

THE
YOUNGSTOWN
PLAYHOUSE

The Irish

*... and how they
got that way*

MARCH 24-26
BY FRANK MCCOURT
DIRECTED BY JOHN COX



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THE
*Y*OUNGSTOWN
PLAYHOUSE

**THE IRISH...
AND HOW THEY
GOT THAT WAY**

WRITTEN BY
FRANK MCCOURT

DIRECTED BY
JOHN COX

2022-2023 BOX OFFICE SPONSOR



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CAST

Amanda Beagle
Jackie Collins
John Cruz
Beni El-Dalati
Craig Petrie

SETTING

An Irish pub

RUNNING TIME

90 minutes with a 15 minute intermission

CREATIVE TEAM

Director John Cox
Stage Manager Caitlyn Santiago
Musical Director / Pianist Jan Crews
Lighting Design Leslie Brown

CREW

Crew Joe Malys
Stage Electricians Cord Ramsey, Kenzie James
Choreographer Emelia Sherin
Audio Technician Evan Gottschalk
Violinist Rachel Spak
Dancer Theo Hart

SPECIAL THANKS

Terry Shears & Molly Galano

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am not usually a Director and I can't read music and yet I find myself directing a musical!? Why? Well, In 1997, this show premiered at The Irish Rep in NYC. My sister was living there and my parents and I went to visit her. Being unapologetically Irish, this seemed like a perfect fit. The show was intimate and it blew me away! Goosebumps, tears, laughter, all from the poetic words of Frank McCourt and the songs of Ireland. This history lesson, set to music, has intrigued me since then. This beautiful show is perfect for Youngstown and I have been waiting for the opportunity to premiere this show at The Playhouse.

St Patrick's Day, for my family, is like Christmas. Growing up in Youngstown, I was submerged in my Irish culture. I grew up listening to the stories of my Dad and Uncles and the cast of crazies we would run into at Irish Bobs, Visa's, The Petri Club. I remember going to the Parade and the Engineers Hall afterwards. I remember music and laughter and this show transports me back to those times. This show gives us the opportunity to look back at what our ancestors endured to provide better lives for future generations. A story of Immigrants. An American story. This show is about tradition and heritage and family. This show is a love letter to my family and the rich tradition of song and laughter, I remember being instilled with as a boy. Please enjoy this phenomenal cast as they take you back to where you came from. After all, we are the music makers. We are the dreamers of dreams. Sláinte

- John Cox

ARTIST PROFILES

John Cox (Director) In real life, John is a pediatrician in Canfield and Board President of The Youngstown Playhouse. John also dabbles in acting, and has been in multiple Youngstown Playhouse productions over the years. Some of his favorite shows were: *39 Steps* (he will be reprising the role of Richard Hannay in June at The Playhouse), *Pillowman*, *Glengarry Glenross*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Annapurna* and most recently in *Couples Therapy*. John also was lucky to perform as Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls* and Luther Billis in *South Pacific*, at the DeYor with Easy St. Directing credits include *Barefoot in the Park*, *Blues in the Night* and *Lend Me A Tenor*.

John is lucky to have this amazing cast and their beautiful voices, to bring this show to life. Thanks to Johnny P for just being awesome and to Leslie Brown, for her lighting and wisdom. Love to Leigh, John, Jake and Danny for letting him continue to be a child, when necessary. This show is for you Dad.

Caitlyn N. Santiago (Stage Manager) Caitlyn is very excited to be involved with yet another Playhouse production. Although she's never acted on the main stage, she has been involved in many productions, working as crew, starting with A Christmas Carol back in 2017. She considers the Youngstown Playhouse to be her home theatre and is fortunate to have the opportunity to work on shows. She's incredibly privileged to have worked with John Cox, for the first time since first volunteering at the Playhouse, and to have worked with such a wonderful and talented cast. As always, Caitlyn would like to thank her Playhouse mentors, as well as her friends and family for their love and support during every production she works on.

ARTIST PROFILES



Amanda Beagle made her New York City debut at Lincoln Center performing with the Little Orchestra Society in their production of *Babes in Toyland*. She toured the world as a vocalist for Holland America Cruise Lines singing in their Showroom at Sea productions and has performed in several regional theater productions. Some of her favorites include *The Wizard of Oz* and *Les Miserables* with The Fireside Theater in WI. Amanda performed leading roles in Easy Street Productions/Youngstown Symphony Society collaborations of *The Music Man*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Powers Auditorium and the DeYor. She made her New

York City Cabaret debut in 2017 at the famed Metropolitan Room and has entertained at the iconic Sardi's Restaurant and Don't Tell Mama in the heart of Manhattan. A former Miss Ohio, Ms. Beagle competed live in Atlantic City for the job of Miss America 2005 where she was a non-finalist talent award winner. Amanda is a Teaching Artist for SMARTS-Students Motivated by the Arts, creating applied theater curriculum for children with special needs and also specializes in integrating the arts into classroom curriculum. Ms. Beagle studied music at Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music and Entertainment Business through Full Sail University earning a Master of Science. Amanda maintains a thriving private home studio in Howland for students ranging in age from 7 to senior citizens and is certified through Estill Voice International in Estill Figure Proficiency. Learn more about Amanda's voice studio at www.amandabeagle.com.



John Cruz is excited to be making his Youngstown Playhouse Debut alongside such a talented cast and crew of hard working individuals. He graduated with a BFA in musical theater from Youngstown State University before moving to NYC to pursue a career in musical theater. While in New York John worked for several small theater companies including the Motor Company where he collaborated as an actor and creator on their intimate bar play series and their communal space series. He also worked with Underscore Cabaret Company where he collaborated as a performer and director on several of their productions including Underscore NYC; *Pride*; *America*; *Monsters*;

and *Quarantine*. He was also a featured performer on their Christmas Album, *A Very Cranky Christmas*. Some of John's favorite previous roles include Henry in *Next to Normal*, Francis in *Gemini*, Biff in *1940s Radio Hour* and Matt in *Dog Sees God* among many others. Most recently he just finished performing in and directing *Lovesick: A Rom-Com Gone Wrong Cabaret* in partnership with the Millennial Theater Co. and Hopewell Theater, which he also created/conceptualized. He also co-created an original cabaret *Crazy in Love*. Having recently moved back to Ohio, John is currently the Assistant Director of Camp Asbury, a year round camp and retreat center, located in Hiram, OH.

ARTIST PROFILES



Jackie Collins started acting 10 years ago. Some of her favorite roles have included Anna in *The King and I* (Main Street Theatre), Mrs Kendall in *The Elephant Man* (Youngstown Playhouse), and Hallie Jackson in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (Hopewell Theater). When she isn't performing, she loves taking adventures with her family.



Beni El-Dalati was born in San Francisco, raised as a child in Appleton, WI, but found his home in Cleveland, Ohio. Beni was bit with the theater bug at an early age and has been found on the stage his entire life. He pursued theater in college and earned a degree in Theater and Performance Studies from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He moved to New York City to gain valuable experience and returned to Cleveland to pursue his other passion of service to others. Beni is now working as a Nurse at CSL Plasma and continues to pursue his passion for theater by writing and performing. Beni is currently writing the book, lyrics, and music for an original musical with the working title of *Lion and the Lamb* about the powerful friendship between two men. Beni is excited to be working on this show as his grandfather (Paddy), was born in Dublin and when he went back to Ireland in 2019; he felt it was the most beautiful place he's ever been.



Craig Petrie a Pittsburgh native who made his local acting debut as Morgan in the Youngstown Playhouse's 2019 production of *The Drawer Boy*. Having graduated some time last century from West Virginia University with a degree in Acting and Directing, Craig was drawn to this production due to his lifelong love of history and Irish music and storytelling. He resides in Boardman with his wife Liz and Charlie the boxer, frequently surrounded by their 6 grandchildren.



Theo Hart started Irish Dancing at 3 and a half years old at O'Kennedy Holland Dance Company. Theo has done 3 years of St. Patrick Day tours throughout Northeast Ohio. Moving to Youngstown, she joined Burkes Irish Dancing in 2022. She has since broken off into musical theatre performances and has now performed in 2 showcases of *Whose Holiday is it Anyways* an improv show at Hart's School of Performing Arts. She is excited to make her debut performance at the Youngstown Playhouse. She thanks her family and siblings Milo and Mara for all the support!

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Although a donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated, gifts of \$100 or more will be included in the "Friends of The Youngstown Playhouse" Annual Giving Society. All members of the Giving Society will receive benefits including:

- Special recognition on the Youngstown Playhouse website and in event playbills
- Advance notice of upcoming events and early access to tickets
- Exclusive invitations to pre-show events and early VIP entrance for select events

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Gabrielle Jones, Development Coordinator at 330-788-8739 or fundraising@youngstownplayhouse.org.



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THE YOUNGSTOWN PLAYHOUSE

MISSION STATEMENT

As we anticipate our 100th Anniversary Season, The Youngstown Playhouse remains committed to our mission of presenting quality theatre arts performances, providing educational initiatives, and establishing and maintaining community partnerships while supporting and participating in the revitalization of the City of Youngstown.

ABOUT THE PLAYHOUSE

The Youngstown Playhouse, founded in 1924, has sustained a legacy of quality live performance theatre in Northeast Ohio by staging innovative, unique, and accessible theatrical performances of both classic and modern productions. Located in Youngstown's Glenwood Avenue Corridor, the Youngstown Playhouse annually serves over 9,000 guests of all ages with a full season of musicals and plays complemented by workshops, readings, and concerts. The Playhouse facility houses a mainstage theatre of 400 seats and The Moyer Room an intimate blackbox space seating 75. The Youth Theatre Program serves nearly 150 participants through classes, workshops, and fully staged productions attended by over 1,000 local public school students annually. With the 100th Anniversary Season approaching, The Youngstown Playhouse remains committed to its mission of presenting quality theatre arts performances, providing educational initiatives, and establishing and maintaining community partnerships while supporting and participating in the revitalization of the City of Youngstown.

Learn more at youngstownplayhouse.org

THE JOSEPH E. SCARVELL YOUTH THEATRE ENDOWMENT

The Joseph E. Scarvell Youth Theatre Endowment Fund was established in May 2021 under the stewardship of The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley to honor Joe's lifelong commitment to arts education. It is our hope that the fund, which began with an initial investment of \$20,000 supported by a major anonymous gift, will support our educational programming in perpetuity as we seek to cultivate the next generation of theatre professionals and patrons.

Contributions to the fund may be directed to CFMV via check or credit card at www.cfmv.org/donate. For other forms of donation, such as stock transfer or real estate, donors may contact CFMV staff at 330-743-5555 or info@cfmv.org.

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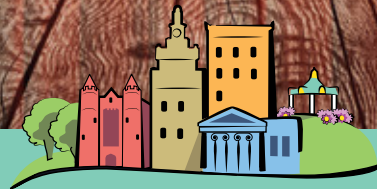
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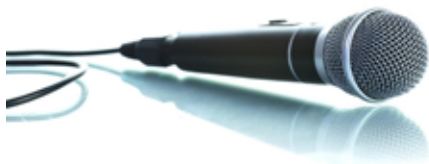
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