



# TheBUZZ

BY Eileen Murphy / emurphy@irishecho.com

## Talent search / July 2007 / Internet

If people are always telling you that you've got more talent in your left bol . . . um, little finger than all those "American Idol" kids combined, here's your chance to grab a piece of the spotlight. Irish DJ Paul Cullen is looking for acts to feature on his Excite FM show, **THE CRAIC** - and you could be just what the disk doctor ordered. The emphasis is on acts with some Irish connection, and must be recorded (for ease of transmission). Ready to expose your musical or comedic talents to the world? Email Paul Cullen at [excitefmthecraic@gmail.com](mailto:excitefmthecraic@gmail.com). And if you make it big and start filling stadiums, don't forget who gave you your start. (That would be me. Cheeky.)

## Off-Broadway / Currently running / NYC

The Irish Repertory Theater, 132 West 22nd St., NYC, presents the New York premiere of **"TOM CREAN - ARCTIC EXPLORER."** The show begin previews on Tuesday, July 17, and open

on Sunday, July 22. Written and performed by Aidan Doolley, the play opened to rave reviews in Dublin, so don't miss its New York run. Book before July 22, and receive a \$5.00 discount per person. For tickets and information, call 212-727-2737.

## Theater / Running through August 4, at 8 p.m. / Washington, D.C.

If you live in the nation's capital (or will be visiting anytime soon), be sure to check out Solas Nua Theater Company's production of **"THE DRUNKARD,"** by Tom Murphy. The show, directed by Jessica Burgess, will run from July 11-August 4, at Georgetown University's Devine Theater at the Davis Arts Center, 37th & O St. NW. For show-times, tickets and information, visit [www.solasnua.org](http://www.solasnua.org).

## Reading / Wednesday, July 25, at 8 p.m. / NYC

Irish American writer Gina Sigillito will read from her new book, **"DAUGHTERS OF MAEVE: 50 IRISH WOMEN WHO**

**CHANGED THE WORLD,"** at Bluestockings, 172 Allen St (btw. Stanton and Rivington Sts.), NYC. Among the legendary figures profiled in the book are St. Brigid, patroness of Ireland, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, early 20th century suffragette, Margaret Sanger, a pioneer in the field of birth control, and Mother Jones, a seminal figure in the labor movement. Talk about Girl Power.

## Music / Saturday, Aug. 11, at 8 p.m. / NYC

Gird your loins with something green and get yourself over to the Grand Ballroom, 311 West 34th St., for **PADDYPALOOZA!** It'll be a night of great music and mighty craic, headlined by seminal Celtic rockers Black 47. Opening for the "Funky Ceili" rockers will be Morning Star, and Shillelagh Law's Dennis McCarthy will work his magic fiddle as a guest musician with both groups. As if you needed another reason to be there, I hear that Black 47's Larry Kirwan (the Echo's guest columnist for July - see page 5 of this issue for his latest musings) will duet with Morning Star singer Mary Courtney on "Living in America (Parts 1 & 2)." Talk about a time machine to zip you back to the Bainbridge Avenue days! Tickets are \$20. For information, call 212-695-6600 or visit [www.mcstudios.com](http://www.mcstudios.com).

## Concerts / August 2007 / USA

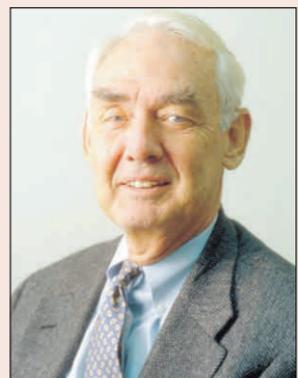
It just wouldn't be summer without the sound of rollicking, Galway-flavored roots rock emanating from venues around the country. Happily, **THE SAW DOCTORS** will keep up their annual tradition

## Spotlight: Reading



## Pete Hamill at the Tenement Museum Reading / Wednesday, July 25, at 6 p.m. / NYC

**PETE HAMILL** (above) will read from and discuss his latest novel "North River" with former New York Times City Hall bureau chief and Quinnipiac University Polling Institute director Maurice "Mickey" Carroll (right) at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum Bookstore, 108 Orchard St. (at Delancey Street), on Wednesday, July 25, at 6 p.m. The Irish Echo's Peter McDermott will introduce the speakers. RSVP to [bookclub@tenement.org](mailto:bookclub@tenement.org).



of touring the states in August, playing a mix of old favorites and material from their latest album, "The Cure." Fans will also get to hear the band's new single, "I'm Never Gonna Go on Bebo Again," which should cement the group's street cred amongst the members of Generation My(space). For full venue / ticket details, visit the band's official site, [www.sawdoctors.com](http://www.sawdoctors.com). Dates: Aug 9, Birchmere, Alexandria, VA; Aug 10, Irish Festival, Canton, MA; Aug 11, Irving Plaza, New York, NY; Aug 12, Borgata, Atlantic City, NJ; Aug 15, Art Park,

Lewiston, NY; Aug 16, Melody Tent, Hyannis, MA; Aug 17, Music Circus, Cohasset, MA; Aug 18, The Pines, Northampton, MA; Aug 20, Rams Head, Annapolis, MD; Aug 21, Surf Club, Ortleigh Beach, NJ; Aug 22, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY; Aug 23, Casino Ballroom, Hampton Beach, NH; Aug 25, House of Blues, Cleveland, OH; Aug 28, Belly Up, Solana Beach, CA; Aug 29, Knitting Factory, Los Angeles, CA; Aug 30, Slims, San Francisco, CA; Aug 31, Strawberry Festival, Yosemite Park, CA; Sept 2, Irish Festival, Kansas City, MO.

## Spotlight: Theater



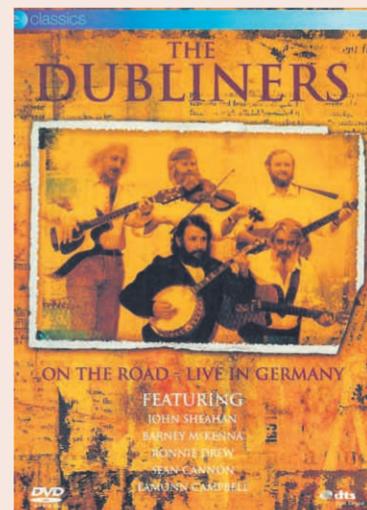
## Sons of Molly Maguire in NYC

**Theater / Currently running / NYC** Inspired by the story of the Molly Maguires, a group of Irish immigrants who banded together in the mid-19th century to battle brutal working conditions in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, John Kearns' new play, "Sons of Molly Maguire" examines history through the lens of the 21st century. Directed by Candace O'Neil Cihocki, the play opens at the Workshop Theater, MainStage Space, 312 West 36th St (btw. 8th and 9th Aves.), 4th Fl. Performances run July 17-Aug. 4, at times ranging from 12:45 p.m.-6:30 p.m. - confirm show time when purchasing tickets. For information and tickets, call SmartTix, 212-848-4444 or visit [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com).

## Spotlight: DVD Library

### The Dubliners On the Road Live in Germany

Fans of the seminal Irish folk group, The Dubliners, will be alternately charmed and mildly disappointed by this video documentray of the group's mid-1990s visit to Germany. Charmed, because the lineup includes the band's founder, Ronnie Drew, who left the band to launch a solo career soon after the this tour. And slightly disappointed, because while there is plenty of live performance footage, there are too many backstage moments (meeting fans, etc.) that pale in comparison. But that's a minor quibble. Drew in in fine form, and sings some of his most memorable numbers, such as "The Irish Rover" and "Dicey Reilly," while Sean Canon steps into the spotlight for "The Sick Note" and "Rocky Road to Dublin." The video also turned the lens on the group's musical backbone: Barney McKenna, John Sheehan and Eamonn Campbell. The highlight of the entire DVD is Drew's poignant and beautiful take on "Nora." **Kayos Productions, Inc. (212) 366-9970.**



# Play recalls miners' battles vs. Pinkertons

Director Candace O'Neil Cihocki's production of John Kearns's documentary-style play, "Sons of Molly Maguire," at the Eighth Annual Midtown Theatre Festival through Aug. 4, begins with a half-dozen grimy-faced, cap-wearing Pennsylvania coal miners miming the progress of an invisible coffin, carrying one of their own to his final resting place.

Kearns's earnest, well-researched sprawl of a drama is yet another literary inquiry into the truths and legends which still cling stubbornly to the story of the uprising which pitted a group of rebellious, mainly Irish-born anthracite miners and their families against the notorious Pinkertons, the private police force hired by the bosses to infiltrate and subdue their hard-pressed laborers.

On June 21, 1877, the area was the site of the largest mass hanging in American history, a dubious record which, alas, still holds, even after the passage of some 130 years.

In 1970, film director Martin Ritt made the admirable "The Molly Maguires," a venture which failed despite the presence in the cast of Sean Connery as a miner and Richard Harris as a Pinkerton man.

Ritt's neglected movie and Kearns's ambitious play bear so many potent and specific similarities, each to the other, that, logically enough, the dramatist must perforce have used the film in the course of his research.

Both works, to be sure, are concerned with the same events, so it isn't surprising that the Pinkerton man, James McGinty, played convincingly here by Brendan Ryan, strongly resembles Harris's movie role, while Michael Basile's Jack Kilbride calls to mind the miner played in the film by actor Connery.

Kearns sets his in play in Mahanoy City,



## On the Aisle

Joseph Hurley  
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### Sons of Molly Maguire

**Written by:** John Kearns  
**Directed by:** Candace O'Neil Cihocki  
**Starring:** Susan McBrien, Emily Moment, Gary Troy  
**Where:** Midtown International Theatre Festival  
312 West 36th St, NYC  
**When:** Aug. 4, 2007

Pennsylvania, "in the 1860s and 1870s," the period when the Molly Maguires were most visible. Immigration from Ireland was a relatively new feature on the American landscape, and these particular newcomers, to put it mildly, were neither welcomed nor understood.

The Irish migrated to the back-breaking labor of the Pennsylvania anthracite mines, because few other ethnicities were willing to undertake do that particular job.

Depending on your point of view, the Mollies were either leaders in the burgeoning American labor movement, or, as someone in Kearns play puts it, "those scoundrels in the coal fields."

The Molly Maguires were, as Kearns puts it, "a secret society which attempts to protect the rights of the miners through intimidation, violence, arson, and even murder."

There is still an air of mystery clinging to



the story of the "Mollies," and there probably always will be, to one extent or another. One reason for this is that the members of group left little if any actual documentation.

Few "Mollies" could read and write, so the journals, letters and diaries out of which so much history is compounded simply didn't exist.

Almost nothing remained when the men and women who had lived and suffered through those terrible times had died and, along with their stories, had begun to fade into history, where their lives, to this day, exist mainly as a sort of historical footnote.

Kearns's play is a slightly awkward, but generally effective, blending of pageant, mime, kitchen sink realism, and even flights of poetry.

The Pinkertons, a private army maintained by the mine owners and their hired thugs, were eventually disgraced, largely because of the violence of their behavior in Pennsylvania. They weren't, however, the only enemies the "Mollies" encountered.

They fared badly, as well, in the pages of the "yellow" press, whose diatribes and attacks most of the miners were unable to read.

The attitudes reflected in the articles and editorials of cheap, disreputable newspapers stemmed, of course, from the loathing with which so many newcomers from Ireland were greeted.

The members of the 13-actor cast assembled by director Cihocki for Kearns's play are, without exception, convincing, both in their work and in their approximation of Irish speech.

The more memorable contributions are made by Susan McBrien as Kilbride's staunch mother, and Emily Moment as his girlfriend, Alice Kerrigan. Dublin-born Gary Troy, excellent as a defiant miner, is, if the programme is to be believed, the only authentically Irish actor in the cast of "Sons of the Molly Maguires."

Just two of the play's Midtown Theatre Festival performances remain, one on Saturday, July 28, at 3:00, and the other a week later, on Saturday, August 4, at 3:15.



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