



Presents

Karen McCartney  
Andrea Irvine  
Aidan Crowe  
Karl Quinn  
Bláithín Mac Gabhann  
Gary Murphy

A new play of murder, revenge and the supernatural  
set in contemporary Limerick.

# SHAM

WRITTEN BY PAUL MEADE | DIRECTED BY AMY CONROY



**BELLTABLE**

8pm

**17-20 November**

[www.limetreetheatre.ie](http://www.limetreetheatre.ie)

Suitable Age is 15+ This production contains references  
to sex, violence, sexual violence, alcohol and drug use



**Preview 17 November / €16**

**18-20 November / €16/€18**



SHAW

## PROGRAMME NOTE - PAUL MEADE

I first had the idea for *Sham* when directing a production of *Hamlet* for Second Age Theatre Company at the Helix. It was a modern dress production with a beautiful, sleek design and engaging performances. The Second Age audience were mainly students and, for the most part, I thought the production brought the story to life for them. During a matinee performance I was suddenly struck by a sacrilegious thought: 'What if the language and context for *Hamlet* were no longer a barrier? How would the story resonate then?' An idea for a production that used elements of the story of *Hamlet* but was its own unique entity popped into my head (complete with set design) and I couldn't shake it.

I spoke to Gerry Stemberidge about the project and he encouraged me to write in verse (something I had never done before) and this led me to hearing Limerick voices in the characters I was creating. *Hamlet* is full of spying and mistrust and I wanted to keep that sense of paranoia and fear in this new play. The denser the language it seemed the further I was able to push the characters into that space.

The unique Limerick voice that I grew up with resonates in *Sham*. Over the last decade Gúna Nua has been proud to produce major new plays by Limerick writers. *The Unlucky Cabin Boy*, *The Morning After The Life Before* and *Bread Not Profits* were hugely popular with audiences and won awards at home and abroad. They added to the landscape and architecture of the Limerick imagination.

I hope *Sham* exists in a place parallel to the city where it is set. It speaks of families that live outside of society all over the world. It explores how far human beings can travel for love, for family, for revenge. *Sham* (like *Hamlet*) is a dark tale. It's a story of ghosts and murder and the power and magic of performances. In rehearsals it has been a pleasure to witness these actors and the creative team bringing their own power and magic to words that try to map the linguistic contours of the Limerick imagination.

SHAM

## CAST AND CREW

Sham  
Trudie  
Ogie  
Audie  
Phelia  
Kid

Director  
Writer

Dramaturgy  
Producer  
Guna Nua Executive Producer  
Production Manager  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Set & Costume Design  
Visual Design  
Lighting Design  
Sound Design

### Press and Marketing

Lime Tree Theatre  
Press  
Social Media  
Photography  
Graphic Design

Karen McCartney  
Andrea Irvine  
Gary Murphy  
Karl Quinn  
Bláithín Mac Gabhann  
Aidan Crowe

Amy Conroy  
Paul Meade

Gerard Stembridge  
Ella Daly  
Gill McCaw  
Therese Maher  
Emily Champion  
Gill McNamara  
Irene Enguita  
Dominik Kosicki  
Jay Kavanagh  
Chris Somers

Gillian Fenton, Sadhbh McCoy  
Conleth Teevan  
Joshi Gandharva  
Ros Kavanagh, Caleb Purcell  
Richard Meade



## PAUL MEADE – PLAYWRIGHT



Paul Meade is a writer, director, actor and artistic director and co-founder of Gúna Nua Theatre company. Originally from Limerick, he trained at the Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College Dublin, and later received an M.A. in Modern Drama from University College Dublin.

His awards include the Stewart Parker Award for *Skin Deep* (2003) and a Dublin Fringe Best Production Award for *Scenes From a Water Cooler* (2001). In 2007 he was awarded a playwrighting commission by the Irish Council for Bioethics, with the resulting *Begotten not Made* being performed as a staged reading by Fishamble in January 2009 in Farmleigh House. Paul Meade has also written extensively for film and television and directs Gúna Nua Artistic policy, choosing scripts and directing, writing and producing theatre pieces.

SHAM

## AMY CONROY – DIRECTOR



Amy Conroy is an actor, playwright, and theatre maker. Her first radio play, *Hold This*, was recorded and broadcast on RTÉ Radio One in September 2010. Her first stage play, *I Alice I*, won the Fishamble Award for New Writing in the 2010 Dublin Fringe Festival and has enjoyed sold out runs in the Dublin Theatre Festival, the Peacock stage of the

Abbey Theatre Dublin, The Irish Arts Centre in New York, Lókal festival in Iceland, Glasgag Festival in Glasgow, The World Theatre Festival in Brisbane, Australia, Auckland Arts Festival in New Zealand, Ten Days on the Island Festival in Tasmania, Queer Theatre Festival Croatia, Centre Culture Irlandais in Paris and The Lyric Theatre Belfast. It was broadcast on RTE Radio One, and has been translated and performed in Poland, Italy and Iceland. It is published by Oberon.

Her second show, *Eternal Rising of the Sun*, won the Best Female Performer Award when it premiered at Dublin Fringe Festival 2011. Her performance as Gina Devine also earned her a nomination for Best Actress in the Irish Times Theatre Awards 2011. *Eternal Rising of the Sun* has enjoyed successful runs in the Dublin Theatre Festival 2012, Fringe World in Perth, Australia, and a staged reading in Sydney Theatre Company. In September 2013, Amy and her company HotForTheatre presented *Break*, which combined spoken



word, music and text. Set in an Irish secondary school, it exposed and interrogated the failures and triumphs of our education system. *Luck Just Kissed You Hello* premiered at the Mick Lally Theatre as part of the Galway International Arts Festival in 2015, concluded a sell out run for the Dublin Theatre Festival later the same year, it was nominated for Best New Play in the Irish Times Theatre Awards 2016 and toured nationally. Her most recent play, *The Boy Who Talked to Dogs*, a commission by Australian theatre company Slingsby, premiered at the Adelaide Theatre Festival 2021.

Amy has performed in countless production over the years, most recently a critically acclaimed production of *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Globe Theatre, London, directed by Caroline Byrne, *A Day In May*, directed by Gerry Stembridge, *A Midsummers Night's Dream*, directed by Lynne Parker, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (DTF 2018), directed by Ronan Phelan, *Citysong*, directed by Caitriona McLaughlin (Abbey Theatre and Soho Theatre, London), for which she was nominated as Best Supporting Actress in the Irish Times Theatre Awards 2019, and *This Beautiful Village* for the Abbey Theatre, directed by David Horan.

She directed *Me Sara (Priming the Canon)* for the Abbey Theatre, which played in the Peacock and toured nationally, *Looking Deadly* (Dublin Fringe – National tour) and *Here and Now* by Veronica Dyas, performed as part of Thisispopbaby's Where We Live Festival.

## KAREN MCCARTNEY – SHAM



Karen was part of the first group to graduate from the BA in Acting course at The Lir Academy in 2014. Since then she has gone on to work at Druid Theatre Company on *Druid Shakespeare* and *Big Maggie*, at The Gate Theatre on *The Heiress* and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris*. She was also part of the cast of *Hostel 16* for the Dublin

Fringe Festival and *Signatories* at The Olympia Theatre.

She played Serena, a mermaid, in *Futureproof* as part of Cork's Midsummer Festival. She has worked with Rough Magic on the new musical *The Train*, on the Seeds production of *Mr Burns: A Post Electric Play*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (winner of The Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Ensemble) and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. Her film and TV credits include *Crone Wood* and *Fair City*.

SHAM

## ANDREA IRVINE - TRUDY



Andrea most recently appeared on screens as Mairéad McDaid in David Ireland's play *Sadie*, made by the Lyric Theatre Belfast & Field Day for broadcast on the BBC.

Most recent screen credits include the role of Róisín Hastings opposite Adrian Dunbar in *Line Of Duty* for the BBC; the lead role of Angela Tyrrell in three series of *Red Rock* for Element Pictures; and the feature films *Boys From County Hell* directed by Chris Baugh, and *End Of Sentence* directed by Elfar Edelsteins.

Her extensive stage work includes (most recently) David Ireland's *Cyprus Avenue* directed by Vicky Featherstone for the Royal Court and the Abbey Theatre; *The Great Hunger* directed by Conall Morrison for the Abbey Theatre, a site specific production; and *Sive* directed by Garry Hynes for Druid Theatre Co.

SHAM

## GARY MURPHY – AUDIE



Gary was most recently cast in *Holding* directed by Kathy Burke for port pictures. He will appear later this year in *Christmas at the Castle* directed by Stefan Scaini for Hallmark. Recent stage credits include *Before Monsters Were Made* (Oak Productions), *God Bless the Child* (PT Productions) and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Everyman Palace).

Previous theatre credits include the *Death of Harry leon*, *Macbeth*, *Richard III* and *Amadeus* (Ouroboros), *The Betrayal* (Gate Theatre), *La Ronde*, *The Lover*, *Ladies Day* and *The School for Wives* (Granary), *Banshee Makers*, *Hatch 22*, *The Trail of Jesus*, *The Tempest* (Corcadorca), *To Kill a Mocking Bird* (Everyman Palace), *Sive*, *Moonshine*, *Tea & Sex & Shakespeare*, *Sharon's Grave* (Brown Penny), *Crystal*, *Winter*, *The System Parts I & II* (Project Arts Centre) and *Gargarin Way* (Island).

Film & television credits include *As Luck Would Have It*, *The Young Offenders 2*, *The Voting Age*, *An Klondike*, *Vikings*, *Moone Boy*, *A Dangerous Fortune*, *Loving Miss Hatto*, *Damage*, *The Daisy Chain*, *Ripper Street*, *1916 Seachtar Dearthadta*, *The German*, *The Take*, *The Tiger's Tale*, *Whistleblower*, *Fair City*, *Proof*, *The Tudors*, and *Love/Hate*.

## AIDAN CROWE – KID



Aidan is a native of Limerick. He began acting at the age of 12 with Spotlight Stage School and after completing the two year programme with Limerick Youth Theatre, he moved to Wales where he studied Drama and Theatre Studies at The University Of Wales, Aberystwyth.

He has most recently appeared as Billy Sheehan in *'Bread Not Profits'* by Mike Finn, directed by Terry O'Donovan, Bob in *Midsummer* directed Eoghan Carrick in The Project Arts Centre, Henry in the US/Spanish tour *The Bockety World of Henry and Bucket, Jacko'* in *Click* by Michael Collier in The Civic Theatre, Tallaght, as part of the ensemble in The Abbey Theatre production *King Lear, Vanner* (Sidhe Film/Tree Light Pictures) which was an official selection for the Chicago Irish Film Festival, and *My Passenger* (Light Leak Films) which was an official selection for the Belfast Film Festival.

SHAM

## BLÁITHÍN MAC GABHANN – PHELIA



Bláithín most recently played the lead role “F” in Malaprop Theatre Company’s *Where Sat The Lovers* directed by Claire O’Reilly at Project Arts Centre; the role of Mary (Masha) in Thomas Kilroy’s *The Seagull* (after Chekhov) directed by Garry Hynes for Druid Theatre Co., and the role of Karen Reid alongside Desmond Eastwood in the TV series *Hidden Assets*

directed by Thaddeus O’Sullivan.

Further credits include the role of the Outsider in *The Way Out* directed by Suri Krishnamma as part of the Performance Live collaboration between the BBC, Arts Council England, and BAC; the role of Annie alongside Catherine Walker and Aidan McArdle in Nancy Harris’ *Our New Girl* directed by Annabelle Comyn at the Gate Theatre, Dublin; *Penance* directed by Maurice Sweeney for Channel 5; *Normal People* directed by Lenny Abrahamson and Hettie Macdonald; and Dylan Coburn-Gray’s Verity Bargate Award-winning play *Citysong*, directed by Caitriona McLaughlin for the Abbey Theatre, the Soho Theatre London, and the Galway International Arts Festival (2019). Bláithín also played the role of Devlin alongside Eileen Walsh in a Women at RADA reading of *Leopoldville*, directed by Tilly Vosburgh.

## KARL QUINN - OIGIE



A graduate of Theatre Studies (TCD) and Post Graduate diploma in Arts and Learning (NCI) Karl Quinn is a Dublin based Theatre Maker with over twenty-five years experience creating work nationally and internationally.

Recently Karl finished shooting  *Holding* , an ITV series based on Graham Norton's book, directed by Kathy Burke, and with Performance

Corporation, *Emperor101*, a ground-breaking crossover between theatre and VR for DTF. International work includes: Washington DC (USA), Yukon and Vancouver (Canada), with The Performance Corporation; Bucharest (Romania), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Wales (UK) with Carpet Theatre; London (UK) with Tall Tales and The Bush Theatre; Edinburgh (UK) with Yew Tree; Glasgow (UK) and Pori (Finland) with Painter's Radio, Pori (Finland) with Inis Theatre.

In Ireland Karl has worked as an: Actor (Fidget Feet, The Performance Corporation, Abbey Theatre, Rough Magic, Ark Theatre, Second Age, Broken Talkers, Carpet Theatre); Director (*Crude Mechanicals, The Ould Fella, Trolly*); Writer (*Connected, Crude Mechanicals, Trolly*); Devising (*Aeneid, The Flood, Pigeon*); Writer: *Connected, Crude Mechanicals, Trolly*. Drama Facilitator (Abbey Theatre); Voice Over (RTE continuity, including Irish Language links). Karl is a Creative Associate on the Arts Council's Creative Schools team.

Karl has been nominated for The Irish Times Theatre Awards, Dublin Fringe Awards, Off West End Awards, Bewley's Little Gem Awards.

Thanks to the **Lime Tree and Beltable Staff** for their support at every step of this process, to **Limerick Youth Theatre, The Irish World Academy, Limerick City and County Council Arts Office, Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon.**

Our thanks also to our Board and the Friends of Gúna Nua without whom our work would not be possible:

### **Gúna Nua Board:**

Sheila Campbell, Jack Gilligan, Michael Hennessy, Ray McKenna, Colin Meagher, Joseph O'Dea, Marie Taylor-Ghent, Dualta Woods.

### **Gúna Nua Friends:**

Garry Burke, Frank Doyle, Roberta Dunn, Éadaoin Glynn, Denis and Catherine Keating, Donal McKenna, Tim O'Malley, Liam and Eileen Meade, Noirín Meade (in memory of Christy White and Martin O'Brien, supporters of Gúna Nua who sadly passed away this year.)



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

LIMERICK  
CULTURE &  
**arts**  
OFFICE

SHAM