



Balally Players NEWS

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June 06

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Another successful year for Balally Players

What a busy year it has been for Balally Players! It started in Oct with the One Act Festival entry 'Home Free' by Langford Wilson touring the country, ably directed by Geoffrey O'Keefe, which was followed by an excellent production of 'The Cripple of Inishmaan' by Martin McDonagh directed by Karen Carleton in Lamb Doyles 21st – 24th Nov. The ever popular 'Christmas at Airfield' was directed this year by Mary Ryan, Margaret Toomey, Teresa Dempsey and Doris Cullen. The new year saw 'Top Girls' by Caryl Churchill in The Tallaght Theatre 24th – 28th Jan where Gary Wall directed an all female cast and lived to tell the tale (mind you he's not telling much!). The same week 'Mr Nobody' by Patrick Greaney played in The Bray One Act Festival, marking Teresa Dempsey's directorial debut. After all that we had a very sociable 'Christmas' do in Beauford Mews Restaurant.

All who attended enjoyed the acting **workshops** that were put on in Lamb Doyles and St Tiernans. Claire Reilly ran the first one on 14th Sept. Ciara O'Byrne held one on 8th Feb. With the welcome assistance of a DLI grant we got professional tutor Chrissie Poulter on 22nd Feb who showed us Stanislavsky techniques in 'Characterisation and Position', and Cathal Quinn, voice coach at The Gaiety School of Acting on 8th Mar who guided us in 'Speaking Shakespeare'.

Next on the programme was the play 'Our Town' by Thornton Wilder which opened The Mill Theatre, Dundrum on 4th May and ran from 5th to 13th May featuring many fine Balally Players actors.

The productions during the year would not have been possible without the assistance of all those doing the often thankless backstage and stage managers jobs... so thanks to all of you. Great work was done behind the scenes by Jean Monahan and Pat Hand.

We are now looking forward to Shakespeare's comedy 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' in the magical setting of Airfield Gardens.

'The Merry Wives of Windsor' in Airfield Gardens 27th to 30th June

Please note that our annual outdoor Shakespearean production will be on a week later than usual. Balally Players, directed by Karen Carleton, will perform 'The Merry Wives of Windsor', a merry romp, from **Tue 27th to Fri 30th June** in **Airfield Gardens**, Dundrum. Tickets €12, Concessions €10.

For bookings please contact **Jean 01-2956015**.

We have also been invited to perform in The Sylvan Theatre, **Kilruddery Gardens on 1st July, Elm Park Golf Club, Donnybrook on 8th July** and **Centre Stage Summer Festival**, Cabinteely Park on **16th July**. If you would like to be involved backstage with the production please contact Jean at 01-2956015.

The atmosphere is one of carnival, and both music and the light-hearted jostle of diverse comic roles add to the sense that this is a festive comedy of types.

Sir John Falstaff, a knight down on both luck and cash, hatches a scheme to raise funds. He will seduce Mistress Ford and Mistress Page in an attempt to get at their husbands' money. Falstaff, however, has overestimated his ingenuity; the two women compare their letters, and—finding them identical—hatch a plan of their own!

AGM

The Balally Players Annual General Meeting will take place at 8pm, upstairs in Lamb Doyles on **Wed 12th July**. **Please fill in the enclosed form if you would like to make a nomination for the incoming committee. Postal votes should be returned to Joanne (see form for address) by Mon 3rd July.** Do let a member of the current committee know if are interested in being on the incoming committee.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasury Team has reported that receipts relating to some of this years' plays are still outstanding despite repeated requests for closure. A deadline of **16th June** has been set - and any receipts not submitted to the Treasurer by then will not be refunded!

Grants for DLI Summer School

The winners of the draw for two half scholarships to the DLI summer school are Gary Murphy and Doris Cullen. We hope they enjoy the week in Limerick and pass on the ideas and expertise they gain to us!

Container

Our thanks to Pat Hand who arranged for a welder to fix the holes in the storage container and to the volunteers who helped him tidy it up.

'Our Town' in The Mill Theatre

Congratulations to all involved in the production of 'Our Town' which was directed by professional director Brian de Salvo. Balally Players members included Declan Brennan, Oran O'Rua, Patrick O'Malley, Muriel Caslin O'Hagan, Bazil Ashmawy, Jacqueline Dooley, Kevin Fahey, Angela Mills, John O'Brien, Jim Carroll, Brendan Dunne, Doris Cullen, Teresa Dempsey, Anne Lucas, Pat Hand, Paul Macken, Tony McGettigan and Gary Wall. The play was opened by President Mary McAleese on Thurs 4th May and played to a full house every night. It was great to see the first play in The Mill Theatre bringing together the five local drama groups showcasing the vibrant talent in the Dundrum area. Special thanks must go to Karen Carleton who not only produced this show but whose forethought and drive helped The Mill Theatre dream become a reality.

The Mill Theatre in Oct

Balally Players is booked into The Mill Theatre to put on a play for the last week in October 06. Who is interested in directing? Proposals for plays are invited from Balally Players directors. Rehearsals would be expected to start in August.

Website

Check out our website www.balallyplayers.com which is updated regularly by our Webmaster, Declan Brennan, with details of Balally Players news and events.

Looking forward to seeing you at 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' in Airfield Gardens and at the AGM. All the best from the Committee,

Joanne.

Committee 05/06

Chairman: Ciara O'Byrne
Secretary: Joanne Keane
Treasurer: Judy McKeever
Members: Declan Brennan
Pat Hand
Claire O'Reilly
Deirdre Ward