

## **ROSCOMMON** drama festival

**Friday 2nd** Kilrush Drama Group

### **The Lonesome West**

*By Martin McDonagh*

Kilrush Drama Group was formed in December 1963 and took part in their first Festival in 1965. The group established the South Wicklow Drama Festival in 2005 and have performed 62 plays in the last 48 years.

Part of the Leenane Trilogy by Martin McDonagh, *The Lonesome West*, tells of the frustration of a young alcoholic priest striving to reconcile two middle aged, feuding brothers, and to stop them killing each other. He also has to ward off the romantic advances of the young "Girleen", in a parish he calls the crime capital of Europe. Martin McDonagh's ability to mix hilarious comedy with violence and dark moods makes him one of today's most popular playwrights.

**Saturday 3rd** Nenagh Players

### **Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde**

*Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher*

Nenagh Players were formed in 1943 and have presented at least one production every year since. They entered the festival circuit in the 90's and won the All Ireland Confined in 1998 and 2000. They moved into the Open section and have qualified for Athlone on several occasions. Their production this year is a new version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale. On the fog-bound streets of Victorian-era London, Henry Jekyll's experiments with exotic "powders and tinctures" have brought forth his other self, Edward Hyde, a sensualist and villain, free to commit the sins Jekyll is too civilized to contemplate. When Hyde meets a woman who stirs his interest, Jekyll fears for her life and decides to end his experiments. But Hyde has other ideas, and so the two sides battle each other in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse to determine who shall be the master and who his slave.

**Sunday 4th** Prosperous Dramatic Society

### **Deadline**

*By Robert Massey*

Prosperous Drama Group has been in existence for over 80 years. They are a very active group producing a one-act and a three-act play each year as well as youth theatre productions and pantomime. They won the All Ireland twice and were winners of our festival in 2011 with David Mamet's *November*.

*Deadline* is a hilarious comedy drama set in the cut throat of the Celtic tiger era of big business. It follows the fierce rivalry of two salesmen as they compete to win the biggest incentive the company has ever offered. We see just how low they are prepared go to win! RTE's "The View" called it "Fantastic, witty and brilliant". The Sunday Independent's critic wrote, "*Deadline* is a very, very funny play"

**Monday 5th** Compantas Lir

### **The Curious Savage**

*By John Patrick*

Compantas Lir are based in the Claregalway and Carnmore areas of Co. Galway. They compete on the festival circuit each year and have successfully qualified for the All Ireland on a number of occasions.

*The Curious Savage* is a warm-hearted comedy about a woman whose husband recently died and left her ten million dollars. Her stepchildren feel she is spending the money foolishly and when they cannot get their hands on the money, commit her to a "sanatorium" with the hope of "bringing her to her senses." Inside she meets a group of social misfits, who become her friends, and as she is introduced to their world, she finds herself reluctant to leave. While the mood is high comedy, this is a heart-warming tale, with bittersweet laughter that draws you in and makes you, like Mrs Savage, reluctant to leave!

**Tuesday 6th** Estuary Players

### **Three Days of Rain**

*By Richard Greenberg*

We welcome Estuary Players from Baldoyle, Dublin on this their first visit to our Festival. They won the All Ireland in 2008 with *The Price* by Arthur Miller and again in 2009 with *Guirgis' The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*.

*Three Days of Rain* was short listed for the Pulitzer Prize in 1998. This beautiful play keeps us in suspense until the very end. The three characters play dual roles while they bring this absorbing and truly memorable story to fruition. The play is an intelligent and timeless look into the constant struggle to understand and accept the ways in which the events of the past create the shape of the present.

**Wednesday 7th** Phoenix Players

### **The Cripple of Inishmaan**

*By Martin McDonagh*

The Phoenix Players have entertained and enthralled audiences in the Western region since their first appearance in 1945. They are regular contributors on the festival circuit. We welcome them back to our festival again.

*The Cripple of Inishmaan* is a strange comic tale in the great tradition of Irish storytelling. This story revolves around a young cripple named Billy Claven who wants to leave the island. A Hollywood film crew shows up on the neighbouring island, and Billy sees his chance to escape. He goes with the film crew to the United States only to learn that it is not everything he dreamed it would be!

This is a break-your-heart, cruelly funny play.

**Thursday 8th** Glenamaddy Players

### **The Odd Couple**

*By Neil Simon*

Glenamaddy Players were established in 1972 and have been competing on the Festival circuit for over 30 years enjoying great success. The group qualified for the All-Ireland on a number of occasions with plays such as *Sorcerers Tale*, *The Communication Cord*, *Eclipsed*, *The Playboy of the Western World* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

First produced in New York in 1965, Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* has had many successful theatre runs internationally, garnered Tony awards among others, and spawned a much loved film and TV series. This is a revised version of the play, written in 1985, by Simon for a female cast.

Best friends and polar opposites Olive Madison and Florence Unger are the mismatched roommates. The "guys" of the original are now the "girls" and the weekly poker game has been swapped for an evening of *Trivial Pursuits*. Comedy ensues when homemaker, clean-freak and health conscious Flo moves in with the lackadaisical, devil-may-care Olive. Enter into the fray the uproarious Costazuela brothers and Friday night friends, Vera, Renee, Sylvie and Mickey and what ensues is a laugh-a-minute evening's entertainment!

**Friday 9th** Kilmeen Drama Group

### **The Weir**

*By Conor McPherson*

Kilmeen Drama Group is based in Rossmore, West Cork. They are one of the longest established groups in the country and have qualified for the All-Ireland Finals in Athlone on fifteen occasions since their first appearance there in 1976. In 2006 they were crowned All-Ireland Champions and were winners again in 2011 with their award winning production of *A Whistle in the Dark* by Tom Murphy.

*The Weir* depicts an evening at a small bar, located on a farm in rural Ireland, where the proprietor, three other local men, and a woman, new to the area, meet, drink, and tell stories. The banter consists of friendly local talk and gossip that is uneventful in itself, but overall reveals the characters' isolation and the figurative ghosts that haunt them.

**Saturday 10th** Bunclody/Kilmyshall Drama Group

### **By The Bog of Cats**

*By Marina Carr*

Bunclody/Kilmyshall Drama Group were reformed in 1998 by the late Fr. Frank Stafford. They were winners of our festival in 2009 with their excellent presentation of *The Wake* by Tom Murphy, directed by Knockcroghery native Pat Connaughton.

Set in rural Ireland, *By the Bog of Cats* is an uncompromising tale of abandonment and shocking self-sacrifice. Hester Swane is a woman born of gypsies and tied to the bleak landscape where she has lived her whole life. Her lover, Carthage Kilbride, with whom she has a young daughter, is about to be married to another woman who will bring him land, wealth and respect. Discarded and ignored, Hester sets out with a reckless fervour to reclaim the life that she had.