

G. F. HANDELS

CAFÉ BAR (MUSIC VENUE)

28, THOMAS ST, DUBLIN 8.
PHONE 01 4542506

LUNCH SERVED 12 - 4 DAILY

FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE UPSTAIRS
FOR PARTY NIGHTS

BIG SCREEN FOR ALL MATCHES
PREMIERSHIP AND INTERNATIONALS

Artuan Construction

Wishes

Alice and "The Spook Show"

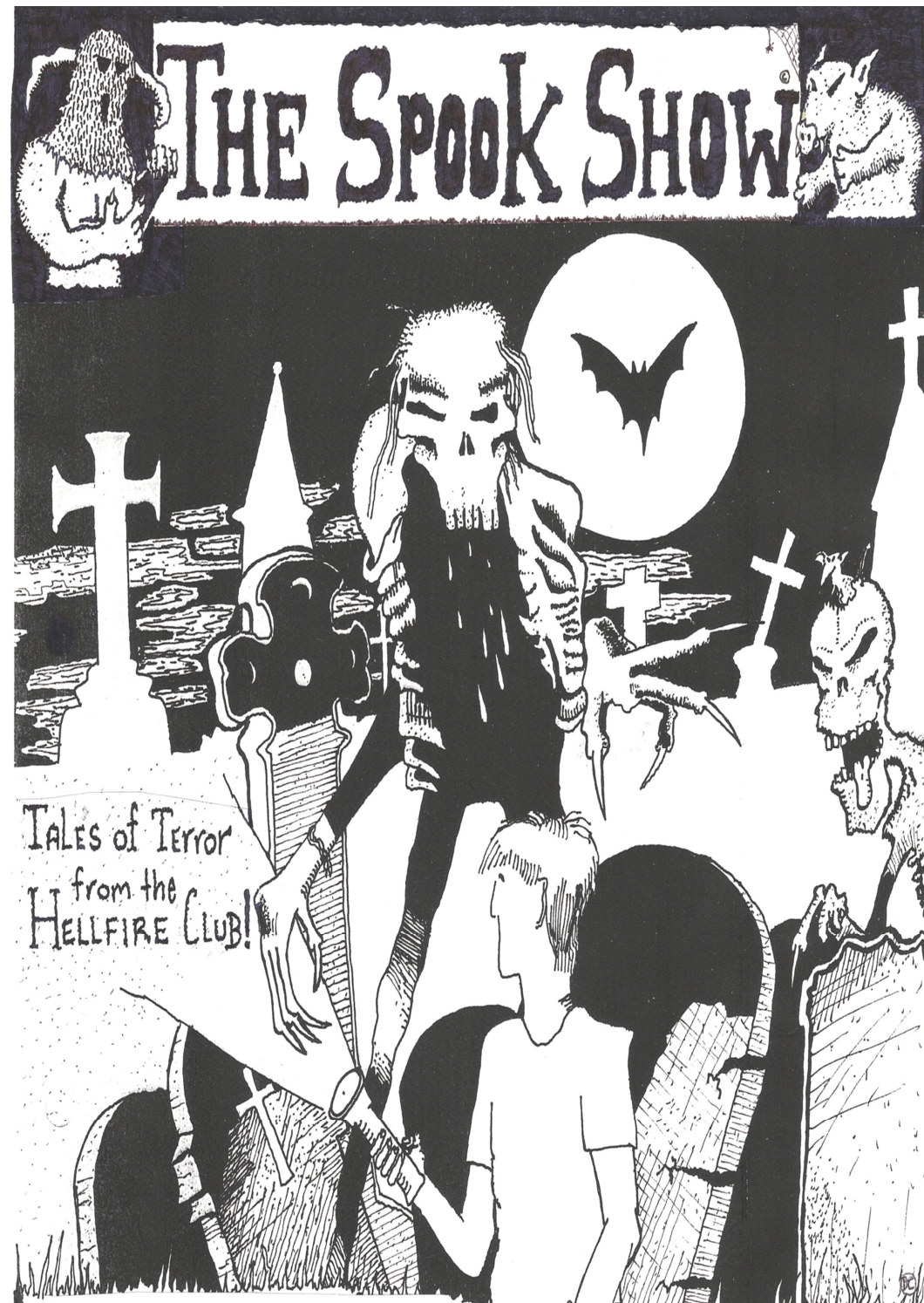
EVERY SUCCESS



🎵 "FROM A BROKEN TILE TO A STATELY PILE
YOUR BUILDING NEEDS WE'LL HANDEL
AT A PRICE THAT'S RIGHT BY DAY OR NIGHT
THE REST CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE"

Phone: - 086 6003216

*PLUMBING *CARPENTRY *LX *ROOFING *NEW BUILD
*GENERAL BUILDING *REPAIRS *RENOVATIONS



CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES

A note from *The Spook Show's* director, Alice Coghlan.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to *The Spook Show*, the first show by Wonderland Theatre Productions. *The Spook Show* has its origins in Ireland's great ghost and horror stories. I found much of the material for the show from interviewing people in the Aran Islands, West cork, Mayo and Galway and The Dublin Liberties where you are tonight. I have propped up many bars, only so that I could learn more about the Dolocher black pig, Darkey Kelly's brothel, and hauntings of every kind. Stories told to scare Dublin children were told to me again and again, like the Green Lady or banshee, who lives in Winetavern Laneway behind Christchurch Cathedral, or the big black pig that would 'get' a child who was late inside.

If you were to ask me do I believe in ghosts after this, I would have to say yes ... But in all fairness just how many ghostly clichés are there ... a few examples ... if you see a ghost it will moan and groan on cue, root you to the spot, send cold chills through your body and then vanish into thin air, for no apparent reason. Ghosts attack the susceptible in bed (because they were dreaming of them anyway) or that anyone who died for Ireland should be a ghost. What a surprise that there are more ghosts in America than anywhere else, appearing on cue on live web cams and following hapless tourists home from Ireland, and so on. As we went along, it became obvious that there was endless black comedy in ghosts like Oscar Wilde's who couldn't be frightening or all the people who pretended to be ghosts like Silas Mariner does.

The onus of Wonderland Theatre Productions is to produce new writing from the work of the company in rehearsals and research. In the case of *The Spook Show* much of the historical material and characters, were explored by us in extensive improvisations, before anything was written down. We have even climbed up to the Hell Fire club in Rathfarnham together – but we didn't see any black cats the size of big dogs as it was daytime.

I gathered well over a hundred Irish ghost stories and only some could make it into the show. Many of the stories in the show have references to other Irish ghost stories that we were not able to share with you this time. However I have included two of the best of these in this programme, so you don't feel too left out.

I hope that you enjoy our show tonight. And just remember that many of the characters you will meet tonight are still 'alive' and haunting.

Please be very, very scared,

Have fun and thanks for coming,

Alice Coghlan.

Feedback gratefully received: wonderlandtheatre2003@yahoo.com

PADRAIG DE BRUDAIR

Padraig de Brudiar hails from Urlingford Co. Kilkenny. He trained in Inchicore College and has performed in various shows around Kilkenny and Dublin, and has been kind enough to show us what a true pig he is. If you can't see him you'll definitely hear him Oink! Oink!

ALAN SMITH

Alan Smith (29) studied Drama at Aberystwyth University, Wales. In 1998 he found God, but lost him in a bet. He currently works in Dublin for 'Down to Earth' Theatre Company. He specialises in rural accents, none of them Irish.

CAROLINE COFFEY

Caroline studied theatre in Inchicore College from 1998-2001, playing roles such as Hermia in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and Linda in *Death of a Salesman*. Prior to this she acted in various productions with UCG Dramsoc. She played Maureen in *Stags and Hens*, Dandelion Theatre Company, and recently stage managed *Abigail's Party* for them. She currently acts for Down to Earth touring schools.

SHARON MANNION

Sharon is 21 and from Co. Roscommon. Previous productions include *Julius Caesar* and *The Queen of Spades* with Opera Ireland at The Gaiety, *As you like it*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Private Lives*. Film and TV credits, include *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Ros na Rún*.

CONOR O'NEILL

Conor was a member of Galway Youth Theatre and The National Youth Theatre before training at The Samuel Beckett Centre, TCD, & The Saratoga International Theatre Institute and Anne Bogart in New York and Dublin. Most recently he was involved in *The Lysistrata Project*, against the war in Iraq, spearheading *Lysistrata @ The Cobalt Café* and reading Baby Sam in *Tracers* by John Di Fusco et al.

ALICE COGHLAN — DIRECTOR AND WRITER

Alice (24) is currently undertaking a Directing MA at GITIS Moscow and Middlesex University, and graduated with First Class Honours in Drama & English from Trinity College in 2001. Directing credits include *The Good People Try Harder: Pavilion Theatre (Arts Council Directing Trainee)*, *The Changeling: Threefold Theatre*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Everyman: D.U. Players*, *Riders to the Sea*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Children's Hour*, *Cinderella*; University of California at Berkeley.

PADDY KELLY- WRITER

Paddy is a writer, who has written widely for TV, theatre and film both in Ireland, USA and Canada. He is also a stand up comic and heads the Stand up Comedy Night, on Saturday nights at The Irish Film Centre, in Temple Bar.

A contemporary ghost: The Lady in Green at The Brazen Head

The ghost of Dublin's oldest pub, is still very much alive and well, and do not ask any of the staff who work here about her, as they'd rather pretend she does not exist, than admit to the reality that she haunts the second floor of the old hotel part of the pub, which is now a function room and restaurant. Staff call her the woman in green, and it is believed that she is probably a fourteenth century ghost, from the time when this was also a 'house of ill repute' for all the sailors and rough kinds who used to tie their ships along Merchant's Quay. She has never appeared to a customer, in living memory, but only to staff members. About seven years ago, a young lad from North Dublin had been engaged to do kitchen porter work, when the lady in green appeared to him in broad day light as he was tidying up the function room. Is all the other staff saw, was the lad belting down the stairs here and running out into the street. They tried to find out what had happened to him, but he was so traumatised that he was quite unable to tell them, and this has been the pattern with the lady in green, time after time.

And The Lady has company, if you are in the kitchen in the early morning, you might be lucky enough to see two ghosts copulating in the middle of the kitchen floor, undoubtedly ghosts from the pub's whore house past! No one knows what century they come from – they don't have any clothes on for a start!

DOYLES LATE BAR

OFF LICENSE

FUNCTION ROOMS

NEW D. STREET BAR

DJs UPSTAIRS & DOWN

LIVE MUSIC

FOR ALL YOUR COLLEGE NEEDS

College Street, D2. Tel: 01 6710616 FAX 01 6799264
w.w.w. DOYLESINTOWN.COM

CAST LIST

In order of character appearance

WIZARD EARL

Leprechaun, Silas Mariner, Rev. Otis, Dolocher & Father Matthew.

BESSIE LYNCH

Bansheid, Gráinne, Mrs. Umney, Virginia, Mrs. O'Brien.

BUCK WHILEY

Thomas Mahon, Lord Canterville, Washington, Paddy Pierceson.

DARKEY KELLY

Phidelma Cassidy, Mrs. Otis, Molly Malone.

SATAN

Seamus Devine, Ghost of Canterville, Scaletheen boy.

PADRAIG DE BRUDAIR

CAROLINE COFFEY

ALAN SMITH.

SHARON MANNION.

CONOR O'NEIL.

CREW

DIRECTOR

WRITERS

PRODUCER

STAGE MANAGER

LIGHTING DESIGN

SOUND DESIGN

COSTUME DESIGN

POSTER DESIGN

ALICE COGHLAN.

PADDY KELLY.

ALICE COGHLAN.

SINEAD HACKETT

KATY GILROY.

REBECCA LOWBRIDGE.

BEN DEMPSEY

ALICE COGHLAN.

DAVE COLOHAN

Wonderland Theatre Productions would like to thank: Joe and Steeve and all the staff at Handels Bar, Down to Earth Theatre, Inchicore College, Samuel Beckett Centre, Thomas Reads Pub, SLC, Nicholas Jackman, Frank Conolon, Angela Clarke, Ann-Marie Edgewood and Mary Judge, The Gilroy family, our sponsors and all the old men, and Dublin fruit sellers who told us such great ghost stories.



Some Famous Dublin Floozies.

Dublin floozies or prostitutes are a famous part of Dublin folklore. Historically speaking they were often from the country, and like Bessie in our own show, would arrive in Dublin and fall into prostitution as the last option. They often found accommodation with powerful Madams, of whom our own Darkey Kelly is a fine example, who would befriend them and dress them in glamorous clothing and then ask for an exorbitant fee in return. The hapless girl would instantly find herself greatly indebted to her Madam, and the only way to repay this debt would be through more prostitution. It is no surprise that The Hell Fire Club were frequent patrons of high class prostitutes like Darkey and Bessie. With no more contraception, than pig's bladder condoms, many of the girls would fall pregnant and be unceremoniously dumped in the streets by their Madams. It is said that many girls would have to carry their babies out under the city walls, through the tunnel that ran under St. Auoden's church in Christchurch. According to local legend the girls can still be seen, emerging from the now bricked up tunnel, in search of the babies that they have lost.

Darkey Kelly lived in the eighteenth century, and ran a brothel on Copper Alley, which was once one of the liveliest, floozy filled streets in Dublin, running from the site of the present Darkey Kelly's Pub on Fishamble Street, to Isolde's Tower pub in Temple Bar. Today she is remembered by the lively pub that is still on the spot. According to local people she was variously a prostitute, Madam of a whore house or a house keeper. One story about who Kelly might have been is that she was a Madam and 'who was tried for a capital offence and publicly burned on St. Stephen's Green in 1746. Gilbert 1854-9.' Another story is that she fell in with the bishop of Saint Patrick's cathedral and fell pregnant by him. It would seem that her child was taken from her and she committed suicide or was murdered on the spot of the present bar as a result.

This may go some way to explain why the site of Darkey Kelly's bar is said to be haunted to the present day, bar staff have complained of feeling hot and cold in certain areas of the bar and feeling that she is there with them when they are clearing up, late at night. One John, claims to have been frozen to the spot, when he saw a dark shadow flitting across the back of the bar, he doesn't know what it was, he just got the 'hell out' of the bar.

Another famous 'Pavement Hostess,' nicknamed **Honor Bright**, was said to be comely, generous and honest. She had lodgings in Newmarket Street, which was the continuation of Francis Street, and would do her hosting all over The Liberties area. Like other floozies before her, Honor specialised in carriage rides where gentlemen could enjoy all kinds of sexual services, whilst they took a few turns around Stephen's Green in the back of a carriage. One night in 1922 she was picked up outside The Shelbourne Hotel by a well known Blessington Garda and a Blessington GP, and was later found murdered in The Dublin Mountains. The people of The Liberties said that she knew too much of the gentries' going ons, and that the murderers walked free from their trial as they knew too many influential people. It is thought that her ghost still walks the streets in the area, as her murder has never been avenged and she was never laid to rest. Local Liberties Women still swear on Honor Bright to this day as a

BODY SHOCK

FIRST PROFESSIONAL PIERCING
STUDIO IN COUNTRY

HOST OF ANNUAL DUBLIN TATOO
CONVENTION

FULL RANGE OF JEWELLERY

HYGIENIC AND STERILE
AFTERCARE

ALL RANGE OF PIERCINGS CATERED FOR.

Tel/Fax 01 6727602
13, Upper Fownes Street, Dublin 2.
Temple Bar, Dublin 2.
www.bodyshock.ie

Some of the stories from The Hell Fire Club.

The Hell Fire Club was founded at a drunken party, held at Grangemellon House in County Kildare in the early eighteenth century. The main aim of the club was to 'do as you will' as regards gambling and partying, cat burning and supposed black masses.

The club frequently met at the now demolished Eagle Tavern, on Cork Hill in Christchurch. It was here that members would sit around a huge circular table, upon which there was a large punch bowl filled with scaltheen, a rancid mixture of butter and raw Irish whiskey. After toasting the Devil and drinking to 'the damnation of the Church and its prelates' members would pour scaltheen over a black cat, especially procured for the occasion, and set fire to it. On more than one occasion the wretched animal escaped from its tormentors and ran screaming and flaming into the street. Large crowds often gathered outside to hear the shouting and the singing, and when the blazing cat ran out they presumed that The Devil had yet again appeared.

Another local was Daly's Club on College Green, the shutters were closed in the morning so that members with hangovers could gamble by candlelight. On one occasion a member 'Buck' Sheely, was found to be cheating at cards, and a 'court' was immediately convened. The judge, 'Buck' English, dressed for the part in the tail, skin and horns of a bull. His verdict was that Sheely should be hurled from the third floor into the street below. Sheely's brains were duly dashed out and play was resumed.

Outside of Dublin The Hell Fire Club found themselves a headquarters in Montpelier House, on Montpelier Hill in Rathfarnham. Its first owner of the house was Buck Whaley senior, who was a direct descendent of Cromwell, and was known as Burn Chapel Whiley, for his nasty habit of riding around Wicklow setting fire to the thatch of illegal catholic chapels. On one occasion The Hell Fire Club were recovering from a black mass and orgy, and were lying all over the dining room floor, when an unfortunate footman, tripped over Burn Chapel Whiley and spilt brandy all over him. Burn Chapel was so angry that he poured alcohol all over the footman and set him on fire. The footman wrapped himself in a tapestry, in an attempt to save his life, but he perished. Burn Chapel and his revellers escaped from an upstairs window.

Burn Chapel's son Thomas 'Buck' Whiley was born in 1766 and was as wild as his father, and once rode to Jerusalem and back in a year for a wager. On another occasion he rode his father's Arabian stallion out of the top floor of a Stephen's Green house, the horse died but Buck lived. Buck began to add the dimension of bisexual black masses to The Hell Fire Club's carry on. However Buck was the one member of The Hell Fire Club to have a change of heart and decided to go to the priests at St. Auoden's Church, to confess his sins and to convert to Christianity. However when Buck was confessing his many sins the Devil himself crept out of the altar and chased Buck out of the church and all the way out of Ireland. It was only when Buck was safely out of Ireland and on the Isle of Man, with his mistress, that he was able to reflect at the end of his memoirs, that "if the language of truth has the power of persuasion, then a life of dissipation can produce no enjoyment, and that tumultuous pleasures can afford no real happiness."

person of honour, a working class heroine and one with potential physic powers.

Dublin's most famous floozy has to be **Molly Malone** a fishmonger, who sold 'cockles and muscles' from Fishamble Street to Ringsend. The old men say that as she was also a prostitute, and that the fever that she died of was undoubtedly a sexually transmitted one. One historian has said that she lived in the seventeenth century, died in her thirties and was buried in a Dublin church yard. For this reason, her statue on Grafton Street, is in seventeenth century dress. Another story is that she was the product of the imagination of an eighteenth century Scottish balladeer.

A strange haunting in The Liberties

In the seventies three Dublin builders were renovating the flats above Boyles' Bookmakers on Meath Street. Every morning when they would come back to work everything to find that had been done had been undone, they assumed local scum bags were doing it. After a while the builders also found that electrical tools would not work properly and saw tools being lifted around the place, by invisible hands as they worked there. One day they saw three female figures in Victorian dress watching them, when they asked what them what they were doing there, the spirits said Mrs O'Sullivan, the owner had let them in, they then vanished. Of course Mrs. O'Sullivan had not even seen them, and it was decided that the house should be exorcised, by a local priest Father Donoghue. He blessed the house with holy water, and explained the disturbances on the fact that the building work had interrupted the spirit's routines and the lay out of their house. Today the flats are lived in by students and local people would love to know if there *have* been any more disturbances, but daren't ask for fear of frightening the students.

DARKEY KELLY'S BAR AND RESTAURANT

Fishamble Street, Dublin 2.
01 6796500

**Traditional Irish Ballads
every Saturday and Sunday 4-8 pm.**

**Why not call down after the show for a friendly drink
in Dublin's local pub?**