



Forty new part-time jobs:
Darragh Bourke, of No Limit

Hireland: firms set to give city jobs boost

NICK RABBITTS
Business Correspondent

AN initiative to encourage employers to "hire instead of fire" has resulted in 91 jobs being pledged in Limerick in just six months.

Hireland is a not for profit movement aimed at encouraging employers to hire some of the thousands of skilled people who are out of work, with the thinking that if each company hires just one member of staff, the economy will get back on track.

The job pledges made on the hireland.ie web site have come from 21 companies across Limerick.

These include the Ripplecom broadband group in Raheen, the Strand Hotel in the city, Fleming Medical in the Dock Road, and Adare's Dunraven Arms Hotel.

But by far the biggest pledges has come from Ballyneety businessman Darragh Bourke's firm No Limit Promotions, which manages events for a variety of social gatherings.

Initially, he pledged to create one job by June. But he beat this target, instead hiring two full time staff.

Now, he plans to hire a whopping 40 promotions staff throughout the Munster region on a part-time basis.

As well as this, he is seeking to hire four sales executives by the time August is out.

"It is a fantastic idea, it is a not for profit initiative and the people [who set up Hireland] are working on a voluntary basis. The individuals who set it up have a focus that if each company creates just one job, we can get this country moving again," Darragh explained.

Due to Darragh's comprehensive job pledges, he has become the ambassador for Hireland in the Limerick area.

He will now be approaching businesses across Limerick with a view to getting them involved.

Over 5,000 jobs have been pledged nationwide, with 2,000 people now employed.

Powerful birthday for ESB celebrated

Tributes pour in for 85 years at Ardnacrusha

DONAL O'REGAN
News Reporter

THE 4,000 labourers, many from Limerick city, who built Ardnacrusha Power Station were remembered at an event to mark 85 years of the ESB.

The guest of honour at the event was former Taoiseach, Liam Cosgrave, who was nine years old when his father, WT Cosgrave, officially opened the power station in 1929.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny said WT Cosgrave, president of the Executive Council in the first Free State government, was a "true patriot that made the brave decision to harness the power of the Shannon to produce electricity for the Irish people".

"Ardnacrusha remains a symbol of the visionary thinking of these men and women and their passion for their country."

"What a legacy they have left us, one that makes us justifiably proud as a nation and as a people," said Mr Kenny.

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Pat Rabbitte said it is important to not just salute the memory of the visionaries who caused it to happen,



Reflecting on the past: Catherine Halpin, plant manager and Pat O'Doherty, ESB CEO give Taoiseach Enda Kenny a tour Picture: Press 22

but also to remember the men who worked on the project.

Seven and a half million cubic metres of earth was

Ardnacrusha remains a symbol of visionary thinking

moved at a time when JCBs were in the distant future.

"A great many of them were

seriously injured and some of them died. It is appropriate we remember them as well," said Mr Rabbitte.

The Taoiseach described the opening on July 22, 1929 for the young Liam Cosgrave as a "big day for a small boy".

Mr Cosgrave said it "means a lot" to be invited back.

His recollections of the day are that it was "very exciting" but the weather was very bad.

"It was a great occasion and it's nice to be back."

"Ardnacrusha revolution-

ised industry and agriculture at the time, endured ever since and expanded.

"They are very kind to present me with a copy of a painting by Sean Keating," said Mr Cosgrave.

Ardnacrusha was built at a cost of 5.2m old Irish pounds by the German company Siemens. That figure represented almost one fifth of the entire annual budget of the new Irish government.

It forms part of the Shannon (hydroelectric) Scheme

and was the first national electricity system in the world.

Work on the massive hydro electric project began in 1925 by Siemens of Germany and was completed in 1929. Approximately 5,000 people - 1,000 German and 4,000 Irish - worked on the construction of the scheme.

The waters of the Shannon were harnessed at the Ardnacrusha Dam and a network was constructed to transmit electricity across the country from the new power station.

Zeb and Shane feature in low budget indie movie

ALAN OWENS
News Reporter

LIMERICK actors Zeb Moore and Shane Lennon are to appear in a new feature length film set in Dublin's inner-city.

The low-budget indie flick, Harry, Hamlet and I, is a loose take on Shakespeare's timeless play Hamlet - modernised and set in Dublin's criminal underworld.

The film was shot over a number of months in Dublin and Wicklow and is the first feature film shot by Maidan Productions.

"Harry, Hamlet and I is loosely based on Hamlet, but set in Dublin's inner-city," explained writer and director Aidan Connon.

"The main protagonist,



Twisting the Bard: Zeb Moore and Lisa Warren in Harry, Hamlet and I, a new feature film shot in Dublin and Wicklow.

Harry, is the only son of a leader of a criminal gang. The story looks at the pressure on him to be a part of that whole system, and to fit in.

"He struggles to free himself from his ancestry, his past. He longs to escape, so much so that after a traumatic event he takes on a new per-

sona, a personality - Hamlet," he added.

Zeb Moore - originally from Dublin but living in Limerick for more than a decade - is well known on the local scene for star turns with Quarry Players, plus work with Impact, Teaspach and his own theatre company Magic Roundabout. He plays 'Chuck' in the movie, a representation of Claudius from the original piece.

"It was brilliant fun, I really enjoyed it," said the Cratloe Road man. "My audition was about two minutes long. It was great fun to bring back the thick Dublin accent. It is also the first feature length I have shot in Dublin."

The filmmakers hope the flick - also featuring fellow local actor Shane Lennon from the Shelbourne Road - will be

ready for release in November and will be accepted into film festivals worldwide.

"They put a serious amount of time and effort into the film," explained Zeb. "It was very cleverly done and was a lean operation that didn't have much funding, but I think they have made something very impressive," he added.

Director Connon said the movie was "was motivated by the desire to deal with real life in present day Ireland".

"It is a fascinating story, portrayed in a realistic fashion," he explained.

"The story does not shy away or attempt to gloss over the hardship that real life presents," he added.

See www.facebook.com/HarryHamletandI for more.