

# The Echo

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The Echo: Cowboys Ted. Cowboys.

Sporting thought for the week:

“He turned Phil Jones inside out so many times that his bandages loosened” *Gary Lineker*

## Magic Mike XXS

Claretian Charlie O'Donnell has this week opened up about his shattered dreams of making it in on the West End stage.

In an emotional and far-reaching interview with *The Echo*, the rising star told our reporter about his recent unsuccessful audition for the Magic Mike XXL Live extravaganza currently showing in London's Hippodrome.

“I was made up when I got the call to the auditions” said Charlie. “I'd applied some time ago but had kind of forgotten about it. Then I received a call asking me to go to an audition up town.

“They seemed to love me up there. I got through the first few stages without any hassle. During the headshot photoshoot, the photographer told me that the camera absolutely loved me, and then they did the chest and bicep section and they were hugely impressed by my physique” O'Donnell continued.

Reflecting on the work that he'd put in to get into shape, Charlie confessed that he started off by doing just two press-ups every morn-

ing and stuck to that regime religiously. “That was last July” he said. “And I'm now up to five every morning, regardless of how drunk I was the night before. I'm very focused.”

Looking back on the audition, Charlie recognised that the competition was tough, but he thought he had made it when the producers gave him the suggestive stage name *Codpiece*, a clever play on his initials C.O.D.

“I honestly thought I was home and dry when they gave me the stage name *Codpiece*. They seemed really chuffed with it themselves and then they asked me to the week-end residential for dance rehearsals and what they termed as ‘other’ activities”, an increasingly distressed O'Donnell revealed.

“It turned out that the ‘other’ activities involved nudity in order for the producers to decide who would be able to go forward for the stage show in the Hippodrome. It was at that point that they pointed out that maybe *Codpiece* was a bit of an exaggeration and that probably *Pickled Eel* might have been a more appropriate name. They suggested that maybe I should consider coming back if they ever

decide to put on a show called *Mini-Mike*”.

Undeterred by the brutal experience, O'Donnell told *The Echo* that he still intends to use his body to express himself on stage in the future, although attempts to join the cast of *The Full Monty* have also failed, with producers suggesting to O'Donnell that he should wait for a growth spurt before trying again!



Charlie O'Donnell: auditioning as Codpiece

### Bag-gate

Questions were being asked of Ronan Gaughan last week, after a bag containing an assortment of sports gear mysteriously ended up in the boot of his car. The Mayo native has been in the news recently after he held on to a consignment of football jerseys that had been donated for flood victims in Africa.

One unnamed club insider simply said: “The guy's got form with this sort of thing. What more can you say!”

### Home is where the Hansard is!

Big hearted Claretian Sean McGorry was this week at the centre of a Garda investigation in Dublin after one of his good deeds went wrong.

The popular Cavan native has developed a reputation for selfless charitable acts of kindness during his time with St Clarets. However, his most recent project resulted in a nationwide manhunt as detectives across Ireland tried to track down the whereabouts of Oscar-winning singer-songwriter Glen Hansard.

Detectives in Cootehill were finally able to locate The Frames frontman

in the remote parish of Drumgoon, near Killeshandra, after watching CCTV footage of the scruffy Hansard being approached by a man wearing a Cavan jersey on Grafton Street last Saturday.

Hansard had been taking a break from one of his regular charity busking sessions in Dublin City



Stockholm Syndrome: Hansard (right) and his jailer McGorry.

centre, when McGorry spotted him huddled in a corner, sheltering from the rain, drinking from a paper cup.

It was at this point McGorry decided to take pity on the person he thought was a homeless hobo and bundled him into the back of a CN registered Toyota Hiace van.

Once located, trained Garda hostage negotiators were able to secure a relieved Hansard's safe release.

An embarrassed McGorry was understandably apologetic about the misunderstanding, but that didn't stop Hansard slapping a restraining order on him. Meanwhile, London Mayor Sadiq Khan has banned McGorry from all tube stations where there is a busking zone.