

# Please consign the gripes about Angela to the ashes

I'VE enjoyed all the hype, over the last few weeks, as Angela's Ashes fever led Limerick to bask in the world spotlight.

But I'm growing increasingly irritated by the international press coverage labelling Limerick as a city of whingers, a city "divided" by Frank McCourt's best-selling book.

And it's totally our own fault. Numerous reporters from the Washington Post, BBC, Sky News and other organisations contacted our newsroom during the week in their research for the "real story", the real feeling of the people in Limerick towards the book.

What they were portraying in their reports was a city of whingers—Limerick people giving out that we didn't get the premiere, the Mayor didn't get invited to New York, the extras weren't invited on opening night, it rained too much, the list is endless!

In the multi-media film industry, movie premieres will always take place in the bright lights of New York and London and attract the stars. And movie makers are purely in the

business of making plenty bucks, not keeping the punters of Limerick happy.

Why, oh why do the begrudgers have to further tarnish the city's image by creating such petty controversy?

The city has gained a lot, economically and otherwise, from Angela's Ashes.

Tourists now traipse in awe up Barrack Hill, have a pint in South's and marvel at the way Limerick's dreary lanes have evolved into a modern European city.

When Hollywood breezed into the city for a few days to film the movie, everyone undeniably got caught up in the excitement.

And whether the critics like it or not, Limerick has been firmly put on the world literary map by Angela's Ashes.

Undoubtedly, Frank McCourt used artistic licence in the writing of his memoir.

Whether he experienced it personally or not, or drew on others in his book, he still painted an accurate picture of a particular time and it was a fascinating read.

There will always be begrudgers that he made himself very rich by telling his story.

Even this week, the modest origins and hard work of new Esat multi-millionaire, Denis O'Brien was highlighted in nearly every paper.

The Limerick of Frank McCourt is in the past. Today's progressive city is only pulling itself backwards by continuing to whine and complain about certain petty issues.

The city often bemoans its image as portrayed by the national press and very often Limerick people are their own worst enemies.

There are some very bitter people in the city as a result of Frank McCourt's best seller and this has emanated in very strong terms.

As a crew member writing to this newspaper said this week, "we cannot push our head above the parapet and say Limerick is a modern cosmopolitan city and then stamp our feet like spoiled children expecting special treatment when we don't get premieres."

It's time to move on. Without doubt, the whingers will find something new to moan about when the hype dies down.

Give me a miserable Irish Catholic childhood in the lanes of Limerick anyway.

underneath her hubb a fetish for garlands and happens to get off regularly when going for England.

She finishes the programme attempting to interview her husband, but collapses in his arms and throws her arms around him. He just looks sheepishly and in his "Norf-East" accent, tells her she's "wunda-ful" interested.

Whether she knows it or not, Posh Spice has become a role model for thousands of teenage girls who have Spice posters plastered across their bedroom walls.

Her weight has plummeted to seven stone, but she admits she is healthy, her weight is normal, and she enjoys gorging on five packets of crisps every day.

In a world where women are increasingly being pressurised that thin is beautiful, Posh is one role model that teenage girls could do without.

No wonder someone tried to kidnap baby Brooklyn! With parents like Posh and Becks, he was probably being taken away for scientific examination.

## SAVOY CINEPLEX

11 P.M.

ANGELA'S ASHES (15s)  
2.30, 7.30, 10.00

THE BONE COLLECTOR (15s)  
2.05, 4.30, 8.00, 10.05

SLEEPY HOLLOW (15s)  
2.15, 4.30, 8.00, 10.00

BLUE STREAK (15s)  
2.30, 4.30, 8.00

THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG)  
2.00 & 4.30 DAILY

ORDINARY DECENT CRIMINAL (15s)  
8.00 & 10.00 NIGHTLY

THE SIXTH SENSE (15s)

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