



MILLTOWN DRAMA SOCIETY

- presents -

JOHN B. KEANE'S

MANY YOUNG MEN OF TWENTY



~ A musical play ~

- An amateur production by kind permission of the Drama League of Ireland -

Friday 20th March &

Saturday 21st March

at 8.00pm in

MILLTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Play Programme 2015

Come along and help the many young men of twenty say goodbye!



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Tickets on Sale: €10.00

Fáilte

On behalf of MDS, I am delighted to welcome you to Milltown Community Centre this evening for our production of John B. Keane's *Many Young Men of Twenty*. The reformed MDS is delighted to be staging our second production following on from the enormous success of *The MJ Molloy Centenary Celebration* in 2014.

Like last year, this has been a genuine team and community effort and we are grateful to everyone who has helped and supported us in any way. I especially acknowledge the Trojan commitment of our director, cast and crew. I am very grateful to the MDS Committee for their endless energy and enthusiasm. As ever, we are indebted to local organisations, patrons, sponsors of spot prizes and the team at Milltown Community Centre.

We are delighted to follow Molloy's *The Paddy Pedlar* with a John B Keane play. It has been said that Keane is the natural successor to Molloy's rural and authentic dramatic voice. I hope you enjoy the performance as you travel back in time to an Ireland of emigration and corruption, craic agus ceol as we help many young men of twenty say goodbye!

Le meas,

Rory Hynes – Chairman, Milltown Drama Society

Synopsis of the Play



The play is set in 1961 in an Ireland ravaged by emigration. Driven by the lack of employment, young men and women are forced to leave home, saying their farewells at railway stations all over the country and heading for the boat that will take them to England.

The political system of the time, rooted as it was in the divisions that emerged after the civil war, seems indifferent to the haemorrhaging of the country's best and brightest overseas. It falls to the play's central character, Danger Mullaly, to castigate the corruption of politicians and their failure to staunch the flow. He also rails at the parents who meekly pack their offspring off to England.

Hope of a brighter future for Ireland is embodied in Peg, the servant girl, who longs for the return of the father of her child.

She faces her difficult situation with courage and the vow that she will never send a son of hers to England. The play ends with Peg making a choice. Her choice affirms a belief that things can change. Her vision is to establish a new order, "Come Hell or high water"

Scenes

The action takes place in the back lounge of Tom Hannigan's public house in Keelty.

Act One:

It is the morning of a summer's day in 1961.

Act Two:

Scene One

It is the late evening of a day one year later.

Scene Two

It is the following evening - the train is shortly due to arrive.

Act Three:

The time is the morning of one week later.

Crew

Set Design and Construction: Adrian Molloy

Set Décor Team: Mary Kelly, Louisa McHugh, Gerry Greene.

Lighting: Liam Sheridan & Cián McHugh

Sound: Fintan Higgins

Props: Gerry Greene

Backstage Crew: Saranna Leonard & Anne Concannon.

Programme / Poster Design: Louisa McHugh.

MDS Committee 2015:

Rory Hynes (Chairman), Jane McGuinn (Secretary), Anne Concannon (Treasurer), Eleanor Sheridan (Creative Director), Eamon Blake, Marion Greene, Saranna Leonard, Ray McGrath, Siobhan Molloy, Emma Rhatigan, Helen Sheridan and Patricia Waldron.

Cast

Peg Finnerty - Sinead Sheridan

The leading lady of the play, Peg Finnerty, is played by Sinead Sheridan. Sinead comes from a rich tradition of drama, hailing from Dunmore. She has been involved with Dunmore Musical and Choral Societies and has also performed with DADS in 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'. Tonight Sinead shows her diverse talents as Peg not alone is the main love interest, but also the chief songstress. The play's theme song, 'Many Young Men of Twenty', is Peg's anthem and no doubt, you will go home with the tune firmly stuck in your head!

Danger Mullaly - Michael Sheridan

Michael was cast in the daunting role of Danger Mullaly and has taken up the challenge with great gusto. The conscience of the play, Danger delivers a damning social commentary on 1960s Ireland while also providing many of the lighter moments. This is his second role with MDS following last year's casting as the violent Mathius Duggan.

Maurice Browne - Gary Curran

Gary stunned audiences with his portrayal of The Pedlar in 'The Paddy Pedlar'. This year he takes to the boards again to play the opinionated schoolteacher, Maurice Browne. Gary is thrilled to have been promoted from a pedlar to a schoolteacher in one short year!

Tom Hannigan - Oliver Barrett

Ollie originally hails from Ballycastle, Co. Mayo. He moved to Milltown with Jean in 2006 and now has two little girls Ruby and Emily. He grew up in a pub and this experience will stand him in good stead as he plays the publican Tom Hannigan. This is Ollie's first time on stage since he was a child and he is looking forward to opening the doors of Hannigan's back lounge tonight and providing best drinks for all in his establishment.

Seelie Hannigan - Cathrina Healy

This is Cathrina's debut with MDS. She has appeared in several productions with Parke (Castlebar) Drama Group and also took part in the 2013 Claremorris Drama Festival. She is honoured to be treading the boards in her native Milltown and counts John B. Keane, Tuam playwright John Murphy, and Milltown's very own MJ Molloy among her favourite playwrights. Tonight she takes on the role of Tom's sister and is keen to assure audiences she is nothing like the no-nonsense Seelie!

Maynan - Mary Moran

A life-long lover of theatre and the arts, this is Mary's first dramatic role. She plays the part of Maynan, the long suffering wife of Dawheen Timineen Din. She is delighted to be dipping her toe in the water and is thrilled to be part of this Milltown play.

Dawheen Timineen Din - Joe Hynes

Joe had a starring role as Ooshla in last year's, 'The Paddy Pedlar'. He played in several Milltown plays of the 90s, most notably as SB O'Donnell in 'Philadelphia Here I Come'. He reprised this role and received a 'Best Actor Award' in the DADS production, staged on the drama festival circuit in 2005.

Kevin - Rory Hynes

Rory is a founding member of Milltown Drama Society and currently serves as Chairman. This year, he leaves the chair as he treads the boards for the first time, still unsure how the Director made this happen! Rory takes on the role of Kevin, one of the many young men preparing to emigrate. He is delighted to see MDS embark on its second production.

Dinny - Eamon Blake

Eamon caught the theatre bug last year as peasant lad, Thady Durkan. This year he shows his versatility by portraying Dinny, who is plucked from rural Ireland and transplanted to the buzzing metropolis of London.

Kitty Curley - Marion Greene

Hot on the heels of her role as Sibby in last year's, 'The Paddy Pedlar', tonight she takes on the role of Kitty Curley. Like Joe, she is a veteran of Milltown plays in the 90s, Marion will relish reading the palms of all who frequent Tom Hannigan's pub.

Dot - Emma Rhatigan

Emma's acting career started in the St Jarlath's College Opera where she played in 'Hot Mikado' and as Gwendalin in 'Half a Six-Pence'. She graduated to Tuam Youth Theatre where she took on the roles of Brenda in 'Hairspray' and Ethel in 'Footloose'. This is her first dramatic role as Londoner, Dot, bemused by the goings-on in rural Ireland.

JJ Houlihan - Ray McGrath

This is Ray's first appearance with MDS but he has huge acting experience as a regular with DADS in many award winning productions since 2006. Ray has also featured in several Marian Choral Society and Dunmore Musical Society shows. His most recent performance was as Shawn Keogh in 'The Playboy of the Western World' in December 2014. Ray is delighted to be part of this year's hometown cast of 'Many Young Men of Twenty'.

Johnny - Ben Tierney

Ben hails from nearby Belmont and is steeped in theatre and drama. He is currently studying 'Acting and Theatre Performance' in Galway Community College and hopes to study further in England. He has taken part in several musicals, plays and short films, most recently playing Colonel Melkett in 'Black Comedy'. Ben takes on the role of Johnny Houlihan, the privileged son of politician of JJ Houlihan and wishes all involved the best for the performance.

Aloysius - Pdraig Godwin

Pdraig Godwin returns to the stage in Milltown after playing in many of the dramas of the 1960s. Tonight he makes a cameo appearance as Hannigan's regular Aloysius and we are all thrilled to have him on board!

Mikey - Peter Coyne

Peter is a student of St Jarlath's in Tuam and is sitting his Junior Cert this year. Tonight he plays the role of young emigrant Mikey.

Mary - Breege McHugh

Breege takes on the role of Mary, Mikey's sister. She enjoys all aspects of drama and is looking forward to tonight's performance

Davy, Concertina Player - Eddie Sheridan

Like Peter, Eddie is a student at St. Jarlath's College. He too is enjoying a respite from studying for his Junior Certificate playing the part of Davy, the concertina player who is Kitty Curley's sidekick.

PATRONS

We are eternally grateful for the generosity and community spirit of our MDS Patrons

Michael Burke, Electrical Contractor, Milltown.

The Bridge Bar, Tuam.

The Cellar Bar, Tuam.

Coffee.ie, Flannery's Coffee Supplies, Milltown.

Concannon Family, Milltown.

Dr Gary Curran/Dr Kenneth Egan, Ballindine.

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Finn's Restaurant, Milltown.

Glynn's Funeral Directors, Tuam.

Glynn's Hardware, Milltown, Tuam & Claremorris.

Healthwest Community Pharmacy, Ballindine.

Hennigan's Centra Supermarket, Ballindine.

Hynes Family, Milltown.

Molloy Motors, Milltown.

Ultan Molloy, Ballindine.

Mullarkey's Bar & Lounge, Milltown.

Tony & Fran Murphy, Milltown.

Ocean Harvest, Milltown.

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Michael & Catherine Rhatigan, Milltown.

Ryan's Daybreak & Bar, Milltown.

Mary and Ann Sheridan, Milltown.

Sheridan's Bar & Restaurant, Milltown.

Tony and Eleanor Sheridan, Milltown.

St. Jarlath's Credit Union, Tuam.

Seamus Walsh Optician's & Palace Fields Pharmacy.

Walsh's Bar, Dunmore.

Míle Buíochas

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

Milltown Community Council

Milltown Parish Council

Milltown Development Association

Galway Co. Co. Community Support Scheme

Padraic Coyne and Milltown FÁS Scheme

Management and staff of Milltown Community Centre

The Milltown Day Care Committee

Sponsors of Spot Prizes

Dunmore Amateur Dramatic Society

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CONNECT / GET INVOLVED!

Very early in 2016, MDS will begin work on their third production.

The committee invites you to get involved whether behind the scenes or under the lights on stage!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page, the Parish Newsletter and the Milltown Notes of *The Tuam Herald* for more information.

'Like' us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/milltowndramasociety

Email: milltowndramasociety@live.com