

# ***WE WERE ALL YOUNG ONCE***

***A new play by***

***Karen Meenan***



***in Axis Ballymun***

***Wednesday 3rd May 2017***

***at 2pm***

***Grandma: Mary Bohan***

***Grandad: Ken Saunders***

***Teenager: Jzzy Quinn***

***Written and Directed by Karen Meenan***

# ***WE WERE ALL YOUNG ONCE***

'We Were All Young Once' is a new play by Karen Meenan, and is the result of several workshops with members of Forget-Me-Nots dementia friendly choir and is based on research done with residents of Howth Hill Lodge Nursing Home, Howth and teenagers from Santa Sabina School, Sutton.

Teenager Izzy (15) is spending a hastily arranged weekend with her grandparents Mary and Ken. Her parents have gone on a last minute credit-card holiday to Paris, her other grandparents who normally mind her are on a golden oldies cruise.

Mary and Ken don't see Izzy that often...

Time: Friday afternoon in Mary & Ken's Living Room

**Ken Saunders:** Ken Saunders is enjoying an active retirement keeping busy with various projects ranging from DIY to family history related to 1916 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. He likes the occasional 'House Hooley' complete with songs and 'recitations'. Back in the late 1970s through to the early 1990s he was involved in amateur drama with groups such as Strand Players, Club Players, 33 Players and Olivians. Working backstage he quickly learned the magic powers of a hammer, six inch nails, masking tape and a lick of paint!

**Mary Bohan** – Mary Bohan is making her acting debut at the tender age of 83. Born on a farm near Aherlow, Co Tipperary, the eldest of six children, she trained as a nurse and lived in London for nearly twenty years before returning to live in Dublin in 1974. She does keep fit classes, line dancing and singing and loves to perform with the Forget-Me-Nots choir. Mary likes to socialise and loves to meet her friends for coffee.

**Isabel Quinn:** My name is Isabel Quinn and I am fifteen years old. I go to Santa Sabina Dominican College in Sutton. In my spare time I love to walk my dog and spend time with my friends. Every Sunday my family goes to my grannies after church for tea and sweet treats, it's a tradition in my family and a time I really enjoy. In the future I would love to work with animals, I love helping them and learning about their behaviours and habits.

**Karen Meenan** – Karen Meenan has won 7 Best Actress Awards in Theatre and Radio. Short films include 'Each Uisce' 'Heavy Things' 'Cloudy' 'Filtered' 'Customer Is Always Wrong' 'E-Learning PAS Training'. Stage: 'The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning' 'Margaret Pearse & Co' 'Road' 'Time to Go' 'Liam Liar' 'Under Milkwood' 'House of Bernarda Alba' 'Juno & the Paycock' 'Mr Moonlight'. This is her first time to write and direct a play – the biggest challenge yet. This is the final module in her BA (Hons) Drama Coláiste Dhúlaigh/University of Wolverhampton.

Karen would like to acknowledge grateful thanks to her friends and family, the Forget-Me-Nots dementia friendly choir members and volunteers, residents of Howth Hill Lodge Nursing Home, Dr Jeanette Golden, Professor Rónán Conroy, Michelle Read, the staff and crew at Axis Ballymun, Ann Marie Coen, Laura O Philbin, Maeve Quigley, Avril Easton, Heidi Bedell, Rachel Simons, Pam Schweitzer, Rosemary Quinn, Richard Doyle and especially Isabel Quinn, Ken Saunders and Mary Bohan for their contribution to this play.

'We Were All Young Once' is dedicated to the memory of Kathleen and Gerry Tierney