

E NEWS

STAGE AND SCREEN News And Comments

(By Earl Connolly)

A NEW company has taken over the Grand Central, Bedford Row, Limerick, and it is expected that the cinema will be completely modernised within the next few months.

BIGGEST SURPRISE in the local cinema world for some years is the announcement that a new company has taken over the Grand Central Cinema, Bedford Row, Limerick. The new company will be known as National Cinemas, Ltd., with registered offices at 101 O'Connell St., Limerick.

The directors for this company are Messrs. A. E. Goodwin (Chairman) and T. A. Duffy (both of Limerick), and Messrs. K. Anderson and L. Ward (both of Dublin). Mr. Brian O'Brien, who has a long association with the Grand Central, has been appointed Secretary.

So far the Grand Central have not installed any of the latest equipment to cope with Cinema-Scope productions, but it is now confidently expected that the cinema will be completely modernised in the very near future. Furthermore, top-line productions will be shown every week amid luxurious comfort and all the up-to-date amenities that one associates with the present-day cinemagoing.

Among the formidable array of films booked under the new merger are "Beau Brummel," "Golden Mistress," "Big House U.S.A.," "Jupiter's Darling," "Marty," "Father Unknown," "Confession," and many other important productions from the leading studios.

Mr. Storey, the newly appointed manager, took over on Friday last.

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"The Padre Of The Stars"

A distinguished visitor to the "Limerick Leader" offices last week was my old friend, Rev. Father John O'Donnell, of Hollywood, famed throughout the United States as "The Padre of the Stars."

His services are in constant demand by the film companies to supervise religious sequences, and in this way he knows all of the stars and, indeed, is their constant companion.

He says that Limerick's Sean

REV. FATHER JOHN
O'DONNELL

His good friend, Louis B. Mayer (of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer) is now on a tour of Europe, and an Irishman (Tim O'Neill), whose wife comes from County Clare, has just purchased the huge RKO Studios.

Rev. Father John O'Donnell is a mine of information on the stars, the studios and the behind-the-scenes activities of all those connected with the business, and he loves every minute of it.

He hails from Grange, County Limerick, and says that his 94-years-old mother "is getting younger every day."

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Kilrush Operatic Society

Limerick holidaymakers in Kilkee will have the opportunity of making the short run into Kilrush (only eight miles) all next week, when the ambitious Kilrush Operatic Society will present Sigmond Romberg's "New Moon" for eight nights.

This show is costing £1,000 to put on and the energetic committee have engaged two guest artistes of international standing — the Australian soprano, Patricia Baird and the Sadler's Wells tenor, Thomas Round.

If memory serves me right, their last production was "The Desert Song," with our own Josephine Scanlan as guest star. Some 6,000 patrons from all over Munster came to see this production and all records are expected to be broken next week.

They should have a big contingent from Limerick, especially from among the Cecilian Musical Society members, as they will be putting on "New Moon" towards the end of this year.

Secretary C. D. Glynn says that everything points to this being the most successful musical show ever staged in County Clare.

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Paul Goldin

To-night at the City Theatre, the renowned Frenchman, Paul Goldin, will give the first of his series of demonstrations in Mental Magic and Telepathy. And in all probability audiences will watch three or four perfectly normal people rush hither and thither in pursuit of leprechauns, who will try to elude them by every trick and device, even to jumping

SPOTLIGHT ON SARITA MONTIEL



Sarita Montiel, a 22-year-old black-haired, dark-eyed girl from Mexico, makes her Hollywood debut in "Vera Cruz" as, of unlikely things, a lady pickpocket.

Sarita, who is far and away Latin America's most popular film actress, is making English-language film bow "Vera Cruz," Technicolor Superscope production, now the Savoy, through Uni Artists release. Her co-stars Gary Cooper, Burt Lancaster, Cesar Romero and Denise D'El. The picture, a Heo Lancaster production, filmed location in Mexico, deals with the colourful and violent struggle between rebel leader Juarez and Emperor Maximilian.

There is nothing Hollywood teach Sarita on the subject how to live like a movie star. Miss Montiel, being an established glamour girl knows the ropes, and her Cuernavaca residence proves it. Sarita's home is a large, lush, elegantly furnished mansion in the country, circled by a stone wall equipped with a solid, sil gateman to answer the visiting ring.

She has a swimming pool, beautiful car, a white poodle, lavish garden, a regiment of servants, and a fine collection of Spanish old masters. She entertains lavishly with all-Sunday parties.

Of Moorish descent, Sarita was born in Granada, Spain, the daughter of Isidora Alcantara, a wine maker. She was covered at an early age and starred in her first picture. Since coming to Mexico several years ago, she has topped popularity polls of Latin American favourites.

Hecht and Lancaster, producers of "Vera Cruz," saw in a picture called "Loeura Amor," in which she played a highly emotional role. Inspired, they induced her to, for the part of Gary Cooper pickpocket sweetheart in "Vera Cruz."

amazing and interesting show of its kind ever offered in Limerick. People of all brow-deepths see it and for varying reasons it is full of wonder and power, strangely amusing. You but you are conquered. Through it all, the performer is courteous and scientific, is