



IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE

MOLLY
SWEENEY

BY

BRIAN FRIEL

DIRECTED BY CHARLOTTE MOORE



#IRISHREPONLINE

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE

CHARLOTTE MOORE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | CIARÁN O'REILLY, PRODUCING DIRECTOR

A PERFORMANCE ON SCREEN

MOLLY SWEENEY

BY **BRIAN FRIEL**

DIRECTED BY **CHARLOTTE MOORE**

WITH

GERALDINE HUGHES, PAUL O'BRIEN
AND **CIARÁN O'REILLY**

video editor
**SARAH
NICHOLS**

sound designer
**ZACHARY
WILLIAMSON**

post-production sound mix
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**LISA
FANE**

TIME & PLACE

Ballybeg, County Donegal, Ireland

Running Time: 2 hours and 15 minutes including an intermission

SPECIAL THANKS

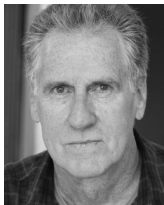
Irish Repertory Theatre would like to thank Geraldine Hughes, Paul O'Brien, the family of Brian Friel, Leah Schmidt of The Agency UK, The Keen Company, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Ciarán Madden - Consul General Of Ireland, and the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

THIS PRODUCTION IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH PUBLIC FUNDS FROM THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS, THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AXE-HOUGHTON FOUNDATION, AND OTHER PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MANY GENEROUS MEMBERS OF IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE'S PATRON'S CIRCLE.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



GERALDINE HUGHES (*Molly Sweeney*) 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", "ER". She has starred in several features including "The Book Of Henry", "Time Out Of Mind", "Gran Torino", "Rocky Balboa", "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.



PAUL O'BRIEN (*Mr. Rice*) Irish Rep: *The Weir*, *DA*, *Burial at Thebes*, *Man and Superman*. Broadway: *Six Degrees of Separation*, *On a Clear Day*, *The Importance*

of Being Ernest, *Equus*, *Cymbeline*, *Democracy*, *King Lear* (with Christopher Plummer), *The Crucible* (with Liam Neeson), *Twelfth Night*. Off-Broadway: *Molly Sweeney* (Keen Company), *The Mountains Look Different*, *Is Life Worth Living?* (Mint Theater), *Hamlet* (NYSF), *Death Defying Acts* (Variety Arts), *Three Birds Alighting on a Field* (MTC), *Widow's Blind Date* (Circle in the Square), *Moon for the Misbegotten* (Pearl Theater). Regional: Playmakers Rep, Guthrie, Williamstown, Geffen, Actors Theater of Louisville, Long Wharf, Trinity Rep, Huntington, Gloucester Stage. Film: "Shirley," "Hail Caesar," "The Boy Downstairs," "Manhattan Romance," "Fairhaven," "Henry's Crime," "Redacted", "Devil's Own", "What's The Worst That Could Happen?" TV: "Search Party", "Dangerous Book for Boys", "Elementary", "Forever", "House of Cards", "Person of Interest", "Sopranos", "The Practice", "Providence", "ER", "Star Trek Voyager", "Law and Order, SVU", "A Case of Deadly Force."



CIARÁN O'REILLY (*Frank Sweeney*) Irish Rep acting roles include: *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

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

The Corn is Green. Films include *The Devil's Own* (starring Harrison Ford), "Law & Order," "The Irish and How They Got That Way," "Third Watch," "Bored to Death" and "The Knick." Favorite directing credits include: *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* (Callaway 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) 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.

BRIAN FRIEL (*Playwright*) (1929-2015) is widely recognized as one of the greatest contemporary dramatists of the English language. A prolific writer, who produced more than 30 plays in a career spanning six decades, his best-known works are: *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* (1964), *The Freedom of the City* (1973), *Aristocrats* (1979), *Faith Healer* (1979), *Translations* (1980), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (1990), *Molly Sweeney* (1993), *Give Me Your Answer Do* (1997), and *The Home Place* (2005). In these and other plays he showed a fascination with pushing the boundaries of theatrical possibility. Friel once wrote: "For me the true gift of theatre, the real benediction of all art, is

the ringing bell which reverberates quietly and persistently in the head long after the curtain has come down and the audience has gone home."

CHARLOTTE MOORE (*Director*) Recent directing assignments include: *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. New York 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

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

for the Irish Abroad, 2019 by President Michael D. Higgins.

SARAH NICHOLS (*Video Editor*) Sarah serves as the Audience Services Manager at Irish Rep, and when live theater fell victim to the Covid lockdown, she deftly pivoted to become the theatre's in-house video editor. Beginning with interviews for the Meet the Makers series, Sarah took on the increasingly complex Performances on Screen, *The Weir* and *A Touch of the Poet*, working with individual footage from each actor and Charlie Corcoran's virtual backdrops to create cohesive productions. Sarah edits *The Long and The Short Of It*, Jen Waldman and Peter Shepherd's weekly podcast "for curious people". She previously worked as a stage manager for *Sleep No More*, and as a casting associate for Blue Man Group. During university, Sarah wrote and directed the immersive production *Life Is But A Dream*, staged on Governors Island with a grant awarded by NYU/Tisch, from which she holds a BFA. Sarah is proud to be part of Irish Rep's unique effort to continue to bring the joy of theater to its audiences during these strange times. Many thanks to Ciarán, Jason, Frank, and Joe for their incredible support throughout this project.

ZACHARY WILLIAMSON (*Sound Design*) Irish Rep: *White Women Street*, *Candida*, *Aristocrats*, *The Master Builder*, *Sive*, *Gaslight*, *Defender of the Faith*, *The Hairy Ape* and *Beowulf*. Other New York designs include *ReEntry* (Urban Stages), *Vanities* (Second Stage), *Make Me A Song* (New World Stages), *The Shape of Metal* (Brian

Murphy, dir), *Crestfall*, *Communion and Misterman* (Origin/59E59). On Broadway, he has designed *A Little Night Music* benefit concert (Roundabout) and was assistant designer on *Pal Joey* and *The Ritz* (Roundabout). Regionally, he has designed for Dallas Theater Center, 5th Avenue Seattle, Ordway St. Paul, Baltimore Center Stage, Asolo Rep, Pasadena Playhouse, Virginia Stage, St. Louis Rep, TheaterWorks Hartford, Vermont Stage, Roundhouse, Syracuse Stage, Two River and Celebrate Brooklyn. Zach is a member of United Scenic Artists. Love to Kim.

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 Jujamcyn Theatres Award, a special Drama Desk Award for "Excellence in Presenting Distinguished Irish Drama," the 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 on the Irish and their unique contributions to the world of drama.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Welcome back! While we wish we could welcome you each into the theatre in person, we were bowled over by the incredible outpouring of support we saw with the announcement of our first ever Performance On Screen, and we can't wait to share with you our new production of Brian Friel's *Molly Sweeney*. Brian Friel has long been one of our favorites, and this play about psychological isolation is particularly poignant in this moment.

We owe enormous gratitude to our Board and the many generous donors and members who have continued to believe in Irish Rep over the years. Thank you! You sustain us and have enabled us to continue to uplift Irish and Irish-American theatre during this unprecedented hiatus in live performances.

At Irish Rep, nearly 60% of our annual revenue comes from ticket sales. With our doors closed and no ticket income, this period is particularly difficult for us. Thank you for supporting Irish Rep and helping us keep the home fires burning. Your contribution ensures that we can continue to offer top-quality digital events, keep our staff employed, and be artistically and financially ready to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

Thank you for supporting Irish Rep.

CHARLOTTE MOORE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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(as of February 10, 2020)

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