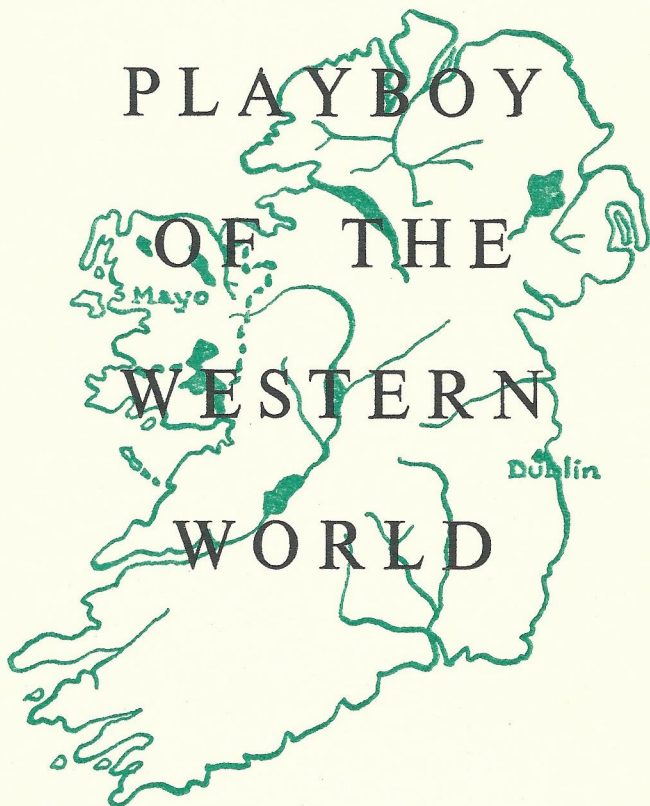


THE
PLAYBOY
OF THE
WESTERN
WORLD



The Moot House Players

present

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

by John M. Synge

Characters in order of appearance :

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| MARGARET FLAHERTY (called PEGEEN MIKE) | ... | Yvonne Mitchley |
| <i>daughter of Michael James Flaherty</i> | | |
| SHAWN KEOGH, | ... | Robin Harcourt |
| <i>young farmer, betrothed to Pegeen Mike</i> | | |
| MICHAEL JAMES FLAHERTY, a publican | ... | Gordon Hewlett |
| JIMMY FARRELL | } <i>small farmers, friends to Michael James</i> | Jack Mitchley |
| PHILLY CULLEN | | George Tarry |
| CHRISTOPHER MAHON, the "playboy" | ... | John Mayall |
| WIDOW QUIN, cousin to Shawn Keogh | ... | Jean Walls |
| SUSAN BRADY | } <i>village girls</i> | Bettina Hewlett |
| HONOR BLAKE | | Jean Clark |
| OLD MAHON, a squatter, father to Christopher | ... | Charles Hill |

The scene is set in a country public house or shebeen belonging to Michael James, situated near a village on a wild coast of Mayo in Ireland at the beginning of the present century.

ACT I. An autumn evening
ACT II. The following morning
ACT III. Later the same day

The play produced by J. A. Mitchley

Costumes by Laws Setting by Gordon Hewlett
Lighting by Harry Edwards

*The Play will be given in two parts with an interval between Acts II. and III.
The lights will be lowered briefly between Acts I. and II.*

NOTES

THE AUTHOR AND HIS PLAY

John M. Synge (1871-1909) wrote only six plays in his tragically short working life but they were of such calibre as to establish him as a major playwright. His work in the theatre was the outcome of encouragement by W. B. Yeats who was heavily involved in the running of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. At the turn of the century Synge was in Paris scraping a living by making translations—Yeats is said to have told him, "You will never know as much about French poetry as Arthur Symonds. Come to Ireland and write plays for me." The results of his acceptance of this invitation changed the shape of Irish dramatic writing and he, more than any other, showed Ireland to the world. THE PLAYBOY is perhaps his greatest achievement—it is at once comedy, tragedy, satire and prose-poem and when first produced in 1907 audiences regarded it as a libellous and immoral caricature and it provoked riots. In fact, it would seem that these audiences were shaken by the unaccustomed spectacle of truth—the PLAYBOY is not a comedy of social comment, propaganda or 'ideas'—it exists in itself and for itself as one of the great comedies of all time. The language of the play is rich and flowing but Synge assures us in his own introduction to the play that he has "... used one or two words only that I have not heard among the country people of Ireland, or spoken in my own nursery before I could read ... and I am glad to acknowledge how much I owe to the folk imagination of these fine people ... the wildest sayings and ideas in this play are tame indeed compared with the fancies one may hear in any little hillside cabin in Geesala or Dingle Bay ..."

THE COMPANY AND THE PRODUCTION

THE MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS form the drama section of the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association in the new town of Harlow. The present production is the third to be given by the company which has been designed for touring and also as an introduction to 'open' staging as distinct from the 'proscenium' variety. The two previous tours have been devoted to plays by Christopher Fry and during two seasons 37 performances have been given in England in places as far apart as Norwich and Chippenham and 5 in Western Germany.

We shall be glad to receive enquiries for free dates for this production, which we hope to have available throughout the 1960/61 season.

Enquiries should be addressed to Mrs. E. Spraggon, 114, Pennymead, Harlow, Essex.