

# On Keane killers' appeal

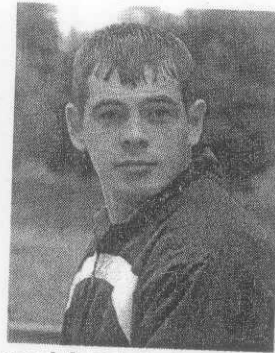
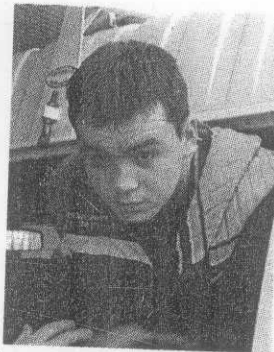
Petula Martyn

THE Court of Criminal Appeal has reserved its ruling in a bid by the Kieran Keane killers to bring a fresh challenge to their murder convictions.

Lawyers for Dessie Dundon, Christopher Costello, James McCarthy, David Stanners and Anthony McCarthy sought to have their clients' cases referred to the Supreme Court

They argued that there had been "significant media intrusion" before the trial, and referred to the image of a "two-fingered gesture" that had appeared in newspapers, as well as discussions that related to the case that were broadcast on the Late Late Show on RTE1.

Paul Burns SC, prosecuting, said on the issue of



The five killers of Kieran Keane who appealed their convictions at the Court of Criminal Appeal, from left, Christopher Costello, David Stanners, Dessie Dundon, Anthony McCarthy and James McCarthy

publicity that "the courts have sufficiently set out the law in that area, and nothing further needs to be dealt with by the Supreme Court in this regard".

Lawyers for the convicted men argued that the trial judge erred in refusing to discharge the jury

when it emerged a Garda clerical officer had been empanelled on the jury.

Mr Burns counter argued that there was no question that the juror had knowledge of any of the parties involved in the trial.

He added that there was "simply no evidence of any

attempt to vet the jury in any way in advance of the trial and of withholding that information from the accused".

The five men, who range in age from 27 to 39, did not appear before the three-judge court for the hearing on Monday because of "threatening and aggres-

sive behaviour" in July 2007 when their appeal against their murder convictions was rejected. The men threw heavy copies of the judgments at the court's judges.

Convicted criminal Keane, 36, was killed in an execution style killing on January 29, 2003. His

nephew, Owen Treacy, was stabbed 17 times and survived the murder attempt.

The State's case had been that all five acted as part of a joint enterprise.

Evidence in the 31-day trial was heard in Cloverhill Courthouse, attached to Wheatfield Prison, for security reasons.

an exhibition of original fine art prints in Limerick Printmakers this Thursday night.

Ms Meler, has exhibited widely internationally and has just completed the Helen Frankenthaler residency in the Centre for Contemporary Printmaking in New York.

The exhibition called "The Distance Between", will run until June 10.

The artist was born in Brodnica, Poland in the early '80s, but moved to

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## McCourt's agent says Angela's Ashes to attain 'classic' status

Anne Sheridan

ANGELA'S Ashes is on its way to becoming 'a classic' and continues to enthral new readers, Frank McCourt's literary agent has said.

New York-based agent Molly Friedrich, who was in Limerick last week for the unveiling of the bust of Frank McCourt, said the city author's first memoir was now "moving into the classic stage where it endures the test of time".

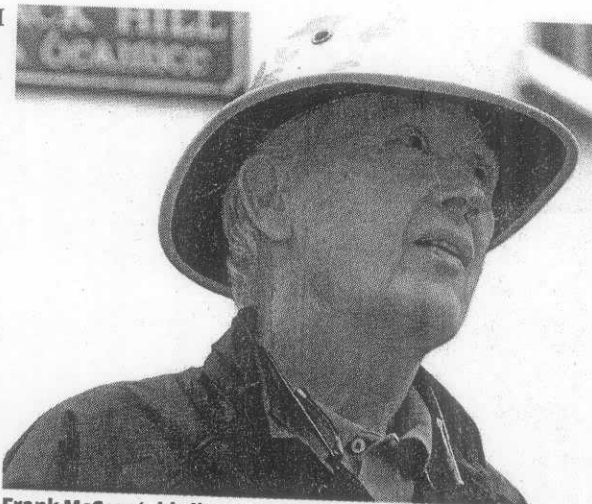
"I think new generations of people are reading the book. About a month ago I saw a kid, a 13-year-old, reading the

book on the subway, and I thought there's another generation of people reading Frank McCourt for the first time.

"It's lovely. It's the way it ought to be, especially with the younger generation reading less. It's especially heartening for that reason. It is a classic."

Frank McCourt was working on a novel before his death last July, aged 78, but Ms Friedrich said: "I don't know what he's written. Perhaps we will never know".

She revealed that she had "the first letter that he ever wrote to me",



Frank McCourt: his literary agent believes Angela's Ashes will attain 'classic' status

referring to the cover letter which accompanied the then unpublished Angela's Ashes.

When she sat down to read the book in 1995, she said she was "acutely conscious from the first page that I was reading a masterpiece. I read all night. Everything he wrote was a combination of charm and wit and humour and dead on accuracy. It's hard to come by."

The London-born agent, who is recognised as being among the most powerful in the business, said the McCourts were "an extraordinary family"

who "broke the mould. I feel this is just a really marvellous send-off. I've never known someone to have a bust made of them. To see the school and to see Frank honoured in this way is just very powerful."

When Frank died, she received dozens of e-mails expressing sympathy.

"Many mentioned that I had 'discovered' Frank. I did not discover Frank; he discovered me," she said.

Published in 1996, Angela's Ashes has sold more than six million copies.

**MCCOURT BUST UNVEILED: PAGE 4, LEADER 2**

Twilight

Jerry Fish & The Mudbug Club

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