

**The Barcroft Players
Present**



A Most Notorious Woman

By Maggie Cronin

**Thursday August 4, 2011
Friday August 5, 2011
7:30 p.m.**

Cast

Grace O'Malley and all other characters Ana Cackley

Crew

Producer Barbara Swart
Director Danny Cackley
Lights Randy Swart
Sound Kate Reardon
Box Office Peg and Gary Lefebvre
Publicity Barbara Swart, Dave Peacefull

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

Bios

Actor - Ana Cackley

Ana has been acting with the Barcroft Players for eight years. She was previously seen in their productions of *Tales of Barcroft*, *The King's Equal*, and *A Thousand Clowns*. She has been in many plays and musicals with the H-B Woodlawn Theatre Department, such as *Urinetown*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Assassins*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *All the Great Books (abridged)*, and *Boy Gets Girl*. She has also acted for the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia and Wit's End Productions, and has acted and directed for the Educational Theatre Company. She originally worked on this show as her senior project at her high school. Ana will attend the University of Virginia this fall.

Director – Danny Cackley

Danny has been proud to work on this project and is extremely glad to be able to help his sister craft and shape Ms. Cronin's excellent prose. A founding member of the Barcroft Players, Danny has since been an actor, assistant director, fight choreographer and stage manager for various other companies. As an actor, he recently was an understudy in Studio Theatre's production of

The Walworth Farce and last month had the title role in Empty Chair Theatre Company's production of *Titus Andronicus*. Danny holds a degree in Drama from the University of Virginia.

Author - Maggie Cronin

Maggie is an actress and writer born in Ireland, but who grew up in London. She trained at Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London. She has numerous theatre, television, film, radio and voice-over credits. Her most recent work includes the feature films, *Whole Lotta Sole* and *Belfast Story*. Maggie starred in the BBC television drama, *Doctors*, from 2000 to 2006. The show won a British Soap Award in May 2004. Other UK and Irish television roles include parts in the award-winning production of *United*, as well as the shows *Scapegoat* and *Marú*. She has appeared in numerous stage productions, including *Shadowlands*, at the Lyric Theatre, in Belfast. *A Most Notorious Woman* was the first play Maggie wrote. It won the Stewart Parker Trust/BBC Radio Drama award in 1996. Other writing work includes: *Greenstick Boy*, which premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2008; *Only Connect*, a short film script; and *Phoenix Rising*, a short story, broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Maggie is a recipient of an Arts Council Northern Ireland "Support for The Individual Artist" award, which will be used for research and writing of her next play, *The Handsome Cabin Girl*.

Some background for the play

Grace O'Malley is an important figure in Irish folklore and many folktales, songs and poems tell of her adventures. But more than a mere character of stories, she also was a historical figure who lived on the west coast of Ireland in the 16th Century. She was a contemporary of Queen Elizabeth (the First) and a member of the Irish nobility, as her father was chieftain of the O'Malley clan. Throughout the 1500s, the Tudor rulers of England waged a series of wars to tighten their military and political grip on Ireland, presaging a 400-year struggle between English and Irish nationalists. Grace is known for leading a number of rebellions against English forces in and around Galway. There is a historical account of her visiting London and meeting Elizabeth in an ultimately fruitless attempt to reach an accord.

The Barcroft Community House

The Community House was built more than 100 years ago and served for the early part of the 20th Century as the neighborhood's schoolhouse. It may be the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in Arlington County. Over the years, there have been a number of projects to expand and, recently, to renovate the structure. The current effort, started in 2010, is to raise over \$40,000 to raise the ceiling and replace wallboard in the main hall. If you're interested in contributing more to the renovation fund or helping with the project, contact Chris Ditta, chair of the fundraising committee, at (202) 258-1240.

The Barcroft Players

Our neighborhood theater group was started 10 years ago by Barbara Swart and a group of Barcroft residents who love live theater. The Players couldn't help but think that the empty stage in the Community House was crying out for a theater group to fill the void. Thus the Barcroft Players were born. Since that modest beginning, the Players have graduated to a modest middle, with no end in sight. While the Players don't have a regular schedule of productions, we continue to challenge ourselves to put on good theater on a small stage and a shoestring budget. And not least of all, we've managed to have a lot of fun in the process.