

Savoy 'may be lost to Limerick'

EAMON O'CONNOR URGES CORPORATION TO BUY IT

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

A SUGGESTION that Limerick Corporation should step in to buy the Savoy was made this week by impresario, Mr. Eamon O'Connor, at a Press conference to announce details of his Christmas show at the Bedford Row theatre.

Mr. O'Connor revealed that his could possibly be the last live show on the Savoy stage. "I am led to believe that the Savoy Theatre could shortly be lost to the people of Limerick and this could be the ideal opportunity for the Corporation to make it into a civic centre," said Mr. O'Connor, who earlier promised that his Christmas entertainment would be the best seen at the venue in a long while.

He said that he was the first Limerick "boy" to put on a show at the Savoy in its 42 years history. "With the City Theatre already gone, it would be a great pity were the Savoy to be lost to the city," he commented.

He told the press conference that he planned to "cut off" the balcony during his Christmas show, thus reducing the seating capacity to 1,000. The stage is also to be extended.

Mr. O'Connor said that he was confident that he would beat the existing record of two weeks for any show at the theatre.

The Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Frank Prendergast, endorsed Mr. O'Connor's sentiments about the Savoy: "I agree that every effort should be made to keep it open; its loss would be irretrievable and in ten years time we would be asking ourselves why we ever let it slip from us."

He paid tribute to Mr. O'Connor for his work in helping to keep theatre alive in Limerick.

"His name is synonymous with professionalism and dedication and he always works to the highest standards," added the Mayor, who recalled his schoolgoing days with Mr. O'Connor.

He expressed the view that local audiences were very discerning—"but I am convinced



At this week's Press conference at the Savoy to announce details of the Eamon O'Connor Christmas Show: Mrs. Erda Kelly, Croom, who put together the costumes for the Muppets in the show, which will start on 28th December next. Picture: DERMOT LYNCH.

ed they will find much to enjoy in this show."

Mayor Prendergast said he was looking forward to going to the show with his family.

Good news for Muppet fans is that Kermit, Fozzy and Miss Piggy will be appearing in the Eamon O'Connor Show. The popular stars of the famous television series are the handiwork of Edna Kelly of Croom.

The accent this year will be once again on comedy, and making a return after two years will be comedian Tom Sweeney.

Many will remember Tom's hilarious antics on a push-bike against a 'living screen' background as he careered through the streets of Limerick.

He will be seen in many varied roles this time, and advance scrutiny of the movie film footage already shot reveals one of the funniest films ever to be seen on screen.

Joe Neiland and Basil Collinson will be helping Tom in the comedy field, and both will also figure in solo spots. Big illusion magic acts are making a come-back worldwide, and Eamon is presenting a 15-minute magic act which will feature three major world-topping illusions.

"In one of these," said Eamon, "I promise to make a member of the audience van-

ish in full view." He didn't mention whether he'd bring the person back.

The show will also feature the Jazzmic Dancers, and heading a distinguished cast of singers will be American-born Ann Shumate. Also featured will be Peggy Howard, Pat

Frost, Jim O'Farrell, Sheila O'Doherty and many others. The onerous task of selecting and arranging all the music goes to young Limerick musician, Brendan Frawley, who will also play the cordovox, John A. Enright will play pre-show music each night.

£3,000 for centre in Southill

SOUTHILL Community Council's youth centre development project has received a £3,000 grant from Limerick Corporation, it was disclosed this week.

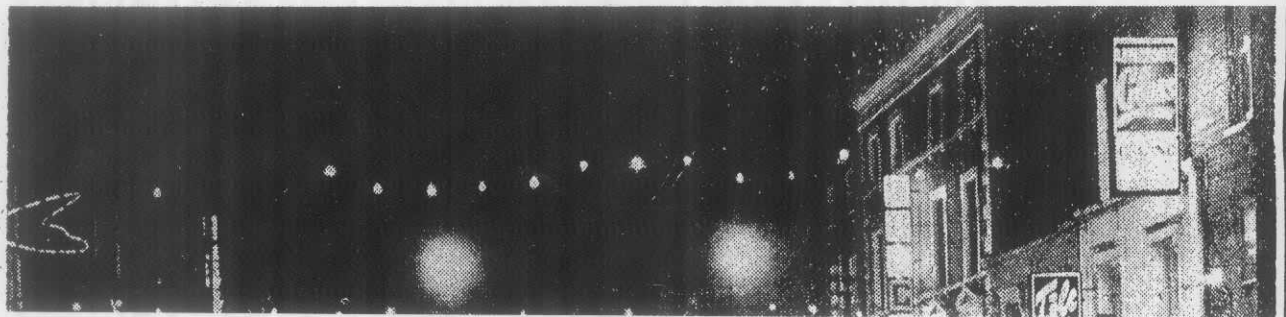
The grant is the first phase of the Corporation's aid to the project. Mr. Tommy Allen, P.R.O. for the council, said his organisation wished to thank the Corporation for this valuable assistance, and in particular he singled out Mr. Flan O'Neill, who had been very helpful to the council in this matter.

However, Mr. Allen pointed

out that about £5,000 had been raised for the youth centre locally and the council had hoped that the Corporation's contribution would be larger than it was. "While the figure of £3,000 falls short of the total outlay on the centre we are very happy that we got it," Mr. Allen stated.

It is hoped to have the centre opened during Community Week 1978 in Southill. The need for the youth centre is shown by the fact that the teenage population in Southill is the largest of any estate in the city and it is growing rapidly.

The council will hold a grand variety concert at the Savoy Theatre on Monday next at 8 p.m.



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