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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Irish Arts Festival will be presented in the Little Theatre of Kresge Auditorium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from Friday, February 12 through Sunday, February 14. The festival, sponsored by the M.I.T. Humanities Department, Course XXI Society, the Lecture Series Committee and the American Committee for Irish Studies, will be given in conjunction with the exhibition of paintings by Jack Butler Yeats, which will be in Hayden Gallery through February 17. Dr. Emmet J. Larkin, assistant professor of history in the M.I.T. Department of Humanities, has been instrumental in arranging both the exhibition and festival.

The weekend's program will include: the presentation of three one-act plays, "Full Moon in March" by William Butler Yeats, "A Fourth for Bridge" by Denis Johnston and selections from "The Voice of Shem" by Mary Manning, at 8:30 p.m., February 12 and 13; a talk on Da Derga's "Hostel" and James Joyce's "The Dead" by John Kelleher, professor of Modern Irish Literature and History, Harvard University, at 3 p.m. followed by the three one-act plays at 8:30 p.m., February 13; a talk on the paintings of Jack B. Yeats by Russell B. Connor, artist and lecturer, Boston Museum of Fine Arts at 2:30 p.m. followed by a talk on the Gate Theatre by Denis Johnston, on February 14.

Denis Johnston has been head of the Theatre Department at Smith College since 1961. Educated in Dublin, Edinburgh, Christ's College (Cambridge) and Harvard, he was director of the Dublin Gate Theatre from 1931 to 1936, when he joined the British

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Broadcasting Company. His book, "Nine Rivers from Jordan," is an account of his meaningful experiences as a BBC war correspondent on the Near Eastern, African and European fronts. From 1952 to 1960, he was Professor of English at Mount Holyoke College. He is the author of many plays, among them "The Moon in the Yellow River" and "The Old Lady Says, 'No!'" "A Fourth for Bridge" has been described as an "anti-war farce in which a bunch of stray World War II soldiers from both sides vie with one another in making fun of their own leaders and ideologies."

Mary Manning, a native Dubliner now at Harvard, has ranged freely through James Joyce's "Finnegans Wake" to assemble her stage adaptation "The Voice of Shem." Denis Johnston has said of Miss Manning's play that it presents the "Wake" "basically as a resurrection dream, in which the answer to the mystery of death is given by the woman-river, Anna Livia Plurabelle." Miss Manning feels that "Finnegans Wake" is really "the story of the Joyce family, the human family, fallen from grace, shabby genteel, squalid and glorious, funny and sad," and she includes much of Joyce's humor in the play. Miss Manning also wrote the screenplay for the movie "Finnegans Wake" which was produced and directed by Mary Ellen Bute; a private "by invitation only" showing of this film will conclude the Irish Arts Festival on the evening of February 14.

The festival is free and open to the public. No tickets are necessary.

February 2, 1965