

The Season

November 26 - 29

When We Are Married

J.B.Priestley
Compass Theatre

January 25 - 28

The Normal Heart

Larry Kramer
Travellers

March 1 - 4

Faith Healer

Brian Friel
Orley Farm School

May 27 - 30

The Fireraisers

Max Frisch
Travellers

Company contacts

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Proscenium is affiliated to Harrow Arts Council and is a registered charity - no 283141

PROSCENIUM

74th SEASON

1997 - 1998

FAITH HEALER

FAITH HEALER

April 1st - 4th at Orley farm School

Faith Healer

by
Brian Friel

This play was written in 1979 and was premièred in America. It provides more evidence of Friel's stature as one of the most significant playwrights of the second half of the twentieth century. In it Friel continues the Celtic tradition of story telling. Three characters engage the audience with their differing memories of the most crucial events and situations in their lives together. They reveal the beliefs that they hold, the illusions which sustain them, the feelings which they have for one another. They present us with three versions of the truth; or what appears to be the truth. Each character tells us his or her account of reality and in doing so everything we have seen and heard is open to question. So we the audience become involved in three individual notions of the truth. The play suggests that communication between individuals is not always easy and our individual version of the truth may differ.

The three characters tell their stories through very different kinds of language but language between human beings is not only verbal. Maybe we communicate through the magic of the laying on of hands; or perhaps we can invoke situations and responses through the ritual use of incantations spells and popular music.

Whatever response we have to this play it is evident that Friel is a major playwright His major works such as "Translations" and "Dancing at Lughnasa" will be studied and performed for many years to come and Friel's name will be added to that of J.M.Synge, W.B.Yeats and Sean O'Casey as a great Irish writer.

Cast

Frank	Colin Hickman
Grace	Evelyn Moutrie
Teddy	Duncan Sykes

Production

Director	Crystal Anthony
Stage Manager	Emma Davies
Assistant Stage Manager	Rachel Barnett
Lighting Design	Colin Tufnell
Lighting	Tim Taylor
Banner	Jenny Glover

ACT 1

Scene 1 : Frank
Scene 2 : Grace

ACT 2

Scene 1 : Teddy
Scene 2 : Frank

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between act 1 and

Chronology

- 1929** Brian Friel born Omagh, County Tyrone.
- 1939** The family moves to Derry City.
- 1949** BA Degree at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Teachers Training at St Joseph's College, Belfast.
- 1952** Starts to write short stories; contract with New Yorker
- 1958** "A Sort of Freedom" produced by BBC Northern Ireland
- 1964** "Philadelphia, Here I Come!" Gaiety Theatre ,Dublin
- 1973** "The Freedom of the City", Royal Court Theatre, London
- 1975** "Volunteers", Abbey Theatre, Dublin.
- 1977** "Living Quarters", Abbey Theatre, Dublin.
- 1979** "Faith Healer," Longacre Theatre, New York (Royal Court Theatre London.1981; Abbey Theatre, Dublin1982)
"Aristocrats", Abbey Theatre, Dublin.
- 1980** Friel and Stephen Rea found Field Day Company;
"Translations" Guildhall Derry
- 1987** Friel is appointed to the Irish Senate "Fathers and Sons," Lyttleton Theatre, London.
- 1989** BBC Radio devotes a six-play season to Friel: The first living playwright to be so honoured.
- 1990** "Dancing at Lughnasa," Abbey Theatre, Dublin; National Theatre London