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### **Brian Friel, Ireland, and The North**

After nearly five decades as one of Ireland's most celebrated playwrights, Brian Friel has been the subject of ten books and dozens of articles. This study expands Friel criticism into a sizeable body of new material and into a new interpretative direction. Along with considering Friel's most recent plays, the book analyzes his interviews and essays to chart the author's ideological evolution throughout a career of more than forty years. Moreover, a chapter is devoted to his previously ignored articles for the *Irish Press* (1962–1963), a series that reveals unsuspected insights into Friel's disposition towards the Irish Republic. Refining our understanding of Friel's relationship to Republicanism is central to the argument; rather than assuming that the author embraces nationalist ideology, the book relocates the conceptual concerns of his work away from Dublin and to "the North," this bridge between Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland.

SCOTT BOLTWOOD is an Associate Professor of English at Emory & Henry College. He has been a Visiting Professor at University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, and a Research Fellow at the Academy of Irish Cultural Heritages in Londonderry. His work on Irish playwrights such as Brian Friel, Augusta Gregory, Frank McGuinness, and Dion Boucicault has appeared in journals including *Irish Studies Review* and *Modern Drama*. This is his first book.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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978-0-521-12180-4 - Brian Friel, Ireland, and The North  
Scott Boltwood  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

For Mary Bell

## Contents

*Acknowledgments* page xi

*List of abbreviations* xiii

Introduction: Friel, criticism, and theory 1

- 1 The *Irish Press* essays, 1962–1963: Alien and native 10
- 2 The plays of the 1960s: Assessing partition's aftermath 39
  - The Enemy Within* 42
  - Philadelphia, Here I Come!* and *The Loves of Cass McGuire* 52
  - Lovers* 62
  - Crystal and Fox* 71
- 3 The plays of the 1970s: Interrogating nationalism 78
  - Self-Portrait 80
  - The Mundy Scheme, Volunteers, and Freedom of the City* 87
  - The Gentle Island* 112
  - Living Quarters, Faith Healer, and Aristocrats* 117
- 4 Plays 1980–1993: The North 139
  - “The Northern thing” 139
  - The Communication Cord* 143
  - Translations* 150
  - Making History, The London Vertigo, and Translations* 161

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-12180-4 - Brian Friel, Ireland, and The North  
Scott Boltwood  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

*Contents*

- Dancing at Lughnasa* 169  
*Wonderful Tennessee* 176
- 5 *Plays 1994–2005: Retreat from Ireland and The Home Place* 184
- Molly Sweeney and Give Me Your Answer, Do!* 184  
*Three Plays After and Performances* 197  
*The Home Place* 203
- Notes* 213  
*Works cited* 237  
*Index* 253



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---

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## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used for frequently cited texts. A complete bibliographical listing for each work can be found in the Works Cited.

### Works by Brian Friel

<i>BFC</i>	<i>Brian Friel in Conversation</i>
<i>CC</i>	<i>The Communication Cord</i>
<i>CF</i>	<i>Crystal and Fox</i>
<i>CM</i>	<i>The Loves of Cass McGuire</i>
<i>DL</i>	<i>Dancing at Lughnasa</i>
<i>EW</i>	<i>The Enemy Within</i>
<i>EDI</i>	<i>Essays, Diaries, Interviews: 1964–1999</i>
<i>GI</i>	<i>The Gentle Island</i>
<i>Give</i>	<i>Give Me Your Answer, Do!</i>
<i>HP</i>	<i>The Home Place</i>
<i>LV</i>	<i>The London Vertigo</i>
<i>MH</i>	<i>Making History</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Molly Sweeney</i>
<i>Mundy</i>	<i>The Mundy Scheme</i>
<i>P</i>	<i>Performances</i>
<i>SP</i>	<i>Selected Plays</i>
<i>TPA</i>	<i>Three Plays After</i>
<i>Vol</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>
<i>WT</i>	<i>Wonderful Tennessee</i>

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---

*List of abbreviations*

**Major critical studies on Brian Friel**

Andrews	Andrews, Elmer, <i>The Art of Brian Friel</i>
Corbett	Corbett, Tony, <i>Brian Friel</i>
Dantanus	Dantanus, Ulf, <i>Brian Friel</i>
Maxwell	Maxwell, D. E. S., <i>Brian Friel</i>
McGrath	McGrath, F. C., <i>Brian Friel's (Post) Colonial Drama</i>
O'Brien	O'Brien, George, <i>Brian Friel</i>
Pine	Pine, Richard, <i>The Diviner</i>