

Balally Players Newsletter



Spring 2011

“Powerful Stuff” From Joe and Co.

Congratulations to Joe Jordan and all involved in the our first full-length production this year, “All My Sons”, by Arthur Miller, which was performed in the main auditorium of the Mill Theatre from 25th to 29th January 2011.

We were delighted to welcome Joe to the group for his directorial “debut” (a seasoned director for many years, “All My Sons” was Joe’s first production in the director’s seat with Balally Players!).

Although written over 60 years ago, the central theme of “All My Sons” was particularly relevant today in light of the financial scandals in

our own country and abroad. A tale of moral obligation

Hearing the feedback from the audiences straight after the performance was particularly interesting! When I went to see it on the Saturday night I saw more than a few shell-shocked faces exiting the auditorium, clearly blown away by what they saw. I overheard people saying “that was something else”, “powerful stuff” and similar phrases clearly testifying to the achievement of the

months of work that went into producing the kind of show our audiences have come to expect from “a Balally production”.

Well done everyone!!



Back Row (L-R):
Joe Jordan (Director), Niall O’Kennedy, Declan Brennan, Aoife Braiden (Stage Manager), Ronan Horgan, Sean Ahern

Front Row (L-R):
Niamh Fortune, Brendan Dunne, Muriel Caslin-O’Hagan, Lorraine O’Hagan (ASM), Joanne Keane, Claire O’Donovan

and ultimate retribution, Miller’s classic story of war profiteering and its tragic consequences on family life had audiences gripped to the edge of their seats for all five nights of the run.

New Directions: Fiona Takes the Helm

Best of luck to Fiona Walsh, who will be making her directorial debut with Balally in April 2011, when her production of “Medea” takes to the stage of the Mill Studio from 10th to 13th April 2011.

For those philistines (myself included!) who don’t already know, “Medea” is the classic



Fiona Walsh

Greek tragedy written by Euripides, which tells the

tale of one jealous woman’s plot to seek revenge on her adulterous husband.

This should be a gripping and atmospheric production, so get booking now! Bookings can be made through the Mill Theatre Box Office by telephone to (01) 269 9340 or online at milltheatre.com

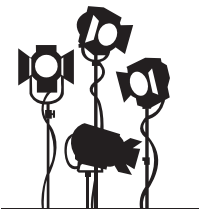
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"Unoriginal Sin", by David Tristram will be performed in the Mill Theatre, Dundrum from 26th to 30th April 2011

"Conall Morrison's version of Tarry Flynn is delightful - a large cast play full of ensemble work"



Our next workshop will be focused (sorry about the pun!) on stage lighting

"Unoriginal Sin", by David Tristram

Our second full-length production this year is "Unoriginal Sin" a hilarious farce by David Tristram. This "comedy with a little extra bite" is directed by Chief "Sinner", Brian Molloy, and will be performed in the Mill Theatre Main Auditorium from 26th to 30th April 2011.

For the past number of weeks our group of "Sinners" have been busily working away rehearsing (in fact, you can see just how much sin they've produced by following the blog on the website at balallyplayers.com/blog !!)

Declan Brennan takes the lead role in the show as Bill, a rich alcoholic, with the sex drive of an adolescent bull on steroids. The group is delighted to welcome back former chairperson and long-standing member, Ciara O'Byrne, who is taking on the role of Jenny, Bill's long-suffering wife of three years. With Francis Cahill as Miles, the divorce lawyer, and Susie Nix as the rather innocent Eve, the cast is completed by Len Nealon as Fr Tomlin, (a priest again, Len?!) and Oran O'Rua as Neville, Eve's nerdy fiancé.

The farce centres around Eve, who is twenty-four and

never been kissed - well, not properly. Bill is married to Jenny. Jenny is having an affair with Jeremy, but she remains utterly devoted to her husband's cheque book. Miles is Bill's best friend. Or at least he was, before he discovered Bill's underpants hanging from the lightshade in his bedroom. And then there's Father Tomlin. At least he's taken a lifelong vow of celibacy - or so his daughter claims! Original Sin? It seems there's nothing very original about it any more...

This high octane comedy is not to be missed! Bookings: Mill Theatre, (01) 269 9340

Mill Theatre Celebrates With 5th Anniversary Show

Mill Productions are delighted to announce that Padraic McIntyre will be directing the play to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Mill Theatre, which will be performed in the Mill for a two-week run beginning 5th June 2011.

The production kicks off next Monday 28th March at 8pm in the Dom Marmion Hall, Dundrum, with workshop auditions led by Padraic McIntyre (Livin' Dred Theatre Company among

other credits). For those who don't know it, the Dom Marmion Hall is located in the county council car park opposite Parker Browns nightclub in the town centre,

The play that has been selected is the Conall Morrison's version of "Tarry Flynn", which was such a hit in the Abbey some years ago. Indeed, Conall has not allowed it to be done since and it's a tribute to his regard for Padraic McIntyre that we got it!

It's a delightful play with a large cast, full of ensemble work.

All members of Balally Players, Glencullen MDS, Sandford LTC, Rathfarnham TG and Taney DS are welcome to attend, so if you haven't paid your membership yet, now might be a good time to do it!

Upcoming Workshops

In response to a number of enquiries from members, the Committee have looked into having a workshop examining with the technical aspects of staging plays.

The first of these workshops will deal with stage lighting and we hope will be given by our very own Paul Macken.

The workshop is open to all and will be of particular interest to current and aspiring directors or those with an interest in working backstage who wish to move into this important area of production.

Further details of the workshop will be announced by email in the coming weeks, but you can register your interest in attending by texting your name to the Balally "Hotline": (087) 6944088.

As always, the Committee would love to hear directly from members suggestions for more workshops, so if there are specific stagecraft skills that you feel could be honed through a workshop, please let someone on the Committee know and we'll look into getting it organised.

It's Shakespeare, But Not As We Know It!

In a complete departure from previous years, this year's Summer production is going to be Shakespeare, with a twist! We're delighted to welcome Gerard Bourke to the group for his production of Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead".

In Hamlet, every exit is an entrance to somewhere else – but where have non-entities Rosencrantz and Guildenstern been in-between their minor scenes in Shakespeare's best-known play? This is the puzzle Tom Stoppard teases out with all his characteristic wit and humour in his multi-award-winning comedy, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead".

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are bewildered innocents, finding themselves in the wings at court, having been summonsed by the Queen and her sinister new husband. Worse, now their old friend Hamlet appears to have gone mad. They sense "something is rotten in the state of Denmark", but just what has that to do with them? All the main characters from Hamlet come on and go off, enacting

Shakespeare's original scenes with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, but leaving behind the hapless pair as baffled as ever. It seems it may be an eternity before they'll discover their role in Shakespeare's plot. And as Guildenstern frets: "Eternity's a terrible thought. I mean, where's it all going to end?"

The play will be performed for four nights outdoors at Airfield Gardens, Dundrum, from 18th to 21st June 2011 (Midsummer's Night), followed by two nights at the Mill Theatre on 22nd and 23rd June 2011.

All members are encouraged to get involved either backstage or on-stage for this production, so to find out more, please come along to St Tiernan's Community School, Parkvale, Dundrum, on 4th and 6th April 2011 from 7.30pm to whenever the caretaker gets grumpy (generally around 9.30pm).

Further information on the show can be obtained from the director of the show, Gerard Bourke on (087) 647 2942.



Bill Shakespeare:
He'll be turning in his grave!

We're delighted to welcome Gerard Bourke to the group to direct Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead".

Kilometres For The Kids

We hear that Jacqui Dooley is taking a breather from the small matter of organising her wedding (!) to undertake two sponsored runs for The Children's Medical and Research Foundation (CMRF).

The largest children's health charity in Ireland, this very worthy cause not only supports our nation's children and their families to have state of the art equipment and facilities in Our Lady's Hospital in Crumlin, but also support improving the quality of healthcare for future generations through investigations into childhood illness and diseases at the National Children's Research Centre.

Jacqui was prompted to undertake the two marathon events, "The Great Ireland Run" in

April and "The Women's Mini-Marathon" in June, following the care and courage the staff of Our Lady's Hospital provided to her niece Ciara and her family while Ciara was in their care.

You can make your donation by logging on to

www.cmrf.org/fundraiser/show/865

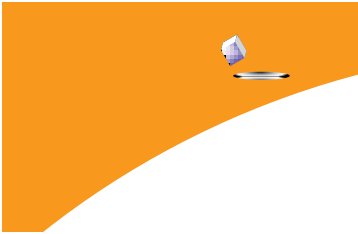
and clicking on the event you want to sponsor Jacqui.

In Jacqui's own words:

"It doesn't matter how much you donate...anything and everything is appreciated!"



Good on ya Jacqui!

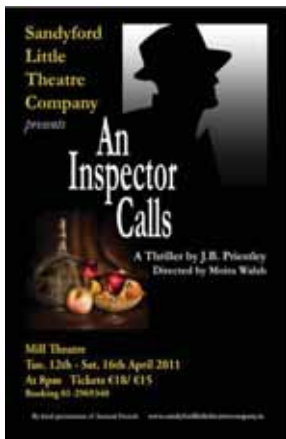


For the latest information on forthcoming productions, workshops, and booking information for Balally Players shows please visit the Balally Players website at

balallyplayers.com

or follow us on Facebook at

facebook.com/BalallyPlayers



Sandyford Little Theatre Company presents "An Inspector Calls" by J. B. Priestley in the Mill from 12th to 16th April 2011.

Don't forget to support other local groups in the Mill Theatre in April!

Widely considered to be one of Priestley's best known works for the stage and one of the classics of mid-20th century English theatre, "An Inspector Calls", is the chilling tale of what can happen when we don't look out for each other—something that's all the more relevant now, in these difficult economic times, than ever.

Directed by acclaimed director Moira Walsh, this three-act drama takes place on a single night in 1912, and focuses on the prosperous middle-class Birling family who live in a comfortable home in Brumley, "an indus-

trial city in the north Midlands". The family is visited by a man calling himself Inspector Goole, who questions them about the suicide of a young working-class woman, Eva Smith. Throughout the play we witness the gradual psychological breakdown of each of the characters as the Inspector conducts his interrogation of the family.

Long considered part of the repertory of classic "drawing room" theatre, the play has also been hailed as a scathing critique of the hypocrisies of Victorian/Edwardian English society and as an

expression of Priestley's Socialist political principles.

Our very own Oran O'Rua is "moonlighting" with Sandyford LTC for this production, playing the part of "Eric", the errant, alcoholic son whose parents who are blinded to his shortcomings by their social standing and moral apathy.

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