TRIBUNE ENTERTAINMENT

city limits

by STUART CLARK

Bard At It -

The Latest Video Releases

CITY LIMITS RATINGS GUIDE: The more stars the better.

I have to admit the prospect of wading through over two hours of Shakespeare was only marginally more appealing than a spot of skinnydipping at Sellafield. I'm not such a total charlatan that I can't appreciate why people admire his work but I still reckon the Great Bard is one of history's most overrated writers and wasn't exactly bracing at the bit to check out the latest big screen adaptation of **HENRY V (PG)**. *The biggest compliment I can pay the award winning film is that I didn't hit the fast forward button once, in fact the thought never even crossed my mind. Kenneth Branagh, who also directs, is quite superb in the* title role and leads a distinguished cast which reads like a 'who's who' of British theatre and includes Brian Blessed, Derek Jacobi, Judi Dench, Paul Scofield and Richard Briers. The Belfast wonderkid also manages to find room for his real life *amour* Emma Thompson who is absolutely delightful as the coy French Princess Katherine. Even though the new version stays slavishly close to the original, the breathtaking camera work and stunning locations breath new life into the epic saga. 'Henry V' is the perfect reintroduction to Shakespeare for people like me who never thought they liked him ! ***

Even the considerable talents of 'Brat Packer' Kiefer Sutherland can't rescue **CHICAGO JOE AND THE SHOWGIRL (18)** from the realms of the mundane. Set in blitz-torn World War Two London, this cheapo British production casts Donald's little boy as an American G.I. who strikes up a sort of 'Bonnie & Clyde' relationship with Hammersmith tart Emily Lloyd. The decidedly odd couple start committing crimes purely for kicks but eventually push their luck too far and end up battering a taxi driver to death during an attempted robbery. What could have been an interesting psychological drama is spoilt by some unforgivably inept performances with singer, now allegedly turned actress, Patsy Kensit the worst offender. A classic case of an 'Ordinary Joe'. *

If, like me, your teenage days are a fast fading memory I'm sure you'll appreciate the finer points of **I'M GONNA GET YOU SUCKA (18)** which gently takes the rise out of all those *blaxploitation* movies like 'Shaft' which were so popular in the early seventies. A perfectly measured mix of action and comedy, the film is jam packed with crass macho posturing, car chases and shoot outs and features wickedly funny performances from Antonio Fargas, Starsky & Hutch's 'Huggy Bear', and original *bad dude* Jim Brown Hayes. ***

Emma Thompson and hubby Kenneth Branagh in 'Henry V'.

DANCE NIGHT

CITY LIMITS regulars Toucandance appear on RTE 1's 'Puirini' tonight at 7.30 pm with a repeat on Sunday at the slightly earlier time of 7.00 o'clock. The video for 'Green Eyes', their soon to be released debut single, was shot on location in Limerick with local producer Eugene O'Connor and lead singer Eamon Hehir says they're 'absolutely delighted' with the results. The 'dancer's have been keeping a low profile of late but will be stepping up live activity to coincide with the new record.

TOUCANDANCE

Bach Again Next Yea

Good news for classical music fans, the organisers of the Adare Festival were so pleased with the response to their Premiere Season that they've decided to turn the fortnight long programme into an annual event. They've already invited the resident New Jersey Symphony Orchestra back for 1991 and are lining up some 'special surprises' to tie in with Limerick's Treaty 300 celebrations. T people packed into the Manor M quee last Sunday for the grand o which featured the N.J.S.O. and ist Barry Douglas performing w from Tchaikovsky, Borodin a Prokofiev. The crowd were treate some superb music and a m volley of cannonfire to bring proc ings to a close !

And Vinylly . . . .

The Week's Hot New Releas

JILL SOBULE "Things Here Are Different" (MCA). I probably know more about the mating habits of the Tanzanian Ttse Fly than I do Jill Sobule but, going by the glossy pic on the cover, she's a far more enticing prospect than any creepy crawly. Best described as Cyndi Lauper with Suzanne Vega's social conscience, Nashville based Ms. Sobule has a remarkable voice which switches from little girl lost to woman of the world with consummate ease.

Greying rocker Todd Rundgren deserves a hefty pat on the back, his squeaky clean production is the perfect showcase for her talents and turns tracks like 'Evian' and 'The Gifted Child' into works of genuine beauty. 'So Kind' is probably the album's finest moment, the tale of a battered wife who stands by her husband because, quite simply, she still loves him. Whether Jill's speaking from personal experience I don't know but there's a gritty realism to the song people like Tanita Tikarem and Tracey Chapman would *kill* for. One of this year's more impressive debuts.

THE CRANBERRY SAW US "Water Circle" (Demo). It doesn't happen very often but once in a blue moon a new band comes along and you say to yourself "this could be the start of something big". Latest Limerick hotshots The Cranberry Saw Us are still a long way away from a record deal but if they can develop some of the deft little touches on this, their second tape, could be serious contenders by Christmas. The Cranberries got off to a bit of a false start last year when they were formed pretty much as a vehicle for the songs Niall Quinn didn't feel were suitable for his own band The Hitchers. The arrangement was never intended to be permanent and when Niall was forced to quit due to other commitments the rest of the lads were left with the long and often frustrating search for a new lead singer. They weren't really sure what they were looking for but when they stumbled across Laurel Hill sixth former Dolores they knew they'd found it. A total newcomer to the local rock scene, the lass sounds for all the world like Kirsty McColl's younger sister and has a deliciously unaffected, almost *innocent* style which wouldn't seem out of place on an All About Eve record.

The opening cut, 'Sunday', is the band's trump card. Boasting a naggingly infectious hookline and lush keyboards, it's a beautifully understated pop song dominated by Dolores' multi-tracked vocals. 'Linger' is more of the same, this time showcasing Noel's Cure-*ish* guitar work and Fergal's sparse but effective drumming. 'A Fast One' begs comparison with Wicklow Indie darlings The Would Be's and is already one of the highlights of their live set. 'Chrome Paint' is the only disappointment. The moody, atmospheric song calls for a hint of menace but Dolores' tasteful warblings are just far too *pleasant* .

You tend to get very cynical in this job but The Cranberry's youthful exuberance is contagious and in some ways, after hearing 'Water Circle', I hope they never grow up !

THE SAW DOCTORS "I Useta Lover" (Solid Records 7"). Tuam's Saw Doctors don't deserve to be classed as chums but that's exactly what's happe them since supporting The Wa last year and having their debut produced by Mike Scott. Ther helped by a line-up which Mandolin, Accordion and Organ but that's pretty much comparisons end and the ban stamp their own identity on release, 'I Useta Lover'. Despi palling grammar (don't they anything in school these da well executed piece of Coun em tomfoolery which owes debt of gratitude to Chris Moving Hearts. Leadsinger ability to turn even a riotous singalong and hear he hasn't traded in for something a little The B-side features a ra frankly instrumental called Fiddles' and ends up of 'I Useta Lover' which 1981. Seriously, it's a this recording is a hope for everyone.