



FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS

# REEL LIVES

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL – SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2024

## FESTIVAL OFFICE

### Nerve Centre

7-8 Magazine Street,  
Derry~Londonderry,  
BT48 6HJ

☎ 028 71260562

✉ [c.morrison@nervecentre.org](mailto:c.morrison@nervecentre.org)

➦ [foylefilmfestival.org](http://foylefilmfestival.org)

f FoyleFilmFest

X FoyleFilm

📷 FoyleFilm

## ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

If wheelchairs need to be accommodated please make the festival aware how many when booking your screening or event

## PROGRAMME CHANGES

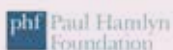
Foyle Film Festival reserves the right to make changes to any aspect of the advertised programme. You will be informed if there is a problem or change with your booking.

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

Led by:



Core Funders:



## FOYLE FILM FESTIVAL TEAM

**Christopher Morrison**  
Programmer  
**Eavan King**  
Industry Manager  
**Danielle MacKenzie**  
Communications  
Manager  
**Conall Melarkey**  
Communications  
Officer

## NERVE CENTRE

**Pearse Moore**  
Chief Executive  
**Martin Melarkey**  
Creative Director  
**John Peto**  
Head of Development

## THANKS TO

**Paul Halpenny**  
**Edel Harkin**  
**Louise Melarkey**  
**Lynn Wallace**  
**Richard Taylor**  
**Jim Norris**

## DESIGN x

**James**  
**Cunningham**  
**field.fyi**



Foyle Film Festival presents the 2024 edition of Reel Lives, a season celebrating alternative perspectives, voices and stories on film.

Equality, diversity and inclusion for all communities is at the heart of this diverse and engaging season of screenings, talks and showcases in the comfort of Nerve Centre cinema.

Themes of diversity, inclusion, inequality, racism, LGBTQIA+, human rights and disability are key to this year's programme, which includes some of the most acclaimed films of the year so far.

A duo of preview screenings spotlight the season which kicks off with the Oscar® nominated *The Teacher's Lounge*, a taut classroom drama exploring racism, class and prejudice. The Northern Ireland premiere of the multi IFTA nominated *That They May Face the Rising Sun* takes place on 16 April, an eagerly awaited adaptation of Irish author John McGahern's eponymous final novel.

Themes of sisterhood in community and family underpin two contrasting titles this season. *Earth Mama*, Savannah Leaf's BAFTA winning debut, an emotionally piercing drama following a single mother who has been pitted against the foster-care system and *Four Daughters*, Kaouthar Ben Hania's Oscar® nominated blend of fact and fiction attempts to understand why two daughters left Tunisia to fight for IS in Syria, leaving the rest of the family behind.

Foyle Film Festival welcomes award winning Belfast-based Producer Brendan J. Byrne to Nerve Centre to introduce his acclaimed documentary *In the Shadow of Beirut* on 26 April. Brendan will be in conversation about the film and his career to date post screening. Brendan has also produced *That They May Face the Rising Sun*, screening on April 16 in advance of release.

Reel Lives will showcase the essential work of the Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive in preserving community stories from rural and isolated communities with a screening event of three shorts with a post screening discussion.

Foyle Film Festival partners with Brighton based Oska Bright Film Festival which supports learning disabled and autistic creatives to bring a programme of shorts from their Queer Freedom strand. Nerve Centre continues to innovate the screening experience in association with StoryFutures by presenting a selection of free cutting edge VR films exploring identity, gender rights and our place in the world followed by a focus group discussion.

Cinematic Breakfast season for Reel Lives brings the coffee and a trio of classic titles – a 4K restoration of James Dean classic *East of Eden*, *Arsenic & Old Lace* featuring Cary Grant and *Dial M for Murder* the iconic Hitchcock thriller starring Grace Kelly and Ray Milland.

Christopher Morrison  
Festival Programmer

WEDNESDAY 10 APR | 7PM

PREVIEW SCREENING

# THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE (DAS LEHRERZIMMER)

NERVE CENTRE



2023 Germany

**DIRECTOR** Ilker Çatak

**CAST** Leonie Benesch, Anne-Kathrin Gummich,  
Rafael Stachowiak

**DURATION** 1hr 38mins

**LANGUAGE** German with English subtitles

£7 +booking fee

Carla Nowak (Leonie Benesch), a dedicated teacher, starts working at a high school when one of her students is suspected of theft. Idealist Carla decides to take the matter into her own hands, while confronting the structures of the school system and the consequences of her own actions.


*Nominated for Oscar® for Best  
International Feature.*

“However, Co-writer/Director Ilker Çatak masterfully unfurls a sadistically tense narrative that touches on ethics, racism, loyalty, and the grim side of sticking to your principles. The result is a lean, slow-burn thriller that is ruthlessly riveting.”

Kristy Puchko, Mashable







THURSDAY 11 APR | 7PM

# SHOWING UP

12A

NERVE CENTRE

2022 USA

**DIRECTOR** Kelly Reichardt

**CAST** Michelle Williams, Hong Chau, André 3000

**DURATION** 1hr 47mins

£6 +booking fee

A sculptor (Michelle Williams) preparing to open a new show must balance her creative life with the daily dramas of family and friends, in Kelly Reichardt's vibrant and captivatingly funny portrait of art and craft.

*Nominated for Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival.*

“*Showing Up* is more than worth surrendering to. It's one of Reichardt's best — warm as one of the sunny Portland, Oregon, afternoons Lizzy's perpetually fretting her way through and an affectionate rumination on the relationship between art and all the day-to-day stuff of life that can get in the way of making it.”

Alison Willmore, Vulture

FRIDAY 12 APR | 8PM

# AFTER HOURS

4K RESTORATION

NERVE CENTRE

15

1985 USA

**DIRECTOR** Martin Scorsese

**CAST** Griffin Dunne, Rosanna Arquette, Verna Bloom

**DURATION** 1hr 37mins

£6 +booking fee

An ordinary word processor (Griffin Dunne) has the worst night of his life after he agrees to visit a girl in SoHo in Martin Scorsese's cult classic black comedy, now presented in a new 4K restoration approved by editor Thelma Schoonmaker.

*Winner of Best Director at 1986 Cannes Film Festival.*

“*After Hours* often seems to be missing from conversations about his career. It shouldn't be[...]. It's not just an exercise in style. As funny as it frequently is, it's also a cri de coeur, and one of Scorsese's most personal films.”

Sheila O'Malley, Criterion Collection

© 1985 WBEI

TUESDAY 16 APR | 7PM

PREVIEW SCREENING

# THAT THEY MAY FACE THE RISING SUN

15

NERVE CENTRE

2023 Ireland/UK

**DIRECTOR** Pat Collins

**CAST** Barry Ward, Anna Bederke

Ruth McCabe

**DURATION** 1hr 47mins

£7 +booking fee

Joe (Barry Ward) and Kate Rutledge (Anna Bederke) have returned from London to live and work among the small, close-knit community near to where Joe grew up. Now deeply embedded in life around the lake, the drama of a year in their lives and those of the memorable characters around them unfolds through the rituals of work, play and the passing seasons as this enclosed world becomes an everywhere.

“It feels like a true reflection of the community being documented in the 1980s with a restrained and subdued feel to it that lends it more power. The performances are superb and the visuals bring the Irish countryside to life in a way few films previously have.”

Chris Connor, Flickering Myth

WEDNESDAY 17 APR | 7PM

# FOUR DAUGHTERS (LES FILLES D'OLFA)

NERVE CENTRE

15

2023 France/Tunisia/Germany/Saudi Arabia/Cyprus

**DIRECTOR** Kaouther Ben Hania

**CAST** Olfa Hamrouni, Eya Chikhaoui, Tayssir Chikhaoui

**DURATION** 1Hr 47mins

**LANGUAGE** Arabic and French with English subtitles

£6 +booking fee

The life of Olfa, a Tunisian woman and mother of four daughters, oscillates between light and shadow. To fill their absence, director Kaouther Ben Hania calls upon professional actors and sets up an extraordinary film mechanism to unveil the story of Olfa and her family. An intimate journey full of hope, rebellion, violence, intergenerational transmission and sisterhood, which will question the very foundation of our societies.

*Nominated for Oscar® for Best Documentary.*

“This is a heartbreaker about mothers and daughters, the cruelty of repression and the slippery but revealing nature of performance.”

Justin Chang, Los Angeles Times.



THURSDAY 18 APR | 7PM

# EARTH MAMA

15

NERVE CENTRE

2023 UK/USA

**DIRECTOR** Savannah Leaf

**CAST** Tia Nomore, Erika Alexander, Keta Price

**DURATION** 1hr 41mins

£6 + booking fee

A pregnant single mother, with two children in foster care, embraces her Bay Area community as she fights to reclaim her family in this singular debut feature from filmmaker Savannah Leaf.

*Earth Mama* explores the experience of black single mothers fighting the foster care system and a society that expects them to fail and strips them of their agency.

*Winner of BAFTA for Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director, or Producer.*

“*Earth Mama* retains its nuanced, deeply felt character to the last, without ever dipping into sensationalism. The result is an astonishingly accomplished movie that delivers a bold new take on a tough social issue.”

Kate Stables, Sight & Sound

FRIDAY 19 APR | 8PM

# COLLATERAL

NERVE CENTRE

15

2004 USA

**DIRECTOR** Michael Mann

**CAST** Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx, Jada Pinkett Smith

**DURATION** 2hrs

**Adm:** £6 +booking fee

A cab driver (Jamie Foxx) finds himself the hostage of an engaging contract killer (Tom Cruise) as he makes his rounds from hit to hit during one night in LA. He must find a way to save both himself and one last victim.

*Nominated for two Oscars®.*

“As the pair cover the city, looping over interchanges and down wide open boulevards, they travel a landscape alive with wild animals and wilder men, noisy with unfamiliar music and chatter, and punctured by the hard pop of occasional gunfire.”

Manohla Dargis, The New York Times.

WEDNESDAY 24 APR | 7PM

# HIGH & LOW JOHN GALLIANO

15

NERVE CENTRE

2023 UK/USA/France

**DIRECTOR** Kevin MacDonald

**CAST** Penélope Cruz, Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell

**DURATION** 1hr 56mins

£6 +booking fee

Fashion designer John Galliano was widely recognized as one of the most influential names in 1990s and 2000s couture until his career abruptly ended in 2011. Candid footage—plus conversations with Naomi Campbell, Kate Moss, Anna Wintour and more—trace Galliano's turbulent career through the decades.

*Nominated for a BIFA Award.*

“As a film, though, *High & Low* is cut from a better cloth than the norm: in a world of fantasy, it tries to be real. It runs close to two hours, but editor Aydhesh Mohla finds a back-and-forth rhythm which keeps the pace tight and gentle.”

Fionnuala Halligan, Screen Daily



THURSDAY 25 APR | 7PM

# BALTIMORE

NERVE CENTRE

15

2023 Ireland/UK

**DIRECTORS** Joe Lawlor, Christine Molloy

**CAST** Imogen Poots, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, Lewis Brophy

**DURATION** 1hr 38mins

£6 +booking fee

Debutante Rose Dugdale (Imogen Poots) enjoys a life of wealth and privilege, but her rebellious nature soon leads her down a militant path. Amongst the political turmoil of the 1970s, her sympathy towards the IRA's conflict evolves into radicalisation, culminating in an armed raid on an Irish estate with three comrades. However, when her simple heist takes a violent turn, is Rose prepared to face the devastating consequences?

*Nominated for Best Film at 2023  
BFI London Film Festival.*

“It’s a chilling and expertly constructed work which goes on to suggest that our finicky anxieties will end up causing our own tragic downfall. Poots brings fire to her role without just splaying it all on the screen, and she ensures that there’s a hair-trigger intensity to every one of her two-hander conversations throughout the film.”

David Jenkins, Little White Lies



FRIDAY 26 APR | 8PM

# FEMME

18

NERVE CENTRE

2023 UK

**DIRECTORS** Sam H. Freeman, Ng Choon Ping

**CAST** George MacKay, Nathan Stewart-Jarrett, Aaron Heffernan

**DURATION** 1hr 39mins

£6 +booking fee

Jules' (Nathan Stewart-Jarrett) life and career as a drag queen is destroyed by a homophobic attack. But after a chance encounter with his attacker, the deeply closeted Preston (George MacKay), he is presented with the opportunity to exact revenge. Unrecognisable out of his wig and make-up, Jules infiltrates Preston's life and in doing so discovers the lines of seduction, revenge and power are blurred.

*Winner of three BIFAS Awards*

“Femme feels derived from the minimalism of a black-box performance space, in the best possible manner, as McKay and Stewart-Jarrett thrash at and stalk one another with a heavy-breathed intimacy, which the big screen also amplifies to a tee..”

David Katz, Cineuropa





# CINEMATIC BREAKFASTS

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



CINEMATIC  
BREAKFASTS

SATURDAY 13 APR | 11AM

## EAST OF EDEN



4K RESTORATION

1955 USA

**DIRECTOR** Elia Kazan

**CAST** James Dean, Raymond Massey, Julie Harris

**DURATION** 1hr 58mins

£6 + booking fee

Based on John Steinbeck's novel and directed by Elia Kazan, *East of Eden* is the first of three major films that make up James Dean's movie legacy. The 24-year-old idol-to-be plays Cal, a wayward Salinas Valley youth who, along with his competitive brother Aron (Richard Davalos), vies for the affection of his hardened father (Raymond Massey), making for a tragic Cain and Abel story.

Playing off the haunting sensitivity of Julie Harris, Dean's performance earned one of the film's four Academy Award® nominations, which included stellar performances throughout, including that of Jo Van Fleet who won the Oscar® as Best Supporting Actress.

**Winner of an Oscar®**

“Though *East of Eden* is very emotional, I honestly don't think it veers into the sentimental because it's authentic. The characters are experiencing these feelings for the first time, and probably as actors they are too. You often see a certain innocence in the acting in the film, which is a rare thing, I think.”

Lone Scherfig, Film Director



SATURDAY 20 APR | 11AM

80th ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

## ARSENIC AND OLD LACE



1944 USA

**DIRECTOR** Frank Capra

**CAST** Cary Grant, Priscilla Lane, Raymond Massey

**DURATION** 1hr 58mins

£6 +booking fee

When Mortimer Brewster (Cary Grant) brings his new bride to meet his two kindly aunts, he discovers that, among many other acts of charity, the two genteel ladies help lonely old men die happy...by feeding them a wonderful meal before poisoning them.

Now, Mortimer desperately wants to protect the two serial murderers he loves, stop them from killing anyone else and keep his bride from discovering how complicated his family really is.

**"Featuring Cary Grant in a role beloved by some and deemed overzealous by others (including Grant himself), the film harbors a strange blend of styles, including dark comedy and screwball antics, with a dash of romance for good measure."**

Brian Eggert,  
Deep Focus Review



SATURDAY 27 APR | 11AM

70th ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

## DIAL M FOR MURDER



1954 USA

**DIRECTOR** Alfred Hitchcock

**CAST** Ray Milland, Grace Kelly, Robert Cummings.

**DURATION** 1hr 45mins

£6 +booking fee

Academy Award® winners Grace Kelly and Ray Milland star with Robert Cummings in one of Alfred Hitchcock's greatest thrillers - *Dial M for Murder*. When playboy tennis pro Tony Wendice (Milland) discovers his rich wife, Margot (Kelly), is having an affair with handsome American Mark Halliday (Cummings), he devises an ingenious plot to murder her. But when his scheme takes an unexpected, deadly twist, Tony improvises - implicating Margot for first degree murder in this classic spellbinder.

**Nominated for a BAFTA.**

**"the master of suspense wrings plenty of tension out of the intimate environment, playing with depth and space in ways that play off of both the audience and character's vantage points. The rhythmic dialogue and comfortable performances let the viewer ease into the film, all the better to focus on the cunning personal exchanges that bookend the attempted crime".**

Rob Humanick, Slant Magazine

SATURDAY 13 APR | 2PM

Northern Ireland Screen's  
Digital Film Archive  
Community Screening  
Free

SPECIAL  
EVENTS

NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN  
Digital Film Archive

NORTHERN IRELAND  
**NOW**  
CONTEMPORARY COLLECTING

Join us for a special event featuring three local short films centred around community themes from Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive. Following the screenings, engage in a panel discussion with Bronagh McAtasney, (Outreach and Access Officer at Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive) and Elspeth Vischer (Project Coordinator of *Northern Ireland Now* at Nerve Centre).



## CROSSING LINES

*Crossing Lines* (directed by Margaret Gordon). Northern Ireland in the late 1970s: an unpredictable, fearful landscape. A place where an elevated sense of vigilance and suspicion might keep you safe, but it also amplified fear and division between communities. In this environment, where communities rarely mixed, let alone talk to each other, a group of young women let their love of football do the talking. In 1979, they formed a football team that was both cross-border and cross-religion. While politicians and community leaders struggled to build bridges, these girls let the beautiful game create a world of friendship and acceptance. A world where they all belonged.



## THE BUILDING OF LOUGH ERNE COTS

*The Building of Lough Erne Cots* is a wonderful short film that tells the story of a Fermanagh boat-building tradition dating back many centuries. This film follows the story of the building of four cot boats by two community groups, West Island Men's Shed and Belleek Men's Shed, both located in Fermanagh.



## THE GROCERY RUN

*The Grocery Run* is the personal recollections of people in and around Gortin of the McConnell mobile grocery shop. The storytellers include Pat McSwiggan, a 92 year old man who worked on the grocery van which travelled through the rural communities of Rouskey and Gortin from 1947 to 1984, delivering much needed provisions. The film focuses on the daily routes of the grocery van by townland, the customers/ patrons, bartering/currency used, ration books and the range of goods provided/ delivered.



We've teamed up with the Oska Bright Film Festival, based in Brighton, to spotlight the extraordinary work of learning-disabled and autistic creatives. Enjoy this curated selection of short films aimed at amplifying the often-unheard voices of the LGBTQIA+ community. This event is a celebration of love, loss, friendship and remarkable achievements.



## IZZY AMAN: THE JOY OF DRAG

Explore the rich, expressive world of drag kings through the experience of one individual: Isabel Adomakoh Young.

## GRAPEVINE

Explore toxicity and power balance in relationships through poetry.

## GHOSTED

Emily befriends Imogen online which is the start of a relationship that takes an unexpected course.

## COMING OUT AUTISTIC

The experience of telling the world that you are autistic when you also identify as LGBTQ+.

## GIRL CODED

Desperate for power, ambitious tech nerd Robbie is keen to hack into her high school's anonymous gossip page to garner popularity.

## UN(FIT) TO WORK

A disabled mechanic takes us on a musical journey of 80s Disco & Ballroom through his imagination.

## MOMENT I SAW IN RED

An experimental short film that explores the relationship between trauma, synaesthesia, and art.

## SINGLE GLANCE

In a busy coffee shop, Hazel fantasises a relationship with a stranger in a single glance.

## LOOK THE PART

Sam is a theatre janitor who aspires to become a dancer.

TUESDAY 23 APR | 7PM

NERVE CENTRE

THIS FILM IS  
NOT YET RATED

SPECIAL  
EVENTS

# IN THE SHADOW OF BEIRUT WITH BRENDAN J. BYRNE



This screening will be followed by post screening discussion between producer of *In the Shadow of Beirut*, Brendan J. Byrne and local documentary producer John Peto about the film, his career to date and the role of documentary feature film in a rapidly evolving landscape for storytellers.

**2023** Ireland/Germany/Lebanon/UK

**DIRECTORS** Garry Keane, Stephen Gerard Kelly

**PRODUCERS** Brendan J. Byrne, Myriam Sassine,  
Alison Toomey, Christian Beetz

**CAST** Abeed Family, Kujeyje Family Daher Family, Aboodi Ziyani

**DURATION** 1hr 32mins

£6 +booking fee

From the makers of *Gaza* (Sundance 2019), *In The Shadow of Beirut* is a new cinematic odyssey that penetrates deep below the surface of Beirut, a still beautiful, yet deeply troubled city on the brink of financial collapse. The documentary weaves four compelling storylines together in a searing portrait of a people and a city struggling to survive amidst some of the most difficult living conditions imaginable. In this failing state, it is the vulnerable who suffer most.

*Ireland's Submission for 2024 Oscars®.*

Brendan J. Byrne, Producer/Director/Executive Producer, is an award winning filmmaker from Belfast who is renowned for creating documentaries that challenge perceptions, draw attention to the underdog and transport viewers to places rarely seen on screen.

His credits include *That They May Face The Rising Sun* (2024 IFTA nominee) *The Go Go's* (Sundance 2020), *Gaza* (Sundance 2019) *No Stone Unturned* (NYFF, 2018) *Maze* and *Bobby Sands: 66 Days*.

“It certainly has the emotional heft and political weight to register with receptive audiences. The dedication before the final credits could draw tears from a boulder.”

Donald Clarke, Irish Times.

FRIDAY 26 APR & SATURDAY 27 APR | 12PM & 3PM

## Xperience VR Cinema

Free of charge

Dive into a world  
where stories are  
not just told...  
they're  
experienced!

SPECIAL  
EVENTS

Join us for a virtual reality (VR) cinema experience that explores identity, gender rights and our place in the world – and get paid for your time!

We're looking for audiences to test drive VR cinema at Nerve Centre. As well as experiencing cutting edge VR productions, you'll take part in a focus group discussion and receive a £15 Amazon gift voucher.

Each session lasts up to two hours where you will view three VR films from the StoryFutures catalogue – *Monoliths*, *When Something Happens* and *Kindred*.

### *Monoliths*

*Monoliths* interweaves radiant renderings of three northern UK environments with sweeping soundscapes and poetic monologues by Hannah Davies, Carmen Marcus and Asma Elbadawi.

### *Kindred*

Based on the remarkable true story of an aspirational parent called Syd, and their groundbreaking journey through the adoption process in the UK, experiencing first-hand the highs and lows of a dream shared by so many.

### *When Something Happens*

A virtual reality film that takes the user on an epic journey through the history of the cosmos via the medium of poetry, music and stylised animation. The laws of astrophysics are vast, complex and sometimes overwhelming.

These free VR research sessions are being delivered thanks to a partnership with the StoryFutures Xperience programme.

StoryFutures  
**X**perience

# AT A GLANCE GUIDE

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REEL  
LIVES

WED 10 APRIL | 7PM

THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE

THU 11 APRIL | 7PM

SHOWING UP

FRI 12 APRIL | 8PM

AFTER HOURS 4K

SAT 13 APRIL | 11AM

EAST OF EDEN 4K

SAT 13 APRIL | 2PM

NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN'S

DIGITAL FILM ARCHIVE EVENT

TUE 16 APRIL | 7PM

THAT THEY MAY FACE

THE RISING SUN

WED 17 APRIL | 7PM

FOUR DAUGHTERS

THU 18 APRIL | 7PM

EARTH MAMA

FRI 19 APRIL | 8PM

COLLATERAL

SAT 20 APRIL | 11AM

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

SAT 20 APRIL | 2PM

OSKA BRIGHT SHOWCASE

TUE 23 APRIL | 7PM

IN THE SHADOW OF BEIRUT

W/ BRENDAN J. BYRNE

WED 24 APRIL | 7PM

HIGH & LOW: JOHN GALLIANO

THU 25 APRIL | 7PM

BALTIMORE

FRI 26 APRIL | 8PM

FEMME

FRI 26 APRIL | 12PM & 3PM

XPERIENCE VR CINEMA

SAT 27 APRIL | 11AM

DIAL M FOR MURDER

SAT 27 APRIL | 12PM & 3PM

XPERIENCE VR CINEMA

Please leave us  
some feedback!

