

The Irish Theatre Players present

# The Big Casino

by Noel O'Neill

The Irish Club Theatre, Perth



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## A word from the President of the Irish Theatre Players

To our loyal friends and supporters,



Welcome to the Irish Theatre Players' production of "The Big Casino" written and directed by Noel O' Neill. In what has been a year of transition for the Irish Theatre Players we want to take you, our audience, on a final journey as we close out 2014, a journey to 1960's London where you will encounter a group of hoods as they undertake a kidnapping that doesn't work out quite as they had planned. The hoods' goal is to make their way to the "The Big Casino" in Monte Carlo and running parallel to the

play's storyline the Irish Theatre Players hope to make this an interactive theatre experience where we bring you, our audience, to the casino. The Irish Theatre Players are delighted to have award winning director and playwright Noel O' Neill on board for this production and we hope that you, like us, will embrace the realism of Noel's writing which in this play absolutely captures the rough ways of a wayward mob.

The Irish Theatre Players were very pleased to launch its new raffle in July during our one act season and we sought to raise the bar at this production. The Irish Theatre Players have been blown away by the massive support of local and Irish businesses who as you will see from the fabulous prizes on offer have donated very generously. Please take some time to acquaint yourself with our sponsors who we would encourage you to support. It is intended that all funds raised from the raffle will be applied towards the upgrade of the theatre.

The Irish Theatre Players wishes to come full circle and in 2015 we will get the season underway by going back to tradition with an Irish classic. We have so far been successful in recruiting lots of new talent as part of our recruitment drive but we want to continue to develop and grow our talent pool. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Irish Theatre Players in any capacity please contact us.

The Irish Theatre Players are very excited to have been given the opportunity to premiere "The Big Casino" for Noel O' Neill. Thank you to you, the audience, for coming to see the show, we really hope that you enjoy it.

Kind regards,

**Fiona Murphy**

President

Irish Theatre Players

## Director's Notes

This black comedy came out of the old saying "The road to hell is paved with good intentions". I set the play in the sixties in London where I spent my early childhood so part of my heart belongs there along with the comedy and tragedy of life. The search for the truth has always interested me and as "Bert" the patriarch of this piece states "We make it up as we go along". This was a wild ride of writing for me and made even wilder to see it come to life by this wonderful group of actors. It's good to be back with The Irish Theatre Players again and I hope the audience enjoy this play as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

**Noel O' Neill**



### Noel O' Neill 'Eddie, The Gambler'

Apart from writing, directing and teaching, Noel has acted in many plays since his first appearance in "The Potato Eaters" for the Irish Theatre Players in the late 1990s. Noel played The Hiker in the Irish Theatre Players' 2003 production of John B Keane's classic "The Year of the Hiker". Noel has also appeared in Hollywood produced movies such as "Salem's Lot", "Let's Get Skase" and "The Great Raid". Noel recently played a part in the ABC documentary series "Constructing Australia" based on the construction of the Kalgoorlie pipeline by Irish engineer CY O' Connor.



### Kim Taylor 'Bert, The Organiser'

Kim has been acting for over thirty-one years and has appeared on stage in Sydney, Adelaide, Wagga Wagga and Perth. He has also been involved in films including "Shark Net", TV ads, musicals such as "Les Miserables", musical comedies including "Annie Get Your Gun", "Annie", "Pirates of Penzance", dramas such as "Breaker Morant" and a number of comedies including "Candles in the Rain", "Girl in my Soup", "No Bed of Roses" and "It's All Greek to Me". Kim has won several awards for his stage work. He won State Best Actor in 2003, 2005 and 2012 at the WA One Act Drama Festival as well as a number of Adjudicators Awards.





### David Buckley 'Alan, The Hood'

David has fourteen years acting experience in Cork, Ireland where he studied acting at the Cork Academy of Dramatic Arts and performed in a number of major productions at the Cork Arts Theatre and the Cork Opera House. "The Big Casino" is David's second production with the Irish Theatre Players after his successful role as Joe in Brian Friel's "Lovers" in the Irish Theatre Players' One Acts season earlier this year.



### Emilio Evans 'Billy, The Jewel'

Emilio is no stranger to the world of acting. He has played a lead role in the feature film "Infected Paradise" and the new "John Butler Trio" music video. Emilio has also been involved in a number of short films, TV pilots and university commercials. This is Emilio's debut for the Irish Theatre Players coming straight from a successful season in the comedy "It's All Greek to Me".



### Cameron Leese 'Harold, The Simpleton'

Cameron initially studied acting at Swinburne University Melbourne in 2008 and 2009. After relocating to London in 2010, Cameron undertook further training in acting and singing at The Sylvia Young Theatre School. During his time in London, Cameron was cast in various short films, including the Cannes Film Festival short film nominee "Losing It". Cameron has also worked as an extra in a number of feature films and television programmes. After returning to Perth, Cameron made his theatrical debut in GRADS' 2013 production of "The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea". This was followed by his lead role in Playlovers' production of "Boeing, Boeing". Cameron has also had parts in Playlovers' "Subscription to Love", ABC2's "First Date, Worst Date" and the Old Mill Theatre's "It's All Greek to Me" (written and directed by Noel O' Neill). Most recently Cameron played Don Lucas in Melville Theatre Company's "Relative Values". "The Big Casino" is Cameron's first production with the Irish Theatre Players.



### Clare Mulchinock 'Susan the Hostage'

Leeds born Clare has extensive acting experience from the UK where she performed with the prestigious Guildhall School of Speech and Drama. The role of Susan in "The Big Casino" is Clare's Australian acting debut and her first production with the Irish Theatre Players.



### Caroline McDonnell - Assistant Director & Stage Manager

Mayo born Caroline has been in Australia for only two years but has already performed in "Two Weeks with the Queen" (Stirling Players), "The Trial of CY O'Connor" (ArenaArts) and "Charitable Intent" (KADS). "The Big Casino" is Caroline's debut with the Irish Theatre Players.



### Mary Murphy - Irish Theatre Players' Artistic Director

Mary has been involved in numerous productions in Ireland and Australia both on stage and off. In Ireland Mary was a member of the Kilcumney Players in Kilkenny where her performances included Pegeen Mike in "The Playboy of the Western World", Arte O'Neil in "The Shaughraun" and Sally in "All in Favour Said "No!", to name a few. In Perth, she is currently a member of both the Irish Theatre Players and the Garrick Theatre. Mary has appeared in many Irish Theatre Player productions including "Eternal Triangle" which earned her The Best Actress Award at the 2013 ITA Perth drama festival. Mary recently played Miss Lindell in Garrick Theatre's highly successful production of "So Much To Tell You", and will play the role of Lady Clare Marten in Garrick Theatre's upcoming production of "Miranda".





*John Spurling - Lighting and Sound*

Following an on stage part in "The Trial of CY O'Connor", John has moved offstage and into the bio box where he has assisted with many Irish Theatre Player productions over the last 15 years.



*Claire Wynne - Costumes, Hair and Make Up*

Claire is a new addition to the Irish Theatre Player's team. Having previously appeared on the business side of the Irish Club Bar, JB O Reillys and other venues in town, Claire is now a full time Fashion & Textile Design student at Central Institute of Technology, and works part time in one of Perth's top costume shops. Claire's passion for all things retro and her artistic expertise have been key in bringing an authentic sixties vibe to life in this production.



*Noel O'Neill - Writer/Director*

Irish born and New York raised Noel O'Neill is an award winning playwright and director. In New York Noel studied with Lee Strasberg, Uta Hagen and Herbert Berghof. He has been in Australia for over fifteen years now and has written and directed plays for many WA community theatre companies. Noel O' Neill is well known throughout the state for his witty, introspective and thoughtful scripts complimented by his enthusiastic and supportive directing style. Noel is a lecturer in acting at both the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and the Perth Actors Collective Theatre Workshop (PACS). Noel recently swept the boards at the ITA Perth Drama Festival where his play "Under Any Old Gum Tree" won The People's Choice Award and The Jenny McNae Adjudicators Award.

**"The Irish Theatre Players remember honorary life member Maura Ducey"**

**10 August 1942 - 12 September 2014**



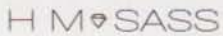
**The Irish Theatre Players, its friends and family will dearly miss Maura Ducey.**

**Maura made a wonderful and significant contribution to the Irish Theatre Players over many years. Maura's love of life was inspiring and our front of house will not be the same without Maura's big heart and bubbly personality.**

**Rest in Peace Maura**



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