

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

by Martin McDonagh

Medway Little Theatre, 4th-13th October 2018

The play is set in a rural cottage in Leenane, a small town in Connemara, County Galway, Western Ireland. The year: 1996.

Martin McDonagh was born in 1970 in Elephant and Castle. He has Irish parents and spent his summer holidays as a child in Connemara, the area depicted in this play. He left school at 16 and wrote 22 radio plays, all of which were rejected by the BBC.

He sent the script of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* to Druid Theatre, an Irish touring company, which premiered the play at the Town Hall Theatre in Galway in 1996. As well as touring Ireland, it was seen at the Royal Court Upstairs and in the West End, winning several awards. In 1998, it transferred to off-Broadway and then to Broadway, winning four Tony awards.

McDonagh's other plays include *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (National Theatre, 1997), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (RSC, 2002), *The Pillowman* (National Theatre, 2003) and *Hangmen* (Royal Court, 2015). His new play *A Very Very Very Dark Matter*, about Hans Christian Andersen, opens at the Bridge Theatre, London this month.

In 2006, his first film *Six Shooter* won an Oscar for Best Short Film. His first full-length film *In Bruges* opened in 2009 and this year *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, which he wrote, directed and produced, won five BAFTA awards, including Best Film, and two Oscars.

Barry Kearns (Pato Dooley) has appeared in many productions over the last 15 years, including *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*, *Look Back in Anger* as Jimmy Porter, *What the Butler Saw*, *Philadelphia*, *Here I Come!*, *Mother Courage*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Entertaining Mr Sloane* and *Of Mice and Men*. He directed *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Jordan Lee (Ray Dooley) has a BA in Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies. He has appeared with several local theatre groups. Plays include *The Tempest*, *The Vicar of Dibley* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. This is his first appearance at MLT.

Melody Perrin (Maureen Folan) trained at the Miskin Theatre and De Montfort University, where she worked with a number of theatre professionals. She was invited to attend the National Student Drama Festival and has performed at the Edinburgh Festival. She played Alison Porter in our production last year of *Look Back in Anger*. Earlier she was in *My Boy Jack* and *Hobson's Choice*.

Linda Russell (Mag Folan) has appeared here in *Mother Courage* in the title role, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Abigail's Party*, *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Bold Girls*. She directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *My Mother Said I Never Should*. Returning to MLT after a year's break she is putting her life and soul into *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

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| Director | Michael Bath |
| Assistant Director | Didi Bergman |
| Stage Manager | Peter Clark |
| Lighting/Sound | Andrew Coulson & Arwen Pike |
| Set construction | John Farrell & Luke Taylor |
| Set painting | Jane Cumming-Benson, Paul Cumming-Benson & Didi Bergman |
| Properties & Prompt | Didi Bergman |
| Bar Manager | Tony Broome |
| Front of House | MLT members |

Coming Next

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

by Alan Ayckbourn

6th – 15th December 2018

When Greg becomes somewhat suspicious that he is not the only man in his wife Ginny's life. He wonders about Ginny's plan 'to visit her parents' and decides to follow her. Ginny is really going to see her considerably older lover, but only in order to break up with him. Greg mistakes the ex-lover and his wife for Ginny's parents. Ginny's arrival further compounds an already wildly hilarious situation.

Medway Little Theatre Needs You!

Our theatre produces several shows a year and we always welcome new members, whether they are interested in acting, stage managing, set building, working lights and sound, or any of the dozens of other jobs needed to produce live theatre. If you are interested in moving from seat to stage, please ask our front of house team or bar staff for information on how to join, or just turn up at one of our social nights, held every Tuesday evening in between show runs. The next one will be on Tuesday 16th October.

This amateur production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Ltd.

Posters and programmes by Reed Printers of Rochester

Photography by Neil Thorne

Neil Thorne has been photographing Medway Little Theatre productions for four years and, to mark the theatre's 60th anniversary this month, a selection of his photos can be seen in the bar area throughout the run of this play.

medway
little
theatre

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FROM THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF
"THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI"



4th - 13th October
Doors 7pm

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4 TONY AWARDS*

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LAURENCE OLIVIER
AWARD*

WINNER
GEORGE DEVINE
AWARD*

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OUR 60th ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION

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This amateur production of "THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE"
is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.