



Christine Reckner/Collegian

Members of No Refund Theatre perform "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" in the Forum Building on Thursday night. It is NRT's last show of the semester.

NRT tells dark Irish comedy

By Hannah Rishel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Dogs might be called man's best friend, but for Padraic, his pet Wee Thomas is the cat's meow.

No Refund Theater performed "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" Thursday night in 111 Forum. Additional performances of the theatre group's last show of the semester will be held 8 p.m. tonight and Saturday in the same location. Admission is free, but donations are accepted to help NRT with their future projects.

The play centers on Padraic, whose violent temper led to him being kicked out of the Irish Republican Army. His only friend in the world is his cat, Wee Thomas, whom he left in the care of his father while he is working in Northern Ireland.

Trouble and hilarity ensue when Wee Thomas is killed by members of the Irish National Liberation Army as a plot to bring Padraic back home in order to assassinate him. Padraic's father and Davey, his neighbor, devise a plan to disguise a different cat as Padraic's beloved pet so he won't torture or kill them.

When Padraic returns home when he hears from his father that Wee Thomas is "sick," he runs into Davey's younger sister Mairead, who he develops a romantic relationship with.

Charlotte de Vries and Monica Christiansen attended the show to support

their friend Desmond Nathanson, who played James in the play.

Christiansen (graduate-aerospace engineering) added that she had seen NRT shows last year, but this was her first chance to attend one this semester because of her busy schedule.

She said that compared to some of the shows she saw last semester, "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" wasn't that disturbing despite its violent nature — mainly due to the comedy in the show.

"It's shocking at times," de Vries (graduate-mechanical engineering) said. "But the torture scene was manageable."

She added that Davey was her favorite character in the show.

"I feel so bad for him," de Vries said. Leah Blasko (sophomore-public relations), a member of NRT, also said Davey was her favorite character.

"I like his hair," she said, laughing. "He's funny."

Blasko added that this play was darker than the others that the theatre group has performed this semester.

"Last semester we performed a lot of dark comedies," she said. "This semester we tried to lighten it up a little."

NRT will resume their performances next semester by kicking off with an adaptation of "The Twilight Zone" on Jan. 21.

To e-mail reporter: hmr5027@psu.edu

'Chaperone' brings laughs

By Heather Panetta
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

From a Latin ladies man named Adolfo to a man playing a woman named Trix the Aviatrix, students, faculty, and community members were introduced to a host of colorful characters Thursday night.

In their last show of the semester, the Penn State School of Theatre presented "The Drowsy Chaperone" to a sold-out audience at the Penn State Downtown Theatre Center, 146 S. Allen St.

The show is part of the second-year Master of Fine Arts directing project. Faculty, theatre students, and other professional actors made up the cast.

From his living room, the play's narrator — who is known as The Man in the Chair — begins to play the record from his favorite musical, "The Drowsy Chaperone."

Instantly the play comes to life and audience members follow along as The Man in the Chair acts as sort of the puppet master of the show and is able to pause the play when he stops the record. Several times he also hands the characters props.

The play being played out in the living room follows Janet Van De Graff and Robert Martin on the day of their wedding. The title character is supposed to keep Janet from seeing her groom — but her "drowsy" or drunken state hinders her job.

Along the way several of the characters attempt to stop the wedding altogether. However, in the end the audience finds themselves guests at more than one wedding.

From the moment the play started and

The Man in the Chair walked on stage and addressed the audience in the dark, the audience was laughing.

For some audience members, The Man in the Chair was their favorite character out of the entire play.

Forum Tailor came to support her teacher Robert Schneider, who played this character.

"I loved it. This was my first time watching it," Tailor said. "I thought it was hilarious."

Tailor said she had seen Schneider perform in other plays and thought he was amazing. However, her favorite scene she said was between Adolfo and the Drowsy Chaperone, when Adolfo mistakes her for someone else.

Sharon Lawton and Shona Erlenborn both came from Martinsville, NJ to support the director Nathan Brewer. Both said they never seen the play before but loved it and were surprised by how much they enjoyed it.

Lawton also said The Man in the Chair ended up being her favorite character.

"He was so awkward and funny," Lawton said.

Erlenborn was most impressed by the cast as a whole.

"All of the characters worked well together and the show was well cast," she said.

"And the Aviatrix was hilarious and well played."

Additional shows can be seen at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday. Tickets are \$3 at the door.

To e-mail reporter: hap136@psu.edu

Nova Scotian folk fiddler provides a Celtic Christmas

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

'Tis the season for folk fiddler. Nova Scotian folk fiddler Natalie MacMaster performed her show, "Christmas in Cape Breton," at Eisenhower Auditorium Thursday evening.

The performance, hosted by the Center for the Performing Arts, incorporated traditional Christmas music with a Celtic spin.

MacMaster also drew upon local talent as she welcomed the Nittany Valley Children's Choir to join her on stage for a number of songs.

Amy Vashaw, audience and program development director for the Center, said the Christmas show was made "especially compelling" by the inclusion of the children's choir.

George Trudeau, director of the Center, said he was proud to match MacMaster up with local talent.

"We have a wonderful children's choir here, and we're always pleased to be able to offer that to musicians like this," he said.

Attendee Catherine Posey of Bellefonte, 31, said the Eisenhower show was her third time watching MacMaster perform.

"Seeing her live is a great experience that everybody should have," Posey said.

Posey added that MacMaster does not follow the standard Celtic music formula.

"She does very interesting things with

the genre by branching off into jazz and other influences," Posey said.

And MacMaster's Celtic style was well-received, Vashaw said.

"It's similar in sound to local Pennsylvania folk, so it's very popular in this area."

As MacMaster took to the stage in a shiny red blouse, she rubbed her pregnant belly and referred to it as her "little disco ball."

Her fourth child-to-be did not stop MacMaster from fiddling and step dancing throughout the first show of her Christmas season tour.

Trudeau said MacMaster was a natural musician.

"It's in her blood," Trudeau said. "In Cape Breton, it's all about getting together with family and just jamming."

And MacMaster emphasized this point on stage.

"There's no such thing as a Cape Breton house party without live music," she said.

Posey said she was glad to see Nova Scotian music represented at Penn State.

"It's just wonderful to have musicians come here from so many different areas around the world," she said.

Vashaw added that MacMaster's music made for a "joyous way to spend the evening" that was seasonally appropriate.

"It is a fantastic and unique way to celebrate the holiday season," she said.

To e-mail reporter: das5461@psu.edu

UPAC
Your Student Activity Fee

PRESENTS

LATENIGHT

Friday, Dec. 3
MIKE SUPER MAGIC & ILLUSION SHOW - Voted America's #1 Mystifier by more than 25 Million Viewers! - 10 PM, Heritage Hall

BALLOON ARTIST LOUIS PAUL - Balloons like you've never seen! - 9:30 PM-1:30 AM, 1st Floor

CREATIVE CRAFTS - Paint your own Seasonal Ornament! - 9 PM-1 AM, Ground Floor

SILK SCREEN MANIA - Silk screen your own bandana (provided) or bring your own T-shirt! - 10 PM-1 AM, Ground Floor (Sponsored by Visual Arts Student Alliance)

GAPS GAMING - 9:30 PM-1:30 AM, Ground Floor

LATENIGHT BILLIARDS - 9 PM-1 AM, The Break Zone

ARHS MOVIE: THE EXTRA MAN - 7 PM, 9:30 PM & 12 AM, Auditorium

FRIDAY LATENIGHT FOOD SPECIALS:

Ground Floor Carts: \$1 Nathan's Hotdog, \$1.29 Soft Pretzels, David's Large Cookies at \$1.59, and 75¢ Box of Popcorn - 9 PM-1 AM

Sbarro: \$1.99 Meatball Hero or Pasta Special and \$1 slice of Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza - 9 PM-2 AM

WHITE BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

LateNight Basketball League Playoffs - 7:30 PM start

Open Recreation - 9 PM start

Orchestrated Dance Performance - 8 PM start (admission charge)

Ballroom Dancing - 10 PM start

Open Pool Recreation* - 9 PM-12 AM (Closed if no Lifeguard)

Fitness Center* - 9 PM-1 AM (*Requires Fitness Pass/ID)

Saturday, Dec. 4

SWING DANCE - 10 PM-1 AM, Alumni Hall (Sponsored by Swing Dancing Club)

PENN STATE INTERNATIONAL DANCE ENSEMBLE - Dances from around the world! - 10 PM & 12 AM, Ground Floor

CREATIVE CRAFTS - Paint your own Seasonal Ornament! - 9 PM-1 AM, Ground Floor

GAPS GAMING - 9:30 PM-1:30 AM, Ground Floor

LATENIGHT BILLIARDS - 9 PM-1 AM, The Break Zone

ARHS MOVIE: THE EXTRA MAN - 7 PM, 9:30 PM & 12 AM, Auditorium

SATURDAY LATENIGHT FOOD SPECIALS:

Ground Floor Carts: \$1.99 Fruit Smoothies, \$1.29 Soft Pretzels, David's Large Cookies at \$1.59, and 75¢ Box of Popcorn - 9 PM-1 AM

Nathan's: 59¢ Mini-Hamburger, 99¢ Nachos, \$1 Hamburger's Hotdog, and 5 Kenny Rogers Roasters Wings for \$1.99 - 9 PM-2 AM

WHITE BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

LateNight Basketball League Playoffs - 7:30 PM start

Open Recreation - 9 PM start

Open Pool Recreation* - 9 PM-12 AM (Closed if no Lifeguard)

Fitness Center* - 9 PM-1 AM (*Requires Fitness Pass/ID)

Sunday, Dec. 5

ARHS MOVIE: THE EXTRA MAN - 7 PM & 9:30 PM, Auditorium

WHITE BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

LateNight Basketball League Playoffs - 7:30 PM start

Open Recreation - 9 PM start

Open Pool Recreation* - 9 PM-12 AM (Closed if no Lifeguard)

Fitness Center* - 9 PM-1 AM (*Requires Fitness Pass/ID)

Sunday, Dec. 5

ARHS MOVIE: THE EXTRA MAN - 7 PM & 9:30 PM, Auditorium

WHITE BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

LateNight Basketball League Playoffs - 7:30 PM start

Open Recreation - 9 PM start

Open Pool Recreation* - 9 PM-12 AM (Closed if no Lifeguard)

Fitness Center* - 9 PM-1 AM (*Requires Fitness Pass/ID)

WHAT'S GOING ON

YOUR GUIDE TO MOVIES, LATENIGHT, MEETINGS & EVENTS AT PENN STATE

NOW PLAYING

ARHS Movies Presents

The Extra Man

Friday & Saturday: 7 PM, 9:30 PM, & Midnight

Sunday: 7 PM & 9:30 PM

PSU Student ID required. All ARHS movies are shown in the HUB Auditorium. All ARHS movies are free & funded by UPAC! Your Student Activity Fee at work!

COMING UP

Winter Concert

Blue in the Face

Dec. 4 - 6 PM - 105 Forum

Blue in the Face will host its winter concert featuring a wide variety of music ranging from Bon Jovi to Michael Jackson to Sara Bareilles. The group will also perform holiday themed music.

NAACP Image Awards

Dec. 5 - 8 PM - HUB Alumni Hall

Join the Penn State Chapter of the NAACP at its first annual "NAACP Image Awards." The theme is "Man in the Mirror" and awards will include the MLK Jr. Community Activism Award, the Horatio Alger Unsung Hero Award, Langston Hughes Arts award and more!

Student Organization Roundtable

Dec. 7 - 7 PM - 324 HUB-Robeson Center

If you are a student organization president or member, you are invited to come together with other members to discuss issues that are impacting you! Snacks will be provided.

CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) Presents:

Personal Issues Series

Dec. 8 - 7 pm - 321 HUB-Robeson Center

Coping with Stress for Exams

HUB-Robeson Gallery Exhibits

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday - 12-6 PM

Friday-Sunday - 12-4 PM

closed Monday

HUB Gallery - First floor of

HUB/Robeson Center

Uncommon Bond - now through Dec. 12

Robeson Gallery - Bookstore level of

HUB/Robeson Center

Textural Rhythms: Quilting the Jazz Tradition - now through Dec. 5

Art Alley - First floor of

HUB/Robeson Center

What I Keep, Portraits and Choices by Susan Mullally - now through Dec. 7

NOTA Winter Concert 2010

Dec. 4 - 9 PM - 105 Forum

Free Admission

Join Penn State's oldest co-ed a capella group, None of the Above (NOTA) for a night of live music and fun. Songs include

selections from:

Third Eye Blind

Katy Perry

Travis McCoy

Stevie Wonder

Rilo Kiley

Faith Hill

...and many more!

One Stage Revolution presents:

A Perfect Wedding

(written by Charles L. Mee)

The hysterical story of love, life, death, mudslinging, big keisters, and of course, a wedding!

Dec. 3 - 105 Forum - TONIGHT!!

Dec. 4 - 102 Forum

Dec. 5 - 111 Forum

7:30 PM

\$3 for students

\$3.50 for faculty and staff

\$4 for general public

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

UPAC
Your Student Activity Fee