

“Excellent play... great
entertainment, well worth a visit”

Ireland's Big Issue

**SHOULD I
STAY OR
SHOULD I GO?**

By Kevin Leavy

Tickets €18 / €13 Concession
February 3rd & 4th, 8 PM
Boy's School, Smock Alley Theatre

Smock Alley Theatre, 1662
Exchange St Lwr,
Temple Bar
www.smockalley.com | 01 6770014

 **SMOCK ALLEY
THEATRE**

Bracklyn Productions

Bracklyn Productions

Presents

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

by Kevin Leavy

Smock Alley Theatre's Boys' School

"Life death and polo mints."

On the eve of what she knows will be her final birthday, Ronnie reflects on the good and bad of an ordinary yet interesting life, settling scores, making peace with the major players in her life – both living and dead – while struggling to contain a guilty secret she has buried deep for over twenty years, in the knowledge it's revelation would destroy her already fragile family.

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

"Should I Stay Or Should I Go?" is an irreverent, entertaining, sad and hilarious comic drama about a terminally ill, broad-minded, complex and risqué old woman with a punky attitude to life. Through all the drama that unfolds, it is Ronnie's universal humanity that shines through.

Although fictional, "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" was inspired by numerous visits writer Kevin Leavy made to his grandmother in the nursing home where she spent her final decade. Bracklyn Productions was named after the area she lived in for most of her life. It's remit is to create theatre that tells stories inspired by the situations of the people around us.

CAST AND CREW

Brenda McSweeney

John Smyth

Ana Milena Obregon

Mary Pat Moloney

Stephen Kelly

Stephen Gorman

Ronnie

Tom

Maria

Anne/Colette

Paddy/Slim Jim

Kevin

Writer

Director

Producer

Lighting designer

Image design

Kevin Leavy

Kieran McDonnell

Muirenn Lyons

T Kokalj

Nicole Edgerton

MEET THE CAST



Brenda McSweeney plays the lead role of '**Ronnie**' in 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Brenda has been involved in community theatre and drama for many years. Her recent performances were in 'Beckett Poetry' at The Beckett Festival in Enniskillen and Smock Alley, as Nellie in 'Nellie' by Aileen Wymes at The Sheds, and as Alice in 'Shopping in Chains' by Shay Linehan at the Dalkey Book Festival. She played Brigid in 'The Meeting' directed by Alan Gilsean. Brenda is delighted to be playing Ronnie in 'Should I Stay Or Should I Go?'.



John Smyth plays '**Tom**' in 'Should I Stay or Should Go?' John studied Acting at The Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College, Dublin. Previous Theatre Work Includes: Cyclops (New Theatre). Timon Of Athens (Project Theatre). The Lock Out (New Theatre). The Merry Wives Of Windsor (Players Theatre). Pinter X4 (Pearse St Theatre). Seven Lives For Liberty (Town Hall Theatre, Galway).



Ana Milena Obregon plays '**Maria**'. Ana is a Venezuelan performer based in Dublin. In 2017 Ana entered the Dublin scene, beginning as a stand up comedian, performing in Dublin and other parts of Ireland. In 2018 Ana continued her training in Acting & improv with Flying Turtle productions, participating in diverse workshops.



Mary Pat Moloney plays '**Anne**', Ronnie's sister, and '**Collette**', Ronnie's daughter, in 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Mary Pat is recently toured with KathyAnn Murphy's 'Letting Go', a play about the lives of Marie Fleming and Tom Curran, where she plays the role of 'Public'. Later in the year she will perform in Random Things Productions, 'Flirting With the Surreal - An Encounter With Pat Ingoldsby', a show bringing Pat's poems to life. She has also been cast as Caroline McGovern in Joseph Fuller's feature film 'First Time With Ghosts'. From 2012-2014 Mary Pat did advanced training in the Michael Chekhov Technique with Joerg Andres, with the intention to facilitate this work but the pull and love of acting was too strong. Since then, she has been acting at every opportunity. She has an MA in Modern Drama from UCD and a Diploma in Theatre Studies from NUI Maynooth.



Stephen Kelly plays '**Paddy**' and '**Slim Jim**' in 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' Stephen trained at Trinity College, the Gaiety School of Acting, and Inchicore VEC. An actor with over 22 years experience, Stephen's recent screen credits include 'Bloodline Detectives' (Peninsula Television), 'Fair City' (RTE), 'The Candidate', 'Moore', 'Interference', and 'L'Etranger'. Theatre credits include Shakespeare's 'As You Like It', 'A Midsummer's Night Dream', 'King Lear', 'Timon of Athens', 'Dublin Carol' (dir. Pat Talbot), 'Port Authority' (dir. Peter Reid), 'Deadline' (Breda Cashe Productions), 'The Indian Wants The Coombe', 'Never the Sinner', 'Tracer' (Purple Heart), 'Missing Football' (dir. by Rachel Dowling), '12 Days of May', 'The Waiting Room' (dir. Liz Loyd), 'The Borrowers' (dir. Chris Wallace), 'The Desert Lullaby' (dir. Caroline Fitzgerald), 'The Bus, Little Victories' (Barnstorm Theatre) and most recently the lead role of 'Frank' in Gary Duggan's 'It's a Wonderful Bleedin' Life' Stephen Gorman who will be taking on the role of Kevin.



Stephen Gorman plays '**Kevin**'. Stephen is a graduate of Dublin's Gaiety School of Acting's part time programmes and has been a full time actor since 2011. Theatre credits include: School For Dinosaurs; Aisling's Seven (Underdog Theatre Productions), Why So Sad (Que Dell'Arte Productions), The Ice Witch; Daylight Robbery; The Crystal Cage (Ofegus Theatre Company), The Drowning Room (Kinnerton Productions), The Second Miracle; Eirebrushed; Wretched Little Brat (IDGTF Production), Tiger Deli (Golden Mean Productions), Deathtrap; The Great Gatsby, Dealer's Choice (C.A.S. Productions), Romeo & Juliet (Cracked Light Productions). Screen credits include: Nationwide; Elev8 (RTE), Lift (C.A.S. Productions), Recoil, Food Fight (Fight Back Films), Demon Hunter (Constant Motion Productions), A Celtic Awakening (PBS Detroit), Leap Year (Universal)

MEET THE TEAM



Kieran McDonnell is our wonderful director.

Kieran has been involved with SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO? since its earliest inception, from its first performance in Smock Alley's Scene and Heard to its 2019 run in the Teacher's Club. He is delighted to be involved in bringing the work back home to where it first was given life.

Kieran worked for many years with Frank Allen's Tobar na Run, and featured in many productions including; 'Down the Flats', 'Making it Home', 'Oh When the Hoops', 'Hatchet', 'Seven Lives for Liberty' and 'Mr. Blueberry'. He has received critical acclaim for his role as Sean Mallon in 'Going Home' and as Mikey in 'Abused Together'.

He was a founding member of Raising Issues Theatre Group and worked with Patricia McCann on a number of her community theatre productions including '2BHIVOY', 'Are You For Real', and 'Gold Folks'.

Kieran's mission has always been to make theatre accessible for those who are excluded, and worked with community groups, writing and directing 'Bone Dry' and 'Cherish our Children', which were performed in the Teachers Club, to facilitate them in taking to the stage.

He has worked as a director with emerging playwright Eddie Naughton on 'Franner and Joey' and 'The Boy with the Halogen Hair' for Knot On Productions, and is working to bring the third in the trilogy, 'The Trouble with Bobo', to stage in the near future.



Kevin 'Lev' Leavy is the writer of 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?'

This is Lev's first play. While Ronnie bears no resemblance to his own Nana, the germ of the character was born when visiting the nursing home where she spent the last decade of her life. What thoughts occupied her mind when alone? Big ones such as, is there life after death? Did she make a difference in the grand scheme of things? What would happen to her home in Bracklyn? Or really big ones like, does she have enough polo mints to get through the day? 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' is the result of those questions



Producer Muirenn Lyons is also an actor, and theatre maker, with a BA in Drama from TU Dublin Conservatoire.

Alongside 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?', Muirenn recently produced 'Trolley'd' and 'Who Pays the Bill?' for the International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival 22.

Producing credits include: @ CupánTaeBae LIVE!(SASH 2020), Melia Theatre Company's The Haunted Host (Smock Alley's Boys' School), and TU Dublin's Peter Pan's Cirque d'Imaginaire (Rathmines Theatre).



T is our wonderful lighting designer!

T Kokalj is currently studying Drama and Theatre at Trinity College Dublin. She is specializing in Lighting design, as well as Stage and Production Management.

Her recent lighting design credits are 'Mother, or Indigo beyond Marina Carr,' 'Dead Fruit,' and 'Men Eating Dinner,' all as part of the 20 minute piece festival in the Samuel Beckett Theatre, and 'Connemarvelous,' as part of Scene and Heard 2022. She also worked as Chief LX on 'Ulster American,' also in the Samuel Beckett Theatre.

Her other design credits include set design for 'Sorry For Your Loss' and set construction for 'Everest,' both performed in DU Players.

Bracklyn Productions

We would like to say a huge thank you to Nicole Edgerton, Eoin O'Sullivan, the Wisdom Centre, Megan McDonnell, the Leavy family, and everyone who has come to see our little show.

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