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### Flann O'Brien (Author 1911-1966)

Flann O'Brien was born Brian O'Nolan in Strabane, County Tyrone, on 5th October 1911, and was raised in Dublin. He was a civil servant for 18 years, and in the 1930s began writing a bilingual column for *The Irish Times* under the pseudonym Myles na gCopaleen (Myles of the Small Horses). He also wrote a column for *The Nationalist* and *Leinster Times* under the pseudonym George Knowall. His works include *At Swim-Two-Birds*, *An Béal Bocht* (translated into *The Hard Life* by Patrick C. Power), *The Dalkey Archive* and *The Third Policeman*. In addition, many of his satirical and surrealist non-fiction columns for *The Irish Times* have been published as *The Best of Myles*. He also wrote a play, *Faustus Kelly*.



He died in Dublin on 1st April 1966. Under the name Flann O'Brien, his published novels have attracted a wide following for their bizarre humour and Modernist metafiction. As a novelist, O'Nolan was powerfully influenced by James Joyce. Indeed, he was at pains to attend the same college as Joyce, and Joyce biographer Richard Ellman has established that O'Nolan, fully in keeping with his literary temperament, used a forged interview with James Joyce as part of his application. As Myles na gCopaleen, O'Nolan published a regular column entitled *The Cruiskeen Lawn* in *The Irish Times*, usually in English, but sometimes in Irish, and sometimes in Latin. The columns introduced a regular set of characters, such as the Plain People of Ireland, the Brother, and the Da, included a 'catechism of cliché', and proposed numerous schemes for the improvement of the Irish nation. Flann O'Brien's writing led him to be regarded as a major figure in 20th century Irish literature.

### BLUE RAINCOAT

Ensemble:

John Carty, Ciaran McCauley, Kellie Hughes, Fiona McGeown, Sandra O Malley

Artistic Director:

Niall Henry

Writer in Residence:

Malcolm Hamilton

Financial Controller:

Teresa Needham

Technical Manager:

Joe Hunt

Production Manager:

Peter Davey

Stage Manager:

Niamh Devaney

Front of House:

Gretta Currid

Accountants:

Sherlock Hamilton & Co

Solicitors:

McDermott, Creed and Martyn

Blue Raincoat Theatre Company  
The Factory Performance Space  
Lower Quay Street, Sligo, Ireland  
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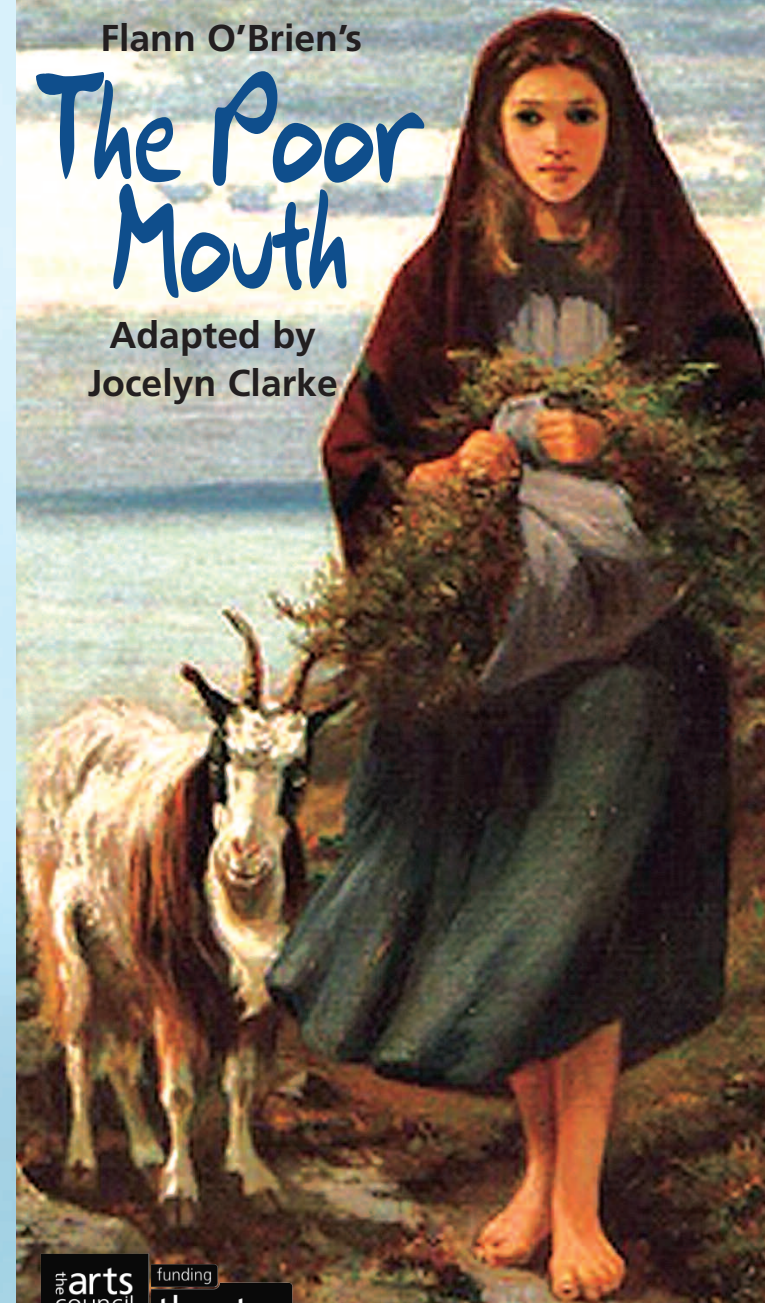
[www.blueraincoat.com](http://www.blueraincoat.com)



## BLUE RAINCOAT

# Flann O'Brien's The Poor Mouth

Adapted by  
Jocelyn Clarke



25 October - 5 November  
2011

# Foreword

Blue Raincoat Theatre Company's world premiere of *The Poor Mouth* marks the completion of our trilogy of productions based on the major novels of Brian O'Nolan, aka Flann O'Brien & Myles na gCopaleen. This series of original stage adaptations - all written by Jocelyn Clarke - began in 2007 with *The Third Policeman* and was followed in 2009 by *At Swim-Two-Birds*. Both preceding productions from the trilogy have enjoyed critical acclaim and continuing national and international touring success.

This year is also the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of Blue Raincoat Theatre Company and The Factory Performance Space. We commenced the year with a second sell-out visit in twelve months to Project Arts Centre in Dublin, to the Tron Theatre in Glasgow and the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, with our production of *At Swim-Two-Birds*. The international tour dates, conducted under the aegis of Culture Ireland, followed on from the success of *The Third Policeman* in Glasgow and Edinburgh in 2010.

At The Factory Performance Space in July and August, we staged our production of *The Chairs* by Eugene Ionesco, alongside *The Cat and the Moon* at The Model. Also in July, Blue Raincoat Theatre Company again facilitated the theatre seminar schedule of the Yeats International Summer School. Rehearsed readings of theatrical works by W B Yeats and J M Synge were developed with the summer school students and staged as site-specific events at different locations around Sligo. A unique staged reading of *Purgatory* was also given on top of Knocknarea mountain.

November will see the completion of the Blue Raincoat Theatre Resource Project 2007/11. The aim of the project is to make a comprehensive long-term contribution to the development of theatre as an art form throughout the Northwest region. Under the current project, we opened our Theatre Library at The Factory Performance Space, launched our annual Mobile Theatre Programme and established an annual Lecture Workshop series. In January 2012 we will announce details of a second Blue Raincoat Theatre Resource Project covering 2012/16.

While continuing to develop the successful elements of the first project, the new programme will concentrate extensively on offering structured rehearsal, performance and mentoring supports for performance artists and for emerging Irish ensembles from the region and from around the country. The full programme of the new Theatre Resource Project will be launched in January with the first programme element - a new annual Theatre Academy - taking place in the same month. The Theatre Academy is an evolution of our Lecture Workshop programme developed under the first resource project. Facilitated at The Factory Performance Space, the Academy will offer week-long seminars and master classes to professional theatre artists working in Ireland. The Theatre Academy will be followed immediately in February by a nationwide tour of our 2010 production of *Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco. The tour will take in most of the major regional performing centres in the country.

Blue Raincoat Theatre Company has also been invited by a consortium of leading Irish and UK theatre concerns to co-produce the first stage adaptation, written by Dermott Bolger, of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. We will begin work on this project in May 2012. Our annual Yeats Project will continue in July and the world premiere of a new production by Jocelyn Clarke, based on the life of Yuri Gagarin - will open in October.

In conjunction with the Hawk's Well Theatre, our company is pleased to announce that a new three-day children's theatre festival will take place in Sligo in the autumn of 2012.

We hope you enjoy tonight's performance of *The Poor Mouth* and that we will see you at some of our other performances and events throughout 2011 and 2012.

Malcolm Hamilton

October 2011  
Niall Henry

# Cast

**John Carty** Pig, Inspector, Gaeligore, Ferdinand, Policeman, Others  
**Kellie Hughes** Mother, Michelangelo O'Coonassa, Sitric, Others  
**Bob Kelly** Martín O'Bannassa, Inspector, Osborne O'Loonassa, Gentleman, Others  
**Ciaran McCauley** Old Grey Fellow, Policeman  
**Sandra O Malley** Bonaparte O'Coonassa

## Artistic Team

Director: Niall Henry  
Production Manager: Peter Davey  
Designer: Jamie Vartan  
Lighting Design/Operation: Barry McKinney  
Sound Design/Operation: Joe Hunt  
Stage Manager: Niamh Devaney  
Make-up Artist: Sharon McCormack  
Set Construction: F Sturgess, Tommy Devaney, Peter Davey

Special thanks to Christian Kotey

# Biographies

## John Carty (Pig, Inspector, Gaeligore, Ferdinand, Policeman, Others)

John trained at the Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College, Dublin, graduating in 1988. He worked with Co-Motion Theatre Company and Graffiti Theatre company before returning to Sligo to become a founder member of Blue Raincoat Theatre Company. He has since trained at The Ecole de Mime Corporel Dramatique, London, at the Saratoga International Theatre Institute, New York with Anne Bogart and at the Roy Hart Theatre in Malerargues, France. John has appeared in most of the company's productions to date.

## Jocelyn Clarke (Adapter)

Jocelyn Clarke is a freelance dramaturg and writer. He is a member of the artistic staff of the Sundance Theatre Lab and has taught dramaturgy at the Kennedy Centre (D.C) and at Columbia University. He was the Commissioning and Literary Manager of the Abbey Theatre for four years, and lead theatre critic with *The Sunday Tribune* for nine years. He is an associate artist with The Civilians and Theatre Mitu in New York. He has worked as a dramaturg on several productions by The Blue Raincoat Theatre in Sligo, and has written four adaptations for the company - *Alice In Wonderland*, *Alice Through The Looking Glass*, *The Third Policeman*, and *At Swim-Two-Birds*. He has written five plays for Anne Bogart and the SITI Company - *Bob*, *Alice's Adventures Underground*, *Room*, *Score* and *Antigone*. *Here You Are Human*, his new project with the Tiger Lilies, was presented in the Archa Theatre during the Prague Quadrennial in May, and his adaptation *Trojan Women (After Euripides)* for the SITI Company was premiered at the Getty Villa in Los Angeles in September.

## Peter Davey (Production Manager)

Peter is from Tubbercurry in Sligo and has a lifetime involvement in amateur drama having worked extensively with Beeneeze Theatre Company and The Phoenix Players. He has been the recipient of national amateur drama awards for both acting and lighting design. He is currently Production Manager at The Factory Performance Space.

## Kellie Hughes (Mother, Michelangelo O'Coonassa, Sitric, Others)

Kellie first performed with Blue Raincoat Theatre Company in 2004. Initially trained in dance, she performed in the World Tour of Riverdance - The Show in 1996/97 before graduating from University of Ulster, Coleraine in 2000 with BA first class honours in Theatre and History. She then completed an MA in physical theatre at Royal Holloway, University of London. She spent three years training with Corinne Soum and Steve Wasson, last assistants of Etienne Decroux and directors of the Theatre de L'Ange Fou and the Ecole de Mime Corporel Dramatique. Upon receiving her diploma Kellie returned to Ireland to work with Blue Raincoat. Kellie is guest lecturer in University of Ulster, N.U.I. Galway and I.T. Sligo and is Training Coordinator for Blue Raincoat Theatre Company. She also directed *The Cat and the Moon* (2009) and *At The Hawk's Well* (2010) for Blue Raincoat's annual Yeats Project.

## Joe Hunt (Sound Design/Operation)

Joe is Technical Manager and Sound Designer with Blue Raincoat Theatre Company since 2001. Prior to this, Joe also worked with the Hawk's Well theatre on lighting and sound operation as well as stage construction. Joe is also the multi-media designer for Blue Raincoat Theatre Company.

## Bob Kelly (Martín O'Bannassa, Inspector, Osborne O'Loonassa, Others)

Bob Kelly is a graduate of the Ecole Internationale de Jacques Lecoq in Paris. Recent work includes *The King of The Great Clock Tower* with the Royal Ballet School, London (2011); *Fulgurances* at the Louvre Museum (2010); *At Swim-Two-Birds* and *Rhinoceros* with Blue Raincoat Theatre Company (2011, 2010). In 2009, he garnered critical acclaim in the French media for his portrayal of "Lansko" in *L'Ecrivain Public* with Plateforme Theatre. Bob began wasa member of County Sligo Youth Theatre for six years. Upcoming projects for the second half of 2011 include the lead role in Brian Fortune's short *Frida I'm Flying*, Callback Theatre's *Set in Stone*, and Cabaret Emotivo with NodoTheatro, an Italian-language cabaret to be performed in Sardinia.

## Ciarán McCauley (Old Grey Fellow, Policeman)

Ciarán is from Sligo and has been a core member of Blue Raincoat Theatre since October 1991. He has trained at the Ecole de Mime Corporel Dramatique, London with Corinne Soum and Steve Wasson, at the Saratoga International Theatre Institute, New York with Anne Bogart and at the Roy Hart Theatre in Malérargues, France. He has performed in the *Playboy of The Western World* at the Peacock Theatre, Dublin directed by Niall Henry and has worked with Crossroads Repertory Theatre, Indiana. Ciarán has directed productions of *At the Hawkswell*, *Purgatory* and *The Cat and The Moon* and has been a guest tutor at Queens University, Belfast, and NUI Galway.

## Sandra O Malley (Bonapart O'Coonassa)

Sandra is a graduate of the Ecole de Mime Corporel Dramatique. She studied under Corinne Soum and Steven Wasson, Etienne Decroux's last assistants. Having performed with their company, she returned to Ireland and has been working with Blue Raincoat Theatre Company since 1997. Sandra has provided workshops both nationally and internationally for University College Galway, the Drama League of Wales and Potsdan International Dance festival, Germany. She has also directed productions for County Sligo Youth Theatre.

## Jamie Vartan (Set Design)

Productions at the National Theatre of Ireland include *The Playboy Of The Western World* and Colm Toibin's *Beauty In A Broken Place*, directed by Niall Henry. For Blue Raincoat he has designed *The Chairs*, *The Third Policeman*, *The Last Mile*, *At Swim-Two-Birds* and *Rhinoceros*. Current work in theatre includes *Misterman* (Galway Festival 2011) with director Enda Walsh. Designer and artist-in residence with the David Glass Ensemble on *The Lost Child Trilogy*, with residencies involving workshops, research and newly devised productions in Vietnam, Indonesia, China, the Philippines and Colombia later presented at the Young Vic. Designs for opera include *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Salzburg festspielhaus), *The Queen Of Spades* (La Scala, Milan), *Albert Herring* and *Death In Venice* (Salzburg Landestheater), *Don Giovanni & Romeo et Juliette* (Varna), *Manon Lescaut* (Teatro Regio, Parma), *A Village Romeo and Juliet*, *Aida* and *Carmen* (Teatro Lirico di Cagliari; Premio Abbiati) *La Statira* (Teatro San Carlo, Naples), *The Dwarf* (Teatro Comunale, Florence), *La traviata* (Malmo Opera), *Il Pirata* and *The Saint of Bleecker Street* (Opera Marseille), and *L'Isola disabitata* (Royal Opera House, London).