

◆ The vice-president of Boston College, William Neenan SJ, was in town during the week to present Tomás MacAnna with the university's Distinguished Alumnus Award, at the James Joyce Centre, in recognition of his contribution to Irish theatre and drama and his longstanding relationship with Boston College.

MacAnna's 60-year contribution to drama dates back to his 1947 appointment as producer of Gaelic plays (in effect artistic director for work in Irish) at the Abbey. He also directed at the Damer Theatre in the 1950s and 1960s, and served three terms as artistic director of the Abbey between 1966 and 1984, winning a Tony Award for the stage adaptation of Brendan Behan's *Borstal Boy*. In 1999, he was presented with a special award by the President Mary McAleese for his lifelong service to drama in the Irish language. MacAnna was a visiting director at Boston College in the 1985-1986 academic year, and on several occasions directed Boston College students at Boston College's Robsham Theater in such productions as *Ulysses in Nighttown* and *Cathleen Ní Houlihan* and was the guiding light for more than two decades of the Boston College Summer Programme at the Abbey Theatre, which brought more than 300 BC students to Ireland.