The Cripple of Inishmaan

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FIU THEATRE PRESENTS

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN

By Martin McDonagh

November 9-12 and 16-19, 2000
Florida International University
Wertheim Performing Arts Center
Studio Theatre
NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Martin McDonagh is an unlikely person to receive accolades as the brightest of a fresh new generation of Irish playwrights. To begin with, he is not strictly Irish. Born in South London to Irish parents, his knowledge of Ireland is limited to visits to relatives and the Irish immigrant culture in the part of London in which he lives. Next, he has never studied theatre. Bored with school, he left at 16 and spent much of his time watching soap operas on the tellie, supplemented with a strong dose of American movies. He says his inspiration to begin writing came from his belief that he could produce better work than what he was seeing.

He was not an overnight success, having 22 scripts in a row rejected by the BBC. He had little contact with live theatre and what he did see he regarded as "pretty dull stuff." However, at age 23, he got an idea that he thought might work as a play. It took him three days to finish The Beauty Queen of Leenane. While waiting for a response to this, he wrote two other plays set in the same location, A Skull in Connamara and The Lonesome West. All three were chosen for production by the Ireland's Druid Theatre Company. While they were being prepared, he wrote The Cripple of Inishmaan. By the time his first three plays moved to London, Cripple had been selected for production by the Royal National Theatre. This is how McDonagh, at age 27, found himself to be the first playwright since Shakespeare to have four plays running simultaneously in London.

McDonagh uses an actual bit of history as background for The Cripple of Inishmaan. In 1934 the American documentary filmmaker Robert Flaherty came to Inishmore, the largest of the wild Arans Islands on Ireland's west coast, to shoot The Man of Aran. The playwright moves to the neighboring island of Inishmaan to show the upsetting effect this invasion has on the isolated island natives.

"His inspiration to begin writing came from his belief that he could produce better work than what he was seeing."

Though he may not be technically Irish, McDonagh's play has the qualities the great Irish plays have shared: skilled storytelling, fascinating characters and the colorful, vivid language of the ordinary people. Absent, however, is the usual sentimentality. And he adds elements of the seemingly casual cruelty of today's world. His is clearly the sensibility of today's young movie-goer. He says, "I want to write plays that shake you up a bit, plays that a film fan would be interested in seeing, like the new De Niro movie." So far, he seems to be succeeding.

GLOSSARY AND QUICK-FACTS

gosawer - boy.
-een - suffix (i.e. Johnnypateen, ladeen, biteen) little. Connotes familiarity.
eej, also eejit - idiot.
winkles - snails.
prairie - potato.
curragh - light, open boat made of a framework of lath covered formerly with hide or leather but now with tarred canvas.
Kevin Barry - Irish patriot who was executed in 1920.
poteen - a type of homemade alcohol
bent - cows or sick.
gob - mouth, face.
Michael Collins - An original leader of the IRA, he was considered to be founder of modern guerilla warfare or urban terrorism.
mingy - combination of mangy and stinlgy.
Banshees - a female spirit whose wailing is believed to foretell death.
Colleen - a young Irish girl.
Shillelagh - stout, cudgel, or club.
doolally - crazy.
prairie cakes-potato pancakes.
Antrim - One of the northernmost counties in Ireland.
Kerry - County, south, near County Cork.
Connemara - area in County Galway.
Leenane - Town in Galway.

CAPITAL: Dublin

AREA: 27,128 sq. mi.

POPULATION: 3,550,448

LANGUAGE: English, Irish (Gaelic)

RELIGION: Roman Catholic, Anglican

GOVERNMENT: republic

MONEY: Irish pound (punt)

RESOURCES: zinc, lead, natural gas, petroleum, barite, copper, gypsum, limestone, dolomite, peat, silver

AGRICULTURE: turnips, barley, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, meat and dairy products

ARAN ISLANDS: consist of Inisheer, Inishmore, and Inishmaan and lie thirty miles from Galway, located on the west coast of Ireland.

INISHMAAN: the middle island is about three and a half miles across, nearly round in form and has a population of 250-300 people.
THE Cripple of Inishmaan
By MARTIN McDonagh

Director .............................................................. Therald Todd
Costume Designer .............................................. Marilyn R. Skow
Set and Light Design ............................................ Douglas Molash
Technical Director ............................................... Matt Saxton
Voice and Speech .................................................. Lesley-Ann Timlick
Costumer .............................................................. Marina Pareja

CAST

KATE .................................................................. Jeanette Louise Taylor
EILEEN ............................................................ Ilena Alvarez
JOHNNYPA TEENMIKE ........................................ Robert Maxwell
CRIPPLE BILLY ................................................... Matt Szymanski
BARTLEY ............................................................. Ivan Lopez
HELEN ................................................................ Christina Burchard
BABBYBOBBY ...................................................... Joe Llorens
DOCTOR McSHARRY ............................................. Daniel Suarez
MAMMY .............................................................. Susan Murray


THERE WILL BE ONE INTERMISSION

Produced under special arrangements with Dramatist Play Service, Inc.

The Cripple of Inishmaan was first performed at the Royal National Theatre, London 12 December, 1996.

Original New York production by
The Joseph Papp Public/The New York Shakespeare Festival
George C. Wolfe, Producer

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager ...................................................... Jeanine Michel
ASM ................................................................. Joshua Burd
ASM ................................................................. Anayle Andreu
Prop Supervisor .................................................. Sarah Bruning
Sound Board Operator ........................................... Lucia McArthur
Assistant to the Costume Designer ....................... Rossana Morales
Wardrobe Mistress ............................................... Rosie Sermeno
House Manager .................................................... Eva Ruiz
Head Usher ....................................................... Daniel Moraguez
Box Office Manager ............................................. Jessica Campell
Marketing and Outreach ........................................ Michelle Catin, Christina Perdomo
Costume Construction .......................................... Talia Tejeda, Jimmy Allen

Daniella Schwimmer, Ricky Waugh
Wardrobe Crew .................................................. Ricky Waugh, Claudia Latorre, Rhonda Atkins
Scenic Artists ...................................................... Nicole Santaella, Rachel Carbonell
Paint Prep .......................................................... Larea Brown, Christina Burchard,
............................................................................ Lolliette Romero, Sasha
............................................................................ Secco, Madelin Marchant, Nicole
............................................................................ Santaella, Rachel Carbonell

Light Prep ......................................................... Elina Fernandez, Madelin Marchant, David Ortiz,
............................................................................ Irene Storey, Daniel Suarez, Johnny Trabanco
Prop Prep .......................................................... Rose Ginart, Ivan Lopez, Robert Maxwell,
............................................................................ Charles Quinteros, Adriana Ruiz, Matt Szymanski
Scene Shop ......................................................... Ivanaessa Henriquez, Joe Llorens, Danny Moraguez,
............................................................................ Emilio Rivas, Eva Ruiz, Lesley Sorzano, Charmille Walters

Thanks to ......................................................... Elizabeth Marsh and Michael Mettee, Broadcast
............................................................................ Video Productions

ADMINISTRATION

Department Chair ................................................... Leroy Clark
Senior Secretary .................................................... Marianna Murray
Secretary ............................................................... Nathalie Brenner
Business Manager .................................................. Abel Cornejo

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FIU SPOTLIGHT PROFILE

FIU Participates in Shakespeare Association of America 29\textsuperscript{th} Annual Meeting

The Shakespeare Association of America is holding its twenty-ninth annual meeting at downtown Miami's Hotel InterContinental starting on April 12, 2000 and ending April 14. During the weekend of the SAA meeting, Florida International University will stage the world premiere of Shakespeare's Journey, by Leroy Clark, FIU Theatre's chairperson and professor. In addition, FIU Theatre will present "Of Love and Death in Shakespeare," three scenes performed in Spanish by the Miami-based ensemble "El Duende."

The University of Miami will be presenting Much Ado About Nothing. FIU and UM are the principle hosts of the 29th Annual meeting. Peggy Endel from FIU and Mihoko Suzuki from UM will be heading the local arrangements.

The meeting includes seminars and workshops, paper sessions, and evening events. Paper session topics include "Making Electronic Shakespeare," "Feminist Historiography and Shakespeare's London: Rewriting Women's History," "Not the New Criticism: Historicizing Shakespeare's Language" and more.

The Association seminars and workshops bring together those interested in and knowledgeable about specific areas of study related to the writings and times of William Shakespeare.

Shakespeare's plays often explore themes and issues that continue to be relevant throughout the world including religious and political controversy, legal and medical history, character relationships related to power, business, marriage, honor, duty, love, leadership, parenting, race, prejudice, and the list goes on.

Not only is the Association still studying his plays, research continues with analyzing various productions and different approaches to the plays, film versions, and adaptations as well as exploring new methods of teaching Shakespeare. Members also explore textual analysis, acting techniques, directing, scansion and vocal technique.

The National Shakespeare Association is designed to serve as a forum for fresh research, critical examinations, and experimentation in teaching Shakespeare. The SAA is operated from the University of Maryland in Baltimore. A different city is selected for the annual conference and the city of Miami is honored to host the twenty-ninth annual meeting.

With many daily direct flights to Madrid, Miami also serves as an ideal embarkation point for the Sixth World Shakespeare Congress in Valencia, April 18-23.

For further information call (305) 348-3789.

FIU THEATRE NEWS

FIU Theatre will be holding Open-Auditions for its spring productions of The Tempest and Shakespeare's Journey. All actors are welcomed to audition. Prepare a two-minute scene from a Shakespearean play that is not The Tempest. The auditions will be held on November 28\textsuperscript{th} at 6:30. Call to schedule an appointment: (305) 348-3789.

We are pleased to congratulate the following students for their work in several productions: Heather Sligar performed in "How I Learned to Drive" by Paula Vogel at the Lake Worth Playhouse in September. During the summer, Robert Maxwell directed "Zoo Story" at DM150, played four roles in "Never the Sinner" at New Theatre, and performed in "A Gaggle of Saints" for The Juggerknot Theatre Company. Brad Murphy went to Indiana as an Acting/Technical intern, and performed in the musical "Music Man" and "Young Abe Lincoln" at the Lincoln Amphitheatre. Claudia Latorre is currently stage managing the Tigertail Production's "Florida/Brazil Festival," including a puppet show for children and an abstract one­woman show. She and Lucia McArthur performed in minor roles in New Theatre's production of Far East by A. R. Gurney. Jenny Pierre appeared in Miami Light Project's production of "Helluva Halloween."

Honors go to our past alumni for completing their training in higher education. Danny Pino recently graduated from the MFA program at NYU. Both Rafael Oliveira and Chantal Jean Pierre graduated from the MFA acting program at Rutgers University.

This semester, students Christina Perdono and Michelle Catin worked as interns for the Marketing and Publicity department of FIU Theatre. They worked under Abel Cornejo, Business Manager, to develop a stronger Educational Outreach Program and aid in the business process of the fall production season. The Educational Outreach Program consisted of communicating with middle schools and high schools in South Florida in order to encourage young students' interest and participation in Theatre. Part of the development of the program was creating an Educational Packet for the schools having to do with a particular production, and scheduling class visits to introduce the play and encourage student's attendance. This spring, opportunities will be available for other students to be involved in the Marketing and Publicity & Educational Outreach programs.

We look forward to our next production in January, Dinner with Durang directed by Madelin Marchant.
Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival XXXIII
Presented and Produced by
the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Supported in Part by
The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund,
The US Department of Education,
Delta Airlines, and
The National Committee for the Performing Arts

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2001.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

**UP-COMING FIU THEATRE PRODUCTIONS**

**Dinner With Durang**
Directed by Madelin Marchant
January 25-28 DM150 (Second Stage Production)

**The Tempest**
By William Shakespeare, Directed by Phillip Church
February 8-11 & 15-18, Main Stage Theatre

**Shakespeare’s Journey**
Written and Directed by Leroy Watson Clark
April 5-8 & 12-15, Studio Theatre