

Aisteoirí Muinchille
PROUDLY PRESENT:
THE PILGRIMS OF SLIEVE
Written by Aisteoirí Muinchille in collaboration with Declan Gorman.

JOIN US FOR A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ONE
FICTIONAL CAVAN TOWN AND 33 OF ITS RESIDENTS:
**WHERE THE ORDINARY BECOMES
EXTRAORDINARY!**

AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON DEMAND FROM THE 26TH OF MARCH TO THE 2ND OF APRIL 2021.
TICKETS €10 PER HOUSEHOLD, AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE.
FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON FACEBOOK @AISTEOIRIMUINCHILLE.

Co-written by members of the cast and Declan Gorman

Directed and edited by Declan Gorman

Music Advisor and Performer – Tony McMahon

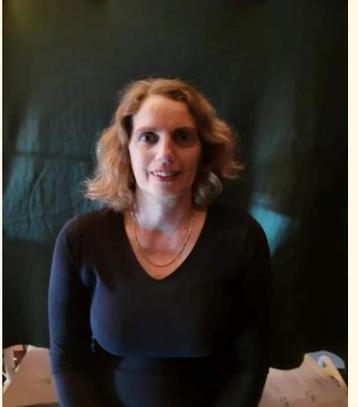
Declan Gorman (Director)

Is a playwright, director and performer, who specialises in the area of Community-Engaged Theatre. A native of Monaghan, he was formerly Artistic Director of Upstate Theatre, Drogheda, where his work included his adaptation of Patrick Kavanagh's "The Green Fool" as well as his own original "Border Chronicles Trilogy 1998-2007". At Upstate he collaborated with Declan Mallon on several community theatre projects and shows, including "Zoo Station" (Termonfeckin Macra) and "Journey from Babel" a warehouse production with 15 Drogheda people of 8 nationalities. His career began as co-founder of Co-Motion Theatre, Dublin, acting in many plays and also producing, tours of such shows as "Cabaret/Kabarett" and Pat McCabe's "Frank Pig Says Hello". In more recent years, Declan's solo show "The Dubliners Dilemma" (after Joyce) toured extensively in Ireland and to USA, Norway, Russia and eventually to India where it played alongside his drama "The Big Fellow", based on Frank O'Connor's biography of Michael Collins, at the Mumbai Literature Live 2017. He is a past winner of a BBC Stewart Parker Playwriting Award; holds an M.Phil in Creative Writing from TCD; was awarded an Arts Council Theatre Bursary in 2018 and teaches on the New York University Study Abroad Programme in Community-Engaged Theatre. In 2018-19 he was Theatre Artist in Residence for County Monaghan. He has greatly enjoyed this opportunity to work with Aisteoirí Muinchille over the past several months!



CAST

(In order of appearance)

<p>FIONA LYNCH</p> <p>Jane Murphy <i>former resident of Slieve, returning now for family reasons</i></p> <p>Rosetta <i>voiceover, mother of Jane and Laura</i></p> <p>Mrs McKeever <i>local resident</i></p>		 A portrait of a woman with shoulder-length wavy brown hair, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved top, smiling against a dark background.
<p>FIONA COLL</p> <p>Reece Reilly <i>local DJ for Radio East Cavan RECFM</i></p> <p>Abigail French <i>Yoga teacher</i></p> <p>Lolita <i>waitress in hotel</i></p> <p>Laura Gallagher <i>daughter of Rosetta</i></p>		 A portrait of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black top and a headband, smiling against a dark green background.
<p>MARGARET BANNON</p> <p>Molly Foster <i>local resident</i></p> <p>Donal O'Dea <i>fan</i></p>		 A portrait of a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a black t-shirt, smiling against a dark background.

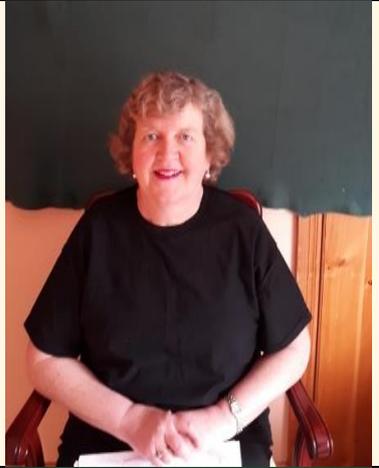
**MICHELE NIC
BHLOSCAIDH**

Judge Margaret Reynolds
of the district court
Tessie Clerkin *local resident*
Biddy Kennedy *owner of the Emerald
Hotel*
Dr Maeve Finnegan *consultant in
Mater Hospital*



ANGELA McCROSSAN

Court Clerk
Maisie O'Donovan *creative writer*
Marcella *bartender in local hotel*



SEAMUS SMITH

Mickey Pat McKenna *entrepreneur*
Kieran Maguire
*father of Maggie and Damien
(deceased)*
Screwy Dan *publican*



JIM McQUAID

Garda John Mortimer
Thomas, a dressmaker's assistant
Ambrose chef in hotel



ELAINE McQUAID

Red Joan McCooey poultry keeper
Dr Annie O'Grady dentist
Betty sister of Tessie



MARY BRIGID DUFFY

Mary Cooney a woman in the know
Maggie Maguire
bank collections agent,
daughter of Kieran
MC Voiceover



TONY McMAHON

Eugene kitchen porter in hotel
Gerry K former Slieve resident,
teenage sweetheart of Maisie,
Clive former boss of Tessie Clerkin



SARA McCAULEY

Irene Crotty
owner of dressmaker's shop
Elizabeth Kennedy hotel receptionist
Julie old school friend of Abigail,
recently returned from abroad



GUEST ARTIST DERMOT CARRAGHER

DONAL O'DEA popular and
charismatic singer



MEET THE PLAYERS

FIONA COLL – AM founder member and the reason we are all involved in this amazing project! Actor, Director and open water swimmer. We don't know where she finds the time, but we are very grateful that she does.

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: “Nora Clitheroe” in “The Plough and the Stars” or the Lady in the Scottish play, (is it bad luck to mention the name of *that* play in a programme?!)

JIM MCQUAID – Another AM founder member, who puts his all into a role and never questions costume suggestions! Always made sure the kettle was boiling when we could meet in person!

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: ‘Fluther’ in “The Plough and the Stars”. Is it written in our stars?

MARY BRIGID DUFFY – AM bandwagon jumper, but enjoying the ride ever since! Managed to be on time for most Zoom rehearsals, it made a change from the in-person ones.

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: As Angela has suggested, we would love to stage the late Larry McCluskey's planned production of “The Beauty Queen of Leenane”. Would also fancy a go at the Scottish Lady, there could be blood! Or “Catherine of Aragon” in “Six”

MARGARET BANNON- Another bandwagon jumper who thought it looked like there was a lot of fun going on upstairs in the library. She has added greatly to that fun! As if her life wasn't busy enough with her work and voluntary commitments, Margaret is hoping that people will join her on a walking tour of Cootehill when restrictions allow.

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: “Mrs Brown” if Brendan wants a break! Hoping “Kevin's Bed” is included in AM's future plans.

ANGELA MCCROSSAN – We are very grateful that Angela points her car towards Cootehill in search of drama, not only does Angela act with us onstage, she has been an excellent stage manager and has kept us fortified during long rehearsals with her delicious cakes!

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: Angela was preparing for the role of “Mags” in “The Beauty Queen of Leenane” and would love to honour Larry’s memory by staging the production.

FIONA LYNCH- We are delighted that Fiona shares her many talents at performing/props/organisation between AM and Tullyvin Musical Society, so we should in the future try and schedule our shows accordingly! Another accomplished swimmer.

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY NEXT: Grace in “Faith Healer”, Mrs Johnston in “Blood Brothers” and Rosie or Tanya in “Mamma Mia”

ELAINE MCQUAID- We were delighted when Elaine answered our open invitation to new members a few years ago, the door is always open! She loves to take to the stage but also takes to the roads as a member of a Cycling Club.

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: Professor McGonagall in Harry Potter, and she’s waiting on a call from Sr. Michael to join her in “Derry Girls”

MICHELE NIC BHLOSCAIDH – Michele was part of our last big collaborative effort in “Bring me the Head of Dermot Healy”, written by Pat McCabe. Luckily for us she decided to stick around to see what was next. Another open water swimmer; we’re a fit bunch!

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: Another Judge, the power might be going to her head!

SEAMUS SMITH- Seamus is well experienced onstage and AM were delighted when he found his way up the library stairs too. Between his Christmas panto character and his trip to Slieve, he has spent a lot more time than usual in the make-up chair, with excellent results!

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: Jack in “Thy Will be done”, Larry had also hoped to stage a production of this play.

TONY MCMAHON- A more recent recruit, AM were delighted to gain Tony's acting, musical and set building talents. His music has brought another dimension to our online work. As a former Ironman and Yoga and Tai Chi instructor, he fits in well with the fit members and has the craic with the rest of us!

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: If Seamus is playing Jack in Thy Will be Done, Tony is happy to butt heads with him and play Peteen.

SARA MCCAULEY- Our newest recruit has missed out on the craic in the library at rehearsals, but has added greatly to the cráic online. As past Musical Director of the very successful Bunnoe "Christmas Crackers", she is well used to the "drama" of live productions and is hoping to take her place on a real, as opposed to virtual, stage with AM soon.

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY: She enjoyed reading Doris in "Kevin's Bed", in keeping with her musical talent and day job; Maria in "The Sound of Music" and, nothing remotely to do with her day job, Miss Hannigan in "Annie".

GUEST ARTIST DERMOT CARRAGHER- Member of Tullyvin and Castleblayney Musical Societies. We are delighted to welcome him on his first appearance with AM, but should warn him that we are hard to shake off! Ask Fiona Lynch and John Grogan!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A huge thank you to **Narissa Cosgrove** and **Catriona O'Reilly** in **Cavan Arts Office**. This project would not have been possible without the support of Cavan Arts and we thank them for putting their faith in us as we embarked on this groundbreaking project.

Thanks are also due to:

Dermot Healy: who's poem 'As the Words Go' is used in the play.

John Grogan
Rose Marie Galligan: who took part in the early workshops.

Props: Fiona Lynch, Grace D'Arcy

Costume: Sara Watson, Mairead Cassidy
Chrissie Duffy

Make up: Bernie Smith

Green screen acquisition: Michele NicBhloscaidh

Technical advice: Tony McMahon

Broadband use: Mr & Mrs McQuaid

Dental Instruments: Colm Smith Dental

Thanks to all our families for staying quiet and offline during filming!

And finally, thanks to our loyal and supportive regular audience and all you who have watched us for the first time. We hope you enjoy the show!

SYNOPSIS

ACT 1

Scene 1-Radio East Cavan Studio/ Molly Foster's home

Scene 2- Slieve Courthouse

Scene 3- "A day in the life" podcast group

Scene 4 - Jane Murphy

Scene 5 -"A day in the Life" Abigail, Tessie, Kieran

Scene 6 -Maggie

Scene 7 - Dr O'Grady's dental surgery

Scene 8- Bus journey - Irene

Scene 9 - Maisie O'Donovan's home

Scene 10- Gerry K

Scene 11- Brady's Gastro Pub

Scene 12- Molly and Maisie

ACT 2

Scene 1-Odours of Slieve

Scene 2- The Emerald Hotel

Scene 3- Kieran and Maggie

Scene 4 - Maisie and Gerry K

Scene 5- Tessie's home

Scene 6- Abigail's Yoga studio

Scene 7- Emerald Hotel

Scene 8- Outside Emerald Hotel

Scene 9- In Irene's Alterations (dressmakers)

Scene 10 & 11-Irene in a consultant's clinic in the Mater Hospital and
Maggie on work phone call to Dr O'Grady in her dental surgery

Scene 12- Jane in hospital

Scene 13- Maisie

ACT 3

Scene 1- Garda Mortimer

Scene 2- Molly

Scene 3- Abigail and Julie in Screwy Dan's bar

Scene 4- Betty and Tessie at concert

Scene 5- Kieran and Maggie

Scene 6- Dr O'Grady's apartment

Scene 7- Irene at concert

Scene 8- Jane

Scene 9- Concert

DEDICATION

'The Pilgrims of Slieve' is dedicated to the memory of our founder, **Larry Mc Cluskey**. We feel it is very appropriate that we are streaming our play and seeing the fruits of this exciting project on the week of the First Anniversary of Larry's passing. We hope he would be proud, and we will continue to do our best to honour his memory and the fine work he started with our group.

Suaimhneas síoraí ar a anam dhílis.

'If we can winter this one out, we can summer anywhere.'

Seamus Heaney.

