

# STAGE AND SCREEN

## News And Comments

(By Earl Connolly)

**RICHARD HARRIS**, who has just concluded his first year of dramatic studies at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, has been cast for a leading role in the West End production of "The Quare Fellow," which opens to-morrow night.

**RICHARD HARRIS**, or "Dickie" as he is better known, is now in his second-year of dramatic studies at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Through a series of auditions, he has been very fortunate to be cast in a leading role in Brendan Behan's "The Quare Fellow," which opens on the West End to-morrow night.

Actually, the play opened at the Theatre Workshop, in Startford, a few weeks ago, and it proved such a success that it was decided to bring it to London.

"Dickie" heard that the play was being re-cast for the London run and applied for an audition. Over one hundred experienced actors were seeking the coveted part, and Mr. Harris was chosen from among this highly competitive group.

All London's dramatic critics predict that "The Quare Fellow" will be an even bigger success than "Waiting For Godot," and hopes are high that it will have an extended run.

Richard is, of course, very pleased to be making his West End debut, a goal that many actors rarely achieve.

just completed a film role with Charles Chaplin.

So here's wishing "Dickie" Harris every success when he opens at the Comedy Theatre in the West End of London to-morrow evening.

### ★ Miss Vic Loving

Miss Vic Loving is now on a tour of County Clare and is still offering the type of drama and variety that pleases all types of audiences.

Now in her middle sixties (she makes no secret of this fact), Miss Loving is as active and agile as one half her age, despite the fact that she has had several serious operations, and will shortly submit to three others.

Known as a male character impersonator, playwright, actress and singer, she offers a mighty show that combines comedy, drama and a generous amount of sentiment that never fails to send the patrons home completely satisfied, and even longing for more.

Her appearances in the Savoy Cinema and City Theatre some years ago gave her an opportunity to display some of her 2,000 dresses of every nationality and occasion, and she tells me that she is capable of putting on a revue or a pantomime at a moment's notice.

Miss Loving has toured the world and headed the bills in the Music Halls of the leading capitals, and travels a full company of first-class artistes and up-to-date scenery, lighting, and sound equipment, even in rural Ireland.

During her brief tour of Clare she is presenting many excellent song scenes from her own brilliant pen, and each is a charming playlet in itself.

When she is not on the stage, her guiding hand is always felt, and indeed, she is never far away. Her tireless energy and capacity for hard work were never so apparent and she loves every moment of her active life.

Miss Loving is, perhaps, one of the few surviving links with the old vaudeville days of melodrama and villainy, and she plays heav-

### ★ His Ambitions

Mr. Harris has one ambition to act in some of his own productions, but for the moment will combine acting and producing.

Incidentally, his production of "The Country Girl" at the Irving Theatre in the West End ended in a blaze of controversy.

"The Times" said that "the production had individuality, and paid special tribute to 'his lighting and groupings'."

"The Stage" critic said that "it was a daring production," and confessed that although he didn't "fall under its apparent spell," he recommended it to his readers.

"Theatre World" said that "the production was imaginative and held the audiences until the final curtain."

In "The Country Girl," "Dickie" had as leading lady Miss Judith Korn, who is now in Paris in "A Streetcar Named Desire." Opposite her was Peter Preire, who has

"DICKIE" HARRIS AND RITA GAM



"Dickie" Harris seen here with stage, screen and television actress Rita Gam, opens in London's West End to-morrow evening in Brendan Behan's play, "The Quare Fellow." Mr. Harris secured a leading role despite the fact that over one hundred top-line actors were auditioned for the part.

"TOY TIGER"

### SPOTLIGHT ON BETTY LOCHHEAD



Glasgow-born Betty Lochhead is now back again in Limerick after a brief vacation in England.

It will be remembered that last year she created a mild sensation at concerts and local ballrooms when her Ruby Murray-like singing voice made her a big hit wherever she appeared.

Now her voice is even richer, and her diction well-nigh perfect; so much so that one can readily understand why she recently won first prize in a big talent contest in England, when she competed against severe opposition from vocalists and musicians alike.

Betty has also lost some of that awkward shyness that tended slightly to mar her stage appearances, and has now assumed an air of confidence and ability that should carry her far.

Miss Lochhead sings with deep feeling and sincerity, and no matter how many times she has sung a certain lyric it never seems to become hackneyed or commonplace. Such is the amount of thought and preparation that she puts into every number that it appears to be the first time, rather than the 100th time, that she has aired it.

It is this freshness and sparkle that stamps her as a coming artiste.

On behalf of her many friends and admirers, may I welcome the Scottish lassie back to Limerick, a city which she loves very much.

ly on the emotions in her own special contributions. Perhaps, we shall have the opportunity of seeing her again in Limerick and I feel certain that her many fans and admirers would like to renew acquaintance with this renowned artiste of the theatre.

### ★ "When The Talkies Were Young"

Once again a bouquet to the Warner Bros. Studios, and to the Lyric management for giving us the opportunity to see such a splendid short as "When The Talkies Were Young," all last week.

Scenes from such films as "Sinner's Holiday" (James Cagney and Joan Blondell); "20,000 Years In Sing Sing" (Spencer Tracy, Bette Davis and Louis Calhern); "Five Star Final" (Edward G. Robinson and Boris Karloff) and "Svengali" (John Barrymore and Marion Marsh) held audiences spellbound.

All these films were early talkies, made over a quarter of a century ago, and still better entertainment than most of that on offer to-day.

If these were just trailers of coming attractions at the Lyric, I feel sure that the cinema would be packed for the next few weeks. Instead we were being treated to a "how good the movies used to be"

# Limerick Of Sw

CORK, 5-5; LIM

**LIMERICK**, leading by seconds minutes of the second half victory, collapsed before a performance of Christy Ring, who the space of five dramatic minutes Munster hurling title at Thurle a 47,000 attendance, this final memorable Cork-Limerick d ground in the past.

BY A STAFF I

The capacity crowd saw a game of swaying fortunes, of pulsating and spectacular exchanges, and a second half that was as memorable as it was tense. Yet, amid the welter of excitement, abundant colour and thrills, it was not a classic final. Admittedly, it was fought at tremendous speed and was adorned by passages of breathtaking hurling, but there was too much untidy and unsure hitting and forward misses to make it a final to compare with the greatest between the counties. Throughout the hour, there was a lack of sustained ground play and a tendency to lift the ball when first-time pulling would have paid bigger dividends. This was most apparent on the Limerick side. The huge green and white following often sighed with impatience at the tantalising play of the side, who, for once forgot about ground hurling and, instead, tended to waste time by lifting amid the clash of flying ball, and over-using the ball.

Cork, on the other hand, though out of the game for long periods, fell back on the old reliable method of driving the ball through on ground and air in the last quarter, and their first-time efforts proved successful.

### CHRISTY RING'S FINAL

This decider will go down in the annals of G.A.A. history as the Christy Ring Munster final. I have seen Ring play many brilliant games on pitches throughout the country, but never have I seen him in such form as in that second half yesterday. No defender in the game to-day could have held him on this showing. Throwing caution to the winds, he bore in head down, displaying incomparable ball control and skilful artistry that had a silencing effect on the Limerick supporters and, at the same time, sending the Cork supporters into the realms of jubilation. Here was the hurling personality of rare genius, pulling out the last memorable effort when it was so badly needed. Without him, Cork could not possibly have won this decider. For eight minutes he cut the Limerick defence to ribbons, he went through with the ball when many a forward would not have dared. In a word, he was Limerick's undoing.

Yet, despite Ring's scoring spree, this game could have been won by Limerick. In the first half, helped by the wind, our forwards lost many grand opportunities of giving the side a greater half-time lead than 1-4 to 1-1. They held a strong territorial advantage, and everything looked set for a big score before half time; but supporters had to wait for the scores to come slowly. Cork's defence in this vital half were often wild, and were our half-forwards in top of their form they must have scored many more points. At the interval, the general opinion was that Cork would win, particularly as they were aided by the breeze after the resumption. But the opening of the second half saw Limerick play their best game so far and when Tom McGarry worked through on the right for a wonderful goal the title-holders