

The Seafarer

Director's Note

Conor McPherson's play borrows its title from one of the few remaining Anglo-Saxon poems. It is a bleak but beautiful elegy, telling the story of a seaman who is unable to find peace either at sea or back on land. The icy winter voyages bring hardships and perils that chill his soul and he longs to be safe on land with his family.

When he reaches home he cannot rest and it is not long before he once more feels the pull of the sea, despite the suffering that lies ahead. Similarly, the character of Sharky can find contentment neither when he is on his travels nor when he returns to the demands of family. His dependence on booze cannot sustain him, but can he live without it? Is there a glimmer of hope in the here and now, or has he left that behind him?

Against this background and that of a bucolic Irish Christmas, McPherson plays out a modern-day folk story, in which Sharkey must come face to face with his demon.

The play was premiered at the National Theatre in 2006 and has won awards both here and in the USA. In the original production Mr Lockhart was played by former Criterion actor and current Patron, Ron Cook.

Criterion Lottery Fund and Draw

Funds for the theatre are raised through our Lottery Fund. Please consider buying a number (or or more than one) for the small sum of £5 per number per month. Please contact **Mike Tooley** on **024 7667 3789** or **mike_tooley@hotmail.com** for details.

Remember... you've got to be in it to win it!



www.criteriontheatre.co.uk



Two weeks, nine productions: An exciting mix of plays, showcasing the talents of our newest and our most experienced company members.

- The Monkey's Paw adapted by Jonathan Holloway from the story by W.W. Jacobs
- Resting Place by David Campton
- Chinamen by Michael Frayn
- Sure Thing by David Ives
- Afterplay by Brian Friel
- Edward Albee's The Zoo Story
- The Bear adapted by Brian Friel from a play by Anton Chekhov
- In Camera (Huis Clos) adapted by Hugh Sorrell from the original by Jean Paul Sartre

And the Criterion Theatre's Youth production

- Blackout

For more information on the individual plays please visit our website.



Supported by Shortland Horne

If you have any comments about your experience at the Criterion Theatre, please email Louise at comments@criteriontheatre.co.uk

The Criterion is a non-smoking theatre.

"A devilish and delightful tale."

The Seafarer

by **Conor McPherson**

This production contains strong language.

Programme

By arrangement with Nick Hern Books



Jon Elves

Jon has been a member of the Criterion Theatre since 1992. His most recent roles have included Orin Scrivello DDS, 'The Dentist' in Little Shop of Horrors, Dr Alec Harvey/ Frank Hunter in 'Still Life' and the 'The Browning Version' double bill, Ben Hecht in 'Moonlight and Magnolias' and Daffyd ap Llewellyn in 'A Chorus of Disapproval.



Keith Railton

Keith Railton first joined the Criterion in 1965 and in 1977 played the part of Sidney Hopcroft in their first production of Absurd Person Singular. This year he played the part of Ronald when the play was performed again as part of the Criterion's 50th anniversary. Other appearances at the Criterion have been as Fagin in Oliver Twist, Marc in Art, Sigmund Freud in Hysteria, Frank in The Memory of Water, the General in And Then There Were None and Jiggers in Great Expectations. He has also directed Treasure Island, Oh! What a Lovely War, Brassed Off, The Graduate and The Herbal Bed. Keith is currently Artistic Director of the Criterion.



Trev Clarke

Trev trained at Nottingham Theatre Royal and moved to Warwick in 2006. Since then he has appeared at The Loft, The Criterion, The Talisman and even the old Coventry Cathedral. He was last at the Criterion in this year's well-received Absurd Person Singular and is very pleased to be building on that and working with such a good cast and director. And if anyone can lend him the money for a taxi, that'd be just...

The Seafarer

James "Sharky" Harkin

Jon Elves

Richard Harkin

Keith Railton

Ivan

Craig Shelton

Nicky Giblin

Trev Clarke

Mr Lockhart

Tim Willis

Act 1: Christmas eve morning and late afternoon

Act 2: Very early Christmas morning

Director:	John Ruscoe
Stage Manager:	Ben Woodward
Assistant Stage Manager:	Dave Crisp
Prompt:	Maggie Parkes
Set Design:	Dave Holmes
Lighting:	Ian Knight
Sound Design:	Dave Cornish
Sound Operator:	Hannah Barnes
Wardrobe:	Maureen Liggins, Pam Coleman, Chrissy Ihenacho
Set Build:	Pete Bagley, Kevin Woods, Mike Tooley, Louise Bagley, Simon Sharpe, Judy Sharpe
Set Paint:	Judy Talbot, Louise Bagley, Sue Hadlum
Props:	Annie Woodward, Les Rahilly, Anne-Marie Greene, Kathy Brewerton
Acknowledgement:	Rob Nolan for help with pronunciation and accents.

Craig Shelton

The Seafarer is Craig's second show at the Criterion, following his role as the voice of Audrey 2 in Little Shop of Horrors. Other favourite roles include Benny in Rent at the Talisman; Dave in Brighton Beach Scumbags, Casimir in Aristocrats and Alex in A Clockwork Orange – all at the Loft. Other roles have included Ralph Clarke in Our Country's Good and Vladimir in Waiting for Godot, at the Unity theatre in Liverpool. He has thoroughly enjoyed creating the role of Ivan, especially all the personal research needed to understand the amount of drinking that the character undertakes. He would like to thank the director, cast and crew for helping to put together such a challenging piece. Finally a massive thanks to his wife and kids who put up with him being out of the house for 4 nights a week!



Tim Willis

Gaslight was Tim's debut at the Criterion, The Seafarer is his third performance. He first appeared on the local theatre circuit at the Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth in 1984. Trained at Mountview Theatre School, his subsequent professional acting career highlights include Fiddler on the Roof, Mother Courage, and the Heather Brothers' Lust, all in London's West End. Other credits include an 18-month stint as Riff-Raff in The Rocky Horror Show European tour, an international tour of the Mousetrap, and numerous national tours including Arcadia (NT) and Neil Simon's Laughter on the 23rd Floor. In 2002, he was offered a "proper job" and returned to the area where he continues to act and direct.

