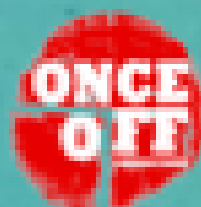


Once Off Productions and Colin Murphy
in association with Pavilion Theatre
PRESENT



THE UNITED STATES



Artwork by Róisín Nolan

VS ULYSSES

A BAWDY COURTROOM DRAMA

Written by **Colin Murphy**

Directed by **Conall Morrison**

WED 8 – SAT 11 NOVEMBER 2023 8PM

Matinée: Sat 11 Nov 2023, 2.30pm

Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire



Booking: paviliontheatre.ie (01) 231 2929

Tickets: €28/25/20



Team

Writer Colin Murphy

Director Conall Morrison

Set Designer Liam Doona

Costume Designer Catherine Fay

Lighting Designer John Comiskey

Composition & Sound Designer Simon Kenny

Deputy Sound Designer Leon Henry

Assistant Director Sorcha Harris

Hair & Make Up Caroline McCurdy

Fight Choreographer Ciaran O'Grady

Cast Ross Gaynor, Morgan C Jones, Mark Lambert, Janet Moran, Helen Norton and Jonathan White

Producers Cally Shine & Maura O'Keeffe, Once Off

Production Manager Brendan McLoughlin, Showscope

Stage Manager Zoë Reynolds

Assistant Producer Morgan Steele, Once Off

Technical Manager Mark Fennell, Showscope

ASMs Niamh Williamson & Emily Rose Champion

Costume Supervisor Eimear Regan

Chief LX Michael Foley

Set Construction Showscope

Marketing Lisa Nally, Once Off

Publicist Jenny Sharif

Legal Advice Henry Murphy, Joseph M Hassett

Collage Image Róisín Nolan

Production Photography Pato Cassinoni

Funded by the Arts Council

***Special Thanks to** Sadhbh Barrett Coakley; Sarah Binchy; Sara Cregan; all at Fishamble: The New Play Company; Orla Flanagan; Andrew Flynn and all at Decadent Theatre Company; all at the Gate Theatre, Michael-Anthony Greene; Ciara Hogan; Howard Brunton, all at the Hurdy Gurdy Radio Museum; all at the Irish National Opera; Denis Kilty; Phyllis; Eimear Reilly and all at the Abbey Theatre; John Rooney; Nathan Snow; and Trudy.*

Programme Note

At risk of revealing a little of how the sausage is made, I wish to recall how *The United States vs Ulysses* came to be, and the crucial roles played in that by many people - whose names don't make it to the poster.

The genesis of the play lay (not for the first time) in a chat with Des Gunning, who was hatching a Joycean plan (not for the first time) to do an online reading, during the pandemic, of the Woolsey decision. What's the Woolsey decision?, I asked.

I was soon recruited - but, instead of reading the decision, I wanted to reconstruct the argument, based on whatever court reports were available. Darina Gallagher of the James Joyce Centre offered a commission and introduced me to Declan Dunne, author of a novel based on the court case, *Set at Random: The Book that Wouldn't Lie Down*. (The hero of Declan's novel is, rather ingeniously, a fictional assistant in the publisher Random House, who comes to play a crucial role in the court case.) Declan generously allowed me use his own reconstructions of the court case for that first draft, which the theatre company AboutFACE presented in an online reading for the Joyce Centre in early 2021.

Enter Kevin Brew of RTÉ Drama on One. Kevin commissioned a radio version, suggested the idea of exploring the Circe episode's delirious court scene, and brought Conall Morrison on board to direct. With more time, I went back to the original court documents (helpfully collected in a volume published in 1984) and to various other sources (see bibliography). Des Gunning, meanwhile, had recruited Brooklyn-based Joycean Jim Keeley to the cause, and Jim discovered that the radio serial *The March of Time* had broadcast a re-enactment of the case. Thankfully, that was lost in the mists of time; I was free to imagine it.

We started to think of the possibility of a stage version. An Arts Council Agility Award allowed me bring Conall and the radio cast back together for a workshop, where the first item on the agenda was to explore whether or not to retain the radio-play framing. (Actors Stephen Hogan and Killian Scott were a key part of the radio production and the early workshop process; Karen Ardiffe and Ali White also contributed to the workshop.) Producer Cally Shine introduced me to Once Off Productions, and Hugh Murray here at the Pavilion offered crucial support. We presented a series of work-in-progress readings at the Pavilion for Bloomsday 2022 (in association with the James Joyce Centre and the International James Joyce Symposium, and with support from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Arts Office). Thanks to the reaction to that, and - crucially - to a production award from the Arts Council, that process has culminated in the production you see tonight. Behind the scenes, Ruth, Zack, Iseult & Elena offered invaluable advice, support, meals, cakes and more cakes.

Hopefully, this odyssey does not stop here. This is a New York story as much as *Ulysses* is a Dublin one. We hope to get the wind in our sails, and bring it across the ocean.

Colin Murphy

Bibliography

Primary sources:

The United States of America v One Book Entitled 'Ulysses' by James Joyce, edited by Michael Moscato & Leslie LeBlanc

Ulysses by James Joyce

Other sources:

The Rise and Fall of Morris Ernst by Samantha Barbas

The Most Dangerous Book by Kevin Birmingham

At Random by Bennett Cerf

Ulysses on Trial by Michael Chabon (New York Review of Books)

Set at Random: The Book that Wouldn't Lie Down by Declan Dunne

James Joyce by Richard Ellman

The Best is Yet by Morris Ernst

James Joyce by Herbert Gorman

Joyce in Court by Adrian Hardiman

The Ulysses Trials: Beauty and Truth Meet the Law by Joseph Hassett

James Joyce and Censorship by Paul Vanderham

Various articles in the New York Times

About Once Off Productions



Once Off Productions is the trading name of independent producer Maura O'Keeffe established in 2004 to provide a structured, supportive and creative producing platform for independent performing artists making ambitious, innovative and collaborative work. Working nationally and internationally at all scales, OOP is committed to bringing performance to audiences in traditional and non-traditional locations.

Once Off is currently funded by the Arts Council under a new 'Creative Production Supports' pilot initiative. This scheme has facilitated a partnership with producer Sara Cregan, Marketing Consultant Annette Nugent and Production Managers Rob Furey and Peter Jordan as well as associate producers Cally Shine and Sadhbh Barrett Coakley and has enabled Once Off Productions to reach a wider cohort of independent artists and to provide consolidated and resourced creative production supports to the independent performing arts sector.

Once Off Productions supports and collaborates with artists and organisations across theatre, dance, opera and music including: Michael Gallen/Straymaker, Janet Moran, Dylan Coburn Gray, Laura Murphy, Eoghan Carrick, Colin Dunne, Rory Nolan, Kwaku Fortune, Christian O'Reilly, Medb Lambert & Donal Gallagher/Asylum Productions, Peter Power, Manchán Magan, Company Philip Connaughton, Tom Lane, Gill Buckle, Conor Hanratty, Tom Creed, Mel Mercier and others.

2023 projects include:

ARÁN AGUS IM created and performed by Manchán Magan (US and Canada Tour); THE NEXT FOUR YEARS (National Tour); GUIDING BELLS with Mel Mercier and the Irish Gamelan Orchestra (The Everyman); DWELLING by Peter Power and Leon Butler (BETA Festival); THE UNITED STATES VS ULYSSES by Colin Murphy (Pavilion Theatre and Town Hall Theatre Galway); THE WEIGHT by Luca Trufarelli (The Complex); YOU BELONG TO ME by Rory Nolan (Smock Alley Theatre); THE LOCAL by Asylum Productions (Kilkenny Arts Festival); FRUIT by LemonSoap Productions; THE HARE by Bob Kelly and Clare Monnelly (CAIRDE FESTIVAL); TROJANS by Company Philip Connaughton (Cork Midsummer Festival) Master Class by Terrence McNally (Smock Alley Theatre); and DAUGHTER OF GOD by Roderick Ford (Granary Theatre)

Director **Maura O'Keeffe**
Senior Producer **Orla Flanagan**
Company Manager **Catherine Finn**
Associate Producer **Cally Shine**
Associate Producer **Sadhbh Barrett Coakley**
Assistant Producer **Morgan Steele**
Assistant Producer **Michael Anthony Greene**
Marketing Assistant **Lisa Nally**

Trainee Production Manager **Andrew Crowley**
Trainee Producer **Meg Ahearne**
Producing Consultant **Sara Cregan**
Marketing Consultant **Annette Nugent**
PR Consultant **Jenny Sharif**

THE WEIGHT

 THE
COMPLEX

8 - 11 November at 8pm

Created and directed by
Luca Truffarelli

Funded by The Arts Council

Produced by Once Off Productions with Luca Truffarelli

Supported by Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch & The RTÉ Concert Orchestra

Tickets from €16 - visit thecomplex.ie

