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A Cheap Bunch  
of Nice Flowers

By Edna O'Brien

PROGRAMME SIXPENCE

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## A Cheap Bunch of Nice Flowers

by

EDNA O'BRIEN

Directed by  
DESMOND T. O'DONOVAN

Setting and Lighting

by

BRIAN CURRAH

First performance at the New Arts Theatre, 20th November, 1962



**EDNA O'BRIEN**—Born 1932 in West of Ireland. Attended National School and convent. Later studied pharmacy in Dublin. In 1952 met and married novelist Ernest Gebler. Have two sons, Carlos and Sasha. First novel **THE COUNTRY GIRLS**, published in 1960, received the Kingsley Amis award for the best first novel of the year, second novel, **THE LONELY GIRL**, published 1962, to be filmed in Ireland early next year by Woodfall Films. Television play called **THE WEDDING DRESS** bought by Granada. **A CHEAP BUNCH OF NICE FLOWERS** is the first stage play she has written but not the last she hopes. Lives in London and never wants to leave it.

\* \* \*

**SUSANNAH YORK** ('Ria Hennessey'). Born in London. Susannah York went straight from her theatre training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art to repertory at the Connaught Theatre, Worthing. From here she began her meteoric rise to fame via television and films. An early television play, "The Richest Man in the World," in which she made a big personal impact, was followed by several including "The Crucible" and "The Tiger and the Horse." Meanwhile she had played a small role in the Alec Guinness/John Mills film "Tunes of Glory," which led to a starring role in the Kenneth More film "The Greengage Summer." She then made the film "Freud" on locations in Germany and Austria, and recently finished filming "Tom Jones."



\* \* \*

**EITHNE DUNNE** ('Winifred Hennessey'). First joined the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, as a student in 1939, and was made a member of the Company the following year. With them played the title role in J. M. Synge's "Deirdre of the Sorrows," and made another personal success in "Countess Cathleen," the verse play by W. B. Yeats.

Went to America in 1946 and scored another success, as 'Pegeen Mike' in "Playboy of the Western World" on Broadway, before coming to London for her first West End appearance, in "Ill Met by Moonlight" at the Vaudeville. Since then she has played many times with the Dublin Gate Theatre Company, notably as 'Ophelia,' and as 'St. Joan' in Anouilh's "The Lark." She was a member of the company when they presented "Hamlet" at Elsinore in 1952, where she received a special award for her portrayal of 'Ophelia.' In 1956 she was a leading member of the company representing Ireland at the International Theatre Festival in Paris, where she won high tribute for her playing of the title role in Bernard Shaw's "Candida." More recently, she made a great success in the title role of Brecht's "Mother Courage" in Dublin, and made her last previous appearance in London in 1960 at the "Widow Quinn" in "Playboy of the Western World" at the Piccadilly and St. Martin's theatres. Last year she starred in a Dublin Festival Company touring the Continent in "Candida" and "Mrs. Warren's Profession," and her most recent tour abroad was as 'Emilia' in "Othello" performed in Belgium, Switzerland, Holland and Luxembourg. Miss Dunne has also appeared in several films, notably including Paul Rotha's "No Resting Place."

## A CHEAP BUNCH OF NICE FLOWERS

Characters in order of their appearance :

Winifred Hennessey ..... EITHNE DUNNE  
 Ria Hennessey ..... SUSANNAH YORK  
 Charlotte Russe ..... MARIE KEAN  
 The Professor ..... REGINALD BARRATT  
 Budd Connor ..... RAY McANALLY  
 Shoneen Tracy ..... DECLAN HARVEY

The action takes place in the home of Winifred Hennessey in Dublin

ACT I March

ACT II May

ACT III August

There will be two intervals of ten minutes

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**MARIE KEAN** ('Charlotte Russe'). A stalwart of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, from 1949 to 1961, Miss Kean was recently seen in London in the role of Mrs. Gogan in O'Casey's "The Plough and the Stars" at the Mermaid Theatre, and prior to this played "Anna Livia Plurabelle" in the James Joyce play "The Voice of Slem" at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, following its presentation at this year's Paris Festival.

She has also appeared in many films, among them several with the Abbey Theatre Company, and other successes like "Rooney," "Jacqueline" and "Stork Talk." She was recently featured in the "Armchair Theatre" television play "The Irish Boys."

\* \* \*

**RAY McANALLY** ('Budd Connor'). Born in Donegal in 1926, Ray joined the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and has appeared in about two hundred plays with them. In the last five years he has won the Actor of the Year Award three times. In addition, he has directed about fifty plays for various groups—including one at the Abbey Theatre—has made over four hundred broadcasts in English and Gaelic from Radio Eireann, and is the Head of Drama at the National Academy of Theatre Arts, Dublin.

Featured in over half-a-dozen films, he plays the role of 'O'Daniel' in "Billy Budd" and 'Inspector Sharkey' in "Murder in Eden," and has made several television appearances including the role of 'St. Francis of Assisi' in Housman's "Little Plays of St. Francis" for Telefist Eireann this year. Making his first appearance in the West End, his most recent theatrical success was as 'Thomas à Becket' in "Murder in the Cathedral" at the 1962 Dublin Theatre Festival.

\* \* \*

**REGINALD BARRATT** ('The Professor'). Born in Birmingham, Reginald Barratt appeared in repertory at Worthing, Windsor, Leatherhead, etc., and has made West End appearances in such diverse productions as Cole Porter's pantomime "Aladdin" at the Coliseum Theatre and Paddy Chayefsky's play "The Tenth Man" at the Comedy Theatre. He recently played the role of 'Davies' in a special production by Donald McWhinnie's of "The Caretaker," and has made over 150 television appearances. His hobby is photography, and his ambition is to live to be as old as the parts he plays.

\* \* \*

**DECLAN HARVEY** ('Shoneen Tracy'). Born and educated in Dublin, he appeared when still a child in various radio productions there. After he left school he was trained for a career in the hotel business, and worked in various hotels in Germany, Switzerland and France. But the call of the stage was too strong, and he returned to Britain to study at the Corona Academy of Theatre Arts in London. Here he trained for four years, during which time he also made television, film and theatre appearances. Before returning to Dublin again last year to appear in "Death Watch" at the Dublin Festival, he was seen in the television "Armchair Theatre" series as the German soldier in "Roll On Bloomin' Death." Now twenty-six years old, Declan has also appeared at Dublin's Pike Theatre. His most recent television appearance was in the BBC/TV production of Bernard Shaw's "Captain Brassbound's Conversion." Apart from his appearance at the Mermaid Theatre in the Poetry Festival last year, this is his London stage debut.



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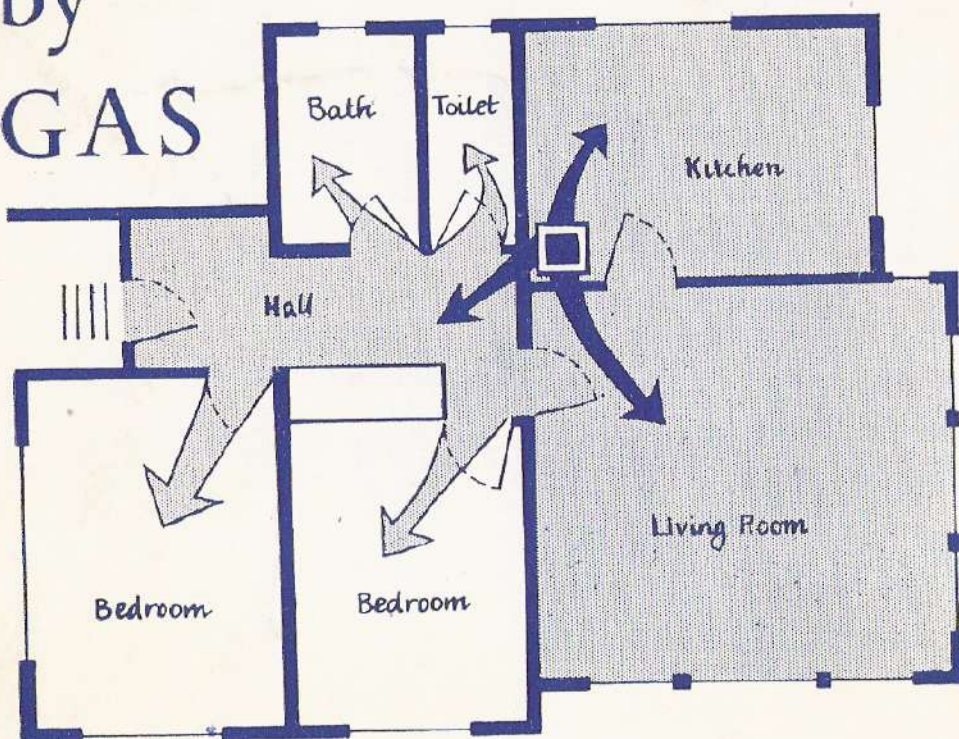
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(Tel. No. REgent 8671, 5 lines). Printed by Horsley Bros. (T.U.), 646 Romford Road, E.12.