

Lennox Robinson presented his comedy "The Whiteheaded Boy" in 1916 while Director at the Abbey Theater. He was followed by St. John Ervine who presented his own realistic plays. Later came Sean O'Casey and his somber plays, particularly, "Juno and the Paycock" in 1924 and "The Plough and the Stone" in 1926.

Continued evidence of the Irish Movement is seen in the works of James Joyce, who transcended national boundaries, George Moore, Daniel Corkery, St. John Ervine, James Stephens, Liam O'Flaherty, Sean O'Faolain and Frank O'Connor. O'Flaherty's "The Informer," 1926, won an English prize as a novel and the Motion Picture Academy Award as a film. The novels of Sean O'Faolain remain the works of a gifted and independent man, while the short stories of Frank O'Connor speak of the moods of Ireland. One might also include the works of a newcomer one Brendan Behan whose "The Quare Fellow" appears nightly at the Circle in the Square Theater off Broadway.

The Irish renaissance began as a literary movement, but it soon became a social movement calling for every expression of creative thinking. It began with poetry and drama but soon prose gave air to portraiture, anything from bitter wisdom to shrewd fancy. The Irish contributions to literature have indeed been great through the ages yet the results of the Irish Movement clearly show contributions in the present of clearthinking farseeing men.

Source: Alexander M. Witherspoon  
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Edith Daly

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New Yorkers have been fortunate in recent months to see a variety of entertainment dealing with the Irish. The lovely Siobhan McKenna appeared for two consecutive weeks on Edward R. Murrow's television show "Small World." Sharing her delightful charm with American viewers, Noel Coward, and James Thurber, she spoke of the Irish, their jokes, their theater and their freedom.

The Broadway and off Broadway stage has been favoring us with plays of Irish setting. Eugene O'Neill's play, "A Touch of the Poet" stars Helen Hayes and is performed in the Helen Hayes Theater. "Juno" a musical adaptation of O'Casey's "Juno and the Paycock" was attempted however it closed after only ten performances. The Gate Theater has been presenting nightly two different Irish plays for the last several weeks.

The Abbey Players, Ireland's national theater group, have appeared to American television audiences several times via the Ed. Sullivan Show, however, their latest performance was on the Sunday afternoon Omnibus Show. The Players presented a delightful comedy entitled, "Professor Tim."

So there has been no lack of late anyway of Irish presentations.

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A promise is a debt.--Irish proverb