



The Balally Players Theatre Company



Chairman's address 'Much Ado About Nothing'

Can you believe Balally Players Theatre Company has been doing outdoor Summer Shakespeare productions for almost 20 years? It's probably a form of madness given the unpredictable weather, but it is our great pleasure to present 'Much Ado

About Nothing' directed by Brendan Phelan in the beautiful walled gardens of St. Enda's Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16 and hope you enjoy it.

This has been a busy and productive year for Balally Players.

'At the Hawk's Well' by W. B. Yeats, directed by Aoibhinn Finnegan, won the Harlequin Award for the Ensemble Music Work in the One Act Finals and numerous awards on the Circuit. It was really special to win the Pat O'Grady Award for Stage Management, at the Dundrum One Act Festival, and we fondly remember our long time member who sadly passed away on 20th September 2017. 'PVT Wars' by James McLure, directed by Lorcan Dunne played in the Mill Theatre Studio in October and proudly represented Balally Players at the Bray One Act Festival in January. 'Christmas at Marlay', directed by Teresa Dempsey, was seasonal and heart warming. 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck directed by Kate Canning in February, moved audiences and got standing ovations! 'Little Gem' by Elaine Murphy directed by Karen Carleton in March, had people crying with laughter. 'From Page to Stage' in April coordinated by Aoibhinn Finnegan, gave a chance to try out some old and new plays.

Aside from the plays, we have had many sociable evenings, an interesting Mask Workshop, and an engaging Table Quiz set by Quizmaster Barry O'Connor.

We could not have done it all without huge support and sincerely thank all of you who have helped us on our journey this year.

If you would like to join us and take part in the next chapter of our journey come to our Open Night in early September. We'd love to see you!

Joanne Keane
Chairman, Balally Players Theatre Company

To see details of our programme subscribe to our mailing list through our website: www.balallyplayers.com or 'Like' our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/balallyplayers

AGM 18th July 2018



Director—Brendan Phelan

Brendan is a member of any drama group that will have him. A regular performer on the stage, his previous acting roles include Alistair in 'Move Over Mrs Markham', George Bailey in 'It's A Wonderful Life', Lord Goring in 'An Ideal Husband', Gerry in 'Dancing at Lughnasa', Joe Fell in 'I Do Not Like Thee, Dr Fell', Bird O'Donnell in 'The Field' and Mr Collins in 'Pride & Prejudice'. He previously directed 'Plaza Suite' (2014), 'Almost, Maine' (2016) and 'Hay Fever' (2017) in the Mill Theatre. This is Brendan's first time directing Shakespeare for Balally Players, and he is keen to bring the fun and irreverence that might have been heard in the original performances in the Globe Theatre to St Enda's Park as 'what the bard might have wanted'.

Production Team

Production Managers:	Una Twyford, Joanne Keane
Costume Design:	Dympna Murray
Stage Manager:	Aoife Braiden
Assistant Stage Manager:	Ross Smyth
Set Design:	Brendan Phelan
Set Construction & Transport:	Pat Hand
Lighting:	Paul Macken
Make-up:	Teresa Dempsey
Marketing & PR:	Brendan O'Sullivan
Poster & Sound Design:	Brendan Phelan
Sound Operator:	Niall O'Kennedy
Programme Design:	Brendan O'Sullivan
Webmaster:	Declan Brennan

Crew: Joe McCarthy, Michael Carty, John Canning, Declan Corcoran, Brendan Dunne

FOH Coordinators: Muriel Caslin O'Hagan, Sean Murphy, Sinead Donovan,

FOH: Jean Monahan, Karen Carleton, Tony McGettigan, Claire O'Donovan, Phil Fitzpatrick, Mark Coen, Gary Wall, Eimear Smyth, Margaret Toomey, Margaret Blake, Mary Ryan, Sharon McCoy, Anne Lucas, Dympna Murray.

With sincere thanks to Brian Crowley, Curator of the Pearse Museum, St. Enda's Park for his hospitality and support in helping us to stage the show.

Balally Players Summer Shakespeare
presents

William Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing

directed by Brendan Phelan
St Enda's Park, Rathfarnham
3rd - 7th July 2018



**Antonio—Tony Matthews**

Tony has appeared in many productions over the years for Lissadell Players, Balally Players, Sandyford Little Theatre and most recently Glencullen Dundrum Musical and Dramatic Society. He returns to Balally for his first Shakespearean role.

**Balthasar/ Watchman—Rory Staines**

Rory Staines starred in Balally Players previous Shakespearean productions 'Merry Wives of Windsor'. As Balthasar the musician in this production, he has the opportunity to show off his very fine voice.

**Beatrice—Aoibhinn Finnegan**

Aoibhinn has been a member of Balally Players for the past 10 years playing lead roles in several productions. Aoibhinn has won best actress awards on the All Ireland Drama Circuit and also directed 'At the Hawks' Well' for Balally Players in the recent One Act Circuit.

**Benedick—Brendan Farrell**

Brendan trained with the Gaiety School of Acting and Bow Street Academy of Screen Acting. He has performed numerous roles as a long-time member of the Moat Club Naas, as well as musicals at the NCH and Gaiety Theatre, and various short films and TV.

**Borachio—Cian Lucas**

This is Cian's first acting part with Balally Players. Cian played the part of Inspector Chu in Taney Players' production of 'Aladdin'. While living in London he did a screen acting course and a stand up comedy course leading to him doing stand up comedy gigs.

**Claudio—Brian Roche**

Brian is a dancer and actor from Ardnacrusha Co Clare. He began in Spotlight Stage School in Limerick when he was 9 and quickly realized he enjoyed it. He made his West End debut in 2012. He also is currently playing the role of Little Barry in TV3's Red Rock.

**Conrade—Fiona Walsh**

Fiona has been a member of Balally Players for ten years. She has been involved in a number of their productions both on and off stage, including directing the 'Merchant of Venice' for last year's summer Shakespeare.

**Dogberry—Oran O'Rua**

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

**Don Jon—Declan Rudden**

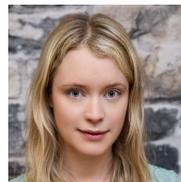
Declan's first production with Balally Players was earlier this year where he played Curley in 'Of Mice and Men'. Directing credits include 'Philadelphia Here I Come', and 'Playboy of the Western World'. Television work includes Fair City and Nationwide.

**Don Pedro—Barry O'Connor**

Barry has been acting for nearly 40 years with a number of amateur and community groups. He has been a member of Balally Players for the last three years and has appeared in several productions including 'PVT Wars' (Silvio) and 'Of Mice and Men' (Carlson)

**Friar Francis—Paul Sharpe**

Paul has been with Balally Players for a number of years. He has played a host of roles over the years, including Big Daddy in 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' with the company.

**Hero—Sarah Mc Donagh**

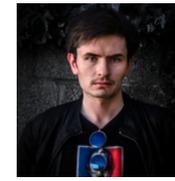
This is Sarah's fourth outing with Balally Players. She previously performed as Narissa in 'The Merchant of Venice'. Other roles include Laura Jesson in 'Brief Encounter' by Noel Coward and Eliza Doolittle in Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion'.

**Leonato—Michael Mc Hugh**

Michael Mc Hugh has acted with a number of Dublin drama groups. His stage credits include: 'Pride and Prejudice', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'The Odd Couple'. In August 2018 he will be performing on the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

**Margaret—Carlotta Guizzardo**

Carlotta is from Verona and joined the Balally Players just over a year ago, acting in the 'Merchant Of Venice' and singing at the 'Christmas at Marlay'. She also played the leading role of Julia Capulet in 'The Montagues and Capulets', a Dublin Shakespeare Society production.

**Messenger / Watchman—Michael Lysaght**

Holder of a Bachelor's degree in Film and Broadcasting from DIT, Michael's acting resumé ranges from leading to supporting roles in secondary school and college productions. Michael is an experienced photographer and amateur film maker.

**Sexton—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. He has appeared in several productions with Balally Players.

**Ursula - Ann Hogan**

Ann performs regularly with Dublin Shakespeare Society as Ruth in 'The Homecoming' and as the lounge singer in their promenade piece for Shakespeare 400. A primary teacher in Crumlin, Ann is a classically trained mezzo soprano .

**Verges—Doris Cullen**

Doris Cullen has been a member of Balally Players almost from the beginning and has been highly involved both on-stage and off including winning 2 best actress awards last year plus a special award in drama festivals in Wicklow.

**Watchman —Una Twyford**

Una has been involved in productions with Sandyford Little Theatre Company including 'Cause Celebre', 'Brief Encounter' and 'Almost Maine'. She is very excited about her first performance with Balally Players.

**Watchman —Lorcan Dunne**

Over the past 30 years, Lorcan has acted and sung with several Dublin groups including Tallaght Choral Society. His favourite parts were 'Da' by Hugh Leonard, and Paddo in 'Home is the Hero'. As a director, he had much success on the festival circuit.