

Presented by An Taibhdhearc  
and the Galway West End Community

# WALTER MACKEN

## CENTENARY CELEBRATION

### 30TH APRIL - 15TH MAY



An Taibhdhearc  
Amharclann Náisiúnta na Gaeilge  
National Irish Language Theatre



**I**s é **Bháitéar Ó Maicín** duine de na scríbhneoirí is cáiliúla a bhí i nGaillimh riamh. Bhí an-tóir ar a chuid úrscéalta le linn a shaoil – ‘Rain on the Wind’ agus na leabhair, ‘The Scorching Wind’, ‘Seek the Fair Land’ agus ‘The Silent People’. Dhíol sé na milliúin cóipeanna dá shaothar ar fud an domhain.

D’oibrigh sé sa Taibhdhearc mar Stiúrthóir Ealaíona ar feadh tréimhse idir 1939-1947. Scríobh agus d’aistrigh sé a lán drámaí agus stiúir sé iad freisin. Bhí an-tóir air mar aisteoir agus ghlac sé róil in Amharclann na Mainistreach agus ar Broadway Mheiriceá. Is i Mionlach a raibh cónaí air agus thug sé faoin scríbhneoireacht ansin. Rinneadh scannán a bhí bunaithe ar an úrscéal a scríobh sé do pháistí, ‘Flight of the Doves’.

**WALTER MACKEN** is one of Galway’s most famous writers, whose novels achieved great popularity in his lifetime, including ‘Rain on the Wind’ in 1950 and the trilogy, ‘Seek the Fair Land’, ‘The Scorching Wind’ and ‘The Silent People’. His books sold several million copies in his lifetime.

He was also Artistic Director of An Taibhdhearc theatre in the 1940’s, (1939-1947), during which he spent time directing, designing and painting sets as well as producing plays which he both wrote and translated into Irish – in all, a total of 77 plays. He was also an actor and after An Taibhdhearc, trod the boards on the Abbey and on Broadway, before coming home to Menlo to write. Some of his novels were made into films, such as ‘Flight of the Doves’, and ‘Home is the Hero’.



Buíochas le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
With the kind support of Galway City Council

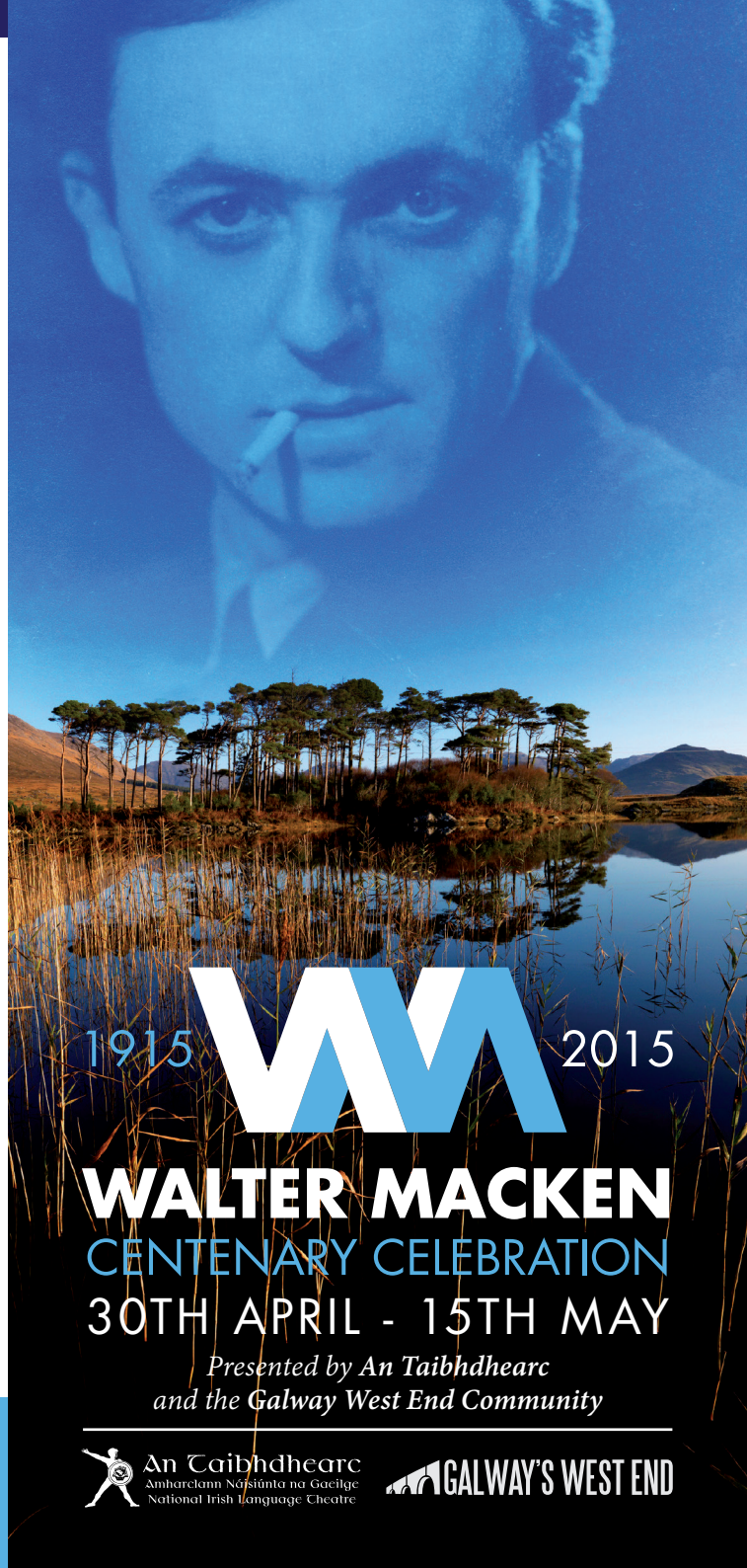
www.designassociates.ie

An Taibhdhearc, 19 Middle Street, Galway City  
Tel: +353 91 562 024 Email: eolas@antaibhdhearc.com

www.antaibhdhearc.com



An Roinn  
Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of  
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



1915 **WM** 2015

# WALTER MACKEN

## CENTENARY CELEBRATION

### 30TH APRIL - 15TH MAY

Presented by An Taibhdhearc  
and the Galway West End Community



An Taibhdhearc  
Amharclann Náisiúnta na Gaeilge  
National Irish Language Theatre



GALWAY'S WEST END



## EVENTS IN THE WEST END

**SUNDAY 3RD MAY, 3-5PM**

Come along to St Joseph's Avenue and join in the fun to celebrate the life of Galway's famous writer, **WALTER MACKEN** on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

*Presented by the Galway West End Community in association with An Taibhdhearc theatre.*

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**MUSIC** – Old Irish Airs of the period played on piano  
**CHILDREN'S GAMES** of hopscotch, skipping, rounders and football, as described in the stories written by Walter

3.00pm **WELCOME** from Master of Ceremonies, James O'Toole  
**ULTAN MACKEN**, son of Walter, remembers his father  
**'WALTER'** – an actor reads from books about Galway life  
**MUSIC** – played by musicians from the Jes National School  
**RE- ENACTMENT** – of the Black and Tans invasion  
**LAMENT** – sean-nós singer, Bríd Ní Mhaoileoin of Flirt FM  
**'WALTER'** – reads more from the novels  
**MUSIC and SET DANCING** – musicians from the Crane Bar  
**DRAMAS** – Aisteoirí na Taibhdheirce perform excerpts from Walter Macken's plays in Irish and in English  
**FATHER WALTER MACKEN** – eldest son of Walter talks about his father's work

5.00pm **FANCY DRESS PARADE and PRIZES**

*Exhibition of Walter Macken's books and memorabilia in Bell, Book and Candle bookshop at Small Crane, off Sea Road.  
 Open Sunday 3rd May.*



*Photographs of Walter Macken and his family are from the collections of Tom Kenny, Ultan Macken and Paul Deacy.*



## EVENTS AT AN TAIBHDHEARC

### REMEMBERING WALTER MACKEN

**THURSDAY 30TH APRIL AT 6PM. ADMISSION FREE**

An illustrated talk about Walter Macken, novelist, playwright and actor, in the company of Tom Kenny in association with Galway City Museum.

### ULTAN MACKEN/RTÉ DOCUMENTARY

**TUESDAY 12TH MAY AT 8PM. ADMISSION €5**

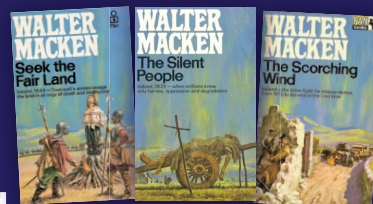
Walter Macken, a life as told by his son, with a showing of RTÉ documentary made in 1988 on the life of Galway man Walter Macken.

### FLIGHT OF THE DOVES

**WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY AT 10.30AM. ADM €5**

A showing of the film, 'Flight of the Doves' based on Walter Macken's most famous novel for children. Special school rates available.

*Followed by a talk from his son, Ultan at 1pm.*



### DR IAN WALSH

**THURSDAY 14TH MAY AT 8PM. ADMISSION €5**

Lecturer in Drama, Theatre and Performance School of Humanities, NUI Galway, speaks about the dramas of Walter Macken.



### DR JAMES E. REID

**FRIDAY 15TH MAY AT 1PM. ADMISSION €5**

Dr James E. Reid has written several books on Walter Macken. He will focus on Walter's career in theatre as an actor. This talk will be punctuated by readings from Walter Macken's plays in Irish and in English.



### STREET TO STAGE

**FRIDAY 15TH MAY AT 8PM. ADMISSION FREE**

**FROM ST JOSEPH'S TO AN TAIBHDHEARC**

The street party held on May 3rd to celebrate Walter Macken's life comes in from St Joseph's Avenue with readings, recreations and music. A film of the event will be shown on the night! Join us to give Walter a great night in the company of the residents of Galway's West End.