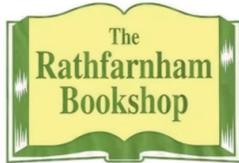


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Anne O'Connell - Director's Note

I've wanted to direct Marina Carr's tragic play, Portia Coughlan, for a very long time – and now I am finally doing it.

To me, it is one of Marina Carr's best plays. Written in the 1990's it is a beautiful, bleak Irish drama rich in secrets and loss. We meet Portia on her 30th birthday mourning the loss of her identical twin brother, who died 15 years before. Her twin, Gabriel, drowned in the Belmont River, where half of Portia's mind and soul continue to dwell!

This is a tragedy, wrought from bitterness, that has been left to fester. Violence and loss are deeply embedded and seep into every interaction in the Coughlan family.

It is a wonderful piece of theatre which I hope you will find engaging and thought provoking.

Anne O'Connell

With thanks to

Sinead Gannon for Graphic Design work
St. Mary's BNS for rehearsal facilities
dlr Mill Theatre & Staff

With special thanks to

the Abbey Theatre for generously
lending us the 'White Horse'

Rathfarnham Theatre Group
presents



PORTIA COUGHLAN

by Marina Carr
directed by Anne O'Connell

Tue 18 to Sat 22 Nov 2025
dlr Mill Theatre Dundrum

Portia Coughlan was commissioned by the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin. It was first produced in the Peacock Theatre, Dublin, on 27 March 1996.

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The Agency, 24 Pottery Lane,
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Portia Coughlan



Deirdre Dunlevy

Deirdre has acted with RTG for a number of years. She has performed in, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Approach* and *Aristocrats*. She is looking forward to taking on the challenging role of Portia.

Stacia Doyle



Deirdre Shanahan

Deirdre began her acting career with RTG in 2019 in *The Dead* in the Pearse Museum. She went on to play in *The Approach*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Harvey*, *Waiting for Elvis* and *Pygmalion*. She is now playing Portia's closest friend.

Gabriel Scully



Emer Keogh

Emer joined RTG in 2023 with extensive experience at Feiseanna and completed the Royal Academy exams. Emer played in *Harvey* and in *The Shadow of a Gunman*. She now plays the ghostly apparition of Portia's deceased brother, Gabriel.

Raphael Coughlan



Kevin Bermingham

Kevin began acting with RTG in 2013 and has performed in *Last Tango in Rathfarnham*, *Big Maggie*, *Joining the Club*, *The Dead*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Pygmalion* and *The Shadow of a Gunman*. He is now playing Raphael, the quiet, hardworking husband of Portia.

Fintan Goolan



Philip Dobson

Philip recently became an RTG member. He is a graduate of Bow Street and has been in a range of commercials and Short and Feature films including *Lakelands* (winner Best Feature, Galway Film Fleadh). He is playing Fintan, the barman in Portia's local pub.

Director



Anne O'Connell

Anne, a very active member of RTG, has had many acting and directorial roles. She has acted in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Death of a Salesman* and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and directed *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Harvey* and *Pygmalion*. Portia Coughlan is a particular favourite of hers, so she is excited to bring this play from page to stage!

Senchil Doorley



Mark Shinnick

Mark has been a long-standing member of RTG. He has performed in *Happy Birthday Dear Alice*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Weir* and *The Shadow of a Gunman*. He is playing the caring and good natured Senchil, uncle in law to Portia.

Marianne Scully



Helen O'Brien

Helen has played many roles for RTG. She was Juno in *Juno and the Paycock*, *Greta* in *The Dead*, Mrs Erlynne in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, and Lisa Marie in *Waiting for Elvis*. This year, she took part in the 24 Hour Plays in the Abbey. She is now Portia's mother, Marianne.

There is an interval between Act 2 and Act 3

Crew

Director
Producer
Stage Manager/Props
Costumes
Lighting and Sound

Set Construction
Set Design
PRO
Backstage
Front of House

Anne O'Connell
Carl Lusby
Deirdre Nally
Phil Fitzpatrick
Barry Donaldson
Michelle Barry
Tom Ronayne
Anne O'Connell
Laura Cahill
RTG Crew
RTG Crew

Maggie May Doorley



Ann-Marie O'Byrne

Ann-Marie joined RTG in 2023. She made her debut in *How He Lied to Her Husband*, which was performed in The Pearse Museum. She went on to play Clara in RTG's Mill production of *Pygmalion*. She is now playing Portia's flamboyant aunt, Maggie May.

Blaize Scully



Aoife O'Beirne

Aoife has been involved in theatre and drama for many years. After joining RTG in 2023 she directed *Salad Days* by Deirdre Kinahan. Her first acting role was in *The Shadow of a Gunman*. She is now playing the foul-mouthed grandmother of Portia.

Damus Halion



Sean Darker

Sean joined RTG in 2024 having been active in theatre for some years. He has recently been seen in *Harry Wild* on RTE. Having acted in RTGs *The Shadow of a Gunman*, he is now Damus, the sometime lover of Portia.

Sly Scully



Columb Casey

Columb, a member of RTG for 30 years has appeared in many RTG productions, including, *Big Maggie*, *The Night Alive*, *The Salvage Shop*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Harvey* and *Aristocrats*. He is now playing Sly, son of Blaize and father of Portia.

Content Note: This play contains themes which some audience members may find distressing.

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