

# POETRY

## Poetic Beginnings

According to his brother Ciarán, "Brian did no creative writing until he was in his last year in Blackrock College. Even then the extent of his output was a few short poems."

One hardly thinks of O'Nolan or his alter egos Flann O'Brien and Myles na Gopaleen as poets, but so it was, for each embedded bits of original verse and, occasionally, whole poems in their novels, dramas, and columns.

In a 1939 essay titled "When Fiction Lives in Fiction," the avant-garde Argentine author Jorge Luis Borges described Flann's first novel, *At Swim-Two-Birds*, as "not only a labyrinth" but "a discussion of the many ways to conceive of the Irish novel and a repertory of exercises in prose and verse which illustrate or parody all the styles of Ireland."

## The Workman's Friend From At Swim-Two-Birds

When things go wrong and will not come right,  
Though you do the best you can,  
When life looks black as the hour of night—  
**A PINT OF PLAIN IS YOUR ONLY MAN.**

When money's tight and is hard to get  
And your horse has also ran,  
When all you have is a heap of debt—  
**A PINT OF PLAIN IS YOUR ONLY MAN.**

When health is bad and your heart feels strange,  
And your face is pale and wan,  
When doctors say that you need a change,  
**A PINT OF PLAIN IS YOUR ONLY MAN.**

When food is scarce and your larder bare  
And no rashers grease your pan,  
When hunger grows as your meals are rare—  
**A PINT OF PLAIN IS YOUR ONLY MAN.**

In time of trouble and lousy strife,  
You have still got a darlint plan,  
You still can turn to a brighter life—  
**A PINT OF PLAIN IS YOUR ONLY MAN!**



# SHORT STORIES

## Pulp Fiction?

Until the 2013 publication of *The Short Fiction of Flann O'Brien*, O'Nolan's reputation rested primarily on his novels and newspaper columns. Yet, over the course of his life, he also wrote about a dozen short stories. Written in both Irish and English, and published in a range of periodicals, from student magazines to Irish, British, and American literary reviews, O'Nolan used a variety of pen names in addition to his given name.

A story titled "I'm Telling You No Lie!" is attributed to Lir O'Connor, a new pseudonym O'Nolan used to impersonate playwright Frank O'Connor in their scurrilous exchange of letters in *The Irish Times*. Scholars are still debating whether John Shamus O'Donnell, who contributed a humorous science fiction sketch to a 1932 issue of *Amazing Stories Quarterly*, might have been a certain precocious UCD student.



# PLAYS, TELEPLAYS, & RADIO DRAMAS

# Mass Appeal

Although critics have tended to dismiss O’Nolan’s shorter fiction as byproducts of failed novels, they do appear to reflect an ambition to reach mass rather than elite audiences. He rewrote several of his short stories for the stage, and scripted original plays and radio dramas.

O'Nolan attributed most of his dramatic productions to Myles na Gopaleen. As he borrowed the name from a character in Dion Boucicault's play *The Colleen Bawn*, there is logic in the choice. Boucicault was a renowned 19th-century Irish actor and melodramatic playwright.

As a child, O’Nolan was fascinated with silent movies. He would draw storyboards on paper, cover the paper with paraffin candle drippings to make it translucent, then project the images with an oil lamp and a large glass lens. Although he never wrote or adapted works for the silver screen, O’Nolan was among the first to script dramas for Irish television after it began broadcasting in December, 1961.



	<h1>JACK - IN - THE - BOX</h1>	<p>Hilton Edwards Micheál Mac Liammóir Dublin Gate Theatre Productions, Ltd.</p>																						
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<b>Scene III.—Rapture On The Road.</b>																								

**ABBEY THEATRE**

— DUBLIN —

<i>Proprietors</i>	The National Theatre Society, Ltd.
<i>Directors</i>	Lennox Robinson, Richard Hayes, Ernest Blythe, Roibeárd O'Faracháin
<i>Managing Director</i>	Ernest Blythe
<i>Secretary</i>	Eric Gorman

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Monday 25th January 1943, and following nights  
at 7.30

FIRST PRODUCTION OF

**FAUSTUS KELLY**

A Play in Three Acts by Myles na gCopaleen

Characters:

KELLY, Chairman of the Urban Council	F. J. McCormick
CULLEN	Fred Johnson
REILLY	Michael J. Dolan
SHAUN KILSHAUGHRAUN	Brian O'Higgins
HOOP	Denis O'Dea
TOWN CLERK	Cyril Cusack
MRS. CROCKETT	Ria Mooney
HANNAH	Eileen Crowe
CAPT. SHAW	Gerard Healy
MR. STRANGE	Liam Redmond

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ACT I.—The Council Chamber.

ACT II.—The living-room of Mrs. Crockett's house. Six weeks later.

ACT III.—The same as Act Two. A week later.

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There will be Intervals of Ten Minutes between the Acts

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Play Produced by FRANK DERMODY  
Setting by MICHAEL CLARKE  
Stage Manager—U. WRIGHT

**ORCHESTRA**

The Orchestra will perform the following selections:

Overture	Hungarian March	Berlioz (1803-1869)
IRISH AIRS:		
(a) It is not the tear	arr. Dorothy Clifton	
(b) Down by the Salley Gardens	arr. Herbert Hughes	
(c) Suite of Airs	arr. Julia Gray	
(d) The King's Cave	arr. Frederick May	
(a) Two Songs—Wiegenlied and Feldeinsamkeit	Brahms (1833-1897)	
(b) Excerpt—Trio in E Flat, Op. 40		

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**FADA Ó FUAIR MÉ FAOISEAMH**

Fada ó fuair mé faoiseamh  
Ó aislingeacha an tsaoghail  
Ní h-iad a chéasas anois mé  
Ach cuimhní géara na h-oidhche.  
Ní innseochad fios mo rúin,  
Is leor a bhfuair mé de'n scorn,  
Ní brúghfar go deo arís  
Mianta na h-óige orm.  
Ach chonnaic mé uaim an sliabh  
A thógfainn le fonn,  
Chonnaic mé uaim an bád  
A sheolfainn anonn,  
D'éirigh mé leis an sgatharnaigh  
'S nior chreathnuigh roimh an lá,  
A shamhailt ní dheárna mé ariamh  
Gur b'ionann tuile is trághadh.  
Fada ó fuair mé faoiseamh  
Ó aislingeacha an tsaoghail,  
Agus cuimhní géara na h-oidhche  
Imtheochaídh siad ar ball.

SEAMÚS O'NEILL

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

DIA DOMHNAIGH 31/1/43 agus DIA LUAIN 1/2/43 ar 7.30 p.m.  
Léiriú nua de  
**AN BHEAN CHRÓDHA**  
le Piaras Béaslaí

SMOKING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

**TYLERS**  
**RELYT SHOES**  
"NOT TAILORED TILL TYLERED"

85-86 Grafton St. • 25 Henry St. • 29 North Earl St. • 26 St. Georges St.

**Gaiety Theatre**

NIGHTLY at 7.30 MATINEE SATURDAY at 2.30

**THE INSECT PLAY**

Cast in order of appearance:

The Tramp.....	ROBERT HENNESSY
A Lady in the Green.....	ROSALIND HALLIGAN
Children.....	TONY MATTHEWS, TEDDY LUCAS, EILEEN ASHE
COLLETTE REDMOND, ITA McMANUS, DEIRDRE KING, DOLORES LUCAS, PEGGY KENNEDY MAEVE KENNEDY	
A Girl Student.....	PATRICIA KENNEDY
A Young Man.....	JAMES NEYLIN
A Visitor.....	LIAM GAFFNEY
The Keeper.....	WILLIAM FAISBENDER
The Drone Bee.....	STEPHEN KING
Basil Bee.....	CECIL MONSON
Cecil Bee.....	NORMAN BARRS
A Young Bee.....	ANTONY WALSH
Her Majesty Queen Bee.....	ROBERT DAWSON
A Duckling.....	BETTY CHANCELLOR
The Voice of the Egg.....	ALEXIS MILNE
The Duck.....	JEAN ST. CLAIR
Mr. Beetle.....	P. P. MAGUIRE
Mrs. Beetle.....	WILLIAM FAISBENDER
A Strange Beetle.....	SALLY TRAVERS
Mr. Cricket.....	TYRRELL PINE
Mrs. Cricket.....	J. WINTER
A Parasite.....	MERIEL MOORE
A Blind Ant.....	LIAM GAFFNEY
The Chief Engineer Ant.....	WILLIAM FAISBENDER
The 2nd Engineer Ant.....	J. WINTER
The Politician Ant.....	SEAN COLLEYAR
A Messenger Ant.....	ANTONY WALSH
A Cross-Channel Ant.....	LIAM GAFFNEY
Slattery.....	NORMAN BARRS
Green ants, red ants, orange ants, ants of the Gael and ants of the Pale: The 20th Dublin Troop of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland	VAL IREMONGER

"DAINTY"  
Self-Raising FLOUR  
Ideal for Cakes and Scones

"Say it with spirit"  
**THWAITES**  
SODA WATER

**Gaiety Theatre**

NIGHTLY at 7.30 p.m. MATINEE SAT. at 2.30 p.m.

**SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY**

PROLOGUE..... EVENING IN STEPHEN'S GREEN

ACT 1..... THE BEES

ACT 2..... CREEPERS, CRAWLERS AND SWIMMERS

ACT 3..... THE ANTS

EPILOGUE..... DAWN THE NEXT DAY IN STEPHEN'S GREEN

PRODUCTION directed and Lighting devised by HILTON EDWARDS  
SETTINGS by MOLLY MacEWEN  
Costumes designed by MICHEAL MacLIAMMOIR and executed by Trianon, under the direction of Patrick Perrott  
Headresses by DODIE HIGGINS  
Children in the park by kind permission of Miss Ursula White  
Choreography by Sara Payne  
Ladies' Coiffure by Thuillier's, Wicklow Street

Secretary..... Mrs. ISA HUGHES  
Business Representative..... W. P. RYAN  
Publicity..... LUCY GLAZEBROOK  
Associate Dress Designer... PATRICK PERrott  
Wardrobe Mistress..... DODIE HIGGINS  
Stage Manager..... CECIL MONSON  
Assistant Stage Managers... SEAN COLLEYAR  
Stage Carpenter..... FRANK CAFFREY  
Electrician..... HARRY MORRISON

OVERTURE..... Mendelssohn

Midsummer Night's Dream..... Mendelssohn

INTERMISSION..... Massenet

(a) "Scherzo"..... Mendelssohn  
(b) "Meditation"..... Massenet  
(c) "Irish Airs"..... J. F. Larchet

GAIETY ORCHESTRA conducted by ERNEST BROADHURST

**BYRNE'S**  
Pork and Bacon Merchants  
51 PARNELL ST. - 5 CHATHAM ST.  
(PHONE 78461/2) - (PHONE 21123)  
and 325 N. CIRCULAR RD., PHIBSBURG,  
DUBLIN. (PHONE 71068)  
and DOWTH AVE., CABRA  
We Specialise in Finest Pork Sausages  
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