

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL BALALLY PLAYERS

Winter 2009

*Yuletide felicitations and goodwill to all! Times are tough for many right now; indeed we are all feeling the pinch of recession and redundancies. However Balally Players Theatre Company is a great antidote to the budgetary blues. Congratulations to all involved in this year's activities. The standard of performance was really high, production values excellent and there was great generosity of spirit in those who helped behind the scenes. Many thanks too to all who supported our shows. We look forward to even bigger and better things in 2010.*

*Padraic McIntyre, adjudicator at the One Act Finals in Longford said 'Sport is the heart of the country but drama is the soul'. Balally Players warms the heart and feeds the soul! Thanks for playing your part in this.*

*Merry Christmas, and the very best to you in the coming year.*

*Joanne Keane*

Joanne Keane  
Chairperson

## THE 'PLOUGH' AT THE MILL AND ON TOUR

We are all very much looking forward to Gary Wall's first full length production. It's O'Casey's 'The Plough & The Stars' and it plays The Mill Theatre from Tuesday February 2nd to Saturday 6th. Gary has quite a different vision for this play and has an appealing mix of ages in his cast...Claire O'Donovan (remember Claire in 'How The Other Half Loves'?) plays Ginnie Gogan and Fiona Buckley (Vinegar Tom?) plays Bessie Burgess—and of course we are very interested in Dave Walshe's creation of 'Fluther'. Strong back up from actors Oran O Rua as The Covey and Peter Flood as Uncle Peter. Gary's best pal, Kevin Fahey finds himself as a one line british soldier -what you do to your friends! Cast has Declan as The Voice and a soldier, Aoibhinn plays Mollser and Judy McKeever, Rosie Redmond. A big welcome to two new cast members, Rob and Aoife as Jack and Nora Clitheroe. Production Manager is Jean Monahan.

The 'Plough' will then take to the festival road in late February. 1st one up is Rush where Paraic McIntyre is adjudicator, next far north to Newtownstewart, then on to Castleblayney where they will meet with probably the biggest critic, Peter Sheridan. After that it's Shercock, Newry, Cavan and Rathangan festivals.

Stage Manager is Wes Scully with assistance from Izzy Fox. Transport Manager will be the redoubtable Pat Hand and if you can help in any way, email Gary at [gwgw@hotmail.com](mailto:gwgw@hotmail.com)



Teresa plays Mrs Overend.....

Airfield once again sold out for its run on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Congratulations to Teresa Dempsey and her all singing, all comedy and all monologue teams. Great to see Oisín & Joe from Many Young Men there and a warm welcome to lovely Louise

Casey, a wonderful new voice for Airfield. The mince pies and mulled wine went down a treat too. Congratulations to Fiona Walsh for her stint as a mulled wine virgin!



DIRECTOR  
AUDITION  
AIRFIELD



Stage Combat workshops begin in February prior to readings for the Summer Shakespeare.

Tutor will be Paul Burke,

President of the Stage Combat Academy. Paul choreographed the fight scenes for the Abbey's Romeo and Juliet.

Details on website in January

January 7th and 8th at the MILL THEATRE STUDIO. 8.00 'Old Saybrook' by Woody Allen. Directed by Lorcan Dunne and featuring Orla Cooney, Richard Stowe, Emma Coombes, Sean Ahern, Dan Atkins, Joan McKeever and Derek Greene—(P T O)

Showcasing .....  
New Directors

This Spring sees the opportunity for 3 people wishing to try their wings as director ..find your short performance piece, hold auditions and present it in the Studio in late April...get ready, set, GO .....



Old Saybrook for Mill & Mermaid  
 Representing Balally Players at the Bray One-Act Festival will be Lorcan Dunne's production. You can come along and support Lorcan and the cast at the Mill Studio on Thursday and Friday, Jan 7th and 8th and again at the Mermaid Theatre on Wednesday January 27th.

'Old Saybrook' is an enjoyable comedy, plenty of humour, unexpected revelations and set at a bar-b-que party—something to cheer up those January blues!

Pictured at rehearsal on a very cold night in Tiernans's are

(r-l) Sean Ahern, Richard Stowe, Dan Atkins and Director Lorcan Dunne.

Seated (l-r) Emma Coombes, Orla Cooney, Joan McKeivitt. Derek Greene also plays. Break a leg everybody!

ONLY THE BEST FOR THE  
 DUNDRUM ONE-ACT FESTIVAL

Jean Monahan can certainly call the winners as many of the shows appearing at the Dundrum Festival later made their appearance on the All Ireland stage. Pictured right is Jenny Ni Lucais of Bradan Players calling home after her All Ireland win.. While coming third at Dundrum, Bradan won the All Ireland Open Final at Longford with The Quality of Boiled Water.. Silken Thomas who also appeared at our festival came third in the All Ireland while our winner 36 Players took Best Actress. Prosperous with Zoo Story were also in the shake-up and Breiffni Players, twice winners at Dundrum, were very close runners up in the Confined Section. The standard of acting was superb in many shows.

Congratulations to Jean and her team and to all the group members who helped out as minders, time keepers, hosts, tea makers, sandwich makers, and general tidier uppers—A special award to Tony for finding all those lost on the roundabout and to Jean for the best and booziest barm brack!



New Arrivals

Two of those who were of great assistance to the director and cast of our last show (pictured right) were Sean Murphy and Claire Reilly. Both worked on the fabulous programme produced by Sean's company Xwerx.

Sean and Claire both starred in 'How The Other Half Loves' in March this year and since then Sean's first baby, a boy, called Oscar has arrived and Claire is expecting a darling baby girl.

What worrying about your lines can bring about...!



## WOW! WHAT AUDIENCES.... MANY YOUNG MEN IS A RECORD BREAKER



A wonderfully evocative poster, a fabulous setting, beautifully lit and a committed and talented cast gave The Mill Theatre 5 sold out nights in November. Gerard and Karen conspired one short afternoon in Ely's wine bar to dream up the setting, Mick Behan and Pat Hand made it all happen and Paul Macken contributed hugely through out the production and in the really creative lighting effects. A very cheerful cast, led by Francis as a hugely energetic Danger and with two smashing musical directors in Jacqueline Dooley and Muriel Caslin O'Hagan was pampered and minded throughout by production manager Hilary Madigan. It was a happy and united team and new members Joe McCarthy, Gareth Murphy, Oisín Gibson, Sean Daly, Kevin O'Flynn, Stephanie Ruane and Grainne McCarthy found themselves sharing with helpful senior company members. Forty people were involved, from Derek Greene who had a crash course in sound design in the run up to opening night to Dymphna Murray who began to plan costumes many months ago.

The Theatre had calls from customers saying how much they enjoyed the show, encouraging the theatre to run more of the same. In fact, a second week would also have sold out- but who is to know that a play is going to be a smash-hit? On opening night, what a surprise to hear the audience sing along with Claire on her rendition of 'Irene Goodnight' or to hear the senior ladies in the front row encourage Peg (beautifully achieved by Jacqueline Dooley) not to marry Joe! While many would not be John B Keane fan's, in a inspiring production, he is still the people's favourite.



Francis Cahill as Danger Mulally,  
Muriel Caslin O'Hagan as Kitty

*Many Young Men of  
Twenty & Company..all  
40 of them!*

*Congratulations on being  
the highest grossing play at  
the Mill Theatre to date*

### Cast

Francis Cahill  
Jacqueline Dooley  
Len Nealon  
Joanne Keane  
Joe McCarthy  
Evan Jameson  
Muriel Caslin O'Hagan  
Declan Brennan  
Mary Ryan  
Gareth Murphy  
Aoibhinn Finnegan  
Tony McGettigan  
Oisín Gibson  
Kevin O'Flynn  
Fiona Walshe  
Claire O'Donovan  
Stephanie Ruane  
Sean Daly  
Oran O Rua  
John Canning  
Teresa Dempsey  
Grainne McCarthy

### Crew

Hilary Madigan  
Gerard Bourke  
Niamh Daly  
Paul Macken  
Derek Green  
Pat Hand  
John Carleton  
Brian Dempsey,  
Mick Behan  
Dymphna Murray  
Doris Cullen  
Jean Monahan,  
Orla Fitzpatrick  
Emma O'Hara  
Sean Murphy  
Claire Reilly

Director: Karen Carleton

Year To Date? Well, its been a very busy season since September. Balally Players as a company has represented Ireland abroad, cast two big plays, actors and crew of around 60 group members, welcomed new members, some to a one act play for Bray Festival, ran a most successful one act festival at the Mill, produced a Christmas variety show with 19 performers and succeeded in bringing the next All Ireland Finals to the Mill Theatre in 2010. Hopefully all those involved not only enjoyed their roles but also had the opportunity to improve their craft and hone there acting skills....

*Secrets???* Karen Carleton presents the Best Performance Trophy to 36 Players at the All Ireland Finals...Joe Jordan imparts some wisdom on All Ireland 2010.

The Dundrum Festival will host the ALL IRELAND ONE ACT FINALS in 2010 on behalf of the ADCI & DLI.....



DECEMBER 3RD, 4TH, 5TH AT THE MILL THEATRE, DUNDRUM. WAY TO GO, BALALLY!

#### WHATS NEXT??

- Performance of Old Saybrook by Woody Allen at The Mill Studio Jan 7th and 8th. See you all there.
- Party party –Keep your Saturday nights in January free for the Balally New Year Party
- Visit to the New Grand Canal Theatre, Saturday January 23rd at 2pm. All Welcome. It's Amazing! 2012 seats.
- Rehearsals, set building, costume, publicity and performance of 'The Plough & The Stars' for February 2nd.
- Discussion and pre planning for the All Ireland One-Act Finals in December
- Workshops on Fencing and Stage Combat for the Summer Shakespeare.
- New Directors Showcase—auditions for short pieces put forward by some exciting directors
- Valentines Day— get ready for readings for Shakespeare, directed by Karen for Airfield at Mid summer
- Rehearsals for Balally piece in 'A Night To Remember' at the Mill- Sunday February 28th.
- Late Feb/March—show's on the road for 'The Plough'
- Workshops and more workshops and more rehearsals for studio
- Rehearse, Rehearse, Rehearse....
- Polish by nervous directors for new work with several shows nightly at the Mill
- Shakespearean Dance—a masked ball –more rehearsal!

Geoffrey O'Keeffe Adjudicator....Geoff has had a mad season, beginning with his appearance in the Noel Coward show in the Teachers, Club, directing new writing—Lost Weekend- at the Axis in Ballymun and starring with Brian Molloy in Pat Burkes production of A Whistle in the Dark'....and to top it all, getting his first adjudication gigs. Congratulations Geoff and come home soon !



Pictured right:  
Fiona W, Aoibhinn, Susie and Fiona B at Airfield...thanks for the charm, the mulled wine and the good cheer!

Pictured left:  
Chairperson Joanne Keane with playwright Eugene O'Brien at the Drama League Convention in Tullamore.

