



presents

# SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME

A Play By FRANK McGUINNESS

VANCOUVER MARCH 12-23  
RENEGADE STUDIOS  
125 EAST 2nd AVE.

ALL SHOWS AT 8  
ALL TICKETS \$15

FOR TICKETS AND INFO GO TO  
[www.dancingmonkeypresents.com](http://www.dancingmonkeypresents.com)

DIRECTED BY  
Julie Mclsaac

FEATURING  
Ashley O'Connell  
Kirk Smith  
Jay Clift

AN ENGLISHMAN,  
AN IRISHMAN,  
AND AN AMERICAN  
ARE HOSTAGES  
IN LEBANON.

WITH NO IDEA  
WHY THEY'RE  
THERE OR IF  
THEY'LL EVER  
BE RELEASED,  
THEY MUST FIND  
A WAY TO SURVIVE  
THEIR SITUATION,  
THEIR CAPTORS,  
AND EACH OTHER.

"Brings its own light  
touch to grim matters."  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

"A beautiful play."  
THE NEW YORKER

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 1st, 2014

JUST IN TIME FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY, LOCAL INDEPENDENT THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS INTIMATE STAGING OF A PLAY BY CELEBRATED IRISH PLAYWRIGHT FRANK McGUINNESS, FEATURING DUBLIN-BORN ACTOR, ASHLEY O'CONNELL.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JAY CLIFT, ASHLEY O'CONNELL, KIRK SMITH

This isn't your average shamrocks and green beer. If you're looking to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in some special way this year, **Dancing Monkey Presents** offers a thrilling spin on the conventional festivities. Inspired by the real-life imprisonment of Irish journalist Brian Keenan (who was held hostage in Beirut from 1986 to 1990) **Someone Who'll Watch Over Me** tells the story of three men, an Irishman, an Englishman and an American, strangers who find themselves in close captivity in Lebanon, chained to the wall, with no way to communicate with the outside world, no idea why they're there, or if they'll ever be released.

"Yes, it's definitely a condemnation of how awful we can be, to one another, as human beings," says **director Julie Mclsaac**, "but more importantly – it's a tremendous celebration of how completely beautiful we can be, how incredibly strong and generous of spirit." It is this fine balance, this negotiation of

hope and despair, that really makes the piece sing. Indeed, don't let the premise deter you; McGuinness is a masterful writer, and his wit shines through. The play is sure to have audiences moving back and forth between laughter and tears.

Though he has a number of stage, film and television credits to his name, lead actor **Ashley O'Connell** – who was born in Dublin, and in fact studied with playwright McGuinness at University College Dublin – will now, for the first time since his arrival in Canada, play an Irishman on stage. "Speaking in my original dialect," muses O'Connell, "is uniquely liberating. As I speak differently, I start to think differently. Being Irish means being part of a rich cultural heritage and an ancient history, but it also means being part of a troubled recent history and different ways of thinking and coping. Playing Edward is reacquainting me with many aspects of being Irish, and it means an enormous amount to me."

O'Connell, who earned a Jessie nomination for his work in *The Pillowman* (Wild Geese Equity Co-op, 2011) will be joined on stage by **Kirk Smith** (Arts Club's *The History Boys*) and up-and-comer **Jay Clift**, who recently wowed Vancouver audiences in Hardline Productions' *Bug*. Director Julie Mclsaac (also of Irish heritage) is a talented performer in her own right, and is particularly suited to working on this script, which demands great courage, dexterity and transparency from the actors. Those who have seen Mclsaac's previous directing work with Relephant Theatre (*The Exquisite Hour*, *Ordinary Days*) will be keen to see her now take on this complex and compelling work. Particularly as the production is being staged in a you-probably-didn't-even-know-it-was-there back room at Renegade Studios. It's the first time a play will be performed in this unique venue – and although this means that the artists of Dancing Monkey Presents are working double-time to both rehearse the show and prepare the performance space, the results will be worth it. By taking the production out of the conventional theatre setting and using the alternative space, the aim is to give the audience a sense that they are actually in the room with these guys. A thrilling experience awaits – but be sure to book your tickets early, as seating is limited.

If you need further reason to convince your friends that this is a fun and fitting way to celebrate your St. Patty's Day, lead with this: "did you know that young Patrick himself, at the age of sixteen, was kidnapped from his home in Britain and held captive as a slave in Ireland." Yup. So come on down for some laughter, some tears. And yes, if you're wondering – there will be some beers.

For more information on the show and the team go to [www.dancingmonkeypresents.com](http://www.dancingmonkeypresents.com)

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