Gate Theatre Dublin

HAY FEVER

By Noël Coward

Dock Street Theatre

May 24 (preview), 26, 28, and 31; June 2, 3, 6, and 9 at 8:00pm
May 25 and 30; June 5 and 8 at 7:30pm
May 26, 28, and 31; June 3, 6, 9, and 10 at 3:30pm

SPONSORED BY FIRST CITIZENS

Director: Patrick Mason
Set Designer: Michael Pavelka
Costume Designer: Eimer Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh
Lighting Designer: James McConnell
Associate Lighting Designer: Tom Mays
Sound Designer: Denis Clohessy

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Clara: Barbara Brennan
David Bliss: Stephen Brennan
Judith Bliss: Ingrid Craigie
Simon Bliss: Tadhg Murphy
Jackie Coryton: Kathy Rose O’Brien
Richard Greatham: Mark O’Halloran
Myra Arundel: Aoiibheann O’Hara
Sorel Bliss: Rebecca O’Mara
Sandy Tyrell: Stephen Swift

TOUR PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director/Company Manager: Leo McKenna
Wardrobe Supervisor: Eimear Farrell
Production Coordinator: Valerie Keogh

The action of the play takes place in the Blisses’ house at Cookham in June.

ACT I: Saturday afternoon

INTERMISSION

ACT II: Saturday evening

ACT III: Sunday morning

ABOUT THE GATE THEATRE

The Gate Theatre has been, artistically and architecturally, a landmark building for over 250 years. Established as a theater company in 1928 by Hilton Edwards and Micheál MacLiammóir, the Gate offered Dublin audiences an introduction to the world of European and American theater and also to classics from the modern and Irish repertoire. It was with the Gate that Orson Welles, James Mason, and Michael Gambon began their prodigious acting careers. Today, in its 84th year, the Gate has become unique in that it has had only two artistic directorates. In 1983, the directorship passed to Michael Colgan, under whose guidance the theater continues to represent Ireland at the very highest level of artistic endeavor, receiving numerous invitations each year to major festivals on every continent. The Gate has a close association with the works of Samuel Beckett, the late Harold Pinter, Brian Friel, and Conor McPherson, to name but a few. Having presented many major festivals, both internationally and at home, the Gate continues to develop, nurture, and promote the works of a diverse range of playwrights, and is committed to delivering the very highest quality productions that our audiences have come to expect.

www.gatetheatre.ie
CREATIVE TEAM

PATRICK MASON (director) is a regular guest director with the Gate Theatre, where his credits include The Speckled People, Molly Sweeney, Arcadia, A Woman of No Importance, The Recruiting Officer, The School for Scandal, Heartbreak House, Innocence, Peer Gynt, The Threepenny Opera, Performances, The Importance of Being Earnest, Gates of Gold, and The Yalta Game (Sydney Festival, GATE | FRIEL, Dublin, 2009). Hay Fever is his first Gate production to be seen at Spoleto Festival USA. Mason also has a longstanding association with Dublin’s Abbey Theatre, where he has directed The Cherry Orchard, She Stoops to Folly, The Wake, Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme, Dolly West’s Kitchen, The Well of the Saints, Angels in America, The Only True History of Lizzie Finn, Macbeth, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde, Saint Joan, By the Bog of Cats, Love in the Title, Da, Wonderful Tennessee, Jack Be Nimble, Find the Lady, The Bearded Lady, Rise up Lovely Sweeney, Dance for your Daddy, Snow White, The Great Hunger, The Crucible, and The Burial at Thebes. His world premiere production of Dancing at Lughnasa for the Abbey transferred to the National Theatre in London and then to Broadway, garnering Mason the 1992 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play. Mason’s other directing engagements include Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? for the Arhus Theatre in Denmark and Hecuba for Chicago Shakespeare Theater. In the realm of opera, he has directed for the Wexford Festival, Buxton Festival, Dublin Opera, Opera North, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Israeli Opera, and Opera Zuid in the Netherlands.

MICHAEL PAVELKA (set designer) also designed Death of a Salesman for the Gate. Other credits include Holiday and Twelfth Night at the Old Vic Theatre, Rose Rage (Henry VI) for the Theatre Royal Haymarket and Chicago Shakespeare Theater (Chicago and New York); award-winning productions of The Life of Galileo, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, The Caucasian Chalk Circle and The Good Soul of Szechuan for the Library Theatre, Manchester; Mamet’s Edmond for the National Theatre; the first African-language Mother Courage and Her Children for the National Theatre of Uganda, also at the Kennedy Center; numerous West End productions, including The Constant Wife, How the Other Loves, Other People’s Money, Leonardo, Absurd Person Singular, A Few Good Men, Macbeth, and Blues in the Night (also Dublin, New York, and Tokyo); Off the Wall (represented the UK at the Prague Quadrennial of stage design 2011), South Bank Centre; and The Odyssey, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Henry V, and Julius Caesar for the Royal Shakespeare Company. A founding member of the all-male Shakespeare company Propeller, Pavelka has designed all but one of the company’s productions, which have toured internationally to tremendous acclaim.

EIMER NÍ MAOLDOMHNAIGH (costume designer) has worked as a costume designer for nearly 20 years. Previously for the Gate, she designed costumes for Little Women. Other theater work includes Rough Magic’s The Importance of Being Earnest, Words of Advice for Young People, Take Me Away, Don Carlos, and Solemn Mass for a Full Moon in Summer; Benefactors for B*Spoke; Made in China for Peacock; and Translations for Hands Turn Theatre Company. A graduate of Limerick School of Art and Design, she has been nominated for an Emmy, Satellite Award, and five Irish Film & Television Academy awards. Her film and television credits include Neverland, The Guard, Leap Year, Ondine, Breakfast on Pluto, Brideshead Revisited, Becoming Jane, Omagh, The Wind thatShakes the Barley (Palme D’Or Award, Cannes), Alarm, About Adam, Timbuktu, and In America. She also served as assistant costume designer for Michael Collins, The Butcher Boy, An Awfully Big Adventure, and Family.

JAMES McCONNELL (lighting designer) has designed lighting for many of the Gate’s acclaimed productions of the works of Samuel Beckett, including Krapp’s Last Tape (Dublin and London, 2010; Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington, DC and BAM, New York, 2011); Watt (Under the Radar, New York, and four-venue U.S. tour, 2011); Endgame (four-venue U.S. tour, 2011) Waiting for Godot (Irish tour, 2008); Eh Joe (Irish Times Irish Theatre Award nomination for Best Lighting Design; also London, Sydney Festival and Lincoln Center Festival); Breath, A Piece of Monologue, I’ll Go On, and the world premiere of First Love; and the 1991 Beckett Festival in Dublin. His other designs for the Gate include Jane Eyre, A Christmas Carol, Afterplay, The Yalta Game, and Salomé; Present Laughter (Dublin and Spoleto Festival USA 2010); and Faith Healer (Gate | Friel, Dublin, Sydney Festival, Edinburgh International Festival). McConnell also serves as the Gate Theatre’s production manager.

TOM MAYS (associate lighting designer) has previously worked with the Gate Theatre on the 2006 U.S. tour of Waiting for Godot. His lighting and projection designs have been seen in Minneapolis at the Guthrie Theater (Time Stands Still, Arsenic and Old Lace, Macbeth, The Caretaker, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Third, Sex Habits of American Women, and Circle Around the Island) and Minnesota Opera (Rigoletto, The Rape of Lucrece, Die Zauberflöte, Lucrezia Borgia, The Merry Widow, Little Women, La bohème, La traviata, and Street Scene). His other credits include lighting design for Street Scene at Wolf Trap, video design for The Who’s Tommy at La Jolla Playhouse, production design for the film Le Pétomane, and art direction for the television series Days of Our Lives.
DENIS CLOHESSY (sound designer) has worked with the Gate on My Cousin Rachel, Do, Molly Sweeney, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, BPM, Death of a Salesman, Arcadia, Present Laughter (Spoleto Festival USA 2010), All My Sons, Faith Healer, Afterplay, The Yalta Game (Sydney Festival 2009), The Real Thing, Festen, and Hedda Gabler. His other theater credits include the Abbey Theatre’s The Government Inspector, The Rivals, An Ideal Husband, Three Sisters, The Seafarer, Romeo and Juliet, The Crucible, Julius Caesar, Pervé, Big Love, The Burial at Thebes, Fool for Love, and Woman and Scarecrow; Rough Magic’s The Importance of Being Earnest, Sodomie My Love (Irish Times Irish Theatre Award winner), Solemn Mass for a Full Moon in Summer, Life is a Dream, Attempts on Her Life, Don Carlos, and Dream of Autumn; and productions for Fishamble, Landmark, The Ark, and Siren Productions. His film credits include Useless Dog, A Bloody Canvas, and The Reluctant Revolutionary. This year Clohessy is a participant on Rough Magic’s “Advance” program.

CAST

BARBARA BRENNAN (Clara) has previously appeared with the Gate Theatre at Spoleto Festival USA in Salomé, Pride and Prejudice, and Present Laughter. Other Gate performances include The Heiress (Best Actress, Irish Theatre Awards); A Streetcar Named Desire (Best Supporting Actress, Irish Theatre Awards); Hedda Gabler, Jane Eyre, Celebration, All My Sons, The Old Curiosity Shop, The Deep Blue Sea, Festen, The Beckett Centenary Festival 2006, A Christmas Carol, Pygmalion, and The Eccentricities of a Nightingale. Other stage work includes Gertrude in Hamlet with Second Age; Woman and Scarecrow, Big Love, and The Glass Menagerie for Peacock Theatre; Lady Macbeth in Macbeth and Putana in The Making of Tis Pity She’s a Whore for Siren Productions; Honor in Honour for B*Spoke; By The Bog of Cats with Holly Hunter in the West End; The Colleen Bawn, The Iceman Cometh, and Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest for the Abbey Theatre; Cabaret at the Olympia Theatre; and Rough Magic’s The Way of the World. On film and television, Brennan has been seen in The Tudors, The Clinic, Hell for Leather, No Tears, Veronica Guerin, and Bloom.

STEPHEN BRENNAN (David Bliss) was last seen at Spoleto Festival USA in 2010 as Garry Essendine in Present Laughter. His other work with the Gate includes My Cousin Rachel, The Speckled People, Death of a Salesman, The Real Thing, Private Lives, The Constant Wife (Spoleto 2007), Waiting for Godot (worldwide and UK tour), Old Times, The Pinter Landscape, Pygmalion, Jane Eyre, Pride and Prejudice, Art, and the title roles in Tartuffe and Cyrano de Bergerac. Additional theater credits include Plaza Suite and Phaedra for Rough Magic; Blackbird, The Shaughraun, and The Life of Galileo. He was a member of the Abbey Theatre from 1975 to 1983, playing a wide variety of roles in such productions as She Stoops to Conquer, Philadelphia, Here I Come!, A Life, Do, and the title role in the Abbey’s first Hamlet. Among his other favorite roles are Frank-N-Furter in The Rocky Horror Show, Petrucchio in The Taming of the Shrew, and the title role in Oedipus. Brennan has been seen on film and television in The Tudors, Eat the Peach, The General, The Boys from Clare, A Piece of Monologue and Waiting for Godot for “Beckett on Film,” Ballykissangel, Father Ted, and Bachelor’s Walk.

INGRID CRAIGIE (Judith Bliss) is delighted to return to Spoleto after her first appearance last season as Kate in The Cripple of Inishmaan with Druid. Her previous work with the Gate includes Da, Faith Healer (Dublin, Sydney Festival, Edinburgh Festival), The Deep Blue Sea, The Collection, Lady Windermere’s Fan, and Play. As a member of the Abbey Theatre, her many appearances included Mrs. Warren’s Profession, The Glass Menagerie, and the premieres of Hugh Leonard’s A Life and Love in the Title, and Brian Friel’s Aristocrats and Wonderful Tennessee (also seen on Broadway). Other notable credits include the premiere of Sarah Kane’s Crave (London, Edinburgh, Berlin, Copenhagen, Bonn); Splendour, Boston Marriage, and Copenhagen (Project); and The Weir (Centaur, Montreal). In 2007 Craigie received the Special Tribute Award at the Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards and the inaugural Alumni Award from Trinity College Dublin, for her contributions to Irish theatre. Her film and television work includes the BAFTA award-winning The Ballroom of Romance and Ballykissangel, The Dead (directed by John Huston), Da, and Circle of Friends.

TADHG MURPHY (Simon Bliss) played the title role in Druid’s production of The Cripple of Inishmaan last season at Spoleto Festival USA. He has also toured with Druid in Penelope (New York, Ireland, Edinburgh, Finland), The Walworth Face (Ireland, UK, Canada, U.S., Australia, and New Zealand, 2009–10; National Theatre and New York, 2008; Edinburgh Fringe, 2007), and Empress of India (Galway and Dublin Theatre Festival). With the Gate Theatre, Murphy has performed in Da, The Speckled People, The Real Thing, and A Christmas Carol. His other theater credits include medEia (Corcadorca); Three Sisters, Julius Caesar, and The Importance of Being Earnest (Abbey Theatre); Dublin by Lamplight (Corn Exchange); Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet (Second Age); The Taming of the Shrew (Rough Magic); and roles in Harold and Sophie, Alice in Wonderland, Drive By, Shooting Gallery, The Goat, Deathtrap, Fando and Lis, The Divorce of Figaro, Triumph of Love, New Morning, and Oedipus. Murphy’s film and television appearances include Pride and Joy, Jelly Baby, Boy Eats Girl, Alexander, Crisis, The Clinic, Hide and Seek, Love is the Drug, and No Tears. He has also been heard in numerous plays for RTÉ Radio.
KATHY ROSE O’BRIEN (Jackie Coryton) has previously appeared at the Gate Theatre as Meg in Little Women. She has performed with Dublin’s Abbey Theatre in Alice in Funderland, The Plough and the Stars, The Passing, and The Burial at Thebes; and in the Royal Court Theatre/Druíd production of Leaves (Irish Times Irish Theatre Award nomination as Best Supporting Actress).

O’Brien’s other stage credits include the title role in Randolph SD | The Company’s Ellamenope Jones; Slattery’s Saga Saga at the Dublin Theatre Festival; Project Arts Centre’s The 24 Hour Plays 2012; Handel’s Crossing with Fishamble/The New Play Company; Once Off Productions’ The Rep Experiment: Mr. Kolpert and Platonov; Listening Out and What’s Their Life Got? for Theatre503; Captain Oates’ Left Sock with Finborough Theatre; and The Birthday Party at the Bristol Old Vic. On British television, O’Brien has been seen in The Daughter of the Brotherhood, The Whistleblower, and Georgeently. She was heard as Ismene in The Burial at Thebes on RTÉ Radio. O’Brien studied at the Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College Dublin, and trained at RADA.

MARK O’HALLORAN (Richard Greatham) last appeared at Spoleto Festival USA as Mr. Darcy in the Gate Theatre’s production of Pride and Prejudice in 2003. He has also acted with the Gate in Lady Windermere’s Fan, Cyrano de Bergerac, A Christmas Carol, As You Like It, Arms and the Man, and Thérèse Raquin. O’Halloran’s other appearances on the Irish stage include An Ideal Husband at the Abbey Theatre; Druid’s As You Like It; and Car Show, The Seagull, Dublin By Lamplight, and Every day with the Corn Exchange Theatre Company. His film and television credits include Paths to Freedom, A Kiss for Jed Wood, Swansong, and The Guard. Also a writer for the stage and screen, O’Halloran won the Evening Standard British Film Award for Best Screenplay for Adam & Paul (in which he co-starred as Adam), and two Irish Film and Television Awards—for his scripts for the film Garage and the television series Prosperity. His play TRADE was named Best New Play of 2011 at the Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards.

AOIBHEANN O’HARA (Myra Arundel) made her Gate debut in Tom Stoppard’s Arcadia in 2010. Her other stage appearances include the roles of Lydia Languish in The Rivals and Mabel Chiltern in An Ideal Husband (Irish Times Irish Theatre Award nominee, Best Supporting Actress) for the Abbey Theatre; Sylvia in Everybody Loves Sylvia for Randolph SD | The Company; I Have Been Here Before for Nottingham Playhouse; Kind Hearts and Coronets, To Kill a Mockingbird, Dolly West’s Kitchen, and Treasure Island for Pilchory Festival Repertory Theatre; Tuesday’s Child for Hampstead Theatre; Top Girls in Berlin; and Giants Have Us in Their Books at the Dublin Fringe. On film, O’Hara has acted in Aeon Flux and the television movie Man Liebt Sich Immer Zweimal.

REBECCA O’MARA (Sorel Bliss) played Anna in the Gate Theatre’s production of Brian Friel’s The Yalta Game (Dublin, Edinburgh Festival, and Sydney Festival). She made her National Theatre debut in 2010 as Lucille in Michael Grandage’s production of Danton’s Death. Other London stage credits include The Deep Blue Sea in the West End (and on tour with Theatre Royal Bath); Moment at the Bush Theatre; Salt Meets Wound for Theatre503; and 06/07/05 at the Arcola Theatre. O’Mara played Bathsheba in Far from the Madding Crowd on a national tour with the English Touring Theatre. She has appeared on British television in The History of Mr Polly, Doctors, and Inertia. O’Mara trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

STEPHEN SWIFT (Sandy Tyrell) has previously appeared with the Gate Theatre in Da, Death of a Salesman, Arcadia, A Christmas Carol, The Old Curiosity Shop, The Deep Blue Sea, and Salomé. His other theater credits include The Government Inspector and Down the Line with the Abbey Theatre; Dancing at Lughnasa for Second Age; Poe Show at Bewley’s Café Theatre; Corners for Anu Productions; The Nose, The Yokohama Delegation, and Candide for The Performance Company; Beware of the Storybook Wolves with The Ark; The Toys Save Santa and Wuthering Heights at City Theatre Dublin; Way to Heaven for Galgloss’ Theatre Company; The Unfortunate Machine-Gunning of Anwar Sadat with CoalFace Theatre Company; Motel Abandon for DAAD, Berlin; The Buddhist of Castleknock, Contact, and Still with Fishamble Theatre Company; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at Cork Opera House; and Red – The Musical at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast. Swift’s film and television appearances include Game of Thrones (HBO); The Tudors (Showtime); The Clinic, Fair City, Scope, and The Mosted Adventures of David O’Doherty (RTÉ); and the short film Crowning Glory.

GATE THEATRE DUBLIN ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
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Head of Production .....................................Teerth Chug
Theatre Manager ........................................David Quinlan
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The Gate Theatre is a not-for-profit organization which is administered by the Edwards-Mac Liammóir Trust and funded in part by the Irish Arts Council. The Gate Theatre is grateful to the Arts Council for their continued support.