



The Abbey Rebels of 1916: A Lost Revolution

By Fearghal McGarry

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The story of the 1916 Easter Rising and its aftermath from a new perspective

The Abbey Theatre played a leading role in the politicisation of the revolutionary generation that won Irish freedom, but comparatively little is known about the men and women who formed the lifeblood of the institution: those whose radical politics drove them to fight in the 1916 Rising.

Drawing on a huge range of previously unpublished material, *The Abbey Rebels of 1916* explores the experiences, hopes and dreams of these remarkable but largely forgotten individuals: Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh, the Abbey's first leading lady; Peadar Kearney, author of the national anthem; feminist Helena Molony, the first female political prisoner of her generation; Seán Connolly, the first rebel to die in the Rising; carpenter Barney Murphy; usherette Ellen Bushell; and Hollywood star Arthur Shields.

Invigorating and provocative, this is the story of how, in the years following the Easter Rising, the radical ideals that inspired their revolution were gradually supplanted by a conservative vision of the nation Ireland would become. Lavishly illustrated with 200 documents and images, it provides a fresh and compelling account of the Rising and its aftermath.

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Editorial Review

Review

Provides a fresh and compelling account of the Rising along with its aftermath.--Irish Gazette

A rich portrait of the period and drawing on previously unpublished material. . . Lavishly illustrated, the book is also a timely reminder that art and politics are often interwoven in Ireland in ways that would astound many other cultures. --Irish Voice

About the Author

Fearghal McGarry is Reader in Irish History at Queen's University Belfast. He has written widely on Irish history. His books include *The Rising. Ireland: Easter 1916*, *Eoin O Duffy: A Self-Made Hero* and *Rebels: Voices from the Easter Rising*, which has been adapted for the stage by Jimmy Murphy for the Abbey Theatre. He has worked extensively on the revolutionary period and is a contributor to a number of 1916 centenary projects, including An Post's GPO Witness History Interpretive Exhibition Centre.

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