

THE COLLEEN BAWN

or, THE BRIDES OF GARRYOWEN.

A domestic drama, in three acts.

by Dion Boucicault, Esq.



 The Questors Theatre Company



The Questors Theatre

First Performance , Thursday December 30th, 1976

THE COLLEEN BAWN

by Dion Boucicault

The action of the play takes place in the year 1798

ACT ONE:

- Scene one* — Torc Cregan, the residence of
Mrs Cregan on the banks of Killarney
- Scene two* — The Gap of Dunloe
- Scene three* — The Cottage on Muckcross Head

ACT TWO:

- Scene one* — The Gap of Dunloe
- Scene two* — A room in Torc Cregan
- Scene three* — Outside the cottage on Muckcross
Head
- Scene four* — A path near the lake
- Scene five* — A cave

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT THREE:

- Scene one* — Interior of a small hut
- Scene two* — A chamber in Castle Chute
- Scene three* — Outside Myles's Hut
- Scene four* — The grounds of Castle Chute
- Scene five* — The Great Room in Castle Chute

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Cast, in order of speaking:

Hardress Cregan	—	Norman Wilkinson
Danny Mann, <i>his boatman</i>	—	Ned Gethings
Kyrle Daly, <i>a college friend of Hardress</i>	—	Alan Drake
Mrs Cregan	—	Barbara Hutchins
Anne Chute	—	Carol Bolt
Servant at Torc Cregan	—	Derek Longhurst
Squire Corrigan, <i>a pettifogging attorney</i>	—	Ted Scrivener
Myles-na-Coppaleen	—	Michael Loughnan
Father Tom	—	Kenneth Ratcliffe
Eily O'Connor, <i>the Colleen Bawn</i>	—	Judy Emmet
Sheelah, <i>Danny's Mother</i>	—	Dorinne Ingram
Servant at Castle Chute	—	Brian Murphy
Corporal	—	Ron Bloomfield
Soldiers	—	Kenneth Harrington Derek Longhurst Brian Murphy

Wedding Guests:

Mr O'Moore	—	Tom Pritchard
Hyland Creagh	—	Alfred Anderson
Ducie Blennerhasset	—	Vyvyen Jenkins
Patrick Blennerhasset	—	Wilfrid Sharp
Kathleen Creagh	—	Daphne Marler-Wilbourn
Ada Creagh	—	Sue Sotheran
Bernard O'Donoghue	—	Alan Chisholm
Maureen O'Donoghue	—	Sarah Hall
Patsie O'Moore	—	Glynis Carter

Directed by John Davey

Designed by George Benn

Costumes designed by Lindsay Udell and George Benn

Music composed by Michael Carver and played by
Michael Carver and Frank Bradley.

“I send you seven steel engravings of scenes around Killarney. Get your scene painter to work on them at once. I also send a book of Irish melodies with those marked I desire Baker to score for the orchestra. I shall read one act of my new play tomorrow; we rehearse that while I am writing the second, which will be ready on Monday; and we rehearse the second while I am doing the third. We can get the play out in a fortnight.”

They did; it was *The Colleen Bawn* (the fair-haired girl). The speed was necessitated by the unexpected failure of Boucicault's *Vanity Fair* at the Adelphi in 1860. Having no new play to hand, Boucicault undertook to provide one. From a second-hand shop he filled his pockets with novels, amongst them ‘The Collegians’ by Gerald Griffin, a starkly realistic work, based on tragic events on and near the River Shannon in 1819.

Boucicault wrote well at speed; during his career he wrote or adapted over 150 plays, most of them successful.

By 1860 melodrama had held the English stage for some 60 years and (while certain features remained constant) it had become increasingly sophisticated. Audiences became more demanding; each show must be more spectacular than the last. It was to describe *The Colleen Bawn* that Boucicault coined the term ‘sensation drama’. Its success was huge, immediate and lasting.

The lasting quality of the play belongs, however, not so much to the sensation as the sentiment. While the acts of villainy and heroism may excite hisses and cheers respectively, Boucicault's Irish characters (drawn from his native background) excite sympathy and give the play a warmth and depth rare at this time.

It was, incidentally, the last play Prince Albert ever saw; and Queen Victoria clearly felt she would never see anything to equal it, for, having seen it, she did not go to the theatre for another 40 years!

<i>Stage Manager</i>	.	.	.	.	.	John Hazell
<i>Deputy Stage Manager</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Sue Tilsley
<i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Sally Hill
						Mike Owen
						Gerry Blake
						Mark Moran
						John Stacey
						Roger Kelly
						Jenny Clare
						Annabel Hall
						Suzie Abbot
						Andrew Muir
						Doug Brown
						Eric Lister
						Kevin Higgins
						John Allwright
<i>Prompters</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Tina Harris
						Maria Stephens
<i>Wardrobe</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Lindsay Udell
						Val Moran
<i>Assisted by</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Mieke van Anandel
						Phil Ward
<i>Properties</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Iris Phelps
<i>Assisted by</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Joan Curry
						Jagna Ottarzewska
<i>Construction</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Don Jones
						Andrew Muir
						Dave Keeley
<i>Assisted by</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Mike Owen
<i>Lighting</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Bob Anderson
<i>Assisted by</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Neil Williams
						Jeremy Bentham
<i>Sound</i>	Brian McLoughlin
<i>Assisted by</i>	Richard Cushing
						Frances Donaghy
<i>Hair by</i>	Julie Cruttenden

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The Questors Theatre

MATTOCK LANE EALING W5 5BQ

567 0011 *Administrator*

567 5184 *Box Office*

EXHIBITION

During the run of *The Colleen Bawn* there will be an exhibition in the foyer by John Phillips.

DISCUSSION

A discussion is held after each production by The Questors to which all members are invited. The Discussion on *The Colleen Bawn* will be held after the performance on Saturday, January 8th and will be led by George Rowell, a leading authority on nineteenth century theatre and editor of 'Nineteenth Century Plays', in which *The Colleen Bawn* appears.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Building for phase one of our Development Programme is due to start on January 3rd. We apologise to members for any inconvenience during the period of reconstruction.

PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE IN THE AUDITORIUM
PLEASE DO NOT TAKE DRINKS INTO THE
AUDITORIUM

NEXT PRODUCTION —

January 22nd to 29th at 7.45 p.m.

Prometheus Bound

by Robert Lowell
after Aeschylus

MEMBERS FREE, GUESTS: £1.25, £1.00 and 75p