

# Pre-Show In-The-Know

## The Beauty Queen of Leenane

BY MARTIN MCDONAGH

DIRECTED BY PAIGE RATTRAY

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### CURRICULUM LINKS

Drama Stage 6

Links to Topic 6: Black Comedy (*The Lieutenant of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh)

Drama Stage 5

Dramatic Traditions and Performance Styles: Comedy

### PLOT SYNOPSIS

In a small town in the Irish hills of Connemara, Maureen Folan lives a lonely existence with Mag, her aged mother. Their relationship is more arm wrestle than warm embrace. Right now, when Maureen stands the chance of having her first romantic relationship, Mag's cantankerous presence is simply unbearable.

This play was the first big hit for McDonagh who went on to pen the Broadway and West End hits *The Pillowman* and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, as well as acclaimed films such as *In Bruges* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*. On both stage and screen he combines a devilishly satisfying sense of humour with a cruel underbelly.

Associate Director Paige Rattray (*Black is the New White*) directs an incredible cast including Yael Stone (*Orange is the New Black*), Noni Hazlehurst (*Ladies in Black*, Channel 7's *A Place to Call Home*), Hamish Michael (*How to Rule the World*) and Shiv Palekar (*Disgraced*). *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* will be a tragically funny night in the theatre.

### CAST AND CHARACTERS

MAG FOLAN  
Noni Hazlehurst

PATO DOOLEY  
Hamish Michael

RAY DOOLEY  
Shiv Palekar

MAUREEN FOLAN  
Yael Stone

### STYLE

- Black Comedy
- Melodrama

### RUNNING TIME

2 hours 10 minutes (Including Interval)

### THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- A revolving set, showing the inside and outside worlds of the play
- The set is reflective of a 'real world space' with a cottage and a mossy peat bog reflective of the Irish countryside
- The sound design is comprised of lyrical Irish music