

Cricklewood Community Play Association

The Annexe, Childs Hill School, Dersingham Road, NW2 1SL

Tel : (081) 450 0027



ARTS UPDATE

September 1993

" The Bodhran Makers Come to the Galty "

We are thrilled to announce that the CCPA's production of J. B. Keane's novel *The Bodhran Makers* is all set to go ahead as scheduled in December '93.

The Irish Post recently described the project as "the biggest event of its kind ever to be staged in England and for that matter Ireland"

John B. Keane, Ireland's leading popular author, is closely associated with Kerry. This novel is regarded as his finest portrayal of rural Kerry life. Our adaptation remains true to the warmth and spirit of that original. John B. is very supportive of the project.

The play will have a professional production team with an impressive track record and will

be of an extremely high artistic standard (a previous collaboration was seen at the Royal National Theatre). The production will play to audiences of between 6,000 and 8,000 at the Galtymore Dance Hall, for two weeks in early December 1993.

The project has attracted substantial support from local MP's and many dignitaries, including Dick Spring TD. Coverage in the press has been extensive, and will increase considerably closer to the production. Filmmaker Gerry Gregg is planning an RTE documentary about the production.

Rehearsals begin in September. We are now ready to invite over 300 people from Cricklewood and the surrounding areas to take part as actors, dancers, musicians, singers, electricians, costume makers etc

Want to get involved or find out more?

Come to the

PUBLIC MEETING

✓ Free entry

in preparation for

✓ Enjoy a few tunes

" The Bodhran Makers "

on

✓ Meet other participants

Tuesday 7th September, 1993

✓ Bar and Sandwiches

8pm

The Aran Centre, The Galtymore, Cricklewood, NW2

For more details ring Bernie at the Play Office on ☎ (081) 450 0027

✓ Disabled access

THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY PLAY. DON'T MISS IT. YOU DON'T NEED EXPERIENCE JUST LOT'S OF ENTHUSIASM

Production Team

The CCPA has attracted four of the most successful and experienced Community Play Producers to work with us on The Bodhran Makers.

Peter Cox - (Co-adaptor) Is a regular contributor to Channel 4's Brookside. Peter has written a number of large scale community plays and last collaborated with Robert, our director and Rod, our composer, on Ma Hat, Ma Coat and the Gandhi Girls which opened at the Grand opera House, Belfast before touring Ireland and eventually the National Theatre at the South Bank.

James Helps - (Designer) Has designed over 150 plays, ballets and musicals. His film work includes Robin Hood, Silhouette and Leon the Pig Farmer. He is currently designing the set for the forthcoming thriller, Bedlam, starring Craig Fairbrass of Prime Suspect and Anita Dobson, formerly of Eastenders.

Rod McVey - (Composer) Has worked as Musical Director for a large number of productions including Godspell, Jesus Christ Superstar, Annie and Oliver. Rod has also composed a large amount of theme and incidental music for television and is very much involved with the recording and producing scene in Ireland. Touring work has included stints with Andy White, Dolores Keane and Van Morrison on his UK '90 tour

Robert Rae - (Director and Co-adaptor) Resident of Cricklewood for ten years is a trained teacher, drama therapist and director. He has worked for 7:84 and his previous productions have been seen at the Gate Theatre, Belfast Opera House and the National Theatre to name but a few. Robert has also previously directed very successful and highly acclaimed Community Plays.

Venue

We are absolutely thrilled that the Galtymore is hosting the Bodhran Makers. As many of you will already know the Galtymore is the most famous Irish Dancehall in Britain and the Aran Rooms (our venue) is a new plush and beautifully furnished dancehall. The Aran will become home to the small Kerry village of Dirrabeg at one end and the town of Trillick at the other. The audience will move between the two as they follow the characters on a journey that will change their way of life forever. Playgoers will then have free entry to the Galty on dance nights

Soho Community Play

July 1993.

We recently finished performing our first Community Play in Westminster and have got the bug - we want to do more! Although we had never done anything like that before, we decided to "go for it" and never looked back. It was interesting meeting and working with people of different ages and backgrounds. Although nervous at first, over the course of the three months (which flew by), we were amazed at how our self confidence grew and

we couldn't wait for the actual performance. The time quickly came and it was wonderful to perform the play in front of a live audience. The team spirit was excellent and we both felt a great sense of personal achievement and satisfaction from being part of it. We would certainly recommend the experience to everyone - it's quite hard work but is extremely worthwhile, exciting and great fun to do!

Sally and Cheryl Burgess

Here's How You Can Join In

Acting: You don't need any experience (but if you have it's still for you). It's lots of fun. Come along and see what it's all about.

Music: We intend to put together an orchestra of at least 50 musicians. We want a full range of instruments: Irish, orchestral, brass etc.

Dancing: The project includes set, ceili and solo dancing. If you've got experience come along; if you haven't, here's your chance to learn.

Singing: There will be lots of opportunities for singing, mainly choral but some solo.

Technical: Help is needed with carpentry, scaffolding, preparing the venue, painting etc. Are you interested in any of these? We'd love to hear from you.

Stage Managers: Gathering materials and props, running the show. Do you want to be part of the stage management team?

Electrics: We need help with rigging lights, setting up sound equipment etc.

Costumes: We need people who can make costumes in the workshops or at home, hemming, unpicking, dyeing materials, help with laundering.

Volunteers: To help with the administration of the office, box office, ticket sales, secretarial, photocopying and answering the telephone.

Publicity: Could you help displaying posters and distributing leaflets etc?

Transport: We will need lifts in the daytime and in the evening and will need help transporting goods, materials etc.

Creche: Could you help by caring for the younger ones during rehearsals and the play?

If the answer is yes, or maybe, to any of the above:

- ✓ Come to the public meeting
- ✓ Ring Bernadette at the Community Play Office (081) 450 0027
- ✓ Visit the Play Office during office hours at Childs Hill School, Dersingham Road. We are in the huts in the playground. PLEASE DON'T GO INTO THE SCHOOL.

Disabled Access

We are working to maximise disabled access to the project. Our Disabilities Co-ordinator is Phil Baker. If you have a disability and would like assistance to take part in the project please contact the office.

Progress Report

Events

We have had a number of successful and enjoyable fund-raising events: A race night, a 25 card drive, a jumble sale and yet another of our by now well known Ceilis.

We had a very exciting and hectic day at Roundwood Park. The CCPA marquee ran a tombola, face painting and set dancing events. In keeping with the tradition of the Wren some of our intrepid performers danced in the beer tents and at the crossroads.

Script Writing Weekend

This provided an opportunity for local people to have a say in the adaptation process of turning the Bodhran Makers book into our Community Play. Robert and Peter were able to take away ideas from the people who came and incorporate them into the script which will be used for the play.

The weekend was enjoyed by everyone and we all came away eagerly looking forward to rehearsals in September.

Funding

We are delighted that funding agencies have been very impressed with the work done by the Association.

To date the project has been supported by LB Barnet, LB Brent, LBGC, LAB, LB Camden (help in kind), Milly Apt-horp, John Lyons, Paul Hamlyn, The Post Office and John Laing.

Forthcoming Fundraising Events

Plans are underway to hold a Ceilidh/Concert and raffle. We are also looking to hold another jumble sale in the near future. Further details to follow.

Steering Committee: P.Baker, A.Geaney, B.Hourigan, J.Hourigan, M.Hourigan, K.O'Connell, M.Quirke, R.Rae, E.Rudkin, M.Ryan, J.Wardlaw

Trustees: M. Hourigan, Fr.M.Kennelly, B.McCloone, K.O'Connell, M.Ryan

Patrons: Fr H.Haines, K.Livingstone MP, J.Marshall MP, M. Matura, B.Mulkere, Federation of Irish Societies, Tanaiste D.Spring
