

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE



A.R. GURNEY'S

LOVE

LETTERS

DIRECTED BY CIARÁN O'REILLY

STARRING

BROOKE SHIELDS & JOHN SLATTERY

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IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE

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

presents

A STAGED READING

ON THE FRANCIS J. GREENBURGER MAINSTAGE

LOVE LETTERS

BY **A.R. GURNEY**

DIRECTED BY **CIARÁN O'REILLY**

STARRING

BROOKE SHIELDS AND **JOHN SLATTERY**

production stage manager

**PAMELA
BRUSOSKI**

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**LISA
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LOVE LETTERS IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., NEW YORK

LOVE LETTERS WAS PRESENTED AT THE LONG WHARF THEATRE,
M. EDGAR ROSENBLUM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; ARVIN BROWN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE'S 2023-2024 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 CHARINA ENDOWMENT FUND, THE HUGOTON FOUNDATION, THE MORRIS AND ALMA SCHAPIRO FUND, THE HAROLD & MIMI STEINBERG CHARITABLE TRUST, IRELAND FUNDS AMERICA, MUTUAL OF AMERICA, THE LEON LEVY FOUNDATION, THE FAN FOX AND LESLIE R. SAMUELS FOUNDATION, THE MICHAEL TUCH FOUNDATION, THE WALDMAN FOUNDATION AND OUR MANY GENEROUS MEMBERS AND DONORS.

CAST

Melissa Gardner *Brooke Shields**
Andrew Makepeace Ladd III *John Slattery**

*Member of Actors Equity

TIME & PLACE

Letters exchanged over the span
of 1937-1985.

Running Time:

1 hour and 45 minutes with a 15 minute intermission

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

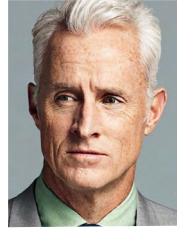


BROOKE SHIELDS

(Melissa Gardner)

Actress, Model, Author and Entrepreneur, Brooke Shields started her career at only eleven months

of age, when she was selected as the Ivory Snow Baby. Shields began her extensive film career at age 9, and rapidly gained fame after starring in Louis Malle's *Pretty Baby*, and the coming-of-age tales *Blue Lagoon* and *Endless Love*. As a model, Brooke has graced the covers of hundreds of magazines, most notably *Time Magazine* as the "Face of the Eighties." Shields has maintained successful and critically acclaimed television and theatre careers. She is the best-selling author of several books, including the critically acclaimed *Down Came the Rain: My Journey Through Postpartum Depression*. Brooke was recently the subject of the Emmy-nominated documentary *Pretty Baby: Brooke Shields*. Her latest entrepreneurial project Commence (formerly BIN) inspires women over 40 to live their best lives with beauty and wellness products developed for the challenges that arise during this period. She also hosts her hit iHeart podcast *Now What? With Brooke Shields*, featuring insightful conversations with a variety of different guests. Shields recently announced an upcoming book, currently untitled, that promises to explore the humility and power of aging. She can next be seen opposite Benjamin Bratt in the upcoming Netflix film *Mother of the Bride*. In addition to her professional career, Brooke continues to be a strong advocate for women's issues and keeping the arts alive in schools. She is a happily married mother of two strong and intelligent daughters.



JOHN SLATTERY

(Andrew Makepeace Ladd III)

is most well-known for his Emmy Award nominated performance as Roger Sterling on the critically acclaimed cable series

Mad Men, as well as numerous television roles on series such as *Documentary Now*, *Arrested Development*, *Sex and the City*, *Veep*, *Mrs. America*, *The Good Fight*, and *K Street*. He also earned a Critics' Choice Award nomination for Best Guest Actor for his role in the streaming series *Wet Hot American Summer: First Day of Camp*. His previous feature film credits include Tom McCarthy's feature film *Spotlight*, *Ant Man*, *The Adjustment Bureau*, *Iron Man 2*, *Bluebird*, *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Charlie Wilson's War*, *Mona Lisa Smile*, *The Station Agent*, and *Traffic*. On Broadway, Slattery appeared in the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Rabbit Hole* (Drama League Award), *Betrayal*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, and *The Front Page*, opposite Nathan Lane. Most recently, Slattery directed the film *Maggie Moore(s)*, which premiered at the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival.

A.R. GURNEY (Playwright) (1930-2017)

Plays: *Scenes from American Life*, *Children*, *The Dining Room*, *The Middle Ages*, *Richard Cory*, *The Golden Age*, *What I Did Last Summer*, *The Wayside Motor Inn*, *Sweet Sue*, *The Perfect Party*, *Another Antigone*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *Love Letters*, *The Snow Ball* (adapted from his novel), *The Old Boy*, *The Fourth Wall*, *Later Life*, *A Cheever Evening*, *Sylvia*, *Overtime*, *Let's Do It* (A Cole Porter Musical), *Labor Day*, *Far East*, *Darlene and the Guest Lecturer*, *Ancestral Voices*. Opera: wrote the libretto for *Strawberry Fields*, with music by

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Michael Torke, part of the Central Park Opera trilogy presented by the New York City Opera in the Fall of 1999. Novels: "The Gospel According to Joe," "Entertaining Strangers," and "The Snow Ball." Awards: Drama Desk, N.E.A., Rockefeller Foundation, New England Theatre Conference, Lucille Lortel, American Association of Community Theatres, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Honorary degrees: Williams College and Buffalo State University. Gurney was on the faculty of M.I.T. until 1996. He was the husband of one, father of four, and grandfather of six. argurney.com

CIARÁN O'REILLY (*Director*) Favorite directing credits include: *Love Letters* (as part of the *Letters Series*), *Endgame*, *The Butcher Boy*, *A Touch of the Poet*, *Autumn Royal*, *A Touch Of the Poet**, *The Weir** (*Performances 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 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.

PAMELA BRUSOSKI (*Production Stage Manager*) has been a stage manager at Irish Rep for 20 years and for more than 40 shows. Notable/favorite productions include *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *The Emperor Jones*, *Molly Sweeney*, and *Freedom of the City*. Broadway: *Beauty and the Beast* and *Little Women*. Selected Off-Broadway: Charles Grodin's *The Right Kind of People* (Primary Stages) *A Last Dance for Sybil* with Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis (New Federal Theatre), Mint Theater Company, The York Theatre Company, and Carnegie Hall. Regionally: Pioneer Theatre Company, Pittsburgh CLO and Pittsburgh Public Theater. MFA in Directing: Brooklyn College (CUNY).

CHARLOTTE MOORE (*Artistic Director*) Recent directing assignments: *Dear Liar* (as part of the *Letters Series*), *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, *Two by Synge*, *The Streets of New York*, *Meet Me in St. Louis**, *Love, Noël**, *Molly Sweeney**, (*Performances on Screen), *London Assurance*, *Love, Noël: The Songs and Letters of Noël Coward*, *The Plough and the Stars* as part of *The O'Casey Cycle*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, *Three Small Irish Masterpieces* by W.B. Yeats, *Lady Gregory* and *J.M. Synge*. New

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

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*, *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.

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 35th 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 presented full-length digital productions as filmed during the COVID-19 pandemic as Irish Rep Online, welcoming new audiences from around the globe.

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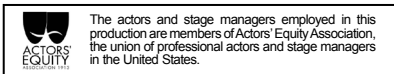
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IRISH REP ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Producing Director Ciarán O'Reilly
General Manager Lisa Fane
Director of Marketing & Art Director Muireann Lalor
Director of Audience & Play Development Nicola Murphy Dubey
Director of Development Michelle Dunn Marsh
Company Manager Kate Mandracchia
Production & Venue Coordinator Jason Brubaker
Audience Services Manager Tina Tannenbaum
Development Manager Emilia Smart-Denson
Development Associate Anna Collins
Digital Media & Marketing Manager Samantha Seaman
Literary Intern Andi Grene
Box Office Associates Cynthia Bajor, Maggie Winslow
House Managers Olivia Gesualdi,
Caitland Winsett, Maggie Winslow, Cynthia Bajor
Front of House Associates Sam Gonzalez, Akilah Gordon,
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SERVICES

LATECOMERS will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager at the first appropriate interval on a space available basis.

ACCESSIBLE seating is available, by reservation, for patrons with disabilities. For Infrared hearing assistance devices, please see a House Manager or Front of House Associate.

ADVERTISE in our program! For options and rates call 212.255.0270, or email samantha@irishrep.org

TICKETS are available at IrishRep.org or by calling the box office at 212.727.2737. No refunds. No exchanges. All sales are final.

COVID-19 audience members may choose whether or not they wear face masks throughout our theatre spaces. Learn more at irishrep.org/covid19

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager Josh Allen
Associate Production Manager Marissa Crowe
Head Electrician/Programmer Megan Peti
Wardrobe Supervisor Dan Bass
Production Stage Manager Pamela Brusoski
Key Art Muireann Lalor
Photography Carol Rosegg

PRESS REPRESENTATION

Matt Ross Public Relations
Matt Ross, Nicole Capatasto,
Liz Lombardi, Claire Wojciechowski

FIRE NOTICE

The exit indicated by a red light and sign nearest to the seat you occupy is the shortest route to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency please do not run — WALK TO THAT EXIT.

Thoughtless persons annoy patrons and endanger the safety of others by lighting matches or smoking in prohibited areas during the performance and intermissions. This violates a city ordinance and is punishable by law.

— FIRE COMMISSIONER

WARNING

The photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possessing of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside this theatre, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Violators may be punished by ejection and violation may render the offender liable for money damages.

New York City Ordinance prohibits use of cellular phones, pagers, personal digital assistants, and other audible electronic devices during a performance. If you are in possession of one, please be sure it is turned off prior to the performance.

Smoking is prohibited anywhere on the premises. This violates a city ordinance & is punishable by law.



A Letter from the Directors

When A.R. Gurney first wrote *Love Letters*, he had, at the suggestion of his literary agent, submitted it to *The New Yorker* for their consideration. He was stunned when he received a swift response rejecting the work. His surprise wasn't in the quick rebuff, but in the reason for the rejection. They said, "Sorry, we don't publish plays."

The New Yorker's letter was news to Pete because he hadn't written it as a play. It was an "epistolary novel."

And then he thought, wait a minute, maybe they're right...

And it turned out they were. *Love Letters'* circuitous route to the stage gave A.R. Gurney, already a revered and prolific playwright as well as a Pulitzer Prize finalist for Drama, more productions than any of his other plays.

Letters have been around for a while. Of the 27 books in the Bible, 21 of them are letters. These days, social media posts might be considered letters – with many likes and shares from the Corinthians and the Romans!

Pete gives us two fictional characters in this play whose exchanges span from 1937 to 1985, before cellphones, before texts, before Twitter – just a pen in cursive letters and two thumping hearts.

CHARLOTTE MOORE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CIARÁN O'REILLY, PRODUCING DIRECTOR



IRISH
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UNDER 40s



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IRISHREP.ORG/GREENSEATS



IRISH
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The Friel Project

We are proud to present Irish
Repertory Theatre's 35th Season
Celebration: *The Friel Project*.

A retrospective of the work of
renowned Irish playwright Brian Friel,
to take place from October 20, 2023,
through May 5, 2024.

IRISHREP.ORG/THEFRIELPROJECT

PHOTO: BOBBY HANNEY

TRANSLATIONS

DIRECTED BY
DOUG HUGHES
OCT 20 — DEC 3, 2023

ARISTOCRATS

DIRECTED BY
CHARLOTTE MOORE
JAN 11 — MAR 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME!

DIRECTED BY CIARÁN O'REILLY
MAR 16 — MAY 5, 2024