

**SNEEM DRAMSOC
PRESENTS**



THE BEAR

AND

THE PROPOSAL

**By Anton Chekhov
(Both adapted by Sneem DramSoc.)**

For the 2014 season we present two comedies by Anton Chekhov with which he first made his reputation in the theatre, offered not as art but as entertainment. These he designated as "jokes" which he consistently disparaged. THE BEAR was "a piffing little Frenchified vaudeville" and THE PROPOSAL was "a mangy little vaudeville knocked together specifically for the provinces" which he had written because he had nothing better to do as a medical student. However, Tolstoy, who was unimpressed by Chekhov's later dramas, laughed at them until he could laugh no more, and the Czar was moved to send the author his compliments. THE BEAR, the first of this evening's performances, is an account of a man who comes to make a demand for payment of a bill, but instead finds himself making a proposal of marriage. In the second play, THE PROPOSAL, a man comes to make a proposal of marriage, but instead finds himself making an argument. In both plays, the characters are driven by a sense of outrage, of anger at the failure of others to recognise their claims to money / land. In their anger, they lose the ability to recognize their own best interests. There is great fun, mimicry and gusto here, and much apparently inconsequential dialogue and business. Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans!

Refreshments will be served, and a raffle will take place, during a 20 minutes interval.

The Bear

The Cast

Helena Power, a landowning little widow, with dimples in her cheeks	Mary O'Sullivan
Luke, Helena's farm manager	Jim O'Sullivan
Gregory Stephenson, a middle-aged landowner	Jim Feeney

The Proposal

The Cast

Stephen Chubb, an elderly widowed farmer	Drew Borrett
Mattie Chubb, his daughter, forty years old	Paula Tiller
Ivan Hanley, a neighbouring landowner, sixty years old, stout, hypochondriacal	Patrick Malone

Director: Patrick Malone

STAGE MANAGEMENT	John F O'Sullivan Vinnie O'Leary
MAKE-UP COSTUMES AND FRONT OF HOUSE	Sharon Evans Betty Breen