

K THEATRE **L N**

KILN THEATRE PRESENTS
THE LANDMARK PRODUCTIONS AND GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL PRODUCTION OF

REUNION

A GATHERING TO REMEMBER

Written and Directed by **Mark O'Rowe**

VISUAL STORYBOARD



CAST AND CHARACTERS



Aislín McGuckin

plays **Elaine**

Mother of Janice, Maurice
and Marilyn.



Catherine Walker

plays **Gina**

Elaine's sister



Venetia Bowe

plays **Janice**

Married to Stuart



Stephen Hagan

plays **Stuart**

Married to Janice

K^{THEATRE} L^N CAST AND CHARACTERS



Kate Gilmore

plays **Marilyn**

Ciaran's girlfriend and
Aeonghus' ex-girlfriend



Leonard Buckley

plays **Ciaran**

Marilyn's boyfriend



Ian-Lloyd Anderson

plays **Aonghus**

Marilyn's ex-boyfriend

K^{THEATRE} L^N CAST AND CHARACTERS



Peter Corboy

plays **Maurice**
Holly's boyfriend



Simone Collins

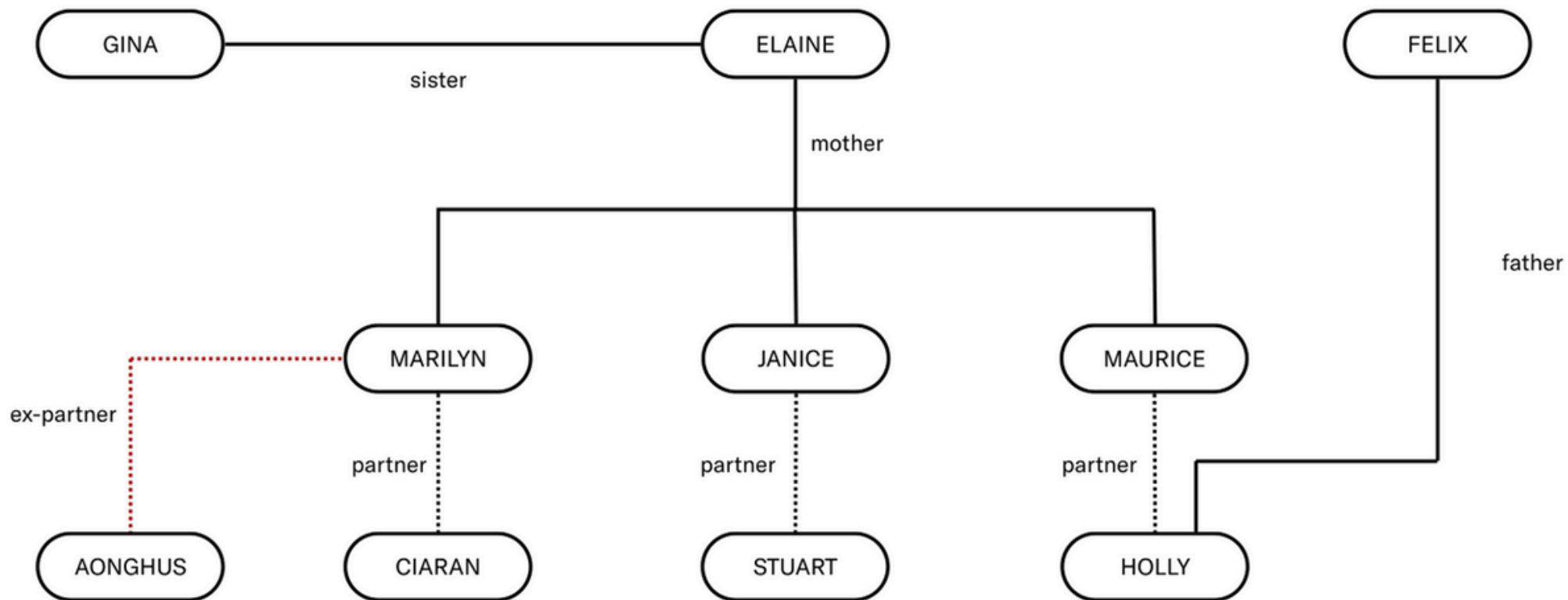
plays **Holly**
Maurice's girlfriend and
Felix's daughter

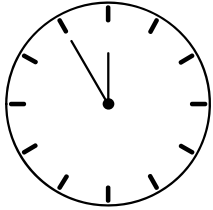


Stephen Brennan

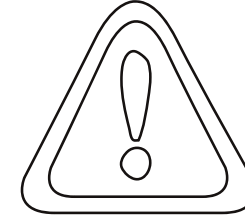
plays **Felix**
Holly's father

FAMILY TREE





SHOW NOTES



Running Time

The show is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes, with no interval

Please note this production includes haze, and loud noises.

Age Guidance: 12+

Content Advice

- Language: Strong Language
- Nudity: None
- Violence: Mild
- Themes: References to eating disorders, suicide, grief, sexual relationships.

For further content advice visit
KilnTheatre.com/content-advice

THE STORY

The show takes place over two days in the kitchen/living room of a holiday house on an island off the coast of Ireland. **A family meet up following the death of their father.**

A family reunion

Elaine and Marilyn discuss the harsh weather and how choppy the sea looks. Felix comes in briefly and heads back out with a beer. Elaine and Marilyn are concerned Felix doesn't quite fit in but Holly comes in and reassures them that her dad is fine.

Elaine explains to Holly that Janice and Stuart couldn't make it as no one could babysit their children.

Maurice and Ciaran return from the shops. Marilyn and Maurice explain to Holly and Ciaran what it was like growing up in the area. They start to make plans for the weekend, and Elaine reminds Marilyn to throw her banana peel in the bucket for the birds. Elaine explains this is a tradition from her late husband, who would feed the birds the contents of the bucket.



Production Photography by Marc Senior

New arrivals

Suddenly Janice, Stuart, and Gina arrive which surprises everyone. They discuss their rough journey on the ferry and reveal they were always planning on coming and wanted it to be a surprise. Gina introduces herself to Holly, Felix, and Ciaran as they are meeting for the first time.

Janice is not happy that Maurice and Holly have the room she used to have. Holly offers to swap but Maurice doesn't want to.

They eventually swap. Elaine worries she offended Felix earlier; Holly reassures her she hasn't. Gina jokes about noting down that Felix is single.



Dinner preparation

Stuart, Ciaran and Maurice head to the pub; Felix declines and stays by himself outside. The women stay back and chat inside. It's revealed that Gina was left by her partner of 13 years, Dave, a few weeks ago. She initially acts like she's fine and then bursts into tears.

Janice asks when Holly can move her things out of her room. Gina then asks where she will be staying, and Elaine apologetically explains she's in the tiny room downstairs as she didn't know she was coming. As Janice and Holly head out to move Holly's things, Marilyn complains to her mum about Janice saying the room is hers, whilst Elaine and Gina both say to each other how glad they are to see one another.



Dinner is served

A few hours later, dinner has been cooked. Elaine, Gina, Janice, Marilyn, and Holly are sat at the table talking about Elaine and Gina's relationships when they were younger. Maurice, Stuart, and Ciaran return from the pub and dinner is served. Elaine has made different plates of food depending on what people like and don't like.

Just as they're about to eat, Marilyn proposes a toast to Ciaran's mum. Ciaran reluctantly explains that she has cancer and has been given a couple of months left to live. Marilyn says how great he's been at supporting his mum, Ciaran feels a bit uncomfortable at her compliments. Everyone raises a glass to Ciaran's mum.



News about a pregnancy and Aonghus

As Janice talks about an upcoming wedding in Malta, Stuart gets a phone call and leaves the room to answer. He comes back in and explains it was his parents on the phone; they sometimes struggle looking after the kids. This starts a conversation around the table about when the other couples are having kids. Janice says she can't imagine Marilyn as a mother and Holly reluctantly confirms that she is pregnant. Janice found out a week ago as Holly wanted to speak to someone her age about her experience.

Talking about babies leads the men to remember that they met Aonghus in the pub. He is Marilyn's ex boyfriend and now has a baby. The women press for more information but the men have none. The group briefly discuss when he dated Marilyn. Janice calls him weird, and Holly agrees he sounds 'creepy'.



Aonghus visits the house

There's a knock and Aonghus is at the door. He apologises for interrupting dinner and Elaine insists he comes in and has some food. She asks about his family, and he explains he met his wife Birgit in a bar in Dusseldorf. Elaine brings up his poetry and he hands out a few copies of his book for people to read. As the conversation moves on, Aonghus asks if they're all there for Sean and whether they'll be raising a toast to him. He says goodbye and explains his family are currently staying at his mum's.



Marilyn suddenly questions why Aonghus didn't look at her once when he was there. Elaine starts to wonder whether she should have invited him and his family over. Maurice and Janice disagree and say they were never very close to him. Marilyn gets annoyed and disagrees, angry that her family are acting like he wasn't an important part of their lives. She says to her family if they think he was a freak it would make her a freak too. She also tells Holly she was offended she called him creepy, and Holly apologises.

Gina's conversations with Elaine, Stuart, and Felix

It's very late. Elaine is telling Gina that Janice and Stuart have never asked her to babysit their children. She would like to, but is worried they have a reason to not ask her. Elaine then encourages Gina to move back to Dublin now that she is single so they could be in each other's lives more again.

Stuart joins them as he can't sleep and mentions that the family never celebrated Sean. Elaine said there was never a right time and goes to bed. Gina wonders how she didn't see the end of her relationship coming, Stuart explains that men don't think deeply about big existential questions and talks about how having kids was a big adjustment for him and Janice. Gina says she feels awkward discussing their sex lives. Stuart worries what he says has been taken the wrong way, but Gina reassures him it's okay and he goes to bed.



Shortly after, Felix comes back in the house. He and Gina discuss their previous relationships. Felix reveals his wife left him after 22 years for another man, and that he hasn't been in a relationship since then because the opportunity hasn't presented itself and when Gina suggests he goes to her room, says he wouldn't feel comfortable doing that if he hadn't gotten to know the other person. Gina gets upset and Felix hugs her, in the process gets an erection. They both head down to Gina's room.



Holly and Maurice's argument

Holly and Maurice come downstairs in the middle of an argument. Holly says that Maurice undermined her in front of his family when he questioned why she would call Aonghus creepy. The argument snowballs and Maurice says he's tired of the relationship and of having to be careful around Holly likes her dad does.

Holly says Maurice's family should worry about how he treats her and calls him a domestic abuser as he has been violent towards her in the past. He implies that if she wasn't pregnant, he would leave her. He adds that he is scared of how Holly would raise the baby herself, and will stay with her as he has an obligation to the baby.

Holly brings up getting an abortion, Maurice stays silent then says it's her decision. The argument ends and Holly goes up to bed, Maurice starts crying.



Aonghus returns and a big argument begins

Maurice hears a knock at the front door. Confused because it's very late, he answers it to find Aonghus, insistent that he needs to speak to Marilyn. Maurice reluctantly gets Marilyn and goes outside to give them space. Aonghus admits that he is still in love with Marilyn. He doesn't care about her relationship with Ciaran and he made up his wife and baby because he was embarrassed that he hadn't moved on.

Aonghus keeps trying to convince Marilyn of how good their relationship was and even tries to read a poem he wrote about Marilyn; she asks him to leave. He wants her to think properly about whether her current relationship compares to what they had. He adds that if she doesn't want to get back with him, he may not want to live anymore. He thinks this is a romantic gesture; Marilyn says it's manipulative.



Suddenly Ciaran comes downstairs, swearing at Aonghus. He's been listening to the conversation and won't let Aonghus steal Marilyn. Ciaran and Aonghus argue loudly, waking up the rest of the family who then come downstairs one by one as shouting continues. They all tell Aonghus to leave. He argues, tries to punch Ciaran then begins to struggle with Stuart, eventually hitting him in the face. Maurice manages to get him out of the house. Once he's outside and the door is closed, Aonghus continues to swear and shout.

Marilyn and Janice have an argument

Everyone inside checks in on one another and Marilyn tells them what he said, and that he made up his family. Elaine and Gina try to calm tensions, but Janice and Marilyn start arguing about their past partners and insulting each other. Amidst the argument Maurice checks to see if Aonghus has gone. He hasn't, and bursts through the door as soon as it is opened. Crying, he says to Marilyn that he can't live without her, and that she's killed him, before leaving.



There is a brief discussion about whether Aonghus is serious about killing himself before the argument resumes between Marilyn and Janice. It culminates with Marilyn accusing Stuart of making sexual advances to her at a wedding. Stuart insults Marilyn, Ciaran threatens Stuart, everyone is shouting. Janice says her and Stuart will leave and won't stay whilst Marilyn is here. They both head upstairs.

Elaine doesn't believe Marilyn's accusation and calls her selfish and destructive. Elaine and Marilyn are gearing up to have an argument when Ciaran's phone rings. Someone is calling about his mum and he frantically asks if she's okay, implying he is receiving news of her death.

The next morning

Felix hums happily as he eats, Elaine tidies, and Maurice heads to the shops. Janice confirms that she is leaving and never wants to see Marilyn again. Stuart says his mum is having trouble with the kids and that he has to go back, Janice isn't sure whether she wants to go back with him. Stuart apologises to Elaine for insulting Marilyn the night before.



Gina comes in and notices Elaine getting upset. Elaine is sad that the family never came together to honour Sean. Gina says they can do it later, even without Marilyn, but Elaine explains that Janice and Stuart might have to leave too. Marilyn and Ciaran come down, very clearly avoiding Janice and Stuart. Marilyn encourages Ciaran to read his mum's eulogy, which he wrote last night.



Ciaran is interrupted by Janice coming down. She and Marilyn realise they're planning to leave on the same ferry and argue. Maurice comes back with the shopping.

Holly comes down and offers her condolences to Ciaran about his mum. Janice comes down again and asks for the paracetamol, making a point to stay on the stairs and have the tablets thrown to her so that she isn't in the same room as Marilyn. Her and Marilyn once more have an argument about what Marilyn said Stuart did. Felix tells Elaine someone is outside for her; she goes to check who it is.

News about Aonghus

Ciaran starts to read his eulogy but is interrupted multiple times: by Gina answering a phone call, by Janice getting water, then by Elaine coming in. She just spoke to Aonghus's mother who is worried because he didn't return home last night. Elaine asks everyone to join the search party, but Marilyn says he's doing it for attention.

Her and Janice say they must go soon, and Maurice adds that him and Holly also have to leave although they refuse to say why. Felix offers to stay and look for Aonghus, but Holly insists he should leave too.

Gina enters exclaiming that Dave, her ex, wants her back and that she is leaving to meet him. As everyone starts packing, Maurice stays behind and agrees to leave later to help Elaine look for Aonghus. Holly then decides her and her dad will also stay to help. Holly and Maurice head out to look for him, while Felix stays behind and flips through Aonghus's poetry book.



People begin to head home

Before Janice and Stuart head off, they ask Elaine if she would ever be interested in babysitting their kids. Elaine says she'd love to, and they agree she will babysit in a few weeks. They leave her on a good note.

Gina then says goodbye to Elaine and briefly to Felix. She plans to catch up with Elaine later about how things go with Dave. When she leaves, Felix chuckles to himself as he reads Aonghus's poems.

When Marilyn and Ciaran come downstairs, Elaine stays silent then says she doesn't want to see them back in Dublin. Marilyn explains she's kept the secret about Stuart for two years, fearing what it would happen if she told people about it, adding that she wouldn't just make that up. They argue and Elaine explodes with anger, saying Marilyn is trying to make everyone miserable. They both swear violently at each other, screaming as Marilyn and Ciaran leave. Elaine starts to cry and goes upstairs.



Aonghus returns and Elaine honours Sean

Aonghus comes in and asks where everyone is. Felix answers that some have left and others are out looking for him. Elaine comes down, she is shocked that Aonghus is there while Aonghus can't believe that Marilyn has left.

Elaine explains that Ciaran's mother passed away last night and that everyone else also had to leave, but that Maurice and Holly were out looking for him. Aonghus was hoping Marilyn would realise how much she missed him once she thought he was in danger. Elaine tells him to move on and to call his mother to reassure her that he's okay.

Felix finds Elaine's trainers, but she no longer needs to go out and look for Aonghus. Instead she takes out the scrap vegetables to feed the birds as her late husband Sean used to do. Felix and Aonghus remain, they briefly discuss Aonghus's poetry book. After a moment, Aonghus points out the sounds of the birds which continue to get louder.



SONIC STORY

The Sonic Story provides information about what to expect from the music and sounds in the play. It shows the volume changes throughout the performance and can highlight loud and quiet moments and when the sound changes suddenly. Sometimes these spikes reflect a sound that isn't very loud but which the microphone picked up as strong.

