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BRYAN DELANEY



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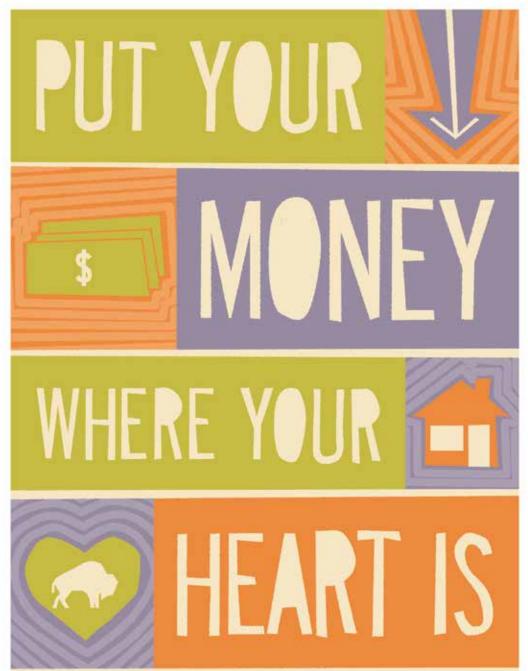


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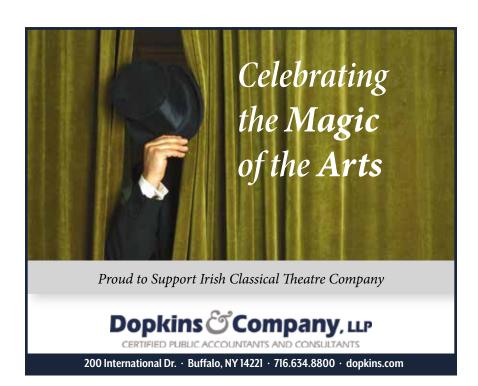
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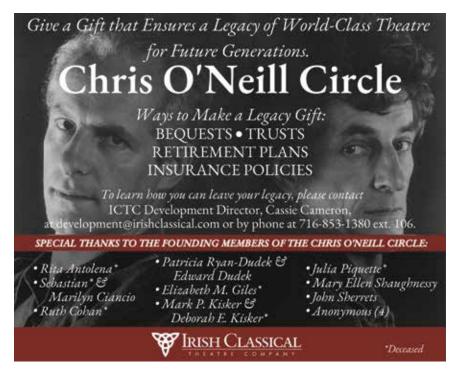
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The Irish Classical Theatre Company mourns the passing of Frank J. McGuire. Mr. McGuire was a beloved Trustee, and above all, a friend and person of consummate integrity. His legacy will live on through the immeasurable impact he made on this Theatre and its families.

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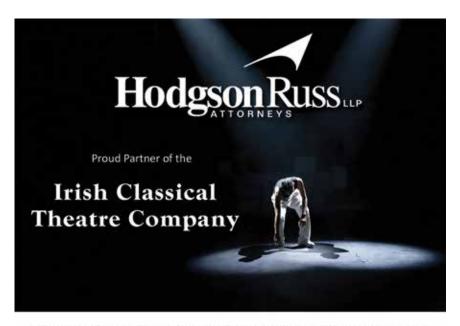
This list represents contributions between February 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022.





ICTC extends its sincere appreciation for the financial support provided by the County of Erie. Its generosity allows ICTC to maintain the high level of artistic excellence for which it is celebrated.

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PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE



I'm fascinated by the relationship between the comedic and the tragic - where they collide, where they diverge, but also where they fuse to the point that they're indistinguishable.

In *The Onion Game*, I set myself the challenge of trying to write a full-on, uninhibited comedy that would give an audience a rollicking night out at the local playhouse! But in taking on this challenge, I also wanted to take a risk by trying to generate that laughter with some pretty dark (some might say brutal) themes and material. So in this particular comedy, amid all the high jinks and irreverence, the dark and the tragic are never far beneath the surface. And with a bit of luck, at times they will sit hand in hand with whatever laughter the play generates, to make you as uncomfortable as you are amused.

For me, the most interesting way to tackle the darker elements I wanted to explore was to play with exaggeration and extreme behaviour to refract our human flaws back to us through a kind of demented prism. The form of the play is not realism, but something more stylised. We might call it a heightened realism, where we put just enough pressure on reality to bend it out of shape and detonate the comic energies. Kinking reality in this way gave me the chance to explore certain aspects of human nature more piercingly than a more 'realistic' telling of the same story might allow. And also (to be less highfalutin about it) it's just a lot of fun to write like that.

The result of all these self-involved musings is *The Onion Game* – my bash at a comedy, and a dark one at that. It's a play about many things - self-delusion, identity, betrayal, revenge, narcissism, marriage, monomania, the death rattle of a family, and how the sins of the parents can destroy the children - to name a few of the play's concerns. Or at least that's how I see it from where I'm sitting. From where you're sitting it might be about a bunch of other things entirely. And that's exactly as it should be.

But the one thing we will all be absolutely sure to agree on by the end of the show is this: whatever the play's themes and preoccupations, whatever its twists and turns, whatever the reasons I wrote the dang thing in the first place - the play is most certainly... and very definitely... without any shadow of a doubt... at least partially... about onions.

Thank you so much for coming to support the wonderful Irish Classical Theatre, in whose extraordinary company I'm delighted to find myself (in every sense of that phrase) once again.

I hope you enjoy the show.

— Bryan Delaney



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O'BRIEN FORD~

Irish Classical Theatre Company presents

THE ONION GAME

By Bryan Delaney Directed by Greg Natale

Cast

Onion	Stan Klimecko*
Pearl	Kelly Meg Brennan
Jacques	Ray Boucher
Delivery Man/Publisher	David Lundy
Ogie	Johnny Barden
Milly	Bennett Goldberg

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

TIME: The Present

PLACE: North County, Dublin. Rural. A large house with an onion farm out back.

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

Production Staff

Director	Greg Natale
Production Stage Manager	Reneé Radzavich
Assistant Stage Manager	
Set Designer	David King
Lighting Designer	Tony Rajewski
Sound Designer & Original Music	Tom Makar
Costume Designer	Vivian Del Bello
Hair/Make-Up Designer	Susan Drozd
Fight Director	Adriano Gatto
Dialect Coach	Josephine Hogan
Props Master	Annie Pascucci
Production Manager	Greg Natale
Illustrator	Michael Gelen of Inkwell Studios
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The Onion Game is produced by special arrangement with THE GERSH AGENCY, 41 Madison Avenue, 28th Floor, New York, NY 10010



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Onion Game is the second play that I have directed by Irish Classical Theatre Company's Resident Playwright, Bryan Delaney. The first play being *The Seedbed* in the 2016-17 season. Directing a Bryan Delaney play is always a wonderful and yet disturbing journey into the complex worlds that he creates of families dealing with every conceivable manor of relationship issues and strife. This has been the common thread for the two plays I have worked on of Bryan's.

The Onion Game takes an almost farcical look at what on the outside, could potentially be a story about a lovely rural Irish farming family of four. Though, in what has become classic Bryan Delaney style, appearances are seldom what lies beneath. Very quickly the story reveals just who these people truly are, who wants what from who, who is deceiving who, and enough plot twists and deceptions to fill an onion shed to the roof.

This dark comedy was produced by Irish Classical in our 2019-20 season and ran for only one week before being shut down due to COVID-19 restrictions. But, for that one week, the cast and crew had a wonderful experience bringing to life one of the most dysfunctional families that I have ever had the good fortune to encounter on the stage. The entire design team and crew, along with almost all the original cast have returned for this second production, now having had over two years to marinate in the world of the play. The two new cast members have seamlessly meshed into this most off-kilter of worlds, wonderfully completing the circle of this family's bizarre behaviors. So please, buckle in, keep your hands inside the car at all times, do not feed the animals, and enjoy the ride.

- Greg Natale, Director



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Who's Who ... Cast

Johnny Barden (Ogie)

Johnny Barden is a Buffalo actor with a degree in Performance from Niagara University. His recent theater roles include: *Tribes* (Daniel), *The Undeniable Sound of Right Now* (Nash), *Sive* (Carthalone), and *Superior Donuts* (Kevin). Recent Film and TV roles include: "One Night Only" (Norman), "May God Strike Me Down" (Dan), "The Hallow King" (Leon), "A Job Well Done" (Robert), "Floaters" (Cody), and "Mr. Heal Size" (Felix).

Ray Boucher (Jacques)

Ray is pleased to be returning to The Irish Classical Theatre, where previous credits include: Sive, Frost/Nixon, The Cobbler, Sweet Bird of Youth, as well as in the ICTC's collaborations with the BPO, The Bourgeois Gentleman and Amadeus. Ray has performed for over twenty-five years in the United States and abroad, including theater companies in New York City; Newport, RI; and Buffalo, NY. Ray spent some years doing sketch and stand-up comedy in New York City at such clubs as The Gotham City Club, The New York Comedy Club, and The Comedy Cellar. He also wrote, directed, and starred in a sitcom in Beijing, China. Ray is on the Theater faculties of Buffalo State College, SUNY Geneseo, and Niagara County Community College.

Kelly Meg Brennan (Pearl)

Kelly is a committed, diverse creator and performer. From operas to plays to her own devised work, she brings great passion and dedication to arriving at the truth of each character and performance moment whether embodying an aria of heartache or lobbing sarcastic comebacks in a farcical play. Rooted in appreciation of the myriad personal qualities of those around her, Kelly has a keen sense of empathy and kinesthetic understanding, which has enabled her to portray a colorful assortment of 50+ characters in a range of professional venues over the past 21 years. Theater allows us to open our understanding of our shared humanity; it shows the world from another's perspective and invites you on their journey. Kelly holds an MFA-IA and teaches Voice and Theater at Buffalo State College. Thanks and love to her parents and to Joe and Meggie.

Bennett Goldberg (Milly)

Bennett is thrilled to be making her debut at ICTC! She is a 7th grader who participates in drama and the string orchestra at her school. She has enjoyed performing in many musicals at ATA including *Shrek Jr., 42nd Street*, and *Mamma Mia*. One of her favorite musical experiences was playing Little Girl in *Ragtime* at Musicalfare Theatre. In addition to playing piano and cello, Bennett enjoys reading, creating, and spending time with her family and dog Georgie.

Stan Klimecko (Ogie)

Stan is thrilled to be back on stage at Irish Classical and in the role of Onion! He has previously appeared as brother "Ed" in Entertaining Mr. Sloane and in his Artie-nominated turn as Boss Finley in Sweet Bird of Youth. He has a wide range of credits in lead and featured roles in film, television and on stage in New York, Los Angeles, Buffalo and across the country. An Artie winner and multiple-time nominee, he is proud to call Western New York his artistic home! Some local favorites include: The Killing of a Chinese Bookie, A Streetcar Named Desire (Stanley, Torn Space); A Streetcar Named Desire (Mitch), Summer and Smoke (Studio Arena); The Whipping Man, Driving Miss Daisy (Jewish Rep); Journey's End, Wait Until Dark (Kavinoky); The Diary of Anne Frank, The Roar of the Greasepaint (Lancaster Opera House). You can check out more at: www.stanklimactor.com

David Lundy (Delivery Man/Publisher)

David is an Artie Award-winning actor who appeared with ICTC in An Ideal Husband, Hay Fever, Lady Windemere's Fan, Golden Boy, Sive, Sense and Sensibility, Frost/Nixon, The Onion Game, and both A Midsummer Night's Dream and Amadeus, with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall. He has worked locally for Shakespeare in Delaware Park, the Kavinoky Theatre, Jewish Repertory Theatre, New Phoenix Theatre, Artpark, Against the Grain Theatre Festival, Lancaster Opera House, and Tornspace Theatre. David appears as Harry S. Truman in the one-man-show Give 'Em Hell, Harry! at various venues. A proud member of the Screen Actors Guild, and a founding member of ARTA, the Association of Regional Theater Artists, he was seen in cinemas nation-wide in "A Quiet Place Part II," directed by John Krasinski. More information at www.davidlundy.com

About The Playwright, Bryan Delaney

Bryan is a playwright and screenwriter from Dublin and is currently Playwright-in-Residence at Irish Classical Theatre Company. From 2010 to 2014 he ran the New Playwrights Programme at The Abbey Theatre, Ireland's national theatre.

His stage plays include *The Seedbed* (winner Theater Masters/Aspen Institute Visionary Playwright Award; nominated James Tait Black Prize for Drama; nominated L. Arnold Weissberger Award; finalist Paul Newman/Joanne Woodward Drama Award); produced by New Jersey Repertory Company, Redtwist Theatre, Chicago, and Irish Classical Theatre Company, Buffalo; public reading at Manhattan Theatre Club; *The Onion Game* (winner King's Cross New Writing Award, London; winner BBC Writersroom competition, London); produced by Irish Classical Theatre Company, Buffalo; public readings at New York Stage and Film and the Vineyard Theatre off-Broadway; *The Cobbler* (Katharine Cornell Award; winner 16th International Playwriting Competition); produced by Irish Classical Theatre Company, Buffalo; *Solemn Mass for a Full Moon in Summer* (translation of Michel Tremblay's play, produced by Rough Magic, Dublin), *The Bohemians* (produced at Carnegie Hall, New York), *Stretching Larry* (produced at Theatre Upstairs, Dublin).

His TV show *Bailbirds* is currently in development with ID8 Multimedia. He is the co-screenwriter and a producer of the narrative feature film, *The Sounding*, directed by Catherine Eaton, starring Frankie Faison (*The Wire*) and Harris Yulin (*Ozark*). The film won two dozen awards on the festival circuit including four festival grand prizes, and was called "impressively ingenious writing... a lyrical and audacious debut feature" by Pulitzer-Prize-winning film critic Joe Morgenstern. *The Sounding* is distributed by HBO in 25 countries and is available domestically on Amazon and Apple TV. His TV pilot *Jordan* (co-written with Daniel Dowling) was one of the selected scripts in the BAFTA Rocliffe TV Drama Competition in the U.K. and was chosen for the BAFTA Forum List.

Other awards include two playwright's bursaries from The Peggy Ramsay Foundation, two travel awards and an artist's bursary from The Arts Council of Ireland. He was awarded the Samuel Beckett Centenary International Writer's Residency at the Irish Cultural Centre in Paris.

Bryan has taught playwriting and screenwriting at Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania and on the Fordham University/Primary Stages MFA in Playwriting. He is a regular guest of the New Play Festival at the University of Iowa where he works as a dramaturg with the playwrights on the MFA in Playwriting. He currently teaches playwriting, TV writing, screenwriting and fiction writing at Harvard University Summer School and Harvard Extension School, where he was the winner of Harvard's James E. Conway Award for Excellence in Teaching Writing.

Bryan is delighted to be back with his dear friends at Irish Classical Theatre Company for this remounting of the world premiere production of *The Onion Game*.

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Who's Who ... Production

Vivian Del Bello (Costume Designer)

Vivian is happy to be back at ICTC. Her costume design work has been seen on The Andrews Stage in 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, A Child's Christmas in Wales, The Onion Game, Entertaining Mr. Sloan and Minding Frankie. She is a proud graduate of the Design/Tech Program at Emerson College. Vivian is also serving as Wardrobe Supervisor for the fourth consecutive Season and has worked on over 30 productions at ICTC.

Susan Drozd (Hair & Make Up Designer)

Susan can't believe that we started this pandemic with The Onion Game and she is hoping that we will bookend it with this remount! Susan is the Resident Hair, Wigs & Make-Up Designer for ICTC, a position she also holds at MusicalFare. Some of her favorite ICTC designs include Blithe Spirit, The Lion in Winter, The Night Alive, Frost/Nixon and Midsummer with the BPO. She is also a director, actor, and dramaturg. Her credits include: Directing (most recently) MusicalFare's All is Calm, MF's My Fair Lady (2010-11 Artie Award, Outstanding Direction of a Musical), MF's Fun Home at 710 Main (2019-20 ARTIE Award, Outstanding Direction of a Musical), MF's Violet, MF's Master Class and Alleyway Theatre's World Premiere of The Yellow Wallpaper, Performing in ICTC's Amadeus and Blithe Spirit, MusicalFare's Lombardi at 710 Main; Jewish Rep's Awake and Sing and Shakespeare in Delaware Park's Measure for Measure. Susan is the proud theatre teacher for Buffalo Seminary, a member of the Buffalo Soundpainting Ensemble and Co-Founder of Rogue Repertory #roguerep. Education: Niagara University/DePaul University & Lincoln Center. To finish out this theatre season: Susan is designing A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder for Musicalfare. Next Season, in addition to the excitement that awaits next Season as ICTC's resident HMU designer, she is happy to announce that she is directing a re-imagined All is Calm that will be moved to Shea's 710 Main in the fall, and in the early summer: 12th Night - a musical adaptation of the Shakespeare classic (both for Musicalfare). Love and Light. #drozdart #hivefives

Adriano Gatto (Fight Director)

Adriano has previously worked at ICTC as the Fight Director on Stage Kiss, Waiting for Godot, Tis Pity She's a Whore, Entertaining Mr. Sloane, Golden Boy, The Night Alive, and The Liar, among others. Regionally, select work as a Fight Director includes: the world premieres of Revival: The Resurrection of Son House and Heartland, The Niceties, To Kill a Mockingbird, Last Gas (Geva Theatre Center); The Diary of Anne Frank, Wait Until Dark (Arizona Theatre Company); One Man, Two Guvnors, Into the Breeches! (Chautauqua Theatre Company); Equivocation, The Crucible (Kavinoky Theatre); Carmen (Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra); Don Giovanni, Proving Up, and The Marriage of Figaro (Eastman Opera Theatre). As a Certified Fight Director and Certified Fight Instructor with Fight Directors Canada, Adriano has taught stage combat for such institutions as the AFDC National Certification Conference (Calgary, AB), Eastman School of Music, SUNY Buffalo State and Niagara University, where he serves as the Artist in Residence. Heartfelt gratitude to the entire team here at ICTC. Huge love to my H2RO!

Josephine Hogan (Dialect Coach)

Josephine Hogan is a founding member of the Irish Classical Theatre Company and Red Thread Theatre. She has performed in theatres all over Ireland and played principal roles on many stages in WNY. Josephine is a recipient of the YMCA's Toast of Buffalo Award for her contribution to the Cultural Life of Western New York, an Arts Council Award for Artistic Excellence, the AGL's Irish Woman of the Year award and Artie awards for acting and directing.

Who's Who ... Production

David King (Set Designer)

David King has been designing for theater, opera, and movies for over 30 years. He also was one of 5 designers for the parade for the Opening Ceremonies of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. Sets for ICTC include *Da* and *Playboy of the Western World*. Since 1995, David has been the Resident Set Designer for The Kavinoky Theatre and has also designed sets for Paul Robeson Theatre and Theatre of Youth. David lives in Buffalo with his wife Rebecca.

Tom Makar (Sound Designer)

Tom has been Sound Designer/Composer for over 250 productions for various Western New York theatres. He received an Artie Award for Technical Achievement – Sound and Music for 2019 Shakespeare in the Park The Tempest. He received an Artie Award for Supporting Actor as "Morty" in JRT's After the Revolution. He played Gonzalo in SIDP's The Tempest. Other notable roles include: Richard in Seafarer and Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Twelfth Night. Tom directed the Kavinoky's Hank Williams: Lost Highway and Always...Patsy Kline, Ujima's Side Man and New Phoenix's Harvey and My Three Angels.

Greg Natale (Director)

Greg has been a theatre professional for over forty years. He has worked on the stage, as well as in film and television, from Buffalo, to New York City, and Los Angeles. Show's most recently directed by Greg were, ICTC's The Onion Game which was shut down mid-run due to COVID, and Second Generation Theatre's critically acclaimed production of Angels in America. During the COVID break from live theatre, Greg directed over twenty video projects for ICTC as well as producing and First Assistant Directing both of its feature length films. He has been an Associate Director with the Irish Classical Theatre Company for the past sixteen years and was a Director-in-Residence for the Jewish Repertory Theatre for seven years. Greg was a scenic designer, technical director, stage carpenter and resident director for Working Stages, a NYC theatre company dedicated to the creation of new American plays. In Los Angeles, he was co-founder of the Most Excellent Theatre Company. WNY directing credits include work with Second Generation Theatre, New Phoenix Theatre, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Curtain Call Productions, Subversive Theatre Collective, and the Department of Theatre and Dance at U.B. For the past twenty years, Greg has taught the Meisner Technique of Acting, and Acting for the Camera for the Department of Theatre & Dance at the University at Buffalo.

Annie Pascucci (Props Master)

Annie is the Costume Designer for *Violet* at the University at Buffalo, where she is pursuing a BA in Theatre with a minor in Polish Language Studies. Her credits at UB also include working as a Costume Shop Assistant for *Red Bike* and Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager for *Everybody*. She has also performed onstage in the 2018 *Christmas Spectacular* starring The Radio City Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall.

Reneé Radzavich (Production Stage Manager)

Reneé is pleased to be returning for her twelfth Season as Production Stage Manager for ICTC. In May 2009, she received her BFA in Theatre Design and Technology from the University at Buffalo and is currently studying there to receive her MA in Arts Management in the spring of 2022. In addition to working with ICTC, she has also had the pleasure of working with Artpark (Cinderella, The Sound of Music, Mary Poppins, Peter Pan), Shakespeare in Delaware Park (All's Well That Ends Well, Othello), Torn Space Theater (The Fastest Clock in the Universe, Endwords), and Studio Arena Theatre (An Evening with Stephen Henderson). Reneé would like to thank her friends and family for their continued love and support.

Who's Who ... Production

Tony Rajewski (Lighting Designer)

Tony, hailing from the Catskills of New York, is a Lighting Designer whose design focus is in satire, dance, and avant-garde theatre. Tony's designs have been seen in the Buffalo area for several years, and he was nominated for an Artie Award for Outstanding Lighting Design for Shine at ARTWNY. His most recent designs include Forget Me Not, Crazy For You, Marat/Sade, and In the Fullness Thereof. He has also designed for the Lexington Children's Theatre and the Krannert Center for Performing Arts. Tony holds an MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Lighting Design and Technology.

Cali Smith (Assistant Stage Manager)

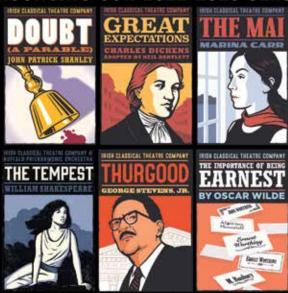
Cali has been working in professional theater since the age of eighteen. They have been on the Stage Management team in many local theater companies including: the Kavinoky Theatre Shakespeare in Delaware Park, and the Alleyway Theatre. Cali is excited to be joining Irish Classical Theatre Company again this Season as an Assistant Stage Manager.

Eliza Zanolli-Stiles (Assistant Stage Manager)

Eliza Zanolli-Stiles is so excited to finally be back to Assistant Stage Manage for Irish Classical. She is a graduate of Buffalo State College with a degree in Theatre and Television & Film Arts. She has previously worked with Irish Classical on *Tis Pity She's a Whore, A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Sea Marks.

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On Wednesday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m., The Onion Game will be performed with American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and Open Captioning (OC). ICTC is incredibly grateful to our sponsors who help make our programming more accessible to all.

The services for The Onion Game were made possible by the Theatre Development Fund (TDF) TAP-Plus Accessibility Grant, in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts. ASL services are provided by Deaf Access Services, an affiliate of People Inc., and captioning services by c2 (caption coalition), inc.

For more information about ICTC's Accessibility Programs, or if you would like to contribute to the continuation of these initiatives, please contact ICTC's Director of Development, Cassie Cameron, at 853-1380 x106 (voice), or development@irishclassical.com.

Land Acknowledgement

Irish Classical Theatre Company, in residence at The Andrews Theatre, acknowledges that it operates on land that falls within the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy of Nations, also known as the Six Nations, including the Seneca, Tuscarora, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk Nations. This territory is covered by The Dish with One Spoon Treaty of Peace and Friendship, a pledge to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. It is also covered by the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, between the United States Government and the Six Nations Confederacy, which further affirmed Haudenosaunee land rights and sovereignty in the State of New York.

We honor the legacy of the Indigenous People who have made, currently make, and will continue to make this land their home for thousands of years. We also honor those who have suffered at the hands of colonialism, genocide, and land theft, including those who are no longer with us, having been lost to the history of violence against Indigenous People. We acknowledge their forced removal from this stolen land, and admire their perseverance through the horrific crimes committed against them and many attempts to wipe out their culture and quietly assimilate them into Western society over many generations.

ICTC is committed to becoming advocates for inclusion as we move into the future. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and learn alongside the people who live within these lands. For more information, we encourage you to visit

https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com.

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ici e staii	
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General Manager	Elizabeth Paladino
	Chris Kelly, Greg Natale, Fortunato Pezzimenti
Production & Facilities Manager	Greg Natale
	Cassie Cameron
Director of Marketing & Public Rela-	tionsMary Loliger
Audience Services Manager	Stephen Schapero
Accountant	Ken Schupp
Grant Writing Consultant	Leann Metz
Production Stage Managers	Michelle Eisen, Reneé Radzavich
Director of House Management	Katherine Boswell
	Madeline Allard, Jeremy Kreuzer, Melissa Moore
Box Office Associates	Addy DeLong
	Jim Daley
	Todd Schultz
Company Archivist	Mary Ann Moriarity
Resident Photographer	Mark Duggan, Nickel City Headshots
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Illustrations for Irish Classical Theatre Company's 31st Season By Michael Gelen, Inkwell Studios

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> Contact ICTC Development Director, Cassie Cameron, at development airishclassical.com or by phone at 716-853-1380 ext. 106 to find out more.

> > PLEASE NOTE: fivers seating is not guaranteed in seats bearing specific names.



Donor List

Individual contributions help ensure ICTC remains a dynamic component of Buffalo's cultural ecosystem. Thank you to all of our donors. To see a complete list of ICTC's Family of Supporters, please visit our website www.irishclassical.com/sponsors. This list represents donations between February 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022.

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Below is a list of tribute gifts memorializing and celebrating a special loved one. We thank those of you who demonstrated your thoughtful affection by making gifts in their honor.

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We apologize for any errors or omissions.

To request changes, please contact ICTC's Director of Development,
Cassie Cameron, at 853-1380 x106 or development@irishclassical.com.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our ability to present live theatre, the Irish Classical Theatre Company is eternally grateful to the loyal supporters that donated the value of their unredeemed 2019-2020 tickets to the theatre, in lieu of a refund. This gesture was an investment in ICTC's future and was pivotal to helping ICTC survive this crisis. Because of supporters like you, ICTC can continue to create intimate and engaging theatre.







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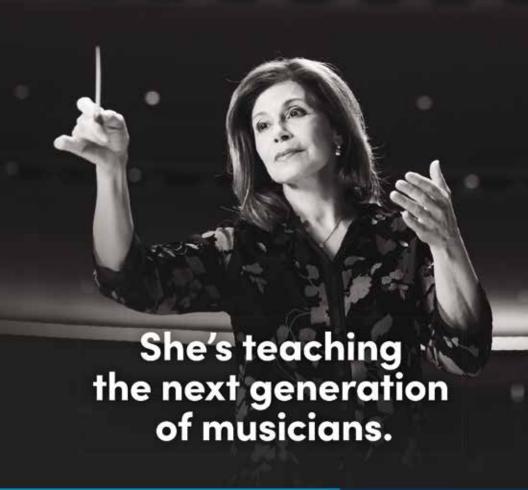
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