

MOONE BOY

David Rawle talks to Maura Williamson



WE ALL SIT BACK, watch films, and then in the odd film a young actor just appears, he got picked and he got the lucky break. One example just over the road in Killeshandra, Eamonn Owens got that lucky break, red hair, cheeky, and a wonderful Cavan accent won him the starring role in *The Butcher Boy*. Now, we have another to add to that list David Rawle, Calloughs, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim. Many emails come and go about auditions looking for young people, with specifics of height,

colour of hair etc. However, in the notification of the auditions for *Moone Boy* something stood out. I printed it out, handed to Mary Blake, drama facilitator for Leitrim Youth Theatre, Carrigallen Junior group. It was taken home by David Rawle, given to his mother. He attended auditions in Sligo and so the story begins. David was chosen from over 200 from all over Ireland for the part of Martin Moone.

As artistic director/drama facilitator with Leitrim youth theatre

Carrigallen senior group, I caught up with David Rawle, "*Martin Moone*", after he came off set from the final episode in the second series of *Moone Boy*, in the comfort of his home, in Calloughs, Carrigallen. Picture the setting: a stunning large framed picture of David and Chris O'Dowd, hangs on the wall; on the mantle piece a lovely plaque presented to David at *Carrigallen Annual Summer Festival*; and finally a picture of David in a stage acting role playing *Phil the Fluter*, in *The Other Place*, a community play written

by myself; while the warmth of the fire made it perfect to commence this interview.

Question: *Congratulations David on your wonderful achievement as “Martin Moone in “Moone Boy”, how does it feel coming back to reality, home, school, any big parties, red carpet?*

David: Being back is great really, but school now that is a different story. Ah no! It’s great; I have had such an amazing experience I will never forget. I don’t like fuss, I returned to school, normal day, lots of questions, in the playground from classmates, and congratulations from the teachers. I realised I had not missed very much as I had a tutor on set, Muriel was her name. At times it was tough after a days work on set to start into study and homework, but overall it made going back to school a little easier as I realised I had missed out on very little.

Question: *David, tell me a little about the audition process?*

David: I initially was going for the part of Padraic, Martin’s friend, but each time I got called back, and was reading for the part of Martin, when we were down to three for the part of Martin I was not at all sure I would get it, I was so enjoying myself all the way along. That

final audition, Chris O’Dowd was there. My mum said it was nearly three hours we were there, it felt like half an hour to me, I was having a ball. When I was given the part I could not believe it, I did not expect to get it. It took it a while to really believe I was playing the part of Martin in the film, Moone Boy. It became part of my day to day life for a while, learning lines, travelling to Ardmore studios and on location in Boyle. I had an amazing time, I will never forget it. Come evening, I did not want to come home. We were given a camera to go around the crew and cast behind the scenes and do a mini-film “*Moone Boy Confidential*”, that was such fun! Parts of this can be seen on *YouTube* and the *Moone Boy* website. Chris O’Dowd talks about this in some of the interviews.

Question: *You are also back with Leitrim Youth Theatre Co Carrigallen, I saw you step in the other night how did that feel? And what are your thoughts on youth drama.*

David: It was good to be back, to do all the fun things again. Back to where it all started. In drama we learn the skills of working together as a team, learning lines for a production, learning all the stage craft, and it helps to overcome stagefright, and gives you a good feeling about standing up



like at mass to read, or in front of a crowd to speak, like in later life. It all started when Mary Blake our drama facilitator handed us a letter about auditions for *Moone Boy*, given to Mary by you, I took it home, checked in with mum as regards her work, and she said he would check it out and see if it worked out for me to attend. There was a delay in hearing about the auditions, mum contacted you, you emailed the company and I got an email to attend in Sligo for the first audition.

Question: *Any difference in your opinion acting for stage and for film?*

David: Acting for film is somewhat easier, if you mess up, or miss a

line it's easy in film, *TAKE 2*, but on stage live, you must keep going with the play. Tricky if you skip a page. Also in *Moone Boy*, I had a mike on me so, no need for voice projection and sound guy with a boom-mike over me as well.

Question: *I discovered that when over the summer you came in to play Phil the Fluter at one stage of his life in "The Other Place", I had to encourage you to raise your voice a little.*

David Oh yes, that was such fun, I enjoyed playing that part. That was in the play about *Percy French* when he was around Carrigallen and wrote "*Phil the Fluters Ball*", I enjoyed performing as part of a cast of 60 and musicians at Corn Mill theatre. it was really exciting.

Question: *Were you in anyway worried about the great line up of actors you would be working with, or did you take it in your stride?*

David Everyone was so amazing they were so good, so natural. In the early stage I wondered why I was there among these legends of actors. Deirdre O Kane was amazing, witty, and quick as a whip, she was so motherly, she has two children of her own and played a great mother in *Moone*

Boy. Myself and my mum went to see Deirdre in a stage play "*The Greener*" in *The Gaiety* theatre in Dublin, she was playing a more serious roll, and she was great as well. Other great actors: Chris O'Dowd, Steve Coogan, Johnny Vegas, Pat Shortt, Amy Huberman, Steve Wall, Claire Monnelly, Aoife Duffin, and many more very talented and famous actors were there. They were all so chatty, no high opinions, down to earth off stage and made me feel very much at home.

Question: *What was the most exciting/fearful part of the film for you as an actor?*

David: The most exciting and fearful all together almost was on the high wall with Chris O'Dowd I was scared, excited with the fright at the same time, so I suppose it made this scene work quite well. I will never forget that scene. You would not have seen it, but I was harnessed from behind in that scene to keep me from falling, but still I was afraid up there.

Question: *How did you cope with the press, interviews, coming home to questions from people in Carrigallen?*

David: Ah it was great; it did not bother me at all. I was just myself and answered as best I could.

Like any interview when you come away, you feel you forgot to say this or that, but this is interviews, I guess. In Carrigallen everyone was so friendly and kind, congratulating me, wanting to know when they could see me on television? What would I buy them with the money? Could I retire now? The Annual *Carrigallen Summer Festival* presented me with a lovely plaque on my opening the festival, and I performed the piece I did in the play "*The Other Place*" on the open stage in Carrigallen, I really enjoyed that moment. The people of Carrigallen have a great history of drama and theatre and there was a great sense of pride in the community to say the part of *Martin Moone* in *Moone Boy* was played by a local lad, *David Rawle*, that is amazing really.

Question: *We all want to know about the lovely Chris O'Dowd what he was really like.*

David: He was so nice, so nice to me, he is such a funny man, off and on set, and at times I had a great problem not bursting out laughing at him on set. He is a great guy. So down to earth like. He was so kind and invited myself and my mum to the premier of his new film "*The Sapphires*" in the Savoy in Dublin. He got married recently.



Phil the Flutter (David Rawle) meets Percy French (Barry Taylor) on the Corn Mill stage, Carrigallen, in Maura Williamson's play: "The Other Place". Also directed by Maura Williamson. David & Barry are both members of the LYTC Carrigallen.

Question: *Where to from here David?*

David: Secondary School. I was 12 recently and the next step for me is Secondary School.

Question: *That is one great answer David, the film world has not distracted you from reality, and that is indeed the next stage in your life, and a big stage it is. Would you like to follow a career in film or theatre?*

David: I would like to continue in school/college and focus on a

more secure career as well, but if I get called for auditions in between I will certainly go for them. I would encourage anyone to go for auditions they are such fun. "You never know it could be you"

Maura: *On that great line David "You never know it could be you" I want to thank you, and your mum for having me here to do this interview. I saw your great talent at a very young age, but was not sure where it would take you, but I have been given the answer, and*

that is wonderful to see a young lad like yourself walk naturally into an audition and take the lead part of Martin Moone. Wishing you every success David and really looking forward to having you join me in Leitrim Youth Theatre Co Carrigallen Senior group. Moone Boy is currently on the shelves for sale in DVD form!

Congratulations David we are all very proud of your achievement!

