



MILLTOWN DRAMA SOCIETY

-presents-

Sean O'Casey's

THE PLOUGH & THE STARS

An amateur production by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.



**Friday 4th March &
Saturday 5th March 2016**

at 8.00pm in

MILLTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Play Programme

1916 ▪ Celebrate the Centenary in Milltown! ▪ 2016



Fáilte

On behalf of MDS, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Milltown Community Centre this evening for our third offering since re-forming in 2014. After the curtain fell on last year's production of John B. Keane's *Many Young Men of Twenty*, we began to consider what to offer our loyal audience in 2016. O'Casey's masterpiece *The Plough and the Stars* came instantly to mind so we began the tough campaign to secure the rights. Luckily we were successful and here we are!

There is no doubting the timeless quality of this play. With its mix of potent characters and themes, as well as its social conscience, it is both entertaining and poignant. The challenge of multiple sets, urban backdrops and the Dublin accent certainly drove our fledgling society out of its comfort zone. Due to the hard work, dedication and passion of our director, cast, crew and committee we rose to meet the challenge and we hope you enjoy the results.

As with the last two years, the community support we have received has been outstanding. We offer sincere thanks to all those who have assisted and supported us in our preparation for this weekend. We also thank those who contributed to our fundraising efforts. The generosity of our Patrons was once again beyond measure and we continue to be indebted to local organisations, sponsors of spot prizes and the team at Milltown Community Centre.

And so "The time is rotten ripe for revolution!" I hope you enjoy the show.

Le meas,

- Rory Hynes, MDS Chairman.

MDS Committee 2015/16:

Chairman & PRO: Rory Hynes, **Secretary:** Caroline Waldron, **Treasurer:** Anne Concannon, **Artistic Director:** Eleanor Sheridan, **Committee:** Marion Greene, Siobhan Molloy, Saranna Leonard, Ray McGrath, Emma Rhatigan, Mary Moran, Eamon Blake, Jane McGuinn, Helen Sheridan, Ben Tierney, Ann Coyne.

Synopsis of the Play



The Plough and the Stars is possibly O'Casey's most visceral and social play. Set against the backdrop of the tumultuous Easter Rising, the play explores the daily realities for the Dublin tenement dwellers of the time. O'Casey presents us with some very memorable characters - the men who want the glamour of war and

the women who suffer war's unglamorous consequences. This is gritty social drama at its most intense and yet the play also has moments of great tenderness and comedy. MDS are delighted to present, in this special year, Sean O'Casey's tragi-comic masterpiece *The Plough and the Stars*.

Scenes

Act 1: The living room of the Clitheroe flat in a Dublin tenement

Act 2: A public house, outside of which a meeting is being held

Act 3: The street outside the Clitheroe tenement

Act 4: The room of Bessie Burgess

Time:

Acts 1 & 2; November 1915.

Acts 3 & 4; Easter Week 1916.

A few days elapse between Acts 3 & 4.

Crew

Director: Eleanor Sheridan.

Set Construction:

Adrian Molloy, Paul Singleton and Eugene Finnegan.

Set Décor:

Gerry Greene, Louisa McHugh, Caroline Waldron, Mary Kelly and Sandra Barrett.

Costume:

Maureen Hynes.

Stage Crew:

Shane Rhatigan, Gerry Greene, Adrian Molloy, Eddie Sheridan, Diarmuid Ruane, Iarlaith Molloy.

Lighting:

Cian McHugh.

Backstage:

Anne Concannon and Saranna Leonard.

Video:

Gerry Greene.

Props:

Maureen McHugh, Gerry Greene, Knightly Family (Dunmore), Ronan Glynn, Maureen Ronayne.

Sound: Fintan Higgins Sound.

Lighting: Sound to Light Galway.

Cast

Jack Clitheroe [*a bricklayer*]

Paul Singleton

This is Paul's first outing with MDS, his previous dramatic role being as Ben Wilson in *The Course*. His involvement with Marian Choral has seen him play Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and the flamboyant George in *The Wedding Singer*. Tonight Paul assumes the role of Jack Clitheroe, a member of the Irish Citizen Army hungry for promotion... but at what cost?

Nora Clitheroe [*his wife*]

Sinead Sheridan

Drama is in Sinead's blood and this year she takes on her second demanding role as Nora Clitheroe. Last year she played the female lead as strong-willed Peg Finnerty in *Many Young Men of Twenty*. Sinead hopes to capture the strength and vulnerability of the play's heroine, Nora.

Peter Flynn [*a labourer, Nora's Uncle*]

Oliver Barrett

Oliver caught the acting bug last year when he took on the role of Tom Hannigan in *Many Young Men of Twenty*. Tonight he plays the part of temperamental Peter Flynn, a Forester, more inclined towards the idea of the fight rather than the reality.

The Young Covey [*a fitter, Clitheroe's cousin*]

Ray McGrath

Having played many roles with D.A.D.S. and more recently as JJ Hoolihan with MDS last year, Ray brings vast experience to the role of the socialist Young Covey. Perceived as the social conscience of the play, this serious role is punctuated by O'Casey's unmistakable humour.

Bessie Burgess [*a street fruit seller*]

Cathrina Healy

Following her acclaimed role as Seelie Hannigan last year, this is Cathrina's second role with MDS. In many ways Bessie is the unsung heroine of the play and embodies the contradictions of life in early twentieth century Ireland. A Protestant, whose son is fighting at the front in World War 1, Cathrina hopes to capture the grit and determination of the inimitable Bessie Burgess.

Mrs. Gogan [*a charwoman*]

Marion Greene

Marion charmed audiences last year with her portrayal of the eccentric Kitty Curley. This is Marion's third outing with MDS. She relishes the prospect of playing the pivotal role of Mrs Gogan, who offers her own personal philosophy on life and, more frequently, death!

Mollser [*her consumptive child*]

Emma Rhatigan

This is a very demanding role for Emma after playing vibrant Londoner Dot in *Many Young Men of Twenty*. Mollser says little but views the proceedings of the play through her wise and ultimately doomed eyes. "Is there anybody goin', with a tither of sense?"

Fluther Good [*a carpenter*]

Michael Sheridan

Michael has become a stalwart of our society since re-forming in 2014. He played the role of Danger Mullally in John B Keane's *Many Young Men*. Reprising the optimism and good humour of Danger, Fluther is the unlikely knight in shining armour of the Dublin tenements.

Lt. Langon [*A Civil Servant*]

Ollie McHugh

Ollie McHugh from Milltown joins MDS this year for his drama debut. Playing the part of Lt. Jim Langon, Ollie hopes this is the first of many more roles to come. He is excited about being part of *The Plough* in this centenary year of the Rising.

Captain Brennan [*Chicken Butcher*]

John Knightly

John joins us this year from Dunmore where his involvement with D.A.D.S. down the years has endowed him with much experience. He is delighted to join MDS and takes on the role of stern ICA Captain Ned Brennan.

Corporal Stoddart

Ben Tierney

Ben, a student of drama, joined us last year when he put his own stamp on the role of Johnny. Having achieved a distinction in Acting and Theatre Performance as well as having played roles in many plays, musicals and short films, Ben hopes tonight's role will help him realise his dream of one day walking the cobbles of Coronation Street!

Sergeant Tinley

Eamon Blake

Eamon has firmly established himself in MDS having played roles in our last two productions. Last year he was a Paddy in England, this year he is a Tommy in Ireland! He wishes all the cast and crew well in this year's show.

Rosie Redmond

Brid McHugh

Having displayed a keen interest in drama throughout the years as an observer, Brid McHugh is dipping her toes in as she takes on the role of the bold Rosie Redmond. After playing the smaller part of Mary in last year's show Brid looks forward to the more challenging role of lady of the night, Rosie Redmond!

Tommy the Barman

Joe Hynes

Careful not to get any endorsements on his publican's licence, Tommy views life from behind the bar, keeps the peace and serves the drinks to the residents of the tenements. Joe has acted in several Milltown plays over the years, most recently as Dawheen Timineen Din last year.

Woman from Rathmines

Mary Moran

A lifelong lover of drama Mary enjoyed her role as long suffering Mrs Din in our 2015 play. Mary has the privilege in this play of wearing a hat which dates from the period. It was worn by both Brigid McHugh (Drim) on her wedding day in 1884 and again in 1914 by her daughter when she got married. Thanks to Maureen McHugh for loaning it to us!

Voice of the Man - Frank McHugh

Frank's one and only time on stage was in a nativity play in the old CYMS hall where he played the Angel Gabriel. The role involved plenty of actions but no words, the reversal of his role this evening! *The Voice of the Man* uses the words and sentiments expressed by Padraig Pearse.

PATRONS

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

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The Bridge Bar, Tuam	Mullarkey's Bar & Lounge, Milltown
The Cellar Bar, Tuam	Tony & Fran Murphy, Milltown
Coffee.ie, Flannery's Coffee Supplies, Milltown	Tuam Farm Supplies
Concannon Family, Milltown	Ocean Harvest, Milltown
Jarlath and Ann Connolly, Milltown	O'Toole's Super-Valu, Tuam
Dr Gary Curran/Dr Kenneth Egan, Ballindine	Michael & Catherine Rhatigan, Milltown
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Hynes Family, Milltown	W.E.R.S. Waste, Tuam
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Míle Buíochas

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

Milltown Community Council
Milltown Parish Council
Milltown Development Association
Milltown Day Care Committee
Padraig Coyne and Milltown FÁS Team
Bryan Flannery & Sons- Coffee.ie
Sponsors of spot prizes for raffle
Milltown Foróige Club
Michael Feerick, Milltown

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We look forward to our next production in 2017 and invite you to get involved!

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Email: milltowndramasociety@live.com