Druid Ireland

The Walworth Farce

by Enda Walsh

CAST

Dinny  Michael Glenn Murphy
Sean    Tadhg Murphy
Blake   Raymond Scannell
Hayley  Mercy Ojelade

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer  Enda Walsh
Director Mikel Murfi
Set and Costume Designer Sabine Dargent
Lighting Designer  Paul Keogan
Casting Director  Maureen Hughes

CREW

Production Manager  Eamonn Fox
Technical Manager  Barry O’Brien
Company Stage Manager  Sarah Lynch
Stage Manager  Paula Tierney
Master Carpenter  Gus Dewar
Costume Supervisor  Doreen McKenna
Wigs and Make-up  Val Sherlock

The Walworth Farce was commissioned by Druid and received its world premiere at the Town Hall Theatre, Galway, on March 20, 2006.
THE WALWORTH FARCE STORY

Sydney, Australia, April 24, 2010. It will have been 209 performances in 22 cities using 627 cans of beer, 418 packets of pink wafers and 41 pints of Maureen’s “special blue sauce”—this is the story of a Druid production.

The Walworth Farce is currently on one of the biggest world tours for a new play in recent theatre memory. This is the story so far:

2005: The Walworth Farce is commissioned by Druid.

2006: World premiere at the Town Hall Theatre, Galway, on March 20, followed by a short tour to Cork and Dublin. The production receives remarkable Irish notices and work begins almost immediately to bring the production to the Edinburgh Festival the following year.

2007: Opens to critical acclaim at the Traverse Theatre as part of the Edinburgh Festival, winning the prestigious Fringe First Award. Plays to sold-out houses and attracts the attention of international presenters. The calls to tour the work begin and plans are made to bring it to New York, London and back home to Ireland the following year.

2008: American premiere at St. Ann’s Warehouse, New York, on April 17. In September, it joins the “rep” of the National Theatre, London, for a three-month run, becoming the sell-out hit of the season. In December, it returns home to Galway, where it plays to a capacity crowd at the Town Hall Theatre before transferring to the Project Arts Centre, Dublin.

2009: In September, The Walworth Farce starts out on one of the biggest world tours for a new play in recent theatre memory. The production opens in the United Kindgom, followed by a quick stopover in Galway ahead of an extensive tour of Canada and the United States.

2010: Premiers in Australia and New Zealand and the curtain closes on a play that has wowed audiences all around the world for five years.

Druid would like to acknowledge and thank Eugene Downes and his team at Culture Ireland for their financial support and commitment to bringing The Walworth Farce on this world tour. Druid would also like to acknowledge the Arts Council for their financial support towards the original staging of this production.

PROGRAM NOTES

WALWORTH FARCE

Sydney, Australia, April 24, 2010. It will have been 209 performances in 22 cities using 627 cans of beer, 418 packets of pink wafers and 41 pints of Maureen’s “special blue sauce”—this is the story of a Druid production.

The Walworth Farce is currently on one of the biggest world tours for a new play in recent theatre memory. This is the story so far:

2005: The Walworth Farce is commissioned by Druid.

2006: World premiere at the Town Hall Theatre, Galway, on March 20, followed by a short tour to Cork and Dublin. The production receives remarkable Irish notices and work begins almost immediately to bring the production to the Edinburgh Festival the following year.

2007: Opens to critical acclaim at the Traverse Theatre as part of the Edinburgh Festival, winning the prestigious Fringe First Award. Plays to sold-out houses and attracts the attention of international presenters. The calls to tour the work begin and plans are made to bring it to New York, London and back home to Ireland the following year.

2008: American premiere at St. Ann’s Warehouse, New York, on April 17. In September, it joins the “rep” of the National Theatre, London, for a three-month run, becoming the sell-out hit of the season. In December, it returns home to Galway, where it plays to a capacity crowd at the Town Hall Theatre before transferring to the Project Arts Centre, Dublin.

2009: In September, The Walworth Farce starts out on one of the biggest world tours for a new play in recent theatre memory. The production opens in the United Kindgom, followed by a quick stopover in Galway ahead of an extensive tour of Canada and the United States.

2010: Premiers in Australia and New Zealand and the curtain closes on a play that has wowed audiences all around the world for five years.

Druid would like to acknowledge and thank Eugene Downes and his team at Culture Ireland for their financial support and commitment to bringing The Walworth Farce on this world tour. Druid would also like to acknowledge the Arts Council for their financial support towards the original staging of this production.

COMPANY

Since its founding in Galway in 1975 and right up to the present day, Druid passionately believes that audiences have a right to see first-class professional theater without having to travel long distances outside their own communities. The company has toured to every nook and cranny in Ireland, and since 1982 has toured to key global centers around the world, making it one of the best known theatre companies in the English-speaking world. Druid’s goal is to create electrifying theater experiences for every person, in every place and every time they perform, and in 2009 and 2010 the company will tour internationally to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Recent productions to have toured the United States include: The Playboy of the Western World by John Millington Synge (2008), The Cripple of Inishmaan by Martin McDonagh (2008) and The New Electric Ballroom by Enda Walsh (2009).

Here are some facts and figures you should know about Druid:

• The Cripple of Inishmaan by Martin McDonagh won five prestigious New York theater awards in 2009 after it transferred from Galway to the Atlantic Theater in New York. It was also the best-selling production up to that time at the award-winning theater.

• In 1996, Druid premiered Martin McDonagh’s debut work, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, in a co-production with the Royal Court Theatre, London. It opened in Galway and subsequently played in London, Sydney, Dublin and on Broadway, where the production won four Tony Awards, including Best Director for Garry Hynes, the first woman to win the award.

• The Walworth Farce (Druid’s staging of all six of Synge’s plays on the same day) was staged in the United States in 2006 and was described by Charles Isherwood of The New York Times as “a highlight, not just of my theater-going year but of my theater-going life.”

• Through its new writing program, Druid nurtures and supports new playwriting talents and consistently commissions, develops and produces new plays by a wide range of emerging and established writers both from Ireland and abroad.

Druid was founded by graduates of the National University of Ireland, Galway—Garry Hynes, Mick Lally and Marie Mullen—and has had two artistic directors: Garry Hynes (1975–1991 and 1995 to date) and Maedhosa Stafford (1991–1994).

Druid’s performances of The Walworth Farce are presented in association with David Eden Productions, Ltd.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Michael Glenn Murphy (Dinny) makes his Druid debut in The Walworth Farce. His other theater credits include Shining City (Rapture Theatre, Scottish and U.K. tours); The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Making Strange Theatre Co.); The Flies, Up on Roof, The Lonesome West (Hull Truck Theatre); Molly Sweeney (National Theatre of Scotland); The Shadow of a Gunman, Molly Sweeney, Whistle in the Dark (Glasgow Citizens Theatre); The Weir (Haymarket Theatre); Beauty and the Beast (Belgrade Theatre, Coventry); Playing the Victim (Royal Court/Told by an Idiot); The Emperor and the Architect, Zoo Story (Gate Theatre, London); The Firework-Maker’s Daughter (Told by an Idiot/ Crucible Theatre); When We Are Rich, The Brothers of Brush (Southampton Nuffield); Of Mice and Men (Bolton Octagon/York Theatre Royal and Middle East tour); The Lonesome West (Bolton Octagon Theatre); A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Kafka’s Dick, Les Liaisons Dangereuses (York Theatre Royal); The Playboy of the Western World (Leicester Haymarket Theatre; the Abbey Theatre, Dublin; Bristol Old Vic); SVEJK (Notting Hill Gate Theatre); Of Mice and Men (Centreline Productions U.K. tour); Wayzate, A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Compass Theatre Company); Othello (Custard Factory Theatre Co.); and The Tinker’s Wedding (Kingshead Theatre London). His film and television credits include Swansong
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Raymond Scannell (Blake) makes his Druid debut in The Walworth Farce. His other theater credits include Mímic (Galway and Kilkenny Arts Festivals; Cork Midsummer Festival);...for Parkfilms, based on the One (Actistas Unidos, Lisbon’s National Theatre); The Harpies (Grainary Theatre); The River, Mind That ‘Tis My Brother, Beats ’n’ Pieces, Knock Three Times (Meridian Theatre Co.); and the Hairymen, The Lost Child, Striking Distance (Graffiti Theatre Co.).

Mercy Ojelade (Hayley) graduated in 2008 from the Central School of Speech and Drama, London, in the M.A. actor training and coaching course. Her Druid credits include The Walworth Farce (National Theatre, London; New York, Dublin and Galway 2008). Her other theater credits include The Container (Young Vic, Fringe First and Amnesty International award-winner, Edinburgh Festival, 2007); The Lion and the Jew (Barbican Pit and national tours); and Out of the Ashes (Number 9 Films/FILMFOUR). Her film and television credits include Ezra (Cinefacto, France; FESPACO Award-winner); Incendiary (Archer Street Films/Film Four, directed by Sharon Maguire); Holly City, Doctors (BBC); and Ormen/The Eagle (DR/Denmark).

CREATIVE TEAM

Enda Walsh (writer) has written The Walworth Farce and The New Electric Ballroom for Druid. His other theater credits include Delirium, an adaptation of Dostoevsky’s The Brothers Karamazov, for Theatre O (Abbey Theatre, Barbican); The Walworth Farce (Galway, Cork, Dublin, Edinburgh 2007 Fringe First Winner, New York, London); Chatroom (Cottesloe, Royal National Theatre, March 2006 and autumn 2007); The Small Things (Paines Plough; Menier Chocolate Factory, London; Galway Arts Festival 2009); The New Electric Ballroom (Perth International Arts Festival; Riverside Studios, London; Edinburgh 2008 Fringe First Winner); Irish tour; Kammerspiel Theatre Munich; winner of Theater Heute’s Best Foreign Play 2005); two short plays, How These Men Talk (Zurich Shauspielhaus) and Lynndie’s Gotta Gun (Artistas Unidos, Lisbon’s National Theatre); Bedbound (Dublin Theatre Festival, 2000; Edinburgh 2001 Fringe First Winner); Royal Court, London; New York (worldwide); Misterman (Granary Theatre); Disco Pig (Cork and Dublin, 1996; Edinburgh, 1997; West End, 1998 (Arts Council Playwrights Award, 1996), Best Fringe Production, 1996; Stewart Parker and George Devine Awards, 1997); and The Ginger Ale Boy (Corkadcorca). His film credits include Disco Pig (Temple Films/Renaissance) and Hunger (Blitz/FILMFOUR, winner of the Camera d’Or and the International Prize at Cannes, 2008). He is currently shooting, Chatroom (Ruby Films/FILMFOUR). Films in development include Island of the Aunts (an adaptation of Eva Ibbotson’s children’s novel for Cuba Pictures) and Dusky Springfield. Goddess of the Sixties (Number 9 Films/FILMFOUR). His radio credits include Four Big Days in the Life of Desie Banks (RTÉ Radio, winner of the 2001 PPI Award for Best Radio Drama) and The Monotonous Life of Little Miss P (BBC, commended in the 2005 Berlin Prix Europa, 2003).

Mikel Murfi (director) hails from Sligo and trained at L’École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris. His work with Druid includes, as an actor, The New Electric Ballroom, Lynnde’s Gotta Gun and The Increased Difficulty of Concentration and, as a director, The Walworth Farce. His theater acting credits include The Chairs (Blue Raincoat; Sligo); The Cure (Half Moon Theatre, Cork); The Clerk and the Clown, Playing a Round (Galway Arts Festival); The Morning After Optimism, The Playboy of the Western World (Peacock Theatre); The Tempest, The Comedy of Errors (Abbey Theatre); Stokehauling, SICKDying-DeadBuriedOut, Half Eight Mass of a Tuesday, Come Down from the Mountain John Clown John Clown, Macbeth, God’s Gift, The White Headed Boy (Barabas); Studs, Melting Penguins (Passion Machine); Lady Windermere’s Fan (Rough Magic); and The Tender Trap (Pigback). His theater directing credits include Diamonds in the Soil, The Lost Days of Ollie Deacy (Macnas); The Mysteries (co-director, Macnas); Trad (Galway Arts Festival); and The Lonesome West (Lyric Theatre, Belfast). His film and television acting credits include Ella Enchanted, The Last September, Sweety Barrett, The Butcher Boy, Love and Rage, Guiltips, Words upon the Window Pane, The Three Joes, The Commitments and, most recently, a short film, The Ballad of Kid Kankur. His film and television directing credits include Drama, a short film for Macnas, and John Duffy’s Brother for Parkfilms, based on the Flann O’Brien short story with a screenplay by Eoghan Nolan.

Sabine Dargent (set and costume designer) designed The New Electric Ballroom and The Walworth Farce for Druid. Her other theater work includes City Fusion (St. Patrick’s Parade); The Pride of Parnell St. (Dublin, London, New Haven); Circus (Dublin), The Lonesome West (Ireland); The Basteche of Baghdad, The Importance of Being Earnest (Abbey Theatre); Antigone, Hard to Believe (Storytellers Theatre Co.); Henry and Harriet (Belfast); To Have and to Hold (Old Museum Belfast); Days of Wine and Roses (Lyric); Dublin Carol (Everyman Palace, Cork); Ghos (ESB/Irish Times Best Set Design Award, 2003); Monged, Pilgrims in the Park, Tadhg Swan Wandered In (Fishamble); How Many Miles to Babylon? (Second Age); The Shadow of the Glen, The Tinker’s Wedding (Big Telcy); Martha, Little Rudolf (Barnstorm); Jack Fell Down, Burning Dreams, Last Call (Team); The Tempest (Blue Raincoat; Desert Lullaby (Gallowglass); and Hysteria (b*spoke). Ms. Dargent has also worked with Théâtre à Grande Vitesse (Paris), Théâtre à Châtillon and L’Épéé de Bois in France. She won the 2006 Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Set Design for The Walworth Farce.

Paul Keogan (lighting designer) studied drama at the Samuel Beckett Centre, TCD and Glasgow University. After graduating, he worked as Production Manager for Project Arts Centre. His work with Druid includes The Spirit of Annie Rois. His other theater credits include The Taming of the Shrew (Royal Shakespeare Company); Tartuffe, Intemperance (Playhouse/Everyman Liverpool);
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, Homeland, The Wild Duck, Bailegangaire, Mrs. Warren's Profession, The Electrocution of Children, Amazing Grace, Living Quarters, Making History, Eden, The Map Maker's Sorrow, Càirt an Mheán Oíche, Down the Line, Portia Coughlan, Heavenly Bodies (Abbey and Peacock theatres); Woyzeck, The Hairy Ape (Cordadorca); Blue/Orange (Crucible Theatre Sheffield); Harvest (Royal Court Theatre, London); Trad (Galway Arts Festival); Quay West, Blasted, Far Away (Bedrock Productions); The Sugar Wife, Down onto Blue, Danti Dan, Olga (Rough Magic); Family Stories, Tejas Verdes (b*spoke); The Blind Fiddler (Lyric Belfast); Born Bad, In Arabia We'd All Be Kings (Hampstead Theatre); Too Late for Logic (Edinburgh International Festival); Shimmer, Olga (Traverse, Edinburgh); The Silver Tassie (Almeida); Titus Andronicus, La Musica, Shutter (Siren Productions); The Tempest (Theatre Royal Plymouth, U.K. tour); Antigone (Storytellers); Pasades, Here Lies, Angel Babel, Chair (Operating Theatre); Performances, Festen, The Gates of Gold and The Deep Blue Sea (Gate Theatre, Dublin).

His opera and dance credits include Powder Her Face (Linbury Studio Royal Opera House); Der Silbersee, Rusalka, Pénélope, Susannah (Wexford Opera); Der fliegende Holländer, Un ballo in maschera, The Makropulos Case (Opera Zuid, the Netherlands); The Queen of Spades, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, The Silver Tassie, Jenůfa (Opera Ireland); The Lighthouse (Opera Theatre Company); Samo (Block & Steel, the Netherlands); Catalyst (a collaboration between Rex Levitates and the National Ballet of China in Beijing). Mr. Keogan is an associate artist of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

For over 20 years, David Eden Productions, Ltd. (DEP) has been one of the leading American organizations devoted to producing international work in the United States. Most recently, DEP has produced U.S. national tours of Druid’s The Shadow of the Glen and The Playboy of the Western World and Batsheva Dance Company. In the past five years, DEP has been responsible for touring the State Ballet of Georgia, the Russian Patriarchate Choir of Moscow, Gate Theatre Dublin’s Waiting for Godot, Declan Donnellan’s Twelfth Night, Propeller Theatre’s The Winter’s Tale (directed by Edward Hall) and Piccolo Teatro di Milano’s Arlecchino. In 2004, David Eden curated the Lincoln Center Festival’s Ashton Celebration, a two-week retrospective at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York celebrating the 100th birthday of Sir Frederick Ashton and featuring the master choreographer’s ballets.


For David Eden Productions, Ltd.: Production Manager Trevor Long General Manager Erica Charpentier Visa Coordinator Elise-Ann Konstantin Travel Agent Lori Harrison, Atlas Travel