

On behalf of **Ardagh Community Players** I would like to extend a Céad Míle Fáilte to everyone on this special weekend. This is the culmination of many years work when we stage this first production in this newly extended facility.

I want to offer a special word of gratitude to those who had the vision and those who had any part in the productions since 2004 either on stage or behind the scenes.

Finally I would like to thank you our loyal audiences for your continued support and for making all the effort worthwhile. Enjoy the show.

Seán Doherty  
Chairman Ardagh Community Players

On behalf of the **community council** I wish to extend a welcome to everyone who attends the first performance from the Ardagh Community Players over the weekend in the newly extended community centre.

I would also like to thank those who use our hall on an on-going basis and contribute towards our funding, which has led to the present first phase extension.

Thanks to present and past committees who have been a big help to date and hopefully will be in the future.

Finally praise is due to the drama group for their performances over the last number of years and I wish them well and I hope you enjoy their performance "Big Maggie".

Thank you on behalf of the community council.

John Cronin  
Chairman Ardagh Community Council

#### A Word from the Parish Priest

There is a searching going on in our country today, it is about how to renew and recreate community spirit once again. We are blessed with having community minded people in our parish, who have given so much of their time over the years to community activities for young and old.

I congratulate the present and past community councils for their hard work in developing this very fine centre and now to see the extension with stage and other area spaces attached which will greatly enhance our community spirit and our resolve to make further progress in the future.

I thank all the people of Ardagh at home and abroad for being so supportive and generous in the commitment to the centre. I wish every blessing and good enjoyment to the various groups and organisations that make use of the centre during the year. Finally I congratulate John Cronin and his community council committee on their leadership and drive in ensuring the continued success of Ardagh Community Centre. They deserve our continued support.

I would also like to thank Padraic Egan and his staff for their expertise and efficiency. Congrats and a sincere thank you to all concerned.

Fr. Pat Munnely P.P.

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## THE CAST



**Maggie Polpin:** played by Dolores O'Boyle.  
Her husband has just passed away and Big Maggie sets about doing things HER way. While the intentions are honest will the family be ready for the new regime.

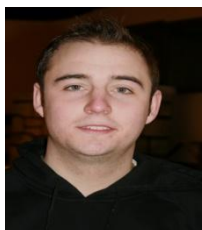
Dolores is no stranger to the stage in Ardagh.

**Gert Polpin:** played by Katie Kelly.  
Maggie's daughter who has eyes on marriage but the suitor must be put through his paces.  
Back after her successful debut in Ardagh last year.



**Katie Polpin:** played by Joan Ruttledge  
Another of Maggie's daughters. Will the past catch up now that Maggie is in charge?  
Returns to the stage after a break.

**Maurice Polpin:** played by Tommy Kilroy.  
Maggie's son. He has plans of his own but he needs to get Maggie on side if they are to become a reality.  
The second debutant from last year returns for another bite.



**Mick Polpin:** played by Alan Moran.  
Maggie's other son. Just how long does a lad have to stick around as his house is torn asunder with all the new rules? A "veteran" in his sixth consecutive play in Ardagh.



**Teddy Heelin:** played by Michael Murphy  
The roguish commercial traveller could sell ice to Eskimos but he might "buy" if the price was right.  
This is Michael's debut in Ardagh.

**Mary Madden:** played by Josephine Gillespie.  
Mary is not about to allow a strong Irish mother get in the way of love. If Maggie Polpin gets in the way she must be pushed aside.  
Josephine is another who returns after a short break



**Mrs Madden:** played by Breege Kelly.  
Beware "the mammy".  
After surviving the proposal of a few years back Breege returns to lay down a few laws of her own.

**Byrne:** played by Michael Flanagan.  
The monumental sculptor tasked with satisfying Big Maggie's demands who could also maybe give her a bit of advice. The "Local encyclopaedia" has a wealth of knowledge and could have the answers to some of Maggie's problems but could also ask a few questions.



**Old Man & Old Woman:** Played by Seán Doherty and Mary Martyn  
Two neighbours of the Polpins.  
Both Seán and Mary have been involved in productions since the beginning in 2004



Director: Ray Collins  
Ray took on the challenge last autumn to direct the group having worked with us in previous productions. Well known in Irish Amateur drama circles.



MC: Ailish O'Brien

Stage Manager: Seamus Barrett

Stage Crew: Noel Mc Andrew  
Gerry Mc Andrew  
Brendan Rutledge  
Brian Finan

Prompters: Pauline Timmons  
Josephine Gillespie

Set Design: Seamus Reddington

Sound & Lighting: Kevin Doherty

Programme John O'Hora

Bookings & Door: Grace O'Boyle & Vincent Clarke

Thanks to all those who gave props, David Farrell & Eamonn O'Boyle for the photography and anybody who helped bring this production to fruition.

A special welcome this year to our young local extras; Shauna O'Boyle, Laura Gillespie, Enda Flanagan, Seán O'Hora & Brian O'Hora



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## BIG MAGGIE

Big Maggie is from the pen of the Kerry playwright John B. Keane. It is set in rural Ireland in the 1960s. Big Maggie Polpin has just buried her husband and sets about laying down some rules and regulations for her grown-up children.

But all doesn't go to plan and like most Irish families there is a rebellion in the camp. After 25 years of living in the shadow of her wayward husband, Maggie has become battle hardened and her sentiments are that you have to be cruel to be kind. Unfortunately for her, not everyone shares the same belief.

**Act One.** Scene 1. The action takes place in the graveyard as Maggie Polpin has just buried her husband.

**Act One.** Scene 2 & 3. **Act 2** Scenes 1, 2 & 3. We move to Polpin's shop.

Ardagh Community Players productions to date

- 2010** Big Maggie by John B. Keane
- 2009** The Country Boy by John Murphy
- 2008** Swan Song by Kevin McGinty
- 2007** Moll by John B. Keane
- 2006** Wigs on the Green by Noel Marian
- 2005** Professor Tim by George Shiels
- 2004** Sharon's Grave by John B. Keane

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# Ardagh Community Players



## Ardagh Community Centre

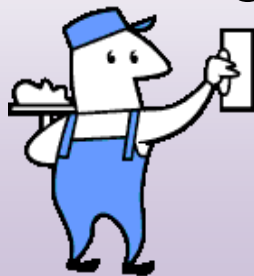
Fri 5<sup>th</sup>, Sat 6<sup>th</sup> & Sun 7<sup>th</sup>

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# Mickey O'Boyle



Local publican  
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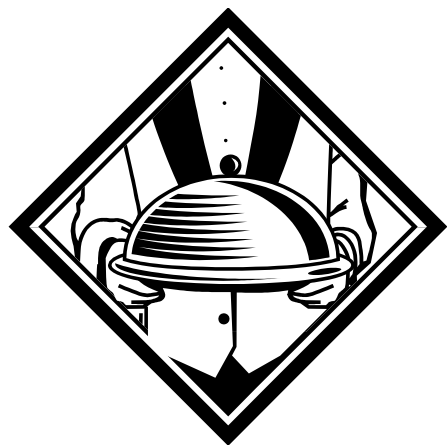
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