

D SCREEN Comments

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Company will open at the day, January 23rd, for a

Limerick Total Film Society.

Seats are still available at the City Theatre for the Limerick Total Film Society's three nights Film Festival, commencing on Wednesday next.

To become a member is a simple matter of contacting the Secretary at the Town Hall and she will make arrangements to forward tickets for the three nights for an inclusive cost of half a guinea. And once again let me stress that non-members cannot be admitted on the nights of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next when these Italian and Russian films will be screened exclusively to members only.

Wednesday's attraction is "The Barber of Seville," Rossini's very famous comic opera, in which the role of Figaro is admirably sung by Tito Gobbi.

Thursday's Italian version of "Pagliacci" also stars Tito Gobbi, while one of the female leads is taken by the well-known prima donna Lollobrigida.

Supporting this is Canzone d'Amore, which is not an opera, but a straight Italian film produced in Rome. It stars, in addition to Beniamino Gigli, such foremost members of the Italian Theatre as Emma Gramatica, Carol Hochhauser and Frederico Berber.

Gigli sings a number of popular Italian songs and operatic arias, amongst them being selections from "Rigoletto," and long extracts from Verdi's very beautiful opera, "Otello." He is accompanied by the orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Rome.

"Russia's Gala Festival" is the attraction for the final night (Friday). This commences with an abridged version of Borodin's "Prince Igor" and includes shorter extracts from opera and ballet. This eighty minutes of wonder and enchantment will be supported by "Song of the Prairie," an Academy Award Winning Picture.

Kathleen Ryan Returns To Films In "Jacqueline."

After an absence of several years from the British screen, gifted Irish actress Kathleen Ryan has returned to Pinewood Studios to star with John Gregson in the new George Brown production "Jacqueline," as exclusively announced in this column last week.

Cinema goers will remember the impact Kathleen made on audiences throughout the world in her first film "Odd Man Out." It was soon after she had graduated from University College, Dublin, with a B. Comm. degree that Carol Reed spotted her and without a screen test offered her the lead.

Now, Kathleen is to play the wife of John Gregson in "Jacqueline," which is the gripping story

SPOTLIGHT ON NOELLE MIDDLETON



Following a highly successful screen test for the important role of W.R.A.C. Captain Alison Graham in the Rhenus production "Garrington V.C." Noelle Middleton, lovely Irish actress and B.B.C. Television Announcer, was signed to a six-year contract by Romulus Films.

Blue-eyed, fresh-complexioned Noelle was born in County Sligo, on December 18th, 1926. There was no theatrical tradition in her family and as a child Noelle showed no particular talent for acting.

She was educated in Dublin and on leaving school studied domestic science for a year at Alexandra College.

During this period she made her first professional stage appearance, as a maid in "Jane Eyre" at the famous Gate Theatre, Dublin.

The Irish girl made her T.V. debut with a part in a children's serial. At about the same time she became a relief announcer. Her first dramatic role was the lead in an Irish play, "The Gambler," given to her shortly afterwards by a fellow-countryman, the late Fred O'Donovan.

All this time she was building a name for herself on English screens as a popular television personality, heartened by a regular and growing fan-mail from viewers.

In the audience one night was film producer Mario Zampi, then looking for a girl to play Yvonne de Carlo's sister in his Irish comedy, "Happy Ever After." Noelle was asked to make a test and she was soon on the big screen, playing an important role in a Technicolor film which starred David Niven, Barry Fitzgerald and Yvonne de Carlo.

A family living near the ship yards of Belfast. The story tells of the family's fears, happiness, adversity and elation; how Mike, a lovable Irishman, played by John Gregson, decides to leave the country for the lure of bigger wages in Belfast to support his family.

What happens when the dangerous work in which Mike is engaged 80 feet above ground leads him to take a few stiff drunks to combat attacks of vertigo makes "Jacqueline" a warm, human story, with both comedy and pathos. With direction in the hands of Roy Baker, it should add further prestige to Miss Ryan's status in the film industry.

Hansel And Gretel."

Almost unannounced (it will be shown as the support), the management of the Grand Central will screen RKO Radio's "Hansel And Gretel" for three days, commencing on Thursday next.

This is Michael Myersberg's ac-

claimed Technicolor masterpiece.

Over 1,000 Patients Treated In Regional Hospital

LIMERICK'S £1,000,000 Regional Hospital at Dooradoyle will be in full operation within a matter of weeks; to date over 1,000 patients have been treated there and it is expected that the 186 beds will be occupied shortly, Mr. P. J. Meghen, B.E., County Manager, told members of the County Council at its meeting held in the Regional Hospital last Saturday.

Limerick Co. Council held its first meeting of the new year in the Regional Hospital last Saturday. After the meeting the Councillors were conducted around the Hospital on a tour of inspection and were later entertained to luncheon by the Rev. Matron and Staff.

Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D., presided at the meeting.

The Co. Manager, in a verbal report, said that the object of bringing the Councillors to the hospital was to enable them to see at first hand the progress that had been made to date and to get acquainted generally with the work of the institution. He said that he was not going to pretend for a moment that there had been no complaints as points of difficulty had inevitably arisen in getting such a large institution into full swing. These difficulties, however, were not of a very serious nature and would be gradually smoothed out as the work of the hospital progressed.

OVER 1,000 PATIENTS TREATED

It was a fact that since the hospital had been opened last September over 1,000 patients had been treated there, he continued. About 130 beds were occupied and since the nursing staff had been increased a further 28 beds were available. Another section of the waiting list of nurses had been called to duty and he expected that the full complement of 130 beds would be available in another week or two. The reason that they had not opened up fully was because a specialist in ear, nose and throat complications had not been appointed until recently, while an ophthalmic specialist would take up duty next month. As a result of these appointments they would be able to catch up with arrears of work. Activities had been extended to patients

from Limerick City and as soon as other specialists were available those activities would be further extended to patients from adjoining counties. In addition to general work there was a very large X-Ray department and to date 1,200 people had been X-rayed and the staff of this department had been kept very busy. There was also a physiotherapist specialist on duty for visiting patients. This service was growing and was in no way completed yet.

CONFIDENCE IN STAFF

The staff great confidence, he said, in the medical and surgical staff and they were very anxious to forward in every way possible the work of the hospital as well as giving every satisfaction. They were very interested in their work and felt that there was a great future for the hospital.

"People have said," he continued, "that we have been very slow in getting started and I would like to point out that in such a large institution as this the question of supplies, organising the staff and the other manifold problems that arise involve a considerable amount of work. These matters account for the delay, but despite handicaps we have had we are making good progress."

We hope to open the school of nursing very shortly. Applicants have been interviewed and the first 20 have been selected. A further 20 will be called in a few months time and the remainder or another six to eight months. The school has been approved and will start shortly.

In conclusion, the Co. Manager said that the outdoor clinics were in operation and he was satisfied that everybody was giving their best. The accommodation of the hospital was very fine and very much admired.

The Council then toured the hospital and were later entertained to a very fine luncheon.

HUNTING

CO. LIMERICK HOUNDS

The County Limerick Hounds will meet at 11 o'clock

JANUARY, 1956.

Wednesday, 18th ... Keen's Pike

Friday, 20th ... Frankfort Cross

Saturday, 21st ... Dromore

(Bye day)

Will followers in bars please

help by shutting all gates on to roads.

Followers must not ride through

dairy cattle or incalf heifers.

CO. CLARE HUNT.

Hounds will meet as follows:-

JANUARY, 1956.

Thursday, 19th ... Stonchall Forge

Monday, 23rd ... Donnellan's Cross

Thursday, 26th ... Old Ground

Monday, 30th ... Ralakine

Hounds meet at 12 noon.

LIMERICK HARRIERS

The Limerick Harriers will meet as under:-

Thursday, Jan. 19 ... Patrickswell

Cork Wins

Inter-City

Boxing Match

BEFORE a large and enthusiastic gathering of boxing devotees in the Gymnasium, Field Barracks, last night, defeated Limerick in a seven-round contest boxing match by 5 to 2. The standard all round good, and the night's boxing was remarkable for the defeat of local idols of international fame, Ryan and J. Logue.

Ryan, who was stepping up to the middle weight class, opened very well in his bout with C. O'Callaghan and was ahead on points until he became unsettled by a sharp right to the jaw in the second round at a stage when he was attacking. This caused