

Directed by
Anne
O'Connell

Rathfarnham Theatre
Group present

with kind
permission
of
Nick Hern
Books

dlr Mill Theatre, Dundrum
Wed 10th to Sat 13th
November 2021 at 8pm

THE APPROACH



MARK O'ROWE





Claire Parkes - Cora

Claire joined RTG in summer 2019. She played Winifred Carney in 'The Revolutionary and the Soldier' as part of 'The Dublin Festival of History' and in December 2019, was Miss O'Callaghan in 'The Dead' staged in The Pearse Museum. Claire has been busy recently, firstly as

Detective Elizabeth Balford in the pilot for the TV series 'Unravel', which was accepted in the IFTA Associated 'Underground Film Festival', then as Mary in the short film 'Blossom'. Claire is now looking forward to her role as Cora in 'The Approach'.



Deirdre Dunlevy – Anna

Deirdre is very welcome back to RTG after a break of over three years. She has acted in a number of RTG plays including Candy Starr in 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest', Cecily in 'The Importance of Being Earnest' (for RTG's 21st Birthday Celebration) and Katie in 'Big Maggie'.

She has also been involved in a range of workshop productions as well as working backstage in costume and stage management. Deirdre is playing Anna in 'The Approach'.



Deirdre Shanahan – Denise

Deirdre is a graduate of The Conservatory of Music and Drama, DIT Rathmines, where she was involved in a range of stage productions. She joined RTG in 2019 and made her RTG acting debut, as Miss Furlong in 'The Dead' staged in the Pearse Museum. During 2020 and early 2021 she

was active in many RTG workshops performances through 'Zoom'. Deirdre is enjoying her role as Denise in 'The Approach'.



Anne O'Connell – Director

Anne has been a very active member of Rathfarnham Theatre Group since its formation. She has played many leading roles including Mags in 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane', Linda in 'Death of a Salesman' as well as Mrs Madigan in 'Juno and the Paycock'. She has directed many plays for the group including 'One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest', 'Da', 'Plaza Suite' and 'The Dead', our last live production before Covid hit. While kept busy in 2020 and early 2021 with workshops on Zoom, Anne is delighted to be back directing RTG's first live performance of 2021 with 'The Approach'.

Production Crew

Director	Anne O'Connell
Producer	Carl Lusby
Stage Manager	Deirdre Nally
Lighting	Barry Donaldson
Sound	Noel Young/Barry Donaldson
Publicity/PRO	Helen O'Brien
Front of House	Helen Cullen
Assistant Stage Manager	Gloria Leyden
Backstage	RTG Crew

With thanks to the Studio Café, Rathfarnham Village
Our loyal Patrons: Joe Clancy, Jill Davis/Sean O'Byrne, Eugene
and Norma Hiney, Colm Jenkinson, Paul McMullan.

Hon Patron: George King

Find us on Facebook : **Rathfarnham Theatre**

Twitter : **#rathtg**

Instagram : **rtgdrama**

Website : **www.rathfarnhamtheatre.com**

Director's Note

I am so pleased to be back directing live theatre after the Covid lockdown of 2020/21. It is especially gratifying to be directing such a wonderful, complex play as 'The Approach'. I had originally seen this play in the Project Arts Centre in 2018, with my daughter, and the conversation afterwards about what had and had not been going on in the minds and lives of the characters lasted even longer than the play. I came home that evening promising myself that I would direct it at some point. It is a many layered play with characters presenting versions of themselves that cannot always be relied on for authenticity. Who said what when? Who was and wasn't hurt? Who did the hurting? What is the truth, or is there any truth?

Please sit back and enjoy the show and hopefully you will leave at the end, as I did, with questions and queries on what did and didn't happen to Cora, Anna and Denise.

Anne O'Connell

Director

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Chairperson's Note

Rathfarnham Theatre Group is absolutely delighted to be back on stage in the dlr Mill Theatre. We have been eagerly awaiting the easing of restrictions and are thrilled that we can at last bring live performance back to our local community. It is hard to believe that it is over 2 years since we last performed in this wonderful venue. While the pandemic did prevent live theatre, it also gave us a golden opportunity to be more creative and to explore alternative ways of performing. With the help of modern technology we organised online readings of plays and poetry, facilitated workshops on writing and directing for stage, and performed pieces written during lockdown by our own members. We eventually progressed to streaming an online performance of *Eden* by Eugene O'Brien, which received rave reviews from audience members.

There is of course nothing to replace live performance - treading the boards, playing to a live audience, hearing the applause. We are therefore particularly excited that our first live performance in two years is to be Mark O'Rowe's thought-provoking play *The Approach*. Directed by our very own Anne O'Connell and starring three of our exceptionally talented actresses - Deirdre Dunlevy, Claire Parkes, and Deirdre Shanahan - I have no doubt that you are in for a wonderful night of theatre!

On behalf of Rathfarnham Theatre Group I would like to thank the dlr Mill Theatre and staff for giving us the opportunity to perform in this fantastic space and for all their assistance in the run up to the show. I would also especially like to thank you, our audience, for your loyalty, for your continued support, but most importantly for being here.

Helen Cullen

Chairperson