

The Playhouse Theatre Presents

STAR MEN

A new play by SEAMAS KEENAN
Directed by TOM DOHERTY

Photograph: 'Past Conversation', Locky Morris, 1997.



“All soldiers share secrets. That’s the nature of violence”



Seamas Keenan (Writer)

Seamas Keenan was educated at Saint Columb's College, Derry and Trinity College, Dublin from where he graduated in 1970. A lauded playwright, film writer, poet and editor Seamus has won several awards for his writing, including the Brian Moore Short Story Competition and the New Irish Writer of the Year, Hennessy Fiction Awards. 'Flight', his first play examining an imaginary life of Amelia Earhart, was staged by The Playhouse, and toured to critical applause.



Tom Doherty (Director)

Tom studied Drama at College in Manchester. In the seventies he directed and designed for the '71 Players with plays such as The Plough and the Stars; Blithe Spirit; Over The Bridge; Me Oul Segotia and An Inspector Calls. In the eighties he founded his own semi-professional company and adjudicated for the first time in Ballyshannon in 1982. Since then he has become one of Ireland's best-known Drama Tutors and Adjudicators. He has also led workshops and training sessions for Drama Groups and teachers all over Ireland.



Gerry Doherty (Thomas)

As a member of The Playhouse Players, Gerry has appeared in productions such as 'Packie's Wake', 'Bouncers', 'Lonesome West', 'Kings of The Kilburn High Road', 'Rat in The Skull', and with Dubbeljoint Theatre Company 'Forced Upon Us'.

Gerry's film appearances include 'H3', 'Man About Dog', 'Peacelife', '50 Dead Men Walking' and the Oscar nominated film 'Everything In This Country Must'.



Pat Lynch (Billy)

Pat has made several television appearances in Westway Films Seanchai series, and most recently appeared as Nostradamus on the National Geographic Television for 360 Productions, Derry & London. He has appeared in many plays through the years including 'Kings of The Kilburn High Road', 'Bouncers', 'The Lonesome West', 'Shoot The Cow' and 'The Weir'. His most recent theatre includes the one man show 'I Won't Dance, Don't Ask Me'.



Nicky Harley (Emma)

Nicky has been involved in theatre from the young age of six. After studying Performing Arts at N.W.I.F.H.E, she moved to Dublin to manage the Dublin Costume Company, producing costumes for Irish Television and media. Nicky returned to Derry in 2005 to attain a first class honours in Drama at The University of Ulster. Since then, She has performed in several professional Theatre productions as well as radio, television and film. Her last performance with The Playhouse was 'Home Boy Home'.



Francis Harkin ('Hood')

Francis studied Performing Arts at North West Institute of Further and Higher Education and has worked in stage management for the past five years. As an actor he has had several leading roles in productions such as 'The Kings of Kilburn high Road' and 'Bouncers'.



Anita Claudia Guadin (Stage Manager)

Anita studied Economics and management of arts and cultural events at Ca' Foscari Venice University. Working with A. Salieri Theatre, Anita provided communication and mediation, and organized the opening night with the concert directed by Maestro Riccardo Muti with Orchestra Cherubini. She has also worked with Nuovo Theatre as a marketing assistant, and has been at The Playhouse since January as a marketing assistant and events organiser. Anita is also an actor and has performed in amateur productions of Shakespeare's 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' and 'If I were Andrew'.



Star Men

A new play by Seamas Keenan

Life is full of surprises. Old friends never let you down. First love never dies. We carry our secrets to the grave. Believe all that, and you'll believe anything!

Thomas, a middle-aged man down on his luck, disillusioned, is content to while away his wasted life in death's waiting-room, listening to music, talking to the radio, and fighting with gangs of teenagers that disrupt his nights.

Who does Billy think he is, turning up at his front door after all this time, begging favours, anxious to rewrite his life story? And that the Hell's he doing, bringing Emma back into Thomas' life?

All soldiers share secrets. That's the nature of violence. What's the big deal about one long forgotten accident in a bloody catalogue of tragedy? You can't be responsible for everything. And sometimes, death can be least of your worries.

In 'Star Men', the eagerly awaited new play from award-winning writer Seamus Keenan, directed by Tom Doherty, the three old friends confront their shared pasts in a welter of alcohol, vicious recrimination, deceit, powerlessness, ill-concealed desire, and claustrophobic, brutal humour

The Playhouse Theatre

Wednesday 18th -
Saturday 21st May, 8pm

Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, Belfast

Thursday 26th & Friday 27th May, 8pm



 THE PLAYHOUSE

 arts council
of Northern Ireland