

Making the break from the Terrace: JIM SHERIDAN

Studies and political activities disrupted – and a bike out to Belfield

Film-maker Jim Sheridan started his university career in Earlsfort Terrace, studying English, history and philosophy under memorable lecturers such as Jim Mays, Gus Martin and Sister Bernenuta. He spent his idle hours in the Iveagh Gardens or hanging out in the physics theatre, where he met Neil Jordan and Frank Macken.

His first brush with artistic success was his college stage production – a “psychedelic” version of Oedipus Rex which was critically acclaimed and attracted thousands.

“It was 1972 and the production spoke about the North. I was very political in college, and spent a lot of my time at Earlsfort in Gaj’s Restaurant, a political hotbed.

“The atmosphere at Earlsfort Terrace was very free, very

collegial, like an old-world college. We were right in the centre of town, drinking in Hartigans, relaxing in the Gardens – it was great.”

Sheridan remembers with sorrow the day when, in the middle of his undergrad years, his faculty was moved to the Belfield campus. “I had to buy a ratty old motorbike – no more walking to college from my home in Seville Place. I knew there was no point in protesting, the move was inevitable, but I never made my peace with Belfield.”

Sheridan started skipping lectures in Belfield and spending his time in the Trinity College library instead, or mingling with other artists in the arts labs on College Green. You can take the student out of the Terrace...

— Louise Holden



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