

# PRESS RELEASE

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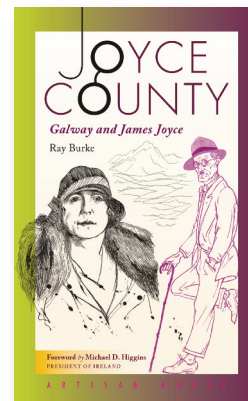
### 1st February 2022



## Joyce County

### by Ray Burke

Published by Artisan House 2022



**Joyce County by Ray Burke and published by Artisan House, Letterfrack, will be launched by writer Nuala O'Connor on Friday 4th February at 6.30 pm in Charlie Byrne's Bookshop in Galway.**

2022 marks the centenary of the publication of Joyce's *Ulysses* 'perhaps the greatest of all Irish artistic achievements' (Fintan O'Toole, the *Irish Times* 25/6/2019). Anyone with an interest in Joyce will be well aware of how he immortalised his native city, Dublin. His Galway links, the most notable being Nora Barnacle, may be a little less well known but are, nonetheless, significant as is beautifully captured in an updated edition of *Joyce County* by Ray Burke, first published in 2016 by Currach Press.

The book will be launched by Nuala O'Connor, author of *NORA* which was named by *The New York Times* as amongst the best 10 historical novels of 2021.

'The first edition of *Joyce County* has been out of print for some time and, particularly for this centenary year of *Ulysses*, and of Nora Barnacle's last visit to her native Galway, I was keen to have it back on bookshelves. I was delighted that Artisan House, a Galway company believed in it and I am pleased that this second edition has many new features including the President's foreword' said Ray Burke

The first and last lines of *Ulysses* carry echoes of Galway. The opening line – 'Stately, plump Buck Mulligan' – refers to Oliver St John Gogarty, a sometime Joyce friend who had very strong Galway connections, including proprietorship of Renvyle House Hotel, and its final lines – where Molly Bloom recalls being kissed 'under the Moorish wall' – have been linked to Nora Barnacle's recollections of being courted in Galway, near the Spanish Arch.

This new hardback edition published by Artisan House will bring over 120 additional items of text and notes, a foreword by Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, a comprehensive index, and original illustrations by Raymond Murphy and Joe Boske pinpointing locations associated with Joyce.

Written in an accessible style for the general reader, this book contains considerable new information and gives context and fresh insights into Nora Barnacle's influence on Joyce's writings, not only in *Ulysses* but in all his work and very markedly in his sublime short story 'The Dead'.

Artisan House gratefully acknowledge the support of Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Creative Ireland, Galway City Council and Galway County Council in getting this publication available during this centenary year.

*Joyce County* is available from Gill and Argosy Distributors or directly from Artisan House and can be ordered in all good bookshops.

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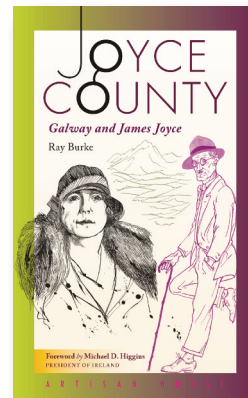


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### Notes for editor

#### Ray Burke

Ray Burke is a Galwegian and a graduate of NUI Galway. A journalist for over 40 years, he was news editor of the *Irish Press* and chief news editor of RTÉ News. He has written about James Joyce for RTÉ News, the National Library of Ireland, and the *Connacht Tribune*. He is the author of *Press Delete: The Decline and Fall of the Irish Press* (2005) and has contributed chapters to four books on Irish newspaper history. He was keynote speaker at the 2016 Lady Gregory–Yeats Autumn Gathering. Since retiring from RTÉ, Ray has written for the *Irish Times*, *Connacht Tribune*, and the *Century Ireland* website. He is the chair of the Newspaper and Periodical History Forum of Ireland.

#### Artisan House Publishers, Letterfrack, Connemara, Co. Galway.

Artisan House is a specialist publishing company creating beautifully illustrated high-quality books and bespoke publications on a richly diverse range of subjects. Food and lifestyle, photography and the visual arts, music and poetry, and all things quirky appeal to us.

Their creative approach embraces the complete cycle from concept to final delivery including design, editing, translation, illustration, photography, and print management. This enables total oversight of the process to ensure publications of exceptional standard.

Previous publications include *Sea Gastronomy: Fish and Seafood of the North Atlantic* by Michael O'Meara which won the Best Seafood Cookbook in the World Gourmand Award in 2016; *Connemara & Aran* by Walter Pfeiffer, shortlisted in the Irish Book Awards 2017; and *Tapestry of Light* by Tina Claffey, honourable mention in the International Photography Awards (IPA) 2019. Also published in 2022 is *Binnion Road* a poetry collection by Des Kavanagh.

Artisan House was established in 2013, is a member of Publishing Ireland and based in Letterfrack, Connemara, Co Galway. [www.artisanhouse.ie](http://www.artisanhouse.ie)

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