



Rathfarnham Theatre Group

# Dancing at Lughnasa

By Brian Friel



**St. Mary's Boys National School,  
Grange Road, Rathfarnham**

**8th to 11th May, 1997**

**Programme 50p**



Sponsored by WHITECHURCH MOTORS



# RATHFARNHAM THEATRE GROUP

PRESENTS

# Dancing At Lughnasa

by Brian Friel

## CAST

Michael	<b>Eamonn Cullen</b>
Chris	<b>Karen Gillece Martin</b>
Maggie	<b>Niamh Ruiséal</b>
Agnes	<b>Catherine McAuliffe</b>
Rose	<b>Rachael Stanley</b>
Kate	<b>Carmel Cullen</b>
Jack	<b>Mark Connolly</b>
Gerry	<b>Columb Casey</b>

---

**Act 1**- Ballybeg, a warm day in  
early August 1936.

**Act 2** - Three weeks later.

---

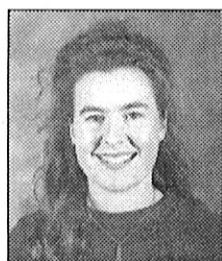
*There will be an interval  
of approximately 15 minutes after Act 1.*

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Robert Massey
Stage Manager	Anne O'Connell
Assisted by	Patricia O'Leary Brian Murphy Jeremy Clarke
Set Construction	Clive Jacobs Darach Connolly
Lighting	Marie Love Andy Whelan
Sound	Margaret McEvoy
Make-Up	Maria King Ciaran Reid
Choreography	Joe Conlon
Graphic	Noel Young
P.R.	Marie Love
Front of House	Ursula Kilfoyle Georgina Taylor



**Eamonn Cullen** reckoned he was ideal for the part of Michael - the boy from Donegal. He makes as many slips as Packie Bonner, he listened to Daniel O'Donnell once on the radio, and he carries on like a seven year old anyway.



**Karen Martin** only joined Rathfarnham Theatre Group last year and we thought so much of her dress sense that we immediately wrapped her up in a sheet and put her on stage in *Chapter Two* in the role of Faye. She was so good that we then allowed her to play the part of a chimpanzee in our recent production of *Words, Words, Words*.



**Niamh Ruiséal** grew up in Cork but was cruelly run out because she refused to eat Crubeens. She then settled in Rathfarnham, where she joined the Theatre Group at its inception. She played in *Drama At Inish* before getting a two year reprieve from Cork, and last time out played the less than musically talented Joyce in *Last Tango in Rathfarnham*.



**Catherine McAuliffe** is also from Cork where she learned her Irish dancing. Unfortunately she forgot it all when she came to Dublin. Having played Ruth in *Blithe Spirit* and Gwendoline in *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, her expertise in cardboard box watching and tomato peeling made her an obvious choice for the part of Agnes in this play.



**Rachael Stanley** loves dancing in wellies - she's also a martial arts enthusiast and thus we were persuaded to cast her in this play. Formerly with Tallaght Choral Society and Little Dublin Singers, she joined us in 1994 and has previously played Edith in *Blithe Spirit*, as well as a number of roles in our workshop productions.



**Carmel Cullen** joined Rathfarnham Theatre Group to get away from Eamonn...then he joined. It's no wonder that roles like Big Maggie, Juno & Kate come so naturally to her. Despite her huge handicap (Eamonn), Carmel has also managed to turn in some more light hearted performances such as Olive in *The Odd Couple*, Jenny in *Chapter Two* and Margaret in *Last Tango in Rathfarnham*.



**Mark Connolly** turned down a chance to represent Ireland in television watching (heavyweight division) at the Olympics so that he could join Rathfarnham Theatre Group. He has appeared in many of our productions without causing too much damage. Last time out, Mark played a chimpanzee, so this production is a big step up the evolutionary ladder for him.



**Columb Casey** doesn't want to be reminded that he started his acting career in the role of Mary in his schools' Easter passion play, so we won't mention it. He has had parts in several of our previous productions the directors of which are now well on the road to recovery.



**Robert Massey** learnt his craft in the Xavier Goodwin Drama School where he appeared as Teyve in *Fiddler On The Roof* and in numerous other shows during the eight years he spent there.

Moving on to U.C.D., he became one of the leading lights in Dramsoc, appearing in many of their plays and directing *The Cagebirds* to critical acclaim.

Since joining us last year, Rob has been a busy fellow having played the lecherous and dissolute Leo in *Chapter Two* (typecast), as well as directing and playing the part of a chimpanzee in *Words, Words, Words* (typecast again). This is Rob's first stint as director of a full length production for us - we all wish him well, and hope it's just the first of many.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*As always, we are indebted to Fr. Hanlon, Jim Molloy, Bernadette Daly and all at St. Mary's B.N.S. without whose assistance none of this would have been possible.*

*For this production, we have also been able to call on help from the Abbey Theatre, the Irish Vintage Radio Association and our colleagues in Lissadell Players to whom we are very grateful.*

*Last, but most certainly not least, we want to say a big "Thank You" to all our patrons and advertisers, and particularly to Whitechurch Motors who have so generously sponsored this play.*