

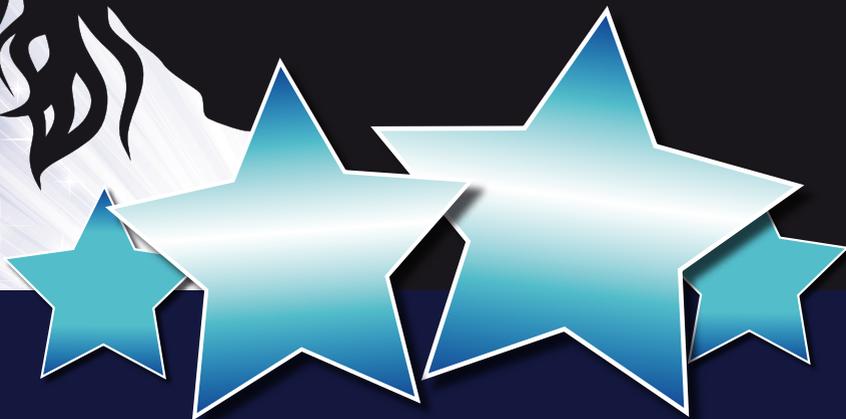
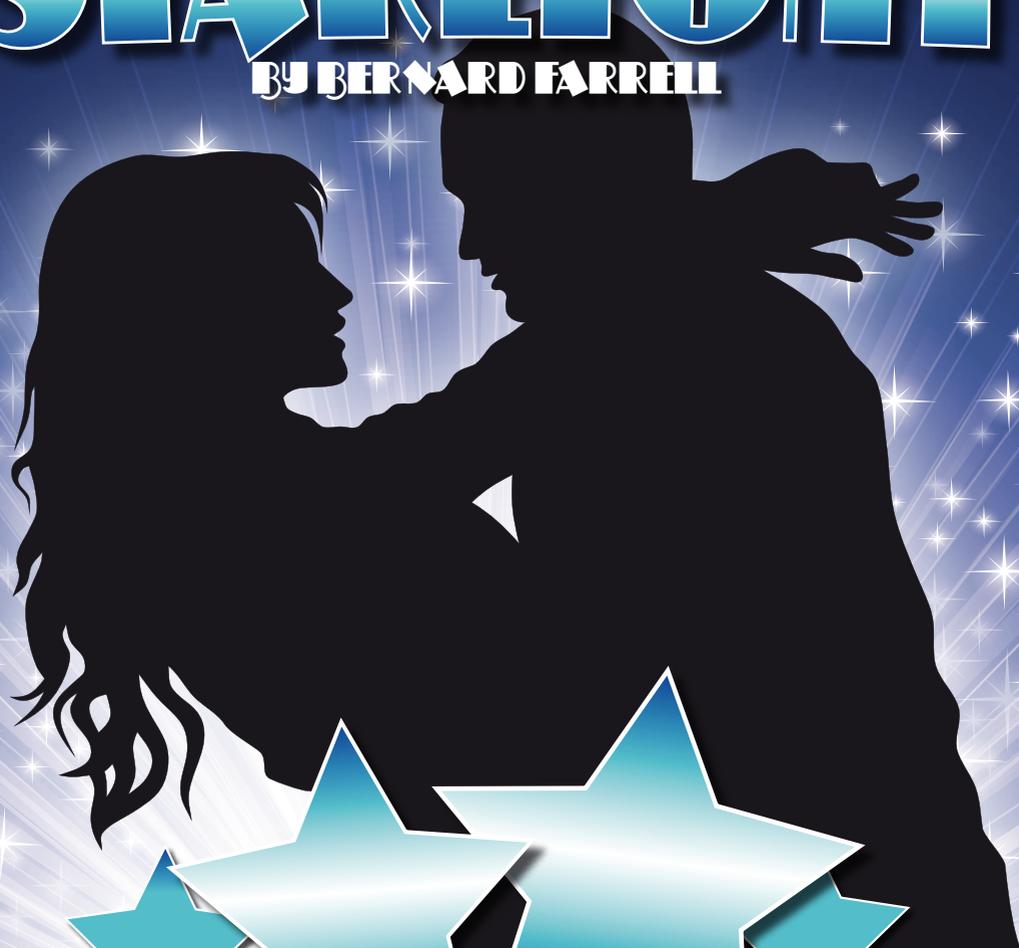


BART PLAYERS PRESENT



STELLA BY STARLIGHT

BY BERNARD FARRELL



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Bernard and Barts

Bart Players have had an interesting and ongoing relationship over the years with the playwright Bernard Farrell and his works. Our first Farrell play was performed by the company in 1996 entitled *The Last Apache Reunion* it tells the story of a group of 40 something lads and two of their wives who hold a reunion in their old school building now derelict. They show a home movie of their young selves at Powerscourt House and the consequences are dire, although side splittingly funny. This production was memorable for Clem Bell our esteemed Honorary Secretary being dangled out a window in his role of "little squirrel", and also the film which we made specially at Shaws Bridge where the actors real teenage children played their parents. This play went on to be runner up in the AUDF finals and so impressed the adjudicator that he directed a production of the play in his own group using our movie!

In 1999 we did our second Farrell play applying to the author for permission and being given the honour of presenting the amateur premiere of *Happy Birthday Dear Alice* featuring Barbara Jeffers in the title role. This production swept the boards and went on to win the AUDF finals.

We performed our third Farrell play in 2002. *Kevin's Bed* told the story of a failed priest and the Italian girl who follows him to Ireland.

So now we are back to Farrell again in 2012, very much enjoying the humour and well drawn characters as we prepare for our audiences. *Stella by Starlight* is simply hilarious we hope you will agree. Stella, Dermot and their daughter Tara have retreated to the Wicklow hills since Dermot has been made redundant. They have invited their friends Paul and Geraldine to spend the night to witness a comet crashing into Jupiter, Dermot is a mad keen amateur astronomer. It is also the occasion of Tara's school formal. Things begin to go wrong right from the start and relationships break down but Stella wins in the end.

Our cast features Donal McReynolds in the role of Paul coincidentally he also played in two of the other Farrell Plays.

STELLA BY STARLIGHT

by Bernard Farrell

Bart Players Festival Production 2012

Programme Details

Dermot	–	<i>Con McAllister</i>
Stella	–	<i>Letitia Fitzpatrick</i>
Tara	–	<i>Lorna-Jayne Fletcher</i>
Geraldine	–	<i>Sandra Ardill</i>
Paul	–	<i>Donal McReynolds</i>
Tommy	–	<i>Andrew Devonshire</i>
Director	–	<i>Gillian Porter</i>
Set Design	–	<i>Alan Marshall</i>
Set Building	–	<i>Eric Porter</i>
Costume Design	–	<i>Carmen O'Hagen</i>
Stage Manager	–	<i>Caroline Mercer</i>
Lighting	–	<i>Ivor Agnew</i> <i>John Stannard</i> <i>John Little</i>
Sound	–	<i>Michael Patterson</i> <i>Rory McCadden</i>
Props	–	<i>Clem Bell</i>

STELLA BY STARLIGHT

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Sandra Ardill – *Geraldine*

Sandra has been a member of Bart Players for several years. She played the flamboyant Constance in the award winning production of *Drama at Inish* and last year she took the role of the scheming Joanna in *Present Laughter* for which she won Best Supporting Actress in the Churches Drama League. Sandra is really enjoying her supporting role of Geraldine in *Stella by Starlight*.



Andrew Devonshire – *Tommy*

Andrew joined Barts in 2009 for “one show” and despite constant cries of ‘I’m taking a break after this one’ has been involved in most of our shows since. He is delighted to be back in trousers again after playing Widow Twanky in our Christmas Panto *Aladdin*. He is also a member of Hillsborough Drama Group and is currently directing their next show.



Letitia Fitzpatrick – *Stella*

Letitia has played serious roles on the amateur drama circuit in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, Tennessee Williams' *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*, and Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women*, as well as comic parts in Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite* and Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*. She is a well-known face and voice on local TV and radio, having worked as a reporter and presenter on UTV and the BBC for many years. Now a freelance, Letitia can be heard regularly on Belfast Citybeat.

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Lorna-Jayne 'LJ' Fletcher - *Tara*

Lorna-Jayne is currently the chairman of Bart Players. She joined in 2008 and has played many roles in plays and pantomimes also helping backstage. She is enjoying playing a volatile teenager in this production and maintains she has not been typecast!



Con McAlister - *Dermot*

This is Con's 5th year with Barts having performed in a number of leading roles with the C.B. Players and Theatre 3 Newtownabbey. Con has collected a number of Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor awards with all three companies and is hopeful of collective success with this year's production.



Donal McReynolds - *Paul*

Donal has recently retired from teaching Biology in Methody and is delighted to have time again to tread the boards in a Festival play. Much of the rest of the time is now used to perfect his golf game!!! (Perhaps significant in the context of the character played).

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Gillian Porter - *Director*

Gillian has been a Bart Player for over 30 years and spent her first years acting.

She began directing in 1993 and has directed many plays and pantomimes since then. She has had several plays in the AUDF finals two of which were runners up and two of which took the premiere award. A former Drama teacher she finds this experience useful in her work in the Bart Players!

Alan Marshall – *Set Design*

Alan is a retired art teacher who has been involved with drama since his student days. His work has been seen in all parts of the British Isles and he has also designed for the Romanian National Theatre. He has designed many award winning sets and also directed plays but he yet to appear on stage. Alan also works in musical theatre and designed the Irish premiere of *Titanic The Musical*. He is currently chairman of the Association of Ulster Drama Festivals.

Ivor Agnew – *Lighting Design*

Ivor obtained his initial experience with a theatre group in Carlisle. Lighting design became a passion and he gained extensive experience lighting plays, pantomimes, musicals & operas. He was privileged to perform the amateur premier of Melvyn Bragg's musical *'The Hired Man'* and Melvyn was there to see it. After lighting some 150 shows, Ivor moved to Belfast, winning several lighting awards with Barts, and was honoured to light the Belfast Operatic Company at the Waterford Opera Festival.

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Bernard Farrell

Bernard Farrell was born in Sandycove Co Dublin in 1939. Both his parents were passionate about the theatre and his childhood was spent attending plays. In 1980 he resigned from his regular job and began writing plays full time. Most of his 21 stage plays have been premiered at either the Abbey Theatre or the Gate Theatre in Dublin or at the Red Kettle Theatre in Waterford. His best-known play is *I Do Not Like Thee Dr. Fell* whose first cast included a young Liam Neeson.

Many of his plays are in translation and have been performed extensively in N. America, Europe and Australia. He has also written plays for TV and radio. He now lives in Greystones Co Wicklow.

Programme Inclusions

Bart Players would like to express their grateful thanks to the following individuals and organisations for their help with this production:

John Lewis (*the man not the company*) for the loan of the telescope

Richard Dugan Plumbing

Hamilton Shipping

Parsons and Parsons

Clarence Players

David Gotto Allsports

Minprint Ltd

And from our own company special mention goes to

Ken Powles Foyer Decoration

James Burns Banners

Michael Fee Graphics, Posters and Tickets

June Silcock Ticket Secretary

Anne Maitland Catering

And members of the Committee

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