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### **Vincent O'Neill, ICTC Co-Founder and Former Artistic Director**

With love, admiration, and gratitude, we are pleased to dedicate ICTC's 35th Season to our founding Artistic Director, Vincent O'Neill.

His legacy echoes throughout this season - in the texts, the artists, and the spirit of bold, transformative storytelling he championed - a tribute to our visionary former leader.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With gratitude, ICTC recognizes the people and partners who have shared their time, talent, services, and resources in support of this season.

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## PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

On the surface, I have more in common with James O'Neill than I do with his son, Eugene. James and I were both born in Ireland and immigrated to America, although James traveled under much more difficult circumstances. But I understand the immigrant father's ambition, the sense of uprootedness, the fear of financial instability, and the relentless desire to succeed. All of this is reflected in James Tyrone, the patriarch in *Long Day's Journey into Night* (LDJN).

As an immigrant, you carry an internal pressure to prove the journey was worth it, to justify leaving behind your home, your language, your culture, and your identity in order to start anew in America. You feel you must make it. *Thirst* speaks directly to that experience. It explores what it takes for an immigrant to survive in a new land.

As *Long Day's Journey into Night* happens in the living room, *Thirst* takes place in the kitchen. Both works unfold over the course of that same single day in August, 1912, but they tell parallel stories. *Thirst* is about the people on the other side of the wall: the ones serving the meals, cleaning up the mess, and managing their own hopes, fears, and dreams - while working for those whose lives are slowly unraveling.

Accordingly, *Thirst* is in conversation with LDJN, and to do that, I wanted to know more about the Irish servants, Cathleen and Bridget, and the American chauffeur, Jack Smythe. Only Cathleen appears onstage in LDJN, yet all three are named. I built these characters from fragments: direct lines, numerous insults and passing references. Who were they? What were their worries? Did they laugh? Did they love? Were they ever homesick? Could they still find joy while surrounded by despair?

These questions sparked *Thirst*. And, I wanted to go back in time to bring to life a world that has long since passed, but is deeply connected to who we are today. Because maybe it offers an inkling, a scent, or a reminder, of how our immigrant ancestors labored to build a foundation for our future. And that's what writers do: we ask questions to try to understand the world, and to quench our own creative thirst.

I also found a deep connection with Eugene O'Neill as a writer. I understood what it meant to stare at the blank page and to fill it with fully realized, deeply human characters and people who speak with a poetic rhythm and emotional truth. I followed O'Neill and used LDJN's classical structure to tell a story that distilled years of hardship into that single 24-hour window.

At the heart of *Thirst* is the immigrant experience and the tension between where you came from and where you're trying to go. Ireland and America. The outsider and the insider. The servant and the served.

It's an honor, privilege and delight to have *Thirst* in production at the Irish Classical Theatre Company. My hope is that the play reminds you of someone who took the leap, by choice or otherwise, who crossed an ocean, climbed a wall, boarded a plane or a boat, or swam a river to get here. They came because, despite its politics, it's a beautiful place.

- Ronán Noone, Playwright

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Irish Classical Theatre Company  
Presents

# THIRST

## BY RONÁN NOONE

### Cast

**Bridget Conroy** ..... Aleks Malejs\*  
**Cathleen Mullin** ..... Kai Crumley †  
**Jack Smythe** ..... Peter Johnson †  
**Tyrone Family Voice Over Actors** ..... Todd Benzin,  
Kate LoConti Alcocer, David Lundy, RJ Voltz

**Setting:** All scenes take place in the kitchen of Monte Cristo Cottage,  
the Tyrones' summer home in New London, Connecticut, on a day in August 1912.

**Run Time:** Approximately 2 hours and 15-minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

**Content Notes:** This production contains mild expletives, alcohol use,  
references to substance abuse, and dark humor.

### PRODUCTION TEAM

Director ..... Kate LoConti Alcocer  
Production Stage Manager ..... Leyla Gentil-Rosado  
Assistant Stage Manager & Wardrobe Supervisor ..... Alexia Guzmán  
Scenic Designer ..... David Dwyer †  
Props Designer ..... Diane Almeter Jones  
Lighting Designer ..... Matthew DiVita  
Costume & Hair Designer ..... Kenneth Shaw  
Sound Designer ..... Christopher Guilmet  
Dialect & Speech Coach ..... Megan Callahan  
Intimacy Director ..... Lindsay Brandon Hunter  
Cultural Sensitivity Specialist & Dramaturge ..... Geovonday Jones †  
Associate Cultural Sensitivity Specialist & Dramaturge ..... M.Landon †  
Fight/Movement Coach ..... Adriano Gatto  
Irish Dance Coach ..... Keelie Sheridan  
Associate Props Designer ..... Camille  
Scenic Artist ..... Anna Krempholtz  
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\*The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional  
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† The Scenic Designer is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International  
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## Who's Who ... Cast



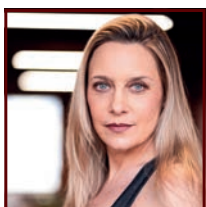
### **Kai Crumley (Cathleen Mullin)**

Kai is elated to be making her debut at the Irish Classical Theatre Company, working alongside such a phenomenal team of actors and technicians! She holds a BFA in Acting and Directing from Stephen F. Austin State University and is a Houston, Texas, native. Recently, Kai has had the pleasure of working with numerous theatre companies in WNY, including Theatre of Youth, the Kenan Center, and the D'Youville Kavinoky. She was a 2025 Artie Nominee for Leading Actress in a Play for her role of Lily in *The Early Girl* with the Brazen-Faced Varlets. Kai would like to thank her family, friends, and fantastic partner, Harris, for their continued love and support! Here's to all the dreamers finding their place and following their passions.



### **Peter Johnson (Jack Smythe)**

Peter Johnson is an actor, writer, and film director from Buffalo, New York. As an Actor, he is a member of the screen actors guild and has TV credits from networks such as Lifetime, ION, and Hallmark, along with major studio credits from films such as *Marshall*, and *The First Purge*. Peter also has film industry credits as a Casting Director. He is the third member of the company "Casting Buffalo" which casts films, commercials and industrial training videos throughout the Tri state area. Peter has an MFA from the University at Buffalo in media production and is an adjunct professor at SUNY Buffalo State College in their theater department. Peter was recently nominated for an Artie Award for Outstanding Leading Actor for his role as Rooftop in Road Less Traveled Productions' *Our Lady of 121st Street*.



### **Aleks Malejs (Bridget Conroy)**

Aleks Malejs is humbled to be returning to ICTC in *Thirst*. Aleks holds an MFA in Acting from The New School for Drama in NYC and a BFA in Acting from The University of Montana. Two national tours with the Montana Repertory Theatre include *It's a Wonderful Life* (1999), and *Bus Stop* (2011). ICTC features include *Betrayal* (Emma), *The Tempest* (Prospera) and *A MidSummer Night's Dream* (Hippolyta/ Titania) in collaboration with the BPO, *Sweet Bird of Youth* (Princess), *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Hippolyta/Poggio), and *Sive* (Mena) (Artie Award 2019). Featured roles at D'Youville's Kavinoky Theatre consist of *People, Places & Things* (Emma) (Artie Award 2023), *POTUS* (Bernadette), *The Sound Inside* (Bella), *Indecent* (Halina), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Scout), *1984* (Julia), *Sweeney Todd* (Beggar Woman), and *Grounded* (Artie Award 2017). Alleyway Theatre roles include *The Natural Horse* (Svetka), and *BURST* (Weaver). Aleks made her JRT debut earlier this year as Julia in *The Wanderers*. Aleks is a spokesperson for West Herr Auto Group and can be heard on monthly radio spots. Aleks also publicly represents Save the Michaels of the World and advocates ferociously for individuals and families who are personally impacted by addiction. Visit [www.aleksmalejs.com](http://www.aleksmalejs.com)

## Who's Who ... Production

### **Diane Almeter Jones (Props Designer)**

Diane (she/they) was long ago given the moniker 'artist' at her farm adjacent elementary school aptly named: Wales Woodchuck. Decades passing, she adapted her skills to include graphic design, mixed media, painting, prop making, and set dressing for both theater and film. Almeter Jones, a mental health advocate, also includes in her 'art box:' producer, playwright, screenwriter, union member, mentor, mama and g-ma. As always, thanks, Tim.

### **Lindsay Brandon Hunter (Intimacy Director)**

Lindsay is an intimacy choreographer and director, an actor, and an associate professor in the Department at the University at Buffalo. She's pleased to return to the Irish Classical Theatre Company (*The Fitzgeralds of St. Paul*), and has also worked with Chautauqua Theater Company (*The Witnesses, Birthday Candles*), the D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre (*The Game of Love and Chance, Sweet Charity, Sanctuary City, Network*), and with students at the University at Buffalo, the New York State Summer School for the Arts, and the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory. Her training includes work with Chelsea Pace's Open Intimacy Creatives, Intimacy Directors and Choreographers, and Theatrical Intimacy Education, where she was a member of the second-ever Educator Advocate Program cohort.

### **Megan Callahan (Dialect & Speech Coach)**

Megan was last seen onstage at ICTC as Connie in *The Mai* and is a director, dialect and speech coach, theater educator, actor, and musician. Most recent Dialect & Speech credits at ICTC are *Or*, *Crocodile Fever*, *Dorian*, and *The Loved Ones*. She has taught the Michael Chekhov technique for many years, including workshops in Ireland and throughout the United States. As a theater artist she has also worked regionally and with many local theater companies, schools and collaboratives. She holds an MFA (Wayne State University/The Hilberry Repertory Theatre) and has a certificate of completion as a teacher in the Michael Chekhov Technique. Megan is currently a member of the founding faculty for Western New York's first ever Master of Fine Arts in Acting at D'Youville University.

### **Camille (Associate Props Designer)**

Camille is excited to return to Irish Classical Theatre for their 25-26 season! Some of their most recent credits include Assistant Stage Managing *The Fitzgeralds of St. Paul* for Irish Classical Theatre Company, Props Designer for *Everybody* with Ujima Theatre Co, and Props Designer for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* at the Theatre of Youth. Camille would like to give thanks and much love to friends and family who are a constant support.

### **Matt DiVita (Lighting Designer)**

Matt is a Buffalo-based Lighting Designer. Some of his favorite designs include: *Or*, *Crocodile Fever*, *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*, *Private Lives*, *The Price*, *Thurgood*, and "Master Harold"...and the Boys (ICTC); *American Idiot*, *Head Over Heels* (Belissima Productions); MFA Dance Showcase 2025 and 2024 (UB); *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Keenan Center); and *Rent*, *The Taming*, and *Measure for Measure* (Niagara University). Tour: *A Taste of Ireland* (North American Tour). Most recently, he serves as Lighting Supervisor for the Chautauqua Theater Company. He can also be found as a Lighting Director across the street at Electric City, live lighting concerts coming to Buffalo. This winter, he will be joining the Lighting and Special Effects team on Disney Cruise Line. Matthew would like to thank his wife, Karen, for all her love and support.

### **Leyla Gentil-Rosado (Production Stage Manager)**

Leyla is very excited to be with Irish Classical Theatre Company once again! She is a SUNY Purchase graduate (B.A.), with a double major in Theatre & Performance and Arts Management. Leyla has previously stage managed for Irish Classical's *The Fitzgeralds of St. Paul*, *Dorian*, *The Price*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *The Mai*; O'Connell and Co's *Khan!! The Musical*, *Twisted*, *Plaid Tidings*, *La Cage aux Folles*, and *The Rink*; Alleyway Theatre's *Buffalo Quickies*, and *The Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes*; Post-Industrial

## Who's Who ... Production

Productions' *Medusa Undone*; Brazen-Faced Varlets' *The Convent*, *Titus XX*, *Anton In Show Business*, *All Through The Night*, *Anastasia Trials In The Court Of Women*, and *The Secretary*. She also worked a summer in Nebraska on *SpongeBob: The Musical*, *Jersey Boys*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Honky Tonk Laundry*, and *Kiss Me Kate* for Post Playhouse. All the love in the world to Jay, her family, and her two furry demons. Bisous, Papou.

### **Christopher Guilmet (Sound Designer)**

Christopher is an actor, director, sound designer, and musician. He recently designed sound for ICTC's production of *Or*. He had worked as resident sound designer for diverse companies across the country including The Theatre at Monmouth in Maine, and Seattle cult favorite sketch comedy group Bald Faced Lie. He also composed or arranged dozens of short birds of music for Amazon.com's online greeting cards. If you sent one of these in the late 1990s-early 2000s, chances are high you heard his music. As an actor, he was last seen here at ICTC as Peter "Da" Devlin in *Crocodile Fever*.

### **Alexia Guzmán (Assistant Stage Manager & Wardrobe Supervisor)**

Alexia is excited to return to Irish Classical Theatre. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media & Communications from Hilbert College. Her stage management credits include *Desde el Puente*, *La Lupe: My Life, My Destiny*, and *Isleña* with Raices Theatre Company. Additionally, she has served as Wardrobe Supervisor for *Sweat* at Road Less Traveled Productions. Her Assistant Stage Manager credits include *Or*, *Crocodile Fever*, *The Loved Ones*, *Doubt: A Parable*, "Master Harold"...and the Boys, *Betrayal*, and *Private Lives* at Irish Classical Theatre, as well as *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* with All For One at Shea's 710 Theatre and *Merrily We Roll Along* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Second Generation Theatre. Alexia extends her gratitude and love to her fiancé Jake, her parents, brothers, best friends, Usnavi and Peggy for their constant love and support.

### **Geovonday Jones (Cultural Sensitivity Specialist & Dramaturge)**

Geovonday is an actor, director, teacher, and cultural sensitivity specialist. As an actor, he worked at The Black Rep, Barter Theatre, NBC, Law & Order: Organized Crime, JAG Productions, Irondale Theatre, Waterwell, Ancram Center for the Arts, New Works Brooklyn, several shows at Tent Theatre, and more. Most recently, he directed *Coconut Cake*, *Wedding Band*, and *Skeleton Crew* at The Black Rep; *Breath & Imagination* at the Penguin Rep; many shows at SIUE, Barter Theatre's Appalachian Play Festival, River & Rail Theatre Company, The Tank, and other places. His film *Ten Years Later: Talking While Black* premiered to great acclaim at the St. Louis International Film Festival. He is a member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and SDC. In new roles, he works as an Artistic Associate of The Black Rep and Barter Theatre. He's an Assistant Professor of Acting at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Illinois Theatre). Previously, he taught Acting and Theatre and Racism at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where he served as the Head of Performance, Brooklyn College, and The City College of NY. He's a certified teacher of the Chekhov Acting technique through the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium (where he is also an Associate Teacher), has an MFA in Acting from Brooklyn College, and a BFA in Acting from Missouri State University. [www.geovondayjones.com](http://www.geovondayjones.com)

### **Kate LoConti Alcocer (Director)**

Kate is honored to return to the Director's seat here at Irish Classical, where she proudly served as Executive Artistic Director from 2020 to 2023, and currently holds the title of Advisory Director. Most recently at ICTC, Kate performed in *The Price*, for which she won her third Artie Award (for Outstanding Leading Actress). Kate has had the great fortune of performing internationally in Spain, London, and Venezuela, as well as nationally at Classic Stage Company, The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare, and Shattered Globe. Locally, she has worked with many prestigious theatre companies including: ICTC, SIDP, The Kavinoky, BUA, and Theatre For Change, and has been a Voice-Over Artist and Theatre

## Who's Who ... Production

Educator for over two decades. Kate is a proud member of the full-time Faculty of Niagara University's Theatre Studies and Fine Arts Department. She earned an MFA with Honors in Acting from Columbia University, where she received the Bob Hope Fellowship. Kate sends endless love and gratitude to A and S. This production is dedicated to the memory and legacy of teacher, mentor, colleague, artist, and friend, Vincent O'Neill. Onwards and upwards.

### **Ronán Noone (Playwright)**

Ronán Noone is the author of eleven plays, including *The Lepers of Baile Baiste*, *Thirst*, and *The Smuggler*, which have been produced in theaters across the United States, with four of his works presented Off-Broadway. His plays have also been staged internationally, with recent productions in the UK, Spain, Canada, India, the Philippines, and Ireland (*The Smuggler* 2025 Tour). He is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Award for Excellence in Playwriting, the Elliot Norton Award for Best Play, an Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, the Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE) Award for Best New Play, a Kennedy Center Playwriting Award, and Best Playwright at the 1st Irish Festival in New York. Noone's essays on theater have appeared in *The Princeton University Library Chronicle*, *The Eugene O'Neill Review*, and *New Hibernia Review*. His plays are published by Dramatists Play Service, TRW Plays, and Samuel French Ltd. Originally from Connemara, Ireland, he immigrated to the United States and is a graduate of Boston University's MFA Playwriting Program, where he now serves as an adjunct assistant professor. More at [ronannoone.com](http://ronannoone.com)

### **Kenneth Shaw (Costume & Hair Designer)**

Kenneth has worked as a professional stage and costume designer in Buffalo for over 30 years. He has had the pleasure of designing for Theatre of Youth as Head of Design, Irish Classical Theatre Company, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, The D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre, Studio Arena Theatre, and many more. Kenneth also teaches design for SUNY Buffalo State. He is a 12-time Artie Award winner and recipient of the David Fendrick Award. He is a Graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada and Apprenticed at The International Theatre Institute in Prague.

### **Keelie A. Sheridan (Irish Dance Coach & ICTC Artistic Director)**

Keelie is an award-winning actor, director, choreographer, and filmmaker. She has performed primarily in world premieres of new plays and devised physical theatre and dance pieces at venues including NYC's The Public Theatre, 3LD, JACK NY, Teatro Circulo, Classic Stage Company and South Oxford Space. Keelie's debut feature film, *planet b234*, received international acclaim and is now available to stream on Amazon Prime. MFA Acting- Brooklyn College. MFA Directing- Trinity College Dublin/ RADA's The Lir Academy (US Ireland Alliance George J. Mitchell Scholar). AEA & SDC. [KeelieSheridan.com](http://KeelieSheridan.com)



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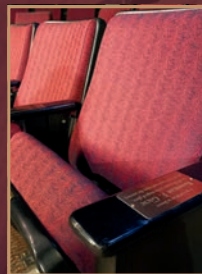
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Associate Directors.....	Chris Kelly, Greg Natale, Fortunato Pezzimenti
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Assistant Audience Services Manager .....	Rachel Wach
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or by phone at 716-853-1380 ext. 103 to find out more.

PLEASE NOTE: Event seating is not guaranteed in seats bearing specific names.

## Land Acknowledgement

Irish Classical Theatre Company, in residence at The Andrews Theatre, acknowledges that it operates on land that falls within the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy of Nations, also known as the Six Nations, including the Seneca, Tuscarora, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk Nations. This territory is covered by The Dish with One Spoon Treaty of Peace and Friendship, a pledge to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. It is also covered by the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, between the United States Government and the Six Nations Confederacy, which further affirmed Haudenosaunee land rights and sovereignty in the State of New York.

We honor the legacy of the Indigenous People who have made, currently make, and will continue to make this land their home for thousands of years. We also honor those who have suffered at the hands of colonialism, genocide, and land theft, including those who are no longer with us, having been lost to the history of violence against Indigenous People. We acknowledge their forced removal from this stolen land, and admire their perseverance through the horrific crimes committed against them and many attempts to wipe out their culture and quietly assimilate them into Western society over many generations.

ICTC is committed to becoming advocates for inclusion as we move into the future. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and learn alongside the people who live within these lands. For more information, we encourage you to visit [www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com](http://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com).

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Below is a list of tribute gifts memorializing and celebrating a special loved one. We thank those of you who demonstrated your thoughtful affection by making gifts in their honor.

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Kathleen Betsko Yale

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Grace A. Flanagan

Margot Hudson

Jack Kenny

Deborah E. Kisker

Vincent O'Neill

John J. Phelan, Esq.

### **IN HONOR**

Paul O'Brien

James & Michal Wadsworth

Mina Westfeldt

Paul Ziebarth

### **WITH GRATITUDE**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who made a gift to the Irish Classical Theatre Company in memory of Vincent O'Neill. We are especially grateful to the O'Neill family for electing ICTC as a recipient of memorial contributions. Your generosity honors Vincent's extraordinary legacy and ensures that his spirit continues to live on — in the stories we tell, the artists we support, and the community he helped build on our stage.

We apologize for any errors or omissions.  
To request changes, please contact ICTC's Executive Director  
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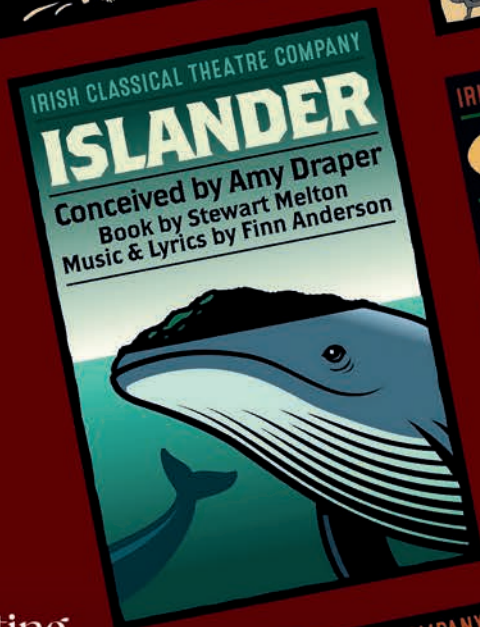
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