

Bart Players
present



PERCY

by
Stewart Love

Directed by Ken Powles

St Bartholomew's Parish Church
Canon Lindsay Hall
3rd – 6th December 2008, at 8 pm





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Current Exhibition: Outsiders

Graffiti or Urban Art comes in several forms and is part of any city culture. Many see it as ugly and vandalistic. But these criticisms are a surface response. The same criteria can also be applied to all modern art, youth groups, rock music, in fact, anything that's fun.

This exhibition showcases some of the best in the Irish scene as well as classic pieces from the international artistes.

Featuring artists Obey, Eelus, Prefab, DFace, Zoltron, Daniel Danger, Blek le Rat, and Candicetrip, Cept, Jim Fitzpatrick, Mike Giant, Will St. Leger, XPIR.

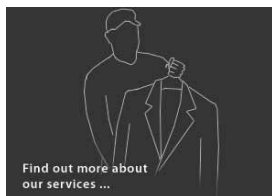
Original and limited edition pieces available

Important Irish artists include:

Yack B. Yeats, Markey Robinson, William Conor and Tom Carr, Tim Weir, James Millar, and David Shanks.

**Feel free to call in to see this Exhibition for the duration of December.
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Percy French - An Irish Entertainer -.

Bart Players are very pleased to again present for your entertainment, a work specially written for the Company back in 1983, by the noted Belfast playwright Stewart Love.

We greatly enjoyed presenting the world premiere of his full length epic documentary play “Titanic” back in 1979, which we last presented in 2000 as part of the Queen’s Festival programme, in addition we have also staged an excerpt from Stewart’s, “Me Oul Segocia”.

This evening’s play with music, perhaps better described as an entertainment, is based on and around the life and times, [with some dramatic licence], of the Irish artiste Percy French, born at Cloonyquin, Co. Roscommon in 1854. He died somewhat prematurely in 1920, whilst staying with his cousin Canon Richardson, in Formby, Lancashire. He had been performing in Glasgow and on his way back to London by train, he felt unwell and decided to break the journey and call with his cousin where sadly, he passed away.



Percy enriched the world he lived in with his unique artistry, besides leaving a legacy of beautiful songs, melodies and poems, which so many still love and enjoy to this day. Several of these delightful pieces will be performed during this evening’s production.



Barts photocall for 'Percy'
on it with his thumb nail, something everybody wanted to take home and no doubt guaranteed to deplete one's dinner service!

Percy French, though a qualified Civil Engineer, was also a true and extremely talented artiste in that, he could write songs, prose, poems, parodies and libretti. He could compose, sing, recite and play the banjo, draw, paint and do lightning sketches, which when finished and turned upside down became another picture!

A speciality was to hold the back of a dinner plate over a candle, thus blacking the plate with smoke.

Then he drew a sketch

His love of theatre and entertainment was presumably cultivated during his College days at Trinity, with visits to the Gaiety, Olympia and other Dublin theatres. One of his close student friends, Southcote Mansergh, who later changed his name to Charles Manners, went on to a glittering career as a classical singer. Having gone to various music academies in Dublin, London and Florence, he subsequently joined the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and amongst the many bass roles he played was that of "Private Wills" in the original production of "Iolanthe", under the direction of W.S. Gilbert.

.....continued on p. 16



The Percy French Memorial in Roscommon

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About the author - **Stewart Love**

Playwright Stewart Love has written extensively for stage, television and radio. He has worked on many BBC productions including adapting 'Aunt Suzanne' for television in 1984, and for many years was a prominent contributor to BBC Schools Service. This is his fifth production by Barts, a series which began when Ken Powles saw an Interplay educational version of "Titanic" at the QUB Festival and suggested that Stewart expand it to a full-length play. Meanwhile, the first act of "Me Oul Segocia", directed by David Sloan, was a Barts entry at various one-act festivals.. "Titanic" was so successful that Ken then suggested "Percy" which he wrote for the company in 1983.

And what does Stewart think of his most recent time with us? "As always with Barts, it has been bliss. An absolute pleasure!"



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Bart Players Present

‘Percy’

by
Stewart Love

Directed by Ken Powles

The action of this multi-scene two-act entertainment covers the period from approximately 1860 until 1920

There will be a short interval between Acts I and II.

Light refreshments will be on sale in the foyer.

Director

Ken Powles

Musical Director

Hazel Martin

Choreographer

Fiona McClean

CAST

<i>Peasant Girl</i>	Catherine Olver
<i>Mother</i>	Barbara Jeffers
<i>Elizabeth</i>	Lynne Taylor
<i>Father</i>	James Burns
<i>Percy</i>	Thomas Olver
<i>Madge</i>	Louise McWilliams
<i>Lecturer</i>	Barney Gadd
<i>Fergus</i>	Stewart Greer
<i>Nelson</i>	John Grainger
<i>Publisher</i>	Michael Fee
<i>Peter</i>	Colin Durling
<i>Manners</i>	Alan McBride
<i>Manager</i>	Norman Turkington
<i>Ettie</i>	Lisa Henderson
<i>Collison</i>	Alan Martin
<i>May</i>	Lorna-Jayne Fletcher
<i>Reilly</i>	Terry McDermott
<i>Butler</i>	Bill Robinson
<i>Danny</i>	Colin Durling
<i>Pat</i>	Clem Bell
<i>Porter</i>	Brendan Fegan
<i>Fanny</i>	Elaine Duffy
<i>Old Woman</i>	June Silcock
<i>Race Goer</i>	June McDermott
<i>Dubliner</i>	Roisin Geary
<i>Gaiety Girls</i>	Jean Watt
	Catherine Olver
	Lorna-Jayne Fletcher
	Amy Dawson
	Hannah McGovern
	Kelly Hamilton

<i>Children</i>	Rachel Doyle Chloe Henderson	Sian Sloan
<i>Company of Bart Players</i>	Anne Sloan Doreen Muskett Billy Reynolds Nathan Dodds	Lorna Hastings Tess Moore Nigel Montgomery

Our guest musicians:

Kerri Cassidy-Taylor Fiona Donaghy John Campbell

PRODUCTION TEAM

Setting and Décor	Alan Marshall	
Stage Manager	Ian Hastings	
Props	Ann Sloan	Iris Stevenson
Stage Team	Philip Hughes Caroline Mercer	Anne Maitland
Costumes	Gillian Porter Ruth Billimore Barbara Jeffers	Carmen O'Hagan June Silcock
Lighting	Ivor Agnew Sherwood Hobson	John Stannard
Visuals	John Little	
Sound	Michael Patterson	
Make-up	David Sloan	
Technical Support	Chris Dawson	John Olver
Front of House	Christine Olver Emma Townsend	St Bartholomew's Mother's Union

Sing Along-a-Barts

Some of the songs you may wish to sing or hum along to:

ACT I

Oklahoma Rose

She can trip, like moonbeams on the water
Ev'ry step, this coloured boy, he taught her
Just one clip, around her waist I caught her
As the band played 'Mambling Rose;
She's my Rose, my Lily and my Daisy
Where she goes, the coloured boys go crazy
All I know – is my A-mintah Maise
Am de Oklahoma Rose

Drumcolliher

Ah, says I have ye been to Drumcolliher
Ye haven't well now I declare,
You must wait till you've been to Drumcolliher
And seen the fine sun we have there
There's only one sun in Drumcolliher
But then tis a glory to see
You talk till you're dumb, but give me oul' Drum
For Drum is the place for me!

ACT II

Brindisi

from 'La Traviata' by Verdi

Enjoy, me with pleasure and mirth and beckon'ng
While love and wine yet invite us
When they can no more, no more delight us
Away with this dull cold earth

There's naught in life but pleasure
Until one heart you can treasure
In love I know no measure
My heart loves one alone

Enjoy, me with pleasure and mirth and beckon'ng
While love and wine yet invite us
When they can no more, no more delight us
Away with this dull cold earth

The Mountains of Mourne

But for all that I found there I might as well be,
Where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to
the Sea

Phil the Fluter

With a toot on the flute and a twiddle on the
fiddle o'

Hoppin' in the middle like a herrin on the
griddle o'

Up down, hands around, crossing to the wall
Hadn't we the gaiety at Phil the fluter's ball!

Mc Breeny's Heifer

Chorus 1

Now there's no denying Kitty was remarkably
pretty

Tho' I can't say the same for Jane

But still there's not the differ,

Of the price of a heifer

Between the pretty and the plain

Chorus 2

But when he came for Kitty,

She was married to Mc Vittie

And Mc Gee had ap-propriated Jane

So whether there's the differ

Of the price of a heifer

Is a thing he never would explain

Are you Right there Michael?

Chorus 1

Are you Right there Michael, are you right?
Do you think that we'll be there before the night?
Oh ye've been so long in startin',
That you couldna' say for certain
Still you might now Michael, so you might.

Chorus 2

Are you Right there Michael, are you right?
Do you think that ye'll be home before it's light?
Tis all dependin' whether,
The ool engine holds together
So we might now Michael, so we might.

Slattery's Mounted Fut

And down from the mountains came the
squadrons and platoons
Four and twenty fighting men and a couple of
stout gossoons
And when we marched behind the pipes to
patriotic tunes
We vowed that fame would gild the name of
Slattery's Light Dragoons

Ken Powles –Director. Ken is a founder member and President of Bart Players and was once pursued by Tyrone Guthrie to do this theatre business professionally. He has produced countless shows for Barts and may be accurately described as a legend in Am-Dram circles and beyond.



Hazel Martin – Musical Director. Hazel has been tinkling the ivories for Barts for more years than she cares us to re-collect. Her firm but considerate guidance of the chorus is very reassuring for those of us for which singing in public is the most frightening thing we ever undertake.

Fiona McClean – Choreographer. Fiona first put us through our paces in 'The Wind in The Willows' and fortunately that experience was insufficient to dissuade her from further involvement with aged drama queens possessing two left feet. Happily she can work here with some young ladies with a certain joie-de-vivre.



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When he was laid off in 1887 he became editor of the comic journal *The Jarvey*.

.....continued from p. 4

Percy French - An Irish Entertainer contd.

Charles Manners progressed to the Carl Rosa Opera Company as Principal Bass and met and married Fanny Moody , later creating their own Moody-Manners Opera Company which toured the British Isles.

Percy was regarded as the greatest solo entertainer of his day, next to George Grossmith, [the original Gilbert & Sullivan comic]. He had the added distinction of enjoying royal patronage, being invited to entertain Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, Queen Alexandra, King George V and Queen Mary, their families and other European royalty and courts.

To-day his works are as evergreen as ever, performed by a wide variety of international artists. Much of this popularity was due to Brendan O'Dowda, who published the book "The World of Percy French", recorded and sang his songs around the world. James Healy of Cork, Alan Tongue, The Percy French Society in North Down and similar societies, besides the Percy French Concert Party have all contributed to the on going celebration of Percy French and his immortal work.

He preferred to think of himself as an artist rather than as an artiste. Without doubt he had great skill with a paint brush and to-day his paintings fetch high prices at art sales and in the popular auction houses.

"I was born a boy and have remained one ever since".

[W.P. French].



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St. Bartholomew's Church

Welcome to St. Bartholomew's Church Hall this evening! I do hope you enjoy this new production of 'Percy'.

If you to want more info about St. Bartholomew's and what makes us tick, then you can log onto our web site at:

<http://www.stbartholomew.connor.anglican.org>

I'm also conscious that we are in the oft-neglected Season of Advent. Christmas is coming! Everyone will be welcome to join us in worship, especially at the following services over the Christmas season

Sunday December 21 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

0830 Holy Communion

1030 Young People's Carol and Nativity Service

1500 Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

2315 First Communion of Christmas

Thursday December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

0830 Holy Communion

1030 Family Service for Christmas Day

Sunday December 28 - THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: HOLY INNOCENTS DAY

0830 Holy Communion

1030 Informal service of readings and carols

Wednesday December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

2330 Watchnight Service

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The Bart Players

THANKS

We wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks, the kind help and assistance we have received from so many sources in connection with all aspects of this production.

In particular we mention:

Stewart Love

Nick Norton for use of W.W.I. helmets

Moya Waterworth – loan of costumes

Ballinderry Antiques, Upper B'derry – country seat

Oakland Antiques, Donegal Pass

Archive Antiques, Donegal Pass

Murdock Saddlery, Drumbo for use of Jaunting Car

Belvoir Players – various props

Janet Devlin, Q.U.B.

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Percy French Society (North Down)

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St. Bartholomews Church Choir & Mother's Union

Lisnasharragh Primary School

Ivan Martin – U105

Gerry Anderson, BBC

Arts Council of N. Ireland

. . . . and others too numerous to mention, including many friends in other Am-Dram Societies

A final word from the man himself:

“Remember me is all I ask and yet -

If that remembrance prove a task, then please forget!”

[W.P. French].