

# THE HOOGLAND

PRESENTS



## The Night Alive

AN IRISH PLAY BY  
CONOR McPHERSON  
DIRECTED BY KEVIN PURCELL  
PHOTO BY GREGORY WENDT

*"We all have dreams ... waking dreams and dreams when we're asleep. 'The Night Alive' is a play about a collective dream of what it's like to be alive in the world."*

*Where the Arts Come Alive!*

June 3 & 4, 2022  
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**THE HOOGLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS,  
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PRESENT**

# The Night Alive

By Conor McPherson

**Director/Set & Props Designer**

**KEVIN PURCELL**

**Costume Designer**

**TANIS WESTBROOK**

**Dialect Coach**

**SARAH DUBACH**

**Lighting/Sound Designer**

**CRAIG STEENERSON**

**Producer for the Varsity Center**

**CARA RECINE**

**Producer for the Hoogland Center for the Arts**

**GUS GORDON**

This production was originally presented at the Varsity Center in Carbondale, Illinois.  
THE NIGHT ALIVE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,  
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

American premiere presented by Atlantic Theater Company, New York City, 2013.  
World premiere presented at the Donmar Warehouse on June 13, 2013.

# THE CAST

Tommy (50s).....	Kim Curlee
Aimee (30s) .....	Sarah Dubach
Doc (40s) .....	Dan Hill
Maurice (70s).....	Eric Billingsley
Kenneth (40s) .....	Todd Brown

# TIME & PLACE

**Time: Autumn, the Present.**

**Place: Edwardian House near  
Phoenix Park in Dublin, Ireland**

*This production runs 1 hour 35 minutes without intermission*

# THE STAFF

Director/Set & Props Designer .....	Kevin Purcell
Costume Designer .....	Tanis Westbrook
Lighting/Sound Designer .....	Craig Steenerson
Dialect Coach .....	Sarah Dubach
Producers.....	Cara Recine and Gus Gordon

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Conor McPherson** is widely considered one of the finest Irish writers of his generation. He was hugely influenced by the writing of James Joyce. McPherson's plays include *Rum & Vodka*, *The Good Thief*, *This Lime Tree Bower*, *St, Nicholas*, *The Weir* (Olivier Award), *Dublin Carol*, *Port Authority*, *Shining City* (Tony Award nomination), *The Seafarer* (Olivier, Tony and Evening Standard Award nominations), *The Veil*, *The Night Alive* (New York Drama Critics' Circle Award), and most recently, the Olivier Award-winning musical *Girl from the North Country* with Bob Dylan.

*The play was produced at The Varsity in Carbondale May 6-8, 2022.*

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# Meet the Cast

**Eric Billingsley** (Maurice) has been performing on stage most of his life. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Theater from SIUC in 1993 and has completed three national tours with small traveling theatrical troupes. Eric co-founded Firstborn Productions in Chicago with several fellow SIUC Theater alums. Eric, who was in the cast of the Varsity's fall 2021 production of Conor McPherson's *The Weir*, is grateful for the opportunity to perform a second great modern drama from the acclaimed playwright with such talented actors and a superb director.

**Todd Brown** (Kenneth) has been in Southern Illinois for 25 years and has had an opportunity to participate in a variety of local arts projects. He has been on stage at the Varsity with the Stage Company, as well as on SIU's McLeod and Kleinau theater stages. He most recently produced a one-man show called *Naked Stories*, which he performed at the Varsity and at SIU. He is very excited to be on stage with these fine performers, and especially to work with Kevin Purcell. He is pursuing a doctorate in Performance Studies at SIU.

**Kim Curlee** (Tommy) has a theatrical career now entering its fifth decade. Kim has been privileged to explore the works of Williams, Albee, Shepherd and Shakespeare, and now *The Weir* and *The Night Alive* by Connor McPherson. Both plays and the writer stand with those icons.

**Sarah Dubach** (Aimee) has been in Carbondale since 2004 and has performed with The Stage Company, SIUC McLeod, Anna Arts Center, Renaissance House, Stone Soup Shakespeare, the Varsity, and others. Behind the scenes work includes stage management, tech, and directing. Acting credits include the Varsity production of *The Weir* (Valerie), *Calamity Jane* (Calamity Jane), *Other Desert Cities* (Brooke), *Doubt* (Sister James), and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Sarah also loves playing mom to Sophie and August and English teacher to high school students at Project ECHO.

**Dan Hill** (Doc) is excited to be in another Connor McPherson play after playing Brendan, the pub owner, last fall in *The Weir*. He has appeared in several other stage productions, including *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Blithe Spirit* and *Inherit the Wind*. He hopes everyone enjoys the wordplay and subtle awesomeness of *The Night Alive*.

# Special Thanks

*We'd like to thank Brent and Erica Beeman (Wolter, Beeman, Lynch & Londrigan, LLP) for sponsoring this production; Darrin Thurman and the Hampton Inn and Suites; The HCFTA staff and Board of Trustees; Solution Printing; Craig Steenerson; Jim Leach and Kevin Hart at WMAY; Melody and Tim Sheehan; Springfield Theatre Centre; Lucia Meijer, Greg Wendt, The Stage Company, Aasne Daniels, Agnes M. Gibicar, and a very special thanks to Derek Olsen.*

## Meet the Staff

**Kevin Purcell** (Director) is an SIU C grad ('76) who returned with his wife Lucia to live in southern Illinois eight years ago. During his 48 years of theatre work Kevin co-founded two theaters (The Seattle Public Theater and Over the Moon Productions). Kevin has directed six productions in Carbondale for The Stage Company, including *The Ware Trilogy* and *Agnes of God*. In the fall of 2019, Kevin directed the Varsity's production of *The Yellow Wallpaper*, starring Elyse Pineau. Kevin also directed *The Weir* in the fall of 2021, with four members of this cast at the Varsity. This ensemble toured *The Weir* to Springfield, Illinois, at Hoogland Center for the Arts. As an actor, Kevin will be a featured performer this summer in a documentary film about Springfield poet Vachel Lindsay. In Springfield, Kevin was seen in *Prairie Voices*, *A Doll's House* (Hoogland) and *Camelot* (Hoogland).

**Tanis Westbrook** (Costumes) recently moved back to her hometown of Carbondale after having lived out of state for many years. Before returning, she was the resident Costumer and Costume Shop Manager for The Larry Keeton Theatre in Nashville, Tennessee. Tanis would like to thank Kevin and Cara for this opportunity and Jim for putting the bug in her ear about it. Thank you for supporting live theater.

**Gus Gordon** (Producer) is the executive director at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. He directed our productions of *1776*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Show Boat in Concert*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Gypsy*, *Nunsense*, and *Smokey Joe's Café*. Gus has been seen at HCFTA as Fredrik Egerman in *A Little Night Music*, Michael in *I Do! I Do!*, Oscar in *The Odd Couple*, and Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*. Gus and his wife Claire are the proud parents of Amy and John. They are happy to welcome Amy's new husband, Evan Himes, into the family.

# THE HOOGLAND

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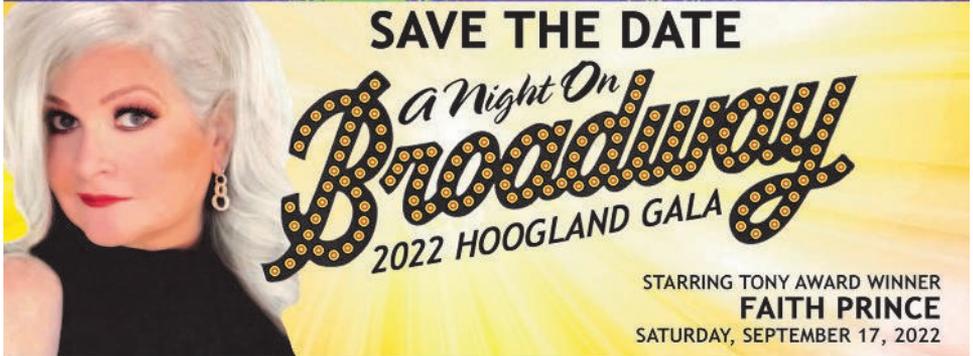
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