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|  The Deportees(2007)byRoddy Doyle | Irish Cultural Center / McClelland Library Book DiscussionsSaturday, April 24, 202110:30 AM – 12:30 PMZOOM(See webpage at azirish.org to get link and join conversation) |

Discussion Guide:

Roddy Doyle is known for his focus on Irish characters, especially the working class Irish who populate Dublin and the surrounding suburbs. His trilogy--*The Commitments*, *The Van*, and *The Snapper*—gave us the Rabbitte family in Barrytown. In addition to these, he is known for *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* (1993 Booker Prize) and *The Woman Who Walked into Doors.* The collection of short stories we are looking at this month gives us a look at 21st C Dublin.

► Are there common themes that hold these stories together?

► Select a favorite story from the collection to be “defense attorney” for. What makes it stand out for you?

► Think about narrative strategies that you admire in Doyle’s collection. What questions about characters or messages do you have?

► If you have visited Dublin since 2000, you may want to share some of your impressions of the changes that have occurred.

► Additional Suggestions: There are three very good YouTube segments with Roddy Doyle. One of these interviews deals specifically with *The Deportees*. The other two have Doyle reading from his works. (One of these is conducted by Carlo Gebler, the son of Edna O’Brien.)

►► Poem by Eavan Boland: Our last poem of the scheduled discussions is “An Irish Childhood in England: 1951” which first appeared in *The Journey* (1987). Does this seem an appropriate poem to pair with the short stories we have?

LOOKING AHEAD ►►►: Mary and I are trying to arrange for an additional session (May 22) that will focus on Irish poetry—with special attention to Boland. It will be a discussion to review and summarize what we’ve discovered about Boland. We also invite you to think about a poem (by an Irish poet, we hope) that got you through the lockdown this past year. It might even be another poem by Boland. If the poem is short, we invite you to read it; if not, perhaps you could just talk about it for a few moments.