

SUSIE LONG HOSPICE FUND: PRESS RELEASE

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STARS ON THE NIGHT

It was a case of “tonight George, I’m going to be....” in Kilkenny’s Set Theatre last night.

George Candler stepped into Matthew Kelly’s role for the charity ‘Stars on the Night’ contest.

The fundraiser was in aid of the Susie Long Hospice Fund, The Hope Foundation and the Kilkenny Kats Special Olympics Club.

Fionn Gardner and Alan Hayes from Thomastown wowed judges as ‘Jedward’ – but unlike the pop sensations – the Kilkenny youngsters were actually able to sing! The duo donned matching bright pink and green costumes and the trademark Jedward hairdos for an energetic performance of *Lipstick*.

Green councillor Malcolm Noonan swapped the council chamber for the stage with his rendition of Bob Dylan’s *The Times They Are A-Changin’* for the Susie Long Hospice Fund. Also representing the hospice fund were Arthur Drohan and Tom Kennedy. Arthur, who is best known for keeping the pints flowing in Ryan’s Bar, lit up the stage with *Everybody Needs somebody to Love*. Tom, who admits to being a Spice Girl fan, sang Billy Bragg’s *Between the Wars*.

It was Claire Henriques’ version of *Gloria* by Linda Branigan that stole the show for The Hope Foundation. Her ‘shimmy’ left the audience screaming for more and after a three-way sing-off against Jedward and Gemma Brennan aka Amy Winehouse, Claire took the top spot.

There was no sign of Simon Cowell or Louis Walsh but former Kilkenny Rose Orla O’Shea, Kilkenny People deputy editor Sean Keane and music man Canice Kenealy were judges on the night.

ENDS