



# WAITING FOR POIROT

WRITTEN BY MIKE FINN

AN HONEST ARTS PRODUCTION

In association with Lime Tree Theatre | Belltable

# A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

## Comedy in the time of Covid

Dying is easy, comedy is hard. So the saying goes. Comedy in the time of Covid is even harder. Everything in the time of Covid is harder. "We'll have the first read-through on Zoom." Right. I suppose. Yep. Grand. Ok. Fine. Shure, what else can we do? When? Got it. Ok. See ya then. ... Here we go. Click on the link. Click on the link again. Try again. Nothin'. Maybe if I go out and come back in again. ... No. Still, nothin'. ... Hang on. It's tomorrow! Feck! Should've written it down. ... Ok. Here we go again. Right day, this time, please God.

Click on the link. Click on the link again. Oh for Christ sake ... No. Wait - somethin's happenin'. Please wait. The meeting host will let you in short ... Oh there I am! God! Look at me. Maybe I should've put on a shirt. Look more serious. Anyway ... Hi everyone. Sorry I'm late. I couldn't get into the room thingie. Ye all look great. Thanks for doing this. Now, I just have a few brief ... What? Oh ok. Can ye hear me now? No. Now? Wait. Let me see. Maybe if I log out and then log ... hang on - phone's ringin'! Hello? Click unmute? Right. Got it. Thanks. Hello? Can ye hear me now? Good! What am I like? Great to see ye all. God, there's loads of ye. Anyway, I was just sayin', ye all look great. Thanks for doing this. Really appreciate it. Now, I just have a few brief notes. What's that? Right. No, no. You're right, better get goin'. Work away. ... Sorry! Sorry! That's my doorbell. Feck! Sorry. Hang on. Won't be a sec. ... Right! I'm back. Sorry about that. Look I just wanted to say I'm really lookin' forward to hearin' ... Oh, we're on page seventeen, are we? Right. No, no, grand. Work away. ... Al! Stopit! Shush! Stop! Sorry, folks, that's just the dog - he doesn't like the postman. Gimme a sec, I'll just close the door. ... Right sorted. Sorry. I promise that'll be the last ... Jesus! There's the feckin' phone again. So sorry. Hello? Click mute? Right. Got it. No. Thanks. And leave it muted? Yeah. Right. Yeah. No bother. It's goin' very well, by the way. Hello? Hello? No. She's gone.





JESSICA BRAY

Jessica Bray graduated with a BA Hons (Performance) in Musical Theatre at the Guildford School of Acting, UK in 2008. Jessica works as a Performer, Teacher and Director and teaches with Expressive Arts Theatre School, Ennis Academy of Performing Arts and The Musical Theatre Academy in Nenagh. Jessica most recently performed at the Lime Tree Theatre in *Defying Gravity*, a celebration of women in music for International Women's Day.



MYLES BREEN

Myles is no stranger to Limerick audiences from his many appearances in pantomime in the University Concert Hall. He is a founder member of Bottom Dog Theatre Co. His one man show *Language Unbecoming a Lady*, was presented at the 1st Irish Theatre Festival in New York hosted by Origin Theatre Company in 2015, for which he won Best Actor. TV and film credits include *Fair City*, *Why the Irish Dance That Way*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Corp agus Anam*, *Clash of the Ash*, *Mattie*, *The Limerick Trilogy* and *Killnascully*.



JAMES CORR

James Corr is a recent graduate of the BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies programme in Mary Immaculate College. He has been acting and involved in theatre and film throughout Limerick from a very young age. He has performed in a number of rehearsed readings with Bottom Dog Theatre Company from Hugh Leonard's *Da* directed by Simon O'Gorman in 2019 to Jane Arden's *The Party* directed by Tara Doolan in 2020. James' most recent appearance will be on RTE's upcoming production *Hidden Assets* due to air Spring 2022.



MICHAEL-ANTHONY GREENE

Michael graduated with a BA Hons in Theatre and Drama studies from the Cork School of Music. He is primarily a musical theatre performer, having appeared in over 35 musicals, including touring productions and the Irish premieres of *Carrie*, *Lift*, *Dogfight* and as "Dandini" in *Cinderella* at the Everyman Palace Cork. Off stage Michael works avidly as a director and stage manager and is a teacher at ActorsVision, one of Ireland's leading schools for film.



PIUS MCGRATH

Pius is an Actor & Writer from Limerick, he is one half of Honest Arts Production Company, having written and toured original work Internationally since 2013. In 2020 he was a recipient of the Belltable: Connect 10 Research Bursary for Local Theatre Makers. He has recently finished filming the fan fiction action short *Stormtroopers III* with Cork Racing Productions, and will make an appearance in Apple TV+ new sci-fi series *Foundation* by David S. Goyer.



ELEANOR O'BRIEN

Eleanor O'Brien is a theatre and film actress from Limerick, Ireland. She plays the lead role Emily Blast in new series *Blasts from the Past* for RTÉ Young People's Dept directed by Hugh Farley for Firebrand Productions. She can be seen in *The Last Right* as Sheila O'Neill alongside Colm Meaney and also starring Michiel Huisman and Brian Cox for Deadpan Pictures. She has recently just worked on *Disenchanted* being filmed in Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.

## CAST





**JOHANNA O'BRIEN**

Johanna O'Brien is an actor and singer from Limerick. She has performed in several musicals including *Cats The Musical* as Bombalurina, as Jan in *Grease* and Rosie in *The Wedding Singer*. She sang as The Red Herring in the band Paddy Dennehy And The Red Herring and appeared as musical guests with Ryan Tubridy on The Late Late Show. Some of her screen credits include Paddy Breathnach's *Rosie*, American TV series *Krypton*, Sined O'Loughlin's multi-award winning short *Homecoming* and Apple TV's new Sci-Fi series *Foundation* with David S. Goyer which will be released later this year.



**EVA O'CONNOR**

Eva O'Connor is an award winning writer and performer from Ogonnelloe, Co.Clare. Her play *Overshadowed* was adapted for television for BBC Three and won the Mind Media Award for best drama 2018. Her short play the *Midnight Sandwich* aired on BBC Radio 4 in 2019. Eva's piece *Maxwell House* was part of the Abbey's Dear Ireland programme 2021. She is currently under commission with Fishamble The New Play Company. Her play *Mustard* toured virtually with Fishamble from April 2021.



**ELAINE O' DWYER**

Elaine is a Limerick born actress and alumni of Mary Immaculate College where she was an avid member of MIDAS. She trained at the Guildford School of Acting in the UK and graduated in 2016. Having performed in London, Paris, Luxembourg, Brussels and Rome, she has realised "there's no place like home!". She's delighted to be back in Limerick performing with a brilliant team. Recent credits include: *Queen of Technicolor -The Story of Maureen O' Hara* (National Tour), *Arracht* (Screen Ireland) and *Crime Scene Investigates* (Virgin Media).



**GENE ROONEY**

This is Gene's fourth time in a Mike Finn play, having played in *Pigtown*, *The Revengers Tragedy* and *Bread Not Profits*. She has performed in almost every theatre in Ireland, in over 50 productions. In recent years she has extensively toured the UK and Australia with Fishamble Theatre Company. She also works as a Voice Over artist, and has taught Acting and Improvisation at the Gaiety School of Acting for over 20 years and will soon begin as an Acting Coach at Michael Fassbender's new Arts School, West End House Killarney.

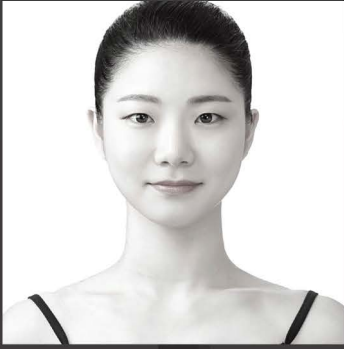


**SIMON THOMPSON**

In the heady days of the 1980's Simon sported a curly perm and a willowy figure, being flamboyant and arty he trained at the École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq and since then he has performed in a variety of Circuses, Outdoor Arts and Theatres internationally. In 2007 he finally settled in Limerick with his partner Eva before going back to school and studying for a Doctorate in Clown. Recent tours and shows include *A Millers Story* 2018-20 (European Tour) and *Still Hope* 2021 (A film collaboration with the Irish Chamber Orchestra).

## CAST





YUMI LEE

Yumi Lee is an Ireland based professional dancer, improviser and performer. She did a Wave project with Winona Lin, who is a contemporary musician based in Berlin. She also worked on a screen dance project which was directed by Fei Wu and was nominated at Albania Dance Meeting-Festival. She was invited as a guest lecturer from the University of Limerick to work with MA students. She has performed with Liz Roche company in Limerick and Dublin, Ireland.



JEAN O'DONOGHUE

Jean began her dance journey at a young age in the Gallagher School of Ballet in Limerick. She studied Dance in Inchicore College during her transition year of school, and then furthered her dance studies in CSN in Cork. Jean holds a First Class Honours degree in Dance from the University of Limerick, where she studied for four years. She is trained in ballet, jazz, contemporary and is a skilled aerialist. She is a trained ballet teacher under the IDTA. Jean teaches various styles in the Dance Academy Limerick.



CEIN DALY

Cein Daly is a session musician & multi-instrumentalist from Limerick City. He has spent years playing and recording with numerous Irish artists and has toured extensively in Ireland, The UK, Europe, Canada, The USA & The Middle East. In recent years, as the bass player of the Funk Soul Pop band *Toucan* he has played sellout shows in The Royal Albert Hall, St. Anne's Park with The Kaiser Chiefs & Chic and been invited by Nile Rogers to play his *Meltdown Festival* in The Southbank Centre.



ÁINE DOOLAN

Áine Doolan is a pianist, composer, and choral director from Killaloe, Co. Clare. Áine's most recent work has brought her to Co. Donegal, where she now continues her work as a community musician. In her short time there, she has created the National School Music Programme, bringing music-making, ukulele playing, song writing and creativity to 18 schools. Áine's passion includes composition and she has also previously worked as a composer for Honest Arts where she created a piano score for the widely acclaimed production of *Punt*.



BART KIELY

Bart has been in showbusiness since he was knee high to a footlight. Having worked extensively in theatre, film and music he is currently focused on completing a doctorate in Groove, producing new music with upcoming artists, and can't wait to get back on the road with his Toucan family.



MARIA RYAN

A versatile musician, Maria has travelled extensively performing different styles of music around the globe. Over the past year Maria has played with Irish women in Harmony, Hozier and Kodaline. She has recorded three albums with her three bands - Strung, Lucia and Maria and Ger O Donnell and Maria Ryan. She performs on a Claude Lebet violin, supported by Music Network's Music Capital Scheme, funded by The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

## DANCERS & MUSICIANS



## A NOTE FROM HONEST ARTS PRODUCTION COMPANY



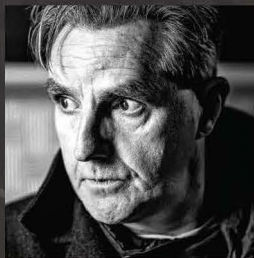
TARA DOOLAN & PIUS MCGRATH

A Production like *Waiting for Poirot* takes a massive community effort to get it up on its feet at the best of times. It requires a 'buy in' from everyone involved be they onstage or offstage. The People's Park became a sanctuary for many people during the last year and a half in Limerick, it offered solace in solitude when it was very hard to attain. It became the Jewel in the Crown of Limerick City. As we started to emerge back into a more open world, we wanted to explore what the People's Park could become once the gates have closed at day's end. It can be a place where imagination and childlike wonder go hand in hand to create a shared experience for our entire community. We hope that you can immerse yourself for an hour or so in this world we have created especially for you. *Waiting for Poirot* has brought out the best in us as a community, to say that the people involved have gone above and beyond to create this spectacle would be an understatement. This is a production that has reinstated our belief in the work we all do and what that work can mean to so many. We have adapted and pivoted to production demands that didn't exist eighteen months ago but the show must go on! ... and it will, we hope you enjoy it!

We would like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to all our production partners and supporters, in particular, The Arts Council, The Lime Tree Theatre|Belltable, Limerick City and County Council, The Arts Office, The Parks Department, Limerick Civic Trust and The People's Museum of Limerick.

We at Honest Arts endeavour to present our work to audiences at home and abroad, telling original Irish stories with a universal message.

## MIKE FINN BIOGRAPHY



Mike Finn is a playwright, screenwriter and actor who holds an MA in Scriptwriting from the National Film School and has had over fifty scripts produced in various media. Among his plays are *Pigtown* (winner of the Stewart Parker Award and produced Off-Broadway), *The Quiet Moment*, *The Crunch*, and *Shock & Awe*, (Island Theatre Co.), *Ellis Island* (Theatre USF, Florida), *Stories* (LYT), *Lingered and One* (Balor Theatre Co.), *The Big Question* (Institute of Excitement, Hampstead Theatre, London), *We Are What We Witness*, *The Revenger's Tragedy* and *Porkville* (Bottom Dog) and *Life In 2 Syllables* (Fishamble, seen in Dublin, New York and Washington and described by The Guardian as "ingeniously written"). Mike also wrote the book for the musical *The Unlucky Cabin Boy* (Guna Nua) and co-wrote *On The Wire* nominated for a 'Best Production' Irish Times Theatre Award in 2014. In April 2019 Mike's play about the Limerick Soviet, *Bread Not Profits* had a sold out run in Limerick, receiving a five star review from the Irish Times and winning the Audience Choice Award at the Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards. *Wreckquiem*, a play about the down side of urban development was shortlisted for Fishamble's A Play For Ireland Award in 2019. For television, Mike has co-written extensively with Pat Shortt including thirty six episodes of the IFTA nominated *Killinskully*, seven episodes of *Mattie* and the pilot of *Behind The Crystal Ball*. Mike wrote the radio drama *It's A Worthless Life* for RTE 1 and *Little Bits Left Over* for Limerick 95FM. In 2017, Mike was Theatre Artist-in-residence at the Belltable in Limerick. In 2000, Mike represented Ireland at the prestigious International Writing Program at the University Of Iowa and returned the following year to be that university's International writer-in-resident. In 2002 he was the Burdine's Distinguished Artist-in-residence at the University Of South Florida.

The image features a vertical split background. The left side is a light orange color with a silhouette of a person standing on a tall, fluted column. The right side is a dark grey color with a silhouette of a classical building facade. A large, semi-transparent orange circle is in the top left corner, and a smaller, solid orange rectangle is in the top right corner.

**CREATIVE  
TEAM**

**Writer  
MIKE FINN**

**Producers  
TARA DOOLAN & PIUS MCGRATH  
(HONEST ARTS)**

**Creative Director  
TARA DOOLAN**

**Vignette Director  
MYLES BREEN**

**Movement Director  
MARY NUNAN**

**Composer/Musical Director  
ÁINE DOOLAN**

**Lighting Designer  
JAY KAVANAGH**

**Costume Designer  
ELLA DALY**

**Associate Designer  
EMILY WATERS**



**PRODUCTION  
TEAM**

**Production Manager  
GARY SCIASCIA**

**Assistant Production Manager  
FIONN HURLEY**



**Stage Manager/Lead Worker Representative  
AIMEE HAYES**

**Covid Health & Safety  
BRIAN MURPHY**

**Stagehand  
KEITH DORMER**

**Stagehand  
MARTIN MORRISEY**





**LIME TREE  
THEATRE |  
BELLTABLE  
TEAM**

**Executive Director  
LOUISE DONLON**

**Marketing & Development Manager  
GILLIAN FENTON**

**Senior Marketing Executive  
SADHBH MCCOY**

**Digital Marketing Executive  
EILÍS WALSH**

**Box Office Manager  
SHARON KIELY**

**Operations Manager  
RACHEL RYAN-KEATING**

**Technical Manager  
JAY KAVANAGH**

**Assistant Technical Manager  
GARY LYSAGHT**

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BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies,  
Mary Immaculate College

Marketa Dowling

Patricia and all at No. 1 Pery Square Hotel

Tom Walsh of Hear It Sound and Light

Michael O'Brien of M.O.B Lighting

Murt Whelan Sound

Ray Nash of RAYN

Antoin Fitzsimons of A-Live

Joe Betts of Made For Stage

Dominick Kosicki of Red Paw Media

Joe Morgan

Edel Barrett

Donegal Music Education Partnership

Thinking Toys, Killaloe

Anti-fire

Limerick Motor Centre



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David O'Brien, Meadhbh Nolan and Niall Carey

Dr. Michael Finneran

Nigel Lombard

Paul Boland

## Ensemble:

BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies,  
Mary Immaculate College

Robyn O'Riordan - Ensemble Cast / Assistant Stage Manager  
Understudy Flossie

Jessica Curtin - Ensemble Cast / Assistant Director  
Understudy Dorothy Crumb

Sarah McDonagh - Ensemble / Assistant Stage Manager /  
Understudy Dolly

Nora Burke - Ensemble / Costume

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Aoife Breen - Assistant Stage Manager

Ryan Goodfellow Lawlor - Sound / Tech Assistant

Róisín Burke - Crew