

ACT II playhouse

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 27, 2008

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Actor Declan Mooney Steps into Act II Playhouse's Production of the Irish Comedy STONES IN HIS POCKETS

AMBLER, PA – Broadway and Irish actor Declan Mooney is stepping into the role of Charlie Conlon in Act II Playhouse's production of *Stones in His Pockets* by Marie Jones. Mooney, who joins Tony Braithwaite in rehearsal, replaces Chris Faith, who was forced to leave the show due to a family emergency.

Mooney will easily fill the shoes of Faith. He has performed the role of Charlie two other times, including as stand-in for Tony-nominated Conleth Hill in the Broadway production of the play. Dialect training will not be necessary for Mooney: He hails from Downpatrick in County Down, Ireland, and came to the States to attend college on a soccer scholarship.

Winner of London's Olivier Award winner for Best Comedy in 2000, Jones' hyperkinetic Broadway hit satirically chronicles the making of a big-budget Hollywood movie in a provincial Irish village. In chameleon-like fashion, Braithwaite, as Jake Quinn, and Mooney play a cast of 15 eccentric characters— from the film's spoiled American starlet to the star-struck locals. Act II's production is directed by Barrymore Award-winning director William Roudebush.

Three preview performances will be held Sept. 2-4, with tickets discounted at \$20. Talkbacks will be held after the first two 8 p.m. Previews, as well as on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. Opening night is Sept. 5, with pre-show entertainment provided by Gerry Timlin (beginning at 7:50 p.m.) and a post-show reception courtesy of The Shanachie Irish Pub in Ambler. All evening performances are at 8 p.m., and matinees begin at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Tickets are \$25 for all Wednesday-Thursday performances and \$30 for Friday through Sunday shows, with discounts available for groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available by calling the Act II Box Office at (215) 654-0200, online at www.act2.org, or in person at Act II Playhouse, 56 E. Butler Ave., Ambler, PA.

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ARTISTIC PROFILES

DECLAN MOONEY (Charlie Conlon et al.) – is a graduate of the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York City. He moved to New York to study acting after graduating from college at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri. He made his Broadway debut in *Stones In His Pockets* as stand-by to the Tony-nominated Conleth Hill, a role he recently reprised at the Caldwell Theatre in Boca Raton, Florida. Off-Broadway credits include: *Trust* at the Kirk theatre; *Paddywack* at the Mint Theatre and Macalla Theatre Company; *Pigtown*, *The Colleen Bawn* (Drama Desk nomination), *The Playboy of the Western World* and *The Shadow of a Gunman*, all at the Irish Repertory Theatre. Declan's most recent stage appearance was on Broadway as understudy for David Morse in Conor McPherson's *The Seafarer*. www.declanmooney.com

TONY BRAITHWAITE (Jake Quinn et al.) was last seen at Act II Playhouse as George Burns in *Say Goodnight Gracie*. Other Act II performances include *Schrodinger's Girlfriend*, *Good Evening*, and his Barrymore-Award winning turn as Boyd in *The Big Bang*, a role he performed over 100 times: in Ambler, at The Kimmel, and in Chicago. Tony has performed in 7 holiday shows for 1812 Productions, and will appear in their *This Is The Week That Is: Election Edition* in October. Tony has also worked with Philadelphia Theatre Company, Arden Theatre Company, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festivals, Montgomery Theatre, and others. Television work includes playing himself as an acting coach on MTV's reality show, "Made. Tony will play Felix Unger –his dream role – in *The Odd Couple* at The Kimmel Center in February, and will perform his popular one-man show, "Look Mom, I'm Swell!" on the Act II stage in December. Currently, Tony is directing his 29th production at his beloved alma mater, St. Joe's Prep. www.tonybraithwaite.com

WILLIAM ROUDEBUSH (Director) has been directing for over thirty years at such theatres as Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Cleveland Play House, Syracuse Stage Company, Theatre Virginia, The GeVa Theatre, Walnut Street Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, Mum Puppettheatre, The Miami and Palm Beach Opera Guilds, and many others. In New York he was artistic director for the *Ten More By Noonan* series at the John Houseman Theatre, as well as directing for Ensemble Studio Theatre, The American Folk Theatre, The Mint Theatre Company, The Actors Outlet, Pulse Ensemble Theatre, The Samuel Beckett Theatre and the Village Gate, where he researched his new musical *Village Gate Follies*. Bill has been based in Philadelphia for the past 12 years, where he works as a freelance director/writer. His 2002 revival of *Equus* was nominated for eight Barrymore awards and won five including Best Overall Production of a play, Best Ensemble and Best Director. He adapted and directed a new musical based on the works of singer/songwriter Harry Chapin called *Remember When*

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the Music, which played for six sold-out weeks at Act II Playhouse. Bill is also an educator, having taught at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, The University of Memphis, The University of the Arts, Virginia Commonwealth University, along with being Theatre School Director for the Walnut Street Theatre for four years. He is currently director of musical theatre for the Performing Arts Institute in Kingston, Pa. His book *Acting By Mistake* is available through www.xlibris.com.