



The Playboy of the Western World

by J M Synge

6 - 13 April

The year is 1907, the setting a shebeen (selling illegal poteen) on the west coast of county Mayo. **Playboy** is a play with a history. Written when Ireland was still a British colony, Synge's play has become a classic of the Irish theatre. Combining high farce with gothic horror, and written in a wonderfully poetic style celebrating the revival of the Gaelic language (and the seeds of Irish nationalism), it is truly unique.

The play tells the story of a lonely dreamer, Christy Mahon who takes refuge in the pub claiming to have killed his father. Naturally his story captivates the locals and he becomes an instant hero, the landlord's daughter being particularly smitten. Other

admirers include the local widow and the village girls. Christy blossoms as his reputation grows; he even wins all the prizes at the sports. However retribution is nigh with the appearance of a sinister stranger. Mayhem and violence ensue as the comedy escalates with several twists to the tale.

At its first performance at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin there was uproar from the largely nationalist audience at what they thought was a slur on the national identity and morals. They exploded at the mention of the word 'shift', as no lady would refer to her undergarments, and a minor riot ensued. The actors at the second performance were shouted down with threats of 'Kill the Author', and the next night police were stationed inside and outside the theatre. It took an English and later an American tour to establish its reputation.

We are delighted to pack all this drama and intrigue into our special little WGR black box.

The cast includes Charlie Gallagher, Steve Williamson, Mike Gallagher, Eilidh Pollard, Toby Harris, Vicky Johnson, Ewan Henderson, Mark Jephcott and Scarlett Dean.

Mike Rogerson directs assisted by Linda Batson

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS for PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

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 11 March	members and general public
Box Office on four Saturdays	Saturdays from 16 March	11 am till 12 noon
Postal bookings	send in at any time / priority given to members	processed from 11 March

Please note that the on-line booking facility will close two hours before a performance, and that all reserved tickets must be paid for 30 mins before the show, or such tickets will be deemed available for resale

Chairman's news

Update on Redevelopment of the Theatre and provision of a Defibrillator

To ensure that members are kept up to date about the above, I can inform you that we have now submitted a Planning Application to East Cheshire Council for the redevelopment of the Workshop and the building of a single storey building at the back of the theatre. We will decide at a later date when to submit plans for the increase in size of the present Props Store above the Main Entrance into a meeting room and the redevelopment of the entrance foyer. I would be grateful if you could write in support of our application, if you feel able, as we have had one objection to the application. Details: 19/0456M 85, CHAPEL LANE, WILMSLOW SK9 5JH.

We have heard back from our business neighbours, who have agreed to provide financial support towards the installation of a Defibrillator on the wall of Well Pharmacy. We have also heard from the Town Council - who are supportive of the scheme - in the form of the defibrillator itself and also cover for its maintenance. We will now be investigating its installation.

Ian Cole, Chairman

YOUTH GROUP

The youth drama group currently has places available for any person interested in trialling a session.

We have two groups: group one runs from 9:30 am until 11 am and is for ages 8 to 12 years; and group 2 runs from 11:15 am until 12:45 pm and is for ages 12 to 16 years.

I now offer the option to come along for half a term of five weeks, so if anybody is interested in joining us for the remainder of the five week term taking us up to Easter, please contact me to arrange attendance.

There is no experience required and members who attend learn skills in a fun and relaxed environment.

We will be performing some mini end-of-term shows for the end of this term and I will send details out regarding the timings nearer the time.

If you have friends who would like to book a trial session, please ask them to email me at gtschoolofdrama@btinternet.com

Many thanks to everybody for your continued support, which without, I would be unable to run these drama sessions.

Best wishes and thanks, *Steph*

Social Event

Reminder:

Northern Night 7 March 2019

Our next social event is a **Northern Music Night** with spots for monologues and humour

£2 to be paid on the door

Bar open - nibbles provided

If you would like to take part please contact
Chris McClory

PLAY & STAGE NEWS

The committee is currently considering directors for next season, and are pleased to confirm that Mike Rogerson and Celia Bonner will direct NELL GWYNN for us in June. Other directors will be announced soon.

We still need two teenage female actors for PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD. Anyone interested should contact us.

Backstage Crew shirts have arrived - if you want to buy one, please contact Bruce - only a tenner.

Audition dates: on both nights **Tues 7 and Thurs 9 May** for both plays - Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? and The Flint Street Nativity at 7:30 pm - see page 4

John Chidgey, Chairman pssc@wgrsoc.org.uk

FILM CLUB

The Green Room's first ever Film Club night was a triumph!



The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society went down very well with members and the public alike. We attracted people who had never been inside the theatre before and there was a really warm and friendly atmosphere in the auditorium. It was very much like going back in time with applause at the end of the film! We received a great deal of praise on the viewing experience, sound quality and comfort of the auditorium.

The next film, **Silver Linings Playbook**, another feel-good comedy/drama, will be shown on Friday 22 March (7:00pm for 7:45pm).

Please do arrive early for drinks and an ice cream and stay after the film for discussions if you can.

Peterloo will now be shown as the April film. See you there!!

Please note that Film Nights are now confirmed for Fridays - 22 March, 26 April, 17 May, and 5 July. [This is an amendment to the original Thursday dates.]

Anne Cichocki, Ewan Henderson and Hilary Pinnock

WANTED

An important prop needed for our production of **Jeeves and Wooster** in June is a Silver (metal) Cow Creamer. Sadly the only ones presently available are in the region of £350 - £5000 and the production budget really can't run to that!

Does anyone know where we can borrow one please?

If you do please contact Ian Cole, the play's director: chairman@wgrsoc.org.uk



LADIES DAY

by
Amanda Whittington
9 - 16 February



We achieved nearly full houses for the week's run of **Ladies Day** - using our maximum number of seats, too. And audiences thoroughly enjoyed following the ups and downs of the four Hull fish factory workers who splash out on a day at the races. Fine hats, a few bottles of fizz, and lots of fun for the women; and a range of parts to play for the sole male in the cast, who was required to be line-manager, TV commentator, businessman and jockey - and more - in the course of the evening.



LITTLE THEATRE GUILD

The next LTG national conference is at Highbury Theatre in Sutton Coldfield over the weekend of 29 - 31 March.

The theme is 'Making the most of your theatre'.

The play performed will be Sam Holcroft's **Rules for Living**.

Full details of the workshops, guest speakers, accommodation and costs are on our website.

Or just contact me for details.
Mike Rogerson: mail@wgrsoc.org.uk

DIALECT WORKSHOP

Saturday 23 February

I was fortunate to have recently attended the Society's annual workshop, the theme this year being that of dialects.

It was presented by the very talented Derek Poulson who took us all on a whirlwind tour of the British Isles by way of regional accents, stopping every once in a while to entertain us with an amusing anecdote or two. One minute we were in the dockyards of Glasgow and the next on the set of 'The Only Way Is Essex'.

He explained that often the key to performing an accent successfully is to identify from which part the voice was produced, be it the front of the mouth, the throat or the nose. Derek talked in particular about performing an Irish accent, primarily for the benefit of the members of the cast of forthcoming production of

The Playboy of the Western World, who were all in attendance. He demonstrated a 'generic' Irish accent whilst making suggestions as to how to make it more specifically from the west coast of Ireland, where the play is set.

After lunch, Derek made himself available to anybody from the cast of **Playboy** who wanted help on particular passages from the script. And shortly before leaving what had been a most useful and entertaining few hours, I overheard Derek advising that he intended coming to see **Playboy**. No pressure then!

Alison Fleming



Diary & Notices

Thursday 7 March	<u>Social Evening</u> A Northern Night at the Theatre music, monologues and merriment	7.45 for 8 pm £2 - pay on door
Friday 22 March [Subsequent screenings on Fridays 26 April, 17 May and 5 July]	GR Film Night <u>Silver Linings Playbook</u> All welcome	7pm for 7.45 start £5 for members, £6 for non-members
6 - 13 April	THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD by John Millington Synge	directed by Mike Rogerson 7.45 pm
Tuesday 7 May and Thursday 9 May	Auditions <u>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?</u> <u>The Flint Street Nativity</u>	both nights for both plays 7.30 pm
GMDF 3 - 8 June Players Theatre, Cheadle Hulme and Wilmslow Guild 11 - 15 June	'The Wine Tasting' goes to local One Act Festivals	more details to come
22 - 29 June [please note these dates, now reverted to those originally planned for this production]	JEEVES AND WOOSTER IN PERFECT NONSENSE by David & Robert Goodale	directed by Ian Cole 7.45 pm

MEMBERSHIPS We are pleased to welcome the following - Ian Tyler, Yvonne McLean, Caroline Sacco, Sarah Priestley who are joining as full members; with Timothy Armstrong and Sheila Robinson as social members.

Ian McBride



Reviews

Do you know you can post reviews of our plays on Facebook and Twitter? Or send your comments to Trip Adviser? Or let us know via the Green Room website and our own direct email contact addresses what your thoughts are? We would love to hear from you.



Did you find the theatre welcoming? Were the seats comfortable, and the ice cream good? Did you enjoy the play you saw, and were our set and costumes all you might have hoped for? **Do tell us!**

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,
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**.

The next edition will be published in May.