A black comedy about mad Irishmen and bloody cats

Who killed Mad Padraic’s cat on a lonely road in Inishmore? Someone’s gotta pay...

Set in a land steeped in violence, The Lieutenant of Inishmore follows the story of Padraic, an Irish terrorist who returns home to find that his beloved cat, Wee Thomas, is dead. Volatile and extremely dangerous, Padraic will stop at nothing to avenge the death of his beloved pet.

When Martin McDonagh’s gleeful, gruesome play about political terrorism in rural Ireland premiered at the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2001, it caused a sensation. People walked out because of the violence depicted on stage. On the other side of the Atlantic, Ben Brantley of The New York Times described the play’s carnage factor as being raised “to a level that rivals Quentin Tarantino’s”.

However, McDonagh’s stomach-curling bloodshed is not just gratuitous gore; it is the set dressing for a wickedly satirical examination of violence and how it is glamorized in our modern world.

Now this Olivier Award-winning black comedy – from the writer and director of the 2008 hit film, In Bruges – comes to the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts for seven performances only. The Lieutenant of Inishmore, performed by the 3rd Year Acting students and directed by David Myles, opens in the Roundhouse Theatre on Friday 12 June at 7.30pm and runs until Thursday 18 June.

David Myles brings over 40 years of experience working in theatre and television both in Australia and overseas to his role as guest director of this WAAPA production.


“If your stomach is reasonably strong, you should find the disgusting spectacle [of ‘The Lieutenant of Inishmore’] appallingly entertaining. More improbably, you should also find it enlightening.” – Ben Brantley, The New York Times.

WARNING: Not for the faint hearted. This play contains coarse language, violence and adult themes.

Performance Information: The Lieutenant of Inishmore
Friday 12 – Thursday 18 June at 7.30pm. Matinee Saturday 13 June at 2pm.
The Roundhouse Theatre, WAAPA, Edith Cowan University, 2 Bradford St, Mt Lawley.
Tickets are $22 full/$17 concession. Bookings through WAAPA Box Office on 9370 6636.

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For further information or to discuss interview opportunities, please contact:
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David Myles – Director

David Myles began his career in Australia in 1963 working for ATN Channel 7 and TEN Channel 10 in Sydney as a sound technician, stage hand and floor manager before moving to London in 1965.

After a stint as assistant stage manager at Watford Repertory Company, Myles joined the National Theatre of Great Britain, taking on the roles of assistant stage manager, stage manager, assistant director and eventually staff director. During this time he worked on many internationally acclaimed productions with some of the world’s leading directors, including Peter Brook, Ingmar Bergman, Tyrone Guthrie, Jonathan Miller and John Schlesinger. As a director, he worked with actors of the calibre of Laurence Olivier (The Merchant of Venice), Maggie Smith (Three Sisters) and Derek Jacobi (As You Like It).

Working as a freelance director based in Europe, Myles’s productions ranged from Shakespeare to rock musicals at theatres in the U.K., Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, Yugoslavia and the U.S.A. He also directed new plays by writers ranging from Harold Pinter and Alan Ayckbourn to John Lennon, and several new musicals by writers as diverse as English poet Adrian Mitchell and Broadway legends, Charles Strouse and Lee Adams. He also worked in the music industry as a co-producer on soundtrack albums with producers George Martin and Norman Newell, and artists such as The Beatles.

In 1975 Myles visited Australia as guest director for the Melbourne Theatre Company’s productions of The Revenger’s Tragedy (choreography by Graeme Murphy), Travesties by Tom Stoppard and Shakespeare’s Othello. In 1990, after spending 25 years overseas, Myles returned to live in Australia.

Since then, Myles has directed opera, music theatre and drama at the Adelaide, Melbourne and Castlemaine Festivals, The Victorian Arts Centre, The Malthouse, The Regent Theatre, Her Majesty’s Theatre, The Athenaum and many fringe venues. Among his many theatre credits, Myles has directed the Gala Presentation of Rocky Horror Show at the Regent Theatre and Other Woman for the Short and Sweet Festival in Sydney and Melbourne. Myles is also known for his extensive experience as a television director.

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