

For Immediate Release

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Flanagan's Wake

Cleveland's Longest Running Interactive Show Returns

Flanagan's Wake returns to Kennedy's Down Under at Playhouse Square

"Flanagan's Wake" one of the longest running shows in the history of Cleveland will be returning on Friday January 6th thru Saturday April 29th at Kennedy's Down Under, which is located at the Ohio Theatre entrance in Playhouse Square. Performances will be every Friday and Saturday night at 8:00pm. In 2003 on the occasion of its 500th performance, the Wake was presented with a proclamation from the Mayor of Cleveland, Jane Campbell, celebrating its longevity and popularity with Cleveland theatergoers. In addition to the regular performances, The Wake can be booked for group, non-profit and corporate performances.

About the Play

The play was originally created in Chicago by Amy Binns-Calvey, Geoff Binns-Calvey, Jimmy Binns, Jack Bronis, Mark Czoske, Phil Lusardi, Pat Musker and Bonnie Shadrake. It has since been performed around the country in various cities including; Boston, Los Angeles, Detroit, New York, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh.

Flanagan's Wake is one of the longest-running shows in Cleveland theater history. When will it end? According to Brian Ballybunion, Flanagan's best friend and drinkin' mate, "We'll keep waking 'himself' until we get it right." Join the villagers of the beautiful fictional village of Grapplin, County Sligo, Ireland, as they tell tales, sing songs and mourn the passing of one of their own, Flanagan. You'll be transported to the Emerald Isle to grieve as only the Irish can. You can share tales of your own experiences and misadventures with dear old Flanagan or simply enjoy the stories and songs of the locals as they recall life with "himself." Once you have arrived in Grapplin, you'll pay your respects to glowering Mother Flanagan and to poor grieving fiancée, Fiona Finn. Listen to a eulogy written by County Sligo's best-known writer, Mickey Finn, and tip a pint with Brian Ballybunion, himself a weaver of tales. You can cross yourself with the blessings from St. Gregory's parish priest, Father Damon Fitzgerald, or cross your fingers that local pagan Kathleen Mooney doesn't cast a spell on you. Mayor Martin O'Doul will preside over the proceedings with an iron hand (and a parched throat).

The Cast

The Cast features some of Cleveland's finest improvisational talent including veterans of *Second City*, *Oliver Twisted*, *Something Dada*, *Irish Rodeo Clowns*, and interactive favorites including "Tony and Tina's Wedding" and "We Gotta Bingo." All have performed previously in "Flanagan's Wake" and are returning to County Sligo with great excitement. This production is produced by local director, actor, and filmmaker (*The Yank*), Sean Lackey.

Maria Livers (Fiona Finn, Kathleen) is a *Second City* and *Cabaret Dada* veteran. John Busser (Father, Mayor) is a local playwright and actor and performs throughout Cleveland and has his work published.

Gene Foster (Mayor) has performed on area stages for over 30 years in productions of "Camelot," "Guys and Dolls," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and many others.

Barb Dragony (Fiona/Kathleen) is a Cleveland veteran who has performed in "Nunsense," "Chorus Line," "Noises Off," and "Lucky Stiff" "to name just a few.

Ryan Lucas (Brian, Mickey) has performed with *Theater Ninjas* and works at the Beck Center of the Arts.

Jay Hill (Mother, Flanagan, Mickey) studied at *Second City* and has performed in Chicago and Cleveland.

Dennis Runkle (Father) has performed in many shows and is currently cast as Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird" at Weathervane Playhouse.

Britta Will (Kathleen, Fiona) has performed at *Beck Center for the Arts*, *Blank Canvas Theatre*, and has acted and taught with Kulture Kids.

Tricia Bestic (Fiona, Kathleen) teaches theatre and acting at Kent State University and is a veteran of Cleveland stages.

Taliana Bosio (Kathleen, Fiona) from Tampa, Florida, is a comedic actor and improviser and performs in murder mysteries.

Carrie Campana (Kathleen, Fiona) moved to Cleveland from Chicago and performed in the Chicago productions of "Tony n' Tina's Wedding" and "We Gotta Bingo."

Carolyn Demanelis (Fiona, Kathleen) has performed at *Doboma Theatre*, *Beck Center for the Arts*, and many productions in Cleveland and Virginia.

Brian Diehl (Father, Mother/Flanagan, Brian) is a marketing director and local actor.

Aaron Patterson (Brian) has performed with *Cabaret Data*, *The Laughter League* sketch group, *Blank Canvas Theatre*, and many others.

Sean Lackey (Mickey/Brian) is producing the show and has performed with *Second City*, *Oliver Twisted*, and wrote, directed, and starred in the motion picture *The Yank*.

Accompaniment will be provided by Musical Director, John Franks and David Coxe.

Performances and Ticket Prices

Performances are at Kennedy's Down Under (located under the Ohio Theatre) at 8:00pm Fridays and Saturdays from January 6th to April 29th. Ticket prices are \$29.00 and can be purchased online at www.playhousesquare.org or by calling the Playhouse Square Ticket Office at 216-241-6000.