

# Margaret of New Orleans Birthplace

[www.margaretofneworleans.com](http://www.margaretofneworleans.com)

*Bernie O'Rourke*



CARRIGALLEN PASTORAL council organised a mass to commemorate the penal times. The Mass was held in the townland of Tully on a lovely August Sunday evening in the year 2000. The mass was celebrated by the late Monsignor John A Young, and afterward a tea party was held at the home of Loughlin and Mae McManus. As the evening was coming to a close two women arrived making enquiries about Margaret of New Orleans and her birthplace, a discussion followed and a few of the locals said that a memorial should be erected or some form of recognition should be made in her memory.

On the 19th Jan 2008 a meeting was held and JP Farrelly, Drumderglin and owner of the land, donated the site, where Margaret was born, to the newly formed committee. A decision was made to erect a replica house in her memory—the committee now had a site and voluntary workers, but no money. Fund raising followed in the form of a coffee morning, thatching day and voluntary subscriptions. Sufficient funds were raised to get the project of the ground, ie form company, insurance, purchase materials and thatching. The labour was all voluntary and is much appreciated by the committee.

The house is built of mud and is the standard size for it's time. The well on the site, always known as *Margarets Well*, was also restored. The house was thatched, this part of the project was not voluntary. The house was completed in Oct 2009.

On the 10th Sept 2008 a party from New Orleans visited Tully, they were met by the committee, neighbors and local dignitaries. They were so impressed with the project that they returned this year for a longer period. The committee organised entertainment and the Leitrim Youth Theatre Company, Carrigallen, performed the production of 'Our story of Margaret of New Orleans', written and produced by Maura Williamson.

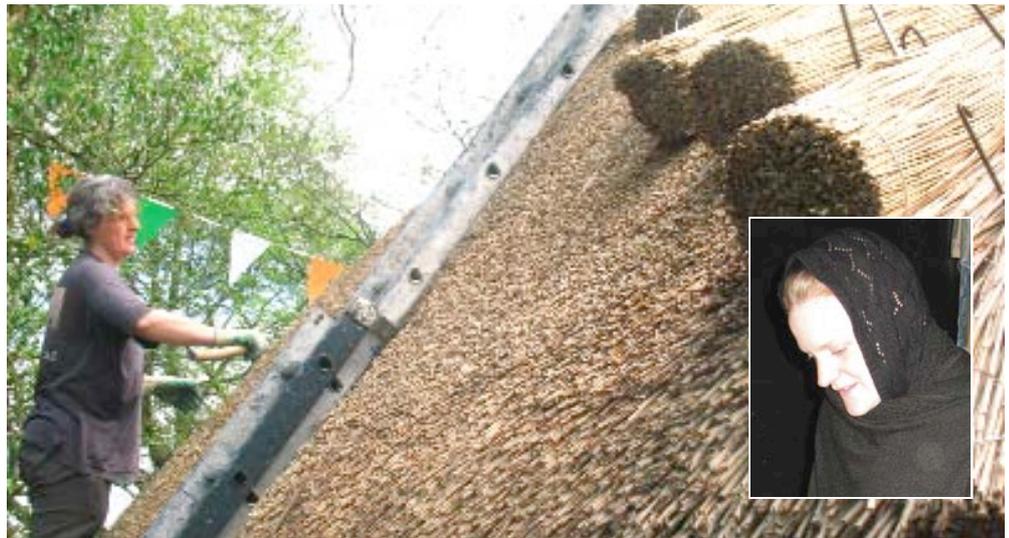
The committee are pleased that the project is virtually complete and happy that Margaret has been remembered and will be by future generations. They are grateful to all to all that gave their time, labour and finance, without all of these that project would not have been possible.



■ *Monsignors McCabe & Young concelebrate Mass at the Mass Rock, Tully*



■ *Two Margarets take their bow: Reichelle Payler & Kate Rilly* PHOTO: IONA FAHY



■ *Above: Thatching the roof.* ■ *Inset: Mary Harte who sang in the production*



■ *Below: The final re-furbished house of Margaret of New Orleans*



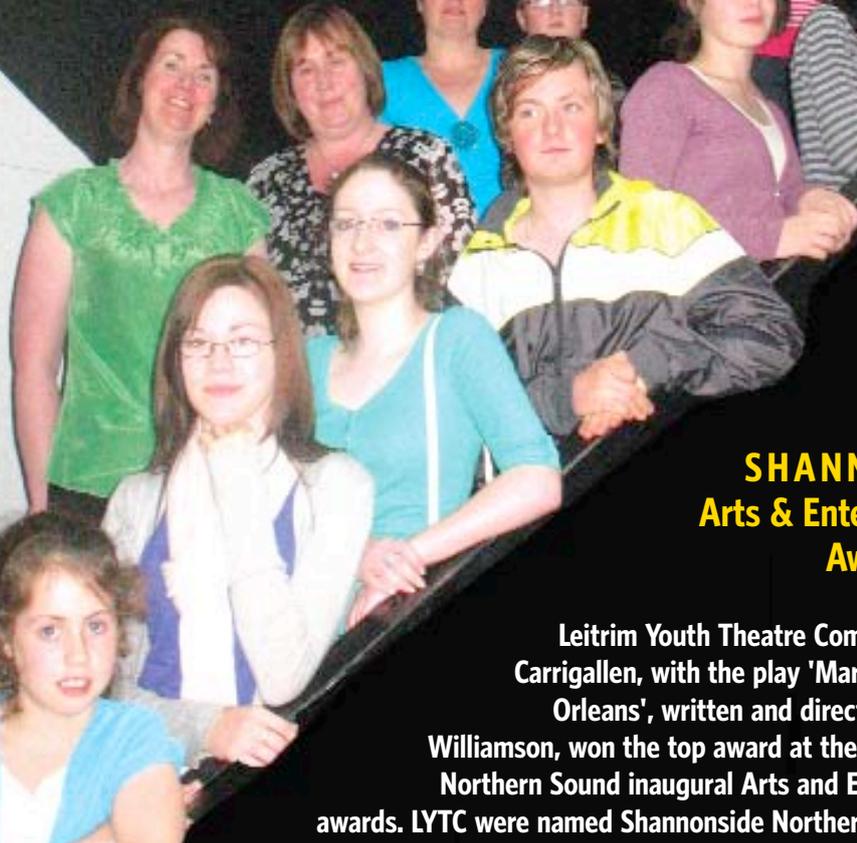
■ *Local NS Principal and Athletics Trainer: Joe Doonan, who championed Margaret for over fifty years on the school curriculum*

# LYTC



■ Above: Members of LYTC Carrigallen with Danny O'Flaherty and his party from New Orleans at the last night in the Corn Mill.

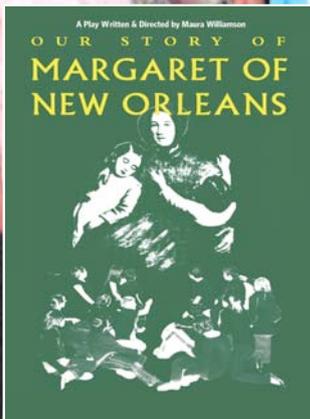
■ Right: with parents and family members at the award ceremony for the Shannonside Arts & Entertainment Awards in the Cavan Institute in Cavan town.



## SHANNONSIDE Arts & Entertainment Award 2009

Leitrim Youth Theatre Company (LYTC), Carrigallen, with the play 'Margaret of New Orleans', written and directed by Maura Williamson, won the top award at the Shannonside Northern Sound inaugural Arts and Entertainment awards. LYTC were named Shannonside Northern Sound Arts and Entertainment award winner for 2009. Twelve finalists from across the region attended the awards ceremony at the Cavan Institute. Presenter of the Arts Hour, Roisin Cooper, said that 'the Leitrim Youth Theatre was chosen for its creative use of theatre in keeping local history alive by making it accessible to a wider audience'. In making their decision, the judging panel focused on unique, innovative, challenging and interesting projects performed or produced to a high standard.

Longford, the Killnaleck Choir, and the Boyle Singers Circle were runners-up. LYTC, as winners, received a cheque for €1000 and will hold the prestigious title for one year.



Composite Photo by Tony Fahy