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**IRISH THEATRE OF CHICAGO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL GRANT  
ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION TO J.R. SULLIVAN**

CHICAGO – As **Irish Theatre Of Chicago** (formerly Seanachai Theatre Company) enters its 23<sup>rd</sup> season, the company is proud to announce the installation of Drama Desk winner **J.R. Sullivan** as **Interim Artistic Director**, effective June 25, 2018. States **Founding Artistic Director** and **Ensemble Member Michael Grant**, “J.R. is deeply passionate both about Irish theater and the ITC ensemble, and believes strongly in our place in Chicago’s theater scene. After two decades at the helm I’m pleased to be able to hand over the reins to someone who loves our company and community so much, and has a great vision for what we can accomplish going forward.”

“I’ve been a great admirer of Irish Theatre of Chicago going back to 1995’s *AND NEITHER HAVE I WINGS TO FLY*,” states Sullivan. “I am in deep admiration for their craft and their devotion to the luminous and the bruising, the political and the transcendent. I envision a future where the company has a permanent home and ongoing relationships with writers who will craft plays specifically for the distinctive Chicago style of the ITC ensemble. New plays and productions that are Chicago and Irish both, in the lyrical and the compelling, the connected and the essential. Count me as excited to be a part of all this, in the traditional and the new, as this vital company moves onwards and upwards.”

**Irish Theatre Of Chicago invites the public** to meet the new Interim Artistic Director at an **official announcement party** on the patio at **Chief O’Neil’s** (3471 North Elston Avenue in Chicago) on **Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-10:30. Admission is free.** Cash bar. Appetizers will be provided. No reservations required.

**About J.R. Sullivan**

**J.R. Sullivan** began his professional career with the founding of Rockford Illinois’ New American Theater, where he served as Producing Director for 22 thriving seasons. In 1994 Sullivan transitioned to freelance directing, working nationwide as well as serving as Associate Artistic Director for the Utah Shakespeare Festival from 2002-2009, and Artistic Director of NYC’s Off-Broadway Pearl Theatre from 2009-2013, where during his tenure the company garnered a Drama Desk award in recognition of “notable productions of classic plays and nurturing a stalwart resident acting company.”

In the Chicago area Sullivan’s directing work includes *Writer’s Theater*, *Northlight*, *American Theatre Company*, *A Red Orchid*, *Milwaukee Rep.*, *American Players Theatre*, *Live Bait*, *Prop*, *The Onyx*, *Touchstone*, and *Turnaround Theater*, where his production of *FAITH HEALER* was selected as the inaugural production of the 1995-96 *Steppenwolf Studio* series. Other regional work includes the *Oregon Shakespeare Festival*, *Theatre X*, *Philadelphia’s Arden Theatre*, the *Studio Theatre* in Washington DC, *Delaware Theatre Company*, and the *Resident Ensemble Players* at the *University of Delaware*. Sullivan’s overseas work for the *U.S. Information Agency/International Theater Agency* includes *ALL MY SONS* and *ON GOLDEN POND* in Bulgaria, and *FOOL FOR LOVE* in the former Soviet Union. His adaptations (in collaboration with Joseph Hanreddy) of Jane Austen’s *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* and *SENSE AND SENSIBILITY* have been produced regionally including at *Milwaukee Rep.*, the *Oregon* and *Utah Shakespeare Festivals*, *South Coast Rep.*, *Round House Theatre*, *People’s Light & Theater Company*, *The Cincinnati Playhouse*, and *Connecticut Rep.* In addition he has performed his own play *BEN HECHT: CHILD OF THE CENTURY* at *Victory Gardens* in Chicago.

**For a full resume and more details please visit [jrsullivan.net](http://jrsullivan.net)**

**About Irish Theatre Of Chicago**

Since 1993, the award-winning **Irish Theatre Of Chicago** (formerly Seanachai Theatre Company) has served as Chicago’s only Equity company dedicated to presenting works that reflect the rich history, culture, and artistic legacy of Ireland. The company seeks to honor Ireland’s strong tradition of storytelling while creating works that appeal to and reflect the shared human experiences of all communities in Chicago. *Irish Theatre of Chicago is supported in part by The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council and The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs: City Arts Program.*

**For more information about Irish Theater of Chicago, please visit [irishtheatreofchicago.org](http://irishtheatreofchicago.org)**