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presents

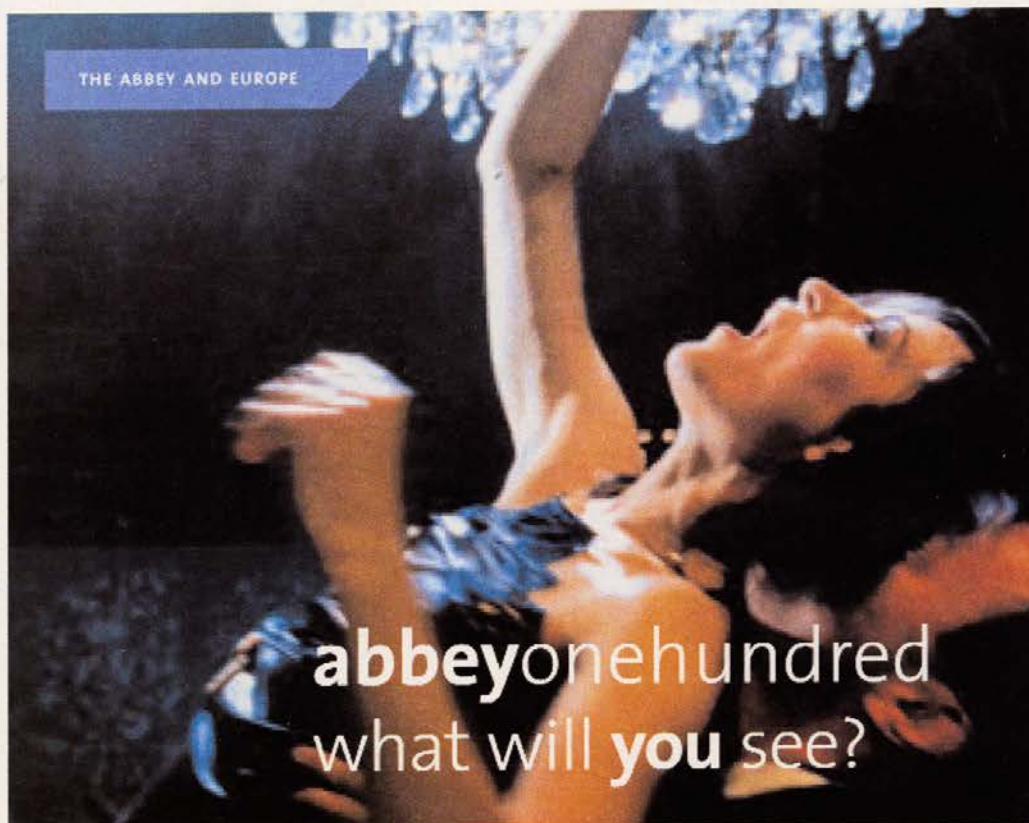
Skylight

by David Hare

Archive Collection: T26. Joe Vaněk Archive.

Ref No. T26/49/006

Date Digitised: 04/10/2019



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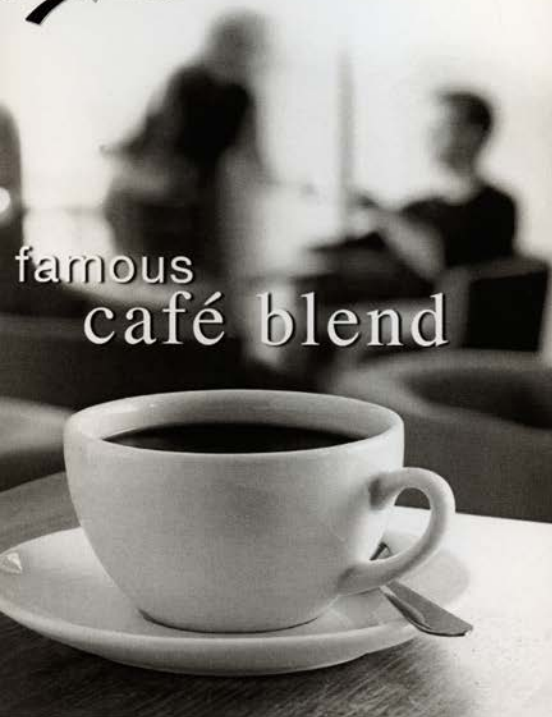
Dance in Time written by Pál Békés, based on the idea of the play *Le Bal*, originally created by Jean Claude Penchenat with the Théâtre du Campagnol. Presented by Vígszínház, Budapest 17 March - 20 March

The Burial of Thebes by Seamus Heaney after the *Antigone* of Sophocles 5 April - 1 May

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare, adapted by Andrej Rozman Roza. Presented by Mladinsko Theatre, Ljubljana 12 May - 15 May



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Shine a Light

The Irish theatre avoids British writing. It is tempting to ask why. Lazy answers present themselves. We are now so confident a culture we stand entirely alone. If we need to look abroad, it is to the fresh fields of Europe. This, of course, is bollocks. The reason we back away from the best of our neighbour's plays – and playwriting there over the past thirty years has cracked a hard, impressive punch – is that they are difficult, unsettling, questioning texts. The new Ireland, increasingly fixated on a sentimental reading of its past and present, more and more shies away from serious confrontation in the theatre. Well, that's been our loss, and not least with regard to David Hare.

For the past thirty years, he has produced a body of work that is complex, subtle, and extensive. His play, **The Secret Rapture**, possesses an overwhelming compassion, creating an extraordinary, forgiving voice for the cruelties of Thatcherism. Only Hare could look at those dark days in his country's history and still see light of purest illumination that burns at the very core of his art.

It is an art that depends deeply on the fluency of his characters. Kyra and Tom in **Skylight** articulate the chronicle of their love with a sore need to say what it was. In saying it, they might save love or they might lose it. But they try. At least they try. And they do so, not as spoilt children, but as adults who have sinned and suffered. They know that much at least.

I don't want to give the play away, but wait for the ending. It could not be predicted, and it is magnificent. It also clarifies David Hare's great theme. Hope, hope earned, hope eternal. That is reason enough to cherish him.

Frank McGuinness

Dublin, January 2004

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01 Jan: Serial killer Fred West
found hanged. **Wimbledon
Champions:** Pete Sampras and
Steffi Graf. **27 Jan:** Eric Cantona
banned after attack on Crystal
Palace fan. **Grand National
Winner:** Royal Athlete. **17 Mar:**
Killer Ronnie Kray dies. **Time
Magazine Person of the Year:**
Newt Gingrich. **19 Apr:** 168
dead in Oklahoma
bombing. **1994-95
Premiership
Champions:**
Blackburn Rovers
(Chelsea finished
eleventh). **29 Apr:**
Blair persuades Labour to
ditch Clause IV. **Booker Prize
Winner:** The Ghost Road by Pat
Barker. **26 Jun:** UN celebrates fifti-
eth birthday. **29 Jun:** US shuttle
docks with Russian space station.
FA Cup Final: Everton 1-0 Man
Utd. **04 Jul:** John Major re-elected
as Conservative leader. **06 Aug:**
Japan mourns Hiroshima 50th
anniversary. **Top Five Singles:**
1: The White Cliffs of Dover -
Robson Green & Jerome Flynn. 2:
Gangsta's Paradiise - Coolio featur-
ing LV. 3: I Believe c/w Up on the
Roof - Robson Green & Jerome Flynn.
4: Back for Good - Take That. 5:
Think Twice - Celine Dion. **03
Oct:** OJ Simpson ver-
dict: 'not guilty'. **04
Nov:** Israeli PM
Rabin shot dead.
10 Nov: Nigeria
hangs human rights
activist Ken Saro-
Wiwa. **21 Nov:** Balkan
leaders agree to peace at Dayton.
02 Dec: Rogue trader Leeson jailed
for six years. **Top Five Movies:** 1:
Batman Forever. 2: Casper. 3:
GoldenEye. 4: Apollo 13. 5:
Braveheart. **20 Dec:** 'Divorce':
Queen tells Charles and Diana.

1995

 **BRITISH COUNCIL**
Ireland



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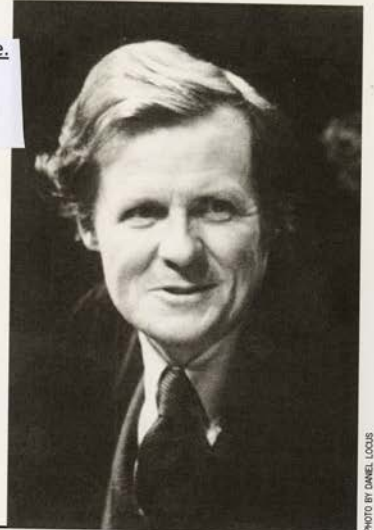


PHOTO BY DANIEL LOOS

David Hare

David Hare is one of Britain's most internationally performed playwrights. His long association with the Royal National Theatre includes the now legendary production of his trilogy about the church, the law and the Labour Party – **Racing Demon**, **Murmuring Judges** and **The Absence of War**.

Nine of his plays have been presented on Broadway, including **Plenty**, **The Secret Rapture**, **Skylight**, **The Blue Room**, **Amy's View** and **Via Dolorosa**, in which he also performed. He recently wrote the film **The Hours**, which starred Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Nicole Kidman. His most recent plays are **The Breath of Life**, with Maggie Smith and Judi Dench, and **The Permanent Way**, which is currently playing at the National Theatre in London.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE



LANDMARK
PRODUCTIONS

Thank you

This production of **Skylight** would simply not have been possible without tremendous goodwill and practical support from very many people, including the following:

Abbey Theatre, Graham Beere, Madeline Boughton, Alison Boyd, Shane Boyd, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, David Bunworth, Selina Cartmell, Michael Colgan, Louis Copeland, Peter Crowley, Sinead Delaney, Moya Doherty, Tom Erhardt, Mary Finan, John FitzGerald, Emma Foote, Gate Theatre, Sheenagh Gillen, Eithne Healy, Pdraig Heneghan, Michael Higgins, Shane Hodges, Brian Jackson, Ross Keane, Bea Kelleher, Eamon Kenny, Val Keogh, Tom Lawlor, Stephen Molloy, Mary Murphy, Jim McConnell, Brendan McGloughlin, Fergal McGrath, Frank McGuinness, Alison McKenna, Nicole McKenna, Sadhbh O'Connor, Fearga O'Doherty, Sheelagh Power, Cathal Quinn, Tony Reilly, Marie Rooney, Rough Magic, Amber Ryan, Donal Shiels, Alan Stanford, Noel Storey and all at Beacon Studios, The Theatreworks Company, Cormac Veale, Barney Whelan, Conleth White, Jonathan White, Mary White and Elizabeth Whyte, as well as Willie White, Niamh O'Donnell, Dairne O'Sullivan, Doireann Gillan and all the staff of Project.

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LANDMARK PRODUCTIONS

presents the Irish premiere of

Skylight

by David Hare

CAST

in order of appearance

Kyra Hollis **Cathy Belton**
Edward Sergeant **Michael FitzGerald**
Tom Sergeant **Owen Roe**

Director **Michael Caven**
Designer **Joe Vaněk**
Lighting Designer **Rupert Murray**

in partnership with  **BRITISH COUNCIL**
Ireland

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Production Manager **Marie Tierney**
Stage Director **Aisling Mooney**
ASM **Eimer Murphy**
Production Technician **Joe Glasgow**

Design Assistant **Laura Howe**
Voice Coach **Cathal Quinn**
Set Construction **TPS**
Scenic Artist **Liz Barker**
Hair **Tracy & Lisa @ The Natural Cut**

Producer **Anne Clarke**
Publicity **Doireann Gillan**
Marketing **Dairne O'Sullivan**
Graphic Design **Nicole McKenna**
Production Photographs **Tom Lawlor**

The action takes place in Kyra's flat in north-west London, in 1995.

The performance runs for approximately two hours and twenty-five minutes,
including one interval of fifteen minutes.

Skylight was first performed at the Cottesloe, National Theatre, London on
4 May 1995 and was subsequently presented in the West End by Robert Fox.

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Director

Michael Caven



Michael Caven is Artistic Director of award-winning The Theatreworks Company, for whom he recently directed **Macbeth** (in association with Second Age), and previously **Tales From Ovid** (nominated

Special Judges Award 2002 Irish Theatre Awards); **Richard III** (nominated *Best Director* 2001 Irish Theatre Awards); the Irish Premiere of **Mutabilitie** by Frank McGuinness; **Anna Karenina** by Helen Edmundson (nominated *Best Director* 1998 Irish Theatre Awards); **Troilus and Cressida**; **Venus and Adonis** and **The Fetishist** by Michel Tournier.

Credits at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, include **the shape of things** by Neil LaBute (nominated *Best Director* 2002 Irish Theatre Awards) and **Thérèse Raquin** by Emile Zola. For NYU, for whom Michael is Dublin Program Director, credits include **Best Possible World** by Tee O'Neill; **The Mai** by Marina Carr; **Women of Troy** by Kenneth McLeish; **Beauty Queen of Leenane** by Martin McDonagh and **Dolly West's Kitchen** by Frank McGuinness. Credits for the Samuel Beckett Centre include **Serious Money** by Caryl Churchill; **The Artaud Project** (devised in collaboration with Michael Bogdanov); **New Morning** by Declan Hughes; **Camino Real** by Tennessee Williams and **Nana** by Olwen Wymark.

Designer

Joe Vaněk



Joe Vaněk has been designing extensively for the Irish stage since 1984 and from 1994 – 1997 was Director of Design at the Abbey under Patrick Mason.

He is principally known for his designs for the more recent

plays of Brian Friel, **Dancing at Lughnasa**, **Wonderful Tennessee** and **Molly Sweeney**, all three of which transferred to Broadway where for **Lughnasa** he was nominated for two Tony Awards. More recently he has designed the premiere of **Performances**, Brian Friel's play about Leos Janacek, at the Gate, and the recent revival of **Aristocrats** at the Abbey.

He has designed new works by other leading Irish playwrights, including Sebastian Barry, Hugh Leonard, Frank McGuinness and Thomas Kilroy as well as a stage adaptation of John Barville's **The Book of Evidence**, and work by the American playwright and director Neil LaBute.

Alongside opera and ballet designs in Ireland, the UK, Holland, Denmark and the USA, recent international work has included, in the US, the west coast premiere of Marina Carr's **By the Bog of Cats** with Holly Hunter, Flemming Flindt's two ballets **Legs of Fire** and **The Triumph of Death**, and, in Denmark, **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?**

Next month he returns to the Abbey to stage Tom Murphy's new adaptation of Chekhov's **The Cherry Orchard**.

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Lighting Designer

Rupert Murray



Rupert Murray is a free-lance lighting designer and producer with over one hundred and fifty lighting design credits to his name.

Recent designs include **the shape of things, Pride and Prejudice, A**

Christmas Carol, Waiting for Godot, The Eccentricities of a Nightingale, Crestfall and Jane Eyre for the Gate Theatre; **Ariel, Lovers at Versailles, Communion, All My Sons, The Plough and the Stars and Aristocrats** for the Abbey and Peacock Theatres; **The Good Father** for Druid

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Theatre Company and **The Drunkard** for b* spoke theatre company. He is the lighting designer for the international hit **Riverdance - The Show.**

Rupert was Festival Director of the St. Patrick's Festival from 1995 to 1999 and was a key member of the team which transformed Ireland's national celebrations. For the last five years he has been responsible for producing and directing the opening festivities at the Wexford Festival Opera and he was the Creative Director of the Opening Ceremony for the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Croke Park in June 2003.

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Cathy Belton



Cathy Belton studied English and Drama (Samuel Beckett Centre) at Trinity College, Dublin. Her appearances at the Abbey and Peacock theatres include **A Whistle in the Dark**, **The Playboy of the Western World**,

Tartuffe, **Medea**, **The Broken Jug**, **Living Quarters**, **A Crucial Week in the Life of A Grocer's Assistant** and **Silverlands**. Most recently she appeared first as Rosie Redmond and then as Nora Clitheroe in the Abbey's recent productions of **The Plough and the Stars**. Other theatre work includes **Shiver** (Rough Magic), **The Tempest**, **Romeo and Juliet**, **Hamlet** (Island Theatre Company), **Eclipsed** (Town Hall Theatre, Galway), **Stolen Child** (Calypso Theatre Company), **Silas Marner**, **Women in Arms** (Storytellers Theatre Company), **True Lines** (Bickerstaffe Theatre Company), **Buddleia** and **Kitchensink** (Passion Machine Theatre Company) and **Hamlet** (Loose Canon Theatre Company). Television credits include **A House in Jerusalem** (RTE), **Glenroe** (RTE), **Tri Scéal** for TG4, **Paths to Freedom** and **Fergus' Wedding** (Grand Pictures/RTE). Most recently Cathy completed filming the role of Kay Corcoran in **Proof**, a TV mini-series for Subotica/RTE. Film work includes **The Snapper**, **Circle of Friends**, **Racing Homer**, **The Wake**, **Before I Sleep**, **Tupperware** and **Intermission**. Cathy has also performed in many radio plays for the BBC and RTE.

Michael FitzGerald



Michael FitzGerald graduated with a BA Hons in Drama and Theatre Studies from Trinity College Dublin. His theatre performances include **Sharon's Grave** (Druid/Gaiety and national tour); **The Plough and the Stars** (Abbey); **The Call** (Peri-Talking/Crypt Arts Centre); **Dublin 1742** (The Ark); **Alone It Stands** (Duchess, West End); **Richard III** (Samuel Beckett); **The Cherry Orchard** (New Theatre); **This Lime Tree Bower** (Foursight/New Theatre); and **Arcadia** (Gate).

He was recently involved in the development of a new film script by Gerry Stembridge for Element Films.

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Owen Roe



Owen Roe was last seen on stage as Chick in **Doldrum Bay** by Hilary Fannin at the Peacock Theatre. He has appeared in numerous productions at the Abbey and Peacock Theatres, such as Fluther Good in **The Plough** and **The Stars** directed by

Ben Barnes, The Irishman in **The Gigli Concert**, Oscar in **Tartuffe**, John Proctor in **The Crucible**, The Director in **Six Characters in Search of an Author**, The Corsican Brothers, **The Mai**, **Sheep's Milk On The Boil**, **Moses Rock**, **Prayers of Sherkin** and as Eddie in **One Last White Horse** (for which he was nominated for a Bank of Ireland/Arts Show Award).

He also performed in **The Shadow of A Gunman** as Seamus Sheils, **Great**

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Expectations, **The Cherry Orchard** and **Romeo and Juliet**, all at the Gate Theatre. Owen recently appeared as Neils Bohr in Rough Magic's Irish premiere of Michael Frayn's **Copenhagen** (for which he received an Irish Times/ESB nomination for Best Actor).

Television credits include Paul Dooley in **Ballykissangel** (BBC), Kevin Flaherty in **The Ambassador**, **The Broker's Man** (ITV), **Making The Cut**, **DDU**, **Loving**, **The Governor**, **Scarlett**, **The Treaty** and **Soft Sand**, **Blue Sea** and the BBC/RTE series **Anytime Now**. Film credits include **When The Sky Falls**, **Frankie Starlight**, **Undercurrent**, Arthur Griffith in Neil Jordan's **Michael Collins**, Mr. Henderson in **Intermission** directed by John Crowley and as Frank Burgess in the soon to be released **The Account** directed by Ronan Glennane for Stoneridge Pictures.

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