

BELFAST BLUES

GERALDINE HUGHES



#IRISHREPONLINE

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE

CHARLOTTE MOORE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR I CIARÁN O'REILLY PRODUCING DIRECTOR

A PERFORMANCE ON SCREEN

BELFAST BLUES

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY GERALDINE HUGHES

STAGE PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY CAROL KANE

JUDE LYNCH sound editor
M. FLORIAN
STAAB

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

general manager LISA FANF

TIME & PLACE

1970s - 80s in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Running Time: 75 minutes, no intermission

Irish Repertory Theatre would like to thank the Howard Gilman Foundation for their support in throughout this season.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



GERALDINE HUGHES
(Writer, Performer)
received the Los
Angeles Ovation,
Garland and Drama
Critics Circle Awards
and a Drama League
Award Nomination for

Outstanding Performance for her solo play Belfast Blues, which she also wrote. Geraldine's stage credits include: Harry Potter And The Cursed Child, as Professor McGonagall, Jerusalem, opposite Mark Rylance (Broadway and West End). Other theatre: Particle Of Dread (opposite Stephen Rea), Cyrano De Bergerac (Broadway), Translations (Broadway), Molly Sweeney (Irish Repertory Theatre), Pumpgirl (MTC), Orson's Shadow, The Cripple of Inishmaan, The Weir, and The Architect. Television credits include: Kevin Can Wait, Law and Order SVU. The Blacklist, Blue Bloods, Nurse Jackie, Mercy, The Good Wife, Law and Order CI, Law & Order, Murder, She Wrote: The Celtic Riddle, FR. She has starred in several features including The Book Of Henry, Time Out Of Mind, Gran Torino, Rocky Balboa and Killing Lincoln, and most recently Nine Days, with Winston Duke and Benedict Wong. Geraldine received an honorary doctorate from Queens University, Belfast, for her contribution to the arts. She is currently filming the new Showtime TV series Your Honor, opposite Bryan Cranston.

CAROL KANE (Director. Stage Production) Carol Kane's theater credits include The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. The Tempest, Midsummer Night's Dream, Wicked, Love, Loss and What I Wore, Harvey, The Children's Hour, Beth Henley's The Debutante's Ball and The Lucky Spot. John Cassavetes' A Woman of Mystery, and more. Her television and film work is extensive. She was nominated for Best Actress at the Academy Awards for "Hester Street". She won two Emmy Awards as 'Simka' on "Taxi" and garnered an Emmy nomination for her work in "Chicago Hope." Kane was also a series regular on the award-wining Netflix series "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" as 'Lillian', and currently stars opposite Al Pacino in Amazon's "Hunters."

JONATHAN CHRISTMAN (Lighting and Projection Design, Stage Production) Jonathan Christman is a professor of scenic and lighting design at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. Notable productions include Eurydice, Marisol, King Lear, Wings, Grapes of Wrath, The Laramie Project, and Angels in America. Jonathan was a founding member of The Virtual Theatre Project. The world premiere of Virtual's Belfast Blues earned him the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for best digital imagery design. Jonathan has continued to refine his vision for Belfast Blues for venues in Los Angeles. Chicago, Belfast, New York,

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

London, and was nominated for two LA Ovation Awards for scenic and lighting design for the Rubicon Theatre production. He has also designed Next Fall, Kimberly Akimbo, Dead Man's Cell Phone, and the 2013 world premiere of Daniel Singer's A Perfect Likeness for North Carolina-based Paper Lantern Theatre Company. Jonathan's original projections were featured in a 2013 collaborative production of Moises Kaufman's 33 Variations by Wake Forest University and the Winston-Salem Festival Stage.

JONATHAN SNIPES (Sound Design, Stage Production) Jonathan Snipes is a composer and sound designer for Film and Theater living in Los Angeles. He occasionally teaches sound design in the theater department at UCLA, and is a member of the rap group 'clipping'. jonat8han.com

M. FLORIAN STAAB (Post-Production Sound Design) is a sound designer and composer based in Brooklyn, NY. Credits include: The Library, Pretty Hunger and Teenage Dick (Public Theater); Uncle Vanya (Pearl Theatre Company); Nomad Motel (Pittsburgh City Theatre); Into the Breeches! (Trinity Rep); Winners (Ensemble Studio Theatre); Death of the Liberal Class (New Ohio); Crackskull Row (The Cell and Irish Rep); On Beckett with Bill Irwin (Irish Rep); Minor Character (New Saloon); A Hunger Artist (Tank/Sinking Ship); This Lingering Life (Here Arts); Mad Libs Live!

(New World Stages); The Bonapartes (Ars Nova); A Bright New Boise (Partial Comfort) and The Suitcase Opera (Chicago Opera Vanguard). Staab was born and raised in Germany and received his BA from Oberlin College and MFA from Krannert Center. He is an associate artist with Sinking Ship Productions and the resident sound designer at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. florianstaab.com

CIARÁN O'REILLY (Producing Director) Favorite directing credits include: The Weir: A Performance on Screen, Lady G: Plays and Whisperings of Lady Gregory. Dublin Carol, The Shadow of a Gunman, The Seafarer, The Dead, 1904, Shining City, Off the Meter, on the Record, The Weir (Calloway Nom.), Banished Children of Eve. The Emperor Jones, (Callaway Award, O'Neill Credo Award, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Lucille Lortel Nom.), The Hairy Ape (Drama Desk Drama League and Callaway Nom.), Philadelphia. Here I Come! (Drama Desk Nom) Irish Rep acting roles include: Molly Sweeney: A Performance on Screen, Da. Juno and the Paycock, Dancing at Lughnasa, Molly Sweeney, Candida, Aristocrats, A Whistle in the Dark, The Shaughraun, and The Irish and How They Got That Way. He appeared in the Roundabout Theatre Company's production of A Touch of the Poet with Gabriel Byrne. He has appeared at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin and made his Broadway debut in The Corn is Green. Films include The Devil's Own (starring Harrison Ford), "Law & Order," "The Irish

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

and How They Got That Way," "Third Watch," "Bored to Death" and "The Knick." Ciarán has been inducted in to the Irish America Hall of Fame and was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad, 2019 by President Michael D. Higgins.

CHARLOTTE MOORE (Artistic Director) Recent directing assignments include: Molly Sweeney: A Performance on Screen, Love Noël: A Performance on Screen, London Assurance, Love Noël, The Plough and the Stars, On a Clear Day You Can See Forever, Three Small Irish Masterpieces by William Butler Yeats, Lady Gregory and J.M. Synge. NY premiere of Brian Friel's The Home Place, World premiere of Larry Kirwan's Rebel in the Soul, Finian's Rainbow. The Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative gala, Truman Capote's A Christmas Memory, and Juno and the Paycock and Dancing at Lughnasa. New York stage appearances include A Perfect Ganesh, Meet Me in St. Louis. The Perfect Party, Morning's at Seven, Private Lives (with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton), and many performances with the New York Shakespeare Festival. Ms. Moore has received two Tony Award nominations, the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award, the Drama League Award, the Irish America Top 100 Irish Award, The Eugene O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award, and the 2008 Irish Women Of The Year Award. She is the recipient of the St. Patrick's Committee

in Holyoke's John F. Kennedy National Award, and has thrice been listed as one of the "Top 50 Power Women" in *Irish America Magazine*. Charlotte was named "Director of the Year" by *The Wall Street Journal* in 2011. Charlotte has been inducted in to the Irish America Hall of Fame and was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad, 2019 by President Michael D. Higgins.

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE Founded by Ciarán O'Reilly and Charlotte Moore, Irish Repertory Theatre opened its doors in 1988 with Sean O'Casey's The Plough and the Stars and is now in its 31st Season. Irish Rep is currently the only year-round theatre company in North America devoted to bringing Irish and Irish-American works to the stage. Recognized with the Jujamcvn Theatres Award, a special Drama Desk Award for "Excellence in Presenting Distinguished Irish Drama," Lucille Lortel Award for "Outstanding Body of Work," and a 2013 Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award in recognition of 25 years of producing outstanding theatre. Irish Rep presents the very best in Irish theatre, from the masters to the new generation of Irish and Irish-American writers who are transforming the stage. Located in the heart of New York's Off-Broadway community, Irish Rep offers an engaging perspective the Irish and their contributions to the world of drama.

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A Letter from the Directors

There are two things that fill our hearts: working with great actors at the top of their game and presenting powerful stories that tantalize the senses and bring us laughter and tears in equal measure. Such a gift Geraldine Hughes has brought to us in her autobiographical play Belfast Blues.

We had the great pleasure of working with Geraldine a decade ago in Brian Friel's *Molly Sweeney* and, recently in our Digital Summer Season where she mesmerized us again in her beautiful new portrayal of the title role.

In *Belfast Blues*, she gives us her own story culled from war torn Belfast in the depths of The Troubles. It is a work filled with courage and grit and joy.

We dare anyone to watch this and not be moved by the work of this seminal actress.

Charlotte Moore. Artistic Director

CIARÁN O'REILLY, PRODUCING DIRECTOR

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(as of July 7, 2020)

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