

quay at the time of the incident but no-one was injured when, according to gardai, a small fire broke out and a number of windows were smashed. The incident took place in the early hours of October 5.

At Limerick Circuit Court the teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to a charge of arson and to the unlawful use of a stolen car on the night of the incident.

According to the indictment the charges relate to damage caused to glass windows, flooring and clothing at the nightclub. Previously at Newcastlewest District Court, Judge Mary O'Halloran refused jurisdiction in the case prompting the Director of Public Prosecutions to deal with the accused before Limerick Circuit Court.

After accepting the teenager's guilty plea on Friday, Judge Carroll Moran remanded him in custody until May 8, next when he will impose sentence. As the accused is aged under 18 a report from the Probation and Welfare services must be considered by the court before sentence is imposed.

Separately the judge also adjourned the case of a second man who is also charged in connection with the same incident. That defendant, who has not yet entered a plea, is due to appear before Limerick Circuit Court on May 5.

The man was wounded when a number of bullets were fired through the window of a house in Raheen Square shortly before 4am.

This is the second shooting in the area in the past week.

This morning's victim was in the downstairs front room when a gunman approached the house and fired a number of bullets through the window. He received a gunshot wound to his back and was taken by ambulance to the Mid Western Regional Hospital in Dooradoyle, where his condition was described this morning as "not life threatening".

It is believed that the culprit – a lone gunman – fled the scene on foot.

A number of other people are understood to have been in the Raheen Square house at the time of the shooting. The scene was preserved by gardai this morning for a full technical



**Gardai at the scene of the shooting in Ballinacurra Weston this morning**

examination, which will determine exactly how many shots were fired and what type of weapon was used.

Roxboro gardai believe that the shooting was related to an ongoing feud in the area.

be a feud-related shooting.

However, gardai quickly denied that any such incident had taken place, stating that they had received no report of a shooting and that no investigation was taking place. Local sources in the Ballinacurra Weston area also stated that no shooting had taken place on Saturday.

This morning's shooting takes place just over a week after another 21-year-old male was shot in the knee in Ballinacurra Weston. The man was shot by a gunman while he was walking along Clarina Avenue at 10.30pm on Friday February 13.

An 18-year-old man male was arrested in connection with the incident but was subsequently released without charge, and a file on the incident was prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

## Limerick costume designer bags Oscar award

By MIKE DWANE

THERE should be no shortage of work in Hollywood for the costume designer who bagged an Oscar at last night's Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Michael O'Connor, a past pupil of St Fergus' National School in Glin, County Limerick, won his Oscar for the period drama, "The Duchess", starring Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes, and for which Michael also won a BAFTA award in London two weeks ago.

"I just hope that it opens more doors and I can afford to be more particular," Michael told reporters backstage at the Kodak Theatre.

"Until this film, none of



**Oscar and BAFTA winner Michael O'Connor and a scene from the period drama The Duchess**



them (my films) have ever been nominated for anything."

In picking up the world-famous statuette for his mantlepiece, Michael beat off competition from productions

such as 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button'.

Michael's father Thomas emigrated from Glin to London, where Michael was born, but the family made a number of attempts to reset-

tle in Limerick in the 1970's, when Michael went to school at St Fergus and later at Tarbert Comprehensive.

Economic conditions in Ireland meant the family ultimately moved back to the UK.

Michael's proud aunt, speaking ahead of the Oscar ceremony, told the Limerick Leader how her now famous nephew started out:

"His mother worked as a cleaner in a clothes factory in London and he used to help her out. He used to gather up all the pieces of fabric and take them home," recalled Nell O'Connor, Glin.

"Then one time he made a coat for the musical 'Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat' which he submitted to a design school. They took him on then and gave

him a scholarship and so it started from there."

The journey would end with Michael working on movies such as 'The Last King of Scotland' and 'Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets.'

He was never too keen on school or sports, according to Nell: "We were always trying to persuade him to stay in school, he had no interest really, but he was always interested in design."

Following his win, Michael has to go back to the movie set in Afghanistan.

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