

The background of the poster is a green-tinted photograph of the Central Cinema building in Chicago. The building's facade is visible, with large windows and a sign that reads "CENTRAL CINEMA". The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic, with a strong emphasis on the color green.

CHICAGO IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

CHICAGO
IRISH FILM
FESTIVAL

FILMS FROM THE

LAND
OF
STORY
TELLING

MARCH 2-12, 2023

chicagoirishfilmfestival.com

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It is often said that

**CINEMA IS A GLORIOUS
ESCAPE INTO OTHER
WORLDS AND EXPERIENCES**

and this year it also seems to be an escape to Ireland to experience the incredible creativity and storytelling that has garnered awards across the cinematic world.



For over two decades the festival has been driven to bring creative, diverse and award-winning films to our Chicago audiences and this year is absolutely chock full of fantastic features, documentaries and shorts, many of which will be presented by the directors visiting our windy city. It is truly an honor to celebrate their achievements with a standing ovation for their courage to put their passion and dedication on film and share it with us.

We want to thank our generous and steadfast sponsors and donors whose support helps us present the festival each year. Thank you to our hard working team whose commitment to present a wonderful festival experience, both in-person and virtual, never wavers. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their ongoing support, insights, and hard work. And finally, but never least, thank you to our audiences for your loyalty and enthusiasm for independent Irish film, we are so delighted you are here with us as the journey continues.

Míle buíochas,

Jude Blackburn

Director

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Irish Film Institute



NORTHERN IRELAND
screen



Irish American
heritage center



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fáilte

THEATER MAP



FESTIVAL VENUES



SOCIETY FOR ARTS
1112 N MILWAUKEE AVE



AMC NEWCITY 14
1500 N CLYBOURN AVE



CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM
1601 N CLARK ST



THEATER ON THE LAKE
2401 LAKE SHORE DR

FILMMAKERS
ATTENDING

OPENING NIGHT FILM



THURSDAY, MARCH 2
6:30 PM



THEATER ON THE LAKE
2401 LAKE SHORE DR

THE SPARROW U.S PREMIER

IRELAND | MICHAEL KINIRONS | 2022

Michael Kiniron's debut feature film as writer and director explores the struggle of a young boy whose mother has died creating an unhappy and dysfunctional home life.

Constantly in trouble at home and with the local garda, 15-year-old Kevin tries to find solace roaming the woods and hanging with friends at the town pier. When newcomer Hannah seems to take an interest in him, he starts to open up, but his world is upended when he discovers his military bound older brother is secretly seeing Hannah. Heading out on the lake to fish Kevin confronts his brother about his relationship with Hannah when suddenly his world is turned upside down and he inadvertently causes his brother's death. Feeling he has nowhere to turn Kevin does something seemingly unforgivable; he keeps it a secret. As time goes on Kevin watches in horror as the consequences of his lie unfolds before his eyes and events spiral out of control.

Followed by a Q & A with Michael Kinirons and Alicia Ní Ghráinne

"Ollie West (in a terrific debut) and David O'Hara anchor an emotional father & son story, that brings questions of 'otherness' and the power of unresolved trauma to the fore. Richard Kendrick's cinematography makes West Cork a character of its own." — **WF**

No surprise twists or overt melodrama, just a careful, steady playing out of the story — **Screen Daily**

Repressed emotions find a way to surface and hit home
— **Screen International**

Moody cinematography, well drawn characters and an element of suspense.. create a cinematic experience — **Screen Ireland**

**Buried sorrows and
tragedy surface in
Lough Hyne**

Writer:
Michael Kinirons

Producer:
Alicia Ní Ghráinne

DOP:
Richard Kendrick

Editor:
John Walters

Music:
Christopher Write

Cast:
Ollie West
David O'Hara
Eanna Hardwicke
Aisling O'Sullivan
Isabelle Connolly
Dara Devaney
Mark O'Halloran

Runtime:
92 minutes

CLOSING FILM | FEATURE FILM

SUNDAY, MARCH 5
3:30 PM



THEATER ON THE LAKE
2401 LAKE SHORE DR



It's Never Too Late For Love

Writers:

Jimmy Karlsson
Kirsi Vikman

Producers:

Kai Nordberg
Kaarle Aho
David Collins

DOP:

Robert Nordström

Editor:

Philippe Ravoet

Music:

Michelino Bisceglia

Cast:

Brid Brennan
James Cosmo
Catherine Walker

Runtime:

103 minutes

MY SAILOR, MY LOVE

IRELAND-FINLAND | KLAUS HÄRÖ | 2022

Finnish director Klaus Härö makes his English language debut with this Ireland set drama starring James Cosmo, Brid Brennan and Catherine Walker.

Howard (Cosmo) is a cantankerous retired sea captain with little interest in his home or his daughter Grace (Walker). Feeling overwhelmed and underappreciated by her father, Grace hires Annie (Brennan) as a housekeeper / caregiver to help get her father's house and life in order. Thinking she solved at least one problem in her life, Annie becomes jealous and possessive when she realizes her father has fallen in love with Annie. Fraught with old resentments and a guilt-ridden father-daughter relationship, Annie attempts to thwart the budding romance, but Howard and Annie hold steady to prove it's never too late for new beginnings.

*My Sailor is very much a film about new beginnings, especially when our past carries so much hurt. Beautiful and sweeping, there's a heartbeat of hope within My Sailor, My Love that sails beyond romance — **Screen Fish***

*Brennan is spectacular — **Reel News Daily***

*All hail James Cosmo, Brid Brennan, and Catherine Walker. Giving three of the best performances — **Movie Jawn***

FILMMAKERS
ATTENDING

FEATURE FILM



FRIDAY, MARCH 3
3:00 PM



CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM
1601 N CLARK ST

CLODAGH MIDWEST PREMIER IRELAND | ODA O'CARROLL | 2022

Named among the Top 100 Designers in the world by Architectural Digest and already inducted into the Interior Hall of Fame, Clodagh has been an international design icon for over half of the 20th century. She continues to defy all barriers of gender, age and race to forge a critically acclaimed global career. It is the story of how the courageous and difficult personal decisions she has made throughout her life have impacted her and her family and define how she views the world today. This documentary explores what drives this single-minded designer. Drawing on archival footage of Clodagh throughout her life, from a young woman on horseback before a life-altering fall, to a twenty-something wife and mother of three in the 1960s, to a powerhouse of design, the documentary offers an intimate look at the woman behind the work.

Note: The Clodagh Design studio in Manhattan holds a portfolio that ranges from homes to hotels, spas, restaurants, shops, offices, luxury yachts and private jets. Clodagh has worked for clients such as Robert Redford and Elizabeth Arden and completed projects including the Dupont Circle Hotel in Washington DC, the luxurious high-rise condominiums in Caledonia in New York, the Avery building in San Francisco and the Six Senses Douro Valley spa in Portugal. An early adopter of the Feng Shui principles of celebrating the senses and representing all the elements (earth, fire, wood, metal and water) in design, she describes herself as an environmentalist, and has been a vegan since the 1980s.

Followed by a Q & A and reception with Clodagh, Oda O'Carroll and Adrian McCarthy.

It's important that your house takes care of you, not that you take care of your house

Writers:

Oda Carroll
Adrian McCarthy

Producer:

Adrian McCarthy

DOP:

Richard Kendrick

Editor:

Brenda Morrissey

Runtime:

50 minutes

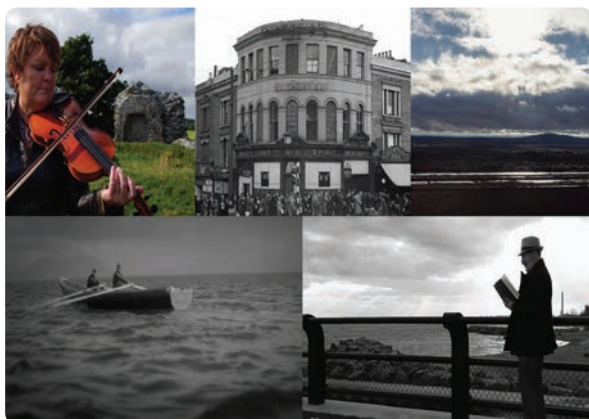
DOCUMENTARIES 1: JOURNEYS NEAR AND FAR

FILMMAKERS
ATTENDING

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
5:00 PM



SOCIETY FOR ARTS
1112 N MILWAUKEE AVE



H. P. LOVECRAFT AND THE MOON BOG 2022

Leading scholars and experts in Gothic Literature, Religions, Folklore, Environmental Science and Mythology explore both the real and fantastical landscapes coded into HP Lovecraft's classic short story - 'The Moon Bog' - set within Ireland's ancient Peatlands.

Director: Jules Charlton
Producer: Colin Weldon
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 10:00 minutes

THE MICHAEL GRODEN PAPERS

"The Michael Groden Papers" celebrates the renowned James Joyce scholar who bequeathed his works to the University at Buffalo Poetry Collection, home to the world's most comprehensive collection of Joycean materials.

Director: Godfrey Jordan
Producer: Godfrey Jordan
Country: Canada
Runtime: 14:33 minutes

TEARS OF AN EXILE (DEORA AN DEORAÍ) 2022

Mick O'Toole, a native of Inisturk recounts the true story of his great uncle emigrating from the island and the fallout that resulted. Featuring critically acclaimed Uí Fhlatharta siblings and BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Director: Pierre Yves O'Reilly
Producer: Pierre Yves O'Reilly
Composer: Pierre Yves O'Reilly
Country: United Kingdom
Runtime: 05:43 minutes

CROSSROADS 2021

From Ireland to Ellis Island ... celebrating Irish roots through the generations...experiencing the sound, landscape and beauty of a trek so many have taken on.

Director: Patrick Heaphy
Country: USA
Runtime: 03:17 minutes

WE'RE NOT MAKING GONE WITH THE WIND 2022

Like the feisty Scarlett O'Hare, Noreen Cooke took control of her life seizing opportunities and making the best of every situation that came her way. Born in West Ireland in 1933, the youngest of nine, her family moved to London but returned to the family farm when WWII broke out in 1939. With few educational or employment opportunities in rural Ireland she moved back to London in the early 50's like thousands of other women and forged a new life.

Interspersed with archival footage, interviews, and her daughter's poetry the documentary presents one woman's story of immigration and assimilation that reflects those of millions of people across the world after the war and into the 21st century.

Director: Paul Cooke
Country: United Kingdom
Runtime: 44:23 minutes

FILMMAKERS
ATTENDING

SHORTS 1: SIGNS OF THE TIMES



LADY BETTY 2021

In a cozy corner of a country pub, two old friends wile away the evening trading tall tales. Soon they begin telling the story of Lady Betty, the first and only female executioner in Ireland.

Director: Paul McGrath
Producer: Leticia Agudo
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 07:25 minutes

FIRST DATE 2021

Tina, a recently widowed farmer, doesn't want her daughter to move back to the city and leave her alone. When Seamus arrives on the farm talking about a date, she decides to intervene.

Director: Clara Planelles
Producer: Pete Moles
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 12:05 minutes

MUDSLINGERS 2022

While young kids shoot mud against a wall using an improvised device, an older boy's boredom manifests itself in a much more violent manner.

Director: Tiarnan McCartney
Producer: Katie Duddy
Country: England
Runtime: 04:10 minutes

MASK 2022

"We are what we hide."
During the angst of the early pandemic in the corner of a dark underground car park, a troubled young father leaves his sleeping child alone in the car.

Director: Margaret Kane-Rowe
Producers: Mo O'Connell, Richard Kearney
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 10:45 minutes

#NANA ROCKS 2022

A high blood sugar attack, a house turned upside down and a cross-country trip on a mobility scooter.

Director: Leticia Agudo
Producers: Leticia Agudo, Paul McGrath, Bobby Moloney
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 10:18 minutes

WALLPAPER 2022

When Sally, a struggling young antiques dealer, decides to work for the scheming Mr. Barnwell, she makes an astonishing discovery that could change everything – but only if the other dealers don't find out.

Director: Fabien Oman, Phillip Kidd
Producers: Fabien Oman, Phillip Kidd, Tom Lenihan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 13:47 minutes

ERASED 2022

A young couple disappear in the forest.

Director: Tom Lynch
Producer: Tom Lynch
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 1:00 minute

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
6:00 PM



AMC NEWCITY 14
1500 N CLYBOURN AVE

THE SECRET LIFE OF JIM 2022

Nick tries desperately to have one more real moment with his father Jim who suffers from Alzheimer disease, but he fears he might have run out of time. This film explores the struggles of being a sole caregiver, grieving and the use of music to bring someone back.

Director: Emmet Kelly
Producers: Roisin Kearny
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 16:30 minutes

WHERE DO ALL THE OLD GAYS GO? 2022

This short documentary film provides an intimate exploration of the older LGBTQIA+ community living in Ireland. Life is still happening, and although it might look very different now to what it was, it is still a place of joy, self-esteem and pride.

Director: Cathy Dunne
Producers: Maggie Ryan, Cathy Dunne
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 18:31 minutes

SHORTS 2: TURN, TURN, TURN!

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
7:00 PM



SOCIETY FOR ARTS
1112 N MILWAUKEE AVE



GLITTERBUG 2022

Set in 90's Dublin, two young female DJ's have their dreams of making it big in London crushed when one of them is diagnosed with HIV.

Director: Tania Notaro
Producer: Ali Doyle
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 14:00 minutes

THE TALK 2022

The Talk chronicles the life changing conversation that takes between father and son when staunchly unionist father Dennis walks in on his son Barry in bed with a man. However, Barry isn't the only one hiding a secret from the family.

Director: Jonathan Hughes
Producer: Joanne Heffernan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 10:00 minutes

TORN 2022

Maeve has had to grow up faster than others her age. She makes the choices she needs to for survival. The difference between right and wrong is often purely subjective.

Director: Joe McStravick
Producer: Shelley Lowry Frazer
Country: Northern Ireland
Runtime: 10:21 minutes

NOAH 2022

Unaware she is losing her mind, a young mother turns on her newborn.

Director: Emma Louise Williamson
Producer: Larissa Bonaci
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 16:42 minutes

AGAPE 2022

A young Traveler Women is forced into a marriage to a man she can't love, while the woman she does love is forced to watch everything unfold.

Director: Ethan Donoghue
Producer: Joshua Donoghue
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 17:56 minutes

THE UN-CHAOTIC CABINET THAT WISHES FOR ME TO SLEEP 2022

A young man struggling with his identity makes his way through suburban Dublin and into town, in the hopes that the trip will help clear his head.

Director: Cillian Laurence Green
Producer: Cillian Laurence Green
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 07:25 minutes

WEDNESDAY'S CHILD 2021

Marie faces her first day on the job as a social care worker. Despite her optimism, a house call to a family in crisis quickly brings her down to reality.

Director: Laura O Shea
Producers: Caroline Harvey, Charleigh Bailey
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 10:03 minutes

FILMMAKERS
ATTENDING

FEATURE FILM



FRIDAY, MARCH 3
8:00 PM



AMC NEWCITY 14
1500 N CLYBOURN AVE

HOW TO TELL A SECRET U.S. PREMIER

IRELAND | ANNA RODGERS, SHAUN DUNNE | 2022

How To Tell A Secret explores the act of disclosure and the stigma that drives people to withhold a HIV status in Ireland today. Based on a theatre show, the stories in this film move between bodies of young men, migrant women, drag artists and activists. A form-flipping documentary, it features a cast of actors as well as ordinary people coming out on screen for the first time.

Followed by Q&A with director Shaun Dunne

"Blending elements of theatre, Dunne and Rodgers create a poetic tale of rebirth." — Film Ireland

What is the worst thing that you could ever hear from an ex?

Writers:

Anna Rodgers
Shaun Dunne

Producer:

Zlata Filipovic

DOP:

Eleanor Bowman

Music:

Michael Fleming
Hugh Rodgers

Cast:

Jade Jordan
Lauren Larkin
Eva-Jane Gaffney
Robbie Lawlor
Enda McGrattan

Runtime:

100 minutes

CHEERS TO YOU!

OUR AMAZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

Judith Blackburn has furnished us all with an appreciation of Irish Film Making for over 24 years. She has done this almost entirely by herself and with the help of her husband Patrick and their family. This is no small feat to put together an amazing showcase of Irish Talent on screen over the years. She is a leader in her field and has the knack of picking Oscar winning films before anyone else even thinks about it. She works harder on the film festival each year (even though she pretends to quit every year) and brings us the joy and splendor of the movies to our screens each year. We are so proud of Judith and all she does to make this one of the best Irish Film Festivals in the world.

We the Board of Directors Salute you Jude and look forward to convincing you once again not to quit but to celebrate 25 years of Irish movie magic in 2024.

**CHEERS FROM THE LAND OF STORYTELLING
AND FROM ALL OF US ON THIS AMAZING RUN.**

JUDITH BLACKBURN



SHORTS FOR TOTS

FOR AGES 3-6

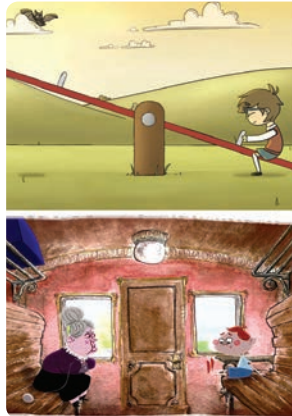
SATURDAY, MARCH 4
11:00 AM



SOCIETY FOR ARTS
1112 N MILWAUKEE AVE

Fionnghuala Ni Neill, the director of Dublin Animation Film Festival will be attending this year.

This special program was created by the folks at Dublin Animation Film Festival for our favorite 3-6 year olds! Will Cactus make a friend? Can Granny make a Zoom Call? Will Hugo like school? Lots of questions and lots of fun answers in this entertaining selection of animated shorts from Ireland.



PINS AND NEEDLES

Directors: Kerrie Costello, Julien Celin

DOOPY DOO

Director: Susan Broe

ARCHIES BAT

Director: Shannon Egan

WE ARE DETECTIVES

Director: Brian O'Sullivan

MOPED IN THEIR TRACKS

Director: Irish School of Animation

JOINING DOTS

Director: Fiona Ryan

HUGO LET'S GO

Director: Johnny Schumann



MEANWHILE ON THE TRAIN

Director: Aidan McAteer

SOUR PUSS

Director: Emily Lynch

WHICH WAY

Director: Roisin Hahessy

FUR FROM HOME

Director: Aidan Neeson

NANA'S TERRIFYING ZOOM CALL

Director: Susan Broe

FLUFFY MCLOUD

Director: Conor Finnegan

FILMMAKERS
ATTENDING

FOR AGES 11-14

SHORTS 3: HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?



SATURDAY, MARCH 4
1:00 PM



SOCIETY FOR ARTS
1112 N MILWAUKEE AVE

Special guest, Maureen O'Connell, actress, producer, director, will talk about her career in film and television after the screening

STEPPIN UP! 2021

After moving house, Joe is finding it hard to fit in with the popular kids. A lot more than an expensive pair of runners stands in his way.

Director: Peadar O'Briain
Producer: Peadar O'Briain
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 13:07 minutes

TINA TIMES TWO 2021

A surreal coming-of-age fable about a lonely girl whose wish comes true when she gains a magical friend; an exact double of herself! But the dream turns into a nightmare when her double wants to live her own life.

Director: Bonnie Dempsey
Producer: David O'Sullivan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 15:00 minutes

HERMIT 2022

In pursuit of their greed, a Hermit loses sight of the world around them.

Director: Sarah Benson
Producer: Stephen Fagan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 02:28 minutes

VHS 2021

Lea and Oliver relive their pasts and connect over the sale of a VHS player.

Director: Solene Guichard
Producer: Katy Jackson
Country: United Kingdom
Runtime: 14:25 minutes

HAVEN 2022

Carmel is a lonely sheep farmer in her 70's. One day she strikes up an unlikely friendship with Tanaka, a young girl living in Direct Provision (an asylum seeker refuge) who wants to learn how to be a farmer.

Director: Maureen O'Connell
Producer: Rehan Ali
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 15:00 minutes

THE MOTHER OF ALL ASSUMPTIONS 2022

Heaven help the teacher who has to explain the afterlife...

Director: Emmet O'Brien
Producer: Stephen Broekhuizen
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 14:27 minutes

DOCUMENTARIES 2: DOERS AND DREAMERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
3:00 PM



SOCIETY FOR ARTS
1112 N MILWAUKEE AVE

FOCAIL NUA (NEW WORDS) 2022

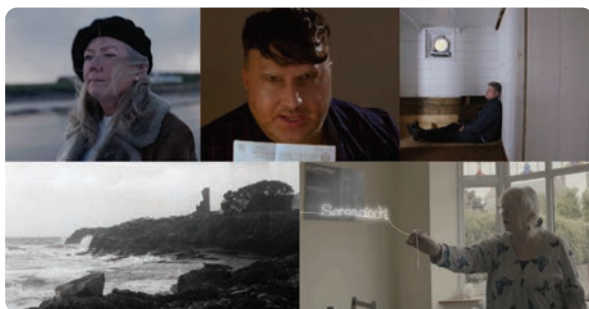
There are over 300 new words added to the Irish language every month. Ireland has two full-time terminologists whose job is to create hundreds of new Irish words and phrases every month. Focail Nua is a celebration of the vitality, complexity and depth of the language.

Director: Andrew Keogh
Producer: Muireann de Barra
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 12:18 minutes

A STONE PLACE 2022

A visual journey showcasing a unique rock that is quarried on the side of the biggest cliffs in Europe, and that has created the aesthetic of a small rural town in the West of Ireland.

Director: James Skerritt
Producer: Pete Moles
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 09:15 minutes



VONNIE: IRELAND'S FORGOTTEN FASHION ICON 2022

Fashion, Family and Fate. An intimate family portrait is woven as three sisters recollect the legacy of their mother Vonnie Reynolds; a forgotten Irish fashion icon forced to retire after a tragic accident.

Director: Renata Lima
Producer: Melissa Collins
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 17:40 minutes

MEMORIES OF THIS SPORTING LIFE 2022

A one minute monologue re-visiting a memorable scene from the 1963 film 'This Sporting Life' starring Richard Harris.

Director: Kasper Faulkner Lewis
Producer: Evan Horan
Country: United Kingdom
Runtime: 01:09 minutes

SHACKLETON'S CABIN 2022

Ernest Shackleton died in his cabin in 1922 while on board The Quest, in Grytviken, South Georgia Island, on what was supposed to be his final expedition. One of the dockers removed the cabin and took it

to his home in Norway, where it served as a garden shed. One hundred years later that same cabin has ended up in the hands of an esteemed historical object conservator called Sven Habermann, waiting to be restored to its former glory.

With just one photograph of the cabin's interior in existence, Shackleton's thrilling story is brought to life through Sven's pursuit of all the original materials contained in the cabin in 1922.

The documentary reveals previously unseen archive material which will bring the viewer deep into the world of Ernest Shackleton's fearless adventures.

Contributors to the restoration include Jan Chojewski whose grandfather financed the expedition, Alexandra Shackleton, Ernest Shackleton's granddaughter, and the world's greatest living explorer Ranulph Fiennes, who gives a fascinating insight into the mindset of an explorer.

Director: Shane Brennan
Producer: Ciara Nic Chormaic
Editor: Andrew Hearne
DOP: Paschal Cassidy
Runtime: 51:00 minutes

SHORTS 4:

FILMMAKERS
ATTENDING

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR



SATURDAY, MARCH 4
5:00 PM



SOCIETY FOR ARTS
1112 N MILWAUKEE AVE

HOMEBIRD 2022

Set against the backdrop of the Northern Irish coast, Homebird explores the relationship between an emotionally reclusive father struggling to re-connect with his estranged gay son during a night at the seafront amusements.

Director: Caleb J. Roberts
Producers: Callum Harrison, Brian J. Falconer, Jonathan Beer
Country: Ireland & UK
Runtime: 11:36 minutes

SHALL WE SIT? 2022

Having finally come to terms with his illness, Niall sets about revealing the news to those deemed closest in his life.

Directors: Declan Curran, Cathal Ferris
Producers: Declan Curran, Cathal Ferris
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 09:25 minutes

STILL UP THERE 2022

A mortally wounded astronaut awakens in the upper atmosphere after a catastrophic event. He struggles to remember how he got there and latches himself on to the only familiar thing – his own severed arm.

Director: Joe Loftus
Producer: Joe Loftus
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 04:27 minutes

UN/CUT 2022

A hook-up quickly turns into a conversation and history lesson about circumcision.

Director: Gordon Hickey
Producer: Gordon Hickey
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 07:12 minutes

BRUISE 2022

It seems like Heather has the perfect life, but then the cracks begin to show. After a particularly harrowing incident, Heather needs help but finds more terror, until she meets her kindred spirits that offer her hope.

Director: Mo O'Connell
Producers: Emer Cannon Durcan, Brian Durcan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 15:13 minutes

READY? 2022

Grace needs help with an audition, but the only person available is her Manchester United loving dad, John. Tensions arise when a combination of John's well-intentioned but misguided efforts and some triggering material rake over some partially healed wounds for Grace.

Director: Emma Wall
Producers: Siobhan Coakley, Claire Byrne, Jo Halpin
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 12:38 minutes

SNOOZE 2021

A couple struggle to get out of their comfy bed.

Director: Adam Collins
Producers: Adam Collins
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 04:55 minutes

LAMBING 2022

A young dad in rural Ireland must face his anxiety around gender and bullying when his baby is born intersex.

Director: Katie McNeice
Producers: Mo O'Connell
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 18:00 minutes

FLAGS AND EMBLEMS 2022

A young man attempts to thwart the plans of the local paramilitary to paint a mural on the outside of his house.

Director: Thomas Pollack
Producers: Larry Cowan
Country: United Kingdom
Runtime: 15:39 minutes

FEATURE FILM

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
6:00 PM



AMC NEWCITY 14
1500 N CLYBOURN AVE



**A courageous light
shines on a dark
bureaucratic system**

Writers:

Frank Berry

Producers:

Tristan Orpen Lynch
Aoife O'Sullivan
Donna Eperon
Sam Bisbee

Editor:

Colin Campbell

DOP:

Tom Comerford

Music:

Daragh O'Toole with
additional score by
Cherinet Ayele Delebo

Cast:

Leticia Wright
Josh O'Connor
Stuart Graham
Denis Conway
Rosemary Aimeyegabon
Ruth McCabe
Lorcan Cranitch
Antoinette Doyle
Tara Flynn
Dawn Bradfield

Runtime:

94 minutes

AISHA MIDWEST PREMIER IRELAND | FRANK BERRY | 2022

Aisha (Leticia Wright), a young Nigerian woman seeking asylum in Ireland, is floundering in a maze of social services and bureaucracy.

Alone and unwilling to sacrifice her dignity to satisfy the demands of the authorities, she finds an ally in Conor (Josh O'Connor), an employee at her residence home, a local young man with a troubled past of his own. Together they struggle to maintain their tender friendship in the face of Aisha's increasingly dire predicament and her rapidly diminishing options.

*Letitia Wright ...gives a performance which, without being in any way showy, stands out as one of the best by an actress in 2022. She is the film's motor and she is wonderful — **Film Review Daily***

*It's an absorbing drama given sympathy and life by two very high-calibre performers — **The Guardian***

*Landing amid the latest wave of unfounded tabloid rabble rousing about overseas visitors, good work like this can only count double — **Cinéthesia***

Note: Direct Provision is intended to provide for the basic needs of individuals who are awaiting decisions on their applications for international protection. The system was designed as a short term measure in the year 1999, but many applicants experience lengthy stays extending for years.

Since production started, the Irish government has pledged to completely dismantle Direct Provision and replace it with a new system that will be 'grounded in the principles of human rights' and which will 'operate on a not-for-profit basis.'

This new system is promised to be fully in place by the end of 2024.

FEATURE FILM



SATURDAY, MARCH 4
8:00 PM



AMC NEWCITY 14
1500 N CLYBOURN AVE

LOLA MIDWEST PREMIER

IRELAND | ANDREW LEGGE | 2022

England, 1941. Sisters Thomasina and Martha have invented a machine they've named LOLA that can pick up radio and tv broadcasts from the future allowing the sisters to discover everything from racing results to David Bowie, before he is even born. But with World War II gaining steam and England's future in jeopardy, the sisters decide to use the machine as a weapon of intelligence in an effort to defeat the Nazis. Things seem to be going brilliantly until Thomasina makes a fatal miscalculation and Martha realizes the consequences of what they've done.

Director Andrew Legge's debut film is a fantastic blend of documentary, faux found footage and science fiction with a romance thrown in for good measure. The film follows several award-winning shorts that previously screened at the festival including "The Girl with the Mechanical Maiden," and "A Kingdom Once Again."

Andrew Legge's clever debut follows in the resourceful tradition of "La Jetée," "Primer," and "Beyond the Infinite Two Minutes"
— **IndieWire**

A mysterious world where the past, the present and the future collide before imposing their own rules Cineuropa LOLA is conceptually sharp, with wonderful period sound work
— **Screen Daily**

When two sisters invent a machine that could help the Allies win WWII what could possibly go wrong?

Writers:

Andrew Legge
Angeli Macfarlane

Producers:

John Wallace
Alan Maher

Editor:

Colin Campbell

DOP:

Oona Menges

Music:

Neil Hannon

Cast:

Stefanie Martini
Emma Appleton
Hugh O'Connor
Rory Fleck Byrne
Aaron Monaghan

Runtime:

79 minutes

SHORTS 5: CAN I HELP YOU?

FILMMAKERS
ATTENDING

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
7:00 PM



SOCIETY FOR ARTS
1112 N MILWAUKEE AVE

MASTERPIECES

A dedicated team of roofers, consisting of three men and three women, fight to keep the historic yet rare art of slate roofing alive.

Directors: Bridget Johnson, Ronan Morrissey
Producer: Katie Hamilton
Country: USA
Runtime: 09:21 minutes

LA TUMBA 2022

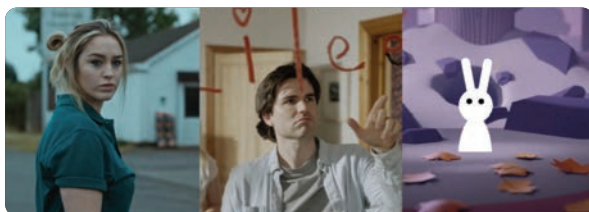
When oddball park ranger Paddy discovers Pilar, an elderly Spanish lady with no English, at a freshly dug grave, he thinks his fantasy of solving a murder case has finally come true.

Director: Natasha Waugh
Producer: Natalie McAuley
Country: Ireland

THE VLOG 2022

A vlogger meets a suspicious character while taking her daily short cut home.

Director: Emmet Ryan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 05:48 minutes



THE RADIO 2022

An elderly widower depends on his radio to keep a foothold in his routine. When it breaks, his daughter, who knows how important it is to him, is forced to pay more attention to her isolated father.

Director: Laura Kavanagh
Producer: Evan Horan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 11:03 minutes

REGULAR RABBIT 2022

The good name of a seemingly regular rabbit falls victim to an unstoppable tide of disinformation. The narrator is full of s#!t!! How is this so hard to believe?! Fake news!! Where's the evidence?! Agh!!!

Director: Eoin Duffy
Producer: Jamie Hogan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 07:43 minutes

GHOSTING 2022

Alice invites her ex-boyfriend over to solve an awkward problem; his grandmother is haunting her house.

Director: Lochlann Dowd
Producers: Lochlann Dowd
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 06:30 minutes

EVERY FIVE MILES 2022

A petrol station attendant is drawn into the harsh world of a trafficked immigrant car washer, torn between speaking out at the risk of losing everything.

Director: Vincent Lambe
Producers: Colman MacCionnaith
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 20:00 minutes

THE ARTISTS (NA HEALAIONTÓIRÍ) 2022

Behind-the-scenes documentary 8mm film footage of a traditional traveling circus illustrates a poem by bilingual writer Gearóid MacLochlainn.

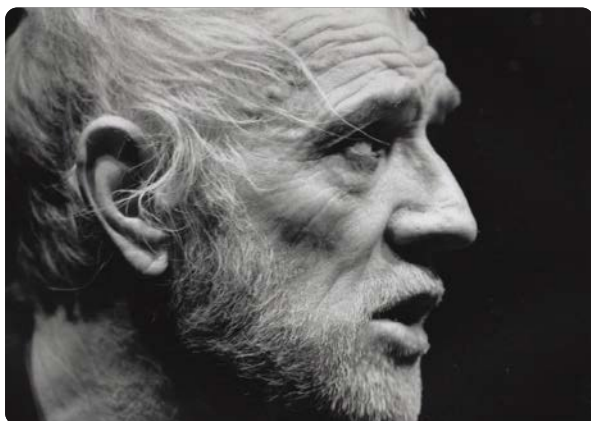
Director: Mallaídh Plunk
Producer: Mallaídh Plunk
Country: USA
Runtime: 03:33 minutes

WIRELESS 2022

After learning of the 2-kilometer travel restrictions imposed during Covid, Ziggy and Teddy, a fun-loving middle-aged couple, think they're alone on a secluded Cork island.

Director: Brian Benjamin Dwyer
Producers: Evan Horan
Country: Ireland
Runtime: 07:37 minutes

FEATURE FILM



SUNDAY, MARCH 5
1:00 PM



THEATER ON THE LAKE
2401 LAKE SHORE DR

THE GHOST OF RICHARD HARRIS

IRELAND | ADRIAN SIBLEY | 2022 MIDWEST PREMIER

The film explores the life and times of Richard Harris, perhaps one of the most remarkable and controversial actors of stage and screen Ireland has ever produced.

Richard brought an intense and electric presence to both stage and screen, and his career spanned five decades as well as many different film genres. He won the Golden Lion at Venice in 1964 for *Red Desert* and was Best Actor in Cannes that same year. He was nominated for Oscars twice: for *This Sporting Life* in 1963 and again for *The Field* in 1990 and won the Golden Globe for his role as King Arthur in *Camelot*. He died 20 years ago - bowing out as the first Dumbledore in the *Harry Potter* films.

This is no ordinary biography, however, as Harris takes center stage through previously unheard tapes from Irish journalist Joe Jackson interviews which were conducted over 15 years; as well as through unseen family footage and interviews with those who knew him best including Vanessa Redgrave and Russell Crowe. The ghost of the title is the complex individual who comes back to haunt the people and places who were dear to him.

*It's a pleasure to be reminded of Harris' great performances ...and his extraordinary detour in chanson - style pop singing in the late 60s — **The Guardian***

*The Irish actor, musician and poet ...led an extraordinary existence that's well worth recording for posterity — **The Wrap***

*Fascinating documentary charting Richard Harris' rise from local sports star to screen legend via an unexpected heyday as a chart-topping pop star in 1968 — **Deadline***

**Legendary Actor,
Notorious Hellraiser**

Producers:

David Collins
Adrain Sibley
George Waud

DOP:

Eoin McLoughlin

Editor:

Gretta Ohle

Music:

Gareth Averill

Cast:

Jared Harris
Damian Harris
Jamie Harris
Dame Vanessa Redgrave
Stephen Rea
Jim Sheridan
Lelia Doolan
Dick Cavet
Russell Crowe
Jimmy Webb

Runtime:

106 minutes

CHICAGO IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

2023 AWARDS

VOTE FOR THE AUDIENCE AWARD!

HOW TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE SHORTS!

Everyone who has a ticket or a pass for this year's amazing Short's Programs will be able to vote for their favorite short. For In Person Voting, grab a ballot, vote and turn it in. For Virtual Voting* just click the stars below the film title you want to vote for and submit your vote. We will have the results tallied up at the end of the festival.

***Virtual Voting is only available on a mobile device not on your TV**

CONSULATE AWARD STATEMENT

"Established to honor a short film that captures Ireland, its spirit, history and culture, this year's winner will be selected by the current Consul General of Ireland, Mr. Kevin Byrne.

The 2023 nominees represent an amazing and gifted pioneer of Irish fashion in the 1960's, a scholarly look at Ireland's famous bogs, the never evolving addition of words to the Irish language canon, a tender story that capture the heartbreak of a mother's loss and a young immigrant's dreams, and a lyrical and poetic homage to the generations of Irish who left the shores behind in body but never in spirit."

2023 CONSULATE OF IRELAND AWARD NOMINEES

- **Deora an Deorai : Tears of an Exile** dir. Pierre Yves O'Reilly
- **Vonnie: Ireland's Forgotten Fashion Icon** dir. Renata Lima
- **Haven** dir. Maureen O'Connell
- **H.P. Lovecraft and The Moon Bog** dir. Jules Carlton
- **Focail Nua : New Words** dir. Andrew Keogh

2023 CHICAGO IRISH FILM FESTIVAL AWARD NOMINEES

- **Every Five Miles** dir. Vincent Lamb
- **The Secret Life of Jim** dir. Emmet Kelly
- **Where Do All the Old Gays Go?** dir. Cathy Dunne
- **Regular Rabbit** dir. Eoin Duffy
- **Lambing** dir. Katie McNiece

THE 2023 ONE MINUTE IRISH AWARD WINNER

- **ERASED** directed by Tom Lynch

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Ken Dooley




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CHICAGO
IRISH FILM
FESTIVAL