

13 Marlborough Street,
Dear Sir,
N. Ireland
18th June. 1956.

LYCEUM LECTURE SERIES

OCTOBER 24, 2016

FORUM, MCCARTHY CENTER

5-7 P.M.



Framingham
State University

How Radio Made Brian Friel a Playwright

Kelly Matthews, PhD
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Irish playwright Brian Friel won the 1992 Tony award for best play with *Dancing at Lughnasa*. As a founding member of the Field Day theatre company, with more than two dozen plays to his name, he has been called Ireland's greatest contemporary playwright. But long before breaking onto Broadway, Friel wrote radio plays for BBC Northern Ireland and shared his writerly struggles with his producer, Ronald Mason. FSU English professor Kelly Matthews uncovered Friel's letters to Mason on her sabbatical in the BBC archives. Her Lyceum lecture will reveal some of her new findings, and will shed light on what humanities researchers do behind the closed doors of archive collections.

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