



REAL INTERVIEWS WITH FAKE PEOPLE

## Tenor talks about advantages of being Irish, St. Paddy Day's



Patrick O'Reilly, played by Steve Weindorf, will appear in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* this weekend.

*Member of MLS murder mystery gives cryptic answers*  
Paul Taylor, Class of 2007

**RnW: Thank you for taking time out of your busy rehearsal schedule to talk with us. Could you tell us a little about your family?**

PO: I was originally born in Ireland in County Blarney. I had a strange childhood. My grandfather and my father were both officers in the German Espionage Agency, which meant that I spent the greater portion of my teenage years in Germany, not the Republic of Ireland. I think that since my father being a spy kept him away, I decided to not to follow in his footsteps and eventually trained to become an Irish tenor.

**RnW: Are the people of Ireland born with good people skills?**

PO: I believe that yes, being Irish gives me a certain natural advantage. Because I grew up in Germany, I have had to deal with arrogant people all my life, and this wore off on me. Since my father was part of the espionage [community], and taught me his talent for acting, I developed a way of interacting with the average American Joe without seeming like I was being condescending. But it's hard for me to keep up this act all the time so sometimes I get impatient when Americans can't understand what I'm saying. When this happens I try speaking in a German accent, which seems to keep these Lutherans happy. So we Irish are definitely good at keeping other people happy, which makes us happy.

**RnW: Do you ever use your Irish heritage to get people to do what you want?**

PO: Oh, aye! I can get Lucky Charms for free from Kroger's.

**RnW: Do you consider St. Patrick's Day an important holiday?**

PO: As an Irishman this holiday has a special meaning for me. But since I'm concentrating on this play that I'm in right now, I won't have much time to be celebrating. But one of the American actors mentioned that we'll have a cast and crew party, so I think I'll have a boiled potato and reminisce about the heather in the hills and my wee home in the glen about which my father would wax lyrical.

**RnW: Finally, what is the best part about being Irish?**

PO: I can use me accent to charm American lassies!



The Chicago River, dyed green for the 2005 St. Patrick's Day celebration.

### Handy Irish phrases to use on St. Patrick's Day

English: *Happy St Patrick's Day*  
Irish: *Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig duit*  
Pronunciation: [Ban ack tee na fayla Pawd-rig ditch]

*Kiss me, I'm Irish!*  
Is Éireannach mé, 'dom póg!  
[Is Air- an- ack may, do pogue]

*I'm Irish, are you?*  
Is Éireannach mé, carb as duit féin?  
[Is air-an- ack may, carr-ab ass ditch hane?]

*Did I tell you that I'm Bono's cousin?*  
An bhfuil a fhios agat gur colcheathrar dom é Bono?  
[An will iss agat gur cul- hee-ath-rar do ay Bono?]



## St. Patrick drives snakes out of Emerald Isle

Saint Patrick was the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland who is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland, although church historians find it likely that there were believers in the Emerald Isle before Patrick's arrival. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works, the *Confessio*, a spiritual autobiography, and his *Epistola*, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. (Interestingly enough he himself was English and was sold at a young age into slavery in Ireland.) Saint Patrick described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God."



Saint Patrick is famous for driving the snakes from Ireland. It is true there are no snakes in Ireland, but there probably never have been. As in many old pagan

religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice. While not the first to bring Christianity to Ireland, it is Patrick who is said to have encountered the nature-worshipping Druids and abolished their pagan rites. The story holds that he converted the warrior chiefs and princes, baptizing them and thousands of their subjects in the holy wells that still bear this name.

There are several accounts of Saint Patrick's death. One says that Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on March 17, 460 A.D. His jawbone was preserved in a silver shrine and was often requested in times of child-birth, epileptic fits, and as a preservative against the "evil eye." Another account says that St. Patrick ended his days at Glastonbury, England and was buried there. The Chapel of St. Patrick still exists as part of Glastonbury Abbey. Today, many Catholic places of worship all around the world are named after St. Patrick, including cathedrals in New York and Dublin.

### Why Saint Patrick's Day?

Saint Patrick's Day has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. Most importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, St. Patrick's Day is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for missionaries worldwide.

So, why is it celebrated on March 17? One theory is that that is the day that St. Patrick died. Since the holiday began in Ireland, it is believed that as the Irish spread out around the world, they took with them their history and celebrations. The biggest observance of all is, of course, in Ireland. With the exception of restaurants and pubs, almost all businesses close on March 17. Being a religious holiday as well, many Irish attend mass, where March 17 is the traditional day for offering prayers for missionaries worldwide before the serious celebrating begins.

In American cities with a large Irish population, St. Patrick's Day is a very big deal. Big cities and small towns alike celebrate with parades, "wearing of the green," music and songs, Irish food and drink, and activities for kids such as crafts, coloring and games. Some communities even go so far as to dye rivers or streams green!

### Minor Festivals of the Church Year

St. Timothy, Jan. 24  
St. Titus, Jan. 26

St. Matthias, Feb. 24

St. Joseph, March 19

St. Mark, April 25

St. Philip and St. James, May 1

St. Barnabas, June 11  
St. Peter and St. Paul, June 29

St. Mary Magdalene, July 22  
St. James the Elder, July 25

St. Mary, Aug. 15  
St. Bartholomew, Aug. 24

St. Matthew, Sept. 21

St. Luke, Oct. 18  
St. James, Oct. 23  
St. Simon and St. Jude, Oct. 28

St. Andrew, Nov. 30

St. Thomas, Dec. 21  
St. Stephen, Dec. 26  
St. John, Dec. 27

### St Patrick's Recipe Irish Potato Soup

Serves six

**Ingredients**  
6 medium potatoes  
1 large onion  
2 oz butter  
2 pints vegetable stock  
1/2 pint milk  
1 tablespoons chives or parsley  
Nutmeg  
Pinch of salt & pepper  
1 teaspoon of corn flour

**Method**  
Peel and cut potatoes in quarters and finely slice the onions. Melt butter in a saucepan and add the Potatoes and Onions, cover and simmer for 10 minutes (don't brown the vegetables). Add the Stock, Salt & Pepper and Nutmeg, Stir. Cover and bring to the boil stirring continuously. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes, until vegetables are soft, stir occasionally. Remove from heat and put through a sieve, and return to the saucepan. Stir in the milk and corn flour and bring to the boil, stir continuously. Remove from the heat, serve with a sprinkling of chives or parsley.

## The Court Street Players of Michigan Lutheran Seminary proudly present



**Friday & Saturday, March 18 & 19, at 7:00 p.m.**  
(Doors open at 6:15)

**Sunday, March 20, at 2:30 p.m.**  
(Doors open at 1:45)

Tickets Adults: \$6 (\$7 advance reserved); Grade school age: \$5 (\$6 adv. reserved)

For advanced ticket sales, contact the MLS Administration office at **989-793-1041 ext. 264.**

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