Guinness Storehouse Receives International Award

THEA President George Wiktor presents the award to Paul Carty, General Manager of Guinness Storehouse and Ralph Ardill of Imagination.

The Themed Entertainment Association, globally recognised as the leading association within the entertainment industry, has honoured Dublin's **Guinness Storehouse** with a THEA Award for "Outstanding Achievement" in the Visitor Centre category.
Presented to Guinness Storehouse's General Manager Paul Carty and Ralph Ardill of Imagination by THEA President George Wiktor at a ceremony in Los Angeles, the award recognises the achievement of "outstanding quality" in the international entertainment industry.
Commenting on the award, Paul Carty, General Manager of Guinness Storehouse, said: "With over 700,000 people visiting Guinness Storehouse each year, this award is a welcome recognition of the attraction's unique attributes and it's standing as a world class visitor attraction".

Guinness Storehouse was not only recognised by THEA as an outstanding attraction, but also much closer to home, by Dublin Tourism. At the recent Dublin Tourism Enterprise Awards 2003, Guinness Storehouse won the overall Dublin Tourism Enterprise Award for its "entrepreneurial spirit, creative determination and strategic vision, which underpins its success in raising the bar on innovation, excellence and professionalism in Dublin's Tourism industry".
Opened in November 2000, Guinness Storehouse encompasses 170,000 sq.ft. of floor space, spread over seven floors and built around a huge central glass atrium. Visitors are brought along a surprising journey into the heart of the world's greatest beer brand, discovering the ingredients, the process, the craft and the passion behind every pint. Their journey ends in Gravity, with a complimentary pint and stunning panoramic 360-degree views of Dublin city.

For further information on any of the above, please contact the Guinness Storehouse at Tel: +353 1 408 4800.

The Hunt Museum - Museum of the Year 2003

Dr. Tom O'Dwyer, Nora Hickey (Hunt Museum), Virginia Teehan (Hunt Museum), The President, Mary McAleese and Naomi O'Nolan (Hunt Museum).

Limerick's **Hunt Museum** has won the 2003 Museum of the Year Award, administered for the 12th year jointly by the Heritage Council and the Northern Ireland Museums Council.
Presented by President Mary McAleese at a recent ceremony in the House of Lords, College Green, Dublin, the honour recognised the museum's consistent good practice, ongoing inventive education programme, quality exhibitions, website, published guide and the maintenance of its historic collection and building.
The Hunt Museum houses a unique, internationally renowned private collection of over 2000 original works of art and antiquity, formed by John and Gertrude Hunt. The Hunts' universal tastes are reflected in the variety of objects on display from many different cultures and time periods, the collection ranges in date from the Neolithic to the 20th century.
In a joint statement Michael Starlett, Chief Executive, The Heritage Council and Chris Bailey, Director of the Northern Ireland Museums Council, said "The museum sector is developing and expanding rapidly and it is important to recognise the very valuable contribution to society that is made by the dedicated staff in museums throughout Ireland".

For more details, please contact the Hunt Museum at tel: +353 61 312 833.

Christmas at the Ulster American Folk Park

The **Ulster American Folk Park** in Omagh, Co. Tyrone is an ideal place to learn the story of the many emigrants who left Ireland's shores in the 18th and 19th centuries. Visitors can see, smell, touch and even taste the past as they make their way through faithfully restored original buildings from Ireland and North America. Costumed guides bring the experience to life, while traditional crafts are demonstrated along the way.
For Christmas this year the Ulster American Folk Park is planning a sparkling programme, entitled "Days of Christmas Past". Taking place on Monday and Tuesday 22nd & 23rd of December (13.00-18.00 each day), there could be no better way to prepare for Christmas. Various Christmas crafts like card making will be showcased, while the toymaker will be hard at work making traditional wooden toys. The Log Cabin will be decorated with a beautiful array of Christmas decorations, reflecting the American influences on our traditional Christmas. Traditional puppet shows will appeal to young and old and carol singing will add to the festive experience. Finally, a visit to Santa Claus in the general store will round off the day, with each child receiving a period gift-wrapped present.

For more information, please contact the Folk Park at tel: +44 28 8224 3292.

What's on at the Saint Patrick Centre

The Ego Patricius Exhibition at The **Saint Patrick Centre** in Downpatrick, Co. Down, tells the fascinating story of Ireland's Patron Saint. Through bold graphics, sculptures, and video and audio techniques, visitors can explore how Patrick's legacy developed in Early Christian times and examine the fabulous artwork, which was produced at this time.
In the run up to Christmas, the Saint Patrick Centre has a busy schedule with two temporary exhibitions taking place. "Ansuid agus Anseo" (Here and There) has been on display since November 11th and will run until January 10th.
Comprising of works by artist Sheila Duff, these paintings are inspired by the Irish landscape. "Aspects of Mourne" also runs until January 10th and is a new collection of oil paintings, pastels and lithographs by artist John Breakey.

For further details please contact the Saint Patrick Centre at tel: +44 28 4461 9000