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Grannia Program [1989]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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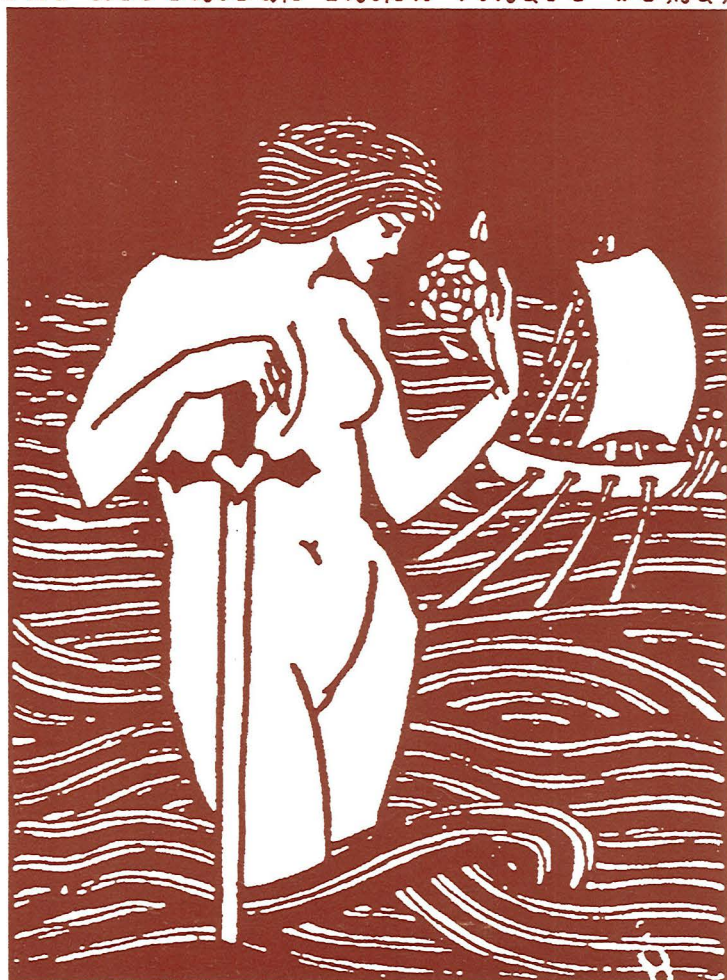
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An Original Musical Drama By Thomas A. Power & Larry "Flash" Allen

Performances: **January 18, 19, 20th at 8:00 PM**
January 20th at 2:00 PM p.m.
January 21st at 4:00 PM m.



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"We Work Hard to Make Things Easy"



THE COMPANY

Grannia O'Malley..... Daphne A. Bladen
Elizabeth Tudor Kim Fletcher
Finola O'Flaherty Burke Carolyn Bailey
Donal O'Flaherty Steve Lavoie
Iron Dick Mark LaPierre
Hugh de Lacy Samuel Tedford
Sir Bingham Richard Gifford
Lord Sidney..... Timothy S. Kindred
Robert Bingham..... Timothy Stevens
Walter Burke..... Aaron Petrovich
Maura Tina Allen
Molly..... Jamie Andrews
Bridget..... Mara Kelley
Garrett Michael Mitchell
Old Man Timothy Stevens
Young Man..... Aaron Petrovich
Little Girl..... Maeve O'Reagan
Dance Captains Cathlynn Miranda
& Beth Staples

Movement Chorus

Carolyn Evanofski	Meagan A. Hoff
Beth Staples	Christopher Hartmann
Aaron Petrovich	Joseph Rando
Michael Mitchell	Brian C. Lamphier
Noah Spiegel	Patrick Lundin
Catholynn Miranda	Steve Lavoie

Orchestra

Larry Allen	Jeff Christiansen
Daemian Allen	Lonnie Manchester



AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL XXII

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This production is a Participating entry in the American College Theater Festival (ACTF). The aims of this national educational theater program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for adjudication by a regional American College Theater Festival representative. The production is also eligible for inclusion at the ACTF regional festival. Eight ACTF regional festivals are produced nationwide each year, and from these festivals up to six productions are selected to be part of the noncompetitive ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts each spring. ACTF also sponsors regional and national level awards, scholarships, and special grants to student actors, playwrights, designers, and critics.

Last year more than 800 productions and 17,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production in ACTF, our department is endorsing the ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in university and college theaters across the nation.

ACT I

- Scene 1 Ireland
 Woman Child The Company
 A Child Grows The Company
 Scene 2 Queens Meet England
 Can This Be Elizabeth & Grannia
 Scene 3 Donal's Castle Bunowen Castle, Ireland
 Scene 4 The Murder Bunowen Castle, Ireland
 Run & Hide Maura, Iron Dick, Bridget & Company
 Scene 5 Widowed Bunowen Castle, Ireland
 Iron Dick Maura, Bridget, Iron Dick, Old Man, Garrett
 Scene 6 Bingham & Elizabeth England
 Scene 7 Grannia & Hugh Hens Castle, Ireland
 Scene 8 Battle & Victory Hens Castle, Ireland
 I Am Prepared Grannia & Company
 Battle The Company
 Siochain Grannia

There will be one 10 minute intermission

ACT II

- Scene 1 Queens Meet England
 Can This Be (reprise) The Company
 Scene 2 The Wedding Rockfleet Castle, Ireland
 Grannia's Married The Company
 Jig The Company
 Scene 3 Grannia Goes to Sea Ireland
 Scene 4 Battle at Sea Off Galway
 Ships a comin' The Company
 Scene 5 T'was Meant To Be Ireland
 T'was Meant To Be Bridget, Maura, Molly
 Scene 6 Bingham Pilots Galway
 Scene 7 Iron Dick Resists Ireland
 Could I Have Changed Iron Dick
 Scene 8 The Submission Galway
 Scene 9 Treachery Galway
 Prelude to Death Grannia, Siochain, Bingham
 Goodbye Grannia Siochain
 Imprisoned by Man Grannia
 Scene 10 Elizabeth Decides England
 Finale Elizabeth, Grannia & The Company

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Artistic Director..... William P. Steele
Choreography & Musical Staging..... Cliff MacGraham
Music Director..... Lois Sturtevant

Scenic Designer..... Charles S. Kading
Costume Designer..... Susan E. Picinich
Lighting Designer..... Fred Fauver

Assistant Costume Designer Stephanie Bell
Costumer..... Christenia Kinne
Sound Engineer Bob Blackwell

Stage Manager Alexandra Thomas
1st Assistant Gregory Holmes
2nd Assistant..... Erika L. Schlaack
Properties..... Britt Morris

Stage Crew

Cindi Whitaker Michael David Anderson
Joanson Hamilton Alta Bruce
Doug Murphy Brid Ryan

Special Thanks to:

Stagecraft I & II lab classes
Johnson Hamilton & Heidi Berry
Chris Kinne for Historical work on costumes

Costume Construction Crew

Mark LaPierre – Noelle Lalacheur
Anne Gaylord – Jeremy Graham Ellis
Kathleen Hall – Noah Spiegel
Jody Nichols

Wardrobe

Jody Nichols
Tara Boocheck

Lights

Tom Rodman
Brooke Lindeman

Sound Engineer

Bob Blackwell

Publicity

Minor Rootes

Poster Design

Jason Stewart

Program Graphics

Linda Bridges

ACT I

SYNOPSIS

As the play begins, we hear the ancient voices of the Irish Brehons calling out the wisdom of men in 1530. At this time in history, two special women are born and we are introduced to the growth of one, Grannia, as she enters a "man's world" on tiny Clare Island, off the west coast of Ireland. Then the voices transition us to a time some years later as the mature Grannia O'Malley and Queen Elizabeth I meet in England, both wary but impressed by the similarities in their lives.

Grannia begins to tell her story and we are taken to the past again, at Bunowen Castle, Western Ireland. Grannia's husband at age 16 is Donal O'Flaherty, an abusive and violent man. His sister Finola encourages him to commit a terrible crime and kill her stepson, Walter Burke, as he visits Donal at Bunowen. Donal agrees and the deed is done but witnessed by Grannia. Faced with this evidence of Donal's murderous nature, she decides to escape Bunowen Castle and attempt to make her life in the only way she knows, piracy.

Trained at sea by her father, Grannia has great success as a pirate, and frequently at the expense of Sir Richard Bingham, Governor of Connaught. Bingham goes to Lord Sidney in England and finally to the Queen for a plan to end the piracy and bring Grannia to justice. Grannia is warned of impending attack as word arrives at her stronghold of Hens Castle bringing news of her husband Donal's death. Bingham attacks Grannia but he is unsuccessful. A Spanish sailor named Hugh De Lacy has been rescued by Grannia and now turns out to be a valued friend and for the first time in her life new feelings of love are awakened.

Grannia has become, of necessity, a political animal. Although feeling great attachment to Hugh De Lacy, her "Siochain", Grannia recognizes that a marriage to Chieftain Richard in Iron Burke would provide a source of support and power in the struggle to avoid capture by Bingham. As Act I ends she laments her love for Siochain and her need to deny those feelings in order to survive.

ACT II

SYNOPSIS

As Act II opens, the wedding day occurs at Rockfleet Castle, Richard's home, and establishes the grounds on which Grannia marries and hints at a means for separation. Siochain is not pleased, but remains faithful to the woman now called "Queen of Connaught".

Elizabeth and Lord Sidney decide to entice submission of the Chieftains of Ireland by offering Knighthood as well as tax advantages. Sidney feels that it will disarm the pirates if Burke also submits to the Crown and goes to Ireland to arrange this with Bingham.

Grannia sets to sea in order to attack three ships bringing supplies to Bingham. During her exit, she fights with Richard and then once at sea, gives birth to a son, Tibbot, but still rallies her men and Siochain to victory over the British ships. She hurries back to Rockfleet and finally dismisses Richard so that she may retain his lands, castle, and son but will be free to take Siochain as a lover.

Greatly angered by the loss of his ships, Bingham plots to capture Grannia. He will bring them to Galway under a flag of peace, but will grab Grannia and Siochain while distracting Richard. Grannia does not anticipate the treachery and encourages Richard to submit so that they may buy some time to gather their forces of resistance. Richard finally agrees when Grannia offers to take him to Galway and provide safe transport.

The submission ceremony takes place as planned but as Grannia is offered a tour of the English defenses, she is separated from her men and thrown into the dungeon. Unaware of Grannia's plight, a drunken Richard falls to his death on the quay in Galway. As Richard drowns, Siochain is also captured and imprisoned by Bingham.

Bingham flaunts his power over the imprisoned Grannia and delivers Siochain's severed head to her cell that she might agonize over her own fate. Sidney informed of Bingham's treachery, returns to Galway to demand the release of Grannia to his custody and gives her permission to go to Elizabeth for an audience to seek retribution for Bingham's actions.

Grannia and Elizabeth finish their meeting as Elizabeth pardons her and gives both Grannia and her son, Tibbot, significant rights and privilege for the rest of their days.

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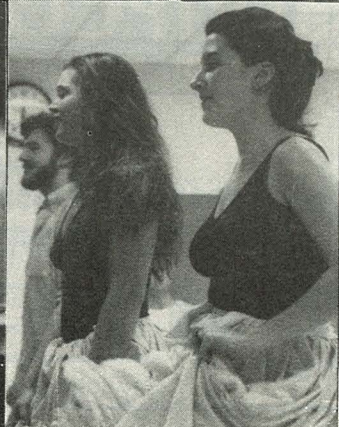
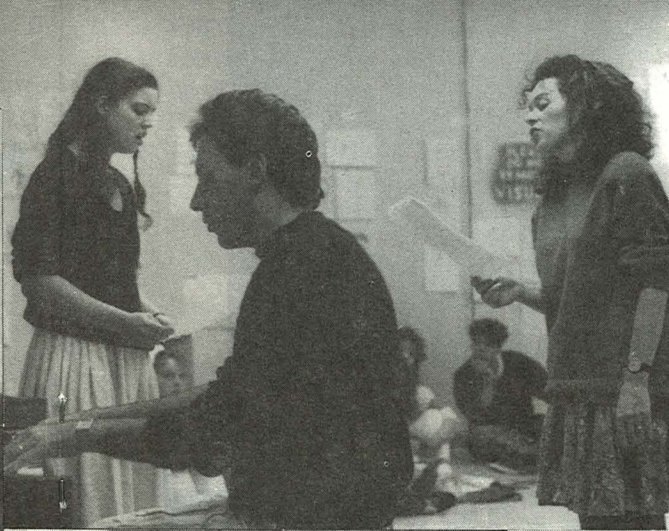
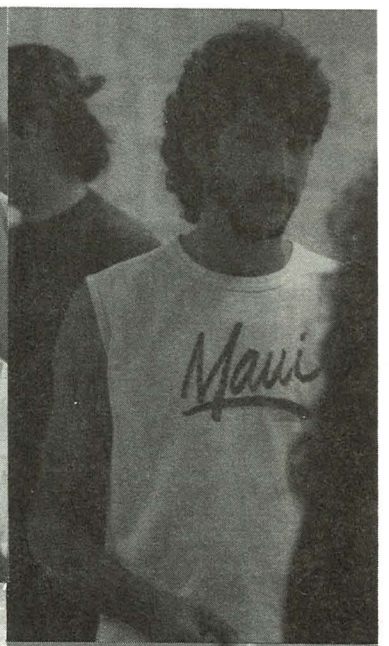
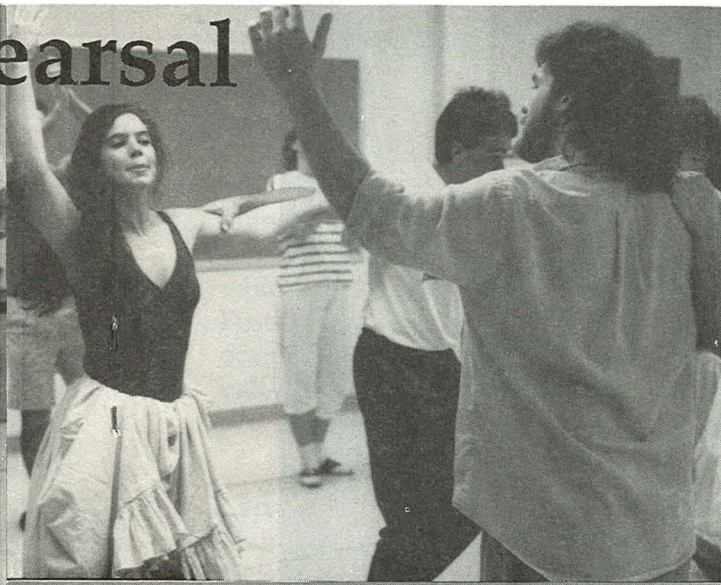
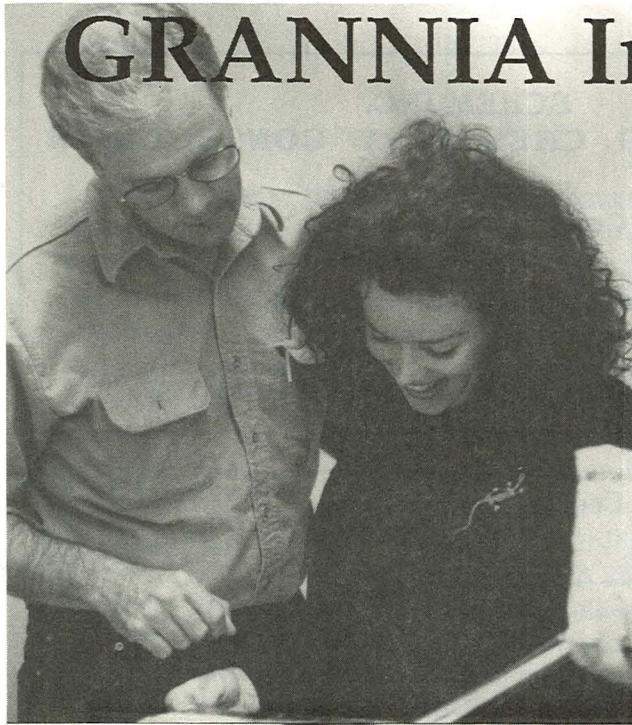
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THE PLAYWRIGHT & LYRICIST

Thomas A. Power has been producing, directing and writing for theatre for over 20 years. Past Managing and Artistic Director of The Children's Theatre of Maine during the 70's, Power co-authored the Maine Bi-centennial production, *The Burning of Falmouth* as well as numerous other plays for children. More recently, he collaborated with Kurt Vonnegut Jr. in a re-write of *Happy Birthday Wanda June*, which was performed in the American College Theatre Regional Festival. In addition to playwriting, Power publishes regular dramatic reviews in the Journal Tribune and co-hosts a Cable TV half-hour talk show doing critiques of the Maine theatre scene.

THE COMPOSER

Larry "Flash" Allen graduated from the University of Southern Maine in 1978 and attended graduate school at The University of New Hampshire. He has been a working musician/composer ever since. Over the years Allen composed music for *Good Woman of Stezuan* and *From Morn to Midnight*, both produced at USM. In 1985 he composed an original score for adaptation of Isben's *Peer Gynt*. *Gynt* won national awards in the American College Theatre Festival and was performed at the Kennedy Center. Allen was the recipient of the ASCAP award for Best Original Musical and The Moss Hart award for Best College Musical based on this USM production of *Gynt*.

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER

Cliff MacGraham's dance background includes Eugene Loring's American School of Ballet, a degree from Dance Academy in California and Luigi's in New York. For 20 years Cliff worked in Hollywood as a choreographer for Metromedia T.V. Since moving to Maine he has continued to work on productions at Ram Island Dance Company, The Portland Players, and *Skate America*. Now that *Grannia* has opened, Cliff is off to begin work on "Once Upon a Mattress" and "Scrooge".

THE SPRING SEASON FOR THE RUSSEL SQUARE PLAYERS

March – *Strange Snow* by Steve Metcalfe
March – King Alfred's College, England
April – *Happiest of the Three*, by Eugene Labiche
Translated by Eyvonne Shafer



University of Southern Maine
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Theatre



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THE CAST

Daphne A. Bladen (Grannia) Daphne is a transfer from UM Machias and performed there in *Marat/Sade* and *The Mousetrap*. In the Portland area she has appeared in *The Wiz* at Portland Players as well as serving as stage manager at The Mad Horse Theatre. Although actively involved in USM's student theatre projects *Grannia* is Daphne's first main-stage role.

Kim Fletcher (Elizabeth) Kim is a theatre major at USM. Her most recent role was Maxine in *Night of the Iguana*. She has been a summer stock player with the Theatre Project in Brunswick, and went to England last May with the *Great American Mail Order Catalogue*. Among her favorite roles are: *Olivia*, *Twelfth Night*, *Rossignol*, *Marat/Sade*, and multiple roles in *Baby with the Bathwater*. Kim also studied voice training with Joanne Lowe in Brunswick.

Carolyn Bailey (Finola O'Flaherty) Carolyn lives in Yarmouth with husband, Lloyd and has four children and eleven grandchildren! A senior at USM, she is majoring in Theatre and Communication. Acting credits include: *Night of the Iguana*, Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, *The Crucible*, *The Music Man* and *The Shadowbox*.

Steve Lavoie (Donal O'Flaherty) Steve is a graduate of Bonny Eagle High School where he performed in over 16 plays including *Yo u Can't take it With You*, *Godspell*, *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Working*. Steve has received a number of acting awards at State and regional levels and has now returned to USM as a theatre major after 2 years of working in a local drug store.

Mark LaPierre (Richard "In Iron Burke") Mark is a freshman Theatre Major and has just finished his first main-stage role in *Night of the Iguana*. Other credits include *Pirates of Penzance* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Samuel Tedford (Hugh De Lacy, Siochain) Ted graduated from Lake Region High School and was a member of Lake Region Chorus and Concert Choir and participated in the following productions: *My Fair Lady*, *Pippin*, and *Flowers for Algernon*. He is currently attending USM and plans to major in theatre.

Richard Gifford (Sir Richard Bingham) Rick is a Philosophy Major at USM and has done "much theatre on Cape Cod". This is Rick's second main stage show at USM.

continued

THE CAST

Timothy S. Kindred (Lord Sidney) Tim was born in Iowa and educated at Utah State University. After 8 years with the Navy, Tim is continuing his formal education at USM and pursuing a degree in history. He has had minor parts in the TV mini-series, *North and South*, *The Blue and the Grey*, *Alamo*, *The Price of Freedom*, and *America, Your Too Young to Die*. He has recently finished work on *Glory*, a film for Tri-Star Pictures premiering in December.

Timothy Stevens (Old Man & Robert Bingham) Tim is from Norway, Maine and a second year Theatre Major at USM. Tim played Francis Nurse in last years production of *A Marriage Proposal*.

Tina Allen (Maura) Tina received her B. A. in Theatre from USM and has performed in 15 productions with the Russell Square Players. Credits include Fancy in *Gynt* and the voice of Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Tina has done a number of TV and radio commercial recordings and sings with the band, Shadow Play. A member of Hospice of Maine AIDS team, Portland-West Health Advisory Committee and Reiche School PTO, Tina shares her life with husband, Flash, and three sons. She says that she wants to be a "fireman. . oops, firewoman when she grows up".

Jamie Andrews (Molly) Jamie is from Freedom, Maine and a Theatre Major here at USM. Her credits include *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Ten Little Indians*, and the original musical, *Moonlight Bay*.

Mara Kelley (Bridget) Mara is a transfer student from Hartt School of Music. Her favorite roles include Princess Barbara from *The Apple Tree*, Sonia from *Godspell*, and Cassie from *A Chorus Line*. Mara was awarded the All Star Cast Award by the Boston Globe and the Massachusetts High School Arts Festival for her performance in *Adaptation*.

Michael Mitchell (Garrett) Michael "on loan" from the University of Limerick, Ireland. He is presently taking courses and doing an internship in Portland. Apart from some smaller parts in grade school, his only real theatre experience was in a fifth grade production of *My Fair Lady*. According to Michael, the production was "widely praised and entered in an international festival of light opera". Our thanks to the good city of Limerick.

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THE IDEA

Milwaukee is an unlikely place for the beginning of Grannia, but that's where the seed was planted. I was helping Schooner Fare, our most popular Maine folk singing group, at the Irish Fest in the summer of 83.

Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy were also performing during the festival and as luck would have it, Makem and I spent much of one afternoon talking theatre between concerts. He recalled some stories he had heard as a child in Ireland of Grace O'Malley, the pirate-Queen, and suggested I might look into her story as a possible play topic.

Since that day I have been researching one of the most colorful women of the 16th century.

After a sabbatical year, some of which was spent in Ireland walking through Grannia's country, I had an image of a wildly beautiful women standing on the deck of a sailing vessel with a spray around her and the rocky coast of Ireland as a backdrop, hardly the easiest character to bring to the stage with any realism.

I wrote lots of "stuff", never really finding the right dramatic means to bring Grannia to life. Anne Chambers' wonderful book, "Granuaile", kept the inspiration alive but the vehicle for stage seemed more suited for the silver screen than live theatrical performance.

Finally my son Matthew pointed out that by thinking in terms of "music" I could gain the necessary spectacle and give the character the size she needed for the stage. Matthew pushed me through the rough draft outline and has been my reader and critic through the entire process. Matthew worked with Larry "Flash" Allen in the USM production of "Gynt" a few years ago and we both knew that Flash was the right choice for a composer.

How long did it take? An incredibly short one year brought Grannia from first outline to final draft with the help of many people and the inspiration of the Irish Pirate Queen.

T. A. Power



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