



BOOK EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!

- 12 Dec. - GEORGE MELLY in concert
- 18 & 19 Dec. - HULL TRUCK THEATRE CO.
present "Frankie & Tommy"
- 18 & 19 Dec. - OPERA SOUTH present
"Amahl & The Night Visitors"
- 21 & 22 Dec. - REJECTS REVENGE present
"A Christmas Carol"
- 28 Dec - 2 Jan. - LAMBETH CHILDREN'S THEATRE
present "The Magic Journey"

BOX OFFICE: 081 428 0124

POBLAUGHT NA H EIREANN
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE,
SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,
P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CRANNT,
JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT.



Sean O'Casey and The Plough and the Stars

1880 Born John O'Casey in Dublin, Youngest of a large family of whom five survived

1894 Started work at fourteen in the stockroom of a hardware store. Became a manual worker in his late teens, an occupation he kept until 1925 when he became a full time writer.

1907 Published first work on an article on the Irish educational system.

1909 Irish Transport and General Workers Union founded.

1911 'Irish Worker' founded by Jim Larkin (trades unionist, creator of the Plough and the Stars labour flag) to which O'Casey subsequently contributed.

Irish Railways Strike - the background to 'Roses for me' (1924)

1913 Large scale lock out of union men by Dublin employers, with its appalling consequences for the working people during the seven months it lasted, profoundly influenced the playwright's political and social thinking.

Irish Citizen Army formed to protect union members from police brutality

1914 ICA reorganised with O'Casey as its secretary. He drew up its constitution but resigned in July when his motion to make the Countess Markievicz choose between the Anti-labour Irish Volunteers and the ICA was defeated.

1916 Easter rising which O'Casey took no part in but used as the background to 'The Plough and the Stars' (1926)

1919 Publication of 'The Story of the Irish Citizen Army', much censored.

1919-21 'The Frost in the Flower', 'The Harvest Festival' and 'The Crimson in the tri-colour' rejected by the Abbey Theatre Dublin.

1923 'The Shadow of a Gunman' performed at the Abbey Theatre

1924 'Juno and the Paycock' became the most popular play in the Abbey's History

1926 Riots during first week of Abbey production of 'The Plough and the Stars'

1926 - 1964 O'Casey moved to England and lived there for the rest of his life.

The insurrection of 1916 and the War of independence that followed in 1919-21 have had a profound influence on the shaping of modern Ireland. The Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921, the Civil War of 1922-3, the change of status from Free State to Republic in 1949 and subsequent developments up to the present day all have their roots in the events of Easter Week 1916.

The inability of British governments to tackle successfully the problems caused by centuries of neglect and abuse and their failure to grant home rule in 1886, 1893 and 1912-14 led to the formation of the Irish Volunteers, pledged to defend Home Rule.

The deplorable living conditions of the urban working class which led to the Great Strike and Lock-out of 1913 and the formation of the Irish Citizen Army, the Army of James Connolly's Transport and General Worker's Union, were important factors as was the literary and cultural revival which led to the formation of such organisations as the Gaelic League, the Gaelic Athletic Association and Sein Fein (ourselves alone).

The rising itself, although catching the British authorities and the general populace unawares was not the unplanned 'dreamers rebellion' as is sometimes suggested. It was in fact the result of painstaking planning that involved the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Irish Citizen Army, Clan na Gael in America and Imperial Germany, which was then at war with Britain.

The aspirations of the insurgents were set out in the Proclamation of Independence, read out from the steps of the General Post Office which had been occupied at the start of the rising. The week of fierce fighting which followed reduced the centre of Dublin to rubble and on Saturday 29th April 1916, with the G.P.O. in flames, Patrick Pearse gave the order to surrender.

Public opinion, initially hostile to the insurgents and their cause, changed dramatically as the British military authorities proceeded to execute the leaders. Over ninety death sentences were passed but only fifteen carried out before a growing public outcry in Ireland and abroad forced the authorities to commute the remainder. The executions, together with the threat of conscription caused a huge swing in public sympathies leading to a major victory for Sinn Fein in the 1918 General Election and the setting up of the first Dail Eireann.

The PLOUGH and the STARS

Cast in order of appearance

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Fluther Good | David Pearson |
| Peter Flynn | Roderick Jones |
| Mrs Gogan | Angela Martin |
| The Covey | Vincent Eavis |
| Nora Clitheroe | Deborah Keating |
| Bessie Burgess | Kathleen Jones |
| Jack Clitheroe | Duncan Sykes |
| Captain Brennan | Phillip Smythe |
| Mollser | Rosie Moutrie |
| Rosie Redmond | Sarah Westlake |
| Tommy | Mark Sutherland |
| Lieutenant Langon | Michael Williams |
| Corporal Stoddart | Michael Williams |
| Sergeant Tinley | Mark Sutherland |

ACT I The living room of the Clitheroe flat in a Dublin Tenement. November 1915

ACT II A public house, outside which a meeting is being held. (One hour later).

ACT III The Street outside the Clitheroe tenement. Easter week 1916.

ACT IV The attic room of Bessie Burgess. A few days later.

by SEAN O'CASEY

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Director | Anton Jungreuthmayer |
| Stage Manager | Isabelle Sykes |
| Stage Crew | Janet Ostime |
| | Barney Daly |
| | Jeanne Hawkes |
| Lighting | Paul Tripp |
| Sound | Collin Hickman |
| Properties | Elizabeth Masterton-Smith |
| Costumes | Evelyn Moutrie |
| Prompt | Crystal Anthony |
| Set Design | Michael Williams |

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts II & III

We are sorry but there can be no smoking in the auditorium