



MILL THEATRE

D U N D R U M

**Balally Players
25th Anniversary Production**

at the **BLACK
PIG'S DYKE**

by Vincent Woods

...a total theatrical experience... 'stunning folk play'

...live music ...a love story for three generations

...lovely ensemble work

TUESDAY 29th JANUARY – SATURDAY 2nd FEBRUARY AT 8.00pm

ADMISSION €15.

Preview: Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th January, €12.

Booking to The Mill Theatre Tel: 01 296 9340

Chairperson's Address

On behalf of Balally Players I welcome you, our loyal patrons and friends, to the Mill Theatre for our 25th Anniversary production of *At the Black Pig's Dyke* by Vincent Woods. Over the years Balally Players have forged a reputation for producing challenging and stimulating theatre, from the re-imagining of classic plays to the presentation of contemporary texts. The major awards and critical success that the company has received, is a testament to a dedicated and committed pursuit of excellence.

It is particularly appropriate that this 25th Anniversary production is directed by Karen Carleton, a founding member of the company. I thank Karen for the vision and sense of adventure that she has brought to this production. She has brought together a talented cast and an excellent Design and Backstage team to create a visceral and theatrical experience that has the ethos of ensemble work firmly at its core.

I wish to acknowledge the generosity of those who have sponsored our programme, Stephen and his staff here at The Mill Theatre and all the members of Balally Players, both past and present, who have helped to shape this company into one that continuously pushes the boundaries of amateur theatre.

To you our audience, I say thank you for your continued support. We celebrate the last 25 years and we look forward with a renewed sense of commitment and energy to the next 25. We hope you travel this journey with us.

Geoffrey O'Keeffe,
Chairperson

About the Company

The Balally Players Theatre Group was founded in 1982 in the suburban parish of Balally, at the foothills of the Dublin Mountains. Membership is open to those over 18 years of age who are interested in the theatre arts and who wish to share in making and enjoying theatre. Seventy men and women currently work with the company, with more than half that number being active in any one season. A small annual fee is charged to cover insurance and running expenses for the group. Workshops take place regularly; in physical theatre, Stanislavski, voice, comedy and combat skills and are all attended. Members often spend several weeks at the DLI summer school.

The company produce several full length plays each year together with an open-air summer production. One-Act plays are popular with the group as a training ground and as a platform for experimental work. European, American and Irish plays have all been produced. Works by Aristophanes, Moliere, Dario Fo, Arthur Miller as well as the canon of Irish theatre are regularly in the repertoire. In the last 10 years the company has reached the All Ireland One Act Finals on eight occasions. In 2006 and 2007 the company won The All Ireland One-Act Finals with *Melody* directed by Gary Wall and *Riders to the Sea* directed by Geoffrey O'Keeffe.

Balally has represented Ireland at the IATA festivals at Liverpool, Nova Scotia ('*Vinegar Tom*' by Caryl Churchill) and at Nykoping, Denmark ('*The Playboy of the Western World*' by JM Synge) and The Acting Irish Festival, USA (*The Country Boy* by Tom Murphy)

On the occasion of the bi-centennial of the French Revolution, the company was sponsored by The Department of Foreign Affairs to travel to Paris and perform on the week of July 14th 1989. ('*The Shadow of a Gunman*' by Sean O Casey).

The company was chosen to present '*On Baile's Strand*' at the National Theatre during the Abbey Bicentennial on Decembr 27th 2004.

What is The Black Pigs Dyke?

The area "The Black Pig's Dyke", which runs across much of lower Ulster, consisted of great linear earthworks, a series of massive defences, not continuous, but guarding the route ways into Ulster between the bogs, loughs and drumlins, the deep and dangerous march land. It is said to have been some 12 miles wide in places. It is 5 meters deep and winds its way across the landscape for more than 40 kilometres. It truly was a physical barrier.

It was built between Ulster and Connacht in the first century AD (0 - 100 AD). Described on maps as the Dane's Cast, the wall begins in the east near Scarva on the Down-Armagh border; the next section, known as the Dorsey, stands at Drummill Bridge in south Armagh; it continues into Monaghan near Muckno Lake; and further short stretches extend through Cavan and Fermanagh to Donegal Bay. The countryside was dangerous and impassable, thick forests, boggy country, large earthworks and the Black Pig's Dyke served to cut Ulster off from the cattle raiders of Connaught and Leinster. There is a good example of the dyke on the slopes of Ardkill Hill, 3.5 miles east of Ballinagh. Folklore tells that this dyke was created by a magician who was tricked and turned into a giant black pig. Once he'd been changed into his animal form, the great pig was hunted across the southern border of Ulster, rooting up the ground with his huge tusks as he ran...'There are men underground waiting for a war to start. They are asleep on their horses and there is also a black pig with them and when he runs on the top of the ground again the war will start'.

CAST in order of appearance

Lizzie Boles	CAROLINE WILLIAMS
Elizabeth	MARGARET TWOMEY
Tom Fool	GEOFFREY O'KEEFFE
Miss Funny	EITHNE QUINN
Capt. Mummer	TONY MCGETTIGAN
Butcher	LEN NEALON
Beelzebub	JIM CARROLL
Knight Bishop	FRANCIS CAHILL
First Hero	DAVID BOWLES
Frank Beirne/Second Hero	DAMIEN MOLONY
First Musician	JACQUELINE DOOLEY
Second Musician	FIONN STAINES
Doctor	DECLAN BRENNAN
Jack Boles	EOIN LANGFORD
Lizzie Flynn/Boles	BERNADETTE MCLOUGHLIN
Michael Flynn	PETER FLOOD
Wedding Guest	JUDY MCKEEVER
Wedding Guest	ORLA COONEY
Sarah Boles/Brolly	NIAMH DALY
Hugh Brolly	JOHN CANNING

Crew

Directed by	KAREN CARLETON
Lighting Design	PAUL MACKEN
Set Design	GERARD BOURKE
Soundscape	ORAN Ó RUA
Production Manager	JEAN MONAHAN
Stage Manager	GARY WALL HILARY MADIGAN
Set Construction	BRIAN DEMPSEY BERNARD DOYLE, JOHN CARLETON PAT HAND WES SCULLY
Scenic Artists	GEOFFREY O KEEFEE JOHN CANNING GERARD BOURKE
Costume	DYMPNA MURRAY JEAN MONAHAN
Properties	LORCAN DUNNE
Publicity	JOANNE KEANE MURIEL CASLIN O HAGAN
Photography	DECLAN BRENNAN
Continuity	ORLA COONEY SUSIE NIX
Programme	DORIS CULLEN
Make Up	TERESA DEMSPEY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thanks to Aidan McQuillan and Castleblayney Players for photography, inspiration and advice.



CAROLINE WILLIAMS

Lizzie Boles

Caroline has been involved in theatre from the age of 6, acting, directing and teaching. Caroline trained at the College of Music Dublin (Drama Dept) and at the London College of Music. She has been with the company since Sept. 2007 and was involved in their All-Ireland winning production of *'Riders to the Sea'*.



MARGARET TWOMEY

Elizabeth

Margaret began her acting career with St.Thomas Dramatic Society and went to train at Focus Theatre under the direction of Deirdre O'Connell and at the Gaiety School of Acting. She has won many acting awards on the festival circuit including All Ireland Best Actress. She works in film and TV and her most recent role with Balally has been in *'The Bog of Cats'* by Marina Carr.



GEOFFREY O'KEEFFE

Tom Fool

Numerous leading roles with the company include, Oberon (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Dogberry (*Much Ado about Nothing*), Falstaff (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*) and William in Balally's All Ireland winning production of *Melody*. Most recently he appeared at the Mill Theatre as Carthage Kilbride, (*By The Bog of Cats*) by Marina Carr. An accomplished director whose credits include the award winning *Sequence of Events*, *La Corbiere* and *Home Free!* Geoffrey directed *On Baile's Strand* at the Abbey Theatre as part of its centenary celebrations. His recent production of *Riders to the Sea* brought Balally their second All Ireland One Act winner's title. He holds a Masters Degree in Theatre Studies and is the current Chairperson of Balally Players.



EITHNE QUINN

Miss Funny

Eithne studied at the Gaiety School of Acting and has been involved in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Playboy of the Western World* and *The Pretenders*. She joined the company in 2006 and performed in studio pieces at the Mill in *Lovers* and *Watchdog*.



TONY MCGETTIGAN

Capt. Mummer

Tony has played many parts, off stage and on. His roles have ranged over the years from Shakespeare to his current role in *'The Black Pig's Dyke'*.



LEN NEALON

Butcher

Len was once an angelic choirboy in the first professional production in Dublin of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat*. He has since performed for Strand Players, AIB Drama Group and Dalkey Players. He joined Balally in late 2005 and played Bobbybobby in *The Cripple of Inishmann*, Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and the Hotel Manager in *Out of Order*.



JIM CARROLL

Beelzebub

Jim has performed in many productions – most notable achieving a Best Actor for his portrayal of John Joe Mulligan in O'Casey's *Bedtime Story*. He has played in most of the Summer Shakespeare comedies and on the stage of the Abbey with the company's production of *'On Baile Strand'*. When not performing Jim is a member of Our Lady's Choral Society.



FRANCIS CAHILL

Knight Bishop

Hailing from Laois, Francis first appeared on stage there as Michael in *Dancing at Lughnasa* and Joe in *Poor Beast in the Rain*. In the Gaiety School of Acting he appeared in excerpts from *The Lonesome West* and *Belfry*. For Olivians he played Tommy in *Canaries*, Doalty in *Translations* and Guildenstern in *Hamlet*. He joined the company in 2005 and has appeared in summer Shakespeare, *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and as the George Pigden in *Out of Order Minister*.



DAVID BOWLES

First Hero

This is David's first time acting with the company. He has performed many times with Stillorgan Players. Plays included *'Murder at the Vicarage'* and *'Move Over Mrs Markham'*. With Leeson Park Players he played George in *The Whiteheaded Boy*.



DAMIEN MOLONEY

Frank Beirne/Second Hero

A recent addition to the company, he played Bartley in the All Ireland Winner *'Riders to the Sea'*. Earlier this year he played both Macduff and Macbeth with Crooked House.



JACQUELINE DOOLEY

First Musician

Jacqueline first took to the boards while in College where she played Abigail in *'The Crucible'*, Emily in *'Our Town'* and Rosalind in *'As You Like It'*. She has been with the company for the past couple of years, notably in the All-Ireland Winner, *Riders to the Sea* last November when she played Cathleen. She has played Olivia in *Twelfth Night* the Summer Shakespeare 2007 and Caroline Cassidy in *By the Bog of Cats*.

FIONN STAINES

Second Musician

This is Fionn's 4th appearance with Balally Players. Last year he played the waiter in "*By the Bog of Cats*" and went on to play a gaoler in our outdoor Shakespeare production last summer in Airfield and was a carol singer in our Xmas Show, also in Airfield just last month.



DECLAN BRENNAN

Doctor

Declan's roles with Balally Players have ranged from Lucentio in Shakespeare's *the Taming of the Shrew* to the Prison guard in *Forward to the Right* by Lily Ann Green. He has also appeared in a number of Yeats' plays with Balally and Dublin Lyric Players and was the iconic doctor in *Dr. Who meets Albert Einstein* by Justin Richards at the Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS. He took the lead in *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, the opening production at The Mill Theatre in 2006. Last year, his performances included Patrick Pearse in Eugene McCabe's *Pull Down a Horseman* in the National Library and National Museum, Victor Velasco in Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park* at Andrew's Lane Studio, Dublin, and the Ghost Fancier in Balally Players production of *By the Bog of Cats*.



EOIN LANGFORD

Jack Boles

This is Eoin's second appearance with Balally. He recently played in '*Riders to the Sea*'. Eoin's acting career started with the Triskel Youth Theatre in Cork and progressed to UCC's Dramat where he undertook a variety of roles. In March 2007 he played the role of Young Charlie in Hugh Leonard's *Da*, produced by Basement Productions. Currently, he is a student in the Gaiety School of Acting's Advanced Performance Year in Acting.



BERNADETTE MCLOUGHLIN

Lizzie Flynn/Boles

Amazingly, this is Bernadette's first theatre performance and she is delighted to be making her debut with The Balally Players. She is also thrilled to be taking part in a production at The Mill Theatre.



PETER FLOOD

Michael Flynn

A fine Shakespearean actor, Peter has played many leading roles in our summer season. Recent indoor theatre performances include Johnnypateen Mike in '*The Cripple*' and Xavier Cassidy in '*By The Bog of Cats*'.



JUDY MCKEEVER

Wedding Guest

Judy's first drama experience with the company was the multi award winning '*Under The Stars*' by Martin Maguire. She has since played Celeste in '*La Corbiere*' in the All Ireland One-Act finals and Eileen in '*The Country Boy*' when Balally played in the USA. She won Best Actress for her role as Angela in *Bedtime Story* in 2005 and Slippy Helen in '*the Cripple of Inishmaan*'.



ORLA COONEY

Wedding Guest

Orla's favourite appearances have been in *The Mai* by Marina Carr and *The Norman Conquests* by Alan Ayckbourne. In 2005 she played in the Balally production of '*Top Girls*' by Caryl Churchill. She has also appeared in the summer Shakespeare.



NIAMH DALY

Sarah Boles/Brolly

Niamh has completed a Masters in Theatre Studies where she directed Alan Ayckbourn's *How the Other Half Loves*. She participated in an International Theatre Festival in Casa Blanca. Niamh has devised and directed a number of children's plays and musicals. She produced a Christmas variety show in the Helix (2006) and most recently produced Christmas at Airfield with Balally. Niamh's roles include Catherine in Joseph O Connor's *Red Roses and Petrol*, Annie in Arthur Miller's *All my Sons*, Katie in Friel's *Philadelphia Here I Come*, the lead female role in the Mill's opening production of *Our Town*. She is currently lecturing in Drama and English at Coláiste Mhuire, Marino Institute of Education.



JOHN CANNING

Hugh Brolly

John has been with Balally for a good few years now, being involved with set design and other artistic endeavours. However, he has found another niche for himself by treading the boards, with numerous roles under his belt including Curly in *The Country Boy* tour to the USA.





KAREN CARLETON

Director

Karen directed most of the Balally Players productions for the first ten years for the company. In 2001 she directed the first of the successful summer Shakespeare's' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*'. Passionate about training for actors and directors she has been involved in bringing the best tutors to work with the company. Most recent productions have been *The Cripple of Inishmaan* by Martin McDonagh and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 2006. As a founder member she is very happy to direct the current production as part of our 25th anniversary celebrations.



PAUL MACKEN

Lighting Design

Paul has been involved in theatre for over 20 years. A founding member of SYMCO, he has produced shows such as *Westside Story*, *Guys & Dolls* and the *Sound of Music* amongst others. As a freelance lighting designer, he has designed lighting for many groups and theatres with such shows as *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Les Miserables*. For Balally he designed *On Baile's Strand* in The Abbey and numerous productions in The Pavilion Theatre. He was Lighting Designer on *Our Town*, the first show in The Mill.

GERARD BOURKE

Set Design

An architect by profession, Gerard set's have won many awards for their imaginative interpretation of the vision of the playwright. His inspirational work with the company and with Dalkey Players is widely known and respected.



ORAN O RUA

Soundscape

Oran began acting and directing with UCD Dramsoc and has played a number of roles both on and off stage since joining Balally Players. His most recent roles include Cripple Billy in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and Feste in *Twelfth Night*. Oran hopes to direct his first play for the company later this year.

The Play

At the Black Pig's Dyke is a story of murder, mystery, folk tale and love. The play is set on the borders of Ulster. Its story is interwoven with the pagan ritual of the mummers' play where a man is killed and resurrected, representing sacrifice and new life and with violence and retribution in a local setting within a hidden circle in the mummers.

At the centre of the story is Lizzie Boles, a Catholic girl who has fallen in love with a Protestant, Jack. However, Lizzie is sought after by Frank Beirne, son of the town butcher and among other things, a member of the mummers. We see Lizzie as a young girl in Act One and as an older woman in the Second Act. In Act II the action jumps thirty years into the future, revolving around Sarah Boles, Lizzie and Jack's daughter, and Hugh Brolly, her husband.

In the actual Mummung, the actors perform the militant dances with staves and swords that repeat in symbolic form the Druidic rite of human sacrifice to revive the dying sun. In pre Christian times it echoed the ritual involving agricultural fertility and in the middle ages, a version of the ritual where, in a fight between boasting knights, the one that is slain represents the Old Year. After being killed by Winter the Year Knight is brought to life again with a magic pill from the Doctor, symbolizing the promise of spring.

Director Karen Carleton comes from the South Monaghan South Armagh area where the mumming tradition is very strong. She remembers the performances at Christmas and the New Year in homes all over the area and the dances of 'the mummers return'. On this 25th Anniversary Year the Balally Players bring you this very challenging and different production.

The Playwright - Vincent Woods

Poet and playwright Vincent Woods was born in Tarmon, Co. Leitrim in 1960. Educated at the College of Journalism in Rathmines, he worked as a journalist and current affairs presenter in RTE until 1989, eventually co-presenting Morning Ireland. At 29, he resigned to write full time. His radio play, *The Leitrim Hotel*, was a prizewinner in the P.J. O'Connor awards for radio drama and his poetry collections include *The Colour of Language* which is published by Dedalus Press.

In New Zealand he wrote his first play for theatre and later met Maeliosa Stafford from Druid in Australia. John Hughdy and Tom John were produced as a double bill by the Druid Company in 1991. At the Black Pig's Dyke (1992) produced by Druid and presented at The Gate Theatre is a study of cultural and political divisions in the border territory and won the Stewart Parker award for Drama in 1993.

His plays take the legacy of Irish History as their primary theme and have brought the tradition of Irish story telling to the fore. His stories represent a mixture of pagan and Christian myths, rumours and history. One of the new generation of Irish theatre writers, in his work the imaginative space between a story lived and a story told is a rich theatrical landscape. Here narrative, myth, memory and perception mingle.

In an interview for Kairos he speaks of falling in love with words and stories.. 'from the time I was very young I wanted to be a writer and that never really wavered through my childhood and teen years'...

He has lived in the United States, New Zealand and Australia. Currently he presents The Arts Show on RTE Radio one at 8pm nightly. Woods is a member of Aosdana.

Twenty Five Years of Performance

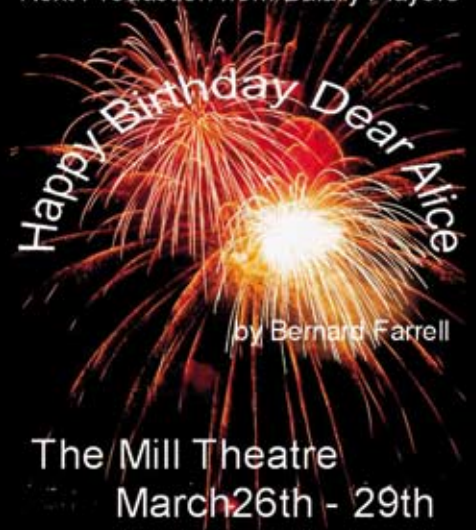
1983	Spreading The News St.Joan	Lady Gregory G.B. Shaw	
1984	Christmas in The Market Place		
1985	Careful Rapture	Jack Popplewell	
1986	Zigger Zagger Ritual for Dolls	Peter Terson George McEwan Green	
1987	I Do Not Like Thee Dr. Fell Out for The Count	Bernard Farrell Martin Downing	
1989	Translations The Shadow of a Gunman The Nightingale & Not The Lark Joggers	Brian Friel Sean O'Casey Jennifer Johnston Geraldine Aron	
1990	Squat, Squabble & Squawk The Wooden Pear	Gerard Bourke Gillain Plowman	
1991	No Picnic The Plough & The Stars	George McEwan Green Sean OCasey	
1992	The Factory Girls White Liars	Frank McGuinness Peter Shaeffer	
1993	Move Over Mrs Markham The London Vertigo	Ray Cooney Brian Friel	
1994	The Hostage	Brendan Behan	
1995	The Crucible Abigails Party Failed Investments	Arthur Miller Mike Leigh Lynn Britney	
1996	The Playboy of The Western World Someone Who'll Watch over me A Tomb with a View Losers Death Artist	J. M. Synge Frank McGuinness Norman Robbins Brian Friel David Wilson	<i>Tour to France</i>
1997	Juno and the Paycock Lend me a Tenor Last Tango Between Mouthfuls Vinegar Tom	Sean O Casey Ken Ludwig David Tristram Alan Ayckbourn Caryl Churchill	<i>Tour to Canada</i>
1998	The Cherry Orchard What's for Pudding Hunger March	Chekov David Tristram Michael Bodenstein	
1999	Dancing at Lughnasa Our Country's Good Women in the Assembly	Brian Friel Timberlake Wertenbaker Aristophanes	<i>Runner-up All Ireland</i>
2000	Steel Magnolias How the Other Half Loves Under the Stars	Robert Harling Alan Ayckbourn Martin Maguire	<i>All Ireland (3rd)</i>
2001	A Midsummer Night's Dream The Loves of Cass Maguire Sequence of Events	Shakespeare Brian Friel George McEwan Green	<i>Tour</i>
2002	Twelfth Night Don't Dress For Dinner After Midnight Before Dawn	Shakespeare Marc Camoletti David Campton	<i>Tour</i>
2003	The Comedy of Errors It Runs in the Family The Country Boy La Corbiere	Shakespeare Ray Cooney John Murphy A LeMarquand Hartigan	<i>Tour USA</i>
2004	Much Ado About Nothing Rumours Healing The Dead On Baile's Strand	Shakespeare Neil Simon D.F. Bailey WB Yeats	<i>Abbey Theatre</i>
2005	Top Girls Home Free The Taming of The Shrew	Caryl Churchill Langston Hughes Shakespeare	
2006	Cripple of Inishmaan Merry Wives of Windsor Melody	Martin McDonagh Shakespeare Deidre Kinahan	<i>All Ireland Winner</i>
2007	Out Of Order Minister By The Bog of Cats Riders to the Sea Twelfth Night	Ray Cooney Marina Carr J.M. Synge Shakespeare	<i>All Ireland Winner</i>

What next from the Balally Players?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ALICE

By Bernard Farrell

Next Production from Balally Players



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on their 25th Anniversary.

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