



■ Douglas Fairbanks Jr in Ghost Story.

## WIN DVD of classic horror Ghost Story

CAN you name the last film Fred Astaire ever made? writes Alan Shaw.

What about Douglas Fairbanks Jr's farewell movie performance?

No? Right, can you name the picture that rang down the curtain on Melvyn Douglas's career?

Actually, it's a bit of a trick question as the answer to all three is Ghost Story.

One of the most talked-about horror movies of the 80s, this 1981 flick was the final feature of all three screen legends.

Astaire, named the Greatest Male Star of Old Hollywood by the American Film Institute, died six years later, aged 88, while fellow movie star Fairbanks Jr was 90 when he died in 2000.

Melvyn Douglas was a suave leading man in the 30s, appearing opposite the likes of Greta Garbo, later winning Supporting Actor Oscars for Hud and Being There.

Alas, he died four months before Ghost Story's release, aged 80.

And not only was this the last hurrah for this array of Hollywood royalty, it was also the first and only horror movie most of them ever made.

The film is a suitably-old-fashioned, chilling tale, completely unlike the blood-spattered films that pass for horror movies these days.

And the above trio, plus fellow veteran actor John Houseman were perfect to play four elderly friends who form the Chowder Society, an informal club in which they while away their dotage by telling each other scary stories.

But spooky fiction turns to terrifying fact when the quartet begin having nightmares featuring the same female apparition.

They have kept a dark secret for years but now their past is coming back to haunt them — yup, they literally have a skeleton in their closet.

We have six copies of the DVD to give away, courtesy of Aim Publicity.

To try for one, call 09010 105 075.

Then answer the following question and leave your name and address.

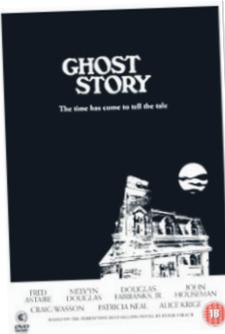
Who wrote the novel Ghost Story? A) Peter Purves B) Peter Straub or C) Peter Capaldi.

Calls will cost no more than 51p.

Or text WNEWS, followed by a space, then your name and answer, and send it to 63333.

Texts are charged at 50p plus standard network charge.

Lines close at midnight on Saturday, December 19.



# Anne Nolan's in the mood for cooking!

By Craig Campbell

**ANNE NOLAN will have the best Christmas present ever this year — the chance to sit down with her sisters and remember the one who's gone.**

Bernie Nolan, of course, tragically passed away two years ago after a battle with cancer, and there had been a time when the other Nolan sisters didn't get along.

Now, however, Anne will be doing the cooking — for lots more folk than she imagined! — and enjoying a singsong round the Christmas dinner table with her siblings.

And, as she reveals, she'll be making sure the late Bernie is in everyone's thoughts, even the toddlers who never knew her.

"One of the things we always do is to toast anybody who's not there, so obviously Bernie will be toasted," Anne reveals.

"In fact, the first time we sang Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas without Bernie, it was really quite sad.

"Some of the little ones are so young, they didn't know her. For instance, my little granddaughter will turn a year old two days after Christmas.

"When I go out and walk at night with my youngest grandson, who is three, he always points up at the stars and says: 'There's Auntie Bernie, look!'

"When you try to explain where Bernie is, well, she's gone up to Heaven with her Mummy and Daddy, the little ones ask: 'But where in Heaven?' So then you tell them on a star. It's lovely, that this is how they think of her."

Bound to be an emotional December 25, Anne reveals that she may also get quite "emotional" about the amount of cooking she has to do!

"Last year, with all the grandkids who've arrived, we had our dinners at our own places and then got together later," Anne explains.

"In the past, we might have gone out and hired a private room at a hotel, and when Bernie was alive, her husband would often cook Christmas dinner for us.

"This year will be different again. I haven't cooked Christmas dinner since my kids were little, to be honest, and when I volunteered to cook, there was only about seven of us.

"Now, it is up to 17!

"At least I'm glad to say there's no competing with the outfits, and you can just wear whatever you like at a Nolans Christmas dinner! Just a pity the number of people round the table has escalated!



■ Anne is cooking Christmas dinner for all of her family this year, and they will all make a toast to their late sister, Bernie.

"Not having Bernie with us is hard. If we have dinners at my sister Denise's house, it is easier, because her place is filled with photos of us, including lots of Bernie."

With new single Christmas Time Is Here just released, Anne reveals it's something she's never tried before.

When she admits how much of a perfectionist she is, you can understand why.

"I quite like this little Christmas song, and actually we never did one before!" she laughs. "We did the one we do at home, Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, on a TV show once, with a schoolkids' choir.

"But someone was telling me we were on telly again recently, when the five

of us sang a Bob Dylan song with Cliff Richard!

"I love Bob Dylan, who's a poet, but I didn't even know it had been shown again.

"That must have been about 30 years ago — these days, someone will say: 'You're on TV tonight,' and I say: 'Yeah, OK, you enjoy it, but I won't be watching!'

"It's funny, but even when we did those recordings, I had to watch them on my own, as I couldn't bear watching them with anybody else. I was always super-critical of everything I did!"

She'll be a lot more sociable, and happy, round that Christmas table on December 25. Especially to know Bernie is looking over all of them.