

YOUTH ACTION THEATRE PRESENTS

JUNO



By Sean O'Casey

and

the paycock

Directed by Eric Yardley

Performed at:
The Harry Hope Theatre,
Eastern Connecticut
State University, USA
August 13 - 17, 1996.

& at the Studio Theatre,
Teddington School, UK
August 28 - 31, 1996.

Historical Background

Part of the United Kingdom, Home Rule had almost been achieved for Ireland at the start of the First World War in 1914. But because of this, the act was postponed until the end of this conflict but Republicanism remained strong and one of the outcomes was the Easter rising of 1916 which is referred to in the play.



The Great War finished in 1918, and in 1921 the Home Rule for Ireland Act, which excluded Ulster, was accepted and passed. The Irish Free State became a member of the British Commonwealth with allegiance to the British crown.

Although accepted by the majority there was a strong republican element (*the Diehards*) who did not accept it, and in 1922 civil war broke out between the Freestaters and the Diehards.

It is against this background that the play is set.

JUNO & the paycock

Time & place: The living room of a two room tenement flat occupied by the Boyle family in Dublin - The year is 1922



Act One: Mid morning of a
September day

Act Two: A few days later

Act Three: Two months later



The lights will dim during Act Three to denote the passing of one hour.

There will be a 15 minute interval after Act One and a shorter break for your convenience after Act Two.



Youth Action Theatre thanks the Principal; Dr. Carter, the Faculty, Staff and Students of the Eastern Connecticut State University for their invitation to a return visit and the warm welcome they have again given us all. But in particular, we must thank above all, Professor Ellen Brodie, Head of the Fine Arts Department at the University, without whose enthusiasm and hard work this visit would not have been possible. My very sincere and personal thanks to you, Ellen !

Cast

'Captain' Jack Boyle ♣ Steven Peters

Juno Boyle, his wife ♣ Maria Gale

Johnny Boyle, their son ♣ Jerome Phelps

Mary Boyle, their daughter ♣ Tania Foley

Other residents of the Tenement block:

Joxer Daley ♣ Stephen Hogben

Mrs. Maisie Madigan ♣ Alice Langrish

Needle Nugent ♣ Pablo Reyes

Mrs. Tancred ♣ Emma Donaghy

Other Neighbours ♣ Becci Field &
♣ Lucinda Wilkes

Charlie Bentham, a school teacher ♣ Richard White

Jerry Devine ♣ Robin Nurse

Furniture Remover ♣ Bill Compton

his mate ♣ Becci Field

Irregulars ♣ Pablo Reyes &

♣ Lucinda Wilkes

Other parts to be played by members of the company.

Crew

Directed by ♣ Eric Yardley

Production Designer ♣ Christine Osborne

Lighting Designer ♣ Simon Roose

Graphics & Publicity Design ♣ Alex Beauchamp

Stage Manager ♣ Christopher Ivey

Production Assistant ♣ Alex Beauchamp

Sound Effects *USA* ♣ Rob Ayres

UK ♣ Brian Brignall

Costumes ♣ Eileen Baker

Properties ♣ Becci Field &

♣ Lucinda Wilkes

Photographs ♣ Dennis Baker

Set construction ♣ Dennis Baker &

♣ Christopher Ivey

Eric Yardley would like to acknowledge with thanks the enormous help of Tony Hill on voice and character development.

With Thanks to: Biddy and John Osborne for organising the UK Box Office. To Joy McQuade in the UK without whose help with the loan of furniture and props, the presentation would not be possible, and to Jack Smerdon for help with the music.

Financial Assistance from: The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, The Richmond Parish Lands Charity, The Stanley Grundy Foundation & Squire's Garden Centres.

Biographies

Bill Compton - This is Bill's second visit to ECSU. Theatre credits include *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, *Nescience*, and *The Crucible*. Directing and producing his own short films, Bill has just completed *The Morning Before* written by YAT member, Ben Davies.

Emma Donaghy - For the last four years Emma has been in YAT, she has enjoyed being involved on, around & off stage, appearing in *Billy*, *The Crucible* & *Cider with Rosie* - She is looking forward to returning to Willimantic.

Becci Field is studying music at Kingsway College, London. Although this is her first tour abroad with YAT she has appeared in Opera Workshop's *Sweeney Todd* and *Shirley Valentine*.

Tania Foley - Youth Theatre includes: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Godspell*, *Chicago* & *The Wizard of Oz* all with The Really Youthful Theatre Company as well as playing Daisy in YAT's *Great Gatsby*.

Maria Gale - Minnie joined YAT last summer and has enjoyed taking part in YAT's productions of *David & Lisa* and *The Great Gatsby*. This is her first visit to America, and she is very pleased to be here!

Stephen Hogben has just graduated from Richmond Drama School, previously studying Theatre Design. He has been a member of Youth Action Theatre for over three years & now has his own Entertainment Company.

Alice Langrish - This is Alice's 15th play for YAT and could be her last - well until she has her sex change - as she has always wanted to try the male roles!

Robin Nurse is currently doing a Theatre & TV degree in York. This is his fourth YAT play and second visit to ECSU after playing Loll in last years production of *Cider with Rosie*.

Steven Peters has been in YAT for three years, appearing in *Billy*, *Crime & Punishment*, *Cider with Rosie*, & *The Great Gatsby* - He is very proud to be back in America. Steven is currently working at the Disney Store in London.

Jerome Phelps is currently on a gap year before tearing himself away from YAT to go to university in September. He has appeared in eight plays in over three years, and loved every minute!

Pablo Reyes studied Theatre & Film at West Thames College, he was also a member of the Watermans Theatre, appearing in *Blood Wedding* & *The Awakening*.

Richard White has just joined the group, already claiming it a home from home! He feels it will be an experience to perform in the US - so enjoy!

Lucinda Wilkes has recently graduated from a Visual & Performing Arts degree. She has previous experience with a Brighton based acting company and this is her first YAT production.

Biographies

Robert W Ayres - Rob has been closely involved with theatre since leaving school. When not designing sound, he has been known to Stage Manage and even act. Recent productions include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Aladdin* & last years *Cider with Rosie*.

Eileen & Den Baker are here on their second visit to ECSU. Responsible for set building & wardrobe respectively. Both have longstanding involvement with the group - Eileen for over ten years!

Alex Beauchamp trained as a graphic designer & is currently working for a London advertising agency. She has been involved with YAT for seven years, mainly as Stage Manager. This is her first visit to the US.

Christopher Ivey - Chris has been a member of Youth Action Theatre for twelve years. As well as acting he now Stage Manages and directed YAT's last production *The Great Gatsby*.

Christine E Osborne has just graduated from Wimbledon School of Art with a degree in Theatre Design. Since 1990 she has designed for twenty-six various productions in numerous venues including London, Berlin, Leipzig and Connecticut.

Simon Roose, known to his friends as *Blackout!* has been lighting in theatre for twelve years. Credits include Premiere productions of *Home Before Dark*, *Ghengis Khan* and tours of *Cider with Rosie* and the musical *Billy* performed in Leipzig, Germany.

Eric Yardley (b.1919) is a retired Sales Office Manager for an international paint manufacturer. He has a long life of involvement in non-professional theatre as an actor and director, specialising in youth drama. He founded Youth Action Theatre twenty-six years ago & it is still going strong!

Youth Action Theatre

YOUTH ACTION THEATRE is dedicated to stimulating the love of drama and theatre through drama workshops and production experience in young people aged sixteen to twenty-five. Other than age, there is no restriction on membership. Whilst the work is thoroughly enjoyed, a strict disciplined approach is maintained and dedication required to achieve the maximum possible professionalism and the highest standard in the final production.

Founded in 1970, YAT's first production in Spring 1971 was *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Since then, it has presented more than sixty major productions of a full range of plays including classical, modern, progressive and musical.

Since 1981, YAT has taken a production abroad approximately once every two years. The first was *Godspell* which was taken to Hamburg; Berlin has been visited three times along with trips to Vienna, Leipzig and Kiev (when still part of the Soviet Union). Last Summer's tour, the 8th undertaken, was to the Eastern Connecticut State University with a production of *Cider with Rosie*. YAT returns to Connecticut this year to perform *Juno and the Paycock*, and plans to run the same production, back in England, a week after returning.

Affiliated to the Teddington Theatre Club, YAT has presented many of its productions at TTC's Hampton Court Theatre, which has now been replaced by the new Hampton Hill Playhouse, which is currently under construction.



YAT ON THE INTERNET: <http://www.uktw.co.uk/info/yat.htm>

EMAIL: YAT@shadlox.demon.co.uk