

THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE

"a deliciously dark Irish comedy"

rapture
THEATRE

01 SEPTEMBER - 22 OCTOBER

Dear All

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to **Rapture's** Autumn production, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, by the brilliant Martin McDonagh. I've wanted to direct this wonderful play since I saw the original production by Ireland's Druid Theatre in the 1990s.

The play is a masterpiece: a domestic comedy which has the scope of a Greek tragedy; a comedy which plumbs the depths of human despair; a drama which explores the pain of isolation, yet which manages to connect us with emotions and ideas that are universal. *The Beauty Queen* is laced with sparkling Irish humour, yet it still manages to express the dull, aching loneliness of living an unfulfilled life, making this not only a play for our times, but also a play for all time.

Rapture is thrilled to have brought together a stellar cast of acclaimed Irish actors for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* - **Julie Hale, Nuala Walsh, Paul Carroll and Ian O'Reilly** - actors with the sensitivity, the insight and the range to tackle this most challenging of plays, injecting it with all of the Irish lyricism and pathos inherent in McDonagh's unsentimental writing.

Rapture will be returning, in Spring 2023 with our next serving of lunch-time theatre events: **Rapture Bites**. We'd be delighted to welcome you along to have a light lunch with us, see a play and have an informal chat with the cast afterwards. Look out for details on our website: www.rapturetheatre.co.uk

Thank you for coming along tonight and for supporting live theatre. We're delighted to be back on the road again and especially working in proud association with Motherwell Theatre to bring this modern classic to the Scottish stage. As ever, we look forward to receiving your feedback on this wonderful play, so please fill in one of our feedback cards.

Enjoy!

Lyn McAndrew
Artistic Director
Rapture Theatre

Lyn, Teddy and Ben



A NOTE FROM our Artistic Director

The Beauty Queen of Leenane is produced in association with
Motherwell Theatre.

CREDITS

CAST

MAUREEN FOLAN
MAG FOLAN
PATO DOOLEY
RAY DOOLEY

JULIE HALE
NUALA WALSH
PAUL CARROLL
IAN O'REILLY



with special thanks to...

Creative Scotland; Craig Smart and all the Staff and Technical Team at Motherwell Concert Hall & Theatre; IA Stewart; David Manson and Robert Dickson from Scottish Opera; Pitlochry Festival Theatre; James's Barn, Comrie; Frank Mitchell; Horsecross Arts; MTL Services; Barry Kydd; Blast Design and as always our loyal friends and mascots Nina, Ben & Teddy.

THE BEAUTY QUEEN
OF LEENANE

RAPTURE THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
ADMIN SUPPORT
COMPANY ACCOUNTANT
FINANCE OFFICER
FINANCE SUPPORT

LYN McANDREW
CHRISTINA COX
CONNIE BOXALL
STEPHEN BELL
AILSA CROSSLEY
PHYLLIS ROSS
LAURA MUNRO
LAURA McNICOL

MOTHERWELL THEATRE TECHNICAL TEAM

TECHNICAL MANAGER
STAGE MANAGER
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
SENIOR LIGHTING TECHNICIAN
MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

STEVY ELLIS
KEVIN ELLIOTT
CHRIS QUINN
PHIL MARJORAM
MICHAEL McGHIE

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR
SET & COSTUME DESIGN
LIGHTING DESIGN
SOUND DESIGN
ADDITIONAL VOICE WORK
SCENIC ARTIST & COSTUME
SCENIC ARTIST

STUNT CO-ORDINATOR
GRAPHIC DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY
VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY
MARKETING & PR

LYN McANDREW
KEN HARRISON
DAVY CUNNINGHAM
DEBRA SALEM
CIARÁN GRAY
FRANCIS COLLIER
ANNA OLSON

CARTER FERGUSON
INFINITE BLUE DESIGNS
RICHARD CAMPBELL
SHIRLEY MONTEITH
KAREN STEEL

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION MANAGER
STAGE MANAGER
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT & STAGE MANAGER
DRIVER/STAGE CREW
DRIVER/STAGE CREW

PATRICK DALGETY
STEVEN SCOTT-FITZGERALD
GEORGIA LEECH
TAMI PEIN
ANDY SPEIRS

Julie Hale



International tour & West End run of *Curious Incident of the dog in the Night-Time* with the National Theatre.

Whisky Galore (in Gaelic) with National Theatre Scotland, *Cured* by Stef Smith as part of the Glasgaw Festival at the Arches, Glasgow, *Old Times* and *Love in the Title* with London Classic Theatre. *Lovechild*, *Ceausescu's Ear* and *Pericles* all with Gerry Stembridge. *Sunshine Boys* at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, *Exiles* by James Joyce at The Friends of the Italian Opera Theatre, Berlin. Irish National tour of *Canaries*. *Abigail's Party* and *The Gingerman* at The New Theatre, Dublin. *The Gingerman* then transferred to the Irish Arts Centre, New York where she was then cast and performed in the New York premier of *Red Roses and Petrol*, directed by Neil Jones.

Film and Television work includes *His Dark Materials*, *The Nest*, *Shetland*, *Garrow's Law*, *Crash*, *My Left Foot*, *Ash Wednesday*, *W.C.*, *Troubles*, *Black and White*, *When Brendan met Trudy*, *Flick*, *Black Day at Blackrock*, *Bobbie's Girl* & *Bloom*.

Julie had an ongoing role as Terry Deegan in the Irish Soap Opera *Fair City* for 8 years and was D.I. Amanda Rook in the Scottish Soap Opera *River City*.



Me world doesn't revolve around your taste in biscuits.

– Maureen Folan

BIOGRAPHIES

A native of county Wicklow in Ireland, Nuala trained as an actor in London and has lived there ever since. She has returned to Ireland many times to tour with Galloglass Theatre Company in plays including *The Big Sea* by Colin Teevan, and *Broken Ground* (company devised play). She has toured England in *Vincent in Brixton* for The Ambassador Theatre Group and also, with Middle Ground theatre Company in *The Verdict*.

Screen work includes award-winning short films such as *Sketch*, written and directed by Peter Lee Scott, as well as the Hartley Merrill award-winning feature *Conspiracy of Silence*, written and directed by John Deery. Nuala has appeared in some of Britain's best loved TV shows, including *Call the Midwife*, *Brookside* and *Father Ted*.

Having toured the Highlands and Islands of Scotland in *Copenhagen* and *A Skull in Connemara* for Mull Theatre Company, Nuala is thrilled to return to Scotland with Rapture Theatre to play in yet another saga of the masterful *Leenane trilogy*. *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* is in fact her favourite Martin McDonagh play, and one she has longed to work on since she first read it, over 20 years ago!



Nuala Walsh

I don't know if it is, or it isn't.

– Mag Folan



Ian is from County Mayo. He began his career aged 12, starting in Sky One's EMMY winning *Moone Boy*. Since then, he has expanded his career on stage and screen, starring in *Dating Amber*, for Amazon, and *Fate: The Winx Saga* for Netflix. On stage, he has appeared in Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *Drama at Inish* in Ireland's National Theatre.



Ian O'Reilly

“You do get a very considerate breed of cat up this way so.”
– Ray Dooley

Good morning there now, Mrs.
– Pato Dooley



Paul Carroll



Paul hails from County Wexford, Ireland and early in his career toured as male soloist singer in Riverdance. He has travelled the world as a singer and has also lent his voice to original cast recordings of several new musicals.

His acclaimed solo sketch show *Forty Shades of Strawberry Blond* has played successfully at Leicester Square Theatre, Camden Comedy Club and Brighton Fringe.

Theatre credits include: *A Skull in Connemara* (Nottingham Playhouse, Dir: Fiona Buffini), *Victorian Women in Bed* (London, Liverpool, Manchester), *Outlaws to In-laws* (King's Head Theatre), *The Non-Stop Connolly Show* and *Continuity* (Finborough Theatre), *Zoltan & the Cabbage Van* (Old Red Lion), *Permanence* by Fay Weldon and *That Dark Place* by Anna Jordan (Old Red Lion), *An Incomplete History of Faces* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Way Back* (Pleasance London), *Pentimenti*; *All in the Head* (Red Kettle Theatre Company).

On screen, he can be seen in feature film *Chosen* and stars in short films *The Wrong Change*, *Devon Gothic* and *Drone*.

Online, he stars in the YouTube/Web comedy series: *'Thinking Inside the Box'*.

Paul most recently performed as Feste and Antonio in East London Shakespeare Festival's production of *Twelfth Night*.

Martin McDonagh is a highly acclaimed playwright, screenwriter, and film director who is famous for his dark comedy. Born in 1970 to Irish parents, McDonagh grew up in London but spent his childhood summer holidays visiting family in County Galway, Ireland. Indeed, County Galway is the setting of McDonagh's first six plays, which are separated into two trilogies.

The first trilogy is set in Leenane, on the Galway coast, and consists of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (1996), *A Skull in Connemara* (1997), and *The Lonesome West* (1997). *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* won the George Devine Award, the Writer's Guild Award for best Fringe Play, and the Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Newcomer in 1996. In the same year, it was also nominated for a Lawrence Oliver Award for Best New Play, and in 1998 was nominated for a Tony award for Best Play. *A Skull in Connemara* was nominated for a Lawrence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in 1997, and *The Lonesome West* received a Tony Award nomination for Best Play in 1999.

McDonagh's second trilogy is set across the Aran Islands, off the coast of Galway, and consists of *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (1996), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (2001), and *The Banshees of Inisher* – a play which remains unpublished. *The Cripple of Inishmaan* won the 1997 Pearson Television Theatre Writers' Scheme Best Play Prize. However, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* – due to its political themes – was not produced by theatre companies until 2001 and yet, like so many of McDonagh's other plays, became a Tony Award nominee for Best Play in 2006.

Impressively, in 1997 both the Leenane trilogy as well as *The Cripple of Inishmaan* were being staged in London which meant McDonagh became the first playwright since William Shakespeare to have four plays running simultaneously on the London stage.

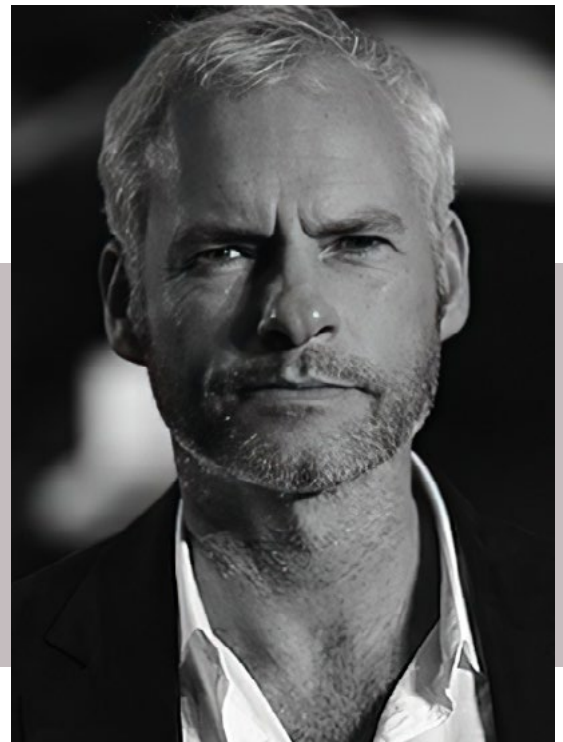
McDonagh's other playwriting successes include *The Pillowman* (2003) which won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2004, and received a Tony Award nomination for Best Play in 2005. The playwright's *A Behanding in Spokane* (2010) was nominated for the 2010 Drama League award for Distinguished Production of a Play, and McDonagh's *Hangmen* (2015) was awarded the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2016.

McDonagh's playwriting accolades have been echoed in his award-winning reputation for screenplay writing and direction of both short and feature length

films. *Six Shooters* (2005) earned him an Academy Award for the Best Live-Action Short Film of the year. His dark comedy *In Bruges* (2008) was nominated for Best Original Screenplay at The Academy Awards. McDonagh's British Crime Comedy *Seven Psychopaths* (2012) was released to critical acclaim, and his *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* (2017) won four awards at the Golden Globes, including Best Screenplay.

Most recently, *The Banshees of Innesheer* – incidentally the same title of McDonagh's unpublished Aran Island play – is a feature length film that the award-winning McDonagh is reportedly working on, and is due for release this year.

And yet, it is still *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, McDonagh's first ever play, which seems to resonate with people most strongly. Tackling head on the myths of motherhood and the toxicity inherent in family relationships which often go unseen and somehow unspoken. An unforgettable play, vibrating with the bitter beat of loneliness – mirrored in the isolation of its setting, the small village of Leenane on the Galway coast.



MARTIN MCDONAGH

copy by Geraldine Emans



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Theatre for All

Dedicated to

MICHAEL EMANS

1971 - 2021

FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF RAPTURE THEATRE

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