

Padraic McIntyre

**THE NIGHT  
JOE DOLAN'S CAR  
BROKE DOWN**



Gallery Books

*The Night Joe Dolan's Car Broke Down*  
was first published  
simultaneously in paperback  
and in a clothbound edition  
on 1 February 2018.

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*The Night Joe Dolan's Car Broke Down* receives  
financial assistance from the Arts Council.

## *Characters*

STEVE, a one-man band  
PJ, in his forties, sensible  
ANGELA, his wife  
SEAN, a local, early twenties  
JOHN, a local, early twenties  
PAUL, a local, early twenties  
MARY, a local, early twenties  
JANE, an English girl, early twenties  
BARNEY, the publican, forties  
THE HORSE MUNLEY, a local cowboy, fifties  
JOE DOLAN, a famous singer  
TOM, his musician

## *Setting*

The play is set in The Glenaduff Inn, a rural pub in the townland of Glenaduff, in County Cavan. It is a small bar which has not been done up since the 1970s. There is a door to a tiny hallway which leads to the car park and the road and another one to the toilets. Behind the bar another leads to the living accommodation. The bar is in darkness except for candles and a few paraffin lamps. There is a blackout because of a bad storm over the past few days. It is St Stephen's Night. The bar is decorated with a few balloons and Happy Birthday streamers, nothing too elaborate. There is a surprise party for The Horse Munley.

*The Night Joe Dolan's Car Broke Down* was first staged at The Ramor Theatre, Virginia, County Cavan on 13 May, 2010 with the following cast:

STEVE	<i>Gerry Sheanon</i>
MARY	<i>Fiona McGarvey</i>
SEAN	<i>Fergal Donnelly</i>
JANE	<i>Trina McCann</i>
PAUL	<i>Eddie Brady</i>
JOHN	<i>Darragh Smith</i>
BARNEY	<i>Phil Gilbride</i>
PJ	<i>Liam Daly</i>
ANGELA	<i>Liz O'Hanlon</i>
THE HORSE	<i>Conor Sheridan</i>
JOE DOLAN	<i>John O'Grady</i>
TOM	<i>Cormac McCann</i>

<i>Director</i>	<i>Padraic McIntyre</i>
<i>Producer</i>	<i>Mary Hanley</i>
<i>Set Design</i>	<i>Mickey McGuirk and Fergal Donnelly</i>
<i>Stage Manager</i>	<i>Louise Arnold</i>
<i>Lighting &amp; Sound</i>	<i>Cormac Carroll</i>
<i>Costume Design</i>	<i>Helen Foy</i>
<i>Driver</i>	<i>Raymond Gilsenan</i>

The play returned to the Olympia Theatre on 5 February 2018 for a ninth run, with the following changes to cast and crew:

BARNEY	<i>Padraic McIntyre</i>
TOM	<i>Cyril Keegan</i>
<i>Stage Manager</i>	<i>Mickey McGuirk</i>
<i>Drivers</i>	<i>Raymond Gilsenan and Paddy Farrelly</i>

# ACT ONE

## Scene One

*for my father Pat  
(who told me a story)  
and in memory of  
my mother Anne*

STEVE, a one-man band is just finishing a song. His electric organ is powered by some made-up contraption connected to a car battery. The singer is not particularly good, in fact the opposite. The music is all electronic from the keyboard and it continues to play even if the player stops. There is not a big crowd in attendance. A couple, PJ and ANGELA, sit on their own. There are five young ones, JOHN, SEAN, PAUL and MARY, all locals, and JANE who is English. They are around a table getting 'well oiled' before going to the disco in town.

STEVE Will yas tell Barney I'm just going out to try and ring home and see is Imelda alright.

MARY Oh! Jaysus Steve, I forgot. When's she due?

STEVE Yesterday!

SEAN Oh be Jaysus! On red alert! Ha!

STEVE She wasn't too impressed with me coming down here at all. But sure, I said I had to, like, for The Horse.

SEAN Oh!

STEVE Tell him I'm gone out to find coverage.

PAUL I wish ya luck.

SEAN Ya may put on that coat. 'Tis rough!

STEVE Aye!

STEVE *exits.*

JANE He's an asshole!

SEAN Steve?

JANE No! PJ!

MARY Why does she bother?

JANE He's an asshole!

MARY I'd just stay at home.

SEAN Maybe they're happy?  
 MARY Happy?  
 JANE He's an asshole!  
 PAUL Who cares?  
 JOHN They're just quiet.  
 SEAN It's the quiet ones you have to watch.  
 JOHN Ha?  
 SEAN They could be riding like the clappers at home and they come down here for a rest. That's why they never speak to other. They could be like two nymphos at home.  
 JANE She's lovely. I was talking to her in the jacks one night and she asked me for a drag of my fag. She said PJ didn't like her smoking.  
 MARY Yeah?  
 JANE I'd say he doesn't like her drinking either. That's why she's sitting there with her glass of orange.  
 SEAN Oh! The orange is the boy!

*They laugh.*

JANE I'd say she'd be great craic if ya got her going. That's one of my missions tonight.  
 MARY We're as sad as her.  
 JANE What?  
 MARY In this shithole on a St Stephen's Night. We should be in town where the craic is.  
 JOHN Yeah! When are we heading for town?  
 JANE We decided we'd surprise Horse with a little party and then head for town.  
 MARY You decided.  
 SEAN Yeah! You decided, Jane. Do ya fancy him or something? Are you in love with him?  
 JANE What?  
 SEAN Always up talking to him . . . Staying on for a late pint with him . . . Are yas at it on the sly . . . ? Watch yourself or there could be a wee foal . . .  
 JANE You're a fucking child, Sean . . . Sure he's old enough to be my father . . . I just like him . . . I feel sorry for him

. . . He's sixty today, for God's sake, and has nobody . . . no family to organize . . .

SEAN Keep your hair on. I'm only rising ya!  
 JOHN When are ya heading for town?  
 SEAN Some surprise if he doesn't show up, but. Where is he?  
 JANE I don't know! (*Shouts*) Barney!  
 SEAN Barney! Barney! Barney!

*BARNEY the barman comes behind the bar from the kitchen.*

BARNEY Aye!  
 JANE Where is he?  
 BARNEY Who?  
 JANE The Horse!  
 BARNEY I don't know.  
 JANE What did he say?  
 BARNEY He said he'd be back.  
 SEAN What time?  
 BARNEY He didn't give a time.  
 SEAN And what time did he lave at?  
 BARNEY I don't know — about eight or half-eight.  
 MARY He'll not be back at all.  
 JOHN He's in bed.  
 BARNEY He'll be back. (*Looking at the empty stage*) Where's Hank Williams?  
 SEAN Gone to ring Imelda.  
 BARNEY Oh! Is he now!  
 SEAN Barney!  
 BARNEY What?  
 MARY Was he full?  
 BARNEY No more than usual.  
 SEAN What time was he in at?  
 BARNEY Lord Lantern Jaysus!  
 SEAN What?  
 BARNEY Yis would drive a body mad.  
 SEAN What?  
 BARNEY All the questions . . . Alright! OK! The man in question, namely 'The Horse Munley' arrived on these premises,

namely 'The Glenaduff Inn', at approximately half-past-two, shortly after I opened . . . He proceeded to drink a feed of bottles because there was no pints, what with the electricity and that . . . When he had his quota he headed off for his abode, at the back of the hill there, sometime after eight . . .

SEAN Emmm . . .

BARNEY Hi! Hi! . . . I asked him would he be back . . . and his reply was, and I quote, 'I'm hardly going to sit at home on my own in the dark' . . . Now that's all I know . . .

JANE Did he mention it was his birthday?

BARNEY No! Never let on.

JANE So he doesn't have a clue about the party?

BARNEY No, he dosen't have a clue about the party!

SEAN You better be fucking right, Jane!

JANE About what?

SEAN That it is his birthday.

JANE I am right . . . A hundred per cent.

PAUL A hundred per cent.

JANE All right! Two hundred per cent.

JOHN Did he tell ya?

JANE No!

MARY Well, how do ya know?

JANE I just do! The 26th December, St Stephen's Day. 1947. He's sixty today. Right!

JOHN So we're not going to town.

ALL No!

JOHN Jesus Christ! Give us another round here, Barney. Five Bud.

BARNEY Aye!

SEAN I don't want another bottle of Bud!

JOHN Ha!

SEAN It's piss! Ya could be drinking it for a week and it's soberer ye'd be getting. Still no draught, Barney?

BARNEY Na!

SEAN This is a bloody joke.

BARNEY Sure I tould ya, the coolers and all is off, what with the electricity.

SEAN Ah! For Jaysus sake!

BARNEY Ya needn't be taking it out on me. Sure there's a storm outside, lads.

JOHN What are ya havin' then?

SEAN Vodka and coke . . .

MARY So will I . . .

JANE Me too . . .

JOHN Ah! Jaysus . . .

SEAN What?

JOHN Nothing . . .

PAUL Oh! He got stung . . .

SEAN Mean as fuck!

PAUL Ho! Ho!

JOHN I'll get them.

PAUL Ho! Ho!

JOHN Shut up! I said, I'll get them. Barney!

ALL Whooah!

BARNEY Aye!

JOHN Five vodkas and cokes!

ALL Whooah!

BARNEY Now, lads, we've been here before.

SEAN What?

BARNEY The messing with the shorts . . .

PAUL How do you mean?

BARNEY Gulping them down . . .

SEAN Ha!

BARNEY And yous not able . . .

PAUL When?

BARNEY And roaring and bawling . . .

SEAN Ha!

BARNEY And falling around the place . . .

*The girls laugh.*

And as for you pair of dolls . . .

GIRLS What?

BARNEY The state yas left them toilets in!

BOYS Whooah!

GIRLS It wasn't us.

BARNEY Yous were the only girls in here that night!