



"Are you sure/That we are awake? It seems to me/That yet we sleep, we dream"

In Balally Players we have a great love of plays and hope you take delight in the vision of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" created by Karen Carleton here in the fabulous setting of the walled gardens of St. Enda's Park/Pearse Museum, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

It has been an eventful year. "The Giant Killers", by Eve and Andrew Pearson-Wright, directed by Gary Wall, won numerous awards on the One Act Circuit and brought home the Harlequin Award for set and costume from the One Act Finals in Kilmuckridge. Aisling Uí Laoire directed "The Flattering Word" by George Kelly, which played in the dlr Mill Theatre Studio and the Skerries, Glenealy and Bray One-Act Drama Festivals. Teresa Dempsey directed our well-loved variety show "Christmas at Marlay". Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations", was given a fresh spin by Brian Molloy, 20-23 February 2019, at dlr Mill Theatre, Dundrum. "From Page to Stage" over four evenings in April/May, was coordinated by Mark Coen, with readings facilitated by Pat McCarry, Fiona Walsh, Lorcan Dunne, Aisling Uí Laoire, Declan Rudden, Joanne Keane and Oran O'Rua, giving the opportunity to explore eight plays, including new writing by Mark O'Leary, Sean Daly and Pat McCarry.

We have enjoyed many sociable evenings, with outings to professional plays and local drama groups' productions, and our annual Table Quiz with Quizmaster, Barry O'Connor.

Theatre training is important to Balally Players. We ran workshops with Geoff O'Keeffe and Cathal Quinn and have supported scholarships to the DLI Summer School in University of Limerick, to build up the skills base in the group – an investment for the future.

We are appreciative of the grant from dlrCoCo to help our dramatic endeavours, the great welcome we are given here at this lovely venue, run by OPW and all assistance given to us by dlr Mill Theatre.

To all of you who have supported us in so many ways during the year we owe a huge debt of gratitude. May your dreams come true!

Open Night will be in September and we'd be delighted to see members new and old join us for our next adventures.

Joanne Keane

Chairman, Balally Players Theatre Company

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

Our AGM will be held on 24th July 2019.



The Balally Players Theatre Company

Karen Carleton - Director



A founder member of Balally Players, Karen has directed as many as fifty plays for the company over the years. Favourites include the first trip to Nova Scotia with "Vinegar Tom"; to Denmark with "The Hostage"; to France with "The Playboy of the Western World"; the first outdoor Shakespeare shows at Airfield Gardens in the early noughties; the series of sold out comedies played in the Pavilion Theatre; a run of All Ireland qualifying one acts; and "The Cripple of Inishmaan", Balally's first production at the newly opened Mill Theatre. She has worked with many gifted cast members during that time and has enjoyed the opportunity of working with this current talented company.

Production Team

Director
Set Design and Construction
Costume Design
Make Up Design
Sound Design
Properties
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Publicity

Webmaster
Front of House

Front of House Coordinator
Production Manager

Karen Carleton
Patrick Hand
Dympna Murray
Teresa Dempsey
Aoibhinn Finnegan
Una Twyford
Aoife Braidan
Doris Cullen
Pat McCarry, Aisling Uí Laoire,
Aoife Meagher
Declan Brennan
Members and friends of Balally
Players
Eimear Smyth
Joanne Keane

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Theseus - Richard Stowe

Richard returns to the Dublin stage after a brief respite in Australia. Previously, in Dublin, he appeared in the Balally Players' 2010 production of "Romeo and Juliet" as the 'Prince of Venice'. Prior to that, he also acted with Balally Players in their Bray One Act Festival entry, "Old Saybrook", by Woody Allen.



Hippolyta - 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. Carlotta is also involved with other drama groups including the Dublin Shakespeare Society, playing the lead role of 'Julia' in their production of "Montagues and Capulets".



Philostrate - John O'Brien

Unhappy in the family business, John has devoted himself to the arts (theatrical and pugilistic) these last few years. This is his fifth Shakespeare character and fourth Shakespeare play. Previous credits with Balally include "The Merchant of Venice" (2017).



Egeusia - Nuala O'Reilly

Having trained at the Gaiety School of Acting, Nuala 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, which she also directed. This is her second show with Balally Players, having appeared in "Great Expectations" in February.



Hermia - Aisling Ní Fhoghlú

Aisling has been a member of Balally Players since playing Betty Parris in 'The Crucible' five years ago. A lover of theatre both onstage and behind the scenes, she has just finished a Diploma in Advanced Acting for Stage and Screen and is excited to put what she learned to use in this production. Aisling acted as Stage Manager on "Great Expectations" in February and is very excited to be back on stage.



Lysander - Liam Borgström

Liam Borgström is new to Dublin, having been born and raised in South Africa where he was a member of the Irene Youth Theatre before studying speech and drama at the Pro Arte Alphen Park arts school. He spent the next 12 years as an academic, learning and teaching others how to make books at the University of Pretoria.



Demetrius - Morgan Buckley

This is Morgan's first production with Balally Players. He has trodden the boards many times over the past two years as part of the UCD Drama Society and was nominated for Best Actor at the ISDA Festival in Cork last year. He most recently played the part of Danny Mann in Leeson Park Players' production of "The Colleen Bawn".



Helena - Aine Ni Bhriain

While this is her first appearance with Balally Players, Áine has been involved in drama and theatre from a young age. She is a former member of the Dublin Academy of the Dramatic Arts and in the last year has completed the Performance Year course in the Gaiety School of Acting. Áine is eagerly awaiting her debut with the Balally Players.



Quince - 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 five 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').



Snug - Hilary Madigan

Hilary is a long-time member of Balally Players. She has competed on the One Act Drama Festival Circuit and has won several awards, and represented Ireland in Florida and Monaco. Most recently she has played the Widow Quinn in "The Playboy Of The Western World" for Sunflower Productions and last year she did a nationwide tour of "The Vagina Monologues" for Bow Productions. She is delighted to be back working with old and new friends in this production.



Bottom - Sean Murphy

Sean has been a member of Balally Players since 2003. Favourite roles with the company include 'Benedick' in "Much Ado about Nothing", 'William Featherstone' in "How the Other Half Loves" and 'Parris' in "The Crucible." Sean has travelled to Belgium with the company to perform the award winning "Guests of the Nation" and was part of the ensemble that performed at the Abbey Theatre's Centenary Celebration in 2004.



Flute - Fionn O'Halpin

Born in London, raised in Belgium by two Irish parents, Fionn started acting at age 4 and has never stopped since. This is his first production with Balally Players and previously he has played roles in "The Sound of Music", "Tom Sawyer", "Montagues and Capulets", "The Tempest", "Punk Rock", and "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat".



Snout - Conor Skelly

After attending our open night in September 2018, Conor was cast as one member of the hilarious 'Mechanicals', where he will play the "Crannied hole through which the fearful lovers are to whisper". According to Conor, "Bringing Snout to life is a challenge I'm relishing. There's no such thing as a small part and I hope I can do this one justice. Can't wait!".



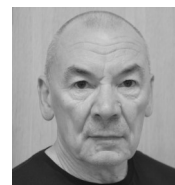
Starveling - Tony Matthews

Tony has appeared in many productions over the years for Lissadell Players, Balally Players, Sandyford Little Theatre and Glencullen Dundrum Musical and Dramatic Society (GDMDS). His most recent roles include Jimmy Farrell in Sunflower Productions of "The Playboy of the Western World" and 'Footman' in GDMDS Production of "My Fair Lady".



Puck - Óran O'Rua

Oran joined Balally Players in 2003 and since then has played diverse roles both on- and off-stage. In recent years, he directed a number of productions for the company, including Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" and "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof". Most recently, Oran played 'Young Pip' in a stage adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic, "Great Expectations".



Oberon - Michael McHugh

Michael appeared as 'Leonato' in last year's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" and subsequently played 'Adult Pip' in the dlr Mill Theatre production of "Great Expectations". He is delighted to be returning this year to undertake the role of Oberon.



Titania - Máirín O'Sullivan

Máirín is delighted to perform as 'Titania'. Her recent roles were 'Mary' in "The Flattering Word", 'Hawk' in "At the Hawk's Well", 'Cat' in "Love in the Title" and 'Maggie' in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof". Other memorable performances include "Blithe Spirit", "The Crucible", "Present Laughter", "Charley's Aunt" and "Don't Dress for Dinner".



Fairies: (L-R) Luisa Luxardi, Oscar Murphy, and Claudia Stowe