

Programme





Since John Player & Sons first became associated with Tops what was a localised competition has been developed into an event of national appeal and importance. The success of the John Player Tops is an example of what can be achieved for the benefit of society by the coming together of commercial enterprise and other interests to make a constructive and positive contribution to community life. Today the John Player Tops is an integral part of the fabric and quality of life throughout the country. In addition to raising substantial sums for numerous charitable and social projects the Tops has made a significant contribution to the goal of a wide community involvement in artistic endeavours. Indeed it is the aspect of community involvement that is the prime strength of Tops. Not only are the talents of each individual recognised and developed but a spirit of co-operation and team work is also generated for both participants and patrons alike. Sponsors John Player are proud to be associated with this great competition and to have played a significant role in developing it to its pre-eminent place in the community. But, like the Tops shows themselves, the success of the competition is the result of team work involving an extensive cast, including organising committees, participants, patrons, theatre managements, local and national newspapers, RTE and a host of other back-stage workers. All have helped with the staging of the competition and have contributed generously and positively to its evolution over the years. We thank all concerned for their encouragement and assistance to date and look forward to working with old and new friends for many more years to sustain and enhance this valuable community activity.

1987



John Player TOPS

*National
Semi-
Finals*

CORK OPERA HOUSE
Saturday & Sunday, 16th & 17th May

ADJUDICATORS:

Fergus Carolan

Joe Dowling

Des Keogh

Master of Ceremonies: David McInerney

A MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR

"I am delighted to welcome everyone to the National Semi-finals of The John Player TOPS, especially the participants and supporters from outside the city.

"I am sure that the high standards of previous years will be maintained, and I hope you will have an enjoyable stay in Cork.

"Best wishes for a successful competition."

COUNCILLOR JERRY O'SULLIVAN, Lord Mayor

The Organising Committee of the John Player TOPS in Cork are once again honoured at being selected to host the National Semi-finals of this great event. We are, therefore very happy to welcome the competing groups and their supporters as well as friends and visitors from all over the country. We extend a special welcome to our sponsors, M/s. John Player Ltd., and thank them for all the help and encouragement they give so freely.

Congratulations to the four competing groups on reaching the semi-finals and the best of luck to each of them in their efforts to reach the National Final which will be televised live from the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, on Sunday, 31st May

CORK TEACHERS AND STUDENTS present

"STAGE POWER"

Guest Artists: CHARLIE McCARTHY and GERARD LEHANE

ACT ONE

1. THE PHANTOM/GALA NIGHT
2. MAGIC
3. "STAGE POWER"
4. HOTEL ST. LUCIFER

ACT TWO

1. PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2. BENEATH THE STAGE
3. HIGH COURT OF THE UNIVERSE
4. STAIRWAY TO PARADISE
5. STAIRS IN HEAVEN
6. AFTER THE SHOW

INTERVAL: MOP UP

Devised and Directed by: Kevin Sanquest

Choreography: Carmel Sanquest

Musical Director/Chorus Mistress: Ronnie O'Shaughnessy

Stage Manager: Orison Carlisle

Sets: Frank Sanquest

Comedy Scripts: Pat Murphy, Paddy O'Brien, Paul Dennehy

Costume Design: Carmel Sanquest

Costumes: Triona Kirwin

Costume Hire: Monica's, Morley's

Stage Technicians: Seán Coleman, Martin Hegarty, Humphrey O'Sullivan, Tadhg Breen, Frank O'Sullivan, Anthony O'Sullivan, Tony Seymour, Noel Kelleher, David O'Leary, Marc Sanquest, Seán Kelleher, Tom Healy

Set Construction: Seán Coleman, Orison Carlisle, Humphrey O'Sullivan, Anthony O'Sullivan, Martin Hegarty, Donal Carroll

Group Leader: Seán Coleman

Committee: Denise Higgins (Treasurer), Goretti Barry (Secretary), Philip Lenihan (PRO), Harriet Hyde, Noel Dunne, Donal Carroll, Ann Mehigan, Dermot Ryan, Donal O'Donovan, Michael Farrell

THE CAST:

Female: Audrey O'Sullivan, Karen Lang, Margaret Lynch, Harriet Hyde, Barbara Hyde, Maureen O'Callaghan, Elaine O'Grady, Pauline O'Neill, Ann Cooke, Susan Allen, Mary O'Leary, Claire Daly, Elizabeth Dinan, Denise Higgins, Miriam Seymour, Noreen Dolan, Jennifer Roche, Veronica Byrne, Anne Mehigan, Therese O'Flynn, Geraldine McCarthy, Goretti Barry, Miriam Barry, Máire McCarthy, Siobhán Twohig, Mary Rose Twohig, Rachel Ryan, Catherine Baldwin, Marcella O'Sullivan, Leinore Cotter, Janet Seacy, Emily Lowry, Carroll Keoghan, Shirley O'Driscoll, Shirley Matthews, Edwina Hickey, Fionnola O'Mahony, Helen Heaslip, Anne Catherine Abonneau, Karen Byrne, Linda Drummond, Rachel Meaney, Mary McSweeney, Sarah Ryan, Ailish Halliday, Karen Murphy, Hilary Rice, Lorraine Manley, Joy Lehane, Allison Lehane

Male: Noel Dunne, Seán Coleman, Joe McCarthy, Liam Moynihan, Tony Leahy, Barry O'Keeffe, Tony O'Leary, Dermot Ryan, Ken Twomey, Kieran Murphy, Owen O'Sullivan, Humphrey O'Sullivan, Donal Carroll, Pat Broderick, Donal O'Donovan, Philip Lenihan, Brendan Dunlea, Paddy O'Brien, Paul Dennehy, Martin Hegarty, Orison Carlisle

The group would like to thank all who supported our various fund-raising events and those who contributed in any way to the staging of the show

WATERFORD CRYSTALS present

"BOND AID"

Guest Artists: LIAM MOLOMBY and TOBY HICKEY

Ah there you are

Grants from the I.D.A. — with C. Halpin, D. Sutton, L. Walsh

Energy spending "Big Deal" — with L. Molomby

Never too far apart — with Toby Hickey and Scal Grant

The raucous sound of Rip de Calico + Chorus

Orders from M15 — with T. Grant, R. Collins, B. Walsh, D. Sutton, C. Halpin,
and L. Walsh

On stage with the darlings of "Le Cage" featuring Gary Power

Sombre times with music from "Les Miserable"

Enter Bula and the Bond Bros.

Voluptuously seductive "Razz'e Dazzle" featuring C. Crowley

Ending in sight — with Toby Hickey and Martina Flynn

Nothing but elegance and style featuring L. Molomby

Produced and Devised by: Michael Grant

Choreography by: Geraldine Molomby

Musical Director & Conductor: Linda Stewart

Set Construction: Brendan O'Rourke

Stage Director: Noel Kane

Lighting: Aiden McGrath

Group Leader: Dando Kelly

Comedy Scripts by: Conor Halpin and Comedy Team

Orchestra: Bernie Flanagan, Tony Comerford, Michael Comerford, Martin
McCarthy, Sean Robinson, Duchy O'Meara, Brendan Doyle, John Collins,
Niall O'Brien

Pit Singers: Tony Grant, Joan Grant, Michael Roe, Greg Scanlon, Paul Dillon

Stage Managers: T. Carey, J. McCarthy

Lighting: A. McGrath and B. Sharpe

Stage Crew: T. Whelan, B. Walsh, C. Brophy, P. O'Brien, J. O'Meara, E. Brett,
J. McCarthy Junior, P. O'Brien, D. Butler, T. Roche

Set Painting and Design: T. Brennan

Mech. Sets: G. Power

Scots: T. Heylin, G. Coughlin

Special Effects: J. O'Keeffe

Electricians: B. Maher, P. Breslin, J. O'Dea

Wardrobe: B. McCann, C. Nolan, P. Tebay, M. Whelan, A. Kelly, J. Kelly,
H. McCormick, N. Kavanagh, M. Manahan, B. Casey, A. Murphy, A. Power,
N. Cullen, M. Cooley, M. Heylin

Make-up: N. Cullen and P. McDonald

THE CAST:

Ladies: L. Hutchinson, R. Brown, A. Gailbert, T. Kennedy, S. Millea, C. Crowley,
E. O'Brien, G. Rea, L. Ryan, S. Hayes, K. Dewberry, C. McGrath, C. O'Connor,
D. O'Sullivan, A. Hourigan, A. Glendon, S. Flynn, A. Knox, R. Clarke, L. Gough,
B. Walsh, A. Power, C. Wymberly, S. O'Brien, J. Howlitt, M. Flynn, Annette Grant

Ballad Group — Rip the Calico: B. Dealeney, F. O'Connor, M. Jacob, P. Doyle

Gents: D. Sutton, T. Grant, C. Halpin, P. McEvoy, P. Power, J. Power, John Power,
A. Collins, B. Collins, T. Ryan, P. Greene, J. O'Driscoll, A. Walsh, J. Flynn, P. Greene,
F. Browne, L. Molomby, J. O'Neill, G. O'Brien

Sincere thanks to Crystal Management

WATERFORD CRYSTAL WISH TO THANK ALL THEIR SPONSORS

The Adjudicators

FERGUS CAROLAN has been involved with straight theatre and musicals for well over twenty years and has been adjudicating at the John Player TOPS since the early seventies. An employee of the Bank of Ireland, he has been located in many parts of Ireland, and has performed with numerous musical societies as well as producing various drama productions. Coming from an accomplished musical family he is a talented pianist. He has adjudicated in most TOPS centres and at national stages, including here at Cork Opera House for the 1982 national semi-finals and again in 1985.

JOE DOWLING joined the Abbey Theatre while still a student at UCD, and played many roles with the Abbey Company. He became a director of the Peacock Theatre in 1973. Other appointments include Artistic Director of the Irish Theatre Company, Artistic Director of the National Theatre and director of Gaietystage Productions. Joe has directed plays in the Abbey, Peacock, in London and New York, winning awards along the way. Most people will remember Noel Pearson's "H.M.S. Pinafore" and may recall that Joe directed the U.K. Touring Production of that smash hit. Joe is married to the well-known Siobhan Cleary of RTE's top-ranking show "Evening Extra" and they have two children. Joe adjudicated last year's National Final with, among others.

DES KEOGH, who completes the panel of adjudicators for this year's semi-finals. Des, who is a barrister, confines his stage activities to the field of comedy mostly, but has made a big impact also in straight roles. One such highlight was as Norman in Ronald Harwood's play, "The Dresser". However, few people will not have seen Des on stage or on television in the great comedy "Charley's Aunt," but even that would probably be surpassed by the huge impact his revues with Rosaleen Linehan have made over the last decade and a half. Des now tours regularly in the United States where his brand of comedy is highly acclaimed. Most listeners to RTE Radio will be familiar with Des Keogh's series "Music for Middlebrows."

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At this stage of the competition we should not forget all those other groups who have participated in the competition and who have given hours of entertainment to countless thousands of people all over the country. Especially, we would like to say to the four groups who were eliminated at Quarter-final stages: "better luck next time."

It should be borne in mind that there will be no adjudication to-night, but rather the decision of the adjudicators will be announced early in the week.

During the interval raffle-ticket sellers will pass among you. The proceeds of the raffle are for the benefit of the mentally handicapped in the care of the Cork Polio and General After-care Association so we ask you to be as generous as you can.

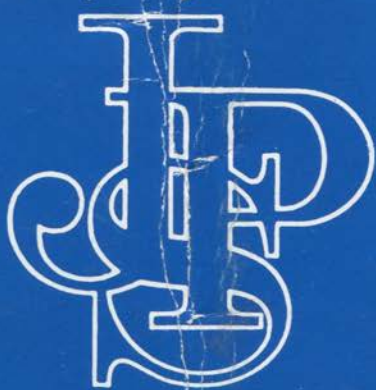
As the main desire of the committee is that all our guests and visitors will enjoy their stay among us, may we draw your attention to some of the places of interest you may care to visit, e.g.: Blarney, to kiss the Blarney Stone; Fota Wild-life Park; Trabolgan Holiday Complex; Fitzgerald Park in the city; Shandon, to play the famous Shandon Bells; or perhaps the famous old town of Kinsale.

ENJOY YOURSELF!

As the John Player Tops is a competition it is only natural that patrons should tend to adjudicate the shows. This is healthy in that it encourages people to be analytical and to appreciate the numerous elements which go to make up a show. However adjudication should be objective and that is not always easy for patrons as invariably they have some association with one show or another!

The real purpose of Tops is to encourage people to get together in a highly satisfying and creative activity for their own enjoyment and that of others. It is only the competitive element which requires comparisons between shows. But each show is an achievement and a success in its own right and those involved merit our appreciation and acclaim for what they have accomplished irrespective of the heights scaled by others. It is right that groups should strive towards high standards and that they should be appropriately congratulated on attaining them. But those who achieve lesser standards should not be dismissed. When all is said and done those who participate in Tops are part-timers, often with no previous theatrical experience, and they deserve encouragement and appreciation for their commitment and effort. So by all means adjudicate but do so objectively and with an understanding of the essence of Tops. And enjoy yourself — that is the main purpose of being here tonight!

| Name of Group | Entertainment Value (50 Marks) | Production (20 Marks) | Variety (20 Marks) | Costumes and Sets (10 Marks) | Total |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| (1) | | | | | |
| (2) | | | | | |



John Player & Sons