

Now Gerry wants to be Limerick's Jerry . . .

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By ALAN JACQUES

LIMERICK'S answer to Jerry Springer is back to shake things up over the airwaves this week.

Gerry Hannan is returning to Radio Limerick One after a four-month break. He will take over the breakfast slot on RLO after doing the night time show for five years.

"I had to take a break from radio as I had a lot going on in my life. I recently celebrated my fortieth birthday and have been going through a bit of a mid-life crisis" said Gerry.

"Publishers were screaming at me to finish my new book When Angels Weep. And I recently got the opportunity to buy the English franchise from a video and dvd company called Filmdrome," said the well known broadcaster.

The author of Ashes and 'Tis In Me Ass built up a huge listenership on his night time chat show over the last five years.

"I got letters and phone calls from people. They would stop me on the street to ask me when I was going to be back on radio.

"I knew I had a big audience, but it was much bigger than I thought which really surprised me," said

Mr Hannan.

"The breakfast show will give me an opportunity to reach a wider audience. The show will give me room to experiment, and it will be very adventurous.

"I think radio is too controlled in Ireland and it lacks courage. I want to bring the airwaves back to the people. I will be the middle man, the show will give people a chance to voice their opinions," he said.

"As far as morning radio chat shows go, Gerry Ryan is the best of a bad lot. I would like to be like Eamon Dunphy with manners. It may sound mad, but I would like to be seen as Limerick's answer to Jerry Springer.

"I believe in freedom of speech and I don't think we should brush things under the carpet. My new show will give people a chance to discuss what ever they want, which I believe is a very healthy thing," said the broadcaster.

On the subject of his now book, he described it as a romantic novel, a bit like Gone with the Wind with a Scarlet O'Hara-type character.

"It stands alone from any of my other work. It is the type of book that you can sit down and read on the beach," he said.



Jerry Springer: will he meet his match in Limerick?

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