



THE SEAFARER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Jim Torres (617) 529-1670

(BOSTON) – From November 14 thru December 13, 2008, SpeakEasy Stage will proudly present the Boston-area premiere of the recent Broadway and London hit **THE SEAFARER**.

A 2008 Tony Award Nominee for Best Play, this hilarious and chilling story weaves a mythic tale of the sea, Ireland, and redemption. On Christmas Eve in North Dublin, Sharky Harkin finds himself reluctantly hosting old friends at the rundown house he shares with his older brother. A lot of booze and card-playing carry the men into Christmas Day when Sharky must face the grim promise he made to one of his guests decades ago.

THE SEAFARER is the latest work by Conor McPherson, a Dublin-born writer and director hailed by many as one of Ireland’s most prominent contemporary playwrights. Among his many plays are *This Lime Tree Bower*, *St. Nicholas*, *The Weir* (for which he won an Olivier Award), *Dublin Carol* and *Shining City*.

Two time Elliot Norton Award-winning director Carmel O’Reilly will direct **THE SEAFARER**, her first such effort for SpeakEasy Stage. As the Artistic Director of The Sùgán Theatre, Ms. O’Reilly introduced Boston audiences to McPherson’s work with her acclaimed production of *St. Nicholas* in September of 1999.

For **THE SEAFARER**, Ms. O’Reilly has rounded up three frequent collaborators, actors Billy Meleady, Ciaran Crawford, and Derry Woodhouse, and paired them with two of Boston’s finest talents: Larry Coen, winner of 2007 Elliott Norton Award (Outstanding Actor), and Bob Colonna, who recently appeared as “Hector” in SpeakEasy’s production of *The History Boys*.

THE SEAFARER will be performed in the intimate 209 seat Nancy and Edward Roberts Studio Theatre in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street in Boston’s South End.

Ticket prices ranges form \$30-\$50. Students and seniors save \$5 off at all times. Student rush seats, when available, are just \$14 with valid student ID. There will be a “Pay What You Can” Performance (minimum \$14) on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 7:30PM.

For tickets or more information on **THE SEAFARER**, the public is invited to call 617.933.8600 or go online to www.SpeakEasyStage.com.

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THE SEAFARER was first performed in September 2006 at the Cottesloe Auditorium of London's National Theatre under the direction of the playwright. The production received an Olivier Award nomination for Best Play, and earned an Olivier Award for actor Jim Norton, who played the blind older brother Richard.

Mr. Norton and Conleth Hill who played Ivan, were the only two members of the original cast who moved with the play to Broadway where it opened at the Booth Theatre on December 6, 2007 and ran thru March 30th. Actor David Morse, a native of Hamilton, Massachusetts known best perhaps for his work on TV's Boston-based medical drama "St. Elsewhere" took over the lead of Sharky Harkin for this production. The New York production garnered several 2008 Tony Award nominations, including: Best Play, two for Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Play (Conleth Hill; Jim Norton), and Best Director of a Play (Conor McPherson). Jim Norton won the Tony for Featured Actor in a Play.

In May, 2008, the play finally opened in Ireland at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.

Born in Dublin in 1971, Conor McPherson attended University College Dublin where he began to write and direct. Among his many plays are *Rum and Vodka*, *The Good Thief*, *This Lime Tree Bower*, *St. Nicholas*, *The Weir* (Olivier Award Best Play), *Dublin Carol*, *Port Authority* and *Shining City* (Tony nomination, Best Play). Alongside many productions of his own plays, other work as a director includes Billy Roche's *Poor Beast in the Rain* (Gate Theatre, Dublin) and Eugene O'Brien's *Eden* (Abbey Theatre, Dublin and West End). For television, he directed Samuel Beckett's "*Endgame*" starring Sir Michael Gambon. Screenplays include "*I Went Down*" (Best Screenplay Award, San Sebastian Film Festival), "*Saltwater*" (CICAE Award Best Film, Berlin Film Festival) and "*The Actors*." Other awards for his work include the Evening Standard Award, Critics Circle Award and two Irish Film and Television Academy Best Screenplay Awards.

Carmel O'Reilly is making her directorial debut with SpeakEasy, although she appeared in the Sógán/SpeakEasy co-production of *A Man of No Importance* in October, 2003. She is founder and Artistic Director of the Sógán Theatre Company, for which she directed the Elliot Norton award-winning productions of *The Sanctuary Lamp* (2005) and *St Nicholas* (2000). She is also a two-time winner (2001, 2002) of the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director. Recently, Carmel directed Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses* for Harvard University, Heather Raffo's *9 Parts of Desire* for both the Lyric Stage and the Kitchen Theatre (Ithaca, NY), and Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan* for Emerson Stage. In the spring, Carmel will direct a new play, *Trojan Barbie* by Christine Evans, for the American Repertory Theatre. A native of Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, Carmel is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. She has also studied at Georgia State University and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

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For this production, she has assembled an award-winning cast, including:

Larry Coen (Ivan) recently appeared in the World Premiere of Tennessee Williams' "The Dog Enchanted by the Divine View" for Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival, "As You Like It" for Commonwealth Shakespeare Company and "Shear Madness" at the Charles Playhouse. Larry received a 2007 Elliot Norton Award from the Boston Theater Critics' Association for performances in "The Plexiglass Menagerie," "Silent Night of the Lambs" (Gold Dust Orphans), "Miss Witherspoon" (Lyric Stage Company), "The Taming of the Shrew" (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company), and "Samurai 7.0" (Beau Jest Moving Theatre) With "Friends" creator David Crane he wrote the comedy "Epic Proportions," which had a Broadway run starring Kristin Chenoweth. He is Artistic Director of City Stage Co., which provides free arts education programs and performances for Boston children and families.

Bob Colonna (Richard) returns to SpeakEasy this season to play the role of Richard Harkin after appearing last season as Hector in *The History Boys*. Having founded and acted as artistic director of The Rhode Island Shakespeare Theatre for twenty years, Bob is well known throughout New England theatre. Most recently he was the recipient of the 2007 Caliborne Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Ciaran Crawford (Nicky Giblin) was last seen in *Brendan* at the Huntington Theatre. He has appeared in several productions with the Sógán Theatre; including *Conversations on a Home Coming*, *At the Black Pigs Dyke*, and *Gagarin Way*. Off Broadway work includes; *The Lepers of Baile Baiste* and *The Blowin*. Television and film appearances include "The Sopranos", the Showtime Series "The Brotherhood" and a serial killing security guard in the film "The Stranglers Wife." Crawford is a native of Donegal, Ireland.

Billy Meleady, (Sharky) is a native of Dublin. He was last seen at SpeakEasy Stage in *A Man of No Importance*. Billy is a past recipient of an Elliot Norton Award and an IRNE Award for his work with The Sógán Theatre Co., The Boston Playwrights Theater & The New Repertory Theatre.

Derry Woodhouse (Lockhart) is a native of Limerick. He has extensive experience performing both here and abroad including stints in New York, Cincinnati, Boston and all across Europe. Derry has played numerous other Boston area theatres including, The Sógán Theatre, Gloucester Stage and Boston Playwrights Theatre. Derry is a graduate of the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin.

For more information on **THE SEAFARER**, the public is invited to call the Boston Theatre Scene Box Office at 617-933-8600 or go online to www.BostonTheatreScene.com.

Press inquiries should be directed to **SpeakEasy Marketing Director Jim Torres**:
Office: 617-482-3279 Cell: 617-529-1670 Email: JimTorres@SpeakEasyStage.com

SpeakEasy Stage is a proud resident theater company at the **The Boston Center for the Arts** (BCA), the nonprofit performing and visual arts center whose mission is to support working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new work; to develop new audiences; and to connect the arts to a broad public. For more information, visit www.bcaonline.org.

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Calendar Listing Information

By Conor McPherson

Cast: Larry Coen, Bob Colonna, Ciaran Crawford, Billy Meleady,
& Derry Woodhouse

Director: Carmel O'Reilly

Production Stage Manager: Maureen Lane

Design Team: J. Michael Griggs, Scenic Design
Rafael Jaen, Costume Design
John Malinowski, Lighting Design
Ben Emerson, Sound Design

Performing at: The Nancy & Edward Roberts Studio Theatre
in the Stanford Calderwood Pavilion
at the Boston Center for the Arts,
527 Tremont Street in Boston's South End

Press Performance: Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008 at 3PM

Performance Schedule: Nov. 14 – Dec. 13, 2008
Wed., Thurs. at 7:30PM; Fri at 8 PM; Sat. at 4 & 8; Sun at 3PM
Added performances, Tues., Nov. 25 & Tues., Dec. 9 at 7:30PM
No Performance Thurs. Nov. 27,-Thanksgiving Day

Ticket Prices: Wed., Th. 7:30PM; Fri. 8, -- \$47/ \$42 Student/Sr.
Sat. 4 & 8 PM; Sun. at 3PM -- \$50 / \$45 Student/Sr.
Tues. Nov 25 & Dec. 9 – 7:30PM - \$47/\$42 Student/Sr.

Gallery Seats: \$30 at all times, subject to availability

Student Rush: \$14 with valid college ID, at the box-office only, one hour
before curtain, subject to availability

Pay What you Can Night Tues, Nov. 25 at 7:30PM - \$14 minimum. Tickets on sale at the door
beginning at noon.

Box Office: 617-933-8600; www.BostonTheatreScene.com

Press Contact Only: Jim Torres – 617- 482-3279/ 617-529-1670 (cell)
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