

Limerick Leader Business and Sports



RICHARD HARRIS

LIMERICK-BORN screen actor, Richard Harris, recently had the time of his life in Kilkee while on a short holiday at his summer residence in the West End.

"Dickie"—as he is affectionately known to his many friends—is now a world-famous film star with no less than three major films running in London simultaneously.

In "The Molly Maguires" (in which he co-stars with Sean Connery and Samantha Eggar) he has a role which suits his rugged style of playing. Though the story is somewhat depressing, his performance alone is worth the price of admission.

Through the courtesy of Paramount Pictures, I had the pleasure of seeing this film recently. I missed the premiere of "Cromwell", in which Richard co-stars with Alec Guinness and gives what is probably his most remarkable portrayal to date.

A few nights ago, he was again in London for the premiere of "A Man Called Horse"—a film which he says was among his most trying to date.

It is of interest to recall that Richard Harris now commands the respect and admiration of the entire cinema world, and he is in the position to pick and choose his roles.

Looking back, I can recall that Dickie—even in his young days—knew that there was a place for him

in the theatre.

I remember his excitement at spotting film actress Rita Gam in O'Connell Street one morning and later—after introducing himself to her—being photographed beneath Cannoek's clock.

Whenever Anew McMaster came to town, Dickie was always anxious to secure a walk-on part, or even stand on stage as a sword-bearer or page—just to be near the great "Mac."

He went to London and was undaunted by years of struggling to gain recognition. Film roles with such players as Rachel Roberts, Charlton Heston, Gary Cooper, Marlon Brando, Trevor Howard, came later with Richard quietly stealing scenes from these big names.

To-day, as I have said already, he is a player of world stature, but still has new horizons to conquer, with record releases and a Las Vegas season lined up.

However, when he wants to unwind and return to the scenes of his childhood, Richard seeks the peace and tranquility of Kilkee, where to all and sundry he is just plain "Dickie."

Although it is some years since we met—he had just made "Camelot"—I take this opportunity to wish Limerick's great star of the screen all the success in the world in his career in the movies.

—Earl Connolly

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