

Brian Friel

**COLLECTED  
PLAYS**

Volume Four

*Edited by Peter Fallon*

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# THE LONDON VERTIGO

*Based on a play*

THE TRUE BORN IRISHMAN

*or*

THE IRISH FINE LADY

*by Charles Macklin*

## *Characters*

MURROUGH O'DOHERTY, self-assured Dublin burgher  
KATTY FARREL, family servant  
TOM HAMILTON, slow-thinking and pompous lawyer  
MRS DIGGERTY, O'Doherty's wife  
COUNT MUSHROOM, typical 18th-century fop, stage-English in accent and manner

## *Time and Place*

An afternoon and evening in September 1761. The drawing room in Murrough O'Doherty's Dublin home.

*The London Vertigo* was first produced by the Gate Theatre, Dublin, at Andrews Lane Theatre, on 23 January 1992, with the following cast:

MURROUGH O'DOHERTY	John Kavanagh
KATTY FARREL	Antoine Byrne
TOM HAMILTON	Eamon Morrissey
MRS DIGGERTY	Gemma Craven
COUNT MUSHROOM	John Hurt

<i>Directed by</i>	Judy Friel
<i>Designed by</i>	Monica Frawley
<i>Lighting by</i>	Rupert Murray
<i>Choreography by</i>	Gerri O'Kelly

**A MONTH  
IN THE  
COUNTRY**

*after Turgenev*

## *Preface*

Turgenev called *A Month in the Country* a comedy, just as Chekhov called *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Seagull* comedies. They were not formally categorizing these plays, I believe, but wished to indicate their own amused and ironic attitude to their characters and the situations those characters found themselves in. But I think that to call *A Month in the Country* a comedy today is restricting to the play: it imposes a reading on the text and suggests a response to it that could be inhibiting to actors and audience. *A Month in the Country* is certainly not a tragedy. Neither is it a comedy. Perhaps we should settle for 'a play in five scenes'.

I have attributed to the characters the ages given in T A Greenan's standard text. But I think that all of those parts could and perhaps should be played by slightly older actors. And I trust I will not offend the purists by tinkering with the Russian names and forms of address.

A literal translation of Turgenev's text was done for me by Christopher Heaney. From it I have composed this very free version. In places it may not be reverent to the original but nowhere, I hope, is it unfaithful to its spirit.

*Brian Friel*

## *Characters*

ARKADY SERGEYEVICH ISLAYEV (36), rich landlord  
NATALYA PETROVNA (29), his wife  
VERA ALEKSANDROVNA (17), Natalya's ward  
ANNA SEMYONOVNA ISLAYEVA (58), Arkady's widowed mother  
LIZAVETA BOGDANOVNA (37), Anna's companion  
HERR SCHAAF (45), German tutor  
MICHEL ALEKSANDROVICH RAKITIN (30), family friend  
ALEKSEY NIKOLAYEVICH BELYAYEV (21), student/tutor  
AFANASY IVANOVICH BOLSHINTSOV (57), neighbouring landowner  
IGNATY ILYICH SHPIGELSKY (40), local doctor  
MATVEY (43), servant  
KATYA (20), servant

## *Time and Place*

The action takes place on the Islayev estate at the beginning of the 1840s. A period of about a day passes between each scene.

## *Music*

John Field (1782-1837)

No. 5 Nocturne in B-flat major: *Andantino*

No. 9 Nocturne in E-flat major: *Andantino*

No. 18 Midi in E major: *Allegretto*

*A Month in the Country* was first produced at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, on 4 August 1992, with the following cast:

NATALYA	Catherine Byrne
ARKADY	Mark Lambert
VERA	Karen Ardiff
ANNA	Joan O'Hara
LIZAVETA	Susan Fitzgerald
SCHAAF	John Kavanagh
MICHEL	Lorcan Cranitch
ALEKSEY	J D Kelleher
BOLSHINTSOV	John Cowley
SHPIGELSKY	Donal McCann
MATVEY	Mal Whyte
KATYA	Antoine Byrne

<i>Directed by</i>	Joe Dowling
<i>Designed by</i>	Eileen Diss
<i>Costumes by</i>	Dani Everett
<i>Lighting by</i>	Mick Hughes
<i>Music played by</i>	John O'Connor
<i>Stage direction by</i>	Lita O'Connell
<i>Assistant stage managers</i>	Liz Nugent Arnold Fanning

**WONDERFUL  
TENNESSEE**

## *Characters*

Three married couples all in their late thirties/early forties:

TERRY

BERNA

GEORGE

TRISH

FRANK

ANGELA

Terry is Trish's brother. Angela and Berna are sisters.

## *Time and Place*

Time — the present. The action takes place on a remote pier in north-west Donegal.

## *Set*

A stone pier at the end of a headland on the remote coast of north-west Donegal. The stonework is grained with yellow and grey lichen. The pier was built in 1905 but has not been used since the hinterland became depopulated many decades ago.

The pier extends across the full width of the stage. It begins stage left (the mainland) and juts out into the sea so that it is surrounded by water on three sides — the auditorium, the area stage right, and the back wall. (Left and right from the point of view of the audience.)

From the floor of the pier stone steps lead down to the sea/auditorium. Steps also lead up to the catwalk, eighteen inches wide and about five feet above the floor of the pier. From the catwalk one can see over the back wall of the pier (about ten feet high) and right across the surrounding countryside and sea.

There are some weather-bleached furnishings lying around the pier floor: fragments of fishing nets, pieces of lobster pots, broken fish boxes. Some rusty bollards and rings. A drift of sand in the top right-hand corner. Stones once used as weights inside lobster pots. A listing and rotting wooden stand, cruciform in shape, on which hangs the remnant of a lifebelt.

People can enter and exit only stage left.

*Wonderful Tennessee* was first produced, by Noel Pearson, at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on 30 June 1993, with the following cast:

ANGELA  
TRISH  
BERNA  
TERRY  
FRANK  
GEORGE

Catherine Byrne  
Marion O'Dwyer  
Ingrid Craigie  
Donal McCann  
John Kavanagh  
Robert Black

*Directed by*  
*Stage Direction by*  
*Assistant Stage Direction by*  
*Set and Costume Design by*  
*Lighting Design by*  
*Sound by*

Patrick Mason  
Michael Higgins  
Catriona Behan  
Joe Vanek  
Mick Hughes  
David Nolan

**MOLLY  
SWEENEY**

## *Characters*

MOLLY SWEENEY  
FRANK SWEENEY  
MR RICE

*Molly Sweeney* was first produced at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, on 9 August 1994, with the following cast:

MOLLY	Catherine Byrne
FRANK	Mark Lambert
MR RICE	T P McKenna

*Directed by* Brian Friel

**GIVE ME YOUR  
ANSWER, DO!**

## *Characters*

*(in order of appearance)*

BRIDGET CONNOLLY

NURSE

TOM CONNOLLY }  
DAISY CONNOLLY } Bridget's parents

DAVID KNIGHT

JACK DONOVAN }  
MAGGIE DONOVAN } Daisy's parents

GARRET FITZMAURICE

GRÁINNE FITZMAURICE

## *Time and Place*

The present. The old manse, Ballybeg, County Donegal, Ireland.

*Give Me Your Answer, Do!* was first produced at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, in association with Noel Pearson, on 12 March 1997, with the following cast:

BRIDGET CONNOLLY	Pauline Hutton
NURSE	Kathleen Barrington
TOM CONNOLLY	Tom Hickey
DAISY CONNOLLY	Catherine Byrne
DAVID KNIGHT	Darragh Kelly
JACK DONOVAN	David Kelly
MAGGIE DONOVAN	Aideen O'Kelly
GARRET FITZMAURICE	Des McAleer
GRÁINNE FITZMAURICE	Frances Tomelty

<i>Directed by</i>	Brian Friel
<i>Stage Direction by</i>	Michael Higgins
<i>Set Design by</i>	Frank Flood
<i>Costumes by</i>	Joan O'Clery
<i>Lighting by</i>	Mick Hughes