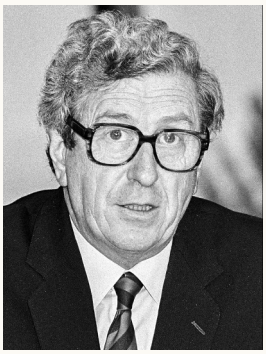
Irish lives born in 1926

These Irish lives, born in the same year, help place her generation in a wider national story — from politics and literature to theatre, television, public memory and justice.



Garret FitzGerald

Garret FitzGerald

Born in Dublin in 1926, Garret FitzGerald became an economist, academic, Fine Gael politician and Taoiseach of Ireland. His life belonged to the public Ireland that grew out of the Free State years into the modern European Ireland of the late twentieth century.



Ray McAnally



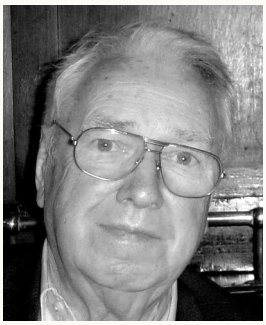
Ronnie Masterson

Ray McAnally and Ronnie Masterson

Ray McAnally was born in Buncrana, County Donegal, and raised in Moville. He became one of Ireland's finest actors, remembered for roles in *The Mission*, *A Very British Coup*, *My Left Foot* and *A Perfect Spy*.

Ronnie Masterson, born in Dublin the same year, was an Abbey-trained actress with a long stage and screen career, including appearances in *Angela's Ashes*, *Bloom* and *Byzantium*.

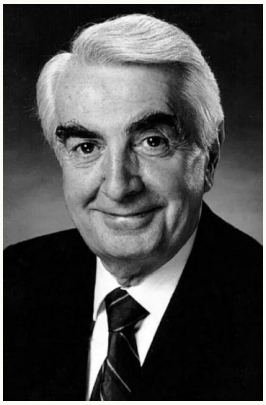
Together, they belong to the generation of Irish performers who carried Irish acting from the Abbey stage into film, television and international work.



Hugh Leonard

Hugh Leonard

Born John Joseph Byrne in Dublin in 1926, Hugh Leonard became one of Ireland's best-known playwrights and commentators. His works include *Da*, *A Life* and *The Au Pair Man*, and much of his writing returned to family, memory, belonging and the complicated emotional life of ordinary Irish homes.

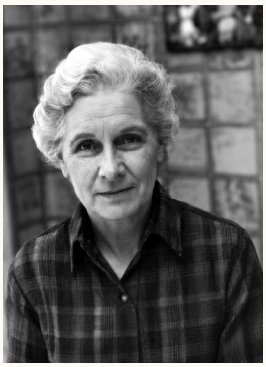


Milo O'Shea

Milo O'Shea

Born in Dublin in 1926, Milo O'Shea built a long career on stage, film and television. His film work included Leopold Bloom in *Ulysses*, Judge Hoyle in *The Verdict*, and Father Donnelly in *The Purple Rose of Cairo*.

On television, he became familiar to British and Irish audiences through the BBC comedy *Me Mammy*, written by Hugh Leonard, and later appeared in American television series including *Cheers*, *Frasier* and *The West Wing*. He was also twice nominated for Tony Awards on Broadway.



Mary Beckett

Mary Beckett

Born in Belfast in 1926, Mary Beckett became a respected writer of novels and short stories. Her books include *A Belfast Woman*, *Give Them Stones* and *A Literary Woman*.

Her work is especially relevant here because it often dealt with women's lives, family, memory, social pressure and the quiet strength of ordinary people.



Sarah Conlon

Sarah Conlon

Born Sarah Maguire in Belfast in 1926, Sarah Conlon became known later in life as a determined campaigner after her son Gerry Conlon and husband Giuseppe Conlon were wrongly convicted in cases arising from the Guildford pub bombings investigation.

Her story belongs to a harder strand of Irish and British history, but it is also a story of endurance, family loyalty and justice.