

Director's Note

Somebody once said that comedy is "a serious business" and bringing a production like this from the page to the stage can indeed be a very serious undertaking at times. This is especially true when cast and crew have to juggle with all those things life can throw at you like work, family commitments, illness and grief to name but a few of the hurdles that need to be overcome before reaching the rehearsal room. Yet despite all this it never failed to impress me how much hard work, dedication and downright good humour the team brought to bear in tackling the "serious business" of the work required to realise this show and for that I would like to thank them - one and all, and I hope you enjoy the results!

Brian Molloy

Writer

Comic playwright David Tristram was born in 1957 in Quarry Bank, in the West Midlands of England. He has published nineteen plays and a comedy novel. Widely performed by amateur and professional groups, his plays have parodied such pop-culture genres as soap operas and detective stories.

He studied English and Music at Birmingham University and was a commercial copywriter before turning to comedy. In 1985 he founded the Flying Ducks Theatre Company, which has now become a professional touring company.

Tristram's plays take a farcical view of sex, alcohol, drugs, crime, and theatre itself. He claims that he writes only comedy because he can't take himself too seriously. He usually tests his new work at a small theatre in Bridgnorth near his home in Highley before a wider release. His plays have been performed in South Africa, New Zealand, Mexico and Europe among other locations.

Cast

in order of appearance

Jenny Adams Ciara O'Byrne
Bill Adams Declan Brennan
Eve Tomlin Susie Nix
Miles Francis Cahill
Neville Óran O'Rua
Fr Tomlin Len Nealon

The Balally Players Theatre Company has been an active part of the amateur theatre movement in Ireland since its first performance in 1983.

Each year, the group stages a diverse range of productions in a great variety of genres. In January, Joe Jordan brought Arthur Miller's 'All My Sons' to the Mill Theatre and earlier this month Fiona Walsh directed the Greek Tragedy 'Medea' by Euripides in the Mill Theatre Studio. Around midsummer's day (18 to 23 June), Gerard Bourke will stage performances of Tom Stoppard's 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead' in the gardens of Airfield House and also at the Mill. And in June, the group will participate with four other drama groups in the area in Conal Morrison's adaptation of Patrick Kavanagh's novel, 'Tarry Flynn'. The play, which is directed by Padraic McIntyre, is being produced by the Mill Theatre to celebrate its fifth anniversary this summer.

Details on these and other productions are at balallyplayers.com



The Balally Players Theatre Company

Creative Team

Director Brian Molloy
Production Manager Oran O'Rua
Stage Manager Aoife Braidén
Assistant Stage Manager Lorraine O'Hagan
Lighting Design Mark McLoughlin
Lighting Operation Barry Donaldson
Sound Mark McLoughlin
Set Design Joe McCarthy
Set Construction Bobby White
Costume Design Dymphna Murray
Costumes Doris Cullen
Make-up Teresa Dempsey
Stage Crew Orla Cooney and Muriel Caslin-O'Hagan
Publicity Aoibhinn Finnegan
Posters & Programme Declan Brennan

Balally Players

Unoriginal Sin

The Comedy
with a little extra Bite



written by David Tristram directed by Brian Molloy

Mill Theatre
Dundrum, Dublin
26 to 30 April 2011


Balally Players

milltheatre.ie

balallyplayers.com

By kind permission of Samuel French Ltd

Prologue

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, "Ye shall not eat it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die".

And the serpent said unto the woman, "Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil".

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they then knew that they were naked.

We join the story several million years later ...

The writer of 'Unoriginal Sin', David Tristram, placed his story in a strong biblical context and his tongue firmly in his cheek when he included this Prologue as an introduction to the script.

He describes his play as "the comedy with a little extra bite". Perhaps that's because of the biting wit and hilarious lines he puts in the mouths of his characters as some of them hiss at one another.

Or perhaps it's the fact that, underneath all of the fun and frolics, it has a wry and caustic take on what happens when Eve comes in from the garden of Eden cottage and meets Mr Adams as his serpentine marriage unwinds and forbidden fruit begs to be bitten.

Either way, we hope you enjoy these funny, unoriginal sinners!



Declan Brennan
(Bill Adams)

Declan's 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'. He 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' by Eugene McCabe, Victor Velasco in 'Barefoot in the Park' and the Cardinal Inquisitor in 'The Life of Galileo' by Brecht. His most recent role with Balally Players was Dr Jim Bayliss in 'All My Sons' at the Mill in January.

Ciara joined Balally players over twenty years ago. Some of her previous roles with the group include Abigail in 'The Crucible', Beverly in 'Abigail's Party', Christina in 'Dancing at Lughnasa', Mary Boyle in 'Juno and the Paycock' and Aariana in 'A Comedy of Errors'. She has also been one of 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'. Her last role was the wife in Pinter's 'One for the Road'. Ciara has performed with the group many times on the One Act Festival Circuit including the All Ireland Finals. By day Ciara teaches drama and runs the Act3 stage school based in the Dundrum/Sandyford area.



Ciara O'Byrne
(Jenny Adams)



Susie Nix
(Eve)

Susie is delighted to be on stage with Balally Players again having previously performed in the hilarious 'Out of Order Minister' and 'Vinegar Tom'.

Susie has previously worked with Fiasco Productions and Martello Players and is a regular participant in the Wakefield Drama Festival. Leading roles have been in plays such as 'Dolly West Kitchen', 'Whose Life is it Anyway', 'Factory Girls' and 'A Life'.

Our set was built by SceneMaker, a company that provides design, construction and storage facilities for musicals, plays, concerts and also corporate events. They worked with our designer, Joe McCarthy, to build and decorate the set and after the last curtain call, SceneMaker will take it all away! For more details on their services, contact Bobby White on 086-814 5868, email bobby@scenemaker.eu or visit their online presence at www.scenemaker.eu

Francis has been with Balally Players since 2006 and has appeared in Summer Shakespeare, Christmas at Airfield and several other shows most notably 'Out of Order Minister', 'The Great Hunger', 'Many Young Men of Twenty' and 'The Cripple of Inishmaan'. Prior to joining Balally, Francis spent some time with the Olivian Players and was involved in productions of 'Canaries', 'Translations' and 'Hamlet'. Earlier performances included Michael in 'Dancing at Lughnasa' and Joe in 'Poor Beast in the Rain' with Ballypickas Drama Group in Co Laois. Here he also made a brief foray into direction for 'Brothers of the Brush'.



Francis Cahill
(Miles)



Óran O'Rua
(Neville)

Óran began acting and directing with UCD Dramsoc, where he was awarded the Irish Student Drama Association's Best Actor award in 1998, and adapted for the stage the Robbie Hyland poem, 'What Has To Be Done', directing the ensuing production entitled, 'Betrayal'. Since joining Balally Players in 2003, he has played diverse roles both on and off-stage, including Cripple Billy in 'The Cripple of Inishmaan', Barry in 'Happy Birthday Dear Alice', The Covey in 'The Plough and the Stars' and Feste in 'Twelfth Night'. Óran designed the sound for Balally's All-Ireland winning shows and, in 2008, he made his directorial debut with the Company, directing a new piece of Irish writing by Ken Armstrong entitled, 'The Moon Cut Like A Sickle'.



Len Nealon
(Fr Tomlin)

Len was once an angelic choirboy in the first professional stage production in Dublin of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. He has since performed roles for Strand Players, AIB Drama Group and Dalkey Players and has taken roles in plays such as 'Out of the Flying Pan', 'All in Favour Said No' and 'A Life'. He joined Balally Players in late 2005 and has performed in many productions staged by the group, including 'The Great Hunger', which qualified for the All Ireland Amateur Drama Finals in Athlone in 2009. He also dabbles in work for both television and film and plays bass guitar with 'The Olympic Experience'!

Brian studied Drama and Theatre at N.U.I Maynooth and has been actively involved, for over 20 years, with many theatre groups as actor and sometimes director.

Favourite roles played include: Mephisto in 'Urfaust' (NUI /University of Ulster co-production), Leo in 'Chapter Two' (Andrews Lane). Napoleon Bonaparte in 'Man of Destiny' (B.O.I Arts centre) Joey in David Mamet's 'Disappearance of the Jews' (Theatre @ 36). Owen in 'Translations' (Dalkey) & Reverend Hale in 'The Crucible' (SPARC). Brian's association with Balally Players goes back to 1989 and he has featured in a number of productions including roles in: 'One flew over the Cuckoo's Nest', 'The Wooden Pear', 'White Liars', 'Move over Mrs. Markham', 'London Vertigo', 'Rumours' and most recently 'Out of Order Minister' and 'How the Other Half Loves' both at the Mill Theatre.

Having directed a number of one act plays for the group recently, Brian is delighted to bring 'Unoriginal Sin' to the main stage here at the Mill Theatre.



Brian Molloy
Director