

Contents

Acknowledgements	vi
Introduction	1
1. Growing Up	2
2. Ireland, Precarious Existence and Marriage	24
3. Early Plays	39
4. Success	52
5. Turning Points	67
6. The 1970s and 1980s	82
7. The 1990s and Beyond: Political Engagement	104
8. Conclusion: Cancer, the Nobel Prize, Mutations of Mortality, Poetry	130
Notes	139
Bibliography	140
Index	155