

UW DRAMA 14/15

# THE HOSTAGE

*By Brendan Behan*

*Sponsored by Joan and Howard Voorheis*

DIRECTED BY  
**TINA POLZIN**

*MFA in Directing Thesis Production*

*Jones Playhouse*  
**MARCH 4 - 15, 2015**



SCHOOL OF DRAMA  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

# THE HOSTAGE

written by **BRENDAN BEHAN**

directed by **TINA POLZIN**<sup>†</sup> (Member of the Professional Director Training Program)

*Scenic Design*  
Jared Roberts\*<sup>†</sup>

*Sound Design*  
Andy Swan

*Dialect Coach*  
Judith Shahn

*Musical Director*  
Brendan Hogan

*Costume Design*  
Melinda Hare\*<sup>†</sup>

*Technical Director*  
Alex Danilchik

*Prop Master*  
Andrea Bush

*Choreographer*  
Kellyn Traenkenschuh

*Lighting Design*  
John Bernard\*<sup>†</sup>

*Stage Manager*  
Jessica Stephens

*Composer*  
Brendan Behan

*Fight Choreographer*  
Christopher Donoghue

\* Member of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Design / † Indicates production role satisfies thesis requirement for consideration of MFA

*House Manager*  
Jackie Wagner

*Asst. Costume Designer*  
Monica Gonzalez

*Light Board Operator*  
Aaron Jin

*Costume Crew*  
Samantha de Jong

*Assistant Director*  
Hayley Watson

*Asst. Lighting Designer*  
Emily Eidson

*Running Crew*  
Sandra Bobman  
Mickey McDonell

Tyson Finley  
Baylee-Anne McNew  
Annie Murray  
Jiyeon Yoon

*Assistant Stage Managers*  
Megan Bernovich  
Nina Williams

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Hayden Ruiz  
Peter Sakowicz

*Photographer*  
Mike Hipple

*Asst. Technical Director*  
Tres Tracy Ballon

*Sound Board Operator*  
Anna Saephan

*Special Thanks:* 5th Avenue Theatre, ACT Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Opera, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Theatre Puget Sound, Village Theatre

## CAST

\*Member of the Professional Actor Training Program (PATP)

*Pat* ..... Christopher Donoghue\*

*Rio Rita*..... Colton Sullivan

*Meg*..... Andrea Salaiz\*

*Ropeen*..... Kellyn Traenkenschuh

*Miss Gilchrist*..... Tara Velan\*

*Monsewer*..... Susan Finque

*Mr. Mulleady*..... Zach Virden\*

*Kate*..... Rebecca Herivel

*Teresa*..... Rebekah Patti\*

*O'Shaunessy*..... Nina Williams

*Leslie*..... Rudy Roushdi\*

*Officer*..... Jack Dearth

*Colette*..... Christen Gee Celaya\*

*Princess Grace*..... Randy Ford

*Russian Sailor*..... Tatiana Pavela\*

*Extra*..... Andy Tran

*Volunteer*..... Aaron Francis Cammack\*

Act 1: 100 minutes. Act 2: 40 minutes. | There will be one 15 minute intermission.

*The Hostage* is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

## PRODUCTION SPONSORS

The cast and crew of *The Hostage*, and the entire School of Drama community, would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Joan and Howard Voorheis for their continued support. In addition to sponsoring this production, Joan and Howard serve on the School of Drama Advisory Board and are ardent supporters of our students and MFA programs.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

After graduating from UC Irvine, Tina Polzin directed and designed lights in Paris. In New York, she worked with LAByrinth Theater Company and Manhattan Theater Source. She produced Fusion Film Festival at NYU and The Estrogenius Theater Festival at MTS, both of which encourage strong working relationships between men and women in the arts. She is also a writer working with theaters like Palo Alto Children's Theater where she led students in the creation of a full-length play dealing with corporate responsibility. She performs improv and sketch comedy and is co-writing a pilot to be filmed in the spring. At the University of Washington, Tina previously directed the world premiere of EM Lewis's *Reading to Vegetables*, as well as Tom Jacobson's *The Twentieth-Century Way* and the Tennessee Williams's one-acts *Talk To Me Like The Rain*, *Hello from Bertha* and *Why Do You Smoke So Much, Lily?*

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Brendan Behan's mother was a close friend of Michael Collins. His father fought in The War of Independence. His uncle wrote the Irish national anthem. Behan, who went to prison for seven years for his involvement in the IRA, came out a champion of humanity no matter their class, nationality, race, religion, gender, or sexual preference. His first play, *The Quare Fellow*, spoke out against the death penalty. *An Giall* follows the story of an English hostage taken by the IRA. It was the basis for *The Hostage*. Improvisation was used to arrive at the text that has much more of a music hall feeling than the original with many added characters and songs. There remains controversy over how much influence Joan Littlewood, the director of the London premier at her Theater Workshop, had in the creation of *The Hostage*. It was their second project together and according to Behan an agreeable relationship, although it is rumored that he had to be held at gunpoint to finish the text.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Our production aims to honor the spirit of the Behan/Littlewood partnership, which worked with the cast to create an original text for each venue they played. Our process has been collaborative from the beginning. The design team has endeavored to give a sense of conservative Ireland in a state of strife, as well as a sense of the dangerous game being played. The dances and fights have been choreographed by cast members. Our improvisations in rehearsal have fueled our character development. We worked with the School of Music and the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies on talk backs inspired by the play, as well as Finn McCools Irish Pub, in order to bring you the fullest experience possible.

### Recommended reading:

*The IRA* by Tim Pat Coogan

*Borstal Boy* by Brendan Behan

*Brendan Behan* special issue of the Irish University Review

## 2014–15 MAINSTAGE SEASON

### **Bus Stop**

by William Inge

directed by Malika Oyetimein & Sean Ryan

April 22–May 3

Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse

### **Boy's Life**

by Howard Korder

directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton

May 27–June 7

Glenn Hughes Penthouse Theatre

## AND MORE EVENTS THIS SEASON! BEYOND THE MAINSTAGE

### **Seattle Showcase**

Professional debut of the PATP class of 2015

Monday, March 30

Glenn Hughes Penthouse Theatre

### **On the Verge**

by Eric Overmyer

directed by Rosalind Phelps

produced by the Undergraduate Theater Society

May 28–June 7

Cabaret Theatre

## CONTACT US

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**Website:** drama.uw.edu

**Facebook:** UWDrama

**Twitter:** @UWDrama

UW Arts Ticket Office

1313 NE 41st St

206.543.4880

## AUDIENCE SURVEY

Let us know what you thought! Take our brief survey at <http://bit.ly/hostage-survey>



4217 University Way NE

**"I am a drinker with writing problems."**  
- Brendan Behan

Bring your ticket stub down the road to Finn MacCool's and enjoy \$1 off a drink of your choice.



The University of Washington School of Drama develops innovative and courageous artists and scholars poised to be the creative leaders of tomorrow. Our dynamic, award-winning faculty is dedicated to enabling each student to reach their full potential and our alumni are advancing the artistic conversation through innovative and diverse work across the globe.

We offer MFA degrees in acting, design, and directing, a four-year undergraduate liberal arts education in Drama or Musical Theatre, and a PhD in theatre history and criticism.

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*Executive Director*, Todd London

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Jordan Baker, *scenic artist*  
Josh Beerman, *office assistant*  
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Angela Weaver, *drama librarian*  
Alan Weldin, *scenic carpenter*

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