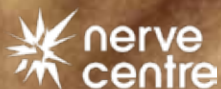




FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL

WED 19 – SUN 30
NOVEMBER 2025



INFO & BOOKING



GENERAL INFO

DISABLED ACCESS

Box office and festival staff are able to provide information and assistance on access to the festival venues.

STARTING TIMES

Films will generally start on time but delays can be possible — particularly when guests are in attendance.

PARKING AND COLLECTING FACILITIES

Parking facilities are available at the Brunswick Moviebowl Car parks.

Foyle Film Festival reserves the right to make changes to the advertised programme. Special guests attend the festival "Schedule Permitting" which can lead to last minute alterations. You will be informed if there is a problem or change with your booking.

REFUND POLICY

We regret that tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded. Please check that you receive the correct tickets at the time of purchase.

NERVE CENTRE BAR

The Nerve Centre Bar and Venue will be open for events during the festival dates. See programme for events guide.

FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL OFFICE

Nerve Centre
7-8 Magazine Street
Derry~Londonderry
BT48 6HJ

☎ 028 71260 562

BOOKING FOR NERVE CENTRE

Bookings for all films and events at Nerve Centre must be made at Nerve Centre box office or online via Foyle Film Festival:

☎ Call 028 7126 0562
➔ foylefilmfestival.org

BOOKING FOR BRUNSWICK MOVIEBOWL

Bookings for all films and events at Brunswick Moviebowl must be made at Brunswick Moviebowl:

☎ Call 028 71371 999
➔ brunswickmoviebowl.com

TICKET PRICES

Opening & Closing Night Films £8
Special Preview Screenings £8
Standard Film Screenings £7
Industry Events £7

FESTIVAL PASS

12 Day Festival Pass
All Events - £120
5 x screenings festival pass - £35
10 x screenings festival pass - £60

(Please note: Pass holders must ensure to book tickets for each individual event to avoid disappointment)

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Welcome Back

“We warmly welcome you to the 38th Foyle Film Festival. Over 12 days, you'll have the unique opportunity to 'see it first in Derry' — experiencing the latest and best films (including advance preview screenings of award-winning titles) from Ireland, the UK, and around the world across multiple venues.

With this year's programme centred on the theme of discovery, we hope everyone attending will have the chance to unearth both cinematic gold and hidden gems from our carefully curated selection of film screenings, industry sessions, and special events.

Harnessing the power of storytelling since 1987, our mission is to present the most exciting, diverse, and ambitious annual film festival — linking audiences and filmmakers to the world and bringing the world to Derry City. We're excited to share this year's programme with you!”

Christopher Morrison
Head of Programming

BOOKINGS CALL: 02871 670133



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Brunswick Moviebowl, Brunswick Lane, Pennyburn Ind. Estate, Derry BT48 OLU

FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL TEAM

Christopher Morrison
Head of Programming
Eavan King
Competition and Industry Programmer
Eamon Phillips
Competition Co-ordinator
Kellie Bryson
Communications Manager
Conall Melarkey
Digital Communications Officer
Colum Lynch
Box Office Manager
Diana Cheung
Outreach & Technical

NERVE CENTRE

Pearse Moore
Chief Executive

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City of Derry Crystal
Michael Bond

Martin Bradley, Eamon Philips,
Dee Gribbon, Eimear O'Neill,
Carrie Bonner McLaughlin

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James Cunningham | james@field.fyi

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WED 19 | BRUNSWICK | 8PM

TRAD

Lance Daly | Ireland | 2025 | 95 mins

TRAD follows gifted fiddle player Shona McAnally (Megan Nic Fhionnghaile) and her young brother Mickey (Dallán Woods) as they leave their home in the Donegal Gaeltacht and take to the road with a troupe of wandering musicians on a cross-country journey of adventure, romance, and musical exploration. Filmed across locations including Donegal and Galway, the film also features an exceptional supporting cast including Aidan Gillen, Sarah Greene, Peter Coonan and Ann Skelly.

Winner of the audience award at this year's Galway Film Fleadh, writer-director Lance Daly's follow up to 2018's Irish box-office smash hit *Black '47* is both a wildly entertaining road-trip as well as a magical and joyous celebration of Irish music. The film is anchored by a superb break-out lead performance from Donegal fiddle player Megan Nic Fhionnghaile who also contributes to the film's vibrant soundtrack (with brothers Declan and Eugene Quinn) composed of standout traditional Irish tunes.

OPENING
NIGHT
FILM

SUN 30 | BRUNSWICK | 8PM

RENTAL FAMILY

12A

Hikari | Japan, United States | 2025 | 103 mins

Set in modern-day Tokyo, *Rental Family* follows an American actor (Brendan Fraser) who struggles to find purpose until he lands an unusual gig: working for a Japanese "rental family" agency, playing stand-in roles for strangers. As he immerses himself in his clients' worlds, he begins to form genuine bonds that blur the lines between performance and reality. Confronting the moral complexities of his work, he rediscovers purpose, belonging, and the quiet beauty of human connection.

Writer-director HIKARI skilfully balances emotional tenderness and offbeat humour in this heartwarming crowd-pleaser, illuminated by a career-best performance from Oscar® winner Brendan Fraser. Complemented with stunning visuals, this filmic love letter to the luminous city of Tokyo also utilises outstanding performances from its ensemble of distinguished Japanese actors, including Takehiro Hira (*Shogun*) and Mari Yamamoto (*Pachinko*).

CLOSING
NIGHT
FILM

Image Courtesy of Wildcard Distribution.

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WORLD
CINEMA
PREVIEW



WORLD
CINEMA

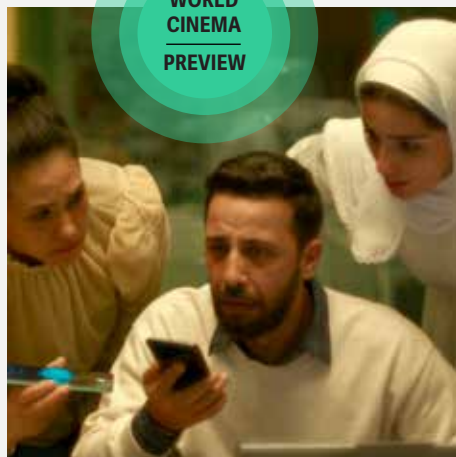
THU 20 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

ALPHA 15

Julia Ducournau | France, Belgium
2025 | 128 mins | Subtitled

With the visceral sensation and emotional intensity of the genre-defying *Alpha*, her follow-up to 2021 Palme d'Or winner *Titane*, Julia Ducournau cements her reputation as a singular and daring auteur. Showcasing her flair for evocative compositions and striking imagery, this captivating and impactful exploration of the binds of love and trauma was the winner of Best Cinematography at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Alpha (Mélissa Boros), a troubled 13-year-old lives with her single mother (Golshifteh Farahani). Their world collapses the day she returns from school with a tattoo on her arm. Blending coming-of-age story, melodrama and Ducournau's trademark body horror, *Alpha* features a trio of mesmerising central performances including Tahir Rahim as Alpha's uncle Amin and with supporting cast including Emma Mackey and Finnegan Oldfield.



THU 20 | BRUNSWICK | 7PM

THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB

Kaouther Ben Hania | Tunisia, France,
United States | 2025 | 89 mins | Subtitled

January 29, 2024. Red Crescent volunteers receive an emergency call. A six-year old girl is trapped in a car under fire in Gaza, pleading for rescue. While trying to keep her on the line, they do everything they can to get an ambulance to her. Using actual call recordings and scripted re-enactments based on first-hand testimony, Oscar® nominated director Kaouther Ben Hania blends documentary and fiction to devastating effect.

Winner of Grand Jury Prize at this year's Venice Film Festival (having received a festival record 23 minute-plus standing ovation), Ben Hania's docudrama has been described by The Guardian as "fierce, urgent and heart-shattering". Utilising the power of cinema as a narrative tool to cut through the news cycle, *The Voice of Hind Rajab* is a poignant and unflinching portrait of an avoidable tragedy.

Please Note: This film is based on real events and contains violence and mature themes.

ANNIVERSARY
SCREENING

THU 20 | BRUNSWICK | 9PM

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST 15

Miloš Forman | United States | 1975 | 133 mins

One of only three films to ever win all five major Oscars® (presented in a brand-new 4K restoration), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, adapted from Ken Kesey's novel, centres on Randle McMurphy (Jack Nicholson), a convict who simulates mental illness in the hope that a transfer to psychiatric hospital might ensure his early release. But he hasn't bargained for the rigid regimen of Nurse Ratched (Louise Fletcher, also superb), who dislikes his disruptive — though he'd say liberating — effect on the ward.

Jack Nicholson's miraculous performance, equal parts barnstorming energy and raw humour established McMurphy as one of cinema's iconic characters. Inspired casting (Danny DeVito, Brad Dourif and Christopher Lloyd are among the patients) and Forman's naturalistic direction lend authenticity to the proceedings, so that the film succeeds both as an anti-authoritarian parable and an affecting reminder of the psychiatric practices of the past.



WORLD
CINEMA
PREVIEW

SAT 22 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

ROMERIA

Carla Simón | Spain, Germany
2025 | 114 mins | Subtitled

Marina (Llúcia Garcia), 18, orphaned at a young age, must travel to Spain's Atlantic coast to obtain a signature for a scholarship application from the paternal grandparents she has never met. She navigates a sea of new aunts, uncles, and cousins, uncertain whether she will be embraced or met with resistance. Stirring long-buried emotions, reviving tenderness, and uncovering unspoken wounds tied to the past, Marina pieces together the fragmented and often contradictory memories of the parents she barely remembers.

Golden Bear winner Carla Simón concludes her family cycle of films (*Summer 1993*, *Alcarràs*) with a poignant and visually poetic journey, based on her own experiences. Blending bittersweet tenderness with nostalgia, Simón crafts a film with universal resonance through its exploration of family bonds, underlining her status as a major auteur in contemporary Spanish cinema.



PREVIEW
SCREENING

SAT 22 | NERVE CENTRE | 9.10PM

PILLION

Harry Lighton | United Kingdom, Ireland
2025 | 107 mins

Colin (Harry Melling) is a directionless wallflower letting life pass him by. That's until Ray (Alexander Skarsgård), the impossibly handsome leader of a motorbike club, takes him on as his submissive. Ray uproots Colin from his dreary suburban life, introducing him to a community of kinky, queer bikers and taking all sorts of virginities along the way. But as Colin steps deeper into Ray's world of rules and mysteries, he begins to question whether the life of a 24/7 submissive is for him. Has he found his calling, or simply swapped one form of suffocation for another?

Based on the novel *Box Hill* by Adam Mars-Jones, this confident and assured feature debut from writer-director Harry Lighton is an unconventional queer romance which balances humour, pathos and eroticism in equal measure. Powered by fearless, committed and beguiling performances from Skarsgård and Melling, *Pillion* offers an unorthodox twist on the traditional vision of the rom-com, both surprisingly funny and intensely moving.



IRISH
FILM
PREVIEW

SUN 23 | BRUNSWICK | 6.30PM

15

SAIPAN

Lisa Barros D'Sa, Glenn Leyburn | Ireland
United Kingdom | 2025 | 91 mins

Saipan explores the explosive clash between soccer star Roy Keane (Éanna Hardwicke) and manager Mick McCarthy (Steve Coogan) before the 2002 FIFA World Cup. Their feud, rooted in clashing standards and personalities, erupted on the island of Saipan, shaking the Irish team and nation. As Keane walked out, McCarthy faced chaos. This gripping true story goes beyond sport, it's a dramatic, often comic tale of leadership, loyalty, and a rivalry that captured global attention.

The latest film from directors Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glenn Leyburn (following 2012's *Good Vibrations* and 2019's *Ordinary Love*), is an uproariously entertaining tragicomedy about one of the defining moments in Irish sporting history. With perfectly matched performances from Éanna Hardwicke and Steve Coogan as the two opposing figures in this infamous tête-à-tête, *Saipan* is just as unmissable for both football fans and those drawn to gripping tales of all-or-nothing power struggles.



Image Courtesy of Wildcard Distribution.



PREVIEW
SCREENING

SUN 23 | BRUNSWICK | 9PM

THE HISTORY OF SOUND

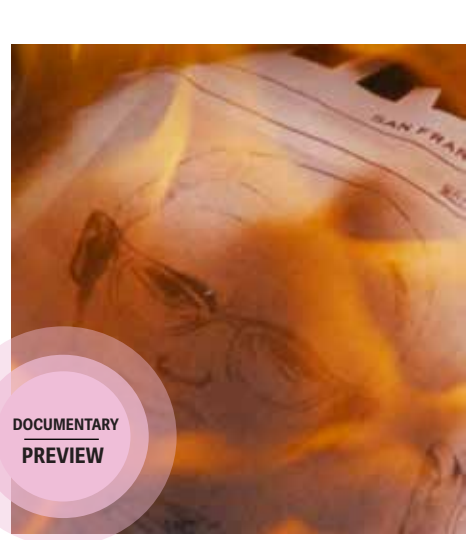
15

Oliver Hermanus | United Kingdom, Sweden,
United States, Italy | 2025 | 127 mins

In 1917, Lionel (Paul Mescal), a young, talented music student, meets David (Josh O'Connor) at the Boston Conservatory, where they bond over a deep love of folk music. Years later, Lionel receives a letter from David, leading to an impromptu journey through the backwoods of Maine to collect traditional songs. This unexpected reunion, ensuing love affair, and the music they collect and preserve, will shape the course of Lionel's life beyond his own awareness.

Based on the titular short story by Ben Shattuk (who has also written the screenplay), director Oliver Hermanus follows the Oscar® nominated *Living* with this melancholic love story. Anchored by a pair of astounding performances from two of contemporary cinema's finest talents in Paul Mescal and Josh O'Connor, *The History of Sound* is an understated and deeply felt portrait of the echoes of passionate connection.

© Focus Features



DOCUMENTARY
PREVIEW

SUN 23 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

ZODIAC KILLER PROJECT

15

Charlie Shackleton | United States
United Kingdom | 2025 | 91 mins

The true crime genre's ubiquity is driven by people's endless fascination, disgust, and — bizarrely — their search for comfort in genre conventions that still have the ability to generate complex emotions despite their predictability and familiarity. In this wholly original, self-aware cinematic work, the true crime boom is put under the microscope as filmmaker Charlie Shackleton tells the story of his abandoned documentary about the infamous Zodiac Killer describing beat by beat how he imagined it playing out.

Over vacant Bay Area landscapes, stylised re-enactments and clips from recent true crime hits, his wry voiceover conjures the unrealised project in real time, offering an object lesson in creative frustration — and a hilarious critique of a genre at saturation point. A witty and beautifully assembled deep dive into our obsession with serial killers and the stories we tell about them, Shackleton's resuscitation of his abandoned film follows in the free-range footsteps of documentary philosophers Errol Morris, Werner Herzog, and Joshua Oppenheimer.



WORLD
CINEMA
PREVIEW

TUE 25 | NERVE CENTRE | 8.30PM

THE LOVE THAT REMAINS

Hlynur Pálmason | Iceland, Denmark, Sweden
France | 2025 | 109 mins | Subtitled

From award-winning writer-director Hlynur Pálmason (*Godland*, *A White, White Day*) — one of cinema's most singular contemporary artists — *The Love That Remains* tenderly and hilariously captures a year in the life of a family of five as the parents navigate their separation. Through both playful and heartfelt moments, the film portrays the bittersweet essence of faded love and shared memories amidst the changing seasons.

Though in the throes of splitting up, Anna (Saga Garðarsdóttir) and Magnus (Sverrir Gudnason) still spend time together for the sake of their three children, Ída and twins Þorgils and Grímur (played, remarkably, by the three real-life children of director Pálmason). While there are clear indications of why the separation is happening, there's also the familiarity of a long-held love and a glimmer of a chance of reconciliation...

ANNIVERSARY
SCREENING

MON 24 | BRUNSWICK | 8PM

CASINO

18

Martin Scorsese | United States, France
1995 | 179 mins

Director Martin Scorsese's epic about the Mafia's relationship with Las Vegas, *Casino* is a dazzling cinematic mixture of operatic visuals, rich dialogue, fantastic sets, and vividly portrayed characters. Adapted by Scorsese and author Nicholas Pileggi from his own titular non-fiction book (following their Oscar®-winning collaboration with *Goodfellas*), this tragic-comic tale of greed and hubris with its blend of dark humour, brutal violence and a career-best Oscar®-nominated performance from Sharon Stone is pure Scorsese.

As the king of his domain, casino manager Ace Rothstein (Robert De Niro) efficiently runs the business and regularly sends lots of cold cash to his bosses. Helping him keep the casino's employees and customers honest is his best friend, Nicky (Joe Pesci), a violent sociopath. Although Ace aims to run a relatively respectable casino, the volatile Nicky wants to take over the entire gambling mecca, and when Ginger McKenna (Sharon Stone), a seasoned Vegas hustler, enters the picture, Ace and Nicky's friendship is complicated even further.

14

Images courtesy of Park Circus/Universal

ITALIAN
FILM
CLUB

TUE 25 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

MID-AUGUST LUNCH



Gianni Di Gregorio | Italy | 2008 | 76 mins | Subtitled

Italian Film Club, a series of ongoing screenings showcases Italian culture and Italian language through contemporary and classic titles from Italian cinema.

Gianni (Gianni Di Gregorio) is a middle-aged man, the only son of his widowed mother with whom he lives in an old house in central Rome. Living under the tyranny of this impoverished aristocrat, his life drags on between housework and trips to the local bar. On the eve of the mid-summer Italian holiday of Ferragosto, Gianni is approached by building manager Luigi (Alfonso Santagata) and blackmailed into looking after Luigi's mother for two nights in exchange for forgiving certain tenant debts.

But when Luigi comes to the apartment, he's brought his aunt Maria (Maria Cali) as well as his mother, Marina (Marina Cacciotti). Soon after, Gianni's doctor friend Marcello (Marcello Ottolenghi) pays a call, asking if he can leave his mother, Grazia (Grazia Cesarini Sforza), for just one night. The four women, each with their own strong personality, prove a handful, but Di Gregorio's approach is true to life, avoiding platitudes or exaggeration as he spins a warm-hearted, humorous saga.

15



WED 26 | BRUNSWICK | 7PM

NOUVELLE VAGUE 12A

Richard Linklater | France, United States
2025 | 106 mins | Subtitled

From Oscar®-nominated director Richard Linklater, *Nouvelle Vague* is the story of Jean-Luc Godard making *Breathless* told in the style and spirit in which Godard made *Breathless*. The film is a love letter to the rebellious magic of the French New Wave and a homage to Godard's influential 1960 film, capturing its youthful dynamism and creative chaos.

After several years writing for *Cahiers du cinéma*, a young Godard decides making films is the best film criticism. He gets producer Georges de Beauregard to fund a low-budget feature, creating a treatment with fellow new-wave icon François Truffaut about a gangster couple. Shot in stunning monochrome black and white, *Nouvelle Vague* is a paen not just to *Breathless* and the joyful art of movie-making but to an artistic revolution which both birthed modern cinema and changed forever the way we watch and think about film.



WED 26 | BRUNSWICK | 9.10PM

IF I HAD LEGS I'D KICK YOU

Mary Bronstein | United States
2025 | 113 mins

With her life crashing down around her, Linda (Rose Byrne) attempts to navigate her child's mysterious illness, her absent husband (Christian Slater), a missing person, and an increasingly hostile relationship with her therapist (Conan O'Brien). With the whiplash pace of a thriller, writer-director Mary Bronstein takes audiences into a breathtakingly inventive, unexpectedly funny, yet startlingly relatable fever dream of parental anxiety.

Rose Byrne gives a one-of-a-kind cinematic portrait of ultra-pressurised motherhood as Linda, an overwhelmed therapist who finds herself in a state of frenzy and obsessive dread as she grapples with a mounting series of head-spinning crises. The result is a gripping tale of personal horror and a moving illumination of that moment in life when it all becomes too much.



THU 27 | NERVE CENTRE | 6PM

EOIN'S LOST FOOTAGE

Jason Bonner | United Kingdom | 2025 | 95 mins

Eoin's Lost Footage is an intimate and bittersweet documentary pieced together from over one hundred tapes left behind by Eoin Coffey, an aspiring filmmaker from Derry City. Determined to make his mark on the industry, Eoin threw himself into a whirlwind of low-budget productions, wild comedic misadventures, and the chaotic hustle of chasing a creative dream.

What begins as a playful chronicle of a young artist's ambitions gradually transforms into something deeper: a portrait of a friend confronting the harsh realities of illness, personal struggle, and the fragile nature of time. Through his own lens, Eoin captured both the laughter and heartbreak of a journey that never reached the breakthrough he sought, but left behind something far more enduring — his spirit, humour, and humanity preserved on tape.

By weaving together unseen footage with the memories of those closest to him, *Eoin's Lost Footage* becomes not just a story of a filmmaker who was never discovered, but a testament to friendship, creativity, and the legacy left in the frames he shot.



THU 27 | BRUNSWICK | 9.10PM

A PRIVATE LIFE 15

Rebecca Zlotowski | France | 2025
103 mins | Subtitled

This film contains flickering or flashing lights that may affect those with photosensitive epilepsy.

When renowned Paris-based psychiatrist Lilian Steiner (Jodie Foster) learns of the death of one of her patients, she is deeply troubled. Convinced that it was murder, she decides to investigate with help from her ex-husband Gabriel (Daniel Auteuil), tumbling further down the rabbit hole in the process.

Writer-director Rebecca Zlotowski channels Alfred Hitchcock with this playful murder mystery, combining dark humour and exhilarating thrills to delightfully entertaining effect. With a superb performance from legendary two-time Oscar®-winner Jodie Foster (in her first French-language role) the film features a supporting cast which is a who's-who of A-list French acting royalty including Daniel Auteuil, Virginie Efira and Mathieu Amalric.

THU 27 | BRUNSWICK | 7PM

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT

12A

Jafar Panahi | Iran, France, Luxembourg
2025 | 102 mins | Subtitled

WORLD
CINEMA
PREVIEW

Winner of the prestigious Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival and selected as France's submission for the forthcoming Oscars®, Iranian auteur Jafar Panahi's *It Was Just An Accident* is both a spiky morality tale and nail-biting thriller. Filmed in secret (following Panahi's censorship and imprisonment at the hands of the Iranian government), this intensely gripping and darkly comic exploration of the fine line between justice and vengeance retains the dramatic potency of his very best work.

What begins as a minor accident sets in motion a series of escalating consequences. Vahid (Vahid Mobasseri), an Azerbaijani auto mechanic, was once imprisoned by Iranian authorities. During his sentence, he was interrogated while blindfolded. One day, a man named Eghbal (Ebrahim Azizi) enters his workshop. His prosthetic leg creaks, and Vahid thinks he recognizes one of his former torturers.



18

FRI 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 9PM

CULT
MOVIE
CLUB

15

ERASERHEAD

David Lynch | United States | 1977 | 89 mins

This screening will be introduced by local film historian and programmer Denzil Browne.

Cult Movie Club is a regular screening series that unearths some of the most under-appreciated movies from the cinema vaults to allow audiences to enjoy them once more on the big screen. This year's selection is the iconic debut film from the late David Lynch, 1977's *Eraserhead* — A dream of dark and troubling things...

Eraserhead is both a lasting cult sensation and a work of extraordinary craft and beauty. With its mesmerising black-and-white photography by Frederick Elmes and Herbert Cardwell, evocative sound design, and unforgettably enigmatic performance by Jack Nance, this visionary nocturnal odyssey continues to haunt American cinema like no other film.



19

SAT 29 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

CHRISTY

15

Brendan Canty | Ireland,
United Kingdom | 2025 | 94 mins

IRISH
FILM

Winner of Best Irish Film at this year's Galway Film Fleadh, director Brendan Canty's feature debut (based on his short film of the same name), follows 17-year-old Christy (Danny Power) at a crossroads after he's kicked out of his suburban foster home and moves in with his estranged older brother (Diarmuid Noyes) in Cork's Northside. As he makes friends and begins to let the community in, he also reconnects with his past through his seemingly more corrupting extended family, despite Shane's efforts to protect him.

Drawing inspiration from the lived experiences of the young people involved, the film assembled much of its ensemble cast from the Kabin Studio in Cork, a non-profit community space that has grown out of a love for hip hop and art. *Christy* celebrates the power of community through its honest and warm-hearted depiction of finding tribe and a family, and provides a hopeful, humorous and inclusive snapshot of Ireland's contemporary youth: a story that champions universal themes of a search for identity and belonging.

IRISH
FILM
PREVIEW

SAT 29 | NERVE CENTRE | 9PM

AONTAS

Damian McCann | Ireland | 2025
91 mins | Subtitled

This screening will be followed by a discussion with the film's writer-director Damian McCann and co-writer Sarah Gordon.

Three unlikely thieves, led by a woman on the verge of a breakdown, rob a rural Irish Credit Union. Opening in the tragic aftermath of the heist-gone-wrong, the story uses reverse chronology to unravel the events that led to this point. What starts as a poorly executed robbery becomes a portrait of a wilful woman trapped in her own past.

Fueled by highly accomplished performances from Bríd Brennan and Carrie Crowley (both playing against type), this Irish language twist on the heist film is both wildly entertaining and masterfully constructed. *Aontas* (which translates as Union) is a fractured puzzle about the impact of our choices and the memories that we can't escape.



Settle into a morning of melodrama with a warm coffee and fresh croissant, as we showcase timeless classics on the big screen.



Booking is required for catering. Doors: 10.30AM Film: 11AM

CINEMATIC
BREAKFASTS

Images courtesy of Park Circus/Samuel Goldwyn Film Trust.



SAT 22 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

WUTHERING HEIGHTS

William Wyler | United States | 1939 | 104 mins

Emily Brontë's tale of passion, hatred, and revenge, *Wuthering Heights* is the story of a tortured love affair between Heathcliff (Laurence Olivier) and Cathy (Merle Oberon), her escape by marriage to the wealthy Edgar (David Niven) and Heathcliff's savage retaliation upon the woman he loves.

Wyler's evocative shot compositions are perfectly complemented by Gregg Toland's haunting black and white cinematography which won him his only Oscar®. Featuring a stellar cast including Oscar®-nominated performances from Olivier and Geraldine Fitzgerald and with stunning art direction and production design, this exploration of social class and impossible love, is both strikingly atmospheric and passionately moving.



Images courtesy of Park Circus/Warner Bros.

SUN 23 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

MILDRED PIERCE

Michael Curtiz | United States | 1945 | 111 mins

What Veda (Ann Blyth) wants, her mother Mildred Pierce (Joan Crawford) provides. Even if Mildred must end her middle-class marriage, climb atop the male-dominated business world and marry a wealthy man she doesn't love. "I'll do anything," Mildred says in explaining her love for her daughter. But does "anything" include murder?

Based on James M. Cain's 1941 novel, this hard-boiled yet emotive portrait of ultimate maternal sacrifice blends atmospheric film noir and vintage melodrama. Showcasing a dynamite Oscar®-winning central performance from Joan Crawford, equal parts fearless and fragile, *Mildred Pierce* is an undisputed classic of the Melodrama genre.

Images courtesy of Park Circus/Universal.



SAT 29 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWS

Douglas Sirk | United States | 1955 | 89 mins

All That Heaven Allows movingly portrays a May–December romance between Cary Scott (Jane Wyman), an attractive widow, and her handsome gardener-landscaper Ron Kirby (Rock Hudson). Exceedingly lonely since her husband's death, Cary throws conventional behaviour to the winds, facing social ostracism by pursuing her romance with Ron, who is unjustly perceived as a fortune hunter by Cary's friends and family—especially her priggish son, Ned (William Reynolds).

Shot in glorious technicolour with stunning visuals, expressionist colours and evocative symbolism, this portrait of small-town America exhibits Sirk's full repertoire as one of classic melodrama's great directors. Screening from a brand-new 4K restoration on the occasion of its 70th anniversary, *All That Heaven Allows* showcases the genre as vehicle for both visual excess and biting social commentary.



Images courtesy of Park Circus/Paramount.

SUN 30 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

SUNSET BOULEVARD

Billy Wilder | United States | 1950 | 110 mins

Gloria Swanson as Norma Desmond, an aging silent film queen, and William Holden as the struggling writer who is held in thrall by her madness, create two of the screen's most memorable characters in *Sunset Boulevard*. Winner of three Academy Awards®, director Billy Wilder's orchestration of the bizarre tale is a true cinematic classic, presented in a brand-new 4K restoration.

From the unforgettable opening sequence through the inevitable unfolding of tragic destiny, the film is the definitive statement on the dark and desperate side of Hollywood. Erich von Stroheim as Desmond's discoverer, ex-husband and butler, and Nancy Olson as the bright spot in the unrelenting ominousness, are equally celebrated for their masterful performances.



Images courtesy of Park Circus/Pathe.



MON 24 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

VOLVER

15

Pedro Almodóvar | Spain, United Kingdom
2006 | 121 mins

Raimunda (Penélope Cruz) works and lives in Madrid with her husband Paco and daughter Paula. Her sister Sole (Lola Dueñas) lives nearby and they both miss their mother Irene (Carmen Maura), who died several years ago in a house fire along with their father. A former neighbour from their hometown reports that she has seen the ghost of Irene and both daughters do not believe her. After a murder and a family tragedy, Irene's spirit materialises around her daughters to help comfort them.

Drawing upon maternal narratives in classic melodrama cinema such as *Mildred Pierce* (1945), iconic Spanish auteur Pedro Almodóvar created one of his signature films with this tale of family secrets and the ghosts that haunt us. Featuring his trademark colour-filled visual palette, witty dialogue and a career-best performance from Oscar® winner Penélope Cruz, *Volver* is both wickedly funny and emotionally resonant.



Images courtesy of Park Circus/StudioCanal.

WED 26 | NERVE CENTRE | 7.30PM

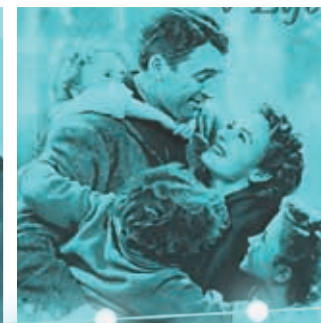
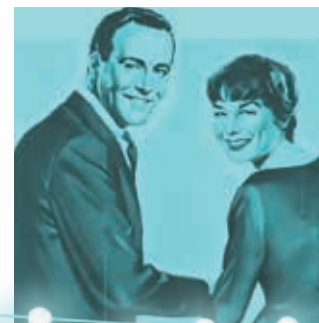
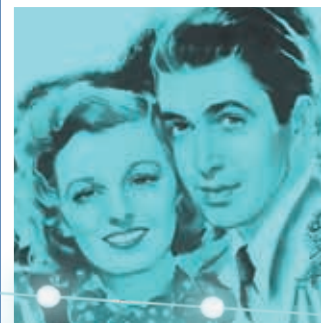
THE PIANO

15

Jane Campion | New Zealand, Australia,
France | 1993 | 121 mins

Set in 1851, a mute Scottish woman (Holly Hunter) arrives in colonial New Zealand for an arranged marriage, with her precocious young daughter (Anna Paquin) and beloved piano in tow. Her practical new husband (Sam Neill) refuses to transport the piano to their home and makes a deal with his neighbour, George Baines (Harvey Keitel) to take the piano off his hands. Attracted to Ada, Baines agrees to return the piano in exchange for a series of piano lessons that become a series of increasingly charged sexual encounters.

Inspired by Emily Brontë's seminal novel *Wuthering Heights*, New Zealand auteur Jane Campion became the first female winner of the Palme D'Or for this striking and evocative gothic melodrama, which also collected Oscars® for Campion's richly textured screenplay and the extraordinary performances of Holly Hunter and Anna Paquin. With haunting cinematography, stunning coastal landscapes, and sweeping score, *The Piano* is a timeless portrait of feminine awakening that burns with the twin fires of music and erotic passion.



nerve cinema

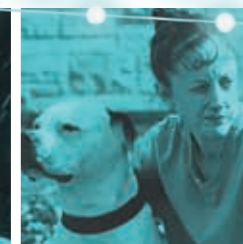
CINEMATIC BREAKFASTS: 11AM

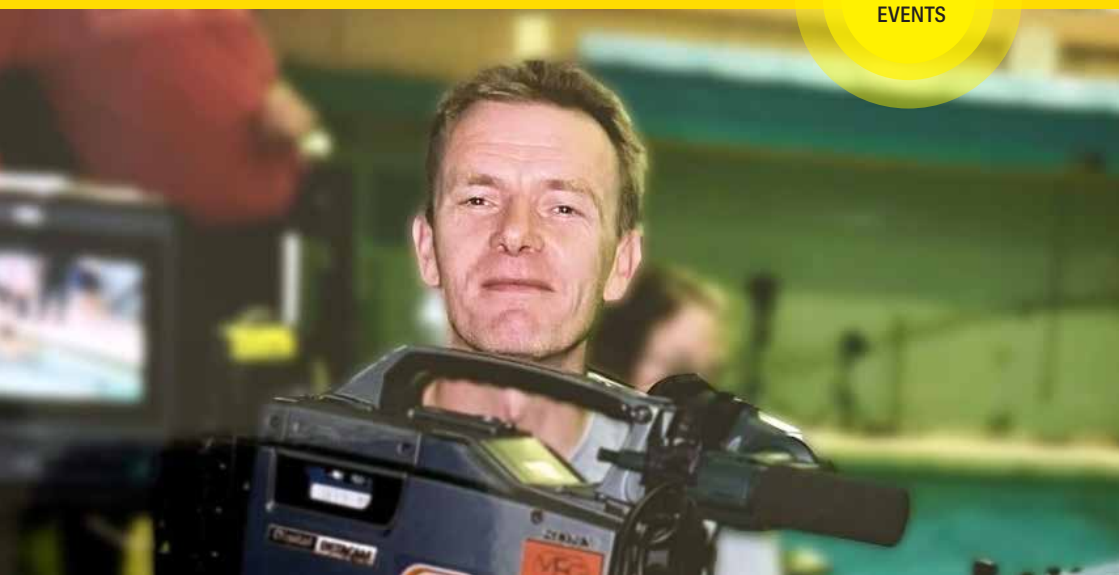
It's a Wonderful Life	13 Dec
The Shop Around the Corner	14 Dec
The Apartment	20 Dec
Meet Me In St. Louis	21 Dec

7pm
028 7126 0562
nervecentre.org

Evening Screenings: 7PM

Dead of Winter	10 Dec
The Mastermind	11 Dec
The Ice Tower	17 Dec
Dragonfly	18 Dec





On February 8th this year, Derry's filmmaking community lost a close friend, colleague, and creative collaborator.

A mainstay of Derry's film community for over 40 years, Vinny Cunningham worked as a multi-award-winning camera operator, documentary producer, and director. His work with Joe Mahon's *Westway Films on Lesser Spotted Ulster* and *Mahon's Way* earned him a Guild of Television Cameramen award, but it's for his documentary work that Vinny's contribution is most significant.

It was his persistence that saw him persuade the newly established BBC4 to commission a documentary on the *Battle of the Bogside*

that had been turned down repeatedly by local broadcasters in 2004. The film went on to win an IFTA Award for Best Documentary, receive a Grierson Award nomination, and screen internationally at film festivals as well as on the BBC.

The Derry Trilogy—*Battle, No Go: The Free Derry Story, and Exodus*—brought the city's story to life with love, compassion, and keen storytelling. His final work, *The White Handkerchief* (2022), received RTS and Celtic Film & TV Award nominations.

Vinny's encyclopaedic archive of local footage was interwoven with testimonies from participants, eyewitnesses,

and key figures, all scored with carefully curated local music. The result was a series of films that were a labour of love and a tribute to the city and its people.

Derry lost a proud son and champion this year and we celebrate his rich life and legacy at Foyle with a night dedicated to his passion for film, for music, and for the people of his City. So please come along and join us as we watch his work, and the work that he inspired, before we sing and raise a glass to a close friend, taken far too soon.

Each event is ticketed, with all proceeds from the night going to the Foyle Hospice in Vinny's memory.

FRI 21 | 6PM



TEENAGE KICKS 15

Tom Collins | Writer
Producer: Vinny Cunningham
Ireland, United Kingdom
2001 | 72 mins

Veteran BBC Radio DJ John Peel takes his first visit to Derry and discovers for himself the band that forged his favourite pop song "Teenage Kicks". The film through the use of archive footage — including previously unseen material of Derry and The Undertones — takes us back to 1975, to a time when it would have been normal, even expected, for five Derry teenagers to get together and have a riot. The Undertones got together, formed a band and created their own form of riot, bursting into a vigorous and joyous celebration of their own existence.

FRI 21 | 7.30PM



NORTH WEST
FILMMAKERS
SHOWCASE
IN MEMORY OF

VINNY CUNNINGHAM TRUE SON OF DERRY

As part of this year's Filmmakers showcase Foyle Film Festival has commissioned a documentary about Vinny and his work with contributions from his friends, family and colleagues.

Alongside his own projects, Vinny was always willing to support others, offering archive material, contacts, and advice to filmmakers of all levels — both local and those creating films about the Northwest.

Please note for viewers under the age of 18, parental discretion is advised, as programme may not be suitable.

FRI 21 | 9PM



THE MARRA LIVE IN CONCERT & JIM CURRAN'S TWILIGHT ZONE DISCO

Vinny was a huge fan of music, and we are delighted that local band The Marra will play at Nerve Centre as part of our tribute to Vinny.

This Derry-formed five-piece is part of the next wave in Ireland's thriving music culture — fired up and ambitious, ready to thrill with their unique sound.

"Mega tunes." Succinct as always, Oasis star Noel Gallagher knows what's good, and rising Irish rock band The Marra have his stamp of approval.

All local lads with an eclectic range of influences — musical, literary, cinematic — they're carving out a path that is all their own.

Vinny's good friend, Jim Curran, will provide support with his Twilight Zone Disco.

SUN 23 | NERVE CENTRE | 9PM

SUNRISE

A STORY OF TWO HUMANS

WITH LIVE SCORE BY VINCENT O'CALLAGHAN

F.W. Murnau | United States | 1927 | 94 mins | Silent Film

SPECIAL
EVENTS



Vincent O'Callaghan
has released two
albums, *The Mocking
Reflection & Day of
The Molotov* on the
Greek label Kinetik
Records.

The culmination of one of the greatest careers in film history, F. W. Murnau's *Sunrise* represents a milestone of film expressionism blending a story of fable-like simplicity with unparalleled visual imagination and technical ingenuity. Winner of three Oscars® for Best Actress (Gaynor), Cinematography and a never-repeated award for Unique and Artistic Picture, its influence and stature have only grown with each passing year.

The peaceful life of a naive country man (George O'Brien) is turned upside down when he falls for a cold-blooded yet seductive woman (Margaret Livingston) from the city and the pair hatch a plot to break up his otherwise idyllic marriage. Reconsidering his violent plan at the last moment, the man follows his fleeing wife (Janet Gaynor) to the city in order to beg her forgiveness.

At this special Foyle Film Festival event, Vincent O'Callaghan blends field recordings with an ambient score to reimagine Murnau's 1927 classic film *Sunrise*. This sensory experience explores a world where love is lost to the dark recesses of human desire but rekindled in the warm glow of a rising sun. Textured soundscapes will dissolve into dancing and flickering images, illuminating this poetic *Song of Two Humans*.



Image courtesy of Park Circus/Walt Disney Studios



SPECIAL
EVENTS



SAT 29 | NERVE CENTRE | 8PM



PANDORA'S BOX

WITH LIVE SCORE BY PEOPLE THAT LISTEN TO THE SKY

G.W. Pabst | Germany | 1929 | 134 mins | Silent Film

People That Listen to the Sky is a multinational, multi-instrumental project based in the Northwest of Ireland (Derry/Donegal). With three core members, the group creates immersive soundscapes that fuse dark ambient, post-rock, experimental, and electronic elements which has been described as cinematic, atmospheric, and dark.

One of the masters of early German cinema, G. W. Pabst had an innate talent for discovering actresses (including Greta Garbo). And perhaps none of his female stars shone brighter than Kansas native and onetime Ziegfeld girl Louise Brooks, whose legendary persona was defined by this melodrama of lust, greed and violence.

Pabst's startlingly modern adaptation of Wedekind's *Lulu* plays follows the downward spiral of a vivacious showgirl, brought vibrantly to life by Brooks, wreaking casual havoc on all she encounters through the sheer power of charisma. Daring and stylish, *Pandora's Box* is one of silent cinema's great masterworks and a testament to Brooks's dazzling individuality.

WED 26 | NERVE CENTRE | 10AM

MOVING IMAGE ARTS SHOWCASE AND CAREERS EVENT

SPECIAL
EVENTS



Foyle Film Festival launched CCEA's very first Moving Image Arts Awards Showcase in 2003, with the support and sponsorship of Michael Bond from City of Derry Crystal. The showcase marks and celebrates the best work produced by Moving Image Arts students each year.

Since its introduction 22 years ago, this annual event has gone from strength to strength, and Foyle Film Festival is delighted to once again highlight and celebrate the talent, imagination and creativity of MIA students from across Northern Ireland with the beautiful City of Derry Crystal Awards.

It is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that the festival provides a platform for the work of these budding young filmmakers and hopes to accept the work of these students into the Oscar® and BAFTA® affiliated Light in Motion Competition in future years.

Our event this year will also have a focus on careers, sharing success stories from professionals currently working in the dynamic Northern Ireland screen industries sector. Students will have the opportunity to hear more about career opportunities from an industry panel discussion and to meet and network with leading industry and education stakeholders.

To book places contact Foyle Film Festival via email at info@nervecentre.org or via telephone on 02871 260562.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS EVENT IS OPEN ONLY TO
SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



WED 26 | NERVE CENTRE | 5PM



I'M FROM THE ROAD

Vincent Kinnaid | Northern Ireland
2025 | 33 mins

This screening will include a post-screening discussion with director Vincent Kinnaid and producer Jolene Mairs Dyer.

In the documentary, poet Scott McKendry works with the young people attending the Marion Centre of Excellence [for education], based in the former St. Comgall's school on the Falls Road, Belfast. Learning outside of the mainstream school system, the young people appearing in the film develop a sense of who they are and where they're from through writing poetry.

WED 26 | NERVE CENTRE | 6PM



WE WERE ALWAYS HERE

Elsbeth Vischer | United Kingdom
2025 | 29 mins

This screening will include a post-screening discussion with director Elsbeth Vischer.

A visual walking tour of the North's queer spaces through the women and non-binary people who make them.

We Were Always Here is a documentary made with the LGBTQIA+ Heritage Project NI Project and HERe NI and that tells the story of queer spaces past and present in Belfast and beyond. Through LGBTQIA+ women and non-binary people who have carved out this vital space, we learn of queer history and how these places of Pride continue to flourish in new ways.

THU 27 | NERVE CENTRE | 8PM



SPECIAL
EVENTS

NEWBLISS

A MEMOIR PLAY BY KEITH DONALD

Doors Open: 7.30PM
Performance: 8PM

Keith Donald's career in music spans five decades. A renowned saxophonist and clarinet player, Keith is best known as a founding member of seminal Irish traditional band Moving Hearts. In a career that has spanned over five decades, Keith has played on over eighty albums and worked with artists including Van Morrison, Christy Moore, Ronnie Drew and Louis Stewart, among many others.

Earlier this year Keith published his book *Music and Mayhem* which charts the immersive and explosive life of Keith Donald, one of Ireland's most important musicians, plus the golden decade of Irish music that he was at the very centre of.

For more than thirty years, Keith's musical career was blighted by addiction. Twenty years after getting sober, Keith sat down and wrote *NewBliss*, a one-man play which is an unflinching and emotional look back at his life and his desperate battle with alcoholism. It combines Keith's words, verse and music to tell the story of his journey from addiction to redemption.

"*NewBliss*, a memoir play, takes its audience on a moving journey through the life and music of Keith Donald. A beautiful and engaging production, underpinned by a narrative bursting with honesty and a performance delivery of the highest quality". - Arts Council Northern Ireland

SCREENING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
DERRY~LONDONDERRY AND ARTANGEL

FRI 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 6PM-7PM

COME AS YOU REALLY ARE

Heta Patel | United Kingdom | 2024 | 12 mins

Admission: Free of charge

An informal show & tell will follow the film with audience members invited to join in by bringing items that represent their hobbies.

Foyle Film Festival, in partnership with CCA Derry~Londonderry and Artangel present *Come As You Really Are* by Heta Patel. The film brings together myriad hobbies and hobbyists from across the UK, each representing a decision to commit valuable time to living life on one's own terms in a society dominated by consumerism.

Working with a network of galleries and arts organisations, the artist launched a nationwide call out inviting members of the public to share the activity to which they dedicate their spare time. *Come As You Really Are* adopts the aesthetics of Hollywood cinema and advertising to showcase a variety of hobbies, celebrates freedom of expression and ingenuity, and in doing so broadens our perception of who gets to be called creative and where the impulse to create stems from.

Come As You Really Are is a nationwide project made up of 13 partner presentations across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales from summer 2024 – 2026. Commissioned and produced by Artangel, in partnership with CCA Derry~Londonderry; Factory International, Manchester; Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea; Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool; Museum of Making, Derby Museums Trust; National Festival of Making with Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery; Wolverhampton Art Gallery; Barnsley Civic; Inverness Museum and Art Gallery; Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland; Hospitalfield, Arbroath and Tate St Ives.

Read more about the nationwide project at:
artangel.org.uk/project/come-as-you-really-are/

CCA DERRY~
LONDONDERRY

Artangel



SPECIAL
EVENTS



Images: Heta Patel, *Come As You Really Are* (film stills), 2024. Courtesy of Artangel and the artist.

FRI 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

LOST FOR WORDS

Hannah Papacek Harper | France, United Kingdom | 2025 | 93 mins

This special screening will be followed by a conversation between two of the most celebrated nature writers living on the island of Ireland, Kerri ní Dochartaigh and Ruby Free.

Admission: Free of charge

What does connecting with nature mean to you? *Lost for Words* asks this question of many dwellers of the UK landscape.

The film leads us on an adventure through the seasons, from the most remote corners of the country to museum archives and scientific laboratories. Children, elders, scientists, artists, and activists speak out, sharing their knowledge and emotional connection with nature. Their voices urge us to reflect on our own relationship with the natural world around us.

The story begins in 2007, with the disappearance of nature-related words from the Oxford Junior Dictionary. These lost words, such as "acorn," "otter," "bluebell," and "dandelion," serve as a guide throughout the film.

Starting from this question — 'How can we care for something we cannot name?' — the film opens up bigger and bigger interrogations about how we can rebuild our connection to the natural world.



Kerri ní Dochartaigh is a mother, writer, holder and grower. She is moved by the way we tend and attend: to ourselves; to one another; to the living world. She has written for The Guardian, BBC, RTE, The Irish Times and others. Her work currently explores ideas of one-anotherness, interconnectedness and ecologies of care.

Her first book, *Thin Places*, was awarded the Butler Literary Award 2022, and highly commended for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2021.

Cacophony of Bone, her second book, was longlisted for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2023.

She lives in the west of Ireland with her family.



Ruby Free is an award-winning Campaigner, Writer and Conservation Biologist based in County Antrim. Passionate about saving nature and reconnecting people to it, she's worked and volunteered in the environmental conservation sector since she was 16 and has been named one of the 100 most influential Environmental Professionals in the UK on the ENDS Power List.

Ruby is currently touring her best-selling book *Rathlin A Wild Life* alongside writing a nature and climate column for the Irish News, working as a policy officer for an eNGO and managing a nature friendly farm @BallyconnellyFarm with her partner Craig.

Alongside her passion of nature-writing, these days any spare opportunity to unwind is spent adventuring with her dog Isla, surfing, growing food or illustrating!

Artitude: Climate, Culture & Circularity is a partnership project between The Playhouse, Northern Ireland Resources Network, Repair & Share Foyle, DCSDC and Queen's University Belfast. Funded by the National Lottery UK Climate Action Fund, it harnesses the power of art and creativity to connect communities through climate action.

MON 24 | NERVE CENTRE | 3PM – 5PM

LOST & FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES

ARCHIVE
SCREENINGS

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on the creative reuse of archival film.

What happens when you hand the keys to the archives to film students? They dig deep and return with gems!

Ulster University Cinematic Arts students present a specially curated programme of hidden gems from the Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive, featuring amateur filmmakers Shelagh McCaughan, Jean Todd, the Campbell Family, James Houston, and Archie Reid.

This screening is supported by Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive.

NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN
Digital Film Archive

Ulster
University

THU 27 | NERVE CENTRE | 8PM

FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BLOODY SUNDAY TRUST PRESENTS:



ARCHIVE
SCREENINGS

MY DEAR PALESTRINA

Diarmuid Lawrence | United Kingdom | 1980 | 85 mins

Screening to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the passing of local Derry actor Ronan Downey who plays the lead role of Danny McErlane, *My Dear Palestrina* also features early performances from Liam Neeson and Valerie Lilley in supporting roles. Based on Bernard MacLaverty's short story, this touching film has rarely been screened since its initial airing as part of the BBC2 *Playhouse* series in 1980.

A young boy (Ronan Downey) in 1950s Northern Ireland inherits his grandfather's piano. His family knows nothing of serious music but sends him to the local piano teacher (Eleanor Bron) thinking it might lead to a career as a dance band musician. The teacher finds that he has undeniable talent and teaches him to appreciate classical music as well as to play. He forms a close bond with her but a trip to Belfast for him to sit an exam has unforeseen consequences.



IMMERSIVE ARTS

IMMERSIVEARTS.UK

IMMERSIVE ARTS AT FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL

FRI 21 | NERVE CENTRE
10.30AM – 1PM

Immersive Arts is a groundbreaking, UK-wide programme aimed at breaking down the barriers for artists to create and engage with immersive technologies, through an inclusive and accessible programme of funding, training, research and events.

This special event at Foyle Film Festival focuses on how immersive arts is changing the way we create and engage with stories and features leading talent in the immersive arts sector from across the UK & Ireland.

10.30AM WELCOME

10.45AM – 11.30AM

CREATING IMMERSIVE STORYTELLERS WHO SPEAK TECH

Discover how to bridge creative vision with technical innovation. Explore talent pipeline development, effective creative-technical collaboration, and real-world strategies for marketing immersive stories.

Featuring

Dee Harvey (Director)
Ruxandra Popescu (VR Artist & Filmmaker)
David Cosgrove (Immersive Artist & Creative Technologist)

Panel Chair:
Ruth McCullough (Immersive Arts)

11.45AM – 1PM

IMMERSIVE SCREENING & DIRECTOR'S TALK



INDUSTRY
EVENTS

HEARTBEAT

Dee Harvey | United Kingdom | 2023
9 mins | Platform: Meta Quest
Immersive documentary

Johanna and her husband Paul have been trying for a baby for ten years. Sadly, on the few occasions she managed to get pregnant, things didn't go as planned — she miscarried. Despite this experience being common for a high percentage of women (approximately one in eight pregnancies ends with miscarriage), it remains a taboo. In this animated VR documentary film, Johanna bravely decides to break the silence by sharing her feelings of loss and grief, but also by talking about the bodily experiences that are the inevitable part of the process of miscarriage.

Winner of Best Narrative at the 2024 Raintance Immersive Awards.

1PM – 2PM

IMMERSIVE ARTS UK LUNCH & NETWORKING

2PM – 3.30PM

IMMERSIVE SCREENING & DIRECTOR'S TALK



UNDERScore

Hugh McGrory | Northern Ireland | 2025 | 85 mins

A meditative psychedelic trip into the underlying fabric of reality, the Underscore is where the end of the world is the start of something new. Laoise (Jessica Reynolds) and Aodhán (Ian McElhinney), a granddaughter and grandfather, come together to face the apocalypse. As the material world mutates and evolves, they transform into light.

Underscore is a cinematic immersive art experience that brings audiences on a powerful poetic journey, to examine the present moment — a period of heightened transition and flux, where we find ourselves simultaneously on the cusp of environmental catastrophe and encounters with artificial and non-human intelligences that will redefine our purpose, our behaviours, and our beliefs. The experience uses emerging technologies to communicate a feeling, establish a connection, and provoke an emotional response.

Underscore is an original idea by Hugh McGrory and is created in collaboration with a team of international innovators in AI art, electronic music, virtual production and virtual reality. *Underscore* was filmed entirely in Northern Ireland and is developed and produced with funding from Northern Ireland Screen and Kinetek, Inc.

SAT 22 | NERVE CENTRE | 10AM

BFI FILM ACADEMY AT FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL

Led by Nerve Centre in Northern Ireland, BFI Film Academy is delivered by Nerve Centre, Amma Centre and Cinemagic and supported by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), National Lottery.



10AM – 11AM



LEVEL UP: REAL JOURNEYS INTO VFX, ANIMATION & GAMING

Ready to turn your love of digital creativity into a real career? Join industry professionals from National Talent Academies and Northern Ireland Screen Academies as they reveal how to break into the exciting worlds of visual effects, animation, and game development. You'll hear authentic stories from people currently working on everything from blockbuster films to indie games, discovering the different paths that led them to success. Whether you're drawn to 3D modeling, character animation, or game design, these professionals will share the essential skills you need and give you practical, actionable advice on launching your creative career.

Main funders



11.15AM – 12.15PM



YOUR STORY STARTS HERE: BREAKING INTO SCREEN & DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Join us for an inspiring event where newly qualified trainees supported by Northern Ireland Screen will share their real journeys from starting out to landing roles in film and TV production. Hear first-hand how they navigated their way into exciting careers in scripted and unscripted television, and learn about the diverse opportunities waiting for you — from research and production to art department, locations, and sustainability roles. This is your chance to connect with peers who've already made the leap and discover the training pathways that could launch your own screen career. With expert guidance from Northern Ireland Screen and trainees already working in the sector, you'll learn exactly how to turn your passion for storytelling into your future profession.

12.15PM – 1PM



Join us for informal, peer-to-peer networking and interview events for young filmmakers aged 16–25, providing opportunities to share advice on filmmaking and industry opportunities, meet collaborators, and learn from professionals and each other.

These events are part of the broader BFI Film Academy programme for 16–25 year olds, which also includes practical courses, masterclasses and special events aimed at connecting and supporting the next generation of screen industry professionals.



1PM – 2.30PM

FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL YOUNG FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

Young Filmmakers Showcase at Foyle Film Festival celebrates the work of young, aspiring filmmakers aged 16–25 supported by the work of the BFI Film Academy programme, supporting young filmmakers in their first professional productions.

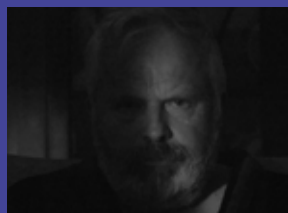
Young Filmmakers Showcase will also celebrate the work of Nerve Centre's Screen Academies over the last 12 months. Foyle Film Festival Young Filmmakers Showcase is supported by BFI Film Academy with National Lottery funding.



THE MILKMAN

Daniel de Vecchis, Ryan McGrath, Alan McCaffrey Jones, Sèana Macdonald
2025 | 10 mins

Pierce's attempt at the perfect first date derails when his dietary demands are treated as suggestions by a waitress who clearly has better places to be. But maybe disaster is the first ingredient for something unexpectedly sweet?



THE PALE MAN

Andrew Dornan | 2025
23 mins

An old embittered man awakes in the middle of the night to find a strange pale intruder eerily sitting in his living room with his face hidden in the shadows, who claims he will kill the man if he does not answer his questions.



INSIDE THE LIQUID CRYSTAL

Ryan McGrath | Northern Ireland | 2025 | 8 mins

While solely caring for her sick relative, Maria makes one final attempt to gain major internet fame.

DERRY-DONEGAL SCREEN LAB

INDUSTRY
EVENTS

1PM – 2.30PM

Derry-Donegal Screen Lab is a project of the Spraoi agus Spórt, funded by the Irish Government's Co-Operation with Northern Ireland scheme. These films were produced for the project in October 2025 by young people from the North West of Ireland from both sides of the border as part of a programme designed by Spraoi agus Spórt in partnership with Nerve Centre and the North West Regional College.



JUST ONE MORE

When two friends cross the border without knowing, they find themselves in a precarious situation - but only in their heads.

Director – Ryan McGill,
Assistant Director – Felix Reddan,
Editor – Ben Lagan McCullough,
Director of Photography – Jake McDermott,
Set Designer Lead & Lighting Technician – Emma Fox,
Sound Technician & Boom Operator – Emma Bradley,
Sound Assistant – Richard Williams,
Camera Assistant – Lennon McDonnell,
Runners – Eva Jennins & Niall Derges Bonner,
Written by Ryan McGill, Felix Reddan, and Max Johnston



DEAD END

A young woman faces the trials and tribulations of trying to find part-time work as a student.

Director – Adam Divin,
Assistant Director – Noah Cavanagh,
Camera – Annie McKay
Sound – Lucas Deighan,
Edit – Raymond Cassidy,
Editing Assistant – Rhys Concannon
AD and Costume – Niamh Brolly,
Assistant Producer – Sofia Carille



THE LANGUAGE WE SPEAK

A hopeful romantic travels across the border for a first date, but his journey from Northern Ireland to the Republic isn't as straightforward as he had hoped.

Director – Shay Malseed,
Editor – Eve Jack,
Director of Photography – Chris Rowe,
Props – Hannah Doyle,
On Set Runner – Veli Kaya,
Farmer – Aaron Millar,
Sound – Sean Og Morrow,
Assistant Director – Becca Flanagan

SAT 22 | NERVE CENTRE
2.30PM – 3.15PM

FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL &
NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN
ACADEMIES PRESENT:

BEHIND THE SCENES OF **WILDKIND** WITH DOG EARS



INDUSTRY
EVENTS

Voiced by three generations of one family, WildKind is a poem painted to awaken the senses, a fluid journey of hope and healing across our shared watercolour motherland. A universal bedtime story, a call to nurture a life wild and kind.

Join Director John McDavid, Writer/Producer Ciara Tinney and Production Manager Carrie Bonner McLaughlin to go behind the scenes of the making of this emotionally resonant and poetic animation.

Screen Academies in Animation, Games Development and VFX are delivered by Nerve Centre and funded by the Department for Communities through Northern Ireland Screen.

DOG EARS

screen
ACADEMIES

FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL
NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN
ACADEMIES

BFI FILM
ACADEMY

SAT 22 | NERVE CENTRE
3.30PM – 5PM

CELTIC VOICES & HAMELY TONGUES AT FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL



Presented in partnership with Cinematic Arts at Ulster University and BFI Film Academy Young Programmers UK, this specially curated selection of short films explores contemporary storytelling in Celtic languages and Ulster Scots dialects.

This programme showcases diverse voices from across the Celtic nations, reflecting themes of identity, language and place. The programme has been selected by BFI Film Academy Young Programmers Osian Andrew and Jack Synnott, along with students at Ulster University Cinematic Arts Programme. The screening will be followed by a talk and reception. This screening is supported by Ulster University supported by Department for the Economy Northern Ireland.

Ulster
University

Department for the
Economy
An Roinn
Geilleagair
www.economy.ni.gov.uk

FILM PITCH CHALLENGE COMPETITION

SAT 29 | NERVE CENTRE | 12PM – 1PM

BFI FILM
ACADEMY

The winning pitch will be produced as a short film and showcased at the BFI Film Academy Young Filmmakers Showcase in March 2026. The programme is supported by the National Lottery as part of the BFI Film Academy, which offers opportunities for ambitious 16–25 year olds anywhere in the UK to learn more about film and establish a career in the screen industries.

As part of the Story Development Intensive, aspiring screenwriters aged 18–25 will pitch their short film script to an industry panel. Mentored by industry professionals, 30 young writers have crafted original short film screenplays which will be read by professional actors and pitched to an industry panel.



Zam Salim | Incidental Pictures

Zam Salim is an award-winning director, writer and producer. His feature debut Up There won Scottish BAFTAs for Best Film and Best Director. He has been commissioned by the BBC, BFI, Screen Scotland, and C4, and has film and TV projects in development including co-productions with Armando Iannucci's Touchscreen, Early Day Films and The Lighthouse for Channel 4. He is a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit and Screen Star of Tomorrow, represented by Michelle Archer at United Agents.



Louise Gallagher | Gallagher Films

Louise Gallagher is the founder of Gallagher Films, an independent production company based in Belfast. With 30 years in media, including 23 years at the BBC in various production roles, she founded Gallagher Films in 2018. Her major recent project is the BAFTA award-winning 'Blue Lights', a BBC drama series set in Northern Ireland, on which she is Co-Creator and Executive Producer.



David Pope | Advance Films

David Pope is a script consultant and screenwriter working internationally. He is Programme Consultant for Stowe Story Labs and annual advisor for Rotterdam Lab at IFFRPro. David has consulted for Ravi Screenwriting Lab, Screen Scotland's Convergence program, and Glasgow Film Festival's Funny Features. He sits on the Writers Guild of Great Britain film committee and is an external expert for Eurimages. As director of Advance Films, he has worked with BFI, Creative Europe, Screen Scotland, BBC, BAFTA, and Cannes Cinefondation.



Christine Morrow | Northern Ireland Screen

Christine Morrow is the New and Emerging Talent Executive at Northern Ireland Screen. Christine devises and delivers seminars for entry level and emerging talent on all aspects of the short film production process. She also works across all the priority industry sectors at short level including, animation, factual, fiction and interactive.

INDUSTRY PANELS

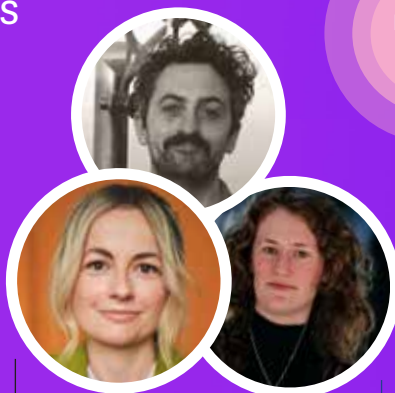
INDUSTRY EVENTS



SAT 29 | 11AM – 12PM

FESTIVAL FORMULA: MAKING THE FESTIVAL CIRCUIT WORK FOR YOU

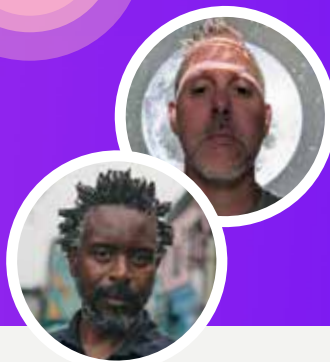
You've made your short film – now what? Join **Katie Bignell** and **Ian Bignell** from **Festival Formula** for an essential workshop that demystifies the film festival world and shows you how to navigate it strategically. Whether you're a complete newcomer or have submitted to a few festivals without much success, this session will give you the tools and knowledge to make the festival circuit work for your career.



SAT 29 | 12PM – 1.30PM

FESTIVAL SHORTS PROGRAMMERS: ASK US ANYTHING!

Join **Festival Formula** and **Foyle Film Festival** in conversation with **Aleks Dimitrijevic** from **London Short Film Festival**, **Oisín Kealy** from **Glasgow Short Film Festival** and **Peggy McHale** from **Dublin International Film Festival**. What grabs their attention? Why do some films get selected while others don't? This session gives you direct access to the people who decide which films make it into festivals, with practical tips that could transform your next submission.



SAT 29 | 2PM – 3PM

BEYOND FESTIVALS: DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND ONLINE EXHIBITION FOR FILMMAKERS

Explore the expanding digital landscape for film distribution and promotion with **Rob Munday** from **Short of the Week** and **MarBelle** from **Directors Notes**. Learn how to leverage online platforms, streaming services, and digital networks to reach audiences and build your filmmaking career. This session covers practical strategies for online film promotion, working with digital curators, and navigating the evolving world of online film distribution.



SAT 29 | 3.30PM – 4.30PM

ROOTED IN IRELAND: GROWING STORIES FOR GLOBAL AUDIENCES

Join film development producer **Dearbhla Regan** (*An Cailín Cúin*), TV producer **Louise Gallagher** (*Blue Lights*) and **Film Ireland's Gemma Creagh** for an industry panel on script development across film and television. This discussion will explore the distinct challenges and opportunities in each medium, from initial concept to final production.

Drawing from their extensive experience in Irish and international markets, the panelists will share insights on nurturing writers, navigating development processes, and current industry trends.



SUN 30 | 1.30PM – 2.30PM

CRACKING THE SALES GAME: WHAT FILM SALES AGENTS REALLY WANT

Join **Vanesa Toca**, **Freak Film Agency** in conversation with **Film Hub NI's Sara Gunn Smith** to discover what makes films commercially viable. Learn how to approach sales representatives and navigate the realities of international distribution deals for both short and feature films in this fascinating discussion that deep dive into what filmmakers need to know before pitching to sales agents.





FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL LIGHT IN MOTION COMPETITION AWARDS

Oscar® Qualifying

Best International Short Film
Best Irish Short Film
Best Animated Short Film

BAFTA Qualifying

British Short Film
British Short Animation

Foyle Film Festival was established in 1987 to bring the best of local, national and international cinema to Derry-Londonderry and to provide a platform for emerging talent and voices to be seen and heard by a wider audience. 38 years later, Foyle Film Festival continues to serve as a platform for creative excellence in storytelling, providing a pathway for emerging talent towards international recognition.

The winning films of the Best International Short Film, Best Irish Short Film, and Best Animated Short Film categories qualify for Academy Awards® consideration. British Short Films and Animated Shorts qualify for further consideration for BAFTA awards. The accreditations underscore the reputation of the festival internationally as a destination festival for filmmakers and audiences.

As an independent festival born and anchored in the northwest of Ireland, we are proud to continue to be a beacon for fresh voices and stories, championing new Irish, UK and International talent, celebrating creativity and great stories on screen.

Winners of the Foyle Film Festival Light in Motion Awards will be announced at the Awards ceremony in Nerve Centre at 7.30PM with Gala Reception on Sunday 30 November.

The Light In Motion Awards is sponsored by City of Derry Crystal

City of Derry Crystal
Crystal and Glass Engravers



BAFTA
QUALIFYING
FESTIVAL



THE FLOWERS OF MALVA

Anna Lys | France | 2025 | 7 mins

In a small village in the Ukrainian countryside, Nina, a grandmother deeply attached to her land, welcomes her granddaughter Yana for what appears to be a simple holiday.



WHITE HARE

Inkyu Jee | South Korea | 2025 | 19 mins

In a brutal forest ruled by predators, a mother rabbit risks everything to protect her baby — and a lost bear cub she encounters along the way.



WHEN OCEAN RISES

Yongxin Wang | Germany | 2025 | 6 mins

A polar bear and a penguin, who have lost their home and are looking for a new place to live, meet on the island where the dog lives. They all want the house for themselves until the ocean begins to rise and the island slowly sinks into the sea.



FOREVER GREEN

Nathan Engelhardt, Jeremy Spears | United States | 2025 | 13 mins

An orphaned bear cub finds a home with a fatherly evergreen tree, until his hunger for trash leads him to danger.



WILDKIND

John McDaid | United Kingdom | 2025 | 8 mins | Subtitled

Voiced by three generations of one family, *WildKind* is a poem painted to awaken the senses, a fluid journey of hope and healing across our shared watercolour motherland. A universal bedtime story, a call to nurture a life wild and kind. Film in Irish Language.

Please note all films in competition have yet to receive certification. Some films may contain strong language, adult scenes and graphic content that may be upsetting. For viewers under the age of 18, parental discretion is advised, as programmes may not be suitable.



WEDNESDAYS WITH GRAMPS

Chris Copeland, Justin Copeland | United States | 2024 | 9 mins

When a teenage boy visits his Gramps at a seemingly mundane boring assisted living facility, he comes to find that they have much more in common than he thought.



GOD DAM

Abigail Hill | United States | 2025 | 3 mins

A mockumentary charting a typical work day for Clint Eatswood, the energetic manager, as he attempts to clean up the mess created by his unenthusiastic employee, Humphrey Daniels.



TUNA TARTARE

Lena Greene | United States | 2025 | 13 mins

In a karaoke bar in post-apocalyptic Los Angeles, an expired can of tuna fish and a fake Louis Vuitton purse encourage each other to believe in their artistic voices even if the world sees them as trash.



THE UNDYING PAIN OF EXISTENCE

Oscar Jacobson | Germany | 2025 | 5 mins

A nude model is posing with statuesque stillness for an elite drawing class — until an unfortunate mosquito bite challenges his self-control. Driven to madness by the itch, he's caught between the ruthless demand for perfection and his most unhinged, animalistic impulses.



THE 12 INCH PIANIST

Lucas Ansel | United States | 2025 | 7 mins

A bar joke goes awry, unraveling into a surreal tale that explores the acceptance of self, others, and queer identity.



DEATH'S PEAK

Willy Fair | United Kingdom | 2025 | 9 mins

Desperate for connection, David digs up his brother's corpse. With their trusty red wagon, they ascend a treacherous mountain in pursuit of their childhood dream.



OVARY ACTING

Ida Melum | United Kingdom | 2025 | 12 mins

A harried thirty-something woman is forced to decide whether she wants to be a mother after unexpectedly giving birth to her reproductive organs at her sister's baby shower.

**ÉIRU**

Giovanna Ferrari | Ireland | 2024 | 13 mins

Éiru is the smallest child of an Iron-Age clan. All she wants is to be a mighty warrior who is taken seriously by her kinfolk. But when the village's well mysteriously dries up, only she is small enough to descend into the belly of the earth to investigate and bring the water of life back to her people

**THE CLOUD HERDER**

Aidan McAteer | Ireland | 2025 | 7 mins

An ageing herder protects her flock of clouds from a ferocious storm of her own making.

**TWO BLACK BOYS IN PARADISE**

Baz Sells | United Kingdom | 2025 | 9 mins

A movingly tender animation, based on Dean Atta's eponymous poem, sees two boys (Edan, 19 and Dula, 18) on a journey of self-acceptance and love – for each other and themselves. **Out of Competition.**

**CARDBOARD**

Jean-Philippe Vine | United Kingdom | 2025 | 10 mins

When an overwhelmed, single dad pig moves his piglets into a rundown trailer park, he fears he's failed his family. But soon his kids create a wildly imaginative game from a simple cardboard box, and Dad has a choice: dwell on the past, or join them on their intergalactic adventure.

**RETIREMENT PLAN**

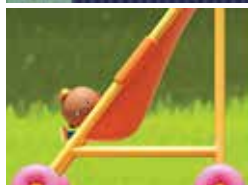
John Kelly | Ireland | 2024 | 8 mins

At apathy with his life, Ray (Domhnall Gleeson) dreams of the beauty and joy he will find in retirement.

**METEORIC**

Paul Ó Muiris | Ireland | 2025 | 7 mins

When an artist is hit by a meteor, the result is a "painting" that captivates the world. But the people want more.

**DUCKS**

AJ Jefferies | United Kingdom | 2025 | 5 mins

A perfectly normal day in the park.

**SHE IS GUILTY**

Mr Socket | China | 2024 | 10 mins | Subtitled

In the dead of night, the daughter is suddenly awakened. Her brother has been in a car accident, and her parents hope she will take the blame for him. In the patriarchal society of China, what path will she choose to take...?

**YA HANOUNI**

Lyna Tadount, Sofian Chouaib | France | 2024 | 3 mins | Subtitled

While a Mom and Dad try to put their baby to sleep, a competition arises between them: who will manage to get the baby to say the first word?

**MOTI**

Yash Saraf | India | 2025 | 16 mins | Subtitled

One day a dog named Moti turns into a boy. Shocked and confused, Moti's human masters take him to the hospital to find out what is wrong. Science intervenes: Moti starts to evolve. But in becoming fully human, Moti loses something vital along the way: his doggy sense of smell, his canine way of navigating the world.

**TAJI**

Mahdi Borjian | Iran | 2025 | 19 mins | Subtitled

A gold bracelet has been stolen at the factory. Taji, the head worker, and her husband Morteza both work there. While searching for the thief, Taji realises that Morteza is the one who stole the bracelet to pay off his gambling debt. Now, Taji faces a dilemma: should she take revenge for all the abuse and mistreatment she has suffered from Morteza by exposing him, or should she forgive him?

**HALFWAY HAUNTED**

Sam Rudykoff | Canada | 2025 | 17 mins

A tenant in a haunted house teams up with a ghost to stop a real estate developer from demolishing the home they share.



COYOTES

Said Zagha | France, Jordan, Palestine, UK | 2025 | 20 mins | Subtitled

A Palestinian surgeon drives home after a long night shift, but little does she know that a commute through a desolate West Bank road will change her forever.



THE INSPECTOR

Jandro | Spain | 2025 | 12 mins | Subtitled

A fake gas inspector visits vulnerable elderly people to take advantage of them. It is now the turn of Carmen, a charming grandmother who keeps great antiques.



KOKO SUZANNE

Zach Bandler | Ireland, United States | 2025 | 17 mins | Subtitled

Based on true events, a young girl's life is turned upside down when her grandmother's strange behaviour sparks fears of witchcraft. As her family struggles to reconcile illness with the supernatural, she must navigate the streets of Kinshasa in order to protect the grandmother she knows and loves.



ZOMBIE

Jessica Husband, Ethan Finch | Australia | 2025 | 5 mins

After getting a voicemail from her partner, a woman clings to his voice, until she can't tell memory from reality.



BEING DEAD SHOULD BE EASY

Claire Harris Matson, Drew Brandon Jones | United States
2025 | 14 mins

A Jewish Millennial woman has a breakdown at her great-aunt's shiva when she learns that there's no room left for her in the family mausoleum and what's worse is that everyone else has their afterlives planned, making her feel behind in life and in death.

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SARA

Ariana Andrade Castro | Peru | 2024 | 15 mins | Subtitled

A lonely and curious 9-year-old girl discovers that her father, a truck driver who travels the country transporting fruit, is carrying more than just goods.
Out of Competition.



FOR RENT

Alejandro Millan | Spain | 2024 | 16 mins | Subtitled

Javier, a young unemployed draftsman, faces the pressure of his economic instability and the tensions with his ex-wife. He rents an old, dilapidated apartment that requires numerous renovations where all is not what it seems...



THE MOURNING OF

Merced Elizondo | Mexico, United States | 2024 | 17 mins

Maribel has been mourning the tragic loss of her mother in the most peculiar way imaginable— by secretly attending the funerals of strangers. After weeks of lying and searching for solace through the grief of others, her inability to move on finally catches up with her.



GOLDEN SWINGERS

Pol Aguilera | Spain | 2025 | 14 mins | Subtitled

Quique and Alfonso, two grumpy 80-year-old grandpas, must venture into a swingers' club to find one of their friends. Will this unconventional setting help them rebuild their complicated friendship?



FRIEND OF DOROTHY

Lee Knight | United Kingdom | 2025 | 22 mins

Dorothy (BAFTA winner Miriam Margolyes) is a lonely widow whose body is failing, but her mind remains as bright as ever. When 17-year-old JJ (Alistair Nwachukwu) accidentally kicks his football into her garden, he upends Dorothy's daily routine of pills, prunes and crosswords, and an unlikely friendship blossoms. Despite being worlds apart in every way, the two come to find they have more in common than they could ever imagine. The cast includes Stephen Fry and Oscar Lloyd.



BIG STEPS

Junbo Qiu | United Kingdom | 2024 | 11 mins

Six-year-old Sammy was living a carefree life — until his mother gave him a gift that quietly prepared him for a world without her.



THE SECOND TIME AROUND

Jack Howard | United Kingdom | 2025 | 12 mins

On a stormy night, while closing a café, a young waitress (Hannah Onslow) is confronted by a mysterious older woman (AACTA nominee Caroline Goodall). Their brief encounter stirs something the waitress can't yet explain—a strange sense that this moment matters more than she knows...



SCATTER

Abi Timmins | United Kingdom | 2025 | 4 mins |

Fulfilling her late father's dying wish to have his ashes scattered at a famous monument in the North of England, a non-hiking pragmatist confronts the grief she's long kept buried as she tackles the arduous – and strikingly beautiful – route there.



ALMA

Lea Neumayer | United Kingdom | 2025 | 15 mins

Alma lives alone in her quaint cottage. We follow her as she navigates everyday life in her old age. Lonely, she takes pleasure in visiting a local farm shop most days. When she starts to unexpectedly develop feelings for the shopkeeper Joan, Alma is confronted with mixed feelings about moving on from her late wife; contemplating going against a promise she made to herself to live the rest of her years alone.

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G.S.W

Johnny Durgan | United Kingdom | 2025 | 7 mins

A man is dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound when the paramedic (Genevieve O'Reilly) treating him discovers he's the perpetrator of a school shooting at her child's primary school, which puts her in an impossible situation.



CUERPOS

Reiff Gaskell | United Kingdom, Spain | 2025 | 21 mins | Subtitled

In 1941, Ana, a young maid, joins the household of a powerful Contessa in rural Spain. What initially seems like a lifeboat from the political terror of the outside world quickly turns into another fight for survival as fear seeps in. Ana must navigate household politics as it collapses around her.



NUISANCE

The Nott Brothers | United Kingdom | 2024 | 14 mins

An elderly couple find their quiet life unsettled by their new neighbours' disturbing allegations.



BULLS IN WATER

Kris Kelly | United Kingdom | 2025 | 12 mins

In the fading summer light, fourteen-year-old Chris is tested by his friends — a journey that reveals the gap between simplified notions of masculinity and the deeper emotions and diverse voices that shape identity.



PLASTIC SURGERY

Guy Trevelyan | United Kingdom | 2025 | 12 mins

A doctor on her last day before maternity leave is thrown into chaos when a hidden threat emerges.



TOAD IN THE HOLE

Ben Norris | United Kingdom | 2025 | 10 mins

Stuck in a stagnant moment of her marriage, Kay (Juliet Cowan) orchestrates an evening away from family responsibilities to pursue a surprising liaison...



TRASNA NA LÍNE

Niamh Bryson | Ireland | 2025 | 17 mins | Subtitled

Trasna Na Líne (Across the Line) is a mockumentary comedy following student teacher Emma, who through a white lie finds herself working at a Dublin Gaelscoil without a word of Irish. **Out of Competition.**



NO TIME WASTERS

Tara O'Callaghan | Ireland | 2025 | 14 mins

Marianne, a young woman on the verge of homelessness, moves through a single, unrelenting day in a city that feels like it's closing in around her.



THE WHITE LOBSTER

Shaun Doogan & Ciaran McCann | Ireland | 2025 | 17 mins

When a young lobster fisherman hauls up a white lobster from the deep, he ignores the curse his great-uncle swears it carries. He brings the creature ashore and soon begins to feel the weight of something unnatural.



THE LAST WORD

Rory Hanrahan | Ireland | 2025 | 10 mins

A woman travels home for her Mother's funeral, unwillingly tasked with writing her eulogy. In the 24 hours from her arrival, she struggles with the reality of their shared secret being buried forever.



THE ASSASSINATION OF MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

Dave Minogue | Ireland | 2025 | 13 mins

Frankie, a burnt-out hospital orderly, decides to leave with a bang. On his final shift, he indulges a long-term patient's fantasy—treating him as if he truly is the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.



THE DEATH NOTICE OF EAMONN McCARTY

Aaron Chalke | Ireland | 2025 | 14 mins

With just one day left to live, a man (Michael McElhatton) scrambles to fulfil his life's ambitions while stuck on the phone to customer care.



POULASTORE

Ann-Marie Kelly & Cabrini Cahill | Ireland | 2025 | 16 mins

Geologist John O Hanlon navigates death, with a loving nurse at his side.



REUNION

Maura Foley | Ireland | 2025 | 14 mins

After years apart, Aoife collects Jen on a return home to a reunion honouring her friend who passed away a decade earlier. As they navigate old haunts and buried emotions, their journey forces them to confront the grief and unspoken truths that have shaped their lives.



MOUSE

Rosie Barrett | Ireland | 2025 | 17 mins

A headstrong single mother, struggling in her relationship with her teenage daughter, gets caught in a game of cat-and-mouse with some local teenagers.



BROWN BREAD

Shaunagh Connaire | Ireland | 2025 | 14 mins

Aine's return to her rural Irish hometown from New York sparks a poignant reflection on ambition, love, guilt, family tensions and the price we pay for success. Stars Fionnula Flanagan.

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TÍOLACADH (DIVINE GIFT)

Sadhbh Larkin Coyle, Séan Coyle | Ireland | 2025 | 20 mins | Subtitled

A father and daughter's relationship has become strained and distant because of his infidelity and second marriage. Their reconnection is brought about through an unlikely bonding when she visits her old hometown in the Gaeltacht for the first time in many years.



BOTTLE

Finn Keenan | Ireland | 2025 | 6 mins Subtitled

An innocent school boy is the subject of a hazing in a school corridor. What seems on the outside like a bit of fun changes something in the boy forever.



MINDING

Emily Foran | Ireland | 2025 | 12 mins

Set in the countryside, a mother drops her college student daughter, now finished up her weekend job at home, to the bus heading to the city - and to life without her.



SAVE ME FROM HEAVEN

Sean Treacy | Ireland | 2025 | 15 mins

With the help of a kind software engineer, a brave young woman must remember who she is to save herself from being deleted by a virtual version of heaven.



AN INCLINATION

Ciara Ni E | Ireland | 2025 | 13 mins | Subtitled

Peigf is discovered in a bedroom she shouldn't be in.



THIS CONVERSATION HAS BEEN REMOVED

Andrew Nolan | Ireland | 2025 | 7 mins

When Peter and Jill engage in an online flame war, they learn just how wrong "making it personal" can go.

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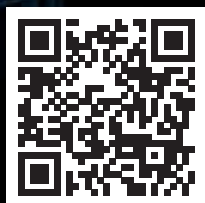


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PLEASE TAKE
OUR FESTIVAL
FEEDBACK
SURVEY

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE



BRUNSWICK MOVIEBOWL

WED 19 | 8PM
THU 20 | 7PM
THU 20 | 9PM

TRAD
THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB
ONE FLEW OVER THE
CUCKOO'S NEST
SAIPAN
THE HISTORY OF SOUND
CASINO

SUN 23 | 6.30PM
SUN 23 | 9PM
MON 24 | 8PM

WED 26 | 7PM
WED 26 | 9.10PM
THU 27 | 7PM
THU 27 | 9.10PM
SUN 30 | 8PM

NOUVELLE VAGUE
IF I HAD LEGS I'D KICK YOU
IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT
A PRIVATE LIFE
RENTAL FAMILY

NERVE CENTRE

THU 20 | 7PM
FRI 21 | 6PM

ALPHA
NIGHT FOR VINNY:
TEENAGE KICKS
NIGHT FOR VINNY: NW
FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE
WUTHERING HEIGHTS
ANIMATED SHORTS PROG 1
ANIMATED SHORTS PROG 2
ROMERIA
PILLION
MILDRED PIERCE 4K
INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
PROG 1
INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
PROG 2
BRITISH SHORTS PROG 1
ZODIAC KILLER PROJECT
VOLVER
MID-AUGUST LUNCH

FRI 21 | 7.30PM

SAT 22 | 11AM
SAT 22 | 1PM
SAT 22 | 3.30PM
SAT 22 | 7PM
SAT 22 | 9.10PM
SUN 23 | 11AM
SUN 23 | 1PM

SUN 23 | 2.30PM

SUN 23 | 4.30PM
SUN 23 | 7PM
MON 24 | 7PM
TUE 25 | 7PM

TUE 25 | 8.30PM
WED 26 | 5PM
WED 26 | 6PM
WED 26 | 7.30PM
THU 27 | 6PM
THU 27 | 8PM
FRI 28 | 9PM
SAT 29 | 11AM
SAT 29 | 1.30PM
SAT 29 | 2.30PM

SAT 29 | 4.45PM
SAT 29 | 7PM
SAT 29 | 9PM
SUN 30 | 11AM
SUN 30 | 1PM
SUN 30 | 4PM
SUN 30 | 5.30PM
SUN 30 | 7.30PM

THE LOVE THAT REMAINS
I'M FROM THE ROAD
WE WERE ALWAYS HERE
THE PIANO
EOIN'S LOST FOOTAGE
MY DEAR PALESTRINA
ERASERHEAD
ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWS 4K
ANIMATED SHORTS PROG 3
INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
PROG 3
IRISH SHORTS PROG 1
CHRISTY
AONTAS
SUNSET BOULEVARD 4K
BRITISH SHORTS PROG 2
IRISH SHORTS PROG 2
IRISH SHORTS PROG 3
LIM AWARDS CEREMONY

INDUSTRY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

FRI 21 | 10.30AM
FRI 21 | 2PM

FRI 21 | 9PM

SAT 22 | 10AM
SAT 22 | 2.30PM
SAT 22 | 3.30PM

SUN 23 | 9PM
MON 24 | 3PM

WED 26 | 10AM

THU 27 | 8PM

IMMERSIVE ARTS UK @ FFF
UNDERScore IMMERSIVE
SCREENING
THE MARRA W/ TWILIGHT
ZONE DISCO
BFI FILM ACADEMY DAY
WILDKIND CASE STUDY
CELTIC VOICES
& HAMELY TONGUES
SUNRISE W/ LIVE SCORE
LOST & FOUND
IN THE ARCHIVES
MOVING IMAGE ARTS
SHOWCASE
NEWBLISS: A MEMOIR
PLAY BY KEITH DONALD

FRI 28 | 6PM

FRI 28 | 7PM

SAT 29 | 11AM

SAT 29 | 12PM

SAT 29 | 12PM

SAT 29 | 2PM

SAT 29 | 3.30PM

SAT 29 | 8PM

SUN 30 | 1.30PM

CCA & ARTANGEL: COME AS YOU
REALLY ARE
ARTITUDE: LOST FOR WORDS
W/ DISCUSSION
FESTIVAL FORMULA
WORKSHOP
FILM PITCH CHALLENGE
COMPETITION
FESTIVAL SHORTS
PROGRAMMERS WORKSHOP
DIGITAL PLATFORMS WORKSHOP
ROOTED IN IRELAND WORKSHOP
PANDORA'S BOX W/ LIVE SCORE
CRACKING THE SALES GAME
WORKSHOP

38

