



9TH TO 16TH AUGUST 2018

Belfast Film Festival Presents

Pull Focus

DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

INTRODUCTION

Belfast Film Festival has always had a strong interest in documentary film. From the beginning of our festival in 2000 we have always focused on documentary as a means to explore important socio-political issues and ideas. From 2006 with the visit of documentary legend Albert Maysles to the festival we created a new competition focusing on the art of observational documentary.

Over recent years we have missed out on the opportunity to screen some important Irish/Northern Irish documentary films because of scheduling or release issues as part of our main festival. Irish documentary on both sides of the border is becoming world-renowned and increasingly prolific, this is our opportunity to profile these films, in this programme we wanted to celebrate the best new documentaries being produced.

For our opening film we have 'The Image You Missed' Donal Foreman's meditation on his fathers filmmaking legacy in Northern Ireland. Our closer is the international world premiere of Sean Murray's 'Unquiet Graves', a powerful and visceral examination of collusion and the

search for justice. Fresh from the Cannes Film Festival Mark Cousins presents his latest documentary hybrid 'The Eyes Of Orson Welles' a love letter to one of cinemas great artists. All these filmmakers will be present to talk about their work.

As well as highlighting the quality of contemporary documentary, we also wanted to pull focus onto the great tradition of documentary in Northern Ireland. We have included work from the godparents of non-fiction filmmaking such as David Hammond, Anne Crilly, Margo Harkin and John T Davis.

A number of the films in this programme explore issues very important to our society, personal and public, and we hope that our programming continues to contribute in serious and fun ways, to the broader critical discourse on equality. We hope to continue this activity on an annual basis and initiate a new international documentary festival in Ireland in 2019. Stay tuned.

Stuart Sloan. Belfast Film Festival.

book tickets:

www.belfastfilmfestival.org

Or Telephone:

+44 (0) 28 9024 6609

Refunds:

The Belfast Film Festival can only refund money or exchange tickets for screenings that are cancelled. For more information on the festival contact us on 02890325913 or email: info@belfastfilmfestival.org

In Person:

Visit Belfast
9 Donegall Square North,
Belfast., BT1 5GJ

Monday to Saturday:
9.00am to 5.30pm.
Sundays 11.00am to 4.00pm

At Festival Venues:
from half hour before
screening
or event time.

Our Address is:
Belfast Film Festival.
23 Donegall Street,
Belfast. BT1 2FF.

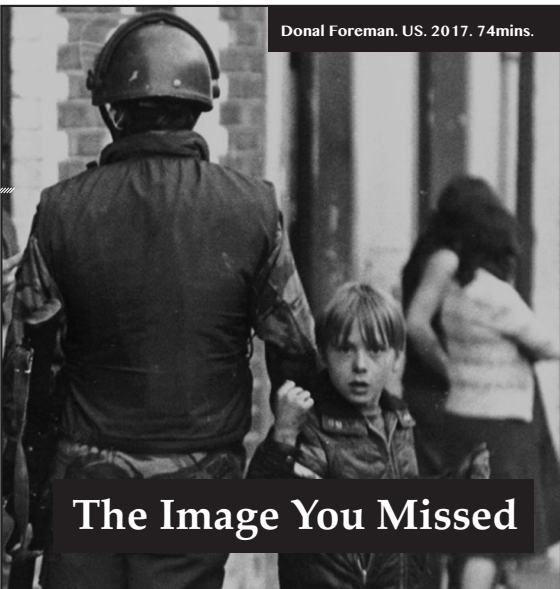
OUR FUNDERS:



SUPPORTED BY:



OPENING NIGHT FILM



Donal Foreman. US. 2017. 74mins.

The Image You Missed

7PM. THURS 9TH AUGUST · MOVIE HOUSE · DUBLIN RD · £6

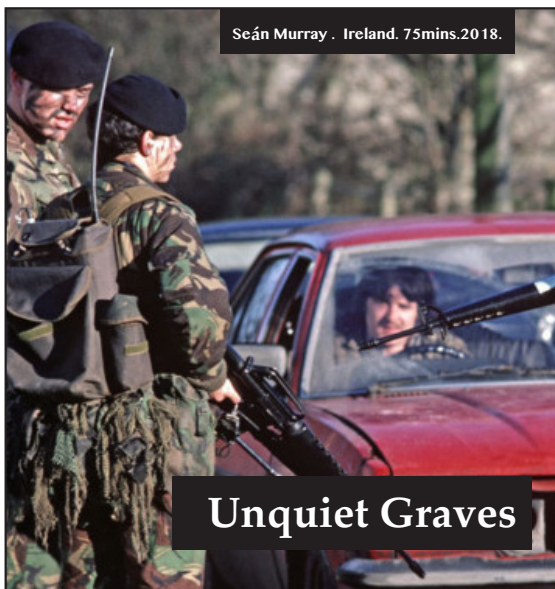
“An American in Paris making films about Ireland” – this is how Donal Foreman describes his father, Arthur MacCaig, in Foreman’s fascinating film essay about his father

During his career, Irish-American MacCaig (1948-2008) made films about the conflict in Northern Ireland and left behind a visual archive spanning thirty years – images Foreman uses to find out what he has in common with his father. But it’s the differences that stand out: Foreman moved back to Dublin, while MacCaig had preferred to film in divided Belfast.

Arthur MacCaig’s archive footage from the Northern Ireland is an artefact from another time, which still feels near. *The Image You Missed* is an enthralling historical exhumation that erases the boundary between the personal and the political.

The Director will take part in a Q&A following the screening.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM



Seán Murray . Ireland. 75mins.2018.

Unquiet Graves

7PM. THURS 16TH AUGUST · MOVIE HOUSE · DUBLIN RD. £6

The story of the Glenanne Gang details how members of the RUC and UDR, were centrally involved in the murder of over 120 innocent civilians.

Now known as the Glenanne Gang, the group of killers rampaged through Counties Tyrone and Armagh and across into the Irish Republic in a campaign that lasted from July 1972 to the end of 1978.

After years of painstaking work by human rights groups The Pat Finucane Centre (PFC) and Dublin-based Justice for the Forgotten (JFF), and the subsequent release of Anne Cadwallader’s best-selling book, ‘Lethal Allies’, the scale of collusion between the British government and loyalist death squads has now become apparent. The British government knew that collusion was going on and condoned it. The suffering of victims and survivors is today compounded by the refusal of both the Irish and British governments in dealing with the past by facing up to their responsibilities in pursuing truth and justice for those affected.

The Director will take part in a Q&A following the screening.

I, Dolours



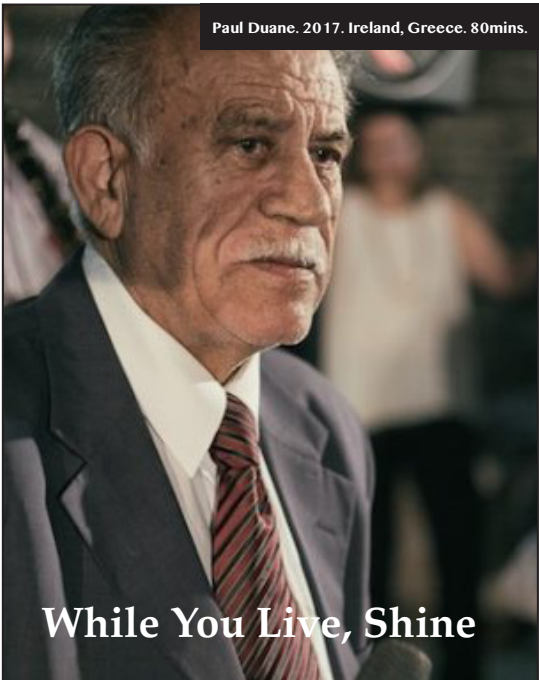
Maurice Sweeney. Ireland. 2018. 82mins.

A former IRA member's story comes to vivid, brutal life in Maurice Sweeney's hybrid documentary

Dolours Price, the infamous IRA radical convicted of bombing England's Old Bailey in 1973, granted a series of revealing interviews in 2010 on the strict condition of their posthumous release. The interviews, brought to life through vividly cinematic reenactments, uncover the birth of her fierce commitment to Irish Republicanism. Price revisits the bombing and the 200-day hunger strike that followed, and discusses her role in the disappearances of some suspected Republican informants.

Set against her haunting testimonial are vivid fictional re-enactments masterfully interspersed with searing documentary footage. Ultimately Price's turbulent life mirrors the violent, complex history of Northern Ireland's long civil conflict.

The Director and Producer Ed Maloney will take part in a Q&A following the screening.



Paul Duane. 2017. Ireland, Greece. 80mins.

While You Live, Shine

While You Live, Shine is the story of how an American record collector's obsession with the oldest music in Western Europe changed his life.

American musicologist Chris King is legendary in his field. His collection of and passion for old 78 records is inspiring, as is his ability to use modern technology to unlock their sonic secrets. But his discovery of the music of Epirus in northern Greece was to transform King's life, and the raw folk music he believes connects us with our most ancient ancestors prompted him to travel to the region. What emerges is some of the most hypnotic and stirring music you've never heard.

"Those discs stand before me like the black monoliths in 2001: A Space Odyssey" intones King at one point, and it's to the filmmakers' great credit that the incidental allusion to that great evocation of awe doesn't seem altogether untoward. He describes them as "this mysterious source of dark, unnatural power", and as Duane and his team shrewdly cede the film to extended village celebrations for moments at a time, it's difficult to disagree that there's something sublime in sharing this ancient art. SCANNAIN.COM

Feargal Ward. Ireland. 2017. 85mins.

The Lonely Battle of Thomas Reid

Despite pressure from the authorities, a gentle Irish farmer refuses to sell the property he inherited from his ancestors. The power of the American company trying to buy his land is great, but the main character's resolve is even greater.

For years, the Irish farmer Thomas Reid has been locked in a grueling battle with his neighbor, U.S. microchip manufacturer Intel. The multinational wants to expand and has its eye on Reid's land. Eager to boost employment in the region, the Irish authorities are doing their utmost to force Reid into a sale. But the farmer has no intention of leaving his 300-year-old ancestral home, where he lives alone, surrounded by cows and chickens.

Director Feargal Ward follows the calm rhythm of farm life, which seems to stem from a different age. His house is crammed with hoarded junk and he appears to live in chaos. Nevertheless, this tenacious eccentric proves to be a formidable opponent of the system.'

The filmmakers will attend and take part in a Q&A following the screening.

7PM. SAT 11TH AUGUST · MOVIE HOUSE · DUBLIN RD · £6

Wonderful Losers

Arunas Matelis. Lithuania, Italy. Ireland. 2017.



The film reveals the unseen world of Sancho Panzas of professional cycling. For most people, the cyclists at the back of the race are simply losers. They call them water carriers, domestics, optimists

For 7 years, Arunas Matelis followed these Sancho Panza's during the prestigious Giro d'Italia, taking us to the unseen world of these wonderful losers of professional cycling, from the point of view of the doctors' team. Our bike heroes crash, rise – and race again. '

Wonderful Losers uncovers the invisible side of "Giro d'Italia" - one of the harshest as well as one of the biggest cycling races in the world. Despite its popularity, few people know about the complex, hierarchal structure of the race which often bears similarity to monastic rules, including unconditional acceptance and self-sacrifice.

7PM. SUN 12TH AUGUST · MOVIE HOUSE · DUBLIN RD · £6

It Stays With You

Cahal McLaughlin. N.Ireland. 2017. mins.



The documentary film is about the impact on the local community of UN peacekeepers' use of force in Cité Soleil, Haiti, during the period 2004-2007, which left scores of civilians dead.

Between 2005 and 2007, UN peacekeeping troops carried out several raids on Cité Soleil, a severely economically depressed neighborhood of Port au Prince. Scores of people, including children, were killed and many more injured. This documentary returns to Cité Soleil to examine the impact of those raids on the community and to find out how survivors have fared in the ten years since they occurred. Read more about the documentary [here](#).

Cahal McLaughlin, producer & director,
Queen's University Belfast professor of film studies.
Siobhán Willis, producer & director, Ulster University
professor of law.

A screening as part of the
Respect Human Rights
Film Festival.



7PM. THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST AT CULTURLANN. £6

Katrina Costello . 2017. Ireland. 75mins.



The Silver Branch

The Silver Branch is a philosophical vision-poem on the life of farmer/poet Patrick McCormack, descendant of the generations of farmers who have lived off the wild landscape of the Burren in County Clare.

Patrick and his rural community are drawn into a divisive battle with the Government, leading him and a small group of friends to the Supreme Court to decide on the fate of this iconic wilderness.

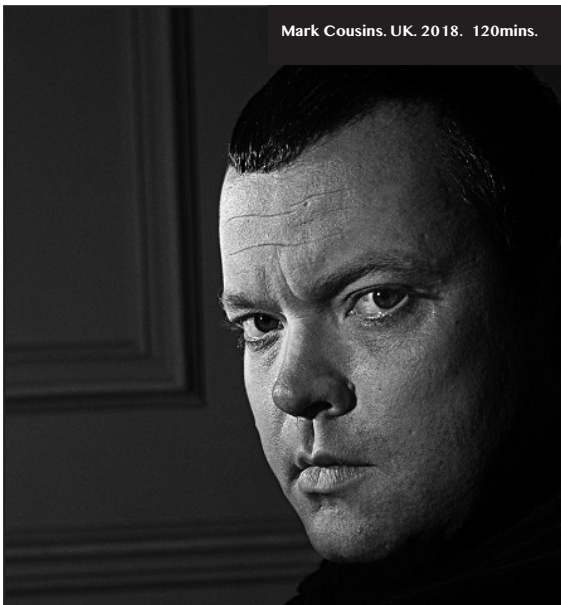
Through Patrick's eyes, and in his words, this beautifully shot film immerses us in the exquisite texture of the natural world, bringing us a rare glimpse of a disappearing way of life with all its richness and roguery, and leading to a deep connection with the Earth and our ancestral wild spirit.

And though it is centred around one man's life and a bitter-sweet end-of-era evocation, it explores much deeper themes: the relationship between man and landscape, between tradition and spirit, between body and soul. *The Silver Branch* is a story of hope – hope that we as individuals can make a difference to our universe.

3PM. SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST AT MOVIE HOUSE. £6

The Eyes of Orson Welles

Mark Cousins. UK. 2018. 120mins.



Filmmaker Mark Cousins dives deep into the visual world of legendary director and actor Orson Welles to reveal a portrait of the artist as he's never been seen before – through his own eyes, sketched with his own hand, painted with his own brush.

Granted exclusive access to hundreds of private drawings and paintings by Orson Welles. Executive produced by Michael Moore, *The Eyes of Orson Welles* brings vividly to life the passions, politics and power of this brilliant 20th-century showman, and explores how the genius of Welles still resonates today in the age of Trump, more than 30 years after his death.

As the title suggests, the iconoclastic Northern Irish documentarian Mark Cousins has chosen to focus on the way the late creative polymath saw things, literally so, not only in his films but in his voluminous but far less known paintings and sketches.

Director Mark Cousins will take part in a short Q & A following the screening.

Dónal Ó Céilleachair. Ireland. 2017. 90mins.



Camino Voyage

A crew of artists and musicians (including Glen Hansard), embark on the Camino by sea, in a traditional boat that they built themselves on an inspiring, and dangerous, modern day odyssey all the way from Ireland to Northern Spain.

For hundreds of years people sailed from Ireland to A Coruña in Northern Spain and walked the camino to Santiago de Compostela from there. This inspiring crew have done their own version of this historical voyage. Every community that they have connected with en route opened their doors – and their hearts – to this crew, and the men have in exchange, inspired them with their courage, endurance, storytelling, music, poetry and song in a coming together of people in the most fundamental and ancient of ways.

Director Dónal Ó Céilleachair will be joined by members of the cast and crew for the screening.

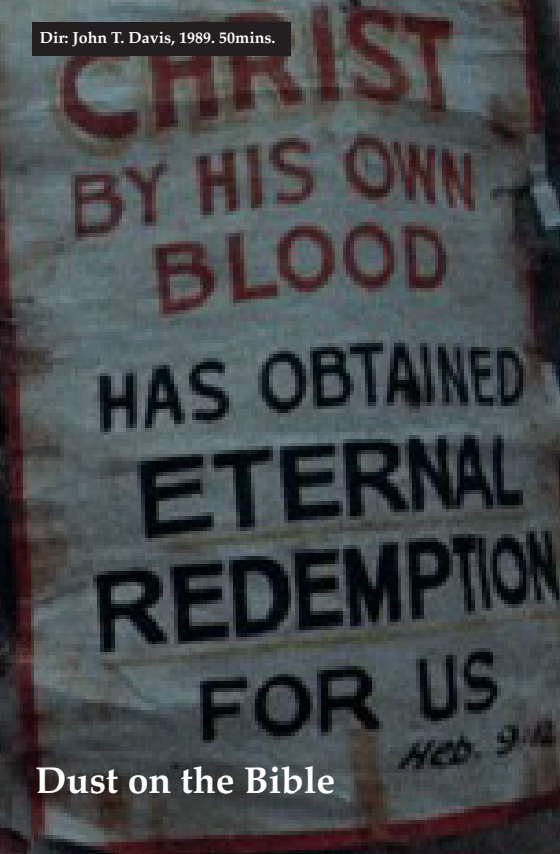
"Lyrical, Compelling"
EYE FOR FILM



7PM. TUESDAY 21ST AUGUST . THE STRAND . £6.

7PM. WED 15TH AUGUST AT MOVIE HOUSE. £6.

Dir: John T. Davis, 1989. 50mins.



Dust on the Bible

On the street corners, in the tabernacles, at the cattle fairs, the people of Ulster are warned by pastors and preachers about the end of days. Encounter Belfast's very own manic street preachers in this powerful documentary.

A lyrical, visual poem about these latter day prophets. Focusing on Belfast's charismatic street preachers the film traces the journey of a lonesome drifter seeking salvation in the gospel halls of this 'troubled godforsaken place'.

The work of one of Northern Ireland's most distinctive filmmakers, Dust on The Bible reflects John T. Davis' experiences in America's 'Bible-Belt', drawing parallels between fundamentalist religion in the US and his home country.

Dir: Marilyn Hyndman, 1986. 52mins.



Under the Health Surface

One of the first films produced by Northern Visions in 1986, *Under the Health Surface*; as told by Belfast Women examines the terrible conditions women experiences in Northern Ireland.

Why are Northern Irish women more likely to die from disease before the age of sixty than other parts of Europe? This social documentary contains many lively interviews with women who talk about their housing, their environment, discrimination and corruption, the stark realities of the 'Troubles' and the future they want for their children.

Participants include Emily Davison, Molly McMillan, Margaret Keenan, Eileen Hay, Marie-Therese McGivern.

Asks a Lot of awkward questions about the way we live, or are allowed to live. FORTNIGHT

7PM. FRIDAY 10TH AUGUST AT BEANBAG CINEMA. £3

2PM. SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST AT BEANBAG CINEMA. £3



BFF Short Documentary programme

Often caught between places to screen, a short non-fiction film has far less opportunities to be seen in a cinema environment, especially if made independently, and we hope to address that with this event.

This programme of 17 films is a chance to see some of the best short documentaries made in Ireland over the last year.

2PM SUNDAY 12TH AUGUST AT BEANBAG CINEMA. £4



Dir: Anne Crilly, Margo Harkin. 1991. 50mins.

Mother Ireland

Documentary on the historical allegorical representation of Ireland as a woman.

The film highlights how these cultural and stereotypical images of Ireland as a woman influence the idealised model of woman demanded by Irish society. It uses historical film, photographs, political drawings, cartoons and music to explore the largely unrecorded role of women in Irish history.

4PM. SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST AT BEANBAG CINEMA. £3



Dusty Bluebells

Traditional songs and hand games performed by pupils in 1971.

Children's street games performed by the pupils of St Mary's Primary School Belfast. This film contrasts the escapism of the street games with the changing environment that surrounds the children both with the interrelated political situation and the redevelopment of the area, which is changing the community that had developed there.

7.30PM. TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST AT BEANBAG CINEMA. £2



Dir: Manfred Hattendorf. 1984. 30mins.

Belfast Experience

Lyrical documentary on contemporary Belfast City life. Architecture, design, landscape - a contemporary view of the changing face of Belfast in 1984.

A Unique City Symphony which follows a day in the life of Belfast from the morning milkman to the late night disco.

7PM. TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST AT BEANBAG CINEMA. £2



The Curzon Project

The Curzon Film Centre was not just a cinema, it was many different things to different people. A family heirloom, a place for inspiration, relaxation and above all a safe space in a divided community where there were few.

The Curzon Project is a short documentary, which tells the story of the Curzon cinema on Belfast's Ormeau Road which was open from 1936 and closed in 1999. Through interviews with the family who owned it, customers, projectionists and usherettes, the film's narrative covers not only the history of the cinema, but it's place in the community over 6 decades and shares a glimpse into the lives of some of those for which the Curzon was a place to socialise, date, shelter and get inspired by classic movies on the silver screen. Featuring archive material and interviews from John T. Davis, David Holmes and Kristian Nairn, this documentary was crowdfunded and was supported by Northern Ireland Screen.

*The Curzon Project is an Out of Orbit production,
in association with Film Hub NI, Kaffe'O
and Stylografik.*

SCREENING AS PART OF 'CINEMA DAY' MON 27th AUGUST.



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