



Limerick author Frank McCourt: still on the winning trail

Sept 25
2001

McCourt wins yet another award

By IAIN DEMPSEY

LIMERICK author Frank McCourt has added another chapter to his litany of success by scooping the literature award from the Irish Post newspaper.

The Angela's Ashes author was presented with the award at a ceremony in London, where the paper is based.

In a special supplement in the September 22 edition of the paper, the reason for his receiving the award was outlined.

"He drew on the childhood memories of growing up in his mother's home town of Limerick to paint a captivating picture of Irish life.

"His acute observations of his family's struggle against poverty and the characters surrounding them touched hearts all over the world. The book went on to win the Pulitzer Prize, topped the best-seller charts around the world for three years and was eventually turned into a hit film by acclaimed director Alan Parker.

"The follow-up book, 'Tis, became

an equal success with its vivid description of McCourt's life in America as a young Irishman and cemented his reputation as one of Ireland's finest literary talents.

"His success has also seen him become a sell-out draw on the lecture circuit across the world and earlier this year he was one of 15 Irish writers chosen to collaborate on the charity book, *Yates Is Dead*, a novel published in aid of human rights group Amnesty International."

At the ceremony, which recognizes the best of Irish talent, in London's Park Lane Sheraton, McCourt was joined by fellow Irishmen who received awards, including rugby star Brian O'Driscoll, cyclist Sean Kelly and actor James Nesbitt.

Over 300 people attended the award ceremony which was tinged with sadness following events in the United States.

McCourt, who lives in New York, admitted at the ceremony that he was still trying to get in touch with friends at home.

He is currently working on a new novel at the New York home he shares with his wife Ellen.