



Millennium Irish Post Awards

The Millennium Britannia Mayfair Thursday, September 14, 2000


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GUINNESS sponsors of the Sports Awards

Guinness, sponsors of the Irish Post's Sports Star Award, are pleased to announce Roy Keane, captain of Manchester United's football team, as this year's winner. Since his promotion to team captain, Keane has played an integral role in assisting Manchester United to win the FA Cup, Premiership and Champions' League throughout the 1998-1999 season, and the Premiership title once again in the 1999-2000 season.

This sponsorship forms an integral part of the continued involvement of Guinness in sport. In 1999 alone, Guinness invested over £16million in the sponsorship and marketing of the Rugby World Cup — a level of investment that we're keen to continue.

TARA Television sponsors of the Drama Awards

Tara Television has been broadcasting since 1996, and we're now available in over four million homes across Britain, via both cable and Sky Digital. Our objective is to provide Britain with the best in Irish television — to this end, we offer three live news bulletins each day (at 1pm, 6pm and 9pm), the Late Late Show, GAA coverage, Fair City, Glenroe, live racing, as well as great lifestyle, documentary, music and current affairs programming. From October, Tara's broadcast hours will be extended, with the channel on air from 10am until 1am, seven days a week. These extra hours will allow us to offer even more in the best of Irish television, including Nationwide, Questions & Answers, Primetime and, on Sundays, a church service from Ireland. October will also see the launch of our new home-shopping strand, which will offer our viewers the opportunity to purchase a range of top Irish products. Tara Television — let Ireland entertain you!

BANK OF IRELAND co-sponsors of the Business Influence Award

Bank of Ireland in Britain, as a specialist business bank, is delighted to be co-sponsor, with Enterprise Ireland, of the Business Influence Award for the year 2000. Our friends at The Irish Post have to be applauded for organising such a prestigious event, showcasing the success of so many Irish people. Many congratulations to Terry Leahy on being the recipient of this year's Business Influence Award. His leadership of Tesco plc in recent years has ensured that it is the clear leader in the highly competitive British supermarket business. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the other award winners, and hope that the many customers and friends here this evening thoroughly enjoy the event.

WATERFORD CRYSTAL sponsors of the Irish in the Media Award

Waterford Crystal was first manufactured by businessman George and William Penrose in 1783. The original company traded for 68 years during which Waterford's reputation for pristine quality was established. Glassmaking continued in a number of companies in Waterford City until the present lead crystal company began operations in a small factory at Ballytruckle, a city suburb. From humble beginnings the company has grown to become the largest manufacturers of premium quality crystal in the world. At its headquarters, a state of the art plant at Kilbarry, the company employs 1,600 people, producing three unique brands, Waterford Crystal, Marquis by Waterford Crystal, and the recently-introduced contemporary range by fashion icon John Rocha.

THE MEAN FIDDLER ORGANISATION sponsors of the Music Awards

The Mean Fiddler Organisation, established by Vince Power in 1982, is the largest independent live music and venue promoter in Britain, owning some of London's most popular music venues including the Astoria, Garage, Subterranea, the Forum, the Jazz Café and bars such as Point 101 and Ion. The company arguably created the modern British music festival market. The London Fleadh, the capital's longest running music festival, has seen headliners such as Bob Dylan, Sting and Van Morrison, and is successfully exported to the USA. Reading is the most famous indie rock festival in Britain and, with sister festivals in Leeds and Glasgow, plays to 235,000 fans over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The Mean Fiddler Organisation also embraces the dance music market, hosting festivals such as Homelands in Britain and Ireland and Renaissance in Ibiza. This year Meanfiddler.com plc was successfully floated on the Alternative Investment Market and aims to become the pre-eminent online music community. For more information log on to www.meanfiddler.com — the source of live music.

THE GUARDIAN sponsors of the Literature Award

As a long time supporter of the arts and literature, The Guardian is pleased to support the Irish Post Literature Award. Along with The Guardian First Book Award we aim to recognise and reward literary talent from around the world. Our review section, on Saturday, allows us to showcase this talent and itself enjoys a well-deserved reputation for its quality of writing.

ENTERPRISE IRELAND co-sponsors of the Business Influence Award

Enterprise Ireland is delighted to be a sponsor of the Millennium Irish Post Awards. The Award rightly recognises the excellent contribution made by the recipients to all facets of life in Britain. Enterprise Ireland is the organisation charged with assisting the development of Irish enterprise. Our core objective is that locally controlled Irish business trading internationally will have doubled their sales from £20billion to £40billion in 10 years. In meeting this target there are challenges we will face in creating profitable new business and building profile skills and capabilities. Enterprise Ireland will work in partnership with Irish industry in meeting these challenges successfully; this will lead to sustainable growth and underpin Ireland's future economic development. Enterprise Ireland's role in Britain is to work with Irish enterprises and British buyers to meet our core objective. We understand that to maintain a competitive position, British buyers need access to a wide variety of supply sources. Enterprise Ireland knows the capabilities and performances of Irish companies. We can link British industry with suppliers, which can best meet their needs. The challenge for us all is to continue the recent success achieved by Irish companies. Enterprise Ireland is determined, that in partnership with our clients, we will achieve this success.



Welcome

A message from Chief Executive, Smurfit Media – Norah Casey

The Irish Post has a fine reputation, stretching back over 23 years, of rewarding the best of Irish talent. As the newspaper celebrates 30 years of serving the needs of the Irish community in Britain and with the added impetus of the Millennium, it is only right that we should seek to revamp and expand our annual awards. We have enjoyed an excellent partnership with AIB over the years and will continue to work together on a number of projects. This year, however, we have opened the awards to individual sponsors. As you can see some great names have joined with us to ensure that this year we have a wonderful line-up. Another very important change to the awards is the involvement of the readers of The Irish Post. We were inundated with nominations for all categories and our panel of judges deliberated and shortlisted from those nominations and ultimately our winners were chosen. Each award winner receives a wonderful piece of Waterford Crystal etched with the new Millennium Irish Post Awards logo.

These awards aim to recognise individuals and organisations that have made a positive contribution to the community of Irish people in Britain in a wide range of fields. We are delighted that Eamonn Holmes (who came top in a recent Irish Post survey of popular TV presenters) is the celebrity presenter this year and Ambassador, Ted Barrington, presents the awards. Our thanks to them and to the judges and sponsors for all of their help and support during the past year.

THE JUDGES

- Chair: Norah Casey – Editor-in-Chief, The Irish Post*
- John Aldridge – Tranmere FC manager and former Republic of Ireland international*
- Ronan Bennett – writer*
- Bob Brolly – BBC West Midlands presenter*
- Danny Doherty – Irish dancing champion, teacher and community activist in Coventry*
- Richard Dunwoody – champion jockey, MD Dunwoody Sports Marketing*
- Brendan Flood – Manager, Enterprise Ireland*
- Fiachra Gibbons – Guardian journalist*
- Paddy Lennon – Chief Executive, Paddy Lennon & Associates PR*
- Caroline Marland – MD, Guardian Newspaper Group*
- Avril MacRory – Head of Millennium Events, BBC*
- Martin McDonagh – playwright*
- Seamus McGarry – Chairman, Federation of Irish Societies*
- Barry McGuigan – former featherweight boxing world champion*
- Christy Moore – singer-songwriter*
- Sally Mulready – Hackney Labour Councillor and founder of the London Irish Elders Forum*
- Jim O'Hara – Chairman of The Irish Youth Foundation*
- Nessa O'Neill – Council member of the Irish Youth Foundation*
- Vince Power – Founder and owner of the Mean Fiddler Organisation*
- Andy Rogers – Assistant General Manager - Britain, Bank of Ireland*
- Ros Scanlon – Artistic director, Hammersmith Irish Centre*
- Fergus Sweeney – sports reporter on BBC Radio 5*



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Drama

The Drama Award Winner: Pauline McLynn

Legend has it that the producers of *Father Ted* felt Pauline McLynn was too young for the part of *Father Ted*'s long suffering housekeeper Mrs Doyle when she first auditioned.

Nonetheless the multi-talented actress, comedienne and writer soon made the part her own – moving the phrase 'Go on! Go on!' and her character into the realms of cultural history.

Laughing about that catchphrase, Pauline says: "In a way I'd love never to hear it again. You can be surprised how often it can happen to you – and people are quite uninhibited about it here in Dublin. But the whole *Ted* thing is not going to go away. And you can't have it all ways. After all, it is a great compliment."

However, 38-year-old McLynn, born in Sligo, has a host of Gate and Abbey Theatre credits. She first started acting as a student in Trinity College, helping with stage management and performing in Greek tragedies.

Her films include *Guiltrip* (1995), *My Friend Joe* (1996) and *Angela's Ashes* (2000) in which she played Aunt Aggie.

"I'm very proud of the film," she says. "I think it is an epic which does justice to Frank McCourt's book."

Pauline is also starring in two new films this autumn - *An Everlasting Piece*, alongside Anna Friel, and Roddy Doyle's new film, *When Brendan Met Trudy*.

A successful writer, her debut novel *Something For The Weekend*, published last spring, enjoyed critical and commercial success. She is currently writing her second novel and divides her time between Dublin and London.



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Drama

The Irish Post Special Award for Drama Winner: Tony Doyle

The unexpected death of Roscommon-born actor Tony Doyle this January shocked friends and colleagues in the acting world.

Tony, 58, was just about to begin filming on the London-Irish drama *McCready & Daughter*, set in Kilburn.

It was for his role as loveable rogue and businessman Brian Quigely in the BBC1 drama *Ballykissangel* that he was best known.

Last year Brian received two Best Actor gongs from the Irish Film and Television Academy and the Monte Carlo Television Awards—for his role as Moran in the BBC2 production *Amongst Women*, adapted from Cavan writer John McGahern's book.

Peter Salmon, the BBC1 controller, described him as "the best actor of his generation to come out of Ireland".

Mr Salmon added: "For the last five years Tony Doyle was one of the brightest stars on *Ballykissangel*. The cast, crew and millions of Ballyk fans - who took him to their hearts - have lost a dear and charming friend."

Tony is survived by his wife and six children. One daughter, Susannah, is to begin filming on the new *Ballykissangel* series this autumn.

Susannah, who starred in the Channel 4 sitcom *Drop The Dead Donkey*, said: "I can't deny it was a bombshell to be asked but I'm very excited and proud to be involved with *Ballykissangel* and the fact that it is already associated with my dad makes me all the more proud."

The 33-year-old actress will play horse trainer Avril Burke in the sixth series of the popular Irish drama.



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The Irish in the Media Award

Winner:
Eamonn Holmes

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Genial Belfastman Eamonn Holmes presents GMTV's popular breakfast show five days a week.

Eamonn also moonlights for the BBC on the factual entertainment programme

How Do They Do That and hosts ITV's occasional series of sporting howlers, Oddballs.

The host of tonight's awards, who started his career as Ulster Television's farming correspondent, has never been afraid to claim his Irish roots. In a recent interview with The Irish Post he said:

"I know how difficult it is to attract guests. What I like about The Irish Post awards is they have a lollipop lady on the same stage as a famous actor or professional sportsman.

"Also everyone is simply proud whether they're from the North or South, Catholic or Protestant, because I'll tell you what, to the English we're all Irish.

"There's a lovely community spirit when they get together. Probably being an exile you become more Irish than when you are at home. I'm very proud to be Irish."

Born in 1959, Eamonn, who has hosted The Irish Post awards before, grew up on the New Lodge Road in north Belfast. When the Troubles began Eamonn moved to Cliftonville Road and attended St. Malachy's Diocesan College.

After completing his A-Levels, Eamonn decided to take a course in journalism, a decision about which he has absolutely no regrets.

After Ulster Television Eamonn was asked to join the BBC in 1986 to launch a daytime television programme called Open Air. Eamonn then worked on a number of jobs for BBC sports before he was lured away by GMTV in 1992.

Despite his five-days-a-week morning stint, Eamonn gets back to Belfast every weekend.

He is also a massive Manchester Utd fan.

Eamonn when once asked where he wanted to go after GMTV said:

"Downhill by the sounds of it. A wee chatshow once a week would just be lovely.

All this getting up at four in the morning. I'm only 17, I just look this old."

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Community

The Irish Community Award - Local Winner: Fr. Jerry Kivlehan

Father Jerry Kivlehan has transformed the London Irish Centre since he became its director in 1994. As well as amending the centre's constitution and increasing the number of in-house and outreach services, Fr Jerry has paid off a large debt which had burdened the centre for many years while completing an extensive programme of refurbishment. Apart from the welfare and cultural services of the London Irish centre itself, there are 10 other Irish organisations based there. Thanks to Fr Jerry, the centre is now able to provide a comprehensive and complete service to the Irish community. Fr Jerry also finds the time to be PRO of the Federation of Irish Societies; board member and company secretary of Irish Centre Housing; board member and trustee of Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy; board member and company secretary of the Irish Employment and Training Consortium; vice-chair and board member of London Irish Festival Ltd; member of the executive committee of the Irish Chaplaincy; trustee of the Aisling Project and board member of Clar-ICH Housing. Born in Co. Sligo, Fr Jerry worked in Birkenhead between 1973 and 1979 before he spent five years in Dublin as the Director of Vocations at Belmont House. In 1984 he returned to England to become the Director of Wistaston Hall, Retreat and Conference Centre, Cheshire. After five years he became parish priest at St. Theresa's in Liverpool before he came to the capital six years ago. In the little spare time that 51-year-old Fr Jerry finds, he likes to relax on the golf course or catch up on GAA football.



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Community

The Irish Community Award - National Winner: Brendan Mac Lua

Brendan Mac Lua was co-founder of The Irish Post in 1970 and its editor and managing-director during the first 18 years. He remained managing-director for a further four years and is still non-executive chairman. Less well-known is that he was also 'Frank Dolan' who, for 28 years, provided the newspaper with its best read weekly column - dealing with Anglo-Irish affairs and the issues which most affected the Irish community in Britain. A native of Co. Clare, he was a journalist and broadcaster in Dublin prior to the founding of The Irish Post. He also spent three years at Croke Park as assistant general-secretary of the GAA. On retiring from full-time journalism, he returned to university and took a Masters in philosophy. He and his family live in Berkshire.

“ Until The Irish Post emerged in February 1970, the large Irish community in Britain had no means of communication. The Irish in Leeds, for example, had no way of knowing what the Irish in London or Birmingham were about, and vice versa. There was a splendid Irish club in Portsmouth but only those living locally knew of it. The Irish Post informed our people every week about what was happening. This collectivity of shared knowledge and ideas promoted confidence and contact. Lots of new Irish clubs and centres began to open throughout the country. Irish bank branches began to establish on high streets and Irish travel agencies emerged. It was a period of remarkable growth. It needed the weekly communication provided by The Irish Post for it to happen in so short a period of time. By the mid-1970s, the Irish community was co-ordinated and, in many respects, self-sufficient” **Brendan Mac Lua**



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Millennium
Irish Post Awards

Awards Ceremony

Editor-in-Chief, *The Irish Post*: Norah Casey

Celebrity Comperer: Eamonn Holmes

Awards Presented By: H.E. The Ambassador to the Britain, Ted Barrington

The Awards

The Drama Award Pauline McLynn

The Irish Post Special Award for Drama Tony Doyle

The Irish Community Award – Local Father Jerry Kirolehan

The Hall of Fame Sports Award Dame Mary Peters

Sports Star of the Year Award Roy Keane

The Irish Post Special Award for Sport Joey Dunlop

The Literature Award Marie Jones

The Business Influence Award Terry Leahy

The Newcomers Music Award Samantha Mumba

The Music Award 2000 Noel Gallagher

The Irish in the Media Award Eamonn Holmes

The Irish Community Award – National Brendan Mac Lua

Outstanding Contribution to the Irish Community (T.B.A.)

Lifetime Achievement Award for Music Lonnie Donegan

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The Award



This year's stunning Irish Post award was designed by Tom Cooke at Waterford Crystal. Tom, who has been with the world-renowned crystal group since 1970, engraved wild geese on to the decorative 10-inch footed bowl to represent the Flight of the Earls. Drawing an outline of the geese in a clear portion of the crystal, Tom used a small engraving wheel to make the cuts, before lightly polishing the area for contrast.

The engravings frosted appearance comes from the effect of the paste of carborundum powder and linseed oil that is applied to the wheel. Tom has been a master engraver since 1980 and creates his designs on solid crystal as opposed to hollow items like glasses. He lives with his wife and four children on the outskirts of Waterford city.

Raising funds for the homeless Irish

The Irish Post's nominated charity for 2000 is Arlington House and the newspaper's Aisling Appeal has already raised over £25,000. Tonight one lucky guest will walk away with a rare prize - the shirt worn by Wimbledon defender Kenny Cunningham in the Republic of Ireland Euro 2000 qualifier against Macedonia. The shirt, which is a one-off design, is signed by Mick McCarthy and all the members of the Republic of Ireland squad. To win this unique jersey all you have to do is put £10 in one of the envelopes on the table and write your name and table number on the outside. We will collect the envelopes during dinner. Many thanks for your support.



Norah Casey



Millennium Irish Post Awards

Menu

*Chilled smoked haddock and Dublin Bay prawns
with marinated cabbage*



*Grilled cannon of lamb on colcannon with a mustard
and Guinness sauce*



Irish whiskey and clover honey parfait



Wines

*White: Virginie Viognier d'Oc 1998/1999
Red: Château Cros d'Argeres Minervois 1996/1997*



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Sport

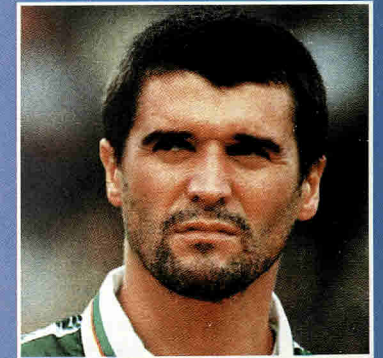
Sports Star of the Year Award

**Winner:
Roy Keane**

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A FORMER amateur boxer, Roy Keane started off his career with FAI league side Cobh Ramblers in Cork. city.

Spotted by a scout from Nottingham Forest in 1990, the East Midlands club made a huge profit from their £10,000 outlay when he signed for Manchester United in 1993 for a then British record of £3.75million.

Roy featured in the World Cup finals in 1994 after winning his first cap for the Republic of Ireland in 1991.

He had emerged into the national side with a crop of other youngsters including Jason McAteer and goalkeeper Alan Kelly.

Roy has never looked back since then, captaining Manchester United and the Republic of Ireland. Last season he was given two player of the year gongs from sports writers and fellow professionals.

This year Roy signed a record £52,000-a-week contract with Manchester United, making him the country's most highly-paid footballer. He remains one of the Republic of Ireland's few world-class players.

Captaining his country with distinction this month, Republic of Ireland fans could rightfully have considered themselves unlucky to see their side come away from Amsterdam with a 2-2 draw against the Dutch.

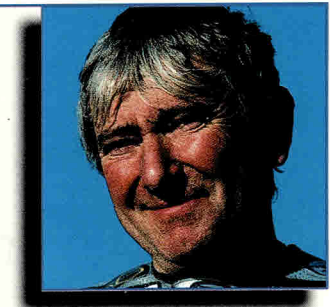
Next month the men in green take on Portugal in Lisbon but Roy is used to winning and his disappointment after squandering a two-goal lead against the Dutch shows that he is never satisfied with second best.



Sport

The Irish Post Special Award for Sport Winner: *Joey Dunlop*

Generally regarded as the most successful road racer in history, Joey Dunlop's sudden death this year rocked the world of Irish sport. The 48-year-old 'King of the Roads' came off his bike in a 125cc race in Tallinn, Estonia when he lost control on a sharp-angle bend in heavy rain. Born in 1952 in Armoy, Co. Antrim, Joey began motorcycling seriously aged 17. Before his untimely death he had won five Formula One championships and 26 Isle of Man TT races. In 1986 Joey received an MBE for his services to motorcycle sport. Equally dedicated to charity work, Dunlop received an OBE for his work for Romanian orphanages in 1996. Last month over 5,000 bikers from all over the world converged on the Isle of Man to pay tribute to Dunlop. His former Honda teammate Ron Haslam led the tributes, carrying Joey's son, Gary, on the pillion of his motorcycle. Haslam said: "It's an honour to be asked to lead it. Joey and I had some battles and his career will be remembered as long as there is road racing. Joey's wife, Linda, unveiled a plaque at the finish line on the world-famous TT course that Joey had crossed as winner. Last month Joey was posthumously honoured at the Belfast City Motorsport Festival with a lifetime achievement award. Joey is survived by his wife, Linda, and five children.



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Sport

The Hall of Fame Sports Award Winner: *Dame Mary Peters*

Dame Mary Peter's life changed irrevocably after she won gold at the Munich 1972 Olympics in the pentathlon. Born in Liverpool, Mary moved to Northern Ireland aged 11. Representing Great Britain and Northern Ireland internationally from 1961 to 1974, Mary has gone on to become a world-wide ambassador for women in sport. This June she was announced as one of the six board members on a powerful, new RTÉ Authority which will make critical decisions on the Irish state channel's commercial viability over the next 12 months. Speaking of her appointment Mary said: "Well, I live on the island of Ireland; I am a woman, an Ulster woman, sports woman and a business woman." Managing her own health club in Lisburn until three and a half years ago, Mary has also helped raise over £300,000 for various charities, not to mention helping to generate the £80,000 needed to resurface the Mary Peters track used to promote and encourage athletics in Northern Ireland. One of Mary's charities is the Ulster Sports and Recreation Trust, which helps sports athletes with vital grants. Mary also finds the time to be the deputy chairperson of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, a role which she relishes. Today, Mary now juggles a busy broadcasting and journalism career which includes coverage of the Sydney Olympics this month. In November Mary will travel to Buckingham Palace to become a dame. She has already received a CBE.



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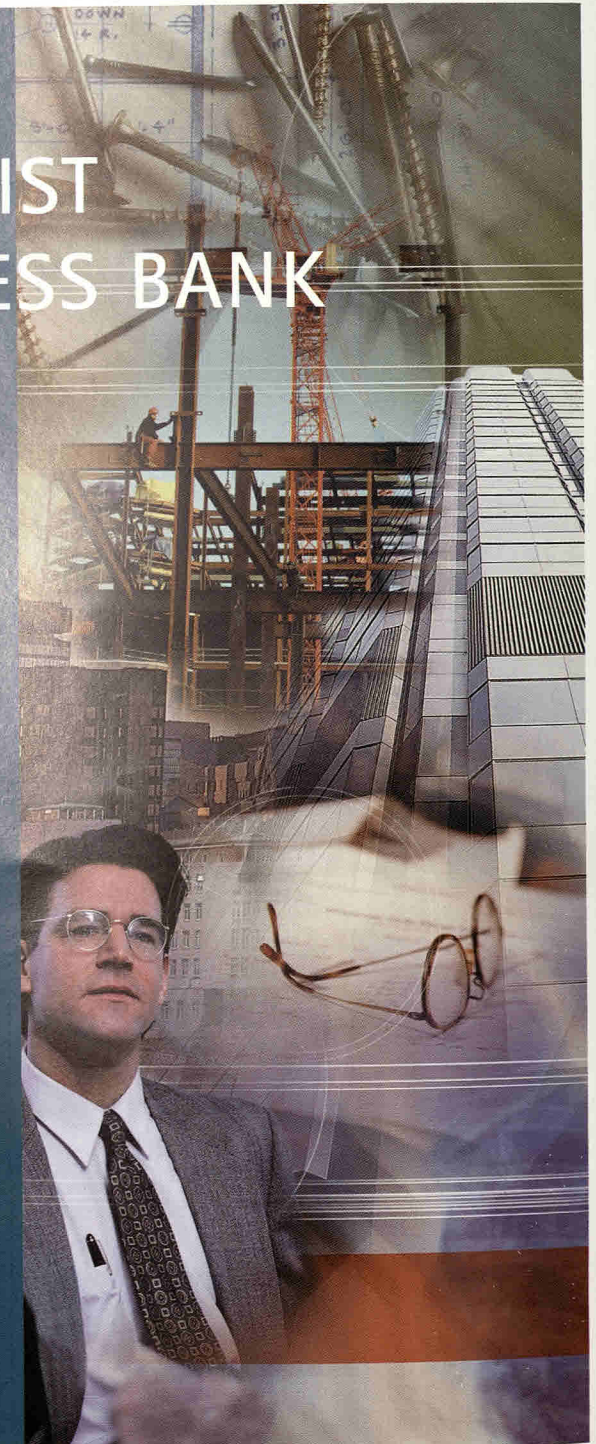
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Literature

The Literature Award Winner: Marie Jones

MARIE JONES, writer of the West End hit play *Stones In His Pockets*, came to writing late in life. In the early 1980s Marie helped to found the theatre group *Charabanc*, because there were no decent parts for actresses. Encouraged by *Charabanc*'s then writer-in-residence, Martin Lynch to take up her pen Marie found out that she was a dab hand at this writing malarkey.

It was when Marie linked up with her director husband Ian McElhinney – who she first met in 1980 – on *Stones In His Pockets* that she really came to the public's attention.

The play traces the mini-invasion of a Co. Kerry village by a group of Hollywood film moguls and has been a smash hit. However, while the Kerry inhabitants - who are employed as extras - are initially overwhelmed by the free food and modest pay, they soon come to resent the Oirish farce in which they are appearing.

Two runs at the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn, London was followed up this year by a successful run at the Ambassador's Theatre in London's West End. The production has already been translated into five languages and a script has been written for a feature film.

Stones In His Pockets has now transferred to the Duke of York Theatre, following hot on the heels of Irishman Conor McPherson's play *The Weir*. *Stones In His Pockets* will also be staged on Broadway to wow New York audiences when it opens on St. Patrick's Day next year.

The husband and wife duo have teamed up again to work on a new play, *Ruby*, based on Northern Irish 1950s singer Ruby Murray. The play opens at Belfast Opera House in October.



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Business

The Business Influence Award Winner: Terry Leahy

Terry Leahy, who is 44, was appointed Chief Executive of Tesco PLC in March 1997.

Born in 1956 to Irish parents, he was educated at St. Edward's College, Liverpool, and then went on to the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology where he gained his BSc (Hons) in management sciences.

Mr Leahy joined Tesco in 1979 as a marketing executive and was promoted to Marketing Manager in 1981. From 1984 to 1986 he held the position of Marketing Director for Tesco Stores Ltd. He was appointed Commercial Director of Fresh Foods in 1986. He was appointed to the Board of Tesco PLC as Marketing Director in 1992, and became Deputy Managing Director in February 1995.

He is a member of the DEMOS Advisory Council.

Married with three children, Mr Leahy enjoys sport, reading, theatre and architecture in his spare time.



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**Congratulations
to all the winners**

Music

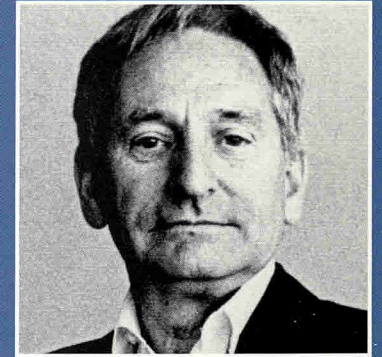
Lifetime Achievement Award for Music

Winner:
Lonnie Donegan

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mean fiddler



Hailing from a Glasgow-Irish background, Lonnie Donegan is quite simply the man who brought rock, specifically skiffle, music to Britain.

Born Anthony Donegan in 1931 initially drummed for the Wolverines Jazz Band before playing banjo with Ken Colyer and, famously, Chris Barber.

In the '50s Lonnie electrified a generation with the old Huddie Ledbetter song Rock Island Line, which was a hit in the United States. The song inspired and paved the way for The Beatles, Van Morrison and others.

His unique nasal voice set him apart from the masses of indistinguishable British vocalists looking for chart action.

Between 1956 and 1962 Lonnie astonishingly produced 34 hits. Some of his most popular skiffle songs - which were inspired by American folk songs - often assimilated British music-hall themes.

This style was best shown on My Old Man's A Dustman and Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour On The Bedpost Overnight? Some of Lonnie's other best-known songs include Don't You Rock Me Daddy-O and Jimmy Brown The Newsboy.

An Ivor Novello Award which, in 1995 reawakened the public's interest in Lonnie, was followed by last year's critically-acclaimed Muleskinner Blues album.

Lonnie has experimented with bluegrass, Cajun and Appalachian music in his time. This year Lonnie came full circle when he joined forces with his old friend Chris Barber to team up with Van Morrison on a new album, The Skiffle Sessions - Live From Belfast.



Music

The Newcomers Music Award. Winner: Samantha Mumba

Before Samantha Mumba left school last year she knew she had a record deal to look forward to. The latest pop act to sign to Boyzone and Westlife manager Louis Walsh's roster, there was no surprises when her upbeat, R&B debut single, *Gotta Tell You*, crashed into the singles charts at number two in June. By then the 17-year-old could already be regarded as a music business veteran in Dublin, having landed the lead in a modern take on Gilbert and Sullivan opera *The Hot Mikado* in September 1998. That was quickly followed by several appearances on Irish TV shows where her vocal talents were showcased. A member of the Billie Barry Stage School, Samantha met impresario Walsh in a Dublin club 18 months ago and joined his music stable of exclusive pop acts. Soon after, she was snapped up by Polydor Records. A whirlwind two years culminates with the release of her debut album, also titled *Gotta Tell You*, in October. However, don't think Samantha is all style and no substance. "I'm black and I'm from Ireland," says Samantha. "There are a lot of female artistes my age around at the moment, but they're all American and blonde and blue-eyed and smiley. "I'm totally the opposite of that. I want to show a bit more attitude and that I have an opinion."



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Music

The Music Award 2000. Winner: Noel Gallagher

Oasis star Noel Gallagher is one of the most gifted and successful songwriters to have emerged in this country over the last decade. Born in Manchester to Irish parents Thomas and Margaret, Gallagher has sold out stadium gigs and sold millions of records the world over. Oasis topped the charts in 1994 with their debut album *Definitely Maybe* and has been one of the most prominent figures in British music ever since. In 1996, after the release of the band's second and even more successful album *What's The Story Morning Glory?*, Oasis played in front of 125,000 people at Knebworth. "This is history," declared Noel to the crowd and few could argue with him. For the first time since the 1970s rock'n'roll was the most popular music around. Noel was invited to drinks with Prime Minister Tony Blair along with all the other movers and shakers who helped give rise to the Cool Britannia optimism that swept Britain. Oasis, and their arch rivals Blur, filled the top slots in the charts and Noel's songs were heard everywhere from football terraces to nightclubs. Subsequent albums *Be Here Now* and *Standing on the Shoulders* did not enjoy the same critical success but still managed to enter the charts at number one. In the interim the band has experienced difficult times. Founder members Paul 'Bonehead' Arthurs and Paul 'Guigsy' McGuigan have left and Noel's reported disputes with brother and lead singer Liam regularly appear in the press. However, Oasis remained hugely popular and this summer Noel played in front of a sold-out Landsdowne Road in Dublin. A couple of weeks ago he turned up to see his beloved Celtic's incredible 6-2 defeat of Rangers. The delighted home fans celebrated with a rendition of Noel's song *Roll With It*. "It got me right in the heart," he said.



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