

FREE THIS WEEK

Earlier opera promise is fulfilled

LAST February, when Suzanne Murphy made her operatic debut in the Irish National Opera Company's production of "Cinderella", I predicted that her future in opera seemed assured.

On Monday last Suzanne was back in Limerick with another production of "Cinderella" (there is a repeat performance this Saturday) at the City Theatre, and her superb performance has amply fulfilled her earlier promise.

Suzanne, who is daughter of the prominent Limerick businessman, Mr. Joe Murphy, and Mrs. Murphy, Innwood, North Circular Road, won national fame with the Wee Four prior to taking up the study of classical music three years ago.

She won a number of awards at last year's Dublin Feis Ceoil and her sweet and melodious voice and histrionic talents make her an ideal choice for the title role in "Cinderella."

than that brought together by the National Opera Company. The ugly sisters played by Eileen Donlon and Celine Murphy, could only be faulted for their prettiness. "A pair of silly boobies full of vanity and pride", they fill their role with spirit and effect and their singing is superb.

Peter McBrien as "Dandini" is in magnificent voice and Gerald Duffy as the wizard "Alidoro" is full of energy, mysticism and magic and eventually raises Cinderella from her cinders to reign in royal splendour.

Brian Kissane as "Magnifico" completes a team that ably interprets the homely lyricism, the rich humour and melody of Rossini's fairy tale.

A special word of praise for pianist and music director, Veronica McSwiney. Her keyboard technique and musicianship was magnificent in the opera's varying moods of delicacy, pathos, vivacity and mirth.

The production and lighting by Paddy Ryan was intelligent and sensitive, and the costumes by Alex Reid, Joan Walsh and Anne Gavigan were rich and elegant. Full credit to Tom Hanahoe, Brendan Keyes and Claude Byrne, the stage management team.

This year's innovation of including in the Festival of Theatre a festival of operatic talent will be warmly welcomed and, we hope, well supported; it has ably sustained the cultural and artistic reputation that the Theatre Festival enjoys.

Naughton

Tenor

Limerick has indeed a major part in the current presentation of Rossini's lively, tuneful, laughable and lovely work. Patrick Ring, another of Limerick's distinguished singers, ably fills the role of "Ramiro" and his fine tenor voice does full justice to the melodious songs that throng the production.

The story of "Cinderella" is well-known and loved and the theme song, "Long ago there lived a king, simple, kind and true," sets the mood for this heartening tale, ethereal and earthy from a composer of genius.

Talented

It would indeed be difficult to find a more talented cast



C.B.S. School at Galvone over the week-ashed by vandals and rocks of about gh the windows. Youths under four-eir inquiries. Picture shows Brother Mohally of the C.B.S. school, clearing lebris.

es in library

library assistants.
For each proposed Branch library, two library assistants plus an Assistant Librarian to co-ordinate the service.
An Assistant Librarian for Headquarters/Audio Visual Services.
For Reference Services, an Assistant Librarian.
For Schools Service, a full time library assistant plus full time clerk-typist. (At present a library assistant and a clerk-typist work only half time each at schools).
For delivery-van, a driver.
To summarise them, given four new service points and general stock increases, the following staff will be needed over the next five years:
3 Assistant Librarians, 12 Library Assistants, 1 Clerk-typist and 1 Driver.
This brings the total non-manual staff to twenty-five, a figure of three less than recommended standards of 1 per 2,000 population.
Recommended qualified staff is 33 per cent of total—again with only six qualified, this is still less.

Other services

To extend the library ser-

MAJOR SAVINGS DAY