

**Juno and the Paycock**  
**(1924)**

**Seán O'Casey**

**McClellan Library Book Club**

**Irish Cultural Center**

**Saturday, 28, 2026**

**Norton Room**

**10:30 AM -12:30 PM**

Seán O'Casey (1880-1964) is the author of three plays that are known as the Dublin Trilogy. **The Shadow of a Gunman** ((1923) is set in 1920 during the Irish war of Independence. **The Plough and the Stars** (1926) is set at the time of the 1916 Easter Rising.

**Juno and the Paycock** 's time frame is the civil war between the pro-treaty and the anti-treaty forces (1922).

- O'Casey was a Socialist. Is this evident in the play? How do you see this in the play? The setting (a tenement building)? The place in society of the main characters?
- The language of the characters can be described as Hiberno-English. Did you find reading this challenging? Would a performance make it easier or more difficult to understand?
- There is both tragedy and comedy in the play. Which characters did you see as comic and which as heroic or tragic?
- O'Casey identifies the two warring factions as "die-hards" and "Staters". What side do you think O'Casey preferred?

On March 28 the title is **Shadows on Our Skin**, Jennifer Johnston's 1997 novel.