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CAST OF SEVENTEEN IN SEVENTEENTH TOM MURPHY WORLD PREMIERE WITH SEVENTY PLUS COSTUMES ON THE ABBEY STAGE

3 June – 11 July 2009
Previews: 27 -30 May & 2 June 2009

June 2009 – The Abbey Theatre is delighted to present the world premiere of a new play by one of Ireland's finest playwrights, **Tom Murphy**. Opening on **Wednesday 3 June THE LAST DAYS OF A RELUCTANT TYRANT** is the seventeenth work that **Murphy** has premiered at Ireland's national theatre.

One of Ireland's most respected theatrical performers and the only Irish actress to win a coveted Tony Award for Best Actress, **Marie Mullen**, leads an epic cast for an epic production on the Abbey stage, directed by award-winner, **Conall Morrison**.

Also included in this wonderful cast are theatre greats such as **Mick Lally, Tom Hickey, Declan Conlon** and **Frank McCusker**. The remarkable set has been designed by **Tom Piper**, Associate Designer with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the seventy plus costumes have been designed by award-winning Costume Designer **Joan O'Clery**.

An epic family drama, **THE LAST DAYS OF A RELUCTANT TYRANT** tells the tragic story of a family disintegrating. Arina is the matriarch who rules with an iron hand. However, as she gets older she begins to question the purpose of her power and wealth and, in doing so, sees it slipping into the grasp of her greedy and conniving son. Commissioned by the Abbey this haunting and darkly humorous new work from the writer of **Alice Trilogy, A Whistle in the Dark, Bailegangaire** and **The Gigli Concert**, is a fascinating study of family morality.

Other cast members include **Barry Barnes, Eva Bartley, Janice Byrne, Brendan Conroy, Donagh Deeney, Caoilfhionn Dunne, Darragh Kelly, Ruth McGill, Bríd Ní Chumhaill, Rory Nolan, Aoife O'Donnell** and **Seán O'Neill**.

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