



No go Zone

'BOYZ over' screamed the headline in the *News of the World* last week. "X-Factor judge Louis pulls plug and tells them to split!" The paper went on to report that Louis had become "too busy for Boyzone... and has told them that they're finished!" Keith Duffy, however, was having none of it. "Louis does his own thing and we're all busy doing our own things," he insisted. "Boyzone are still flying. We're doing a British tour over the summer. And the record company is really enthusiastic and planning a new CD."

Brave words, Keith, but low ticket sales, Stephen Gately's tragic death and the dent to the band's squeaky-clean family image caused by Ronan Keating's well-publicised affair last year haven't helped Boyzone's comeback one little bit. And although Showbiz knows that comparisons are odious, well... (coughs discreetly into hand)... take that...

It's not all bad news for Ronan, though, whose horse Great Huzzar came romping home a healthy 9/4 at the Roscommon races. Ronan took mile Yvonne along, to watch the redoubtable Wayne Lordan pull the three-year-old bay colt away from his nearest rival in the final furlong.

The horse was running in the Bude L1st colours, a syndicate of which Ronan is a part. No doubt Yvonne was quietly praying that this is the only horseplay Ronan gets up to this year.



Bleak prospects

THEY should never have left *The One Show* – but they don't need us to tell them that.

As it is, Christine Bleakley and Adrian Chiles are currently facing the axe from *Daybreak*, as, according to ITV sources, the show is 'horribly under-performing'.

There's a slight problem, though, in that Adrian and Christine have a deal that would involve a £4million pay-off, a sum that the channel is struggling to find – no wonder that they've grumpily dubbed them 'an expensive headache'.

The show started in September 2010 with a hefty 900,000 viewers; by January this had sunk to 300,000, and while it's since edged back up to around the 700,000 mark, it can't compete with rival shows on GMTV, or the BBC Breakfast, with its 1.5million viewers.

Despite the initial hype surrounding their move from the beds to TV, a source is quoted as saying: "People have had a look at Christine and Adrian in the mornings and said 'no thanks!'"

Although it's not all bad news, the Co. Down beauty has just got engaged to footballer boyfriend Frank Lampard while on holiday in LA.

No new release on the horizon

FANS of Messrs Hewson, Clayton, Evans and Mullen (and we know you're out there), be brave. U2 have revealed that there are no plans to release a new record this year, and we'll be lucky if we get one in 2012 – although the companion album to their last offering, *No Line on the Horizon*, may be in the shops by late 2012, if indied record shops still exist by then. Meanwhile, troubled Broadway show *Spiderman* for which Bono and the Edge wrote the soundtrack, finally opened to somewhat muted reviews.

However, brush all that aside: on June 24, the lads will be appearing at Glasnostbury. Showbiz is sure that U2 will give good value, but is strongly tempted to join those protesters who are targeting their headline performance to highlight the groups – shall we say – endemic tax affairs. Plans are afoot for a giant inflatable banner with the slogan 'Bono Pay Up!', spelled out in lights.

The *Guardian* newspaper quotes one of the organisers of the protest, a spokesman for Art Uncut, as saying: "Bono claims to care about the developing world, but U2 greedily indulges in the very kind of tax avoidance which is crippling the poor nations of this world."

In 2006 U2 transferred a sizeable chunk of their business affairs to the Netherlands, where tax breaks for artists are far more generous than they are in Ireland. Showbiz reckons that they'll need plenty of Dutch courage to face the crowds at the Pyramid Stage this year.

Paunching above his weight?

HE may be Ireland's sexiest export, but Colin Farrell is unlikely to win any hearts with his latest film role.

The Castleknock Casanova is almost unrecognisable as Bobby Pellit in the movie *Horrible Bosses*, which sees him star opposite Jennifer Aniston and Kevin Spacey (who first discovered Colin on the London stage in the late 1990s, flew him to LA and introduced him to his movie pals). Yes, fame can be that easy. Looking paunchy and with a comb-over covering his (fake) bald head, it's all a far cry from Colin's usual leading man image – but fans needn't fret. The lad's soon to return to the screen as a hot vampire (are there any other kind, these days?) in *Fright Night* – and as we know, every nice girl likes to give a bloodsucker an even break.



The lovely moans

WELL, it's an accolade of sorts, we guess: Peter Jackson's movie of Alice Sebold's novel *The Lovely Bones*, starring Irish teen-of-the-moment Saoirse Ronan, pictured, was the most complained-about film of 2010, according to new figures from the British Board of Film Classification.

The film, which received a '12 and Upwards' rating, revolves around the murder of a teenage girl – a subject so sensitive and disturbing that many cinema-goers felt that it should have been for adults eyes only.

Yet more shocking, however, to certain other filmgoers – and as a keen fan of *batfow*, Showbiz likes this very much – is that the film "glamorised smoking".

Showbiz can't help wondering if these were the same disaffected hordes who lodged a complaint to Disney over the fact that *The Princess And The Frog* depicted – wait for it – "woodoo and tarot cards", reckoning them unsuitable for a U-rated film.

But Showbiz's favourite bit? "There were several requests that the BBFC should indicate whether films advertised as a comedy are funny or not," the report noted.

Quite. If only the BBFC had offered such clarity over *Mrs Brown's Boys*, it would have saved us all such a lot of time.



Summer on stage



Above, Billy Roche's *Lay Me Down Sofly*. Inset: Owen McCafferty's *The Absence of Women*.

TWO great Irish plays will be staged at London's Tricycle Theatre this summer.

Presented by the West End Arts Centre in association with Moshouse, Billy Roche's *Lay Me Down Sofly* tells the story of the shady world of Delaney's Travelling Roadshow.

Set in rural Ireland in the early 60s, it looks at the daily comic and colourful world of the old travelling carnival.

When young runaway Emer arrives in search of her long lost father, and a challenge from a professional boxer is thrown into the ring, everything in this run-down sideshow is set to change forever.

Inhabiting a forgotten world that is nonetheless brimming with all too-familiar passions and human foibles, this promises to be a slice of vintage Roche.

First commissioned and premiered at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 2008, it follows Roche's acclaimed productions *The Westford Trilogy* and *The Cavaladers* and other much-loved tales of small-town Ireland.

See it from July 11 to August 6. The cast includes Gary Lydon, Michael O'Hagan, and newcomer Simone Kirby.

THEN in September Owen McCafferty's *The Absence of Women* arrives at the Tricycle.

presented by Lyric Theatre Belfast and directed by Rachel O'Riordan.

Gerry and laddy, two labourers from Belfast, face the end of their lives in a London based talking of the present and thinking of the past.

They argue about who has the biggest liver, the names of tube stations and whether they should go back to Belfast or not. But what are the women in their lives?

The Absence of Women is a funny and poignant play about the journey of two ordinary and lonely Belfast men.

It's a tale of life and its endless possibilities, missed opportunities and how one man's choice, in one instant, can alter the path of his life forever.

McCafferty has been described as the first truly great playwright of his time in Ireland to go beyond the clichés of political writing to document the lives of the men and women of his native town, Belfast.

His award-winning plays include *Shoot the Crow*, *No Place Like Home*, *Closing Time* and *Scenes from the Big Picture*.

See it from September 13 to October 8. The Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 7JX. Box Office 020 7328 1000.

Siobhán Breathnach

WIN

This two-disc DVD, set in Harlem Theatre and Toronto's Masonic Temple features all seven episodes of the second season of the show, plus bonus features. You can share in the passion of seven intriguing episodes of chords and conversation with superstar singers and songwriters, including: Bono and The Edge of U2, Bruce Springsteen, Sheryl Crow, Mary-Louise Parker, John Prine and Ray LaMontagne.

We have three copies up for grabs.

To win a copy, simply email your answer to the following question: name one of the singers that features on the DVD along with Costello?

Please send your answer along with name, address and contact telephone to competitions@tricyclepost.co.uk. Alternatively post your entry to: Costello Competition, The Irish Post, First Floor, West Wing, 26-28 Hammersmith Grove, Hammersmith W6 7HA.

The deadline for receiving entries is 5pm on 4 July 2011.

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