

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

Boston

March 22-25, 2018
Somerville Theatre, Davis Square



irishfilmfestival.com
[#irishfilmfest18](https://twitter.com/irishfilmfest18)

THURSDAY, MARCH 22	Theatre	Time
Breakthrough Feature, KISSING CANDICE (102 minutes) <i>plays with</i> Most Inspiring Short, BLESS ME FATHER (16 minutes) Reception to follow at Orleans, Davis Square	Theatre 1	7:30 PM
FRIDAY, MARCH 23		
Director's Choice Feature , MAZE (92 minutes) <i>plays with</i> Director's Choice Short, LOST MEMORIES (15 minutes) Reception to follow at Redbones, Davis Square	Theatre 1	7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 24		
SONG OF THE SEA (93 minutes)	Theatre 5	12:00 PM
NEW IRISH SHORTS 1 (91 minutes)	Theatre 1	12:30 PM
IN THE SHADOW OF THE GLEN (50 minutes)	Theatre 5	2:15 PM
THE BREADWINNER (94 minutes)	Theatre 1	2:30 PM
PULL LIKE A DOG (54 minutes)	Theatre 5	3:30 PM
Global Vision Documentary, THE FARTHEST (122 minutes)	Theatre 1	4:30 PM
KEVIN ROCHE: THE QUIET ARCHITECT (82 minutes)	Theatre 5	6:00 PM
THE LIMIT OF (90 minutes) <i>plays with</i> QED (17 minutes)	Theatre 1	7:30 PM
BETWEEN LAND AND SEA (89 minutes)	Theatre 5	8:30 PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 25		
NEW IRISH SHORTS 2 (75 minutes)	Theatre 1	12:30 PM
NO STONE UNTURNED (110 minutes)	Theatre 5	2:00 PM
IT'S NOT YET DARK (81 minutes)	Theatre 1	3:00 PM
IN THE NAME OF PEACE: JOHN HUME IN AMERICA (90 minutes)	Theatre 5	4:30 PM
NOEL HILL: BROKEN DREAM (65 minutes) Closing Party at The Burren, Davis Square	Theatre 1	6:00 PM

Welcome to the 18th Annual Irish Film Festival, Boston

Welcome to the 18th Annual Irish Film Festival, Boston! We are delighted to showcase so many great Irish films again this year, including that of eleven female directors, a first for the Festival!

We would not be here without the generosity of our premiere sponsor, BA Events/Rás na hÉireann, as well as our lead sponsors, and in-kind supporters. We would like to offer a special thanks to the Consul General of Ireland Boston, and all of the official Irish arts programs, including Culture Ireland, who provide us with the resources to bring Irish filmmakers and their films to Massachusetts every year, and to the Irish Film Institute International who furnish delivery and screening support.

We also extend sincere thanks to the City of Somerville and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Finally, to our tireless volunteers, some of whom work 12 months of the year, we send out our biggest thanks.

The Irish Film Festival is a non-profit and as such we depend on the support of sponsors and individuals like yourselves to keep bringing the best of Ireland and the Irish on screen to Somerville each year. Please consider supporting the Festival with a tax deductible donation for 2018.

Enjoy the flicks,

The IFF Boston Team

This program is supported in part by the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Supported by Culture Ireland - Promoting Irish Arts Worldwide; The Irish Film Institute International - providing Irish film programming for cultural exhibitors worldwide and the Arts Council of Ireland - the Art of Film.

Boston Irish Film Festival (BIFF) Productions is a 501(c)3 non-profit and all contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

7.30pm - Theatre 1

Breakthrough Feature - US Premiere

Proudly presented by BA Events/Rás na hÉireann

KISSING CANDICE

2017/Ireland | UK (102 minutes)

Director: Aoife McArdle

17-year-old Candice longs to escape the boredom of her seaside town, only finding solace in her vivid imagination. When a boy she dreams about turns up in real life, she becomes increasingly entangled with a dangerous local gang.

Actor Ann Skelly in person - Q&A

PLAYS WITH ↓

Most Inspiring Short Film

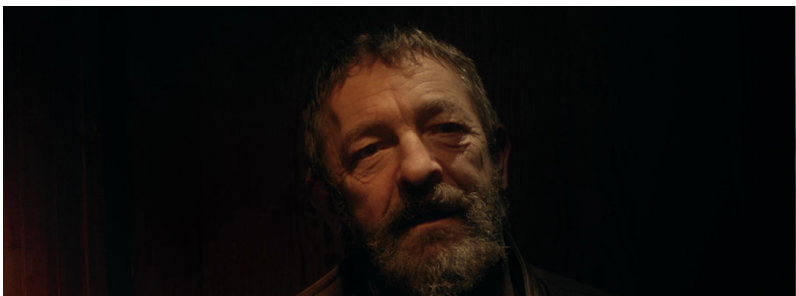
Proudly presented by Talamas

BLESS ME FATHER

2017/Ireland (16 minutes)

Director: Paul Horan

In a small Irish town where secrets are rare, a local man goes to church to confess his.

Director Paul Horan in person - Q&A

7.30pm - Theatre 1

Director's Choice Feature - New England Premiere**MAZE**

2017/Ireland (92 minutes)

Director: Stephen Burke

Maze is based on the true story of the 1983 mass breakout of 38 IRA prisoners from the HMP Maze high-security prison. As Larry Marley, the chief architect of the escape, schemes his way towards this feat, he meets prison warden, Gordon Close. Initially they are confirmed enemies, born of opposite sides of Northern Ireland's political divide, but when Larry realises that Gordon may be useful for his escape, a slow seduction begins. What follows is an intense and intriguing drama during which an unlikely relationship is forged between two adversaries.

Actor Martin McCann in person - Q&A

PLAYS WITH ↓

Director's Choice Short Film**LOST MEMORIES**

2017/Ireland (15 minutes)

Director: Eamonn Murphy

Inspired by a true story. Sean races against the clock to his mother's deathbed while dealing with interfamily politics over the phone.

Director Eamonn Murphy in person - Q&A

Reception to Follow at
Orleans Restaurant, Davis Square

Reception to Follow at
Redbones Restaurant, Davis Square

12:30 pm - Theatre 1

NEW IRISH SHORTS PROGRAM 1 (91 minutes)**CASUAL**

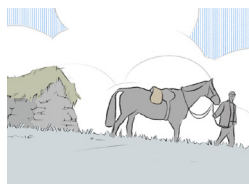
2017/Ireland (12 minutes)

Co-Directors: Aoife Nic Ardghail & Kate Dolan
Maura, an aspiring poet, has been dumped in a voicemail. It was only a casual thing, but she's still stuck with those grim feelings that come with rejection: self-loathing, anger, resentment, and an insatiable hunger for chocolate mousse. And bacon. And wine. To get out of this funk, she decides to take control.

**GUSTAV**

2017/Ireland (11 minutes)

Co Directors: Denis Fitzpatrick & Ken Williams
A man wakes up with a strange tune in his head. But what is it? And how did it get there?

**CORANNA**

2017/Ireland (9 minutes)

Director: Steve Woods

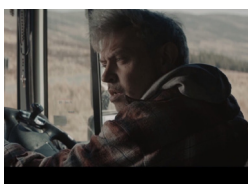
A boy and his horse, Coranna, are in a race to save the lives of their parish from the Great Irish Famine.

**HIDDEN POTENTIAL**

2017/Ireland (11 minutes)

Director: Eamonn MacMahon

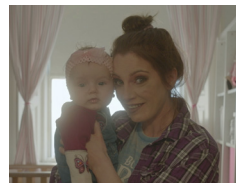
Anthony, an 8-year-old school child who struggles with dyslexia, is constantly belittled, ignored, and bullied by his classmates, teachers, and even school principals. One day, someone steps in and changes his life forever.

**COYOTE**

2016/Ireland (11 minutes)

Director: Dani Wall

Nick Sullivan, a truck driver in the middle of nowhere, has a breakdown. Just when he's ready to give up, he discovers Ammar, a Syrian refugee, hiding in the back of his trailer. Ammar, desperate to get back to his family, reveals himself as a mechanic and issues Nick an ultimatum: "...he'll fix his truck and in return Nick will carry him across the border."

**GROWING ALICE**

2017/Ireland (4 minutes)

Director: Danilo Zambrano

Observing a girl's changing relationship with her mother through the years, from the point of view of the girl's bedroom mirror.

**JON**

2017/Ireland (6 minutes)

Co Directors: Gemma Addy & Dave Slade

An Irish inmate's parole is threatened two weeks from release.

**STACEY LEE**

2017/Ireland (2 minutes)

Director: Jennifer Meade

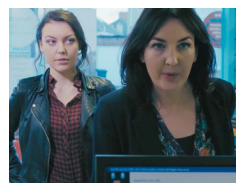
Stacey enjoys her books. Spencer's best friend is his dog. They don't think they need each other until they do.

**MARKY'S BAD WEEK**

2017/Ireland/UK (6 minutes)

Director: Daniel Holmwood

After having the worst week of his life, Marky looks to his last vice to help him through it all - a spliff. But when he realizes that he has lost his last nodge of hash, he sets off to retrace his steps and find it. Unfortunately for Marky, things start to go from bad to worse when he crosses paths with an old acquaintance.

**THE FAMILY WAY**

2017/Ireland (19 minutes)

Director: Nuno Bernardo

Mother and daughter get their pregnancy tests mixed up when they both hide them in the bathroom. They set out to discreetly buy pregnancy tests in their small Irish suburban town, but are thwarted at every turn.

Producer & writer Róisín Kearney in person

- Q&A

12:00 pm - Theatre 5

SONG OF THE SEA

Proudly presented by The Family Backpack

2014/Ireland (93 minutes)

Director: Tomm Moore

Ben, a young Irish boy, and his little sister, Saoirse, a girl who can turn into a seal, go on an adventure to free the fairies and save the spirit world.



Family Screening. Admission for 12 and under: \$5.00



12:30pm - Theatre 1

NEW IRISH SHORTS PROGRAM 1 (91 MINUTES)

(see previous page)

2:15pm - Theatre 5

US Premiere**IN THE SHADOW OF THE GLEN
(ANSEO I LÁR AN GHLEANNA)**

2017/Ireland (50 minutes)

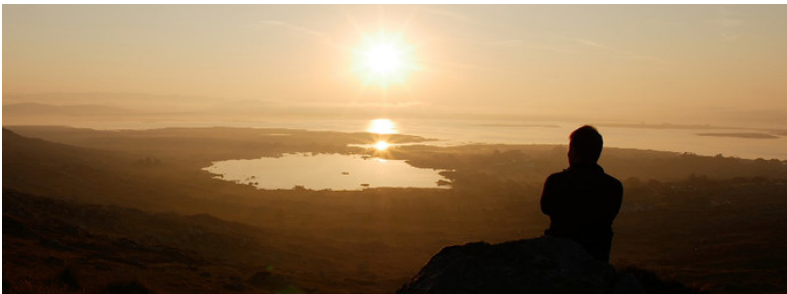
Director: Seán Ó Cualáin

Irish language documentary

A century of continuous global change has devastated Ireland's rural communities and vast areas, especially in the west of the country, are being decimated. One such area is the village of Loch Con Aortha, situated at the foot of the impressive Cnoc Mordáin in west Conamara.

In this documentary, director Seán Ó Cualáin follows a year in the life of the people of Loch Con Aortha. Understanding that the Gaelic civilization to which they belong has disintegrated, they strive to protect and preserve their identity as they come to the realization that if they themselves cannot save their village, perhaps they can save its heritage.

Director Seán Ó Cualáin in person - Q&A



2:30pm - Theatre 1

Special Jury Prize**THE BREADWINNER**

2017/Ireland (94 minutes)

Director: Nora Twomey

Parvana is an 11-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. When her father is wrongfully arrested, Parvana cuts off her hair and dresses like a boy in order to support her family. With undaunted courage, Parvana draws strength from the fantastical stories she invents as she embarks on a quest to find her father and reunite her family.

Equal parts thrilling and enchanting, *The Breadwinner* is an inspiring and luminously animated tale about the power of stories to sustain hope and carry us through dark times.

Parental Guidance Advised.



3:30pm - Theatre 5

US Premiere**PULL LIKE A DOG**

2016/Ireland (54 minutes)

Director: Adrian McCarthy

In August 2016, Gary and Paul O'Donovan, two young rowers from the southwest of Ireland, became household names after bolting their way to silver medal success at the Rio Olympics. This documentary follows the O'Donovan brothers as they return to their parish of Lisheen and Skibbereen rowing club in the aftermath of their success. With catch phrases like "Pull Like A Dog" and "Stheak and Spuds," these two young men have succeeded in warming the hearts of a nation and changed the way we look at this minority sport.



4:30pm - Theatre 1

Global Vision Documentary
Co-presented with STEM on Stage
and Women in Film & Video, New England

THE FARTHEST

2017/Ireland (122 minutes)

Director: Emer Reynolds

It is one of humankind's greatest achievements: More than 12 billion miles away, a tiny spaceship is leaving our Solar System and entering the void of deep space - the first human-made object ever to do so. Slowly dying within its heart is a nuclear generator that will beat for perhaps another decade before the lights on Voyager finally go out. But this little craft will travel on for millions of years, carrying a Golden Record bearing recordings and images of life on Earth. In all likelihood, Voyager will outlive humanity.

The Farthest celebrates these magnificent machines, the men and women who built them, and the vision that propelled them farther than anyone could ever have hoped..

Director Emer Reynolds in person - Q&A

Post-screening discussion on the intersection of science and storytelling.



6:00pm - Theatre 5

New England Premiere**KEVIN ROCHE: THE QUIET ARCHITECT**

2017/Ireland (82 minutes)

Director: Mark Noonan

Still working at age 95, Pritzker Prize-winning Irish-American architect Kevin Roche is an enigma. He's reached the top of his profession but has little interest in celebrity and eschews the label "Starchitect." Despite a lifetime of acclaimed work that includes the Ford Foundation, Oakland Museum of California, and 40 years designing new galleries for The Met in New York, he has no intention of ever retiring and keeps looking forward. Roche's architectural philosophy focuses on creating "a community for a modern society" and he has been credited with creating green buildings before they became part of the public consciousness.



7:30pm - Theatre 1

US Premiere**THE LIMIT OF**

2017/Ireland (90 minutes)

Director: Alan Mulligan

James Allen is a man in control. He lives alone and works as a banker. He does his best to look after his widowed mother. What he doesn't know is that the bank he works for is about to repossess her home. When the stress of this provokes a family crisis, James begins to question his whole life and to glimpse the ruthless, manipulative black heart behind the glossy veneer of the banking world. He decides to take action. **Director Alan Mulligan in person - Q&A**



PLAYS WITH ↓

QED

2017/Ireland (17 minutes)

Director: Amy Joyce Hasting

A couple dealing with the aftermath of a terrible accident explores what we will and won't sacrifice for the person we love.



8:30pm - Theatre 5

East Coast Premiere**BETWEEN LAND AND SEA**

2017/Ireland (89 minutes)

Director: Ross Whitaker

A year in the life of an Irish surf town at the mercy of the Atlantic Ocean. This observational feature - at times intimate, at times epic - embeds itself in the Big Wave surf community to present a thoroughly engaging and visually stunning portrait of the ever-changing life at land's end.



12:30 pm - Theatre 1

NEW IRISH SHORTS PROGRAM 2 (75 minutes)

AMY

2017/Ireland (7 minutes)

Director: Leah Morgan

In this intimate portrait, Amy shares her story in her own words. Despite losing her mother at a young age and battling with Body Dysmorphic Disorder, Amy maintains an inspiring zest for life.



THROWLINE

2017/Ireland (14 minutes)

Director: Mia Mallarkey

A group of taxi drivers in Kilkenny, Ireland join together to form a suicide prevention group. Uniquely positioned to patrol the night, the drivers keep vigil over the city's streets and bridges and offer help to those who feel forlorn.



TIT FOR TATT

2017/Ireland (24 minutes)

Director: Mairéad Ní Thréinir

Tit for Tatt follows the experiences of two breast cancer survivors who were inspired to mark their battles by getting tattoos on their surgery scars.



YOU'RE NOT A MAN AT ALL

2017/Ireland (10 minutes)

Director: Padraig Conaty

A talent competition in the local village gives a bachelor farmer the chance to reveal a secret.



UP THE MOUNTAIN

2017/Ireland (13 minutes)

Director: Donal Moloney

Eddie lost his wife 20 years ago. A broken heart and depression followed. His love of horses and family eventually got him through the difficult times.



NO IRISH NEED APPLY

2017/United States (7 minutes)

Director: William Fitzpatrick

A seven-minute video depicting anti-Irish bigotry in Boston's daily newspapers during the 1880's and 1890's.

Director William Fitzpatrick in person - [Q&A](#)



2:00pm - Theatre 5

New England Premiere**NO STONE UNTURNED**

2017/United Kingdom (111 minutes)

Director: Alex Gibney

Spotlight on Northern Ireland

Award-winning documentarian Alex Gibney reopens the case of the unresolved Loughinisland massacre in Northern Ireland.

In 1994, six men were gunned down and five wounded in a pub in the small village of Loughinisland while watching Ireland's landmark victory over Italy in the World Cup. Despite a police investigation and subsequent re-openings of the case, no one has ever been charged with the murders.

Alex Gibney reopens the original files and the reports that followed, conducting an exhaustive and fascinating inquiry and uncovering a shocking case of collusion and cover-up. Including interviews with families of the victims, case investigators, and committed journalists, *No Stone Unturned* is a suspenseful and profoundly effective true crime investigation from the producers of *Bobby Sands: 66 Days*.



3:00pm - Theatre 1

IT'S NOT YET DARK

2016/Ireland (81 minutes)

Director: Frankie Fenton

Co-presented with the 2018 ReelAbilities Film Festival Boston

It's Not Yet Dark tells the ground-breaking story of Simon Fitzmaurice, a talented young Irish filmmaker with ALS (MND), as he embarks on directing his first feature film through the use of his eyes and eye gaze technology.

Ruth Fitzmaurice in person - Q&A and book signing

A portion of the proceeds from this screening will benefit the ALS TDI Institute.

4:30pm - Theatre 5

Proudly presented by the American Ireland Fund**IN THE NAME OF PEACE: JOHN HUME IN AMERICA**

2017/Ireland (90 minutes)

Director: Maurice Fitzpatrick

Spotlight on Northern Ireland

In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America tells the story of John Hume, who won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1998 as well as the Martin Luther King Award and the Gandhi Peace Prize, the only person to have been awarded all three. The documentary includes wide-ranging and insightful interviews with President Bill Clinton and President Jimmy Carter, as well as Irish leaders, U2's Bono, and Prime Ministers John Major and Tony Blair, who helped to secure peace in Ireland. Liam Neeson is the narrator of the film and Bill Whelan (composer of *Riverdance*) is the film's musical composer.



6:00pm - Theatre 1

US Premiere**NOEL HILL: BROKEN DREAM**

2017/Ireland (65 minutes)

Director: Paddy Hayes

A searing portrait of one of Ireland's most renowned traditional musicians, concertina player Noel Hill, as he recovers from a serious assault that left him a battered shadow of his former self.

Noel Hill in person - Q&A

**Closing Party at
The Burren, Davis Square**



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