



Kevin Stanton

Kevin Stanton is a Dublin-based actor and voiceover artist.

Previously

a stand-up comedian in the US, he trained in improv at the world-renowned Second City in Chicago before returning to Ireland to complete acting programmes at both the Lir and Bow Street. Recent stage work includes *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Juggernaut*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Sense and Sensibility* with Balally Players.

Kevin's performance as Jay Conway in *Ulster American* earned him Best Actor awards at both the Newry Drama Festival (March 2025) and the Association of Ulster Drama Festivals Final (May 2025).

He is delighted to bring this celebrated play to the historic Peacock Stage, marking his debut at the Abbey Theatre.



**ABBEY
THEATRE
AMHARCLANN
NA MAINISTREACH**



Aisling Finn

Aisling has been treading the boards for many years with theatre groups from Donegal to Wexford, in varying roles from Dinah in *On Raftery's Hill* to Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*. She has performed on

the ADCI and DLI festival circuits, in the Bray One Act Festival and has trained with the Gaiety School of Acting and Bow Street. Aisling's previous productions with Balally Players include *As You Like It*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *Salomé*.

Aisling is delighted to bring this production of *Ulster American* to the Peacock and has thoroughly enjoyed the show's run on the drama circuit this year, picking up 5 awards and 4 nominations for her performance as Ruth Davenport."



Kevin Fahey

Kevin is a long-term member of Balally Players. Performances include Petruchio in Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, Bottom in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, the title role in Brendan Behan's

The Hostage, Alistair in Ray Cooney's *Move over Mrs. Markham* and Hawkins in *Guests of the Nation*.

Kevin's performance as Leigh Carver earned him Best Actor Awards at Kiltyclogher, Strabane, Mid Ulster, and Kildare Drama Festivals. He was nominated as Best Actor for the RTÉ All Ireland Drama Festival Final at Athlone.

Balally Players Theatre Company

Ulster American

29 - 31 May 2025



Dates: 29 - 31 May 2025

On the Peacock Stage

Times:

Thurs - Sat, 8pm

Sat matinee, 2.30pm



Age recommendation: 18+

Content advice: Contains very strong, offensive language throughout

Running time: 90 minutes with no interval

Ulster American

By David Ireland

CAST

Jay Conway	Kevin Stanton
Leigh Carver	Kevin Fahey
Ruth Davenport	Aisling Finn
Director	Declan Rudden
Stage Manager	Aoife Braiden
Lighting Design	Cathal O'Broin-Brace, Barry Donaldson
Sound Design	Sarah Groarke
Set Design	Patrick Hand, Tom Ronayne, Declan Rudden
Costume Design	Dympna Murray
Make-Up Design	Teresa Dempsey
PRO	Joanne Keane
Set Construction	Tom Ronayne, Barry O'Connor, Patrick Hand, Óran O'Rua, Roy O'Connor
Fight Director	Jay Cosgrave
Logistics Manager	Óran O'Rua

Over 18's Running Time 90 minutes,
There is no Intermission.

SETTING:

A London Home in 2024

History of Balally Players

Based in Balally, a suburb in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area that once encompassed the villages of Dundrum and Sandyford, the Balally Players have been an active part of Ireland's amateur theatre movement since their first performance in 1983.

The group is closely involved with their local venue, the dlr Mill Theatre in Dundrum, performing there several times a year. They present *Shakespeare in the Park* each summer at Killruddery Gardens and St. Enda's Park in Rathfarnham. In addition to supporting new writing, the Balally Players have enjoyed considerable success on the One-Act Festival Circuit. They have recently returned to the full-length play circuit, marking an exciting new chapter in their forty-year journey.

Director's Note

June 4th, 2024 was a difficult day for me. It was the day we said our final goodbyes to long-time Balally member and one of my best friends and mentors, Paul Sharpe. I was particularly upset as I had to work in London that week, so was forced to stream his funeral from Dublin Airport. That evening, to lift my spirits, I went to the National Theatre on London's Southbank to catch a play. Pré-show I browsed in the National Theatre's bookshop and its treasure trove of plays. My eye was drawn to the spine of one play with the word Ulster in the title. There was a single copy on the shelf. This was my first introduction to 'Ulster American.' I purchased the play.

The following evening, I sat down to read the play, and it did not disappoint. By mid-play I had tears of laughter streaming down my face, by the time I finished the play, I was determined to direct it.

I wonder now if Paul somehow guided me to that single copy of a play in among hundreds. It may be coincidental but 'Ulster American' is full of the wicked sense of humour Paul enjoyed; also, his last performance for Balally was as a 'loyal Orange Prod from Sandy Row' (birthplace of David Ireland), and in our final Balally play together, I wore an eyepatch (you will see!). Paul's all-time favourite role was playing the 'Paycock, Captain Jack Boyle.' How fitting that we should have the honour of performing on the Peacock stage on Paul's first anniversary.

I hope we have done justice to David Ireland's deliciously dark comedy and that you enjoy it as much as I did on first reading.

Declan Rudden



Chairperson's Welcome

This marks Balally Players' second appearance at our national theatre. We were honoured to take part in the Abbey's centenary celebrations — a truly memorable milestone for our group. And here we are again, having performed across the country, from Charleville to Ballyshannon and many places in between.

We were thrilled with our win in the Ulster final and proud to achieve a strong second place in the All-Ireland. But the icing on the cake has undoubtedly been receiving the Abbey Award — a moment of immense pride for all of us.

A huge shout-out to our incredible cast and crew for their dedication and talent, to our brilliant director Declan Rudden, and to every single member of Balally Players for their unwavering support.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone at the Abbey Theatre for their continued support and for making this special event possible.

Patrick Hand, Chairperson