The Girl from the North Country.

Audio Description is at 2.30 on Saturday 18th February, in the Opera House.

Please be seated by 2.20 if you wish to hear the programme notes and test your headset .This musical is written and directed by the Irish dramatist, Conor Mc Pherson with songs and music of Bob Dylan throughout the show.

It is set in a crowded boarding house in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1934, during the Great Depression.

At the centre is NICK LAINE, played by Jay O Saunders, who is facing foreclosure on the big derelict house from which he rents rooms. Tall and stout, he wears an apron over black shirt and trousers.

He is helped by his alcoholic son GENE, who is acted by Colton Ryan. With short brown hair, he wears a checked shirt with shabby grey trousers and jacket.

Nick’s adopted daughter MARIANNE, played by Kimber Elayne Sprawl, who is pregnant. She is tall, with dark skin and cropped black hair. She wears a dress with a long flowered wide skirt with a white played by collar, and flat brown shoes

 Played by Frances mc Namee, Nick’s wife ELIZABETH has dementia. Her straight brown is brushed back from her face, and she wears a white T shirt, knee length flared brown skirt, and green cardigan, with black ankle boots

MRS NEILSON, in her early forties, is a widow, who is waiting in vain for a windfall inheritance, is sleeping with Nick. Played by Jeannetta Bayardelle, she is dark skinned, with short black hair, high cheek bones and wide mouth. She wears a long brown cardigan over her long v neck red dress, and black high heels.

MR BURKE, acted by Marc Kudish, and his wife , played by Luba Mason, are a squabbling couple, with a son ELIAS, in his 30’s who has a mental age of a 4 year old. In his 50’s Mr Burke wears a grey suit. He is plump, with a broad face and black hair.

Played by Austin Scott, JOE SCOTT, is boxer newly out of prison.is an athletic looking young man, broad chested, with short dark hair and thick eyebrows. He wears tight jeans, with grubby long sleeved white shirt, braces, and black boot

REVEREND MARLOWE, a bible salesman in his fifties, wears a tattered black three piece suit, and a white shirt with rolled up sleeves. He is played by Matt Mc Grath.

In his sixties, MR PERRY is a shoe mender, whom Nick hopes might take Marianne as hi wife. Acted by Tom Nelis, he is short haired, wears a long black coat, black trousers and shiny black shoes. He carries a bunch of flowers.

DR WALKER, a middle aged local doctor and morphine addict , serves as a semi-omniscient narrator. Played by Robert Joy, he has receding brown hair, and wears a brown leather jacket , brown baggy trousers waistcoat, and blue tie.

MRS SCOTT wears a long sleeved dark pink dress, with pale high heeled shoes. She has thick blond hair.

KATE DRAPER, Gene’s ex girlfriend, wears a black coat and beret.

Her pale green v neck dress has short sleeves, and she has very high heels. Her brown hair is worn long.

THE SET.

The action of the play takes place in one large room.

There is a door at the centre of the back wall. At times a screen comes down over this back wall with a view of mountains behind a wide stretch of water.

To the front left of the stage is a piano and stool, beside which is an armchair. A long dining table is centre front with a bench and wooden chairs.

To the right of the door are kitchen cupboards , and to the right of the room is an entrance from the kitchen . There is a dresser, with crockery beside this entrance.

The piano, and drum set with cymbals and other instruments at the left, remain in the room at all times. Some mikes on stands are also used.

The lighting changes and becomes dark or light depending on the time of day.

NB I have not seen the stage production and may change the programme notes when I read them before the audio description.