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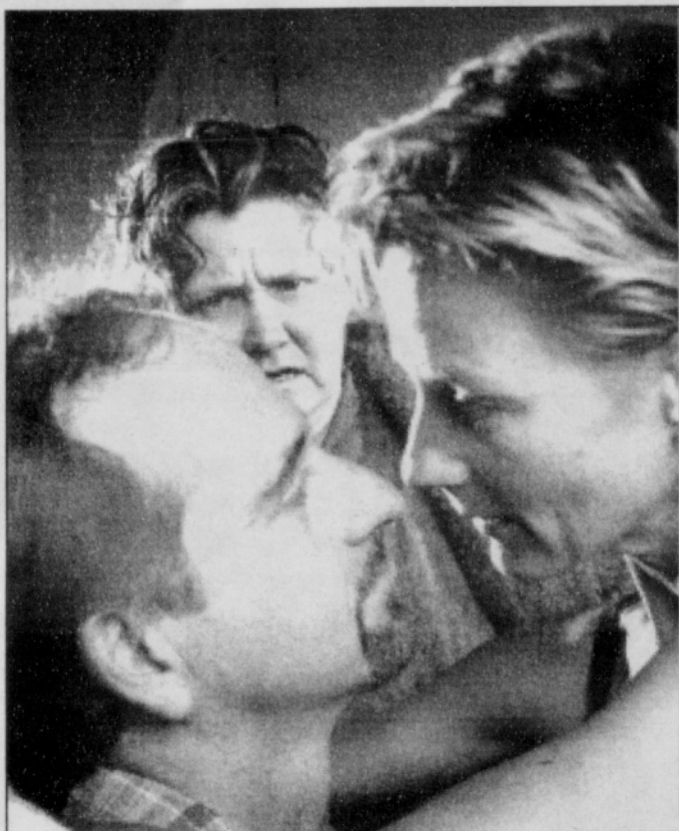
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1999 The Portland Observer

Theatre

Martin McDonagh's The Beauty Queen of Leenane



CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Broadway smash hit by one of Britain's hottest new writers will open the 2000-2001 season of Artists Repertory Theatre. Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, directed by Allen Nause, will preview Sunday, September 3 and run through Sunday, October 15, 2000.

Winner of four Tony Awards, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* also received the 1998 Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Awards for Best Broadway Play as well as the 1998 Lucille Lortel Award for Best New Play.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane unfolds in a bleak, rural cottage in

County Galway, northwestern Ireland. Old Mag Folan and her spinster daughter Maureen are locked in a battle of shrewd wits and iron wills, each spending her days harboring ancient grudges, plotting revenge and reveling in tiny victories. Maureen's last chance for romance lies in Pat O'Dooley, a good natured neighbor, but Mag is determined to thwart the relationship. "McDonagh takes the audience on a roller coaster ride of comic hilarity, cruelty, suspense and surprise," Nause says. "This is Irish storytelling at its best - with a fresh, modern twist."

Previews run at 7 pm. on Sunday, September 3 and Tuesday-Thursday, September 5-7. The play opens Friday, September 8 and runs at 7 pm. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 pm. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 pm. and Sundays through October 15, with added performances at 7 pm. the last two Tuesdays, October 3 and 10, and a final performance at 7 pm., October 15.

Preview tickets are \$13.50. Regular tickets are \$22 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. Seniors are \$17; students \$15. Tickets for Friday and Saturday are \$26 regular/senior; \$15 students.

For more ticket information, call 503/241-1ART.

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