



Una Heaton with Conor McCourt, his father Malachy McCourt and two sons Cole and Gus at the Frank McCourt Museum, Limerick PICTURE: MICHAEL COWHEY

Musical keeps Frank's iconic story and memory alive in Limerick

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ANGELA'S Ashes is still wowing audiences at the Lime Tree theatre, as Frank McCourt's iconic biographic is retold in the form of a musical.

Fittingly, the premier of Angela's Ashes, The Musical, last week also served as an ode to the late Frank, who passed away exactly 10 years ago to the date, on July 19, 2009.

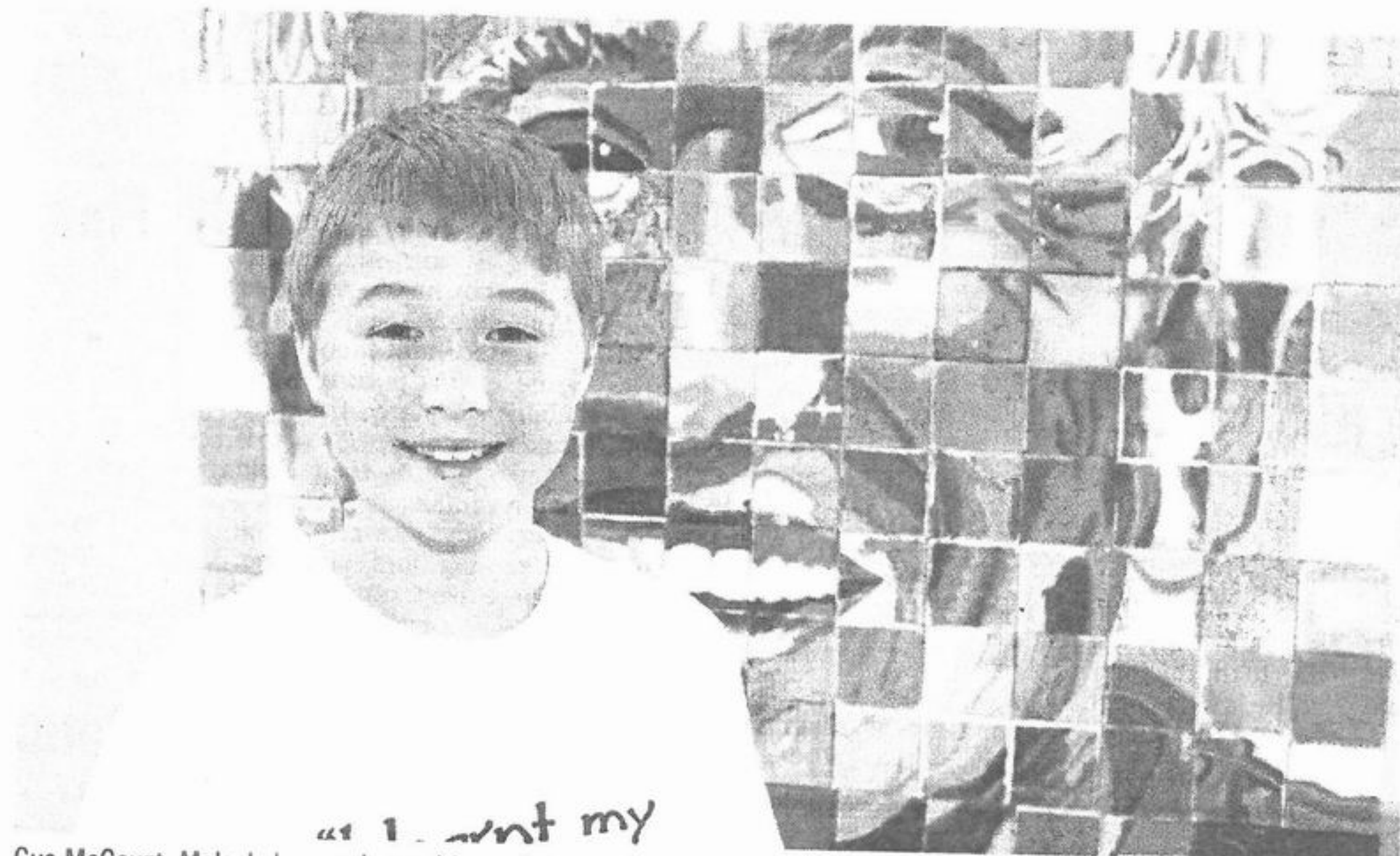
The rest of the McCourt family reside in New York City, but naturally they felt the gravitational pull to their Limerick homeplace for the occasion.

The remaining McCourt men, Frank's brother Malachy and his wife Diana, son Conor and his two young children visited Limerick over the weekend, and paid the Lime Tree a visit for the show.

Conor has spent many occasions in Limerick since his childhood, and said: "Every time I've come back to Limerick, everyone's been welcoming. Even before all the Angela's Ashes hype, people are very kind."

The New York City man described how sentimental it was being present at the premier of the musical, produced by Pat Moylan Productions, exactly 10 years after the death of his uncle.

"They asked me to say a few words at the end of the show," he explained, "so I got up, and of course the first thing I said was that 10 years ago that night, I was sitting spending my last minutes with



Gus McCourt, Malachy's grandson with a painting of Frank at the Frank McCourt Museum, formerly the Leamy School attended by Frank and Malachy McCourt PICTURE: MICHAEL COWHEY

Frank in the hospice. I actually got a bit choked up and Gus gave me a great hug and the whole place fell apart.

"To me, Frank was my fellow civil servant. I was working for the NYPD and he was a schoolteacher, so we had that bond. We both worked for New York City, and were both looking forward to our pension," he laughs.

"I think it wasn't only Frank's

writing that was so powerful, it was the way he was. He was so easy to talk to, he was warm and also sharp. He was the complete package, and the world was ready to accept somebody like him, it was the right place and right time."

Conor remarks on how his two boys remind the family of a young Frank and Malachy: "The boys are 18 months apart, and they're very much like Frank and Malachy. My

younger guy is a little bit bold, and the older one is more cerebral and I think that Frank as a child had a lot of responsibilities on his shoulders, and had to take care of the family. The dynamic is the same, they love each other.

"We sat on the steps of the Frank McCourt museum and had a picnic, and my father told stories of Limerick to the boys, it was great," he added.

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Regulation of Short Term Letting in New Rent Pressure Zone Des

As part of the measures to help address pressures in the rental market, new planning legislative reforms to regulate the short term letting sector – as provided for in the Residential Tenancies and Supplementary Regulations made by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government entitled the Planning and Development (No. 2) Regulations 2019 – came into effect.

The reforms are primarily aimed at addressing the impact on the rental market by the use of residential homes for short term letting in areas of high housing demand. Accordingly, the provisions on "rent pressure zones" under the Residential Tenancies Act 2004.

On 2 July 2019, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government announced the designation of 19 new Rent Pressure Zones with immediate effect. As a result of the new RPZ designations, homesharing and short term letting in these newly designated areas will have to comply with the provisions of the new short term letting regulations. Short term letting in areas outside the designated rent pressure zones will be impacted in any way by the new arrangements.

Under the short term letting arrangements applicable to RPZs:

- Short term letting is defined as the letting of a house or apartment, for any period not exceeding 90 days.
- Homesharing (the letting of a room or rooms in a residence) continues to be permissible on an unregulated basis from the new planning requirements.
- Homesharers are allowed to sub-let their entire principal private residence (house or apartment) on a short term basis for a period where they are temporarily absent from their home.
- Where the 90-day threshold is exceeded, change of use planning permission is required.

If you homeshare your principal private residence in a designated area, you need to register with the local planning authority and fulfil specified reporting obligations.

However, where a person owns a property in a designated area and intends to let it for short term purposes, s/he is required to apply for a change of use planning permission. If a person already has a specific planning permission to be used for short term letting purposes.

In effect, persons engaged in short term letting in a designated area:

- a non-principal private residence, or
- their entire principal private residence for more than 90 days while temporarily absent from the property,

must apply for change of use planning permission. All short term letting in a rent pressure zone (homesharers) must apply for change of use planning permission.

If you feel you may be impacted by the regulations in designated areas, you should contact your local planning authority as soon as possible and take the necessary steps to regularise your arrangements.

Further detailed information on the new requirements can be found on the homepage of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (www.housing.gov.ie) under the heading "Short Term Letting" following link: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/pr-zones/regulation-short-term-letting>

