

Responses to Readings of Depositions:

We thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The musicians, the short films and, of course, the poetry readings were excellent. Really impressive. I'm so glad we were able to make the launch. I look forward to reading my copy of 'Depositions'. **MOL**

A wonderful evening. Very occasionally we get to attend an event that we aren't quite sure what to expect but leave a couple of hours later a little changed, for the better. It was one of those evenings. Well done to you on the collection. **PC**

Well done to you, Carole-Anne and Aódhan for organising such a beautiful and touching event. **OSL**

And congratulations on another fantastic evening. I thought Kieran Beville's comments on Depositions were insightful. By any chance do you have a copy of his speech? I would love to keep it with my copy of Depositions. **RM**

Anton Congratulations again. It was a joy to be there and it was indeed a very enjoyable night. Your own story is so moving. **J McC**

Congrats on the book launch. It was a really special and thought provoking event, we really enjoyed it!! And Carol Ann did a brilliant job as MC. **EU**

Delighted to be there it was a beautiful evening, so diverse. It really captured the a spirit of your book. Well done. **SN**

Anton, what a completely beautiful evening. It was such a pleasure to be there. **ML**

It was a great evening. **SR**

It was a privilege...I so look forward now to read the whole book. Well done for organising such a wonderful evening. **NR**

Terrific night Anton - many congratulations. **BMcN**

It was a magnificent, moving and utterly wonderful evening. I'm so glad to have been there. And your beautiful piece about accent being a stranger in a new language brought tears. I loved every element of your event and am so glad the book was honoured with such a good turnout. **IM**

I was so happy to have been able to attend Anton's book launch, it was a very moving evening. I have now read a portion of Anton's book and its extremely moving. He has done incredible work. **IS**

Congratulations on an amazing event – you should be very proud! **MD**

Thank you so much for a beautiful night it was fantastic. My daughter and myself thoroughly enjoyed it. I could listen all day to you Anton tell your stories and recite your poetry as they came from the heart. I could identify with everything you said and at times felt a shiver down my spine. The refugee family covers all corners of the world and it is through the strength of

that family that change will happen and war, poverty will be no more. Thank you again Anton & Carol Anne and I wish you every success with Depositions. **MS**

It was a lovely event last night...we enjoyed it. I was reading on the way back. Your book really reflects what it means to be a refugee, now centuries ago and always. It is an important oeuvre. Thanks you for giving a voice to all displaced people! **RdM**

It was a pleasure reading your poems , your beautiful and heartbreaking words... It was a fantastic evening , everything was wonderful ! I really enjoyed it and I am sure that everyone did as well! **LJ**

We had such an amazing time in Ireland and the poetry launch was genuinely my favorite part. I know you won't believe me when I say it, but it's true. I left feeling inspired. **JF**

Congratulations on your wonderful night of music & poetry. **MC**

Hi Anton. We had a wonderful time at the launch, so delighted to hear Kieran Beville launch the book, it was my first time hearing Kieran reading...I was very impressed with him, and I loved the way he ended by bringing everything back to you - great job. Carol Anne and Aodhan were super. The many voices of Anton Floyd... were remarkable one language sounding as lovely as the next and Ghanna reading in Ukrainian was as special as any other moment on the night. The choir was delightful as all the other performers were. On a personal note I am so delighted for you with the success of this work, to quote an old rocker: Long May you run. You deserve high praise for raising more awareness to such a human failing in our troubled world. **JB**

Thank you dear Anton, for the beauty, it was a rare sublime experience. A privilege to be there. **PL**

You're on fire Anton. Well done. It's a beautiful book. **BW**

It was my delight to be there Anton. What a special evening!!! ...Here's a text I received from Fatima, the Afghani young woman who asked if she could read a few of your poems in Farsi. Fatima and Latifa have stories of fleeing home to tell. Such beautiful souls. From Fatima: It is truly very difficult for us refugees to explain how we feel! Left everything behind I felt connection with the poems. Thanks for the book and inviting us. **BN**

It was a wonderful evening and we all enjoyed it so much. Your poetry collection 'Depositions' has a very special spirit about it that is striking a timely chord with so many. Congratulations. **BN**

It was my absolute pleasure to come to the launch of Depositions. It is a wonderful collection, full of the fragrances of Cyprus, a testament of the love you have for our country and, in my eyes, also an ode and a lament for Cyprus. **CC**

It was a very special evening and your readings of the collection and your previous poems were very moving. Congratulations on such a successful launch! **AH**

Depositions arrived..thanks you so much.. I love the format and the look of it. I've just had a quick look through Depositions the poems touch the soul beautifully. Also apart from the wonderful poems, it's an amazing presentation. **GOM**

...the poems are like a salve for the soul! **PL**

Anton - we're delighted to have been invited to the launch - most moving stories told too and such a spectrum of interesting people from so many countries. **COM**

Thank you very much for the book: both of them are sitting in my living room, and every time I plunge into them, I discover even more sensitivity, beauty and love for others. Everything is so profound. I was particularly touched by the poem about Chris Ayomamitis in the first collection of poems. I had your book with me when I went to visit my mother in Nicosia in July. Sirens could be heard on the 14th. It's a bit macabre I guess, but reading your poem in this atmosphere added to the emotion, especially since as a child I heard of such a story, where a soldier was refused help and water under the burning sunshine, and I didn't want to believe it. In the second collection, the monologue entitled The Ghost of that Gadfly took me back almost word for word to the story my older brother lived through at the time of the Turkish invasion. He too had only a few days left to complete his military service, and he found himself in the middle of gunfire, hiding in a hole between the shots and abandoned...It wasn't a Turk who saved him, but apart from that, reading this monologue it's like hearing him speak. You really are a magician, Anton, and I can tell you that, even though I have lost my fluency in English and it takes me a little longer to read English, every time I read one of your poems, it goes straight to my heart. **AS**

Ann came to the evening in Nano Nagle Place. I met her recently and she said how much she enjoyed the evening and how your poetry book has become her daily companion at breakfast ... reading a few poems each morning and is very effected by the experience. **BN**

so glad to hear that it is all going well and send all good wishes for this precious book to be shared far and wide ! **AFr**

Hello Anton, So pleased to get the book - we got it yesterday. I haven't read it all yet, but have been deeply moved by what I have read. I grew up during WW2 and have many memories of bombing and such, we lived in Sheffield which was heavily blitzed. Your poetry has made fresh many memories, from those days. I hope you don't mind if I stay in touch with you from time to time - I value our connection. Yours faithfully **KM**

This donation is a minor contribution Anton on the scale of things. It's such a great project. **MJ**

Anton Floyd recited poetry from his hauntingly beautiful book, Depositions, around the theme of people fleeing their country in fear of their lives. **NS** (De Barras Spoken Word)

We really enjoyed the day... it went down very well judging by the look of absolute enthralment on the audience's faces. It was so worthwhile. The story of your family's experiences has opened up all sorts of interesting conversations. I think you handled everything beautifully. I just got a phone call from Judy, our secretary, thanking me for arranging to have you. She was extremely happy herself and got lots of good reactions after

we had left. She said she would recommend you to Kilmurry and other local active retirement groups. **VS**

I thoroughly enjoyed the reading and your recounting of your own life story. Thinking about it all as I sat there listening to those short little verses you read, in the shadow of the Ukrainian situation, I couldn't help but shed a tear, such was the impact of your work on me. The work you produce is fantastic. **GC**

I have spent all my time, since delivery, with the book, not every page but in terms of (English) words, most. 'When will they ever learn?' 'Never. But there must be hope.' That is this book. You and everyone in it do honour to both. It is a noble addition to the long line, at least 4000 years old, of Witness. **RH**

Your book, though I have not yet read it all, is deeply moving. Poetry as witness is, to me, the most essential, and is the poetry I am always most drawn to. I wrote a piece in response the day after we met. It is more a visual response to seeing all the languages on the page; it doesn't touch on the content so much, but I include it below, as you might just enjoy it in any case. Looking forward to the 14th! The Dark Flower For Anton, polyglot, haiku warrior, defender of languages

The languages surround and invade me
Their scripts, like alien flowers
Spilling across the page
Like a bee, I am drawn,
Uncomprehending to their scent
Mindful of their curling stems
Their petals by turns billowing and closed
Their accents, like jagged thorns
Their diacritics, umlauts and tittles
Like so many buds of treasured pollen
The treasure of their meanings escapes me,
Their sounds, like their petals, are closed
But the wonder of their shape-scents call to me
The dark flower of human language, in all its forms,
Pressing close with the scent of its mystery
James Waller

Thank you Anton. It was a real pleasure and an honour to read those 7 haiku in English and French. As I told you, your words are powerful and I was quite moved even when reading them to the audience. Bravo for your book and yesterday night was lovely altogether. **SR**

Well done, what a lovely evening Anton. Congratulations to you and your stunning book, and all your family and their support. And the wonder work of the musicians! "the perfect poem becomes a song". **JJ**



It was a great launch. Your reading was superb!! I'm sure your clan are mightily proud of you!! And congrats once again!! **PMcM**

...It was a beautiful evening and I'm so delighted I was there to witness such brilliant poetry and music. I will treasure your book and cannot wait to delve into its pages. **RWP**

I like your poems very much. Thank you for a wonderful evening! **HG**

Thank you so much for such a gorgeous evening, the intimate setting was just lovely and, of course, the work as moving as ever. **ML**

Wonderful evening, with great work and delivery from Anton, Carole-Anne, Moze M. Jacobs, Paul, Malcolm and co. **TI**

Two weeks ago (Tuesday 14 March) saw an intense, poignant, and ultimately uplifting night at DeBarra's Spoken Word dedicated to Anton Floyd's poetry collection, *Depositions*, themed on the worldwide refugee crisis. The event included music, two short (poetry) films, plus readings of translated poems in four different languages. The evening's extensive *Depositions* cast featured Anton Floyd, Malcolm Urquhart, Paul McMahan, Moze Jacobs, Sebastien Révon, Ganna Gorodetska, Carole Anne Floyd, Aodhán Floyd, Sebastien Révon. Our heartfelt congratulations, we really enjoyed a wonderful presentation of your book of poems. **K&S**

As I think you know, Maugham's original title for *Of Human Bondage* he couldn't use because his publisher told him that there was already a book with that title, so he then took his title from a phrase in Spinoza. The original title is, I think, a good description of what one tries to do and sometimes does do, and in my view the trying raises the vibration of the planet as much as the results. Everything in yours of today reminds me of that: *Beauty from Ashes*. **RH**

Your powerfully condensed poems, full of personal testimony and witness, will linger in my thoughts for a long time to come, Anton. Thank you for your beautiful reading and for celebrating Poetry Day with us at UL. **EC**

The event at UL yesterday was amazing you really created a vibe in the room that affected all there... looking forward to your autumn event. **DT**

On Fri night, 8th September, at the Independence Museum in Kilmurry where there was a *Depositions* event (reading, music, film) some of the tercets in translation were read by a newly arrived Ukrainian refugee (academic, writer, sculptor) from Mariopol and a young Syrian woman whose husband was 'disappeared' and who has lost half her family. It was a charged event and given greater significance by their contributions. I can honestly say that people were not only moved but were changed. **CAF**

It felt great to be part of the performance in Ionad Culthurtha with you Anton. It is great work that you are sharing, so informative, raw and moving. It will connect with so many people who need to hear it. **SÚB**

Hi Anton, it was an absolutely fantastic day yesterday. We loved being part of it. Thanks again for yesterday, Anton. It was a marvellous occasion! **TOB**

It was a privilege to be part of the event in the Ionad Cultúrtha, Anton. They are very powerful poems and so important to hear as we get to know refugees here. Thanks to Carole Anne & Aodhán too and the best of luck with your evening in Skibbereen. **MNC**

Wishing you the very best for Friday evening. I am sure that it will be an emotional experience for those present. I found your presentation in Dessie's very moving. **TC**

Hi Anton, I read *Depositions* on holiday (on deck crossing the Atlantic which felt kind of fitting!). I loved it and thought it was wonderful: it is so succinct and powerful and conveys so many ideas and the horror that people face but in such a beautifully worded way. It stays with me and I will read and read again. I also loved the mix of longer poems at the beginning and end. I've just watched the film, 'Woman Life Freedom' thank you again for sending it to me,...powerful and so important and ..you(r) narrating gives depth. I've been excited to see the events at which you you been speaking - I'm going to look out for more of your work, I love it! **SOK**

Thank you for a beautiful evening! Moving, interesting and uplifting... You should add a biography to your poetry collection! **AM**

Thank you Anton, Carole Anne, Aodhan, for an inspiring night and the wonderful company afterwards...well done on an amazing reading last night. *Depositions* is truly a poetry book for the ages, and is necessary right now. **J & J B**

...Anton, it was so kind of you to invite me! The whole experience was deeply meaningful and so genuine. **WT**

Thank you for the event on Culture Night - it was an amazing event and a great success. **AD** (Uillinn West Cork Arts Centre)

It was a pleasure to meet you and hear you read your fabulous poems today at UL! They were truly inspiring. **SLR**

It was wonderful meeting you and hearing you read at UL during the week. I recently returned to reading *Depositions* because of the war in the Middle East and the times I have found myself at a loss with the lack of humanity. Thank you for your words. **EK**

We were all thrilled with your reading for national Poetry Day in April, and with how it all went. The students and general audience members were full of compliments for your poems of witness and your captivating stories. **EC**