



Tops fans pack Savoy

THE people of Limerick responded to Tony O'Mara's call to Save the Savoy by turning out in huge numbers for the opening weekend of the John Player 'Tops'.

All of the 1,500 seats in the Theatre were occupied on Saturday for Analog Devices and Southill Connection, and Crescent Shopping Centre and Ardscoil Ris Parents' Association were pleasantly surprised by the reception given to them by another appreciative audience on Sunday.

With question marks having hung over the availability of the Savoy during the past fortnight, the organising committee were fearful that their huge investment might backfire on them.

Up to midweek the demand for tickets was sluggish, and all concerned sent out appeals for support.

In true showbusiness fashion it all turned out right on the night.

The Savoy was a hive of activity on both Saturday and Sunday nights, and there to oversee everything was the supremo himself Tony O'Mara, who sported a broad grin as he greeted the VIP's.

Most relieved of all, of course were members of the Ard Scoil Ris Building Fund Committee, who have had responsibility for Limerick Tops for almost a decade.

Their investment in the 1988 event is high — some sources close to the scene say it is as much as £7,000 — and now that they have overcome the hiccups imposed on them, can relax as

the remainder of their programme is played out on stage.

First onto stage on Saturday were Analog Devices BV with "Analog Chronolog". Producer is Richie Ryan and guest artist is Dave Griffin. As the title suggests the theme of their story is set in the newspaper world. Entertainment was the key note.

Fr. Joe Young introduced his cast of 200 plus from the Southill area, and with a mixture of pop, folk and Irish music had the audience in good humour.

Crescent Shopping Centre, whose show is devised and produced by Tony Cusack, made a splendid Tops debut on Sunday night, in the company of Ard Scoil Ris Parents' Association, also in the competition for the first time. Loretto Kennedy and Oliver Stapleton are guest artists with the former.

Ard Scoil Ris are under the direction of Fergal Deegan and he has reason to feel pleased with their performance. John Geraghty, who wrote the comedy script, is also a guest artist, as is Michael Shortt.

This year there are no lavish costumes or spectacular sets — the revised marking system has no points allocated for either. Comedy is also fairly thin on the ground — again adjudicator Michael O'Donoghue can allow only 10 marks for same. The breakdown is: entertainment value (50), production (10), variety (20), creativity and originality (10), comedy (10).

'Tops' continues at the Savoy next weekend.

id Safety

: David McNamara. ial ceremony in the bers of all the Junior len teams taking part : of the competition ed with commemora- by Mr. J. O'Dea, al branch manager of Insurance Co., who competition nation- mpetition is organised

by the National Safety Council. Junior School Wardens provide a safe crossing place for their fellow pupils as well as generating a greater awareness of the importance of road safety amongst the local community. They are appointed by the local authority and receive special training from the Garda Authorities. Each team consists of six pupils over the age of 11 and there is a different team for each day of the school week.

Flower Club

THE Thomond Flower and Garden Club will hold their March meeting on Wednesday, March 16 at 8 p.m. at the Royal George Hotel.

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