

Another side of ...

Liz Finegan, ATC Dublin

Having been introduced to tap-dancing at an early age, Liz Finegan from ATC was soon bitten by the performing bug and then very quickly graduated to competitive dancing.



As she grew up, she had a great deal of success, winning many trophies before standing back from competitions in her early teens.

However, the pull of the stage was too strong and, through a friend, she started to dance with the famous Lorraine Barry in Dublin. Her objective at the time was to have some fun, benefit from the exercise, and enjoy the singing and dancing.

Her interest in variety shows was sparked by a chance meeting with people who were rehearsing for a show. She made further enquiries, and before she knew it, she had an audition and got a part in a group performing in

the Aer Lingus Variety Show at the Olympia Theatre. So began an enduring love-affair with musical and variety show performance.

She is currently a member of the Rush Musical Society and is invariably involved in one, if not two, shows per year. When in rehearsals, it is very intense with at least two practice sessions a week to begin with, and this increases as the opening night draws near. On top of that, there are the costume fittings, not to mention the various fund-raising initiatives, as this is amateur dramatics.

“At times it is very demanding on quite a number of fronts,” says Liz, “but

I love it. The excitement of performing, the buzz of the adrenalin rush when on stage, the crowd applauding and even the total exhaustion at the end of a run ... I would not change it for the world.

“For me, being involved in musical theatre is like being part of an extended family. It is a community where everyone knows one another and, for the most part, are good friends. Outside of performing together we also socialise and go to see other groups performing.



“An added bonus is that my husband is also involved in variety shows and, I must confess, our happy lives together all began when we met when we were both performing in *Chicago*.” ■

Above: Liz as she appeared in *Curtains*.

Left: Appearing in *Mack and Mabel* (fourth from left), one of her favourite shows.

Both images were taken at the Millbank Theatre, the home of the Rush Dramatic Society.

