

  
The Balally Players Theatre Company



# The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams

Mill Theatre | 20 - 23 March 2013

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# An American Theatre Classic

'The Glass Menagerie' is a memory play. It was based on a short story, 'Portrait of a Girl in Glass,' which Tennessee Williams wrote a year earlier, but did not publish until 1948. He also turned the story into a screenplay for MGM and the film version became 'The Gentleman Caller'. The first performance of the play was in Chicago in 1944 and became the first in a series of some of the most celebrated plays in American theatre.

The play is written from the point of view of narrator Tom Wingfield, and many have seen it as an autobiographical play with clear references to Williams' own life. The playwright's real name was Thomas. However, some commentators suggest that the character of Laura, rather than Tom, more closely resembles Williams himself. This is because of his introvert personality and preoccupation with one thing, writing, almost to the exclusion of everything else. In the play, Laura is fixated on her collection of glass animals.

In common with most plays, 'The Glass Menagerie' reflects not only its author's frame of references and perspective on the world, but also the time during which it was written. However, like a true classic, this work, from an increasingly distant past, still has much to say to us today. Its strong characters and its fluent and insightful dialogue combine to create one of the best plays of the twentieth century.

## *Cast*

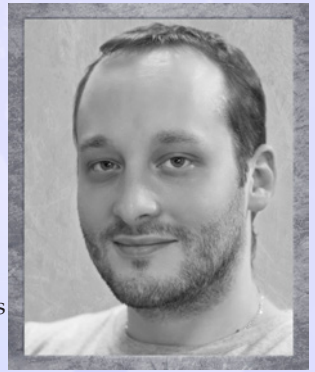
|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Tom Wingfield    | Seán Ahern                   |
| Amanda Wingfield | Claire O'Donovan             |
| Laura Wingfield  | Caitlín Higgins Ní Chinnéide |
| Jim O'Connor     | Declan O'Loughlin            |

## *Creative Team*

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Director                      | Óran O'Rua   |
| Stage Manager                 | Jean Monahan   |
| Assistant Stage Managers      | Doris Cullen<br>Orla Cooney<br>Lorraine O'Hagan<br>Aoife Braiden |
| Set and Costume Design        | Dympna Murray  |
| Set Construction              | Patrick Hand<br>Nollaig Molloy<br>John Carleton                  |
| Lighting Design               | Barry Donaldson  |
| Sound and AV Design           | Declan Brennan   |
| Make-up                       | Teresa Dempsey   |
| Publicity and Marketing       | Muriel Caslin-O'Hagan<br>Joanne Keane                            |
| Poster Design and Photography | Rebecca Pitt   |
| Programme and Photography     | Declan Brennan   |

### **Seán Ahern**

Before joining Balally Players, Sean was with the Dundalk Theatre Workshop and has won several awards and nominations on the amateur drama circuit. For Balally Players, he won Best Supporting Actor in 'Old Saybrook' at the Bray One-Act Festival in 2010, played Chris in 'All My Sons' and Robert in the company's 2012 production of 'The Mai'.



### **Caitlín Higgins Ní Chinnéide**

Caitlín attended Ann Kavanagh's Young Peoples' Theatre and was a gold and silver medallist for solo-drama performances at Feis Maitiú. She has played the roles of Fanny Scrooge and Belinda Cratchet in 'A Christmas Carol' at the Gate Theatre and student productions at Oxford University. Since joining Ballaly Players, Caitlín has played roles such as Millie in the 2012 production of 'The Mai', by Marina Carr, and Blanche in Christopher Durang's, 'Desire, Desire, Desire'.



### **Claire O'Donovan**

Claire's most recent stage appearance was as Alice in Brian Friel's 'Aristocrats'. Last year she directed Christopher Durang's parody 'Desire, Desire, Desire' for the company. Other roles have included Mother in 'Tarry Flynn' for Mill productions, and for Balally Players: Lydia in 'All My Sons', Mrs Gogan in 'The Plough and The Stars' and Fiona Foster in 'How The Other Half Loves' as well as ensemble parts in 'Medea', 'Christmas at Airfield' and 'Romeo and Juliet'.



### **Óran O'Rua**

Óran began acting and directing with Dramsoc at UCD, where he was awarded the Irish Student Drama Association's Best Actor award. For Balally Players, he played Casimir in 'Aristocrats', Cripple Billy in 'The Cripple of Inishmaan', The Covey in 'The Plough and the Stars' and Feste in 'Twelfth Night'. Most recently, Óran directed 'Small Box Psychosis' by Barry McKinley, and also participated in the Fishamble Theatre Director Programme.



### **Declan O'Loughlin**

Declan recently played Barry in Bernard Farrell's 'Happy Birthday Dead Alice' for Sundrive Players and also Private Gar in 'Philadelphia, Here I Come', Johnny Boyle in 'Juno and the Paycock', and Happy in 'Death of a Salesman'. Declan has also played the role of Jerry Devine in Estuary Players' production of 'Juno and the Paycock'.



## Balally Players Celebrates Thirty Years of Drama

It was the year Motorola introduced the first mobile phones to the US, the year seatbelts became mandatory for drivers in the UK, and the year China's population reached 1 billion. Times may have changed a lot since but, for a small group of aspiring local thespians, 1983 marked the beginning of a love affair with drama that has endured. Founded by Jean Monahan and Karen Carleton, and named after the local parish area, Balally Players quickly established itself among other local leading lights in the amateur drama movement.

The membership and the company's annual programme have grown since then; and today Balally Players typically produces one or two full length productions, a Christmas variety show, competitive one-act and longer plays for the festival circuit in addition to a summer Shakespeare. Committed to an ethos of drama as an inclusive activity, the company continually aims to offer all its members the opportunity for creative expression through a broad and diverse spectrum of work.

In the late 1980s, Balally Players started competing on the Drama Festival circuit in Ireland, and has enjoyed considerable success as All-Ireland finalists on numerous occasions, winning the coveted All-Ireland One Act Champion title in 2006 and 2007. Never allowing themselves to rest on their laurels, members have also taken plays abroad to France, Denmark, Canada and the USA. In the summer of 2009, Balally Players was chosen to represent Ireland at the Mondial du Theatre (World Festival of Theatre) in Monaco. In 2010, the group hosted the National One-Act Finals as part of the Dundrum One-Act Festival at the Mill Theatre. Last year ended, as many years have, with the group's Christmas variety show, presented last December in the suitably seasonal surroundings of Marlay Park House.

For more about the group, its past productions and those planned for the future, visit [www.balallyplayers.com](http://www.balallyplayers.com)

