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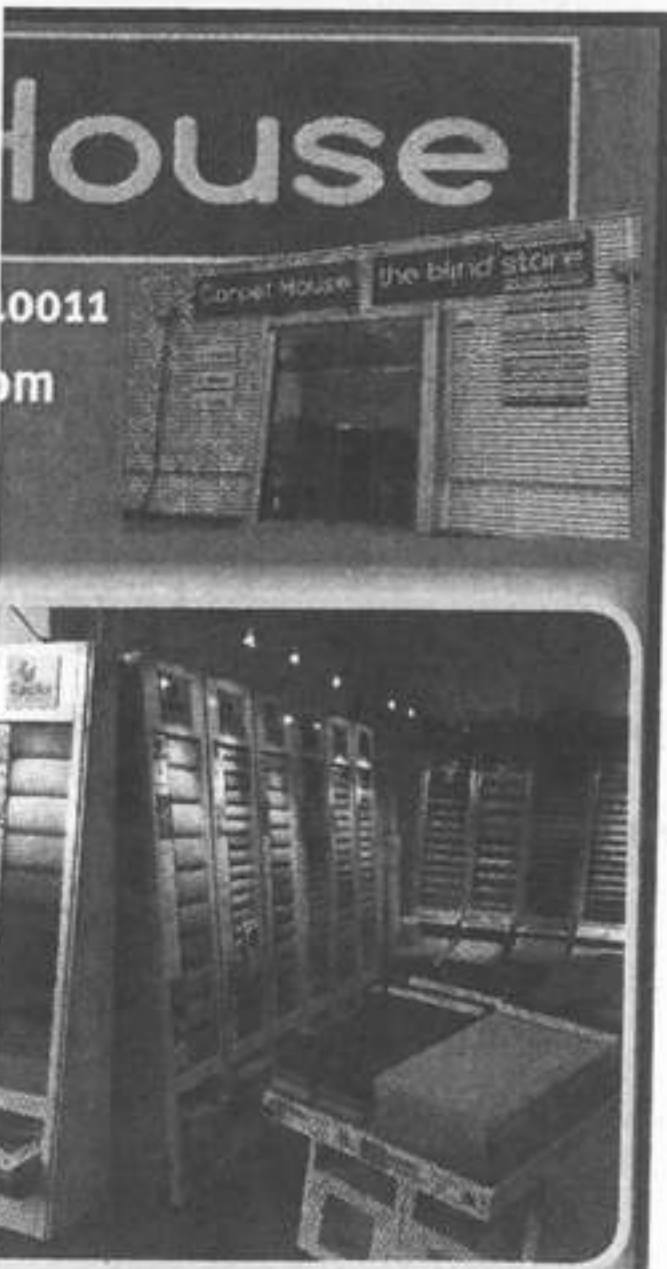
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News

MOVIE

Philomena beats the best of Hollywood



Dame Judi Dench, who plays the title role, with Newcastlewest woman Philomena Lee at the London premiere of 'Philomena' in October

by Alan Jacques
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THE MOVIE which tells of a Limerick woman's experience of having to hand over her child has outstripped the Hollywood blockbusters having earned more than €1.3million in its time in Irish cinemas.

The drama ranked in the top 20 Irish movies last year, out of a total of more than 700.

The independently produced film was also a hit internationally, falling inside last year's top 100 films worldwide, with a running total that is now approaching €45million.

It also received four Oscar nominations last week, including Best Picture, and Best Actress for Judi

Dench in the title role of Philomena Lee.

The woman herself, Philomena Lee, attended both the film's London premiere and the Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles with her daughter, Jane.

'Philomena' is based on the book, 'The Lost Child of Philomena Lee' by former BBC journalist Martin Sixsmith which tells the true story of how the Newcastlewest woman was forced to give her infant son up for adoption in 1952 when she was just 19.

Her son Anthony, who was renamed Michael Hess, went on to become a successful lawyer, serving as White House chief legal counsel under Ronald Regan and George Bush Snr. After contracting HIV, he died in 1995 and is buried in Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea.

the blind store

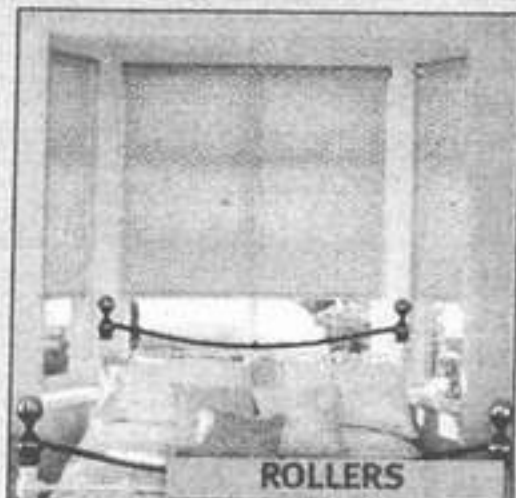
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