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| **Shadowplay**  ((2019)  By  Joseph O’Connor  (Best known for Star of the Sea) | ICC / McClelland Library Book Group  Dec. 5. 2021  10:30 AM – 12:30 PM  The meeting in December will be on Zoom. Check the website and emails for link. Be certain your email is in our system. |

Guide: Just to add a touch of color to our festive meeting, we invite you to wear your ugly Christmas sweatshirt or sweater.

1. Comment on the title Shadowplay as one appropriate for this novel.

1. Three famous theatre people are the main characters in this novel. Bram Stoker was an actor and theatre manager; Henry Irving was a famous actor and Ellen Terry was a beautiful actress of the period. Develop character profiles of the three as you move through the novel. How would you distinguish them? What values would you assign to each? How would you describe the various relationships that they have with one another?
2. This is a novel about three people who were important to the development of professional theatre in London in the 19th Century. As you read, be aware of the following:
   1. how much information you get about the physical theatre, the acting space, the “rituals” of the actors, and the development of characters;
   2. What events were newsworthy in the period;
   3. The attitudes towards other countries.
3. Joseph O’Connor, best known for Star of the Sea, tells this story. What methods does he use? What has he done well? Do you wish he had done some things differently? Critique and grade this latest effort.

Looking Ahead→→→Our January 2022 selection is The Pull of the Stars (2020) by Emma Donaghue, a famous Irish writer who lives in Canada.