

Wonderland celebration

of the 70s and the 80s on "a journey of wonderful musical memories", the duo promise.

The night was launched by Metropolitan Mayor Michael Hourigan at the George Hotel where classic disco night Fernando's began 40 years ago. The glory days of Tropics will also be recalled, as the DJs set about bringing back the famous slow set, an important social feature of that nightlife.

"The night promises to be full of memories for so many people and will bring back the heady days of disco music," say the duo.

To that end, a competition will take place on radio to find the public's favourite slow set numbers. Special guest on the night will be JP Dillon, an integral part of the Limerick radio scene for many years.

See www.dolans.ie for tickets.



Disco Kings: Micky Mac, Nicky Woulfe and JP Dillon at the launch of Boogie Wonderland 40th

must enter to progress to the All Ireland Fleadh, the weekend has a great Fringe Festival. A top line-up of musicians are booked for free music seisiúns in various locations from Wednesday, May 31 to Monday, June 5, including Bobby Gardiner, Nell Ní Chróinín, Caoimhin and Sean O'Fearghail, Ryan O'Donnell, Ronan Ryan, Cliona Halley and many more.

The programme of events involves a Hup na Houora concert in the beautifully restored Church of Ireland, featuring a return of the fantastic team of Liam Flanagan, Caoimhin O'Fearghail and Derek Hickey

ner soio nuaie ca - here to play on the same night. Saturday night will also have an on the street regional dance performance by a number of All-Ireland set dancing winners, with a Cheili Mór for the audience. Sunday will have more on street trad entertainment and plenty of seisiúns with a collaboration from Comhaltas Branches in the evening.

Family fun days, a pop up Gaeltacht, outdoor markets, ioga trí nGaelige, Art Workshops, Historical and trad trails are all lined up for the weekend, meaning that even those who are not 'trad' followers can enjoy the craic!

return with Smallone



Michelle O'Flanagan in John Murphy's play Smallone

Donie to launch his solo CD of songs and tunes

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A MAN whose life's passion has been the traditional music and song of his own area will launch a very special CD this Sunday.

Donie Lyons, from Glin, is known in Irish music circles for his flute-playing and for his singing and he combines both in his new solo CD, *The Lovely Banks of Blain* which will be launched by champion Tipperary singer Nora Butler.

The CD has taken several months to record, Donie explained this week. "I know my hands were cold when we started recording the tunes," he said.

It is a CD that owes much to the encouragement of fellow singers, both in the West Lim-

erick Singing Club and around the country. "Most of the songs are local songs that I knew from hearing older people from the area," Donie explained.

And a big part of the motivation for the CD was to help preserve those songs into the next generation.

Donie himself learned his music from his grandfather, Henry Sheahan, who played the flute and concertina, and from the noted fiddle-player Thomas "Buddy" Fuey of Glenagra, Athea. And the eight music tracks on the CD will reflect this heritage as Donie will play the reels, slides and polkas in the West Limerick tradition.

But 14 of the CD's 22 tracks will feature Donie singing his own versions of local songs: the title track, composed by Ger-

Histon, about the Blain river which flows near Donie's home at Drumreask. Another song *The Vales of Direen* is local to both Athea and Glin and then there is the *Rose of Newtownshandrum*, *Lovely Athea*, and one about Glin called *Poul an Eas*, all in the collection.

"Donie is one of the finest exponents of traditional flute playing and singing who is alive today," said poet and broadcaster Gabriel Fitzmaurice who collaborated with Donie on a tape over 20 years ago. "At a time when many youngsters are doing triple somersaults and taking Irish music to places it maybe shouldn't go, Donie Lyons is one of the guardians of the tradition."

In October 2015, the West Limerick Singing Club hon-

oured Donie for his contribution to Irish traditional singing and music at the Garry McMahon Traditional Singing Weekend. Donie many successes include county, Munster and All-Ireland wins in music and singing. He is a stalwart member of the Singing Club and toured with Comhaltas through Ireland, England, the US and Canada with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann in 2005 and 2006.

Sunday's launch will take place in Barrett's pub, Glin beginning at 3pm.

"I am looking forward to it but I am a bit nervous about it too, to tell the truth," Donie acknowledged. The CD will be on sale, priced at €10, on Sunday and afterwards will be available in local shops.



Donie Lyons' 22-track CD contains both songs and tunes

PICTURE: MICHAEL COWHEY

National Children's Choir at the Concert Hall

A FULL house is expected at the ICH for the National



Saw Doctors make live return on the Big Top stage

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