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978-0-521-87386-4 - Brian Friel, Ireland, and The North
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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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For Mary Bell

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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> |