

strong schedule to life. It's name is in the ring again because he has written a new play, *Magnum Hopeless*, a third outing as playwright. Staged at Impact Theatre Company's base at 18 The Crescent, it is premiered as part of unFringed Festival 2006, running concurrently with stiff opposition to other theatre and dance attractions. *Magnum Hopeless?* Not the most promising title for a play set in the 'pulling' fields of

men, the other concerns two girls who arrive together to meet two other women. Another story is that of two guys in the bar, one of them being *Magnum*, who although set to meet other girls, has the devil's own crush on one of the girls who does arrive in.

Then there is the old guy, every decent pub's stock soul mate. This gent opens the play for us and later, drifting into a maudlin soliloquy, is shown the

space, 8pm nightly until Saturday January 28), and those of us who have seen *Dream Girl* and his directorial debut, *An Open Couple*, have witnessed a pace and sensitivity not always in emerging dramatists.

A cast of nine, some of the *Impact* regulars, and bar life suggest spontaneity in banter but:

"No, there is no ad libbing," he says of *Magnum Hopeless*. "There couldn't be if it



**Daghda Dance Company will present two performances of director Michael Klien's latest choreography *Limerick Trilogy* during the unFringed Festival on Friday January 27 and Saturday 28 January at John's Square. The 8pm performances are free to all and will present dancers Nicole Peisl and Angie Smalis, pictured, with Davide Terlingo. Music for Klein's "recollection of movements, processes and thoughts uncovered and woven together at *Daghda* over the past two years" has been composed by his brother, Volkmar Klien.**

## with the king - Louis Stewart

LIMERICK Jazz opens its Spring 2006 season with a swing. No less a name than Louis Stewart will play jazz guitar on Wednesday February 8, Upstairs at Dolan's from 9pm, with support from Limerick Jazz musicians.

Stewart is a legend since he first began playing publicly. Invited to Montreux Jazz Festival in 1968, he came away with the press award for Outstanding European Soloist of the Festival. The following year in Montreux, he won the Grand Prix de la Radio Suisse Romande.

Having toured Europe several times with the infamous Benny Goodman, by the '70s Louis Stewart was a member of the Ronnie Scott Quartet in London. During this period he also cut albums with Sam Jones and Billy Higgins as well as other musicians from the London scene.

"His excellent guitar playing with Scott's quartet, on his solo and duo albums in the 1970 and 1980s, and on recordings with George Shearing, Clark Terry, Martin Taylor, Heiner Franz and others has earned him his reputation as one of the world's foremost jazz guitarists," comments John Daly, chair of Limerick Jazz.

Louis Stewart will be joined by Joe O'Callaghan on guitar, Damian Evans on bass and John Daly on drums. Doors open 8.30pm.

## AmerWreckans wreak vengeance from Heaven

THE play *AmerWrecka* begins with the historic killing of four and wounding of nine Kent State University students on May 4, 1970 by US National Guardsmen engaged in peaceful anti-Vietnam protest on campus.

Current at the Belltable as part of unFringed Festival 2006, *AmerWrecka* is the play with a 12-strong cast that plays on the politics, despair, anger and bewilderment that this tragedy invoked. It's a mix of music, burlesque, propaganda, anarchic humour and potshots at the corruption of the American dream - equality and liberty for all.

35 years later, the slain students are sent on a mission from God to shake things up with Your Country Needs You zeal.

They choose four Americans to bring about a 'revolution'. One is a right wing Republican fire-fighter, another a liberal politician running for Congress, the third a stripper, and the fourth a radical Latina lesbian.

Along with their guardian angels, these *AmerWreckans* set on a campaign trail. This fast-paced big production. Running at 8pm nightly in the Belltable until Saturday January 28, the show has been well reviewed where ever platformed. It is written and directed by JD Lewis who has flown in with the production from the US to support unFringed.

## Bringing it All Back Home

A MULTI-media art exhibition that has been five years in the making will open for Hugh McMahon at Limerick Printmakers this Thursday January 26. *Bringing it All Back Home* is a show of perhaps 14 works that combines collage with various paintwork on canvases.

The title concerns the Coonagh area and Shannon Estuary where McMahon grew up, all the canvases being of familiar sites. But given the unusual layering of paper, text and acrylic paint and gum, and his unique perspective, these are landscapes hitherto unimagined.

"I see the works as being a take on traditional landscape, they are given a new twist, new dimensions," comments McMahon. Now training to be an Art Teacher back at his alma mater, LSAD, he's one of few artists who have the interest and patience to work with collage.

"It is labour intensive, and these canvases are big, some at 4' x 4'," he points out. "I like collage because it's experimental. There are a lot of dualities and transfor-

mations along the way but [a work] will all come together in the end".

He speaks of tearing old posters (slivers of a Green Room ad, another for Supermacs, Limerick Event Guide, are evident) and layering them with cuts of text and action painting. This is paint that is dripped, rubbed, brushed, what ever and where ever appropriate to the maker's eye, facilitating the wink of subliminal messages, slogans as well as landmarks that are suggested afresh

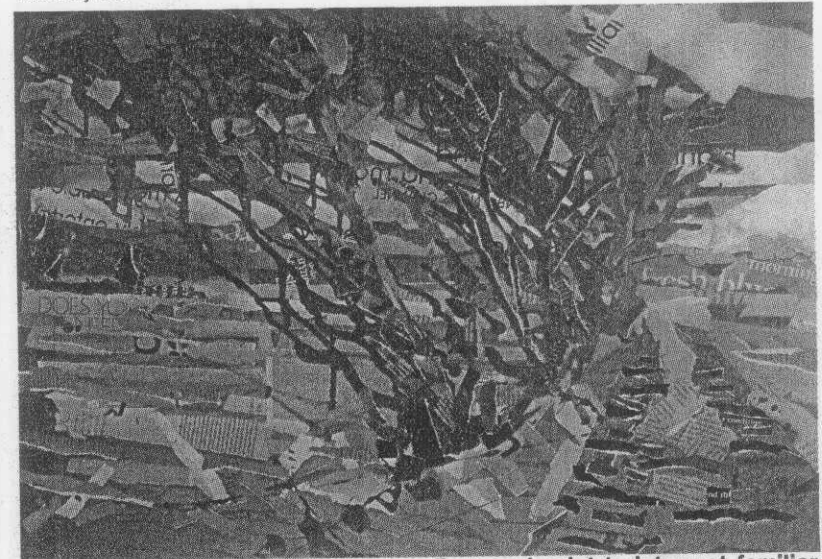
King John's Castle, Mungret's cement factory, St Michael's Rowing Club are familiar images to locals but pictured, literally, in Hugh McMahon's Technicolor multimedia, they gain new strength and swell the eye.

A man who has travelled the globe prior to anchoring in Limerick at Contact Studios and contract teaching, his perspective loves to confer excitement.

"I feel that *Bringing it All Back Home* will have a resonance with many people and these everyday images," he says. "The text element and colours - the trees are never green, colours are never

obvious, traditional - make references to pop art, advertising, landscape painting in a subversive way".

Bold and beautiful, view *Limerick* as not seen before at this Robert Street gallery and workspace. Until February 23.



**Hugh McMahon's show, combining collage and paint to interpret familiar landscapes, opens at Limerick Printmakers, 8pm this Thursday 26.**