

**Co. Tipperary Open Drama Festival 2006, Holycross
Friday March 17th to Sunday March 26th at 8:30pm**

**Final Night: 8:00pm
Adjudicator: Flor Dullea**

- Friday 17th:** **Up and Running** by Derek Benfield (Confined)
Holycross Ballycahaill DG
- Saturday 18th:** **Our Lady of Sligo** by Sebastian Barry (Confined)
Skibbereen Drama Group
- Sunday 19th:** **The Drawerboy** by Micheal Healy (Open)
Nenagh Drama Group
- Monday 20th: Schools Drama**
- Tuesday 21st:** **Sive** by John B Keane (Confined)
Droichead Nua Players
- Wednesday 22nd:** **Train Spotters** by Irvine Welsh (Open)
Silken Thomas Players
- Thursday 23rd:** **The Mai** by Carina Carr (Open)
Thurles Drama Group
- Friday 24th:** **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** by Dale Wasserman (Open)
Brideview Drama Group
- Saturday 25th:** **Son of Man** by Denis Potter (Open)
The Palace Players, Fermoy
- Sunday 26th:** **Orphans** by Lyle Kessler (Confined)
Ballyduff Drama Group

Enquiries to:

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Admission: €10.00 - Season Ticket: €35.00

Concession & children who must be accompanied by an adult: €5.00

**Friday 17th March 2006 - CONFINED – Up and Running by Derek Benfield
Holycross Ballycahaill Drama Group**

Synopsis of Play

Veteran TV talk show host, Patrick Summer, is desperate to impress his new producer, Reg Godfrey, who visits Patrick's smart Dublin flat for drinks. But Patrick doesn't count on the intervention of Jenny, a pretty girl who arrives on the same evening as Reg, intent on infiltrating Patrick's private life and even passing herself off as his wife.

As the mayhem spirals, Patrick's real wife returns unexpectedly from a Paris trip. He is forced into a series of spiralling lies and subterfuge. With the reluctant help of his bed-hopping friend, Trevor, Patrick valiantly tries to get rid of Jenny and to convince his wife he is not having an affair. Most importantly, though, he tries to save his career which is already on a downward curve, after poor reviews in the tabloids and is at the mercy of the puritanical Reg.

History of Group

In existence for well over thirty years, the group has competed and won in many festivals. We have reached the All-Ireland Confined Finals on many occasions, picking up several directing, acting and setting awards along the way. We have staged critically acclaimed productions from Sive by John B. Keane, Run for your Wife by Ray Cooney to Murder in the Cathedral by T.S. Eliot.

**Saturday 18th March 2006 - CONFINED – Our Lady of Sligo by Sebastian Barry
Skibbereen Drama Group**

Synopsis of Play

In Jervis St. Hospital, in Dublin, in 1953, Mai O'Hara lies dying attended by a nursing sister and visited by the uneasy figures of her husband, Jack, her daughter, Joanie and her dead father. Fuelled by alcohol, passion and despair, this is the story of her flamboyant but destructive relationship with Jack, the lost country of her childhood and the unfulfilled expectations of a generation in the wake of Irish independence.

History of Group

Having returned to the festival circuit in 1998 after a long absence, the group has featured in four Confined Finals since 2000. Its most successful campaigns have been 2004 when it came second in Warrenpoint with "Stolen Child" by Bairbre Ní Chaoimh and Yvonne Quinn, and 2005 when Billy Roche's Cavaliers gained second place once again in Tralee. Previous final offerings were Brian Friel's Lovers in 2000 and Lover's Meeting by Louis Dalton in 2002.

**Sunday March 19th 2006 – Open - The Drawerboy by Michael Healy
Nenagh Drama Group**

Synopsis of Play

It is 1972 and a self-absorbed young Toronto actor, Miles, arrives on a small farm to do hand-on research for an up and coming role in a play about country life. He is sent to live with two middle-aged farmers, Morgan who is not too thrilled with the young city dweller and Angus who is unable to remember that the young actor is there due to a head injury sustained in London during World War II. Miles unwittingly stumbles upon the truth about their past and, as a result, their lives are forever altered. What begins as an amusing portrayal of rural and urban culture clash slowly peels away layers of forgotten truth and lies exposing hidden secrets of love and tragedy.

History of Group

Founded in 1943, the Nenagh Players have presented at least one production every year since. They won the Confined All-Ireland in 1998 with *Flight to Grosse Ile* written and directed by Jim Minogue. They won the Confined All-Ireland again in 2000 at Ballyduff with their production of Dermot Bolger's *April Bright*. They reached the finals in Athlone in 2002 with *The Lonesome West*, their first venture into the Open section.

Monday March 20th 2006 - Schools Competition

**Tuesday March 21st 2006 - Confined- Sive by John B. Keane
Droichead Nua Players**

Synopsis of Play

John B. Keane, a native of Listowel, where his family still resides and run the famous pub. Keane's plays, be they tragedy or comedy, always blend in the bit of humour and the general public can always relate to his writing. His works include *The Field*, *Many Young Men of 20*, *The Year of the Hiker* and *The Bodhran Maker*.

History of Group

Droichead Nua Players played the three-act circuit for the first time in 2005, participated in eight festivals, won all eight and went through to the All-Ireland Final for Confined Groups in Siamsa Tire, Tralee. There they sold out the venue with the ever-popular The Kings of the Kilburn High Road. The group finished third in the All-Ireland final and Mike Joe O'Connell was chosen Best Actor for his portrayal of Mairtin.

**Wednesday March 22nd 2006 - Open - Train Spotters by Irvine Welsh
Silken Thomas Players**

Synopsis of Play

A drug-fuelled roller coaster rides through the streets, pubs and dark recesses of Edinburgh life with a bunch of drop-outs, liars, psychos and junkies as they hurtle towards self-destruction.

History of Group

Silken Thomas Players have been competing on the full length Festival Circuit for 15 years. They were Confined All-Ireland Winners in 1991 with Stags and Hens and again in 2004 with Bent. In 2005, their first year competing in the Open section they qualified for the finals in Athlone with The Lieutenant of Inishmore and won the Best Stage Management Award.

**Thursday March 23rd 2006 - Open - The Mai by Marina Carr
Thurles Drama Group**

Synopsis of Play

The history of a family and their broken and cruel love remembered, recounted and relived by Mai's eldest daughter. She fuses past, present and lore into a story as intimate, unique, disturbing, affectionate and recognisable as all family stories.

History of Group

First entered the festival circuit in 1986, won the All-Ireland Confined and went from strength to strength in the Open Section. In 1996 their production of Dancing at Lughnasa made it to Athlone, followed by Someone Who'll Watch Over Me and Faith Healer in '97

and '98. In 2003 they qualified again with The Enemy Within and in 2004 won many awards with The Belfry. The group has a membership of 50 and produces two full length plays each year plus an evening of theatre where new and seasoned members get the opportunity to perform or direct short pieces from various plays.

**Friday March 24th 2006 - Open - One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Brideview Drama Group, Tallow**

Synopsis of Play

Randle P. McMurphy, seeking to escape imprisonment at a work farm, feigns insanity and finds himself committed to a mental institution where he has to battle the absolute power and control of Nurse Ratched. His arrival there sets in motion a series of tragic events that affect all the patients, including himself.

The group: *This is our 5th year on the Festival Circuit and we won the Confined All-Ireland Finals in Tralee in 2005 with Jim Nolan's Moonshine. This is our first venture into the Open Circuit and we look forward to providing great entertainment of a consistent high standard.*

**Saturday March 25th 2006 - Open - Son of Man by Denis Potter
The Palace Players, Fermoy**

Synopsis of Play

This play tells the story of Jesus from his last day in the wilderness to his death on the cross. The occupying Romans in Jerusalem put down religious fanatics and their followers with brutality. Many died by crucifixion. Jesus, a man capable of friendship and anger, of doubt and laughter, is haunted by the question "Am I indeed the Messiah" and by the knowledge of his fate.

History of Group

Founded in the autumn of 1989, the Palace Players have become regular contenders in Festivals up and down the country. They were All-Ireland winners in the Confined Section in 1995 with One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Their festival productions of recent years include Martin McDonagh's The Lonesome West, Patrick Galvin's The Last Burning, John B. Keane's The Chastitate and, last year, Tom Murphy's The Wake which took them to Athlone.

**Sunday March 26th 2006 – Open - Orphans by Lyle Kessler
Ballyduff Drama Group**

Synopsis of Play

Orphaned brothers Treat and Philip live in a squalid Philadelphia tenement. Dominant sibling, Treat, fearful that he will lose his brother, keeps him imprisoned in their home and terrorises him with tales of what would happen were he to go outside. Treat, meanwhile, works the streets as a petty thief. He meets Harold, a prosperous-looking drunk. Thereafter things begin to change.

History of Group

Ballyduff Drama Group has been performing on the Three Act Festival circuit for over twenty years. In that time they have won Best Production, Best Presentation, Best Stage Management and Best Actor awards at the Open All-Ireland Finals in Athlone.