. However, dates and venues are yet to be announced, as **the Goethe-Institut is putting out a call for people willing to host the third and subsequent Germany@Home events.** The redevelopment of the Goethe-Institut’s Irish HQ at 37 Merrion Square means that the Goethe-Institut has temporarily relocated all services to 62 Fitzwilliam Square, which has no auditorium space, until the Merrion Square building re-opens in 2017. *“While our own building is being redeveloped, we’re asking people who would be willing to host a Germany@Home event – in Dublin or beyond – to contact us and help us to present these really lovely events throughout 2015”,* said Mechtild.

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### **Germany@Home events are free but ticketed.**

If you wish to attend, you can reserve a place on EventBrite: at: <http://bit.ly/1EZDgTT>

For information on being a Germany@Home host, please email us at [germanyathome@gmail.com](mailto:germanyathome@gmail.com)

For the latest updates on Germany@Home, find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Germanyathome>

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**EDITORS' NOTES****About Germany@Home 1**

**Author:** Mirko Bonné,

**Date:** Friday 27 February 2015, 19:00 – 20:30

**Host:** Peter Adams, Blackrock, Co. Dublin – address provided once place reserved.

About Mirko Bonné: Winner of the several awards including the French Prix Relay du Roman d'Evasion, Mirko Bonné is a born storyteller who creates worlds alive to all the senses. He has a unique international perspective informed by residencies in Marseille, New York, Rio de Janeiro and Shanghai. Mirko Bonné is author of *Nie mehr Nacht (No more Night)* nominated for the German Book Award 2013.

He comes to Dublin within the framework of "Weather Stations", an international project that places literature and storytelling at the heart of discussions about climate change:

(<http://globalweatherstations.com>). Ernest Shackleton, polar explorer born in Kilkea (Co. Kildare) in 1874, is at the centre of the novel "Ice-cold Heaven" by Mirko Bonné, and Mike O'Shea, who retraced the Shackleton expedition of 1914/15 will answer questions from the audience at this Germany@Home event.

**About Germany@Home 2**

**Authors:** Judith Hermann (de), Claire Keegan (ie)

**Date:** Wednesday, 4 March 2015, 18:30 – 20:00

**Host:** Mechtild Manus, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin 2 – address provided once place reserved.

About Judith Hermann: Judith Hermann was born in Berlin in 1970. Her debut „Sommerhaus, später“ (Summer house, later) (1998) was received exceptionally well. Her volume of short stories "Nichts als Gespenster" (Nothing but ghosts) followed in 2003. Several of those stories were adapted for the screen in 2007. "Alice" (2009), five stories, was praised internationally. Her latest novel is "Aller Liebe Anfang" (The Beginning of Love). Judith Hermann has been awarded numerous prizes, for example the Kleist Prize and the Friedrich-Hölderlin-Prize. The author lives and writes in Berlin.

About Claire Keegan: Claire Keegan was born in 1968 and grew up on a farm in Wicklow. Her first collection of short stories, *Antarctica*, was completed in 1998. It announced her as an exceptionally gifted and versatile writer of contemporary fiction and was awarded the Rooney Prize for Literature. Her second short story

collection, *Walk the Blue Fields*, was published to enormous critical acclaim in 2007 and won her the 2008 Edge Hill Prize for Short Stories. She won the 2009 Davy Byrnes Irish Writing Award with *Foster*. The jury was chaired by the American writer Richard Ford, who praised Keegan's "imposing array of formal beauties at the service of a deep and profound talent." Claire Keegan lives in County Wexford, Ireland.

### **About the Building Project**

The redevelopment of the Goethe-Institut's Irish HQ at 37 Merrion Square will see the 1790 Georgian townhouse refurbished to its period glory and welcome the creation of a new garden and contemporary mews building on the site. Building work commences in 2015, and the Goethe-Institut has temporarily relocated all services to 62 Fitzwilliam Square until the Merrion Square building re-opens in 2017. Designed by Irish/German architects Henschion Reuter Architects, the historic building, post-development, will contain the Goethe-Institut's Information and Library Service, a new German café and expanded cultural/events space, while a new contemporary mews building will house the German Language School and services for teachers of German.

### **About the Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural network with 158 institutes in 93 countries. Founded in 1951, it has been active in Ireland since 1961. The role of the Goethe-Institut in Ireland is to inform about Germany, provide German language classes and foster cultural exchange between Ireland and Germany.

You can contact the Goethe-Institut at 62 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, Ireland / +353-1-6801110 / [info@dublin.goethe.org](mailto:info@dublin.goethe.org) / [www.goethe.de/irland](http://www.goethe.de/irland)

For the latest updates on Goethe-Institut events, follow the Goethe-Institut on Facebook & Twitter: [www.facebook.com/goetheinstitut.irland](https://www.facebook.com/goetheinstitut.irland) / [@GI\\_Ireland](https://twitter.com/GI_Ireland)

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