

The Balally Players Theatre Company



Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

by Tennessee Williams



Mill Theatre, Dundrum — 20 to 23 January 2016

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd
and The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, USA

An American Theatre Classic

Cat On A Hot Tin Roof is centred on 'Big Daddy' Pollitt's plantation. He is the richest cotton planter in the Mississippi Delta, and he is about to celebrate his sixty-fifth birthday. He is joined on the family estate by his eldest son Gooper and his family, his favoured younger son, Brick, an ageing football hero who has turned to drink, and Brick's feisty wife, Maggie. As the hot summer evening unfolds, the veneer of happy family life and Southern gentility gradually slips away as unpleasant truths emerge and greed, lies, jealousy and suppressed sexuality threaten to reach boiling point. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama, Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is a masterly portrayal of family tensions and individuals trapped in prisons of their own making.

Thomas Lanier 'Tennessee' Williams III, worked principally as a playwright in the American theatre. He also wrote short stories, novels, poetry, essays, screenplays and a volume of memoirs. His reputation was firmly established with his play *A Streetcar Named Desire*, in 1947. Other successes, which were also brought to the cinema included *The Glass Menagerie*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955) and *The Night of the Iguana*.

Oran O'Rua 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 Robbie Hyland 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. In 2008, Oran directed a new piece of Irish writing entitled, *The Moon Cut Like A Sickle*, by Ken Armstrong, and has since gone on to direct and produce a number of one act and full-length plays. Throughout 2012, Oran was a participant on the Fishamble Theatre Director Programme based in the Mill Theatre. Most recently with Balally Players, he directed *The Glass Menagerie*, by Tennessee Williams, which was performed in the Mill Theatre.

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|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Maggie | Máirín O'Sullivan |
| Brick | Richard Boyd |
| Big Daddy | Paul Sharpe |
| Big Mama | Doris Cullen |
| Gooper | Niall O'Kennedy |
| Mae | Elaine Burgess |
| Rev. Tooker | Barry O'Connor |
| Doc Baugh | Tony McGettigan |
| *Dixie | Emily Doyle / Sophie McGurrin |

Understudies: Sharon McCoy, Roberta Rowntree, Deirdre Stokes, Rodger Young

***Children:** Aine Caffrey, Maeve Coleman, Alicia Duffy, Bláthnaid Gleeson, Karolina Mazynska, Holly McGurrin, Ciara O'Connell, Lillie Power, Ciara Ryan

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|---------------------------|--|
| Director | Oran O'Rua |
| Stage Manager | Aoife Braiden |
| Assistant Stage Managers | Sharon McCoy, Roberta Rowntree, Deirdre Stokes, Rodger Young |
| Set Design | Dympna Murray |
| Set Construction | Patrick Hand, Darren Hamilton, Tom Ronayne and Rodger Young |
| Lighting | Barry Donaldson |
| Sound | Fiona Walsh |
| Costume Design | Dympna Murray |
| Make-up | Teresa Dempsey |
| Publicity | Joe McCarthy |
| Programme and Photography | Declan Brennan |
| Child Cast Coordinator | Ciara O'Byrne (Act 3 Stage School) |

* the children are students of Act3 Stage School

Máirín O'Sullivan

For Balally Players, Máirín has appeared in *Move over Mrs Markham*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Crucible*, *Present Laughter*, *Charley's Aunt* and *Aristocrats*. She also played Madame Bovary in the Mill Theatre's fifth anniversary production of *Tarry Flynn*; and played Jacqueline in Rathfarnham Theatre Group's production of *Don't Dress for Dinner*. She holds an associate diploma in speech and drama from Leinster School of Music.



Richard Boyd

Starting in 2007 Richard took parts on stage, on radio, in commercials and as an extra on TV and film (*The Tudors & Albert Nobbs*). Roles have included Jesus (*The Mark Drama*) and Edmund Blackadder (*The Bells*). He has also been involved in producing a number of short films. He joined Balally Players in late 2015.

Tony McGettigan

Parts for Balally Players have included Pat Quinn in *The Loves of Cass Maguire*, Doctor Austin Sloper in *The Heiress*, Tom Maher in *The Country Boy* (also at the Acting Irish Festival in Delray Beach, Florida), Doctor McSharry in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and Captain Mummer in *At the Black Pig's Dyke*. He has played in many of the group's mid-summer productions of Shakespeare.



Doris Cullen

As a member of Balally Players, almost since its foundation, Doris has been in many productions, on-stage and back-stage including: *The Plough & The Stars*, *By the Bog of Cats*, *Tarry Flynn*, *The Mai*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Present Laughter* and *Move Over Mrs. Markham*. She also appeared in most of the Christmas at Airfield/Marlay shows and our outdoor Summer Shakespeare productions.

Niall O'Kennedy

Niall has acted and directed with a number of Dublin groups: Dublin Shakespeare Society, Rathfarnham, Sandford and La Touche Players. He has 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*, *Out of Order Minister* by Ray Cooney, and *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller.



Elaine Burgess

Elaine has performed on stage, radio and to camera in many productions. Theatre productions have included *Adult Child/Dead Child*, *Pieces of Me* and *Black Adder Bells*, where she played Kate. Her television and film work has spanned short films, commercial projects and over 30 productions as a background artist. She was recently awarded Distinction in the Irish Board of Speech and Drama 'Adult Acting' Drama Exam.

Barry O'Connor

Over many years Barry has acted with a number of groups including Dublin Youth Theatre, Club Players and Olivian Players. This is his third production with Balally Players, having played Philip Markham in *Move Over Mrs. Markham* and he also performed ttzin the Christmas Show at Marlay House.



Paul Sharpe

Paul has been involved in many plays, musicals and productions for radio, television and cinema over the years. As a director, he has won a number of accolades. His 'bucket list' of dream roles include Gypo Nolan in *The Informer*, The Bull McCabe in *The Field*, and King Arthur in *Camelot*.

Welcome and Thank You

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Mill Theatre for our first production of 2016, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. 2015 was a fantastic year for Balally Players and saw the group perform here in the Mill Theatre, most recently with our last full-length production, *Move Over Mrs Markham*, as well as in festivals nationally and internationally. In addition to the performance of Anton Chekov's *The Proposal* in the Bray One Act Festival, the company was honoured by being selected to perform our award-winning adaptation of Frank O'Connor's *Guests of the Nation* at the International Amateur Theatre Association Festival in Belgium. We were delighted to celebrate a welcome return of our festive Christmas Show in Marlay House at the end of the year.

The coming year is shaping up to be just as promising, with a return to the Bray One Act Festival at the end of this month to perform *The Dock Brief*, directed by Patrick Hand, and a number of other productions are in the pipeline to mark this year of particular national importance.

None of this work is possible without the hard work of the Balally Players Committee, Karen and her team in the Mill Theatre, our committed directors, actors and back-stage crew and most importantly our loyal audience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to acknowledge gratefully the kind sponsorship provided by Alan Shatter, TD. I look forward to welcoming you to our shows in the coming year.

Dave Walsh

Chairman, Balally Players

www.balallyplayers.com

OFF THE MENU

The Mill Theatre Studio
28-30 January 2016 at 8:15pm

A collection of short American plays and Chekov's
The Proposal in association with Balally Players.

Tickets €10 | Proceeds go to MS Therapy Centre Sligo

Bookings: www.milltheatre.ie 01-296 9340



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