



DECADENT | GALWAY
ARTS
CENTRE

DECADENT THEATRE COMPANY and GALWAY ARTS CENTRE present

Donal Ryan's
**FROM A
LOW AND
QUIET SEA**

Directed by Andrew Flynn

with AOSAF AFZAL, EVA BARTLEY,
DENIS CONWAY, DARRAGH O'TOOLE

DECADENT THEATRE COMPANY and GALWAY ARTS CENTRE present

Donal Ryan's FROM A LOW AND QUIET SEA

Town Hall Theatre, Galway
Wed 3 May

Westport Town Hall Theatre
Thu 4 May

The Linenhall, Castlebar
Fri 5 May

Hawkswell, Sligo
Sat 6 May

Garter Lane, Waterford
Wed 10, Thu 11 May

**Source Arts Centre,
Thurles**
Fri 12, Sat 13 May

Roscommon Arts Centre
Tue 16 May

Town Hall Cavan
Wed 17 May

Belltable, Limerick
Thu 18, Fri 19, Sat 20 May

Backstage Theatre, Longford
Tue 23, Wed 24 May

The Civic Theatre, Tallaght
Thu 25, Fri 26 May

Solstice Arts Centre, Navan
Sun 28 May

glór, Ennis, Clare
Wed 31 May

Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny
Thu 1 June

Wexford Arts Centre
Fri 2, Sat 3 June

St. John's Theatre, Listowel
Wed 7 June

**Riverbank Arts Centre,
Newbridge, Kildare**
Thu 8, Fri 9 June

Draiocht, Blanchardstown
Sat 10 June



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Cast in order of appearance

John	Denis Conway
Farouk	Aosaf Afzal
Lampy	Darragh O'Toole
Florence	Eva Bartley

From a Low and Quiet Sea premiered in the 2022 Galway International Arts Festival.
The production was adapted for the stage in a collaborative way by Donal Ryan,
Andrew Flynn and the original cast actors.

Directed by	Andrew Flynn
Lighting Design	Ciaran Bagnall
Composer/Sound Design	Carl Kennedy
Backdrop Design	Ger Sweeney
Costume Design	Sara Ben-Abdallah
Executive Producer	Gerry Barnes
Set Construction	Brian Moroney
Tour Set Construction	Simon Daly
Scenic Painter	Ger Sweeney
Set Crew	Simon Daly
LX Technician	Ann Marie Langan
	Stephen Cassidy
Stage Manager	Rae Visser
Production	Mattie Hynes
	Mark Byrne
Graphic Design	Brendan Foreman
Press/Marketing	Jamie Monagan
Photography	Declan Colohan

Running time: 2 hours 15 minutes, including interval.

Special thanks for Script Workshops and Development:

Lorcan Cranitch, Maeve Fitzgerald, Brid Ní Neachtain, Frankie McCafferty,
Kyle Hixon, Curtis Lee, Declan Conlon, Sashi Rami, Cathal Ryan, Denis Conway,
Backstage Longford Activate Residency and
Galway International Arts Festival Elevate Bursary.

Thanks to: Paul Fahy and all at Galway International Arts Festival,
Mona Considine and the staff of Backstage Theatre, Megs Morley and the staff
at Galway Arts Centre, Fergal McGrath and all at Galway Town Hall,
Peter Ashton, Shantalla Community Centre, Eilish McCarthaigh, Eva Birthistle,
Melanie Scott and Tipperary Arts Festival.



Q & A with Andrew Flynn, Decadent Theatre Company Artistic Director

Andrew Flynn is Artistic Director of Decadent Theatre Company. One of Ireland's busiest creatives, he directed the Irish premiere of Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen* which just wrapped sold-out runs in Dublin and Galway. Later in 2023 will see Andrew direct *Every Brilliant Thing* in the Galway International Arts Festival in July and Billy Roche's *As Such As We* in Nov/Dec in The Jerome Hynes Theatre in the National Opera House, Wexford.

How did you go about sourcing the theatre rights for From a Low and Quiet Sea and arrange for yourself and author Donal Ryan to adapt it?

From A Low and Quiet Sea began life as a novel. It is a brilliant work of fiction that came from Donal's imagination. A novel is a very different form of literature to a play. I was in awe of Donal's skill and talent from reading *The Spinning Heart*. Then I read *The Thing About December* and I fell in love with that book. I approached Donal about trying to adapt it for the stage and through the great work of Jarlath Tivnan and a brilliant cast, we staged *The Thing About December* in 2019. In 2020 the world stopped, and I approached Donal about adapting *From a Low and Quiet Sea*. The novel had wonderful characters and three

separate stories, and I spent several months editing the book, trying to distil the novel into a dramatic text. Several workshops with great actors and Donal were facilitated where we challenged and tested the work. This continued in rehearsals, and we finally had a show in July 2022.

Given the four stories intertwining in the piece, I wonder how much were the cast involved in structuring the final work as it appears on stage?

The cast and actors were central to the process. The workshops and rehearsals were very collaborative and together we helped shape and edit the dramatic text.

In respect of designing the play, what were your considerations as a director?

The play is all about the characters, their stories, and words. The design needed to be very simple, it needed to provide a space where the characters can exist but would never distract or take away from the play's language and words. In truth, this play goes back to the very essence of theatre. All you need is the actor, a space and the audience.

What is next for Decadent after this tour?

Following the tour Decadent will mount a production of a Duncan McMillan play at the Galway International Arts Festival in July. Then the company will embark on a winter production of *On Such as We* by Billy Roche.

Andrew Flynn and Donal Ryan were recipients of both an 'Activate Residency at Backstage Theatre' and a 2021 'Elevate' bursary grant to adapt and workshop the script of *From a Low and Quiet Sea*. Decadent Theatre Company and Galway Arts Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and Galway County Council and RTÉ Supporting the Arts..







Denis Conway | John

Denis is delighted to work with Andrew Flynn again having recently played Harry in the Irish premiere of Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen*, directed by Andrew and produced by Gaiety Productions in association with Decadent Theatre Company. It was Denis' third role in a McDonagh play having previously played Coleman in *The Lonesome West* in Dublin and Donny in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* in the West End. He recently filmed a Netflix TV series, *Bodkin*, and worked in the UK on *Alone in Berlin*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Wallenstein* and Gloucester in *King Lear* at Chichester and New York.

Abbey Theatre highlights: Hugh in *Translations* and Hjalmar Ekdal in *The Wild Duck*.

Gate Theatre: The Irishman in *The Gigli Concert*; George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*; Victor in *The Price*; Moss in *Glengarry Glen Ross*; Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*; and Finbar in *The Weir*.

He was the original Dinny in *The Walworth Farce* and Dunne in *Penelope* (Enda Walsh) for Druid, both of which toured nationally and internationally.

As Artistic Director of Ouraboros he produced large scale tours of Brian Friel's *Making History* and *Translations*. *Making History* (playing Hugh O'Neill) marked the quatercentenary of the Flight of the Earls. This production toured throughout Ireland and subsequently through France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy, ending in O'Neill's death place in Rome. Denis also played Salieri in *Amadeus*, the title role in *Macbeth*, Ulysses in *Troilus and Cressida*, Hugh in *Mutabilite*, the title role in *Richard III* and Odysseus in *Myrmidons*.

Television includes: *North Sea Connection*, *Blod 2*, *Sliced*, *Normal People*, *The Young Offenders*, *The Running Mate*, *Scúp*, *Tri Sceal*, *Single Handed*, *Bailout* and *Trial of the Century*.

Film includes: *Aisha*, *Sweetness in the Belly*, *End of Sentence*, *The Truth Commissioner*, *Brooklyn*, *Garage*, *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, *Alexander*, *Intermission*, *I Went Down* and *Michael Collins*.

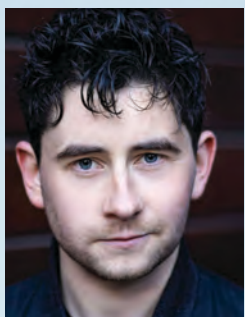
Denis was awarded the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Actor on two occasions: for Richard in *Richard III* and for The Irishman in *The Gigli Concert*. He was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the IFTA Best Actor award for *Running Mate*.

Denis is a board member of the Brian Friel Trust.



Aosaf Afzal | Farouk

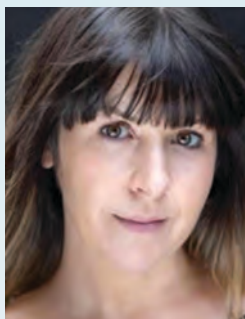
Following a successful twenty-year scientific career – which, in 2006, included his being awarded an MBE in the UK's national honours for Services to Science – Aosaf ran away to join the theatre! He trained at London's Mountview Academy and received his MA in Acting and Performance in 2017. Since then he has toured extensively in the UK and Ireland. More recently, he has appeared in a number of internet, television and film projects including *Mrs Sidhu Investigates* for ITV and the BAFTA TV Award-nominated *How to be a Person* for Channel 4/E4.



Darragh O'Toole | Lampy

Darragh is a native of Tullamore, Co. Offaly. He made his screen debut in the award-winning short film *Toy Soldiers* back in 2011. Since then, Darragh has amassed a healthy list of credits, most recently filming the role of Billy in the feature film *Murder in G Major* for Zanzibar Films. Other recent roles include Romus in Apple TV + series *Foundation*; Liam in BBC/HBO series *Peaky Blinders*; Yann in the soon-to-be-released second series of the critically acclaimed *Wheel Of Time* for Amazon Prime TV; along with the role of Kian in the second series of the highly-acclaimed *Blood* for Virgin Media Television.=

Darragh's previous work includes the series regular role of Conor Tyrell in the TV3/BBC/Amazon Prime TV series *Red Rock*, as well as lead roles in the short films, *Chicken Out* directed by Richard Keane; *Contra*, directed by Daragh Murphy; and the lead role in feature film *South*.



Eva Bartley | Florence

Eva has been working as an actor on stage and screen for the past 20 years in both the UK and Ireland. Theatre credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Gate Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Northcott Theatre), *Othello* (Second Age), *The Last Days of a Reluctant Tyrant*, *Shush* (Abbey Theatre), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Everyman), *The Song of The Sea* (Barnstorm Theatre Company). Film and Television includes: *Vikings* (Prime Video), *Redemption* (Britbox), *The Clinic*, *On Home Ground* (RTE), *Titanic: Blood and Steel* (Titanic Films), *Trial & Retribution* (ITV).



Donal Ryan | Author

Donal Ryan is the author of five bestselling novels and a short story collection. He has won numerous awards, among them the European Union Prize for Literature, the Guardian First Book Award, and three Irish Book Awards. He was nominated for the Man Booker Prize in 2013 for his debut, *The Spinning Heart*, and again in 2018, for his fourth novel, *From A Low And Quiet Sea*. His work has been adapted for stage and screen and translated into over twenty languages. *The Spinning Heart* was voted Irish Book of the Decade in 2016 in a nationwide poll run by Dublin Book Festival. Donal lectures in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick. His latest novel, *The Queen of Dirt Island*, was published in August 2022 by Penguin Books.

Works:

The Spinning Heart (2012)

The Thing about December (2013)

A Slanting of the Sun: Stories (2015)

All We Shall Know (2016)

From a Low and Quiet Sea (2018)

Strange Flowers (2020)

The Queen of Dirt Island (2022)

Recognition:

2012: Irish Book Awards, winner, Newcomer of the Year (*The Spinning Heart*). 2012: Irish Book Awards, winner, Book of the Year (*The Spinning Heart*). 2013: Irish Book Awards, shortlist, Novel of the Year (*The Thing About December*). 2013: Booker Prize, longlist (*The Spinning Heart*). 2013: Guardian First Book Award, winner (*The Spinning Heart*). 2014: International Dublin Literary Award, shortlist (*The Spinning Heart*). 2015: European Union Prize for Literature (Ireland), winner (*The Spinning Heart*). 2015: Irish Book Awards, winner, Short Story of the Year (*A Slanting Of The Sun*). 2016: Irish Book Awards, shortlist, Novel of the Year (*All We Shall Know*). 2016: Dublin Book Festival, winner, Irish Book of the Decade (*The Spinning Heart*). 2018: Man Booker Prize, longlist (*From a Low and Quiet Sea*). 2018: Irish Book Awards, shortlist, Novel of the Year (*From a Low and Quiet Sea*). 2018: Costa Book Awards, shortlist (*From a Low and Quiet Sea*). 2019: Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize, longlist (*From a Low and Quiet Sea*).

Andrew Flynn

Director

Andrew Flynn is the Artistic Director of Decadent Theatre Company and the director of Theatre at Galway Arts Centre. He also works as a freelance theatre director. In March 2023, Andrew directed Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen*, a co-production of Gaiety Productions and Decadent Theatre Company. Other recent work includes *Blackbird* and *Eden* for Decadent (2022).

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'Reill, *Character* by Mark Dillon, and *Country Music* by Simon Stephens .

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

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, (Cuiart 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).

Sara Ben-Abdallah

Costume Designer

Sara is a Tunisian-American designer who holds a degree in film, with a concentration on Costume & Production Design from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA. After working in Japan for 5 years with the Tokyo International Theatre Company costuming multiple shows such *Rocky Horror Picture Show, A Flea in Her Ear, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Night Must Fall, Macbeth,*

and *The Diary of Anne Frank*, she moved to Ireland in 2017. Sara has over 25 credits to her name in Irish film, TV, advertising and theatre. As well as working on feature films (*Here Are The Young Men*, *There You'll Find Me*) and television shows (*Rig 45*) she has also worked with several award winning short films, including *Coco Dreams In Blue* (FilmBase), and *The Secret Box* (KTC). Her theatre credits include *She Kills Monsters* and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* for No Drama Theatre, and *A Love Like That*, *There are Little Kingdoms* and *Blackbird* for Decadent Theatre.

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

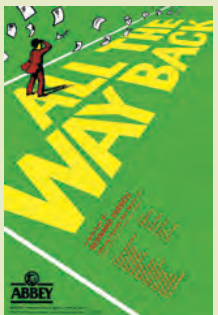
Originally from South Africa, with a background in Fine Art. Rae's first work placement was with Druid. Thereafter, she has stage managed touring productions for Fíbín, Branar, Decadent Theatre Company (*There Are Little Kingdoms*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Lonesome West*, *Blackbird*), Passion 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.

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 *The Chief, Blackbird, 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.

Brendan Foreman Design

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UPCOMING
DECADENT THEATRE COMPANY
PRODUCTIONS:

EVERY BRILLIANT THING
by Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahoe
Galway International Arts Festival
July 2023

AS SUCH AS WE
by Billy Roche
Wexford Arts Centre
Nov-Dec 2023

DECADENT

www.decadenttheatrecompany.ie