BLOOMSDAY IN DUBLIN

Wednesday 16th June 2010

BLOOMSDAY marks the day in 1904 on which all the action of James Joyce’s novel *Ulysses* takes place. It is celebrated every year on 16th June by Joyceans all over the world. In Dublin, where the novel is set, Bloomsday celebrations go on for a week, with most of the attention on the day itself. It is traditional to dress up and go out for the day, visiting the locations of the book and taking part in readings, walks, reenactments and convivial activities of all sorts which in some way connect with *Ulysses*, its author and its world. The most active form of homage is to walk in the footsteps of Leopold Bloom and other characters through the streets of Dublin, and on Bloomsday a wide range of walks and engaging guides is available. As an occasion rather than a festival, Bloomsday has no ‘official’ programme or organising committee. Events on this list are arranged by a number of different bodies and occur at venues in and around the city. Many, but by no means all, of the events are run by the James Joyce Centre at 35 North Great George’s Street, Dublin 1 and advance booking is advised for these at 01 878 8547 or the Centre’s website www.jamesjoyce.ie.

Sunday 13th June:
WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS was born on this day in 1865. You can mark the occasion by visiting the ongoing exhibition on Yeats’s life and work in the National Library of Ireland (scene of the ‘Sceylla and Charybdis’ episode of *Ulysses*) in Kildare Street.

12 noon: WALKING TOUR, A JOYCE CIRCULAR, from the James Joyce Centre.*

2.00 pm: The annual pre-Bloomsday walk organised by the James Joyce Institute of Ireland starts at 2 pm at the North Star Hotel opposite Connolly railway station. This year’s walk follows the ‘Circe’ and ‘Eumeus’ episodes of *Ulysses*, with ad hoc readings and dramatisations in the original settings. The event is open to the public and there is no charge. Bring a copy of *Ulysses* if you have one. The Institute (the Joyce Society in Dublin) meets on Tuesdays (up to 8th June) at 7.30 pm in the James Joyce Centre to read Joyce’s works. All meetings are open to the public.

2.00 pm: ‘SHALL I WEAR A RED YES’ – SEX AND MUSIC IN ULYSSES, a talk by Barry McGovern in the Dublin Writers Museum, 18 Parnell Square North. Dublin actor Barry McGovern explores the famous and the little-known music in Joyce’s masterpiece. Admission free; limited seating, booking recommended. Contact the James Joyce Centre.* Also currently running in the Dublin Writers Museum is an exhibition on Oliver St John Gogarty, Joyce’s associate and fellow-writer on whom the character ‘Buck Mulligan’ in *Ulysses* is based. There is an admission charge to visit the museum’s exhibition rooms. The Dublin Writers Museum is open daily 10.00 am – 5.00 pm (Sunday 11.00 am – 5.00 pm) with last admissions at 4.15 pm.

2.00 pm WALKING TOUR, IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEOPOLD BLOOM, from the James Joyce Centre.*

7.00 pm DONAL O’KELLY’S JIMMY JOYCED! in the James Joyce Centre.*
**BLOOMSDAY: WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE**

**IN DUBLIN CITY CENTRE**

**SWENY’S CHEMIST SHOP** in Lincoln Place, where Bloom bought lemon soap in the ‘Lotus-Eaters’ episode, still provides lemon soap to his followers. Visitors on Bloomsday will find Sweny the druggist in his shop and Bloom and Bantam Lyons in the street nearby. Watch out also for the five **HELY’S men** in their sandwichboards, walking up and down across the city centre.

**10.00 am, 11.00 am, 12.00 noon: BLOOMSDAY WALK, a guided walking tour** from the James Joyce Centre, lasting 60 minutes and taking in some of the most important Northside locations in *Ulysses*, from Bloom’s home in Eccles Street to the Liffey at O’Connell Bridge. Tickets are €8 and booking from the James Joyce Centre is required. Contact James Joyce Centre 01 8788547 or www.jamesjoyce.ie*.

**11.00 am – 4.00 pm: BLOOMSDAY READINGS, SONG AND DANCE in Meeting House Square, Temple Bar.** Held in former years in the James Joyce Centre’s own building, the Centre’s traditional readings from *Ulysses* now take place in the heart of Temple Bar. Joyceans of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to join in a star-studded afternoon of readings and songs. Soprano Deirdre Masterson, pianist Dearbhla Brosnan and other guest soloists perform a variety of songs drawn from *Ulysses*, and Eileene McLoughlin presents a ballet performance of ‘Marble Halls’. At 1.00 pm **Senator David Norris** will perform an extract from his one-man Joyce show ‘Do you hear what I’m seeing?’ Admission is free, no booking is required, seats are available (but limited), and you can stay and listen as long as you like.

**12.30 pm DIRTY EATERS.** Meet the Balloonatics at the Joyce Statue on North Earl Street. The tour runs via Davy Byrne’s, Duke Street, to the National Museum, Kildare Street. Join Bloom as he negotiates a number of lunchtime distractions on his way to the National Library. Walking tour based on the ‘Lestrygonians’ episode of *Ulysses*.

**1.00 pm, 1.30 pm, 2.00 pm, 2.30 pm: BLOOMSDAY WALK** from the James Joyce Centre.*