

Englische Literaturwissenschaft

Dr. Wieland Schwanebeck

PS/Ü

**The Plays and Films of Martin
McDonagh**

Wed (3)

HSZ E03

Anglo-Irish playwright Martin McDonagh burst on the British theatre scene of the 1990s like a force of nature, with his highly entertaining plays offering Tarantino'esque levels of violence, taboo subjects, crass humour, and insightful political debates. Ever since McDonagh made a name for himself with the 'Leenane' trilogy and his darkly comical follow-up plays, he has established himself as one of the most recognisable voices of contemporary theatre. Not only have his plays enjoyed successful runs on both sides of the Atlantic and won him a number of prestigious awards, they also regularly attract celebrated performers like Daniel Radcliffe and Christopher Walken.

This seminar will introduce students to basic categories of studying drama in order to carry out in-depth analyses of a number of McDonagh's most well-known works. We will examine his plays with regard to the history of Anglo-Irish relations, masculinity, violence, and the role of literature and story-telling in the postmodern environment. We will also consider the cinematic oeuvre of McDonagh (who is an Academy Award-winning director) and discuss his films *In Bruges* (2008) and *Seven Psychopaths* (2012).

Please buy:

- Martin McDonagh. *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*. New York: Dramatist's Play Service, 2003. [ISBN 978-0822219347]
- Martin McDonagh. *The Pillowman*. London: faber & faber, 2003. [ISBN 978-0571220328]

More material will be available on OPAL at the beginning of the term. You are expected to have read *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* before the start of the seminar.

You can join this class no matter if you have already attended the introductory course or not. You do not have to register beforehand – just be there for the first meeting.