Small theatre presents intimately Irish drama

Playboy of the Western World by John Millington Synge, adapted by Stanley Sultan, directed by Polly Hogan, at The Lyric Stage, 54 Charles St. Boston, through March 17. Wednesdays-Sundays (Wed-Fri 8 pm, Sat mat at 3 pm, Sun eve at 8:30 pm and Sun mat at 3 pm). Tickets $7.50-$10.00, $1 off with student ID for Wed., Thurs., Sat., and Sun. matinee. Call 742-8703 for more information.

If you only go to see one Irish play this semester, I know just the one: Playboy of the Western World. It is a love story about an energetic and raunchy young Irish wench — Margaret Phibbs, played by Kate Maguire, and a handsome young man named Christy Mahon, played by Al Mohrmann.

The play is set in a small village in County Mayo, Ireland. The young Christy comes to town and captivates the woman and her friends with stories of his bloody deeds. The humor and charm of their sudden romance soon enchants the audience.

Eda Rubinstein gave a rousing performance as the despicable Widow Quillin who comes around and tries to save the day when Christy Mahon discovers, much to his mortification, that the jig is up. The flavor of the setting surrounds the audience from the beginning with traditional Gaelic music playing before the opening of the show.

The set is simple. There are few props, and no attempt at any flashy atmosphere. The flavor of the setting surrounds the audience from the beginning and the atmosphere alone was worth the trip. With outstanding performances by all, you will be enchanted from the moment you enter the room until the moment you leave. The Lyric Stage is small, seating about 125 people, on the second floor of a small building on Charles St. in Boston. It is dedicated to performing classics of the stage. Later this season they are going to perform French without Tears, by Terence Rattigan, and Harvey, by Mary Chase, the story of an estranged, 6-foot high rabbit whom only Uncle Elwood can see.

Scott Chase

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Date: 2/28 and 3/1

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