



BAILLY/BEGAG

TRANSLATIONS

SPONSORED BY PETER AND RACHELLE ELLIS

'Man acts as though he were the master of language, while it is language which remains the mistress of men' - Heidegger

Brian Friel was born in Co.Tyrone N.Ireland in 1929 into the nationalist tradition. All his grandparents were Irish speakers. He trained and worked as a teacher and began writing short stories in the '50s. His first play **The Enemy Within** was produced at the Abbey in Dublin in 1964. Together with the actor Stephen Rea he set up the Field Day Theatre Company in 1980 in order to get funding for their first production which was **Translations**.

Friel has always used theatre craft in an original and daring way. One of his earlier plays **Philadelphia Here I Come** has the private and public aspects of the main character played by different actors. **Dancing at Lughnasa** has a narrator who appears in the play as his child self but is invisible. **Faith Healer** consists of four monologues by 3 different characters all recounting the same events with the audience left to work out the 'real' version

In **Translations** he uses another original device - the Irish characters speak Gaelic but we hear it as English - this creates humour, tenderness and tragedy

The play itself is fundamentally about language and relationships. As an Irishman Friel is acutely aware that he expresses himself through a 'foreign' language - English. He has said he wanted to create an Irish English - 'we must make English identifiably our own language'. The language of the play often has a poetic quality through the use of repetition, incantations of strange names and the use of strange languages. The events of the play are historical - the first Ordnance Survey map of Ireland, the changing of Irish place names to English names and the opening of the first English-only National Schools. To Friel naming is the key to identity and it is interesting to note that when his birth was registered the Protestant beurocracy refused to allow his Gaelic name Brian and he had to be registered as 'Bernard', so like Owen O'Donnell he has an English as well as an Irish identity.

Friel was heavily influenced when writing **Translations** by George Steiner's book **After Babel** which examines language and translation. Hugh O'Donnell actually speaks some lines from the book. Steiner argued that when languages disappear the identities of the communities that spoke them tend to dissolve too - 'each takes with it a storehouse of consciousness'. In 1975 only 2.5% of Irish people were found to be Gaelic speakers - a further 10.8% could understand some of it.

With the ever-increasing use of English as the world language, diversity of language is under increasing threat throughout the world. Perhaps the question we are left with is this: will a common language aid communication and understanding sufficiently to make worthwhile what is lost in the process or will we fail to 'interpret between privacies'?

Working on this play has been a joy to all of us. It works at so many different levels that we felt we could go on and on exploring it - surely the sign of a great work.

Please ensure all mobile phones and pagers are switched off while in the Theatre. Photography is not allowed during the performance, and food and drinks are not permitted in the auditorium

TRANSLATIONS

by Brian Friel

First performance: Friday 4th May 2001

CAST - IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Manus
Sarah
Jimmy Jack
Maire
Doalty
Bridget
Hugh
Owen
Captain Lancey
Lieutenant Yolland

Michael Greener
Abigail Devlin
Keith Parry
Caroline Bleakley
Anthony Curran
Jane Backlog
Michael Langridge
Will Everett
Francis Lloyd
Robert Seatter

The action takes place in a hedge school in the townland of Baile Beag/Ballybeg, an Irish speaking community in County Donegal.

ACT ONE: An afternoon in late August 1833
ACT TWO: A few days later
ACT THREE: The evening of the following day

There is an interval of 15 minutes between Act Two Scene 1 and Scene 2

Production

Director
Set Designer
Lighting Designer
Assistant to Lighting Designer
Lighting Operator
Sound Operator
Wardrobe Mistress
Wardrobe Assistants
Hair and Makeup
Stage Manager and Set Constructor
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers

Master Carpenter
Assistant Constructors / Painters

Scenic Artist
Student Group Trainee
Work Experience Students

Anne Neville
John Wibberley
Andrew Dixon
Richard Lewis
Chris Bennett
Sue Crowson
Ruth Jackson
Elisabeth Bisinotto, Julia Cooke, Nichola Thomas
Victoria Dellingpole of Greasepaint
Colin Horne
Mark Ayres
Rachel Izen, Kathy Kelleher, Gordon Miller,
Penny Seyfert, Linda Shannon, Alex Townsend
Mike Hagan
Roger Brace, Anthony Bridges, Tim Edwards,
Alex Marker, John G Mooney, Christopher Tomlins,
John Drury, Woody Hughes, John Horwood,
Natasha Lewis
Elaine Hagan
Ben O'Toole
Iead Wanus, Kumi Morita

Acknowledgements: David Emmett (Latin and Greek pronunciation);
Jennifer Golightly (Gaelic pronunciation); Full Construction Ltd., Julia Cruttenden

TRANSLATIONS

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

THE FAN *by Carlo Goldoni, translated by Steve Fitzpatrick*

In the Playhouse, 9th - 16th June

This robust comedy has all the vigour and physicality that one would expect from the founder of modern Italian comedy.

The complex twists of the plot revolve around two love triangles and the eponymous fan, but the real subject is a celebration of life and humanity with all the passionate heat of the Mediterranean sun, set amongst the bustle of a small hill town in northern Italy.

And, for one night only:

"LIFE AFTER FAWLTY"

In the Playhouse, Saturday 23rd June at 8.00pm

An evening of talk and tunes with ANDREW SACHS
(alias Manuel from BBC's Fawlty Towers)

This show is selling fast so book early to avoid disappointment!

Special prices for Questors Members!

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY *by Harold Pinter*

In the Studio, 16th - 30th June

A darkly menacing comedy about a reclusive man in a shabby seaside boarding house who is terrorised by two sinister visitors. This critically acclaimed play is a classic of modern British theatre.

TRELAWNY OF THE 'WELLS' *by Arthur W. Pinero*

In the Playhouse, 14th -21st July

Rose Trelawny, young and much adored star of the Sadlers Wells Theatre, is leaving the profession to marry into High Society.

But can she tolerate society, or more to the point, can society tolerate her?

This is a charming romantic comedy, and a delightful period piece full of wonderful characters, all set against the background magic of life in the Victorian Theatre.

And don't forget our Christmas show -

THE SNOW QUEEN *by Stuart Paterson from a story by Hans Christian Andersen*

In the Playhouse, 8th December - 5th January

It's not too early to book!

The Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, London W5 5BQ

Reg. In England No. 469253

Admin: 020 8567 0011

Charity No. 207516

Box Office: 020 8567 5184

Fax: 020 8567 8736