

DECADENT

DECLAN CONLON + MAEVE FITZGERALD in

blackbird

by DAVID HARROWER

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO,
UNA AND RAY HAD A
RELATIONSHIP.

THEY HAVEN'T SET EYES
ON EACH OTHER SINCE.

NOW, YEARS LATER
SHE IS AN ADULT...

AND SHE'S FOUND
HIM AGAIN.



SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR IS DISCUSSED



Una **Maeve Fitzgerald**

Ray **Declan Conlon**

Written by **David Harrower**

Directed by **Andrew Flynn**

Set Design **Owen McCarthaigh**

Lighting Design **Ciaran Bagnall**

Sound Design **Carl Kennedy**

Costume Design **Sarah Ben Abdullah**

Set Construction **Brian Moroney**

Scenic Painting **Rachel Towey + Simon Daly**

Girl **Nina Ní Choncheanainn + Aoife Tierney**

Stage Manager **Rae Visser**

ASM **Aoife Lannon**

Lighting Operator on tour **Stephen Cassidy**

Tour Team **Stephen Cassidy + Mark Byrne**

Marketing + PRO **Jamie Monagan**

Graphic Design **Brendan Foreman**

Enrichment Programme **Dani Gill**

Executive Producer **Gerry Barnes**

RUNNING TIME 80 minutes, no interval.

Thank You

*Marianne Kennedy and everyone at O'Donaghue Centre Galway.
Mike O'Halloran. Megs Morley and everyone at Galway Arts Centre.
Ciaran Kelly, Shannon Light, Bridget Brogan*



Maeve Fitzgerald | Una

Maeve Fitzgerald is a graduate of the Bachelor in Acting Studies at the Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College.

Her previous roles for Decadent Theatre Company include: *Eden*; *There Are Little Kingdoms*; *The Thing About December* and *The Mai*.

Other theatre performances include *The Great Hunger*; *On Raftery's Hill*; nominee Best Actress at the Irish Times Theatre Awards 2019 (Abbey Theatre); *The Alternative* (Fishamble), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Rough Magic); *Wringer* (Bewley's Cafe Theatre); *Holy Mary* (Breda Cashe Productions); *Bailegangaire* (Livin' Dred/Nomad).

Maeve has appeared in various productions for The Gate Theatre, including the highly successful run and international tour of *Pride and Prejudice*, as well as *Wuthering Heights* and *An Ideal Husband*.

She has appeared in productions with Verdant Productions; Tron Theatre; Bush Theatre; ANU; Tall Tales; Meridian. For Second Age she has played Desdemona in *Othello*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*; Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*; Rose Mundy in *Dancing At Lughnasa*, amongst others.

Maeve won Best Supporting actress for *Basin* and was nominated Best Actress for *After Miss Julie* at the Irish Times Theatre Awards, both in 2010. She has been awarded and nominated at the Dublin AbsolutFringe Awards (winner Best Actress 2009) and the Off West-End Awards.

She is co-founder of Then This Theatre Company for whom she has appeared in *Collected Stories* and a one-woman show, *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Her film and TV credits includes *Cherry*; *The Secret Scripture*; *Corp Agus Anam*; *Rasai Na Gaillimhe*, and *An Crisis*. Radio work includes *The Games Room* and *The Book on One* both for RTÉ.



Declan Conlon | Ray

Declan has played numerous roles in the Abbey Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre of London, and frequently performs in film and television. His work for the Abbey Theatre includes: *The Fall of the Second Republic*; *Anna Karenina*; *Hedda Gabler*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Quietly* (also toured to the Irish Repertory Theatre 2016, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013, Soho Theatre, London and Irish Tour); *The Hanging Gardens*; *Drum Belly*; *The House*, Winner Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Actor 2012; *Terminus* (national and international tour); Manchester Theatre Awards nomination for Best Actor 2011; *The Last Days of a Reluctant Tyrant*; *A Whistle in the Dark*; *Famine*; *The Patriot Game*; *The Burial at Thebes*; *The Crucible*; *The Recruiting Officer*; *Julius Caesar*; *A Month in The Country*, Winner Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Supporting Actor 2006; *True West*; *The Hamlet Project*; *All My Sons*; *Henry IV (Part 1)*; *Heavenly Bodies*; *What Happened Bridgie Cleary*, and *The Last Ones*.

Other theatre work includes: *To the Lighthouse*; *Come On Home*; *Nora*; *The Yalta Game*; *Juno and the Paycock*; *The Gigli Concert*; *An Enemy of the People*; *The Last Summer*; *The Book of Evidence* (originally produced in conjunction with Kilkenny Arts Festival); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gate Theatre); *Juno and the Paycock* (Gaiety Theatre); *The Sanctuary Lamp* (b*spoke theatre company); *Improbable Frequency* and *Copenhagen*, Irish Times Theatre Award nomination for Best Actor 2002 (Rough Magic Theatre Company); *Freefall* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Corn Exchange); *Miss Julie*, *Greener* and *The Secret Garden* (Landmark Productions); *The Country* (Arclight Productions); *As You Like It*; *The Spanish Tragedy*; *La Lupa*; *The Mysteries* and *Henry VI* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *The Walls*, *The Ends of the Earth* and *The Machine Wreckers* (National Theatre, London); *Macbeth* (West End); *Our Country's Good* (Out Of Joint at the Young Vic and UK tour); *Dancing at Lughnasa*, nominated Best Supporting Actor UK Theatre Awards (Lyric Theatre, Belfast and Gaiety Theatre); *Uncle Vanya* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast).

Television work includes: *Irish Crime Story*; *The Bailout*; *Mendoza in The Tudors* (Showtime); *Fair City*; *Amber*; *Raw*; *Trouble in Paradise*; *Proof*; *Bachelors Walk* (RTÉ); *Single Handed* (RTÉ and ITV); *Anytime Now*; *Dangerfield*; *The Family* (BBC); *Inspector Jury* (IJ Productions); *Hot House* (Channel 4); *Cromwell* (Title Films).

Film credits include: *God's Creatures*; *Wastewater*; *We Ourselves*; *Sacrifice*; *My Name is Emily*; *Love Eternal*; *Calvary*; *Basket Case*; *Debris*; *Hereafter*; *The Trouble with Sex*; *Honest*; *All Souls Day*; *Roman Spring of Mrs Stone*. Radio work includes *The Burial at Thebes* and *The Hounds of the Baskerville*.



David Harrower
Playwright

David Harrower was born in Edinburgh in 1966. His first play, *Knives in Hens* (1997), was first produced at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, in 1995. He is also the author of the plays *Kill the Old*, *Torture Their Young* (1998), and *The Chrysalids* (1999), adapted from John Wyndham's novel, for the National Theatre's Connections project. *Presence* (2001), his third original play, was first performed at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs in April 2001.

David Harrower has also adapted versions of Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (*Six Characters Looking for an Author*), first staged at the Young Vic in 2000; Chekhov's *Ivanov* (2002), performed at the National Theatre in autumn 2002; and Buchner's *Woyzeck*, performed at the Edinburgh Lyceum in 2002. He has also translated *The Girl on the Sofa* (2002), a new play by Jon Fosse, presented in a joint production by the Edinburgh International Festival and the Schaubuhne, Berlin.

His play *Dark Earth* (2003), premiered at the Traverse in August 2003. He has also recently written a new version of Odon von Horvath's *Tales from the Vienna Woods* (2003) for the National Theatre, London, which opened in October 2003. He wrote an adaptation of Schiller's *Mary Stuart* (2006) and a new translation of Brecht's *The Good Soul of Szechuan* (2008). More recent work includes *Blackbird* (2005); *365*, presented at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2008 and telling the stories of 14 young people who move out of care; *Lucky Box* (2009) and *Ciara* (2013).

David Harrower lives in Glasgow.

Andrew Flynn

Director

Andrew is the director of Theatre at Galway Arts Centre and the Artistic Director of Decadent Theatre Company. He also works as a freelance theatre director. Most recently Andrew directed *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh for Gaiety productions in 2019/2020.

As the head of theatre at Galway Arts Centre Andrew has directed over 70 productions for Galway Youth Theatre. Some highlights include: *Frank Pig Says Hello* and *The Adventures of Shay Mouse* by Pat McCabe, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *Portia Coughlan* by Marina Carr, *Lovely Betty* by Mark O'Halloran, *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Vertenbaker, the Irish premieres of *Midsummer*, *Monster In the Hall* and *Yellowmoon* by David Greig, *Autobahn* by Neil La Bute, *Talking To Terrorists* by Robin Soans, *Tejas Verdes* by Fermin Cabal, *Country Music* by Simon Stephens, *Consensual* by Nina Raine and the world premiere of *Teacher* by Christian O'Reilly

Recent directing credits for Decadent Theatre include: Kevin Barry's *There Are Little Kingdoms*, the World premieres of *A Thing About December* by Donal Ryan and *A Love Like That* by Billy Roche, *Eden* by Eugene O'Brien, *The Mai* by Marina Carr, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* by Frank McGuinness, *Pumpgirl* by Abbie Spallen, *The Weir* by Conor McPherson, *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh, *The Dead School* by Pat McCabe, *Vernon God Little* by Tanya Rhonder, *Defender Of The Faith* by Stuart Carolan, *A Skull In Connemara* by Martin McDonagh (3 Irish Times Nominations), *Port Authority* by Conor McPhearson (for which he was nominated as Best Director at the Irish Times Theatre Awards), *Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley (2 Irish Times Nominations), *Faith Healer* by Brian Friel (Decadent /Townhall Galway), *The Seafarer* by Conor McPhearson, *The Cavalcaders* by Billy Roche (Decadent/ Nomad Theatre Network), the world premieres of *Here We Are Again Still* by Christian O'Reilly and *Character* by Mark Dillon, *Country Music* by Simon Stephens, *Blackbird* by David Harrower.

Directing credits for Lyric Theatre Belfast include: *Philadelphia Here I Come* by Brian Friel, *Dockers* by Martin Lynch, *PumpGirl* by Abbie Spallen, *The Pillowman* By Martin McDonagh and *The Weir* by Conor McPherson

Other credits include: *Juno And The Paycock* by Sean O'Casey (A.R.T Northern Ireland/Cork Opera House), *Translations* by Brian Friel (Ouroboros Theatre Company), *Via Dolorosa* by David Hare, (Curt Literature Festival), *The Lieutenant Of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh (Irish Premiere, Cork Opera House/Millennium Theatre Derry/Townhall Theatre Galway), *Translations* (Townhall Galway).

Ciaran Bagnall
Lighting Design

Ciaran trained at the Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff. Recent Theatre includes: Set & Lighting Design *Oliver Twist* (Hull Truck); *And Did those Feet* (Macron Stadium, Bolton); *Double Cross* (Lyric Theatre Belfast & Abbey Theatre, Dublin); *The Mai* (Irish Tour/ Dublin Theatre Festival); *Lovers* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast); *The Man Who Fell To Pieces, Hard to be Soft* (The MAC, Belfast); *The Great Gatsby* (Gate Theatre, Dublin – Winner Best Design Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards); *RED* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast – Winner Best Design Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards); *The Train, Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* (Abbey Theatre); *Ashes, Educating Rita, Two, Two 2, A view from the Bridge, Love Story, Twelfth Night, Piaf, Of Mice and Men, Tull, The Glass Menagerie, Habeas Corpus, Secret Thoughts, Oleanna* (Octagon Theatre, Bolton); *A Christmas Treasure Island, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella* (Hull Truck); *Macbeth* (Shakespeare's Globe, London); *Singin' in the Rain* (UK Tour); *Othello* (RSC, Stratford upon Avon); *Lally the Scut, The God of Carnage, Villa, Discurso, Tejas Verdes* (MAC, Belfast); *Conquest of Happiness* (Olympic Stadium, Sarajevo); *Shoot the Crow* (Opera House, Belfast); *Snookered* (Bush Theatre, London); *The Killing of Sister George* (Arts Theatre, London); *A Slight Ache* and *Landscape* (Lyttelton Theatre, National Theatre London).

Carl Kennedy
Sound Design

Carl was a founding member of Decadent and trained at Academy of Sound in Dublin. He has worked on over one hundred theatre productions, with venues and companies including The Abbey, The Gaiety, ANU Productions, The Lyric Theatre Belfast, Rough Magic, HOME Manchester, Fishamble, Prime Cut, Theatre Lovett, HotForTheatre, Guna Nua, Loose Canon, Peer to Peer, Siren, Broken Crow, Randolph SD and Theatre Makers. He has been nominated three times for the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Sound Design. He also composes music and sound design for TV and video games. Game titles include *Curious George, Curious about Shapes and Colors, Jelly Jumble, Too Many Teddies, Dino Dog and Leonardo and His Cat*. TV credits include sound design for 16 letters (Independent Pictures/RTE) and SFX editing and foley recording for *Centenary* (RTE).

Brian Moroney
Set Construction

Brian has worked on building sets with Decadent Theatre for ten years. In that time he has also being the tour carpenter on over 15 national tours. Set builds include: *The Cavaliers* (Decadent/ Nomad Network), *Doubt* (Decadent), *Faith Healer* (Decadent / Townhall Galway), *The Seafarer* (Irish Tour Decadent/ Nomad Network), *Here We Are Again Still* (World Premiere & Irish Tour), *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Irish Tour), *Tejas Verde, Lovers,*

At the Black Pigs Dyke, Decadent productions of *The Dead School*, *Vernon God Little*, *Defender of the Faith* and *Lonesome West* and *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* for Lyric Theatre, Belfast. Recent builds include: *A Love Like That* by Billy Roche, *A Skull in Connemara* and *The Pillowman* by Martin MacDonagh and *The Weir* by Conor MacPherson (Decadent/ Pavilion/ Everyman/ Galway Townhall).

Rae Visser
Stage Manager

Originally from South Africa, with a background in Fine Art. Rae's first work placement was with Druid. Thereafter, she has stage managed touring productions for Fíbín, Branar, Decadent Theatre Company (*There Are Little Kingdoms*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Lonesome West*, *Blackbird*), Passion Machine, Town Hall Theatre, Music for Galway, Cork Opera House, An Taibhdhearc, Keegan Theatre (Washington, D.C), Theatre Corp., Passion Machine, Zelig, Blue Pig Theatre Company, Jasango, and Galway Youth Theatre. Production management for Keegan Theatre (Washington D.C. and An Taibhdhearc.) Rae has also directed for TrueWest Theatre Company. *The Head of Red O'Brien* by Mark O'Halloran, *Mary Motorhead* by Mark O'Halloran (and for radio, *Mary Motorhead* winner of best radio drama, PPI radio awards, Drama, Ocean FM 2013). For Haw Theatre Company, *Zeitgeist* by Bernard Field and *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* by Pat Collins and John O'Dowd. She has a new exciting project, currently in development.

Dani Gill
Enrichment Programme

Dani Gill is a literary curator, producer, writer and educator, based in the west of Ireland. She is the national Audience Development Officer for Words Ireland (wordsireland.ie) working with venues in six counties to strengthen and stimulate literary programming including live events, workshops and One Book projects. She was the Director of Cúirt International Festival of Literature, Galway. During her time with Cúirt she successfully won three major European Project Awards: *Read Me Live* (2011); *The Crossroads of European Literature* (2013); *Sharing the World* (2015-2016). She also introduced a dedicated Outreach Programme to the festival and developed the youth programme through the creation of the Cúirt Labs. Dani has worked as a Creative Producer on live performances across literature, film, dance and theatre. In 2019 she produced *Mirrors*, a show featuring the work of Nicole Flattery and Jessica Traynor. She published her first collection of poems, *After Love*, with Salmon Poetry in April 2017. She also writes fiction, having just finished her debut novel, as well as reviews and occasional features for The Irish Times.

Gerry Barnes
Executive Producer

Gerry Barnes is the Executive Producer of Decadent Theatre Company. Gerry was Executive Director of Cork Opera House from 1989 to 2010 during a major expansion of its artistic programme. He oversaw the development of The Half Moon Theatre as well as a refurbished Opera House during the unfolding of the capital expenditure programme from 1993 to 2009. During his tenure Gerry worked with his Board of Directors to upgrade the artistic quality and range of a programme which included touring co-productions with Town Hall Theatre Galway directed by Andrew Flynn (*The Lieutenant of Innismore, The Lonesome West, Juno and the Paycock*). He has to date produced the Decadent Theatre national tours of *A Skull in Connemara, The Pillowman, Vernon God Little, The Dead School, The Weir, Eden, The Thing About December* and *A Love Like That*. Gerry has programmed and produced plays for the Cork Theatre Company, Storytellers Theatre Company, the Belltable Arts Centre, and Cork Midsummer Festival.





blackbird

National Tour

April - June 2022

BELLTABLE, LIMERICK

Thu 28, Fri 29, Sat 30 April

THE EVERYMAN, CORK

Thu 5 & Fri 6 May

BALLYDEHOB COMMUNITY HALL, CORK

Sat 7 May

TOWN HALL THEATRE, GALWAY

Tue 10 May

NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE, WEXFORD

Thu 12 May

TOWN HALL, CAVAN

Tue 17 May

HAWK'S WELL THEATRE, SLIGO

Thu 19 May

NENAGH ARTS CENTRE, TIPPERARY

Fri 20 & Sat 21 May

GAIETY THEATRE, DUBLIN

Thurs 26 - Sat 28 May

TOWN HALL THEATRE, WESTPORT

Wed 1 June

BALLINA ARTS CENTRE, MAYO

Thu 2 June

DECADENT

www.decadenttheatrecompany.ie