

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE

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

IN THE W. SCOTT MCLUCAS STUDIO THEATRE

YES! REFLECTIONS OF MOLLY BLOOM

FROM THE NOVEL *ULYSSES* BY **JAMES JOYCE**ADAPTED FOR STAGE BY **AEDÍN MOLONEY** & **COLUM McCANN**

MUSIC BY **PADDY MOLONEY** DIRECTED BY **JOHN KEATING**

PERFORMED BY AEDÍN MOLONEY

set design by CHARLIE CORCORAN costume design by LEON DOBKOWSKI

MICHAEL O'CONNOR

sound design by
M. FLORIAN
STAAB

production stage manager
JEFF
DAVOIT

general manager LISA FANE press representatives
MATT ROSS
PR

TIME & PLACE

The bedroom of Molly and Leopold Bloom, Dublin, Ireland. The early hours of June 17th, 1904.

Running Time: 90 minutes, no intermission

NOTE: Due to nudity and explicit language, we recommend that audience members be at least 16 years old.

OPENING NIGHT: JUNE 15, 2022

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE'S 2021-2022 SEASON IS SUPPORTED, IN PART, BY YOUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS THROUGH THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS WITH THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY COUNCIL; AS WELL AS CULTURE IRELAND, THE AGENCY FOR THE PROMOTION OF IRISH ARTS WORLDWIDE; THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE CONSULATE OF IRELAND IN NEW YORK; THE HOWARD GILMAN FOUNDATION, THE SHUBERT FOUNDATION, THE HAROLD & MIMI STEINBERG CHARITABLE TRUST, IRELAND FUNDS AMERICA, MUTUAL OF AMERICA. THE MICHAEL TUCH FOUNDATION, AND OUR MANY GENEROUS MEMBERS AND DONORS.

CAST

A NOTE FROM THE CO-ADAPTOR

It's the task of literature to allow us to be alive in bodies and times and geographies that are necessarily our own. Literature transports us. The messy layers of human experience get ordered and reordered by what we take into our minds, our memories, our imaginations. Books can carry us to the furthest side of our desires. We can travel, we can remain, or we can hide in plain sight. And when literature is brought to the theater, this magic is brought to life in front of our eyes.

It was an incredible joy to get a chance to work with Aedín Moloney on adapting the last chapter of James Joyce's *Ulysses* for the stage. Aedín is a brilliant actress and she turned out to be a brilliant editor too. We sought to adapt Molly's soliloquy and shape it from several hours in length to about an hour and a half, without removing the heart of it. It is, I hope, like the novel, simultaneously funny and heartbreaking and profound and delightfully rude. In the end, it is our hope that *YES!* is a compendium of human experience, an encyclopedia of the modern condition.

I am delighted that the Irish Rep has brought Aedín's work to the stage and supported it, even through the dark days of Covid. In some ways Molly's soliloquy sings of the dark times, but it always manages to find the shard of light that probes through to the opposite side. The novel may be one hundred years old, but it opens itself up to new interpretation every day I am honoured to be a small part of this journey.

- Colum McCann

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2015, I was fortunate to narrate the entire audiobook of Richard Ellman's renowned biography of James Joyce. The book weighs in at about 38 hours, so it's perhaps not surprising that it featured an extensive portion of Molly Bloom's soliloquy. What surprised me most when I saw the production of YES! in 2019 was the massive gulf between Aedín Moloney's interpretation of those lines and my 'take' four years prior!

I was thrilled when Aedín asked me to direct this staging of the play, as I love the challenge of bringing something to what was already such a strong performance. We've worked together many times over the last 27 years in New York, and that shorthand has been so much fun for us both in these last weeks.

And, I hope, it's helped us shed more light on and give more definition to this amazing fictional creation Molly Bloom. Her reflections, as adapted by Aedín and Colum McCann, are surely fascinating to hear at any time in history and yet shift continuously throughout the piece. Calibrating her thoughts to a more vivid and simultaneously cohesive stage life has been our challenge and I hope you enjoy the evening as much as we have.

Thanks very much for being here.

- John Keating



AEDÍN MOLONEY (Molly Bloom, Co-Adaptor) is an award-winning actress, also founder and producing artistic director of Fallen Angel Theatre

In 2017 she released an Company. unabridged audio recording of Molly Bloom's Soliloguy from *Ulysses* by James Joyce, Reflections of Molly Bloom, with music especially arranged and recorded by her father, Paddy Moloney (founder and leader of The Chieftains). Aedin first read Ulysses when she was 10 years old and what followed was a lifelong fascination for James Joyce and his work - most especially the character of Molly Bloom. In 2003, Aedin was invited by her dear friend and renowned author, Colum McCann, to read from Ulysses at his annual Bloomsday celebration. Following the success of this first public performance, and with his encouragement, Aedin began working on her adaptation for the stage. And in early 2019, Colum partnered with her to complete what is now Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom for the Irish Repertory Theatre. Following the success of the premiere production in 2019, (her 10th production at the Irish Rep and her first adaptation), Aedín was honored by The Outer Critics Circle and nominated by The Off-Broadway Alliance for her Solo performance. In 2020, Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom, was Aedin's first theatrical video, which she shot on an iPhone while under Covid lockdown from a bedroom in

Miami. Her virtual performance was a roaring success and was included in The Wall Street Journal's Best Theatre of 2021. Previous roles at The Irish Rep include: Dancing at Lughnasa, The Dead, 1904, The Playboy of the Western World, The Shadow of a Gunman and Airswimming. In 2013 she originated the role of George Eliot in the acclaimed production of A Most Dangerous Woman at Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. Other recent roles include Women Without Men (The Mint), The Alchemist (STNJ) and When I was a Girl I used to Scream and Shout (Fallen Angel). Her most recent TV credits include: "The Exorcist" and "The Knick." She played the role of Eva Joyce in the film "Nora" (based on the life of Nora Barnacle). She recently directed Melissa Gilbert in My Brilliant Divorce for Fallen Angel. In 2021 she dived into the world of Video Editing, creating the very popular series, Alone Together - her most recent video project, Rising, winning her The Spirit of the Festival Award from Origin Theatre. Aedin is dedicating this performance of Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom to her beloved father, Paddy Moloney. who passed away on October 12th, 2021.

JAMES JOYCE (Writer 1882-1941) Best known for Ulysses, a landmark work in which the episodes of Homer's Odyssey are paralleled in an array of contrasting literary styles, James Joyce also wrote the short-story collection Dubliners and the novels A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916) and Finnegans Wake (1939). He was once quoted as saying "For myself, I always

write about Dublin, because if I can get to the heart of Dublin I can get to the heart of all the cities of the world. In the particular is contained the universal."

COLUM MCCANN (Co-Adaptor) is the author of 7 novels and 3 collections of stories. Born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, he has been the recipient of many international honours, including the National Book Award, the International Dublin Impac Prize, a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the French government, election to the Irish arts academy, several European awards, the 2010 Best Foreign Novel Award in China, and an Oscar nomination. In 2017 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts. His work has been published in over 40 languages. He is the co-founder of the nonprofit global story exchange organisation, Narrative 4, and he teaches at the MFA program in Hunter College. He lives in New York with his wife, Allison, and their three children. Columnccann.com

JOHN KEATING (Director) is a proud company member of Irish Rep, where he has performed in many shows, receiving the 2019 Callaway Award for his performance in The O'Casey Cycle and the 2019 Sustained Excellence Award (with Terry Donnelly) from Irish Rep. Recently: Two By Synge, Autumn Royal, The Weir (Irish Rep Online), Lady G: Plays and Whisperings of Lady Gregory, The O'Casey Cycle, Pigeon in the Taj Mahal, Rebel in the Soul, The Weir, and Da. He has also

performed in 6 shows with Theatre For A New Audience, most recently Arin Arbus' The Winter's Tale and Sir Trevor Nunn's Pericles. Pearl (Public Enemy). Atlantic (The New York Idea), Mint (Is Life Worth Living, John Ferguson), Roundabout (Juno and the Paycock), Irish Arts Center (5 shows, incl. Ladies and Gents), Pond Theatre Company (The Naturalists), The (Terra Firma). Most leading regional, including McCarter, A.C.T, Old Globe, Hartford Stage, Wilma (Barrymore nom - Best Actor) TV incl: The Blacklist. Boardwalk Empire, John Adams, Ray Donovan, The Following, Nurse Jackie, SVU, Alpha House, High Maintenance, Lipstick Jungle, On The Lig. Film: First Cow (Kelly Reichardt), The Lone Ranger, Emerald City, Freedom, Misty Button (2020). 180 Audiobook narrations (Audie winner). As a director, John won the 1st Irish Award in 2019 for Derek Murphy's Dyin' For It. His Off Broadway credits include Airswimming (Irish Rep) and When I Was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout and Eva the Chaste, both for Fallen Angel Theatre at The Clurman.

PADDY MOLONEY (Music) (1938 – 2021) was the founder and leader of six-time Grammy award winners, The Chieftains. A composer and musician of world renown, his legacy can only be briefly touched upon in this bio. He is known the world over, not only for his innovative and groundbreaking work in traditional Irish music but as a pioneering force behind the exploration of Celtic culture and its history throughout the

world. Paddy Moloney was an Irish cultural ambassador for over 60 years, laying the foundations for Irish artists worldwide. Through his research and recordings, exploring Irish roots in Breton, Galician, Country, Bluegrass, Cuban and Mexican music, and beyond, he has created a vast body of work. Known for his innovative collaborations, his albums with the Chieftains include guest performances by Paul McCartney, Art Garfunkel, Sting, The Rolling Stones, Elvis Costello, Diana Krall, Van Morrison, James Galway, Joni Mitchell and Liam Neeson to name but a few. Paddy composed, produced and performed on numerous film scores including Gangs of New York, Barry Lyndon, Agnes Browne, Tristan and Isolde, Treasure Island, The Water Horse, Far and Away, The Grey Fox, the PBS/Disney mini-series The Long Journey Home, The Ballad of the Irish Horse (for National Geographic) and many many more. His insatiable passion for music and his genius leadership of The Chieftains, led to 51 albums (five of them #1 on Billboard World Music), 6 Grammys, 18 nominations, an Oscar, a Genie and an Emmy. But most of all he has given the world a sublime body of work, and we are very fortunate to have his exquisite music included in Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom. The very soul of the production. Paddy Moloney: Piper. Proud Dubliner. Loving husband, father and grandfather.

CHARLIE CORCORAN (Scenic Design) NY designs include: A Touch of the Poet, Autumn Royal, Lady G, The O'Casey Cycle

(winner of the Henry Hewes Design Award), The Seafarer, On Beckett, Shining City, The Emperor Jones (Hewes design award nomination). The Quare Land (Origin First Irish Award), The Weir (Irish Rep) Billy and Ray (Vineyard Theatre), Straight (Acorn Theatre) and The Marriage of Figaro, The Triumph of Love (Juilliard). Craving for Travel (Peter J. sharp Theatre), The Last Smoker In America (Westside Theatre), A Perfect Future (Cherry Lane), The Bully Pulpit (Beckett Theatre), Exits And Entrances (Primary Stages). Regional theatre designs include: A Comedy of Tenors, (Outer Critics Circle Award) (Cleveland Playhouse / McCarter Theatre). Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike (The Goodman Theatre), The Barber Of Seville, The Marriage Of Figaro (The McCarter Theatre), Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Absurd Person Singular, Noises Off (Two River Theatre), Without Walls (Center Theatre Group), The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Buck's County Playhouse) Bad Jews (Ensemble Theatre Company/English Theatre of Frankfurt) Opera designs include: Fidelio (Santa Fe Opera), Cosi Fan Tutte (co-production Metropolitan Opera And Juilliard), Don Giovanni, Katya Kabanova (Juilliard) The Turn of the Screw, The Flood (Opera Columbus), The Magic Flute, The Bartered Bride (Granada Theatre, Santa Barbara), L'Opera Seria (Wolftrap Opera), TV designs include: "Full Frontal with Samantha Bee" (TBS), "Mozart in the Jungle" (Amazon), "Believe" (NBC). "Madam Secretary" (CBS).

LEON DOBKOWSKI (Costume Design) Irish Rep: The Dead, 1904 (2016-2018), The Weir, Sea Marks. Past productions with Paper Mill Playhouse, The Muny (St. Louis Theater Circle Award, Seussical; Judy Award, Tarzan), Weston Playhouse, Theatre Under the Stars, George Street Playhouse, Yale Repertory Theater, Pittsburgh CLO, Music Theater of Wichita, Engeman Theater, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, Feld Entertainment's Disney Live, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Epic Theatre Ensemble, Westchester Broadway, NYMF (Outstanding Costume Design, Claudio Quest), Cape May Stage, TheatreWorks Hartford (CT Critics Choice Award nomination, The Legend of Georgia McBride). MFA Yale School of Drama. LeonDobkowski.com @mrleond

MICHAEL O'CONNOR (Lighting Design) Irish Rep: Belfast Girls, Two by Synge, A Girl Is A Half-formed Thing, Little Gem: A Performance on Screen, Lady G, Pump Girl, Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom, Little Gem, Two by Friel, Off the Meter, On the Record, The Pigeon in the Taj Mahal, It's a Wonderful Life, A Celebration of Harold Pinter, My Scandalous Life. NYC: #CRWN (The Apollo Theater,) Imagining Madoff (Theatre Row), Long Run (Skirball Center), Star Spangled (AADA), Hal and Bee (59e59), Ibsanity (The Pope Theater). Loveless Texas (Sheen Center), Gregorian (Soho Rep), Monte Cristo (Urban Stages), This is Mary Brown (La Mamma). Regional: The Fulton Theater, Kennedy Center, Penguin Rep, Fringe Arts Philadelphia, 7 Angels Theater. Dance:

BAM, NY City Center, The Joyce, Abbey Theatre Dublin, The Kitchen, NYLA. Michael is the resident lighting designer for New Light Theater Project, AADA NYC, and Tere O'Connor Dance.

M. FLORIAN STAAB (Sound Design) is a composer and sound designer based in Brooklyn, NY. Staab was born and raised in Germany and received a BA from Oberlin College and MFA from UIUC/Krannert Center. He is an associate artist with Sinking Ship Productions. His designs have been heard at the Public Theater, Irish Repertory Theatre, Trinity Repertory Company, City Theatre Pittsburgh, Center Theatre Group, Mint Theater Company, Pearl Theatre Company, The Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, The Drama League, New Saloon, the cell, Partial Comfort, Keen Company, Chicago Opera Vanguard and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Most recently, Staab recorded, mixed and designed several virtual productions and narrative fiction podcasts, and directed Bill Irwin's On Beckett / In Screen for the camera, florianstaab.com

JEFF DAVOLT (Production Stage Manager) For Irish Rep: Autumn Royal, Lady G, Dublin Carol, Love Noël, YES!, The Dead 1904, The Seafarer, Afterplay, The Weir, Sea Marks, The Burial at Thebes. Other NYC: Fruma Sarah - Waiting in the Wings, Spamilton, Rock of Ages, The Great Divorce, DISASTER! The Musical, The Last Smoker in America, Lucy, Lenin's Embalmers, End

Days, Junie B. Jones, EST Marathon (2007-2009). The HOWL Arts Festival. and several industrial shows. TV: The "Victoria's Secret Fashion Show" (CBS). "The History Makers" (PBS). Regional: Seussical (National Tour), L'Histoire du soldat (TPO & BSO). Bernstein's MASS. Matilda, Smokey Joe's Café, The Full Monty, Man of La Mancha, Chicago, La Cage aux Follies, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance. Directing: Suicide...Anyone?, Max & (National Tour), Dearest Mommie - The Musical, Greater Tuna, Sylvia, Sister Mary Ignatius / The Actor's Nightmare, An Inspector Calls, Jake's Women, and AIDSWalks. Associate numerous Production Manager - Harlem Stage (NYC). Graduate: University of Missouri - Columbia. Member: AEA/SDC/SMA.

CHARLOTTE MOORE (Artistic Director) Recent directing assignments: Two by Synge, The Streets of New York, Meet Me in St. Louis, Love Noël, Molly Sweeney, (Performances Screen.) on London Assurance, Love, Noël: The Songs and Letters of Noël Coward, The Plough and the Stars as part of The O'Casev Cycle, On a Clear Day You Can See Forever, Three Small Irish Masterpieces by W.B 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 awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad in 2019 by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

CIARÁN O'REILLY (Producing Director)
Favorite directing credits include: A Touch
of the Poet, Autumn Royal, A Touch Of The
Poet: A Performance on Screen, 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 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 in Dublin and made his Broadway debut in 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." Ciarán has recently been inducted in to the Irish America Hall of Fame and has been awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad, 2019 by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE Founded by Ciarán O'Reilly and Charlotte Moore in 1988, Irish Repertory Theatre opened its doors with Sean O'Casey's The Plough and the Stars, and is now in its 33rd Season. Irish Rep is 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 in 2007, a special Drama Desk Award for "Excellence in Presenting Distinguished Irish Drama," in 1992, the Lucille Lortel

Award for "Outstanding Body of Work," in 2005, and a 2013 Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award for 25 years of producing outstanding theatre. Irish Repertory Theatre is proud to present 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. In May 2020, Irish Rep began presenting full-length digital productions as filmed during the COVID-19 pandemic as Irish Rep Online, welcoming new audiences from around the globe.











In Loving Memory of Paddy Moloney



1938 - 2021

"Out of the dreams that rose in happy throng Low to our hearts love sang an old sweet song"

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Paint Crew Aubre	y Weeks, Jax Koyote
Electricians Scott McBride, Andrew Cra	wbuck, Megan Lang
Photography	Carol Rosegg
Key Art	Muireann Lalor

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Angela's Ashes author, Frank McCourt, & his widow, Chair of the Legacy Circle, Ellen McCourt

All those who make a legacy gift are invited to join the **Frank McCourt Legacy Circle**, named for the longtime Irish Rep company member whose Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir, *Angela's Ashes*, catapulted him to fame. The Legacy Circle stems from Frank's dedication and generosity to the theatre throughout his life and recognizes those who make a legacy gift to ensure Irish Rep's strong future.

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