

Waterford Dramatic Society Presents

Jim Nolan's



In the summer, on the three
to ten, when the break'd come,
We'd sometimes go out and sit
in the sun. All things bright
and beautiful and god knows it
was good to get out in the air.

THE GOODS ARE ANGRY MISS KERR

They call her Indian Mail
because she loved a sailor
who went off on an Indian
boat and every morning ever
after she'd go to the post
office for the Indian mail
that never came.

Directed by Liam Meagher

Garner Lane Arts Centre October 13th - 17th October 1998



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**Father and Son, Jim and Sean Corcoran.
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(Above : Sean Corcoran, Niall Toibín, John Olohan and Jim Corcoran at The SalvAge Shop)

Every now and again, you have a lucky day. In the winter of 1994, I had an idea for a play but no setting. Then I walked into The SalvAge Shop for the first time and found a home for the idea. Though it was my first visit, the name had long held an attraction, with it's connotations of rebirth and transformation.

Magic happens there. Apparently mundane objects and materials are transformed and enabled to live again in new and literally wonderful ways. raising for all of us, that possibility of reincarnation, renewal and redemption. This, I believe is the tremendous achievement of the Corcorans and their fellow craftsmen, their ability to alter our perception of the ordinary - their capacity to make the ordinary immortal.

Jim Nolan



Where nothing is beyond redemption

The Gods ARE ANgRy Miss KeRR

-an appreciation by Liam Murphy.

Jim Nolan's fame is assured in his native city. He has come in to his own and Waterford basks in his fine reputation as a playwright. This is a particularly significant season for his work, with a new York production of "Moonshine" just finishing and his acclaimed "The Salvage Shop" opening this week as part of the Dublin Theatre festival, prior to a national tour. All this adds to the importance of this evening's production of "The Gods Are Angry Miss Kerr". This play, first produced in the Theatre Royal in 1985 as a Waterford Arts For All / Red Kettle Theatre Co.. production, created box office records for a play.

Back then, it was celebrating a slice of Waterford's industrial history as it explored a group of textile workers in the Jute Factory in 1956, two years before Jim Nolan's own birth. It amazed people with its mordant wit and seemingly shocking "Ask me arse for Jaysus sake" style of writing. The era it reflects was a post-war Waterford where industry was growing and large numbers of women were joining the workforce for the first time. These women had individual lives and voices that helped shape a town grow into a city. Housing estates were starting to grow and there were still green fields beyond Tycor, Ballytruckle, Cork Road and Paddy Brownes Road. Waterford was moving from variety shows to flicks, the pictures as entertainment. The characters in this play show the changes in Waterford. The ritual of Eucharistic processions was giving way to a sense of the scope of the world. In 1956 the Olympics in Melbourne were a topic of conversation. "The fond memories bring the light of other days around me" images when some thought that people were somehow trapped as voices in the back of the wireless, gives way to a sharper, harder world where young women had to lead and make decisions and men followed these women, sometimes grudgingly. Jim Nolan's work was exploring the prevailing growth in community theatre that became the early artistic vision of Red Kettle as a professional company.

People won't be shocked any more by the frankness of the vernacular. The play may have a rosy tinge with its genial liars and boastful people. But it still brings out the eternal kid in us all where even the liars tell the truth. You don't have to remember queuing on Adelphi Quay for the coliseum and the tall angular Miss Kerr marshalling the unruly crowd with a silver torch and if you got past Miss Kerr and made it to "The Gods" - the wooden benches - there was the uniformed Sheriff Kelly to quell your foot stamping anger as you wanted the pictures to begin.

That was then, but today this play is not just a nostalgic look at Waterford's past, but contains the hopes and aspirations of people and there is still the astringent sense of anger for a better world. There is anger in Jim Nolan's work that is not muted by resignation and redemption. I hope you will sense the beginning of themes and concerns that are developing in this playwright's work and will be developed further as his work brings greater glory to Waterford and to a newer, wider audience.

Jim Nolan



Jim is a founder member and artistic director of Red Kettle Theatre company. In 1985 his play *The Gods Are Angry Miss Kerr*, launched the company and his other plays for Red Kettle include *The Black Pool*, *The Boathouse*, *The Guernica Hotel* and *Moonshine*. He has directed many plays for Red Kettle including its tenth anniversary production of *The Crucible* and he has also worked as a writer and director with Waterford Dramatic Society, Meridian Theatre Company, Field Day and TEAM Theatre

Liam Meagher

Liam has been a member of Red Kettle Theatre Company since 1987 and has worked on almost all of their shows. He has directed shows for Waterford Youth Drama, Premiere, Waterford Musical Theatre, De La Salle College, W.I.T. Art Dept. as well as various drama productions in primary schools. He has written fourteen plays for children including the Little Red Kettle trilogy - "The Four Euclids of Squid and the Festival of Imagination and Wild Fancy", "Kahtalistic Lokio and the Demon Plays" and "Kyello Oraku and Pearls Colour Dream" all of which were co-written

and directed with Ben Hennessy. This is his sixth appearance with W.D.S. and he is delighted to get the opportunity to direct "The Gods".



Jim Daly



A director of Red Kettle, he has worked with the company since its production of *The Gods Are Angry Miss Kerr* in the Theatre Royal in 1985. He filled a variety of production parts before becoming the stage manager for *Female Parts* and later for *Agamemnon* and *The Shaughraun*. Later again he became lighting designer for Red Kettle's productions of *Bar and Ger*, *Dear Kenny*, *Hello and Goodbye*, *The Prince*, *The Guernica Hotel*, *Catalpa - The Movie*, *The Crucible*, *Happy Birthday Dear Alice* and *Petty Sessions*. He has worked extensively with Waterford Youth Drama, designing lighting for *Whale*, *Mad Forest*, *Roma*, *Agnes of God*, *The ancient*

Mariner, *Hello Andromeda* and *Doghhouse*. He has also worked with Barnstorm Theatre Company in Kilkenny on their productions of *One Two Three O'Leary*, *Wild Harvest*, *Crabs in a Bucket*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Bananas in the Bread Bin* and *Silly Bits of Sky*. Jim has worked with Gallowglass Theatre Company in Clonmel on their productions of *happy days* and *Bailegangaire*. Jim has also designed the lighting for Waterford Dramatic Society's production of *Semi-Private*, *The passing of Morgan Carey* and *The Highest House on the Mountain*.

George Roe

George has been a member of the W.D.S. since 1995. Always interested in the back stage workings of theatre and set design, he has designed the sets for W.D.S. productions *Laundry and Bourbon* / *Lone Star* and one act plays by Pinter and Tennessee Williams.



Denny Corcoran



This will be his second appearance with W.D.S. He took best comedian award in the North of Ireland festival in Bangor in 1991 playing Alfie Doolittle in *My Fairlady*. He was nominated for an A.T.M.S. award for his part in *Annie* as Warbucks in 1996. He produced *Brigadoon* for Edmund Rice Musical Society in 1995. He has also played many parts with De La Salle Musical Society. He was also involved in *Tops of the Tour* as Producer, Scriptwriter and participant since its inception, winning both National and International titles. He has been producer for the Waterford Pantomime Society for the last 12 years. He did his first musical production with

Spotlight and had an outstanding success with *The Little Shop of Horrors*. He is delighted to be back with W.D.S. this year. He has a great respect for Jim Nolan and is proud to be in one of his plays.

Michael Power

Mickey made his stage debut in 1992 when he joined Stagefright M.T.C.s' production of *Chicago in the Port of Harry*. He followed this with *Grease* in 1993 and *Players Anonymous* Tramore Show for John Player Tops. A winning performance followed with *Waterford Crystal Tops* in 1994. More recently Mickey appeared in Premiere Productions' *Annie* and as The Pharaoh in *Joseph*. Last year he played Isaac in *Waterford Music Theatres'* production of *The Hired Man*. He is also a member of the award winning choral group *Janus* but has promised not to sing tonight!



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Anne Larkin



Originally from Wexford, Anne moved to Waterford in 1995 to study theatre in the C.T.I. working and performing with many of the local musical societies and theatre companies as part of her course. The highlight of her course was playing the part of Fay in Joe Orton's *Loot*. On completion of her course Anne began working with Pro-Scene T.I.E. Company and appeared in various productions with them. A founder member of Full House Theatre Company, Anne played the part of Phil in their production of *Red Devils* earlier this year. Currently Anne is rehearsing for the world premiere of *Pentimenti*, a new musical written and directed by Waterford's Brian Flynn.

Joanne Walsh

Joanne's first stage role was in the part of Nellie with De La Salle school's production of *South Pacific* in 1985. Since then with Waterford Dramatic Society she has played Bernadette in Willy Russell's *Stags and Hens* and Ger in the one act play *Bar and Ger*. Other productions include *Red Kettle's Petty Sessions* and Premiere's *Annie*. With Stagefright Musical Theatre Company, roles have included Widow Corney in the award winning production of *Oliver!* and soloist in *The Magic of the Musicals*. In last years highly successful production of *The Hired Man* with Waterford Music Theatre, Joanne played the part of Emily. Good luck to the cast, crew and committee of Stage Fright's new musical *Pentimenti* which has its world premiere next month where Joanne will be playing the part of Belsie.



Deborah Cunningham



Deborah has been involved in all aspects of theatre production in Waterford over the past number of years. She started in the Presentation Convent production of *Oklahoma* playing the role of Jud Fry. Deborah then got involved in the John Player Tops, First with Tramore. She featured in the Waterford Crystal winning entry of 1994 as soloist and comedienne. On the musical scene Deborah also played the role of Matron Mama Morton in *Chicago* followed by Jan in *Grease* followed by another Matron's role in Stage Fright's award winning *Oliver*.

She has also been a prominent member of such musicals as *Chess* and *Joseph*, and a soloist in *The Magic of the Musicals*. Deborah is currently involved in the world premiere of *Pentimenti*. She would also like to add that her other passion is Manchester United and of course - Ryan Giggs !

Andrew Holden



This is Andrew's first appearance with W.D.S. He has previously appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Chess*, *Annie*, *The Hired Man* and *Joseph* amongst others. He has worked on Pro-Scene's Theatre in Education Programme and the Red Kettle Christmas Show. Andrew is a founder member of *Janus* and last April attended a *Les Miserables* Masterclass in London. He is a soloist on the original cast recording of *Pentimenti The Musical* and next month will appear in the world premiere of this work by Brian Flynn.

Hugo O'Donovan

Hugo has appeared in various plays with W.D.S. including *Sive* by John B. Keane, *Death of a salesman* by Arthur Miller and *The Highest House on the Mountain* by John B. Keane. Most recently he directed *One for the Road* by Harold Pinter. He is at present conducting theatre workshops for the society in Mount Sion.



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S o l i c i t o r s

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cast

Gertie

Joanne Walsh

Julia

Anne Larkin

Janey

Deborah Cunningham

Albert

Denny Corcoran

Cottons

Andrew Holden

Tommy

Michael Power

Billy

Hugo O'Donovan

Directed by

Liam Meagher

Set Design

George Roe

Lighting Design

Jim Daly

Costumes

No Mac Productions

Mona Manahan

Hair

Fiona Furlong

Headquarters

Music

Jamie Beamish

Setting : Act I Waterford
Act II Duncannon Strand
One interval of 15 Minutes

We regret that latecomers will not be admitted

cast

Production Manager
Assisted by
Stage Managers

Stage Crew

Lighting Operator

Sound Operator
Set Construction
Set Painting

Publicity
Programme Layout

Production Photography

Slides
Props
Costumes / Wardrobe
Front of House

Mary O'Doherty
Geri Oakes
Mary O'Doherty
Geri Oakes
John Pogge
Deirdre McPhillips
Michael Oates
Alan Aylward
Paul Browne
Jim Whelan
Cordula Hansen
George Roe
Finola Cronin
Kathy Jordan
Finola Cronin
Mary O'Doherty
Nora Boland
John Pogge
Christine Simpson
David Kennedy
Frieda Ryan
Cecil Walker
Annie O'Neill
Kathy Jordan
Jane Leslie

A raffle will be held during the interval

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Hugo O'Donovan

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Jane Leslie

Finola Cronin

Niamh Ruddle

Mary O'Doherty

Kathy Jordan

Denise Quinn

W.D.S. would like to thank

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Waterford Dramatic Society *By Frieda Ryan*

W.D.S. has the distinction of being one of the oldest & longest running drama groups in the country, having been founded in September 1935 and producing plays for the Waterford public ever since, often during very fallow periods for professional theatre. During its history W.D.S. engaged many eminent figures to produce its plays including Jack McGowran, Thomas McAuna, Barry Cossin, Anna Manahan and Jim Nolan. The latter two acted in W.D.S. productions early in their careers. The society has owned two premises during its lifetime, the Small Theatre Club in Henrietta Street and later a rehearsal space in Barker Street. We are once again an itinerant outfit, finding storage and rehearsal space where we can. We are on the look out for a suitable premise!

A new dynamism and enthusiasm in the society in recent years has seen an increase in membership, a return to the one-act festival circuit and the provision of workshops. Waterford Dramatic Society will continue to enrich the cultural life of the city by its own work and by its involvement in many other theatrical endeavours into the next millennium.

The last ten years

| <u>Season</u> | <u>Production</u> | <u>Author</u> | <u>Director</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1988 - 1989 | <i>Death of a Salesman</i> | Arthur Miller | Judy Falconer |
| 1988 - 1989 | <i>The Moon Shines on Kylanamoe</i> | Sean O'Casey | David Condon |
| 1988 - 1989 | <i>Albert</i> | Richard Harris | M. Gilmartin |
| 1988 - 1989 | <i>After Midnight, Before Dawn</i> | David Campton | M. Gilmartin |
| 1988 - 1989 | <i>End of Term</i> | Maeve Binchy | Judy Falconer |
| 1989 - 1990 | <i>The Factory Girls</i> | Frank McGuinness | Jane Leslie |
| 1990 - 1991 | <i>Drama at Inish</i> | Lennox Robinson | Jane Leslie |
| 1991 - 1992 | <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> | Oliver Goldsmith | Jane Leslie |
| 1991 - 1992 | <i>Did you Hear the One</i> | | |
| | <i>About the Irishman</i> | Christina Reid | Judy Falconer |
| 1991 - 1992 | <i>One Season's King</i> | G. MacEwan Green | Judy Falconer |
| 1991 - 1992 | <i>Ritual for Dolls</i> | G. MacEwan Green | Geri Oakes |
| 1991 - 1992 | <i>Semi Private</i> | Mary Halpin | Frieda Ryan |
| 1992 - 1993 | <i>Big Maggie</i> | John B. Keane | Judy Falconer |
| 1993 - 1994 | <i>The Highest House on the Mountain</i> | John B. Keane | Frieda Ryan |
| 1994 - 1995 | <i>The Passing of Morgan Carey</i> | James Cheasty | |
| 1995 - 1996 | <i>2 One-Acts</i> | | |
| | <i>The Donohue Sisters</i> | Gerandine Aron | Frieda Ryan |
| | <i>Sganarelle</i> | Molière | Bill Carleton |
| Spring 1996 | <i>Stags and Hens</i> | Willie Russell | Liam Meagher |
| November 1996 | W.D.S. hosts first D.L.I. One-Act festival at Garter Lane | | |
| Spring 1997 | <i>2 One-Acts</i> | | |
| | <i>Laundry and Bourbon</i> | James McClure | Frieda Ryan |
| | <i>Lone Star</i> | James McClure | Hugo O'Donovan |
| November 1997 | W.D.S. hosts second D.L.I. One-Act festival at Garter Lane | | |
| 1997 - 1998 | <i>One-Acts</i> | | |
| | <i>Bar & Ger</i> | Gerandine Aron | Liam Meagher |
| | <i>One for the Road</i> | Harold Pinter | Hugo O'Donovan |
| | <i>Portrait of a Madonna</i> | Tennessee Williams | Frieda Ryan |



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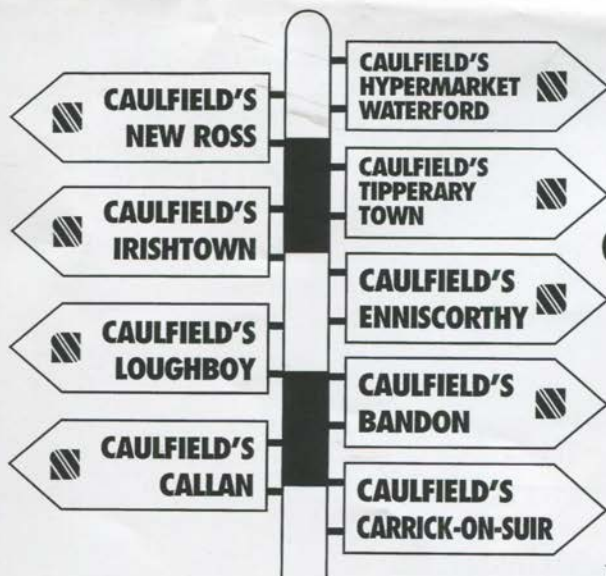
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Nov 4 - 7
Nov 9 - 14
Nov 16 - 21
Nov 23 - 28

Waterford - One Week Only
Garret Lane Nov 30 - Dec 6

Best wishes with "The Gods"
and to all in W.D.S.