

WELCOME HOME

The most successful Limerick band ever have come home for Christmas, with US sales of over one million albums in the bag.

Dolores O'Riordan, Noel and Mike Hogan and Fergal Lawlor are The Cranberries and they've hit the big time - their Everybody else is doing

it so why can't we? album is the most successful debut ever produced by an Irish band. A good product, college radio airplay and a

smart marketing strategy in the United States have helped them make it to the big time.

Their first single, 'Linger', has also entered the Billboard Top 20.

The band flew into Shannon from the west coast of America this Tuesday afternoon to a warm welcome from fans and press. They'll be the guests of honour at a reception hosted by the Mayor in City Hall this Friday and will later play a packed gig at the Theatre Royal. The following day they'll head for Dublin's Tivoli Theatre. It's a far cry from the huge stadiums which the Cranberries have been playing across the USA, but it's where they've come

from....it's home.

It's not that long since Dolores and the boys were playing alongside other young Limerick bands struggling to break into the big time. Originally called The Cranberry Saw Us, the lineup didn't even include young Ms. O'Riordan, a native of Ballybricken. Then there was something of an image change in 1990 and it wasn't long before major record labels started sniffing around. The band signed to Island Records the following year and the rest is fast becoming part of rock legend. Other bands have tried to crack the American

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market, most notably Tuesday Blue, but the Cranberries appear to be the right band at the right time. Dolores writes the lyrics and Noel writes the music - that combined with the musical talents of all four is set to make them not only popular, but also rich.

"We're delighted", Dolores told reporters this week, "it's good that we've made history for our country and for Limerick".



The Cranberries - Fergal Lawlor, Dolores O'Riordan, Mike Hogan and Noel Hogan on their arrival at Shannon Airport this week.