



## **Mayor Honours Limerick Panto Society on 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Mayor of Limerick, Kevin Kiely held a Mayoral reception in honour of the Limerick Panto Society on Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup>. The Society will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> annual production when it stages Cinderella in the University Concert Hall this festive season. The Society was founded in 1985 with the objective of creating and keeping alive a Panto tradition in Limerick.

The first production was staged in the Crescent Hall in December 1985 and January 1986 and the classic tale of Cinderella was the popular choice. The society had a number of very successful years at the O'Connell Street venue before eventually moving to the Belltable Arts Centre where the group went from strength to strength – in it's final year at the Belltable a staggering 30 performances were required such was the demand.

The Society being an amateur group could not sustain that number of shows and so the bold decision was taken to move to the more spacious University Concert Hall again the Society has thrived and this year will stage 10 performances at the venue.

Speaking at the reception the Mayor paid tribute to the Society and praised the people involved on reaching this wonderful milestone. The Mayor stressed the importance of the group to the cultural life of the city and the joy that the group brings to the people of Limerick each festive season. The Mayor paid tribute to the sponsors without whom it would not be possible to continue the great work done by the Society. Indeed Mayor Kiely was fulsome in his praise of all involved not forgetting the Stage Schools who play such an important role in the development of our young people. He also noted the contribution made to various Children's Charities.

Councillor Ger Fahy – a great friend and patron of the Society - also spoke of the importance of supporting the shows and all festive activities in the Mid-west region. Councillor Fahy made the point that in the times we are now going through the Panto Society was more important than ever and the joy and laughter that will be experienced by all those who attend the shows was never so badly needed. He went on to express his admiration for the group and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

Tony Cusack, Director of the Panto Society, accepted a special limited edition commemorative medal from the Mayor and framed Limerick Lace with the City's Coat of Arms. Tony thanked the Mayor and to mark the occasion made a presentation on behalf of all those involved, to the Mayor He paid tribute to all the people who had contributed to the success of the Society. He spoke of the hard work already underway in preparation for this year's show, Cinderella. He said that all within the group were excited at once again entertaining the people of the Mid-West.

*Photos from the Mayoral Reception are in the gallery section of the Limerick Panto Society Website, or from [this link](#)*