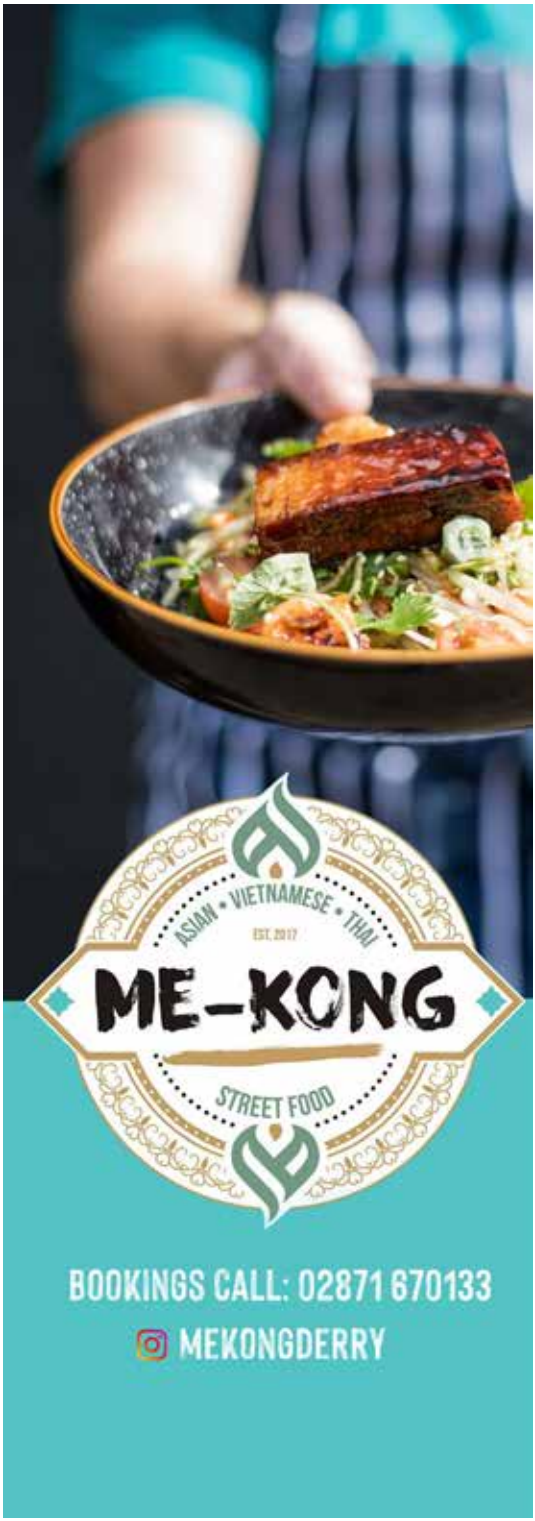


FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL

WED 18 – SUN 29
NOVEMBER 2026

nerve centre

PAPER TIGER



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 Free

Booking fees vary by venue. Please visit foylefilmfestival.org for full ticket prices, including applicable booking fees and booking information.

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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PROGRAMME DESIGN

James Cunningham | james@field.fyi

Welcome to the 39th Foyle Film Festival, offering 12 days of spellbinding film screenings and events across a number of venues across Derry~Londonderry. This year's edition includes preview screenings of award-winning titles alongside innovative, groundbreaking new talents - local, Irish, International - bringing an electric mix of perspectives, genres and styles.

From exhilarating feature films to unforgettable selections from the Light in Motion shorts screenings, compelling sessions in our industry section and dynamic special events, there is something for every taste in this year's line-up. Focused around this year's central theme of compassion, our meticulously curated selection spotlights the power of the movies to illuminate the enduring power of human connection on the big screen.

We are thrilled to present this year's programme to the people of Derry~Londonderry, Northern Ireland and beyond as we continue our mission since 1987 of continuing to link audiences and filmmakers to the world and to bring the world to Derry City!

Christopher Morrison

Head of Programming

WED 18 | BRUNSWICK | 8PM

THE LIGHTKEEPER

OPENING FILM

Vic Sarin | Ireland, Canada | 2026 | 101 mins

This screening will be introduced by Ciaran Creagh, screenwriter of The Lightkeeper, who will also take part in a post-screening discussion including one of the film's producers Larry Bass and cast member Keith McErlean.

Ireland, 1924. Seamus Og Mcgrinna (Dominic Cooper) is a lighthouse keeper whose elaborate rituals keep him at a distance from the outside world as he awaits the fabled Each-Uisce to take him. His carefully constructed prison is blown open by three people who change the course of his life: the American war widow (Sarah Gadon) whose quest for closure ignites something in him; the housekeeper (Sarah Bolger) who fiercely protects him; and the hard-line priest, (Aidan Quinn) who starts a battle of wills with a man who has nothing to lose.

With stunning visuals perfectly showcasing the breathtaking landscapes of Ireland's Atlantic coast, (with filming locations across Donegal including Culdaff and Malin Head), this Irish-Canadian co-production is a hauntingly atmospheric and intensely powerful meditation on love, loss and the enduring power of community. Revolving around a beautifully realised central performance from Dominic Cooper as Seamus, *The Lightkeeper* is a film which will stay with audiences long after the credits have finished.



©ShinAwiL / Sepia Films.



CLOSING FILM

SUN 29 | BRUNSWICK | 8.30PM

15 PAPER TIGER

James Gray | United States, Brazil, Italy | 2026 | 115 mins

In James Gray's deeply felt and intense 1980s New York-based drama, two brothers, family man and engineer Irwin (Miles Teller) and ex-police officer Gary (Oscar® nominee Adam Driver) become entangled in a scheme that turns out to be too good to be true. As they try to navigate their way through the dangerous world of the Russian mafia, family bonds begin to fray with life-altering consequences.

With its meticulous period detail, precise camerawork and timeless visual style, writer-director Gray's ninth feature channels classic crime films of the 1970s by way of Greek tragedy, in turn showcasing outstanding performances from Teller, Driver and Scarlett Johansson as Irwin's wife Hester. Equal parts tense, atmospheric thriller and operatic family tragedy, *Paper Tiger* is a new American classic.

Image courtesy of Neon and Picturehouse Entertainment.

THU 19 | NERVE CENTRE | 6.30PM



PREVIEW
DOCUMENTARY

AMERICAN DOCTOR

18

Poh Si Teng | United States, Palestine, Malaysia, Qatar, Denmark | 2026 | 93 mins | Subtitled

From Emmy® Award-winning filmmaker Poh Si Teng, *American Doctor* follows three American medics who travel to Gaza to volunteer in hospitals overwhelmed by war. Palestinian-American emergency physician Dr. Thaer Ahmad, Jewish American orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Mark Perlmutter, and Zoroastrian trauma surgeon Dr. Feroze Sidhwa come from very different backgrounds but are united by a shared commitment to save lives.

Working amid bombardment, severe medical shortages and constant danger, the doctors treat patients under extraordinary circumstances while witnessing the devastating impact of the conflict. They are compelled to not only care for the wounded but also to speak out about what they have seen.

Filmed on the ground as events unfold, this award-winning documentary follows their journey from besieged hospitals in Gaza to the halls of Congress in Washington, where they advocate on behalf of the patients and colleagues they left behind. A powerful and deeply human portrait of courage, compassion and moral responsibility.

This film contains images of dead bodies.

THU 19 | NERVE CENTRE | 8.15PM



PREVIEW

JOSEPHINE

Beth de Araújo | United States
2026 | 120 mins

18

After 8-year-old Josephine (Mason Reeves) accidentally witnesses a crime in Golden Gate Park, she acts out in search of a way to regain control of her safety while adults, including her parents are helpless to console her. Inspired by writer-director Beth de Araújo's own childhood memory, *Josephine* is a tense, devastating and compassionate drama about how we confront the unspeakable.

Winner of the Audience and Dramatic Grand Jury prizes at this year's Sundance Film Festival, de Araújo's accomplished second feature showcases her striking visual style, complemented by Greta Zozula's precise cinematography. Newcomer Reeves delivers a performance which is both heartbreaking and tender, alongside career-best work from both Channing Tatum and Gemma Chan as her parents.

Contains flashing Images.



PREVIEW

WORLD CINEMA

THU 19 | BRUNSWICK | 7PM

HA-CHAN, SHAKE YOUR BOOTY!

15

Josef Kubota Wladyka | United States, Japan | 2026 | 122 mins | Subtitled

Haru (Oscar® nominee Rinko Kikuchi) and Luis (Alejandro Edda) love competing in Tokyo's ballroom dance scene, but after tragedy strikes, Haru withdraws into isolation. When friends coax her back to the studio, she develops an infatuation with the new instructor. She must face what comes next as sparks fly.

Combining romantic comedy, surreal-drama and toe-tapping musical dance film (with homages to the classic *Dirty Dancing* for good measure), *Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!* is a delightfully charming, intensely playful and profoundly moving exploration of heartbreak. With the film's emotional core provided by an astounding central performance from the luminous Rinko Kikuchi, this Sundance Film Festival award-winner (Best Directing: US Dramatic) is a compassionate and exuberant crowd-pleaser.

Image courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

THU 19 | BRUNSWICK | 9.30PM

2000s CLASSICS

SEXY BEAST

18

Jonathan Glazer | United Kingdom, Spain, United States | 2000 | 88 mins

Ex-villain Gal Dove (Ray Winstone) has served his time behind bars and is blissfully retired to a Spanish villa paradise with a wife he adores. The idyll is shattered by the arrival of his gangster nemesis Don Logan (Ben Kingsley), intent on persuading Gal to return to London for one last big job. Desperate not to sacrifice his enchanted existence, Dove is drawn into a shocking and explosive battle of wills with Logan, and takes part in a sensational underwater heist, risking everything to protect the woman he loves.

Celebrating 25 years since its release with a brand-new 4K restoration, *Sexy Beast* is a mould-breaking stylish thriller which marked the feature debut of Oscar®-winning director Jonathan Glazer (*The Zone of Interest*). Driven by a dynamite script from Louis Mellis and David Scinto, Glazer's striking, sun-drenched visuals and with incredible performances from Winstone and Kingsley (in a role which earned him an Oscar® nomination), *Sexy Beast* is a refreshingly original and riotously entertaining take on the British gangster film.



FRI 20 | NERVE CENTRE | 6.30PM



WORLD CINEMA

IT'S MY TIME

12A

Bai Xue | China | 2026
107 mins | Subtitled

Based on a true story, Zhao Yanhong (Oscar®-winner Michelle Yeoh) is a seventy-year-old rebellious granny who refuses to accept a predictable, dull life in a nursing home. Zhao meets Wu Youwei (Liu Haoran), a former champion of the World Cubing Championship (WCC). Youwei is driven by Zhao's relentless passion and infectious energy, the fallen prodigy becoming her personal Magic Cube coach.

Armed with the Magic Cube, this mismatched duo embarks on an inspiring, age-defying journey. Twist by twist, as she learns to solve the cube, she begins to untangle a lifetime of regrets and emotional knots. Against all odds, she breaches the grand stage of international competition, shattering expectations to prove that no matter the age, life still holds infinite possibilities.

SAT 21 | NERVE CENTRE | 7.30PM



HOPE

15

Na Hong-jin | South Korea | 2026
154 mins | Subtitled

In the remote South Korea village of Hope Harbor, police chief Bum-seok (Hwang Jung-min) and officer Sung-ae (Hoyeon) are called to find a mysterious creature that has wreaked havoc on the village. In the nearby forest, a coterie of hunters, including Sung- ki (Zo In-Sung) set out to track the beast and find themselves hunted instead. But all is not as it seems, and perceptions can be misleading. What begins as ignorance plants the seed of disaster, escalating through human conflict into a tragedy of cosmic proportions.

Ten years after his international breakthrough hit *The Wailing*, Na Hong-jin returns with *Hope*, reportedly the most expensive Korean film ever made. Charging out of the gate with full throttle energy, jaw-dropping scale and relentless action set-pieces, the film features *Squid Game* break-out Hoyeon and a supporting cast including Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander. Oscillating from modern-day western to action thriller, creature feature and sci-fi epic, this genre-splicing thrill ride will make audiences laugh, gasp and scream in equal measures.

Image courtesy of Neon and Picturehouse Entertainment.



PREVIEW

SUN 22 | BRUNSWICK | 6.30PM

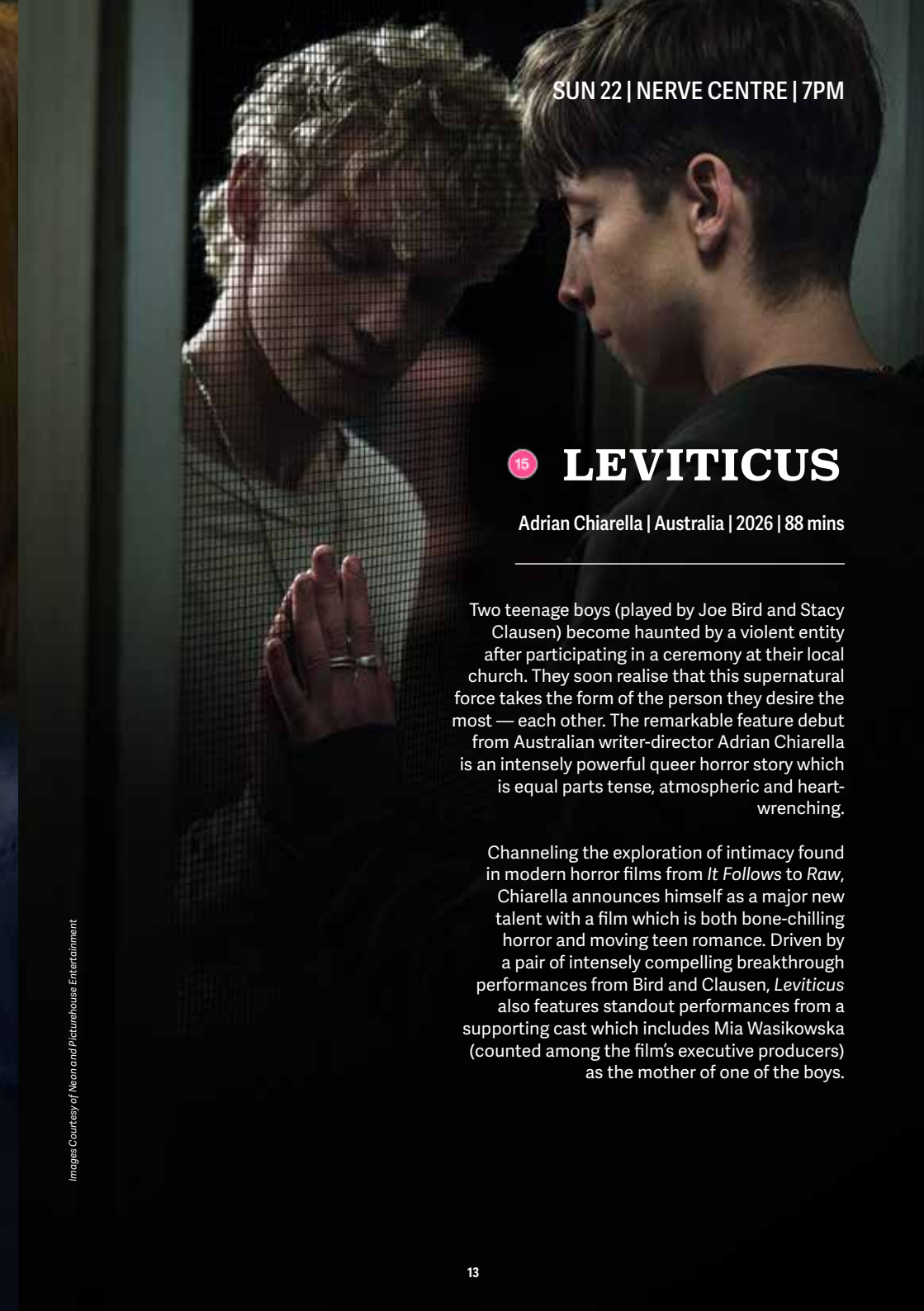
THE DEBUT

Jesse Eisenberg | United States | 2026 | 105 mins

When Mona Friedman (Julianne Moore) is cast in a bit part at a small community theatre, she transforms from a shy, unassuming housewife into a zealous method actor willing to do anything to protect the artistic integrity of her marginal role — even if it means waging war against the show's domineering director (Paul Giamatti).

Headlined by a spectacular performance from Oscar®-winner Julianne Moore in tandem with an outstanding ensemble including Paul Giamatti and musical theatre icon Bernadette Peters, this wildly entertaining musical comedy-drama, is the latest film from writer-director-actor Jesse Eisenberg. Laugh-out-loud comedy meets finely tuned drama, this twisted love-letter to community theatre is a showstopping crowd-pleaser.

Image courtesy of Lionsgate



SUN 22 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

15 LEVITICUS

Adrian Chiarella | Australia | 2026 | 88 mins

Two teenage boys (played by Joe Bird and Stacy Clausen) become haunted by a violent entity after participating in a ceremony at their local church. They soon realise that this supernatural force takes the form of the person they desire the most — each other. The remarkable feature debut from Australian writer-director Adrian Chiarella is an intensely powerful queer horror story which is equal parts tense, atmospheric and heart-wrenching.

Channeling the exploration of intimacy found in modern horror films from *It Follows* to *Raw*, Chiarella announces himself as a major new talent with a film which is both bone-chilling horror and moving teen romance. Driven by a pair of intensely compelling breakthrough performances from Bird and Clausen, *Leviticus* also features standout performances from a supporting cast which includes Mia Wasikowska (counted among the film's executive producers) as the mother of one of the boys.

Images Courtesy of Neon and Picturehouse Entertainment



PREVIEW

SUN 22 | BRUNSWICK | 9PM

ONSLAUGHT

Adam Wingard | United States | 2026 | 92 mins | Recommended: 18+

When a rogue squad of genetically engineered super soldiers break loose in the desert, a badass army sniper (Adria Arjona - *Andor*) must unleash hell to protect her young daughter. The latest film from director Adam Wingard and writer Simon Barrett rounds off a trilogy of genre titles following 2011 horror slasher *You're Next* and 2014 action thriller *The Guest* (also starring Dan Stevens) all taking place in the same shared continuity.

Splicing together the throwback gonzo style of old-school grindhouse cinema, the relentless horror of classic slasher movies and stylish Tarantino-esque visuals with a standout synth-draped soundtrack, *Onslaught* is an exhilarating blend of high-octane action, blood-soaked set pieces and intoxicating B-movie thrills. Showcasing a ferocious and feral lead performance by Arjona, the film also features a supporting cast including Dan Stevens, Rebecca Hall, genre icon Michael Biehn (*The Terminator, Aliens*) and UFC star Alex Pereira.

© Richard Foreman Jr. SMPSP







nerve WINTER cinema

CINEMATIC BREAKFASTS: 11AM

The Shop Around the Corner	12 Dec
Meet Me In St. Louis	13 Dec
It's a Wonderful Life	19 Dec
The Apartment	20 Dec



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NORTHERN IRELAND screen

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MON 23 | BRUNSWICK | 7PM



PREVIEW
WORLD CINEMA

ALL OF A SUDDEN PG

Ryûsuke Hamaguchi | France, Japan, Germany, Belgium | 2026 | 196 mins | Subtitled

Director of a care facility for the elderly, Marie-Lou (Virginie Efira) strives to introduce an innovative care philosophy based on listening and respecting residents' dignity, despite resistance from part of her staff. Her encounter with Mari (Tao Okamoto), a Japanese theatre director battling cancer, will profoundly reshape her path. By forming a deep, supportive friendship, the two women join forces in a shared struggle to make the impossible possible.

The latest film from Oscar®-winning writer-director Ryûsuke Hamaguchi (*Drive My Car*) is a magnetic Paris-set drama which is centred around two richly layered and beautifully realised lead performances from Efira and Okamoto, for which they shared the Best Actress award at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Selected as the official Japanese entry to the forthcoming Oscars®, *All of a Sudden* is a deeply resonant and immensely rewarding film whose potency lies in its ability to renew our faith in human connection.

MON 23 | NERVE CENTRE | 7.30PM



PREVIEW

MOUSE

Kelly O'Sullivan, Alex Thompson
United States | 2026 | 120 mins

Callie (Chloe Coleman) and Minnie's (Katherine Mallen Kupferer) relationship is suddenly upended at the start of the summer before their senior year of high school. Left rudderless without her charismatic best friend, Minnie starts to form a complicated friendship with Callie's mother (Sophie Okonedo).

Set in sun-soaked Arkansas during the summer of 2002, the latest film from celebrated filmmakers Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson, *Mouse* follows Minnie as she comes to terms with her own developing sense of identity whilst navigating the fraught, fragile, and often funny stages of grief.

With superb performances from its ensemble headlined by Oscar® nominee Sophie Okonedo in tandem with the film's revelatory young cast (and featuring a memorable turn from *Frasier's* David Hyde Pierce), this tender character-driven portrait of friendship, loss and growing up will bring forth laughs and tears in equal measure.

Image courtesy of Altitude

TUE 24 | NERVE CENTRE | 6.30PM



THE WORLD OF LOVE

Yoon Ga-eun | South Korea
2025 | 119 mins | Subtitled

Jooin, a 17-year-old student, confused by love, unleashes chaos with some words spoken in a moment of anger. Anonymous notes questioning her actions begin to arrive, altering her previously quiet life. Led by a staggering breakthrough performance from Seo Su-bin as Jooin, the film also features terrific performances from the stellar supporting cast including *Parasite* actor Jang Hye-jin and K-drama star Go Min-si (*Sweet Home, The Frog*).

The third feature film from celebrated writer-director Yoon Ga-eun (*The World of Us*), has been described by the BBC as South Korea's "movie of the year" and hailed by *Parasite* writer-director Bong Joon Ho as "simply a masterpiece". Nominated for Best Film at the BFI London Film Festival, *The World of Love* is a delicately woven, quietly profound drama exploring the complexity of adolescence and challenges of finding agency in life.

TUE 24 | NERVE CENTRE | 8.40PM



BITTER CHRISTMAS 15

Pedro Almodóvar | Spain
2026 | 111 mins | Subtitled

Raúl (Leonardo Sbaraglia) is a cult filmmaker in the midst of a creative crisis. When tragedy strikes one of his closest collaborators, he draws inspiration from it to write his next film. Little by little, he imagines Elsa (Bárbara Lennie), a filmmaker in the midst of writing a script, whose journey begins to mirror his own. The two filmmakers become two sides of the same character, in a game of mirrors where the raw honesty of autofiction reveals as much as it destroys. But how far can one go to tell a story?

The latest film from legendary Oscar®-winning Spanish *auteur* Pedro Almodóvar is an evocative and playful melodrama exploring the nature of artistic creation with his trademark colour-splashed visuals, gorgeous production design and stunning costumes. Skilfully written with Almodóvar's razor-sharp wit and wicked charm, blending self-reflexive autofiction with intimate personal drama, *Bitter Christmas* is a late-period jewel in the career of one of European cinema's premier filmmakers.

WED 25 | BRUNSWICK | 7PM



PREVIEW

TENDER LOVING CARE

Mike Leigh | United Kingdom, United States | 2026 | 107 mins

As the demands of work and family begin to converge, a social worker (Emmy® Award-winner Kate O'Flynn – *Widow's Bay*) and those closest to her, discover the strength found in compassion, community, and one another. Set in post-Brexit England, *Tender Loving Care* is a richly observed portrait of resilience, humour, and the enduring power of human connection.

Palme d'Or winner and Oscar® nominee Mike Leigh (*Secrets and Lies*) returns with his latest (and likely final) feature film, this mature, heartfelt and devastating domestic drama, showcasing his distinctive cinematic voice. Anchored by excellent, lived-in performances across the board, the film won the Golden Shell at this year's San Sebastián Festival where it also won the Jury Prize for Best Screenplay and Silver Shell for O'Flynn.

Image courtesy of StudioCanal

WED 25 | NERVE CENTRE | 7.30PM



PREVIEW
WORLD CINEMA

HUMAN RESOURCE

Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit | Thailand
2025 | 122 mins | Subtitled

In Thailand, abortion is legal within the first three months of pregnancy. Fren, one month pregnant, wrestles with the decision for the next two months, driven by her love for her unborn child and the challenges of bringing a life into the world. As a HR professional, she gains deeper insights into people's lives through her interviews with many young new hires.

Through the lens of job interviews and HR rituals, the latest film from acclaimed writer-director Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit (*Mary is Happy, Mary is Happy*) takes a familiar process and turns it into a witty reflection on something much larger. With biting humour and unsettling relatability, *Human Resource* questions what it means to exist in a world that may not have been designed for us, yet demands we play along.

PREVIEW

WED 25 | BRUNSWICK | 9.10PM

THE EDUCATION OF JANE CUMMING

Sophie Heldman | United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland | 2026 | 114 mins

Edinburgh, 1810. Teachers Jane Pirie (Flora Nicholson) and Marianne Woods (Clare Dunne) embark on their dream of an independent life together and open a boarding school. Their lives are changed forever when a wealthy aristocrat (Fiona Shaw) enrols her 'illegitimate' 15-year-old grandchild (Mia Tharia) from India. The teachers struggle to integrate Jane Cumming who remains an outsider among her classmates. But Miss Pirie and Miss Woods are brought closer to the girl when the grandmother insists they look after her over the summer.

Private and professional lines blur, affection between them grows and they start to form an unlikely family. Tensions rise as the new term begins. The teachers are overwhelmed with the girl's increasing desire for closeness and their own changing relationship. As Jane begins to feel excluded from her new family, she makes a scandalous accusation: that Miss Pirie and Miss Woods are lovers. Based on true events.

With meticulous period detail perfectly showcasing the precisely controlled style of writer-director Sophie Heldman, this intelligently realised and superbly written chamber piece is a thought-provoking exploration of themes of prejudice, the power of reputation and the cost of social conformity. Revolving around simmering social and personal tensions, the film features excellent performances from Claire Dunne and Flora Nicholson (who also co-wrote the film's screenplay) as Marianne Woods and Janie Pirie, with Fiona Shaw giving a performance laced with quiet menace as Lady Cumming Gordon.



THU 26 | NERVE CENTRE | 6.30PM

THE SIEGE OF PARADISE

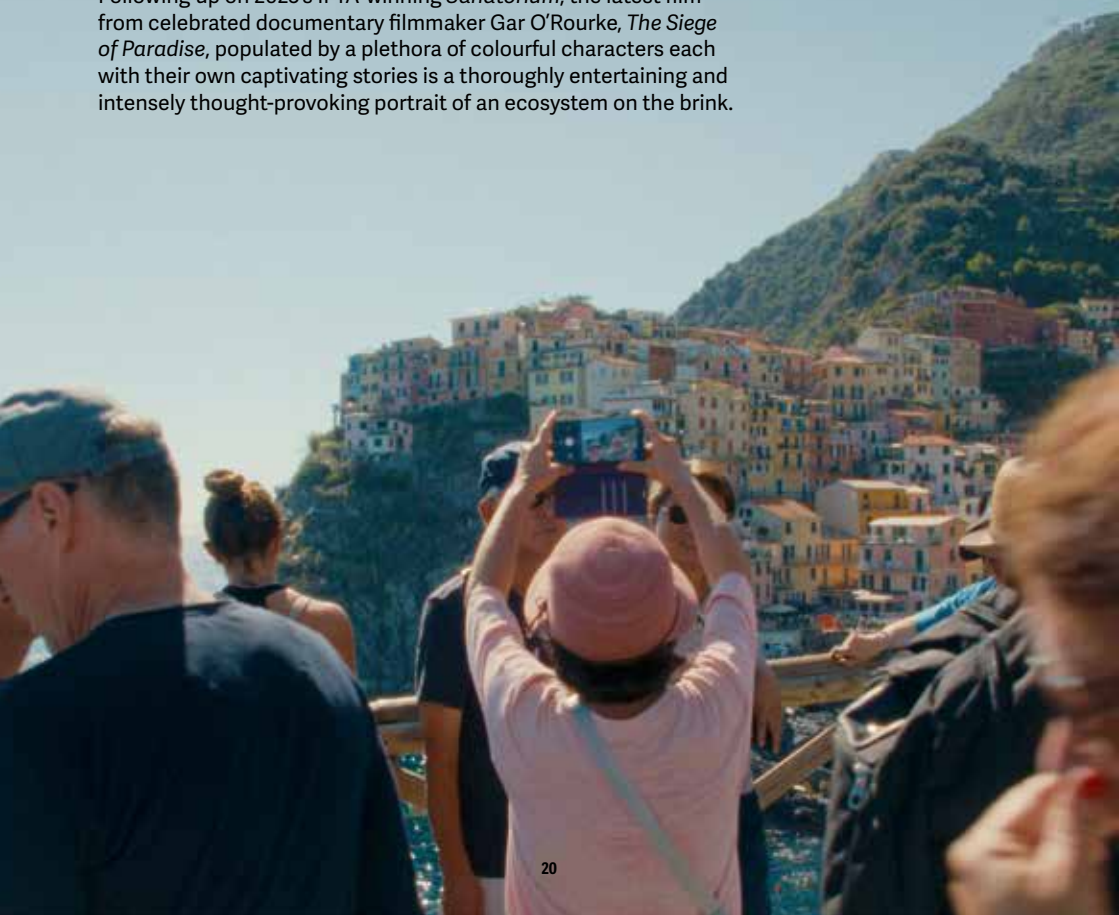
ITALIAN FILM CLUB

Gar O'Rourke | Ireland, Switzerland | 2026 | 82 mins | Subtitled

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

In Cinque Terre on Italy's northern Riviera, fewer than three thousand locals contend with over four million tourists each summer. Across one chaotic season, six very different lives play out in parallel, revealing a sharply funny and surprisingly tender story of paradise under pressure in the age of social-media driven tourism.

Following up on 2025's IFTA-winning *Sanatorium*, the latest film from celebrated documentary filmmaker Gar O'Rourke, *The Siege of Paradise*, populated by a plethora of colourful characters each with their own captivating stories is a thoroughly entertaining and intensely thought-provoking portrait of an ecosystem on the brink.



PREVIEW

IRISH FILM

THU 26 | BRUNSWICK | 6.30PM

SKINTOWN

Kieron J. Walsh | Ireland, United Kingdom
2026 | 99 mins | Recommended: 15+



The screening will be introduced by cast member Jamie-Lee O'Donnell who will also take part in a post-screening discussion.

It is the summer of 1994 and best friends Vinny (Jack Rowan) and Jonty (Chris Walley) are desperate to escape their small-town life in conflict torn Enniskillen (Skintown), Northern Ireland. Just as a ceasefire is announced heralding a brighter future, Vinny and Jonty successfully execute a dangerous plan destined to spring them from Skintown before fate intervenes...

Adapted by Ciarán McMenamin from his novel of the same name, the latest film from director Kieron J. Walsh, (which took home the top prize at this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival), is an intoxicating blend of dark humour, razor-sharp wit and intense pathos with a knockout 90s rave-inflected soundtrack featuring Happy Mondays, Elastica and The Prodigy.

With whole-hearted and riotously-funny performances from its outstanding supporting cast headlined by Derry native Jamie-Lee O'Donnell, with Hope Ikpoku Jr., Michael Smiley, Roisin Gallagher, Martin McCann and Tara Lynne O'Neil, *Skintown* is one of the year's most wildly entertaining and utterly electrifying films. One hell of a trip!



Image courtesy of Visit Films

THU 26 | BRUNSWICK | 9.10PM



2000s CLASSICS

BATTLE ROYALE

18

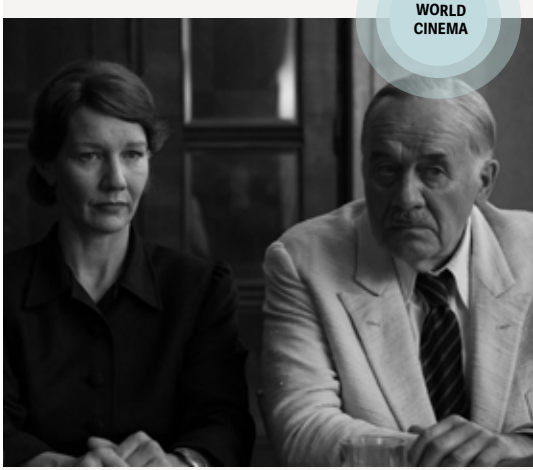
Kinji Fukasaku | Japan | 2000 | 114 mins | Subtitled

Before *Squid Game* and *The Hunger Games* came the strikingly original, darkly funny and shockingly violent *Battle Royale*; the blood-drenched action-horror thriller which birthed an entire sub-genre of films and launched an explosion of appreciation for Asian cinema. Celebrating 25 years since its UK release (screening from a 4K restoration), this classic cult shocker, which has been described by the iconic writer-director Quentin Tarantino as "*Lord of the Flies* on steroids" is adapted from the controversial novel by Koushun Takami.

Presenting an alternate dystopian vision of turn-of-the-millennium Japan, the film follows 42 high school students selected to take part in the government's annual Battle Royale programme. Dispatched to a remote island, they are each given individual weapons (ranging from Uzis and machetes to pan lids and binoculars), food and water, and the order to go out and kill each other. Every player is fitted with an explosive collar around their neck, imposing a strict three-day time limit on the deadly games in which there can only be one survivor.

FRI 27 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM

WORLD CINEMA



FATHERLAND

Paweł Pawlikowski | Poland, Germany, Italy, France | 2026 | 82 mins | Subtitled

12A

Fatherland centres on the relationship between the Nobel Prize-winning writer Thomas Mann (Hanns Zischler) and his daughter Erika (Sandra Hüller) — actress, writer and rally driver. In the summer of 1949, at the height of the Cold War, father and daughter embark on a challenging and emotional road trip in a black Buick taking them across a Germany in ruins — from US dominated Frankfurt to Soviet controlled Weimar.

Returning home after sixteen years of exile in the US, Thomas Mann has to face not only a divided fatherland, but also a deep fracture within his own family. With *Fatherland*, Pawlikowski picks up where he left off with his award-winning *Ida* and *Cold War*, exploring — in his elliptic, distilled style — the themes of identity, family, love and guilt amid the turmoil and confusion of post-war Europe.

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FRI 27 | NERVE CENTRE | 9PM

CULT MOVIE CLUB

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

12A

Jim Sharman | United Kingdom, United States | 1975 | 100 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.

Featuring an iconic, career-defining performance from the late Tim Curry, this year's selection (screening from a brand new 4K restoration) is the ultimate cult classic musical — *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* — which fifty years later still holds the record for the longest theatrical release in film history.

Sweethearts Brad (Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon), stuck with a flat tire during a storm, discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), a cross-dressing scientist. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters, including a rocking biker and a creepy butler. Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named 'Rocky'.



Image courtesy of Park Circus/Walt Disney Studios

ME-KONG DELTA

FESTIVAL LOUNGE

Serving throughout the Festival



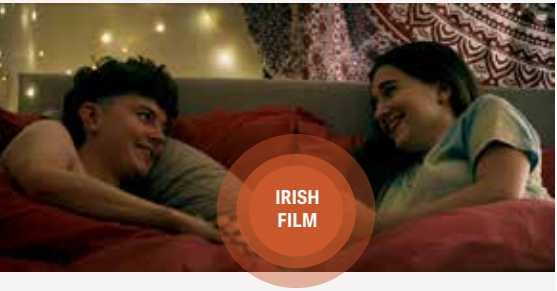




Mekong Delta

Taking Christmas party Bookings for November/December
Email - sf-mekong@hotmail.com
for Sample Menu and Bookings

SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 5PM



CONVERSATIONS IN BED

Dean Conway | Northern Ireland | 2026 | 93 mins | Recommended: 15+

Writer-director Dean Conway will be in conversation after the screening.

Conversations in Bed is a chamber-piece film exploring two relationships experienced by the same young man, years apart. From a summer day in his family home before his final year of school, to post-one-night-stand pillow talk in Belfast after St Patrick's Day, the film offers an intimate, observational look at young people, relationships, and the often insignificant moments through which we communicate.



Dean Conway is a writer/director from County Armagh, Northern Ireland, drawn to authentic, naturalistic stories shaped by independent and realist cinema. A BFI Film Academy Story Development alumnus (Nerve Centre), his work has screened at BIFA, BAFTA and Academy Award-affiliated festivals, and he was selected for BBC Voices 2025 after his pilot script ranked in the top 1% of BBC Writers Open Call submissions. His improvised debut feature, *Conversations in Bed*, premiered at Galway Film Fleadh in July 2026 and has since reached over one million people on social media.

SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 7PM



I SEE BUILDINGS FALL LIKE LIGHTNING

15

Clio Barnard | United Kingdom, United States, France | 2026 | 109 mins

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Five friends. Five lives. Countless hopes. Patrick, Shiv, Rian, Oli and Conor grew up together. They played together, skipped school together, and dreamt of everything they'd do with their lives. Now they're thirty and those dreams haven't materialised quite how they imagined. Adapted by acclaimed Irish playwright Edna Walsh from Keiran Goddard's titular novel, *I See Buildings Fall Like Lightning*, the intoxicating yet compassionate fifth feature from director Clio Barnard, won the audience award at the Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight.

Patrick (Anthony Boyle) and Shiv (Lola Petticrew) are as in love as ever, but their relationship is rocked when an old secret opens up new wounds. Charismatic Oli (Jay Lycurgo), always the life and soul, is partying too hard and is fading by the day. Conor (Daryl McCormack) has a baby on the way and a business plan that could change everything. Only Rian (Joe Cole) has left the estate, moved to London and made a lot of money. He's lonely and disconnected, missing home and community, his 'family' of close friends.

Contains flashing images.



SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 9PM

OUR HOUSE

Peter Young | United Kingdom
2026 | 88 mins

The screening will be followed by a discussion with writer-director Peter Young, producer Callum Harrison and cast member Andy Doherty.

PREVIEW
IRISH FILM

Tensions arise after recovering addict Nathan (Michael Shea) arrives late for his mother's wake. He and his older siblings, Thomas (Andy Doherty) and Patricia (Hannah McClean), quickly remember why they don't see each other much anymore. The feature debut from writer-director Peter Young (winner of the Bingham Ray New Talent award at this year's Galway Film Fleadh), is dogme-style family therapy session meets home siege thriller.

Chaos erupts when they discover their mother has split the family home between them, rather than fulfilling her promise to leave it entirely to Thomas. The siblings spend the wake bickering, scheming, and coming to blows, resulting in Nathan relapsing. When he wakes to a room full of exhaust fumes, it becomes clear that someone in the family is prepared to kill for the house they feel should rightfully be theirs.



CINEMATIC BREAKFASTS

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







Images courtesy of Park Circus/Disney.

Images courtesy of Park Circus/StudioCanal.

CINEMATIC BREAKFASTS

SAT 21 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

NOTORIOUS

Alfred Hitchock | United States
1946 | 102 mins

In order to help bring Nazis to justice, U.S. government agent T.R. Devlin (Cary Grant) recruits Alicia Huberman (Ingrid Bergman), the American daughter of a convicted German war criminal, as a spy. As they begin to fall for one another, Alicia is instructed to win the affections of Alexander Sebastian (Claude Rains), a Nazi hiding out in Brazil. When Sebastian becomes serious about his relationship with Alicia, the stakes get higher, and Devlin must watch her slip further undercover.

Pairing three-time Oscar®-winner Ingrid Bergman with iconic Hollywood leading man Cary Grant, *Notorious* is among legendary *auteur* Alfred Hitchock's finest works with it's blend of nail-biting suspense and intense romance. Shot in stunning monochrome showcasing the elegant precision of Hitchcock's trademark visual style (including a number of virtuoso set piece sequences) and with electrifying central performances, the film is both expressive film noir and polished espionage thriller.

SUN 22 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

THE LADYKILLERS

Alexander Mackendrick
United Kingdom | 1955 | 91 mins

An oddball group of bank robbers planning their next job decide to rent rooms from an innocent old lady who believes they are musicians. But when one of the gang's case falls open and reveals a stash of banknotes, their landlady vows to report the men to the police. The criminals agree that the old lady has to be killed in order to silence her, but their plan might not be as straightforward as it first seems...

From the combined talents of Oscar®-winning writer William Rose and Ealing Studios' director Alexander MacKendrick comes this hilarious crime caper. Featuring wickedly funny turns from a plethora of Britain's finest comedy actors including Alec Guinness, Cecil Parker and Peter Sellers, with an unforgettable BAFTA-winning performance from Katie Johnson as Mrs Wilberforce, *The Ladykillers* is one of the great British comedies on film.



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

Admission: £7 + booking fee (includes croissant and tea/coffee)





CINEMATIC BREAKFASTS



Images courtesy of Park Circus/Amazon MGM Studios.

Images courtesy of Park Circus/Paramount.

SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

SOME LIKE IT HOT

Billy Wilder | United States
1959 | 122 mins

Featuring an all-star cast led by Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Marilyn Monroe, this motor-mouth prohibition-era farce (screening from a brand new 4K restoration to celebrate 100 years of Marilyn Monroe) moves from Chicago to Florida at breakneck pace, swapping guns for gladrags as two musicians go on the run from the mob and shack up with a hard-drinking, hard-playing girl group along the way.

Bursting with one liners, sight gags and slapstick sequences, *Some Like It Hot* is one of the all-time great screen comedies. Lemmon and Curtis are locked in a dizzying game of comic oneupmanship, Monroe swoons and sizzles in equal measure, and legendary writer-director Billy Wilder coaxes and conducts the carnage to a feverish crescendo.

SUN 29 | NERVE CENTRE | 11AM

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S

Blake Edwards | United States
1961 | 115 mins

Elegant and eccentric, Holly Golightly (Audrey Hepburn) lives off the gifts of gentlemen bewitched by her playgirl charm and searches Manhattan's socialite circles for a millionaire to marry. After meeting her new neighbour, Paul Varjak (George Peppard) - a struggling writer and "kept" man financed by a steely older woman — the pair strike up a friendship which soon develops and threatens the delicate balance of both of their compromised lives.

Adapted from Truman Capote's eponymous 1958 novella, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, the film which made Audrey Hepburn a poster icon of classic chic Hollywood comedy, celebrates its 65th anniversary this year with this special screening (presented from a 4K restoration) to mark the occasion. Nominated for five Oscars® (winning for Best Original Song and Best Original Score), this charming and playful delight remains in a class of its own.

THU 19 | ULSTER UNIVERSITY (MU BUILDING) | 6PM – 8.30PM

TERENCE MCDONALD INSPIRES: A CELEBRATION OF FILM, PAST AND FUTURE

SPECIAL EVENTS



Terence McDonald is one of Northern Ireland's most important amateur filmmakers. He produced a range of films from slapstick to social documentary, many focusing on his beloved Derry. Northern Ireland Screen hosts the Terence McDonald collection within the Digital Film Archive where his work sits alongside broadcast, commercial films and other local filmmakers.

Join the Magee Film Society and Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive to celebrate his legacy with a special programme created by Ulster University's BSc Cinematic Arts students. This event features new student films inspired by McDonald's work and a screening of a collection of his own films.



FRI 20 | NERVE CENTRE | 10AM – 1PM

INTRODUCING

DERRY SCREEN

Derry Screen, the new film and screen office for the city, will officially launch on Friday 20 November as an initiative of Derry City and Strabane District Council. The launch will bring together filmmakers, screen professionals and industry representatives for an event featuring a guest speaker and industry panel discussion, followed by a networking lunch.

The event will mark an exciting new chapter for the city's screen sector, creating opportunities to connect, collaborate and support the continued growth of the local film and screen industries.



FRI 20 | NERVE CENTRE | 8.30PM

SPECIAL EVENTS



THE DAY INNOCENCE DIED: BLOODY SUNDAY AND THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE 15

Hannan Majid, Richard York | 2026 | Northern Ireland | 106 mins

This screening will be followed by a discussion with filmmaker and participants involved in the film.

Derry, 1972: As civil rights agitation across the north of Ireland descends into armed conflict the British state responds with lethal force, murdering 14 people and sparking a decades long fight for justice and accountability by a community for whom everything had changed.

From the acclaimed directors of *To Kill a War Machine* and the community who took on the British state and won, *The Day Innocence Died: Bloody Sunday and the Fight for Justice* tells the story of the Bloody Sunday massacre and its legacy, weaving unheard testimonies and indelible archive footage into an epic cinematic documentary.

A joint production of the Rainbow Collective and the Bloody Sunday Trust.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUN 22 | NERVE CENTRE | 8.40PM

BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN

WITH LIVE SCORE
by Vincent O'Callaghan

Sergei Eisenstein | Soviet Union
1925 | 75 mins | Silent Film

A fixture in the critical canon almost since its premiere, Sergei Eisenstein's film about a 1905 naval mutiny was revolutionary in both form and content. Declared the greatest film of all time at the 1958 Brussels World's Fair and one of the only films to have appeared on all of Sight and Sound's critics' polls (1952 to 2022), *Battleship Potemkin* has also been widely censored, as much out of fear of the perceived influence of its ideas as for any contentious material on screen.

In essence, it tells a five-part story of a naval mutiny leading to full-blown revolution, but while this material could be crudely propagandist in other hands, Eisenstein uses images of such dynamic compositional strength and editing of such frame-perfect precision that it's hard not to be swept along, regardless of personal politics. Despite endless quotation and parody, the set-piece massacre on the Odessa Steps still packs a sledgehammer punch.

At this special festival screening, Vincent O'Callaghan will create a sonic response to Sergei Eisenstein's revolutionary film *Battleship Potemkin*. Experience a montage of drone and ambient waves rising and falling in reaction to Eisenstein's striking imagery.



Vincent O'Callaghan has a monthly DJ slot on RadioStarr, a web-based radio station based out of Belfast. 'The Celluloid Escape' is a celebration of ambient and cinematic music. As 'The Celluloid Escape' he played his own music at this year's Other Voices Derry music trail with a show entitled 'Fantaisie Ambiante'.

MON 23 | NERVE CENTRE | 5.30PM

FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MUSEUM OF FREE DERRY PRESENTS



SPECIAL EVENTS

LOOKING FOR GILLES CARON

Mariana Otero | France | 2019 | 93 mins | Subtitled

Gilles Caron was at the height of his career as a brilliant photojournalist when he went missing in Cambodia in 1970. He was just 30 years old. Through his iconic photographs, and the gaps between them, this film, constructed like an investigation, aims to restore the photographer's presence, recount the story of his gaze, and how he managed to cover every high profile conflict of his day in such a short period of time.

Described by *Les Inrockuptibles* as a "documentary of rare emotional strength" and *Libération* as a "poignant portrait", the film documents his capturing of significant events from the late 60s onwards including the Prague Spring, May 68 protests in Paris and burgeoning civil rights movement in Derry. Drawing upon some of the 1,200 photographs he captured in his three days spent in Derry, director Mariana Otero retraces his footsteps (including his vantage points and shooting locations) including interviews with those present at the time.

THE MUSEUM OF FREE DERRY



SPECIAL EVENTS

EXODUS

John Peto, Vinny Cunningham
Northern Ireland | 2008 | 39 mins

The screening will be introduced by director John Peto and will be followed by a panel discussion.

Admission: Free of charge

Exodus is a 2008 BBC Northern Ireland documentary produced and directed by John Peto and the late Vinny Cunningham of Open Reel Productions. The film charts the decline of the Protestant population in Derry's Cityside in the wake of the events of 1969, which saw up to one in five of the city's population leave their homes over a 30-year period. The film tells the stories of families who left their homes during these years, some of the worst of the Troubles. The programme also hears from some of those who chose to stay.

In addition to the personal stories of the city's Protestant population, *Exodus* features contributions from figures including Gregory Campbell MP, journalist and civil rights activist Eamonn McCann, former mayors Jack Allen (Ulster Unionist Mayor, 1974–1975) and John Tierney (SDLP Mayor, 1984–1985), and Bishop James Mehaffey.

When it was made almost 20 years ago, the film told a story that had been largely overlooked by the mainstream media. This screening at the New Gate Arts & Cultural Centre offers an opportunity to revisit the film, explore how it fits into the wider narrative of research and projects that have focused on the exodus since, and hear from some of those involved in the original production.

WED 25 | 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 23 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 25 | NERVE CENTRE | 6PM

TÁIN BÓ CUAILNGE

John McCloskey | Ireland | 2026 | 29 mins | Subtitled

SPECIAL EVENTS



Director – John McCloskey

Derry native John McCloskey is an award-winning animator based at Nerve Centre in Derry. John has directed three animated TV series for BBC Northern Ireland and created a further 11 animated films.

He has won the animation award at the Celtic Film and Television Festival three times and is also a BAFTA nominee. His graphic novel, *An Béal Bocht* (The *Poor Mouth*), was nominated for Irish Language Book of the Year.

Táin Bó Cúailnge is his ambitious animated rendering of one of Ireland's most important epic tales. The film brings together the animation skills of multiple award-winning animator John McCloskey and Darach Ó Scolaí's interpretation of the original Irish-language text.

This screening will be introduced by writer Darach Ó Scolaí and followed by a discussion with Darach Ó Scolaí, director John McCloskey and cast/crew.

Queen Méabh of Connacht uses guile and statecraft to provoke a war between Connacht and Ulster to satisfy her queenly honour. This animated version of *Táin Bó Cuailnge* uses indigenous talent and understanding to bring Ireland's most important epic tale to a modern audience.

Téann Méabh, banríon uaibhreach na gConnachtach, i muinín an ghlicis chun cogadh a spreagadh le hUltaigh agus a dtarbh cáiliúil a ghoid. Baineann an leagan beochana seo de *Tháin Bó Cuailnge* leas as tuiscintí agus buanna dúchasacha chun mór-eipic na hÉireann a chur i láthair lucht féachana ár linne.

A Raw Nerve Productions & Dearcán Media production for TG4 and the BBC, with support from the Irish Language Broadcast Fund, NI Screen and Coimisiún na Meán.

WED 25 | CULTÚRLANN UÍ CHANÁIN | 7PM

cultúrlann uí chanáin



SPECIAL EVENTS

STAR OF THE SEA

James Wynne | Ireland | 2026 | 76 mins | Subtitled

This screening will be introduced by writer-director James Wynne, who will also take part in a post-screening discussion including Raymond McCord, one of the former players featured in the film.

In North Belfast in 1969, a football team from a local youth club, Star of the Sea, look unbeatable, winning every tournament in the region and defeating select XI teams from the Republic of Ireland making them the most formidable youth team in Ireland.

James Wynne's Irish-language documentary is the story of how a youth football team succeeded in unifying a community in North Belfast only to be torn apart by the violence and chaos of The Troubles. We follow the fate of the players over three decades. We see the courage of their conviction to ultimately live in peace, despite enduring unimaginable horror and loss, and how Star of the Sea becomes a symbol of hope for today's generation striving for a brighter future in Northern Ireland.

I dtuaisceart Bhéal Feirste i 1969, bhí an chuma air nárbh fhéidir foireann sacair club óige áitiúil, Réalt na Mara, a chloí agus iad ag buachan gach comórtais sa cheantar gan trácht ar bhuachan ar fhoirne rogha XI ó Phoblacht na hÉireann. Foireann óige éachtach ba ea iad gan aon agó.

Scéal é seo faoin gcaoi ar éirigh le foireann sacair óige pobal a thabhairt le chéile i dtuaisceart Bhéal Feirste go dtí gur srac an foréigean agus na Trioblóidí ó chéile í. Leanaimid ar tharla do na himreoirí in imeacht scór bliain go leith. Feicimid a mianta cróga maireachtáil faoi shíocháin, in ainneoin an uafáis agus an mhéala a d'fhulaing siad agus feicimid Réalt na Mara ina eiseamláir dóchais ag glúin na linne seo ar mian léi todhchaí níos fearr a bheith aici i dTuaisceart Éireann.

THU 26 | NERVE CENTRE | 8.30PM

FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
BLOODY SUNDAY TRUST PRESENTS:



SPECIAL EVENTS

THAT SANITY BE KEPT

Michael Barwise | Northern Ireland | 2026 | 10 mins

A screening of Michael Barwise's short film, *That Sanity Be Kept*, will accompany *The Best Man*. This short film uses footage from the archive of the late Vinny Cunningham.

A night on the town in 1990s Derry descends into an abstract nightmare of drink, sweat and the inescapable feeling of being watched.



THE BEST MAN

Joe Mahon | Northern Ireland | 1986 | 83 mins

The screening will be introduced by writer-director Joe Mahon and followed by a discussion with Joe Mahon, producer Denis Bradley and Peter McDonald, chaired by Hugh Odling-Smee, Film Hub NI.

Content warning:
Contains moderate sex references, strong language.

This award-winning drama set in Derry reflects the ordinary ways drinking affects friendships and marriages. It stars Seamus Ball as hapless best man and confirmed bachelor Billy. Described by Alexander Walker as a 'boyo who tries to drag his marrying pal back from the altar into the drinking circle's celibacy'. What will happen as Billy stirs up the marital troubles, misunderstandings and regrets that brew in the tension between the pull of the pub and the plea to come home?

Screening as part of this year's programme to celebrate the 100th birthday of Terence McDonald (1926 – 2001), his final film project (which he produced, shot and edited), made in collaboration with writer-director Joe Mahon, *The Best Man* stands as testament to a body of remarkably sophisticated work.

The Best Man (1986)
Courtesy of Irish Film Archive, Peter McDonald and Northern Ireland Screen.



FRI 20 | NERVE CENTRE
10.30AM – 3PM

IMMERSIVE ARTS

IMMERSIVE ARTS AT FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL

Limited capacity: FREE.
Registration essential.

How do audiences step inside a story? And what happens to storytelling when they do?

Spend a day with some of the most exciting immersive work being made across Ireland and the UK today. You can try funded immersive pieces for yourself, meet the artists who made them and hear from the producers and filmmakers redrawing the line between screen and audience. Then it's into the cinema for the finale: director Chee Keong Cheung in conversation and a big-screen screening of his first-person action feature *Bad Day at the Office* (15).

This day is for anyone curious about where screen storytelling is going: filmmakers, artists, students and creatives. It's also for anyone thinking about how immersive approaches could open up their own practice. Experience isn't needed, just curiosity.

11AM WELCOME

Kick off the day with Nerve Centre's Immersive Arts Producer, Nicola Roleston, who'll introduce the artists and projects you'll meet. Find out how you could get your own immersive idea funded.

11.15AM

THE FUTURE OF AUDIENCES IN IMMERSIVE STORYTELLING



What happens when the audience stops watching and starts taking part? Three leading voices in immersive work from across Ireland and the UK talk about how audiences explore and react to immersive art, and how that changes what artists make. Expect honest insight into where technology and storytelling meet, and what it takes to build an experience people want to step into.

With Deepa Mann-Kler (Producer, *The Baby Factory Is Closed*), Camille Donegan (CEO, Eirmersive) and Chee Keong Cheung (Producer/ Director, *Bad Day at the Office*).

INDUSTRY EVENTS

11.30AM – 2.30PM

LIVE IMMERSIVE SHOWCASE



The Baby Factory Is Closed, Deepa Mann-Kler
Echoes of Remembrance, Glenda Rolston
MyPace, Domnall Starkie
Memory Fractal, Katya Solomatina

12.30 – 2.30PM

LUNCH AND NETWORKING

Grab some lunch and get talking. Mix with artists, panellists, students and industry guests while the showcase carries on around you. This is your chance to try another experience, swap ideas and make the connections that spark your next project.

2.30PM

DIRECTOR TALK: CHEE KEONG CHEUNG



Go behind the lens with Chee Keong Cheung as he reveals how *Bad Day at the Office* was made. He'll cover the daring first-person, in-camera approach and the creative risks that shaped it.

3PM | DIRECTOR SCREENING

BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE

15

(WITH DIRECTOR Q + A)

Chee Keong Cheung | UK | 2026 | 111 mins



British-Chinese filmmaker Chee Keong Cheung, founder of Action Xtreme, the UK's first action-focused film studio, is in conversation after the screening to talk about the making of his high-octane thriller shot entirely in first person.

Karl (John Hannah) wakes in a wrecked hotel room with no memory, a dead body in the bathtub, and the police knocking at his door. Reluctantly forced to team up with hotel maid Molly, he's thrust into a deadly game of cat-and-mouse through a city that wants him dead. Hunted, confused and with no idea who to trust, Karl must rely on long-buried instincts to survive — and uncover the truth behind his lost identity.

The film has been described as "Jason Statham meets John Wick" by MovieWeb, and Emma Boa, Producer, Edinburgh Film Festival, remarked that "Shot in the style of first person shooter video games with cine-literate wit, humour, ferocious pacing and a cracking soundtrack, this is an anarchic, ultra-violent and hilarious thrill ride of pure, cinematic carnage."

SAT 21 | NERVE CENTRE | 10.30AM

BFI FILM ACADEMY NORTHERN IRELAND AT FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL

10.30AM – 11AM

BFI FILM ACADEMY NORTHERN IRELAND LAUNCH AT NERVE CENTRE

11AM – 12PM

PRESS PLAY: STORYTELLING WHERE GAMES, ANIMATION AND FILM MEET

INDUSTRY EVENTS



The lines between film, animation and games are blurring. Games are now one of the most powerful ways to tell stories, and the tools, skills and talent behind them increasingly move across all three forms. This panel brings together the agencies building talent pipelines north and south of the border and the artists who have come through them. They'll talk about where the opportunities are, which skills matter now, and what new technology means for the next generation of storytellers.

With **Jess Campbell** (Saltstone Studios), filmmaker **Niall MacGiollaChomhgaill, Ronan O'Toole**, Programme Development Coordinator National Talent Academy for Animation and **Gavin Kelly**, Facilities & Sustainability Manager from Northern Ireland Screen.

Funded by UK Government

12.15 – 1PM

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CLIMATE ACTION



Carbon calculators, recycling bins and good intentions are a start, but they don't make an industry sustainable. So what does?

Gavin Kelly, Facilities & Sustainability Manager at Northern Ireland Screen, works with productions across NI on exactly that. He'll get into what's actually changing on set: hybrid power replacing diesel generators, alternative fuels, and sets, props and materials being reused rather than skipped after wrap. He'll also unpack how sustainability is now built into funding and production requirements, and what that means for anyone working on those productions. Gavin will be candid about what has to shift for sustainability to become part of how the industry works, not just another box to tick. A practical session for anyone starting out or already working in film and TV, where reducing climate impact is now an essential part of the work.

1PM – 2PM

BFI FILM ACADEMY NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICIAL LAUNCH RECEPTION

Join Nerve Centre to celebrate the official launch of the BFI Film Academy Northern Ireland.

2PM – 3PM

CALL THE SHOTS: A CAREER IN ACTION FILM WITH CHEE KEONG CHEUNG



Want to direct, write or shoot films for a living? **Chee Keong Cheung** is a director, writer and producer and the founder of Action Xtreme, the UK's first major action studio. Inspired by John Woo and Hong Kong action cinema, he found a mentor in former 20th Century Fox VP Tim Hampton and built a 20-plus-year career on his own terms. His work runs from the Netflix hit *Son of the Soil* to *Bad Day at the Office*, a feature shot entirely from a first-person perspective, with performers wearing helmet cameras. In this relaxed, practical session, Chee will talk about turning an idea into a script, designing shots and stunts, working with performers, and getting your first projects made with whatever kit you have. Whether you see yourself behind the camera, at the keyboard or calling "action", bring your questions.

SAT 21 | NERVE CENTRE | 3.30PM

NOSTALGIE: FROM PAGE TO SCREEN



Drew Lord Haig (Aidan Gillen), a faded 80s pop star from England, is invited to perform at an event in Northern Ireland. Hoping to recapture his glory days, he instead encounters a disturbing truth that changes everything. Directed by Kathryn Ferguson, *Nostalgie* won Best Short Film (Live Action) at the 2026 IFTA Awards and was nominated for a BAFTA. It began as a short story in Wendy Erskine's collection Dance Move.

After the screening, Wendy Erskine, screenwriter Stacey Gregg and producer Marie-Thérése Mackle trace the film's journey from page to screen – carrying a writer's voice and sense of place from short story into short film, and about what had to change along the way.

The panel talk will be followed by networking drinks hosted by Women in Film & TV, the UK's leading membership organisation for women working in creative media. This event is supported by Women in Film & TV UK.

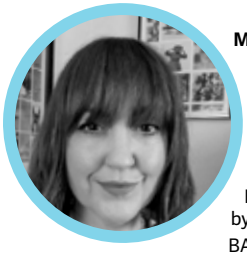
INDUSTRY EVENTS



Stacey Gregg is a writer and director from Belfast. Stacey is currently writing new series for Fifth Season and Bad Wolf. Credits include *Mary & George, Kaos, Riviera, Little Birds, Ballywalter*. Stacey's debut feature *Here Before* premiered at SXSW where it was nominated for the Grand Jury Award for Narrative Feature and released theatrically in the US and UK. Stacey's next two features are in development with BBC Film. Her TV directing credits include *Bad Sisters* and *The Baby*. Plays include *Inside Bitch* (Royal Court); *Shibboleth* (Abbey Theatre); *Perve* (Abbey Theatre); and *Scorch* (Prime Cut) which won a Fringe First Award.

Wendy Erskine's novel *The Benefactors* (Sceptre) was Waterstones Irish Book of the Year. It was shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize, the An Post Irish Novel of the Year and the fiction prize at the British Audio Awards. It was longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize and the Women's Prize for Fiction. She has written two prize-winning short story collections, *Dance Move* and *Sweet Home*, (Stinging Fly and Picador), and for PVA Books, edited the art anthology *well I just kind of like it*.





Marie-Thérèse Mackle is a Producer based in the North of Ireland with over 20 years' experience in high-end drama and independent film. Her Line Producer credits include the Emmy® Award-winning final series of *Derry Girls* (Channel 4/Netflix), *World on Fire*, Agatha Christie's *Murder is Easy, Frank of Ireland* and, most recently, Series 4 of BAFTA-winning *Blue Lights* (BBC). She is currently Producer on Season 4 of New Pictures' *Dalgliesh*, starring Bertie Carvel. Her debut feature was Mandrake (2020). Her acclaimed shorts include *Acre Fall Between* and *Nostalgie*, directed by Kathryn Ferguson (*Nothing Compares*), which won a 2026 IFTA and was BAFTA-nominated.

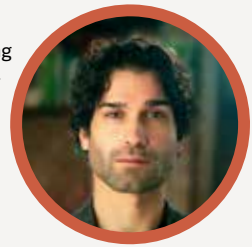
SAT 21 | NERVE CENTRE | 4.40PM

INDUSTRY EVENTS

SOMETHING IN THE BARN: FOLKLORE, FEAR AND THE HORROR SHORT



Three filmmakers from this year's British Short Film Competition take horror's oldest stories and give them new teeth. Adrián Ramírez León, whose one-minute shorts have drawn tens of millions of views online, turns a one-night stand into darkly comic horror in *Night Whispers*. John Foxen, editor and co-producer of *Pawen*, discusses its reimagining of W. W. Jacobs' classic *The Monkey's Paw* as a family tragedy. Filmmaker Isabelle Kirk's *Pandora* reworks the Pandora myth into a dystopian tale of family secrets and the price of female curiosity. Together they discuss how folklore is reanimated for today's audiences, and the different routes from viral shorts, film school and festival buzz to a sustained career in genre.



Adrián Ramírez León is a Spanish award-winning filmmaker based in London, known for his genre-bending take on horror. His films have screened at Oscar® and BAFTA-qualifying film festivals, and his one-minute horror shorts have drawn over 75 million views across Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. Building on momentum from both social media and the film festival circuit, he is now developing longer-format projects that expand his distinctive style in bold new directions.



Isabelle Kirk is a British director, editor and producer, and a graduate of the London Film School, where she directed four films, edited seven more and earned a distinction on the MA Filmmaking programme in an editing role. Before turning to film, she took a First in Pure Mathematics at Imperial College London and won one of six places on Channel 4's Dispatches Investigative Journalism Training Scheme. She specialises in post-production and is currently working in the editorial department on an Amazon Studios feature film whilst developing her own first feature.



John Foxen is a film editor, writer and producer specialising in horror. He began his career in television post-production, working across a range of high-profile productions including *Gangs of London* and *Nautilus*, before developing a strong reputation within the independent horror scene. John is best known for his editing work on the Horror-Scopes trilogy and a series of short films produced through Grime Horror, the micro-budget horror company he co-founded with filmmaker Richard Elson. Their films have screened at festivals around the world and received multiple awards and nominations. John also co-writes and produces with Grime Horror, contributing to the distinctive, darkly playful style that has become a hallmark of their work.

WED 25 | NERVE CENTRE
11.30AM – 12.45PM

IMAGE STORYTELLING: A DIRECTING WORKSHOP WITH CATHY BRADY

INDUSTRY EVENTS



How does a director turn a single image into a story? In this hands-on workshop, filmmaker Cathy Brady explores the role of the director and how framing and visual choices shape character, tone and atmosphere. Starting from the same photograph, small groups imagine the opening moments of a film and discover how one image can spark completely different stories.

This introductory directing session is part of Networkshops, a series of practical, hands-on workshops for new and emerging filmmakers aged 18+, delivered by Northern Ireland Screen under the banner of BFI NETWORK.

Cathy Brady is an award-winning writer and director from Northern Ireland. Her debut feature, *Wildfire*, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival before screening at the BFI London Film Festival, where it won the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award. The film went on to earn Cathy an IFTA for Best Director and a BIFA for Best Debut Screenwriter. Her earlier short films, *Small Change* and *Morning*, both won IFTA Best Short Film, with *Morning* also receiving a European Film Award nomination.

Cathy has also directed television drama for RTÉ, Channel 4 and Paramount+. She is currently developing her next feature films, *Dirty Score* and *The Method*.

SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE
10AM – 12PM

BFI DOC SOCIETY FUNDS PRESENTATION AND BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLES



Join the Head of BFI Doc Society Fund, Luke Moody, for a short presentation of the funding opportunities for short-form films, feature films, and immersive non-fiction. The BFI Doc Society Fund supports and nurtures independent non-fiction film and immersive projects by UK filmmakers, prioritising expansive, director-led storytelling.

The session will be followed by two drop-in roundtables where you can speak with Luke about how your project or development might be supported through their new programmes.

Luke W. Moody

Luke is a curator, producer and film executive specialising in non-fiction film, new cinema forms and artist's moving images. Previously, Luke was Director of Film Programming at Sheffield Doc/Fest and Creative Director at Abandon Normal Devices. Luke also co-founded and curated Frames of Representation at the ICA and New Cinema Days Lab in Manchester, and was previously Head of Film at Doc Society. As a producer, Luke's film productions have premiered at TIFF, Cannes, New York Film Festival, Busan, and IFFR. He is a Sundance Producers' Summit fellow and CPH:LAB alumnus, and author of 'Hybrid Documentary and Non-Binary Cinema'.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

RETHINKING CINEMA SPACES: A TRAINING SESSION WITH CINEMA FOR ALL



What makes a cinema a cinema? Is it the big screen? The plush red seats? Or the power of a shared moment, when a room full of strangers laughs, gasps and falls silent as one? Can we create such moments in a community hall, a library or even a park? With these questions in mind, this session invites you to rethink what a screening space can be, and explore how everyday venues can create extraordinary film experiences.

The session is led by Abi Standish and Ellie Ragdale from Cinema For All, an organisation that has been helping to build stronger communities through film for over 70 years. Together, we will discuss ways to make screenings more accessible and enjoyable for the audience. Drawing on case studies of community cinemas that have created their own distinctive spaces, the session will also help participants reflect on their vision and values, and how to put them at the heart of their screening initiatives.

This session is open to anyone in the North West with an interest in screening films. Exhibitors, film clubs and community groups are all welcome, whether you are experienced, just starting out or simply curious. Come along to share ideas and meet others!

This session is part of Spotlight NW, a screen audience development initiative bringing independent film to communities across the North West. It is delivered by Nerve Centre in partnership with Film Hub NI, and supported by the BFI, awarding funds from the National Lottery.

CINEMA FOR ALL

Film Hub NI

BFI THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 11.30AM

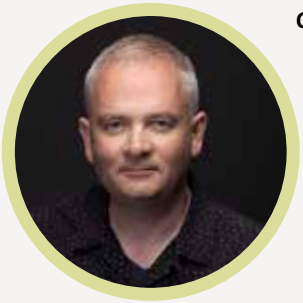
MADE HERE, MADE FOR HERE: HOME-GROWN AND INWARD PRODUCTION IN THE NORTH WEST

INDUSTRY EVENTS

The North West is growing its screen sector in two ways: making its own stories and attracting productions from elsewhere. This panel looks at both. *Crá* is a cross-border Irish-language co-production shot in Donegal that has sold to 68 countries. *The Lightkeeper* is an Irish–Canadian feature filmed across Inishowen. Áine Walsh of Northern Ireland Screen's Irish Language Broadcast Fund, writer and director Ciaran Creagh and Aideen Doherty of Donegal Film Office will talk about how productions like these come together. For filmmakers and crew in Derry, Donegal and the border region, this session asks how home-grown and inward production can sustain a local workforce and what's needed to grow activity in the region.



Áine Walsh is Chief Language & Cultural Officer and Head of the Irish Language Broadcast Fund at Northern Ireland Screen. With an annual budget of over £4 million, the ILBF supports NI-based companies to produce around 60 hours of television a year for TG4, BBC NI and RTÉ, alongside audio, digital and educational content and a wide-ranging skills programme. Projects supported include crime drama *Crá*, Oscar-entry features *Aontas* and *Kneecap, Lí Ban, Rocky Ros Muc* and award-winning animation *Sol*. Áine previously spent ten years in production at UTV and BBC NI. She has chaired the Celtic Media Festival since 2024.



Ciaran Creagh is a Dublin-based writer, producer and director. His first feature as writer, *Parked* (2011), starring Colm Meaney, was released in eight countries and won awards at Mannheim-Heidelberg and the Galway Film Fleadh. His short *The Note* (2013), starring Aidan Gillen, played over thirty festivals. He wrote and directed features *In View* (2017) and *Ann* (2022), which was selected for four FIAPF "A" festivals, won the Michael Dwyer Discovery Award and received two IFTA nominations. He wrote *The Lightkeeper* (2026), an Irish–Canadian feature starring Dominic Cooper and Sarah Gadon, filmed across Inishowen. *Samanta Nobody* is due in cinemas in 2027.



Aideen Doherty manages the Donegal Film Office for Donegal County Council where she has spent years championing the dramatic landscapes of north-west Ireland as a destination for international and independent screen production. Acting as the key local liaison for incoming crews, she has facilitated major shoots across the county, including *Star Wars: Episode VIII – The Last Jedi* at Malin Head, *In the Land of Saints and Sinners* starring Liam Neeson, and *God's Creatures* starring Paul Mescal and Emily Watson, alongside productions such as *Obituary, Crá, The Lightkeeper, Dead Long Enough* and *The Three Urns*.

CARSON McDOWELL

INDUSTRY EVENTS

SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 1PM

BUSINESS OF FILM PANEL: BUILDING THE FINANCE PLAN FOR A FEATURE FILM

Most independent films are financed from several sources at once, and knowing how those pieces fit together is often what gets a project made. In this session, executive producers Katy Jackson (Wee Buns Films), Paul Kennedy (Village Films) and Niall Murphy (Treasure Entertainment) talk through how they build a finance plan for an independent feature film. They'll start with the public funders and tax incentives available north and south of the border, then turn to private finance, equity and gap finance. They'll explain where each source fits, what investors look for, and what they wish they'd known earlier in their careers.

The conversation is led by Dan Muldoon of Carson McDowell, who advises producers, financiers, and other screen sector clients on film and television financing, production and related commercial matters. This session is aimed at filmmakers with some credits who are new to the business side of production, and no prior knowledge of film finance is needed.

The session will be followed by networking drinks hosted by event sponsor Carson McDowell.



Niall Murphy is an independent executive producer, screenwriter, and business and legal affairs consultant, developing a slate of original film and TV projects, several as international co-productions. Formerly Head of Business and Legal Affairs at ShinAwiL and Treasure Entertainment, he has edited Scannain since 2007 and sits on the boards of Raising Films Ireland and Young Irish Film Makers.



Katy Jackson is a Belfast-based producer who co-founded Wee Buns Films with John Leslie in 2009. Her credits include *The Survivalist, A Patch of Fog, Bad Day for the Cut, Zoo, Wildfire* and, most recently, Sky Original *The Last Rifleman*, starring Pierce Brosnan. She has extensive experience building finance plans for independent film.



Paul Kennedy founded Belfast's Village Films and was a 2022 BIFA Breakthrough Producer nominee for Nightride. His credits include *Mandrake, Restless* and *One Last Deal*. In post-production are *Maya Butterfly*, starring Charlotte Rampling, and *Baile,* Village's first Irish language feature.



Dan Muldoon is a Commercial Solicitor in the Entertainment, Creative & Talent team at Carson McDowell, Northern Ireland's largest independent law firm. He advises screen sector clients on production, talent and music agreements, rights clearance and film financing, and regularly runs workshops for emerging screen professionals. He sits on the Board of the Oh Yeah Music Centre.

SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 3PM

TWENTY-THREE YEARS IN THE FRAME: RICHARD WILLIAMS IN CONVERSATION WITH HUGH ODLING-SMEE

Few people have shaped the story of film and television in Northern Ireland as much as Richard Williams. He became Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Screen in 2003, when the sector was small and still finding its feet. Over the 23 years since, it has grown into an internationally recognised centre for production, creativity and homegrown talent.

Ahead of his departure in December, Foyle Film Festival celebrates this remarkable tenure. Richard will look back at the development of the Paint Hall studios at Titanic Quarter, which became home to Game of Thrones for eight seasons and transformed the screen sector in Northern Ireland. He will talk about the work to make Northern Ireland a competitive place to make large-scale TV drama, and about the local stories and talent that have reached audiences around the world, from *Hunger* to *An Irish Goodbye* and from *Derry Girls* to *Blue Lights*. Richard will also reflect on overseeing the development and expansion of the Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive, which has opened up the region's rich moving-image heritage to everyone.

Richard will look ahead to the challenges facing the screen industry here and the opportunities still to come. These range from Studio Ulster and Belfast Stories to Northern Ireland Screen's plans for an all-island co-funding partnership with Screen Ireland, and a dedicated BBC drama strategy for Northern Ireland, once the BBC Charter is renewed. The conversation is hosted by Hugh Odling-Smee.

INDUSTRY EVENTS



RICHARD WILLIAMS
CEO NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN

Under Richard's leadership, Northern Ireland Screen developed the Paint Hall at Titanic Quarter as a film studio which became the home of HBO's *Game of Thrones* for eight seasons. And more recently partnered with Belfast Harbour Commission in the development of Belfast Harbour Studios, a purpose-built studio complex, and Studio Ulster, Europe's largest virtual production studio.

Under his leadership, Northern Ireland Screen supports film, TV drama, animation, factual/entertainment, and interactive content, contributing to award-winning productions including HBO's *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms*, Universal's *How to Train Your Dragon*, the Oscar®-winning shorts *The Shore* and *An Irish Goodbye*, BAFTA-winning *Kneecap*, Emmy® Award-winning *Derry Girls*, Camera D'Or-winning *Hunger,* and BAFTA-winner and Oscar®-nominated *Boogaloo and Graham*.

He was awarded an OBE in 2019 for services to the screen industry.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

SAT 28 | NERVE CENTRE | 4PM

BACKING THE DEBUT: NEW TALENT FOCUS AND OUR HOUSE

Three estranged siblings reunite for their mother's wake and an inheritance battle turns deadly. *Our House*, starring Michael Shea and Hannah McClean (*Blue Lights*) alongside Andy Doherty, opened the 2026 Galway Film Fleadh, where writer/director Peter Young won the Bingham Ray New Talent Award. Peter Young and producer Callum Harrison are joined by Ursula Devine of Northern Ireland Screen, the film's executive producer, to trace the journey. From starting out making short films, progressing to shadowing schemes to their debut feature, made through Northern Ireland Screen's New Talent Focus, Peter and Callum will share their experience in an essential session for emerging filmmakers wondering how to make that first feature happen.

Our House will screen at Nerve Centre on Saturday 28 November at 9PM.



Peter Young is a Northern Irish writer/director with a focus on thriller, horror, and comedy. His creative voice is defined by character-centred stories that deliver in genre with a social-drama flair. After seven years making short films of increasing scale and receiving mentorship from acclaimed directors in the thriller space, Peter has recently completed his debut feature film, *Our House*, produced by Village Films Ltd. and funded by Northern Ireland Screen. Its world premiere was the opening night gala at the 38th Galway Film Fleadh, where he was awarded the Bingham Ray New Talent Award.



Derry-born filmmaker **Callum Harrison** has many years of experience in feature development, alongside producing several short films including *Homebird*, which won Best Debut Short Fiction at the Galway Film Fleadh in 2022. He furthered his experience through Northern Ireland Screen's Producer Shadowing scheme, working with Brendan Mullin on *In Flight* and with Olly Butler on *Saipan*. His debut feature, *Our House*, was made through Northern Ireland Screen's New Talent Focus scheme with writer-director Peter Young. The home invasion thriller opened the 2026 Galway Film Fleadh.



Ursula Devine is the lead on Independent Film at Northern Ireland Screen and runs the scripted development of feature film, TV drama and comedy. Development and executive producer work includes films that have been nominated and won across BIFA, BAFTA and IFTA including: *71* (2014), *Bad Day for the Cut* (2017), *The Dig* (2018), *Ordinary Love* (2019), *A Bump Along the Way* (2019), *Boys from County Hell* (2020), *Nightride* (2021), *The Last Rifleman* (2023), *In the Land of Saints and Sinners* (2023), as well as *Kneecap* (2024). The most recent productions include *Saipan* (2025) and *Our House* (2026). In 2025 Ursula set up the Greenlit scheme for NI Screen with BBC NI. *Rewarding* (BBC) is the first series to come from the scheme.

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. Thirty-nine 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.

Winning short films at Foyle Film Festival qualify for further consideration at the Academy Awards® in the categories of International, Irish and Animated Short Film. Winning British Short Films and British Short Animations 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 Closing Night ceremony in Nerve Centre with Gala Reception on Sunday 29 November at 7pm.

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

City of Derry Crystal
Crystal and Glass Engravers



BAFTA QUALIFYING FESTIVAL



SOS: SAVE OUR SOULS

Inès Dumont, Amandine Bordera, Imane Djouadi-Gueham, Sam Anty, Marie-Lou Lejeune | France | 2026 | 6 mins

In a world of chimeras where strong emotions turn into natural disasters, Dr. Bear, a doctor of broken souls, has been in need of an assistant for a very long time. That's when Malo, freshly graduated, comes into the picture.



CRASHCAT

Brian Ellis, Daniel Kruse | Sweden | 2026 | 6 mins

During her final exam, hot-headed space cadet Crashcat must rein in her fiery temper — or risk losing more than just her diploma.



PINCHU IS LIKE THAT

Carmen Cordóba González | Spain | 2026 | 9 mins

Pinchu is pervy, and everyone laughs at his antics—including his girlfriend Jimena, who's turning 30 this weekend and throwing an epic party. Only Bea sees him for what he really is, though this traumatic experience may make her question whether she's been excusing his behaviour...



PIGEONS

Amos Sussigan | Switzerland, United States | 2026 | 12 mins

In a world that keeps changing, *PIGEONS* follows a carrier pigeon who loses his job the day a telephone is installed in his owner's home. Following the pigeon as he searches for food, shelter, and purpose, the film explores freedom, progress, and what gets lost along the way.



PLEASE

Anna Mantzaris | Czechia, Finland, France, Norway, Sweden | 2026 | 9 mins

PLEASE is a dark comedy about humankind's desire to love and to be loved. An animated short centred around neediness, intimacy and romance.



A LITTLE DEATH

Leto Meade, Jonathan Rockefeller | United Kingdom, United States | 2026 | 12 mins

Death's patience is tested when his sweet and gentle apprentice appears incapable of the task, leading him to seek professional help from the most unlikely of places.



THE FLESH DRESS

Joachim Hérissé | France | 2026 | 15 mins

John, an old nostalgic tailor, makes his wife work on dresses out of fashion. A macabre event inspires the designer to create a new dress, gorgeous but freaky…



INTO THE FOREST

Antonin Niclass | Switzerland | 2026 | 10 mins

In a quiet stop-motion studio, a small monkey opens their eyes. Everything around them feels frozen. On a computer screen, a luminous jungle appears, distant, almost alive. With two companions, they begin to build one of their own, using whatever they can find. A jungle shaped by imagination, their only way out.



EL CUERPO DE CRISTO

Bea Lema | Spain | 2026 | 12 mins

With an unacknowledged mental disorder, Adela seeks answers in popular rituals. She feels that something is watching and harming her, and only religion seems to understand her. During a visit to a healer, she confesses the disturbing origin of her suffering.



THERE ONCE WAS A TIGER

Marina Verik, Dmitry Mosyagin | Russia | 2025 | 12 mins

The story of an extraordinary friendship between a tiger and a goat in the zoo, and how a playful goat helped a bored tiger gain freedom. Based on a true story that happened in 2015 with the tiger Amur and the goat Timur in a safari park in Primorye in the Far East of Russia.



WORK DONE

Jaime Freire | Chile | 2026 | 11 mins

On a small islet in the Chiloé archipelago, a shellfish diver lives alone in a house suspended above the sea. Time seems to stand still among objects, gestures, and memories that quietly inhabit the space. While his children have followed their own paths, he remains by the ocean, sustained by memory and by the intimate certainty of having fulfilled his role as a father...



SABA

Liron Topaz | United States | 2026 | 10 mins

In an abstract and symbolic world where gravity is reversed, a unique bond forms between a grandfather, and his grandson. As Saba, the grandfather, guides the boy through this surreal reality, a violent storm strikes, tearing one of the ropes anchoring their home — and with it, their life together.

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.



ON THE BERRY

Niamh Asple, James Naughton | Ireland | 2026 | 7 mins

During an impromptu stop at a roadside strawberry stand, a woman revisits her juice-stained summers picking berries as a child in 1970s Ireland.



PICKLED

Fanny Capu | United Kingdom | 2026 | 9 mins

All Eddie has ever known is her Granny's world, where they pickle everything around them, preserving their family history forever. But when Granny joins their ancestors, Eddie has to decide if she'll continue their tradition.



RECLAIMED

Imogen Donegan, Rachel McCarthy | United Kingdom | 2026 | 3 mins

Reclaimed is part of *A Silent War,* a COVID-19 response poetry/animation project written by Ross Thompson during the first lockdown. The animated response explores a dreamlike moment when the natural world moves to reset itself during the pandemic.



BÓTHARÍN

Niall MacGiollaChomhgaill | Ireland | 2026 | 6 mins

With his beloved older sister on her deathbed, an elderly Donegal man pieces together an uncertain truth which could redefine their entire relationship.



ALWAYS ON MY MIND

Elliott Joyce | Ireland | 2026 | 12 mins

Declan Flynn navigates life in 1980s Ireland visiting his old haunts — his family home in North Dublin, The Hirschfeld Centre (home of the Gay Liberation Movement) and finally Fairview Park, where his life and society in Ireland would change forever.



ME, MYSELF AND MARY

John Michell | United Kingdom | 2026 | 13 mins

Chris O'Dowd and Aisling Bea star in the adaptation of the viral, true story of Séamas O'Reilly, author of *Prestige Drama*, who as a student got his days mixed up and ended up alone with his boss and the President of Ireland while high on drugs.



TÁIN BÓ CUAILNGE / THE TÁIN

John McCloskey | Ireland | 2026 | 29 mins

In this animated version of *Táin Bó Cuailnge,* Queen Méabh of Connacht uses guile and statecraft to provoke a war between Connacht and Ulster to seize their famed brown bull. Sa leagan beochana seo de *Tháin Bó Cuailnge,* téann Méabh, banríon uaibhreach na gConnachtach, i muinín an ghlicis chun cogadh a spreagadh le hUltaigh agus a dtarbh cáiliúil a ghoid.

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NIGHT WHISPERS

Adrian Leon | United Kingdom | 2025 | 7 mins

A one-night stand takes a terrifying turn for Tom when his date starts talking in their sleep.



AMARETTI

Stacy Martin | United Kingdom | 2026 | 15 mins

When Lenny's reality is devastated by the discovery of a prolonged, pernicious crime committed against her by her own son, an unexpected connection helps her to begin a journey towards re-forging her fractured identity.



MONITOR

Zam Salim | Scotland | 2026 | 5 mins

A haunting, psychological study of a young actress under pressure. As she prepares for a scene, she realises nothing is as it seems.



THE EMANCIPATION OF MEGAN OR HOW TO EAT A CHOCOLATE BON BON

Chi Thai | United Kingdom | 2025 | 15 mins

A pregnant 40-something woman takes revenge against her abuser.



PAWEN

Richard Elson | United Kingdom | 2026 | 8 mins

When Cassian flees his father's rage and finds a monkey's paw in a crumbling barn, his innocent wish is granted by an enigmatic stranger, but her kindness hides something monstrous.



PANDORA

Isabelle Kirk | United Kingdom | 2026 | 15 mins

Gifted butcher Dora lives and works in her father's farm-to-table abattoir. She is content with her work in the butchery and her role as a carer for her ailing mother, but is forbidden from the barn where the livestock are kept. But when her father is attacked and severely injured, her curiosity overwhelms her.



LIFE GOES ON

Kat Butterfield, Daniel Audritt | United Kingdom | 2026 | 19 mins

Bill is in end-of-life-care waiting for the sweet release of death — but unfortunately for him, he's stuck in an infinite time loop, causing the day to restart the second his heart stops… Starring BAFTA winner David Bradley (*Harry Potter, Game of Thrones*).



THE INTIMACY COORDINATOR

Louisa Connolly-Burnham | United Kingdom | 2026 | 21 mins

Kate is an intimacy coordinator. She is also a sex addict.



EACH COMING NIGHT

Dakota Blue Richards | United Kingdom | 2026 | 13 mins

When Gwen arrives at a hotel which was recently the scene of a brutal murder, receptionist Sophie assumes she has met a fellow true crime enthusiast; however, it soon becomes apparent that Gwen's interest is far more personal.



GIANTS

Andy Berriman | United Kingdom | 2025 | 18 mins

Drifting through his post-industrial town scavenging for scrap, isolated teenager Sandy finds unexpected purpose after meeting conspiracy theorist Don, who tasks him with destroying a local wind farm.



MONOLITH

Joe Warner, Tamar Saphra | United Kingdom | 2026 | 23 mins

Something otherworldly appears on Cary's daily dog walk in the foothills of the Peak District: a giant stone monolith, which he's absolutely certain wasn't there before. But when he takes his wife Ellen, son Dru and daughter-in-law Carmen up to see it, the stone has inexplicably vanished.



THE PIGEON

Chloe Culpin | United Kingdom | 2025 | 12 mins

A bereaved young woman believes her sister has been reincarnated as a pigeon.

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NEWTOWN BOYS

Niamh Bryson | Ireland | 2025 | 17 mins

Based on a true story of a boy who found a loving family outside of the rules and restrictions of the Catholic Church.



LISTEN

Tracy Martin | Ireland | 2026 | 14 mins

When a devastating secret is revealed during a tense car drive, Karen must decide how far she will go to protect her family.



SILVERING

Marie-Thérèse Mackle | United Kingdom | 2026 | 17 mins

A Lough Neagh fisherman yearns for his past life out on its waters. As time and old age separate him from it, he finally escapes for one last adventure. Through fog and memories lost, he finds the secret kept from those who don't believe.



MOLOCH

Meghan O'Shaughnessy | Ireland | 2026 | 17 mins

On the opening night of his solo show, a distinguished art lecturer descends into madness as a rumour of inappropriate behaviour with a student takes on a life of its own.



SASQUATCH

Katie Bridget Murphy | United Kingdom | 2026 | 11 mins

Emily, a painfully shy office worker with an inner hype-woman who appears from time to time, quietly swoons over her effortlessly cool colleague Etáin. When they collide in a vintage shop, the pair bond over big feet, bad school nicknames, and the kind of oversharing that really shouldn't happen between two people trying on shoes.



SO YOU'RE GOING TO DIE

Oisín Kearney | Ireland | 2026 | 13 mins

A young Belfast man meets his estranged dad to tell him of his terminal motor neurone disease diagnosis. As they come to terms with the news, they are forced to put their differences aside…
Starring James Nesbitt and Tara Lynne O'Neill.



MARY IS MISSING

Aisling Byrne | Ireland | 2025 | 25 mins

When care worker Mary vanishes without a trace, Detective Foley arrives at the Yellow Tree Day Service and investigations begin.



PLAYING PETER

Michael Barwise | Ireland, United Kingdom | 2025 | 12 mins

When Peter agrees to take part in a clandestine plot of industrial sabotage, he is forced to confront himself and the roles he plays in different relationships.



THE LAST ANCHOR

Paudie Baggott | Ireland | 2025 | 12 mins

On the verge of an unprecedented storm, a news anchor tries to balance her commitments on air with her commitments to her family.



CATCH YOURSELF ON

Sam Nutt | Ireland, United Kingdom | 2026 | 15 mins

As her husband's health declines, Eileen fills her days with errands, routines and constant motion — anything to avoid being still. Small tasks multiply, and time passes without being shared. But avoidance has its limits, and Eileen is running out of road.

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ÉIST

Róisín Kearney | Ireland | 2026 | 17 mins

When a young boy hears his ailing grandfather cry out, he hatches a plan to break him out of his nursing home and return him to his island home, where he hopes to make peace with the ocean that claimed his brother's life. Stars Stephen Rea.



THE CURE

Sean Connolly | Ireland | 2026 | 15 mins

After a visit to a man claiming to have the old Irish folklore "cure" goes dreadfully wrong, a woman is haunted by a demonic manifestation of the very thing she was hoping to be cured of... her smoking addiction.



ALL YOU CAN EAT

Diana Cheung | Ireland | 2026 | 16 mins

Annie, a young aspiring musician, returns to help keep her ill mum's Chinese buffet restaurant open. As the business starts to unravel, an unexpected friendship develops between her and a regular customer, Billy, that changes the course of her life.



LUCKY LIAM

Thomas Hefferon, TJ Hundtofte | Ireland | 2026 | 11 mins

Lucky Liam's notorious luck may finally have run out. Digging his own grave, the motor-mouthed hustler tries every plea, bribe, and bargain to survive — buying himself time for one last miracle.



ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Maureen O'Connell | Ireland | 2026 | 14 mins

When a withheld secret threatens to derail their first date, Alan and Laoise are forced to confront their presumptions and decide when a dealbreaker really is a dealbreaker.



REMNANT

Peter Vaughan | Ireland | 2026 | 16 mins

Driving home from the pub, Kevin opportunistically seeks refuge with an eccentric couple after meeting a police checkpoint. While Kevin narrowly escapes a damning encounter with the police, his safety is not guaranteed after the couple unexpectedly invite him into their home.



FLEETING

Bebhinn Naughton | Ireland | 2026 | 14 mins

Pat is a countryside taxi driver and is well loved in the area. However, following his wife's passing and having accepted that he's now a member of the 'grey-haired brigade', he feels unseen by society. But he soon rediscovers his lust for life and for his profession.



ARE YOU THERE?

Sam Burke | Ireland | 2026 | 13 mins

An emotionally numb man starts fading away from reality. His only hope to be saved is a guardian angel shaped like his ex-girlfriend.



U HOME? x

Edel McCormick, Erin O'Rawe | United Kingdom | 2026 | 15 mins

A perilous journey home through a threatening urban night.



REPRISAL

Jonathan David Shaw | Ireland | 2026 | 10 mins

A lone sniper hiding in the undergrowth on Bray Head carefully searches for her target on the local promenade. But a call from her husband threatens to upend this housewife's plan for revenge.

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STAY IN THE CAR

Calvin Ghaznavi | United States | 2025 | 8 mins

In the dead of night, fifteen-year-old Salem waits in her mother's run-down El Camino. She's told again and again to "stay in the car" while her mom and her violent partner disappear into empty buildings and dark parking lots. But will she?



SEA SKIN

Selena Goedeke Tort | Germany | 2026 | 14 mins | Subtitled

When a shimmering, scaly skin is washed ashore and Fiete returns to the island, Enno's world begins to unravel.



THE ROOM AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY

Eve Warnes | Australia | 2025 | 10 mins

Seen through the eyes of nine-year-old Angie, who builds a fragile world of make-believe to cope with her home life.



SUNDAY'S CHILDREN

Reuben Hamlyn | United States | 2026 | 19 mins

Desperate to become a father, a man spends a weekend falling for a woman who believes God has warned her never to have children.



GLORIA

Kim Blanck | United States | 2025 | 10 mins | Subtitled

Gloria, a Chinese woman in her 70s living alone and struggling with her memory, finds new purpose in teaching herself Spanish.



THE LAMB IN THE ROOM

Daniel Meier | Germany | 2026 | 12 mins | Subtitled

While a second line appears on 15-year-old Zoe's pregnancy test, her stressed-out mother Gabriella and her care-dependent grandmother Elisabeth are preoccupied with their own worries.



BEST PRACTICE

Martin Strange-Hansen | Denmark | 2026 | 15 mins | Subtitled

Young locksmith Anders is called to aid the authorities on a forced removal. His job is solely to open the door, but as the situation unfolds he is faced with a dilemma.



FATHER ON FIRE

Rafa Piqueras | Spain | 2025 | 15 mins | Subtitled

In this explosive black comedy, Javier has to carry his father's fiery last wishes but must face the wrath of his mother first.



VULTURES

Dian Weys | South Africa, France | 2025 | 15 mins | Subtitled

In the volatile moments after a car crash, before the authorities arrive, a hot-headed yet desperate tow truck driver fiercely protects his tow. But the situation quickly spirals out of his control.



TENANTS

Adrián Ordóñez | Spain | 2026 | 15 mins | Subtitled

In a shared apartment, the unexpected arrival of a new tenant forces everyone to decide who must leave.



JANE

Eve Ravenal | United States | 2025 | 16 mins

Twenty-five-year-old nanny and aspiring writer Sophie can't believe her luck when she lands a gig babysitting for the daughter of her favourite author, Linda Carlson. But not everything in her house is as it seems.



NOISE OF WAVES

Tomasz Wróbel | Poland | 2026 | 20 mins | Subtitled

13-year-old Antek, grieving his mother's death, searches for a way to contact her. He comes across the GHOSTPHONE — a mysterious device resembling a 1980s television set that lets him reach his mum's spirit.



WEEKS

Claire Wilson | United Kingdom | 2026 | 13 mins

A daughter grapples to understand her dying mother through fables from her childhood. From present-day London to 1950s Ireland, a surreal, unsentimental look at the hinterland between life and death, the bias of memory, and the thirst for narrative in the face of mortality.



DEGREE OF CERTAINTY

Simon Schneider | United States | 2026 | 17 mins

It's 1982, and Jackson Miller, a young risk analyst at one of the biggest US oil companies, fears for his job. He comes across the latest findings of the company's own climate science department, which has just discovered a rapid rise in global temperature. He has to decide on which side of history he wants to be.

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FEEDBACK
SURVEY

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

BRUNSWICK MOVIEBOWL

WED 18 | 8PM	THE LIGHTKEEPER
THU 19 | 7PM	HA-CHAN, SHAKE YOUR BOOTY!
THU 19 | 9.30PM	SEXY BEAST
SUN 22 | 6.30PM	THE DEBUT
SUN 22 | 9PM	ONSLAUGHT
MON 23 | 7PM	ALL OF A SUDDEN
WED 25 | 7PM	TENDER LOVING CARE
WED 25 | 9.10PM	THE EDUCATION OF JANE CUMMING
THU 26 | 6.30PM	SKINTOWN
THU 26 | 9.10PM	BATTLE ROYALE
SUN 29 | 8.30PM	PAPER TIGER

NERVE CENTRE

THU 19 | 6.30PM	AMERICAN DOCTOR
THU 19 | 8.15PM	JOSEPHINE
FRI 20 | 6.30PM	IT'S MY TIME
SAT 21 | 11AM	NOTORIOUS
SAT 21 | 1PM	ANIMATED SHORTS PROG 1
SAT 21 | 2.30PM	ANIMATED SHORTS PROG 2
SAT 21 | 5.30PM	BRITISH SHORTS PROG 1
SAT 21 | 7.30PM	HOPE
SUN 22 | 11AM	THE LADYKILLERS
SUN 22 | 1PM	IRISH SHORTS PROG 1
SUN 22 | 3PM	IRISH SHORTS PROG 2
SUN 22 | 5PM	INTERNATIONAL SHORTS PROG 1
SUN 22 | 7PM	LEVITICUS
MON 23 | 7.30PM	MOUSE
TUE 24 | 6.30PM	THE WORLD OF LOVE
TUE 24 | 8.40PM	BITTER CHRISTMAS
WED 25 | 7.30PM	HUMAN RESOURCE
THU 26 | 6.30PM	THE SIEGE OF PARADISE
FRI 27 | 7PM	FATHERLAND
SAT 28 | 11AM	SOME LIKE IT HOT
SAT 28 | 1.15PM	ANIMATED SHORTS PROG 3
SAT 28 | 4.15PM	INTERNATIONAL SHORTS PROG 2
SAT 28 | 7PM	I SEE BUILDINGS FALL LIKE LIGHTNING
SAT 28 | 9PM	OUR HOUSE
SUN 29 | 11AM	BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S
SUN 29 | 1.15PM	BRITISH SHORTS PROG 2
SUN 29 | 3PM	IRISH SHORTS PROG 3
SUN 29 | 5PM	IRISH SHORTS PROG 4
SUN 29 | 7PM	LIM AWARDS CEREMONY

INDUSTRY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

THU 19 | 6PM	TERENCE MCDONALD INSPIRES EVENT
FRI 20 | 10AM	INTRODUCING DERRY SCREEN
FRI 20 | 11AM	IMMERSIVE ARTS @ FFF
FRI 20 | 3PM	BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE W/ DIRECTOR Q + A
FRI 20 | 8.30PM	THE DAY INNOCENCE DIED
SAT 21 | 10.30AM	BFI FILM ACADEMY NORTHERN IRELAND LAUNCH
SAT 21 | 3.30PM	NOSTALGIE: FROM PAGE TO SCREEN
SAT 21 | 4.40PM	SOMETHING IN THE BARN: HORROR SHORTS PANEL
SUN 22 | 8.40PM	BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN W/ LIVE SCORE
MON 23 | 5.30PM	LOOKING FOR GILLES CARRON
TUE 24 | 7.30PM	EXODUS W/ PANEL
WED 25 | 10AM	MOVING IMAGE ARTS SHOWCASE
WED 25 | 11.30AM	CATHY BRADY DIRECTING WORKSHOP
WED 25 | 6PM	TÁIN BÓ CUAILNGE LAUNCH
WED 25 | 7PM	STAR OF THE SEA
THU 26 | 8.30PM	THE BEST MAN
FRI 27 | 9PM	THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
SAT 28 | 10AM	BFI DOC FUNDS SOCIETY EVENT
SAT 28 | 11AM	MADE HERE, MADE FOR HERE PANEL
SAT 28 | 11AM	CINEMA FOR ALL TRAINING SESSION
SAT 28 | 1PM	BUSINESS OF FILM PANEL
SAT 28 | 3PM	RICHARD WILLIAMS IN CONVERSATION
SAT 28 | 4PM	BACKING THE DEBUT PANEL
SAT 28 | 5PM	CONVERSATIONS IN BED W/ IN CONVERSATION

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*Front image: PAPER TIGER. Courtesy of Neon and Picturehouse Entertainment.

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