



MILLTOWN DRAMA SOCIETY
- *presents* -

PHILADELPHIA



Here I Come!

BY BRIAN FRIEL

An amateur production by special
arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.

Programme
- 2018 -

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*

MDS Committee 2018:

Chairperson: Breege McHugh

Treasurer: Saranna Leonard

Secretary: Helen Sheridan

PRO: Rory Hynes

Director: Joe Hynes

Producer: Marion Greene

Committee: Anne Concannon, Eleanor Sheridan, Anne Coyne, Eamon Blake, Sinead Sheridan, Paul Kelly, Paul Singleton, Siobhan Molloy, and Ray McGrath

Welcome / Fáilte

On behalf of MDS I am delighted to welcome you here this evening for our fifth production – Brian Friel's *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* After the success of last year's *All My Sons* we are delighted to once again return to Irish drama and to one of our most gifted playwrights. Indeed, Milltown has a special bond with this play having performed it in the 1990s in Sheridan's Lounge.

The play focuses on the complex relationship between father and son and deals with powerful themes of emigration, love and inner-turmoil. And yet Friel is a master of comedy with the play boasting some wonderfully funny and tender moments too. *Philadelphia* is possibly most renowned for presenting two sides of the central character Gar - his public face and his private inner voice.

Having being involved with Milltown Drama Society as both a committee and cast member, it was a privilege to be appointed Chairperson this year. I was able to see first-hand the level of work and commitment by all involved and I am grateful to all for their efforts. I particularly wish to acknowledge the efforts and vision of our new directorial team of Joe Hynes and Marion Greene as well as the cast, committee and crew.

As with previous years, the level of community support has been phenomenal; from the team at Milltown Community Centre to the local organisations and friends who have been unfailing in their support. With this in mind, we especially remember our dear friend Pdraig Cosgrove who was always on hand to help us in years gone by, with his trademark nod and smile. Rest in Peace, Pdraig.

This year we returned to our patrons for support and were humbled and honoured by the level of generosity we received. To all our patrons, old and new, we extend a warm thank you - your support and community spirit makes these productions possible.

And finally to you, our loyal audience: thank you once again for coming out in such numbers to support your local drama society. We look forward to entertaining you for many more years to come!

Le meas,

Breege McHugh (Chairperson)

Brian Friel

Brian Friel, born in 1929 in Donegal, was an Irish dramatist, short story writer and founder of the Field Day Theatre Company. Considered one of the greatest living English-language dramatists, he has been likened to an "Irish Chekhov" and described as "the universally accented voice of Ireland". His plays have been compared favourably to those of contemporaries such as Samuel Beckett, Arthur Miller, Harold Pinter and Tennessee Williams. *Philadelphia, Here I Come* is among his most beloved plays. He died in October 2015.

Synopsis of the Play:

Fed up with the dreary round of life in Ballybeg, with his uncommunicative father and his humiliating job at his father's grocery shop, Gareth O'Donnell has accepted his aunt's invitation to come to Philadelphia. On the eve of his departure, despite the fantasies Gar entertains of life in America, all it would take to stop him leaving would be one word of affection from his father or former love Kathy, or a word of genuine understanding from his friends.

NOTE:

Private Gar, the spirit, is invisible to everybody, always. Nobody except Public Gar hears him talk. But even Public Gar, although he talks to Private Gar occasionally, never sees him and never looks at him. One cannot look at one's alter ego.

TIME:

The present, 1964, in the small village of Ballybeg.

SCENES:

Episode I: Kitchen in the home of County Councillor SB O'Donnell who owns a general store on the night before Gar's departure for Philadelphia.

Episode II: The same evening, short time later

Episode III part 1: A short time later

Episode III part 2: The small hours of the following morning.

Crew:

Director:	Joe Hynes
Producer:	Marion Greene
Set Construction:	Eugene Finnegan
Set Décor:	Gerry Greene
MakeUp:	Emma Rhatigan, Méabh Sheridan
Hair:	Ev's Hair and Beauty
Lighting:	Paul Kelly Lighting
Lighting Technicians:	Eoin O'Connor
Backstage:	Anne Concannon, Eleanor Sheridan
Video:	Gerry Greene
Props:	Eugene Finnegan, Gerry Greene
Sound:	Michael Connolly, Sun Street Recording Studio

The Cast

SB O'DONNELL: Oliver Barrett

Ollie is a veteran of three productions with MDS playing a diverse range of parts over the years, most recently as Dr Jim Bayliss in *All My Sons*. This year sees him take centre stage as the withdrawn and uncommunicative patriarch S.B. O'Donnell. The play hinges on his relationship with his son Gar and housekeeper Madge. Ollie's love for drama has seen him pen his own plays, hopefully coming soon to a stage near you!

MADGE: Claire Fitzsimons

Claire first got the bug for the stage when she was literally a "bug" in Tuam Arts Festival's Macnas style parade as a child. From there she enjoyed many years taking part in musicals and plays and worked in theatre for a number of years before going into teaching. After recently moving to Milltown she's delighted to be involved with MDS and looking forward to treading the boards again after a long hiatus!

GAR PUBLIC: Eddie Ruane

Eddie Ruane made his MDS debut last year starring as Chris Keller in *All My Sons*. This powerful performance impressed audiences and left us eager for more. We are delighted Eddie has returned taking on the complex role of the conflicted Gar (Private) O'Donnell. Watch out for some powerful scenes with his alter ego Gar Private.

GAR PRIVATE: Ray McGrath

No stranger to the drama scene in Milltown and beyond, Ray is hugely in demand. This often sees him juggle multiple roles and characters in plays and musicals. Tonight, he is the inner voice of Gar O'Donnell, a central role offering us an insight into the mind of the torn Gar. There is no doubt that Ray's talent and experience will stand him in good stead in this challenging role.

KATE: Bláithín McWalters

Bláithín has taken part in productions by Dunmore Musical Society and D.A.D.S. in the past. Her newly awakened interest in drama sees her play the part of love interest Kathy Doogan. She is delighted to join MDS in her native Milltown.

MASTER BOYLE: Michael Sheridan

After a brief sabbatical from MDS last year, Michael returns to the stage as the bombastic school teacher Master Boyle. He has impressed Milltown audiences particularly as Fluther Good in *The Plough and the Stars*. He dispenses with the Dublin accent and draws upon his own experience of rural school masters to deliver another convincing performance.

LIZZIE SWEENEY: Sinead Sheridan

This role is certainly a departure for the talented Sinead who has previously played the romantic lead in three productions. She retains the American accent from last year's *All My Sons* although in very different role as returned 'yank' Lizzie Sweeney.

CON SWEENEY: Frank McHugh

This year marks Frank's three-in-a-row with MDS. His role this evening contrasts sharply with the angst-ridden George Deever in Miller's play. He portrays the long suffering husband of Lizzie who says little and endures much!

BEN BURTON: John Knightly

John returns to MDS having last played Captain Brennan in our 2016 production of O'Casey's *Plough*. A stalwart of many D.A.D.S. productions, John will once again endear himself to Milltown audiences as the comic American Ben Burton.

NED: Paul Singleton

Paul is back with us again after impressing audiences as Jack Clitheroe in 2016. His haunting rendition of "Nora" is still remembered by many as a highlight of the production. The most sympathetic of Gar's friends, Paul plays Ned, the ringleader of the bunch.

TOM: Shane Rhatigan

Shane has been involved behind the scenes over the years and now he ventures into the limelight as Tom. Never one to allow his sisters to out-do him, Shane treads the boards with distinction as his sisters Hannah and Emma have done previously.

JOE: Ollie McHugh

MDS are delighted to have Ollie back on stage after a memorable performance as Lt. Langon in 2016. Who can forget the climactic moment when he was shot and dragged off stage bleeding heavily? This year no such misfortune befalls him as plays Joe, another of Gar's friends.

CANON MICK BYRNE: Pete Coen

Pete is the only veteran of Milltown's last offering of *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* in the 1990's. This time he plays S.B.'s friend, Canon Mick Byrne having formerly played Master Boyle. Pete has managed to combine rehearsals with a very busy lambing season!

SENATOR DOOGAN: Paul Kelly

This is Paul's second outing in Milltown after a hugely lauded portrayal of Joe Keller in *All My Sons*. This year sees a less demanding, but more pompous role for the talented 'sham' as he takes on the part of Kathy's father Senator Doogan.

PATRONS

We express sincere thanks to the following for their generous patronage:

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Seamus Walsh Optician's and Pharmacy, Tuam
Walsh's Bar, Dunmore
W.E.R.S. Waste, Tuam

CAST PHOTO 2018



Míle Buíochas

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

Milltown Community Council
Milltown Parish Council
Milltown Development Association
Galway County Council
St Jarlath's Credit Union
Padraig Coyne and Milltown DSP Team
Tina Prendergast & Sinéad Morrissey, Community Centre

Bryan Flannery & Sons - Coffee.ie
Michael Feerick, Milltown
Milltown Day Care Centre Committee
Adam Fitzsimons
Galway Arts Festival
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We look forward to our next production in 2019 and invite you to come along get involved!

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