



**CLOMMEL  
THEATRE  
GUILD**

PRESENTS

1969 - 1990

*21st  
Anniversary  
Season*

PROGRAMME

Tennessee William's

**"A Streetcar Named Desire"**

Production directed by Stella O'Sullivan

*WHITE MEMORIAL THEATRE*

April 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th, 1990

Bernard Farrell's

**"Say Cheese"**

Production directed by Brendan Long

*RIVER ROOM, CLOMMEL ARMS HOTEL*

Feb. 27th, 28th, March 1st, 1990



The Executive Committee of Clonmel Theatre Guild:  
 Seated 1 to r. Anne Taylor, P.R.O., Stella O'Sullivan, Artistic Director, Brendan Long, Chairman,  
 Denis O'Sullivan, Ina Long, Manager,  
 Standing Michael Ahern, Molly Daly, Mary Burke, Margot Prendergast, Ruairi Breathnach.



Philip King's "See How They Run" (1983) 1 to r: Molly Daly, Mary Burke, Denis O'Sullivan,  
 Brendan Daly, Stella O'Sullivan, Michael Ahern and Seamus Maher.

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## A Word from the Chairman

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Twenty - one years ago, following the formation of Clonmel Theatre Guild at a meeting on Sunday February 23rd 1969 in Hearn's Hotel, three of us were accorded the task of compiling a draft Constitution for adoption by the fledgling drama group. The object of the exercise was to give the new organisation a set of principles, rules and regulations which were designed to ensure, come who may and go who must, the Guild itself would have, so far as was humanly possible, an in-built capacity for continuity. In the past there had been too many Clonmel Dramatic Societies, launched with high hopes only to blossom and grow for a short while and then fade into oblivion, their erstwhile members left to find some other leisure pursuits, their talents and experience wasted.

Of the trio who drafted that Constitution, in due course adopted, two have since gone to their eternal rewards, the Rev. Patrick Roche O.F.M., our first President and Seamus Lonergan who was a dedicated member of our off-stage team. As the survivor I can claim on their behalf an objective most successfully accomplished because now, 21 years later, the Clonmel Theatre Guild, through thick and thin, has outlasted by very many years all of its predecessors and is today some forty - two play productions later stronger in numbers and commitment than it ever was. If the aim was to ensure for the town a strong and stable Amateur Drama Group which, ever combining youth with experience, would provide a regular service of Live Theatre from the community for the community, their contribution was a key factor in our attainment of the majority which we celebrate this year. We must pay first and foremost a tribute to their memory and acknowledge this, our debt to their endeavours.

There have been other stalwarts too who have passed on and whose dedicated contributions we gratefully remember. The late A.E. Phelan, the late Mary Redmond, and the late Jack Griffin were three most valued players who at different stages discharged the office of Chairperson, the late Jack Murnane was our first and for many faithful years Stage Manager, and we remember too the late Sean O'Neill who for many years faithfully manned our box office and Alan Sparrow, the youngest and most popular of our members in his day who was tragically taken at such an early age.

In the beginning we emerged with but one Producer who, being the only one, was also our first Artistic Director. In persuance of the spirit and letter of the Constitution he made himself, if not obsolete, most certainly dispensable. We now have a panel of four producers and the key position of Artistic Director has had three incumbents. Over the years nine members have filled the office of Chairman and five the position of Manager.



Denis O'Sullivan, Mary Redmond (R.I.P.) former Chairperson, and Brendan Long in "Three for the Road" (1975)



Molly Daly and Michael Ahearne in "See How They Run" (1983).

We could not, of course, have launched the Clonmel Theatre Guild at all if we did not have a suitable venue in which to stage our productions. For a great part of the twenty-one years of our activities Our Lady's Hall in Morton Street was our home and served us very well. It was a facility generously made available to us by the authorities of S.S. Peter and Paul's Parish and we would most earnestly wish to place on record our grateful thanks. With the advent of the White Memorial Theatre, an ideally appointed little theatre provided for its own and community use by our senior sister organisation, St. Mary's Choral Society, we transferred to this more popular venue as the main centre for our productions in recent years. More recently the River Room at the Clonmel Arms Hotel has become the venue for our ventures into the realm of Dinner/Theatre.

If a drama group cannot present a play without a stage and a hall, it is even more true that you cannot have a play without an audience. Down all these years we have been most generously supported by the public both as patrons of the Guild and as audiences for our efforts. To these supporters, in the final analysis, must go our profound thanks. Without the generosity of spirit with which they have received, encouraged and sustained our endeavours, everything else would have been rather futile.

We thank you most sincerely for joining with us for this 21st Anniversary Celebration of local and amateur drama.

**BRENDAN LONG,**

**Chairman, February 1990.**



Margot Prendergast, Robert Burke, first Chairman, and Seamus Maher in George Bernard Shaw's "You Never Can Tell". (1969)



The late Jack Murnane, Stage Manager.



Colm Fennessy and Deirdre Buckley in Robert Bolt's "Vivat Vivat Regina" (1981)



Ina Long and Mahon O'Keeffe in the Irish premiere of Friedrich Duerrenmatt's "The Visit" (1971)

# " SAY CHEESE "

*A Play by Bernard Farrell*

## THE PEOPLE IN THE PLAY

Bridie Fagan .....	Margot Prendergast
Valentine Fagan .....	David Fenlon
Heather Brookenheim .....	Judith Delaney
Ray Fagan .....	Seamus Moore
Rory Henderson .....	Bill Taylor
Goldie .....	Mary Burke
Mr. Bradshaw .....	Michael Hanly
Julie .....	Ann Maher
Mr. L'Estrange .....	Michael Ahern
Fr. Shaughnessy.....	Seamus Maher
Myles Moore .....	Paul Kelly
Maggie Moore .....	Margaret Morrissey

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES

Production Directed by Brendan Long  
 Setting by Jim Connolly  
 Decor by Brendan Long

Stage Manager .....	Jim Connolly
Stage Director .....	Audrey Duncan
Lighting .....	Dominic Hearn
Props. ....	Anne Taylor and Annette Hayes
Continuity .....	Audrey Duncan
Sound .....	Miriam Burke
Make - Up .....	Maria O'Regan and Seamus Maher
House Manager .....	Ina Long
Box Office .....	Dick Walshe

The action of the Play takes place in the Bridal Suite of a Dublin Hotel.

Furniture by Larry O'Keefe  
 Carpet by George Hackett  
 Plants and Flowers by Gaffneys  
 Wedding Cake by Hickey's Bakery



Taking part in "Say Cheese": Seated (l to r) Judith Delaney, Ann Maher, Margot Prendergast, Audrey Duncan, (Stage Director), Mary Burke. Standing: Michael Hanly, Seamus Moore, David Fenlon, Michael Ahern and Bill Taylor.

# "A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE"

*A Play by Tennessee Williams*

## THE PEOPLE IN THE PLAY

Blanche Du Bois .....	Stella O'Sullivan
Stella Kowalski .....	Molly Daly
Stanley Kowalski .....	Ruairi Breathnach
Harold Mitchell (Mitch) .....	Brian Rasmussen
Eunice Hubbel .....	Amanda Cahill
Steve Hubbel .....	Seamus Moore
Pablo Gonzales .....	Brendan O'Mahoney
Negro Woman .....	Margaret Morrissey
Doctor .....	Michael Ahern
Nurse .....	Mary Burke
Mexican Woman .....	Patricia Harte
Street Vendor .....	Carol Burke
Sailor .....	Edmund Ryan
Young Collector .....	Paul Kelly

Setting - The Kowalski Apartments and their environs in New Orleans.

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES

The Production Directed by Stella O'Sullivan  
Assisted by Michael Ahern

Setting .....	Jim Connolly
Decor .....	Mary Burke
	Edmund Ryan
Stage Manager .....	Jim Connolly
Stage Director .....	Mary Cambell
Props .....	Annette Hayes
	Kathleen O'Shea
Sound .....	Miriam Burke
Lights .....	Denis O'Sullivan
	Michael O'Sullivan
Make - Up .....	Maria O'Regan
	Seamus Maher
Continuity .....	Carol Burke
House Manager .....	Ina Long
Box Office .....	Dick Walshe



Taking part in "A Streetcar Named Desire" Seated: (l to r) Mary Cambell (Stage Director), Molly Daly, Stella O'Sullivan (Producer), Amanda Cahill, Patricia Harte, Standing: Michael Ahern, Paul Kelly, Seamus Moore, Mary Burke, Brian Rasmussen, Ruairi Breathnach.

# A WORD FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We, in Clonmel Theatre Guild, take pride in the fact that we have survived for twenty-one years. The Guild was formed to promote drama in all its forms and to encourage young people to become involved. I would like to think that we have fulfilled these aims. It is gratifying to be able to say that, while still having some of our founder members, we also have many young people in our ranks whose love of drama was first kindled by a Theatre Guild production.



Over the years we have tried to widen our horizons as much as possible. From time to time we have presented plays which have appeared on the Leaving Certificate programme, such as "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "The Plough and The Stars" to name but two. The Guild has also participated in many local celebrations such as the Bianconi Centenary. We have also become involved in Dinner Theatre, which, up to now, has been a great success.

Looking to the future, there are many fields I feel, which might be explored for the benefit of the Guild and its members. In the past, many of the older members attended drama courses run by professional tutors. These were found to be very beneficial and I hope that our younger members will be able to avail of these over the coming years. Another venture which would enhance the expertise of the Guild would be a liaison with the professional theatre. Engaging a professional producer or inviting personnel with the technical expertise in the field of lighting, set design etc. has exciting possibilities. Bringing theatre to the schools should also be considered. Finally there is the question of drama festivals in which the Guild, up to now, has not participated. However, there is a growing desire among many of the members that this too should be considered.

As we look ahead I feel that with the same commitment and enthusiasm shown by our members down through the years, we shall meet our challenges with confidence and we look forward to your support over the next twenty one years.

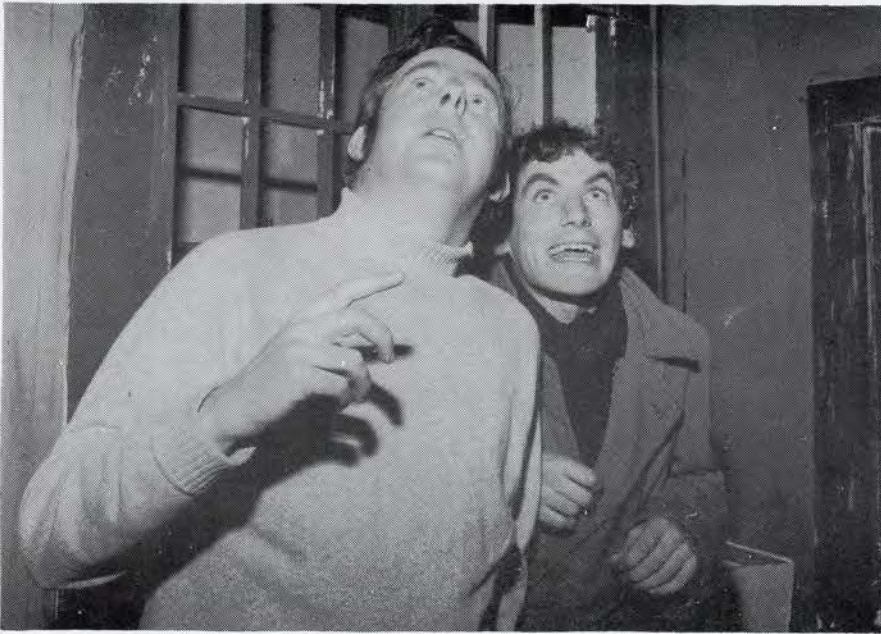
Stella O'Sullivan,

February, 1990

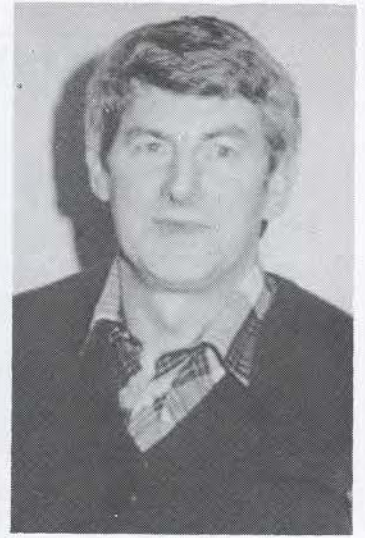
Our grateful thanks to the following who have kindly sponsored  
this 21st Anniversary Programme:

A.I.B. BANK, 5/6 AND 65/67 O'CONNELL STREET, CLONMEL.  
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"What is the Stars?" Michael Ahern and Mahon O'Keeffe  
in O'Casey's "Juno and The Paycock" (1973)



Jim Connolly, our Stage Manager  
and Set-BUILDER



Brendan Long in the title role  
of Hugh Leonard's "Da" (1975)



Brendan Long, Mahon O'Keeffe and Maureen Kiely  
(floored, David Fenlon) in Walter Macken's "Home  
is The Hero" (1971)

# TWENTY - ONE YEARS A - GROWING

Clonmel Theatre Guild was founded at a meeting which was held at Hearn's Hotel, Clonmel, on the 23rd February, 1969 and its inaugural productions, John M. Synge's "The Playboy of the Western World" and Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" were staged in that sequence at Our Lady's Hall, Clonmel from the 13th to the 16th and from the 18th to the 20th of the following April. Before the year was out a third production, George Bernard Shaw's "You Never Can Tell" was to follow in November.

The Guild's first President was the Rev. Patrick Roche O.F.M., the first Chairman, Robert Burke, a member of the administrative staff at St. Luke's Hospital, the first Artistic Director Brendan Long, then Deputy Editor of "The Nationalist" and the first Manager, an office combining the duties of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, Patricia Long, a secretary on the staff of Showerings (Ire.) Ltd. The members of the first Executive Committee were: Maureen Casey, Mary Burke, Ina Long and Denis O'Sullivan.

In addition to these the original members were : Ciaran McGrath, David Fenlon, Jim O'Shea, Jack Griffin, Joan Hurley, Ann Nolan, Josephine Cleary, Josephine McCarthy, Leo Wallace, Pat Power, Billie O'Brien, Margo O'Leary, Stella Smith, Seamus Maher, Ann Cahalan, Jack Murnane, Seamus Lonergan, Tony Dempsey, Alan Ryan, Chris Delahunty and Maeve Delahunty.

Father Patrick Roche, then attached to the Franciscan Friary at Clonmel was one of the key figures in the establishment of the Guild and together with Brendan Long and Seamus Lonergan drafted the Constitution which was adopted by members and still governs its proceedings. Both Fr. Roche and Brendan Long brought to the fledgling organisation the benefit of having had considerable previous experience in amateur theatricals and, particularly, as producers. The Guild was to decide to exploit this advantage and the better to cater for the number of members by launching itself before the public with a season of two plays, "The Playboy" to be directed by Brendan Long, and "The Importance" by Fr. Roche. Unfortunately rehearsals had hardly got under way when Fr. Roche was appointed by his Order to the Guardianship of the Franciscan Community at Drogheda. The situation was resolved when Brendan undertook the production of both plays. In taking on also the Oscar Wilde classic he



"Is this a dagger which I see before me?"

Rev. Patrick Roche O.F.M. (R.I.P.) in a scene as you-know-who in that Scottish play by Shakespeare.

The appearance was at an evening for patrons.

had not only the advantage of having played the role of Algernon in a Clonmel production of the work in the mid - Forties but could still repeat at will the entire script from cover to cover.

Although far removed from Clonmel in his new post in Drogheda, Fr. Roche continued until his untimely death in 1973 to maintain an active interest in the Guild's affairs and, as President, attended and spoke at all of its productions during his lifetime.

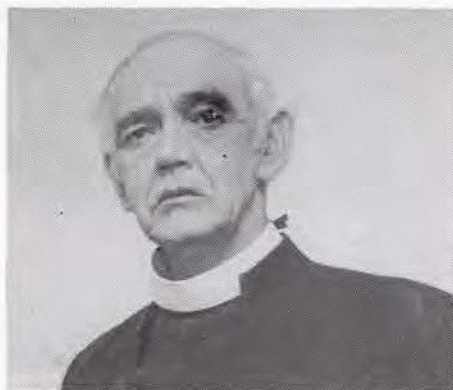
Following the adoption of its Constitution, Brendan Long was elected to the position of Artistic Director with a brief to formulate for the Guild's consent the artistic policy for his season of office and to set about the training of members who showed the aptitude and will for the task as producers. In the thirteen years during which he was re-appointed to that office two new producers emerged from the ranks in the persons of Denis O'Sullivan who directed his first production, Walter Macken's "Home Is the Hero" in March 1971 and Michael Ahern who entered in the field with a production of Brian Friel's "Philadelphia Here I Come" in 1974.

At the A.G.M. of the Guild in 1982 Brendan Long pointed out to the members that it was never intended that the responsibility of Artistic Directorship should remain with one incumbent for so long a period. He conceded that difficulties of availability had repeatedly arisen in the quest for a successor, but at the present time very qualified alternatives were available and he was not seeking re-election. In the event Denis O'Sullivan was elected Artistic Director and in 1987 he was succeeded in that position by the current Artistic Director, his wife, Stella, who in the previous year, had become the Guild's fourth producer with a production of Ronald Harwood's "The Dresser".

Of the 42 plays staged by the Theatre Guild in its 21 years in existence Brendan Long has directed the production of 27 full - length plays and a one-act play, Denis O'Sullivan 5 full-length plays and a one-act play, Michael Ahern four full-length plays and a one-act play, Stella O'Sullivan, who introduced the concept of Dinner/Theatre, has directed five full-length productions. The three one-acts formed the production "Whodunnit".



The late A. E. Phelan as Merriman, the Butler, in "The Importance of Being Earnest"



The late Jack Griffin as the Canon in Brian Friel's "Philadelphia Here I Come"

The founding Chairperson of the Guild, Robert Burke, who was transferred to Galway on promotion, was succeeded by the late Andy Phelan (R.I.P.) and subsequent holders of that office have been Margot Prendergast, Seamus Maher, Michael Ahern, Denis O'Sullivan, Mary Redmond (R.I.P.) and Jack Griffin (R.I.P.) Brendan Long is the current Chairperson. Down the years the position of Manager has been held by Patricia Long, Mary Burke, Michael Ahern, Margot Prendergast, and Ina Long is the current Manager.

For many years the Guild's Stage Manager was the late Jack Murnane and he was succeeded by the current holder of this office, Jim Connolly. The Guild's first P.R.O. was Joan Dempsey and she was succeeded by the current P.R.O. Anne Taylor.

# Patrons of our 21st Anniversary Season

## 1969 - 1990: Past Productions

The Playboy of the Western World  
The Importance of Being Earnest  
You Never Can Tell  
The Silver Tassie  
The Well of the Saints  
Arms and The Man  
Home is The Hero  
The Visit  
Lovers  
The Far-Off Hills  
The Importance of Being Earnest  
A Streetcar Named Desire  
Juno and the Paycock  
Vivat! Vivat! Reginald

The Shadow of a Gunman  
Philadelphia Here I Come  
The Glass Menagerie  
Da  
The Lark  
The Tinker's Wedding  
The Patrick Pearse Motel  
Three for The Road  
Brush With a Body  
The Effects of Gamma Rays on  
Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds  
Anyone Can Rob a Bank  
The Loves of Cass Maguire  
A Man For All Seasons

Arsenic and Old Lace  
See How They Run  
Lovers  
The Patrick Pearse Motel  
I Do Not Like Thee, Doctor Fell  
Whodunnit  
I'll Get My Man  
The Communication Cord  
The Dresser  
Da  
Double-up Laughing  
The Year of the Hiker  
Love on the Rocks  
The Plough and the Stars  
The Patrick Pearse Motel