

# The Rising of the Moon

Lady Gregory

# Title

- "The Rising of the Moon" is an Irish ballad recounting a battle between the United Irishmen and the British Army during the Irish Rebellion of 1798.
- The lyrics were written by John Keegan Casey
- *The Rising of the Moon* is a 1957 Irish anthology film directed by John Ford. It consists of three episodes all set in Ireland:
  - "The Majesty of the Law", based on the short story of that title by Frank O'Connor in *Bones of Contention*
  - "A Minute's Wait", based on a 1914 one-act comedy by Martin J. McHugh
  - "1921", based on the play *The Rising of the Moon* by Lady Gregory.



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Newcastle

Northern Ireland

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Ireland

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Manchester

Nottingham  
England

Wales

Oxford

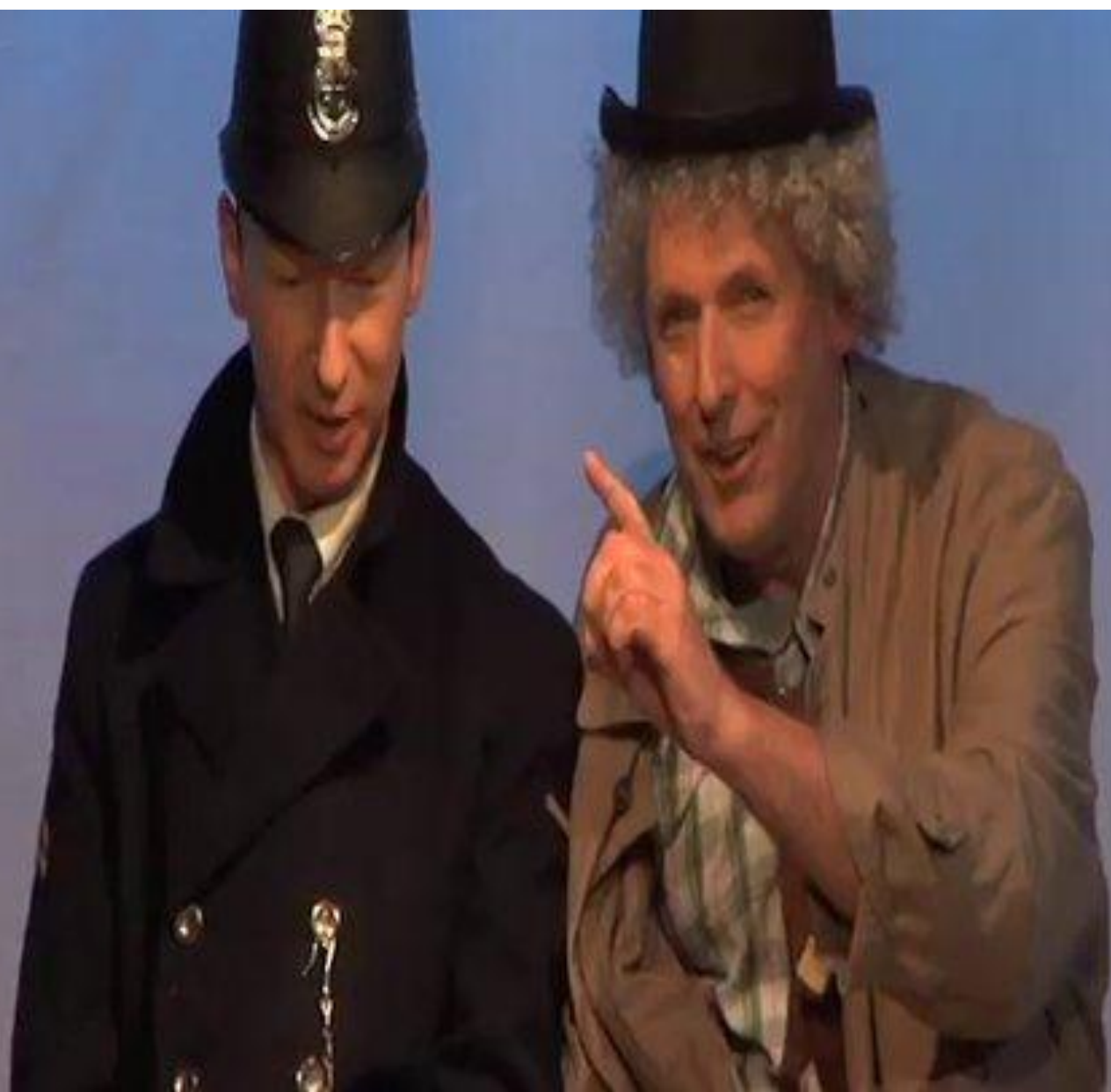
Bristol

Bath

London  
Canterbury

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- The Rising of the Moon is a play by Augusta, Lady Gregory.  
It is a political play which examines Anglo - Irish relations. It was first produced on March 9, 1907 by the Irish National Theatre.





# About the play

- Lady Gregory's *The Rising of the Moon* is an explicitly political play dealing with the relation between England and Ireland trying to fight for freedom from English rule.
- The history of English domination of Ireland is very long. Lady Gregory presents characters who are torn between duty and patriotism and are ultimately united together as Irishmen through the folklore, myths and songs which they share as a nation.
- The thought of being the citizen of a country takes precedence over one's feelings of duty towards a foreign nation.
- Patriotism is the unifying force among the people.
- See <https://www.msu.edu/~powell72/essay1.html>





# Themes and characters

- *First, we notice the theme of inversion in social norms.*
- *Second, Lady Gregory acknowledges the importance of loyalty in Irish nationalism and explores the tension between different loyalties.*
- *Lastly, the tensions between Law and Nation are highlighted*
- The play shows that harmony can be found in the midst of great tensions, and promotes songs and community as the way to achieve harmony in the new Irish nationalism
- The play has a simple structure, is only seven pages long, and has only four characters
- The Sergeant stands for what is good, law and order, and the old English way.
- The Ragged Man stands for the bad, rebellion, and the New Irish Way