

Town Talk with Mary Glennon



At the Abbey Theatre Reception: Deirdre Mc Quillan (P.R.O.), Tomas Mac Anna and Fidelma Cullen.

Donal—a willing 'volunteer'

How does an actor divide his concentration when he is involved in more than one role at a time? I'm sure you have often wondered what mental strain is created by having three characters fight for prominence in one's brain, oneself, the role one is playing on stage by night, and a third character that is being studied in preparation for the next job.

We asked Donal Donnelly about this when we met at the Abbey Theatre last night. Deirdre McQuillan, the Abbey's new P.R.O. announced the details of the world premiere of Brian Friel's eleventh and latest play scheduled for Wednesday, March fifth, and to tell us about 'Twelfth Night' by that other tried and trusted master of moods and bane of every schoolkid, Willie the Shake, which opens in the Peacock on Monday, March 10.

Donal has come from London to join the Abbey for this first staging of 'Volunteers'. To quote directly from Deirdre's press release, the play is set in present day Ireland on an archaeological site in the centre of a city where the group of characters, some from a local internment camp reveal much of themselves and the larger background of life outside. To say that he is enthusiastic about the work would

Pictures: Alan MacInnes

be an understatement. Donal Donnelly's description of Friel's new work is, in a word, 'profound', and if one can judge by his unqualified delight in being a part of it, it will certainly be worth a visit to the Abbey.

When we asked him if he had a finger in any other pie at the moment, his response was to launch into an outpouring of the gems of wit and wisdom for which G. B. Shaw was responsible. Such intensity and credibility did he inject into the quotations which flowed from his mouth like water over a waterfall, that I was lulled almost into acceptance that this was the first time that those words had been uttered, not that they had been said and written a long time ago and repeated by many different people, umpteen times since. Were it the case, that one had not paid great heed to Shaw, Donal Donnelly would make one feel that a great sin of omission had been committed.

This preoccupation with Shaw at the moment is a symptom of the prolonged research and work he has been putting into his next commitment which will be a one man show on Show, due to be staged when 'Volunteers' runs its short course.

This one man show on Shaw was devised some 12 years ago by Michael Voissey and was originally the baby of the late Max Adrian. In his research of the man and his work Donal Donnelly has become intensely aware of the prophetic nature of Shaw's work, his view of social ills, and especially of poverty, and he hopes that his portrayal of a younger Shaw struggling from the grass roots of fumbler and mumbler to one of history's greatest orators, will appeal to younger audiences.

A bit of old Amsterdam in Dublin...

The melodious tones of a beautiful Dutch organ specially brought over from Amsterdam greeted us at the New Jury's Hotel last night. We were there to play in the Dutch Indonesian Week at Jurys and we met Marizke Roolaart as soon as we stepped into the foyer. Marizke works for Aer Lingus who are helping promote this week, in Amsterdam and all this week she will be wooing visitors to Jury's Hotel, wearing not her native costume, but Aer Lingus' new uniform for the air-hostesses and ground staff. We met Mrs. Lubbe-Bakker who will be busily preparing Nari-gareng among other delightful Dutch delicacies all next week, and the handsome and charming gentleman who has given up a week of his job with the Dutch Ministry to come and play the Amsterdam Street Organ for you.



Marizke Roolaart, from Aer Lingus Amsterdam... in Dublin for Holland week.

The organ which is over 100 years old and one of very few remaining in Holland now stands for the week in the grounds of New Jury's but Mary Crotty tells us that police clearance has been obtained to bring the organ through O'Connell Street this evening (Friday).

It is an indisputable fact that no product of Cordon Bleu culinary skill is complete without the right wine to accompany it. So thinks Mary Fitzgerald anyway, and she ought to know. Mary who is a highly skilled Cordon Bleu cook runs very successful cookery demonstrations for about 130 women and 20 men each week and last night she completed the picture by asking Frank Searson of pub fame, but last night wearing his cap of President of the French Wine Association to lecture on wines. Sorry we couldn't make it.

Her feelings on canvas

Last night was our night for meeting people with double and treble lives. Not just actors, but artists of a different medium too. Not that we are accusing Eileen Costelloe of any funny Jekyll and Hyde business, far from it, because we know Eileen's colleagues in the Department of Local Government would be down on us like a ton of bricks. You see, Eileen works by day in the above mentioned Government Department. But in her spare time she wanders through the Botanic Gardens and other similar leafy and flower-laden retreats and paints what she sees and feels about her.

The fruits of one year of Eileen's painting expeditions was on show at the David Hendrick gallery in Stephen's Green last night. Eileen's exhibition will be open to the public from

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day until March 8, and for those of you who are interested there are some 40 paintings on show, 12 gouache and 35 oils. Even for those of you who do not dash off to every art exhibition that opens in town, it is one well worth seeing, for the simple reason that it is a very relaxing, mellow sort of exhibition, with the most beautiful blend of colours and shapes. There is a tremendous feeling of brightness and happiness about the exhibition, which is not surprising, because if one started as Eileen did, with a one-woman show around 1959 when there were no perks or scholarships or grants of any kind to help the struggling artist, one would need to have been extremely happy despite one's struggles to persevere along the uphill path of the artist to the stage of success that Eileen has reached today.



Miss Marcella Senior with Mr. David Hendricks.

UP AT THE MALE BASTION

Much as we disapprove of the few remaining bastions of male chauvinistic piggery, we swallowed our convictions last night to drop into that 'men only' sanctuary for Dublin's young executives seeking to keep that middle aged spread at bay and with £100 to lavish each year on doing just that. We mean Fitzwilliam Tennis Club of course, where last night, Ivan Carter, Tournament Secretary of the Irish Squash Association announced that Ireland is for the first time to be host this year to the European Squash Championship, sponsored by Pilkingtons, the international glass manufacturers.

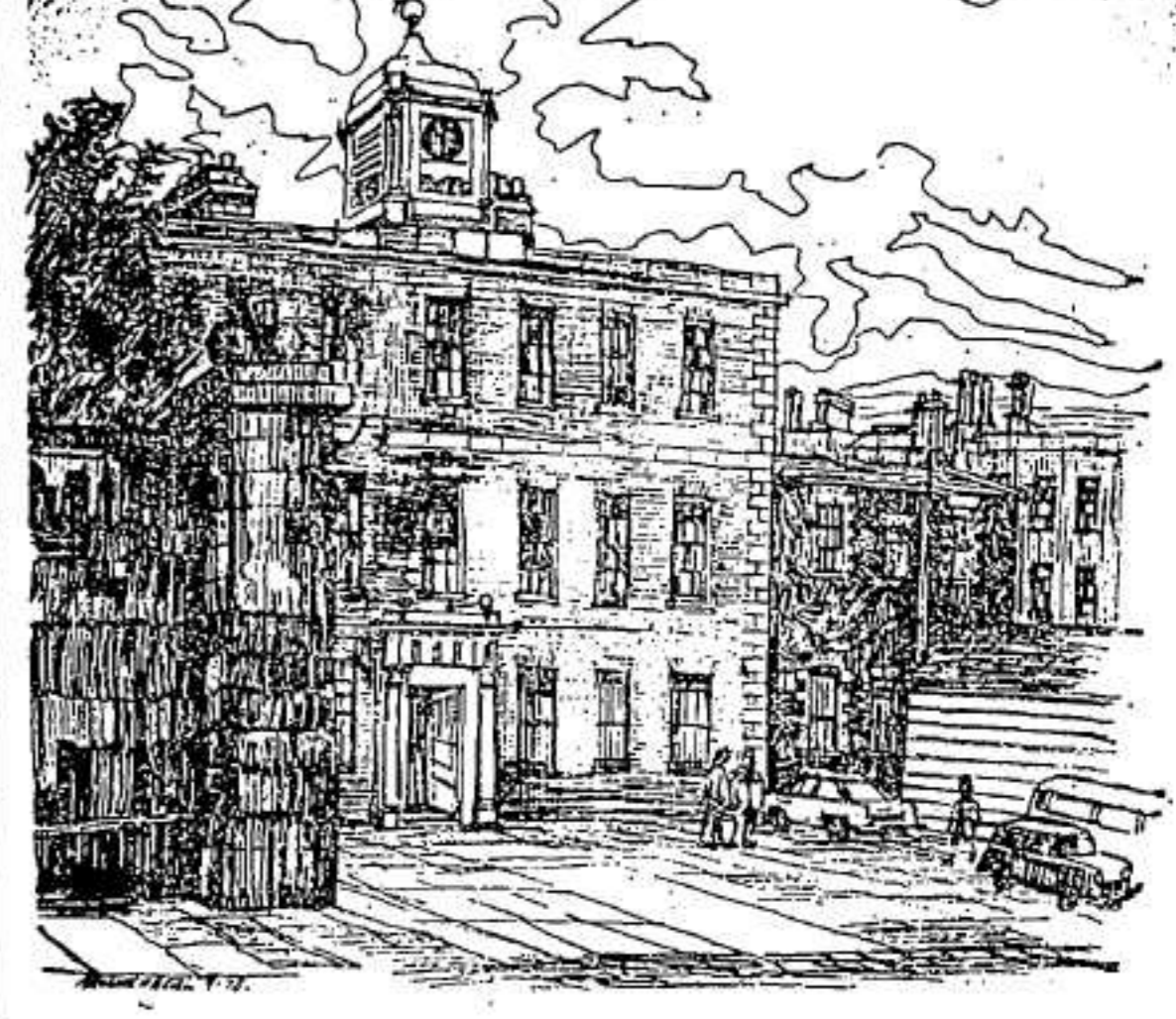
This is the third year of this event, and should prove to be an exciting event, as 13 of the 18 European nations invited to take part have accepted. The event takes place from April 10 to 13 bringing together the largest number of countries for any sporting event in Ireland for a number of years, I'm told.

Only about five European countries actually have the facilities to hold such a competition, Ivan told me.

We would not like Tony Butler to come back from his brief respite from the Town Talk round and accuse us of aping his punning style, so we will not tell you we were out on the tiles last night. Let us just simply stick to the facts. We dropped into the Burlington to say hello to Brooks Thomas and Dunlop, who were there all day to show anxious home decorators how easy it is to lay their own floor tiles, which don't need to be stuck, can be taken up and washed and, in fact, seem to do everything short of hoovering themselves. The tiles are the brainchild of Dunlops, whose aim, it seems, is to cut out as much time as possible on home decorating as possible.

know your dublin

Sketch, Michael O'Brien; Text, J. B. Malone



SOUTH OF THE MOAT

THE clock in this clock-tower doesn't work (but that is not so unusual in present-day Dublin), but the building beneath it has been, for quite a few generations, a busy place indeed. This is one of a group of late 18th century buildings, standing south of the original moat of the Castle.

This moat, provided by the obliging river Poddle, still runs beneath the roadway seen in the foreground of Michael's drawing, and the Castle expansion went on steadily southward. The last big acquisition was about 1805, when the authorities, alarmed at the daring plan of Robert Emmet to seize the stronghold, began moves to isolate the Castle from the city. This block rises on the site of a Powder House, a gunpowder store of course, shown on Gomme's map of 1673. John Rocque, in 1756 shows the present building, which was long the office of the Ordnance Board, and today houses the office of the Accountant General of Revenue.

CHESS PROBLEM



WHITE to play and win.
Solution tomorrow.
Solution to yesterday's position:
1 P-R8(N) K-B3
2 Q-B7 mate
—J. C. C.

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I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION.

NAME

ADDRESS

Last coupon Tues., Feb. 25. Closing Date 1 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 27. Results Friday, Feb. 28.



The 1975 branch committee of the Dublin Publications and Public Relations Branch of the National Union of Journalists, elected at the branch annual general meeting. Front row, from left, Patrick Crane, vice chairman (Phoenix Public Relations), Aidin Ni Chaoimh, chairman (Cantrell & Cochrane), Francis Xavier Carly, secretary (AnCO), Brian Trench (Hibernia) and Valerie Fitzpatrick, membership secretary. Back row, from left, Howard Kinlay (Management), Frank Carr (Jemma Publications), Sam MacDonald (Business & Finance magazine), Dardis Clarke (ITGWU), Deirdre McQuillan (Abbey Theatre), Jim Dunne (Business and Finance) and Jim McDonnell (Aer Lingus) are also on the committee.

EASONS

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