



## Laurence (Lar) Cassidy

Laurence (Lar) Cassidy (died 1997), is a former Lit/Hist/Phil Trinity student (1968-1971) who as the Irish Arts Council's Literature Officer championed not only literature and publishing but the arts and community arts in general, both here and on the international scene. As Literature Officer (1980-1997) he was also assistant registrar of Aosdana, and director of "Ireland and its Diaspora" at the 1996 Frankfurt Book Fair. He also developed the Arts Council's Community Arts Portfolio. He served as director of the International Writer's Festivals of 1988, 1991, and 1993. Lar played a key role in establishment of the Irish Writer's Centre and Literature Exchange. He initiated the strategic assessment leading to the 1995 report "The Future of Irish Publishing".

As a 1960's liberal, he led on ACE "Art and the Ordinary" strategy on community arts practice, and the establishment of Macnas. While at Trinity, Lar drew in global names for the Arts Festivals' Jazz concerts at the Exam Hall, and at that time also founded the Foxrock Folk/Arts Club at which performed fellow Trinity affiliates Brendan Kennelly, Peter Fallon, Jolyon Jackson, Bill Graham (Hot Press), as well as big names Roger McGough, Louis Stewart, Luke Kelly, Niall Tobin, Horslips and The Chieftains. The recently released Foxrock Folk Club Tapes are currently No.6 on Claddagh records bestsellers list.