

*July 11, 2008*

# Worth a Look



Katie Pfeiffer

*Geoff Hoyle plays Hugh and Maggie Mason is Maire in Brian Friel's play "Translations," presented by Stanford Summer Theater.*

## Theater

### Brian Friel and other Irish Voices

Pride in their roots is something the Irish have in spades, but perhaps another boasting point lies in their playwrights. There is evidence of both on the stage at Stanford Summer Theater, which this season shines a spotlight on all things Irish.

Brian Friel, one of the most well-known playwrights in Ireland, is the focus of the festival's 10th season. His highly acclaimed play "Translations" is running through July 27; another Friel play, "Faith Healer," plays July 31 to Aug. 17. Both are at the Pigott Theatre at 551 Serra Mall on the Stanford University campus, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

"Translations" paints a picture of rural Ireland in 1833, when British troops began to map out the countryside and regulate the Irish language, compromising the local residents' old-world Gaelic traditions. Bay Area actors Geoff Hoyle and Maggie Mason star in the play.

"Faith Healer" is broken up into monologue narrations of four characters who discuss the trials and tribulations of Frank Hardy, a man who believes he can heal people by harnessing the powers of higher beings.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for Stanford faculty and staff and \$10 for seniors and students.