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# Ardagh Community Players

Presents

## Cafflin' Johnny

### A Comedy In Three Acts

By  
**Louis D'Alton**

Fri 24th Sat 25th Sun 26th  
Feb 2012  
Curtain up 8pm Sharp  
Venue "Ardagh Community Centre"

Director: Seán Doherty  
Stage Management: Mary Martyn  
Phil McAndrew  
Stage Crew: Noel McAndrew  
Gerry McAndrew  
Brendan Rutledge  
Seamus Reddington  
Prompters: Pauline Timmons  
Josephine Gillespie



Set Design: Seamus Reddington  
Sound & Lighting: Con Rooney  
Programme: John O'Hora  
MC: Rebecca Daly

Poster: Eamonn O'Boyle Photographics  
Old Bond Store, Ballina  
Tel: 096 79791  
Mob: 086 2217029  
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### CAFFLIN' JOHNNY BY LOUIS D'ALTON

The play centres round the charmer Johnny Fortune who has returned home after some time away. This causes some friction in the family who have had to pay for his misdeeds in the past. While Johnny can charm his way out of most situations he is left facing a stark reality which forces him to make a drastic decision. Nicky, his cousin is the same as Johnny and wants to follow in his footsteps. We thus follow Johnny as he arrives back and gets straight down to his old ways right through to his final decision.

Louis D'Alton who was born in Dublin in 1900 and died in 1951 was best known as a novelist and playwright in the 1930s and 40s and also worked as a cartoonist in the 1920s. He wrote two novels, *Death is So Fair* and *Rags and Sticks*. His plays include *The Man in the Cloak*, *To-Morrow Never Comes*, *The Spanish Soldier*, *The Money Doesn't Matter*, *Lovers Meeting* and *They Got What they Wanted*. Three plays were produced posthumously: *The Devil a Saint Would Be*, *This Other Eden* and *Cafflin' Johnny* (1958).

After his untimely death in 1951 his widow Annie married John Cowley who played Tom Riordan in the long running TV serial "The Riordans" in 1953. She also rose to national prominence in "The Riordans" which ran from 1964 to 1979 in which she portrayed the character of Minnie Brennan the village gossip, and busy body of Leestown.

The play was first performed by the Abbey Theatre Company in the Queen's Theatre, Dublin in 1958. Ray Mac Anally played the lead role. All the action takes place in the parlour behind Seamus Fortune's shop in a small town in Ireland.

## THE CAST



Johnny Fortune: played by Padraic Traynor. The wanderer returns (in more ways than one) but has he changed his ways or yearn for times past. After travelling the world will he finally put down roots in his native soil or will the wanderer just get the better of him once again. Has he finally left his coffin' ways behind?

Honorita Fortune: played by Dolores O'Boyle. Johnny's mother. All she wishes is happiness for both her sons. Knows also that a leopard doesn't change its spots and is always going to support her son no matter what the road ahead holds.



Mary Halpin: played by Joan Rutledge. The widow is still in mourning but only just. Now if an opportunity arose it would be foolish to look a gift horse in the mouth. Could she resist linking up with an old acquaintance or could happiness be closer at hand.

Nicky Fortune: played by Alan Moran. He has to live in the shadow of his more illustrious uncle but can he shake the shackles and move on with his own life. How will his relationship with Fintuala progress if he remains on his current path. Perhaps he needs to leave Johnny's exploits to Johnny.



Fintuala Gogan: played by Ailish O'Brien. Nicky's girlfriend would like nothing more than to settle down but can she tame the young buck. Will the accident make or break the relationship.

Guard Ferry: played by Seamus Heverin. Every case must be investigated thoroughly and long hours visiting could help get to the bottom of any situation. Not easily excited and always good for an "interesting" tale. First appearance with the group.



Seamus Fortune: played by Tommy Kilroy. Johnny's stay at home shopkeeper brother. Will he settle for his lot or take steps to secure his own happiness. After looking after the shop for years it is time he stood out from the shadow of his more illustrious brother.

Liz: played by Breege Kelly. The maid is buzzing with her adventures in the big house. She keeps her ear to the ground and with a bit of luck she could find even more happiness. Not much gets past her ear and always keeps an eye out for a man of her own.



Workman: played by Niall Gillespie. When there is work to be done!! Gives a helping hand to a "stranger" First appearance with the group.

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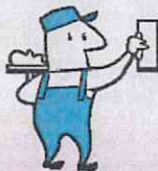
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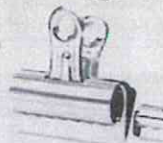
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