

MARIE KEAN

DIRECT from its record breaking World Premiere at the Cork Opera House, John B. Keane's "BIG MAGGIE" opens at the City Theatre, Limerick, on Monday next, for one week only.

writer from Listowel.

Most playgoers will have their own favourites but they are now havited to meet "Big Maggie," a lay which marks a real turning point in "J. B.'s" career. He emerges as a writer of real fature with this work, and I will recail how happily he told me about this play when I met him at a function in Bally-bunion last year.

Lertainly, he has given Ireland some of the greatest stage which should have a play which should have a "house full every night" run at the City Theatre.

The cast includes many well-known stars of stage and television, including Gerry O'Sul-

The Kerry playwright has written many notable successes. ... some better than others ... her just after she has lost her but all vastly entertaining with that penetrating pen bringing out the best in the many interesting characters he has created down through the years.

The cast includes many well-known stars of stage and television, including Gerry O'Sulivan, Arthur Sullivan, Liz Davis, Robert Carlie, Dearbhia Molfoy and Niall O'Brien.

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Jack Costelloe Talks About Granny's

Intentions and the Pop Scene

FROM A JACK TO A KING

FOR FOUR years now Granny's Intentions have delighted and thrilled millions of teenage pop fans in five countries — Ireland, England, Holland, Belgium and Germany—and it is generally accepted that they are amongst Europe's leading groups, They are under a three years recording contract with Decca, and it is confidently predicted that their latest disc, "Never an Every Day Thing," will make a big impact on the British Charts.

Granny's Intentions were formed in Limerick in 1965, and

Granny's Intentions were formed in Limerick in 1965, and this week the Emerick Grronicle had an exclusive interview with bass guitarist Jack Costello (20), a founder member of the group.

Limerick Chronicle: At what age did you learn to play the guitary.

guitar?

Jack: A relation, 'Tom
Noonan, gave me lessons at the
age of 16, and after a few
weeks I was competent enough
to impart the knowledge that I
had accummulated to some of
my friends in the Janesboro'
area,

area.

L.C.: I have heard it said,
Jack, that you left studies at
C.B.S., Sexton Street, to join
Granny's Intentions as a professional. Have you any re-

Granny's Intentions as a professional. Have you any regrets

Jack: None whatsoever. True,
I left school only a few months
before I was due to sit for the
Leaving Cert. But, I am conyinced I made a wise decision
in opting for the pop business
when the opportunity presented
itself, Each time I return home
I am amazed at the number
of my ex-school friends who
are still unable to find suitable
employment after four years.
Some of them are unemployed,
while more are in dead-end jobs.
Others have emigrated.
And, mind you, the majority
of them hold the Leaving Cert
I entered the professional pop
scene because I felt the time
was ripe and the rewards unlimited.

L.C.: Did you honestly be-

L.C.: Did you honestly believe when you joined Granny's Intentions that you would really make the big time?

Jack: To be quite frank, no. We were lucky to earn sufficient money in our first year together to enable us to take on a tour abroad from which we gathered a wealth of experience and know-how. Since then we have never looked back.

L.C.: What does it feel like to be a member of a successful group?

Jack: Most times it is great but you can dismiss the thought that our life is all glamour. We that our life is all glamour, we think they deserve the fees that our life is all glamour, we we, too, have our squabbles. We have very little time to ourselves but I must admit that the boys and myself hit it off well. I like to be treated as an ordinary person, and in my leisure time. I try to cut myself off from the pop business. I enjoy classical music, and like to converse on every day topics when with acquaintances. There is nothing more infuriating than to talk "pop" all the time.

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topics when with acquaintances. There is nothing more infuriating than to talk "pop" all the time.

L.C.: How do Limerick audiences compare with those elsewhere?

Jack: Just fabulous. They are, however, rather reluctant to applaud at the end of performances. This I attribute to the fact that they know us individually and meet us face to face so often they feel there is no reason to really let themselves go as they usually do when outside groups play in the city.

L.C.: How long do you expect Granny's Intentions to stay in business?

Jack: I was hoping you wouldn't put that question to me. I firmly believe that we, as a group, have our best years ahead of us. However, I have expressed the opinion that all successful groups should split their different ways after a few years together. Groups must reach stagnation point, and with nothing new to offer they can suffer a slow death, whereas by reforming they could project an entirely new image. As for myself, I hope to make a career as a record producer with one of the major companies after my playing days are over.

L.C.: Are there too many pop groups in Ireland?

are over.
L.Cl: Are there too many pop groups in Ireland?
Jack: I don't think so. There, are over 200 groups all told but only a very small percentage of them are really known.

Tours Abroad

L.C.: What is the secret be-hind Granny's Intentions rise to

L.C.: What is the secret behind Granny's Intentions rise to fame?

Jack: Sheer hard work and dedication to our music. We are one of two Irish groups to have gone on tour to Europe, and this helped us tremendously when we returned home. Only by going on such tours can groups improve their standards, and we learned a lot abroad that we were able to put into effect in Ireland and England.

L.C.: What type of reception did you get from audiences in Germann?

Jack: Simply fantastic. Even the German Premier came to see us. We were really surprised at the huge number of people in their late 'teens and early twenties who dame to watch us perform, especially in



L.C.: Do Granny's Intentions write their own compositions?

Jack: "Story of David" came form an idea by Johnny Duhan. our strager. The filp sides of two of our singles were also our own work.

L.C.: Do groups make much money from record sales?

Jack: Not really. About five pence per record.

L.C.: Do you find recording sessions tedious?

Jack: A single disc can take anything up to twelve hours of our time. This can be tedious work. First we must do backing track, then a rough wocal. The orchestra is then called in, and there is a lot more involved before the actual recording is issued.

L.C.: Why in actual fact do work. First we must do a cive numerous letters which backing track, then a rough start: Dear Jack, I know you vocal. The orchestra is then but you don't know me. They called in, and there is a lot more involved before the actual recording is issued.

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This can be tedious in the fact of particular works with the particular works. The fact of the particular works work in the particular works work in the particular works.



members of pop groups allow their hair to go uncut for so long a period? Does it not make people disrespect you?

Jack: Quite the opposite. It gives us a sort of freedom, and for myself I can say that it gives me great courage on stage. When our hair is long people sit up and take notice and that, after all, is important in our business. Very few people are heard to condemn us for allowing our hair to grow. As a matter of fact, teenagers—and they are the people we are catering for—expect us to do unusual things, such as wearmod ciothing, grow our hair long, etc. We must please them.

long. etc. We must be them.
L.C.: Do you ever feel bored?
Jack: Who doesn't, at times?
It can be very boring playing to, a unappreciative audience (thank goodness we do not get many of them); Audience reaction means a lot to us.
L.C.: Do you meet many Limerick people on your travels?

England Limerch people come back stage to meet us. L.C. What has been the most

LC: What has been the most exciting engagement that Granny's Intention's have played to date?

Jack: Well for me it was our show at the Saville Theatre in London, where we were invited to play by the late Brian Epstein.

Influence

Certainly. Only a of weeks ago we dined ermot Harris—a brother hard—in London. Very

Influence

L.C.: Do you believe that pop groups can influence our youth?

Jack: Quite' definitely. Just take the Beatles. Ways of dress have changed in recent years, and this can be apportioned somewhat to groups such as ours. Then, there were the protest songs which were cutton disc. You cannot deny that they have helped the anti-war movement.

L.G.: Often nowadays we hear of drugs being peddled in some clubs that groups perform in. Can you throw some light on the subject?

Jack: Unfortunately, some of stories you hear are true. We saw drugs being passed in England and indeed, were offered some for a nominal charge. We declined the offer. It is only to be expected that you will have a certain amount of drug peddling in this country too, but on a very small scale. To be truthful, we have never encountered drugs being passed in Ireland. There is nothing to be alarmed at really.

The Future

The Future

what are your future

South of Garryowen?" My younger brother, Gerard, is now guitarist with a local pop group.

Recording

L.C.: How many records have the Intentions made and which has been your best seler?

Jack: We have issued three singles, and next month we are scheduled to cut our very first L.P. for Decca. "Story of David" sold exceptionally well, but our latest. "Never An Every Day Thing" should surpass it in sales.

L.C.: Do Granny's Intentions with their own compositions?

Jack: "Story of David" came from an idea by Johnny Duhan. our sirger. The filp sides of two of our singes were also our own work.

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Pictured in the Shannon Arms Hotel at the first annual dinner of Limerick Licensed Traders' Golfing Society are, from left: Messrs, Steve Foley, Treasurer; Denis O'Malley, Secretary; Jack Bourke, Mayor of Limerick; John Jennings, Captain; Paddy Reid, President, and Frank Geraghty, Vice-President.

Limerick Chronicle, Sat., February

SOCCER PERSON OF THE WEEK



Nessan O'Flynn (Northend Utd.

Sixteen-year-old Ne'ssan for the new seas OFlynn has the distinction of being the youngest administrator in local schoolboys' soccer. Nessan, a native of Cork, has been a football enthusiast since he first learned to kick a ball, but it was only late last year that he took an active role in club affairs, when he teamed up with some school friends to launch Limerick's newest schoolbey club, Northend United. Unfortunately, Nessan is over-age to assist Northend Util in local competitions, but he had his good work recognised at the full's recent general meeting when he was elected Assistant Hon. Secretary.

"We are aware that competition is very high in local underage soccer," commented the Northend official, "but in our recent friendlies against Janes-blyo, Wembley and St. John's, we played well enough to suggest that we can at least hold our own in competitive fare in our first season." It is worth-recalling that Northend accounted for both Janesboro-last season's under-14 cup winners—and St. John's, and it was sonly a late scoring burst that gave Wembley victory.

Nessan told me that they are anxious to strengthen their side especially up front, and would like to hear from any would-be players.

"We have had tremendous season. He rar

players.

wing forward of he retired from season. He rar players, added Nessan. "With a big turnout at training sessions and on the day of each game, we are looking to the months ahead with confidence."

Northerid have been hearthead by the co-operation and assistance they are receiving from ell those connected with soccer in the city. Nessan admitted that they were anything but optimistic about their chances of survival when they first thought of, the idea to enter a team in competitive fare, "but now we are all set pupils of Laurel

wing forward of he retired from season. He rar Limerick L.O.I.

A SECURE FUTU IN NURSING

If this is your ambition you could join us at School of Nursing, St. James's Hospital, Leeds enjoy the life of a busy university city, with shopping and recreational facilities—and be on hour away from the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, service to Ireland, via Liverpool, is speedy and To men and women aged 18 and over we offer training to become:

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STATE ENROLLED NURSE

—a two-year course in practical nu Courses begin in May, September and January of the Irish Final Leaving Certificate qualify for the three-year courses—those who have passed mediate Examination will be invited to sit it Nursing Council's Education Test for acceptants. the two-year course.

LOCAL INTERVIEWS

Miss Mary Worster, Chief Nursing Officer, will candidates at the following centre early i

LIMERICK

SCHOOLS AND CONVENTS in this area vilke to see slides of this group of hospitals, a career talk on nursing can be visited by Miss S Group Nurse Recruitment and Personnel Offi Enquiries and applications should be sent to 1 Worster, Chief Kursing Officer,

ST. JAMES'S HOSPIT

Leeds 9, Yorkshire, England Leeds 'A' Group Hospital Management Con