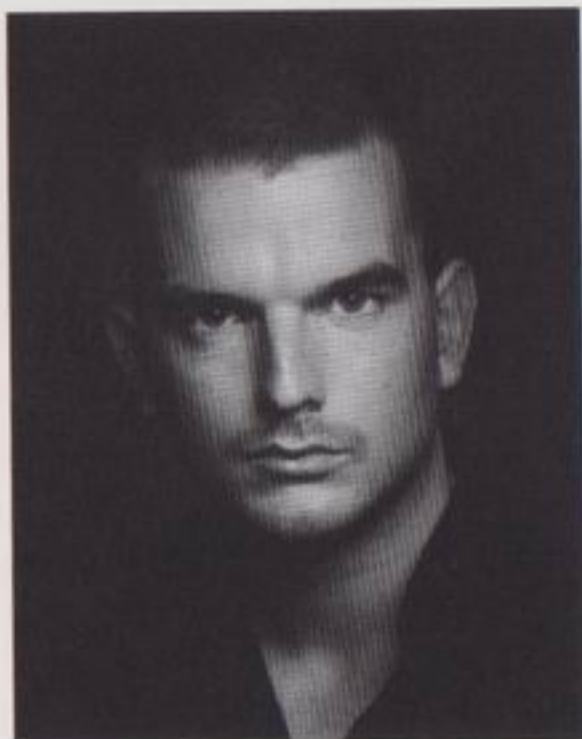


A CREATIVE CRADLING

Limerick actor Kevin Kiely brings a new production of Brian Keenan's story to the Belltable | LEG talks to Kevin about his theatre company's first production in his native city



Direct from The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Isleboro Theatre Company present their production of **Frank McGuinness' Someone Who'll Watch Over Me** at the Belltable Theatre in August. Isleboro Theatre Company is an independent theatre group formed by final year students of Guildford School of Acting. Speaking to founder and actor Limerick man Kevin Kiely in the Belltable Café his enthusiasm for the company and their first production is palpable.

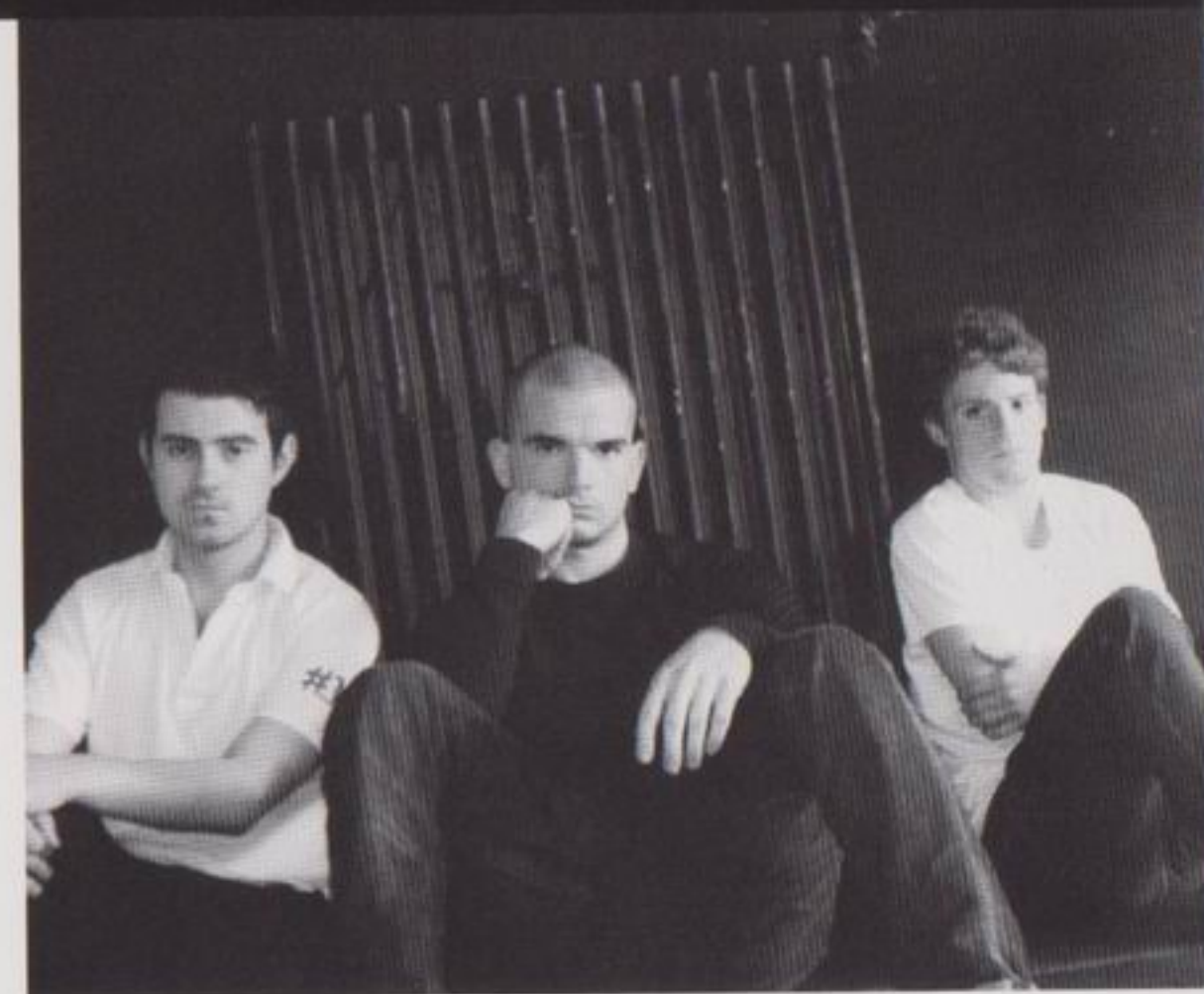
"I have the summer off before heading into my final year in the Guilford School of Acting so I got together with a couple of my classmates and we decided to put on our own play and that's really how the Isleboro Theatre Company came about. It is a lot of work but the material is so amazing that it has come together really well. With only three weeks to go until we perform at the Belltable we are really looking forward to it. I was very keen to perform our first production in Limerick so after we show at the Edinburgh Unfringed we will be straight here."

Based on the awe inspiring story of Brian Keenan's four-year incarceration in the late 1980's, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* will make you choke and cry and laugh.

Artistic Director of the Isleboro Theatre Company and Limerick native Kevin Kiely say **"It gives me enormous pleasure to be performing once again in my native Limerick, with such a talented company of actors in a daunting, yet extremely rewarding production."**

Brian Keenan's story is a haunting but ultimately inspiring one. When talking to Kevin about his choice of material it is obvious that he was very moved by Brian Keenan's life, his own retelling of it in the novel **'An Evil Cradling'** and Frank McGuinness rendering of that novel into a play. Kevin says that even though it is a difficult and horrifying experience relived in the play there are great moments of humour and the tale is ultimately one of redemption. What is most evident in both the play and the novel is Keenan's humanity and his ability to maintain his own personality and sanity in an ordeal that would have broken many others.

I ask Kevin how the process of directing and acting in this three-man play works for the team of Isleboro Theatre Company. **"I am directing this piece as well as acting in it, when it's a small production like this one it is easy to direct and act and as a director I like to work out the text and the play with the other actors. Everybody will**



have their own opinions on how a phrase should be said and I think those differences are really interesting. Someone's way of seeing a certain piece of dialogue will be different to yours and working it out strengthens the piece."

Kevin's studies at the Guilford School of Acting came about after he took a summer course there which he enjoyed so much he went back for more. Originally drawn to the school for voice training he will complete his course next year and is wholly positive about the experience. Elements of the course, namely ballet and jazz dancing studies, have sometimes proved difficult but Kiely is looking forward to forging a career on stage and television.

"I am not someone who is dying to be famous. I just want to work. If I can support myself as an actor and get good roles on stage and move into television and maybe movies I would be happy."

Before he takes to the screen, Limerick theatre lovers get the chance to see Kevin and the Isleboro Theatre Company on stage.

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me runs from Monday August 18th to Friday August 22nd at the Belltable Theatre. For info and booking log onto belltable.ie or call the box office on 061 319 866