

ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



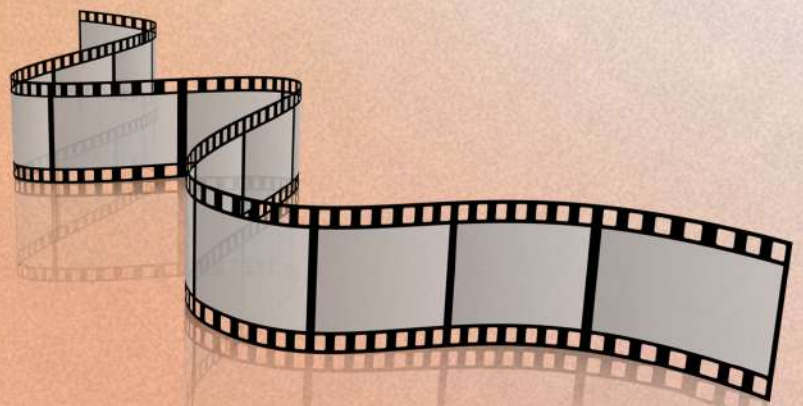
ROSCOMMON ARTS CENTRE
SATURDAY OCTOBER 5, 2024
2.00PM - 9.00PM

WELCOME TO ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Welcome to the Roscommon International Film Festival 2024! Set in the scenic heart of County Roscommon, this festival is a dynamic showcase of the year's freshest talent from around the world, with an emphasis on innovation and creative storytelling. From breakthrough filmmakers to seasoned storytellers, our programme spans a diverse range of genres—drama, thriller, horror, comedy, and more—highlighting the most captivating works of the year.

This year, our curated lineup brings you an exciting blend of international and Irish filmmakers, each offering a unique voice and perspective. Whether you're drawn to bold new visions or subtle narrative mastery, there's something here to spark your imagination. It's a celebration of cinema that explores the possibilities of storytelling while also providing a vibrant space for networking, collaboration, and celebration.

Get ready to experience an unmissable array of films and screenplays that not only entertain but leave a lasting impact. Dive in, discover the gems, and enjoy!



MEET THE DIRECTORS



Andrew Hannon is an author, theatre and film producer, playwright and screenwriter. He wrote and starred in the short Irish film *Creepy Hill* and his latest novel, *Dwell In These Demons*, is an Amazon US Horror best-seller. With a decade of experience running film festivals and contests, Andrew is delighted to be launching RIFF to help promote Irish talent on a global stage.

CC Braithwaite is a member of a BAFTA winning crew for her work on *Emmerdale*. With over twenty five years' experience in the film and TV industry, she is a multi-award winning director and producer of numerous short films, including *Skylark*, *Expiry Date* and *Circuit Love*.



Our primary goal is to discover and promote exceptional talent, searching for those hidden gems that possess the power to captivate audiences and leave an idelible mark on the world of cinema.





Timetable

2:00pm - 2:05pm: Welcome to RIFF

2:05pm - 4:35pm: Short films

4:35pm - 5:15pm: Networking break

5:15pm - 7:15pm: Short films

7:15pm - 7:25pm: Short break

7:25pm - 7:35pm: Award ceremony

7:35pm - 9:00 pm: Feature film presentation



2:05pm - 4:35pm: Short films

Sit back and enjoy the next two and a half hours as we present a selection of short films across a range of different categories - animation, experimental, horror, action, documentary and comedy.

Please note that these short films will play one after the other with no breaks in between.



CANDLELIGHT

Director/writer: Scott Newton

Genre: Animation

United Kingdom - 6 minutes 47 seconds

Synopsis: In a dusty attic, a tall dinner candle springs to life. As the playful and curious candle explores, learning to hop, skip and dance, it discovers a second candle. The two play and dance their way through the attic, falling in love. However, a shocking discovery is made when both candles realise that the heat from their combined flames, whenever they touch, causes them to rapidly melt. Splitting up, the two must decide whether life without the other can still be magical, or if they want to sacrifice everything for love.

CLOUDS

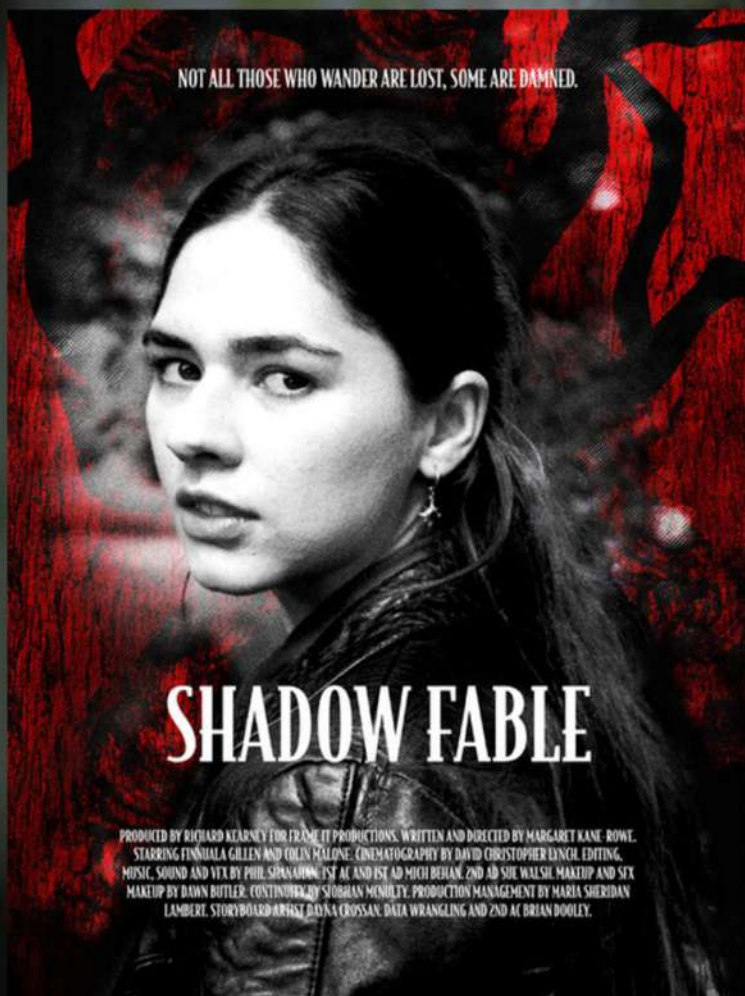
Director/writer: Connor Flynn

Genre: Experimental

Ireland - 6 minutes 21 seconds

Synopsis: An elderly man reflects on a summer he spent in the company of a cloud-spotter

RIFF says: Prepare your ears for an aural treat with this unique film, sublimely narrated by Joe Geoffrey.



SHADOW FABLE

Director/writer: Margaret Kane-Rowe

Genre: Horror

Ireland - 2 minutes 48 seconds

Synopsis: Not all who wander are lost, some are damned. A young woman wanders into a supernatural realm where evil feeds on fear.

RIFF says: We're delighted to present this short and spooky film by the writer and director of last year's winner of Best Irish Short Film, Mask, Margaret Kane-Rowe.



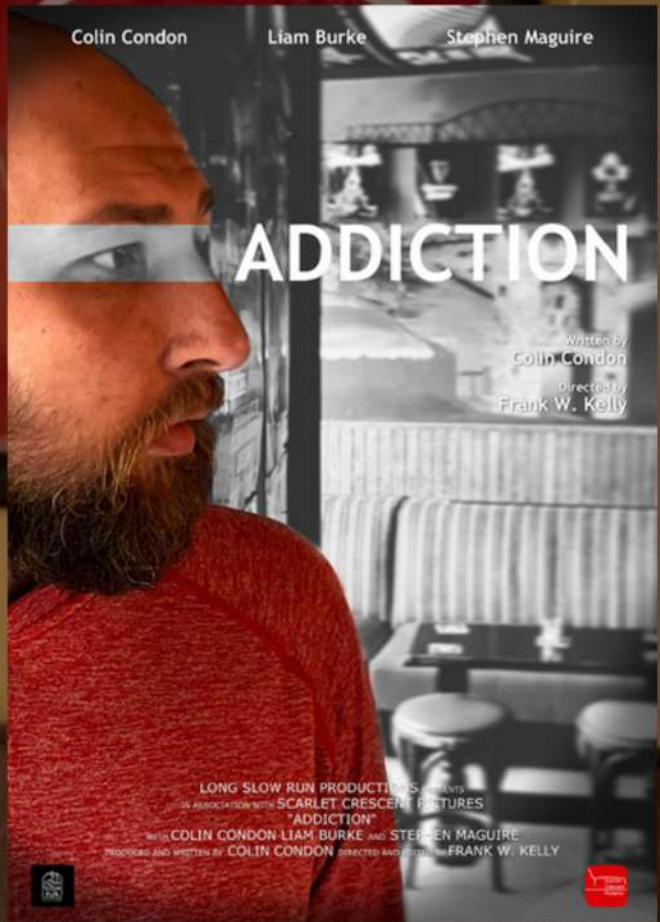
WHERE EAGLE SCOUTS DARE

Director/writer: Thomas Wallace

Genre: Comedy/action

Ireland - 6 minutes 50 seconds

Synopsis: In a tense game of capture the flag, an inexperienced boy scout must single-handedly take on a rival patrol to earn the respect of his accomplished patrol leader.



Director: Frank W. Kelly

Writer: Colin Condon

Genre: Short. drama

Ireland - 7 minutes 58 seconds

Synopsis: A man tries to outrun his addiction.

Director Statement: Colin Condon came to me with a simple, yet very personal, idea. The script was a page and a half, but it was full of heart, experience and self reflection. I felt compelled to help Colin bring his vision to the screen.

We shot over two days using just an iPhone, mounted on a dream grip with a rode video mic. I have been working this way for a couple of years, no crew, just me with a simple camera set up. It means I can travel light, move fast and create an intimate environment for actors to feel at ease and uninterrupted. We were delighted to have famed musician and filmmaker Myles O'Reilly lend us two tracks from his album Cocooning Heart for the film, they really capture the tone of what we were trying to do.

Couple with two subtle performance from Liam Burke and Stephen Maguire I feel we did a lot with very little. It was a delight to work on.

ADDICTION



FLUTTER

Director/writer: Shane W. Brennan

Genre: Comedy, drama

Ireland - 8 minutes 15 seconds

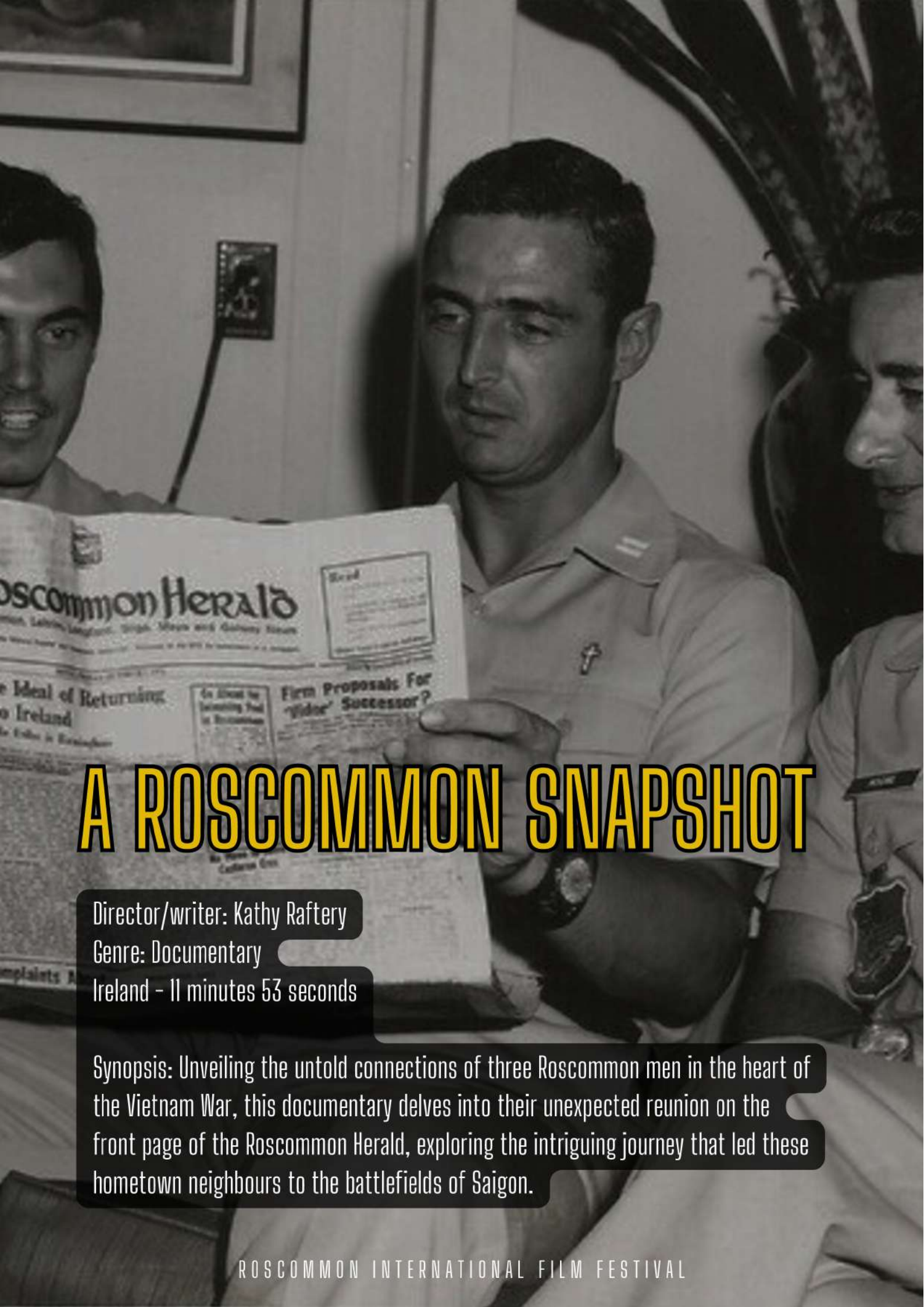
Synopsis: Feeling the financial pressures of family life, a man is manipulated into joining the addictive world of online gambling, where he can't even trust himself.

Starring Tadhg Devery as Declan and Esther Woods as Rachel.

ROSCOMMON AND NEIGHBOURS



ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



A ROSCOMMON SNAPSHOT

Director/writer: Kathy Raftery

Genre: Documentary

Ireland - 11 minutes 53 seconds

Synopsis: Unveiling the untold connections of three Roscommon men in the heart of the Vietnam War, this documentary delves into their unexpected reunion on the front page of the Roscommon Herald, exploring the intriguing journey that led these hometown neighbours to the battlefields of Saigon.

NO FISH

Childhood friends reflect upon their upbringing in rural Ireland



Bloom Green Presents
A Documentary Film By Martin O'Hara

NO FISH

Director: Martin O'Hara

Genre: Documentary, coming of age

Ireland - 14 minutes 57 seconds

Synopsis: A documentary film following a fishing trip with childhood friends. Through reflecting upon their upbringing in rural Ireland, they begin to realise the uncertainty of their friendships and futures.

DADDY'S DEAD

Director/writer: Conor Lambert

Genre: Dark comedy

Ireland - 9 minutes 37 seconds

Synopsis: A cruel sense of self entitlement contrasts with gentle restraint between twin brothers Pat and Malachy. As their Father is dying upstairs, this rural Irish odd couple struggle with the impending death of 'Daddy'. Pat believes himself to be sole beneficiary when his father passes, as inheritance traditionally goes to the first born son, but which one is the eldest?

A dark comedy written, directed and performed by Conor Lambert.

DADDY'S DEAD

COMING SOON

When the end comes it's never over

A SHORT DARK COMEDY FILM WRITTEN DIRECTED FEATURING CONOR LAMBERT

ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

GRIM

GRIM

Director: John Worrall

Genre: Horror

Ireland - 6 minutes

Synopsis: Many years in the past, a young woman is lead around her decrepit, decaying and old family mansion, by a ghostly and malformed manifestation of the Grim Reaper. The deeper into the house she ventures, the more terrifying the situation becomes.



IN GOD'S HANDS

IN
GOD'S
HANDS

Director: Niall Sheerin
Genre: Documentary
Ireland - 11 minutes 50 seconds

Synopsis: Michael Sheerin uses his art to express his inner thoughts and feelings. He constantly has a pen in hand as he journeys from rural Ireland to all over the world and eventually back home again. His brilliant drawings have always been an expression of the unique world he inhabits and, as he gets sick, they become biographical fragments of the world he will soon leave behind.



MONUMENTAL HEALING

Director: Laura Gallagher

Genre: Documentary

Ireland - 11 minutes 30 seconds

Synopsis: Monumental Healing is an art house documentary that delves into the mysterious stone sweat houses of rural Ireland, particularly in Leitrim, where most are located. Filmed during the pandemic, Laura Gallagher draws a parallel between past communal healing practices and modern challenges. Through intimate, handheld cinematography and the collaboration of artists Kate Murtagh Sheridan and Natalia Beylis, the film explores the significance of these forgotten structures and the traditional skills tied to their creation. A soundtrack - including a specially commissioned piece - enhances this reflective piece on community, landscape, and shared healing.

COMEDY SHORTS

ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



SOULMATE WANTED

Director: Zoë Brennan-Whitmore

Writer: Mary Kirwan

Genre: Comedy

Ireland - 13 minutes 37 seconds

Synopsis: *Soulmate Wanted* follows Gwen, a pedantic believer in all things mystical, who has just received an email from a stranger on the internet containing a sketch predicting what her soulmate will look like. Armed with a printer and Sellotape, Gwen embarks on a quest to find the future father of her children. Will she be able to find her soulmate? And more importantly, can she prove that soulmates truly exist?

Starring Gemma Curran.



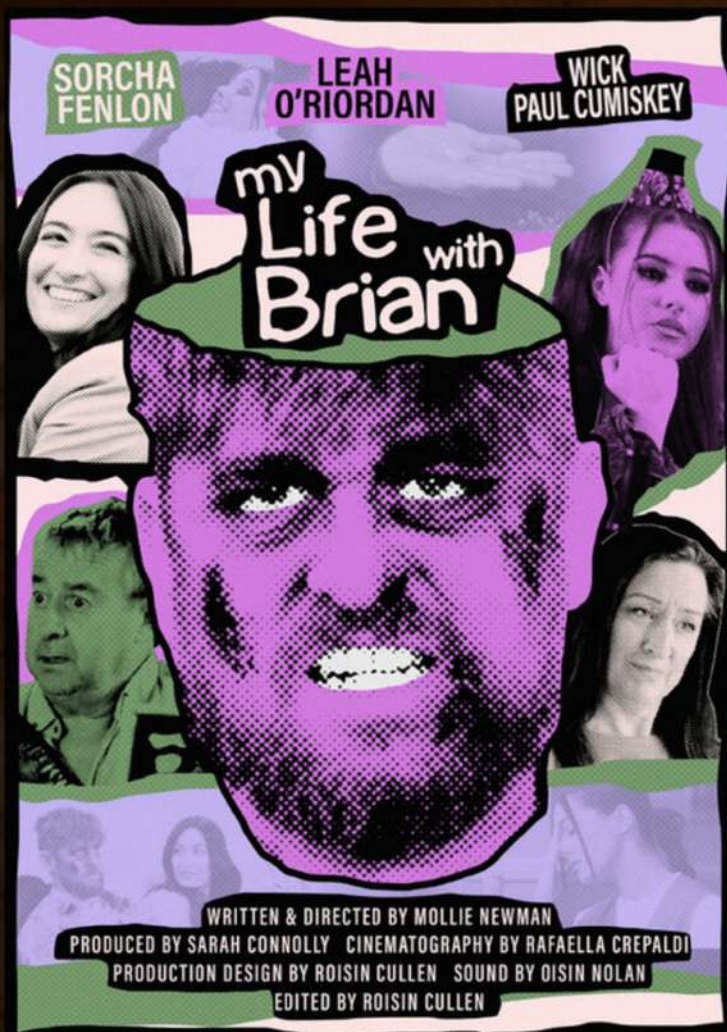
SHOWTIME

Director/writer: Cian Conachy

Genre: Comedy, drama

Ireland - 15 minutes

Synopsis: Lazy understudy Nick O'Neill (Joshua Horgan Smyth) shows up unprepared on the opening night of his school's musical and is confronted by the assistant director Ethan (Dylan O'Donovan) and the chaotic madness that goes on behind the scenes in the theatre.



MY LIFE WITH BRIAN

Director/writer: Mollie Newman

Genre: Comedy

Ireland - 16 minutes 14 seconds

Synopsis: Kim and Chloe are close sisters who do everything together. While Chloe's head over heels with her new boyfriend Brian, Kim's smelling something rotten. With Brian chomping into their lives, Kim's sisterly time dwindles. But here's the kicker - everyone thinks Brian is great, except for Kim, who's dead set against this strange romance.



**4.35 pm - 5.15 pm:
Networking break**

A photograph of a cinema audience from behind, looking at a large screen. The screen displays the text "Short films: 5.15pm - 7.15pm" in a blue, stylized font. The audience is seated in rows of blue seats, and the cinema walls are decorated with blue and grey panels. The ceiling has several circular lights.

Short films: 5.15pm - 7.15pm

ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL FILMS



ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



THE MAGIC SPADE

Director: Jim McMorrow

Writer: Darren Gibson

Genre: Comedy, drama

United Kingdom - 14 minutes 35 seconds

Synopsis: When Danny is ripped from the streets by the gangsters he wronged he is brought to a darkened wood to dig his own grave and say his final goodbyes. But ever the gift-of-the-gab, Danny decides if he can't fight his way out, perhaps he can talk his way out... with a tale of The Magic Spade.

Starring Brendan Quinn and Adam Gillian.



JASMINE

Director/writer: Ellen Costa

Genre: Drama

Ireland/Hong Kong - 14 minutes 59 seconds

Synopsis: Jasmine spends her life yearning for love. Despite of her beauty and talents, she had been forced into the mistress culture, only becoming the second choice. Many personal disappointments cause Jasmine a mental breakdown and she wants to give up.

A poignant drama exploring Jasmine's quest for identity and love amidst societal pressures, her tumultuous relationships, drug abuse and fight against depression, a journey from darkness to self-discovery in Hong Kong's opulent yet oppressive world.

Starring Fan Fan Ling and Sebastian Mok.



BIEN CUIT

Director/writer: Simon O'Neill

Genre: Comedy, drama

Ireland/France - 20 minutes 44 seconds

Synopsis: It's springtime in Paris as Anthony and Claire step out for a romantic anniversary meal. Anthony's culinary tastes and the chef's inflexible principles, however, soon lead to 'une impasse'.

Starring Keith Singleton and Elisabeth Renault-Geslin.

DRAMA



LONELY (Uaigneach)

Director/writer: Conor Slattery

Genre: Drama

Ireland - 7 minutes 35 seconds

Director's statement: I want Uaigneach to touch people in their hearts and to draw attention to the inner turmoil that many people find themselves in for any one of a multitude of reasons. I wanted to create this short film because I believe that through works like Uaigneach and similar creative endeavours people are given voices to speak. Uaigneach will communicate to people that their turmoils aren't abnormal. They are not alone. The film is without dialogue in order that it may be received globally in an effort to convey the normalcy of mental health issues globally without language barriers.



A photograph of two men sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. The man on the left is older, with a full white beard and balding head, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. The man on the right is younger, with a dark beard and hair, wearing a black Adidas tracksuit jacket with white stripes on the sleeves. He has his hand on the older man's shoulder. The background shows green foliage and a wooden fence.

WHAT NOW?

Director/writer: Jack Olohan

Genre: Drama

Ireland - 17 minutes 21 seconds

Synopsis: Davey (Jack Olohan) moves home to care for his Dad, Michael (John Olohan) after the death of his mother. They have always had a good relationship but Davy starts to notice small changes in Michael's behavior. With some advice from his friend, Sarah (Aoibheann McCaul), he manages to navigate his way through a unpredictable patch - but what does the future hold? Over 24 hours, we see how love and humor and a friendly ear can carry us through difficult times.

A close-up photograph of a person's arm wearing a red boxing glove. The glove is made of a shiny, possibly leather or synthetic material, with a black inner lining. The wristband is also red and has a black strap. The background is dark and smoky, with a blueish-grey hue. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of the arm and the texture of the glove.

SPORT DOCUMENTARY

B E N W I L L I A M S

HECTIC

"CALM BEFORE THE STORM"

HECTIC

Director: Ciarán Casey

Genre: Documentary, Sport

Ireland - 36 minutes 30 seconds

Synopsis: Dublin born Ben Williams is on course for being a huge star, not only in boxing, but as an influencer, a DJ and a fitness coach.

This documentary digs deeper into the life of Ben, from early childhood, his injury, the training and everything in between as we follow him through the lead up to his debut fight for MisFits Boxing, which will sling shot him into the eyes of millions.

ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

7:15pm – 7:25pm: Ten minute break



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7:25pm – 7:35pm: Award ceremony



**7.35 pm - 9.00 pm:
Feature film presentation**

ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



BLURRED LINES

Director: Mark Agar

Writers: Mark Agar and Siobhán Aislinn

Ireland - 1 hour 26 minutes 2 seconds



Synopsis: When six close friends celebrate New Year's Eve together, secrets and conflicts reveal themselves after a drink gets spiked. As the accusations begin, the question's raised of who's really responsible? Who's consented?

This story focuses on the modern day stigmas of consent, stereotypes, inner turmoil, ideals and the challenges relationships face as we navigate our twenties.

BESPOKE ART



RIFF
BEST
INTERNATIONAL
FEATURE FILM
2024



Director/writer: Jingjing Chen
China

Owing to time constraints, we're unable to present the winner of RIFF's Best International Feature Film but would like to take a page of this programme to tell you about it.

Synopsis: When bespoke becomes a label for optimized service, the human race is no longer content with customizing things; it begins to customize humans. One by one, the perfect service, the perfect children, the intricate global fertility chains, and the women therein fade out from the documentary footage, while director Jingjing steps into the spotlight from behind the camera. She becomes a Thai surrogate in captivity, but also a surrogacy agent who achieved upward social mobility; she turns into a selfless and hypocritical American surrogate mother – a product of technology born through surrogacy herself; she even tries to play an elite black lesbian at the very top of the feminist chain of contempt, only to collapse in on herself.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

We were truly overwhelmed by the number of exceptional films submitted to this year's Roscommon International Film Festival. The sheer volume of outstanding entries made our selection process incredibly difficult. In fact, we received enough high-quality films to confidently fill a week-long festival. With only seven hours available, there were many remarkable films that we simply couldn't fit into the programme, and it's through no fault of their own that they weren't included.

We would like to take this section of the programme to give these films an honourable mention, as their creativity and storytelling are worthy of recognition. We highly recommend keeping an eye out for these films as they continue to make waves on the festival circuit.

Trust Me - Directed by Leonard Martin
A Blade in the Wind - Directed by Owen Behan
The Light Within - An Irish Quaker Story - Directed by Denis McArdle
Never Thought I'd Come Back - Directed by Lia Campbell
Pepper and I - Directed by Rocaí Millmore
My Old Love - Directed by Fabian Fornalski
Last One Standing, Castleward - Directed by Joseph Conlan
Tiger Tiger - Directed by Cyrus Duff
Sheep - Directed by Brian May
Two Mothers - Directed by Anna Rodgers
Gnó an Rí - (The King's Business) - Directed by Malachai Ó Ciardhubháin
The Wake - Directed by Brian Brightly
Goons - Directed by Alex Mahon
Death at the Esplanade - Directed by Daniel Breene
The Final Chapter - Directed by Terence White
The Carer - Directed by Noel Brady
Venous Returns - Directed by Laura Sheeran
John Riordan, Matamaiticeoir - Directed by Lauren Speeth
Eamonn and the Aliens - Directed by Jennifer Atcheson
Neon Dew - Directed by Joe Quartararo
For The Love of Horses - Directed by Vincent Monahan
Life, Once More - Directed by Scott O'Keeffe
Feathers for Rosa - Directed by Douglas Henderson & Noël O'Callaghan
Unfortunate Events That Made Us Fortunate - Directed by Jan Paul Lodzinski



SCREENPLAY CONTEST NOMINEES



BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT SCREENPLAY

The Playhouse - Wren Valentino

The Estate - Rachel D. Griffiths

Neon - David Williams

La Cabina - Claudia Hinojosa

BEST IRISH SHORT SCREENPLAY

In. And Out - Enda Patrick Treacy

The Paper Man - Rose Byrne

Taxiing - Khaled Sultan

Wildflower - Peter Salisbury

BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE SCREENPLAY

Mary Campbell - Susan Sweeney

The Trial of Lady Annabelle - Victoria Louise Bradley

Winter Bird - Stephen Delos Treacy

Pippin & Lulu - Linda Federico-O'Murchu

BEST IRISH FEATURE SCREENPLAY

Charlie, Safe Home - Jack C. Irwin

A Faery Blight - Julie A. Thornton

The Stolen Childhood - Phil Senn

The Light - Keelan Gallagher

Dippers - Niamh Gormley & Brian Gormley



THANK YOU

We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to our volunteers -
Laura Hidalgo, Bevan Dequeker and Lorna Duffy.

Thanks to Rhona McGrath and to Roscommon County Council for backing
our festival and being instrumental in making it happen.

Our thanks and best wishes to Ursula Ledwith at RosFM.

Thanks to Johnny Gogan and Creative Heartlands for their support.

And finally, special thanks to Catherine Lee, Stephen Nicholson and all of
the team at Roscommon Arts Centre for hosting RIFF at this superb venue.

This event was supported and made possible by

Creative Communities



Clar Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme





UNIVER
CENE

ROSCOMMON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL