



“All the world’s a stage,
And all men and women merely
players.
They have their exits and their
entrances,
And one man in his time plays many
parts...”

Thus begins Jaques’ now-famous speech from “As You Like It” and after two years of “being dark” in the theatrical sense, we are delighted to re-emerge into the light onto this evening’s stage and to welcome you, our audience, back to the theatre!

Outdoor theatre is a unique experience and seeing a Shakespeare play outdoors, as it was originally performed, is particularly special. The Balally Players Theatre Company will celebrate its 40th year in existence this year and has a long tradition, spanning two decades, of performing the Bard’s plays, many of which have been directed by one of the Company’s founding members, Karen Carleton. It is indeed fitting, in our 40th year, that Karen returns to the director’s chair for this year’s production of “As You Like It”. Most years, the Company also produces one-act plays for the Festival Circuit, a Christmas Variety show, and several full-length productions, all of which we are very much looking forward to getting stuck back into in the coming months!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the cast and crew for their collaboration, energy and enthusiasm, to my colleagues on this year’s hard-working Committee for their efforts to date, to Fionnuala and Anthony Ardee and all the Killruddery Team, the dlr Mill Theatre and all at the Pearse Musuem in St. Enda’s and to you, our loyal audience, for your unwavering support. We are delighted to be able once again to invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

Óran O’Rua
Chair
Balally Players Theatre Company



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	Karen Carleton
Production Manager	Una Twyford
Stage Manager	Aoife Braiden
Costume	Dympna Murray
Assistant	Bebhinn Whelan
Props	Aoife Braiden
Make up	Teresa Dempsey
Continuity	Doris Cullen
Publicity	Joanne Keane
Set	Patrick Hand
Photography and Webmaster	Declan Brennan
Lighting	Paul Macken
Fight Director	Jay Cosgrave
Choreographer	Nicole McDonald



OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

PRESENTED BY
BALALLY PLAYERS THEATRE COMPANY
Shakespeare at the Sylvan Theatre

KILLRUDDERY HOUSE
THURSDAY 30TH JUNE & FRIDAY 1ST JULY AT 8PM.
BOOKING: events@killruddery.com

AS YOU LIKE IT

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

**Rosalind - Máirín O'Sullivan**

Máirín made her debut with Balally over 9 years ago. Her recent roles were 'Titania' in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", 'Mary' in "The Flattering Word", 'Hawk' in "At the Hawk's Well" and 'Maggie' in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof".

**Celia - Aisling Ní Fhoghlú**

Aisling has been performing for many years and has been with Balally Players since "The Crucible" in 2014, playing roles from 'Giolla na Naomh' in "The King" to 'Hermia' in "A Midsummer Night's Dream". With a love of theatre both off and onstage gained from studying both, and after a long absence from it, she's excited to finally be back!

**Orlando - Sean Murphy**

Sean has played a variety of Shakespearian roles with the group down through the years. Favourites include 'Benedict' in "Much Ado About Nothing", 'Bottom' in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", 'Benvolio' in "Romeo & Juliet" and 'Dromio' in "The Comedy of Errors". His last performance before Covid struck was in the hilarious and irreverent take on the Bard's work, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)".

**Oliver - Peter O'Brien**

Peter's previous stage credits include 'Martini' in "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest", 'Michael' in "Dancing at Lughnasa", 'Tadgh' in "The Field", 'Ray' in "The Beauty Queen of Leenane", and 'Fyedka' in "Fiddler On The Roof". Most recently with Balally Players, Peter performed in John Breen's "Alone It Stands".

**First Lady /Attendant / Singer - Lauren Devine**

Acting from a young age in various groups such as Pollard Players, Killallon Drama Group and the Mullingar Arts Centre, Lauren has performed in over 25 play and musicals including "The Crucible", "Beauty and the Beast" and "Miss Saigon". She recently completed her first part-time professional training with the Gaiety School of Acting.

**Adam - Tony Matthews**

Tony has directed many plays over the years. Previous acting roles include 'John Proctor' in "The Crucible", 'Byrne' in Big Maggie, 'Inspector Goole' in "An Inspector Calls" and 'Jimmy Farrell' in the Mill Theatre's production of "The Playboy of the Western World". He has also recently performed in musicals with Glencullen Dundrum Musical and Dramatic Society.

**Page / Wench /Attendant / Singer - Sarah Groarke**

Sarah has just got back into drama, having treaded the boards as a teenager in dance shows and musicals in her native Cork. She has recently taken part in evening courses at the Gaiety School of Acting and Bow Street Academy and played the role of 'Sorchá' in the short film "Desiderium", directed by James Mulligan.

**Duke Frederick / Sir Oliver - Richard Stowe**

Richard previously performed in the Balally Players' 2010 production of "Romeo and Juliet" as the 'Prince of Venice' and as 'Theseus' in the Company's 2019 production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". He has also performed in the Company's entry to the Bray One Act Festival, "Old Saybrook", by Woody Allen.

**Touchstone - Óran O'Rua**

Óran 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 the role of 'Frank' in Joe DiPietro's, "Over The River And Through The Woods".

**Charles / Hymen / Forester - Michael Mitchell**

Michael was a member of the Athenry Drama Society in his school days and since then he has acted in a short entitled, "The Proposition", which was shown in the Firehouse Film Contest and the Galway Film Fleadh as part of the Little Cinema Showcase and can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/NmESHqZ0ho>

**Le Beau / Silvius - Declan Rudden**

Declan's first role with Balally Players was as 'Curley' in "Of Mice and Men" and most recently he played the part of the baddie, 'Don Jon', in the Company's 2018 production of "Much Ado About Nothing". Directing credits include 'Philadelphia Here I Come', and 'Playboy of the Western World'. Television work includes Fair City and Nationwide.

**Duke Senior - Michael McHugh**

This will be Michael's third Shakespearean performance with Balally Players. In previous productions he has played 'Oberon' in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and 'Leonato' in "Much Ado About Nothing". He is delighted to be back again to undertake the role of 'Duke Senior'.

**Jaques - Gary Wall**

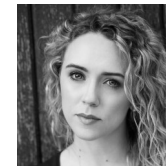
A long-time member of the Balally Players Theatre Company, Gary directed the Company's 2006 All-Ireland winning production of "Melody", by Deirdre Kinahan, which went on to represent Ireland at the World Festival of Theatre in Monaco in 2009. Gary's most recent directing credit was "The Giant Killers", which represented the Company at the All-Ireland One Act Festival Finals in 2018.

**Amiens / Attendant / Singer - Matias Köhlmeier**

Hailing from Argentina, Matias finally took the plunge, not only to relocate, but also to try his hand at a play from the great Bard. Coming from the improv-clubs of his far away land, this is Matias' first venture into classical stage theatre.

**Corin - Barry O'Connor**

Barry has been a member of Balally Players for eight years and has appeared in several productions including "Of Mice and Men" ('Carlson'), "Much Ado about Nothing" ('Don Pedro') and "Over the River and Through the Woods" ('Nunzio').

**Phoebe - Aisling Finn**

Aisling has been treading the boards for many years with theatre groups from Donegal to Wexford, in roles varying from 'Dinah' in Marina Carr's "On Raftery's Hill" to 'Shelby' in Robert Harling's "Steel Magnolias". She has performed on the amateur circuit on several occasions, as well as the Bray One Act Festival and the Scene & Heard Festival 2022.

**Audrey - Michelle Howard**

A Dublin native, Michelle completed evening acting courses with The Gaiety School of Acting some years ago and has been loving getting more involved and learning as much as she can ever since. This production of "As You Like It" is Michelle's onstage debut!

**William / Attendant / Singer - Ryan Kelly**

Ryan is a singer-songwriter from Dublin and is making his theatrical debut with Balally Players. He has been doing evening courses in the Lir Academy and is extremely excited to be combining his passion for singing with his love of acting in this production of "As You Like It".

**The Forest - Tony McGettigan**

Tony first trod-the-boards, when he was 16, which was neither yesterday nor the day before, as the 'Sergeant' in Lady Gregory's "The Rising of the Moon", in a school production that won a prize in a local Feis. Since then he has played very many roles both on and off stage.