

FROM THE ANGLO CELT FIRST EDITION 1846

An extinguisher

“If people were not hanged for murder” said a young lady some time ago “we should not be safe in our beds”

A member of the society of friends who happened to be present and heard this argument for capital punishment drew his chair up to the lady and said

“I want to ask you a question or two. Does thou think a man ought to hung before he has repented?”

“Oh no certainly not. No one ought to be sent into eternity until he is prepared for the kingdom of heaven”

“Good” said the friend. “But now I have another question to ask. Dost thou think any man ought to be hung after he has repented and is fitted for the kingdom of heaven”

The lady was speechless.



THE HALF COAT

A PLAY

by Tara Maria Lovett



CULTURE NIGHT 2023
September 22nd

PRODUCED BY AND PRESENTED AT
CAVAN COUNTY MUSEUM



Co-produced with Declan Gorman Arts & Events
www.declangorman.com

THE HALF COAT

by

TARA MARIA LOVETT

The play is in 15 scenes.

There is an interval between Scene 8 and Scene 9.

The drama is set in County Cavan.

Scenes take place at Cavan Gaol and within and outside the family home and tailoring premises of the various generations of Rowans

The action is split between 1846 and modern times.

PERSONAE

Rua Rowan: a Cavan tailor

Edie Kinsella : a young Quaker woman

Con Rowan: sone of Rua

Dominic Rowan: a direct descendant of Rua

Medbh: married to Dominic Rowan

CAST & CREW

Niamh McPhillips as Edie Kinsella and Mebdh

Joshua McEneaney as Rua, Con and Dominic

Directed & Designed by: Declan Gorman

Stage Manager : Wardrobe: Erin Lynch

BIOGRAPHIES

Tara Maria Lovett is a Cavan based playwright. Literary awards include Fingal Scribe Playwriting Award in 2000 for her one-act piece 'The Shape', the O.Z. Whitehead Playwriting Competition for 'Action Man' (2001), the Sean Dunne Literary Award for 'The Hen House' (2002) and the Eamon Keane award for best full-length play for 'The Piano Lesson' (Listowel Writers Week, 2002). "Black is the Colour" was chosen for new work development by The New theatre in 2020. Professional productions include "The Shape" and "WatchDog" Focus Theatre 2001, "The Suck" Project Arts Centre 2001, "The Call" in the Crypt Dublin Castle 2002 shortlisted for an Irish Times Theatre Award, and "The Mass Rock" in Smock Alley in 2012. "The Tide" premiered in The New Theatre in September 2019. "The Whispering Chair" was produced in The Cavan County Museum in 2022 by Livin Dred Theatre.

Declan Gorman is a native of Monaghan. He has worked as an actor, writer, director and educator. He was co-founder with Joe O'Byrne of Co-Motion, Dublin acting in many 1980s shows, including *Song of the White Man's Burden* and *The Sinking of the Titanic*. From 1990 – 95 he was Theatre Programmer at City Arts Centre Dublin. From 1997 – 2010 he was Artistic Director of Upstate, Drogheda, where he wrote and directed *The Weavers* (after Hauptmann); *The Green Fool* (after Kavanagh); *Hades* (Stewart Parker/BBC Award); *Epic* and *At Peace*. Freelance since 2010, he has toured in Ireland, Norway, Russia (pre-Ukraine invasion), USA, Britain and India, with his James Joyce solo shows *The Dubliners Dilemma* and *Falling Through the Universe*. He has led public art and community theatre projects in Monaghan, Louth and Dublin, and taught community-engaged theatre at NUI Galway and New York University. His 2016 play *The Big Fellow* (after Frank O'Connor) toured in Ireland and to India. He co-wrote and directed Dorothy McArdle: Prison Notebooks with performer Sharon McArdle (Kilmainham Gaol /Smock Alley 2022). During Covid he directed "The Pilgrims of Slieve" a play for Zoom devised by Aisteoirí Muinchille. He is currently visiting writer on the Bordering Realities project collaborating with Cavan playwright Alice Lynch and the Killesher Youth Drama Society.

Joshua McEneaney is from Dublin and has recently graduated from The Lir Academy. In the last year he has been in productions including: "The Aliens" by Annie Baker directed by Ellen Buckley, "Untitled" a devised work directed by Wayne Jordan, "Bullrusher" by Eisa Davis directed by Claire O'Reilly, "The Winters Tale" by William Shakespeare directed by Conall Morrison and "Lady Windermere's Fan" by Oscar Wilde directed by Tom Creed.

Niamh McPhillips is from Co. Monaghan. She has been in several physical theatre productions, most recently a children's clown show, 'Hear Me Speak' by Miriam Needham in the Hawk's Well Theatre. She studied at TU Dublin Conservatoire of Music and Drama graduating with a BA in Drama (Performance). Her final year production was Carly Churchill's play of 'LOVE AND INFORMATION' directed by Ronan Phelan. She was recently performing as Inga Ingram, in the world premiere of 'Looking At The Sun' by Emily Bohannon at the Smock Alley Theatre and Civic Theatre. Niamh has worked in several different forms of drama such as Dance, Audio and Opera. She is an alumnus of Monaghan Youth Theatre. She has performed in visual artist Lisa Freeman's 'Slipped, Fell and Smacked my Face off the Dance Floor' and Jesse Jones' 'The Tower'. She collaborated on CoisCéim Broadreach's project: BUILDING SPACES OF POSSIBILITY which saw her work with choreographer Muirne Bloomer and Dr. Niamh Shaw.

Erin Lynch studied Costume design for stage and screen in Inchicore College of Further Education from 2016-2018. Erin has worked on Normal People as a costume assistant and offers costume and technical assistance to local youth groups, most recently acting as sound technician for Kilnaleck Youth Drama Society's preview of 'The Secrets of Mascenca'. Erin has also acted with The Moogles Theatre Company.

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