

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Playboy of the Western World

The play begins in the Mayo village, in a pub owned by Michael James Flaherty. Peegen Mike, Michael James' daughter, is engaged to Shawn Keogh who is a weak and anxious man. They are an unsuitable couple, but they only have to wait for a dispensation from the Court of Rome before they get married. Christy Mahon is a stranger who comes from a distant country in the South of Ireland. He arrives at Michael's pub one evening. The Mayo villagers interrogate him concerning the reason why he comes to the Mayo village, and Christy Mahon claims that he has been on the run from the law because he has killed his own father.

The Mayo villagers accept Christy Mahon and conclude that he is a man of great courage. Michael James not only offers Christy to stay and work as a pot boy in his pub but he also gives him a good salary. The villagers admire him as a hero because Mayo villagers do not have any strong and brave men. Most of the men in the Mayo village are weak, anxious, and handicapped. Widow Quinn comes to Michael James' pub to see Christy Mahon, and she fights with Peegen because Widow Quinn wants Christy to stay in her home.

Some girls are curious about Christy Mahon because they hear about the story of the murder. Sara, Honor, Susan, Nelly are fighting to serve Christy's

breakfast and try to get Christy's attention. Shawn Keogh is the only man to have an objection to Christy Mahon because his fiancée, Pegeen Mike, falls in love with Christy Mahon. Moreover, they arrange a plan to get married. Widow Quinn asks Christy Mahon to participate in the local sport games held by the Mayo villagers and Christy Mahon is able to win all races there.

Besides, there is evidence that Old Mahon, who is Christy Mahon's father, is still alive. He reveals to Widow Quinn that Christy Mahon merely knocks him unconscious and runs away. Furthermore, Old Mahon has been following him ever since. Finally, Old Mahon meets Christy and they both fight again. After the villagers hear Old Mahon's stories, they immediately mock Christy Mahon and then turn against him. Pegeen Mike also rejects Christy and considers him to be a saucy liar. The villagers, including Pegeen Mike, decide to hang him.

At the end of the play, Old Mahon and Christy finally stop fighting. Old Mahon forgives Christy. Both of them leave the Mayo village. Shawn Keogh states again that he will marry Pegeen Mike and no one will bother them again. Pegeen Mike claims that she has lost the only Playboy of the Western World.

Biography of the Author

John Millington Synge was born in April 16, 1871 in 2 Newtown Villas, Rathfarnham, near Dublin. In 1872, J.M. Synge's father, John Hatch Synge passed away. Mrs Synge and her children, Robert, Annie, Edward, Samuel, and John, moved to the 4 Orwell Park, Rathgar.

In 1887 J.M. Synge joined Dublin Naturalist Field Clubs and he began studying the violin with Patrick Griffith in Dublin. In 1888 J.M. Synge entered Trinity College, Dublin. In 1889, he attended lectures in Musical Theory at Royal Academy of Music, Dublin.

J.M. Synge met and fell in love with Cherrie Matheson, a friend of his cousin's and a Plymouth Brethren. He proposed to her in 1895, but she turned him down on both occasions because of their different religious viewpoints.

In 1896 he visited Italy to study the language for a time before returning to Paris. Later, he met William Butler Yeats, who encouraged him to live for a while in the Aran Islands and then returned to Dublin and devoted himself to creative work.

In January 1897 J.M. Synge joined the Irish League and in the same year he began writing Etude Morbide. In 1901 he completed The Aran Island. Afterwards, he completed a two-act version of When the Moon Set.

J.M. Synge fell in love with Molly Allgood and they became secretly engaged in the year 1906. The first performance of The Playboy of the Western World in the year 1907 caused riots in Dublin, and yet it was performed with great success in Oxford and London. Synge's later works, including The Tinker's Wedding were published in 1908, but not produced for fear of further riots, and Deirdre of the Sorrows, a tragedy, was unfinished at the time of his death but was presented by the Abbey players in 1910.

In March 24, 1909 John Millington Synge died of Hodgkin's disease in the Elpis Nursing Home, Dublin.

(Coxhead, 4)