

Derry Playhouse Writers News

Website: www.derryplayhousewriters.org
Editor: Margie Bernard

December 2006

Happy Holidays!

Congratulations in Order!

This has been a time of celebration for several of our writers. **Aisling Doherty** and **Ellen Factor** had a successful six weeks tour in Australia as part of the Belfast Poets' entourage. They left us as 'writers of poetry' and came back willing to call themselves Poets! They were also the featured guests on Eamon Friels' Saturday show on BBC Radio Foyle. One of the other poets on the tour was **Gordon Hughes** who, before moving to Belfast, was also a DPW regular.

And speaking of Radio, **Tom Finnigan** was once again the featured writer on Lyric FM . . . the second time for him. He has also informed me that he has been short-listed for the 2006 Fish Short History Prize for his story 'Wildgoose' set in Inishowen and Rome at the time of Colmcille. The winner will be listed at the end of this month.

One of our newest members, **Mary Lorraine McHugh**, had a showing of her Blue Butterfly paintings along with a festive evening of poetry and song at Tullyarvin Mill last month. She is also the newest addition to our Management Board.

Nick Hardin reported that the play by **Derek Murphy**, a Dublin playwright living in New York City, that we critiqued via email, was given a reading at the Attic Theatre in Templebar. Nick reported the play was well received by those in the Attic's actors' workshop who were impressed DPW used the internet to assist in its creation.

Members Elsewhere

Joe Duggan is still living in London and teaching and visits when he's able. **Alicia Reynolds** has also moved to London with her husband Brian and is teaching there. **Sylvia McShane** has returned to Dublin to resume teaching but visited two weeks ago. **Dennis Bohr** is back in North Carolina and recently had a successful production of his Macbeth play. He and **Georgia Rhodes** are planning to return next Summer.

Eleonora Felisatti, who interned at The Playhouse this summer, is back in Italy but keeps in touch. She found Derry to be more varied and artistically stimulating than Dublin where she spent several weeks after she left us.

Annual Pub Quiz

Eugene McGinty along with quizmaster **Dixie Doherty** and scorekeeper, **John McLaughlin**, ran another successful pub quiz at Badgers Bar on 14 November. Our Quiz Trophy passed from the St. Columbs' Team to that of Arais Ais (Back Again).

The event enriched our bank account by £159 which will help pay our electricity bills for a few months. Please let us know if you have any other ideas for fund-raising projects. Perhaps a book sale?

(Please Turn Over)

Our Website

A number of resources of help to writers are listed on our website so check these out. We also have a link to **Amazon** on the site. Any books ordered through this connection results in our receiving between 5-15 percent of the price of the book. It costs you no more but helps us so please, if you order books online, do so through the link on www.derryplayhousewriters.org. Tell your friends as well. We receive a tri monthly statement of what was ordered (but not the name of who ordered it) with an accounting of how much we received and once it reaches £25 it is deposited directly to our Bank of Ireland current account.

Our site has been somewhat neglected of late but we hope to rectify this in future. One idea is to have your photo and a sample of your writing on it. If interested let me know and we can arrange for the photo and what you want submitted—preferably typed onto a disc along with a brief bio of yourself.

The site also has our first journal of writings so check these out as well. If you have any suggestions as to how to spice up the site please let me know. My son Don graciously maintains the site on his server at great savings to us and is also our webmaster. He designed the site (the photos are mine!) and is willing to make any updates/improvements/additions.

After numerous requests, the Ask About Writing website has agreed to include us in their list of useful links.

Your Editor Apologizes

I have been experiencing newsletter writer's block, hence the lack of communication these past few months! Hopefully, I've recovered!

Management Comm.

Our current Management Committee consists of the following:

Chair: **Aisling Doherty**

Vice Chair: **Eugene McGinty**

Secretary: **Terese Morgan**

Treasurer: **Margie Bernard**

General Members: **Ellen Factor; Madeline McCully; Dell Prince; Tom Finnigan; Mary Lorraine McHugh; Martin O'Brien.**

Playhouse Holiday Party

You are cordially invited to attend The Playhouse's Annual celebration on Tuesday 19 December @ 4:30 in the Green Room.

Holiday Break

Our last meeting before the Holidays will be on Wednesday 20 December. We will not meet again until Wednesday 10 January 2007.

The rule of thumb is: If The Playhouse is closed so are we—otherwise we meet every Wednesday year-round, come rain or come shine!

Memorable Quote

"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves." *Anna Quindlen*