

Belvoir Players Production of

Dancing at Lughnasa

A play by Brian Friel



Tickets & info at

www.belvoirplayers.org



7:30PM Tickets: £18 | £13



19TH - 21ST MAR 2026

Directors Note

Welcome to the Mundy cottage.

Dancing at Lughnasa is a memory play, seen through the eyes of Michael as he recalls the summer of 1936—the last moment his family was truly whole. Beyond the surface of rural Irish poverty, this story is about the defiance of the human spirit.

Through the crackle of a wireless radio and the frantic energy of the dance, these five sisters briefly escape their hardships. It is a bittersweet celebration of love and ritual before the inevitable shadows of change close in.

I hope you enjoy the performance.

Claire Ashe



Cast



Kate Mundy

Julie-May Noteman

Julie-May is a retired teacher, married with three children and one grandson. She joined Belvoir Players in 2023 when she played the part of Marcella in their pantomime, 'Beauty and the Beast'. Since then she has appeared in 'Steel Magnolias', 'Death by Design', 'A Little Box of Oblivion', 'A Murder is Announced', 'A Dog's Life' and 'Sleeping Beauty'. She was delighted to receive the Best Actress award in the 2025 One Act Finals. Her love of performing developed through church youth organisations with their great tradition of performing sketches and dramas.

Julie-May has had a life-long love of writing. She has written many sketches which have been used in community, church and fundraising activities as well as writing and directing two church pantomimes and other productions including 'The Church on the Stye Brae' and 'Noah'. She graduated in July 2025 with a MA in Creative Writing. She has had three of her stories recorded for the BBC Storytellers' Project and was awarded third place in the Edinburgh Short Story awards 2025. She hopes that one day some of her writing will appear on the Belvoir stage – watch this space!

Julie-May feels privileged to be playing the part of Kate Mundy, revealing Kate's fears and frustrations as she senses control slipping away and the Mundy family falling apart.



Maggie Mundy

Sinead Fox-Hamilton

Sinead lives in Belfast with her husband and 3 rescue dogs. She joined Belvoir Players in 2015 following a decade's break from drama where she focused on obtaining her Law degree and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant.

Sinead recalls falling in love with the stage back in P3 when she won 1st place in the Dungannon (her original hometown) Feis with her recital of the poem 'Candyfloss' (which she still remembers the words of). She swiftly caught the performing bug so joined the local drama group and signed up for speech and drama lessons, which she attended for 10 years, achieving grade 8 in her studies. Throughout school Sinead also partook in several shows and competed in dozens of competitions/festivals, often a regular prize-winner. Consequently, Dungannon Council would acknowledge her achievements and presented her with a special 'Contribution to the Arts' award.

Despite stepping away from acting for several years to concentrate on her career, becoming a Belvoir Players member quickly reignited her passion for performing.

In the last 11 years she has played a variety of lead and support roles across the Spring, Summer Tour, Festival and Panto productions. Her most challenging roles to date were playing Stella in 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and M'Lynn in 'Steel Magnolias'.

Sinead is excited to embrace the challenge of taking on Maggie's complex character in this much loved classic play.



Rose Mundy

Éile McNamee

Éile McNamee plays the role of Rose Mundy in this production. She first discovered her love of performing while growing up as part of the Belvoir Academy, where she enjoyed taking part in a range of productions and developing her confidence on stage.

Some of Éile's favourite performances include appearing in Little Shop of Horrors and playing the role of Jasmine in Aladdin, which remains one of her most memorable roles to date. Alongside her work on stage, Éile has also gained experience in voice-over work, further developing her interest in performance and storytelling across different mediums.

Éile has enjoyed exploring the humour and heart within the character while bringing Rose to life on stage.

Éile is delighted to be part of this production and would like to thank the cast, crew, and audience for their support



Agnes Mundy
Aoife Bennett

Aoife joined Belvoir Players at eight years old and was an active member of the academy for ten years. Over the years she performed in a variety of musicals and Christmas pantomimes developing a real love for theatre.

For the past five years Aoife has been living in Dublin where she studied English at University. She recently moved back to Belfast and was super excited about the opportunity to get involved with Belvoir again.

After years of musical theatre in the academy this is Aoife's first play with Belvoir and she is excited to bring such a brilliant play to life with such an amazing cast.



Chris Mundy
Mary McGowan

An alumni of Centre Stage Theatre Company, Mary is delighted to return to Belvoir Players' stage to portray "Christina Mundy" in what is her first role with the company. Mary has thoroughly enjoyed working with the cast and crew to bring this production to life. It has also been a novelty to act alongside her husband, Robert, who plays her onstage charismatic yet troublesome love interest, Gerry Evans.

An avid musical theatre lover, while studying at UCD she portrayed 'Mary Phagan' in Parade and was part of the ensemble of Lin Manuel Miranda's 'In the Heights' and inter-varsities production of 'Hamilton'. She also co-directed UCD's largest campus choir, Vocal Group, in second and third year, and was Vocal Director of their inaugural show 'She Loves Me'. Alongside this, Mary also played Crystal in the Drama Society's production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

While teaching in Liverpool, Mary joined Theatre on Foot theatre company. Her roles included 'The Mother' in Kane Murray's original comedy 'The Plague Ain't that Bad', 'the Aristocrat' in 'Night Terrors', and was part of the ensemble for 'the Pancake Day Disaster Show Improv'.

She has thoroughly enjoyed playing the youngest Mundy sister and hopes you enjoy the show!



Fr Jack Mundy
Jim McDowell

Jim McDowell is delighted to be appearing as Father Jack in Dancing at Lughnasa. A familiar face on the local stage, Jim has enjoyed performing in a wide range of productions with Belvoir Players and beyond.

Previous roles include Barney in Wake in the West, Stg. Mellors in A Murder is Announced, Herbie in Strictly for the Birds, Mr. Carpington in Continental Quilt, and Wilfred in Widow's Paradise.

Jim is also well known to audiences as one of Belvoir's much-loved panto dames, delighting crowds with his larger-than-life performances in their annual pantomime.

His next appearance will be as Pharoah in East Broadway Theatre Company's production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat here at Belvoir Studio Theatre next week.

When not treading the boards, Jim keeps busy as a comedian, magician and entertainer as well as working as a fundraiser for Christian Aid, bringing humour and heart to everything he does. He would like to thank the cast, crew and audience for supporting local theatre and hopes you enjoy tonight's performance.



Michael Evans
Aidan Hughes

Aidan has been a proud member of Belvoir Players since 2014, making his debut in 'After Dresden.' Over the years, he has appeared in numerous shows with the company, including several festival and summer tour productions. His standout role to date was in Edward Albee's one-act play 'Zoo Story,' a performance that earned him four separate Best Actor awards on the festival circuit. Aidan has also directed with Belvoir, including Agatha Christie's 'And Then There Were None' and his favourite play, Tennessee Williams' 'A Streetcar Named Desire.'

After moving back to the North Coast post-COVID, Aidan still returns to the society to share the stage with old friends. He is also active with Portrush Music Society, where his credits include Shrek (Shrek the Musical), The Phantom (The Phantom of the Opera), Cogsworth (Beauty and the Beast), and, most recently, Professor Henry Higgins (My Fair Lady), a performance for which he has been nominated for a NODA Award for Outstanding Male Performance. He is also currently rehearsing the role of Nick/Doug (and others) in Come From Away which is being performed in The Playhouse, Portrush, in May/June.

Aidan is delighted to be back with Belvoir Players, bringing Brian Friel's beautiful play to life. He wishes the cast and crew a fantastic run—break a leg!



Gerry Evans
Robert Murtagh

My name is Robert Murtagh and I am playing Gerry Evans.

Robert is married to another cast member, Mary who plays Chrissie! He is National Officer for NI for the FDA, the union for leaders and managers in public service where he spends the day representing, negotiating and bargaining on behalf of members. Alongside politics and theatre, he is an avid sports fan following Manchester United. Robert and Mary have recently moved to North Belfast.

After an acting hiatus of about five years and upon returning home from living in Liverpool, Robert joined Belvoir players in Summer 2024, playing Jack (the chauffeur) in Death by Design. He returned for the Summer 2025 show, playing the role of Martin in 'Wake in the West.' This is Robert's third show with Belvoir players.

Robert studied drama and theatre studies achieving an A* at A-level. He was an active member of QU Players while studying at QUB where he starred in nine shows over 2 years, including playing the lead role in 'One Man Two Guvnors' by Richard Bean.

Robert is thrilled to be taking part in this classic Irish play, particularly as he has mostly acted in comedy plays and has enjoyed the opportunity to dig deep into the themes explored in Dancing at Lughnasa.



Claire Ashe

Director

Claire's journey in drama began in primary school, eventually leading her to complete her LAMDA exams and earn a teaching qualification. While studying for her BA (Hons) in Drama with English at Stranmillis University College, she enjoyed the opportunity to explore a variety of roles, from traditional pantomime to the works of Brecht and Lorca. In 1997, Claire joined the Rosemary Drama Group, where she gained valuable experience in festival productions such as *Time and the Conways* and *Little Women*. While she stepped away from the adult stage for a time to focus on her family, she remained active in the theatre as a P1 teacher at Greenwood Primary School, where she continues to enjoy directing children's plays and seasonal nativities.

Since joining Belvoir Players in 2017, Claire has been a regular face in the group's touring comedies, including *Stop it Nurse!* and *Wake in the West*. While she is perhaps most often seen in the "wicked" roles of the annual pantomime, she found the challenge of playing Blanche DuBois in the 2019 production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* to be a particularly rewarding personal highlight.

Having previously directed various church hall productions and Sam Cree comedies, Claire is pleased to return to the director's chair for Belvoir Players following the 2024 production of *Steel Magnolias*. She is sincerely grateful to the cast and crew for their hard work and enthusiasm, and she feels privileged to be part of such a committed creative team.

Creative Team

Director

Claire Ashe

Props

Mark McClean

Bill Ashe

Julie-May Noteman

Technical & Set Team

Karl Smyth

Stephen Hyland

Robbie Irwin

Emma Dawson

Social Media

Sinead Fox-

Hamilton

Theatre Manager

Roger Dane

Costumes

Shelia Hammonds

Joy Hunter

Front of House

Belvoir Players

Members

Photography

Melissa Gordon

Programme Design

Alex McKelvey



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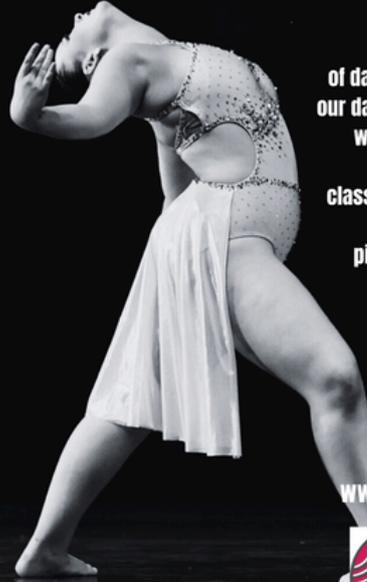
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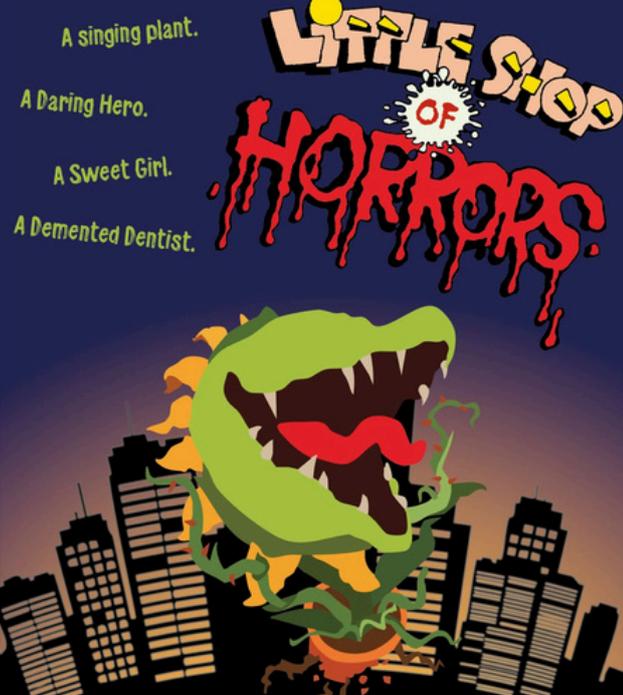
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