

Chapter 1 : Seán O'Casey (Author of Three Plays)

O'Casey's first accepted play, The Shadow of a Gunman, was performed at the Abbey Theatre in This was the beginning of a relationship that was to be fruitful for both theatre and dramatist but which ended in some bitterness.

He suffered all his life from painful, ulcerated eyeballs and could not read or write until he was 13, having been forced to begin lessons by an interested Irish clergyman. His later experiences among the laboring class in Dublin, where he worked first as an ironmonger, then as a day laborer despite his frail health, gave him a lifelong interest in the problems of the Irish working people. He was a Marxist and took an active part in proletarian reform movements, such as the transport workers strike of 1907, in which he worked with the labor leader Jim Larkin. Arrested as a political prisoner during the Easter Rebellion, he narrowly escaped execution. However, his later socialist and pacifist convictions, his disenchantment with the results of Irish independence, and his professional disappointment concerning the poor reception of his plays led him to leave Ireland in 1906. His first three attempts at drama were rejected by the Abbey Theatre, but his fourth, *The Shadow of a Gunman*, was an immediate success. His later plays, *Cathleen Listens In* and the tragicomic masterpiece *Juno and the Paycock*, saved the Abbey from near bankruptcy and placed it on a secure financial footing. *Juno and the Paycock* concerns the disintegration of the Boyle family in Dublin in 1904. The main characters are Juno, the long-suffering wife of an unemployed loafer, Jack Boyle the "peacock"; their daughter, who is engaged to an Anglo-Irish fortune hunter; and their only son, crippled in the Irish Revolution and suspected of treachery. The action concerns the events of Easter Week and their repercussions on Dublin tenement dwellers, who represent a cross section of political and religious opinion. The chief characters are revealed as a combination of honesty, showy patriotism, shallow opportunism, diehard imperialism, and dedicated communism. Later Plays *The Silver Tassie*, rejected by Yeats and Lady Augusta Gregory as unworthy and produced in London, marked a distinct change from the earlier earthy plays with their realistic humor and tragedy. This play progressed from naturalistic farce in the first act to pure expressionism in the second; the remaining two acts combined farce and grim tragedy in the symbolist mode. The designed formlessness of his last plays may be seen as a carrying out of his earlier dictum concerning drama, that a play should be "not the commonplace portrayal of the trivial events in the life of this man or that woman, but a commentary on life itself. His attitude toward Ireland seemed to have softened somewhat before his death in England on Sept. 26, 1964. Recommended for general background are Ernest A. A History, ; Estella R. Taylor, *The Modern Irish Writers*: Gill and Macmillan, *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. Copyright The Gale Group, Inc.

Chapter 2 : Sean O'Casey - British and Irish Literature - Oxford Bibliographies

*Selected plays of Sean O'Casey [Sean O'Casey] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Play collection includes The Shadow Of A Gunman, The Plough and The Stars, Within The Gates, Red Roses For Me.*

His parents were Protestants and he was a member of the Church of Ireland, baptised on 28 July in St. He left school at fourteen and worked at a variety of jobs, including a nine-year period as a railwayman on the GNR. He also learned to play the Uilleann pipes and was a founder and secretary of the St. He joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood, [5] and became involved in the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, which had been established by Jim Larkin to represent the interests of the unskilled labourers who inhabited the Dublin tenements. He participated in the Dublin Lockout but was blacklisted and could not find steady work for some time. After Easter Rising[edit] In , his friend Thomas Ashe died in a hunger strike and it inspired him to write. He wrote two laments: He spent the next five years writing plays. The club declined to put the play on out of fear that its satirical treatment of several parishioners would cause resentment. Abbey Theatre[edit] No. This was the beginning of a relationship that was to be fruitful for both theatre and dramatist but which ended in some bitterness. The former deals with the effect of the Irish Civil War on the working class poor of the city, while the latter is set in Dublin in around the Easter Rising. Both plays deal realistically with the rhetoric and dangers of Irish patriotism, with tenement life, self-deception, and survival; they are tragi-comedies in which violent death throws into relief the blustering masculine bravado of characters such as Jack Boyle and Joxer Daly in *Juno and the Paycock* and the heroic resilience of Juno herself or of Bessie Burgess in *The Plough and the Stars*. *The Plough and the Stars* was not well received by the Abbey audience and resulted in scenes reminiscent of the riots that greeted J. There was a riot reported on the fourth night of the show. His depiction of sex and religion even offended some of the actors, who refused to speak their lines. The full-scale riot occurred partly because the play was thought to be an attack on the men in the rising and partly in protest in opposition to the animated appearance of a prostitute in Act 2. Yeats got onto the stage and roared at the audience: Higgins launched an attack against it in the press. The couple were married in and remained in London until , [13] when they moved to Totnes. It was an attack on imperialist wars and the suffering they cause. The Abbey refused to perform it. The premier production was funded by Charles B. Cochran, who took only eighteen months to put it on stage. It was put up at the Apollo Theatre but lasted for only twenty-six performances. George Bernard Shaw and Lady Gregory had a favourable opinion of the show. The play was originally going to be a film script for Alfred Hitchcock. Hitchcock and he talked excitedly. They parted on the same terms, with the prospect of another immediate meeting, and Sean never heard again. It was directed by actor Melvyn Douglas and starred Lillian Gish. The union takes over the unnamed country despite the ruthless efforts of the Saffron Shirts, a fascist organisation openly supported by the Roman Catholic hierarchy of the country. *Purple Dust* follows two wealthy, materialistic English stockbrokers who buy an ancient Irish mansion and attempt to restore it with their wrong notions of Tudor customs and taste. They try to impose upon a community with vastly different customs and lifestyles that are much closer to ancient Gaelic ways and are against such false values. Upper Dorset Street, Dublin. The Englishmen set their opposing standards against those represented by the men employed to renovate the house. In the resulting confrontation the English are satirised and in the end disappointed when a symbolic storm destroys their dream of resettling the old into the present. The hint that is enforced by the conclusion is that the little heap of purple dust that remains will be swept away by the rising winds of change, like the residue of pompous imperialism that abides in Ireland. This was the first show of his own he saw since *Within The Gates* in After this, Samuel Beckett withdrew his mime piece in protest. The musical, retitled *Juno*, was a commercial failure, closing after only 16 Broadway performances. It was also panned by some critics as being too "dark" to be an appropriate musical, a genre then almost invariably associated with light comedy. Despite general agreement on the brilliance of the underlying material, the musical has defied all efforts to mount any successful revival. His eightieth birthday occurred in , and to celebrate, David Krause and Robert Hogan wrote full-length studies. In , his autobiography *Mirror in my House* the umbrella title under which the six

autobiographies he published from to were republished, in two large volumes, in was turned into a film based on his life called Young Cassidy. The couple had three children:

Chapter 3 : Sean O'Casey - IMDb

Sean O'Casey, original name John Casey, (born March 30, , Dublin, Ire.â€”died Sept. 18, , Torquay, Devon, Eng.), Irish playwright renowned for realistic dramas of the Dublin slums in war and revolution, in which tragedy and comedy are juxtaposed in a way new to the theatre of his time. O.

Plot[edit] The first two acts take place in November , looking forward to the liberation of Ireland. The last two acts are set during the Easter Rising , in April Residents of the tenement house: Unmentioned but uses quotes attributed to Padraig Pearse. Act I[edit] The first act is a representation of normal working-class life in early twentieth century Dublin. The majority of major characters are introduced. The act opens with gossip from Mrs Gogan, a Catholic charwoman. Some other characters introduced are: Nora begs him not to answer the door, but he does, and meets Captain Brennan, a chicken butcher and a member of the Irish Citizen Army. Captain Brennan hands Jack Clitheroe his orders telling him that he and his battalion are ordered to join General James Connolly at a meeting. Jack Clitheroe asks why he was not informed that he was made commandant. Captain Brennan claims he gave a letter to Nora Clitheroe explaining his new promotion. This is when Jack Clitheroe starts fighting with Nora because Nora burned the letter that told Jack Clitheroe he was promoted. The setting is the interior of a public house. A political rally is in progress outside. From time to time an unnamed man is heard addressing the crowd. His words are taken from various speeches and writings of Patrick Pearse. Rosie Redmond, a prostitute , is complaining to the barman that the meeting is bad for business. Peter Flynn, Fluther Good and Young Covey come in and leave again at intervals, having a quick drink during the speeches. Bessie Burgess and Mrs. Gogan also come in, and a fight breaks out between them. After they have left, Covey insults Rosie, leading to a row between him and Fluther. Jack Clitheroe, Lieutenant Langan and Captain Brennan enter the bar, in uniform and carrying The Plough and the Stars flag and a green, white and orange tricolour. They are so moved by the speeches that they are determined to face imprisonment, injury or death for Ireland. They drink quickly and leave again in time to march their respective companies away. Fluther leaves with Rosie. The characters loot the shops of Dublin. She then goes into labour. Act IV[edit] This takes place later in the rising. Mollser, a local girl, has died of tuberculosis , while Nora has had a stillbirth. She is delirious, imagining herself walking in the woods with Jack. Brennan arrives and tells the others that Jack has been shot dead. Two British soldiers arrive and escort the men away â€” civilians are suspected of aiding a rebel sniper. Nora goes to a window, calling for Jack; when Bessie pulls her away, Bessie is shot in the back, mistaken for a sniper. Reaction[edit] W.

Chapter 4 : The Theatre of Sean O'Casey (Critical Companions) James Moran: Methuen Drama

This edition of Sean O'Casey's major plays is designed specifically for students and teachers. The plays are supported by a full introduction, covering O'Casey's career and critical responses to the plays, full notes and a bibliography.

Chapter 5 : Women in the plays of Sean O'Casey

Seáin O'Casey was a major Irish dramatist and memoirist. A committed socialist, he was the first Irish playwright of note to write about the Dublin working classes.

Chapter 6 : The Plough and the Stars - Wikipedia

One consequence of consorting for some time with O'Casey's work is that one loses control for the workaday world. The experience is delightful, but it is poor preparation for journeyman's work such as the writing of a preface to a collection of plays. O'Casey can do the one thing to critics that.

Chapter 7 : The Complete Plays Of Sean O'casey by Seáin O'Casey

DOWNLOAD PDF PLAYS OF SEAN OCASEY.

"sean o'casey plays" Cancel. Three Dublin Plays: The Shadow of a Gunman, Juno and the Paycock, & The Plough and the Stars Oct 20, by Sean O'Casey and.

Chapter 8 : Seán O'Casey - Wikipedia

Sean O'Casey is widely considered to be one of the most accomplished playwrights of the twentieth century. Using his own experiences as fodder for his writing, his plays served as a commentary of the political and social scene of his time.

Chapter 9 : Sean O'Casey - Playwright, Author, Poet

Irish nationalist and playwright Sean O'Casey wrote about life in the slums of Dublin, in plays like The Shadow of a Gunman and The Plough and the Stars. Sean O'Casey was born on March