



# Balally Players

*Newsletter Winter 2011*

*Baah ... Merry Christmas!*

## A Christmas Carol



As you know the Mill Production of **A Christmas Carol** finished up this Christmas week. Balally Players were well represented in this show. It was directed by our own Geoff O'Keeffe who has successfully made the big leap into professional theatre and has already accumulated a long list of credits. Gary Wall was Producer, Gerard Bourke, Set Designer and Jacqueline Wall, Music Director. In a cast of 21, Balally Players featured Sean Daly, Aoibhinn Finnegan, Niamh Holland,

Joe McCarthy, Tony McGettigan Pat O'Grady & Muriel Caslin O'Hagan, and the irrepressible Brian Molloy in the central role of Scrooge.

The production team included Jean Monahan, Pat Hand, Brendan Dunne, Lorraine O'Hagan, Fiona Walsh, Declan Brennan & Doris Cullen. It's been a terrific project that demanded huge commitment from everyone involved and was rewarded by enthusiastic receptions from the full houses at the Mill.

### JEAN from the chair!

"It has been a great season so far - many thanks to the hard working and dedicated Committee and to all who have contributed in any manner. We have 2012 to look forward to - in the meantime Happy Christmas, we look forward to seeing you at Christmas Party and long live the EURO!"



### Party Date 13/01/12

Hilary would like to thank everyone who responded so quickly to the Christmas Party invitation, which in accordance with BP tradition, takes place in January!



Don't forget to get your money to Jean or Hilary before 30th December as per the info circulated to members on 6th December. If you are having any trouble getting the money to them, you can also give it to any other committee member, Doris, Tony, Joanne, Oran, Muriel or Claire who will make sure it reaches Balally coffers!

Joe Jordan directed for Balally Players again this season following up on his very successful run of All My Sons in early 2011. This proved to be a challenging text for the actors to work with, with not a word wasted. Productions, like families, are usually greater than the sum of their parts and so too for this very enjoyable production. It was very gratifying to hear real self confessed Friel fanatics comment after the show on the sensitive handling by the full ensemble of their respective characters.

Our thanks to Joe for his good humoured and committed direction even when the concentration of some occasionally faltered under the pressure - no names mentioned! *Aristocrats* marked a most enjoyable start to our 2011/2012 season, for the players as much as the patrons!

### Email & Stuff

[members@balallyplayers.com](mailto:members@balallyplayers.com)

Hilary Madigan manages this address to relay all committee updates, auditions and member news.

[info@balallyplayers.com](mailto:info@balallyplayers.com)

Our external contact email address managed by Claire O'Donovan.

Also used to pass on news from outside the group to BP members.

**467**

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Sibling rivalry, property woes, father issues and suspicions of infidelity plus copious amounts of alcohol - a heady mix for Balally Players' opening production of "Aristocrats" by Brian Friel which played on the Mill stage from 1st -5th Nov directed by Joe Jordan.

From left John Canning, Ronan Horgan, Claire O'Donovan, Oran O'Rua, Mairin Condon & Hilary Madigan. Brendan O'Sullivan, Gerry Doyle, Michael Sharp and Muriel O'Caslin Hagan completed the cast.

### Production updates

#### In the Studio

Gary Wall and Oran O'Rua will each be directing a one act play in the Mill Studio from 22nd to 25th February. Keep an eye on line for more details.

#### Note to Members

Hilary would like to let members know that that our Meet and Greet will resume in February 2012. Expect reminders from Hilary at

[members@balallyplayers.ie](mailto:members@balallyplayers.ie)

Hopefully the stretch in evenings will encourage plenty of members to come along and keep our group active and buzzing!

If anyone suspects they are not on the regular email distribution list please let Oran, Hilary or Claire know and we will address that.

**The Mai - Marina Carr**  
Directed by Jean Monaghan & Oran O'Rua  
The Mill Theatre, 27-31 March.  
**Congratulations to the cast and best of luck for the rehearsals in the New Year**

#### Amateur Drama gets blogging

Why not check out the new amateur drama blog. News and updates on festivals and some interesting insights from experienced adjudicators on the circuit .



#### Style as well as Substance!

Declan Brennan, our webmaster, not only makes us look good on the web and in our production programmes but keeps the Cyber wheels in motion in ways most of us don't really understand and probably never want to! Our best wishes to Declan who has returned to fulltime study this year and sincere thanks for being a constant support to the committee and whole group.

**Suggestions? Ideas? Questions or just curious? Let your Committee know at [members@balallyplayers.com](mailto:members@balallyplayers.com)**