Spring 1992

Juno and the Paycock Program [1992]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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Juno and the Paycock

by Sean O'Casey
THE ACTORS

ADAM CROCKER: Adam is a nineteen year old freshman who just transferred from UMA. Says Adam, "I've been an actor most of my natural life. I became a college theatre major. Born in Callhune County, Alabama, and raised around the world. I've seen a lot and done more, but still managed to keep my sense of humor intact."

MICHELE DESCHAMBAULT: A sophomore at USM, Michele is originally from Sanford, ME but now resides in Portland with her four roommates and her cat Sunshine. This is her first show at USM, and she looks forward to many more.

KIM FLETCHER: Kim graduates this May from USM and plans to go on to graduate school in the fall in Theatre Administration. She wishes to thank her two young daughters for their patience and support while realizing her dream of completing school.

BEN GOODRIDGE: Ben is a sophomore English major interested in all aspects of the theatre, from writing to acting. He has written several unpublished works. This is Ben's first acting role at USM.

JEREMY HERSON: Twenty years old and presently a freshman at USM, Jeremy hopes this performance will be followed by many others.

ED MAYNARD: Ed is from Saco, and a graduate of Thornton Academy. He is now a sophomore at USM and trying his luck at his first acting performance.

JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK
BY SEAN O'CASEY
DIRECTED BY THOMAS A. POWER

FEATURING:

"Captain" Boyle ................ Geary Smith
Juno Boyle .................... Kim Fletcher
Johnny Boyle .................. Ed Maynard
Mary Boyle .................... Michele Deschambault
"Joxer" Daly .................... Iain Odin
Mrs. Maisie Madigan.......... Heather Simones
"Needle" Nugent ............... Sean Woolford
Mrs. Tancred ................. Heather Sellars
Jerry Devine ................. Jeremy Hersom
Charlie Bentham .............. Ed Waterhouse
An irregular mobilizer ....... Doug Murphy
1st irregular .................. Doug Murphy
2nd irregular .................. Ed Waterhouse
Coal Block Vendor ............ Ed Waterhouse
1st furniture removal man .... Adam Crocker
2nd furniture removal man .... Ben Goodrich
Neighbor ...................... Teresa Rooff

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I
The living apartment of a two-room tenancy of the Boyle family, in a Dublin tenement house, 1922.

ACT II
A few days later.

ACT III
Two months later.
Juno and the Paycock was produced in 1924 and set in a Dublin tenement. This is among O'Casey's finest dramas and perhaps his most popular one. In 1959 Mark Blitzstein made it into a musical. The play is set in the period of the destructive struggle that terrorized newly independent Ireland.

Although the play stands alone as a statement of the powerful will of a woman to hold a family together during desperate times, it may help us to have a broader sense of what a poor Dublin family of 1922 might have had for political and social realities.

Following the ill-fated Irish rebellion of 1916, the defeated patriots of Ireland continued to resist British rule, culminating in a declaration of allegiance to the Republican ideal and the founding of Dail Eireann, the Irish Constituent Assembly, which proclaimed the Republic once again in 1919.

England countered this move and the “Black and Tans” waged war upon the Irish people. Finally, in 1921, the world’s attention was drawn to these events in Ireland and the voice of reason began to reach out.

In June of 1921 a “Home Rule Bill” was passed in London that was proposed to the new Irish government to end the hostilities. The treaty was seen by some as a means to end the terrible blood-shed of the “Black and Tans,” but unfortunately it split the new Irish nation into “Free Staters” and “Republicans,” setting the stage for the characters of the play.

The “Free Staters” voted in a slight majority to accept the proposed treaty, allowing for such things as Free
State representatives who would swear allegiance to the
King of England, a British Governor General as the
chief officer, and Britain’s retention of strategic harbors
in Ireland. The Republicans were strongly opposed to
such demands on their hard won freedom.

The ratification of this treaty on January 7, 1922
signaled the beginning of Civil War. In June the Free
States’ Troops opened fire on their ex-comrades, the
Republicans, in Dublin. After days of bitter fighting,
the Republicans were forced to their knees and into
prison. Fighting continued between the two warring
factions until May of 1923 when Eamon de Valera, the
Republican leader, called on the remnant of the
Republicans to cease fire.

In O’Casey’s play, the Boyle family struggles to survive
in a city where neighbor kills neighbor and petty
differences do not evaporate, even in death. Juno prays
for deliverance from this daily crisis, and believes she
sees escape in the form of a family inheritance. She is
driven back to reality by the stupidity and greed of her
fellow man.

-------Thomas A. Power

DOUG MURPHY: “This is my long awaited debut at
USM---although I think I was the only one waiting for
it.”

IAIN ODLIN: Iain is a newcomer to Maine, but he has
over a decade of theatre experience in Washington.

TERESA ROOFF: Teresa is a first year Theatre major
who acted in L’L ABNER and CAROUSEL. She has
acted in some short scenes from Shakespeare and
performed technical duties.

HEATHER SELLARS: This is Heather’s first show and
she is very excited about it!

HEATHER SIMONES: Heather, an eccentric young
actress whose favorite role was a screaming apparition,
has plans to further her career. She now resides in the
quaint village of North Berwick, where her primary
entertainment is watching the factory workers make a
frantic dash to their cars.

GEARY SMITH: This is Geary’s ninth and final
performance on the Russell Square stage. He has loved
his time in this theatre and is looking forward to new
stages to come.

ED WATERHOUSE: A resident of Scarborough, Ed is a
junior who is changing his major to Communications.
JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK is his first theatrical
production. His other interests include weight-lifting
and volleyball.

SEAN WOOLFORD: After working backstage for the
past year on Russell Square productions, Sean decided
to make himself visible to the audience for a change.
Nugent is his first role at USM after appearing
elsewhere in GREASE, PLAY IT AGAIN SAM, OLIVER
and OKLAHOMA!-- hopefully, it won’t be his last.
Presented by the USM Theatre Department
at Russell Hall on the USM Gorham Campus

Evening Performances: February 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Matinee Performances: February 8 at 3:00 p.m. and February 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Ticket Prices: $4.00 Students; $6.00 Faculty, Staff and Senior Citizens; $7.00 Public

For ticket reservations and information call: 780-5483 (MC/VISA Welcome on all orders over $10.00)