



The Balally Players Theatre Company



Chairman's address

"Great Expectations"

"There was a long hard time when I kept far from me the remembrance of what I had thrown away when I was quite ignorant of its worth." – Estella

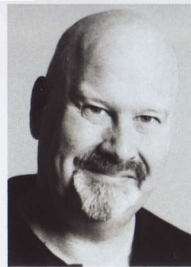
I am delighted to welcome you to the Mill Theatre and to Balally Players' first full-length play of 2019, "Great Expectations". We present this new slant on Dickens' bildungsroman, a memory play of the coming-of-age story, where Pip is given the opportunity to be something he never thought he could be, to seek a great love, to have his dreams come true ... but what important things does he lose sight of? What price success? Does he find love? We hope this intriguing tale of Pip's journey in life gives you food for thought.

It has already been a busy year for the Balally Players and there is more to come! "The Giant Killers" by Eve and Andrew Pearson-Wright, directed by Gary Wall, telling the inspiring true story of football's greatest ever underdogs, won numerous awards on the One Act Festival Circuit and reached the One Act Finals in December. Also in December, "Christmas at Marlay", directed by Teresa Dempsey brought festive cheer to Marlay House. "The Flattering Word" by George Kelly, directed by Aisling Uí Laoire, played in the Mill Theatre Studio in October and proudly represented Balally Players at the Glenealy and Bray One Act Festivals in January, bringing home acting and costume awards. "From Page to Stage" in April, coordinated by Mark Coen, will give the opportunity to explore a selection of plays, including new writing by Pat McCarthy. Hopefully the sun will shine for our outdoor Shakespeare production and you will join us for "A Midsummer Night's Dream", directed by Karen Carleton, in June. Our members and friends are welcome at our social evenings, acting workshops, and Table Quiz (run by Quizmaster Barry O'Connor).

We are really appreciative of the huge support we get and sincerely thank all of you who have helped us on our creative journey this year. We are not ignorant of your worth!

Joanne Keane
Chairman, Balally Players Theatre Company

To see details of our programme subscribe to our mailing list through our website: www.balallyplayers.com or 'Like' our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/balallyplayers



Brian Molloy — Director

Brian is a graduate from NUI Maynooth in Drama and Theatre Studies and Directing for the Stage. He is delighted to continue his long association with the dlr Mill Theatre and Balally Players. For Mill Productions Brian has appeared as Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol", Duncan in "Macbeth", Roderigo in "Othello", Michael in "God of Carnage", Kent in "King Lear", and Reverend Hale in "The Crucible" with Balally. As Director his work at the dlr Mill Theatre includes David Mamet's "Oleanna", Jane Austen's "Emma", "Absent Friends", by Alan Ayckbourn, "The Proposal" by Chekhov, J.B. Keane's "Big Maggie", and "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen.

Production Team

Production Manager:	Barry O'Connor
Stage Manager:	Aisling Ní Fhoghlú
Set Design:	Gerard Bourke
Set Construction & Transport:	Patrick Hand
Lighting:	Kris Mooney
Sound Design:	Brian Molloy
Sound Operator:	Aisling Ní Fhoghlú
Costume Coordinators:	Mary Ryan, Sinead Donovan, Joanne Keane, Treasa Walsh
Make-up:	Teresa Dempsey
Marketing & PR:	Aisling Uí Laoire, Pat McCarthy, Mark Coen
Poster:	Susan Murphy
Programme Design:	Oran O'Rua
Webmaster:	Declan Brennan

With special thanks to Dympna Murray for all her work on costumes, to Kate Canning and all at the Mill Theatre for their help, and to you, our faithful audience, for your unfailing goodwill and support!



The Balally Players Theatre Company



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Great Expectations

by Charles Dickens

Adaptation by Jo Clifford

Directed by Brian Molloy



20th - 23rd February

dlr Mill Theatre, Dundrum Town Centre
Show 8.00pm | Saturday Matinee 3.00pm

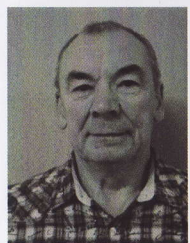
www.milltheatre.ie | 01-2969340

Tickets €16/€14

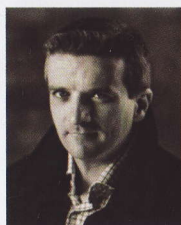
The Balally Players Theatre Company

An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books



**Adult Pip—Michael McHugh**

This is Michael's second appearance with Balally Players and his first at the Mill Theatre. He performs regularly at the Moat Theatre Naas as part of the acting company based there. Recent theatre work includes: "Robin Hood" (Moat Theatre), "Who Will Separate Us?" (Moat Theatre and Edinburgh Festival), "Much Ado About Nothing" (St Enda's Rathfarnham), "The Pullman Car Hiawatha" (Moat Theatre).

**Young Pip—Oran O'Rua**

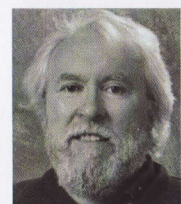
Oran began acting and directing with UCD Dramsoc, where he was awarded an ISDA Best Actor award. Since then, Oran has played diverse roles both on and off-stage and was a participant on the Fishamble Theatre Director Programme in 2012. In 2013 he directed for the group "The Glass Menagerie", and in 2016, "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof", both by Tennessee Williams, and both performed in the dlr Mill Theatre.

**Estella—Remy Naidoo**

Having fallen in love with performing at the age of 8, Remy has graced many stages. From the National Concert Hall to the O2 in London, the Mac Theatre in Belfast to the Late Late Show studios, Remy has perfected her craft in front of audiences over half her life. Remy is no stranger to the dlr Mill Theatre, having performed in the Feis Maitiu here for years, she won the Record Cup in 2014. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with the cast for this production of "Great Expectations".

**Miss Havisham—Aisling Uí Laoire**

Aisling has acted in a number of productions in Ireland and Hong Kong. Previous roles include Portia in "The Merchant of Venice" and Pegeen Mike in "Playboy of the Western World". She recently directed "The Flattering Word", which won a number of awards at the Skerries, Glenealy and Bray One Act Drama Festivals. She will soon be seen performing the role of Michelle in "Sister Act".

**Joe Gargery—Brendan Dunne**

Brendan has been a member of Balally Players for 16 years, and recently played Reverend Rigley in "The Flattering Word", for which he won Best Supporting Actor at the Bray One Act Drama Festival. Other roles with the group include The Boss in "Of Mice and Men" and Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice".

**Mrs Joe—Nuala O'Reilly**

This is Nuala's first outing with Balally Players. Having trained at the Gaiety School of Acting, she has appeared in productions by UCD Dramsoc, the Dublin Shakespeare Society and You'll Be Sorry When We're Famous, including "Angels in America", "The Bacchae", "An Enemy of the People" and "The First Man" by Eugene O'Neill.

**Mr Wopsle—Peter Prior**

Peter has been treading the boards for more years than he cares to remember. Over the years he has performed with numerous groups, but has been mainly anchored to the Dublin Shakespeare Society. Favourite recent roles include Kent in "King Lear", Sir Toby Belch in "Twelfth Night" and Valene in Martin McDonagh's "The Lonesome West" with Parnassus.

**Magwitch—Niall O'Kennedy**

Niall, originally from Sligo, has acted, directed, built sets, hawked sets, filled vans and most other jobs involved with putting on a play. He has enjoyed working with several Dublin groups. The most recent play was "Montagues and Capulets" with the Dublin Shakespeare Society. Delighted to be with Balally Players for Great Expectations.

**Biddy—Carlotta Guizzardo**

Born in Verona, Carlotta has been actively involved with the Balally Players for the past two years, playing supporting roles in the "Merchant of Venice" and "Much Ado About Nothing", as well as performing in the "Christmas at Marlay" Show. Also involved with other drama groups including the Dublin Shakespeare Society, Carlotta played the lead role of Julia in their production of "Montagues and Capulets".

**Jaggers—Michael Sharp**

Michael has played in drama, variety and pantomime with various Dublin groups, in the RTE Television drama documentary "No More Blooms" and in various parts with the Near FM radio drama group. Roles with Balally Players include Friar Laurence in "Romeo and Juliet", Claudius in "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead", Father in "Aristocrats", Hathorne in "The Crucible" and Morganhall in "The Dock Brief".

**Wemmick—Barry O'Connor**

Barry has been acting for nearly 40 years with a number of amateur and community groups. He has been a member of Balally Players for four years and has appeared in several productions including "Move Over Mrs. Markham" (Philip Markham), "PVT Wars" (Silvio), "Of Mice and Men" (Carlson) and "Much Ado About Nothing" (Don Pedro).

**Molly—Janet Dunne**

Janet made her acting debut back in 1993 in the award winning One Act Play "Ritual for Dolls" with Lissadell Players when she played Jojo. She has since played parts such as Brenda Barnes in "Same Old Moon", Moya in "Red Roses and Petrol" and Kate in "Dancing at Lugnasa".

**Herbert Pocket—Mark Coen**

Mark is in his third year with Balally Players. Previous credits with the company include "PVT Wars" (Natwick), "The Merchant of Venice" (Prince of Arragon) and "Pride and Prejudice" (Mr Denny). Mark is greatly enjoying playing the role of Pip's friend and tutor, Herbert Pocket.

**Sarah Pocket—Jennifer Byrne**

A lifelong aficionado of theatre, Jennifer is thrilled to tread the boards in Dickens' classic "Great Expectations" in her debut performance with Balally Players. Her previous work as a television extra (most recently in RTÉ crime drama "Taken Down") has been such a joyful creative experience that Jennifer was inspired to audition for this production.

**Bentley Drummie—Nigel Wheatley**

Nigel Wheatley has played on many stages in Ireland and abroad, as an actor and musician. He first appeared as Banquo in "Macbeth" with the Delgany Players in the early nineties, summoned the Devil in "Faust" at the Gorki Theatre Berlin and descended into Antarctic hell in Lovecraft's "Mountains of Madness" to name a few! He even made an appearance in the series "Mooneboy" for Sky T.V. He has also released many recordings, as a musician and songwriter.

**Camilla, Ensemble—Doris Cullen**

Doris Cullen has been a member of Balally Players almost since the group was established and has been highly involved both on stage and off stage many, many times, including winning two best actress awards in 2017 plus a special award at drama festivals in Wicklow. She repeated this trend recently, winning more awards at the Glenealy and Bray One Act Festivals.

**Cousin Raymond, Ensemble—Aengus Cooke**

Aengus Cooke studied English Literature and Drama at DBS Schools of Arts. Aengus worked as a stage manager and assistant director with SPP Theatre Company, an amateur theatre company based in Southville, Bristol. More recently, he performed in "Christmas at Marlay" with Balally Players.