

Coming Soon

at Hampton Hill Playhouse

A Night of Dark Intent

By L. Don Swartz

Could you spot a serial killer? What if your life depended on it?

Sun 17 Mar 2013 to Sat 23 Mar 2013

Main Auditorium

Shakers Re-Stirred

By John Godber & Jane Thornton

A deliciously irreverent comedy cocktail

Tues 7 May to Sat 11 May 2013

Coward Studio



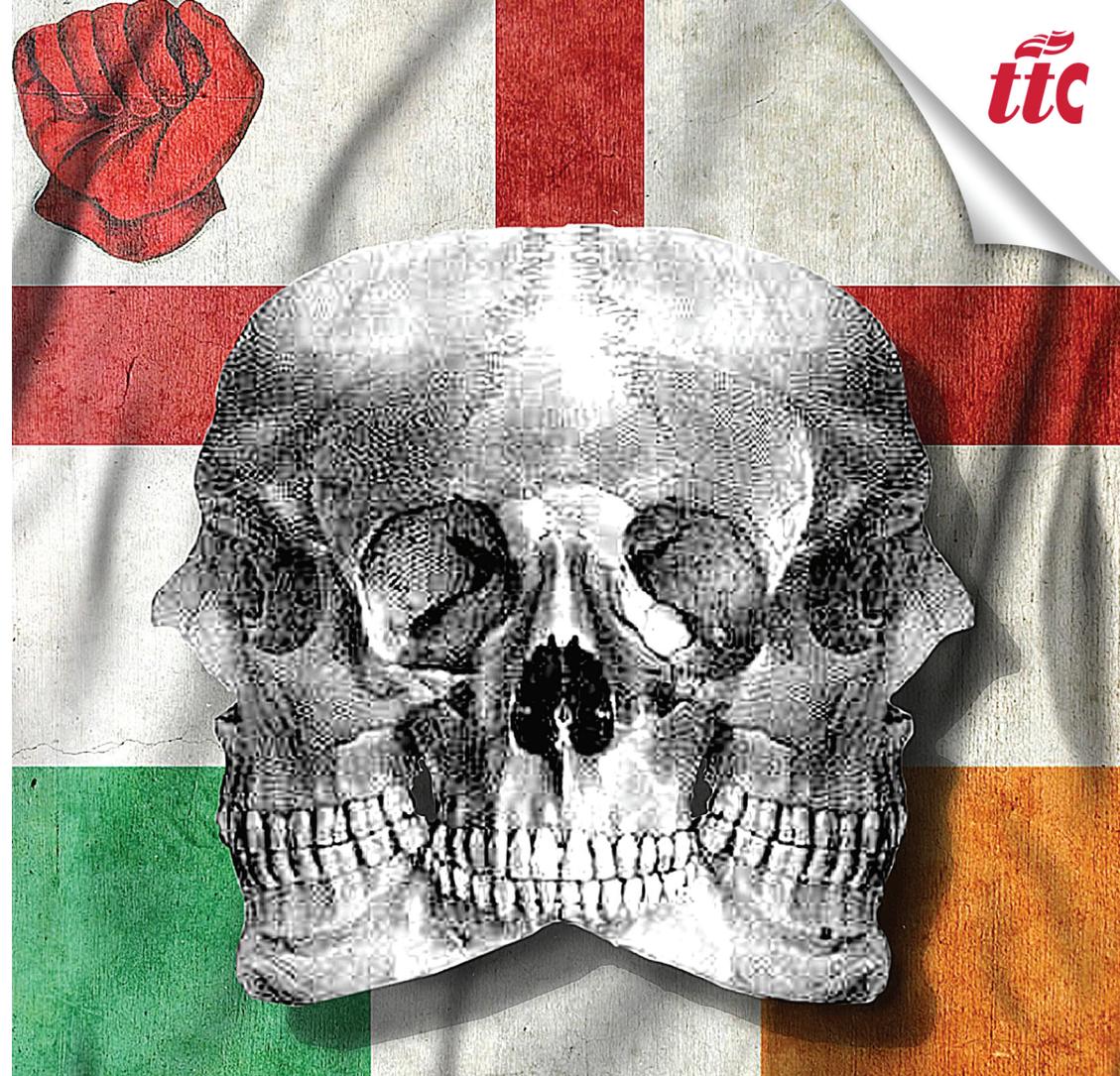
To enjoy good theatre locally, join TTC today by calling the
Membership line: 020 8287 2663

Postal bookings are accepted on publication of the booking form.
Telephone enquiries open 2 weeks before each production.
Call: 0845 838 7529 (10am - 8pm)

For up-to-date information on TTC and the Playhouse check our website
www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. It is easy to join as an audience member, or as a full performing and technical member. Each month, details of forthcoming productions are mailed to each member together with Theatre, our club magazine and newsletter.

All are encouraged to help with the Front of House, Bar and Marketing activities of the Club and Playhouse. To find out more please call our Membership Secretary on 020 8287 2663 or complete one of the forms you will find in the Foyer.



TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH JUDY DAISH ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Rat in the Skull

by Ron Hutchinson

Sun 3 Mar to Sat 9 Mar 2013

£1.50

 Hampton Hill Playhouse

Hampton Hill Playhouse

The prime local venue for your event

90 High Street, Hampton Hill, TW12 1NY

With our 142 to 197 seat theatre, and function room facilities for 50 to 70 in the Noel Coward Room, the Playhouse is the ideal and adaptable location for many types of event, for both business and the community, including:

Exhibitions	Training sessions
Business meetings	Workshops
Presentations	Music
Product launches	Rehearsals
Seminars	Studio productions

We will be happy to discuss your requirements:

Business Hires 07957 307370 (office hours only please)

Theatrical Hires 07507 556151 (office hours only please)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For reasons of safety, glassware must NOT be taken into any part of the auditorium.

Latecomers will be admitted at the first convenient moment provided that no interruption or distraction to the performers might be caused.

All gangways, passageways and stairways must be kept free from obstruction. Persons are not permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and the making of sound and/or video recordings in the auditorium are not permitted.

An induction loop system is installed in the Main Auditorium to assist those who use hearing aids with the relevant setting.

Wheelchair positions are available in both the Stalls and the Balcony. The Box Office Manager will be happy to discuss your requirements.

TTC Ltd, as managers of the Playhouse, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.

The Teddington Theatre Club Ltd

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Teddington Theatre Club acknowledges with grateful thanks the practical and financial support given by local residents, businesses and community groups.

Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, the Richmond-upon-Thames Arts Council, and to **artsrichmond**.

This production is entered for the Swan Awards for drama and musicals.

suffering remains raw for many, with peace precariously balanced on an accommodation of differences rather than removal. Some still reject the agreement altogether. Small groups of dissident republican and loyalist breakaway groups sporadically continue acts of violence and terror.

Fiona Smith
Director

**'Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for me and Tommy Todd,
I'm a Fenian, he's a Prod,
Holy Mary, Mother of God.'**
Traditional.

**'The Irish are a race of people for whom
psychoanalysis is of no use whatsoever.'**
Sigmund Freud. (1856-1939)

Ron Hutchinson was born in 1947 in County Antrim, Northern Ireland; but grew up in Coventry, England. His work includes, *The Irish Play* (1980), *Flight* (1988) *Burning Issues* (2000) and *Moonlight and Magnolias* (2002).

Rat in the Skull opened at the Royal Court Theatre in 1984 with Brian Cox taking that year's Olivier Award for his portrayal of Nelson. In a 1992 interview Hutchinson stated 'I don't write about Ireland because I have a political agenda, I wrote this play to sort my personal reactions to what was going on. I certainly don't feel I have the solution.'

**Out of Ireland have we come,
Great hatred, little room
Maimed us from the start.
I carry from my mother's womb,
A fanatic heart.**
William Butler Yeats. (1865-1939)

Internecine conflicts have a particular visceral intensity. Each side laying claim to the same piece of land, each defined by ethnic or religious differences, each with a long history of grievances making compromise more difficult, each with a radically different interpretation of the past. Proximity to Britain further complicated Ireland's colonial experience by an intermingling of populations and culture. Henry II landed at Waterford in 1169

and declared himself lord of Ireland. However, full control was not taken until the 16th century, when a policy of land confiscation and colonisation to pacify and anglicise the population under English rule, introduced large communities with a British and protestant identity to replace Irish catholic landowners, creating an Anglo Irish protestant ruling class, who came to see Ireland as their native country.

**‘History’, Stephen said, ‘is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake.’
James Joyce (1882-1941) *Ulysses***

The history of modern Ireland begins in 1921 with partition; division of the island into two separate areas of sovereignty. Eire, the new Irish state, covering the southern 26 counties, and the remaining 6 becoming Northern Ireland; with its own devolved parliament, but under overall sovereignty of Britain. As Protestants formed the majority of the population of the North, Unionists remained perpetually in power, dominating political and public life. There was blatant gerrymandering of local government control, and discrimination against the minority Catholic community in employment, social housing, and education. Sectarian division of communities extended to all areas of life. Religion also playing a significant role. Irish Nationalism by Catholicism, Unionism with Protestantism.

**‘The Irish are a fair people. They never speak well of each other.’
Dr Johnson (1709-1784)**

**‘Sooner or later in political life one has to compromise, everyone does.’
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)**

Over time, attitudes altered significantly allowing for conciliation between groups. Reforms to remove the injustices of the 1960’s and 70’s worked to create a system of government with broader community support.

In August 1994 the IRA called a ceasefire. In April 1998, Sinn Fein signed the Good Friday Agreement, pledging to renounce violence and pursue purely political methods to promote republican aims. Accepting the principal previously rejected, that a united Ireland could only occur if the majority of the population agreed. Also in 1994, the main loyalist paramilitary groups also declared a ceasefire and entered into negotiations which were to lead to the Good Friday Agreement. In it’s opening declaration the Good Friday Agreement stated a commitment to utilising ‘only democratic and peaceful means of resolving differences’ with ‘equality and mutual respect between all people of Northern Ireland, with the right to identify themselves as, Irish, British, or both as they chose.’ It guaranteed the status of Northern Ireland as part of the UK, reflecting the wishes of the majority, but accepted the right of a majority to change that in the future. British troops began to be withdrawn and fortified bases closed. These achievements have been highly significant; requiring patience and forbearance on all sides. However, the legacy of

'Kill them all, let God sort it out.'
Graffiti, maze prison. Early 1980s.

SETTING:

PADDINGTON GREEN POLICE STATION. 1984.

CAST

Roche **JOSH MATHIESON**
Harris **JOHN WILKINSON**
Naylor **PETER CAPPER**
Nelson **DANIEL WAIN**

Director **FIONA SMITH**

Stage management **MICHELLE HOOD/DAWN LACEY/
TINA MASTRACOLA/
EILISH LANGHAM**

Lighting **ROB FOOT**

Lighting design **MALCOLM MACLENAN**

Sound **JOHN PYLE**

Sound Design **MARTIN POPE**

Costumes **MARGARET WILLIAMS**

There will be an interval of 20 minutes

**"And I envy the intransigence of my own
Countrymen, who shoot to kill and never
See the victims face become their own.**

Or find his motive sabotage their motives."

Louis MacNeice (1907-63)

Throughout the 1960s, Civil rights marches seeking redress of Catholic and Nationalist grievances received no police protection from Protestant mobs. Instead, protesters were routinely arrested and assaulted by the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary). The situation rapidly degenerated into widespread rioting in Derry and Belfast. In 1969, British army troops were deployed to support the beleaguered RUC. Initially welcomed by some Catholics as protectors, British policies of internment (arrest and detention without trial), allegations of torture to extract information, and infamously, in 1972, Bloody Sunday; when British parachute regiment soldiers shot dead 13 catholic civilians at a civil rights march, effectively led hundreds of young men into joining the IRA; previously, not a significant force. For Britain, Northern Ireland had become an expensive, turbulent, international embarrassment; with the overriding interest being stability.

The north displayed consistently a protestant majority who did not want to unite with the rest of Ireland; considering their economic, cultural, political and religious interests lay with the UK. However, in swearing loyalty to Britain, they adopted a country whose people and government appeared to regard them with the same incomprehension, apathy and contempt as Irish Republicans.

**'Terrorism is the tactic of demanding the impossible,
at gunpoint.'**

Christopher Hitchens (1949-2011)

The chaotic open war that began in 1969 has been termed with some understatement as 'The Troubles'. Demanding the removal of British forces and the unification of Ireland, the main Republican paramilitary organisation to emerge was the provisional IRA (Irish Republican Army), rationalising their campaign of bombings, shootings and torture as an inevitable response to the actions of the British state. After a rise in public support following the deaths of IRA hunger strike prisoners in 1981, their political wing (Sinn Fein) began to contest elections.

For Unionists the publicity surrounding the deaths of hunger strikers contrasted painfully with the murders of 22 UDR (Ulster Defence Regiment) and RUC men during the same period.

The main unionist paramilitary organisations were the UDA, (Ulster Defence Association) and UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force), their declared aim being to defend the protestant community. However, most victims of their bombings, shootings and torture, were random catholic civilians, murdered as 'collective punishment' to weaken IRA support. Between 1966 and 2001, 3,665 people were murdered, the majority civilians. Not even theoretical separation existed between 'legitimate' targets (the armed forces, politicians etc) and 'collateral damage' (non-combatant civilians.) However, when involved in an 'embarrassing' atrocity, frequently it would be denied, or claimed that operatives 'acted without authorisation.'

**'Murder is a venal sin in Ireland.'
John Wesley (1703-1791)**

The British government publically maintained a stance of non negotiation with terrorists whilst privately entering talks on a negotiated political settlement with the IRA. The Irish Republic's government publically maintained commitment to Irish unity, whilst privately fearing the economic burden of union, and the prospect of paramilitary actions proving as difficult for them as for the British.

The 'Ballast' investigation in 2007 confirmed that British military intelligence and the RUC colluded with loyalist paramilitaries, providing arms and intelligence. In 1970, two cabinet ministers of the Government of the Republic of Ireland were dismissed for allegedly attempting to smuggle arms to the IRA. Political rhetoric notwithstanding, both Republican and Unionist paramilitary groups effectively operated as mafia style criminal gangs, implicated in bank robbery, kidnap for ransom, extortion, and the drug trade.