Obituary

JP Donleavy

Author of The Ginger Man, hailed as a comic masterpiece by critics but banned in Ireland and denounced from pulpits across America

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JP Donleavy in 1993. He had a method of working that was idiosyncratic

Sebastian Dangerfield is studying law in Dublin, but determined to idle his time away while waiting for his wealthy father to die. He has a young wife, a child and few morals. There is liquor, lascivious talk and much sex. As one critic noted of The Ginger Man, JP Donleavy’s portrait of postwar Ireland and its relationship with the American GIs who came to carouse and copulate, “few sins go unattempted”.

Lines such as “When I die I want to decompose in a barrel of porter and have it served in all the pubs in Ireland” and “Is it OK to pray for an orgasm?” drew attention to the work — as did his letter to a prospective publisher that continued: “The

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