



BALALLY PLAYERS NEWS

April 2004

Busy programme from now to end of June

- **Every Wednesday night at St Tiernan's**
Paula Callaghan's readings of "The Crimson Tide, (an absorbing piece that is being enjoyed .by all those who attend) and occasional workshops. :An important policy of the Group is to have interesting activities -for those not directly involved in whatever is currently under rehearsal / production. Thanks are due to Paula (and Jean Monahan) in this regard.
- **Much Ado About Nothing**
Starting this week, the many important non-speaking parts in this production will be involved in choreography rehearsals, and ever increasingly during May, in the general rehearsals. Regular attendance and mastery of the choreography is essential to making the crowd scenes smooth and enjoyable.
Fridays 28th May and 4th June -live at the Pavilion, Dun Laoghaire.
Wednesday 17th June to Monday 21st June inclusive -live at Airfield House.
- **21st Celebrations**
The party will be on Saturday June 12 at The Goat.

21st Anniversary Celebrations Saturday 12th June at the Goat

- Ciara O Byrne and her Gang (Teresa Dempsey, Oran O Rua and Dorris Cullen) have been busy, busy, busy and all arrangements are in place for a great night's enjoyment on Saturday 12th June. The format for the night is--

8.00PM -Meal .
9.30PM -Kaleidoscope of snippets from shows staged by the group during the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, featuring those who played the parts in the original performances.
10.30PM -DJ disco dancing.

A big thanks is due to Ciara and, her Gang and others who have worked with them to provide all of us with a great opportunity for fun and celebration on the 12th June. Be there!!

"Much Ado About Nothing"

- You can see from the programme at the top of the previous page that "Much Ado -" has a demanding schedule. All of the cast, including those in the crowd scenes, which are very important to the visual impact of the show, are exhorted to attend every rehearsal call. Everyone 's enthusiastic participation is vital to putting on a good and enjoyable show. Jean Monahan is looking after "front of house" at Airfield. Bernard Doyle is Stage Manager. Offers of help will be much appreciated, especially for "front of house" at Airfield where practical experience is less important, and more people are needed, than in stage management.

Annual General Meeting fixed for Wednesday 25th August

- Because of the many activities already committed to up to the end of June, the AGM will take place on the 25th August. The AGM normally authorises entries for the One Act Festivals, which need to be cast and got into rehearsal early in September. If having the AGM on the 25th August presents any problem for those wishing to have an entry for the One Act Festivals approved earlier than that date, they are invited to submit their proposals to the current Committee, who will give the proposals full consideration / decision quickly.

Put the 25th August AGM in your diaries. A good turnout is important.

Abbey 100

- As part of its Centenary Celebrations, the National Theatre will replicate, on December 27th next, its Opening Night of 100 years ago, when amateur groups opened the theatre with productions of three one act plays An open invitation went out to amateur groups all over Ireland to apply to be one of the groups on December 27th next. As you can imagine, numerous applications were received from all over the country. We are happy to announce that Balally Players has been short listed for the honour!! This is quite exciting but there is a long way to go before final selection of three only groups for that night.

Members News

- An exhibition of John Canning's art was opened by the Lord Mayor of Galway in "Anton's" restaurant, Galway City, on Sunday 26th April. If you are in the vicinity, be sure to take in the work (and a beautiful meal in "Anton's" at the same time).

- Geoffrey O Keefe has an art exhibition scheduled for next November. He is working hard. preparing material for it. You may have noticed the occasional spatters of colour on his clothes and hands and face at recent rehearsals of 'Much Ado --" and thought they were part of his character identification. No! They are part of his art exhibition preparations.
- Several of our members --Jamie Belton (Fair City heartthrob) Margaret Toomey, Basil Ashmawy, Joanne Keane, and indeed maybe others that your gossip columnist hasn't heard about at recent media partles--' have been distinguishing themselves recently in p performances for TV productions (congratulations to all and best wishes for future successes).
- Tony McGettigan's award winning short story, "Learning the Meaning of First", will be published in a special Short Story Supplement to "Ireland's Own" in May.

NEWSLETTER

Dec 2003

Here we are folks - another Newsletter. Nearly into Santa Claus time so everyone will have to behave themselves.

Did you see The Heiress at Airfield House,? Wasn't it just the perfect setting for this play, ably directed by Sharpie (otherwise known as Sir Paul Sharpe). Congratulations to Paul and all concerned. I enjoyed this and I was glad to see full houses as well. Our upcoming events include, as you already know, "Christmas at Airfield", being rehearsed at the moment and will run from Wednesday December 10th to Saturday 13th incl. This was a great success last year what with mince pies and mulled wine etc. and it looks like the same again this year. Bookings can be made at 295 6015 (that's Jean) and please come along and bring your aunties and uncles, grannies and granddads and your favourite cousin - "support your local sheriff" and all that.

The forthcoming comedy at the Pavilion has had a change of heart; no longer is it to be 'Out of Order, Minister' . Due to circumstances beyond control, it has now been changed to "Rumours" a very funny play by the master of comedy, Niall Simon. That'll be in January. It involves four couples and a dinner party and a missing host. I hear it's a hoot.

Also in January, Seamus Whelan is considering readings/auditions for a play in Feb./March. I believe he's thinking of "Last Tango in Little Grimley" which is hilarious. I think he's looking for talent as we speak.

I also hear that there will be workshops in January, two on voice and one on mime. These are always of interest and I'm sure we'll have a good attendance.

Now to the 1-Act circuit. We're doing well here folks. The weird and wonderful La Corbiere has chalked up three firsts in - Virginia (Best Play, Best director, Best Actress - Ciara O'Byrne), Haulbowline (Best Play, Best Director, nominations for Jean Monahan, Judy McKeever, Ciara O'Byrne and myself, Bernard and Patrick), Waterford, a very close run second (first got 80.9 marks and we got 80.5), Ballymahon, nothing unfortunately, but once again in Carrigallen, a Best Play.

At this point, a big thank you to all who came and supported us and to all those who sent good wishes and helped otherwise, to Dympna for her lovely costumes and to Brian Dempsey for the set. We had great craic on the coach to Ballymahon and thoroughly enjoyed Dave Walsh' hilarious account of the Roly's staff outing to the

Abbey (get him to tell you over a pint or two/three). Congrats to Geoffrey O'Keeffe and co. (including me) on being in the finals in Ennis first w/e in December. We've also received an invitation from Chrissie Poulter to put this play on in the Samuel Beckett theatre in Trinity. No date available just yet, but we'll let you know. A special thanks to Karen who came to the rescue after my car broke down in Kilmacanogue on the way to Waterford. She gallantly stepped in, so to speak, and drove us all down to Waterford and on to Haulbowline and back again to Dublin (delicious bread from Cashel!!). Cost me a *#+*@~# fortune for a new clutch.

The Bear, which was also on the circuit was nearly going to Ennis but unfortunately got pipped at the post. They took a first prize in Manorhamilton and, John D. Byrne got two Best Actor awards, one in Manorhamilton and one in Palmerstown. Nevertheless congratulations to Paula Callaghan and her gallant crew - and a little bird told me they also had great craic.

Timeless Players, i.e. Lorcan Dunne and his lot, are also doing well on the circuit and will be heading to Ennis, and although we wish them the best, we also wish ourselves even more best wishes. By the way, to correct an error, it's Jamie who is with this play and not Basil. Sorry about that lads.

Anyone planning to travel to Ennis for the 1-act finals should contact Judy McKeever re accommodation possibilities.

OTHER NEWS

We also hear that Hugh Gallagher has got engaged to Sarah, whom he first met in Haulbowline during the 1-act circuit of a year or two ago. So you see anything can happen on the festival circuit. Heartiest congratulations to both of them!

We're on the web now, this is our address <<http://www.balallyplayers.com>> . I'm told there were two hits from the Seychelles of all places!! I hope everyone has paid their subscription at this stage.

Claire & Tony Joyce's new arrival hasn't quite arrived yet, but soon, and John Canning's is due in the new year.

May I wish the whole lot of you a very Happy Christmas & Delightful New Year.

Doris.