

rior Theatre London. 'DA' - White Bear Theatre London. 'Players and Painted Stage', 'Last Apache Reunion' - SOS Theatre Bristol. National Tours of 'Tales of the Lost Formicans', 'Julius Caesar' and 'Romeo and Juliet' - Bristol Old Vic Theatre Company. He is a Director in his own company, 'Play on Words' which tours Shakespeare and Living History Shows to schools and theatres all over the UK. www.aidandooley.co.uk

Fairbank Productions

Created in 1991 by Gerald Armin, **Fairbank Productions** has to date produced many successful productions in New York and London. Recent successes included the World Premier of the play *Burning Blue*, which was nominated for four Laurence Olivier Awards (winning two). Last year Fairbank produced a one woman musical comedy *Sunset Bitch* at the 2005 New York International Fringe Festival and the critically acclaimed European Premier of the Danny Kaye musical *Danny and Sylvia* at the Jermyn Street Theatre London. Fairbank Productions has been the lead producer of *Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer* for the past four years. www.fairbankproductions.co.uk

The cause

The Global Network of People living with HIV and AIDS www.gnpplus.net is the only worldwide network representing all people living with HIV and AIDS. "GNP+ is different because we are not waiting for others to give us wisdom on how we can improve our lives and the lives of people like us. We are determining our own destiny by taking it on ourselves to advocate on our own behalf and on behalf of all people living with HIV worldwide."

The GLAS treatment

The Geneva Literary Aid Society www.theglas.org was originally conceived with the cheerful goal of marking the fictional centenary of James Joyce's masterpiece *Ulysses* set on June 16, 1904, partly inspired by the memory of Joyce's brief sojourn in Geneva a month before he died. The centenary year came and went but finally a packed audience attended David Norris' one man show on Joyce in January 2005 and so much enjoyment was had by all, that GLAS has since taken on a life of its own supporting the arts and raising funds for the care and treatment of people living with AIDS, much of it channeled through the Global Network of People Living with AIDS.

Theatre, music, comedy, politics, poetry, prose...all have been given the GLAS treatment over the last three years contributing to the gaiety of the anglophone nation here in Geneva. GLAS founder Denis McClean works with a close team of volunteers who always make sure the show goes on.

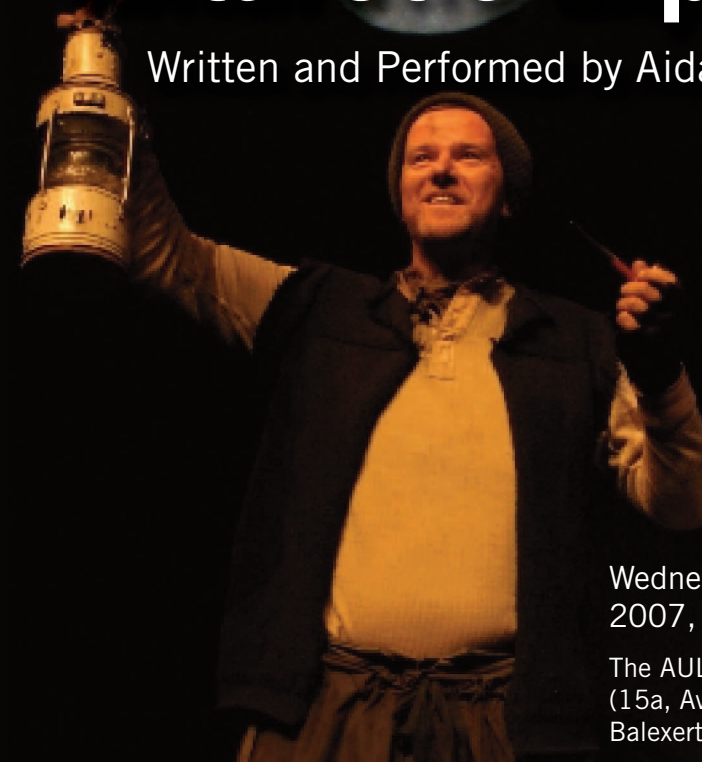
Tonight's crew of volunteers includes Claire Geraty (great ticket sales), Sophie Barton-Knott (great sandwiches), Claire Harron (great sales), Chris Black (great barman), Thierry Muehlemann (great party planner), Charoensak Srikanchana (great raffle salesman), Cynthia Chapatte (great poster!), Mark Willis (great goalkeeper), Sara and Emma Liden (all round greatness) and Jean Charles Chamois (great programme).

Tonight's event would not have been possible without the technical support of Jane Easton and Tim Hancox from the brilliant Geneva English Drama Society (www.geds.org). Declan McAdams, managing director of the Anglo Irish Bank (Suisse) has been a stalwart supporter of GLAS from the beginning (almost!). GLAS also acknowledges the kind support of the Geneva Irish Association.

The Geneva Literary Aid Society proudly presents

Tom Crean Antarctic Explorer

Written and Performed by Aidan Dooley



Wednesday 17 October
2007, 19:30

The AULA, Collège des Coudriers
(15a, Avenue Joli-Mont, opposite
Balaxert)

Tom Crean (20 July 1877 – 27 July 1938) was an Irish Antarctic explorer. He was born in the town of Annascaul in Co. Kerry. He joined the Royal Navy when he was 15 years old, lying about his age to get in. Tom Crean was on three of the four major British expeditions to Antarctica. Two of these were expeditions led by Robert Scott aiming (amongst other more scientific goals) to reach the South Pole: the

1901-1904 National Antarctic Expedition on *Discovery* and the 1911-1913 expedition on *Terra Nova*. The third was the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition on *Endurance* led by Ernest Shackleton.

Terra Nova

On this expedition in 1911, Captain Scott said he could only really trust a handful of people, William Lashly, Edgar Evans

and Tom Crean. Crean and Lashly, along with Lieutenant E.R.G.R Evans formed the last support party to leave Scott on his way to the South Pole, while Edgar Evans, Wilson, Bowers and Oates continued with Scott. Crean, Lashly and Evans turned back 146 miles (268 km) from the pole on 4 January 1912, and faced a 750 miles (1206 km) return journey back to the camp.

Around the beginning of February, Lieutenant Evans became seriously ill with scurvy. Starting on the 13 February, while still 100 miles (160 km) from the safety of the camp, Crean and Lashly had to pull Evans on the sledge, slowing the trio down further while their food supplies were getting dangerously low. Evans asked to be left behind as he feared all three would otherwise die, but Crean and Lashly refused (Evans would later say that this was the only time in his naval career where his orders were disobeyed). With 35 miles (56 km) left (4-5 days of travel with only two pulling the sledge), and not more than 1-2 days of food left it was decided one of the two had to walk for help while the other stayed behind with Evans. Tom Crean volunteered. It took him 18 hours to walk the 35 miles over the ice to reach the camp, and, with only three biscuits and some chocolate to eat, he collapsed just after reaching the camp at 3:30am on the morning of 19 February. He had arrived at the camp only half an hour before a fierce blizzard which probably would have killed him, and which delayed the rescue party by a day and a half. The rescue was successful

however and Lashly and Evans were both returned to camp alive, unlike Scott's polar party. Crean and Lashly were both awarded the Albert Medal for saving Evans' life.

Endurance

Like Scott, Shackleton deeply trusted Tom Crean. After their ship, the *Endurance*, was destroyed in the ice during the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, the crew had to sail the life boats across the Weddell Sea pack ice and then travel by boat to Elephant Island. When they arrived, they rebuilt one of the lifeboats - the James Caird and six of the men including Shackleton and Crean sailed to South Georgia for help. This has become known as one of the most extraordinary small open boat journeys in history. Because they landed on the uninhabited south coast of South Georgia, three of the men, again including Shackleton and Crean, had to walk across to the other side in a remarkable 36 hour journey which was the first crossing of the mountainous island. They arrived at the whaling station at Stromness, tired and dirty, and prepared for the rescue of the other 22 men still on Elephant Island, 22 months after sailing from South Georgia.

Later life

After returning home, Crean saw service in the First World War, and retired from the navy in 1920. He married and opened up a small pub called "The South Pole Inn." Throughout his life, Crean remained an extremely modest man. When he returned to Kerry, he put all of his medals

away and never again spoke about his experiences in the Antarctic. It has been speculated that this may have been because it was seen as dishonorable for an Irishman to have served in the British Military at that time. He became ill with a burst appendix in 1938. He was taken to Cork which was the nearest hospital where such a condition could be treated but he died before he reached the hospital there.

Crean is commemorated in at least two place names: Mount Crean (2550 m) in Victoria Land, and the Crean Glacier on South Georgia.

The Journey of the Play

Tom Crean – Antarctic Explorer, written and performed by Aidan Dooley, premiered at The New York International Fringe Festival in August 2003, where it won the 'Best Solo Performance Award'. In the same year the show played the Dublin Fringe Festival, where it picked up a 'Best Actor Nomination'.

The show originated from a fifteen minute Living History performance on Tom Crean created by Aidan Dooley for London's National Maritime Museum's Antarctic Exhibition 'South' in 2001. Following the publication of Michael Smith's book 'Unsung Hero' the show was then developed over a two year period with several small try-out performances in Ireland, including a performance in front of Crean's remaining family at the Tom Crean Society's memorial in Annascaul, Co. Kerry.

Between 2004 and 2005 the show toured to over 30 venues across Ireland, and also played two sell out seasons at the Northern Stage Theatre Vermont, USA.

2006 saw the show return to the USA playing a sell-out three week season at The Suga Theatre at the Boston Centre for the Arts where the show was nominated for an 'Outstanding Solo Performance Award at that years' Boston Theatre Critics Awards. It then returned to Ireland to play the first of two sell-out, five-week seasons at Andrews Lane Theatre Dublin, the second season following the triumphant success at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival where the show won a Fringe First Award.

This year has already seen the show return to Ireland to play two sell-out weeks at the Olympia Theatre Dublin, before travelling back to the USA en route to the Adelaide Fringe Festival Australia via seasons in Florida, Malta and Dubai.

The show has just completed an extended eight week sell-out season at the Award Winning Irish Repertory Theatre New York and will embark on its first UK tour this Autumn.

Introducing Aidan Dooley

Aidan is from Galway in the west of Ireland. He trained at Guilford School of Acting London and works as a freelance Actor, Writer and Director in London. Highlights of his career as an Actor include 'Philadelphia Here I Come' - Wyndhams Theatre London. 'Elegies for Angels' - Crite-