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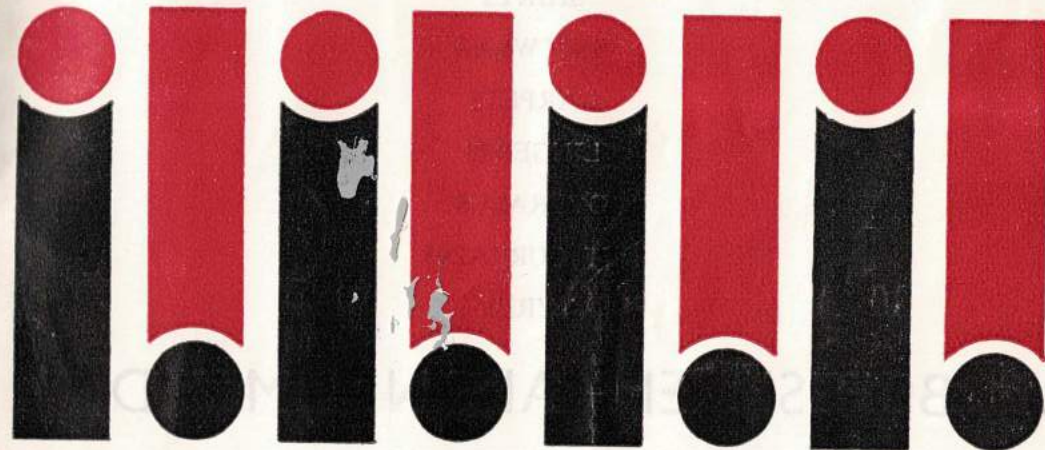


THE LYRIC PLAYERS THEATRE BELFAST

THE FIRST PRODUCTION OF
“THE FLATS”
(Belfast 1971)

by

John Boyd



APRIL, 1971

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THE COMPANY	PATRICK BRANNIGAN ELIZABETH DICKEY MICHAEL FIELDHOUSE SHEILA GALLAHER JEREMY JONES BERNADETTE KEENAN JOAN MACREADY SAM MACREADY GEORGE MOONEY	NORA McCARTHY BARNEY McCAUGHEY ALEX McCLAY MAEVE McGIBBON FRANK McQUOID DENNIS REYNOLDS JOAN ROLSTON LOUIS ROLSTON WILFRED BLACK

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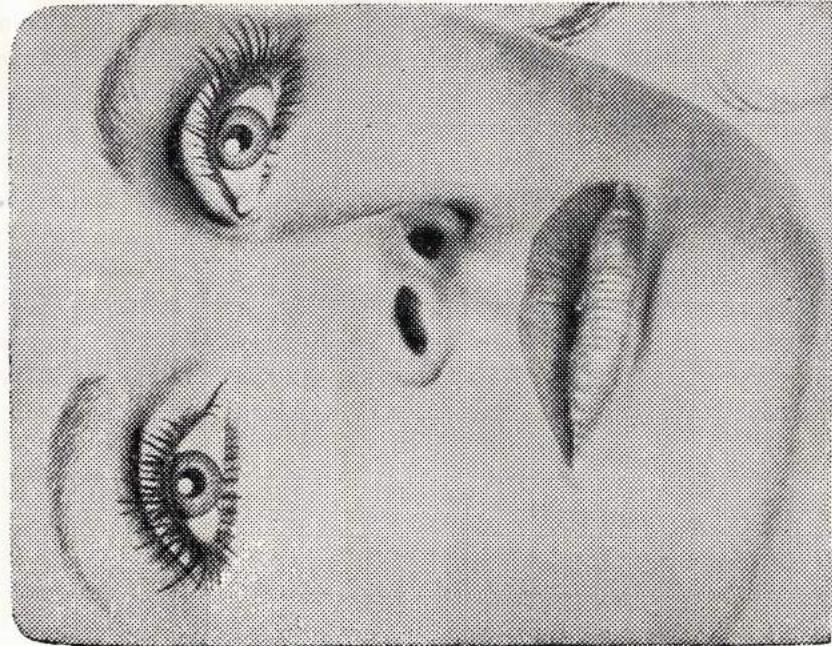
I've been asked to write an introductory note to this play, though clearly the person least competent to do so: least competent because most subjective. For drama is the most objective, the most collaborative, the most public of literary forms, and the dramatist is only the first link in the chain that circulates to produce the performed play. And without performances plays remain shadows.

It has been more than once suggested to me that this play should not be performed in this city at the present time. The theme is judged to be too painful, too close to our own lives, too raw to our own experience.

Indeed it has been suggested that such a play should not have been written without the advantage of historical perspective. This may be so, but it is not my conviction nor my practice. I believe a dramatist is no different from a poet or novelist. Any imaginative writer must create what he has to when he has to. He is far from being his own master and must follow his imagination wherever it may lead him.

My imagination led me to write this play which is neither didactic nor documentary. It began, in my mind, with a symbol: a group of working-class flats towering above the city of Belfast. The family portrayed happens to be Catholic. If the symbol has been different this family might well have been protestant or jewish or agnostic or atheist. In any event, their religious beliefs are but part of their human condition. Finally I want to insist that this play was conceived in no spirit of propaganda. That is the job of all politicians — and a few playwrights, perhaps. Ultimately of course, a playwright has a more difficult and rewarding job to do — if only he can succeed in doing it. His job is to create "life"; to breathe "reality" into his creations; to engender hope and despair and suffering and joy. Of these the most elusive, and not the least important, is joy.

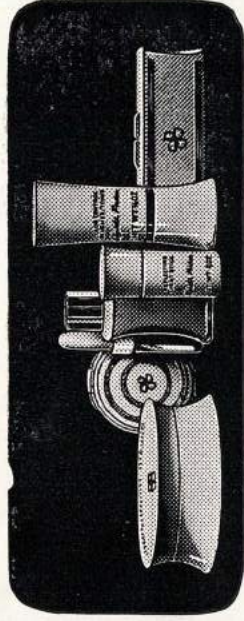
JOHN BOYD.



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"THE FLATS" (Belfast 1971)

By JOHN BOYD

Directed by GEORGE MOONEY Designed by MARY McCracken

CAST in order of appearance

Joe Donellan, the Father	JOE McPARTLAND
Brid Donellan, the Daughter	MAUREEN DOW
Kathleen Donellan, the Mother	BERNADETTE KEENAN
Gerard Donellan, the Son	PAT BRANNIGAN
Phil, (Private in the British Army)	PETER TEMPLER
Adam	BILL HUNTER
Monica Moore	KATHLEEN McCLAY
Sean Cullen	ALEX McCLAY
Malachy Murray	JACK McQUOID
Captain Newman of the British Army	MICHAEL MENAUGH
Voice of Radio Free Ulster	LIAM O'CALLAGHAN

Time: The Present.

There will be an Interval between each Act

Act I	Morning
Act II	Early afternoon
Act III	Late same evening

AT INTERVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE SERVICE — DRINKS MAY BE ORDERED
IN ADVANCE AT THE BAR

COFFEE with fresh cream on sale in the foyer.

*with David & Jean Mullow.
Monday, 22nd March 1971*

Sound Recorded by	DAVID KENNY
Stage Management	SEAN BURNS CASSANDRA FUSCO WILLIAM STEWART
Wardrobe	MAUREEN COMPLISSON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Military Equipment, Army Uniform and Sandbags by courtesy of
1st Battalion, Royal Highland Fusiliers.
Sovereign Cigarettes by courtesy of Gallahers Ltd., Tobacco Merchants, York Street.
Rich Tea Biscuits and Sliced Loaf contributed daily by
Ormeau Bakery, Ltd., Ormeau Road, Belfast, 7.
Milk contributed daily by M/s. Kennedy Ltd., Tate's Avenue, Belfast, 12.
Whiskey Glasses by courtesy of Frank McDaniel, Glass Merchant, Mountpottinger Rd.

Floral arrangements in the Theatre Foyer by Mrs. Jean Brown.

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THE MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THE
PROGRAMME WITHOUT NOTICE.



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Saturday, 20th March, at 8 p.m. in the Whitla Hall, Queen's University

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Soloist: GYORGY PAUK

Weber Overture to Oberon

Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto

Brahms Symphony No. 4

Friday, 26th March, at 8 p.m. in the Ulster Hall

Conductor: (As advertised in the Press)

Soloist: RADU LUPU

Ravel Mother Goose Suite

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major K.467

R. Strauss Metamorphosis

Prokofiev Classical Symphony

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Friday, 2nd April, at 8 p.m. in the Ulster Hall

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KEITH IRWIN, GEOFFREY CHARD
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Thursday, 8th April, at 8 p.m. in St. Anne's Cathedral

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