

# BALALLY PLAYERS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010

## *Balally Celebrate Success on the One Act Circuit*



**JEAN, AOIBHINN AND PAT CELEBRATING  
THEIR WIN IN PALMERSTOWN**

Congratulations to Jean Monahan, director, and the cast and crew of 'Like A Virgin' on their success on the One Act Circuit this year. The play won a number of accolades while touring around the country in November, scooping the top prize at the Palmerstown and Maudebawn One Act Festivals. Numerous other awards were picked up along the way, including Best Actress for Aoibhinn Finnegan, an Adjudicator Award for Best Moment in Theatre in Ballymahon, and Best Stage Management for our stage manager extraordinaire Patrick Hand.

The wins in Palmerstown and Maudebawn were enough to see the group through to the top eight in the Open Section of the All-Ireland Finals. The Finals weekend itself was the culmination of over five months of work behind the scenes under the direction of Festival Director, Karen Carleton. All said, this year's Finals were easily one of the most memorable so far. Highlights included the slick presentation of the Finals draw, the stunning front page photo in the *Irish Independent*, the fire-juggling stilt-walkers at the opening of the Festival, the delicious food in the Dom Marmion Centre and the spectacular finale presentation.

Although Aoibhinn managed to scoop the Asunta Delaney Scholarship for her performance, the group were ultimately pipped by a point into fourth place. Reaching the Finals and producing a Festival that will live on in the memories of all the participating groups is something of which we can be very proud, so well done everyone!!



### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>The Year So Far...</i>	2
<i>All My Sons</i>	2
<i>"Christmas" Party</i>	3
<i>April Production</i>	3
<i>Summer Shakespeare</i>	3
<i>New Directions</i>	3
<i>The Finals in Photos</i>	4

## *Chairperson's Address*

Balally Players, I applaud you! Though it was not all 'plain sailing' in the preparations for the All Ireland One Act Finals in Dundrum, Balally Players got all hands on deck and took on board the old Latin proverb, "When there is no wind, row."

I am really proud of how everybody rowed in and launched a highly successful Drama Finals. Many thanks to all who helped make it happen. Great credit is due to Karen Carleton, Festival Director, who steered the



**JOANNE KEANE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BALALLY PLAYERS**

course and brought it all together. It was a pleasure to host the 13 groups that participated in the Finals. The feedback from them about their experiences has been really positive.

Congratulations to Jean Monahan and her cast and crew on reaching the Finals with 'Like a Virgin'.

We are planning a busy programme for next year, which you can read more about in this newsletter and on our website at [www.balallyplayers.com](http://www.balallyplayers.com). If there is anything else you would like to see happening do let me know.

I'd like to wish you all a healthy and happy Christmas and a good year to come.

All the best, Joanne.

## *The Year So Far...*

Our productions kicked off this year with “Playin’ It Cute: A One Act and Two Short Plays”, which took place in the Mill Theatre Studio Space from Wednesday, 20th October to Saturday, 23rd October 2010.

‘Like A Virgin’, by Gordon Steel, directed by Jean Monahan, was our One Act Circuit play this year and presented a romp through the bubble-gum years of teenage life. Angela (Aoibhinn Finnegan) and Maxine (Deirdre Mullen), besotted with Madonna, play truant from school, form a band, attempt to write songs and, with hair-brushes in hand, live out their adolescent dreams of becoming famous. Meanwhile Angela's mother, Viv (Antoinette Fahey), struggles to come to terms with her marriage break-up and her daughter's explosive lifestyle, as the play roller coast-

ers through hope, sex, ambition, despair, and, most of all, love.

‘Time Flies’, by David Ives, directed by Brian Molloy, was a sweet romance about two angst-ridden mayflies who discover in the middle of their first date that their life span is only one day, which doesn't leave much time for flirting! It's a play that truly tests the old cliché: Live every day as if it's your last.

Finally, ‘The Mystery at Twickenham Vicarage’, also by David Ives, directed by Oran O'Rua, was a hilarious parody of Masterpiece Theatre-style, English drawing-room mystery drama - a body on the carpet, three ridiculous suspects and a bumbling Scotland Yard detective solve philosophical quandaries as they investigate: Who killed Jeremy Thumpington-Fffienes?

All three shows were per-

formed in the Mill Theatre Studio and were greeted with great acclaim by all those who came to see them. Congratulations to all three directors, cast and crew on their achievement in this.

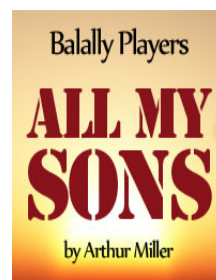
While all this was going on work was quietly underway, under the steady direction of Teresa Dempsey, for this year's ‘Christmas At Airfield’ production. The group presented its annual heart-warming selection of festive entertainment once again this year from 9th to 11th December 2010 in Airfield House, and on 15th and 16th December 2010 in The Mill Theatre Studio. Audiences for all five performances were delighted with the presentations, recitals and beautiful singing this year, so congratulations to Teresa and her team for providing much needed festive cheer in these gloomy economic days!

## *‘All My Sons’ in Mill Theatre, 25th—29th January 2011*

“SET IN A SMALL  
 TOWN IN AMERICA,  
 ‘ALL MY SONS’ IS  
 A STORY OF  
 MORAL  
 OBLIGATION AND,  
 ULTIMATELY,  
 RETRIBUTION.”

In the new year, Balally Players will present Arthur Miller's classic story of war profiteering and its tragic consequences on family life. ‘All My Sons’ is based on a true story, which Arthur Miller's then mother-in-law pointed out in an Ohio newspaper.

The story described how a woman informed on her father who had sold faulty parts to the U.S. military during World War II. Although written over 60 years ago, the central theme of ‘All My Sons’ is particularly relevant today in light of the financial scandals in our own country and abroad. Set in a small town in



**‘ALL MY SONS’, DIRECTED BY JOE JORDAN, WILL BE PERFORMED IN THE MILL THEATRE FROM 25TH TO 29TH JANUARY 2011**

America, this is a story of moral obligation and, ultimately, retribution.

Winner of the Drama Critics' Award for Best New Play in 1947, ‘All My Sons’ established Arthur Miller as a lead-

ing voice in the American theatre. ‘All My Sons’ introduced themes that thread through Miller's work as a whole: the relationships between fathers and sons, and the conflict between business and personal ethics.

Although a well-established director for many years now, this is Joe Jordan's first directorial outing with Balally Players, so we wish Joe and all the cast and crew of ‘All My Sons’. the very best with their show. Of course, the best way to do this is to buy a ticket and come and see the show, so please book now!! Bookings: Tel (01) 269 9340.

## “Christmas” Party



As has become the tradition for quite some time now, our Christmas party will be held a few weeks into the New Year. The date for your diaries is Saturday, 5th February 2011 and further details of what’s planned will be emailed to everyone in the New Year.

We’re also planning a number of other social outings, a theatre night and a number of workshops, so it’s going to be a busy few months ahead—keep your diaries clear!!

## April Production

The group has a slot for a full length show in the Mill Theatre in April 2011. Following the production of ‘All My Sons’ in January 2011, it was decided that it would be good to do a comedy for a change, so the Committee are already in discussion with potential directors for this slot and further details



will be announced in the New Year. Readings are provisionally scheduled for 17th and 19th January 2011 in St Tieran’s, so please come along to find out more.

## Summer Shakespeare



It feels like early days yet to be talking about next Summer’s Shakespeare production, but it’s worth mentioning as the Committee have already been doing some planning for it! Karen has kindly agreed to act as production manager and the plan at the moment is to invite another guest director to direct the show for the group.

Details of readings will be announced early next year and are likely to be in late February or early March 2011.

## Gary Pops The Question

Congratulations to Gary Wall and Jacqueline Dooley on their recent engagement. Almost three years to the day that they first hit it off Gary finally did the decent thing and asked Jacqui to marry him. We hear that the wedding plans are underway and a date in July 2011 is pencilled in for the big day.

We’re delighted they’re tying the knot and wish them happiness in the run up to and during their nuptials.



THE HAPPY COUPLE: GARY AND JACQUELINE AT THE FINALS

## New Directions, Workshops

This year the Committee is pioneering a new initiative to encourage and support anyone in the group who would like to turn their hand to directing a short piece. The plan is to book the Mill Studio for a week at the end of March 2011 to run three one-act shows. There’s already been some interest from members of the group in directing, so the Committee will be allocating slots in the New Year and arranging for readings to take place towards the end of January 2011. We



would encourage all members of the group to come to these readings and show your support for these new directors and this new venture.

As mentioned above, the Committee are looking at the possibility of having more workshops, if that’s what members want, so if there are specific skills or techniques that you would like to hone and develop through a workshop with a theatre professional, let someone on the Committee know and we’ll set it up.

“THE PLAN IS TO BOOK THE MILL STUDIO FOR A WEEK AT THE END OF MARCH 2011 TO RUN THREE ONE-ACT SHOWS.”



*Wish all their member, supporters and friends a very Merry  
Christmas and a Peaceful New Year*

*Some Photos From The All-Ireland One Act Finals 2010*



DYMPNA MURRAY, KAREN  
CARLETON AND JOANNE KEANE



MARY AND JOHN RYAN



GARY WALL, JACQUELINE  
DOOLEY AND GEOFF O'KEEFE



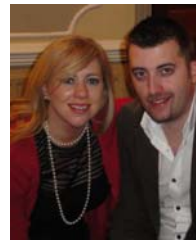
ORAN O'RUA AND LIAM BENSON



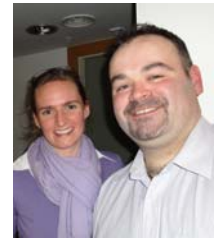
ROB WEBSTER AND  
AOIFE BRAIDEN



TERESA WALSH AND  
BRENDAN DUNNE



FIONA BUCKLEY AND NEIL



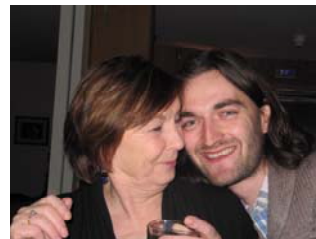
AOIFE BRAIDEN AND  
DAVE WALSH



FIONA WALSH



AOIBHINN FINNEGAN ACCEPTS  
HER AWARD



JEAN MONAHAN AND  
OISIN GIBSON



GEOFF O'KEEFE AND  
DYMPNA MURRAY



JOANNE KEANE



MARY RYAN AND  
FRANCIS CAHILL



MARGARET TOOMEY, PAT O'GRADY  
AND MURIEL CASLIN-O'HAGAN



CLAIRE O'DONOVAN AND  
NIAMH FORTUNE