

up, but I never got an admiration for them until I'd started tapping into my creativity as an artist.

"When I found them, it was just like this wave, this whole magical world, opened up from them.

"I'm a bit late in but I all the richer for discovering them later."

**Q: YOUR SINGLE FACE HER IS DOING WELL, HAVING BEEN CHOSEN FOR SPOTIFY'S NEW MUSIC FRIDAY...**

"It's cool to see it get legs and take off (but) I'm not in it for the success of the songs on a chart or a streaming service.

"(But) I got what I got from the song already, it's already out into the world."

**Q: YOU MUST BE EXCITED ABOUT YOUR FORTHCOMING DEBUT ALBUM, GUARDIANS...**

"Yeah, very excited, to just have it there as part of my body of work because I am proud of it and all the work that I put into it.

"It'll be fantastic when it comes out but I'm (already) looking at the next project."

**Q: WHY IS IT CALLED GUARDIANS?**

"I don't know, but it's the perfect title, I know that. I don't know why, but it is."

**Q: DO YOU PLAN TO PERFORM LIVE?**

"I have my tail between my legs for this, I haven't played live - and I need to figure out how because I hope to play festivals this year.

"I don't know what the ins and outs are of having a sound engineer or someone to control the dynamics of the stage. That's something else I'm gonna have to figure out the first half of this year.

"Hopefully when I have it figured out, I'll have a good theatrical show that I can put on in venues and bring to festivals.

**Q: YOU HAVE DONE SOME ACTING INCLUDING A LEAD ROLE IN THE INDEPENDENT FILM SUIT HUNG, TIED TONGUE WHICH WAS SELECTED FOR SCREENING AT LAST YEAR'S PRESTIGIOUS RICHARD HARRIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. IT WAS DESCRIBED AS '94 MINUTES OF FILM NOIR ANARCHY AND SOCIAL COMMENTARY'.**

"Weird, weird project and totally bizarre," Alex says of it, "but in the most beautiful ways, it's a joy to be a part of it because it's so out there.

"During the lockdown, I took as many short film projects as I could. One was with this fella called Sau Dachi.

"He approached me later about this feature length film that would be a lot of guerrilla-style filmmaking,

because it would have no budget.

"What is beautiful about that as an actor is that you have a lot of creative input, because we pretty much improvised all the scenes.

"He really did a good job of putting us at the forefront of the project and letting us decide what way it went.

"That really suited me. You don't get an experience like that too often as an actor.

"It was just like, 'I trust your vision. Go ahead and do your thing' and it worked.

"It really, really did work. He pulled it off brilliantly."

**Q: YOUR MUSIC ALSO FEATURES ON THE SOUNDTRACK...**

"That's true.

"I came to him and said, 'Hey, I wrote this poem, let me just record it and not necessarily put into the film, but let me just record it and give it to you.

"I sent it on to him and said, 'If it fits anywhere, fantastic. Use it'.

"It ended up making the soundtrack so yeah, it was a double whammy.

"It's nice that both crafts are riding on top of each other."

**Q: HOW DID YOU GET INTO ACTING?**

"I was in drama groups when I was a kid, so I knew I liked it. At college, during the summers, I made an effort to get into movie extras and on film sets because I always knew I wanted to do it.

"About halfway through college I started acting in short films and just kept on doing it, never stopped."

**Q: WHERE WOULD YOU BE NOW IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR LOCKDOWN?**

"The music wouldn't be as far along, film acting might have taken up a bit more if lockdown hadn't happened.

"It was a bit of a setback on the film front but for everything it taught me music-wise it sped up the music, it was definitely the catalyst."



**DANIEL (D'S SONG)**

**IS OUT NOW.**

**THE ALBUM GUARDIANS**

**IS OUT THIS YEAR. SEE**

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**T**here was an impressive debut for a new theatre piece at The Old Red Lion in London recently.

A Silent Scandal, which is written by Meade Conway and directed by Sally Hennessy, centres around an emerging scandal at an Irish boys school.

Featured in the Irish World recently, it was inspired by real life events.

The play stars Senna O'Hara, who appeared in the Ann Lovett film Ann, as Miss Turley who is a teacher new to a school where her son is also attending.

Miss Turley worries for her son and asks Mr O'Toole, played by Ben Carolan who is recognizable from his main role in Sing Street, to keep an eye on him.

It is the headmaster Mr Brennan, played by Eoghan Quinn, who first speaks of it being a big day for the school and we later learn it is graduation day but Brennan himself will be staying away from proceedings.

Slowly but surely, Miss Turley puts the pieces of the puzzle together.

In her unique position, she is not blinded by her loyalty to a man she has not known that long. She also has her son Tommy to think about. She can see something is wrong here and is willing to ask the questions no one else will.

But, also due to her position of being new there and also undoubtedly being a woman, Turley is often disregarded and fobbed off.

The opening scenes seem to be littered with occasions of her being interrupted or told not to worry or ask questions.

Brennan refers to her son as Tony and Tadhg rather than his real name of Tommy. This seems to indicate the

level of interest he has in the boy and, it would seem, his mother.

The acting was superb. Senna was compelling as Turley, a teacher determined to do the right thing and speak up in spite of those who

want to shout her down. She is definitely an actress to watch out for.

Ben Carolan's O'Toole is caught in a difficult position and one the audience can identify with. Unlike Turley, he has loyalty to Brennan and it seems has never pondered the kind of questions that she now brings up.

Also a great performance, Ben has grown up a lot since Sing Street. It seemed a little funny to see him back in school albeit this time as a teacher.

Eoghan Quinn's Brennan is chilling in how quickly he can turn. We were somewhat reminded of Don Wycherley's Brother Baxter in that same film Sing Steet. Although he plays the part of a respectable man, Brennan is also a bully and manipulator.

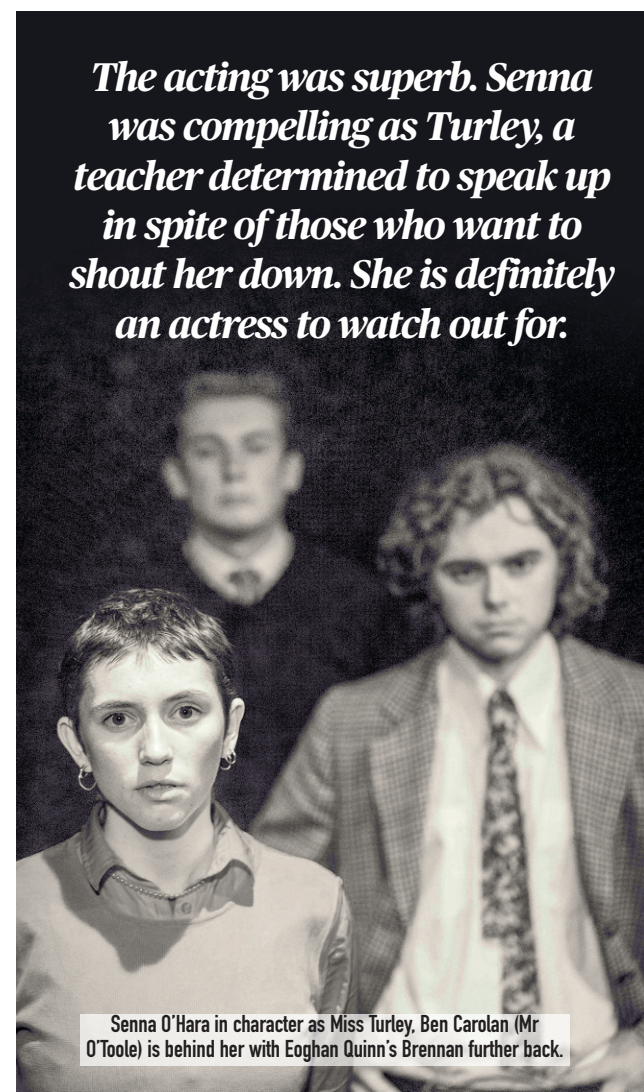
The 60 minutes of this play flew by which is a compliment to any writing. It certainly feels like a work in progress and would benefit from some additional scenes being added.

The nature of the scandal is never spoken about directly and this is a strength as it is still clear what is being talked about- Something people can't bring themselves to mention.

Impressive in this format, we would love to see what form the play takes in the future.

The play came together through the Irish Creative Collective which brought the team together.

● **Look out for A Silent Scandal which will return.**



Senna O'Hara in character as Miss Turley. Ben Carolan (Mr O'Toole) is behind her with Eoghan Quinn's Brennan further back.