



# Balally Players NEWS

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Website: [www.balallyplayers.com](http://www.balallyplayers.com)

E-Mail: [info@balallyplayers.com](mailto:info@balallyplayers.com)

Mobile: (087) 6944088

We're after having a great year, don't you agree? As this year, 2007/2008, is our 25th anniversary, we're hoping for great things, but more of this later.

There are eight Balally Players off to Limerick University this year doing various courses and generally expecting to have a good time, also, of course, learning something along the way (how to look after/destroy your liver, for one thing). This should set us up nicely for the forthcoming year.

## Open Night

We're starting off with our Open Night, on WEDNESDAY 29TH AUGUST in THE MILL (you can take the time as 8.15pm). We have one of the rehearsal rooms booked for that night and a little bird told me that there might be a glass of wine or two available. Don't forget to tell your friends about us, they might like to join as well. It only costs €2 for the evening in the town centre car park. God be with the days when Jean Monahan's deadly punch was available - sadly on account of drinking laws and because we'd like to keep our members alive, no longer possible.

## Annual Subscription

Our annual subscription is still €10 which covers insurance, so don't forget to pay up with a smile - cheap at the price.

## One-Act Festival

Geoffrey O'Keeffe is going to direct the One-Act for the festival circuit end of October this year. He has a few plays in mind and will make a decision about which one later. Readings are going to be held on Open Night.

We'd like to have more than one play on the circuit. Would anyone be interested in directing? It's a very rewarding job. Please let Geoff or anyone on the committee know if you feel you could do this. It's great craic on the circuit. Also, the Bray Festival will be on, usually at the end of January - we're looking for someone to direct a One-Act for this.

## Christmas at Airfield

Our "Christmas at Airfield" takes place as usual around 2nd week in December (dates to be confirmed). Would anyone like to direct this? It's really a matter of co-ordinating everything and of course, there would be lots and lots of help and backing available. It's best to start gathering/coordinating things from September though. For various reasons, the usual suspects are unable to take this on fully this year. As you know, this is always a very successful venture and almost sells itself.

### *Dundrum Festival*

After our great success at running the Dundrum Festival, we're doing it again this November. I believe we already have two entrants, and we'll be advertising at Summer School in Limerick. We were going to have a special committee, but the Festival Director, Jean Monahan, feels that the regular committee, with the help of volunteers, should be more than enough. We'll be looking for people to act as minders and others to help with food etc, etc. I know we'll get plenty of volunteers.

### *Other plans*

After Xmas, January or thereabouts, Karen Carleton will be directing a 3-Act. She has a couple of nice plays in mind, but will decide finally later, so I'll keep schtum about it for the moment.

Jean Monahan, following her great success with "Bog of Cats", would like to direct again in the Spring. She has one or two plays in mind also and although I've heard a rumour, it will be finalised after the Dundrum Festival is over.

If you'd like to direct but would first like to cut your teeth on it, no better opportunity than to direct a scene from a play. We did this very successfully last year – remember the space in The Mill? There would be plenty of help and assistance available so would-be directors, think about this.

### *Summer Shakespeare*

Next Summer will come around sooner than you think, so Karen Carleton has already decided on directing our outdoor Shakespeare – this is to be "As You Like It" - won't be cast for ages though.

### *25th Anniversary*

2007/2008 is our 25th anniversary year and we'd like to do something extra special. Taking our Shakespeare "down the country" is one idea; another is a theatre trip to London (yeah!) in the Spring. We might be able to fit it in – it's a busy, busy year already and there are workshops and things that haven't even been mentioned yet.

### *St Tiernan's*

Of course, we'll be back in Tiernan's as usual from September. ( St. Tiernan's Community School, Parkvale, Dundrum. <http://www.iol.ie/~tiernans/> )

Don't forget **OPEN NIGHT, 29TH AUGUST 2007 IN THE MILL** (note – not the main theatre auditorium, but we'll be putting up directions).

DORIS.

*Don't forget—to keep up to date with what's happening, visit our website at [www.balallyplayers.com](http://www.balallyplayers.com)*