

Clonmel Theatre Guild

Celebrating Our 50th Season
Clonmel Theatre Guild Presents
Our Christmas Dinner Theatre

4th ~ 7th December 2018

Ken Ludwig

LEND ME A TENOR



PROGRAMME

Directed by Sarah Finnegan

Raheen House Clonmel



By kind permission of Samuel French



Welcome Message from Chairperson Carol Acheson

Good evening theatre goers, I'm so excited to be with Clonmel Theatre Guild as we enter our 50th season. We welcome you all to our production of "Lend Me a Tenor." As always, the cast and backstage crew have worked extremely hard to bring this play to the stage.



We hope to see you all in the New Year at our upcoming events. As well as our 50th anniversary production of "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest", we also have many offstage events planned to celebrate 50 years of drama in Clonmel. So, keep an eye on our website, facebook page and local papers for updates!

I'd like to thank you for your continued support of the guild and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Now sit back relax and enjoy!

A Message from Director Sarah Finnegan

Having returned to Ireland from the UK last year, I joined the Clonmel Theatre Guild and helped back stage in the Christmas production of "Funny Money." This year I agreed to direct "Lend me a Tenor" and have enjoyed every moment!



It's been great to work with such a talented and supportive cast and crew. It's been especially enjoyable to be part of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

We've had some real laughs and hope you enjoy the show.

The Play

Lend Me A Tenor sees Henry Saunders, the general manager of the Clonmel Grand Opera Company, primed to welcome world famous, Tito Merelli, Il Stupendo, the greatest tenor of his generation, to appear for one night only as Otello.

The star arrives late and, through a hilarious series of mishaps, is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out. His pulse is so low that Saunders and his assistant Max believe he's dead. In a frantic attempt to salvage the evening, Saunders persuades Max to get into Merelli's Otello costume and fool the audience into thinking he's Il Stupendo. Max succeeds admirably, but Merelli comes to and gets into his other costume ready to perform. Now two Otellos are running around in costume and two women are running around in lingerie, each thinking she is with Il Stupendo. This madcap, screwball comedy is guaranteed to leave audiences teary-eyed with laughter.

The Cast

Henry Saunders - *The Clonmel Grand Opera's general manager* - **Ricky Dunne**

Max - *Saunders' long-suffering assistant* - **Dave McEvoy**

Maggie Saunders - *Saunders' daughter & Max's girlfriend* - **Blathnaid Moore**

Tito Merelli - *The world's most renowned opera tenor* - **Edmond Ryan**

Maria - *Tito's long-suffering wife, with an "Italian temper"* - **Patricia Harte**

Diana - *The opera's soprano who is a "seductive woman"* - **Esther Byrne**

Julia - *Chairwoman of the Clonmel Grand Opera Company* - **Carol Acheson**

The Bellhop - *Bellhop, not a waiter?* - **Hugh Hennessy**



The Cast

Ricky Dunne - Henry Saunders

Ricky Dunne joined Clonmel Theatre Guild in 2006 making his debut in "Why not wait till Breakfast" and has been part of many productions since then including "The Chastitute", where he played the part of Mickey Molly, one of his favourites. He has also been involved with Open House Players and Break a Leg Theatre Group. Ricky's love of the stage sees him take part in St Mary's Choral Society shows from time to time.



Ricky Dunne

Dave McEvoy - Max

Dave McEvoy is a newcomer to acting and is making his debut both on stage and with Clonmel Theatre Guild in this play. He is really enjoying the process. Dave worked as an animator for 10 years and says it was a great preparation for getting on stage.



Dave McEvoy

Blathnaid Moore - Maggie

Blathnaid Moore joined the guild in 2017, a relatively new comer to theatre. She got involved straight away and was part of the backstage crew in "Dancing at Lughnasa". Blathnaid is currently a member of the committee, with responsibility for looking after PR on Social Media. This is her first major role on stage. Blathnaid has always had an interest in theatre, having taken part in several plays while she was in school. She is hoping to study drama in the future.



Blathnaid Moore

Edmond Ryan - Tito Merelli

Edmond Ryan joined Clonmel Theatre Guild in 1984. His first play was "The Real Inspector Hound". This play "Lend me a Tenor" will be his 33rd over the last 34 years and the Guild's 110th production in 50 years. Other productions he has been in over the years were "Dancing at Lughnasa", "Noises Off", "A Doll's House", "Cripple of Inishmahon", "The Crucible", "Run for your Wife", "Da", "Moll" and "The Chastitute" to name a few. He was Artistic Director from 2006 to 2012 and again in 2015 & 2016. Edmond has also designed and built the set for many of the guild's productions including this one.



Edmond Ryan

Patricia Harte - Maria

Patricia Harte has been a member of Clonmel Theatre Guild for 32 years and during that time she has had the honour of being Artistic Director and has both directed and taken parts in many plays. She has also acted with various other groups including Brewery Lane & Quay Players to name two. Patricia has taken part in a radio soap and two films. Over the years she has come to cherish the many great friendships she has formed and feels privileged to have been influenced by so many talented people.



Patricia Harte

Esther Byrne - Diana

Esther Byrne, a native of Clonmel, has literally grown up “on the stage”. A long-standing member of both St Mary's Choral Society & Clonmel Theatre Guild. She is a three-time Chairperson of the Guild and has also produced and directed for them. Esther has played 41 Principal Roles in 61 productions to-date. Her most recent parts were with the Brewery Lane Drama Group, Carrick-on-Suir in April & June this year. She has been a singer, dancer and actor all her life and has several Diplomas in Theatre Training, Mime, Drama & Film.



Esther Byrne

Carol Acheson - Julia

Carol Acheson lives and works in Clonmel and joined Clonmel Theatre Guild in 2010 for their production of The Crucible. Since then Carol has taken part in many other plays and has also helped out back stage as Stage Manager, Producer and twice as Director. Carol is currently Chairperson of the committee and is excited to be with the Guild as it celebrates 50 years in Clonmel.



Carol Acheson

Hugh Hennessy - The Bellhop

Hugh Hennessy, previously part of the Borrisoleigh Drama Group before moving to Clonmel, is now in his 3rd season with Clonmel Theatre Guild. Hugh previously appeared in “Murder at Mole End” and last year’s hilarious show “Funny Money” once again joins the cast for another laugh out loud festive season skit, or Bellhop at your service.



Hugh Hennessy

Photos Courtesy of Clonmel Camera Club

People Behind the Scenes

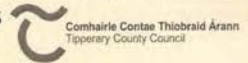
Director	Sarah Finnegan	Continuity	Larissa Clancy
Assistant Director	Carol Acheson	Front of House	Patricia Keane
Stage & Props Manager	Tom Callery	PR/Social Media	Blathnaid Moore
Set Design & Build	Edmond Ryan	PR/Programme	Adrienne Small
Sound & Lighting	Laura Black	Poster	Janet McEntee
Lighting Set Up	Mark Small	MC	Michael Hennessy
Costumes	Janet McEntee		Jim Malone

Front of House & Crew

Patricia Keane (Co-Ordinator), Janet McEntee, Breeda Hennessy, Michael Hennessy, Adrienne Small, Jennifer Lynch, Jim Malone, Mark Small, Catherine O'Donnell, Pol O'Ceallaigh, Sean Scott & Esther Wills

A Huge Thank You to the following for their support

St Vincent de Paul Furniture, Kool Kutz Hair Salon, Clonmel Resource Centre, Coachman's Pub, Clonmel Camera Club, Tony Connelly's Menswear, Medite Europe Ltd, Raheen House Hotel, Mediate Ireland, Supervalu, Niamh's Café, South Tipperary Arts Centre, Now Trading, Marian's Bookshop, Sureprint, The Nationalist, South Tipp Today, Clonmel Online, Danny Carroll, Tipperary County Council and anyone who has helped in any way. Thank you, your support is much appreciated.



2018/19 Committee

President - Michael Hennessy, Chairperson - Carol Acheson, Artistic Director - Jim Malone, Secretary - Janet McEntee, Treasurer, PR & Website - Adrienne Small, PRO - Blathnaid Moore, Membership - Tom Callery, Edmond Ryan, Hugh Hennessy & Fidelma Collins

Life Vice-Presidents

Denis O'Sullivan, Stella O'Sullivan, Mary Burke, Margot Prendergast

Invitation to Join

Membership of Clonmel Theatre Guild is open to anyone interested in the various aspects of community theatre. Please check out our website

www.clonmeltheatreguild.org or our Facebook page for more information.

Contact us on info@clonmeltheatreguild.org

About the Author

Ken Ludwig (Playwright) is a two-time Olivier Award-winning playwright whose work is performed every night of the year throughout the world in more than 30 countries and over 20 languages. He has written 24 plays and musicals, with six Broadway productions and seven in London's West End. His Tony Award-winning play *Lend Me a Tenor* was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by *The Washington Post*. His other plays and musicals include *Crazy for You* (five years on Broadway, Tony Award for Best Musical), *Moon Over Buffalo* (Broadway and West End), *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Broadway), *Treasure Island* (West End), *Twentieth Century* (Broadway), *Leading Ladies*, *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Game's Afoot*, *The Fox on the Fairway*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, and *A Comedy of Tenors*. His critically acclaimed adaptation of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, written at the request of the Christie Estate, premiered this season to sold-out houses at McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, and his world-premiere adaptation of *Robin Hood!* opens at The Old Globe this summer. Mr. Ludwig has received commissions from The Royal Shakespeare Company, The Bristol Old Vic and The Old Globe, and he is a Sallie B. Goodman Fellow of McCarter Theatre. His many awards and honours include the Charles MacArthur Award, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Southeastern Theatre Conference Distinguished Career Award, the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year, and the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre. His book *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare* (Random House) won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of 2014, and his essays are published by *The Yale Review*. He holds degrees from Harvard and Cambridge University.

We are celebrating our Golden Anniversary!

Clonmel Theatre Guild was formed on 23 February 1969 when a group of dedicated people with a passion for drama came together for a meeting in Hearn's Hotel. Since then the guild has entertained audiences staging 110 productions.



Upcoming events

**50th Anniversary Ball - 2nd March 2018 in
Raheen House Hotel**

**Our 50th Anniversary Production is
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - White Memorial Theatre**

**15th- 18th May 2019
Director Anne Williamson**



Celebrating 110 Productions since 1969

- 1969 - The Playboy of the Western World (John M. Synge)
 1969 - The Importance of Being Earnest (Oscar Wilde)
 1969 - You Never Can Tell (George Bernard Shaw)
 1970 - The Silver Tassie (Sean O'Casey)
 1970 - The Well of the Saints (John M. Synge)
 1970 - Arms and the Man (George Bernard Shaw)
 1971 - Home is the Hero (Walter Macken)
 1971 - The Visit (Freidrich Duerrenmatt)
 1971 - The Importance of Being Earnest (Oscar Wilde)
 1972 - Lovers (Brian Friel)
 1972 - Far off Hills (Lennox Robinson)
 1972 - A Streetcar named Desire (Tennessee Williams)
 1973 - Juno and the Paycock (Sean O'Casey)
 1973 - The Shadow of a Gunman (Sean O'Casey)
 1974 - Philadelphia here I come (Brian Friel)
 1974 - The Glass Menagerie (Tennessee Williams)
 1975 - Da (Hugh Leonard)
 1975 - The Lark (Jeah Anouih)
 1975 - The Tinkers Wedding (John M. Synge) & The Three Little Apostles
 1976 - The Patrick Pearse Motel (Hugh Leonard)
 1976 - Brush with a Body (Maurice McLoughlin)
 1976 - Three for the Road (A trigoly of One Act Plays)
 1977 - The Effects of Gamma Ray on the Man in the Moon/Marigolds (Paul Zindel)
 1978 - Anyone can rob a Bank (Tom Coffey)
 1979 - The Loves of Cass Maguire (Brian Friel)
 1981 - A Man for All Seasons (Robert Bolt)
 1981 - Arsenic and Old Lace (Joseph Kesselring)
 1982 - Vivat, Vivat, Regina (Robert Bolt)
 1983 - See How They Run (Philip King)
 1983 - Lovers (Brian Friel)
 1983 - The Patrick Pearse Motel (Hugh Leonard)
 1984 - I Do Not Like Thee, Doctor Fell (Bernard Farrell)
 1985 - Whodunnit (Three One Act Plays)
 - Dock Brief (John Mortimer)
 - The Trial (Anthony Booth,)
 - The Real Inspector Hound (Tom Stoppard)
 1985 - I'll Get My Man (Philip King)
 1986 - The Communication Cord (Brian Friel)
 1986 - The Dresser (Ronald Harwood)
 1987 - Da (Hugh Leonard)
 1987 - Double Up Laughing (Two One Act Plays)
 - Mill Hill (John Mortimer)
 - The Last of the Last of the Mohicans (Hugh Leonard)
 1988 - The Year of the Hiker (John B. Keane)
 1988 - Love on the Rocks (Two One Act Plays)
 - Plaza Suite (Neil Simon)
 - Lovers (Brian Friel)
 1989 - The Plough and The Stars (Sean O'Casey)
 1989 - The Patrick Pearse Motel (Hugh Leonard)
 1989 - Say Cheese (Bernard Farrell)
 1989 - Arsenic and Old Lace (Joseph Kesselring)
 1990 - A Streetcar Named Desire (Tennessee Williams)
 1991 - Philadelphia Here I Come (Brian Friel)
 1991 - When We Are Married (J. B. Priestly)
 1991 - Lodgers (Two One Act Plays)
 - Dock Brief (John Mortimer)
 - A Dead Liberty (Alan Gosling)
 1991 - I'll Get My Man (Philip King)
 1992 - Translations (Brian Friel)
 1992 - Lettuce and Lovage (Peter Schaeffer)
 1992 - See How They Run (Philip King)
 1993 - Bailegangaire (Tom Murphy)
 1993 - A Life (Hugh Leonard)
 1993 - Monkey Business (Two One Act Plays)
 - The Monkey's Paw (W.W. Jacobs)
 - The Last of The Last of The Mohicans (H Leonard)
 1994 - Juno and The Paycock (Sean O'Casey)
 1994 - Dancing at Lughnasa (Brian Friel)
 1995 - Dancing at Lughnasa (Brian Friel)
 1995 - Big Maggie (John B. Keane)
 1995 - Da (Hugh Leonard)
 1995 - All the Way Back (Bernard Farrell)
 1996 - The Prisoner of Second Avenue (Neil Simon)
 1996 - On the Outside, On the Inside (Tom Murphy)
 1996 - The Odd Couple - The Female Version (Neil Simon)
 1997 - Voyage Round My Father (John Mortimer)
 1997 - The Chastitute (John B. Keane)
 1997 - Run for Your Wife (Ray Cooney)
 1998 - A Doll's House (Heurik Ibsen)
 1998 - Double Trouble (Brendan Long)
 1998 - Brothers of the Brush (Jimmy Murphy)
 1999 - The Gingerbread Lady (Neil Simon)
 2000 - Happy Birthday, Dear Alice (Bernard Farrell)
 2000 - The Cripple of Inishmaan (Martin McDonagh)
 2001 - 2001 - Noises Off (Michael Frayn)
 2001 - The Beauty Queen of Leenane (Martin McDonagh)
 2001 - How the Other Half Loves (Alan Ayckbourn)
 2002 - A Skull in Connemara (Martin McDonagh)
 2002 - Forty-Four Sycamore (Bernard Farrell)
 2002 - Absurd Person Singular (Alan Ayckbourn)
 2003 - Lovers Winners & Losers (Brian Friel)
 2003 - It Runs in the Family (Ray Cooney)
 2004 - Philadelphia, Here I Come (Brian Friel)
 2005 - The Happy Marriage (John Clements)
 2006 - Why Not Stay for Breakfast (Ray Cooney)
 2006 - The Odd Couple - Female Version (Neil Simon)
 2006 - The Last Tango in Little Grimley (David Tristram)
 2006 - The Last Panto in Little Grimley (David Tristram)
 2007 - It Couldn't Happen to a More Deserving Couple (David Barrett)
 2007 - Mulcahy Park (John McCarthy)
 2008 - Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe (Edward Albee)
 2009 - Live a Little, Love a Little (Three One Act Plays)
 - Plaza Suite (Third Act) (Neil Simon)
 - Lovers: Part Two - Losers (Brian Friel)
 - The Last of the Last of the Mohicans (Hugh Leonard)
 2009 - The Crucible (John B. Keane) (40th Anniversary Production)
 2010 - I'll Get my Man (Philip King)
 2011 - See How They Run (Philip King)
 2011 - The Chastitute (John B. Keane)
 2012 - Move over Mrs Markham (Ray Cooney & John Chapman)
 2012 - The Country Boy (John Murphy)
 2013 - Cash on Delivery (Michael Cooney)
 2013 - Trouble in Paradise (Three One Act Plays)
 - The Man on the Floor (Neil Simon)
 - A Spy with a View (Robert Scott)
 - Last Respects (Colin Calvey)
 2013 - Prescription Murder (William Link & Richard Levison)
 2013 - Shirley Valentine (Willy Russell)
 2014 - A Medieval Romance (Mark Twain)
 2014 - Boeing Boeing (Marc Camoletti)
 2015 - Moll (John B. Keane)
 2016 - The Communication Cord (Brian Friel)
 2016 - Murder at Mole End (Karen Doling)
 2017 - The Field (John B. Keane)
 2017 - Funny Money (Ray Cooney)
 2018 - Dancing at Lughnasa (Brian Friel)
 2018 - Lend me a Tenor (Ken Ludwig)

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