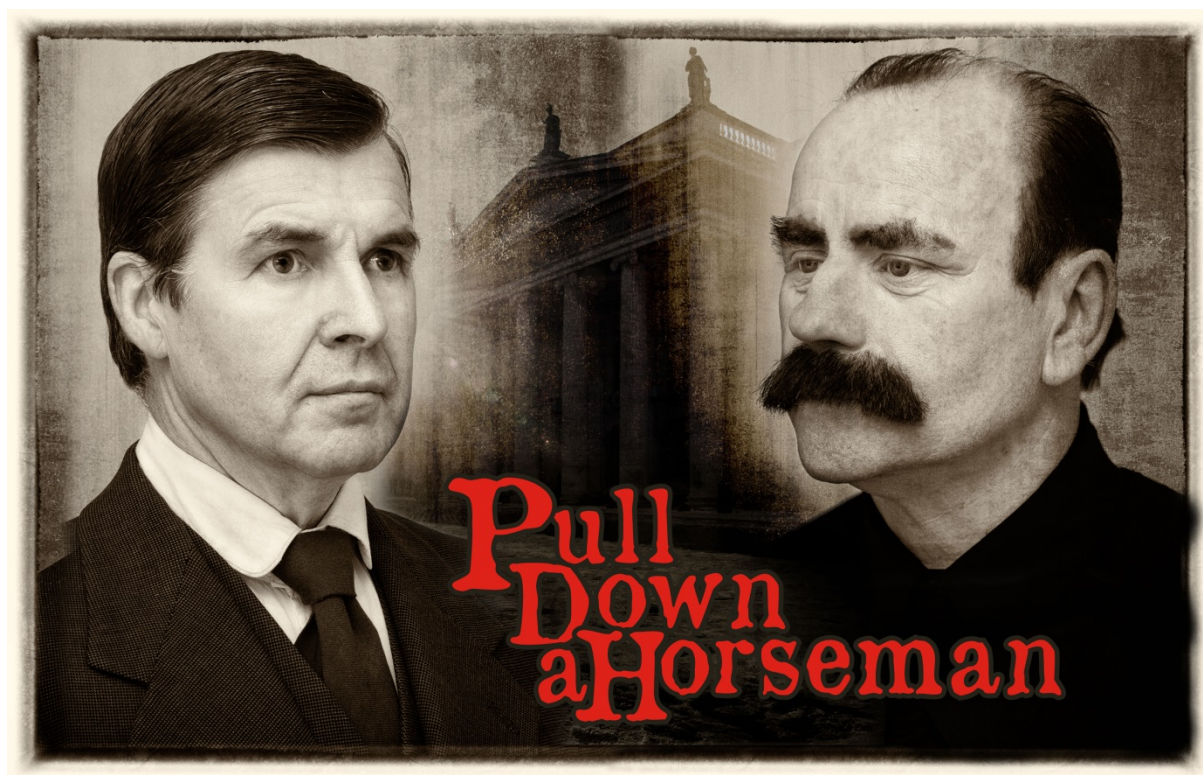


---

The secret meeting that agreed the date for the  
Easter 1916 Rising



*Written by Eugene McCabe*

*Directed by Conor O'Malley*

*Patrick Pearse: Declan Brennan*

*James Connolly: MJ Sullivan*

DUBLIN  
LYRIC  
PLAYERS

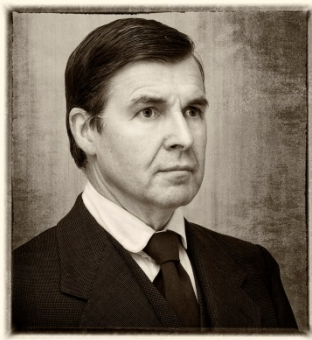
2016

## **PULL DOWN A HORSEMAN**

Some recorders suggest that Connolly was detained by the I.R.B. from January the 19th to January the 22nd 1916, though professional historians tend to agree that there was no detention. There is no doubt that he left instructions at Liberty Hall for immediate insurrection in the event of his unexplained absence or arrest by the British. He told no one where he was going on the 19th and made no attempt to report back. It would seem that his intention was to spark off a rising. This almost occurred. Mallin, his second in command, was ready to lead the 200-odd men of the Citizen Army against Dublin Castle. As a final precaution Mallin checked with Pearse and the I.R.B. — (The I.R.B. was a secret oath-bound group — founded in the U.S.A. 1858—and dedicated to securing an Irish Republic. They had become very powerful in the Irish Volunteers. Pearse as Volunteer Director was in a position to issue orders which could only be questioned by Owen McNeill, Leader of the Volunteers. McNeil was not a member of the I.R.B.) — and was reassured as to Connolly's whereabouts and, safety. Pearse is reported to have been very shaken by Connolly's intention. The three day session, must have been tense, stormy, and mentally exhausting—especially exhausting for Connolly who was one against many.

What happened during those three days is not recorded, Pearse and the other signatories maintained a secrecy, which they carried to their executions: Connolly, more overt, left a few clues:

1. When he returned to Liberty Hall on the 22nd, William O'Brien asked questions. Connolly replied that he had walked 40 miles, slept well the previous night, and was extremely tired. Questioned further, he would say no more.
2. There is a book of Pearse's writings, in Connolly's daughter Nora's possession, inscribed: 'For James Connolly from Padraig Pearse, 20th January '16'. A strange gesture from captor to captured. This alone makes the kidnap theory suspect.
3. His notes, a week later in the Workers' Republic 29th January, are unambiguous: 'The issue is clear, we have done our part to clear it. We have planted the seed, in the hope and belief that ere many of us are much older, it will ripen and blossom into action.'

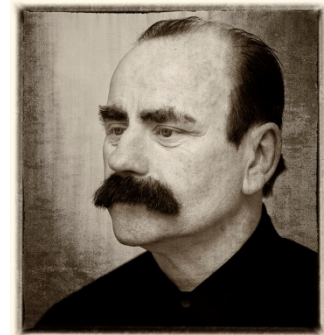


**Declan Brennan** (*Patrick Pearse*) has played characters in the ancient and modern theatre — from Sophocles through Shakespeare to Neil Simon. The wide range of genres and writers spanned include Yeats, Brecht and Eugene McCabe for Dublin Lyric Players. From the plays of Shakespeare he has had roles in *Macbeth*, *Othello* and *King Lear* for Mill Productions. Ten years ago he played the Narrator in *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, which opened the Mill Theatre. More modern roles have included Victor Velasco in Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park* at Andrews Lane Studio, the iconic doctor in *Albert Einstein meets Dr Who* by Justin Richards at the Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS, Dublin,

the Professor in David Mamet's *Oleanna* and Tomás McDonagh in *Seven Lives for Liberty* by Frank Allen. And he performs readings from Joyce's *Ulysses* on Bloomsday.

Declan's technical work includes photography and sound design and he also works on voice over and narration for broadcast and other media ([declanb.com](http://declanb.com)). He holds an MA in Drama and Performance Studies from University College Dublin.

**MJ Sullivan** (*James Connolly*) is from inner city Dublin and has been acting for the past 28 years. Favourite roles on stage have been Nick in *The Last Apache Reunion* by Bernard Farrell, Sagredo in *The Life of Galileo* by Brecht, The Bishop in *Within the Gates* by Sean O'Casey, Theseus in *Oedipus at Colonus* by Sophocles, Dr. Rank in *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, Jimmy Perry in *The Gingerbread Lady* by Neil Simon, Parris in *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller and Alfieri in *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller.



Michael has also worked in film with independent film makers and the students from various colleges around Ireland. His first feature film, *Nameless*, is scheduled for release in 2016.



**Conor O'Malley** (*Director*), established Dublin Lyric Players in 2005. He has had a lifelong interest and involvement in theatre from his early training with the Lyric in Belfast and with the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, to his involvement with the Adult Education Department in UCD over a 20 year period, where he gave many theatre courses. His directing credits include Brecht's *Mother Courage*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Sobol's *Ghetto*, O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *The Silver Tassie*, *Red Roses for Me*, *Arms and the Man*, Galvin's *The Last Burning*, *The Heart's A Wonder*, Sam Thompson's *The Evangelist*, *The Colleen Bawn*, *Peer Gynt*,

an adaptation of *Finnegans Wake* and new plays: *There's Nobody Mad Here* and *Marty's Shot* by Armagh based writer, Joe Ruane. He has also directed plays by WB Yeats including *The Cuchulain Cycle* and Yeats' versions of the *Oedipus* plays at the National Library.

---

Performances of ***Pull Down a Horseman*** in the early months of 2016 include the following:

Date	Venue	Address
<b>JANUARY</b> Mon 11, Mon 18 & Wed 27 at 8pm <b>FEBRUARY</b> Mon 1 at 8pm	Booterstown Community Centre	Grotto Avenue, Booterstown, Co Dublin.
<b>JANUARY</b> Wed 13 & Wed 20 at 7:30pm	dlr LexIcon Library in Dun Laoghaire	Haigh Terrace, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
<b>FEBRUARY</b> Sun 7, 14, 21 & Sun 28 at 3pm	The National Museum of Ireland	Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin
<b>FEBRUARY</b> Sat 20 at 12:30pm and 4:30pm	The Lyric Theatre, Belfast	55 Ridgeway St, Belfast, BT9 5FB
<b>FEBRUARY</b> Mon 29 (lunchtime) <b>MARCH</b> Tue 1 to Fri 4 (lunchtime)	The National Library	Kildare Street, Dublin
<b>MARCH</b> Wed 30, Thu 31 at 1pm <b>APRIL</b> Fri 1 at 1pm	Liberty Hall	Eden Quay, Dublin 1

For more information, visit our website at  
**[www.dublinlyric.ie](http://www.dublinlyric.ie)**

The production was grant assisted by the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council 1916 Centenary Programme; and collaboration with Booterstown Community Centre is warmly acknowledged.