

Another cinema needed here

DOES Limerick need another city centre cinema? That thought occurred recently when a Showscene reporter visited four of our five cinemas only to find the "house full" notice showing at the box-office.

First stop was at Movieland No. 1 for the revival of "Saturday Night Fever." The place was packed 30 minutes before the time of programme, beamed a happy looking manager, Pat O'Donovan. There was, he said, one seat available in No. 2 for "101 Dalmatians."

The Carlton was the next stopping-off point. It was the second week of "The Betsy," and our reporter thought things would have slackened off. But such was not the case.

Nod

A nod from manager, Bill Aghuey suggested that he was only wasting his time. Less than two hundred yards away it was also a case of "House full" for "The Pink Panther" at the Central Studio.

And since he had already seen "The Sound of Music" earlier that week and for the twelfth time in all, our man on the spot had no choice left but to return to his TV screen.

While sitting by his fireside he got down to his sums to discover that there were now fewer cinema seats in Limerick than which the Savoy alone had in its glory days. And did you ever try getting into the Bedford Row complex on a Sunday night in the 'fifties and 'sixties?

The Carlton is now the largest cinema in Limerick with something like 500 seats. The Royal has around 400, with the Central Studio and Movieland No. 1 able to accommodate 200 each. Movieland No. 2 has 83 seats. This makes for a combined total of less than 1,400 cinema seats in a city with a population in excess of 60,000.

The Savoy, might we remind you, has a seating capacity of 1,500. Sadly, the projection boxes are now closed for good.

Frustrating

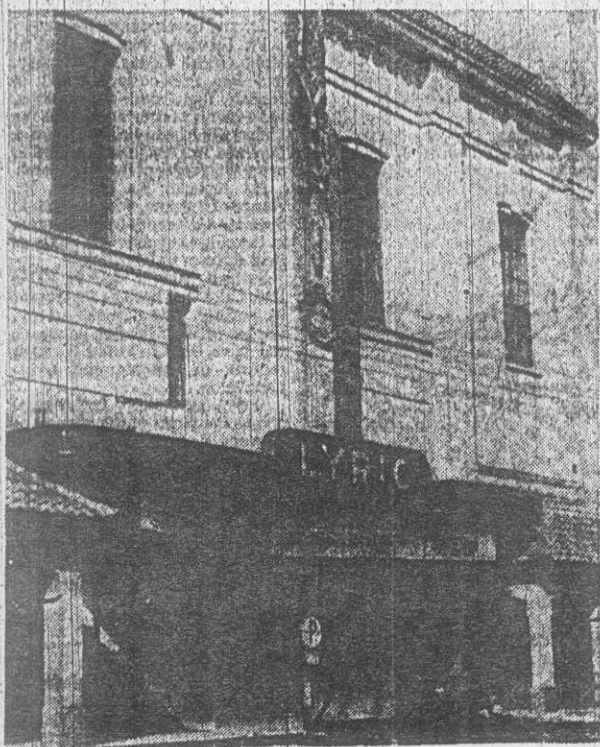
It can be a frustrating experience trying to get into a cinema in Limerick. Readers have often complained on this subject. With capacity reduced - in the early seventies we had over 3,000 seats - one has to arrive early and join a queue if they are to have hope of gaining admission. And that is not always convenient.

The fact that we have smaller cinemas means that a good product is certain to be retained, thus giving cinemagoers a limited choice. The Central Studio all have had retentions over the same period recently.

Other cinemagoers have expressed annoyance that it is now policy to have movies running concurrently in two houses. They argue that a number of films take ages to reach our screens and cannot see the wisdom in having the same picture in two houses in the same week while there is a backlog awaiting release.

There is a definite swing back towards the cinema, and it is now in the lap of management to convince the public that they have something really worthwhile to offer.

An extra cinema would be beneficial. There were rumblings recently that the Lyric might be re-opened shortly. A few thousand pounds here could be money well spent. The Lyric was always a popular venue with filmgoers, and its central location should make it a viable proposition were its doors to re-open again.



The Lyric... will it re-open again?

SHAUN AND DING-A-LING CHARTBOUND

HOME produced records have been capturing an impressive portion of the record buying market in recent months and the release of a new single from Shaun O'Dowd & Ding-A-Ling has already got the industry buzzing in expectation of a huge hit.

Titled 'Place In Your Heart', few will disagree with the claim that it is the Limerick-based band's best to date while some pundits may go so far as to suggest that the new disc is the best of the bunch released so far this year from a local act. Of course fans of Leitrim-born Shaun will tell us that good records are nothing new to an outfit that trades on such words as professionalism and perfection.



Shaun O'Dowd.

The new single is just an extension of that attitude - only the best is good enough.

There's an interesting story behind Shaun's choice of song for his current single. On his way to an engagement, he heard the song performed by a British group, Tak-

ing note of the song to include in his stage programme, Shaun says he was convinced the group had a hit on their hands.

"I took a particular interest in the progress of the single after that," says the singer, "but the air-play seemed to fall off rather than increase and within about two weeks, it was hardly heard."

It was around then that the Irish star and his band made up their minds to do an Irish version of 'A Place In Your Heart'. Burning leather between Limerick and Dublin, the session was arranged, produced and completed in as much time as you would take to say 'Ding-A-Ling'.

"I was very lucky to have the services of Dennis and the rest of the lads in the band," says Shaun "they knew exactly what they were looking for in terms of arrangements etc. I decided to experiment a little with the vocals and I think our fans should be reasonably pleased with the outcome."

Hard working Ding-A-Ling Manager Paddy O'Connell says the single came at just the right time. "After a really fantastic summer in the ballrooms and marquees, a new disc is just the thing for promoting the name of the band coming into what is traditionally referred to as 'the quiet period'. I might add," says Paddy with a smile, "We don't particularly notice as the band are working a steady five and six nights per week schedule right throughout the year."

It's obvious from massive air-plays that 'Place In Your Heart' is receiving from R.T.E. and the local radio stations around the country that Shaun O'Dowd has a huge hit on his hands. There are many who will say not before time, for a singer and a band who can truly be called ambassadors of all that's best in Irish showbusiness.

SHOWSCENE

EDITED BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

RECORD RELEASES

A band with a bright future - that's DMZ whose debut album on the Star label is a real knockout. There is no time or energy wasted in this one.

The opening track 'Mighty Dye' gets things off to a promising start and there is an electrifying pace right through to 'From Home,' over half-an-hour later.

This high energy five piece outfit from Boston are destined to reach the top; that is if they keep on turning out albums like this. Mono Mann's vocals are certain to get a grip on you. In addition, there is Paul Murphy on drums, Rick Corrao on bass, J. Rassier on guitar and Peter Greenberg, lead guitarist.

Most of the material - there are 11 tracks - was written by Mamt. It is all very much 1978 stuff. There is a touch of rockabilly about 'Baby Boom,' and 'Do Not Enter,' and it is back to good old R & B with 'Bad Attitude,' one of the best on the LP.

TUFF DARTS

Hard rock fans should find much to excite them in the latest album from Tuff Darts, a New York group who have hit the big time.

Musically speaking, they have a lot going for them and boast one of the finest guitarists in the business in Jeff Salen. The lyrics are a mixture of both good and bad, and, if anything, are a little predictable, but then again it depends on your taste.

Tommy Frenzy's high pitched vocals could win you over, as could the varied guitar work of Bobby Butani. The two stand out tracks are probably 'Phone Booth Man' and 'She's Dead.' There are some good sound effects in 'Nuclear Waste.' (Sire).

THREE MILES HIGH

There is no scarcity of variety either in 'Three Miles High,' the latest piece of celluloid from that talented outfit, Mass Production. It will be recalled that they had two hits with 'Welcome To Our World' and 'Believe'.

Discos might be advised to give this a few spins. There is a high content of straight assembly line disco tracks, particularly 'Watch Me Do It,' a number which could

do well as a single. There's much to admire, too, in 'Just Want To Make A Dream Come True.'

This ten piece outfit have a lot to contribute. In addition to the pop side of their music, they also come up with a couple of interesting ballads.

Their members are Agnes Kelly, Larry Marshall, Rodney Phelps, Lecoy Bryant, Tyrone Williams, Kevin Douglas, Ricardo Williams, Emanuel Redding, James Drumgoole and Gregory McCoy. (Atlantic).

CRUBEEN

Now for something completely different. We are always happy to give mention to Irish records and this week we have no hesitation in recommending Crubeen's latest on the I.D. label.

Paddy Clerkin (vocals, bass banjo, guitar), Barney Gribbon (banjo, mandolin, mouth organ), Tommy Hollywood (vocals, guitar), Beeny McKay (vocals, bodhran), Eddie Ruddy (flute, whistle) and Johnny Waterson (fiddle, viola) are well established on the Irish scene and they come up with some sparkling music here.

Highlight, no doubt, is their version of 'And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda,' which, even if it falls short of the Clancy/Makem single, is nonetheless sure to generate interest.

'The Rhonda Valley Song,' a ballad about the closure of many of the Rhonda Pits in Wales, is a classic in its own right, while 'Morning Dew' and 'Earl of Moray,' are others worth a listen. Yes Crubeen would seem to be on a winner.

DEAD BOYS

Now it's back to hard rock again. Sire have come up with an unusual group in Dead Boys whose second album 'We Have Come For Your Children,' could find a wide audience.

Not that the material is any way great, though there is one very original piece in 'Catholic Boy,' which features the Ramone Catholic Choir, 'Third Generation Nation' and 'I Won't Look Back,' are reasonably good numbers. Strictly for hard rock fans.

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

With Johnny Mathis scheduled to make a Dublin appearance next month, there should be a wide interest in his latest album, in which he teams up with the lovely Deniece Williams. Titled 'That's What Friends Are For,' Johnny and Deniece get through ten numbers, all of which please.

This vinyl marriage of convenience should do a lot to further Miss Williams' career. Johnny and herself have strong distinctive voices and work well together as a duo, singing highly imaginative tunes. We were particularly impressed with the title track, and there's much to admire also in 'You're All I Need To Get By,' 'Just the Way You Are' and 'Touching Me With Love.'

They have assembled a host of top class musicians on violins, violas, cellos, french horns, etc., which add greatly to the enjoyment of the album. Stevie Wonder, for example, can be heard on harmonica in 'That's What Friends Are For,' and there is a splendid flute solo from Plas Johnson in 'I Just Can't Get Over You.'



Miss Mary Duane, public relations officer from CBS Records, told Showscene this week that they were inundated with requests for tickets for Johnny Mathis' show at the RDS in October. And since he has a lot of fans in this region, it is safe to assume that a good portion of the tickets will find their way to Limerick.

Should be a night worth remembering.

Best Folk Festival ever

THE RECENT folk festival which was held at Ballysodare, Co. Sligo, and which drew a number of Limerick music lovers, was described by some of the visitors as "the best folk festival we have ever attended."

The bad weather did not have an adverse effect on the enjoyment of the music, and, despite the continued rain, so many people turned up that several hundred had to be turned away.

There were a number of outstanding musicians performing during the three-day event.

They all got a warm reception but there were a few highlights to the show. These were provided by Tom Paxton, The Bothy Band, Paul Brady and Dan Crary (who stood in at the last moment for the English folk singer Martin Carthy, who was ill).

Surprise

The real surprise of the festival was Dan Crary, who was virtually unknown before the event; and who was so appreciated that he

pectedly large number which turned up.

The availability of free camp sites, reasonably priced food (which was for sale in the concert compound), and the hospitality of local people in Ballysodare all contributed to the relaxed enjoyment of all those who attended.

There is great credit due to the organisers - the boys of Ballysodare - led by Philip and Frank Flynn who, last year, pioneered this highly successful type of folk festival.

And rather than just repeat their success, this year they made significant improvements in the festival. We look forward to next year's event.

Bleep... bleep...

● Limerick has yet another night-spot this time at the Glenworth.

● The latest John Travolta movie, 'Grease,' will open at the Carlton in late September. Should

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

12.30-Sesame Street.
1.30-Cartoon Time.
1.40-Sports Stadium.
5.50-News and News for the Deaf.
6.00-The Angelus.
6.01-The Bugs Bunny Show.
6.20-European Athletics from Prague.
6.50-The Adventure World of Edmund Hillary.
7.20-Nuacht.
7.30-The Name of the Game.
9.00-News, Weather Forecast.
9.15-Trom Again Eadrom.
10.30-Saturday Cinema-Banning.
12.20-Late News.
Transmission ends at 12.25, approximately.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

12.00-Mass.
12.50-All-Ireland Hurling Final and European Athletics.
5.50-News and News for the Deaf, followed by Sports Results.
6.00-The Angelus.
6.01-European Athletics Final.
7.20-Nuacht.
7.30-The Dermot O'Brien Show.
8.00-The Mayor of Casterbridge.
9.00-News and Weather Forecast.
9.15-Sunday Night At The Movies: The Constant Husband.
10.45-Sports Scene.
11.45-Late News.
Transmission ends at 11.50 approx.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

5.10-Animals, Animals, Animals.
5.30-Nuacht.
5.35-Flash Gordon Conquers The Universe.
6.00-The Angelus.
6.01-Cartoon Time.
6.15-News and News for the Deaf.

6.30-The Flockton Flyer.
7.00-Tom and Gerry.
7.05-Richie Brockleman, Private Eye.
8.00-The Proms.
8.00-News, Weather Forecast.
9.15-How The West Was Won.
11.00-Nuacht.
11.05-A Single Voice.
11.30-Vesper.
11.35-Late News.
Transmission ends at 11.40, approximately.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

5.10-Cartoon Time.
5.30-Nuacht.
5.35-The Brady Bunch.
6.00-The Angelus.
6.01-Cartoon Time.
6.15-News and News for the Deaf.
6.30-Tom and Gerry.
6.40-The Mystery of the Andrea Doria.
7.45-Rose of Tralee, Part 1.
9.00-News, Weather Forecast.
9.15-Rose of Tralee, Part 2.
10.15-The Brothers.
11.15-Nuacht.
11.20-Rhoda.
11.45-Vesper.
11.50-Late News.
Transmission ends at 11.55, approximately.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

5.10-Cartoon Time.
5.30-Nuacht.
5.35-Fables of the Green Forest.
6.00-The Angelus.
6.01-Oarda Patrol.
6.15-News and News for the Deaf.
6.30-Untamed Frontiers.
7.00-Tom and Gerry.
7.05-List of Adrian Messenger.
9.00-News, Weather Forecast.
9.15-Joe Grant.
10.15-The Irish Way, Episode 6.
10.45-Nuacht.

HIT MUSICAL ON TOUR OF SOUTH

PREPARATIONS are under way for the Irish Theatre Company's forthcoming tour which opens on August 28th at the Theatre Royal, Waterford. This involves not only the usual rehearsals and setting-up arrangements, but also the tight organisation necessary for transporting an entire cast, along with props and set, around the country. "Bringing theatre to the people" becomes literal in the case of ITC.

The Company also includes four extras recruited locally from dramatic societies at each venue. Besides the cast, there is a small orchestra of four musicians, headed by Musical Director, Peter O'Brien.

The tour takes in four major towns: Waterford, THEATRE ROYAL, (August 28th - September 2nd), GALWAY, JESUIT HALL, (Sept. 4th-9th), Limerick, CRESCENT THEATRE, (Sept. 11th - 16th), and CORK, EVERYMAN THEATRE, (Sept. 18th - 30th).

ITC will present 'THE HEARTS A WONDER', the musical which recently opened to near capacity audiences at the Abbey Theatre. This is the first professional revival of the show since its original opening in the Gaiety, with a cast including Milo O'Shea, Maureen Teal, and Joe Lynch. It is a skilful re-working of Synge's Playboys using music and dance, the result - a Playboys somehow given new life.

'THE HEARTS A WONDER' is directed by EDWARD GOLDEN, ITC's Artistic Director, and designed by GERARD CROSSON with costumes by Nigel Boyd. There is a large cast of twelve, including familiar and new faces: ANITA REEVES (Peggy Mike), who recently starred in 'MAJOR BARBARA' at the Gate; JIM BARTLEY (Christopher Mahon), still remembered as Sean Nolan in 'Tolka Row'; PAT LEAVY (Widow Quin), well known as Murph's mother in 'The Riordans'; and BRENDAN O'DUILL (Philly Cullen), CECIL SHEEHAN (Jimmy Farrell), MICHAEL DUFFY (Michael James Flaherty), JOHN MURPHY (Shawn Keogh), LANA McDONNELL (Honor Blake), BILL McMahon (Old Mahon), TERRY DONNELLY (Sara Timson), and CATHERINE BYRNE (Susan Brady).

LIMERICK



A bachelor bull, said I married. That I'm married. A young thing he said she sighed, then he said "I won't leave this if it's Limerick."

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