

Winning end for Clara's 'Beauty and the Beast'.

A large group of about thirty Clara Musical Society members and supporters were on hand to cheer as the 'HB AIMS National Awards Ceremony began in the INEC Killarney on Saturday night (June 19th). After dinner the fun began as all the nominees from the 980 crowd gathered in front of the stage to await their category and results.

Clara's 'Beauty and the Beast' were nominated in seven categories and put in a very strong showing taking the two top group awards 'Best Technical' for lights (Ronan Kenny), set (Damian Cornally, Wayne Handy and Tommy Scanlon) and sound (Derek Recks, who had two wins winning in the same category with Balinrobe in the Gilbert section with 'The Pirate Queen') and 'Best Visual' for costumes (Mary Cornally and Liz Rickard, who made them all by hand) Make up (Anne o' Sullivan) and Props (Edel Kennedy). Unfortunately individual nomination awards were harder to come by and Ultan Keena (Best Supporting Actor), James Paradise (Best Actor), Eoghan Fingleton (Best male singer) and Alan Recks (Best Musical Director) had to settle for runner up trophies but all were thrilled even to be nominated and to finish as one of the top three in the country in their categories.

The last award of the night was the big one, 'Best overall show' Sullivan section. Clara were nominated in this category with Sligo, Boyle, Kilkenny and Dundalk. 1st place went to Boyle (Jesus Christ Superstar), 2nd to Kilkenny (Oliver) and Clara supporters lifted the roof with 3rd place and another trophy for the display cabinet which was collected by a very proud chairman Tommy Scanlon. Ten trophies in one night made for a very early morning of celebrating and a great end to a fantastic year for Clara Musical Society, without doubt their most successful to date.