

## Abstract

*Class, Sexuality and Nationalism: Identity Building in the Prose Writings of Brendan Behan* focuses on Irish author, playwright and rebel Brendan Behan's prose fiction. It uses notions of Irish autobiography, memory and narrativity in order to analyse his collected short stories, his only crime novel *The Scarperer* and his columns, originally published in the *Irish Press*, as well as his most extensive work, the autobiographical novel *Borstal Boy*. Due to the autobiographical nature of most of these texts, throughout this thesis biographies of the author function as co-texts. The aim of this thesis is to find out how Behan uses the themes of class, sexuality and nationalism in order to create identity in his prose. Mostly, the author is critical of his time's accepted version of Irishness, creating characters principally based on himself that do not fit the mould.