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ARDAGH COMMUNITY PLAYERS

PRESENT

“Wigs on the Green”



A play by Noel Marian

Ardagh Community Centre

February 2006

Origin of the Phrase **Wigs on the Green**

Wigs on the green refers to a fight, brawl or fracas, or to a difference of opinion that could lead to fisticuffs. It often appears as “there’ll be wigs on the green”, as a warning (or a prediction) that an altercation is likely to occur. It’s originally Irish, dating from the eighteenth century, when men usually wore wigs. If a fight started, the first thing that happened was that the wigs of those involved would be knocked off and would roll incongruously about on the grass, to the amusement of bystanders and the embarrassment of participants.

Or

In days of yore, there were traveling courts in Ireland. Justice was dispensed on the local green by men in wigs. Hence "there'll be wigs on the green" meaning there'll be trouble.

-- Credits --

Producer	Seán Doherty
Assistant Producer	Fr. Pat Munnelly PP
Sets & Stage	Noel McAndrew & Seamus Reddington
Stage Management:	John O’Hora & Vincent O’Boyle
Prompters	Pauline Timmons & Breege Kelly





WIGS ON THE GREEN

Ardagh Community Players return for their third production. The play chosen this year is "Wigs on the Green" by Noel Marian. It was first produced by the Kilsaran Players at the Louth Drama Festival in 1943.

There are three acts. Acts 1 and 2 have one scene each with Act 3 having two scenes. A brief description of what to expect follows:

The Smith sisters are determined to go to the local dance with the Matthews. However Betty Smith stands in the way. The play explores the underlying fact that she could be bought with hilarious consequences...

Act One: The location is Tom Bells kitchen. Tom is a bachelor who is not particularly house proud.



Act Two: The action takes place in Betty Smith's kitchen.



Act Three: Scenes 1 and 2. Again we are in Betty Smiths kitchen as in Act Two.



THE CAST (IN ODER OF APPEARANCE)



Tom Bell. Michael Flanagan plays the part of Tom. He is a bachelor who is still on the look out and by the looks of things he may not have to push himself too far. His

widowed sister Betty lives nearby and she (almost) always looks out for him. He also gets on well with her daughters and their boyfriends. When a plan is hatched in his house to get to Betty's heart he is not one to get in the way.



Kitty and Maureen Smith. These are the two problem sisters. If only they could get their mother to allow them go to the dance with their boyfriends then all would be well. Of course if

they had proper respectable boyfriends then maybe she could be persuaded. Played by Josephine Gillespie who returns after a year out and Dolores O'Boyle.



Betty Smith. Joan Rutledge plays this typical Irish mother. She has ideas for her daughters and their current boyfriends do NOT fit the bill. HOWEVER if they were to meet some nice ones with a **bit of land** from RESPECTABLE backgrounds then her arm could be twisted in the right direction. Of course there is no point getting men for the

daughters and letting any opportunity for herself slip through her fingers.



Jim and Jack Matthews. The boyfriends. These two desperately want to get the Smith sisters to the dance but their mother is an obstacle. They are currently rehearsing

for a local play and when there is a linked suggestion to solve their problem they both reluctantly agree, if only for the fun! Played by Seamus Barrett and Alan Moran



Maggie Maguire. The leading lady in the local production who has her eyes set on another local even if she does not always get the seal of approval. She is a neighbour of the Smiths and Bells. She would not

be a favourite of Betty so when she gets a chance to have a laugh at her expense it is hard to turn the opportunity down. Played by Mary Martyn..

Mr. Rooney. Brendan Rutledge plays the part of Michael Rooney who has some good news for his relations if he can find them. His arrival may leave WIGS ON THE GREEN but it presents a window of opportunity for some willing participant. He may just provide the answers to all the problems!!!

