



Sheila McGibbon — Arts play a labour of love.

## Sheila has happy memories of Juno

**PLAYING** Mrs. Tancred in "Juno and the Paycock" at the Arts Theatre brings such sweet memories flooding back for actress Sheila McGibbon.

For the first time she ever saw the Sean O'Casey play was in the Thirties when the famous Abbey Theatre company came north with the production to the Opera House.

"I can still see that great actor **F. J. McCormick** up there on the stage in front of me and **Eileen Crowe** as Juno and **Michael Dolan** as the Captain.

"They're all dead now, but ever since that night O'Casey has been alive for me. I love his plays and love working in them."

F. J., recalls Sheila, went on to Hollywood and a career in films.

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"He was in 'Odd Man Out'; that famous movie about the IRA, with **James Mason**, who had a memorable death scene and was seen seated in a snug of the Crown Bar, opposite the Opera House.

"F. J. was a cabby in 'Odd Man Out' — it must have brought back memories of Juno for him when the cameras were rolling outside the Crown only yards from the Opera House."

Sheila's mum, **Mary** (dad was professional actor **Jack Gavin** from whom she inherited a love of the theatre), is 90 now and remembers McCormick coming to Belfast again in 1935.

He was adjudicator at a drama festival in St. Mary's Hall where Sheila, only a child, was performing.

"I was embarrassed because the adjudicator was a family friend," she recalls.

These days, turning in three performances a day in a work by her favourite playwright, Sheila McGibbon is in her element.

### AN ULSTER LOG



By **Eddie McIlwaine**

However, with our landscapes ever changing into the Eighties, the talk by a man called McCord comes at an appropriate time.

### Eliza returns

THE Circle Theatre are staging an action replay — the drama group are putting on their second production of Shaw's "Pygmalion" in a matter of months. You could say the wheel has gone full circle.

"The first in November was highly praised and played to full houses every night," says **Irene Maxwell**.

So what better reason for putting it on a second time. Especially when a lot of schools eager to take it in couldn't get tickets back then.

"Pygmalion," the second time around, will go on from tonight until Saturday. **Harry Montgomery** and **Debbie Davidson** will repeat their roles as Professor Higgins and Eliza Doolittle. Director again will be **Cathleen Arthurs**. And the production is at the Group Theatre.