



MONTANA REPERTORY THEATRE

The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-1582
(406) 243-6809
Fax (406) 243-5726

The University of
Montana

MONTANA REP
Professional Theatre-in-Residence
School of Fine Arts
Department of Drama/Dance

MONTANA REP is funded in part by a grant from the Montana Arts Council (an agency of state government), with support from the Montana State Legislature; The University of Montana; the Montana Cultural Trust; the Dramatists Guild Fund, Inc.; Dr. Sandy Sheppard; and the Agnes Ranjo Capps Fund for the Colony.



MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL



MONTANA
CULTURAL
TRUST

PRESS RELEASE: July 6, 2009

CONTACT: Greg Johnson / (406) 243-6809 / Gregory.Johnson@umontana.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montana Rep, An Rí Rá Festival, and Culture Ireland will present staged readings this summer in Missoula and Butte of *The Butte Trilogy*, a three-play cycle chronicling the Irish experience in Montana.

WHEN AND WHERE:

July 26, 2009 / 12:00 PM / 3:00 PM / 6:00 PM

MISSOULA / Montana Stage / Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center, UM Campus

August 9, 2009 / 2:00 PM / 5:00 PM / 8:00 PM

BUTTE / The Mother Lode Theatre / 316 West Park Street

ADMISSION: \$5.00 suggested donation

INFO: <http://www.montanarep.org>

The Butte Trilogy: Montana Repertory Theatre, in conjunction with Culture Ireland, An Rí Rá Festival, Patrick Sutton, and Geoff Sutton, will present staged readings of the three-play cycle *The Butte Trilogy*. This ambitious project, presented for the first time in its entirety, has been in the works for five years and is the brainchild of Patrick Sutton, director of the Gaiety Theatre School, Dublin; Greg Johnson, artistic director of Montana Rep; and Geoff Sutton, project manager for the Montana World Trade Center. The plays tell the story of the McCarthy clan from County Cork as they make their way in Butte, America.

Anaconda Ashes, the first play, tells the story of the family's arrival in Butte and the beginning of work in the mines. The second play, *The Butte Bullet*, takes place during the copper craze spurred by World War II, and the third, *Our Lady of the Rockies*, completes the tale in 1999, with Butte and the McCarthy family poised on the brink of the new millennium. *The Butte Trilogy* tells the story of Butte from its "richest hill on earth" days to the recent past, with all the humor, sorrow, drama, and passion of the Butte Irish.

The two readings, one in Missoula, as part of the fourteenth Missoula Colony, and one in Butte, as part of the An Rí Rá Irish Arts and Culture Festival, mark the final stage in the developmental process of these plays. It is the intent of the producers to ready the trilogy for production and publication, and we are thrilled to be sharing this final phase with Montana audiences. The plays have been read individually at the last three An Rí Rá festivals, and public response has been edifying and enlightening. We hope these capstone events will continue to please audiences as we ready the material for what we believe will be a remarkable future.

The trilogy's author is Irish playwright Tony Barrow, and directors for the readings will be Patrick Sutton, Greg Johnson, and Bernadette Sweeney from University College Cork. The cast will consist of actors from Ireland and the United States. It is the intention of the project's developers to create an Irish-American theatre company, operating out of Montana and Dublin, to present plays of distinction both nationally and internationally.

This project is made possible by generous contributions from Culture Ireland, Montana Repertory Theatre, An Rí Rá Festival, The University of Montana, and The Dramatist Guild Fund.

For more information on Colony events, visit us at www.montanarep.org or call 243-6809. (See preliminary schedule of staged readings on reverse side.)