

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kirsten Quinn
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It is with great excitement that the Irish Heritage Theatre announces our Fall 2016 production of *Molly Sweeney* by Brian Friel. After highly successful and critically lauded productions of *Philadelphia Here I Come!*, *A Night with Lady Gregory*, and the famed *O'Casey Trilogy* (*The Shadow of a Gunman*, *Juno and the Paycock* and *The Plough and the Stars*), we are proud to return to Friel (arguably one of the greatest Irish American playwrights) with *Molly Sweeney*, our sixth production. The Irish Heritage Theatre is Philadelphia's only professional company dedicated to preserving and acquainting new audiences with the poetry and power of classic Irish theatre and its rich legacy in America. We are also happy to return to the Walnut Street Theatre Studio 5, where we produced Friel's *Philadelphia Here I Come!*

The Irish Heritage Theatre is taking it up a notch with this production, first by becoming Barrymore eligible, and most importantly, casting our first Equity actor, the great Michael Toner, a local favorite (and hero) who specializes in his brilliant portrayal of Irish characters. Over the past year, Michael has fought back from a tragic accident and is stronger than ever. He recently graced the stage in the Walnut Street Theatre's production of *A Moon for the Misbegotten* to rave reviews. We feel so honored that he wants to be a part of *Molly Sweeney*. Also starring in the production are Ethan Lipkin and Kirsten Quinn, both of whom were in *Juno and the Paycock*. The show will be helmed by Peggy Mecham, our resident director.

Molly Sweeney is quite the departure for us, as for the past several years we have focused on daunting plays with huge casts. Despite being a small theatre company, we strive to take chances and produce Irish and Irish American theatre that is both powerful and challenging. *Molly Sweeney* is no exception. With *Molly Sweeney*, Brian Friel gives us this beautifully poignant, striking drama centering around three subtly crafted characters who tell their carefully interwoven stories in direct address to the audience. First we have Molly, a woman blind since infancy who despite her inability to see is self-assured, confident and at one with her world. When her enthusiastic and adventurous husband Frank sees an opportunity to have Molly's sight partially restored by Mr. Rice, a once famous ophthalmologist, they decide to take the plunge into an unknown frontier, and in doing so change the course of all of their lives forever.

The show will run September 29th-October 15th, 2016. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7pm and Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$25 for general admission; \$20 for seniors; and \$15 for students, theatre

industry members, and groups of ten or more. Also check for us on Funsavers. For production information and to purchase tickets: www.irishheritagetheatre.org

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Quinn

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FACT SHEET

The Irish Heritage Theatre's presents...

Molly Sweeney

by Brian Friel

directed by Peggy Mecham

Walnut Street Theatre Studio 5, 825 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107

Thursday, September 29th- 7:00pm, \$15 Preview

Friday, September 30th- 7:00pm, Opening

Saturday, October 1st- 7:00pm, Performance

Sunday, October 2nd- 2:00pm, Performance

Wednesday, October 5- 7:00pm, Performance

Thursday, October 6- 7:00pm, Performance

Friday, October 7- 7:00pm, Performance

Saturday, October 8- 7:00pm, Performance

Sunday, October 9- 2:00pm, Performance

Wednesday, October 12- 7:00pm, Performance

Thursday, October 13- 7:00pm, Performance

Friday, October 14 -7:00pm, Performance

Saturday, October- 7:00pm, Performance

(Doors open one half hour prior to curtain)

Tickets are \$15-\$25 Some discounts on certain performances may be made available through the Philadelphia Fun Guide. Advanced reservations are strongly recommended as seating is limited.

To find out more and to purchase tickets go to:

<http://www.irishheritagetheatre.org>

The Irish Heritage Theatre presents...

Molly Sweeney

by Brian Friel

Directed by
Peggy Mecham



The master of Irish Theatre, Brian Friel, gives us this beautifully poignant, striking drama centering around three subtly crafted characters who tell their carefully interwoven stories in direct address to the audience. First we have Molly, a woman blind since infancy who despite her inability to see is self-assured, confident and at one with her world. When her enthusiastic and adventurous husband Frank sees an opportunity to have Molly's sight partially restored by Mr. Rice, a once famous ophthalmologist, they decide to take the plunge into an unknown frontier, and in doing so change the course of all of their lives forever.

Tickets \$15 Preview; Students with ID and Industry with proof of theatre experience \$15, Seniors \$20 and General Admission \$25; Discounts available for groups of 10 or more.

FEATURING:



Kirsten Quinn



Michael Toner



Ethan Lipkin

September 29 - October 15th
Wednesdays-Saturdays at 7pm • Sundays at 2pm.
Walnut Street Theatre Studio 5

To find out more about IHT and to purchase tickets, go to www.irishheritage theatre.org