

# James Joyce

1882 to 1941



# Exile

- Wrote all of his major works while living in France, Italy, and Switzerland
- Dublin is an accurately rendered, but imagined city
- *As a note, Samuel Beckett, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Thomas Hardy, and Bram Stoker also wrote elsewhere*

# Sick of Ireland

- Different path than Yeats (who wanted Celtic myth as the foundation of Irish culture)
- Looked to Europe for ideas and inspiration for literature (much like character Gabriel Conroy)

# Short Story & Novel

- Joyce's major works are:
  - *Dubliners* (1914)
  - *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
  - *Ulysses*
  - *Finnegan's Wake*

# *Dubliners*: Arrangement of Stories

- Three stories on childhood
  - The Sisters, An Encounter, Araby
- Four stories on late adolescence
  - Eveline, After the Race, Two Gallants, Boarding House
- Four stories with mature protagonists
  - A Little Cloud, Counterparts, Clay, A Painful Case
- Three stories on public life
  - Ivy Day, A Mother, Grace
- “The Dead”

# *Dubliners*: first key point

- Epiphany
  - An anecdote
  - An observation
  - An overheard conversation
  - A dream sequence
  - A “sudden spiritual manifestation”

# *Dubliners*: second key point

- Joyce announced his style as “scrupulous meanness”:
  - Short
  - Simple

# *Dubliners*: third key point

- Joyce called the collection a “moral chapter of the history” of Ireland:
  - Dublin is the center of paralysis
- Hollowness, things forgotten, things left undone

In the world of Joyce's Dubliners important plumcakes get left behind on trams, and corkscrews cannot be located; anticipated bazaars prove darkened and emptying; poets remain unread by would-be poets; and legal documents are not copied by clerks commissioned to copy them; political canvassers go unpaid; musical accompanists go unpaid . . .