



Ubuntu: "I am what I am because of who we all are." According to Archbishop Desmond Tutu the Ubuntu philosophy applies: where all sectors belong as partners, where we all participate as stakeholders, and where we all succeed together, not incrementally but exponentially. I see this kind of community in Balally Players.

One of the most frequently asked questions by potential audience members who don't know this play is "what is it about"? Ideally, I like to answer with one descriptive word. This is not always possible, but in the case of 'All My Sons' that word is 'retribution'.

The story is set in a small town in Ohio and deals with war profiteering and its tragic consequences. The play's shocking revelations and Miller's insistence that we must take responsibility for our actions provide a lesson about the destructive self interest and greed that sometimes drives capitalism at the expense of human values.

When the play was first produced it was only two years after the Second World War and must have been particularly painful for some audience members who had lost a husband, a father, a son or a brother. Though not popular with all critics when it was first produced, it was a campaign in support of the play and its writer by Brooks Atkinson of the New York Times that led to its initial successful run. Today it is justly renowned as a classic of American Theatre and is performed internationally in very many different translations.

Over sixty years after its first production the theme is particularly relevant today in light of the financial scandals in our own country and abroad.

Joe Jordan, Director

### Cast

in order of appearance

Joe Keller	Brendan Dunne
Dr Jim Bayliss	Declan Brennan
Frank Lubey	Niall O'Kennedy
Sue Bayliss	Joanne Keane
Lydia Lubey	Claire O'Donovan
Chris Keller	Seán Ahern
Bert	Manus Daly
Kate Keller	Muriel Caslin O'Hagan
Ann Deever	Niamh Fortune
George Deever	Ronan Horgan



The programme so far this year bears testament to the drive, creativity and commitment of the group. I refer to the great success of Jean Monahan, her cast and crew in getting 'Like a Virgin' to the All Ireland Drama Finals, the fantastic achievement by Karen Carleton and her team hosting a successful All Ireland Drama Finals and the wonderful atmosphere created by Teresa Dempsey and all who participated in Christmas at Airfield.

Later this year we have 'Medea' directed by Fiona Walsh in the Mill Studio, a comedy directed by Brian Molloy in the Mill Theatre and our Summer Shakespeare in Airfield. Check out our website ([balallyplayers.com](http://balallyplayers.com)) for more on all our plans.

Thank you to all of you who support us. We could not do it without you.

Joanne Keane. Chairperson, Balally Players



The Balally Players Theatre Company

[www.balallyplayers.com](http://www.balallyplayers.com)

### Creative Team

Director	Joe Jordan
Production Management	Brian Molloy, Orla Cooney
Stage Manager	Aoife Braiden
Assistant Stage Manager	Lorraine O'Hagan
Make-up	Teresa Dempsey
Hairstyling	Orla Cooney
Lighting	Barry Donaldson
Sound Design	Declan Brennan
Sound Operation	Derek Green
Costume	Dympna Murray
Set Design	Louis O'Byrne, Pat O'Grady
Fight Choreographer	Conor Hegarty
Publicity	Oran O'Rua
Poster & Programme	Declan Brennan

## Balally Players

# ALL MY SONS

written by Arthur Miller

directed by Joe Jordan



Balally Players

Mill Theatre

Dundrum, Dublin

25-29 January 2011

The powerful story of all that follows  
a certain talent for lying

By arrangement with Josef Weinberger Plays Ltd

[balallyplayers.com](http://balallyplayers.com)

[milltheatre.com](http://milltheatre.com)

In his lifetime of 89 years, until the year before his death on 10 February 2005, Arthur Miller wrote eighteen plays. His third play, 'All My Sons', which was first performed in 1947, became a triumph after his critical failure with 'The Man Who Had All The Luck' on Broadway three years earlier. The Miller family business was in the 'rag trade' in New York and until the stock market crash, when Miller was fourteen, they were reasonably well off and lived in a comfortable middle-class district in the city.

Like so many people, then and now, who experience financial or emotional shocks that shake their world to its core, the uncertainty of the foundations beneath what is held to be solid, true and of value, leaves an indelible mark.

'Death of a Salesman', perhaps his best known play, won the acclaim of audiences and critics in 1949 and his 1953 masterpiece, 'The Crucible', earned him a Tony Award. It also attracted the unwelcome attention of the 'House Un-American Activities Committee' (HUAC), the investigative committee of the United States House of Representatives. He was seen by some as a 'Communist writer' and was questioned for that, his challenge to the 'American Dream' and for likening the work of the HUAC to the Salem witch hunt in 'The Crucible'. He was cited for contempt of Congress when he refused to co-operate and name names, but the conviction was overturned on appeal.

Miller learned of the event that inspired 'All My Sons' from his mother-in-law in Ohio. A company released defective aircraft parts to the Army Air Force during the war causing a number of fatal crashes. In the real story, it was a daughter who 'blew the whistle' on her father.

This great human drama explores how the loss of trust and truth - the first casualties of war tears a family apart and affects its friends and its neighbours. The play opens early on a Sunday morning just after a storm and ends at two o'clock the following morning. The story that unfolds over the course of one day is about what happens as they all come to terms with what one character calls "a certain talent for lying" and some of them search for understanding and meaning, while others seek retribution.



**Brendan Dunne (Joe Keller)**

In the seven years that he has been with Balally Players, Brendan has played various roles in the group's Mid-Summer Shakespeare, including Capulet in the 2010 production of Romeo and Juliet. Other recent roles include Hugh in 'Translations' and Frank in 'Molly Sweeney', both by Brien Friel; Jake in '27 Wagons Full of Cotton' by Tennessee Williams and Coleman in 'The Lonesome West' by Martin McDonagh. Brendan also played Chris in a previous production of 'All My Sons' - this, he says, "was not recently"!



**Ronan Horgan (George Deever)**

This is Ronan's first performance with Balally Players and it represents a return to the stage after an absence of many years. When living at home in Cork, the young Ronan's early involvement with the stage included the dual roles of writer and actor in a comedy sketch show, which was performed annually for a number of years. Ronan's performance as George in 'All My Sons' brings his long hiatus to an end and he looks forward to it not being his last.

**Muriel Caslin O'Hagan (Kate Keller)**

A multi award winning actress, including All-Ireland Best Actress, Muriel returned to the 'boards' in 2005 after a long absence. For Balally Players she has appeared in 'Enchanted April', 'Our Town' the first production at the Mill Theatre, 'By the Bog of Cats', 'As You Like It' and 'Many Young Men of Twenty'. She also received awards for her playing of Maurya in the Balally Players 2007 All-Ireland winning production of 'Riders to the Sea'. Most recently she appeared as Chorus in 'Romeo & Juliet'.



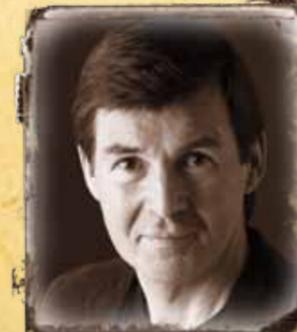
**Joanne Keane (Sue Bayliss)**

Joanne Keane is a long time member and the current Chairperson of Balally Players. Roles with this company include Lady Capulet in 'Romeo and Juliet', Seelie Hannigan in 'Many Young Men of Twenty', Phoebe in 'As You Like It' and Connie Cooper in 'Rumours'. Joanne has appeared in the TV Drama 'Proof' and in the TV Soap 'Fair City'. She has featured in 'Ros na Rún' and 'Aifric'. Her credits include a number of short films and radio plays.



**Niamh Fortune (Ann Deever)**

Niamh was last seen buzzing around the stage as a mayfly in 'Time Flies' by Davis Ives. Her previous roles include Catherine in Joseph O'Connor's 'Red Roses and Petrol', Rosalind in 'As You Like It', Katie in 'Philadelphia Here I Come' and Sarah Brolly in 'At the Black Pigs Dyke'. Niamh played the role of Emily in The Mill's opening production 'Our Town'. She reached the All Ireland One Act Final in 'The Great Hunger' and has directed Christmas at Airfield with Balally. Niamh has directed and produced a number of children's plays.



**Declan Brennan (Dr Jim Bayliss)**

Roles with Balally Players have ranged from Lucentio in 'The Taming of the Shrew' to the Prison Guard in 'Forward to the Right' and Daheen Timmineen Din in 'Many Young Men of Twenty'. Declan has appeared in a number of Yeats plays with Dublin Lyric Players and was the iconic doctor in 'Dr Who meets Albert Einstein' in the RDS. He played the lead role in 'Our Town' which opened the Mill Theatre in 2006. Other roles include Patrick Pearse in 'Pull Down a Horseman', Victor Velasco in 'Barefoot in the Park' and the Cardinal Inquisitor in 'The Life of Galileo' by Brecht.

**Seán Ahern (Chris Keller)**

Seán's introduction to drama was in the deep end when he was called upon to stand-in for one of the main parts in 'Port Authority' at the All-Ireland Drama Festival in Athlone in 2002. From there he went on to perform for three years with the Dundalk Theatre Workshop, eventually returning to Athlone 'sans-script' and collected several awards and nominations along the way. Seán won Best Supporting Actor in the Balally Players production of 'Old Saybrook' at the Bray One-Act Festival in 2010 and later that year joined the cast of the group's Summer Shakespeare play, 'Romeo & Juliet'.



**Niall O'Kennedy (Frank Lubey)**

When he left his native Sligo, Niall acted and directed with a number of Dublin groups. Recently he directed 'The Nightingale and not the Lark' by Jennifer Johnston and appeared as Shylock in The 'Merchant of Venice' with the Dublin Shakespeare Society. With Balally Players, Niall has appeared in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor', 'As You Like It', 'Twelfth Night' and 'Out of Order Minister' by Ray Cooney. He also appeared in 'Our Town', the play that opened the Mill Theatre.



**Manus Daly (Bert)**

The character of 'Bert' is the first role that Manus has performed with Balally Players, but he is looking forward to other opportunities on stage in the future. Having reached the good age of eight, Manus has the unique distinction of being able to boast that he has spent a greater proportion of his life as a thespian than many other members of the cast!



**Claire O'Donovan (Lydia Lubey)**

Since joining the group in 2008 Claire's roles with Balally Players have spanned a wide range from Mrs. Gogan who lived in the heart of Dublin City in 1916 in 'The Plough and the Stars' (2010) to the terribly posh Fiona Foster in 'How the Other Half Loves' (2009) and singing roles in 'Christmas At Airfield' and 'Many Young Man of Twenty'. She believes her tendency to burst into song at inappropriate moments stems from her time as a velvet clad Lady of Bunratty Castle - after all there was no television in those days!

**Joe Jordan - Director**

Joe directed his first play many years ago with the Lantern Theatre in Merrion Square. Since then he has directed with 33 Players, Strand Players, Olivians and the Dublin Shakespeare Society. Occasionally he has 'treaded the boards' with these groups and others. Among his favourite writers are Miller, Tennessee Williams, Henrik Ibsen, Harold Pinter, Brian Friel, Frank McGuinness and a writer he feels deserves a re-evaluation, Hugh Leonard. Joe is a great supporter of the One Act Circuit and is always on the lookout for a strong play to participate.



*My dear Ann  
It is impossible to put down the things I feel  
But I've got to tell you something. Yesterday  
they flew in a load of papers from  
I can't express myself  
feel. Even*