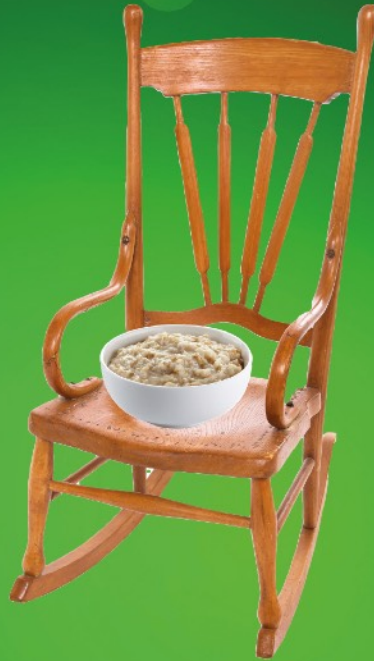


ALTRINCHAM GARRICK PLAYHOUSE - AUDITION INFORMATION:

An Irish tale of love and loss,
with a bit of madness in between...



THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE

by Martin McDonagh



Tuesday 1 –
Sunday 6
October 2024

Evenings at 7:30pm

**altrincham
garrick
studio**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

This amateur production of "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Thank you for expressing your interest in auditioning for “**THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE**”. This production will be the first in our Series of Irish Drama Season in the Altrincham Garrick Studio at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

The Audition Date for this production is
The Rehearsal Start Date for this production is
The Production Dates for this production are

Tuesday 2nd July
Sunday 25th August
Tuesday 1st -
Sunday 6th October

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7.30pm - 10pm, and every Sunday from 2pm - 5.30pm.

We do ask that all those auditioning are able to make every rehearsal. We do, of course, understand that sometimes you may have other commitments and special occasions during the rehearsal process, and we therefore ask that you inform us of any dates you are not available in advance (at the audition) and we will try and make this work. If you have a date that you're unable to rehearse within ten days of the opening night (1st October) we may have to ask you to withdraw from the production.

You may not be called to every rehearsal, and the Director will produce a rehearsal schedule as far in advance as possible, but we do still ask that those successful in being cast in the production remain flexible, as rehearsal schedules can often change during the process.

THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE

Tuesday 1st - Sunday 6th October 2024
Altrincham Garrick Studio

Written by Martin McDonagh
Directed by Mark Goggins

“Sometimes I dream... of anything! Of anything. Other than this.”

In the mountains of Connemara, County Galway, Maureen Folan – a plain, lonely woman, tied to her manipulative and ageing mother, Mag – comes alive at her first and possibly last prospect of a new life. But Mag has other ideas; and her interference sets in motion a train of events that leads inexorably towards the play's breathtaking conclusion.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane is one of playwright Martin McDonagh's (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, The Lieutenant of Inishmore*) finest achievements. Winner of four Tony Awards on Broadway and nominated for an Olivier Award, the play conjures up the unbearable tension and loneliness of an isolated.

A dark, comedic, thriller.

Warning: This production includes scenes of violence, cruelty and strong language. The production also contains sexual references and themes of loneliness, abuse and mental health.

Characters

Please see below information about the characters from the Director.

Leenane (or Leenaun) is a village in County Galway, close to Connemara. Like so much of rural Ireland, it is a place historically immersed in traditional Irish culture, including Catholicism. It also rains a lot. There is no indication of when the play is set. It was premiered in 1996 and so we can assume it is contemporaneous. The village is remote and in the Folan's house the radio and TV appear to be the only connections to the wider world. If it is 1996, then Leenane is certainly one of those places the world left behind.

Maureen Folan

Maureen is forty and considered plain. She has never been married. Indeed, she has never slept with a man. In fact, she has only ever kissed a man twice. Solitude is at the heart of her existence, as is the notion of missed opportunity. More than even she may realise, Maureen has a sense of resentment that has built up over many years. The focus of her resentment is on her mother, and of this she is entirely conscious. Despite the ordinariness of her life Maureen still retains a spark and spirit deep within her.

Mag Folan

Mag is Maureen's mother, aged seventy. She doesn't enjoy the best of health, though has done little if anything to help herself in this regard. She is fundamentally idle and expects Maureen to wait on her and attend to her every need. She probably had an unhappy earlier life, as she doesn't appear to have any sense of knowing or understanding familial love. She is manipulative and spiteful, and it is her spitefulness towards Maureen that leads us to the kernel of the play.

Pato Dooley

Pato is aged about forty and is a typical man of his time and place. He enjoys a beer with the boys, and his attractive looks have enabled him to be something of a ladies' man. As with most of the men in the village, Leenane holds little hope for Pato so, like many others before him, he decides to go to England to look for work.

Ray Dooley

Ray is Pato's younger brother and half his age. He is most likely a carbon copy of what Pato was like twenty years earlier; likeable and fun-loving. He is already mastering the sardonic, poetic lilt of his native brogue.

A note on accent:

It's about more than simply being able to 'do' an accent. The text of ***The Beauty Queen of Leenane*** plays heavily on the idiomatic vernacular of County Galway. An actor playing any of these roles should feel at ease with the rhythms and speech patterns evident in this part of Ireland.

What to Prepare

Audition pieces will be available from 6.30pm on Tuesday 2nd July, but please see below the page numbers from the published play text (Methuen Drama Modern Classics 2009/ Bloomsbury Publishing) that we will be using on the evening:

Mag & Ray

Page 12 from Mag: “oh, it’s you, so it is.” To bottom of Page 14 Mag: “No.”

Maureen & Mag

Page 48 from start of Sc.7 to Page 50 Maureen: “... no matter how good in bed he was.”

Maureen & Pato

Page 25 from Maureen: “ Be sitting down for yourself, now, Pato.” to Page 27 Maureen: “It’s true enough.”

Pato

Page 40 from “Well, Maureen, I am beating about the bush ...” down to “I will be looking at you in your bra and skip again.”

Maureen

Page 55 from “To Boston. To Boston I’ll be going.” to Page 56 “I was defending you there.”

The Audition Evening

Auditionees will need to sign in and complete a contact sheet in the Theatre Bar at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse from 6.30pm on Tuesday 2nd July. We will then see each auditionee in the Annexe in front of the audition panel from about 7pm.

There will be Garrick personnel to show you around and help you through the process. Please be aware that these audition evenings often include quite a bit of waiting around and can be long, but we will try to move as quickly as we can.

The audition panel will consist of the Director and members of the Altrincham Garrick’s Artistic and Casting Team (ACT).

We are a diverse theatre and we welcome auditionees of all ages (above the age of 18) and all genders, ethnicities, sexualities, disabilities and races, to enrich the work of the production.

What Next?

If you’ve read all the information in this pack, and wish to audition, then please email casting@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk stating “**THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE**” in the subject heading and detailing your name and contact number. By emailing, you will have

registered for an audition on Tuesday 2nd July.

We'd like to wish you the very best of luck, and we look forward to welcoming you, or seeing you again! Thank you for taking the time and interest to prepare for this audition and Break-A-Leg!

Best wishes,

Joseph Meighan (Artistic Director/ Artistic and Casting Team)

Carole Carr (Artistic and Casting Team)

Mike Shaw (Artistic and Casting Team)

Val Watkinson (Artistic and Casting Team)

Fiona Primrose (Artistic and Casting Team)

Gemma Sales (Artistic and Casting Team)