



MILLTOWN DRAMA SOCIETY

- presents -

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

By J.M. Synge



An amateur production, script courtesy of Project Gutenberg
(www.gutenberg.org)

PROGRAMME
- 2019 -

Milltown Drama Society re-formed in 2014 with the desire to re-establish Milltown's proud tradition of and association with quality amateur dramatics.

- 2014: M.J. Molloy, *The Paddy Pedlar*
- 2015: John B. Keane, *Many Young Men of Twenty*
- 2016: Sean O'Casey, *The Plough and the Stars*
- 2017: Arthur Miller, *All My Sons*
- 2018: Brian Friel, *Philadelphia, Here I Come!*
- 2019: JM Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*

MDS Committee 2019:

Chairperson: Eleanor Sheridan

Treasurer: Bríd McHugh

Secretary: Louisa McHugh

PRO: Eamon Blake

Director: Mary Tynan

Committee: Ann Coyne, Helen Sheridan, Anne Concannon, Rory Hynes, Kevin Varley and Sinéad Sheridan.

Welcome / Fáilte

On behalf of MDS, I am delighted to welcome you to our performance of *The Playboy of the Western World*. This is the sixth production since the drama group was re-formed in 2014. One of the principles which has guided our society is that of encouraging as many people in the community as possible to get involved in drama. "The Playboy" with its huge cast was a perfect choice for us and we are excited about staging this much loved classic.

Watch out for many faces new to the Milltown stage tonight, as well as some of our veterans!

As ever, the production has been a team effort involving great commitment and hard work by our new director, cast, crew and MDS committee. I would like to thank them for their dedication. We are indebted to local organisations, patrons, sponsors, those who have contributed to our fund-raising efforts and the team at Milltown Community Centre. Their support for our endeavours every year is much appreciated.

The final word goes to you our audience. Thank you for being here tonight with us as we set off into the wonderful world of turn of the century Mayo.

-Eleanor Sheridan (Chairperson)

About The Play

Playboy is set in Michael James Flaherty's public house in County Mayo (on the west coast of Ireland) during the early 1900s. It tells the story of Christy Mahon, a young man running away from his farm, claiming he killed his father. The locals are more interested in vicariously enjoying his story than in condemning the immorality of his murderous deed, and in fact, Christy's tale captures the romantic attention of the bar-maid Pegeen Mike, the daughter of Flaherty. The play is best known for its use of poetic, evocative language and our cast is very eager to do it justice tonight. Milltown Drama Society is proud to present this seminal Irish play.

of the Irish literary renaissance. He was born April 16, 1871, in Rathfarnham, Ireland. From 1899 to 1902 he spent his summers on the Aran Islands, observing the people; he based his first plays on islanders' stories. His travels on the Irish west coast inspired his most famous play, *The Playboy of the Western World* (1907).

Synopsis of Scenes:

The action of the play takes place near a village, on a wild coast of Mayo. The first act passes on an evening of autumn, the other two acts on the following day.

Director Mary Tynan

Mary is a former professional actor, director and producer. A veteran of the London stage, she has appeared in more than 50 theatrical productions in genres as diverse as comedy, classical and modern drama, musical theatre, physical theatre and site-specific, receiving critical acclaim for several roles. She has also acted on radio and in several films. Mary is also an experienced writer and musician, and has a keen interest in the Irish language. She is delighted to be directing for Milltown Drama Society.

Crew:

Director:	Mary Tynan
Set Construction:	Eugene Finnegan
Set Décor:	Gerry Greene, Mary Kelly, Louisa Mc Hugh, Paul Singleton
Costumes:	Marion Greene, Saranna Leonard
Makeup:	Emma Rhatigan
Hair:	Ev's Hair and Beauty
Lighting Technician:	Eoin O'Connor
Backstage:	Anne Concannon
Front of House:	Sinéad Sheridan, Kevin Varley, Eamon Blake, Rory Hynes, Louisa McHugh, Eleanor Sheridan, Ann Coyne, Leanne Coyne, Ann Tierney, Linda Walsh
Video:	Gerry Greene
Props:	Eugene Finnegan, John Whyte (Lavalley), Pat Ryan (Moyleough) & cast
Sound:	Stable Productions
Original poster design:	Louisa McHugh
Lighting:	Paul Kelly, Indigo

CHRISTY MAHON: Eddie Ruane

Eddie completes his hat-trick of lead roles with his performance as the eponymous Playboy Christy Mahon. He cut his teeth as Chris Keller in *All My Sons* followed by *Gar Public* last year. Tonight he goes back to west coast of Co. Mayo. Will our Playboy survive the wrath of the village?

PEGEEN MIKE: Cathrina Healy

We are delighted to have Cathrina back treading the boards in Milltown again after two very successful performances in *Many Young Men* and *The Plough* and the Stars. Tonight she takes on the central and feisty role of Pegeen Mike.

WIDOW QUIN: Brenda McWalters

Brenda attended the Anna Scher improvisation theatre school and played in *Whatever Happened To Norman Beaton* in London. Brenda also did many rehearsed readings for *The London Irish Theatre* and *The Pentameter* in Hampstead along with community theatre in *The Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage*.

OLD MAHON: Ray McGrath

Ray's stage work, over the past number of years, has seen him perform both locally and in nationwide competition, where he has won several best actor awards. In 2018, he played alongside Eddie Ruane, as his alter ego, 'Gar Private' in Milltown Dramatic Society's production of 'Philadelphia Here I Come!'. Tonight, he plays the role of, 'Old Mahon', long suffering father of, 'Christy Mahon'.

MICHAEL JAMES FLAHERTY: Ollie Barrett

Ollie is returning to his Mayo roots as he takes on the role of Michael and just like his role in *Many Young Men* he is once again a publican! Having grown up in a pub he'll know how to treat the customers in his 'shebeen'.

PHILLY CULLEN: Claire Fitzsimons

Claire returns to the Milltown stage having captured the hearts of audiences with her sensitive portrayal as Madge in *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* Tonight she takes on the role of peasant farmer Philly Cullen. No doubt her experience in countless productions will stand her in good stead.

JIMMY FARRELL: Paul Kelly

This is Paul's third outing with MDS. Our favourite sham has seen a steady demotion from industrialist to senator and now a small farmer, Jimmy. Paul is growing increasingly fond of Milltown- his dramatic home...

SHAWN KEOGH: Paul Singleton

Tonight is Paul's third outing with MDS, after playing Jack Clitheroe in *The Plough* and the Stars and a Playboy in his own right - Ned, in *Philadelphia Here I Come* last year. Shawneen doesn't know who he is more afraid of; Pegeen his bride to be, Father Reilly and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church or will the bark of his nemesis Christy prove to be worse than his bite?! Either way he hopes you enjoy the show.

SARA TANSEY: Bláithín McWalter

Bláithín joined MDS last year as Kathy Doogan in *Philadelphia, Here I Come* and makes it a family affair as her aunt Brenda is also on stage. Bláithín's uncle Niall also starred on stage in Milltown in the nineties.

SUSAN BRADY: Morgan Payne-Varley

Although this is her first time on the stage for Milltown, Morgan was in multiple musical productions in her hometown in USA, including *Anything Goes*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. She also played bass keyboard and saxophone in the pit band for a production of *Guys and Dolls!*

HONOR BLAKE: Lisa Dowd-Hynes

Lisa, a native of Milltown, is no stranger to the stage, as Breda in *Digging for Fire* by Declan Hughes and Mrs Smith in *A Crucial Week in the Life of a Grocer's Assistant* by Tom Murphy whilst studying in Galway RTC. She was also a proud member of the Galway Baroque Singers and performed with them in Vienna as well as the National Concert Hall in Dublin amongst some of their many Irish concerts.

NELLIE: Bríd McHugh

Brid took a year off-stage in 2018 and served a highly successful year as MDS Chairperson. Treading the boards tonight as Nellie, we are delighted to have Bríd back!

PACKIE/TOWN-CRIER: John Knightley

John joins us all the way from Dunmore on loan from D.A.D.S. playing yet another comedic role with his trademark aplomb.

SIOBHÁN: Jane McGuinn

Jane is back on stage with us again after playing Yank, Lydia in *All My Sons*. Tonight she presents us with her best Mayo accent... perfected in *Ballindine!*

PETER: Ollie McHugh

This is Ollie's third time on stage with MDS. After *The Plough* and the Stars and *Philadelphia* he looks forward to neither getting shot nor drunk in this play!

JOHANNA: Marion Greene

Last year Marion took to the director's chair for *Philadelphia Here I Come*. She is glad to be back on stage as Johanna in this production.

MARGARET: Saranna Leonard

Saranna has been involved since 2014 backstage. Having recruited Eamon Blake for *The Paddy Pedlar*, Eamon was only too glad to repay the favour nominating Saranna to the stage!

THADIE: Frank McHugh

Another familial connection, Frank joins his brother Ollie on stage for a second year. Tonight he takes on the role of Thadie and hopes you enjoy the production.

BANJO PLAYER: Grace Sheridan

PATRONS

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Frank & Mary Glynn, Milltown

CAST PHOTO 2019



Míle Buíochas

Milltown Drama Society wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to the following:

- Padraig Coyne and Milltown DSP Team
- Bryan Flannery & Sons- Coffee.ie
- Michael Feerick, Milltown
- Sponsors of spot prizes
- Milltown Community Council
- Milltown Parish Council
- Milltown Development Association
- Milltown Day Care Centre

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We look forward to our next production in 2020 and invite you to come along and get involved!

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