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# A NIGHT FOR BILLY



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## JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 2017

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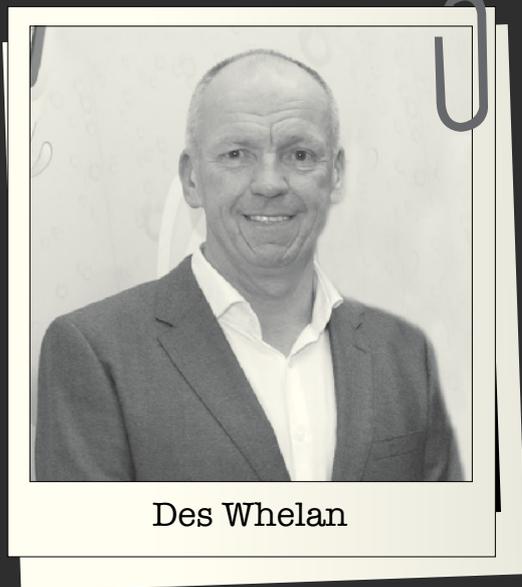
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# CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS



Tonight is very special to all of us who work in The Broadcast Centre. Over seven months after Billy McCarthy's sudden passing on November 20th last, it's still hard to believe that Billy isn't going to come bounding into work, bursting to get on-air over some issue that has the whole town or country talking.

Billy presented 'Deise AM' for almost 27 years and was loved and respected by his listeners and by those with whom he worked. Billy was hugely popular with the staff in both Beat and WLR and he was a We are delighted to welcome tonight Billy's partner Des O'Keeffe, his mother Kay, brothers Declan and Ronan, sister Celine and his extended family.

Billy had a great love for all things Waterford, but most of all he loved musical theatre and he loved the Theatre Royal. He would have been delighted that so many of his friends are on stage this evening to help create an event by which to remember him. All the songs in tonight's concert are among Billy's favourites. It's a celebration of one of Waterford's favourite sons and we hope to do him proud.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in tonight's show...the organising committee, all those on stage and also behind the scenes. In putting the show together, not one person we asked to take part refused, and everyone has given their time for free which will allow us to make a contribution to one of Billy's favourite charities, The Holy Ghost Residential Home.

Thank you for supporting our night for Billy.

Des Whelan  
Managing Director WLR and  
Chairperson of Organising Committee for 'A Night for Billy'

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## BILLY MCCARTHY 1954-2016

Billy McCarthy loved life and lived it to the full. Born in Waterford in 1954 to parents William and Kay, his passion for the City and County always shone through, particularly in his broadcasting career, presenting "Deise AM" on WLR for 27 years.

Billy studied to be a priest in Rome at the Pontifical College in the late 1970s, and was ordained a priest in Waterford City in 1980. He never lost his deep faith and devotion to God.

As a broadcaster Billy rightfully earned the title of 'The Voice of Waterford.' Over the years, he picked up many awards for his excellence in broadcasting, including winning two PPI radio awards in 2004 and a Silver PPI in 2014 in the Best Current Affairs Programme category, across all 32 counties. Politicians respected his tough line of questioning while members of the community equally relished the opportunity to chat to him on air.

Billy had many other huge loves and interests in his life. Family and friends meant the world to him. He and his life partner Des O'Keeffe met in the early nineties and spent 25 blissful years together. At their home in Butlerstown, Billy fulfilled his great passions for both cooking and gardening - in fact on his 50th birthday he was given a greenhouse, where he grew herbs and vegetables with great enthusiasm. Billy also adored music and theatre - one of his big life highlights was accompanying Des to London in 1994 to see Barbara Streisand in concert. Tonight's tribute concert at The Theatre Royal would have been a source of great joy to him.

When he wasn't in his beloved Waterford, Billy and Des spent much of their time at their house in Italy, a place which he considered to be his second home. Billy will always be hugely missed by his partner Des, his mother Kay, his sister Celine, brothers Declan and Ronan, his extended family, relatives, many friends, his colleagues at The Broadcast Centre, and of course by his beloved listeners across Waterford City and County.

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# ACT ONE

- Deise AM
- “American Pie” – Ritchie Hayes
- “O Mio Babbino Caro” - Vanessa Whelan
- “One last Song” & “Dulamán” by Micheál McGlynn - Madrigallery with soloist Micheál Griffin
- Waterford Symphony Live
- “Where have you been?” – Carrie Crowley
- “Rock ‘n’ Roll kids” - David Flynn & Ritchie Hayes
- “Somewhere” – Gabrielle Cummins & Andrew Holden
- “Among School Children” by W.B. Yeats –read by Jim Nolan
- “When I Fall in Love” – Dermot Keyes
- “Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered” – Clodagh Power
- “Give me one for my baby” – Ritchie Hayes

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **15 MINUTE INTERVAL** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



# ACT TWO

- Deise AM
  - ROAST (comedy) – Vicki Graham, Ray Collins and Greta Rochford
  - “Climb every mountain” – Donna Roche
  - “Song For Bernadette” – Carrie Crowley
  - “I Won’t Send Roses” – Des Manahan
  - “I Won’t Send Roses” (reprise) – Ruth Coughlan
  - “Songbirds” - Bilberry Goats
  - “Rapport Scene” from Dead Poets Society – Jamie Beamish
  - “As If We Never Said Goodbye” & “Moon River” - Intonations choir
  - “On The Street Where You Live” – Andrew Holden
  - “It was Chaos Billy” video montage
  - City of Music – ensemble piece sung by all performers
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- 

# PRODUCTION TEAM



Michelle Condon, Director

Michelle has been involved in Waterford's theatre scene since childhood. Dance and musical theatre are her passions and every local group has availed of her talents, either on stage or backstage. She is a multi award-winning choreographer and holds an AIMS award for best choreographer while her production of 'Joseph' also brought an AIMS nomination for the Best Overall Show nationally.

For the last two years she has been director and choreographer for the Solas Centre Dance for Life, a cause close to her heart.

Michelle says each show has its own challenges and up to now, her most challenging show has been South Eastern Theatre Group's production of 'Starlight Express'...getting 27 people dancing on skates on the Theatre Royal stage last October! 'Starlight Express' has received two nominations in the AIMS national awards this year, one of which is for Best Ensemble for 'Light at the end of the Tunnel' sequence which Michelle choreographed.

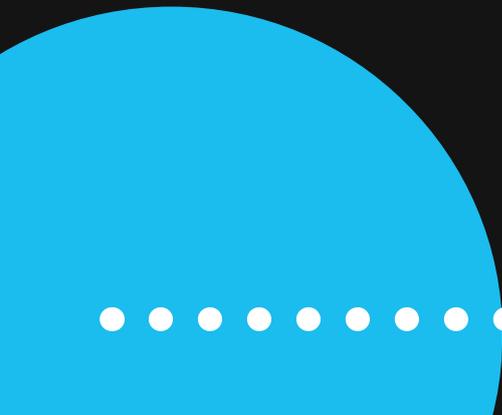
A wonderful team has come together for tonight's show, Michelle believes... all with their own memories of and friendships with the man himself and she says Waterford certainly is blessed with talent across all generations which Billy was always the first to promote and support!

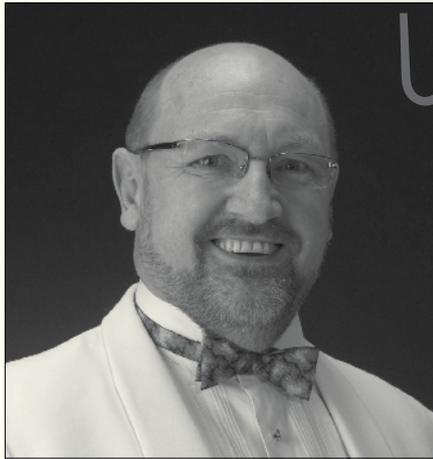
She is honoured to be part of this wonderful night to remember her good friend and hopes that you, the audience, enjoy the show and sing along to just some of his favourites because as we all know, he did like to sing just a little!

## Her memory of Billy...

"Could it be the coloured waistcoats he donned at rehearsals in 'South Pacific' in the 80's or maybe the slowest drive home ever from Dublin following a radio awards night (me not feeling the best) which took four and a half hours as we had to stop off at a supermarket to pick up fresh herbs in fancy packets to bring home to 'My Des'?! Perhaps it was the numerous showbiz parties or Light Opera festivals where he was in top form; laughing, singing and loving life and there'd be chats getting a cuppa every morning at work. Lunchtimes were always full of debate in the canteen where he was always trying to be healthy but still robbed my crisps!"

"You don't get to work beside lifelong friends every day. One day in work, we had an outside broadcast in the Viking triangle (promoting Waterford on Deise AM). The sun was beaming down and there was a live band so he started dancing by himself in the square (with his newly found confidence from being involved in Strictly Deise) and he invited me for a jive! So I did, and we shared a glorious moment in the Waterford sunshine at work. The last conversation I had with him he said 'Carpe Diem'...we don't know the day or the hour ....."





**Kevin O'Carroll**  
Joint Musical Director

Kevin O'Carroll is a Waterford based freelance conductor. He holds a regular position as director of the Waterford based chamber choir 'Madrigallery' and the 'Wexford Festival Singers'. He also directs two other groups – 'Vocalis' (a professional ensemble) and 'Vox Humana' (a Renaissance choral group). These two specialist groups get together on an occasional basis or for special events. The music performed by these various groups ranges from early plainchant to modern liturgical compositions; from unaccompanied quartets to orchestra accompanied Requiems by Brahms, Mozart and Duruflé. Apart from his work in Waterford and Wexford, he is in regular demand as a choral consultant and has provided workshops for choirs from Ireland, N. Ireland, Finland and the USA.

Having studied with the internationally renowned conducting teacher Dr. John Dickson in the USA and the University of Cambridge, Kevin now teaches conducting on courses in NUI Maynooth and at the University of Limerick. He is also in demand throughout Ireland as an adjudicator, having adjudicated in Navan, Arklow, Kilkenny, New Ross,

Limerick and Cork Choral Festivals. In 2012 he was conducting consultant on the film 'Loving Miss Hatto' for BBC television. Kevin's 2013 book on choral conducting (Choral Conducting – A Handbook for Irish Choir Trainers and Conductors), is aimed at supporting new or reluctant choral conductors and is now used as a text book by several universities and is on the recommended reading list of Total Choir Resources, an international choral director's support website. In addition to his conducting and teaching work, Kevin is also an examiner with the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

On a lighter note, Kevin also has wide experience in the area of musical theatre having conducted such shows as 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'The King and I', 'Brigadoon', 'Cabaret', and 'Honk!' He has appeared as guest musical director for theatre groups in both Ireland and the UK. For several years, he was musical director of the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera.

Kevin holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting performance, a B.A. (Hons.) in Music and Business Management and a Dip. ABRSM in Choral Conducting. He is currently completing a PhD Arts Practice at the Irish World Academy, University of Limerick. The topic of his research relates to the impact of modern notation on the performance practice of Renaissance choral music.

### **His memory of Billy...**

"I knew Billy since before his WLR days when he wore the occasional Roman collar. Once he moved into radio, Billy was always happy to facilitate the odd promo or interview associated with concerts I was putting on – whether these were choral or orchestral. We also had many discussions on the Light Opera Festival. Though to many he appeared very critical about elements of the festival, his criticisms stemmed from a genuine love of musical theatre in general and the Waterford festival, in particular. I always enjoyed these conversations as, off air, Billy was as straight a talker as I am! Most people's memory of our collaboration will be of the annual Lions Club Christmas Hamper Appeal for more years than I care to remember. Liam Walsh and Carrie Crowley both presented the event before Billy took over the post, but it is safe to say that he made it his own. To the public it may have appeared that we must have spent ages working on timings, links, researching etc. while in reality we touched base only briefly before the day of the event. I let Billy know what we were singing and let him off to do his research. I never knew what he was going to say until the event itself! Often what he came out with was as much a surprise to me as it was to the audience. It was certainly a surprise when, from his lofty perch, he spilled a bottle of water on an unsuspecting trombone player below! I know that initially it was an accident ... but not so sure about the second time. If I was to pick out a special moment it was when Billy selected a piece from the Lions Club concert as his 'song of the week'. At the time, I was conducting the Cathedral Choir and the piece was John Rutter's 'On the Way to Bethlehem'. It was the first and only time I was associated with a pick of the week on a radio station!"



Wayne Brown  
Joint Musical Director

After a doomed stage start which saw him star as a plant, a mountain and wearing kilts and hula skirts, Wayne crawled into the orchestra pit to hide – and stayed there the past 20 years. Wayne has worked with almost every society in Waterford on the music end of their productions. Some highlights include 'Miss Saigon', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Les Miserables' (Best MD WIFLO 2012), 'Cats', 'Avenue Q', 'Oliver', 'Sister Act', 'Godspell', 'Little Shop of Horrors', 'Into the Woods', 'West Side Story', and Waterford Musical Society's first production of 'Carousel' for which he was honoured to be awarded Best MD at the AIMS awards. Wayne has recently been nominated again for best MD for his work on 'Man of La Mancha' with WMS. He has also been resident MD for the Waterford Panto Society for the last 22 years. He also enjoys working with 'Intonations' choir, the group recently won first place in the Disney competition at the New Ross Choral Festival.

**His memory of Billy...**

"For me, it was special to work with Billy as he rehearsed for his many musical ventures over the years. It was an experience to see the full range of his emotions from his on-air persona to his most vulnerable as

he shook out with nerves behind a curtain before going on to just 400 people (despite broadcasting to thousands every day). There will always be the memory of the stage door bursting open at the end of a performance and Billy running in to hug everyone in sight and explode with joy and praise when he enjoyed a show. Most of all there was that laugh - Billy's infectious laugh that rang out during Panto, 'Roast' and so many musicals over the years. The Theatre Royal seems just a little bit quieter and emptier without that laugh."



Sinead had both a long term personal friendship with Billy as well as a great working relationship. They went right back to the days of the first WLR Broadcast Course in the Georges Street Studios where Billy took her under his wing and was an amazing inspiration to her in both her work and personal life. Sinead is honoured to be involved in this night for Billy.

**Her memory of Billy:**

There are so many good memories of Billy, but one that comes to mind was his pure excitement when the marriage referendum was passed in Ireland on Friday May 22nd 2015, his great big smile which went from ear to ear. That Friday was a great Friday.



Sinead Flynn  
Production Manager

Avril has been involved in costume department for numerous groups in Waterford for many years including Edmund Rice, De la Salle, various variety groups & most recently SouthEastern Theatre Group & Waterford Musical Society.

**Her memory of Billy:**

Billy's attendance at the theatre for any performance was always welcomed and greeted with excitement and anticipation by cast and crew. The big question asked backstage was always..."Well did anyone speak to Billy Mc Carthy? What did he think?!" Many a night was spent post show in The Munster Bar and the festival club for the light opera festival with Billy and his partner Des, analysing what we just sat through that night and discussing who would win! People didn't agree but Billy usually managed to pick the winners! Billy's opinions were always valued and respected because as a performer himself with deep love and passion for live theatre they came from a place of knowledge and experience. His support for Waterford musical theatre and performers both young and old was greatly appreciated and will be missed. His untimely passing has left a huge void in our hearts.



Avril Musgrave  
Costumes



Lauren Traynor  
Stage Manager

Lauren is honoured to have been asked to join this top-class production team to put together our tribute to Billy McCarthy. Having been involved in the technical side of theatre productions since the tender age of 12, she has worked as part of the stage crew, continuity teams, as stage manager and production manager with a multitude of companies.

Some of these productions include the award winning 'Singin in the Rain' and 'Guys n' Dolls' for Flaggy Lane Theatre Company, Bryan Flynn's world premiere of 'Michael Collins the Musical' from which she has many fond memories. Most recently, Lauren stage-managed 'Grease' and 'Westside Story' for Theatrebox and 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Beauty and the Beast' for Waterford Panto Society. She is also a founder member of Waterford Musical Society where she has just finished as Stage Manager on their production of 'Man of La Mancha'.

Lauren would like to thank all at the Broadcast Centre for affording her the privilege to be part of this very special tribute to Billy and very much hopes that the audience enjoys the wonderful display of talent before them..... It'll be chaos Billy.....

### Her memory of Billy...

I suppose in terms of memories of Billy I would have a few little ones. His never-ending dedication to the promotion of the arts and the musical theatre scene in Waterford stands out for me. Whenever I was involved in a production and we were in need of a bit of promotion or a boost for ticket sales, all you would have to do is text Billy and he would have you on the show almost instantly. Another memory I have is not of Billy in person but his presence and the respect he generated amongst the people of Waterford. Whenever he was in the audience at a show, a whisper would run from the stage door right through backstage up to the top dressing room of the Theatre Royal, 'Billy is in, Billy is in'. You could almost see the extra nerves appear across faces! The production would without a doubt step up an extra gear that night, to be assured you got a good plug from the man himself the next morning on Deise AM".



Aidan McGrath  
Lighting Designer

Aidan has been working on shows in Waterford since the 1980s and is honoured to be associated with this tribute to his friend Billy this evening.

Over the years since the 80s, Aidan has worked on a multitude of shows ranging from straight plays, musicals, and operas with most of the local societies to many of the very successful 'John Player Tops' groups in the city.

During this time, Aidan has had numerous AIMS nominations and wins in Best Lighting and Best Technical categories, most recently in 2016 with the team in Wexford Light Opera Society winning Best Technical for 'Evita' which was performed in the National Opera House in Wexford. Aidan worked for many years on the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera and also enjoyed a spell in the Royal National Theatre in London.

### His memory of Billy...

Aidan's fondest memories of Billy are the plentiful chats that they would have in hostelrys like The Munster after shows discussing an assortment of topics – all in the name of improving things in Waterford. "During one such chat Billy disclosed that he had never been inside Tom Maher's pub in O'Connell Street and aspired to take a look in there to see what all the fuss was about but would prefer to go in with a group – this was in the period when Tom himself was still running the pub," Aidan remembers. "However, despite several attempts to arrange this, it just never happened. Who knows what Billy would have made of it; he may have even interviewed Tom on his show!



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# Billy McCarthy Memorial Concert

Best wishes to  
WLR FM and all  
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an immense contribution  
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**JOHN DEASY T.D.**



# David Cullinane TD

Sinn Féin spokesperson for public expenditure and reform and workers' rights

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# PERFORMER'S BIOGRAPHIES ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



As an actor, Jamie's theatre work includes: 'The Beaux' Stratagem' (National Theatre - Olivier), 'Othello' (Shakespeare's Globe), 'Merchant of Venice' (Almeida), 'Trelawny of The Wells' (Donmar), 'The Taming of The Shrew' (Shakespeare's Globe), 'Stones in His Pockets' (Tricycle Theatre), 'Merchant of Venice' (RSC), 'Macbeth' (RSC), 'England People Very Nice' (NT - Olivier), 'A Slight Ache' (NT - Lyttleton), 'I, Keano' (Olympia Theatre, Dublin), 'The Flags' (Manchester Royal Exchange - MEN Theatre Award), 'Sacrifice at Easter', 'The Tempest & The Last Beauty Spot' (Corcadorca, Cork), 'The Winter's Tale' (Propeller - UK, Dublin, Spain, New York and China), 'Calico' (West End), 'Much Ado About Nothing' (Peter Hall Co. - Bath), 'Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' (Ian Charleson Award nomination), 'The Wind in the Willows', 'High Society', 'The Pirates of Penzance' (all at The Open Air Theatre), 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane' (York Theatre Royal), 'The Wizard of Oz' (Birmingham Rep), 'Carousel' (Perth Rep).

Film and TV work includes: 'Love, Rosie' (Constantin Films), 'Pan' (Warner Bros.), 'London Irish' (Channel 4), 'Pudsey The Movie' (Syco), 'The Borgias' (Showtime), 'Hanna' (Focus Features), 'Anna Karenina', 'The Eagle', 'Atonement' (Working Title), 'Robin Hood' (Universal/Scott Free).

Writing, Composition & Sound design includes: 'CAT' (The Play) (West End, Edinburgh festival, Leicester Curve, Waterford, Belfast & Germany), 'Rigor Mortis' (Hope Theatre), 'Give Me Your Hand' (Irish Rep., New York), 'Walter and Lenny' (Minerva, Chichester), 'Madagascar' (Theatre503), 'Anyone Can Whistle' (Jermyn Street), 'As You Like It' (Oxford School of Drama), 'The Vegemite Tales' (Leicester Sq. Theatre), 'Dreamland' (Garter Lane, Waterford & Tour), 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane' (Theatre Royal, Waterford) and numerous productions with Little Red Kettle Theatre Co.

Upcoming: Jamie will be appearing in the new US TV series 'WILL' for TNT this summer, about the young William Shakespeare. He has also composed original songs for the series. He has recently completed filming on 'The Commuter' starring Liam Neeson and is currently working on 'Derry Girls', a new comedy for Channel 4.

## His memory of Billy:

"A million years ago in the '90s, I had started as a presenter on the overnight shift on WLR and I was called into Billy's office for a chat; "You're doing well" he says. "But you've got to work on your TH's, you have a tendency to say 'dis, dat and doh'." Words and language were always very important to him and Billy was the boss so I worked on it. Twelve months later, I'm in drama school in London and a voice teacher says to me... "We normally have terrible trouble with Irish actors and their TH's, but yours are perfect." That was Billy McCarthy's fault. Thanks boy."



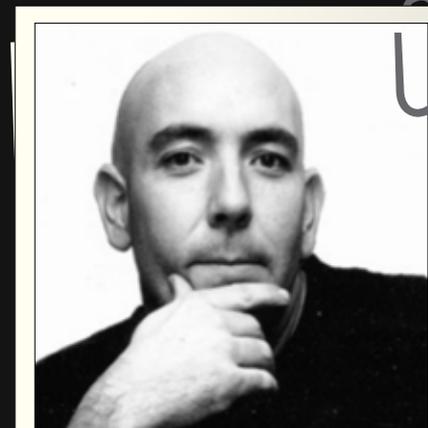
**The Bilberry Goats**

'The Bilberry Goats' are a local comedy team that perform traditional sketch comedy. The 'Goats' have been performing in Waterford for the past 10 years or so as a group and most of the team have performed in many aspects of theatre in Waterford over a long time. The team mainly consists of Tony Corcoran (main script writer), Davy Sutton, Scol Grant, Brian Juckey Collins, Brian Power, Brenda Giles & Hazel Tebay.

The 'Goats' have had a very successful run in Garter Lane over the last four years, selling out the shows each year. That was preceded by annual performances in the Theatre Royal Variety Show, a show in which Billy also performed. Ironically, the last show that Billy got to see was 'The Bilberry Goats' send up of the 1916 Rising and they can still recall his laughter when his name was mentioned in the script during one of the scenes!

### **Tony Corcoran's memory of Billy...**

"My one abiding memory of Billy was a few years back when I had to walk in on his 'Deise AM' programme unannounced, in the character of the dame from the panto. I had to cause as much uproar as possible for him while he tried to finish the programme. Mind you, he was well able for it! A true gentleman and we are delighted to be part of tonight's performance. We hope everyone enjoys it!"



**Ray Collins**

Ray is honoured to perform in this tribute night for Billy. His previous productions include 'Oliver' at the National Concert Hall and Wexford Opera House; 'Fiddler on the Roof' at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin; 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Beauty and the Beast' at the Cork Opera House to name but a few. He's a previous WIFLO award winner for Nicely in 'Guys and Dolls' and two-time Green Room award winner as Best Comic Act for 'Roast' and Best Director for 'Phantom' with SouthEastern Theatre Group.

### **His memory of Billy...**

"My fondest memory of Billy is a very recent one. He came backstage after our production of 'Roast' and shook each of our hands, thanked us for a brilliant night at the theatre. A true measure of the man, in my opinion. A huge void has been left in local theatre."



Des Manahan

Theatre and entertainment has been Des Manahan's love – his second home – for over 60 years. Grand Opera, musicals; ballet, drama, TV and radio...he has done them all.

**His memory of Billy...**

"I met Billy through music and shared the stage and airwaves with him on many an occasion and also we met at family celebrations."



Intonations is an award winning, four part, Light Touch adult choir based in Waterford.. Founded in 2014, the group dabbles in all genres of music from chart-pop to classic showtunes, and indie rock to Disney. In fact, Intonations recently came first in the Disney competition at the New Ross Choral Festival, The choir has performed in some of the most beautiful venues around Waterford including Christ Church Cathedral, St. Patrick's Gateway Centre, The Bishops Palace, The Medieval Museum and even Mount Congreve. Under the musical direction of Wayne Brown, Intonations members not only embrace great singing but also enjoy friendship and nights out. The "social fund" has (unfortunately or otherwise) led to a few impromptu, late-night renditions of their repertoire on the streets of Waterford.



Intonations



Carrie Crowley

Carrie Crowley is a Waterford actress who, since 2014, has played the character of Jackie Ferguson in 'Fair City'. Prior to that she appeared in 'Vikings', 'The Clinic', '13 Steps Down', 'The Running Mate', 'Ros na Run' and 'School Run'. She was nominated for Best Lead Actress in the 2013 IFTAs for 'Rasai Na Gaillimhe' on TG4. In musical theatre, she won Best Female Performer at the Waterford International Festival Of Light Opera in 1994 for her portrayal of Mrs Anna in 'The King & I'. This summer will see Carrie back in Theatre Royal Waterford in a double-bill of 'Footfalls' and 'Krapp's Last Tape'.

**Her memory of Billy...**

"I was teaching when I first met Billy and it just seemed as if our lives threw us together regularly until we moved from being random or accidental parts of each other's diaries to planned ones! How could you not want to hook up with that smile and that brain on a regular basis? I adored everything about our natters, whether serious or fun, and feel blessed to have had that time with him down through the years. One of a kind."





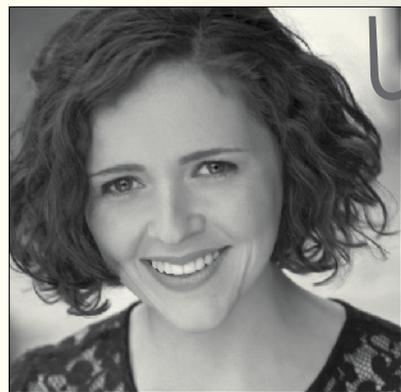
Gabrielle Cummins

A native of Thurles in Tipperary, Gabrielle has been living and working in Waterford for almost 20 years. Her first foray onto a Waterford stage was as the character of Laurie in 'Oklahoma' in 1999 for De La Salle Musical Society. Since then, Gabrielle has taken on numerous roles for various Waterford theatre companies including Sarah Brown in 'Guys and Dolls'; Angel in 'Best Little Whorehouse in Texas'; Emma Goldman in 'Assassins', The Beggar Woman in 'Sweeney Todd' and she also played various characters in the hit musical comedy 'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change' which enjoyed two sold out runs at Garter Lane.

Behind the scenes, Gabrielle held the position of Chairperson at Bowler Hat Theatre Company for a number of years and helped produce 'Bouncers' and 'The Lonesome West' for that company. It's been five years since Gabrielle last performed on stage; as Maria in 'The Sound Of Music'. She is delighted to be part of the cast tonight to honour her inimitable Broadcast Centre colleague, Billy.

### Her memory of Billy...

"In 1998, work brought me to Waterford and my first interview was with Des Whelan and Billy McCarthy as I had applied to be Billy's producer. I didn't get that job but instead ended up working in the WLR newsroom & Billy remained a colleague of mine until his untimely death last November. I loved that we were among the few Broadcast Centre employees who were also 'theatre luvvies' so we enjoyed having many chats about all things theatre. I have fond memories of dueting with Billy for Tara Ann Byrne's critically acclaimed 'An Evening with Rodgers and Hammerstein'; we even got to share a kiss!! As 'Deise AM' presenter, he was so supportive of the arts and did his best to champion local performers at every opportunity. Our offices were near each other so he'd often randomly stick his head into my office for a catch up. I really enjoyed those chats and didn't realise how much I'd miss them. Thoughts go out to Billy's partner Des and the McCarthy family."



Clodagh Power

Clodagh is an actress, singer and former broadcaster with WLRFM. She presented 'Show Time' for many years. Since returning from London, she has played 'Lizzie' in Jim Nolan's 'Blackwater Angel' and 'Mibs' in WDS's production of 'A Life' by Hugh Leonard. She has also been involved in two of Sue Healy's radio plays, 'Angel of Trafadden' and 'Shellakybooky.'

"Billy was a dear friend and mentor to me. When I didn't think I was ready to go on air, he put me straight in for two weeks holiday cover, five days a week! I loved it and he knew what I was capable of, even if I didn't. We shared many interests from Italy to Broadway and his wit and intelligence sparkled in every chat I ever had with him. He phoned me one morning when I was in London. I was required to be an expert on Anglo-Irish relations to go on air in less than ten minutes! Deep-end, yet again but he had faith and more than that, Billy could have handled the answers as well as the questions if I couldn't think of anything!

I miss his mischievous sense of humour and his outrageous laugh. I miss being able to call him or expecting a call about whatever the current political intrigue might be. I miss all the chats we didn't get to have but I have a fair idea what he might say. Pun absolutely intended, we were on the same wavelength and I felt privileged to be there."



Vicki Graham

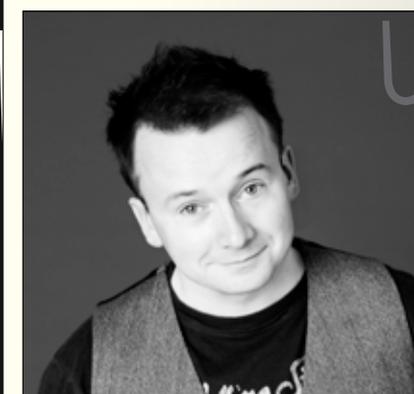
Vicki is constantly kept busy, both on and off the stage. At the moment, she is working on four school shows and two adult productions, including the upcoming south east premiere of the Tony award-winning 'In The Heights' with her own theatre company, Ignite Productions, which will be staged in Waterford from Aug 24th-27th.

Her own stage credits include such roles as Sandy in 'Grease', Anita in 'West Side Story', Nurse Ratched in 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest', Katisha in 'The Hot Mikado', Eliza Doolittle in 'My Fair Lady'...to name but a few. She has won many awards including Best Comedienne for two years running at the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera.

Vicki has also completed her teaching diploma in speech and drama, and musical theatre, and runs her own stage schools in Tramore and Mooncoin whilst also working with a number of other schools throughout the county.

### Her memory of Billy...

"I'm delighted and honoured to be involved in this event as I have fond memories of sharing the stage with Billy on a few occasions. The thing I miss most about Billy is his effusive and hearty laugh. It will be strange to be on stage tonight and not hear it at some point coming from the auditorium."



Richie Hayes

Richie has been involved in the world of entertainment for over 25 years and is a now recognisable and much-loved face in TV, theatre and pantomime in Ireland.

In 2012, Richie became a household name when he appeared on the hit TV shows 'The Voice of Ireland', 'Celebrity Bainisteoir' and 'The Beo Show'. He has had four Top 10 hits in the iTunes Charts with 'One Voice', 'Song for Lilly Mae', 'Gimme One More Chance' and 'Oh Julie'. He has also enjoyed highly-acclaimed albums in 'What About Me' and 'A New Road'.

This seasoned entertainer fronted the world-famous Jury's Irish Cabaret along with tours of America and Canada, including Caribbean & Mediterranean Cruises. He has also been involved in a host of musicals and pantomimes spanning over 16 years at The Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, and University Concert Hall in Limerick.

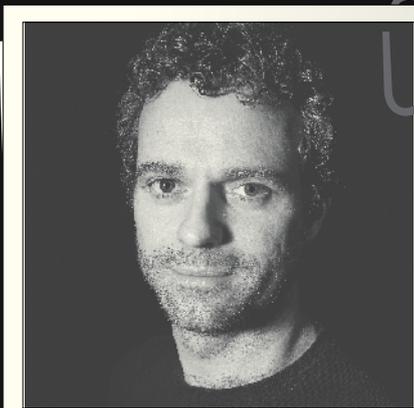
He has worked as a session vocalist too on many albums and various TV and radio adverts.

For ten years, Richie ran one of Ireland's most successful stage schools where he was Artistic Director. His directing credits include, to name but a few, 'Avenue Q', 'Seussical the Musical', 'Fiddler on the Roof' and 'Guys & Dolls'. He directed the hugely successful Irish national tour of 'Menopause The Musical' and also directed the UK tour starring Cheryl Ferguson, Rebecca Wheatley and Linda Nolan. The year 2018 will see Richie start the next chapter in his career when his own variety show tours Florida. He is also set to direct this year's Waterford Panto 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.

Richie is honoured and delighted to be part of tonight celebrations for the wonderful man that was Billy McCarthy.

### His memory of Billy...

"I have many fond memories of Billy. He was a great supporter of the local arts and always had time for us both on air and off. I'll always remember the excitement of listening to what Billy thought of shows that he would have attended the night before. It was just brilliant; If you got the nod from Billy, that was a success in itself. Later in my own career when he played my first ever single from my album 'Go the Distance', his reaction on air was something I'll never forget. Then for my time on 'The Voice of Ireland', Billy followed it from start to finish; he loved anything that put Waterford on the map. He is sadly missed and we will always have a special place in our hearts when we think of him."



Andrew Holden

Andrew trained as a performer with the London School of Musical Theatre and the Gaiety School of Acting. Previous credits include 'Jonah' (Waterford Spraoi), 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Red Kettle), 'How Do You See Us' (Waterford Youth Arts) and 'The Gods Are Angry Miss Kerr' (Jim Nolan/Liam Rellis). Musical theatre appearances include 'Sweeney Todd' (The Gate Theatre), 'Macbecks' (The Olympia/Cork Opera House), 'Seagull's Dance' (An Draiocht), 'Assassins', 'The Threepenny Opera' (Garner Lane Arts Centre), 'Into The Woods', 'Some Like It Hot' (Theatre Royal Waterford) and 'Fluffy's X-Mas Factor' (The Mill, Dundrum).

Other work includes a series of concerts for RTE radio at the NCH Dublin (featuring the music of Gershwin, Lerner & Lowe and Rodgers & Hammerstein), several tours with Little Red Kettle, the one-man show 'Lunchtime With Lehrer' (Opera Fringe NI), Simply Sondheim (Cobalt Café), and a European tour as a solo vocalist with Riverdance.

His Cork Opera House appearances include several seasons of pantomime, 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Grease' and 'Sweeney Todd'. Andrew has also toured Ireland with Bryan Flynn's original musicals 'Michael Collins - A Musical Drama' and 'The All-Star Wars'. He has also appeared in Pat Daly's 'Dissident' (Garner Lane Arts Centre) directed by Jim Nolan, 'Othello' and 'King Lear' (Janus Theatre Co.) and Arthur Riordan's 'This Is Waterford' (Waterford Treasures Museum) directed by Myles Breen.

He is currently touring nationwide as Frederick Clegg in 'The Collector' for GroundFloor Theatre Co - of which he is a founding member. The critically acclaimed, award winning play will be performed here in the Theatre Royal Waterford in August.

#### His memory of Billy...

"Well one that springs to mind is after a production of 'Oklahoma!' (which I directed for Waterford Musical Society) in 2016...I was standing side stage at the end of the show when the stage door opened and who should BOUND in but Billy himself! He was hyper with excitement having enjoyed the performance so much and went on to wax-lyrical about the show on-air the next morning, which of course helped greatly in selling the last few seats available! We all talk about how supportive he was of the local arts scene (and he truly was) but it really struck me that night that it was because of a very genuine love that he had for it and one from which a lot of people benefitted over the years."



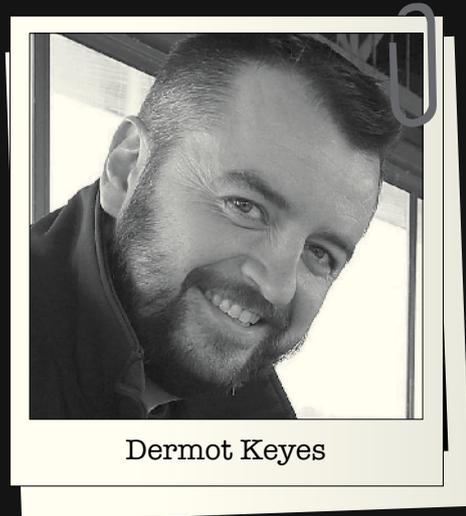
Jim Nolan

Jim is a founder member and former Artistic Director of Red Kettle Theatre Company and a former Writer in Association at The Abbey Theatre. His plays, including 'Moonshine', 'The Guernica Hotel', 'The Salvage Shop', 'Blackwater Angel', 'Sky Road', 'Brighton' and 'Dreamland' have been presented throughout Ireland and in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. His most recent play 'Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye' opened at Garner Lane in March 2016 and the production was revived for a national tour earlier this year. Jim is a member of Aosdana and his plays are published by Gallery Press.

#### His memory of Billy...

"Billy McCarthy was a wonderful advocate for the arts and I'm just one of very many who have reason to be grateful for his unstinting support. But my fondest memory of him is personal and not professional. Sometime

back in the Nineties, a gang of us repaired to Paddy Greene's house in Wellington Street in the aftermath of what I think may have been Paddy's sixtieth birthday party in Allie McLoughlin's. The joint, as they say, was jumping and we were all a little worse for wear but almost two decades on, what I recall most vividly is an image of Billy chatting quietly to a handsome young man in a corner of what was a very crowded and noisy room. I didn't know Des at the time but I figured Billy was in the presence of his soul mate and I wasn't wrong."



Dermot Keyes

Dermot, from Portlawn, cut his theatrical heels with Portlawn Scór na nÓg in his pre and early teens before, to his great surprise, landing the lead role in the 1996 CBS Carrick-on-Suir/Scoil Mhuire co-production of 'Godspell'. A graduate of the Rathmines School of Journalism, Dermot has featured in pantomimes with both Portlawn and Carrick-on-Suir Musical Societies, and combined with his contributions to Brewery Lane Drama Society and Bowler Hat Theatre Company, has appeared in almost 30 different productions.

#### His memory of Billy...

"It was a Saturday morning at the Broadcast Centre, almost seven years ago, when I was working weekends at Beat. I remember Billy McCarthy strolling past me, a glint in his eye, as he rattled off a few bars of 'The Street Where You Live', a song whose words I'd partly forgotten during

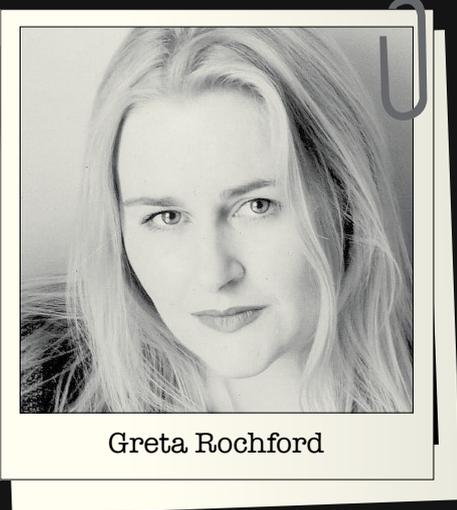
The Munster Express's 150th Anniversary Concert in this very theatre, a place that was so dear to his heart. I jokingly pleaded with Billy to get off my case, we both laughed and got on with our days.

I cannot claim to have known Billy very well on a personal basis, and it's one of life's sad ironies that we had met socially and had several private conversations just a few months before his death. I felt like I was actually getting to know him and gain a greater appreciation of the man on a human level, so I'm cognisant that my sense of loss is altogether less profound than those who worked with, knew and befriended Billy for so many years.

But like so many of us, I tuned into 'Deise AM' regularly and was consistently taken by Billy's empathy, his good humour, the pastoral perspective he never lost sight of and his consistent ability to get the nub of an issue. You rarely, if ever, tuned into 'Deise AM' and didn't think the man behind the mic wasn't at the top of his game: that he was at the top of his game for 27 years and had so much more to give to his trade, colleagues and listenership are all undoubted.

On May 1st, even before Ronan Collins maintained a tradition kicked off by Gay Byrne on Radio One, I immediately thought of Billy, who adored 'Bring Flowers of The Rarest' and always played it on 'Deise' come his first show every May. You could set your clock by Billy's devotion not only to that song, but to the audience he gave so much to, and the city and county he held such a life-long passion for. It's still surreal to write of Billy in the past tense but to be part of a night like this is something which means a great deal to me.

Billy set the broadcasting bar very, very high. To find myself now part of a journalistic culture he did so much to mould and master makes me very, very proud. "Chaos" is a word that will be forever and happily linked to Billy McCarthy's legacy: well, I'll see that chaos and raise it with class. A class act on and off the air, Billy McCarthy will never be forgotten. Enjoy your evening."



Greta Rochford

No stranger to the Waterford stage, Greta trained in the Gaiety School of Acting and went on to become an original cast member in Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Beautiful Game' in the West End. Throughout her career, Greta has been lucky enough to play many leading roles.....

#### Her memory of Billy....

"Billy would always make it his business to congratulate me after performances. My lasting memory of him was as an audience member for 'Roast'...how he howled with laughter! We all got a great kick out of it backstage and it gave us great confidence for the rest of the show's run...."



Madrigallery

'Madrigallery' is a multi award-winning community chamber choir based in Waterford City. The choir was established in 1991 and has had Kevin O'Carroll as its principal conductor since 1995. 'Madrigallery' has a wide-ranging repertoire from earliest plainchant to works by modern composers, including pieces specifically created for 'Madrigallery'.

The choir is renowned for delivering high-end performances in collaboration with professional musicians and soloists from Ireland and beyond, acclaimed productions of Mozart's Requiem and The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins being only two examples of this.

'Madrigallery's' long-standing commitment to excellence has led to reviewers and audiences showering the choir with superlatives such as "Magnificent", "Uplifting", "Hypnotic",

"Soaring". Most recently it won the 2016 Waterford News & Star Green Room Awards, securing the rare honour of topping the vote for both 'Choir of the Year' and 'Concert of the Year'.

The singers are looking forward to their 2017 summer lunchtime concert, MADRIGALLERY IN MAY, on Sunday, 21 May, in Greyfriars Municipal Gallery.



David Flynn

David hails from Waterford city and began performing in various local productions before embarking on a professional career that has seen him perform in many of the world's most prestigious theatres. These include The Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Teatro Verdi in Florence and the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. As lead vocalist with the international hit show 'Rhythm of the Dance' and 'The Celtic Tenors', David has performed in over 40 countries across the globe including Australia, Russia, China, North and South America as well as mainland Europe.

He has worked alongside many of Ireland's most prolific singers, including Finbar Furey, Tommy Fleming and Dolores Keane.

On returning home to Ireland after many years travelling, David has staged his own live concerts to critical acclaim, selling out the Theatre Royal on two occasions.

### His memory of Billy...

David is honoured to be performing here this evening in memory of the late, great "Voice of Waterford" Billy McCarthy. "Billy was amazingly supportive to myself and many others as we set off to try achieve our goals," he said. "I remember WLR getting in touch with me while I was in Russia one time, and it was to speak to Billy on air about my travels. He wanted to know all about the show and how one survives on the hectic tour life. We had a good chat! He was very encouraging. Simply one a kind! One night at The Munster Bar following the tribute night for my late brother Bryan at the Theatre Royal, Billy shook my hand and congratulated me and the gang on staging a fitting tribute to Bryan. Little did we know then we would be all here again, this time doing it for Billy."



Donna Roche

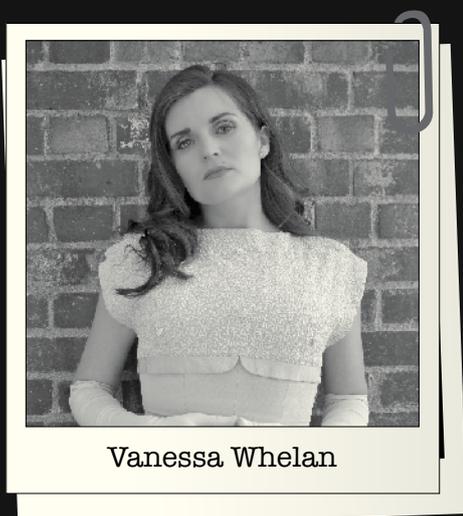
Donna Roche is Ireland's very own soprano whose musical journey began in Waterford city before it embarked onto the professional stage and she is certainly no stranger to home Irish audiences. Donna began her training at WIT and went on to study with Dr. Veronica Dunne at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin and has just completed a BA in Music from WIT and is going on to study her MA in Music Performance in September.

For Cork Opera House Donna has appeared in productions of the sell-out Rodger's & Hammerstein's 'The Sound of Music' which was directed by the late Bryan Flynn, 'Hey! Mr. Director' for Cork Opera House, 'The Promise' at the Helix Theatre in Dublin, the O2 arena in Dublin for Canadian Tenor Josh Groban's 'All that Echoes' tour and recently at The Civic Theatre in Dublin for Irish Musical 'Find your way home' under the direction of Christine Scarry, with musical direction by David Hayes.

### Her memory of Billy...

"I have so many wonderful memories of Billy... he was one of the biggest supporters I had growing up in Waterford as a young singer and even up until his untimely passing, he always gave me time to discuss the voice, bringing me on air to see what the next plans were in my career. I was about 15 when Billy asked me to come in and close the WLR/Lions Club Christmas Hamper Appeal in an outside broadcast and sing "O Holy Night". We shared many chats on air and performed together several times, in particular in 'An Evening of Rodger's and Hammerstein' in our beautiful Theatre Royal. We never had enough time to get through all the singers in the operatic and musical world that he loved so much.

It was a tremendous honour when Des asked me to sing for Billy in his final send off in November and also to be here to sing, in our beautiful theatre here, one of Billy's all-time favourite musical anthems 'Climb Every Mountain' from 'The Sound of Music'. I will forever treasure all the laughs, songs and friendship we shared. Rest easy Billy."



Vanessa Whelan

Vanessa Whelan is a classically trained operatic soprano whose beautiful flawless voice has captivated audiences throughout Ireland. A winner of many vocal competitions, Feiseana and scholarships, Vanessa secured a prestigious scholarship to study voice with the renowned vocal coach Veronica Dunne at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin.

Vanessa achieved huge success in the Voice of Ireland, becoming a finalist and thrilling the judges and thousands of viewers with her flawless performances. Vanessa released a debut single "Who wants to live forever" recorded at Windmill Lane studios and this became a top ten hit. As a result, Vanessa is in great demand throughout Ireland, singing at many high profile concerts and events.

Vanessa has also used her talent to sing for many good causes and charities including The Solas Centre, The National Heart Foundation, The Lyons Club, St Patricks Hospital and MND Ireland. Performing a concert repertoire which spans the spectrum brilliantly from musicals to well-loved melodies, from popular classics to some of the greatest soprano arias Vanessa does it all with class style and an ability to touch the hearts of her audiences.

### Her memory of Billy...

"After each performance on the Voice of Ireland Billy would call me for a chat on Deise Am, which was such great fun. He was always so full enthusiasm and encouragement, and he always joked with me, that it would be he, who would play my album on radio for the first time. One of my fondest memories was at a concert in the Cathedral that Billy was the Master of Ceremonies and I was the soloist. It was wonderful to see him, in his element listening to the beautiful orchestra and though I have to say I was quite nervous performing he was so kind and made me feel completely at ease."



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# CAST LIST

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## **CAST** (In alphabetical order)

- **Jamie Beamish**
- **The Bilberry Goats**
- **Ray Collins**
- **Carrie Crowley**
- **Gabrielle Cummins**
- **David Flynn**
- **Vicki Graham**
- **Richie Hayes**
- **Andrew Holden**
- **Intonations**
- **Jim Nolan**
- **Dermot Keyes**
- **Des Manahan**
- **Madrigallery**
- **Greta Rochford**
- **Clodagh Power**
- **Donna Roche**
- **Vanessa Whelan**

## **FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER**

- **Seneiva Magill**

## **FRONT OF HOUSE TEAM**

- **Michael Barry**
- **Mary Cummins**
- **Sinead Cunningham**
- **Lorraine Dunne**
- **Michelle Glendon**
- **Caroline Kent**
- **Jennifer Long**
- **Fiona Mallon**
- **Lena Murphy**
- **Teresanne O'Reilly**
- **Liz Reddy**
- **Claire Power**

## **DANCERS**

- **Michelle Quilty**
- **Chole Whelan**
- **Donna Murphy**
- **Louise Murphy**
- **Rebecca Mulhall**
- **Chloe Dalton**
- **Julie Power**
- **Conor Lyons**

## **ORCHESTRA**

- **Violin - Eimear Heeney**
- **Cello - Gerri Dunne**
- **Flute - Jenny Burnes**
- **Clarinet/Sax. - Alan Coonagh**
- **Trombone - Brendan Long**
- **Horn - Kevin O'Carroll**
- **Guitar - Rob O'Connor**
- **Base - Keith Mc Donald**
- **Piano - Pamela Harrison**
- **Keyboard - Wayne Brown**





.....★.....

# A NIGHT FOR BILLY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

- **Director/Choreographer - Michelle Condon**
- **Musical Directors - Kevin O'Carroll & Wayne Brown**
- **Producer - Gabrielle Cummins**
- **Stage Manager - Lauren Traynor**
- **Stage Crew - Jay Traynor & Ruaidhari O'Griofa**
- **Production Manager - Sinead Flynn**
- **Sound Engineer - Star Systems**
- **Lighting Design - Aidan McGrath**
- **Costumes - supplied by Avril Musgrave**
- **Chairperson - Des Whelan**
- **P.R.O./Programme Production - Jennifer Long & Mary O'Neill**
- **Poster Design - Michael Byrne & Trevor Nolan**
- **Treasurer - Laura Holmes**
- **Additional Committee Members - Des O'Keeffe & Ronan McCarthy**
- **Programme Print & Design - Fieldmaster**
- **Videographer - Brian Walsh**
- **Photographer - Noel Browne**
- **Video & Sound Effects - Brian Tuohy**

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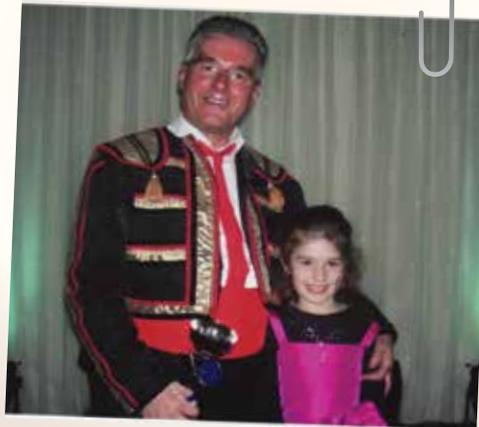


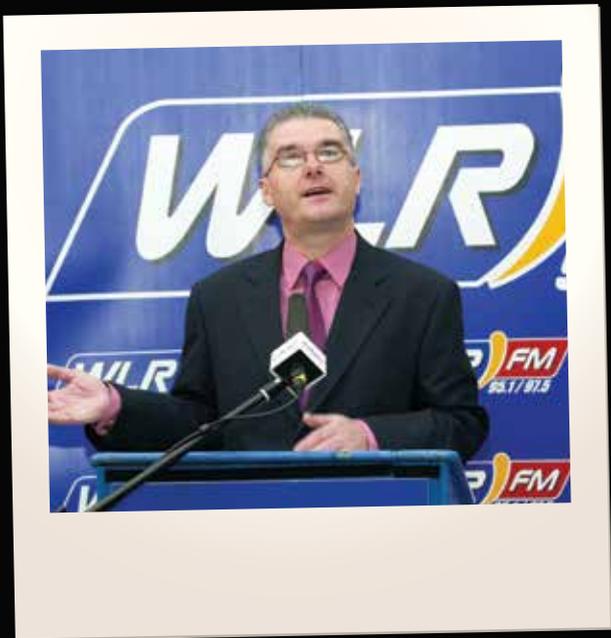
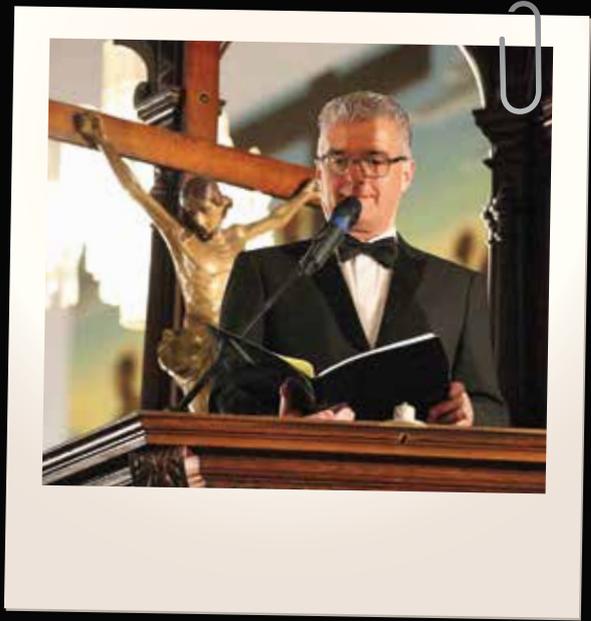
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**BILLY**

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**THROUGH  
THE YEARS**







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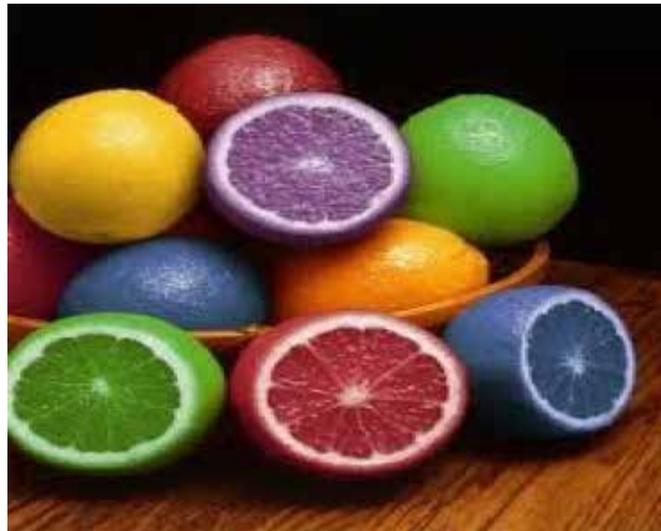




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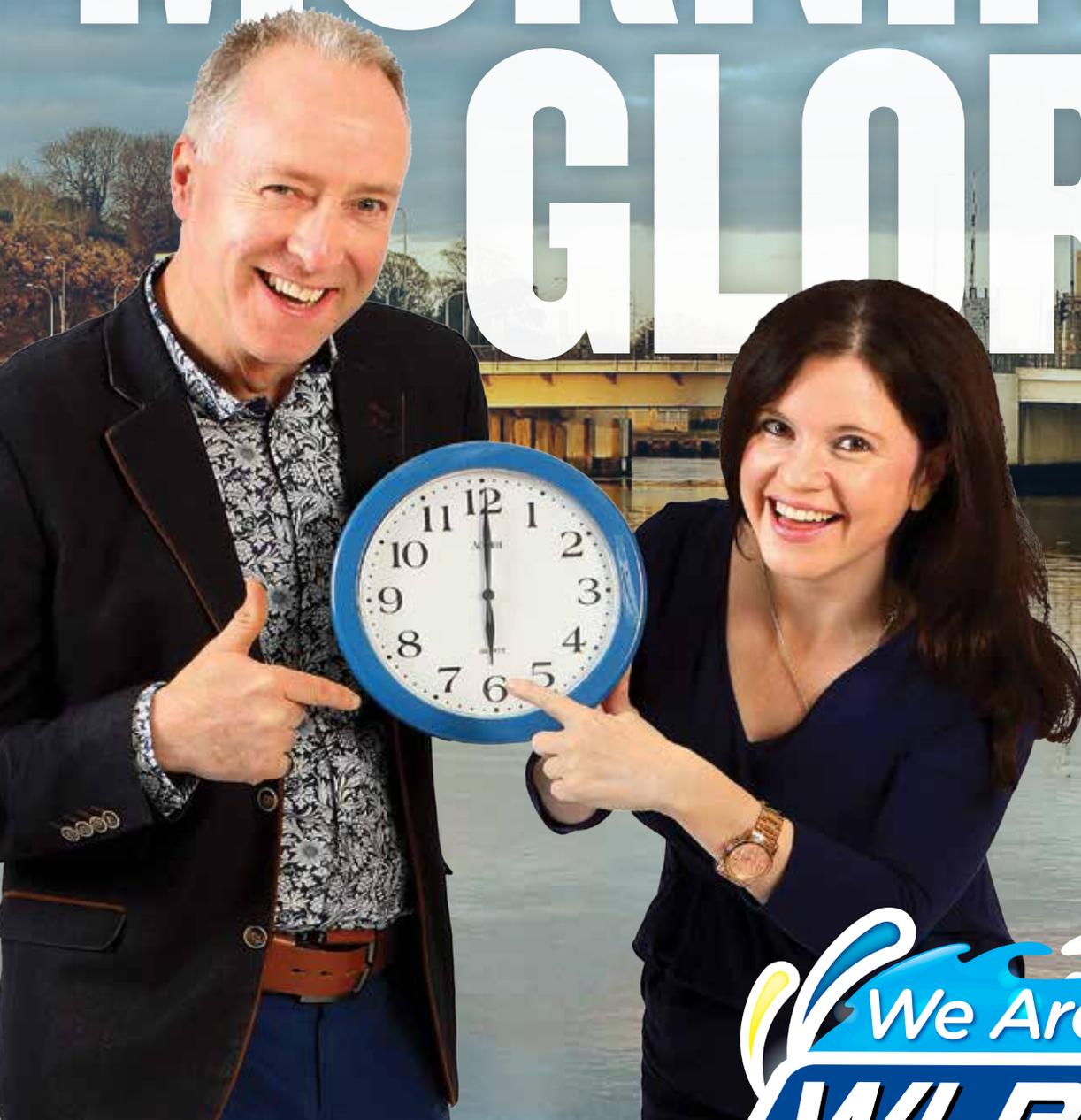
# **Independent Alliance**

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**Independent TD**  
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