

Bernard MacLavery - Creative Minds at Birmingham

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Creative Minds at Birmingham, the School of EDACS Writers and Artists Distinguished Speaker Series, welcomed writer Bernard MacLavery on 21 November 2013 where he spoke and read from his collections of works at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts.

Bernard MacLavery was born in Belfast and lived there until 1975 when he moved to Scotland with his wife, Madeline, and four children. He has been a Medical Laboratory Technician, a mature student, a teacher of English and, for two years in the mid-eighties, Writer-in-Residence at the University of Aberdeen.

After living for a time in Edinburgh and the Isle of Islay he now lives in Glasgow. He is a member of Aosdana in Ireland and is Visiting Writer/Professor at the University of Strathclyde.

Currently he is employed as a teacher of creative writing on a postgraduate course in prose fiction run by the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen.

Since the publication of *Secrets and Other Stories* in 1977, Bernard MacLavery has been celebrated as one of the finest living short-story writers. Writing in the *New York Times*, William Boyd summoned the shades of Yeats, Joyce and Flann O'Brien, insisting that 'MacLavery sits perfectly comfortably' in their company. The *Guardian* simply said 'MacLavery is a master.'

The *Collected Short Stories* (released 14 November 2013) includes most of *Secrets*, *A Time to Dance*, *The Great Profundo*, *Walking the Dog* and *Matters of Life & Death*.

Video timings

0:00:12 - Introduction by Professor Michael Toolan
0:02:37 - Bernard MacLavery
0:04:18 - 'Walking the Dog'
0:22:00 - 'The Clinic'

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