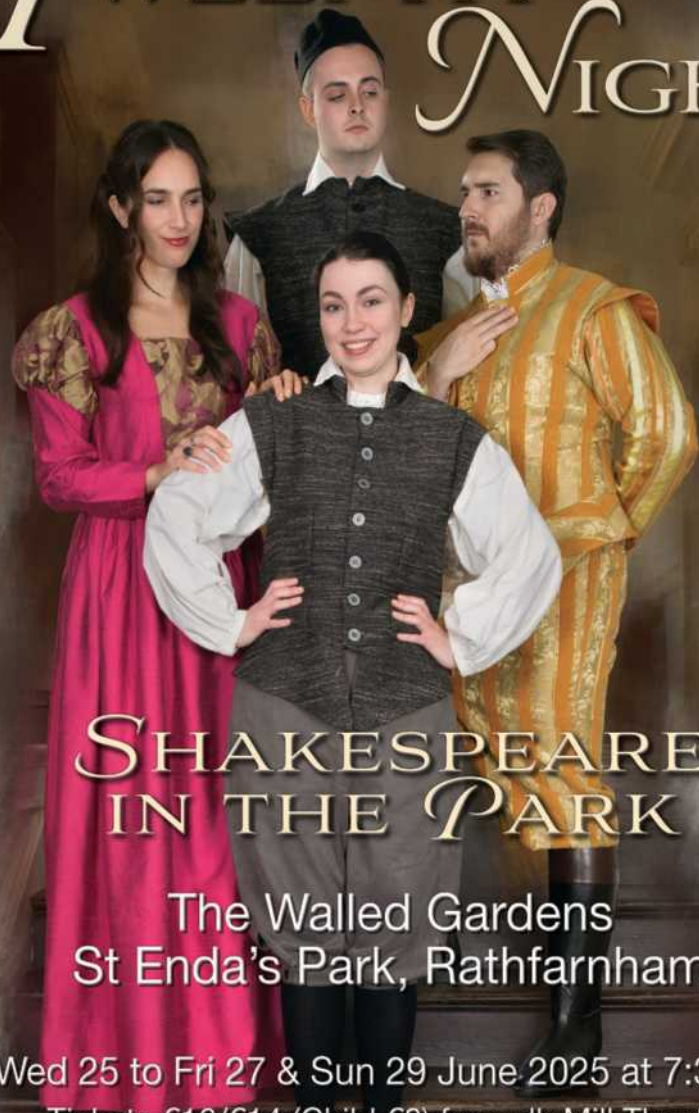


TWELFTH NIGHT

Balally Players



SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

The Walled Gardens
St Enda's Park, Rathfarnham

Wed 25 to Fri 27 & Sun 29 June 2025 at 7:30pm

Tickets €16/€14 (Child €8) from dlr Mill Theatre

milltheatre.ie 01-296 9340



OPW

2025 is
celebrating the 100th
anniversary of the
Office of Public Works

Dress for changeable weather



Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

balallyplayers.com



The Balally Players Theatre Company

POSTHUMOUS PARDON

The State vs. Harry Gleeson and Moll McCarthy

A new play by Sean T. Daly

Rehearsed staged reading directed by Conor O'Malley



IN MEMORY OF
MARY 'MOLL' MCCARTHY
Mullhill, New Inn,
who was taken from this life
on Thursday 21st November 1940.
MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.

With thanks for the kind support from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council



dlr MILL
THEATRE

14-17 May 2025 7:30pm

dlr Mill Theatre, Dundrum, Dublin 16

Co-funded
by



Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Message from David Langwallner BL

The Innocence Project

It is vitally important that political theatre is given a voice to confront the injustices, historic and present, of our society - particularly that which confronts the toxic relationship between our police our department of injustice and many of our corporate power brokers including judges and politicians.

We have, as a body polity, reverted to an absurd form of decadent corporate communism which political plays such as Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of An Anarchist* or the plays of Peter Weiss or even Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* are now most apt. Let us also mention the political plays of Sean O'Casey.

The Harry Gleeson case is not just a historic injustice but is of resonance universally and currently. It is when those with a false sense of corrupt entitlement seek to frame people and make out how simple people can be made a victim because vulnerable.

The tactics by the Irish State with disinformation, psychological techniques ever the more sophisticated are now worse with largely the same families running the state with those they allow in, and it is the little person who needs protection. As Kennedy said I see you fellah.

It changed both my life and that of Sean MacBride profoundly and led in both cases to a lifetime commitment to the truth and community and human decency.

A lovely fiddle player many years later is not enough and, in a world, not least in Ireland imperilled by racism, fascism and the exclusion of the vulnerable this is truly a worthwhile endeavour.

Let us hope the production does not go the way of the Abbey Theatre's *Playboy of The Western World* where a conservative audience went berserk.

All my thoughts with the Balally Players.



David Langwallner BL



Synopsis of the play

Posthumous Pardon - The State versus Harry Gleeson and Moll McCarthy depicts the most egregious miscarriage of criminal justice since the foundation of the Irish State.

In 1940, in a tight knit rural community, a single mother of seven illegitimate children from different fathers is murdered. An elaborate cover-up is concocted that leads to the conviction and execution of the innocent man, Harry Gleeson.

Forensic work by *The Innocence Project* led eventually to the State's unique "posthumous pardon" in 2015. By relating the story in theatre form, vital contextual dynamics of a hidden Ireland are revealed. And there is more - the desperate efforts of an idealistic young junior counsel, Sean MacBride, to establish Harry Gleeson's innocence.

The play is naturalistic in the first half and more documentary in style in the second. The artistic imagination of Sean T. Daly offers us a glimpse of what may have happened.

Balally Players at the All-Ireland Finals

Balally Players are thrilled to be competing in the All-Ireland Finals in Athlone on Wednesday, **May 14th** with **Ulster American** by David Ireland! After an incredible journey through the festival circuit, we are honoured to have received awards at eight festivals, including several **Best Actor** wins for Kevin Fahey and Kevin Stanton, and **Best Actress** awards for Aisling Finn. Our brilliant director, Declan Rudden, has also been recognised with multiple **directing awards**.

C'mon Balally! Catch the live streaming of the results on **Saturday, May 17th** via **RTE Culture Before Athlone**.

We are especially proud this week that *Ulster American* won the **Ulster Drama Finals (2025)**. The award for **Best Director** also went to Declan Rudden, **Best Actor** went to Kevin Stanton, and **Best Actress** was Aisling Finn!

Message from Balally Chairman - Pat Hand

Welcome to 'Posthumous Pardon.'

These are exciting times for Balally Players, with a play in the All-Ireland finals and a new play written by one of our members Sean T Daly. We are delighted to be able to support Sean in developing his play, and presenting it to an audience.

We would like to thank Conor O'Malley for his assistance with the script and bringing it to the stage. We are lucky in Balally to have a pool of talented actors who will bring this play to life. We would also like to thank the dlr Mill Theatre and St Enda's Park management for their support.

And finally, thank you to our loyal audience - we hope you enjoy the performance!



Patrick

Acknowledgements

Justice for Harry Gleeson Group
David Langwallner BL, The Innocence Project
Marc Coen, Associate Professor, School of Law UCD
Fiona Walsh, solicitor

Guest Speakers

Mr. Justice Garrett Sheehan
Tertius Van Eeden, The Innocence Project

Cast & Crew - Posthumous Pardon

Moll McCarthy:	Sarah Broe
Mary McCarthy:	Aoibhín Ní Ghabhann
Patrick McCarthy:	David Garvey
Michael McCarthy:	Tommy Wall
Anastasia Cooney:	Hillary Madigan
Seán MacBride:	Oran Ó Rua
Judge Maguire:	Mary Conlon
Joseph Fahy:	Peter Flood
Narrator/Nurse:	Aisling Ní Fhoghlú
James Nolan-Whelan:	Len Nealon
Thomas Hennessy:	Barbara Andrews
Pak O'Gorman:	Una Twyford
Garda Vincent Scully:	Seán T. Daly
Sergeant Anthony Daly:	Gary Wall
SI Patrick O'Mahony:	Mary Conlon
CSI Edward Reynolds:	Peter Flood
Bridget Caesar:	Muriel Caslin O'Hagan
John Caesar:	Len Nealon
Tommy Reid:	Michael Lysaght
Harry Gleeson:	William Anglim

Lighting Design	Kris Mooney
Fight Co-Ordinator	Aisling Ní Fhoghlú
Poster Design & Photography	Michael Lysaght
PR	Joanne Keane
Programme	Brendan Phelan

Crew - Posthumous Pardon



Conor O Malley - director

Conor is from a theatrical family, his parents being founders of the Lyric Theatre in Belfast. He has directed many plays over five decades specialising in political drama: most recently *The Trial of Roger Casement* at the Lexicon; and including plays about the revolutionary period in our cultural institutions.

He's particularly partial to directing the later plays of O'Casey and Brecht; and he likes leading on niche musicals with edge - one of which was *The Fantasticks* presented at the Mill in 2009.



Seán T Daly - playwright

Seán played in rock bands and sports teams, built a successful career as an accountant and later became involved in local drama. He had a one-act dark satire, *Purple Squirrel*, put on and entered into festivals in 2022.

He is very pleased to have the chance to put on this true story of a miscarriage of justice in rural Ireland to demonstrate the ability to show real lives at the time and the impact of social inequalities to the marginalised and poorer members of the community. He welcomes the opportunity to share his efforts with new audiences and looks to have a fully staged version of the story told to the masses.

Suggested further reading on the case:

Murder at Marlhill by Marcus Bourke
The Farcical Trial of Harry Gleeson by Bill O'Connor
We Are Seven by Una Troy
The Framing of Harry Gleeson by Kieran Fagan
The Dead Eight by Carlo Gébler
Beyond Any Reasonable Doubt? by Kenneth Deale
Hanged for Murder: Irish State Executions by Tim Carey

A Special Thank You to:

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Heritage Grant Scheme
 The Chairman and members of Balally Players Theatre Group
 St. Tiernan's Community School
 Catherine O'Connor and the staff at The Pearse Museum
 Kate, Shona, and all at the dlr Mill Theatre, Dundrum