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**IRISH THEATER COMPANY DRUID BRINGS THE CONTEMPORARY  
COMIC MASTERPIECE THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN,  
WRITTEN BY MARTIN MCDONAGH AND DIRECTED BY  
GARRY HYNES, TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
AT ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE MAY 4-14**

**BERKELEY, April 4, 2011**—*The Cripple of Inishmaan*, a “fiendishly funny sendup of rural Irish life” (*Washington Post*), performed by the Galway-based theater company **Druid**, comes to Cal Performances for a two week engagement **May 4–14**. Directed by Druid founder and Tony Award–winner **Garry Hynes** and written by Tony Award–winning playwright **Martin McDonagh**, *The Cripple of Inishmaan* will perform in Zellerbach Playhouse **Wednesday** through **Sunday, May 4--8** and **Tuesday** through **Saturday, May 10--14**.

*The Cripple of Inishmaan* is set in 1934 on the Irish island of Inishmaan, one of three Aran Islands. The play tells the story of the odd, disabled boy Billy Claven, also called Cripple Billy, who—like all the eccentric, hard-luck, storytelling characters in town—gets excited when a Hollywood moviemaker comes to the neighboring island of Inishmore to film a documentary. This background story is true—the resulting documentary film, Robert J. Flaherty’s “Man of Aran,” is today considered a classic of the genre—and McDonagh’s imagining of what went on behind and off the scenes is both funny and gut-wrenching. “*The Cripple of Inishmaan* is a must see. It’s brilliant, gripping drama, hilarious, thoughtful, and sometimes genuinely scary” (*DC Theatre Scene*).

The production is on a five-month, nine-city, coast-to-coast tour of the United States as part of Imagine Ireland, a year-long season of Irish arts in the United States, supported by Culture Ireland. This is the company’s third visit to Berkeley. The *San Francisco Chronicle* called last season’s *The Walwarth Farce*, a production that was “extremely funny and distressing with almost every breath - or gasp” (*SF Chronicle*).

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## DRUID

**Garry Hynes, Mick Lally, and Marie Mullen** founded **Druid** in Galway, Ireland, in 1975. The three graduates of the National University of Ireland, Galway wanted to establish the first professional theater company in Ireland based outside of Dublin. Since its founding, Druid has presented both classic dramatic works and challenging new plays, many of which it commissioned. The company, whose official website is [www.druidtheatre.com](http://www.druidtheatre.com), has had two artistic directors in its history: Garry Hynes (1975–91 and 1995 to date) and Maeliosa Stafford (1991–94).

Druid's history of presenting the plays of **Martin McDonagh** goes back to February 1, 1996, with *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by the then-unknown playwright. The production went on to worldwide acclaim, culminating in four Tony Awards in 1998. (Garry Hynes, who directed the play, was the first woman to receive a Tony Award for Best Director.) McDonagh's subsequent plays, *A Skull in Connemara* and *The Lonesome West* (which with *Beauty* became known as the Leenane Trilogy), were produced over the next five years and played in 31 venues on three continents. The company's production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan* premiered in 2008, played throughout Ireland and in several UK venues, and had a three-month, sold-out, off-Broadway run in New York.

The cast for Druid's production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan* in Berkeley will be **Ingrid Craigie** as Kate; **Dearbhla Molloy** as Eileen; **Dermot Crowley** as Johnny Pateen Mike; **Tadhg Murphy** as Billy Claven; **Laurence Kinlan** as Bartley; **Clare Dunne** as Slippy Helen; **Liam Carney** as BabbyBobby; **Nancy E. Carroll** as Mammy O'Dougal; and **Paul Vincent O'Connor** as Doctor McSharry.

## MARTIN MCDONAGH

Irish playwright **Martin McDonagh** appeared on the theater scene in 1996 when Druid presented his first play, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. The production went on to success on two continents and four Tony Awards. Over the next decade, McDonagh wrote several more plays, including 2003's *The Pillowman*, which *The New York Times* called a "spellbinding stunner of a play." In 2005 McDonagh wrote and directed *Six Shooter*, which won the Oscar for Best Live

Action Short Film. McDonagh's next film, *In Bruges*, told the story of two hit men hiding in a sleepy Belgian town and won the 2009 British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for Best Original Screenplay and was nominated for the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. McDonagh's most recent play, *A Behanding in Spokane* (2010), starred Christopher Walken, Sam Rockwell, and Anthony Mackie in its New York run and was described as "a perfect, demented marriage of character and environment" (*The New York Times*).

McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan* has won high praise, including this rave from *The Boston Globe*: "So you laugh, you wince, you laugh again, you wince again. Mostly, you admire the playwright's skill at populating the stage with nine characters who are indelibly rooted in the particularities of time (1934) and place (an island off the west coast of Ireland) while also ranging across a wide spectrum of human nature, in all its variegations and contradictions."

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets to see **Druid** perform **Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan*** in Zellerbach Playhouse are priced at **\$68.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.  
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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Wednesday-Friday, May 4-6, at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, May 8 at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday-Friday, May 10-13 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Theater*

**Druid**

*The Cripple of Inishmaan*

Written by **Martin McDonagh**

Directed by **Garry Hynes**

**Tickets:** \$68.00, for all performances; available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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