

## ARISTOCRATS

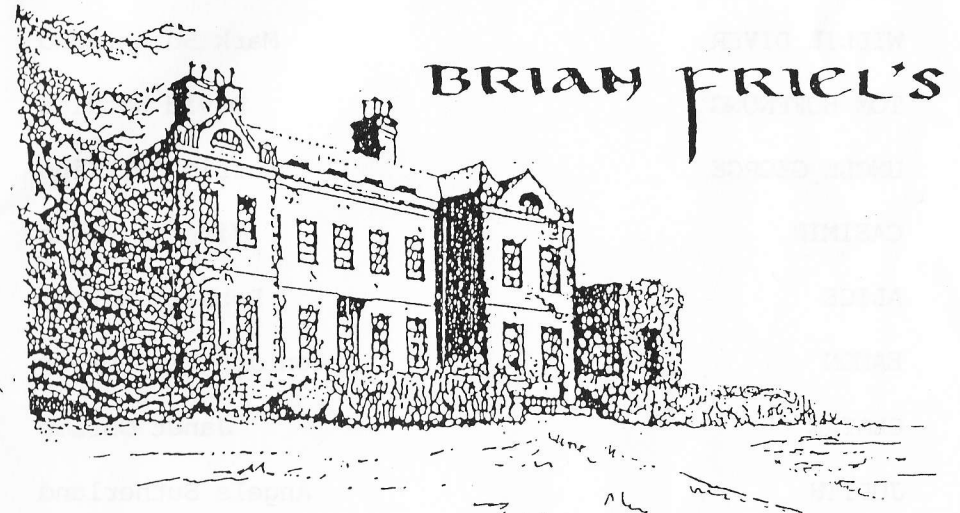
ARISTOCRATS takes one of the most haunting symbols in Irish writing, the Big House. The aristocrats of Ballybeg Hall are O'Donnells, suggesting a link with the rebel Earl of Tyrconnell; and they are also Catholic, which complicates the picture even more, in that the conventional big house of Irish fiction and drama is most often a Protestant ascendancy one. These O'Donnells are saturated with history; Ballybeg Hall is a 'bloody mine field' of recollection, anecdote, reminiscence: Yeats is said to have sat on a certain cushion; Hopkins to have recited his poetry and spilt tea over an arm-rest; and so on. These ghostly presences are invoked for the benefit of Tom Hoffnung, the American sociologist who is researching the influence of the Roman Catholic ascendancy, by Casimir, the only son. Casimir is one of Friel's storytellers, and the history with which the house has surrounded itself provides him with the subject matter of his enthusiastic narrations.

If this house is a Madame Tussaud's of association and unreliable reminiscence Friel's theatre is steeped in the immediacy of human complexity as it reveals itself in the present tense. The result is dramatic writing that can hold in tension memory and the here and now.

ROBERT WELCH

ARISTOCRATS with its 'concepts of Irishness' illustrates vividly Friel's passionate fusion of tragedy and comedy.

# PROSCENIUM



# ARISTOCRATS

PROGRAMME 20p

TRAVELLERS STUDIO, HARROW ARTS CENTRE, HATCH END  
May 11, 12, 13, 14.

Tickets £5.00 (concessions £4.00).

Proscenium Box Office 081 954 7169 Arts Centre Box Office 081 428 0124

Proscenium is affiliated to and receives financial support from the Harrow Arts Council, and is a registered charity.

ARISTOCRATS

CAST

WILLIE DIVER	Mark Sutherland
TOM HOFFNUNG	David Watkins
UNCLE GEORGE	Morris Suckling
CASIMIR	Vincent Eavis
ALICE	Debbie Keating
EAMON	Anton Jungreuthmayer
CLAIRE	Janet Ostime
JUDITH	Angela Sutherland
FATHER	Colin Hickman
ANNA'S VOICE	Crystal Anthony

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Time and Place

Summer, mid-1970s. Ballybeg Hall, the home of District Justice O'Donnell, a large and decaying house overlooking the village of Ballybeg, County Donegal, Ireland.

ACT I Early afternoon on a very warm summer day.  
ACT II An hour or so later.  
ACT III Early afternoon two days later.

THERE WILL BE AN INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES  
BETWEEN ACTS II AND III

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Directed by	JEANNE HAWKES
Set Design	ANTON JUNGREUTHMAYER
Stage Manager	CRYSTAL ANTHONY
Props Assisted by	MARGARET RUDOLPH MARIA SUCKLING
Lighting	SIMON NIVEN
Sound	SUSI THORNTON
Music Edited by	VINCENT EAVIS
Wardrobe	EVELYN MOUTRIE
Set Construction	BARRY RUDOLPH ALAN GLOVER MICHAEL WILLIAMS & THE COMPANY
Prompt	JUNE WATKINS
Box Office	MORRIS SUCKLING
Front of House	EVELYN MOUTRIE