

ABBEY THEATRE AMHARCLANN NA MAINISTREACH

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ABBEY THEATRE PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW SEBASTIAN BARRY PLAY, 'TALES OF BALLYCUMBER'



7 October - 7 November 2009

(Previews from 30 September - 6 October)

August 2009 – The Abbey Theatre is proud to present the world premiere of a new play by twice Booker-nominated writer, **Sebastian Barry**, as part of its programme for this year's *Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival*. **TALES OF BALLYCUMBER** opens at the Abbey on Wednesday 7 October (previews from 30 September) and features Oscar-nominated actor, **Stephen Rea**, and **Aaron Monaghan** in the leading roles.

In **TALES OF BALLYCUMBER** young Evans Stafford calls to the home of a friend and strong-minded traditionalist, Nicholas Farquhar, for advice on a budding love interest. The seemingly innocent words passed during this brief encounter have a horrific effect, leaving Farquhar struggling to understand what dark, unsettled history within him and his Ballycumber homeland may have pushed the younger man towards his violent action.

Along with **Rea** and **Monaghan**, the cast for this superb play includes **Barry Barnes** and **Derbhle Crotty**. Direction is by **David Leveaux**, whose production of *THREE SISTERS* was a big hit at the Abbey last year. Set and costume design is by **Mike Britton**, lighting by **Matthew Richardson**, musical composition by **Corin Buckeridge** and projection and video design is by **Dick Straker**.

Sebastian Barry was born in 1955 in Dublin and educated at the Catholic University School and Trinity College Dublin. He recently received a Lord Mayor's Award for his services to Dublin and Literature. His plays include *Boss Grady's Boys* (1988), *Prayers of Sherkin* (1990), *White Woman Street* (1992), *The Only True History of Lizzie Finn* (1995), *The Steward of Christendom* (1995), *Our Lady of Sligo* (1998), *Hinterland* (2002), *Fred and Jane* (2002), *Whistling Psyche* (2004), *The Pride of Parnell Street* (2007), and *Dallas Sweetman* (2008). His novels include *The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty* (1998), *Annie Dunne* (2002), *A Long Long Way* (2005) and *The Secret Scripture* (2008). His many awards include the **Irish-America Fund Literary Award**, the **Christopher Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize**, the **London Critics' Circle Award**, **Kerry**

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DIRECTOR: Fiach Mac Conghail, COMPANY SECRETARY: Declan Cantwell
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bryan Mc Mahon (*Chairman*), Catherine Byrne, John Finnegan
Olwen Fouéré, Tom Hickey, Suzanne Kelly, Declan Kiberd, Dr. Jim Mountjoy, Eugene O'Brien
Maurice O'Connell, Lynne Parker. REGISTERED IN IRELAND NO. 414400
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Group Irish Fiction Award and the most recently awarded **James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction**. *A Long Long Way*, which was shortlisted for the **Man Booker** and the **Dublin International Impac Prize**, was the **Dublin: One City One Book** choice for 2007. *The Secret Scripture* was shortlisted for the **Man Booker Prize** and won the **2008 Costa Novel Award**. He lives in Wicklow with his wife Alison and three children.

Booking and information on www.abbeytheatre.ie and (01) 87 87 222.