

Cloudy

Partly cloudy to cloudy tonight with a chance of showers. Low tonight 35 to 48. Clearing Saturday with the high 55 to 60.

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JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 17, 1972



Ready for Ireland

The Rev. John Long, Little Theatre director (left), shows actors Mrs. Michael Riley and Bruce Truesdale a map of Ireland. The local troupe announced today that about 25

members will travel to Cork, Ireland, in June to perform two plays during a two-week engagement. (News Tribune Photo)

Little Theatre sets showing in Ireland

Members of the Little Theatre troupe will take to the air this June via Irish Airlines to stage a performance that has been called a "first" in Jefferson City, in Missouri and in the United States.

The Jefferson City theatre group trip to Cork, Ireland, will mark the first time an American company has appeared at the opera house there.

Cork is located in the southern part of Ireland in Cork County, with a population of more than 300,000.

The local players will perform where notable companies such as Sadler Wells Ballet, Abbey Players and Rambert Ballet Company have walked the stages. Enrico Caruso, Jose Iturbi, Margot Fontaine and other individual performers also have entertained at the Cork Opera.

The Little Theatre group was invited to Cork as a result of a visit last summer to Jefferson City by Michael Murphy, a professor at the University of Cork.

Murphy, who is engaged to a former Helias High School student, Miss Mary Rieks, attended a Little Theatre performance here of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Murphy's enthusiasm for the Pulitzer Prize winning "American" show prompted him to mention it to the manager of the Cork Opera House, William Twomey.

Long-range plans were soon perfected through the Rev. John Long, Helias drama director and pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville.

Father Long, who was born in Cork and ordained in Kilkenny, Ireland, engineered the plan for the Europe "airlift" to bring the Little Theatre amateurs to Cork.

As director of the Little Theatre, Father Long made final arrangements with Twomey to leave Jefferson City June 19 for a three-week run.

The productions to be presented at Cork are "The Fantasticks" and "How to Succeed in Business." They will be presented beginning June 26 with seven performances a week scheduled.

Father Long had conferences with professional technicians and the artistic director of the opera house, Patrick Murray, while in Ireland this January.

The Cork Opera House is to supply its entire professional staff of artisans, including a complete orchestra.

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Father Long will direct both shows and Edmund Wesley, former Lincoln University student, will be choreographer. Wesley presently is touring the U.S. with the national company of "Promises, Promises."

Robert Mitchell of Lincoln University will be musical conductor, with his wife to travel as accompanist.

The theatre troupe will include characters and dancers who appeared in the local productions.

They are: Clio Weber, Dave Bannister, Gary Vincent, Bruce Trandale, Jim and Julie Schell (Kansas City), Linda Crum.

Teresa Schepers, Jerry Eck, A. J. Higgins, Chuck Jones, Wyn Hiley, Mark O'neill, Larry Hugen, Maria Knezel, Sharon Sagers, Wilma Yarrington, Melinda Sears, Julie DeLeon, Don Cook and Donna Miller are production assistants.

The chorus will be supplemented by members of the University of Cork Chorus.

A single performance of "The Fantasticks" will be presented in June at Richardson Auditorium as a benefit to defray travel expenses. A gala theatre night, including numerous vocalists and dancers is planned.

The travel project resulted from continuing efforts by the Little Theatre to establish a summer program for young talented people in the area.