



# Andrew Critchley

THE CARDIFF-BASED AUTHOR TELLS US ABOUT HIS NEW NOVEL *DUBLIN IN THE RAIN*, KILLER SUDOKU AND PLAYING INTERNATIONAL CRICKET FOR BELGIUM

**Q. Where in Cardiff do you call home?**

**A.** Llandaff.

**Q. What's the best thing about living there?**

**A.** It's like a village within a city and the people are great. And I can walk all the way into town through various parks – when the sun shines, that is!

**Q. Your debut novel *Dublin In The Rain* has just been published – what's it about?**

**A.** It's an epic, magical, mystical, romantic, redemption story covering the life of the central character, Jonathan Melton, and the highs and lows he experiences. It's the loves and losses, the trials and tribulations of one person's life and the people he knows and meets along the way that build to what is hopefully a stunning climax.

**Q. What inspired you to write it?**

**A.** I always loved the film *It's A Wonderful Life*. I wanted to take the spirit of that film and update it to the present day but with very different characters.

**Q. You took early retirement from a successful business career to fulfil your dream of becoming a writer – is it something you've always wanted to do?**

**A.** Yes. Being a full-time writer is a tough existence – probably something in the region of 25,000 new books are

released every week in the USA and UK. The novel has been a commercial and critical success, but the prime motivation was always writing the book I wanted to write.

**Q. You're also working on a screenplay about the 1966 Aberfan disaster – why does it hold a fascination for you?**

**A.** It's about looking at the day from the many possible different perspectives of the people involved. It still remains the biggest post-war civilian tragedy to my knowledge.

**Q. In writing terms, who are your main influences?**

**A.** I love classic authors such as Oscar Wilde, D.H. Lawrence and Shakespeare. My book is willfully very cinematic in nature and my real influences are screenplay writers like Frank Darabont (*The Shawshank Redemption*), Alan Ball (*American Beauty*) and Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, who did the incomparable *Shakespeare In Love*.

**Q. How do you relax?**

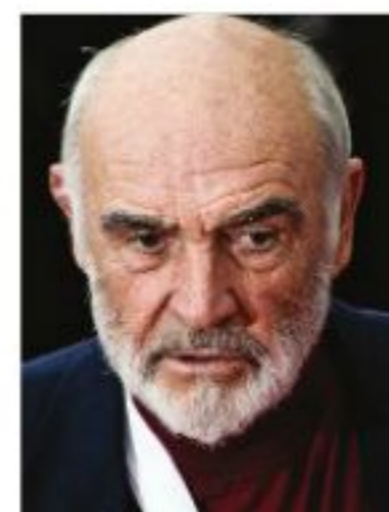
**A.** A glass of red and killer sudoku.

**Q. Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?**

**A.** Oscar Wilde. After that, there are a multitude of possibilities.

**Q. Who would play you in a film about your life?**

**A:** In an ideal world, Sean Connery.



Top: Andrew's book *Dublin In The Rain*  
Middle: Sean Connery  
Bottom: Oscar Wilde

**Q. Which words or expressions do you use the most?**

**A.** Absolutely. Bloody hell. Sorry (often after I've said bloody hell).

**Q. What's on your bookshelf at the moment?**

**A.** Ken Kesey's brilliant *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*.

**Q. What do you never leave home without?**

**A.** Sad to say, but my book, *Dublin In The Rain*. It's amazing how many copies I've sold wandering around the various coffee houses in Cardiff with it in my bag. I do virtually all my writing in coffee houses around the city.

**Q. What's your guiltiest pleasure?**

**A.** It's a very, very guilty pleasure – listening to David Soul's *Don't Give Up On Us*.

**Q. Which piece of music always sends a shiver down your spine?**

**A.** For some bizarre reason, The Farm's *All Together Now*. If a film is ever made of the new book I'm currently working on, I'd love for that song to play during the final scene.

**Q. What are you listening to at the moment?**

**A.** Noel Gallagher's first solo album and a new artist called Flaviya Ke.

**Q. What's your favourite television programme?**

**A.** I do really like *The Mentalist*. Be interesting to see where it goes now Red John is finally dead.

**Q. What's your favourite shop in Cardiff?**

**A.** It's got to be a coffee shop – people at Coffee#1 in Pontcanna were amazing whilst I was writing *Dublin In The Rain*. And staff at K2 deserve a mention, too.

**Q. And your tip for the best place to eat out?**

**A.** Mulberry Street in Llandaff – best Welsh rarebit ever!

**Q. Tell us about a secret Cardiff spot we might not be aware of...**

**A.** I'm not sure it's a secret but The Clink [restaurant] definitely warrants a mention.

**Q. Surprise us with a revelatory fact about yourself...**

**A.** I played international cricket. Okay, it was only for Belgium, but hey-ho! **CL**

*Dublin In The Rain* is out now (£8.99, New Generation). For more info, see [andrewcritchley.com](http://andrewcritchley.com)