

CAPITAL IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

AISHA



THE QUIET GIRL [AN CAILÍN CIÚIN]



March 2-5, 2023 | [AFI.COM/SILVER](https://afi.com/silver)

SOLAS NUA

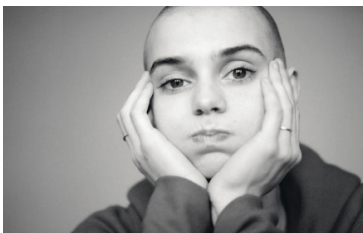


AFI Silver is proud to co-present Solas Nua's annual Capital Irish Film Festival (CIFF). Now in its 17th year, the four-day festival brings the best of contemporary Irish cinema by filmmakers from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to audiences in the DC metropolitan area.



Opening Night | THE QUIET GIRL [AN CAILÍN CIÚIN] | Thurs, March 2, 7:00
Opening remarks by the Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America, Geraldine Byrne Nason | Q&A with director Colm Bairéad | Post-screening reception sponsored by the Embassy of Ireland

Oscar® Nominee, Best International Feature Film. Set in rural Ireland in 1981, Colm Bairéad's exquisite debut feature is a powerful coming-of-age drama told through the eyes of a young girl sent to live with distant relatives for the summer. DIR/SCR Colm Bairéad, from the short story "Foster" by Claire Keegan; PROD Cleona Ní Chrualaí. Ireland, 2022, color, 94 min. In Irish with English subtitles. NOT RATED



NOTHING COMPARES | Thurs, March 2, 9:45; Sat, March 4, 9:15

Kathryn Ferguson's Sundance-premiered directorial debut is a powerful exploration of singer-songwriter Sinead O'Connor's iconoclastic career and her enduring cultural impact. In new interviews, O'Connor reveals the abusive upbringing that left her feeling betrayed by both church and community and that ultimately led her to find the therapeutic power of music. DIR/SCR Kathryn Ferguson; SCR/PROD Michael Mallie, Eleanor Emptage. Ireland/UK, 2022, color/b&w, 100 min. NOT RATED



GHOSTS OF BAGGOTONIA | U.S. Premiere | Fri, March 3, 12:00

Acclaimed Irish documentarian Alan Gilsenan's (MEETINGS WITH IVOR) latest work is an evocative film-poem exploring the literary and other ghosts of the bohemian quarter bordering Dublin's Baggot Street during the mid-20th century. DIR/SCR Alan Gilsenan; PROD Martin Mahon. Ireland, 2022, b&w, 80 min. NOT RATED



THE GHOST OF RICHARD HARRIS | Mid-Atlantic Premiere | Fri, March 3, 2:30

Richard Harris (1930–2002) was a powerful performer on stage and screen who became Ireland's first leading man in Hollywood. The actor's three sons explore his wild personal and professional lives through tapes, family footage and interviews with those who knew him best, including Russell Crowe, Vanessa Redgrave and Jim Sheridan. DIR/SCR/PROD Adrian Sibley; PROD David Collins, George Waud. Ireland/UK, 2022, color, 106 min. NOT RATED



Northern Ireland Focus:

On the 25th anniversary of the Belfast Agreement, we spotlight several inspirational and moving films that reflect Northern Ireland's vibrant, dynamic and diverse contemporary culture: features. We also celebrate the extraordinary legacy of Norman Houston, the former director of the Northern Ireland Bureau in the United States, with the presentation of the 2023 Norman Houston Short Film Award. This year's winning film, **HOME BIRD**, will screen with the feature-length documentary **YOUNG PLATO**.

BALLYWALTER | North American Premiere | Fri, March 3, 4:45

Q&A with director Prasanna Puwanarajah, screenwriter Stacey Gregg and actor Patrick Kielty

The feature directorial debut of actor Prasanna Puwanarajah (recently seen as Martin Bashir in **THE CROWN**), **BALLYWALTER** is a life-affirming dramedy about a taxi driver — caustic, unrepentant university dropout Eileen (Seána Kerslake, **BAD SISTERS**) — and the recent divorcé (comedian Patrick Kielty) she drives to stand-up comedy lessons. **DIR** Prasanna Puwanarajah; **SCR** Stacey Gregg; **PROD** James Bierman, Nik Bower. Northern Ireland, 2022, color, 90 min. **NOT RATED**



HOME BIRD + YOUNG PLATO | Fri, March 3, 7:00

Welcome by Mr. Andrew Elliott, Director of the Northern Ireland Bureau, North America | Q&A with YOUNG PLATO co-director Neasa Ní Chianáin and producer David Rane | Post-screening reception sponsored by the Northern Ireland Bureau, North America

The 2023 Norman Houston Short Film Award winner: HOME BIRD

Having left without warning months prior, Conor has returned to his hometown after dropping out of university in England, meeting up with his father for a tense reunion on the town's seafront. **DIR/SCR** Caleb J. Roberts; **PROD** Callum Harrison. Northern Ireland, 2022, color, 12 min. **NOT RATED**

Followed by YOUNG PLATO

Q&A with co-director Neasa Ní Chianáin and producer David Rane

This inspiring documentary charts the dream of Elvis-loving school headmaster Kevin McAreevey, a maverick who is determined to change the fortunes of an inner-city community plagued by urban decay, sectarian aggression, poverty and drugs by teaching the wisdom of ancient Greek philosophers. **DIR/SCR** Neasa Ní Chianáin, Declan McGrath; **SCR** Etienne Essery; **PROD** David Rane. Ireland/Belgium/France, 2021, color, 102 min. **NOT RATED**



LOLA (2022) | East Coast Premiere | Fri, March 3, 10:00

In Irish filmmaker Andrew Legge's feature debut, a steampunk sci-fi mockumentary set in 1940s England, sisters Thom (Emma Appleton, **THE WITCHER**) and Mars (Stefanie Martini, **PRIME SUSPECT 1973**) have built a machine, **LOLA**, that can intercept radio and TV broadcasts from the future. **DIR/SCR** Andrew Legge; **SCR** Angeli Macfarlane; **PROD** Alan Maher, John Wallace. Ireland/UK, 2022, b&w, 79 min. **NOT RATED**



Capital Irish Film Festival Shorts Program 1

Sat, March 4, 11:00 a.m. | 80 min.

FIRST DATE | **DIR** Clara Planelles. Ireland, 2021, 12 min. • **SHIP OF SOULS** | **DIR** Jean Pasley. Ireland,

2021, 15 min. • **AS IF THERE WERE TREES** | **DIR** Gary McKendry, Northern Ireland, 2022, 30 min. •

UPROOTED | **DIR** Feidlim Cannon, Gary Keegan. Ireland, 2022, 16 min. • **LADY BETTY** | **DIR** Paul McGrath.

Ireland, 2021, 7 min.





VICKY (2022) | U.S. Premiere | Sat, March 4, 11:10 a.m.

In 2018, on the steps of the Irish High Court, Vicky Phelan gave a now infamous address in which she exposed one of the worst women’s health scandals in Irish history — the cervical cancer debacle. VICKY is both an intimate exploration of her fight to expose the truth about what happened to her and the 220 other women affected, and the story of her personal crusade to stay alive while struggling to get the necessary treatment for all of the victims. DIR/SCR/PROD Sasha King; PROD Vicky Phelan, Bill Snodgrass. Ireland, 2022, color, 89 min. NOT RATED



THE CRY OF GRANUAILE | U.S. Premiere | Sat, March 4, 12:45
Q&A with director Dónal Foreman

In Irish filmmaker Dónal Foreman’s (THE IMAGE YOU MISSED) surprising blend of road movie, psychodrama and fantasy, a grieving American filmmaker (Dale Dickey, A LOVE SONG, WINTER’S BONE) and her Irish assistant (Judith Roddy, DERRY GIRLS) tour the west of Ireland, researching a film about Granuaile, the legendary 16th-century rebel and “pirate queen.”. DIR/SCR/PROD Dónal Foreman; PROD Edwina Forkin, Liam Beatty. Ireland, 2022, color, 82 min. NOT RATED



AISHA | Sat, March 4, 3:05

Letitia Wright (BLACK PANTHER, SMALL AXE) and Josh O’Connor (THE CROWN, GOD’S OWN COUNTRY) shine in Irish director Frank Berry’s (I USED TO LIVE HERE, MICHAEL INSIDE) poignant and maddening social realist drama about a tender friendship that blooms amid the labyrinthine structures of Ireland’s immigration system. DIR/SCR Frank Berry; PROD Tristan Orpen Lynch, Donna Eperon, Aoife O’Sullivan, Sam Bisbee. Ireland, 2022, color, 94 min. NOT RATED



NORTH CIRCULAR | East Coast Premiere | Sat, March 4, 5:15

This documentary musical travels the length of Dublin’s North Circular Road, from the Phoenix Park to Dublin Port, exploring the history, music and streetscapes of a street that links some of the country’s most beloved and infamous places. Featuring musical performances from artists local to the North Circular, including Johnny Flynn, Séan Ó Túama, Eoghan O’Ceannabháin, Ian Lynch and Gemma Dunleavy. DIR/SCR/PROD Luke McManus; PROD Elaine Gallagher. Ireland, 2022, b&w, 85 min. NOT RATED



RÓISE AND FRANK | Mid-Atlantic Premiere | Sat, March 4, 7:15

In this delightful tale of grief, reincarnation and reconnection, Bríd Ní Neachtain (THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN, SONG OF GRANITE) stars as the recently widowed Róise, who comes to believe that a local stray dog embodies the spirit of her late husband Frank. DIR/SCR Rachael Moriarty, Peter Murphy; PROD Cúán Mac Conghail. Ireland, 2022, color, 84 min. In Irish with English subtitles. NOT RATED



Capital Irish Film Festival Shorts Program 2
Sun, March 5, 11:00 a.m. | 72 min.

LA TUMBA | DIR Natasha Waugh. Ireland, 2022, 14 min. • **FOXGLOVE** | DIR Michael-David McKernan. Ireland, 2021, 14 min. In English and Irish with English subtitles. • **VIVA** | DIR Marie Clare Cushinan. Northern Ireland, 2022, 23 min. • **YOU’RE NOT HOME** | DIR Derek Ugochukwu. Ireland, 2022, 11 min. In English and Ibo with English subtitles. • **WINE LAKE** | DIR Platon Theodoris.. Australia/Ireland, 2020, 10 min.



HOW TO TELL A SECRET | East Coast Premiere | Sun, March 5, 12:00
Q&A with co-director Anna Rodgers

More than 40 years after the start of the AIDS epidemic, this groundbreaking film takes on the complexity of living with HIV in contemporary Ireland with rigorous honesty, ingenuity and an artistry that propels the conversation forward. DIR/SCR Anna Rodgers, Shaun Dunne; PROD Zlata Filipovic. Ireland, 2022, color, 99 min. NOT RATED

Capital Irish Film Festival Kids and Family Program

Sun, March 5, 12:45 | 43 min.



TINA TIMES TWO | In this surreal, coming-of-age fable, a lonely girl's wish comes true when she gains a magical friend: an exact double of herself! DIR Bonnie Dempsey. Ireland, 2020, 15 min

THE GHASTLY GHOUL | In this CG-animated adventure, a little monster from Halloween Town is stranded in the human world on Halloween night after trick-or-treating too much. It's up to one girl to face her fears and help the monster return home. DIR Kealan O'Rourke, Corinne Ladeinde, Maurizio Paremelli. Ireland, 2022, 28 min.

PRAY FOR OUR SINNERS | Sun, March 5, 2:05

Q&A with director Sinéad O'Shea



Through the stories of everyday citizens resisting the status quo, filmmaker and journalist Sinéad O'Shea's powerful documentary confronts Ireland's recent history of brutality against children and women, from corporal punishment to state-sanctioned mother and baby homes. O'Shea returns to her hometown in rural Ireland to explore the control the Catholic church held there until recent years and uncovers the gentle but extraordinary figures who chose to resist. DIR/SCR/PROD Sinéad O'Shea; PROD Maya Derrington. Ireland, 2022, color, 81 min. NOT RATED

THE SPARROW (2022) | East Coast Premiere | Sun. March 5, 4:30

Q&A with director Michael Kinirons and producer Alicia Ní Ghráinne



Michael Kinirons' powerful feature debut is a coming-of-age tale about guilt and grief set in a remote fishing village in West Cork. When wild teen Kevin Coyle is involved in a tragic accident, he keeps the tragedy a secret. As the consequences of his lie unfold before his eyes, Kevin is forced to confront the truth and look to his domineering father for what he needs most, the possibility of forgiveness. DIR/SCR Michael Kinirons; PROD Alicia Ní Ghráinne. Ireland, 2022, color, 92 min. NOT RATED

Closing Night | LAKELANDS | Sun. March 5, 7:00

Q&A with co-director Patrick McGivney



In Robert Higgins and Patrick McGivney's directorial debut, which won the award for Best Irish Film at the 2022 Galway Film Fleadh, Cian (Éanna Hardwicke, NORMAL PEOPLE, THE SPARROW, VIVARIUM) is a young Gaelic footballer struggling to come to terms with a potentially career-ending injury after an attack leaves him with a serious concussion and an uncertain future. DIR/SCR/PROD Robert Higgins, Patrick McGivney. Ireland, 2022, color, 100 min. NOT RATED

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