



UCD DRAMSOC

FRESHERS' WEEK 2010



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Welcome...

Well here we are, the start of a new year in UCD, and by choosing to read this note you've already singled yourself out as a discerning, intelligent, dare I say roguishly handsome member of society. Go You. Seeing as we've established a nice repartee with the above flattery, let's jump to the matters at hand, namely DRAMSOC!!! (dramatic enough?) and the fantastic magazine you're currently reading. In amongst these pages you will find all you need to know about Dramsoc and the events and shows that we have lined up to start the year off, as well as details on our eparments and how you can get involved in them. Ever wanted to use a power tool unattended? Try Production! Ever wanted to discuss the finer points of lipstick shades? It's Prostups for you! Ever wanted to do the two at the same time? You should probably join the L&H. Getting in on the acting action is just an audition away, and if you fancy yourself for the stage, keep an eye on the dramsoc noticeboard for updates on which shows are looking for actos and when.

Now before I let you toddle off, I'll have to take a moment to credit those poor souls who put this all together. Our lead writers included Alex Ryan, Matthew Kelly, Gillian Greer, and my own dubious self. As for those illustrations gracing our pages, they were drawn by the ridiculously talented, and fantastically named, Keith Kavanagh, whose work I one day hope to claim credit for. And all this with thanks to Sisi Rabenstein, Evie Conway, Katie McCann, Katie Foley, Niall McGeever and the whole Dramsoc Committee.



So here it is, the new year, the new magazine,
and a new society?
Now fly my pretties, FLY!!!!

Keith Madden
Visual Design Artist





SHAKESPEARE ABDRIGED

Monday 20th & Wednesday 22nd
@ 7pm - Dramsoc Theatre

The Complete Works of Shakespeare have been cut down to a paltry 90minutes for your viewing pleasure. A lightning fast comedy not to be missed. Don't you wish you'd seen this before your Leaving Cert...



OPEN-MIC NIGHT

Tuesday 21st @ 7pm

A night celebrating the broad range of talent, not just from Dramsoc but from across the board in UCD(all in the Dramsoc Theatre) If you feel like throwing your name in the hat, come on down and show 'em what you got.



5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Wednesday 22nd @ 3pm

Ever wondered who'd win in a fight, Dramsoc or C&E? Neither have we, but now you can find out! Come and watch as UCD's major societies battle it out for the title of Society Football Champion. (on either grass pitches near student center or astro pitch behind)



TOGA PARTY

Thursday 23rd @ 7pm

Pretty self explanatory really. Bring on the toga, bring on the party. (in the Dramsoc theatre) BYOB & BYOT

...And remember, WWJBD?

KINDER

Wednesday 22nd @ 1pm

Outdoor theatre of the truest kind. Come and indulge your inner child with this visual treat. Watch a Dramsoc devised piece about fun, games, discovery and friendship.



FRESHERS WELCOME

Friday 24th @ 3pm

Join us in the theatre for some crazy games and good food. New and Old come together to celebrate the start of the new year in true Dramsoc style. With Cake. The perfect opportunity to get to know everyone.



JAZZ NIGHT

Friday 24th @ 7pm

Girls- get out the heels. Guys- get those suits on. This is an evening of live jazz music mixed with some sexy antics. (in the Dramsoc theatre) Our very own mixologist will be on hand to whip up some seriously sophisticated cocktails. In association with JazzSoc.



WORKSHOPS

All Week @ 3pm daily

Check out page 21 for a full list of the workshops we have running this week. A great way to get involved in the various aspects of Dramsoc and its theatre departments. From Lighting to Acting, we have it all...



Auditions!!

Attention All Actors...

All through Freshers' Week and beyond, it's your chance to get onto the Dramsoc stage. Audition for parts in our upcoming shows, each one a chance to test your acting chops in a wide variety of Theatre. Are you new to Dramsoc? Auditions for the Freshers' Projects and Play are the perfect way to get involved. Other auditions include the absurd 80s-set comedy Laughing Wild, and Wit, the stirring story of a poetry professor's battle with Ovarian Cancer.

**KEEP AN EYE ON
THE DRAMSOC
NOTICE BOARD
FOR TIMES
& DETAILS**

UPCOMING SHOWS

Dancing at Lughnasa

The Flagship Show

After it's sold out performance at the 2010 ISDA Festival, Dancing at Lughnasa returns to UCD as this year's Flagship Show. The Flagship Show gives Dramsoc members, new and old, a chance to once again experience one of the best shows of the previous year, and is free to all society members.

Dancing at Lughnasa, is a tale of family and music, which weaves through past and present to tell the story of the Mundy sisters and the unforgettable summer of 1936.

26th-28th/8pm/Free Admission



A FRESHERS' PROJECT

THE FRESHERS' PROJECT

5 Days, 5 Casts, 1 Script.

Come down to Dramsoc to see the cream of new talent show off in inimitable fashion! A chance for a host of new directors to take on an all fresher cast and have the most fun the stage can take.

Cast during Freshers' Week, each of the 5 casts have 2 weeks to rehearse and stage the funniest, liveliest show they can out of this year's script, a surreal take on the audition & rehearsal process itself.

31st-4th/1pm&7pm/€2.50



The Colleen Bawn

The Freshers' Play

The Freshers' Play, unlike the Projects, give one cast, and their director, a full week run in the Theatre to create the first new show of the year. A perfect way for freshers to get acquainted with the Dramsoc, and vice versa. Secrets, affairs and murder are rife(-ish) in this 19th century tale of romance gone wrong. What will people do for money? Surely not marry someone they don't love? Well this is theatre..

7th-11th/7pm/€3



Laughing Wild

by Christopher Durang

A wild ride through the thoughts and the dreams of two 80s New Yorkers with the same goal; To Buy a Can of Tuna. Mixing frank and hilarious confessions with surreal journeys into the sub conscious and pop-culture fantasia, Laughing Wild is the perfect afternoon show; light and charming, with whipsmart writing and unforgettable characters.

"Bitch be crazy" -Mark O'Brien

W;t

by Margaret Edson

Dr Vivian Bearing has dedicated her life to the words of others. Now it's her life that must take the spotlight. Told through Vivian's own words, we learn about her life, her work, and her battle with cancer. A poignant show that deals with life, death, and poetry. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Margaret Edson's W;t is both touching and funny in its portrayal of a woman who must look back to move forward.

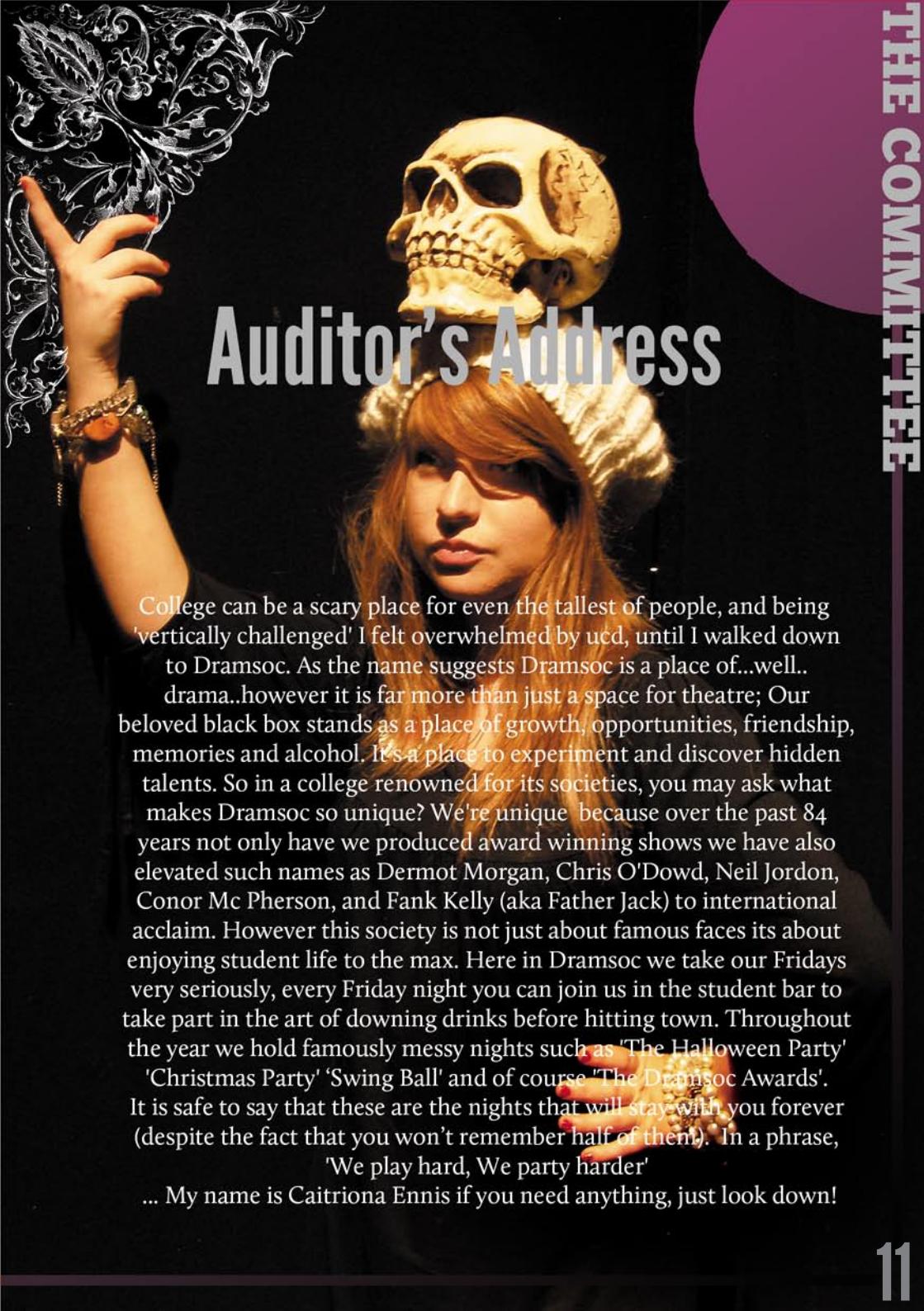
November 1st-5th/1pm/€2.50



November 1st-5th/7pm/€3



UPCOMING SHOWS



Auditor's Address

College can be a scary place for even the tallest of people, and being 'vertically challenged' I felt overwhelmed by ucd, until I walked down to Dramsoc. As the name suggests Dramsoc is a place of...well..

drama..however it is far more than just a space for theatre; Our beloved black box stands as a place of growth, opportunities, friendship, memories and alcohol. It's a place to experiment and discover hidden talents. So in a college renowned for its societies, you may ask what makes Dramsoc so unique? We're unique because over the past 84 years not only have we produced award winning shows we have also elevated such names as Dermot Morgan, Chris O'Dowd, Neil Jordan, Conor Mc Pherson, and Fank Kelly (aka Father Jack) to international acclaim. However this society is not just about famous faces its about enjoying student life to the max. Here in Dramsoc we take our Fridays very seriously, every Friday night you can join us in the student bar to take part in the art of downing drinks before hitting town. Throughout the year we hold famously messy nights such as 'The Halloween Party'

'Christmas Party' 'Swing Ball' and of course 'The Dramsoc Awards'.

It is safe to say that these are the nights that will stay with you forever (despite the fact that you won't remember half of them). In a phrase,

'We play hard, We party harder'

... My name is Caitriona Ennis if you need anything, just look down!



TREASURER KATIE MCCANN

Katie worked tirelessly during the summer, searching down the back of every couch, smashing every piggy-bank, and the other stuff we just can't talk about. Katie once got in a fight with a Pulse Security Man and took his staff card until he paid a fine. Hell hath no fury like a treasurer scorned.
Future Career: Nama Consultant



SECRETARY ENDA REILLY

Whenever a record must be taken, he'll be there. Whenever bins must be emptied, he'll be there. Whenever posters must be put up, well Alex should be there, but Enda more likely will... He is the Secretary, the guardian of the archives; ever protecting them from vandalous villains and flammable objects.
He is the Boy Wonder!



PRO ALEX RYAN

No-one quite knows how Alex came to be in Dramsoc. Many have pondered where this chucklesome rogue sprang from; most are happy to say Dublin 4. If ever you need a letter written, or a poster taped to a wall; he is your man. Buy him a cup of tea some time, he'd like that. Strong, lots of milk.

THEATRE MANAGER SARAH MALONEY

Being a Phibsboro native, Sarah became well acquainted with the existentialist dread which is inherent in the works of Samuel Beckett at an early age. Although she first channelled this ennui into stealing shopping trollies from Quinnsworth, a meeting with her new parole officer led to her serving Community Service in a Theatre, and the rest is History...or is it?...Yes, it is.



VISUAL DESIGN ARTIST KEITH MADDEN

Keith is rumoured to have designed the first posters for Dramsoc in 1926. Later, Ian Fleming drew his inspiration for James Bond from Keith after a brief meeting in 1952. It is said that his charm was so contagious, vaccines have been made for it. We have no idea where it all went wrong...



ISDA REP COLM KENNY-VAUGHAN

Colm makes sure that people occasionally venture out of the Arts Block's basement; probably the most difficult of tasks in the entire college, nay, Ireland. Fortunately, with his good nature and winning smile, few can say no to him. He is said to have escaped Shawshank just by saying please; Andy Dufresne was not amused.





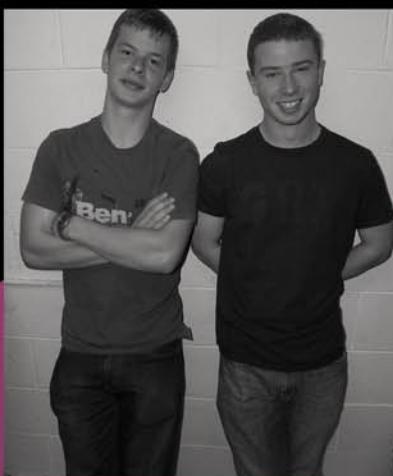
PROSTUPS AISLING FLYNN

Aisling has faced many challenges in the depths of LG2, along valleys of unsorted clothes, over hills of semi-broken props, and through more make-up than there are bicycles in Beijing (I've heard it's lots). The intrepid Flynn can clothe any actor, adorn any stage, and turn any lump of lead into a shinier lump of lead.



EVENTS JACKIE MURPHY

For Jackie, Dramsoc is a means to an end; that end being her one true love, to dance! Her natural habitat, the dance-floor in the student bar, closes during the winter forcing her to hibernate with all the new club hits she can gather to await her return in Spring just in time for the magical Swing Ball!



TECH CLEMENS TODT & ANDREW TAYLOR

Don't mention the war near these two. Which war? Don't ask. These two ensure that our actors get their limelight (and the ugly ones are kept in an "accidental" blackout). Need a roll of thunder, or a flash of lightning? These are the men to go to. (Batteries not included) Aaaaand Blackout.

WORKSHOPS KATIE-ANN MCDONOUGH

Some people are called, others are chosen. We've been calling Katie-Ann for some time now, and she won't pick up. A master of workshops, Katie-Ann was drawn to the profession by the promise of one day owning her own mime. If you do find her, tell her to pick up her dog from the vet.

PRODUCTION MARK O'BRIEN & KATIE FOLEY

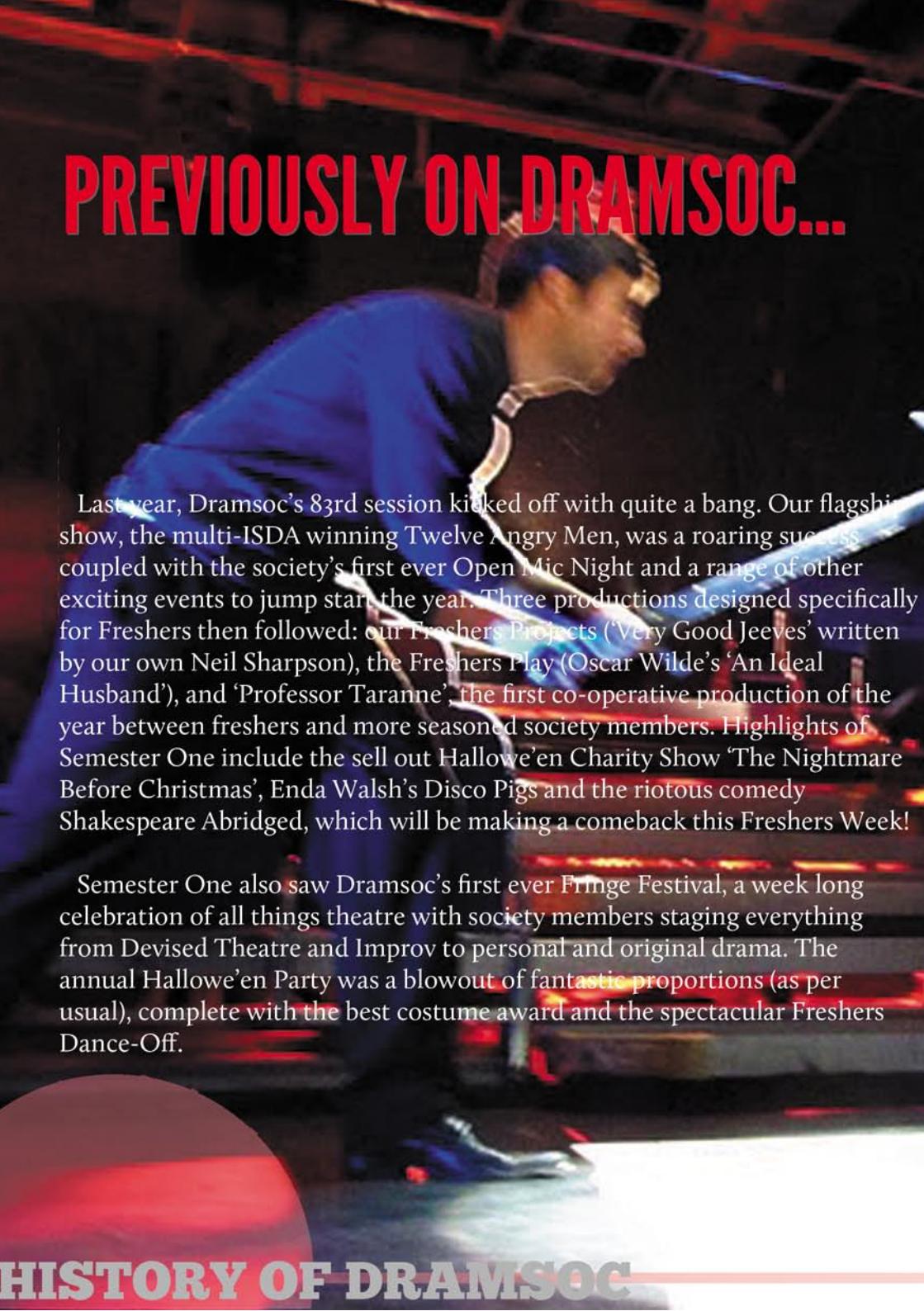
She's got the looks and the skill; he's got the keys to the toolbox. Together in the fires of Newman, a most tasty team was forged. Mark is our own Jamie Oliver (try his burgers), while Katie brings the artistic finesse of Da Vinci (seriously, the burgers are awesome); no set will ever look or taste as good.

FRESHERS' REP YOU?

This could be you! Any new member of Dramsoc is eligible to sign up to be our Freshers' Rep, responsible for listening to, and working with the rest of the committee to sort out, the problems of Dramsoc's newest members. Think of it as being an unpaid TD for a bunch of college kids. Wait, don't think of it that way, DON'T! That's better....



PREVIOUSLY ON DRAMSOC...



Last year, Dramsoc's 83rd session kicked off with quite a bang. Our flagship show, the multi-ISDA winning *Twelve Angry Men*, was a roaring success coupled with the society's first ever Open Mic Night and a range of other exciting events to jump start the year. Three productions designed specifically for Freshers then followed: our Freshers Projects ('Very Good Jeeves' written by our own Neil Sharpson), the Freshers Play (Oscar Wilde's 'An Ideal Husband'), and 'Professor Taranne', the first co-operative production of the year between freshers and more seasoned society members. Highlights of Semester One include the sell out Hallowe'en Charity Show 'The Nightmare Before Christmas', Enda Walsh's Disco Pigs and the riotous comedy Shakespeare Abridged, which will be making a comeback this Freshers Week!

Semester One also saw Dramsoc's first ever Fringe Festival, a week long celebration of all things theatre with society members staging everything from Devised Theatre and Improv to personal and original drama. The annual Hallowe'en Party was a blowout of fantastic proportions (as per usual), complete with the best costume award and the spectacular Freshers Dance-Off.

LAST YEAR

A photograph of a man with blonde hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a dark baseball cap, captured in motion. He appears to be playing drums or a similar percussive instrument. The background is dark, suggesting a stage setting with stage lights.

As the year went on, party time kicked off with the Irish Society of Drama Association Awards, a week where drama societies from colleges all over the country showcase their best work, analysed by a panel of judges high in the Irish theatre world. This year hosted by DU Players, we sent three shows to the Festival: Brian Friel's Dancing at Lughnasa, David Mamet's Speed the Plow, and King Lear. Another highlight of Semester Two has to be the Swing Ball – Dramsoc's annual 1920's themed ball complete with swing dance lessons, a dress making workshop, authentic slang (And how!) and a live swing band.

At last, came the Dramsoc Awards, a night of mayhem which included an all male version of Single Ladies, an impromptu Othello rap by the winners of Best Comedic Male – the cast of Shakespeare Abridged, sketches representing shows which had been nominated for best production and a variety of other sometimes insane, always enjoyable antics.

Finally, Dramsoc Committee 2010/11 was elected and the year came to a close. What can I say? It was one hell of a year. Laughs were shared, plays were staged and some serious craic was had. 2010/11 – Bring it on.

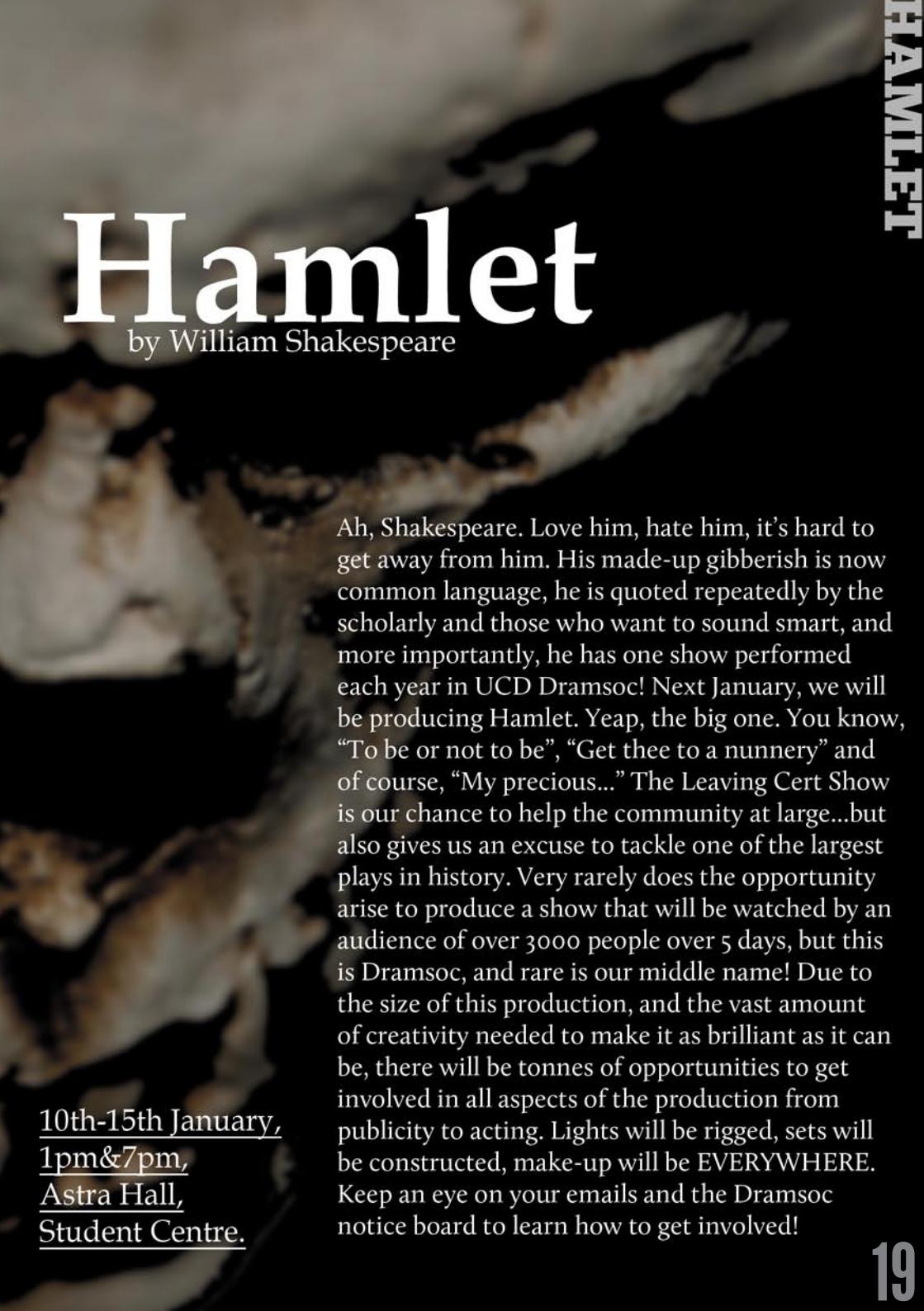


*for in that sleep,
what dreams may come...*

HAMLET

Hamlet

by William Shakespeare



Ah, Shakespeare. Love him, hate him, it's hard to get away from him. His made-up gibberish is now common language, he is quoted repeatedly by the scholarly and those who want to sound smart, and more importantly, he has one show performed each year in UCD Dramsoc! Next January, we will be producing Hamlet. Yeap, the big one. You know, "To be or not to be", "Get thee to a nunnery" and of course, "My precious..." The Leaving Cert Show is our chance to help the community at large...but also gives us an excuse to tackle one of the largest plays in history. Very rarely does the opportunity arise to produce a show that will be watched by an audience of over 3000 people over 5 days, but this is Dramsoc, and rare is our middle name! Due to the size of this production, and the vast amount of creativity needed to make it as brilliant as it can be, there will be tonnes of opportunities to get involved in all aspects of the production from publicity to acting. Lights will be rigged, sets will be constructed, make-up will be EVERYWHERE. Keep an eye on your emails and the Dramsoc notice board to learn how to get involved!

10th-15th January,
1pm&7pm,
Astra Hall,
Student Centre.

The Departments

In Dramsoc it's all about Behind-the-Scenes, well not ALL about Behind-the-Scenes, but it's really important. Our backstage crews are broken up into three indispensable departments; Tech, Production, and Prostups. These departments are the core of our theatrical output, without them, we'd just be a bunch of weirdos yelling at each other in a darkened basement... Ok, so we are anyway, but these guys make it look good.

TECH



Want to light up our world? Brighten our day? Be a shining example to others? Stop the awful puns? Well you'll have to come down to the tech department and make us stop. Lighting and Sound are the backbone of any play, in dramsoc and otherwise, and as such, our techies are responsible for some of the most rewarding and important jobs in theatre. Worked really hard on your heart-wrenching monologue? Try doing it in pitch black, yeah it's important to stay on the right side of the tech department. Lighting sets the scene of any play, from a victorian garden on a spring morning, to an ice castle in 2058, often all that changes is the tech, transporting a scene through time with the click of a button. If this amount of power interests you, come down to one of our workshops and learn how to tell a Quartet from a Cantata, and play with the blackout button, y'know just in case...

PRODUCTION



While most dramsoccers may strike you as lilly-livered arty types, our production department are more likely to strike you with a hammer, haha it's funny cos it's true(Rest In Peace Tony). These strongmen-and women-of dramsoc do the heavy lifting so that we don't have to break a nail. Those in production are tasked with designing and constructing the sets for all of our shows, an outlet for the repressed Carpenter in us all(the Jesus kind, not the Karen kind), and have a wide range of the best tools in the business at their disposal. During Freshers' Week, we have a design and construction workshop, so you can decide what you want to build, and then how. Now repeat after me "I will not chop the Chop Saw with the Chop Saw, I will not chop the Chop Saw with the Chop Saw..."



PROSTUPS

PROps + CoSTumes + Make UP = PROSTUPS

Our Prostups department is the melting pot of all things personal in our theatre; be it a characters costume, what they have in their pockets, or even on their face, Prostups is where it sprang from. In prostups you can have the chance to devise an outfit for an actor, help source the individual pieces of the costume, and then dress your mannequin in their garb. Costuming is crucial to setting any play in a time and place, and our prostups department are dedicated to the creation of truly beautiful, fully-realised works of costuming. But prostups ain't just fashion, it's also make-up, both practical and theatrical. Come down to the department to find out how you can fake a bruise with some eye shadow, and a battle scar with some plastic. Drop in on a workshop to find out how to get involved and how to begin creating the look of a character.



WORKSHOPS

Come down to the LGI Theatre for some introductory workshops in some of our favourite theatrical areas

Monday 1pm Stage Lighting(Tech)

Come find out how to design a show's tech from the ground up...

Tuesday 1pm Audition Technique

Thinking of trying your hand at acting? Flex your auditioning muscles...

Tuesday 2pm Sets(Production)

Building and Designing Sets is just a short Workshop away

Thursday 1pm Improv Workshop

The best way to learn is to throw yourself in, Hilarious results inevitable

Thursday 3pm Stage Combat

Faking a fight, great for scaring other Student Bar patrons

Thursday 5pm Togas(Prostups)

Get ready for the TogaParty and Learn to wrap your own. With FADSoc

WORKSHOPS

I REMEMBER...

Dramsoc, like life in general leaves you with memories, some good and some bad, but always of the little things. I remember my hands shaking with fear trying to hold the script at my first audition. I remember how cool it was to hear that the Halloween party would be a bring-your-own-booze bash in the theatre. I remember waiting outside a shop at 8 in the morning so I could buy herbal cigarettes for my play-set in the smoking area of a pub so kind of essential. I don't remember most nights after 12 o'clock.. I remember trying to direct plays while having no idea what was going on. I remember going out to door 3 for a smoke to figure it out. I remember coming back not much the wiser. I remember sleeping on floors and on couches and in bushes but I don't remember anything after 12 o'clock. I remember the mixture of relief and sadness when you reach a Friday evening on the week of a show. I remember drinking on floors and in pubs and in bushes. But I don't remember a thing. Even before twelve o'clock. I remember deciding that I wouldn't go to my classes so I could rehearse instead. I remember how the rest of the cast didn't turn up. So I remember sitting in the office for hours talking about kids tv shows and sweets they don't make anymore. I remember cliques and many a crush. I remember the ecstasy of being on stage, of being someone else. I remember being an old lady, an old man, a drug dealer, a psycho, a child molester, a cop, a man with erectile dysfunction, a man without erectile dysfunction. I remember watching plays. I remember being brought to another realm. I remember coming out of them with headaches and heartache. I remember being consumed by the place. I remember being consumed on buses and on couches and on floors and in bushes. I remember thinking that sometimes it's good to take a step back for a while. I remember how much you can miss it when you do that, but how much better it is for it. I remember fun. I remember friends. I'll remember Dramsoc.

WHAT NOW?



So we've come to the end of the magazine, and now you may be wondering, "What now? Where do I go? What else in college could match the delights of this here magazine?" It's understandable. Well do not fret my little fresher friends, we've prepared a little to-do list to help you on get started with UCD Life...

Join Societies: Join all the societies, get all the free stuff, plan to but never actually attend any debates...

Have a drink in the Student Bar: Christen your college experience with a trip to our de facto watering hole.

See Dancing at Lughnasa: Check back in with us 29th-1st of October to see the fantastic Flagship Show

Act Like a Student: Get addicted to coffee, start listening to obscure german Folk-Trance music, and pretend to read Ulysses in a public place

Find the Secret Lake: We can't tell you where it is, it's a secret...

Go to a lecture: Actually, scratch that last one.

WHERE TO START



ACCESS ALL ABBEY

GET LOST*

*in a world of live entertainment. If you're a student or under 26, sign up now for all the Abbey Theatre has to offer you... €10 preview tickets, special rate standby tickets, free access to talks and much, much more!

**GO TO WWW.ABBEYTHEATRE.IE, CALL (01) 87 87 222
OR VISIT OUR BOX OFFICE OR TODAY.**

