

## THE WEIR

by **Conor McPherson**

directed by Hamish Lawson

17 - 24 March 2018

**The Weir** by Conor McPherson is included in Michael Billington's 'The 101 Greatest Plays: From Antiquity to the Present Day'. Coming from the doyen of modern British theatre criticism, that represents a considerable accolade. In 1999, two years after its first performance, it received the Laurence Olivier award for Best New Play.

This modern masterpiece is set in a remote rural Irish bar. Three of the local regulars swap spooky stories to impress a young woman from Dublin newly moved into the area. But the story which she has to tell is the most unsettling of all... The play, however, is much more than a series of chilling stories. It looks closely at the isolation of the characters involved in what must be one of the most sparsely populated areas of Ireland. Their companionship and support of each other, as well as for the outsider, make their loneliness bearable. Beautifully written, it is, by turns, atmospheric, haunting and humorous.

The cast comprises Martin Pritchard, Mike Gallagher, William Nolan, Sandy McGregor and Carole Mullineux. The action is continuous and, as written, will be performed without an interval. The curtain will be 'down' by 9:30pm and we would love you to stay for a drink and the post-show 'craic' (arranged for Tuesday, Thursday and the final Saturday nights).

The cast and I would like to dedicate this production to the memory of Graham Boswell who was originally to have directed it and whose guiding hand will be greatly missed.

Hamish Lawson



### BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS for THE WEIR

**Ticket prices - members: £8 and non-members: £10**

**PLEASE :** - use the Ticket-Line tel no **01625 540933** for ALL messages for the ticket secretaries - to reserve seats, make returns, or leave any messages and enquiries; messages are picked up daily in the booking period

Answerphone / Ticket-Line / on-line bookings	from Monday 19 February	members and general public
Box Office on four Saturdays	from Saturday 24 February	11 am till 12 noon
Postal bookings	send in at any time	will be dealt with after 19 February

**Please note that the on-line booking facility will close at 6pm on the night of a show, and that all reserved tickets must be paid for by 7.15 latest on the performance night, or such tickets will be deemed available for resale**

## Adjudication



The GMDF Adjudicator came to see **The Winter's Tale** mid way through its run at the Green Room, and was full of praise for its modern and imaginative staging.

She specifically commented on:

- the interesting and effective concept for the setting of the production
- the great support from both technical and wardrobe teams
- the intelligent and exciting direction
- great characterisation all round
- the terrific ensemble playing.



Two different worlds, of the court and Bohemia, were created, much to the surprise of the audience who were presented with psychedelic wall art and costumes from 1968. This switch was emphasised by the music and sound and lighting effects, and the move from formal court furniture and clothing, to country scenes and animated, knockabout humour.



Relationships between characters worked really well, and individually each actor successfully portrayed their nature - from Jim's desolate anger and jealousy, which eventually gives way to remorse, to Alison's evident decency and integrity. Both spoke their lines with clear conviction. Likewise, Kirsty and Niall achieved a perfectly natural, credible and sensitive pairing.



Celia showed all the tough resilience needed for Paulina; Simon acted with effortless flair; David's mellow voice tones and Fred's gentle humour worked well.



Tim was hugely entertaining as the clown-figure, Ian brought impressive range to his various roles, and Steve used his deep voice to the full. Clare gave an expressive performance, alongside Christine's lighter playing.



Altogether, a 'groovy' production, of which all involved should be very proud.

## Play & Stage

This Season has seen not only difficulties in the process of casting but also acute shortages on the Stage Management and Technical fronts; a problem which is not peculiar to the Green Room but is hitting other Societies too. So, next Season we are reverting to the five-play format which is not an admission of defeat but a recognition of the new reality.

Your PSCC has been reading, reviewing, assessing, discarding and tortuously selecting plays for the forthcoming Season. It is intended to announce that New Season shortly - just as soon as the obligatory fanfare can be found.

Our current preoccupation, however, is to appoint the cast and crew for this Season's exciting final production – **We are Three Sisters**. Pursuant to our first audition, several parts have happily been cast and a follow-up audition for those who are interested, but were unable to attend before, is to be held at the Green Room on the 6 February at 7.30pm. We hope to see you there.

Mike Bullimore  
Master of Revels

## Newsflash

The Executive is pleased to announce that Mike Bullimore is taking on the role of Chairman of the Play & Stage Committee until the next AGM. We hope that at that point he will stand for election to the post.

## LITTLE THEATRE GUILD

The next national LTG conference will be held at The People's Theatre Newcastle upon Tyne over the weekend of 20-22 April 2018.

The People's is one of the most important and well established Amateur theatres in the UK with a 500 seat auditorium and a brand new Studio theatre now equipped with seats from our very own WGR!

The theme for the weekend is "Keeping ahead of the Game". Workshops will include Running a Youth Theatre, Fundraising in a time of Austerity, Hair and Wigs transforming characters. The Saturday night play will be Irving Welsh's **Trainspotting**. So for a weekend in a truly vibrant city with a proper Geordie welcome, contact Mike Rogerson

## CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE

Feedback is invited from all members on the ideas and plans for alterations to the theatre, to improve storage, and extend and improve back-stage and front of house accommodation. Please contact Ian Cole to learn more, or make comments.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Do come and join us! Social events are an excellent way of meeting other members

### MUSIC NIGHT 8 February 8pm

Come and be amazed at the wealth of musical talent on show!

Always a very enjoyable and fun evening.

### Tuesday 10 April 8pm

John Wallace presents a musical history of Alderley Edge Festival Hall entitled **JUMP and JIVE, JITTERBUG and JAZZ** all about music of the 40's, 50's and 60's when the Hall was the **Regal Ballroom**. Come to the **Green Room** and get lost in nostalgia and enjoy John's entertaining lecture with music

If you need any more information please contact Di or any member of the Social Committee

## Adult Acting course

**running at the Lowry, Salford - for anyone over 18, from 13 February; cost around £100 for ten weeks**

You will work with a professional acting tutor, Rick Bithell, RADA trained, who has worked with the BBC and various theatres in the NW, and taught at Staffordshire University on their Film and Media courses.

You will be guided through a range of technical approaches to acting, balanced with time for practical exploration and creative ideas.

At the end, there will be an informal performance of your work in the rehearsal space of short monologues, duologues and scene extracts for you to share with family and friends.

More information on:

[www.thelowry.com/workshops/adult-acting-course](http://www.thelowry.com/workshops/adult-acting-course)

## Required



### A vibrant and enthusiastic **RECRUITMENT MANAGER**

(Part of the role of the Registrar)

This new role to encourage new members of all ages and abilities to join the Society

The applicant will need to have an excellent working knowledge of Social Media and Print/Broadcast Media, plus a willingness to talk to people as individuals or in groups

The role will also include setting up links with all the other local drama societies in the area.

Details and further information available from Ian Cole, Chairman.

## Youth Group

Happy New Year to everyone, we hope the year got off to a great start for you all. It was lovely to be back at drama and to see everyone. The weeks are running away already!

We have a couple of plans in place for this term:

Our groups 1 (9.30 -11.00 am) and 2 (11.15 -12.45 am) will run a small selection of mini shows for the end of this term; further details nearer to the time, but this will take place on our last day of term at the Green Room. It was lovely to hear that so many enjoyed the Christmas shows and thanks so much to parents, family and friends who came to support.

Over the next few weeks, we will be doing a camera workshop. This is a great way to differentiate the skills required for 'Screen verses Theatre' and also good for the group to see themselves acting.

I have been asked about when the Summer School will take place this year. This is a totally separate course to the Saturday drama sessions and is an opportunity to work with scripts; each person who attends will get to play a great part. I have proposed the week of Monday-Friday, 13 - 17 August. If anybody is interested in attending this Summer course, please let me know as soon as possible - details can be found on my website: <http://gtschoolofdrama.wix.com/gt-school-of-drama>

I still need to decide on what play we will be doing. Those who have been coming to the drama group for a while will know that, sadly, our excellent writer Ben Shotton is no longer able to write the scripts for us. If anybody has any (simple set) ideas of plays which you would like to suggest, please feel free to let me know.

I'm looking forward to the rest of the term and thank you to everyone for your continued support to the youth group.

Best wishes, Steph, Lesley and John

# Diary & Notices



Tuesday 6 February	<b>Audition for We are Three Sisters</b> Additional chance to read for parts	7.30 pm
Thursday 8 February at the Green Room	<b>Music Night</b>	7.45 pm for 8 o'clock £2 to pay on the door
17 - 24 March 2018 including free after-show discussions with director and cast on 20, 22 & 24 March	<b>THE WEIR</b> by <b>Conor McPherson</b> This production will play without an interval	directed by Hamish Lawson
Tuesday 10 April at the Green Room	<b>John Wallace</b> <b>TALK with music -</b> <b>'Alderley Edge Regal Ballroom</b> <b>between the 1940's and '60s'</b>	7.45 pm for 8 o'clock £2 to pay on the door
5 - 12 May 2018	<b>MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION</b> by <b>George Bernard Shaw</b>	directed by Helen Bingle & Jill Stringer
Summer 2018	<b>Gawsworth Celebration Evening</b>	Dates and details to come
23 - 30 June 2018 at the Green Room, plus Friday & Saturday 6-7 July at Quarry Bank in Styal	<b>WE ARE THREE SISTERS</b> by <b>Blake Morrison</b>	directed by John Chidgey assisted by Victoria Johnson

## Memberships

Welcome to new social member, David Hollick, and to Miss Emma Phythian as a student member. If you have any queries about the currency of your membership, please contact Ian McBride,



## 100 Club

The lucky Christmas winners - each of £50 - were: Ian Cole, Norma Rogerson, Sheila Chatburn, Beryl Lowery, Tracy Burns and Ann Estridge.

Do you have any items for the newsletter, or comments to make about it?  
If so, please send any feedback or articles for publication to: [newsletter@wgrsoc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wgrsoc.org.uk),  
or post to the theatre, 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5JH.

The newsletter is edited by Chris Hills for the Wilmslow Green Room -  
registered Charity Number **1153665**, and the next edition will be published in April.