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GERRY'S VIDEOS ARE A LATE LATE SHOW

Funeral director



Mass media... cameraman Gerry records moving memorials on DVD



‘We can record it for those abroad’

HERE'S one film director who never moans about wooden performances — for the stars of his flicks are in coffins.

And cameraman Gerry Duffy, 50, knows that when filming funerals, it's the plot that counts.

It's of grave importance he gets it right to help mourners through the grieving process.

But recording requiems is certainly not a dying trade as Gerry's business is booming.

The video photographer from Dundalk, Co Louth, said: "There has been a huge increase in demand in the last two years especially."

"In 2009, we did nine funerals compared to 38 last year. We have

EXCLUSIVE
By **EMMA McMENAMY**

already done 16 so far this year so it's likely the number will be up yet again by the end of 2011."

Gerry's regular trade is recording weddings and corporate events, but for €450 he'll film the final curtains.

The father-of-three, who has already recorded 150 funerals, said: "I have been in the wedding video industry for 32 years and it's only in the last few years that people have started requesting me to film the funeral service."

"A lot of the business we get is from people who live abroad and can't get back to Ireland in time for a loved one's funeral."

"They don't want to miss the mass

and ask us to record it and send it to them so they can share the experience. It helps with the grieving process."

"A lot more funeral directors are now aware of what we do too which has helped get the word out there."

Gerry said he was first asked to video a funeral 10 years ago for the parents of an 11-year-old girl.

HEALING

He said: "They wanted to remember the event as they felt it would help them with the healing process."

"They took solace from it. It was a crutch for them during that hard time."

who has passed but we soon forget what was said."

"Most people on the day of the funeral don't know who attended, their grief is so overwhelming."

And he said that he gets requests to film funerals from all over the world.

He added: "I had one lady who wanted her husband's funeral recorded because his first wife couldn't get home from Canada and she wanted his first family to be part of his passing."

Gerry says the whole process is handled very tastefully.

He said: "It's all done very discreetly."

"People have this imagery of cameras in the graveyard and chasing hearses but that's not what happens. It's literally just the mass. "A funeral should be a celebration of that person's life."

‘Film helps with grieving process’

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