The Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh presents

The Weir
by Conor McPherson

Directed by Amanda Gaughan

15 January – 6 February 2016

Press Night is Tuesday 19 January at 7.30pm

“There’s no dark like a winter night in the country. And there was a wind like this one, howling and whistling in off the sea. It was this type of night now. Am I setting the scene for you?”

You are invited to an evening at Brendan’s Bar in rural Ireland, a cosy hostelry for a dark night. So pull up a bar stool, grab a pint of your usual, warm yourself by the fire and hear the local fellas spin their tall tales. It’s all just good craic as the lads try to outdo each other with their ghost stories, but then newcomer Valerie shares a haunting tale of her own...

Chosen as one of the Hundred Plays of the Century in a National Theatre poll, The Weir has won a host of playwriting awards including the Evening Standard Award, George Devine Award, Critics Circle Award and Laurence Olivier Award. Conor McPherson’s brilliantly observed and emotionally searing tale is a true gem of contemporary theatre.

‘Rich vivid and often wonderfully funny...a modern classic.’ The Telegraph

‘My play of the decade...a modern masterpiece.’ The Express

The show is directed by Lyceum Associate artist Amanda Gaughan (Hedda Gabler, Hidden) who has assembled a stellar cast of accomplished Irish actors from both stage and screen. The cast are Brian Gleeson as Brendan, Frank McCusker as Finbar, Gary Lydon as Jack, Darragh Kelly as Jim and Lucianne McEvoy as Valerie.

The creative team are designer Francis O’Connor, lighting designer Simon Wilkinson and composer and sound designer Michael John McCarthy.

Director Amanda Gaughan says:

“It’s just people talking,” said Conor McPherson of his 1997 play, 'The Weir'; which has been hailed as a modern-day classic and I am delighted to be directing this for our 50th anniversary year. Set in a rural Irish pub; the men meet for their usual pint together but this night is different when a stranger, Valerie comes amongst them and then, the real stories begin... Storytelling is at the core of this funny yet emotionally visceral and haunting play. Through Irish myths and ghost stories, 'The Weir' examines how the ghosts of our past – both personal and universal - can affect the fragility of our own present and asks if or how we can move forward from personal tragedy.”

For more information, interviews, images or ticket requests, please contact Michelle Mangan, Press and PR Manager at The Lyceum mmangan@lyceum.org.uk or 0131 248 4822

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NOTES TO EDITORS

PERFORMANCES

15 January – 6 February 2016

Evenings (7.30pm) Matinees (2pm)

TICKETS

£13 - £29.50

For tickets phone 0131 248 4848 or book online at www.lyceum.org.uk

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

Touch Tours for visually impaired
Thursday 28th January at 6.15pm
Saturday 30th January at 12.45pm

Audio-described Performances
Thursday 28th January 7.30pm
Saturday 30th January at 2pm

BSL Interpreted Performance
Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30pm

Captioned Performance
Saturday 6 February at 2pm

Cast & Creative Team Biographies

Cast

Gary Lydon
Jack

RECENT THEATRE CREDITS

The Pillowman (Decadent Theatre Company); Borstal Boy(Gaeity Theatre, Dublin); Waiting For Godot(Gare St.Lazare); Dublin Carol (Donmar @ Trafalgar Studios); Playboy of The Western World (Old Vic); The Walls, The Cripple of Innishmann (National Theatre); The Cavalcaders (Royal Court); The Wexford Trilogy (The Bush/Tricycle); Playboy of The Western World, Sive, Tinkers Wedding, Well of The Saints (Druid Theatre, Galway); Lay Me Down Softly (Tricycle); The Last Summer(Gate Theatre, Dublin); One is Not a Number(Meridian); Drumbelly, The House, Whistle in the Dark,Translations, Lay Me Down Softly, The Cavalcaders (Abbey Theatre, Dublin).

TELEVISION & FILM

Love/Hate; The Clinic; Pure Mule; On Home Ground; Fergus’ Wedding; Sinners; Amongst Women; Seaforth; The Wexford Trilogy. Film includes Brooklyn; The Guarantee; Calvary; The Guard; Warhorse; Small Engine Repair; Stelladays; Country; Ordinary Decent Criminal; Six Shooter; Last September; Nothing Personal; Michael Collins; Ailsa.
AWARDS
2 Best Supporting Actor Awards for the *The Clinic*, Irish Film and Television Awards.

Brian Gleeson
*Brendan*

RECENT THEATRE CREDITS
*The Walworth Force* (Landmark Productions); *The Night Alive* (The Donmar Warehouse); *Silver Tassie* (Druid Theatre).

TELEVISION & FILM
*Rebellion; Stonemouth; Quirk; Love Hate.* Film includes *Assassins Creed; Standby; Tiger Raid; History's Future; The Stag; Darkness on the Edge of Town; How To Be Happy; Stay; Snow White and the Huntsman; The Eagle.*

AWARDS
Irish Film and Television Award nomination for *Love Hate*.

Darragh Kelly
*Jim*

RECENT THEATRE CREDITS
*The House, Last Days of a Reluctant Tyrant, Three Sisters, All My Sons, Philadelphia Here I Come, Give Me Your Answer Do, Macbeth, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Colleen Bawn* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin); *Threepenny Opera, Romeo & Juliet* (Gate Theatre, Dublin); *Our Father* (Almeida Theatre); *Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice* (Second Age); Darragh is a founding member of Rough Magic credits including *Taming of the Shrew, Improbable Frequency, Is This About Sex, Don Carlos, Attempts on her Life, The Train.*

TELEVISION & FILM
*The Clinic; Proof; Proof 2; Ballykissangel; Paths to Freedom; Stew; Judge John Deed.* Films include *Veronica Guerin; Batman Begins; Nora; Intermission; The General; Boxed; Connemara; Double Carpet.*

AWARDS

Frank McCusker
*Finbar*

RECENT THEATRE CREDITS
*Lally Scut* (Tinderbox/MAC, Belfast); *The Waste Land* (Enniskillen International Beckett Festival); *Richard II, The Picture of Dorian Gray, Julius Caesar, Romeo & Juliet, Defender of the Faith, The Collection, The Playboy of the Western World* (Abbey Theatre); *The Aristocrats* (Abbey Theatre/Lincoln Centre, New York); *Life Support* (West End); *The Ugly One* (Royal Court); *Coriolanus* (Shakespeare’s Globe); *Lonesome West* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast); *Shadow of a Gunman* (Tricycle Theatre).

TELEVISION & FILM
*Penny Dreadful; The Fall; 1916; Titanic, Blood & Steel; Stokes; The Tudors; Bad Girls; Murder Prevention; Pulling Moves; Any Time Now.* Film includes *Hunger; Inside I’m Dancing; David*
Copperfield; Affair of the Necklace.

AWARDS
5 nominations for the Irish Times Theatre Awards and won Best Supporting Actor for his role in Defender of the Faith. Won the Helen Hayes Award (Washington DC) for The Playboy of the Western World.

Lucianne McEvoy
Valerie

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE CREDITS
A Doll’s House (co-production with National Theatre of Scotland), Blood and Ice.

RECENT THEATRE CREDITS
Lovers (Cumbernauld Theatre); Andromache, Recollections of a Butterfly Collector (Oran Mor); The Libertine (Citizens Theatre); Leaving Planet Earth (Edinburgh International Festival/Grid Iron); Woyzeck (Corcadora); The Ladies Cage (The Finborough); Festen (Birmingham Rep); Riders to the Sea, Translations (Abby Theatre); Thebans (Theatre Babel); Hinterland (Abby Theatre/National Theatre/Out of Joint); Dolly West’s Kitchen (Abby Theatre/Old Vic).

TELEVISION & FILM
Ny-Ion. Film includes In America; The Making of Us.

Lucianne trained at Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College Dublin.

Creative Team Biographies

Amanda Gaughan
Director

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE CREDITS
Hedda Gabler, Hidden

RECENT THEATRE CREDITS
Romance (Traverse Theatre/Cumbernauld Theatre); James Tait Prize (Traverse Theatre; National Theatre of Scotland; University of Edinburgh); Niqabi Ninja (Independent/Platform); Perfect Stroke (Traverse Theatre/Òran Mòr); Hecuba (Dundee Rep); Forest Boy (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland/Edinburgh Fringe/Arcola Theatre); Last One Out (Scottish Opera); Roman Bridge (National Theatre of Scotland); Fox Attack (National Theatre of Scotland/Òran Mòr); After the End (Citizens Theatre); The Natives (Old Vic New Voices); Medea, Blackout (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); Fit for a King (The Arches).

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR CREDITS
The James Plays (National Theatre of Scotland/National Theatre of Great Britain/Edinburgh International Festival).

Amanda is an Associate Artist at The Lyceum, she trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, previously she was the Esmee Fairbairn Trainee Director 2010/11 at the Citizens Theatre; winner of the Bank of Scotland New Directors Award 2011/12 from the National Theatre Scotland.

Francis O’Connor
Designer
ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE CREDITS
Private Lives, Dark Road, Everyone, Peter Pan, Othello, Man of La Mancha, Anna Karenina, A Christmas Carol, Faust Parts 1 & 2. The Guid Sisters, Six Characters in Search of an Author (co-productions with National Theatre of Scotland).

RECENT THEATRE CREDITS
DruidShakespeare (Galway/ Irish tour/ New York); Loserville (Garrick Theatre); DruidMurphy cycle of plays by Tom Murphy – Conversations on a Homecoming, A Whistle in the Dark, Famine (Galway/ London/ New York/ Dublin); Written on the Heart (RSC/ Stratford, Duchess/ London).

RECENT OPERA
Perichole, Il Turco in Italia, A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Garsington Opera); Eugene Onegin (Grand Park Opera); Silent Night (Minnesota); Flying Dutchman (Bern); Maria di Rohan, Luisa Miller (Buxton Festival); Benzin (Chennitz, Germany); Wut (Bern); Capriccio (Grange Park); La Traviata (English National Opera); Rusalka (Monte Carlo).

Simon Wilkinson
Lighting Designer

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE CREDITS
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Hedda Gabler, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, The BFG, Bondagers, A Christmas Carol, Cinderella, The Infamous Brothers Davenport (co-production with Vox Motus).

OTHER THEATRE CREDITS
Tracks of the Winter Bear (Traverse Theatre); Dragon (Vox Motus/National Theatre of Scotland/Tianjin People’s Art Theatre); The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish, Roman Bridge, Truant, A Sheep Called Skye (National Theatre of Scotland); The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo, Bright Black, Slick (Vox Motus); In Her Shadows (Jabuti Theatre); Thingummy Bob, 13 Sunken Years and Antigone (Lung Ha); Light Boxes (Grid Iron); The Lost Things, Feral (Tortoise in a Nutshell); This Wide Night (Tron Theatre); Kora (Dundee Rep/Magnetic North); Sex and God, Pass the Spoon, Wild Life, After Mary Rose (Magnetic North); Whatever Gets You Through the Night (The Arches); Chalk Farm, The Static (ThickSkin); HeLa, Skewered Snails (Iron Oxide); The Mark of Zorro, The Hunted (Visible Fictions); PUSH (Curious Seed); Encourage the Others (Almeida Theatre); After the End, Topdog/Underdog (Citizens Theatre); Honk (Royal & Derngate).

AWARDS
Simon won, with set designer Jamie Vartan, the 2015 CATS Award for Best Design Bondagers following nominations for Slick, Pass the Spoon, and Dragon. Simon’s design for Dragon was exhibited as part of Make:Believe at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Michael John McCarthy
Composer/Sound Designer

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE CREDITS
Bondagers.

RECENT THEATRE CREDITS
Rapunzel, Into That Darkness, Fever Dream: Southside, Sports Day (Citizens Theatre); The Cheviot, The Stag & The Black Black Oil, The BFG, Steel Magnolias (Dundee Rep); Light Boxes, Letters Home,
The Authorised Kate Bane (Grid Iron); In Time O’ Strife, Blabbermouth, The Tin Forest, The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish, Truant & Dolls (National Theatre of Scotland); Bright Black, The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo (Vox Motus); A Gambler’s Guide to Dying (Gary McNair); Under Milk Wood (Tron Theatre); Glory (Janice Parker Projects); The Winter’s Tale (People’s Light & Theatre, Philadelphia); Educating Ronnie (MacRobert Theatre/Utter). Other companies he has worked with include The Arches, Lung Ha, Platform, Playgroup, Poor Boy, Theatre Uncut & Youth Music Theatre UK.

MJ is lead artist on Turntable, a participatory arts project in association with Red Bridge; has composed music for the BBC Radio series Movement First, Music First and Nina & the Neurons and has toured internationally with Zoey Van Goey, Aidan Moffat and Lord Cut-Glass as well as playing on records by RM Hubbert, Jo Mango, Alasdair Roberts and Trembling Bells/Bonnie Prince Billy.

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company, or the Lyceum as it is fondly known, is one of Scotland’s leading producing drama companies. Established in 1965 it has gained a reputation for excellence in both classical and contemporary work. It is committed to developing the country’s considerable indigenous talents while presenting the best of international drama to the public. The Lyceum aims to reach a wide audience, whatever their age or experience of theatre going, and to enable them to access the richly imaginative world of drama. The Lyceum Theatre Company has worked with co-producers across the country including The Bush, London, the Citizens Theatre, Glasgow, National Theatre of Scotland, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Nottingham Playhouse, Horsecross Arts, Vanishing Point Theatre Company, Stellar Quines, Dundee Rep Theatre and Vox Motus.