

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
THEATRE GUILD

"JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK"

BY

SEAN O'CASEY

AT THE HUT

Monday - - May 31

Tuesday - - June 1

Wednesday - - June 2

1948

Sean O'Casey was born sixty years ago in Dublin. He was brought up in a Dublin tenement house, and because of an eye affliction never went to school, but received his education in the streets of Dublin, where he sold newspapers for a livelihood. For a while he worked for a big newsagency for nine shillings a week, and had to be on the job at four in the morning. He did not learn to read until he was sixteen.

He worked as dock-labourer, hod-carrier, stone-breaker on the roads, railway workman, and builder's labourer; he helped to organize the Irish Citizen Army which fought in the Dublin streets in 1916, and in 1919 he wrote "The Story of the Citizen Army," his first published work.

He learned his play technique by keen and regular attendance at the Abbey Theatre, first home of Yeats, Synge, Lady Gregory, Lennox Robinson, and others, and birthplace of the modern Irish drama.

Towards the middle of 1921 he commenced to send plays to the Abbey Theatre. Lennox Robinson says they were difficult to read because they were written on poor paper, in pale ink and in a bad hand, but Lady Gregory persevered with them, being struck by his great gift of characterization, and but for Yeats may have produced one of his earlier works, which were mostly about licentious capitalists and noble proletarians. Yeats, however, was adamant, slashing the author for his sentimentality, and implored him to write about the life he knew — life of the Dublin slums.

His first play to be accepted, "The Shadow of a Gunman," was staged in April, 1923, and it made his Dublin reputation in a single night. "Juno and the Paycock" was first produced in March, 1924, and in 1926 he was awarded the Hawthornden Prize for it.

James Agate has said that O'Casey's two plays, "Juno and the Paycock" and "The Plough and the Stars," together with Shaw's "St. Joan," are the three greatest plays that London has seen in this century.

M.J.

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"JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK"

A Play in Three Acts

Scene: The living apartment of a two-roomed tenancy of the Boyle family, in a tenement house in Dublin

Time: 1922

There will be a short interval between each Act, and the curtain is lowered in Act III to denote the lapse of one hour

"Juno and the Paycock"

The Characters in the Play

"Captain" Jack Boyle	JACK TAGGART
"Juno" Boyle	MYRA NOBLET
Johnny Boyle	DON PASCOE
Mary Boyle	JOSEPHINE BURTON
"Joxer" Daly	LEN SWEENEY
Mrs. Maisie Madigan	FLORENCE BROWN
"Needle" Nugent	JOHN WARD
Mrs. Tancred	NANCY BASHEER
Jerry Devine	REX HEADING
Charlie Bentham	BARRIE McEWIN
First Irregular	FRANK BROWN
Second Irregular	OSCAR COX
First Furniture Remover	TED McKENZIE
Second Furniture Remover	BRIAN FISHER
Coal-block Vendor	BRIAN FISHER
Sewing-machine Man	HARRY HAYTHORNE
A Neighbour	JUNE McARTHUR

Under the direction of
Thelma Boulderstone

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Stage Arrangements	-	-	-	Michael James
Lighting	-	-	-	J. C. Hantken

UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD



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FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

"The Old Ladies," by Rodney Ackland (after a novel by Hugh Walpole),
directed by Frank Johnston

"Everyman," directed by Iris Thomas

E. Wedd, Hon. Secy.