




The Balally Players Theatre Company

THE KING

BY PATRICK PEARSE



DIRECTED BY GEOFF O'KEEFE

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Pearse's work for theatre may lack the dramatic impact of his contemporaries such as Synge and O'Casey, but it does have a poetic richness and a structure which feels flexible enough to reimagine and re-evaluate. His plays are rarely performed, yet in the context of the centenary of 1916 it seems like an apt time to put this work before a contemporary audience.

Though not as overtly political as some of his other work, *The King* examines self-sacrifice and the glory of savagery of war and through it Pearse explores notions of Irish identity. Beyond this I saw the potential for a highly theatrical piece that was rich in its fusion of sound, movement and text. I thank the cast and crew and in particular Jacqueline Wall, Music Director, for all that she has brought to the work.

GEOFF O' KEEFFE

Geoff works as a professional theatre director. His recent credits include, *The Astonished Heart* for Behind the Moon Productions, *King Lear*, *God Of Carnage*, *Othello*, *Frank Pig Says Hello*, *Macbeth*, *Wilde about Williams: An Evening of Short Work*; *Sharon's Grave* and *A Christmas Carol*, all for Mill Productions at The Mill Theatre, Dundrum. He has also directed *At The Black Pig's Dyke* for Cavan Culture Theatre Project. He has written and directed five highly successful plays for young audiences.

He holds an MA in Theatre Studies from DCU and in 2010 he completed further training at The Focus Theatre Actor's Studio. He has trained under the tutelage of a wide range of theatre practitioners, including Chrissie Poulter, Blue Raincoats, Nick Philippou, Wayne Jordan and extensively with Geoff Colman, Head of Acting at Central School of Speech and Drama, London.

JACQUELINE WALL - MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jacqueline has been a member of Balally Players since 2006. Her involvement in Balally productions include *Tarry Flynn* (music/sound design) 2011, *Plough and The Stars* (music/sound design) 2010, *Many Young Men of Twenty* (Peg) 2009, All Ireland Finalist 2008 - *The Great Hunger* (The Sister), *Riders to the Sea* (Cathleen)— winner of One Act All-Ireland Final 2007.



ORAN O'RUA

Oran began acting and directing with UCD Dramsoc, where he was awarded the ISDA Best Actor award in 1998. Oran has played diverse roles both on and off-stage, including 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 he directed *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, by Tennessee Williams, which was performed in the Mill Theatre.



SHARON MCCOY

Sharon is an Irish actress and writer, raised in Denmark. She studied at East 15 Acting School, London and was nominated Best Supporting Actress at the Irish Theatre Awards for her performance of Ophelia in *The Marowitz Hamlet*. A published author, her short play, *Breeze & Onion Crisps*, is currently being produced.



FIONA WALSH

Fiona joined Balally Players in 2008 and has been involved in a number of their productions, both on and off-stage. Outside of Balally, Fiona has played the roles of Mrs. Kishock and Heather in *The Chastitute* by John B. Keane, for Killeshandra Drama Group in 2014 and she directed *Conversations on a Home Coming* by Tom Murphy, for Belfurbet Dramatic Society in 2015.



TERESA DEMPSEY

Teresa is a long-time member of Balally Players. During that time, she has acted, stage managed, directed for the Bray Festival, produced the very successful *Christmas at Airfield* show for several years, and designed the stage make up for many of the company's award winning shows.



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. Roles with Balally Players include Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Father in *Aristocrats* and most recently Morganhall in *The Dock Brief*.



BARRY O'CONNOR

Barry has worked with a number of theatre groups, for over thirty years, including Club Players, Olivian Players and Sweet and Dry Theatre Company. He joined Balally Players in January 2015 and this is his fourth production with them.



BRENDAN DUNNE

Brendan has acted in many of Balally Players productions over the years, such as Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Joe Keller in *All My Sons* and recently appeared in *Riverside Drive* written by Woody Allen. He also performed *Voice One* in *Under Milkwood* by Dylan Thomas, with the Shakespeare Society.



MARGARET TOOMEY

Margaret trained in Focus Theatre under the direction of Deirdre O'Connell where she played in many productions. Some favourite roles include Poncea in *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Thelma in *Night Mother*. She is best known for her role as Eileen Bishop in *Fair City* and has recently appeared in a new series *Eipic* which has just been screened on TG4.



MURIEL CASLIN O'HAGAN

A regular performer with Balally Players ranging through high drama, comedy and tragedy. She has a collection of awards including "All Ireland Best" from the Festival Circuit. Muriel has also graced the stages of the Gaiety and the NCH in R&R musicals. Her most recent role was with the Dublin Shakespeare Society in *Celebration* by Harold Pinter at T36.



LORCAN DUNNE

Over the past 30 years, Lorcan has acted with several Dublin groups. His favourite parts were *Da* by Hugh Leonard, Paddo in *Home is the Hero*, Uncle Sean in *Them*, Jack Nolan in *Tolka Row*. As a director, he has had much success on the Festival Circuit and has just finished Woody Allen's *Riverside Drive* for Balally Players.



SUSIE NIX

Susie is delighted to be working with Balally Players again. Her previous roles with the group have been Ann Putman in *The Crucible*, Eve in *Unoriginal Sin* and Nurse Foley in *Out of Order Minister*.



MARY RYAN

Mary Ryan has acted in many of Balally's award winning productions such as Agnes in *The Mai*, Hamlet's mother Gertrude in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, Lady Montague in *Romeo & Juliet*, and took the lead as Mistress Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.



FRANCIS CAHILL

A member of Balally Players since 2006, Francis 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*, *The Crucible*, *Unoriginal Sin*, *At the Black Pig's Dyke* and *The Cripple of Inishmaan*.



AISLING NI FHOGLU

Aisling started performing at a young age and has always had a passion for drama and music. She has completed some short film work, is taking part in the DIT Drama society and is studying for a Certificate in Speech and Drama through the Encore School of Performing Arts.



LEN NEALON

Len joined Balally Players in 2005 and has appeared many times with the group, including *Many Young Men of Twenty*, *The Great Hunger*, *Unoriginal Sin*, *Out of Order Minister* and *The Cripple of Inishmaan*.



DORIS CULLEN

A member of Balally Players almost since its foundation, Doris has been in many, many productions. The latest was recently as Big Mama in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*.



CAST + CREW

The King

Giolla Na Naomh

The Abbot

The Monks

The Soldier

The Community

Sharon Mc Coy

Aishling Ní Fhoghlú

Muriel Caslin O'Hagan

Brendan Dunne

Len Nealon

Oran O'Rua

Barry O'Connor

Francis Cahill

Doris Cullen

Teresa Dempsey

Lorcan Dunne

Susie Nix

Mary Ryan

Michael Sharp

Margaret Toomey

Fiona Walsh

Director

Music Director

Lighting Design

Costume Design

Stage Manager

Production Manager

Set Construction

Photography

Lighting Operation

Geoff O'Keeffe

Jacqueline Wall

Kris Mooney

Dympna Murray

Aoife Braiden

Mary Ryan

Pat Hand

Declan Brennan

Paul Macken