THE COLLEEN BAWN or, THE BRIDES OF GARRYOWEN.

A domestic drama, in three acts. by Dion Boucicault, Esq.



The Questors Theatre Company



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 Muckross Head

ACT TWO:

Scene one - The Gap of Dunloe

Scene two - A room in Torc Cregan

Scene three - Outside the cottage on Muckross

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

Cast, in order of speaking:

Hardress Cregan – Norman Wilkinson

Danny Mann, his boatman - Ned Gethings

Kyrle Daly, a college friend

of Hardress - Alan Drake

Mrs Cregan — Barbara Hutchins

Anne Chute — Carol Bolt

Servant at Torc Cregan — Derek Longhurst

Squire Corrigan,

a pettifogging attorney - Ted Scrivener

Myles-na-Coppaleen — Michael Loughnan

Father Tom — Kenneth Ratcliffe

Eily O'Connor,

the Colleen Bawn — Judy Emmet
Sheelah, Danny's Mother — Dorinne Ingram

Servant at Castle Chute — Brian Murphy
Corporal — Ron Bloomfield

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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.

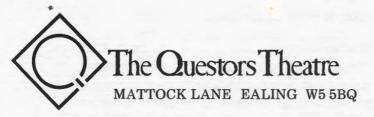
By 1860 melodrama had held the English stage for some 60 years and (while certain features remained constant) it had become increasingly sophisticated. Audiences became more demanding; each show must be more spectacular than the last. It was to describe *The Colleen Bawn* that Boucicault coined the term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

Stage Manager		-	John Hazell
Deputy Stage Manager .			Sue Tilsley
Assistant Stage Managers			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
Prompters			Tina Harris
			Maria Stephens
Wardrobe			Lindsay Udell
			Val Moran
Assisted by			Mieke van Andel
			Phil Ward
Properties			Iris Phelps
Assisted by			Joan Curry
			Jagna Ottarzewska
Construction			Don Jones
			Andrew Muir
			Dave Keeley
Assisted by			Mike Owen
Lighting			Bob Anderson
Assisted by			Neil Williams
			Jeremy Bentham
Sound			Brian McLoughlin
Assisted by			Richard Cushing
	•		Frances Donaghy
Hair by			Julie Cruttenden
		-	

Acknowledgement is made to the Trustees of the British Museum and the Oxford University Press for the use of the front page illustration.



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