

Hired Man wows audiences at LIT

By **CLODAGH O'LEARY**

LIFE, love and turmoil in early 20th century England is the subject matter of "The Hired Man" which has been wowing Limerick audiences since Friday.

Presented by the Limerick Musical Society, the story centres on the Tallentire family—John, a worker on the land, his wife Emily and their children May and Harry.

The story begins in 1898 as John and Emily settle in a small village in Crossbridge, and begin life as a new family.

Set against the background of the working class rituals— hiring fairs, hunting, drinking bouts and union meetings the show deals with issues such as infidelity, enduring love and the effect of war.

An adaptation of Melvyn Bragg's novel and set to music by Howard Goodall, the show spans the years between 1898 and 1920. It tells the story of the enduring love of Emily and John despite the numerous obstacles that come before them.

This show is completely different to anything performed on Limerick's



Taking part in the Limerick Musical Society production of *The Hired Man* in the LIT Millennium Theatre, from left, Miriam Ball, Barbara Cleary, Anne McGlynn and Caroline Carey (LL)

stage, and the audience in LIT's Millennium Theatre were highly appreciative of it.

The cast undoubtedly won over the audience—their powerful singing reflected the strong sense of community experienced during those times, people rallied around one

another when all the odds seemed to be stacked against them.

The choreography by Niamh O'Connell was simple, natural yet effective.

"The Hired Man" was directed by Richie Ryan, with musical director Paul Nash who conducted

his small orchestra with great effect.

Limerick Musical Society (LMS) was founded in 2000 to bring musical theatre to the people of Limerick and the Mid West. Their mission statement is to showcase new and exciting musicals to Limerick

audiences, and with this production they have certainly achieved their goal.

"The Hired Man" continues until this Saturday night, April 23 at LIT's Millennium Theatre. The performance begins at 8pm each night. Booking is available now on (061) 322322.

CHRONICLE BRIEFS

IEI photo event

THE Institution of Engineers of Ireland has launched a photography competition which is open to young photography enthusiasts for the first time this year. Limerick students are asked to submit their entries on or before Friday April 22. For further information contact ritapollard@iei.ie

IYF in denim

THE Irish Youth Foundation launch Denim Day 10 on April 29. Don't forget to wear your denims on the day and text DENIM to 57123 to donate €2 directly to the Irish Youth Foundation.

Chemicals in action

SECONDARY school students will get the chance to enjoy a fun-filled day of chemistry at the University of Limerick on Saturday May 14. The event is being run by The Salters' Institute in association with the Royal Society of Chemistry.

School Debate

LAUREL Hill Secondary School has reached the semi-final of the Concern National Secondary School Debate. The Limerick