

**STAGE
FRIGHT**

**MUSICAL THEATRE
COMPANY**

1998

**STAGE FRIGHT
MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY**

in association with

WATERFORD CRYSTAL

presents

**PENTIMENTI
THE MUSICAL**

Based on Concepts and Themes inspired by the
Books:

“Holocaust” by Gerald Green
and

“Sobibor” by Sasha Perchesky.

Book/Libretto

by

Bryan Flynn & Damien Slattery.

Music by:

BRYAN FLYNN

Lyrics by:

DAMIEN SLATTERY

STAGE FRIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

PENTIMENTI

THE MUSICAL

Book/Libretto

by

Bryan Flynn & Damien Slattery.

Music by:

BRYAN FLYNN

Lyrics by:

DAMIEN SLATTERY

Orchestrations and Musical Direction by:

DAVID HAYES

Production Design:

BEN HENNESSY

Lighting Design:

AIDEN McGRATH

Costume Supervisor:

AVRIL MUSGRAVE

Directed by:

BRYAN FLYNN

In 1991, a sell out production of the 50's musical "Grease" marked the debut of "Stage Fright Musical Theatre Co.", and in doing so instigated a fresh approach to the presentation of musical theatre in the region. Since its foundation the company has been actively involved in the ongoing development and cultivation of the Arts of Music, Drama & Dance, particularly amongst young people, through the presentation of exciting musical productions such as "Chicago", "Chess", the acclaimed "Oliver", "Magic of the Musicals" and in 1997 "Gala 121" marked the 121st Birthday and temporary closing of Waterford's Theatre Royal. Now in its 7th year "Stage Fright" is in pre-production for its most ambitious project to date; the staging of a completely original work.

Pentimenti is a musical canvas exploring the nature of Germanic history through the ideals and struggles of its people. Sometimes exhilarating, sometimes melancholic, this ambitious work explores the rise of a national pride at the sake of a minority. Populated by colourful characters forced into enviable positions they are sure to breathe more life into history.

WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION
WATERFORD – AUTUMN 1998

New Musical Destined To Be A Huge Hit

WATERFORD'S Theatre Royal will host the world premier of a brand new musical when the venue re-opens in the Autumn after a £1m. facelift.

"Pentimenti" is the life long work of Bryan Flynn, local musician, director and founder of Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company who are facing their greatest challenge to date with this original work which is expected to take to the stage later this year.

"Pentimenti" is a musical canvas exploring the nature of Germanic history through the ideals and struggles of its people. Based on concepts and themes inspired by the books "Holocaust" by Gerald Green and "Sobibor" by Sasha Perchesky, this ambitious work explores the rise of a national pride at the sake of a minority.

Bryan has already assembled a 50-strong cast who stunned the gathering at this month's Waterford Crystal/WLR fm Arts and Entertainment Award with a powerful, emotive performance, a tremendous introduction to the dramatic music and passionate lyrics that will truly breath life into history and no

doubt make this unique, original work, a huge hit.

Music is by Bryan Flynn, also the director, lyrics by Damien Slattery, orchestration and musical direction is by David Hayes, production design by Ben Hennessy, lighting design by Aiden McGrath and costume supervisor, Avril Musgrave.

Now in its 7th year, Stage Fright is currently in pre-production for the new show. The young amateur company has enjoyed huge success, particularly with their more recent productions, Chess and Oliver which enjoyed wide acclaim, winning various awards in the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera.

Cast details for "Pentimenti" have yet to finalised but there are already plans to take the show on tour. However, theatre audiences in Waterford and the surrounding areas have only a few months to wait before they can judge for themselves the potential success of this amazing project.



Pictured at the launch of Pentimenti The Musical by Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company are Brian Flynn, Director, and Carrie Crowley.

ERIK WOLF

His diary exposes a charming brilliant young German lawyer, so consumed with love for his country and fuhrer - and so aflame with ambition - that he becomes a high ranking official in Hitler's Nazi regime.

LEON PORCHEK

His story exposes a spectacularly fearless Jewish man, a man so compassionate, so brave, he leads his family and community in rebellion, defying death in a world ablaze with oppression and hatred.

TWO MEN - TWO FAMILIES

All tossed into a maelstrom of terror, where simply to survive was to succeed.

PENTIMENTI

.....is a story of heroism and survival - a story beyond tears of a time without compassion.

THE MUSIC

Continuing with the revolution of the sung-through 'opera' formula musical, this show consists of mainly wall to wall music with minimal dialogue.

The main songs and recitative sections are made up of orchestral tunes which are rooted in the folk traditions of many European countries, for this reason ethnic instruments and percussion play a major role in the orchestrations.

However, the show also has powerful rock undertones which drives the show along, so whether it is a 4-part harmonised chorale, a simple solo aria or a passionate love duet, the music has a very contemporary feel yet is soaked in romanticism and ethnic style.

THE LYRICS

The lyrics require a harsh, raw, colloquial edge.

Even though the story is set in the 1940's, it centres around a group of ordinary people, many of whom were young, kicking against the authorities which they were landed with at the time.

Therefore, the lyrics must strike a chord with a modern audience to have any relevance in the 1990's.

1997



Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company

(supported by Waterford Crystal)



Proudly Presents

Gala 121 1876 1997

A Wonderful Evening of Music, Song, Drama, Dance and Comedy in Celebration of the 121st. Birthday, and on the occasion of the temporary closing for refurbishment of – Waterford's Legendary Theatre Royal.

Featuring excerpts from Stage Fright's previous productions: Grease, Oliver & Chess plus performances from John Player Tops, Red Kettle, Premier Productions, Proscene plus many guest Artists.

Narrator
DES MANAHAN
Choreographer
MARGARET BROWN

Devised and Directed
by
BRYAN FLYNN

Musical Director
WAYNE BROWNE
Lighting
AIDAN McGRATH

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY BAUSCH & LOMB IRELAND

Booking Opens For "Gala 121" At Theatre Royal

STAGE Fright Musical Theatre Company have finalised details of their **GALA 121** extravaganza as a tribute to the 121st birthday of the wonderful Theatre Royal and to mark its temporary closure for renovation.

This new production from Stage Fright M.T.C. featuring Michelle Kennedy, Greta Rochford, Robert Sinnott, David Flynn, Vicky Graham and Ray Collins, will cover all areas of Theatre, both musically and dramatically with a vast range of music to appeal to all ages.

During the performances Stage Fright will also look back over the highlights and successes which have gained the Society much acclaim over the last number of years - "Grease", Chicago, Oliver and Chess, the latter two being award winners at the Waterford International of Light Opera.

The Society will be joined on stage by many friends from the world of theatre, Premier Productions with part of their memorable "Annie" and the Premier Productions Choir, the beautiful voices of Martin O'Neill, who appeared recently on "Live at Three", John Corcoran and Brendan Payne.

Other guest appearances will be by Red Kettle, Pro-Scene with Noella Brennan and Paul Carroll. From the much loved Tops era, Ann McGrath, Nicky Cummins, Davy Sutton and Scol Grant are guaranteed to make audiences chuckle.

GALA 121 is devised and directed by the very talented Bryan Flynn; Musical Direction by Wayne Brown, Narration by Des Manahan; Choreography by Margaret Browne, Costumes by Avril Musgrave, Hair by Fiona Fitzgerald of Headquarters, Make-up by Liam Murphy and lighting design by Aidan McGrath.

GALA 121 will take place on 24/25/26 April 1997 at the Theatre Royal for 3 performances only. Booking commences on Monday, 21st April, at the Theatre Royal Tel. 74402. Tickets £6 for Stalls and Balcony, £3 Gallery. On Thursday 24th a special rate of £20 for a family of four will apply with a free raffle etc for young supporters. Thursday night's raffle is sponsored by HASBRO (Ireland).

This promises to be a memorable production with entertainment for all ages and tastes so early booking is advisable.



Crystal Lends Support

WATERFORD Crystal have once again rowed in behind local musical theatre group, Stage-Fright, and presented them with a cheque for £1,000 to go towards their forthcoming gala concert.

The cheque, which was handed over by Frank Hickey, General Manager

itor Centre, will go towards the cost of the concert, which marks the closure of the Theatre Royal for extensive renovations.

Waterford Crystal have had a close association with StageFright since 1993 when they became the group's official sponsor, supporting major productions of *Oliver* and

won the National final of the John Player Tops in 1994.

StageFright's latest production will feature a programme of excerpts from the great shows performed at the Theatre for over 120 years.

Brian Flynn, of Stage-Fright, praised the commitment of Waterford Crystal to the development of

tance Waterford's great theatrical tradition could not survive. StageFright will present the gala concert in the Theatre Royal for a three night run starting April 24th.

Pictured at the handing over of the sponsorship cheque were (standing) Richie Hayes, Frank Hickey, representing Waterford Crystal, Margaret Upton

"Gala 121" Show To Bring Down Curtain On Theatre Royal

WATERFORD'S Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company is putting the final touches to what promises to be a fabulous finale to the Theatre Royal before it closes for its major £1 million extension and refurbishment.

Director, Bryan Flynn, has assembled the cream of Waterford's musical, vocal, comedy and acting talent for a glittering show, "Gala 121," at the Theatre Royal, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 24 to 26.

The show is named in honour of the Theatre Royal, which will be 121 years old, almost to the week.

NOSTALGIC

Gala 121 will, in many ways, be a nostalgic occasion, with performances who have graced the stage of the Theatre Royal down through the years joining present-day stars in a feast of variety entertainment,

with something to suit all ages and tastes.

The Stage Fright Company will present excerpts from their own hit shows, *Chicago*, *Grease* and *Oliver*, featuring members of their cast including Michelle Kennedy, Ray Collins, Robert Sinnott and David Flynn. They will be joined by guest artistes from other musical societies including Premier with an excerpt from *Annie*, Pro-Scene, Red Kettle and Waterford Dramatic Society.

Other well-known names such as Chris Henchy, Ann McGrath, Nicky Cummins, Michael and Skol Grant and Davy

Sutton will also make guest appearances, recalling the halcyon days of John Player Tops in Waterford. And I am awaiting confirmation of some more guest performers to be added to the 'who's who' in local variety circles.

Thursday night will be a family night with a raffle and free novelties for the kids - so early booking is recommended.

The set design for "Gala 121" is by Ben Hennessy, with lighting design by Aidan McGrath. Costumes are by Avril Musgrave; choreography by Margaret Browne, and musical direction by Wayne Browne. Admission is £6 with a free souvenir programme which will be something of a collector's item, marking the final production at the Theatre Royal as audiences have known it for over a century.



Members of the members of Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company, who presented Gala 121 in celebration of the 121st birthday, and on the occasion of the closing of the Theatre Royal.

"Gala 121" Opens At Theatre Royal

SOME of Waterford's most talented entertainers are among the line-up for Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company's "Gala 121" which opens a three night run at the Theatre Royal this Thursday night (8 p.m.) with the final performance on Saturday night when the Theatre Royal will close its doors for a £1 million extension and refurbishment.

Devised and directed by the award-winning founder of Stage Fright, Brian Flynn, "Gala 121" is an evening of music, song, drama, dance and comedy in celebration - almost to the week - of the Theatre Royal's 121st

birthday, and to mark its closure until September when it will re-open temporarily for the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera.

The show will feature excerpts from Stage Fright's critically acclaimed productions, "Grease", "Chicago", "Oliver" and "Chess" with cast members Michelle Kennedy, Vicki Graham, Greta Rochford, Robert Sinnott, David Flynn and Ray Collins. They, of course, featured in both "Oliver" and "Chess", award-winners in the Light Opera Festival during the past couple of years.

GUEST ARTISTES

A large number of guest artists will also be appearing, including John Corcoran, Brendan Payne and Martin O'Neill who recently appeared on RTE's "Live At Three". Members of Red Kettle, Premier Productions and Pro-Scene will also contribute to what promises to be a memorable show.

Also featured are excerpts from Waterford performers in John Player Tops shows down through the years including Ann McGrath, Nicky Cummins, Davy Sutton and Scol Grant.

The show is narrated by Des Manahan with

choreography by Margaret Browne and musical direction by Wayne Browne. Lighting design is by Aidan McGrath.

FAMILY NIGHT

This Thursday night, as well as being the opening night, is also a family night with a free raffle (sponsored by Hasbro (Ireland) and other novelties. Tickets are four for £20 on family night. Other nights - stalls and balcony £6.00; Upper Circle £3.00. Booking now open at the Theatre Royal box office, 051-874402. Don't miss this special occasion at the Theatre Royal.

Stage Fright presents gala 121 at Theatre Royal

Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company is proud to announce their forthcoming production "GALA 121" to be staged at the Theatre Royal, Waterford for three performances only on 24/25/26th April. Due to the proposed closure of the wonderful Theatre Royal for renovations Stage Fright A.T.C. intend to mark this occasion whilst celebrating the 121st Birthday of the Theatre Royal at the same time.

The cast and production team under the Directorship of Bryan Flynn with Musical Director Wayne Browne are working very hard at rehearsals to ensure a splendid nights entertainment for Waterford theatregoers.

"Gala 121" will be musically and dramatically based taking a look back over memories of the Theatre Royal and Stage Fright's many successes with guest appearances from many areas of the Theatre including excerpts from Premier Productions "Annie" and the Premier Productions choir.

Booking opens on the 21st April and as always families are most welcome at Stage Fright's productions, on Thursday night 24th April special family rates will apply with a free raffle and other treats for our young followers. The society looks forward to meeting friends young and old during the performances.



Getting ready for the Stage Fright's Gala 121 concert, which opens at The Theatre Royal for three nights this Thursday and runs until Saturday, 25th April are dancers from the show.



CAST OF STAGE FRIGHT'S
GALE 12/12/11

"Gala 121" - A Fitting Finale For "Old" Royal

STAGEFRIGHT Musical Theatre Company's excellent "Gala 121" variety show brought the curtain down in splendid style on the Theatre Royal on Saturday night last, writes Eddie Hearne.

As well as being a celebration of the 121st birthday of the Theatre Royal, it was also a night of nostalgia, marking the closure of the horseshoe-shaped Victorian theatre for a massive £1 million facelift.

Work is scheduled to commence next week

on the exterior involving the re-location of the old Flaggy Lane.

The theatre will re-open temporarily in September for the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera following which it will again be closed for extensive interior refurbishment, including the installation of new sights, a sunken orchestra pit and modifications to the stage and back stage areas.

The olde world ambience of the auditorium will, however, be retained in the decor with some of the present fittings integrated in the new scheme.

SUPERB EFFORT

"GALA 121" was a superb effort on the part of Stagefright and their great performers who included artists from Red Kettle, Premier Productions, Pro-Scene, the Mulcahy-Bible Dancers and the City School of Dancing.

Also in splendid voice was Martin O'Neill of the Edmund Rice Choral and Musical Society who recently featured in RTE's "Live At Three" as the 55's Entertainer of the Year. Martin's "Happy Moments" and "Love Until the End of Time" was well received by the audience on Saturday night, the final of the three night run.

So too was Jim O'Sullivan's beautiful rendition of "Love Remains" with members of Tramore Tops.

HIT SHOWS

Michelle Kennedy, Ray Collins, Greta Rochford, David Flynn, Vicki Graham and other members of Stagefright were at their very best in excerpts from their shows "Grease," "Oliver," and "Chess" along with a scene from "Five Guys Named Moe."

Davy Sutton, Scol Grant and Audrey and Michelle Glendon provided the laughs in sketches from past John Player Tops shows, as did Noella Brennan with her hilarious parody.

Red Kettle's Frank Coughlan joined Maura Roche in a hugely enjoyable scene from Maura Nolan's play "The Gods Are Angry Miss Kerr."

TALENT

The show, devised and directed by Brian Flynn, was narrated by Des Manahan with Warren Browne, the musical director, doing a trojan on the keyboards. Aidan McGrath's lighting complemented the limited but very affective stage settings and Margaret Brown's choreography was well executed by a cast which underlined the vast pool talent in Waterford on this historic location.



Stage Fright Plans Summer Camp

DETAILS have just been announced about an exciting new Musical Theatre Summer-Camp, which should prove to be hugely popular amongst young 'would-be' performers.

Stage Fright, the South East's most ambitious and innovative musical theatre group, who have been presenting top-class productions in Waterford City since its foundation in 1990, have added a brand

new dimension to their annual programme.

In the coming weeks the 1st Annual Stage Fright Children's Summer Camp for 8-16 year olds will be launched at St. John's, College Hill, Waterford. The 4 week course will take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday afternoons commencing on Monday 21st July.

Participants will be divided into two groups 8-11 years and 12-16 years.

Activities will include group singing, various styles of dance, acting and general stage craft.

It is intended that the course will be a fun experience as well as an educational one with also the opportunity for the children to display their talents in an end of course public performance.

The Director for the Summer Camp will be Bryan Flynn, Stage Frights

Founder and Producer of all its productions to date.

Bryan, a highly acclaimed Director, needs no introduction having been to the forefront of musical theatre over the last number of years. He has worked extensively as a tutor with young people with Stage Fright, Waterford Youth Drama, and over the last year has worked in over 150 schools and length and

breadth of Ireland, with the Pro-Scene Musical-Theatre in Education Programme.

Bryan will be joined for the Summer Camp by 3 guest tutors from the fields of dance, drama, music as well as various Stage Fright crew.

The course has limited places available and Registration/Enrolment will take place on Monday, 14th July, at 7pm at St. John's College Hall. Enquiries contact: 0882701655.

STAGE FRIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

PROUDLY PRESENT



PANDORA'S BOX

*A DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL
Pageant performed by participants in the
1st Annual Stage Fright Summer Camp*

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HALL

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 1997

Stagefright Summer Camp Production

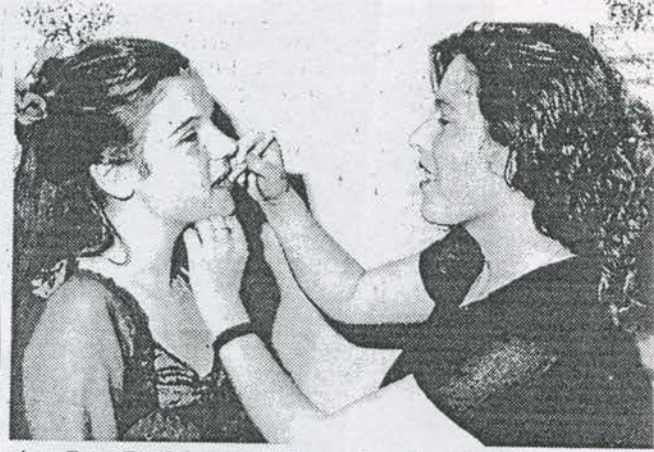
Pics: Aileen Drohan



Mrs. Furlong, Congress Place; Margaret Cunningham, Rathfadden Villas and Catherine Keating, Hillview pictured at St. John's College Hall for Stage Fright Theatre Company Summer Camps production of "Pandora's Box."



Pictured backstage for Stagefright Theatre company's Summer Camp production of "Pandora's Box" are Michelle Glendon and Margo Heffernan prior to the production in St. John's College on Saturday night.



Ana-Rosa De Eilaguire being made up by Nowla Brennan

Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company

Following the excellent production of 'Pandora's Box' last Saturday week in St. John's College, which marked the end of Stage Fright's 1st Annual Summer Camp, details of Stage Fright's programme of events for 1997/98.

Due to the success of this year's Summer Camp, it has been decided to run weekly workshops on Tuesdays and Saturdays commencing September 1997. These will be on Music, Drama and Dance and run for 12 weeks and will be open to 5-16 year olds and will finish in December with a full scale Christmas production. The Director will be Bryan Flynn and he will be joined by two experienced children's Tutors. For details of enrolment, registration dates etc., contact 051/77888 or 088/ 2701655.

The second annual Galaxy Of Stars will commence on 11th January 1998 at the Munster Bar, the Mall, Waterford. This contest is open to all ages and all types of acts and will run on Sunday nights for eleven weeks - 8 heats; 2 semifinals and the Grand Final, finishing in March '98. Major sponsorship has been sought for this prestigious competition and huge prize money will be on offer for the lucky contestants. Information can be obtained from The Munster (Michael Fitzgerald) or from Stage Fright Committee members. Stage Fright's biggest and most ambitious project to date will be the staging of a new original musical in the Autumn of 1998. The show was written and composed

by Stage Fright's Director, Bryan Flynn.

Further details relating to this production, auditions etc. will be released shortly.

Ma McGarry, Aoife O'Halloran, Marian Cunningham, Kelsey Dillon and Naimh Upton in Stagefright Theatre company's Summer Camp production of 'Pandora's Box.'



Members of the Stage Fright presentation of 'Pandora's Box' at St. John's College on Saturday last. Ready to grace the stage were Kelly Walsh, Danielle; Kate Hammigan, Caoimhe Larrasey, Naimh Upton and Rachal O'Keefe.



Anna Rosa De Eizaguirre-Butler, Kate Halligan and Celine Keating in Stagefright Theatre company's Summer Camp production of "Pandora's Box" in St. John's College on Saturday night.



Pictured attending Stagefright Musical Theatre Company's Summer Camp production of "Pandora's Box" are (from left): Mary Cunningham, Secretary, St. John's College, Dr. Michael Mullins, President, St. John's College and Bridie Glendon, Belvedere Grove.



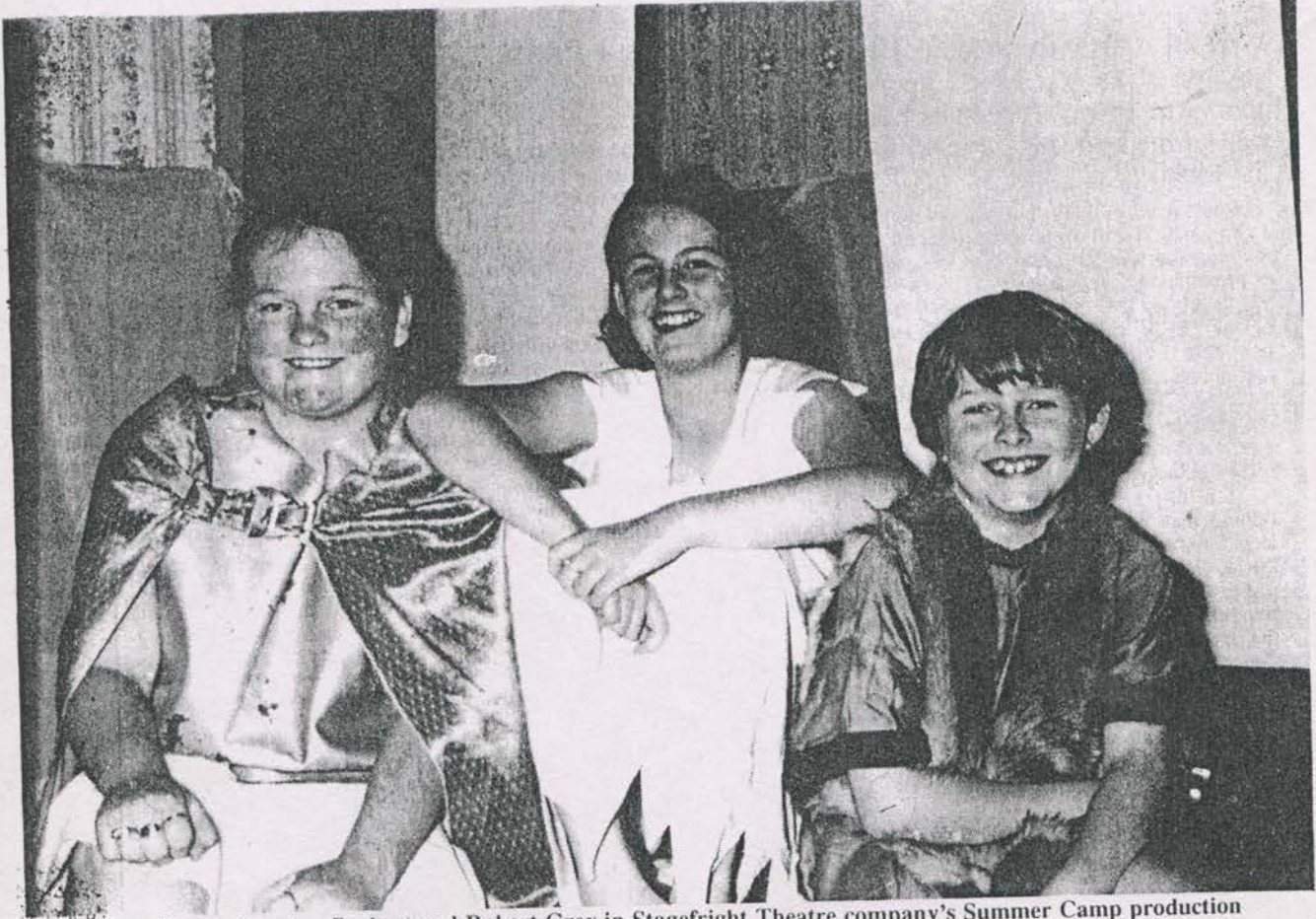
In the cast of Stagefright's 'Pandoras Box' were Ciara Murphy, Paul Carroll (Tutor), James Cusack.



Seline Keating, Lynsey Penkert, Amy Sneyd, Mary Ronan and Robert Gray.



Make Up Time! Pictured backstage at Stagefright Theatre company's Summer Camp production of "Pandora's Box" in St. John's College on Saturday night are from left: Noelle Brennan and Marian Cunningham.



Mary Ronan, Lyndsey Penkert and Robert Grey in Stagefright Theatre company's Summer Camp production of "Pandora's Box" in St. John's College on Saturday night.

1996

STAGE FRIGHT

In 1962 when the eyes of the world were on Cuba where President Kennedy of the US and Premier Khrushchev of the USSR were eyeball to eyeball over a conflict about nuclear missiles the idea was born in the mind of Tim Rice for a musical about East/West confrontation. When in 1972 a similar eyeball to eyeball confrontation took place in Iceland between Chess players Bobby Fisher of US and Boris Spassky of USSR, Tim Rice knew that his idea could become a reality. In 1986 Tim Rice broached the topic of "Chess" with several leading composers, New York Producer Richard Vos had heard of the desire of the ABBA DUO to write for the stage. Vos provided the link between Tim Rice and ABBA and the result was the powerful musical "Chess". When "Chess" opened at London's Prince Edward Theatre in 1986 it was the culmination of five years work by the lyricist Tim Rice and composers Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson of ABBA. The cast of Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company are looking forward with anticipation to performing an equally powerful production of "Chess" in May. The musical will be staged at The Theatre Royal, Waterford from 13th to 18th May.

Cast:

Florence: **Michelle Kennedy**
 Freddie: **Paul Kavanagh**
 Anatoly: **Robert Sinnott**
 Svetlana: **Vicki Graham**
 Molokov: **Stephen Ryan**
 Arbiter: **Jamie Murphy**
 Mayor: **John Corcoran**
 Walter: **Pat McEvoy**



PIECES IN PLACE FOR "CHESS": Members of the colourful cast, including Chess pieces, Bangkok girls, leader girls, clowns etc. from Stage Fright Musical Theatre Group's eagerly awaited production of the hit musical "Chess," which runs at the Theatre Royal, Waterford from May 13th to May 18th. Pic. Joe Evans.

Strong Cast For Stagefright's Chess

WATERFORD'S Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company, whose epic production of Lionel Bart's *Oliver*, made such a sensational impact on the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera last year, will stage the West End smash hit, *Chess*, at the Theatre Royal from May 13 to 18.

Directed by Bryan Flynn, this production, with lyrics by Tim Rice, and music by the Abba duo, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, features a tremendously strong cast.

Michelle Kennedy, whose splendid singing was a feature of the Edmund Rice production of *The Mikado*, recently, plays Florence. Paul Kavanagh, a member of Tramore's Players' Anonymous Tops' team, along with numerous other stage appearances, is a widely experienced performer and he fills the vocally demanding role of Freddie.

Having heard Paul sing an excerpt from the show at the recent Waterford Crystal/WLR FM Awards, I have no doubt but he will prove more than equal to the task.

A similar remark applies to the youthful Robert Sinnott who plays Anatoly. Robert has created a huge impression especially with the Tramore Schools' production of *Whistle Down The Wind* this year.

Pat McEvoy, fresh from his richly-deserved aforementioned Waterford Crystal/WLR FM award, plays Walter; Brendan Payne who starred in *The Mikado* with Edmund Rice, plays The Mayor. Vicki Graham's vocal talents will be seen to full effect in her role as Svetlana; Janne Murphy is the Arbiter, and Stephen Ryan, another experienced performer, plays Molokov.

Stage Fright have been engaged in intensive rehearsals and producer, Bryan Flynn, is delighted by the enthusiasm of the cast.

Tickets will be on sale at the Theatre Royal box office (051-74402) and look out for the special Family Night on Tuesday, May 14, when family tickets at £15 include a free raffle sponsored by MB (Ireland) the Waterford-based toy and games manufacturers.

CHESS

PHOTOSHOOT
"CHESS"
1996



(L TO R) STEPHEN RYAN (MOLOKOV)
JAMIE MURPHY (ARBITER) AND
MICHELLE KENNEDY (FLORENCE)

Stage Fright's *Chess* Opens At The Theatre Royal

WHEN *Chess* opened to critical acclaim at London's Prince Edward Theatre, in 1986, it was a triumphant culmination of five years' work by lyricist Tim Rice and composers Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson of Abba. Now, a decade later *Chess* opens at the Theatre Royal, Waterford, on Monday night for a six nights run, the most ambitious production to date by the local Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company.

Stage Fright whose impressive track record includes smash hits with *Grease*, and *Chicago*, really excelled last year with their production of Lionel Barts' *Oliver!* which finished runner-up in the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera.

Their decision to stage *Chess*, premiered by Carrick-on-Suir AOS two years ago, when it swept the boards at the Waterford Festival, is indeed a brave

one. I cannot think of a more demanding musical, save for *Whistle Down The Wind*, so effectively staged by Tramore Schools earlier this year.

But Bryan Flynn — who has even changed the spelling of his christian name for this show — loves a challenge, and this award-winning young producer has a penchant for working miracles.

TALENTED CAST

Bryan is fortunate to have a talented cast to meet this daunting challenge. The vocal demands of *Chess* are enormous but the youthful flair of Robert Sinnott, Jamie Murphy and Michelle Kennedy coupled with the experience of Pat McEvoy, Brendan Payne, Vicki Graham and Stephen Ryan could spell "check-mate."

Michelle Kennedy from Arklow, who excelled in the Edmund Rice production of *The Mikado*, plays Florence Vassey.

Robert Sinnott, one of the rising stars on the local horizon, is Anatoly Sergievsky and another youthful star, Jamie Murphy, plays The Abiter. Paul Kavanagh is cast in one of the more demanding vocal roles, that of Freddie Trumper, while Vicki Graham is Svetlana Sergievsky, wife of Anatoly, yet another demanding all-round role.

Brendan Payne replaces John Corcoran as the Mayor of Merano and anyone who saw Brendan in *The Mikado* will appreciate his exceptional ability. Pat McEvoy, one of the most versatile performers on the local theatrical scene, both on stage and behind the scenes, plays Walter de Courcy, a CIA agent, while Stephen Ryan, best known as a straight actor, plays Molokov, a KGB agent.

HIT SONGS

Chess includes many hit songs, solos, duets and

concerted numbers, among them *I Knew Him-So Well* (Florence and Svetlana); *You And I* (Anatoly and Florence); *Heaven Help My Heart* (Florence), and *One Night In Bangkok* (Frederick and Chorus).

The set design by Ben Hennessy promises to be spectacular. Ben's award-winning work is always innovative and never fails to impress. Lighting design is by Aidan McGrath with choreography by Margaret Browne and musical direction by Damien O'Brien.

Stage Fright has received generous support from Waterford Crystal to mount this ambitious production.

Tickets are on sale since Monday at the Theatre Royal box office and may be booked on 051-74402. And don't forget there's a Family Night on Tuesday with four tickets for £16. Otherwise, tickets are £5 for stalls and balcony.

Join us for 'Chess'



Pictured during a break in rehearsals were the Stage Fright cast members of the musical "Chess" which the company presents in the Theatre Royal, Waterford from Monday next, May 13th. to Saturday May 18th.. Front row, left to right, Jean Upton, Laura Minogue, Nicola Finn, Celine Keating, David Ryan. Second row, left to right, Margaret Browne, Anne-Marie O'Reilly, Debbie Cunningham, Audry Glendon, Michelle Glendon, Karen Hennessy, Anton Galvin, Anne-Marie Dixon, Jane O'Mahony, Bryan Flynn. Back row, left to right, Nicola Daly, Melanie Briggs, Lisa O'Neill, Lynda Smiles, Clodagh Mulcahy, Andrew Holden, David Kennedy, Ray Collins, Tony Kennedy, Mark White, Amy Fitzgerald, Noirin O'Connor.



On Tuesday night the Stagefright Musical Theatre Company joined the other three local shows, Carron-Suir A.O.S. (Man of Mancha); Tramore Combined Schools (Whisper Down The Wind) and Edmund Rice Choral & Musical Society (The Mikado) as likely contenders for top honours in the 1st Festival. This was a blockbuster of a show, brash, emotional, exciting and always attention-grabbing. It was lavishly costumed on a stage that was, for most of the show, a riot of colour and daring ensemble. To watch Chess as a game something similar to watching grass grow or a kettle boiling, but this competition always gave us something else to tickle our fancy. There were a few minor cock-ups with the scenery which can be excused because of the insistence of the director Brian Flynn, eye and ear-catching appeal all through. This was a personal triumph for Michelle Kennedy in the role of Florence Vassey, the girl who loved and lost. Her duet with Vicki Graham as Silvana "I Know Him So Well" was the poignant highlight of the night. But it would be unfair to suggest that the presentation was anything but excellent teamwork, best cast and backstage work spared no effort to ensure that the audience received full value for their money and nobody would dare to say they didn't. An interesting point is that some of the cast of "Chess" are also in the line-up for double honours. Brendan Payne, who plays the Mayor of Merano in the production, is also in line for Pooh-Bah in the Edmund Rice Society's production of the "Mikado", as is Michelle Kennedy and John Manahan, who played Yum Yum and Ko Ko respectively in that production. We have four shows to see in this year's competition, but, as far as I'm concerned, anything which will surpass the local shows of this year, will deserve the honour. "Chess" and Stagefright Company were fit to take their place with professional theatre on the stage, and I've seen a lot of professional shows which would fade into insignificance beside this performance, which demonstrates that you need not only excellence (which was there in abundance) and acting ability, but also daring and imagination to make a good script great. And that's the true of Stagefright last Tuesday night.

TABS ON THEATRE



Local Societies Dominate Opera Fes

Despite the stronger international competition this year, Waterford, Tramore and Carrick can hold their heads up high this year as their shows seem to be of a higher standard than the imports in this year's festival.

Perhaps this was inevitable, due to the programme of the first week at the festival.

We were very unlikely to draw amateur talent to compare with Carrick's "Man of La Mancha", Tramore's "Whistle Down the Wind" or Edmund Rice Society's "The Mikado". And so it has proved up to the time of writing. On Tuesday night of this week, "Chess" by the city based "Stage Fright Musical Co. appear to have gone ahead of Carrick in the rankings of favourite.

It is not however, up to the critics to decide who is the winner as that sole right lies with the adjudicator Nina Walker from London.

We can safely say, as the adjudicator herself says that the standard is very high and is certainly up on last year, thus re-juvenating the festival in its importance.



IT'S FESTIVAL TIME! Finalising preparations for their appearance at the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera, with their production of CHES are Stage Fright Theatre Company principals, including (from left) Robert Sinnott, (Anapoly Sergievsky), Pat McEvoy, (Walter de Courcy) Margaret Brown (Choreographer), Paul Kavanagh (Freddie Trumper) and Ger Cronin, (Leonid Viigano). See special feature inside Pages 20-21.

Pic. Joe Eva



REHEARSALS
IN
PROGRESS
CHES '96

Stagefright launches Galaxy of Stars talent competition

Report by Gabrielle Monaghan

"You can't sing, you can't dance, you'll go a long way". But you'll have a go anyway. Collect all your talents and claim your stake in the £1,000 prize money for the best talent show Waterford has staged in quite a while.

Waterford's award-winning Stagefright musical company has announced details of their forthcoming Galaxy of Stars talent competition, which will commence at The Munster Bar

on Sunday, November 10, at 8.30pm.

The company says that in keeping with Stagefright's policy of encouraging new talent, this promises to be very best showcase for all types of acts where more than £1,000 will be won in prize money.

Stagefright are asking all those who can sing, dance, tell a joke, juggle or play an instrument to come along to the competition. There will be four Sunday night heats commencing on November

10 from which four winners and two winners from the over-50's category will each receive a cash prize. They will then go forward to the semi-finals culminating in a grand final on December 22, 1996.

All are welcome to come along - either as a contestant or to just sit back and enjoy what promises to be a fun-filled and entertaining nights. There will also be an in-house video to relay all the action live on a giant screen. If you need to know more, contact Bryan at 71490.



Stagefright Committee; seated: Anne Dixon, Brian Flynn, Margaret Upton, and standing are: Ken Dixon, Michelle Glendon, Joanne Walsh, Julie Walsh, and Tony Kennedy.



From left to right: Michael Fitzgerald, The Munster Bar; Margaret Upton, Stagefright; Marian Murphy, Combined Parishes; and Derek Palmer, Carlsberg

TABS ON THEATRE

Galaxy of starz

Well you have to hand it to Stagefright Musical Theatre Company. There may be no rest for the wicked and all that jazz but Stagefright are ensuring that there will be no rest for their members and that they will have plenty of work to keep them warm in the cold months ahead. This kind of enthusiasm deserves a great deal of support and hopefully, it will be forthcoming from the Theatre conscious people of Waterford and its surrounds.

On Sunday next, November 10th, Stage Fright will inaugurate something different in the way of pub entertainment in the Munster Bars, on The Mall and in Bailey's New Street. We've had 'The Singing Pubs' for many years now, although interest and enthusiasm seems to have waned somewhat in regent years. But The Singing Pubs was purely a vocal competition for single acts. The Stage Fright 'Galaxy Of Starz' competition reaches far beyond that. If you can sing, dance, tell a joke, juggle or play an instrument, you will be welcome at the Munster Bars on Sunday night next, and for the three Sunday nights, following until the Final, just in time for Christmas on December 22nd. All are welcome, either as a contestant or appreciative spectator of competition which promises to be a feast of entertainment. The

fun begins at 8.30 p.m. and, for the enjoyment of patrons, an inhouse video will relay all the action on a giant screen.

How to enter

Entry forms are now available from The Munster Bars. The fun will commence on Sunday night next at 8.30 p.m. in The Munster and will continue for the next three Sunday nights. On each Sunday night, a winner will be chosen and the four nightly winners plus two winners from the over 50's category will each receive a cash prize and go forward to the semi-finals, altogether over £1,000 in prize money will be up for grabs. If you have any difficulty obtaining an entry form, please contact Bryan at 051/71490. This competition is run in conjunction with the Munster Bars and Carlsberg.

Chess - the musical in concert

Stagefright Musical Theatre Company will present 'Chess - The Musical In Concert' for one night only at the Metroland, at 8.30 p.m. on Thursday, 14th November. Admission is the very reasonable one of £3 and tickets will be on sale at the door. Those who have already seen the brilliant performance performed by the Company in the 1996 Waterford International Festival of Light Opera, will welcome another opportunity to hear the smash hits from this magnificent work by Tim Rice and Abba, including 'I Know Him So Well'. And there will be another much loved selection from the West End shows. So, a great night of entertainment is in store.

"Chess" will be presented by The Stage Fright Company and the Stage Fright Kidz. A special guest artiste will be Carrick-on-Suir A.O.S. award-winning

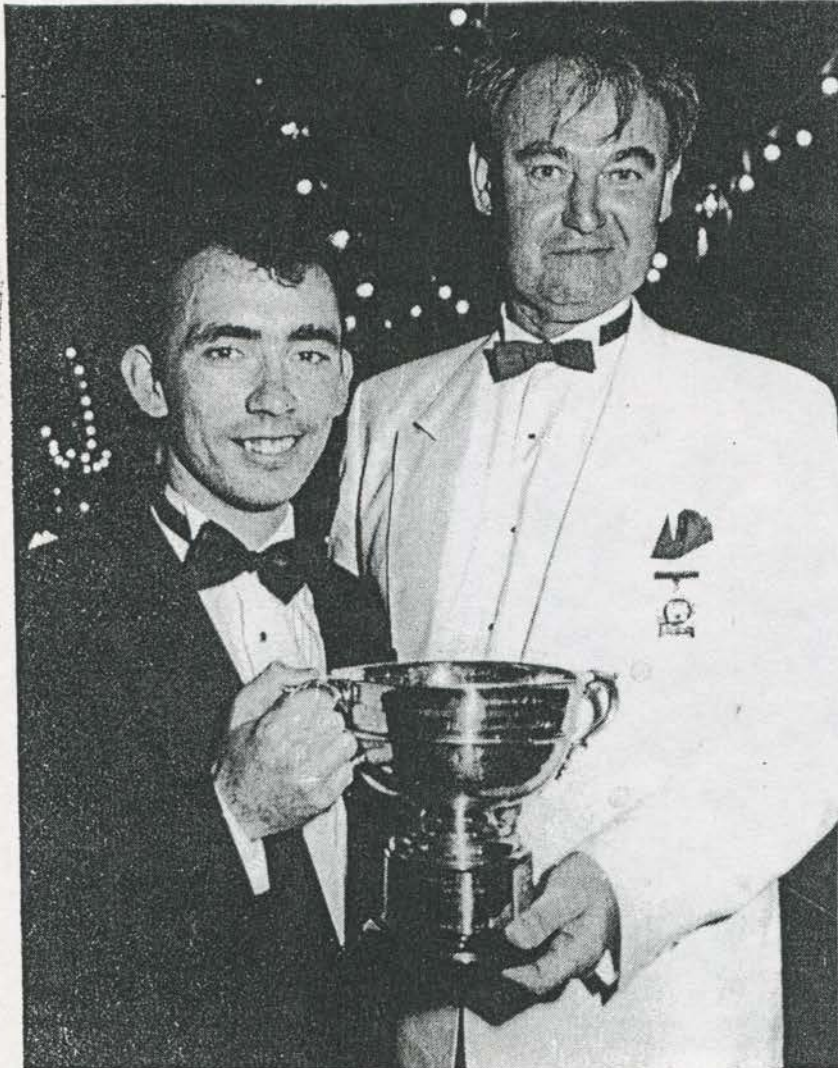
vocalist and actor, Liam Bulter, who is far from being a stranger to Waterford audiences. All this for only £3 tickets on sale at the door. Stage Fright is supported by Waterford Crystal. Don't miss it.

1995

Oliver Does Waterford Proud

STAGEFRIGHT Musical Theatre Company emulated De La Salle Musical Society when, for the second successive year, a local company finished runner-up in the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera, which ended at the Theatre Royal on Sunday night last.

Stage Fright's stunning production of Lionel Bart's West End hit "Oliver" finished second only to the brilliant "Barnum," staged by the long established Arthur's Team (the Guinness Group Players) from Dublin, directed by professional producer Noel McDonagh who also had a string of John Player Tops awards to his credit.



Brian Flynn, producer - director of Stage Fright's *Oliver*, pictured being presented with the award for Best Amateur Producer at the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera, by Mr. David Turner, the adjudicator.

AUSPICIOUS DEBUT

"Oliver" was certainly an auspicious debut for Stage Fright in the 37th Waterford International Festival of Light Opera, annexing four awards in all. Twenty-three year old Brian Flynn won the "Best Amateur Producer" award; Ger Meagher captured the award for "Best Stage Director" and David Turner presented his Adjudicators Special Award to 18 year old Richard Hayes for his portrayal of the Artful Dodger, described by Mr. Turner as "the best I have ever seen."

Stage Fright's success was all the more remarkable in the face of adversity as they had to draft in a "new" *Oliver* barely a week prior to the Festival performance. Fintan Scanon (13) proved himself an able deputy for the original *Oliver*, Sean Walsh who broke his arm in rehearsals.

Indeed Stage Fright could be rated unlucky not to have netted the "Best Sets" award as well. I certainly felt Ben Hennessy's intricate and imaginative set design deserved recognition, as did his lighting of *Oliver*.

ECSTATIC SCENES

Ecstatic scenes greeted Stage Fright's not unexpected success. Brian Flynn, for whom this was his greatest triumph since guiding Waterford Crystal to victory in the John Player Tops Final in 1994, was carried shoulder high along the Mall with members of the youthful cast, including Fagin's Gang in hot pursuit. They were so engulfed in the throes of what was, for them, a very real victory, that they forgot to "pick a pocket or two" along the way! It was certainly a scene to pluck a heart string or two.

LIAM BUTLER'S SUCCESS

Carrick-on-Suir's Liam Butler, a member of the victorious "Chess" cast last year, won the "Best Male Performer" award for his brilliant all-round performance in the title role in "Barnum."

This was Liam's second individual award in the Festival. In 1987 he was adjudged "Best Comedian" in Carrick's "Carrie."

A nephew of the famous Clancy Brothers of yester-year, Liam overcame a bout



TERRIFIC ACHIEVEMENT! Pictured here celebrating their success and runners-up spot in the 37th Waterford International Festival of Light Opera are members of the cast and backstage crew of Stage Fright Musical Theatre Company, Waterford, who staged Lionel Bart's famous musical *Oliver*.



AWARD-WINNING DODGER! Richie Hayes pictured being presented with the Adjudicator's Special Award, by adjudicator David Turner, for his excellent portrayal of the *Artful Dodger* in Stage Fright's acclaimed production of *Oliver*, which finished runner-up in the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera. Pic. Joe Evans.



Some of the cast members of Stage Fright's "Oliver" who were at Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre to receive the good news that they were the recipients of the third Waterford Crystal/WLR FM Arts and Entertainment Award.

Arts & Entertainment Award



The "Artful Dodger" Ritchie Hayes nicked by Michael Wilcock.

The third Waterford Crystal / WLR FM Arts and Entertainment Award was presented to Brian Flynn, producer of Stagefright Theatre Group, in recognition of their stunning performance of Lionel Bart's *Oliver*.

Addressing the assembled guests at a reception in the Visitor Centre Michael Wilcock praised the Waterford City based Stagefright for a stunningly creative production that once again displayed the depth and quality of local talent. Under the inspirational direction of Brian Flynn *Oliver* enjoyed a successful run at the Theatre Royal in April, followed by an entry to the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera in September, where the group secured second place overall in addition to several individual awards.

Michael Wilcock added that Waterford Crystal, as corporate sponsors of Stagefright, were pleased to be associated with what was an outstanding achievement, paying particular tribute to staff members - Audrey Glendon, Paul Kavanagh, and Gerard Cronin, all of whom played leading parts.

Arts Award For Stage Fright

STAGEFRIGHT Musical Theatre Company notched up yet another notable achievement since their formation just five years ago when they scooped their third WLR FM Waterford Crystal Arts and Entertainment Award in recognition of their stunning production of Lionel Barts' "Oliver" runner-up in this years Waterford International Festival of Light Opera.

The magnificent hand-crafted trophy was presented to Brian Flynn, founder of Stage Fright and director of "Oliver" by Mr. Michael Wilcock, Manufacturing Director, Waterford Crystal who paid glowing tributes to Stage Fright for providing an innovative and highly entertaining show as the local representatives in this year's Festival.

A delighted Brian Flynn accepted the prestigious award on behalf of the entire company, describing it as a major boost to the often maligned young people of Waterford.

The presentation function at Waterford Crystal Gallery was hosted by Car-

rie Crowley of WLR FM with the station's M.D., Des Whelan also among the speakers who addressed a large gathering from the local theatrical and musical scene. The other nominees were Waterford Spraoi and Red Kettle Theatre Company who celebrated their 10th anniversary this year with Arthur Miller's "The Crucible."

AN INSPIRATION

The story behind the production is an inspiration to all musical societies. In 1994, Brian Flynn, the dynamic young director travelled to England to secure performance rights for the show



CAN'T POCKET THIS CRYSTAL!: Michael Wilcock, Manufacturing Director, Waterford Crystal, has the WLR FM / Waterford Crystal Arts and Entertainment Award grabbed from his hands by Richie Hayes, the *Artful Dodger* himself, in the course of the trophy being presented to the winners, Stage Fright Musical Theatre Co. for their acclaimed production of "Oliver." Cast members John Corcoran, Paul Kavanagh and Marguerette Walsh are keeping a watchful eye on events.

which has just opened in London's West End.

Because the show was enjoying a professional revival, amateur rights were practically impossible to obtain. Undeterred, Brian hounded the powers-that-be until he finally met with the maestro himself — Cameron Mackintosh.

The rights were handed over and Brian returned to Waterford. There followed at least six months of intensive work on the part of Brian and the committee of Stage Fright. Funds were raised, a cast chosen and a rehearsal space found. Wayne Browne and Margaret Browne - unrelated - were drafted in as musical director and choreographer respectively and Ben Hennessy, best known for his innovative work with Red Kettle joined the team as designer.

He designed a set of mammoth proportions that would have deterred the most professional of stage hands. The cast were to move with the set, through the set and over the set. Children as young as 8 years of age were expected

to carry on chaise longues, trunks, parrots and other paraphernalia in an attempt to get away from dated "black out" style scene changes.

"To everybody's surprise, it worked!"

IT WORKED

The initial week of performance in April 1995 proved that, despite the complications of working with both a young cast and an extremely complex set, the team could pull it off. The decision to enter the show in the 1995 Waterford International Festival of Light Opera was not taken lightly. To produce a show of *Oliver's* calibre once was difficult enough. The reproduce it after an interval of five months was a daunting prospect.

Nevertheless, the entry was confirmed and rehearsals began in earnest. Everybody looked set for the big day when disaster struck. A week prior to performance, Sean Walshe, the star of the show broke his arm. Another young local boy, Eitan Scailon, took a week off school to

rehearse the part and delighted everyone with his performance on festival night.

The adjudicator's comments on the night surpassed everyone's dreams. Mr. David Turner's use of the words "miracle," "remarkable" and "at last" left no room for doubt.

The show had been a success, the critical festival audience had given its approval and that in itself was enough. To come second in the overall competition with a further three awards going to individual members of the group was the icing on the cake for a remarkable production.

The fourth WLR FM/Waterford Crystal Arts and Entertainment Award is already under consideration with all productions or exhibitions taking place between now and the end of December eligible for nomination.

As always, the adjudicating panel can be contacted by telephoning Carrie Crowley, WLR FM on 051 72248 or by writing to her at The Radio Centre, George's street, Waterford.

"STAGEFRIGHT" - ALRIGHT ON THE NIGHT

The elite of Waterford's entertainment sector trembled to the tips of their crystal wine glasses with nervous anticipation in Waterford Crystal's Visitors Centre for the third time this year as the golden envelope of achievement was ripped open to reveal the winner of the WLR fm/Waterford Crystal Arts and Entertainment Award on October 26 last. Three stalwarts of the city's stage, fun and frolics were in close running for the star capped crystal trophy following a summer stuffed with a plethora of praise for three local productions by 'Red Kettle', 'Waterford Spraoi' and the new kid on the block, 'Stagefright'. But there can be only one winner and lo and behold it was Brian Flynn of 'Stagefright' who plucked up the prize for their production of Lionel Bart's 'Oliver' which recently won the runners-up award for the young musical society during the International Festival of Light Opera in September. Such a tribute to and confidence in our young entertainers, the future food of our theatrical tradition, can only serve to secure that Waterford's stage-standing will spiral ever upwards 'till we

take the throne as the cultural capital of Ireland.

REBEL TEENS

Today Stagefright can stand proud as a company in its own right, but, like all, it began as an offshoot of the growing tree of theatre in the city. All the hardcore members of the group were born, bred and buttered with the established musical companies of the City. But with the growing feeling of self esteem which bubbled and boiled on the local drama scene during the eighties (bringing to mind a certain whistling 'Kettle'), a flock of these board-treading teenagers, did what is the prerogative of their age-group and rebelled, but this time with a cause. Their mission was not to arrogantly go it alone, but rather to marry their acquired skills with the uninhibited vibrancy of their youth and to feed it to the people as an alternative to the more restrained shows of their elders. This youth musical company would also go on to serve as a stepping stone between school productions and drama school or professional companies, tapping into the hitherto ignored well of young talent. The result was 'Stagefright'

with Brian Flynn, Keith Dunphy, Alec McAllister, Pat Grant and Margaret Casey at the wheel and this embryonic crew staged not alone a huge box office hit with their debut performance 'Grease', but also produced a means of bringing Waterford youth to the fore. "Young people tend to get bad press," Brian Flynn reflects, "You only ever hear about the negative things going on, like drugs and all that, this is a way of projecting a positive image in every way." In 1992 the less successful 'Chicago' was staged by the company, then followed by a decision to resurrect 'Grease', by '94 the majority of the 'Stagefright' crew was recruited to work on the Waterford Crystal winning 'Tops of the Town' production. Thus giving them the confidence to look for a more ambitious project this year.

OLIVER

Brian Flynn, by now the artistic director, travelled to London's West End to search for a suitable show and was wiped out by 'Oliver'. Unfortunately by the time he had completed auditions back in Waterford for 'Oliver' the rights to the show had been snapped up by the West End's Cameron



The members of 'Stagefright' receiving their WLR fm/Waterford Crystal Arts and Entertainment Award with Mr. Michael Wilcock, Manufacturing Director of Waterford Crystal and Brian Flynn, producer.

McIntosh. Panic set in but 'Stagefright' had by now garnered a wealth of important contracts even in the heartland of London Theatre and by frantic use of these friends the rights were handed over to 'Stagefright'. So began a hectic haul of organisation and rehearsals over the following months, aided and abetted by Ben Hennessy, the dude of design, who created an elaborate and stunning set that would have daunted lesser stagehands. The camaraderie of the City's theatre groups was also evident when Red Kettle's Ger Meagher went into

caboots with Paul Brown of Stagefright for the mantle of stage manager for the show. The initial week of performance was in April 1995 was a runaway success and met much critical acclaim, despite this Brian saw room for improvement if it was to stand a chance in the Festival of Light Opera and made small scale changes in every respect.

GOOD OMEN

It is a good omen in show business when the old clichés strikes. Sean Walsh, the show's lead as 'Oliver', broke his arm a week before opening night and his understudy,

GREAT BOOST FOR 'STAGEFRIGHT'

The success of 'Stagefright' had its coronation with the Arts and Entertainment award, but what will this mean for the future of the com-

pany? "We got a shock that we were even nominated and never expected to win up against such competition as Spraoi and Red Kettle, so its fantastic," Brian told Waterford Today, adding, "It's a great boost for us and for the youth of the city, hopefully it will now mean more recognition and sponsorship from the private sector."

The Arts Council do not grant aid musical societies like they do theatre companies and we would like to be the first to change that, even now we see ourselves as an amateur society with a professional approach and would like to be the first Irish professional musical outfit."

Sextusen pints

In 1995 ~ Stage Fright Played Host to a Group of Swedish Students
Of Journalism. These Pictures Are Taken from their Publication
"Printen - En Smakfull Tidning Om Irland"

och rampfeber

- en teatergrupps väg mot föreställning

"Jag går upp i mina roller så till den grad att jag nästan utplånar den jag egentligen är. Det är hemskt."

Stämningen är god men samlad i logerna. Känslan av att det här verkligen är "tonight's the night" vännar luftens strängar till bristningsgränsen. Keith Dunphy är totalt onåbar där han sitter framför spegeln och förvandlar sej till agan. Varenda strå på skägget ska sitta rätt. Med en känsla av att vara inkräktare smyger man ärna därifrån. Om en timme är det dags att avsluta en veckas föreställningar av Oliver, en musikal baserad på Oliver Twist. Inkom det hela står amatörteaterföreningen Stagefright.

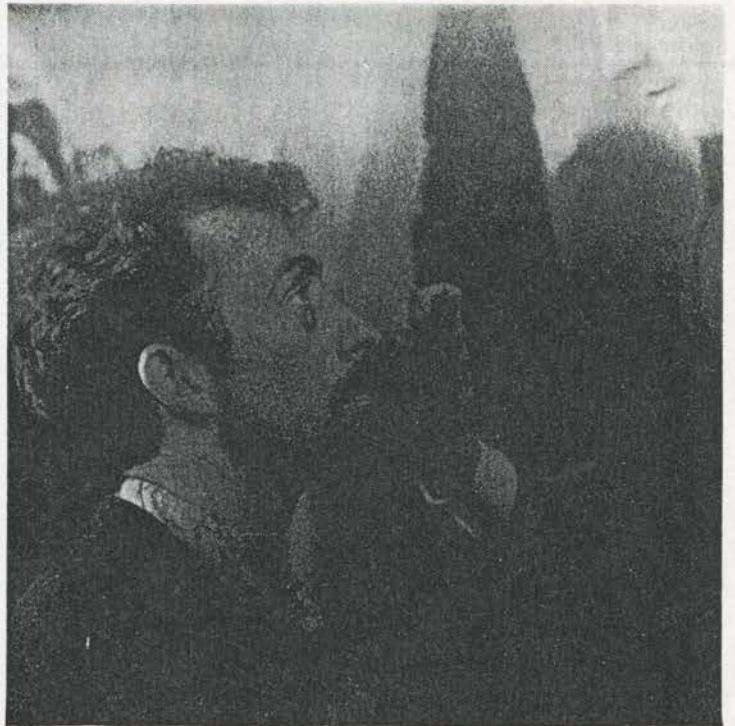
Jäkt och oro

När vi går tillbaka fyra veckor i tiden så ser vi två av stöttepelarna i Stagefright, Brian Flynn och Marguerite Walshe, sitta och

dricka té på Shaws i Waterford. Med sej har dom en kille som är ansvarig för scenprogrammet. Han visar korten som ska vara med i montern på teatern. Dom är skitkassa. Man ser oron i ansiktena. Nervositeten går att skära med kniv.

Stagefright

Det är mindre än tre veckor kvar till premiären. Brian spiller kaffe på Marguerites vita byxor. Han är regissör och som sådan antagligen orolig över om han kommer att få alla små detaljer till att bli just den sammanhängande massa han så gärna vill ha. Att få sextio människor att tänka som en. Sammanlagt har Stagefright cir-



Brian Flynn blir sminkad minuterna innan det är dags att anträ scenen.



Det är inte populärt att be om mer mat hos Mr Bumble. Oliver, spelad av Seán Walshe, blir på order av John Corcoran intrasslad i ätet.

ka 300 medlemmar. Föreningen bildades 1990 och fungerar som en slags teaterutbildning i olika stadier. Som barn ingår man i Stagefright Kidz, en av de tre avdelningarna. Där lär man sej att dansa, sjunga och agera. 160 barn är indelade i fem olika grupper efter ålder och får öva två gånger i veckan. 14 av dom är med i Oliver. Dom fick provspela innan och valdes ut bland hundra andra barn.

Efter att ha varit med i Kidz går man vidare till Stagefright Theatre & Musical Co, som är vuxengruppen. På sommaren blommar även Stagefright Cabaret

upp, 10 personer som sätter ihop en revy.

Oliver

Idén till att sätta upp Oliver fick Brian Flynn så sent som i januari efter att ha sett West End-versionen i London. Därefter har det gått snabbt. Eftersom det är en musikal engagerades tjugo musiker tillsammans med tre sminkörer, ett antal byggnadsarbetare och konstnärer till scenbyggnationen. Repetitionerna drogs igång åtta veckor innan premiären.

Efter en vecka av lyckade föreställningar och goda rescensioner är det dags för avslutning.



Fagan försöker förklara situationen för Bill Sykes. Det går måttligt bra.

När väl ridån går upp undrar man var alla bekanta ansikten tagit vägen. Är det nya skådespelare? /ar allt bara en charad?

Först efter ett tag inser man hur skickliga sminkörerna är.

Man sugs in som i ett vakuum. En

gammal teaterräv i publiken är helt salig.

"Jag såg den här på West End. Det här var bättre."

Efter att ha sett ridån gå ner är man helt övertygad om att man ska befinna sej på Broadway när man går ut genom entrédörren. Förbluffelsen lägger sej som ett täcke över pannloben när man inser att man fortfarande är i småstaden Waterford på södra Irland.

Mot nya mål

Efter föreställningen är alla helt färdiga. Nu väntar en natts festande innan scenen ska rivas dagen efter. Oliver får ligga på is fram till september då det är dags för den internationella teaterfestivalen i Waterford. Brian Flynn hoppas på en placering bland dom fem bästa. Efter det är en upprockad version av Jesus Christ Superstar inplanerad. Vart det sen bär hän vet ingen, men ett är säkert. Stagefright Theatre & Musical Co är ett namn att hålla utkik efter.

Eric Håkansson

STAGE FRIGHT

KIDZ

present

**THE
WIZARD**

**OF
OZ**

*Theatre Royal, Waterford.
Sat. 16th and Sun. 17th
December 1995*

Programme £1.00

Stage Fright Kidz'

Wizard Of Oz



Debbie Kehoe, Kira Delahunty, Ian Power, Rachel Dalton and Carol Ann Costello, who took part in the Stage Fright Kidz' production of "The Wizard Of Oz."



Colin Doyle, who was "Lord Growlie," in the Stage Fright Kidz' production of "The Wizard Of Oz."



Ra O'Brien and Biddie Flynn were two Little Munchkins in the Stage Fright Kidz' production of "The Wizard Of Oz."



Sarah Jackman played Aunt Emma in Stage Fright's "Wizard Of Oz."



James Cusack, who was Uncle Henry in Stage Fright's "Wizard Of Oz."



A happy group of young girls who played "Scare Crows" in Stage Frights *Wizard of Oz*.

Stage Fright's "Wiz" Was Really Excellent

UNFORTUNATELY, a family bereavement prevented my attendance at the Stagefright Kidz Junior Musical Society's production of the "Wizard Of Oz" at the Theatre Royal on Saturday and Sunday last.

The 120-strong young cast, ranging in age from four to sixteen, can, by all accounts, feel justifiably proud of their efforts with an excellent production directed by Brian Flynn and choreographed by Michelle Condon.

This show, based on the hit movie which launched Judy Garland to stardom, featured music from the Wayne Brown Band, with set design by David Hennessy and lighting design by Paul Browne. An innovative feature was the excellent

make-up, applied by students undertaking the Theatre Studies Course at Waterford C.T.I.

For the record, the principals were: Sarah Jackman, Aunt Em; Cormac Byrne, Joe (a Farmhand); James Cusack, Uncle Henry; Marianne Finn, Dorothy; Jane Clancy, Munchkin Farmer; Terence Murphy, Mayor of Munchkins; Catriona Byrne, Good Sorcorcess Of The North; Deborah White, Wicked Witch; Linda Murphy, Scarecrow; Sinead Flynn, Tin Woodman; Cartiona Doyle, Cowardly Lion; Sean Walsh, Private; Lisa Cooke, 1st General; Leanne Quinlan, Oz Lady; Colin Doyle, Lord Crowlie; Cliona Ryan, Gloria; David Hennessy,

Wizard Of Oz; Lyndsey Power, First Witch; Karen Hennessy, Second Witch; Miriam Colfer, Tibia.

—E.H.

STAGE FRIGHT
~ KIDZ ~

STAGE FRIGHT
~ KIDZ ~



Sean Walsh, a Jitter Bug; Cormack Byrne, "Farmer Joe" and Jane Clancy a Munchkin Farmer, in Stage Frights Kidz *Wizard Of Oz*.



FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD! Pictured here are some of the little Munchkins, who performed in Stage Fright Kidz' Wizard of Oz in the Theatre Royal at the weekend. From left - Selena Kavanagh, Ciaran Richards, Michelle Branigan and Lauren Walsh. Pic: Joe Evans.

**STAGE
FRIGHT
KIDZ**



**STAGE
FRIGHT
KIDZ**

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD! Principals from the cast of Stage Fright Kidz' excellent production of the Wizard of Oz, which they performed in the Theatre Royal last weekend. Included are (back row from left) Catriona Byrne (Good Sorceress); Marianne Finn (Dorothy); Linda Murphy (Scarecrow) and Deborah White (Wicked Witch). Front row - Catriona Doyle (Cowardly Lion) and Sinead Flynn (The Tinman). Pics. Joe Evans.



A group of young boys and girls who were little "Munchkins" in Stage Fright Kidz production of the "Wizard Of Oz" at the Theatre Royal.



David K. Messy (The Wizard) and his sister Karen Hennessy (Wicked Witch) all dressed up for the recent Stage Fright Kidz' production of "The Wizard Of Oz."



HIS LORDSHIP THE MAYOR! Pictured here is Terence Murphy, who played the Munchkin Mayor in Stage Fright Kidz' enjoyable production of the Wizard of Oz at the Theatre Royal.

Pic. Joe Evans.



Stephanie Ryan, Jenny Clooney and Miriam Colfer who played "Jitter Bugs" in Stage Fright Kidz "Wizard Of Oz."



Tin Men from Stage Fright Kidz" production of "The Wizard Of Oz." — Leanne Kehoe, Jennifer White, Mary Rohan and Evelyn Molloy.



... who played Munchkins in the Stage Fright Kidz" production



A group of "Scarecrows" who took part in the Stage Fright Kidz' production of "The Wizard Of Oz."



A happy group of girls who played "Jitter Bugs" in Stage Fright Kidz production of the "Wizard Of Oz" at the Theatre Royal.

1994

1993



STAGE FRIGHT

MUSICAL THEATRE CO.

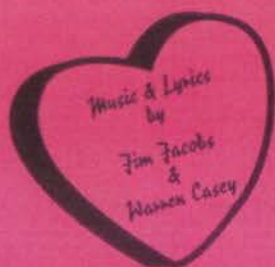
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PHOTOSHOOT - "GREASE" '93



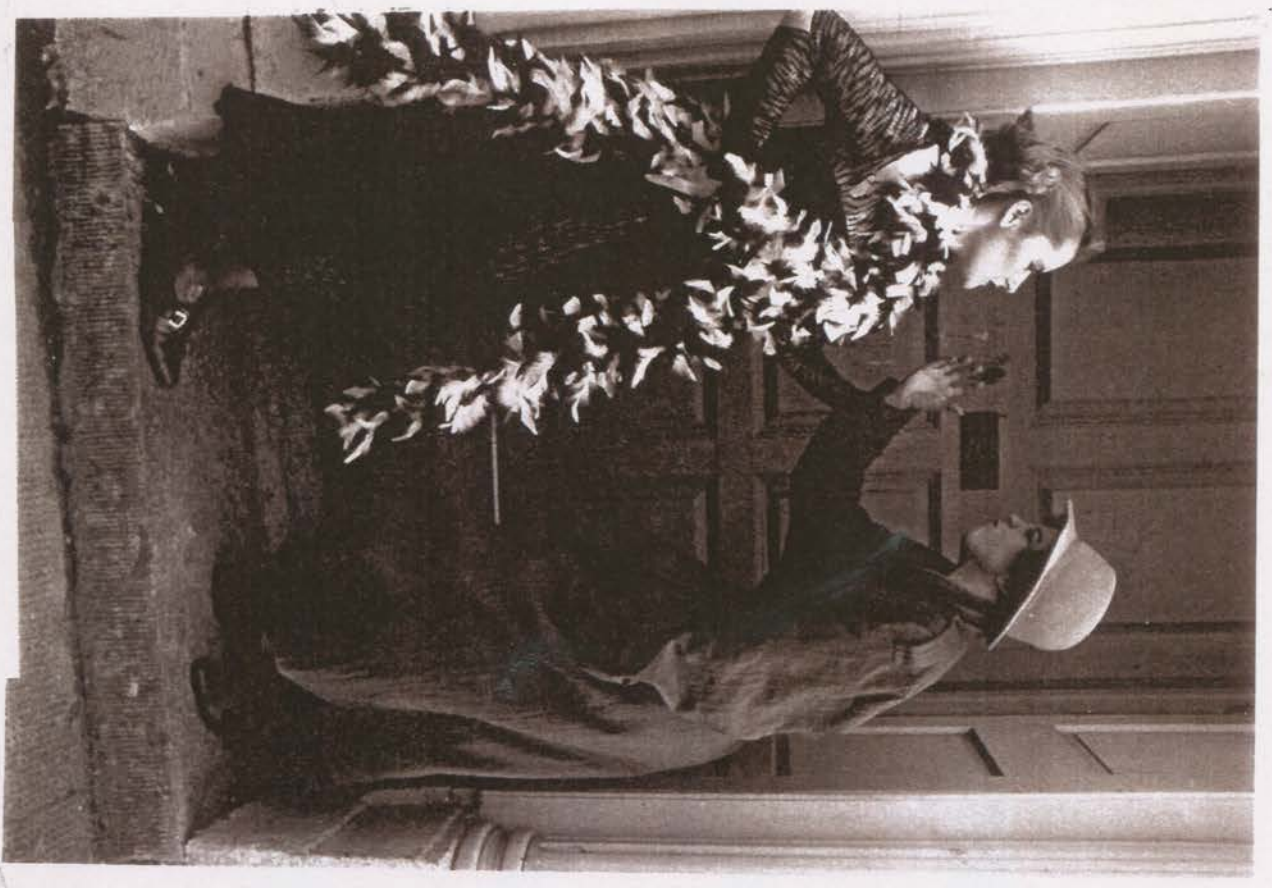
**SANDY + THE T-BIRDS
"GREASE" '91**

1992

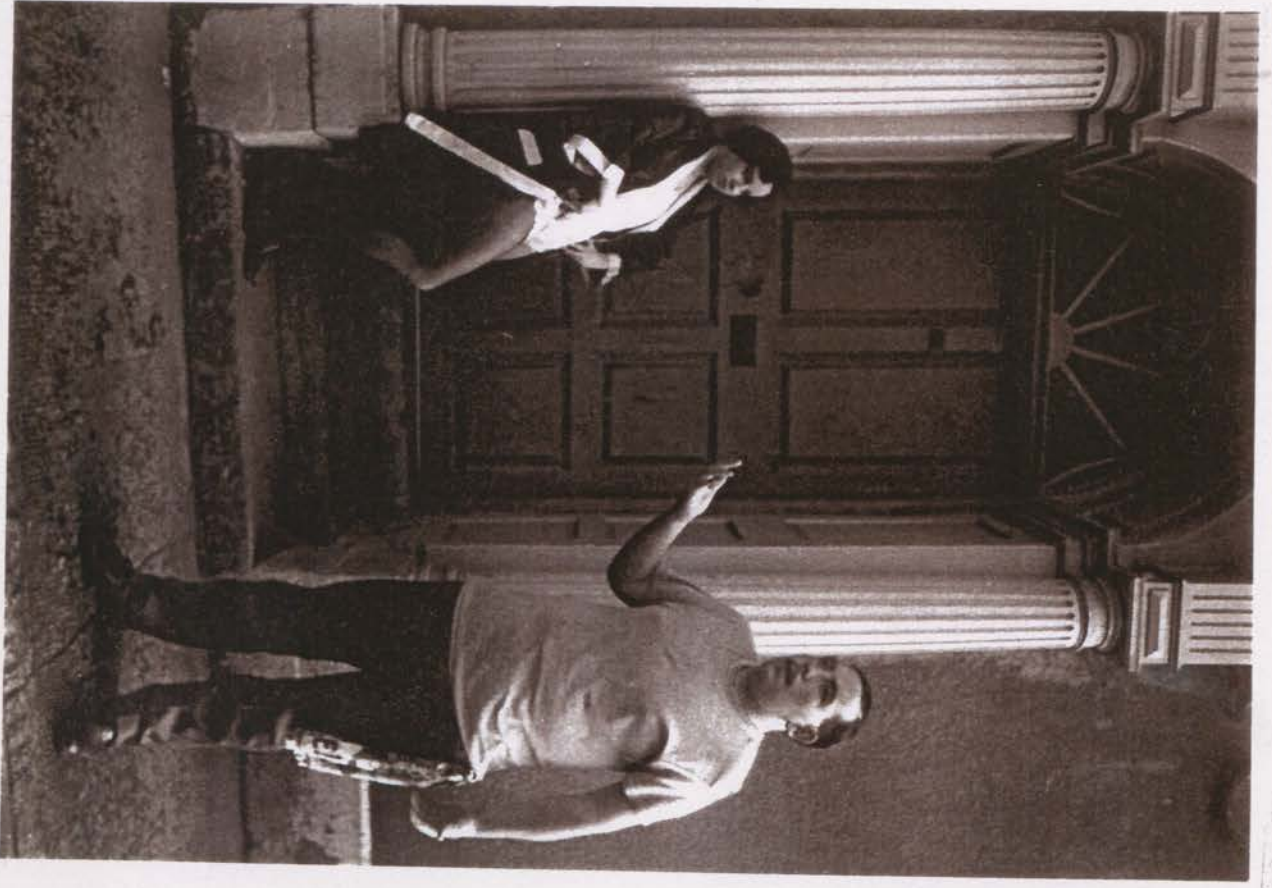


CELL BLOCK TANGO: Deceptively alluring are these scheming murderesses, safe behind bars in this "Cell Block Tango" scene from the musical "CHICAGO," which is being presented by Waterford's talented Stage Fright Musical Theatre Co. at the Theatre Royal nightly until Sunday next, Oct 25th. Included are (left to right) Sinead O'Donoghue, Majella Maher, Eileen Stafford, Margaret Browne and Gretta Rochford, who also plays one of the principal roles of "Velma Kelly."

VELMA AND ROXIE



ROXIE AND AMOS
"CHICAGO" '92



1991



STAGE FRIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE CO.



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GREASE

Written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

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SANDY + THE PINK LADIES
"GREASE" '91



DANNY + THE T-BIRDS
"GREASE" '91

