



The Balally Players Theatre Company

The
Crucible
by Arthur Miller

Directed by Geoffrey O'Keeffe

Performed by The Balally Players Theatre Company

26th – 29th March 2014
Mill Theatre Dundrum



www.balallyplayers.com

By arrangement with Josef/Weinberger Plays Ltd.

Cast in order of appearance

Rev. Parris	Sean Murphy
Betty Parris	Aisling NíFhoghlú
Tituba	Eleanor Phiri
Abigail Williams	Aoibhinn NíFhionnagáin
Susana Walcott	Jessica Checkley
Anne Putnam	Susan Nix
Thomas Putnam	Francis Cahill
Mercy Lewis	Aideen Ahern
Mary Warren	Máirín Condon
John Proctor	Ronan Horgan
Rebecca Nurse	Muriel Caslin O'Hagan
Giles Corey	Steve Curran
Rev. Hale	Brian Molloy
Elizabeth Proctor	Claire O'Donovan
Francis Nurse	Pat O'Grady
Ezekiel Cheever	Oran O'Rua
Marshall Herrick	Cormac MacGabhann
Judge Hathorne	Michael Sharp
Dep. Governor Danforth	Declan Brennan
Sarah Good	Doris Cullen

Sean Murphy

Sean has been a member of Balally Players since 2003, when he made his debut in Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*. Prominent roles since then have been *Blind Man* in *The Abbey Theatre Centenary* performance of *On Baile's Strand* and *Eusebius* in *The Mill Theatre's 5th Anniversary* performance of *Tarry Flynn* in 2011. Most recently, he enjoyed playing the role of *Noble* in the hugely successful *Guests of The Nation*, which came 2nd at the All-Ireland One Act Finals in 2013.



Eleanor Phiri

Eleanor began acting at a young age in Malawi, where she was born. She has experience on stage with Kwathu Drama Group, in radio plays and in advertisements for Lever Brothers Malawi and Candlex. This is her first experience acting in Ireland and she is very excited to work with such a talented group. She hopes you enjoy seeing the performance as much as she has acting in it.



Aoibhinn NíFhionnagáin

Aoibhinn was bitten by the acting bug at a very young age, first performing on *School* around the *Corner* and *The Late Late Toy Show*. Since then, she has gone on to achieve a *Masters in Drama in Education* from *Trinity College Dublin* and she runs her own school of *Speech and Drama* in *Donnybrook*. Aoibhinn has been a member of *Balally Players* for a number of years holding roles on both sides of the lights. Her most recent role was *'Carol'* in *Vermilion* productions *O'enna*.



Aishling NíFhoghlú

This is Aishling's debut role with *Balally Players* however she is already a seasoned performer at such a young age. A student of *Encore School of Performing Arts*, Aishling is a fresh new talent - definitely one to watch!



Susan Nix

Susie is very excited to be threading the boards with Balally Players again. Previous productions with Balally have included the hilarious Yes Minister, Unoriginal Sin and Vinegar Tom. Susie has studied with the Gaiety School of Acting and appeared in numerous productions such as Dolly West, A Life, Whose Life is it Anyways and Factory Girls.



Francis Cahill

After an absence of 12 months, Francis is delighted to be back in this production. 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 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, Hamlet and The Playboy of the Western World. Earlier performances included Dancing at Lughnasa and Poor Beast in the Rain with Ballypickas drama group in Co. Laois.



Aideen Ahern

Aideen's passion for acting was ignited at a young age, her father being her inspiration. As a child, Aideen and her father journeyed to Dublin to attend classes in The Gaiety School of Acting. She returned there just last year to complete a 10 week Introduction to Drama course and has since moved to Dublin. She has now joined her brother, Sean, and become a member of Balally Players. This is Aideen's first play with Balally Players and she hopes it won't be the last!



Máirín Condon

Máirín is avid drama lover and has been involved with the Balally Players for the last three years. She holds an associate diploma in speech and drama with the Leinster School of Music and has represented the award winning NUI Maynooth Drama Society twice at the Irish Student Drama Awards. Her most recent role with Balally was that of Joanna in Noel Coward's "Present Laughter". Máirín also took part in a Mill Theatre's 5 year anniversary production of Tarry Flynn, playing the part of Madame Bovary. She appeared as Jacqueline in Rathfarnham Theatre Group's production of the farcical "Don't Dress for Dinner".



Ronan Horgan

Ronan has been a member of Balally Players since 2010. Since then he has performed in a number of productions, appearing as 'George' in All My Sons, 'Eamonn' in Aristocrats, 'Charlie' in Small Box Psychosis and 'Stanley' in Desire, Desire, Desire. He also played the dual roles of 'Petey Meegan' and 'Father Anthony' in Mill Productions' Tarry Flynn.



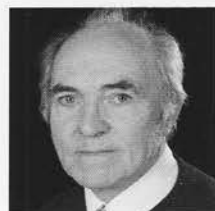
Muriel Caslin O'Hagan

With Balally Players at the Mill, Muriel's recent roles were Woman in the One-Act Festival award-winning Guests of the Nation; Aunt Julie in The Mai; Kate Keller in All My Sons and Anna's voice in Aristocrats. For Mill Productions Muriel appeared in the theatre's Inaugural play Our Town. She later co-devised and provided music accompaniment for theatre's 5th Anniversary production Tarry Flynn. Also for Mill Productions, she appeared in A Christmas Carol, Macbeth and Calendar Girls.



Steve Curran

Steve Curran first took to the stage when he was in National School and performed in Bothan na Smúgleira. Some 30 years later, with 33 Players, he was to perform on that same stage in James Patrick's Kennedy's Children for which he won the award for Best Acting in the All Ireland Drama Festival. His first adult role was Morris Townsend in The Heiress, (1971). He recently toured with Pandora Theatre Company in The Lost City and Elysium Nevada which was nominated for the Irish Times Best New Play in 2010.



Brian Molloy

Brian studied drama and theatre at NUI Maynooth and has been actively involved with many Theatre Companies as an actor and director for over 20 years. Recent roles played include: Scrooge in A Christmas Carol, Duncan/ Porter / Murderer in Macbeth, Dale Harding in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and Morris Dixon in Present Laughter. He is currently working as director for Taney Dramatic Society's production of Absent Friends coming to the Mill main stage in May.



Claire O' Donovan

Claire last appeared with Balally Players in 2013 as Amanda Wingfield in The Glass Menagerie. She played Mrs Flynn in the Mill Production's Tarry Flynn directed by Padraic McIntyre. Previous Balally roles include Alice in Aristocrats, Lydia Lubey in All My Sons and in Seán O'Casey's The Plough and the Stars. Claire made her directing debut for the group in 2012 with Desire, Desire, Desire by Christopher Durang in the Maureen O'Hara Studio and Bewleys Cafe Theatre.



Pat O'Grady

After completing a Diploma in Theatre Studies at NUI Maynooth, Pat subsequently completed an MA in Theatre Studies at DCU. Recent work includes A Christmas Carol, Tarry Flynn, Macbeth and Calendar Girls for Mill Productions and Romeo and Juliet, Small Box Psychosis and Afterplay for Balally Players. In 2013, he also received an overall technical award for "Guests of the Nation" which finished 2nd in the All Ireland Finals in Roscommon.



Oran O'Rua

Oran began acting and directing with UCD Dramsoc, where he was awarded the Irish Student Drama Association's Best Actor award in 1998. While in UCD Dramsoc, he adapted for the stage the poem What Has to Be Done and directed the ensuing production entitled Betrayal. A member of Balally Players since 2003, he has played diverse roles both on and off-stage. Most recently with Balally Players, he directed The Glass Menagerie which was performed in the Mill Theatre in March 2013.



Cormac MacGabhann

The Crucible is Cormac's latest collaboration with Balally Players and the Mill Theatre, having first crossed paths in A Christmas Carol in 2011. Cormac's latest role with Balally Players was of Roland Maule in Present Laughter. Previously Cormac starred as Neelus in the Mill Production of Sharon's Grave.



Michael Sharp

Michael has played in drama, variety and pantomime with various Dublin groups, in the RTE Television drama documentary No More Blooms and in various parts with the Near FM radio drama group. Dramatic roles on stage have included Eilert Lovborg in Hedda Gabler, Mitch in A Streetcar named Desire, Birdboot in The Real Inspector Hound, Thérèse in Phèdre and Sir Andrew in Twelfth Night.



Declan Brennan

Roles with Balally Players have ranged from Dr Jim Bayliss in All My Sons to Lucentio in The Taming of the Shrew, 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 Albert Einstein meets Dr Who in the RDS. Other productions include Pull Down a Horseman, Barefoot in the Park and The Life of Galileo by Brecht. He holds an MA in Drama and Performance Studies from UCD.



Doris Cullen

Doris Cullen has been a member of Balally Players for the past 30 years, and has been in many, many productions both on-stage and back stage, including The Plough & The Stars, By The Bog of Cats, At The Black Pig's Dyke, The Cripple of Inishmaan, Tarry Flynn and all of our Christmas at Airfield shows and Summer Shakespeare productions. She also starred in The Mai, Charley's Aunt and Present Laughter.



Creative Team

Director	Geoff O'Keeffe
Set Design	Gerard Burke
Lighting Design	Paul Macken
Costume Design	Dympna Murray
Sound Design	Kate Canning
Producer	Karen Carleton
Production Manager	Michael Kennedy
Stage Manager	Aoife Braiden
ASM	Doris Cullen
Make-Up	Teresa Dempsey
Set Construction	Pat Hand
Furniture Construction	Bryan Dempsey
Wardrobe Assistant	Orla Cooney
Properties	Katerzyme Horzela, Doris Cullen.
Poster/Programme design	Aoife O'Toole
Production Photography	Declan Brennan
Publicity	Myra McPartlin
Lighting Assistant	Sheila O'Kelly
Backstage	Joanne Keane

Geoff O' Keeffe

Geoff's professional directing credits include critically acclaimed productions of, Frank Pig Says Hello, Macbeth, Sharon's Grave and A Christmas Carol, all for Mill Productions. He has written and directed three hugely, successful Christmas shows for the Mill Theatre; Big, Big Trouble with The Santa Claus Double, Santa's Cracking Christmas Adventure and Saveus Maveus and The Santa Claus Rescue. For Culture Cavan Theatre Project he directed At the Black Pig's Dyke and Lost Weekend for Gillian Grattan at The Axis Theatre. Geoff is a former member of Balally Players and enjoyed many years with the company as an award winning director and actor.



Gerard Bourke

Gerard has been directing, designing and writing for some 20 yrs. He has designed many sets for the Mill Theatre, including 'The Great Hunger', 'Many Young Men of Twenty', 'At the Black Pig's Dyke', 'A Christmas Carol', 'Sharon's Grave' and most recently 'Charlie's Aunt'. A playwright with plays broadcast on RTÉ radio, Gerard is also director and company secretary of Delig Inis, the Theatrical Historical Animation Company.

There is a misty plot afoot so subtle we should be criminal to cling to old respects and ancient friendships.

In many ways, *The Crucible* is a modern parable.

Welcome to the first Balally Players production of 2014.

We are delighted to work with director Geoffrey O'Keeffe and to once again enjoy the creative talents of Dympna Murray and Gerard Bourke. The Lighting and Sound Design contribute greatly to the atmosphere of fear and paranoia of Salem and we thank Paul Macken and Kate Canning for their creations.

We offer the players an immense challenge in bringing to life this cocktail of fear, anxiety, passion, and jealousy that is *The Crucible*. It's a wonderful script to work with and we hope the cast fulfill their dreams and bring the characters to life tonight.

You may notice that while there are twenty actors on stage, the back-stage and creative team also numbers twenty. We are proud to work with such a committed group both on stage and backstage.

Working on this powerful play while ongoing diplomatic relationships with Russia are so tense, it reminds us that as wild as *The Crucible's* plot is, we've seen this episode in history over and over again. *The Crucible* drives home how often history repeats itself.

Thank you for your support.

Balally Players Theatre Company

Arthur Miller and The Cold War

Drawing on research on the witch trials he had conducted while an undergraduate, Miller composed *The Crucible* in the early 1950s. Miller wrote the play during the brief ascendancy of Senator Joseph McCarthy, a demagogue whose vitriolic anti-Communism proved the spark needed to propel the United States into a dramatic and fractious anti-Communist fervor during these first tense years of the Cold War.



We would like to thank our friends in Taney Dramatic Society who kindly allowed us use of some props for our stage.

Please find more information on Taney Dramatic Society on their website <http://www.taneydramasociety.com/>