

A FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM

# DOCS IRELAND



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20 - 25 JUNE 2023



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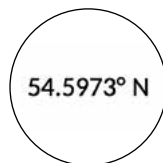


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Ticket prices include a Pay What You Can price range (£4.50 - £8.50), standard & concessions for full-time students, over-60s, Jobseekers Allowance or Income Support recipients and registered disabled people.



**Michele Devlin**  
Chief Executive



**Stuart Sloan**  
Programmer



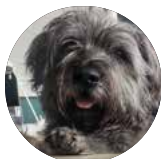
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# WELCOME TO DOCS IRELAND 2023

**We are really excited to present the fifth edition of Docs Ireland. The programme is packed with truly remarkable and courageous storytelling, with some of the best new documentary titles from Ireland, the UK and across the world.**

There are 87 films and events, including the ever-growing Docs Ireland marketplace, over 6 packed days. Stories and participants from 25 countries are featured, in a programme that supports and celebrates both veteran and emerging documentary talent.

A big thank you to all our funders and sponsors who have collaborated in the establishment of the festival over the past five years; and to the documentary-making community across the island for their fulsome support and engagement in the development of Docs Ireland.

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**Michele Devlin**  
Chief Executive

In 2018, when we began our first documentary festival - we were very excited about the continued growth of the Irish documentary scene, and the talent of our filmmakers. This year we are showing a record 12 Irish feature documentaries - many of them premieres. To see, just 5 years later, this explosion of thrilling Irish films, is beyond what we expected and a wonder to behold. It is a pleasure to bring them to our discerning audiences.

Along with a focus on Irish film - our other main goal is to showcase documentaries that could not be seen anywhere else in Northern Ireland - the weird and wonderful, the challenging and sublime. We hope jumping into these empathy machines can illuminate, educate and exhilarate!

---

**Stuart Sloan**  
Programmer, Docs Ireland

Since our last festival, we've been working hard to strengthen our industry credentials and visibility, developing our networks across Ireland and the UK, as well as around Europe - spreading the good word of Docs Ireland, and collaborating with international organisations with similar scope and values.

Our key aim is to support the island of Ireland's documentary filmmaking community. We do this through our core industry initiatives - the Docs Ireland Marketplace, the IGNITE Talent Development Programme, the Northern Ireland Screen Pitch, and through our ancillary industry events, which cater to filmmakers at all stages of their careers. I do hope that there is something that piques the interest of every documentary filmmaker within this year's programme.

---

**Roisín Geraghty**  
Head of Industry & Marketplace



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OPENING  
NIGHT  
FILM



LET THE  
CANARY SING

DIR. ALISON ELLWOOD

Northern Ireland/USA | 95 MINS | 2023

***Let the Canary Sing* is an immersive journey into the world of a unique voice. Cyndi Lauper hit the big time in 1983, and she's been in the public eye ever since – as a singer-songwriter, actor, activist and most recently best-selling musical composer.**

Now for the first time, Cyndi is throwing open the doors for a premium feature documentary to reveal the secrets of her fifty-year career. Using a treasure trove of archival material that will take us back to the start of the story in Queens, New York.

Diaries, personal photos and unreleased versions of songs will trace Cyndi's story then and now.

Produced by Belfast's Fine Point Films - Trevor Birney, Eimhear O'Neill and Andrew Tully.

**TUESDAY 20 JUNE | 7PM**  
CINEWORLD | £7.50/£6



**A knockout conversation between Carl Frampton and Patrick Kielty on Northern Irish politics, education and identity.**

Patrick and Carl have long been two of Northern Ireland's most interesting men - both have skilfully moved from their very successful first careers into the wonderful world of docs. What has resulted is some of the most revealing and honest documentary work being made about the North.

They will use this work as a prism through which they discuss their experiences and their viewpoints on their shared homeland. We will encounter opinions on mental health, masculinity, the Good Friday Agreement, integrated education, along with their love of sport.

**Carl "The Jackal" Frampton** turned pro as a boxer in 2009, and the Northern Irishman quickly climbed the ranks, winning both IBF and WBA belts. Carl

retired from the ring in 2021 and is now a prominent supporter of local charities. As a Protestant married to a Catholic and with two young children, he is determined to be a role model for the future of Northern Ireland. His new BBC doc, *Carl Frampton: Men in Crisis*, was broadcast in May 2023.

Born in Dundrum, Co. Down, **Patrick Kielty** began his stand-up career as host of Northern Ireland's first comedy club, The Empire Laughs Back, in a pre-ceasefire Belfast. Recently, he has won awards for his documentaries *My Dad*, *The Peace Deal and Me*, and *Patrick Kielty: 100 Years of Union*. Patrick's new radio talk show can be heard every Saturday morning on BBC 5Live. 2023 saw the release of the feature film *Ballywalter* in which Patrick stars in the lead role alongside Seána Kerslake.

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 7PM**  
**CINEWORLD | £10/£8**

**PULL FOCUS  
IRISH  
DOCUMENTARY  
COMPETITION**





## I DREAM IN PHOTOS

**DIR. GARY LENNON**  
78 MINS | 2023

### The photographer without a camera.

Gambit Pictures is proud to present the World Premiere of *I Dream in Photos* which explores the life and work of photographer Cathal McNaughton. Filmed over three years, we will see what inspired Cathal to create his breathtaking 25-year-long body of work and why he quit “the best job in the world” aged just 40: shortly after winning the ultimate accolade in his industry – the Pulitzer Prize.

Certain photographs, certain images, have left a huge legacy on the world. Cathal’s award-winning career shows he is someone who has been blessed with a gift to take photographs that have this power. His overarching aim is to “give a voice to those that do not have one”. But this gift is also a curse. The demands that it has taken on his wellbeing and relationships are substantial.

In our world of disinformation and conflicting “truths” the need for Cathal’s work is greater than ever before. But must a photographer pay a price he cannot pay?

We are delighted to be hosting the World Premiere of this documentary.

There will be a Q&A after the film with director Gary Lennon and Cathal McNaughton.

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 6.15PM**  
QFT | £7.50/£6



**BELFAST  
EXPOSED**



**DIR. GARRY KEANE AND STEPHEN GERARD KELLY**  
92 MINS | 2023

**From the makers of *Gaza* (Sundance 2019), comes 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.**

*In the Shadow of Beirut* weaves four compelling storylines together in a searing portrait of a people and a city on the brink, yet who possess unmistakable qualities of resilience and hope.

Through intimate, character-driven storytelling, the stark reality of life for the protagonists of the film is symbolic of many thousands of others who fight for survival in a city, once described as the Paris of the Middle East, but now boasts the highest refugee numbers in the world. A city and a country that many are now desperately trying to flee.

The film is brutal and at times heartbreaking, but ultimately beautiful in the connection that it forges with its subjects, which co-director Stephen Gerard Kelly achieved over a six-year period. We are also delighted to welcome back director Gary Keane, who won the inaugural Pull Focus Award for Best Irish Documentary at Docs Ireland 2019.

Docs Ireland is very excited to be hosting the European premiere of this brave and powerful new film.

The filmmakers will take part in a Q&A after the screening.

**THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 6PM**  
QFT | £7.50/£6



Photo credit - Chris Hill.

## STOLEN

**DIR. MARGO HARKIN**  
106 MINS | 2023

***Stolen* tells the story of how women who had the misfortune to fall pregnant 'out of wedlock' were treated in an Ireland that was heavily influenced by the Catholic Church.**

Over 80,000 unmarried mothers were incarcerated in mother and baby institutions run by religious orders from 1922 to 1998. Most were cruelly separated from their babies after birth. Many of the children were adopted within Ireland and abroad – rendered untraceable and unaware of their birth story. Others were fostered out as cheap farm labour from the age of six, often in circumstances abysmally devoid of care and love. 9,000 infants died in these institutions from 1922 to 1998, a rate that, on occasion, was five times the national average infant mortality rate.

Survivors reveal the shocking details of their treatment in a scandal that sparked a government inquiry into the fate of unmarried women who fell pregnant in 20th-century Ireland.

There will be a Q&A after the film with the filmmakers Margo Harkin and Martha O'Neill, hosted by Dr. Phil Scraton.

**WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 6PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



**DIR. CARA HOLMES**  
70 MINS | 2023

**Orla Barry lived as an artist in Brussels for years until she was forced to return to her roots and come back to Ireland.**

Needing to make a living she turned to sheep farming, with the hopes of continuing her art on the side. Instead, she discovered the beauty of sheep and developed an ovine obsession. The film covers a year spent on Barry's farm and examines how unexpectedly the lines between shepherd and artist can be blurred.

*Notes from Sheepland* is an engaging and unconventional portrait of an unconventional artist. Director Cara Holmes conjures beautiful images from the flock. The serenity of the visuals is complemented by the dynamic score, ranging from a horn player who haunts the fields to the Wexford Male Voice Choir who appear in the stables. The film is a true celebration of the rituals and values of farming life.

"*Notes from Sheepland* has a streak of light, playful wit. There is also something of a lament about the film. What happens in this shepherd's little corner of Ireland becomes a reflection of global events and challenges for everyone." **Screen Daily**

Director Cara Holmes will take part in a Q&A after this Home Screening.

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 6PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



**DIR. FRANKIE FENTON**  
83 MINS | 2022

***Atomic Hope* follows a tiny global movement of unpopular pro-nuclear activists, who strongly believe we need nuclear power in order to decarbonize our energy systems and avoid calamitous climate change.**

Filmed over a ten-year period, these advocates for nuclear energy come from all over the world. Their opponents cite nuclear meltdowns, extortionate construction costs, radiation fears and nuclear waste as indisputable reasons to reject this technology. The pro-nuclear crew take on these arguments urging scientists, citizens and policymakers to take a sober look at the science, halt the mass closure of nuclear power plants and fully reconsider nuclear energy as a viable solution to imminent catastrophe.

The film uncovers the deep-rooted controversy, hatred and conflict associated with the subject, and just what it takes to be an activist for nuclear power in today's climate-conscious world.

Director Frankie Fenton will take part in a Q&A after the film.

**WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 6.15PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



DIR. CHRISTINE MOLLOY AND JOE LAWLOR  
90 MINS | 2023

The latest documentary from Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor is the follow-up to their acclaimed *Further Beyond* (2016).

With a focus on identity, memory and the thorny issue of nationalism, at its heart *The Future Tense* centres around the filmmakers' relationship to Ireland, and their adopted home, England. Through reflections on personal and social history, *The Future Tense* explores the osmosis between England and Ireland, at this most critical and politically charged of moments. Including the saddest donkey in Ireland.

Christine and Joe have made many fine movies in their careers, including 2019's fiction piece, *Rose Plays Julie*, and *Further Beyond*, one of the best Irish documentaries of the previous decade.

Director Joe Lawlor will take part in a Q&A after the film.

FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 6PM  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



DIR. MARTIN STALKER AND JAMES GLANCY  
107 MINS | 2023

James Glancy, a filmmaker and former British Royal Marine commando who was decorated for his actions in combat, returns to Afghanistan with a small, handpicked team to help him answer the question that has haunted him for ten years. Was it worth it?

Dramatically, mid-way through filming, President Joe Biden announces that the US would be pulling troops out by 9/11, starting a Taliban offensive that leads to the dramatic fall of the Afghanistan Government, amidst chaotic evacuation scenes in Kabul, as American forces withdraw.

This broad investigation into both Afghanistan's history and its present is able to hint at the influence and issues related to colonial interests. It is a unique insight into day-to-day life, in and away from the country's many conflicts.

Director Martin Stalker will take part in a Q&A after the film.

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 8.30PM  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



**DIR. DENNIS HARVEY**

74 MINS | 2023

Floating between Ireland, Spain, Chile, Sweden, France and Bangladesh over seven years, *I Must Away* follows four migrants who have each left home to rebuild their lives abroad.

Narrated by a series of letters from the director to his grandmother, the film is a kaleidoscopic vérité essay which disentangles roots, land and identity and explores the unequal distribution of rights and privileges, in our age of migration.

Director Dennis Harvey will take part in a Q&A after the film.

**WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 2.30PM**  
ULSTER MUSEUM | £5/£4



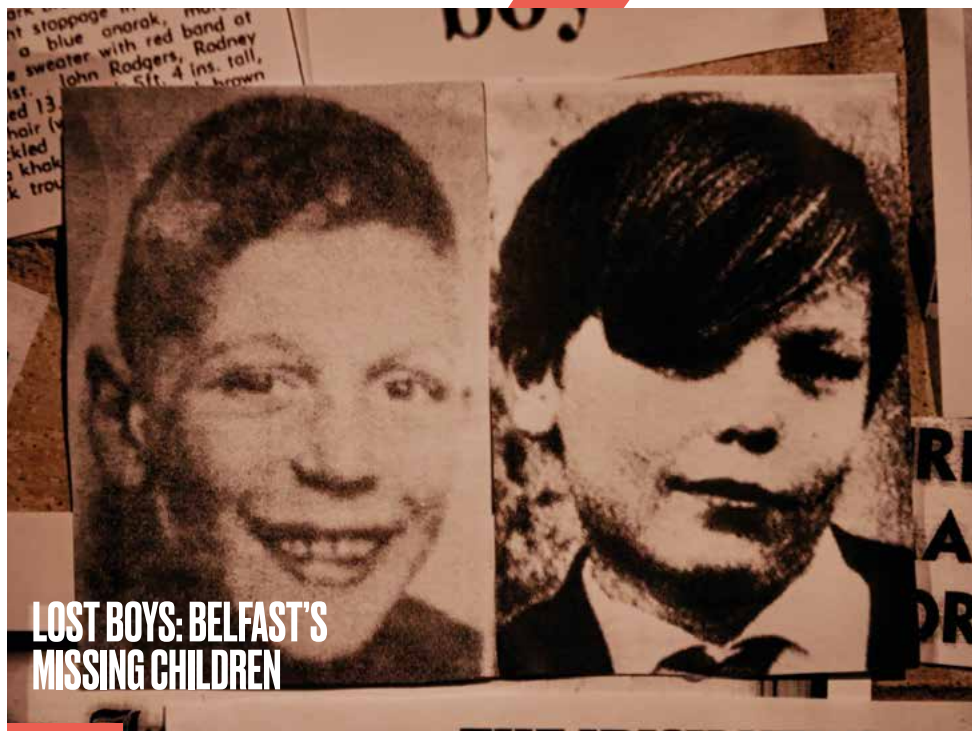
**DIR. MAURICE O'BRIEN**

86 MINS | 2023

An enigmatic artist becomes obsessed with transforming The Wall of Death, a century-old fairground motorcycle spectacle, into a place of Art, risking life and limb.

This documentary tells the unlikely story of a Glaswegian visual artist, Stephen Skrynka, who dreams of transforming the traditional fairground motorbike attraction into an art form, but underestimates the difficulties of combining his artistic vision with the realities and brutality of the wall. Facing a crisis of money and self-belief, salvation arrives in the shape of unexpected comradeship, anonymous donations and the kindness of strangers.

**THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 2.30PM**  
ULSTER MUSEUM | £5/£4



## LOST BOYS: BELFAST'S MISSING CHILDREN

**DIR. DES HENDERSON**  
90 MINS | 2023

*Produced by Des Henderson and Ed Stobart.  
Co-funded by Alleycats and BFI SOS Fund.*

During the winter of 1969, young boys started to disappear off the streets of Belfast, never to be seen again.

**THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 7.15PM**  
ODEON | £7.50/£6

By 1974, as 'The Troubles' were reaching a bloody and vicious peak, five boys in total had vanished from within a five-mile radius of each other.

After a 5 year investigation, *Lost Boys* pulls at the threads of these unresolved disappearances to unfold an extraordinary untold tale of abuse, murder and potential cover-up that asks serious questions of the British state and its intelligence operations in Northern Ireland.



## Ó BHÉAL

DIR. CIARA NIC CHORMAIC  
70 MINS | 2023

**Ó Bhéal** is a cinematic exploration of the rise of Hip Hop and Electronic artists in Ireland embracing oral traditions of folklore, ancient poetry and sean nós singing to create a new fusion sound, a culture clash through music. An ensemble piece, featuring Irish language rappers Seán 'Mory' Ó Muirgheasa and Oisín Mac, producer and multi-instrumentalist Fehdah, and Limerick rapper Strange Boy. This beautiful film delves deep into these four artists' process and how they are breaking new ground in Irish music.

Le déanaí, tá ceoltóirí Hip Hop agus Ceol Leictreonach in Éirinn ag tarraingt as tobar domhain an traidisiúin béil, an tseanfhilíocht agus an amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós, ag briseadh talamh nua i réimse an cheoil. Trí súile ceathrar ceoltóir – Mory, Oisín Mac, Fehdah agus Strange Boy faightear léargas domhain ar an gcaoi go bhfuil siad ag brú teorann nua agus ag cruthú ceoil úrnua na nGael.

In Irish with English subtitles. The filmmakers will be take part in a Q&A after the film.

FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 6.15PM  
QFT | £7.50/£6

# PULL FOCUS JURY

## MADS K. MIKKELSEN



**Mads K. Mikkelsen** is Head of Programme at CPH:DOX - Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival. Parallel with the festival, he runs various public cinema clubs, teaches film history at the Danish Film School. He is a regular contributor to local and international publications on film.

## MIRJAM WIEKENKAMP



**Mirjam Wiekenkamp** has been working as a publicist for documentaries and fiction films for over 15 years. She is the founder of NOISE Film & TV and represents films at festivals such as Berlinale, Cannes, CPH:DOX, IDFA, IFFR, Locarno and Venice.

## HEATHER HAYNES



**Heather Haynes** has been a programmer with Hot Docs for close to 17 years. She also was an International Programmer for fiction and documentary at imagineNATIVE Film + Media Festival, guest programmer for AluCine and has co-written and produced three award-winning documentaries.

# BACK *in* BELFAST



**BELFAST BORN™ 1776**

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Alison Millar's documentary about her friend Lyra McKee is one of the most skillfully made and meaningful documentaries to ever come out of Northern Ireland. Docs Ireland will examine Alison's early career, and track the fascinating journey of work that led to the creation of *Lyra*. Alison will join us for both screenings to discuss the films.

## THE MEN WHO WON'T STOP MARCHING

**DIR. ALISON MILLAR**  
NORTHERN IRELAND | 59 MINS | 2008

**The film will be followed by a Q&A with Alison and the films subject, viral internet star Jordan McKeag.**

In 2008 Alison Millar spent a year filming the marching bands of the Shankill Road. Amongst the men she follows is Jordan, an eleven-year old aspiring drummer.

Millar discovers a mixture of entrenched prejudice, relief that the troubles are over, nostalgia for the days of paramilitary discipline, and a battered-down resistance to talking about the past. There are tender moments in the film too - revealing the trauma attached to the past, exploring Jordan's relationship with his father.

## THE FATHER, THE SON & THE HOUSEKEEPER

**DIR. ALISON MILLAR**  
NORTHERN IRELAND | 82 MINS | 2007

**Buried under concrete and controversy on the outskirts of Dublin lie the remains of Ireland's infamous 'Singing Priest', Father Michael Cleary. He had two best selling albums and topped the bill at the Sydney Opera House and the Stardust Club in Las Vegas.**

Well-known for his staunch Catholic views on sex, divorce and abortion, it became clear after his death that he had lived a contradictory 'secret life'. In 1991, as a student, Alison Millar moved into Michael Cleary's house and started filming him observationally. This film is the story of the secret life of a man who fooled her, his family and an entire nation.

**TUESDAY 13 JUNE | 6.15PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN

**WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE | 6.15PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



# SPECIAL IRISH SCREENINGS

## THE SECRET ARMY (WORKING TITLE)

DIR. JOHN O'KANE  
NORTHERN IRELAND | 2023

### Work-in-Progress Screening

For over 50 years, the most extraordinary footage ever filmed inside the IRA disappeared. BBC journalist Darragh MacIntyre found the original 16mm film canisters in New York. We follow him as he tries to unravel the mystery surrounding how and why it was made.

During the most violent period of the Northern Ireland Troubles in 1972, an odd documentary team turned up in Belfast: the man asking the questions was an American academic and artist, the Israeli director had been arrested trying to kidnap a Nazi war criminal. None of them had any real track record in making documentaries, but they were given exceptional access inside the IRA.

Darragh tracks down some of the IRA men who were featured in the film. And one of the original production team who, even though he was the music composer, was present at shootings and bombings filmed by them in Northern Ireland.

This BBC NI documentary is still in production, but we will be screening excerpts. Afterwards John O'Kane and Darragh MacIntyre will take part in a Q&A to describe this film's extraordinary journey.

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 1.30PM**  
QFT | FREE (Booking Essential)



**NEW  
INTERNATIONAL  
DOCUMENTARY**



## THE LAST RIDER

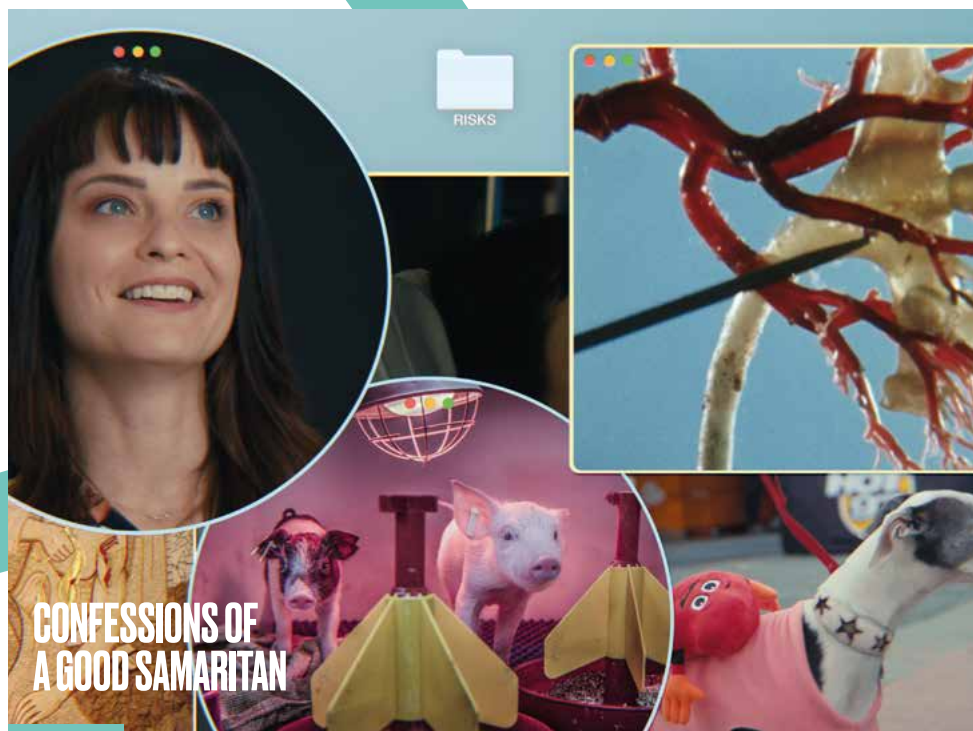
DIR. ALEX HOLMES  
UK | 97 MINS | 2023

The unbelievable story of cyclist Greg LeMond, who came back from the brink of death after a hunting accident to win the closest race in the history of the Tour de France.

With innate talent, an earnest, ethical approach to competition, and an affable, boy-next-door charm, the American Greg LeMond was a popular presence in European cycling. A wizard on the steady, gruelling climbs of the Tour de France, LeMond propelled himself to recognition with wins first for the National Team of France, and then unexpectedly for himself in 1986, when a yellow jersey win shocked and thrilled the world (turning some "friends" into adversaries). Alex Holmes' poignant documentary makes space for LeMond, with the aid

of his extraordinary wife Kathy, to share a deeply personal journey through trauma and the twists and turns of fame and performance amidst immense public pressures. This is a resounding reminder that LeMond represents the world of athletics at its best, and replays one of the greatest comeback stories in sports history. LeMond remains the only US cyclist to ever win the Tour de France.

SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 3.30PM  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



## CONFESSIONS OF A GOOD SAMARITAN

DIR. PENNY LANE  
USA | 105 MINS | 2023

Director Penny Lane's decision to become a "good Samaritan" by giving one of her kidneys to a stranger turns into a funny and moving personal quest to understand the nature of altruism. *Confessions of a Good Samaritan* is a provocative inquiry into the science, history, and ethics of organ transplantation, asking an ancient question in a whole new way: Who is your neighbour, and what do you owe them?

From Penny - *Confessions Of A Good Samaritan* is an offbeat and provocative inquiry into the science, history, and ethics of organ transplantation. It is also my personal passion project and the hardest film I've ever tried to make. At first, I was reluctant to make a film about this deeply personal and emotional experience, but eventually, I realised I had a unique chance to make an interesting work of art that will also save lives (so I got over myself).

Did you know that 13 Americans die every day awaiting a kidney transplant? That's the bad news. But the good news is that if just 1 in 10,000 people could be inspired to give a kidney, the waiting list would be eradicated immediately. This is what motivates me. My film will share the truth about what it was like to donate a kidney to someone I'll never meet. In trying to answer the simple question, "Why?", I will bring viewers on a fascinating journey through the neuroscience of altruism, the history of surgery, and the future of organ transplantation.

Penny Lane is one of the most interesting documentary makers in the world, and it's our pleasure to again bring her new film to Docs Ireland.

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 3.45PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



DIR. PAUL SNG  
UK | 90 MINS | 2023

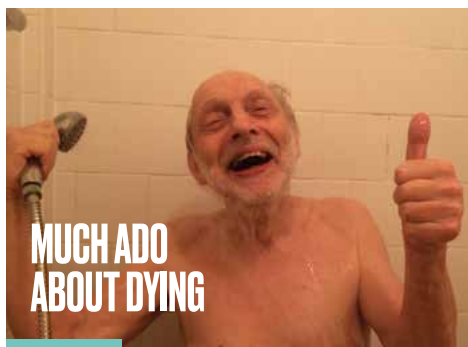
A working-class photographer captures the impact of Thatcherism on the north of England but is unable to escape the poverty and inequality she exposed.

Driven by a commitment to document the impact of deindustrialisation on working class communities in Northeast England in the 1970s and 1980s, Tish Murtha used her camera to expose societal inequality. She felt she had an obligation to the people and problems within her local environment, and that documentary photography could highlight and challenge the social disadvantages that she herself had suffered. However, despite early acclaim for her work, she was unable to make a living from photography and died in poverty.

With Tish's daughter Ella the film sets out to ask: who was Tish Murtha and why did she not receive her due? What does her work tell us about the value society places on working-class communities and working-class artists?

Director Paul Sng will take part in a Q&A after the screening.

THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 6.15PM  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



DIR. SIMON CHAMBERS  
UK | 90 MINS | 2022

Reluctantly taking on the task of caring for his dying actor uncle, filmmaker Simon embarks on a 5-year odyssey of craziness, frustration and ultimately awareness.

His cantankerous uncle David wants Simon to help him have the perfect end to his life. Amongst the squalor of mouse shit, peeing in jam jars, and a house full of hoarded rubbish, David wants to play a final 'King Lear'. Simon tries to curb David's urge to give his 'kingdom' away. Despite a house fire, homelessness, delirium from an infection, and the dreaded 'care home', together they create an award-winning final performance to send David on his way.

Produced by David Rane, who's previous film was *Young Plato*.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 1PM  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN





## DALTON'S DREAM

DIR. KIM LONGINOTTO & FRANKY MURRAY BROWN  
UK | 90 MINS | 2023

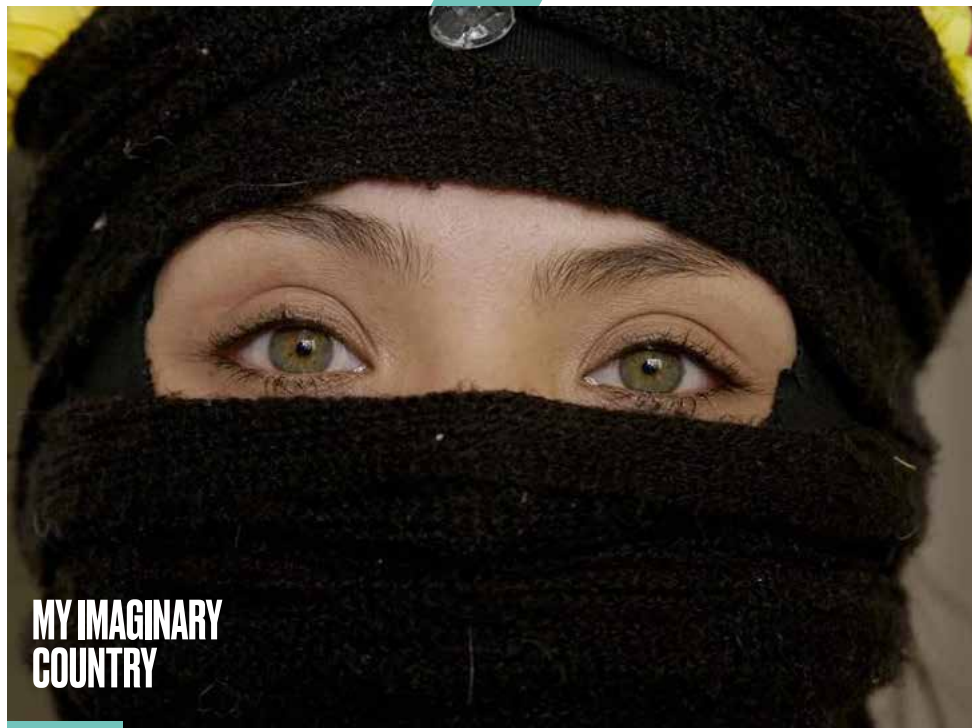
In 2018, a young musician from rural Jamaica called Dalton Harris became the first black man and foreigner to win "The X Factor" UK and, with it, a record deal that promised to transform his life. Filmed over four years, this coming-of-age documentary follows Dalton as he struggles for fame, love, and acceptance whilst battling dangerous allegations about his sexuality and spiraling mental health.

Charting an extraordinary rise, the film follows Dalton's new life in London. The film explores the constant homophobic death threats he receives because of assumptions of his sexuality and the added stress of trying to keep his career afloat in a foreign country where all friends and family are out of reach. Gradually, Dalton starts to write more

personal, revealing lyrics and becomes more open about his ongoing battle with his mental health. He tries to come to terms with his difficult upbringing and the fear and shame he experienced growing up in a very homophobic atmosphere in Jamaica.

The film is an inspirational story and a celebration of musical excellence. It is also filled with Kim Longinotto's usual sensitivity, insight and meaning about the world we all inhabit.

FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 7PM  
ODEON | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



## MY IMAGINARY COUNTRY

DIR. PATRICIO GUZMÁN  
CHILE | 83 MINS | 2022

"October 2019, an unexpected revolution, a social explosion. One and a half million people demonstrated in the streets of Santiago for more democracy, a more dignified life, a better education, a better health system and a new Constitution. Chile had recovered its memory. The event I had been waiting for since my student struggles in 1973 finally materialised."

One day, without warning, a revolution exploded. It was the event that master documentarian Patricio Guzmán had been waiting for all his life: a million and a half people in the streets of Santiago, Chile, demanding justice, education, health care, and a new constitution to replace the strident rules imposed on the country during the Pinochet military dictatorship. Urgent and inspired, *My Imaginary Country* features

harrowing front-line protest footage and interviews with dynamic activist leaders and powerfully connects Chile's complex, bloody history to contemporary revolutionary social movements and the election of a new president.

Documentary Master Guzman's skill is on display from the first frame. His unique interviewing style somehow always accesses the emotional, his drone shots are far from the clichéd norm. But as always, the highlight is the incredible and searing action on the streets at political demonstrations - something he almost invented on film in *The Battle for Chile* (1973).

THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 7PM  
ODEON | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



# MAYSLES BROTHERS COMPETITION FOR **OBSERVATIONAL DOCUMENTARY**

Our selection of the best new observational feature documentaries. Documentary legend Albert Maysles launched The Maysles Brothers documentary competition at Belfast Film Festival in 2006, and it has run ever since. The winning film receives £750.



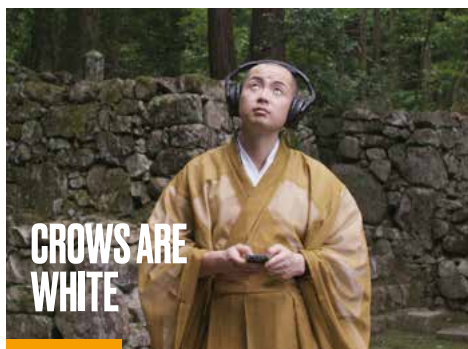
**DIR. SUSANNE REGINA MEURES**  
GERMANY | 98 MINS | 2022

**Fourteen-year-old Leonie is a successful teen influencer who lives on the outskirts of Berlin.**

Millions of followers are at her feet, and companies shower her with products. When Leonie's parents recognise the enormous economic potential of their daughter's online activities, they quickly take over her management. They want Leonie to have a better life than they had. But Leonie's life dictated by brands and pressure to produce content, slowly turns into a prison.

This is an insightful, and sometimes incredibly sad, look at how corporate social media companies have weaved their way into our lives.

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 6.30PM**  
BEANBAG CINEMA | £5/£4



**DIR. AHCEN NADEEM**  
USA | 97 MINS | 2022

**Ahsen Nadeem originally wanted to make a film about "marathon monks" belonging to a secretive Buddhist sect in Japan who reach enlightenment through highly determined feats of strength.**

Instead, his own life kept getting in the way. Through walking the tightrope of keeping his devout parents happy and living his own life, he has caught himself up in a web of lies and deception. Now that he is engaged to the woman he loves, someone his parents do not know exists, Ahsen wants to come clean. *Crows are White* is a quirky and funny film which follows Nadeem as he travels to Mount Hiei where he believes he will find enlightenment of his own, but instead finds friendship in the only monk willing to talk to him, the rebellious heavy metal-loving monk, Ryushin.

Delightfully shot and featuring a distinctive and moving score, the film never feels narcissistic or self-indulgent, but authentic and heart-warming as it finds connection in the least likely of places.

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 3PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



**DIR. BOUBACAR SANGARÉ**

BURKINA FASO/BENIN/France | 85 MINS | 2023

In Burkina Faso, in the gold-digging site of Bantara, Rasmané, 16 years old, descends more than 100 meters deep in artisanal mines to extract gold. Anxious about accidents, Rasmané makes his way in this world of fierce adults in the hope of one day becoming emancipated.

This is a peaceful, beautiful film that allows space to consider both the micro work of Rasmané and his friends, but also the macro world of global finance and resource extraction.

"The special thing about this documentary is the total lack of any sense of voyeurism. The camera seems to be completely absorbed within the society. It observes without judgment and pursues no effect."

**Business Doc Europe**

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 6.30PM**

BEANBAG CINEMA | £5/£4



**DIR. MOHAMMED ABUGETH AND DANIEL CARSENTY**

PALESTINE | 90 MINS | 2021

Chased by the army, two Bedouin cousins smuggle undocumented workers through the Middle East. A breath-taking portrait of human trafficking in one of the most dangerous regions of the world.

*The Devil's Drivers* has the white-knuckle suspense of a 1970s car chase thriller while also immersing us in life under occupation. Filmmakers Daniel Carsenty and Mohammed Abugeth filmed over eight years, following the drivers Hamouda and his cousin Ismail who are Palestinian Bedouins in the town of Yatta. They are motivated by the basic human desires to provide for their families and watch their children grow. They savour each day of freedom knowing it could be their last.

The film documents the way Israeli soldiers treat any Palestinian in transit as a potential terrorist. Israeli agents actively recruit informers, causing ripples of suspicion throughout the community. Soldiers pressure Palestinian villagers to erect blockades on their property or face the penalty of having their homes destroyed.

A Q&A will take place after the screening on Wednesday 21 June.

**WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 7PM**

ÁRAS UÍ CHONGHAILE |

JAMES CONNOLLY VISITOR CENTRE | £5/£4

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 4.30PM**

BEANBAG CINEMA | £5/£4



**DIR. CHRISTOPHER SHARP AND MOSES BWAYO**  
UGANDA | 113 MINS | 2022

**This observational documentary film follows Bobi Wine and his wife Barbie. Bobi rises from the ghetto slums of Kampala to one of the country's most loved superstars. His musical talent lifts him and emboldens millions of previously voiceless people. Bobi uses his music for activism, then becomes an Independent Member of Parliament to stand to defend the rights of his people.**

Bobi's wife, Barbie, by standing with him, plunges her own life into uncertainty. The film is an examination of the disturbing misuse of the legal and parliamentary systems, two supposed pillars of democracy. The country's institutions are controlled by the State to ensure President Museveni, an autocratic strongman, who has held power since 1986, continues to rule Uganda. Bobi and Barbie must risk everything, their lives and their futures to

challenge him. This is not just a story for Uganda, it is a narrative for all those who struggle under dictatorial regimes. This story has never been so relevant.

**Directors Statement** - Bobi and Barbie are once-in-a-lifetime heroes who take great personal risks to dislodge and liberate a nation from a regime that has been in power for 35 years.

As documentary filmmakers, occasionally, we are fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to relate events that can instigate transformation. We believe that this is one of those occasions. In a world which presently feels more tyrannical than ever, we have a duty to celebrate those who stand against violence and offer hope in the face of autocracy.

**WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 7PM**  
**ODEON | PAY WHAT YOU CAN**



**DIR. ANNA HINTS**  
ESTONIA | 89 MINS | 2023

**In the darkness of a smoke sauna, women share their innermost secrets and intimate experiences, washing off the shame trapped in their bodies and regaining their strength through a sense of communion.**

Winner of a directing award at Sundance 2023 - *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* is a deeply moving, intimate and breathtaking approach to issues of trauma, healing, and community. Filmed almost as if a Vermeer or Rembrandt painting, the camera is never intrusive, never mechanical. Rather, the images move as the smoke - lingering, wafting, suspended briefly before disappearing and reappearing.

"A film that places you in the moment of relaxation, conveys the sense of a cleansing that is both physical and spiritual. Here, you are free to say anything, trivial or significant."

Screen Daily

**THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 6.30PM**  
BEANBAG CINEMA | £5/£4

# MAYSLES JURY

## MICHAEL HANNA



**Michael Hanna** is an artist based in Northern Ireland. His work takes the form of social and sensory experiments often with himself as the subject. Michael is a co-founder of AMINI, an artist led initiative for the promotion and critical discussion of artists' moving image in Northern Ireland.

## CHRIS KELLY

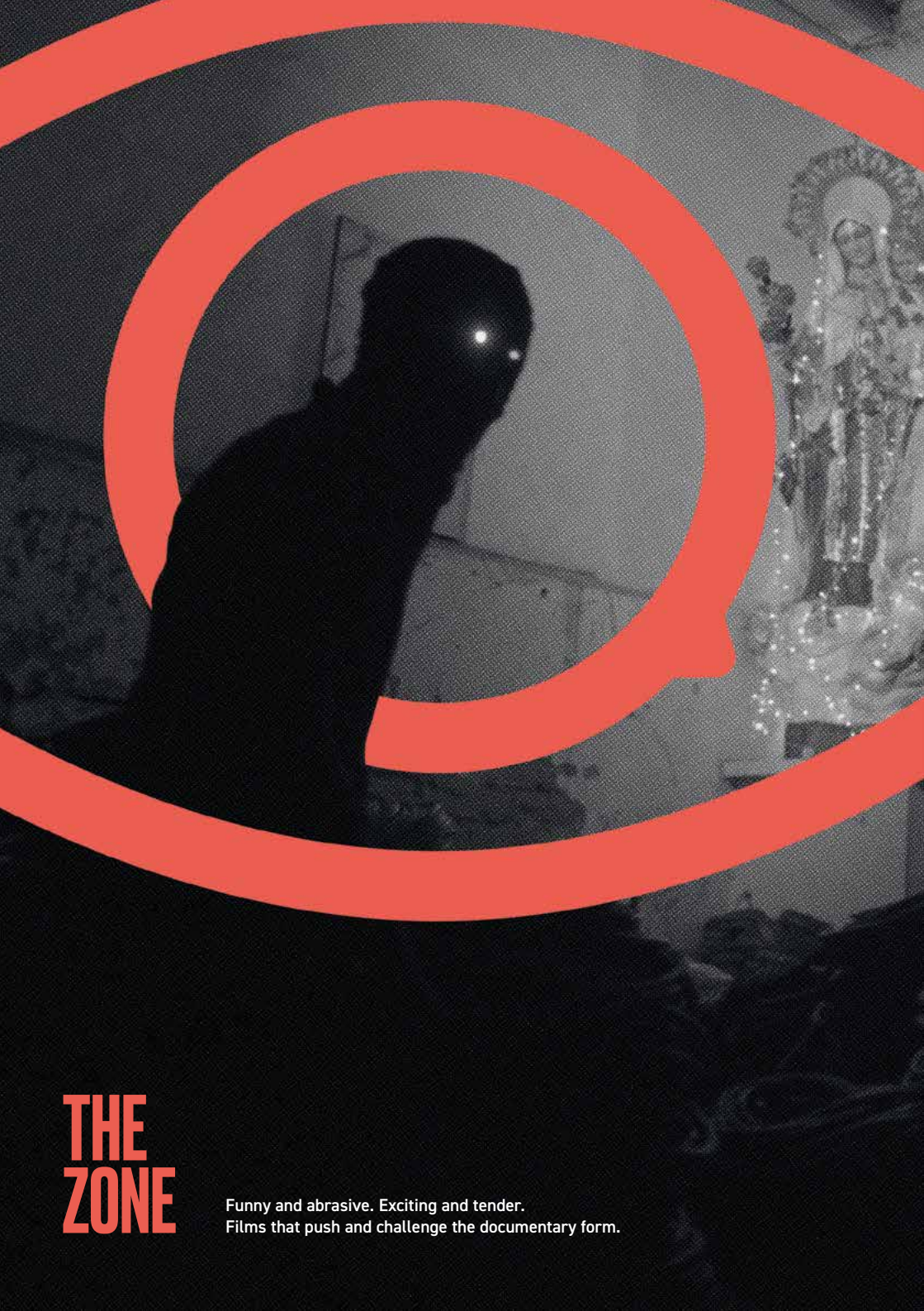


**Chris Kelly** is a BAFTA and IFTA nominated writer, director and producer and the founder of Little Ease Films.

## RAPHAËLLE O'LOAN



**Raphaëlle O'Loan** is a newly appointed Assistant Commissioner in Documentaries at the BBC. Raphaëlle is an RTS award nominated self-shooting Producer Director. Her recent credits include 'Murder in Paradise', 'Ulster by the Sea' and 'Heist: the Northern Bank Robbery'.



# THE ZONE

Funny and abrasive. Exciting and tender.  
Films that push and challenge the documentary form.



## DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA

**DIR. LUCIEN CASTAING-TAYLOR AND VÉRÉNA PARAVEL**  
FRANCE | 70 MINS | 2022

Five centuries ago, anatomist André Vésale opened up the human body to science for the first time in history. Today, *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* opens the human body to the cinema. It reveals that human flesh is an extraordinary landscape that exists only through the gaze and attention of others. As places of care, suffering and hope, hospitals are laboratories that connect everybody in the world.

Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Véréna Paravel's previous collaborations include *Leviathan* and *Caniba*, which are exacting cinematic experiences. This film is no exception - it delves deep into human bodies, histories, lives, and truths. Not for the faint hearted - but the content is perhaps what real documentary actually is.

"A phantasmagorical journey... An eye-opening film... Through these directors' eyes, these bodies look wondrous and unsettling, macabre and beautiful, and often uncannily unfamiliar."

**The New York Times**

**Warning:** contains close-up and graphic medical footage.

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 8.30PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



## VOICE RECOGNITION

Still from Jenny Brady's  
Music for Solo Performer.

**DIR. VARIOUS**  
64 MINS

Each year aemi presents a programme of moving image work by artists and experimental filmmakers at Docs Ireland, aiming to call attention to the diverse ways artists and experimental filmmakers are continuing to deftly expand, enrich and challenge the conventions of the documentary form.

In this programme of remarkable new work from artists Jenny Brady (Ireland), Miryam Charles (Haiti-Canada), Dan Guthrie (U.K.), Jacqueline Holt (U.K.-Northern Ireland) and Sofia Theodore-Pierce (U.S.A.), ideas around voice and lineage are explored through connections to the body or instances of disembodiment. While experiences of disempowerment permeate the works gathered here, they are enacted as loving dedications or expressions of gratitude for those who have made or shaped us. This screening will be followed by a Q&A with artists from the programme.

### Film information

**Jacqueline Holt**, *Nothing much happening here*, 2022, Northern Ireland, DCP, 16mins

**Dan Guthrie**, *black strangers*, 2022, U.K., DCP, 8 mins

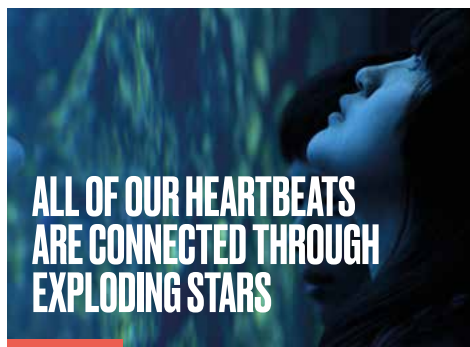
**Miryam Charles**, *Chanson pour le Nouveau-Monde* (*Song for the New World*), 2021, Canada, DCP, 9 mins

**Sofia Theodore-Pierce**, *Exterior Turbulence*, 2023, U.S.A, DCP, 11 mins

**Jenny Brady**, *Music for Solo Performer*, 2022, Ireland, DCP, 20 mins

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 2PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN

**aemi**  
www.aemi.ie



## ALL OF OUR HEARTBEATS ARE CONNECTED THROUGH EXPLODING STARS

DIR. JENNIFER RAINSFORD  
SWEDEN | 77 MINS | 2022

On March 11, 2011, the largest earthquake in modern history hit Japan and then, thirty minutes later, dark tsunami waves roared in over the coast of North-Eastern Japan dragging cars, homes and lives out into the sea.

In the film, we meet Yasu who has done over 100 dives in search of his lost wife. Sachiko keeps writing letters to her husband that was taken by the wave. Satoko is a young woman who struggles with overcoming her trauma from the disaster. On the other side of the ocean, on the Hawaiian island of Kaho'olawe, a group of volunteers are gathering to clean the beach from Japanese tsunami debris floating in from the Ocean. They are all sharing the stories of the afterlife.

This dreamy, wandering film drifts like the plankton it so meaningfully describes.

THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 8.45PM  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



## ANHELL69

DIR. THEO MONTOYA  
COLUMBIA | 74 MINS | 2022

A funeral car cruises the streets of Medellín, while a young director tells the story of his past in this violent and conservative city. He remembers the pre-production of his first film, a B-movie with ghosts.

The young queer scene of Medellín is cast for the film, but the main protagonist dies of a heroin overdose at the age of 21, just like many friends of the director. *Anhell69* explores the dreams, doubts and fears of an annihilated generation, and the struggle to carry on making cinema.

Funny and truthful and brutal - a loving portrayal of a scene, a group of friends and lovers - and the tough existence of living as a minority within Columbia. A striking combination of interviews, vérité and constructed sequences.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 8.30PM  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



**SHELLSHOCK**  
**MUSIC**



**DIR. SEBASTIAN PARDO & RIEL ROCH DECTER**  
USA | 83 MINS | 2022

The screening will commence with a specifically curated short music piece, created with the use of Artificial Intelligence. The piece was specifically made for this event by a variety of researchers from SARC in a kind of “mesh-up” fashion!

Come and listen to the “future of music”! Franziska Schroeder (Professor of Music and Cultures) and Policy violinist and current SARC PhD researcher, Aga Olek, will introduce the screening by offering some insights on ‘intelligent music’ and the ‘future of the artificial’.

**Boundary-pushing pop group YACHT tackles the greatest challenge of their career: inviting Artificial Intelligence into their creative process. As cutting-edge technology collides with their DIY sensibilities, the band struggles to understand the future of music—and their place within it.**

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 6PM**  
SARC | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



This Special Screening will take place in the Sonic Lab at SARC: Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Sound and Music.



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

NORTHERN IRELAND  
SCREEN DIGITAL  
FILM ARCHIVE  
PRESENTS:

## BACK TO THE ARCHIVE

A showcase of performances, artistic works  
and creative collaborations by Northern Ireland  
Screen's Digital Film Archive.

Join us for an evening of live music with Matt McGinn, This Ship Argo and HY:LY, as well as film screenings featuring works by Phil Kieran, Seamus O'Rourke, Ross Thompson and Documenta.

The projects to be screened on the evening were created in collaboration, artist and archive, with musicians and poets responding to archived films that resonated with them. The live performances will blend past and present, with musicians performing in front of a cascading backdrop of archival imagery.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 7PM  
THE STRAND | £7

# SHELLSHOCK SESSIONS

SUNFLOWER

Join us for the start of the summer music festival season as we present the first ever film screenings on the Belfast Stories site. Dust down your bucket hat and harem pants and get ready for a day of epic music documentaries on the big screen.



DIR. SYDNEY POLLACK & ALAN ELLIOTT  
USA | 89 MINS | 2018

In January 1972 director Sydney Pollack filmed Aretha Franklin with her choir at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Watts, Los Angeles, as she recorded the best-selling gospel of all time, *Amazing Grace*. Due to legal disputes the footage lay unseen for nearly 50 years. This documentary finally lets us witness some of the most electric, and transcendent, live performances ever committed to celluloid.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 3PM  
BELFAST STORIES | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



DIR. D.A. PENNEBAKER  
USA | 79 MINS | 1968



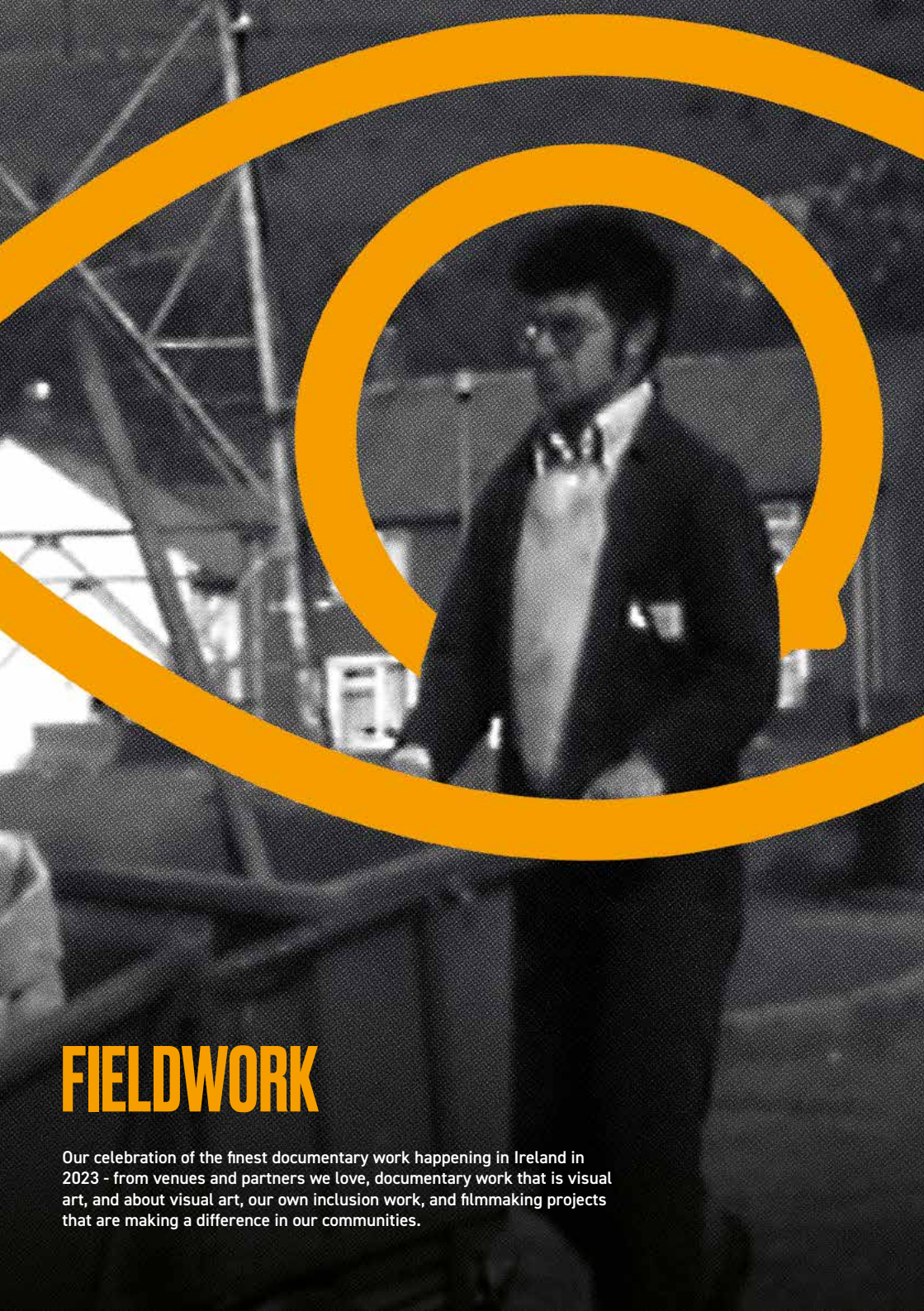
DIR. PENELOPE SPHEERIS  
USA | 93 MINS | 1988

The film interviews Ozzy Osbourne, Aerosmith, KISS, Alice Cooper, Lemmy and many, many other (glam) Metal stars, as they describe their exotic and excessive lives. If a documentary can be inspired by *This Is Spinal Tap*, this is it. *Waynes World* director Penelope Spheeris made this wonderful, sometimes hilarious documentary a few years after everyone's favourite mockumentary, and it shows - certain sequences may not live up to the standards of 'reality' that the rest of the Docs Ireland programme does!

SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 6PM  
BELFAST STORIES | PAY WHAT YOU CAN

This classic concert film by observational cinema legend DA Pennebaker covers the seminal Monterey festival of 1967. The excitement and freshness of the event is still tangible in every frame. Featured performers include Big Brother and the Holding Company with Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, Hugh Masekela, Otis Redding, Ravi Shankar, the Mamas & the Papas, the Who and the Jimi Hendrix Experience, whose namesake sets his guitar on fire.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 9PM  
BELFAST STORIES | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



# FIELDWORK

Our celebration of the finest documentary work happening in Ireland in 2023 - from venues and partners we love, documentary work that is visual art, and about visual art, our own inclusion work, and filmmaking projects that are making a difference in our communities.



**DIR. MEGUMI SASAKI**  
JAPAN | 87 MINS | 2008

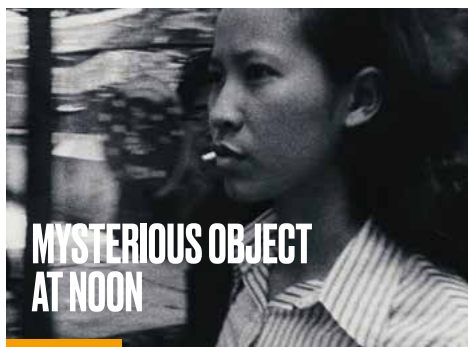
Household are hosting this special screening as part of UPHOLD - a new platform dedicated to selling artwork by the most exciting contemporary artists in NI and supporting new cultures of collecting. At the end of this screening Household will introduce five new artworks made by their most recently commissioned artists.

This documentary tells the extraordinary story of Herbert Vogel, a postal clerk, and Dorothy Vogel, a librarian, who managed to build one of the most important contemporary art collections in history with very modest means. In the 1960s Herb and Dorothy Vogel quietly began purchasing the works of unknown artists. They proved themselves curatorial visionaries; most of those they supported and befriended went on to become world-renowned artists including Sol LeWitt, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Richard Tuttle, Chuck Close, Anderson Collection artist Lynda Benglis, and many more. After thirty years of meticulous collecting, the Vogels managed to accumulate over 2,000 pieces, filling every corner of their tiny one bedroom apartment.

Coffee and pastries will be served from 11.45am.

[www.upholdart.co.uk](http://www.upholdart.co.uk)  
[www.householdbelfast.co.uk](http://www.householdbelfast.co.uk)

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 12PM**  
ULSTER MUSEUM | £5/£4



**DIR. APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL**  
THAILAND | 89 MINS | 2000

For his feature debut, legendary director Apichatpong Weerasethakul took a camera crew across Thailand and asked villagers from all walks of life to come up with the next chapter in an ever-evolving story.

The crew imagines and films these instalments and pairs them with vignettes of their authors. Schoolchildren, boxers and street vendors all contribute to this tale, with their individual takes on what should come next creating a kaleidoscopic portrait of storytelling and Thailand at the turn of the 21st century. Shot on 16mm over two years, and rescued from its temperamental elements by Martin Scorsese's World Foundation, *Mysterious Object at Noon* is a strange and unpredictable film that announced Weerasethakul as a filmmaker to watch.

Note from assistant programmer - The best documentaries are those that challenge the very notion of the form and toe the line between fiction and non-fiction; Docs Ireland is keen to explore this easily-dissolved boundary. We selected this classic documentary for its playful depiction of 'reality' but also for its powerful sense of compassion and empathy for the storytellers. In our time of over-saturated culture that is marked by stories being sold to specific demographics and statistics, it is refreshing to see a film celebrate the communal nature of sharing a story.

**WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 6.30PM**  
BEANBAG | £5/£4



**What is the Irish border to its inhabitants?  
A checkpoint? An opportunity for taking care  
of their neighbours despite their beliefs?  
An imperialist form of control and surveillance?  
A matter of identity?**

Commissioned by the Reel Borders Project (Vrije University Brussels) and in cooperation with the Nerve Centre, Derry, four amateur documentary short films seek to answer these questions. Shot by Irish border dwellers, these non-professional filmmakers explore their personal stories using archival collections filmed in Donegal and Derry.

**Triang Times** directed by Emer O'Shea, Manus Brennan and Michael McMonagle

**Connecting Borders** directed by Gemma Gfeller

**Derry, the Oak Grove** directed by Molly Phillips, co-directed by Tom Hannigan

**Crossing Lines** directed by Margaret Gordon

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 12.30PM**  
THE BLACK BOX | £5/£4



**Nature's Keepers** is a series of short films about the ordinary people who are extraordinary protectors committed to protecting nature across Northern Ireland.

This selection of films is focused on Nature's Keepers in County Antrim within a 25-mile diameter. These stories clearly show that this small corner of Northern Ireland has become an environmental sacrifice zone with an open invitation for polluting industries. Some site battles are placed in campaign history, some are currently in court, and some are still going through planning. These films will give you an insight into the tireless efforts of these campaigners and the communities they're in. It is nothing short of remarkable. These are timeless stories of fights for survival against big business and poor decision-making.

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 2.30PM**  
ULSTER MUSEUM | £5/£4



In 2019, the Derry Playhouse commissioned playwright Jo Egan to produce one of the most challenging projects of her career.

Given four months to research, write, rehearse, and perform a play about six children killed in the Troubles between 1971-1981, Jo used both their family members and actors for the final performance.

*The Crack in Everything*, the documentary, was made before Jo Egan tragically died at the end of 2022. This film is both a celebration of her incredible work and an examination of how art and theatre can heal.

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 5.15PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



**DIR. MANFRED HATTENDORF**  
GERMANY / NORTHERN IRELAND | 30 MINS | 1987

We are screening *The Belfast Experience* in both Shankill and Falls Women's Centres during Docs Ireland festival.

The Belfast Experience is a lyrical documentary on contemporary Belfast City life focusing on architecture, design, landscape. It follows a day in the life of a German artist visiting the city in 1984, taking in everything from the morning milkman to the late night disco. Following the screening there will be a discussion exploring how women's lives have changed, for better or worse, since the documentary was made almost 40 years ago.

**TUESDAY 20 JUNE | 10AM**  
SHANKILL WOMEN'S CENTRE | PRIVATE EVENT

**WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 6PM**  
FALL'S WOMEN'S CENTRE | PRIVATE EVENT

## STUDENT DOCUMENTARY SHOWCASE

Join us for the premiere of 12 short documentaries by final-year Ulster University Screen Production students.

These fascinating short docs cover a range of contemporary issues from domestic violence, grief, identity and disability, poverty and exclusion, sport and masculinity to the meaning of love, social media and local landscapes.

**ULSTER  
UNIVERSITY  
SCREEN  
PRODUCTION**

**WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE | 7PM**  
ULSTER UNIVERSITY, YORK ST | FREE



## NOTHING COMPARES TOURS NORTHERN IRELAND

**At Docs Ireland, we see our main goal as supporting all forms of Irish Documentary, and the exhibition of it in as many Irish places as possible.**

This year Docs Ireland is joining a new project to help spread Irish feature documentaries throughout the growing Northern Irish community film sector. These community film clubs and cinemas are often in the harder-to-reach areas of the country, with few cinema options. This year we are showcasing the biggest film of our festival in 2022, *Nothing Compares*.

Directed by Belfast's Kathryn Ferguson, the film tells the story of Sinéad O'Connor's phenomenal rise to worldwide fame and how her iconoclastic personality resulted in her exile from the pop mainstream. The film reflects the legacy of this fearless trailblazer through a contemporary feminist lens.

*Collective*, started in 2018, is an initiative developed and delivered by Film Hub NI (BFI Film Audience Network).

Contact each venue for tickets - also available at [filmhubni.org](http://filmhubni.org)

**Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart**  
Wed 14 June | 7pm

**Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, Limavady**  
Thurs 15 June | 7pm

**Portrush Film Theatre**  
Thurs 15 June | 7pm

**Nerve Centre, Derry**  
Thurs 15 June | 7pm

**The Court House Bangor**  
Thurs 15 June | 7pm

**Subterranean Community Cinema, Omagh**  
Fri 16 June | 7pm

**Dungannon Film Club**  
Fri 16 June | 7.30pm

**Braid Film Theatre, Ballymena**  
Sat 17 June | 2pm

**Newcastle Community Cinema**  
Sat 17 June | 8pm



# SHORT IRISH DOCUMENTARY

In partnership with

DOUBLEBAND FILMS



## COMPETITION SHORTS PROGRAMME 1

### A MOTHER'S LOVE FOR HER BABY

CAT AND ÉIMÉAR MCCLAY | 16.18 MINS

The sins of the Magdalene Laundries and the corruptions of the Catholic church are explored through a combination of 3D animation and experimental prose, giving a voice to the historically marginalised.

### ECHO

ROSS MCCLEAN | 12.40 MINS

Allister, a man with damaged vocal cords, overcomes his loneliness in an unusual way in this short which celebrates the power of community no matter what shape it takes.

### MY NAME IS JOSEPH

SEÁN MURRAY | 12.40 MINS

This harrowing documentary exposes the institutional and systemic failures that contributed to the death in custody of 20-year-old Joseph Rainey.

### THE CITIES I LIVE IN

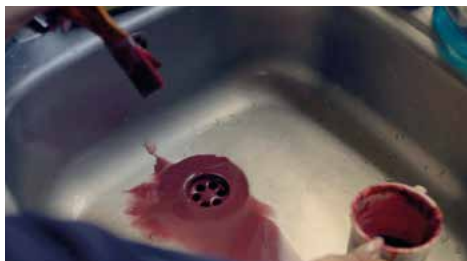
RABIE MUSTAPHA | 10.43 MINS

A filmmaker from Damascus tells his infants how he came to settle in Belfast, a poignant and moving essay film about life between troubled cities.

### BLOODSHED

EVA BABINGTON | 15 MINS

Three young women relate their experiences with period pain in this documentary which highlights the failings of the education and healthcare systems in dealing with menstruation.



**SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 1.30PM**  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN

## COMPETITION SHORTS PROGRAMME 2

### THE DEATH OF TERENCE WHELOCK

ADAM DOYLE | 19 MINS

The death of Terence Wheelock, the ensuing campaign for answers and the effects on his family and community is investigated in this short, the directorial debut of Adam Doyle (artist spicebag).

### FOREST/RV

NOELLE GALLAGHER | 7.19 MINS

This short captures the felling of Sitka trees as they make way for reforestation, a meditative visual piece with a striking score.

### MY CURE AND ME

ALAN BRADLEY | 12.58 MINS

Explores the experiences of Alice and Joe, two of the last faith healers in Ireland, as they consider what will become of their traditional practice.

### "WHERE DO ALL THE OLD GAYS GO?"

CATHY DUNNE | 18.31 MINS

An intimate and sensitive portrait of older members of the LGBTQIA+ community in Ireland, speaking about their past, their present and the future.

### 2 CHANNEL LAND

FRANK SWEENEY | 16 MINS

This surreal docu-fiction film takes analogue signals spilling across the Irish borders as its starting point, before becoming a transcendent and rootin-tootin celebration of radio and country music.

## COMPETITION SHORTS JURY



### SAM HOWARD

**Sam Howard** is a Belfast-based filmmaker. His work as a producer includes the multi-award winning *Lyra*, and he made his directorial debut with Ireland's *Last Matchmaker*, which won the jointly-awarded Best Irish Short at Docs Ireland 2022.



### SHEENA WALSH

**Sheena Walsh** is a Dublin-based filmmaker and animator. She is currently completing an MSc in Computer Animation at Dundalk, and her debut film, *Mam's Old Chair*, won the jointly-awarded Best Irish Short at Docs Ireland 2022.



### WENDY ERSKINE

**Wendy Erskine** is a Belfast-based writer. Her acclaimed debut collection, *Sweet Home* was first published in 2018 before winning the Butler Literary Award in 2020. Her second collection, *Dance Move* was published in 2022.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 3.15PM  
QFT | PAY WHAT YOU CAN

## OFFICIAL SELECTION PROGRAMME 1

### INTERVIEWING DAD

NICKY LARKIN | 18.22 MINS

A father shot during the Troubles is interviewed by his daughter in this exploration of transgenerational trauma in a post-conflict society.

### STILL SHIELDING

TRESCA MALLON | 8.13 MINS

A warm and genuine conversation between friends reveals the long-lasting effects of the pandemic on a young disabled woman.

### BURY ME FACING THE SUN

RORY CARROLL | 5.59 MINS

A glance into Ireland's landscape and history which explores the connection between Christianity and Paganism.

### SHADES OF BLUE

KATIE MCFADDEN | 6 MINS

A man with impaired sight ruminates on craft beer and skiing, prompting a consideration of accessibility in shared spaces.



### LOVE IS...

JESSICA MAY BANKS AND DAVID JOHNSTON | 5 MINS

Using animation, home video and reconstructed sequences, this short looks at the notion of love and the many forms that it takes.

### NEW THREADS

ELSPETH VISCHER | 6 MINS

Familiar images of a security blockade in 1970s Belfast are reimagined as a scenario in which invisible queer lives are out and about.

### PADRAIG

LAUREN O'BERN | 14.57 MINS

A sensitive portrait of cattle farmer Padraig and his lifelong commitment to his farm, raising questions of tradition, heritage and mortality.

### FOCAIL NUA (NEW WORDS)

ANDREW KEOGH | 12.18 MINS

The vitality of the Irish language is celebrated in this short which focuses on Ireland's two full-time terminologists and considers the 300 words they officially add each month.

### WHEN IT RAINS

DANIEL RITCHIE | 10.52 MINS

This collection of stories and experiences forms an impressionistic and loving tribute to the skateboarding community of Carrickfergus.

SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 2PM  
THE BLACK BOX | PAY WHAT YOU CAN

## OFFICIAL SELECTION PROGRAMME 2

### RUN WITH HER

LIA CAMPBELL | 13.08 MINS

As 16-year-old Emmy begins to come of age, she finds comfort in endurance running and the unique bonds she forms with her team.

### PERSONAL SPACE

BLATHNAID RYAN, MONI OBUHOFF  
AND RUAIRI MCNAMARA | 12.37 MINS

Four vignettes which focus on the unexpected connection between physical and personal space, such as doing yoga in a bog.

### BRIGHTNESS OF BRIGHTNESS

MARCELLA O'CONNOR | 15 MINS

The life and exile of Irish poet Aogán Ó Rathaille is recontextualised through his poetry in this consideration of Ireland's bardic tradition.



### RISE

TRISTAN CROWE | 16.30 MINS

Tells the story of how the infamous 'Balls on the Falls' were constructed on an interface between Nationalist and Unionist areas.

### MOVERS AND SHAPERS

CIARA KELLEHER AND ALANNA MACNAMEE | 10 MINS

A defiant collection of surfers attempt to subvert the surprisingly toxic nature of surfboard production by making their own.

### PAIN IN THE HOLE

RAB MCPHEE | 19.59 MINS

The world of hot sauce and the world of film collide in this docu-comedy, as the director reflects on pain and the notion of suffering for one's art.

SUNDAY 25 JUNE | 3.45PM  
THE BLACK BOX | PAY WHAT YOU CAN



# INDUSTRY EVENTS





## DOCS IRELAND EMERGING FILMMAKERS DAY

Presented in partnership with BFI Doc Society and Northern Ireland Screen (as part of BFI NETWORK).

The event will be followed by a networking drinks reception at 5pm.

The Docs Ireland Emerging Documentary Filmmaker Day will open the doors to up-and-coming documentary talent from the UK & island of Ireland in a friendly and inclusive environment. We aim to foster creativity and conversation, disseminate information and boost confidence for new storytellers to develop their creative non-fiction filmmaking practice.

THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 1PM - 5PM  
Q&A | FREE



The event will unpack funding opportunities, share experiences from seasoned producers, offer inspirational case studies of recent doc marvels and provide a space to meet funders and representatives from across the documentary field. Plus an opportunity to network and connect with new collaborators for your projects in a supportive space.



**CREATIVE  
CROSS-BORDER  
COLLABORATION**

## **CELEBRATING THE GAINS, ADDRESSING THE GAPS**

Presented in partnership with Screen Producers Ireland.

In this time of great change on our island, the importance of strengthening cross-border relations feels more pertinent than ever, especially in the film space. In recent times, many feature films and documentaries have been produced through south/north cooperation, but how can we improve and maximise potential co-productions, and support further opportunities to fund projects within the island of Ireland?

Featuring key stakeholders from island of Ireland funding bodies, financiers, broadcasters and distributors, as well as producers experienced in this realm, this open forum will provide an outlet for discussion on the future of film funding, production and distribution on our island, the best practice for this type of co-production model, and provide an

opportunity to consider the future of the business of film, featuring an array of perspectives from both sides of the border.

Organisations represented include Northern Ireland Screen, RTÉ, Screen Ireland, and TG4.

**THURSDAY 22 JUNE | 6.30PM**  
**GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL | £5**





**The Docs Ireland Marketplace is an opportunity for filmmakers to meet one-to-one with leading international documentary industry decision makers, including international funders, broadcasters, distributors and exhibitors.**

The only marketplace dedicated to documentary on the island of Ireland, it provides an outlet for filmmakers to pitch their project through carefully matched meetings organised by the Docs Ireland team. A hub for funding, sales and distribution of documentaries in Ireland and globally, the market is an incubator for nurturing domestic talent so that our industry can continue to thrive in the future. We also welcome international submissions.

Confirmed decision makers include:

ARTE, Autlook Film Sales, BBC Storyville, BBC NI, Cannes Docs, CAA, Cinephil, CPH Dox, DAFilms, Documentary Association of Europe, Docpoint, Dogwoof, Field of Vision, Hot Docs, IDFA, Institute of Documentary Film, Lightbox, Met Film Sales, Passion Pictures, POV, Projectr, RTÉ, S4C, Screen Ireland, TG4, and YLE.

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 10AM**  
**2 ROYAL AVENUE | PRIVATE EVENT**

# ENGAGING AUDIENCES CREATIVE PRACTICES FOR DOCUMENTARY DISTRIBUTION

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Hosted by audience designer Sile Culley, this event will focus on the importance of audience engagement for documentary, and the journey of non-fiction film through the film value chain in an ever-changing market.

Bringing together innovators in the realm of non-fiction filmmaking to present on the methods they have utilised in finding new ways to reach audiences, the event will feature the following sessions:

## SHARE.DOC CONNECTING DOCUMENTARY AUDIENCES WITH REAL-LIFE SUBJECTS

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Share.Doc is the first international platform that enables documentary audiences to take direct action to support your protagonist in need, giving them a tool to turn their empathy into action. Share.Doc Founder Anne Marie Borsboom will present on how this initiative is designed to empower and motivate doc-watchers, and how the platform supports non-fiction filmmakers and their work.

## DAFILMS PLATFORMING ARTHOUSE DOCUMENTARY ONLINE

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Powered by Doc Alliance, a creative partnership of seven major European documentary festivals, DAFilms presents a continually-updated, curated selection of the finest auteur-driven documentary cinema from the world of film festivals. Curator Christopher Small will introduce the platform and their objectives, with a focus on how DAFilms connects with audiences online and how they assess the international appeal in documentary work.

## NOISE FILM & TV FESTIVAL PR FOR FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

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NOISE Film & TV is a full service PR agency with the ability to accompany a film from festival buzz to mainstream distribution, with a refreshingly hands-on and intuitive approach to promotion. Founding partner Mirjam Wiekenkamp will provide insight on the agency's unique ability to connect to the heart of a film, and how they work strategically to help independent films find their audience, both amongst industry players and cinephiles.

## NORTH CIRCULAR A CASE STUDY IN DIY DOC DISTRIBUTION

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A documentary musical, which takes a trip along Dublin's North Circular Road, *North Circular* has incrementally risen to become one of the most successful Irish documentary films of recent years, both at home and internationally. Luke McManus, director and producer of this breakout hit, joins Docs Ireland to discuss his very inventive methods of DIY distribution, how he packaged, promoted and found grassroots audiences for the film, with honest insights into the film's journey so far.

## DOCUMENTARY SALES AGENTS REACHING NEW AUDIENCES

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The event will conclude with a panel discussion featuring leading international documentary sales agents, including Cinephil and Met Film Sales, focusing on current trends in non-fiction sales & distribution, and framing their own innovative techniques in reaching audiences.

FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 10AM - 1PM  
2 ROYAL AVENUE | £6/£5



# DOCS IRELAND KEYNOTE INDUSTRY PANELS

## MEET THE BROADCASTERS

Hosted by BAFTA Award winning filmmaker and documentary trainer Andy Glynne of Mosaic Films, this session will provide observations and intel into the current trends for creative feature documentary within the broadcasting landscape, meeting individual broadcasters from the island of Ireland, the UK and further afield. It will give participants an opportunity to learn how to engage and work with commissioners, what kind of content they are looking for, their particular editorial strategies, and how producers can successfully take advantage of co-production opportunities.

Featuring representatives from broadcasting organisations including:

**BBC NI, BBC Storyville, POV, RTÉ, S4C, TG4, YLE**

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 2PM**  
2 ROYAL AVENUE | £3

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMMERS SESSION

At the heart of the documentary ecosystem lies the documentary film festival, passionately dedicated to the art and exhibition of non-fiction film.

In this intimate session, we will gather together leading festival curators to discuss recent trends, changes and developments in the documentary space. Examining their critical gatekeeping role, we will probe their individual practices and programming philosophies; how they create and implement their programming objectives and artistic policies, as well as contributing vital information to filmmakers preparing their own festival strategy, so they can successfully maximise their festival premiere and sustain their projects' festival run.

Speakers:

**Heather Haynes** - Associate Director of Programming, Hot Docs

**Mads K. Mikkelsen** - Head of Programme, CPH:DOX\*

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 3.30PM**  
2 ROYAL AVENUE | £3

## THE PLACE OF MARKETS IN THE DOCUMENTARY LANDSCAPE

Presented in partnership with  
Creative Europe Desk Ireland



The non-fiction film industry is an ever-evolving enterprise, with the recent appetite for content leading to mass expansion - the consequences of which have provided both positive and negative outcomes for those producing documentary film.

The documentary marketplace at film festivals have historically played an integral role in the business of making film, but the continued shifts in the industry have begun to alter their place within the ecosystem. Covering a variety of topics around the place of markets in the documentary landscape, representatives from important international marketplaces will discuss how they perceive their current function in the industry, how they work in this capricious environment, and the strategies they employ to ensure they are supporting documentary filmmakers to raise the financing they need to make their films.

Speakers:

**Pierre-Alexis Chevit** - Head, Cannes Docs

**Selin Murat** - Markets Manager, IDFA

**Brigid O'Shea** - Co-Founder, Documentary Association of Europe

**Sofia Tocar** - Coordinator, East Silver at East Doc Platform, Institute of Documentary Film

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE | 4.45PM**  
2 ROYAL AVENUE | £3



Presented in partnership with Northern Ireland Screen

Docs Ireland and Northern Ireland Screen, in association with Yellowmoon Post Production, return in 2023 for the fifth edition of the Northern Ireland Screen Pitch. This public pitch offers the opportunity for documentary makers, from established filmmakers to new and emerging talent, to receive an award of up to £7,500 towards a pilot for a documentary feature.

Shortlisted projects will present their project at this public pitch at Docs Ireland where they will receive feedback from a panel of leading Irish and international documentary industry players.

Previous winners of the pitch include *No Place Like Home* (Myrid Carten) which is currently in post-production, as well as *The Last Balkan Cowboy* (Dragana Jurisic), *Asking for it* (Grace Sweeney), and *They Say It Is Love* (Roisin Agnew).

SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 10.30AM  
ULSTER MUSEUM | FREE



yellowmoon ●



*Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland* gives a voice to the people who lived through Northern Ireland's violent past by sharing intimate, unheard testimonies from all sides of the conflict. This brand new series from the BBC comes from award-winning director James Bluemel and the team behind the BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning series *Once Upon a Time in Iraq*. We will screen one of the episodes, which will then be followed by a panel discussion on the documentary series and how it was made.

Eddie Doyle, Head of Commissioning, BBC Northern Ireland, says: "This extensive series puts a fresh lens on the legacies and events of The Troubles. James Bluemel has approached the stories featured with great care and made a series that is both considered and compelling. With the 25th anniversary of the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement, it is a timely and important addition to other BBC programming on The Troubles."

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 1.30PM**  
ULSTER MUSEUM | £5/£4



With a focus on developing and producing TV documentaries, this session will centre the craft of pitching in this medium, which stories get the most traction, and how to successfully secure funding through broadcasters.

Speakers from leading Northern Irish factual production companies will share their advice, experiences, and best practice for the format.

**Chair:**

Eddie Doyle, Head of Commissioning at BBC Northern Ireland

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE | 3.45PM**  
ULSTER MUSEUM | £5/£4





## IGNITE DOCUMENTARY TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Supporting emerging Irish and Northern Irish documentary filmmakers embarking on their first or second non-fiction feature film, **IGNITE** is a joint initiative of Cork International Film Festival & Docs Ireland, supported by TG4, the Arts Council of Ireland, and Screen Ireland.

This cross-border partnership seeks to foster a new generation of documentary filmmakers from the north and south of Ireland, aiding the long term sustainable growth and artistry of talent in the Irish documentary film community. This is achieved through the programme's focus on training, skills development and mentorship.

The third cohort of filmmakers participating in the programme conclude their intensive seven- month training at Docs Ireland 2023, with a series of practical seminars, and participation in the festival marketplace.

The **IGNITE 3** projects are:

### **Answering the Call: The Corncrake Project**

Director: Martin Danneels  
Producer: Laura Cranley  
Writer: Geoff Power

### **And There We Were**

Director: Christina Bennett  
Producer: Bonnie Boyle

### **If Love Be Blind**

Director/Producer: Bob Gallagher

### **Mo Mheantóir Seán McGuire**

Director: Méabh O'Hare  
Producer: Karol Lynch

### **Searching for Samantha (Ar Thóir Samantha)**

Director: Ciara Hyland  
Producer: Ciara Buckley

### **Try!**

Director: Oisín Mistéil  
Producer: Claire McCabe

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Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*





# **Exclusive Overnight Accommodation Rates**

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## **Europa Hotel**

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## **Grand Central Hotel**

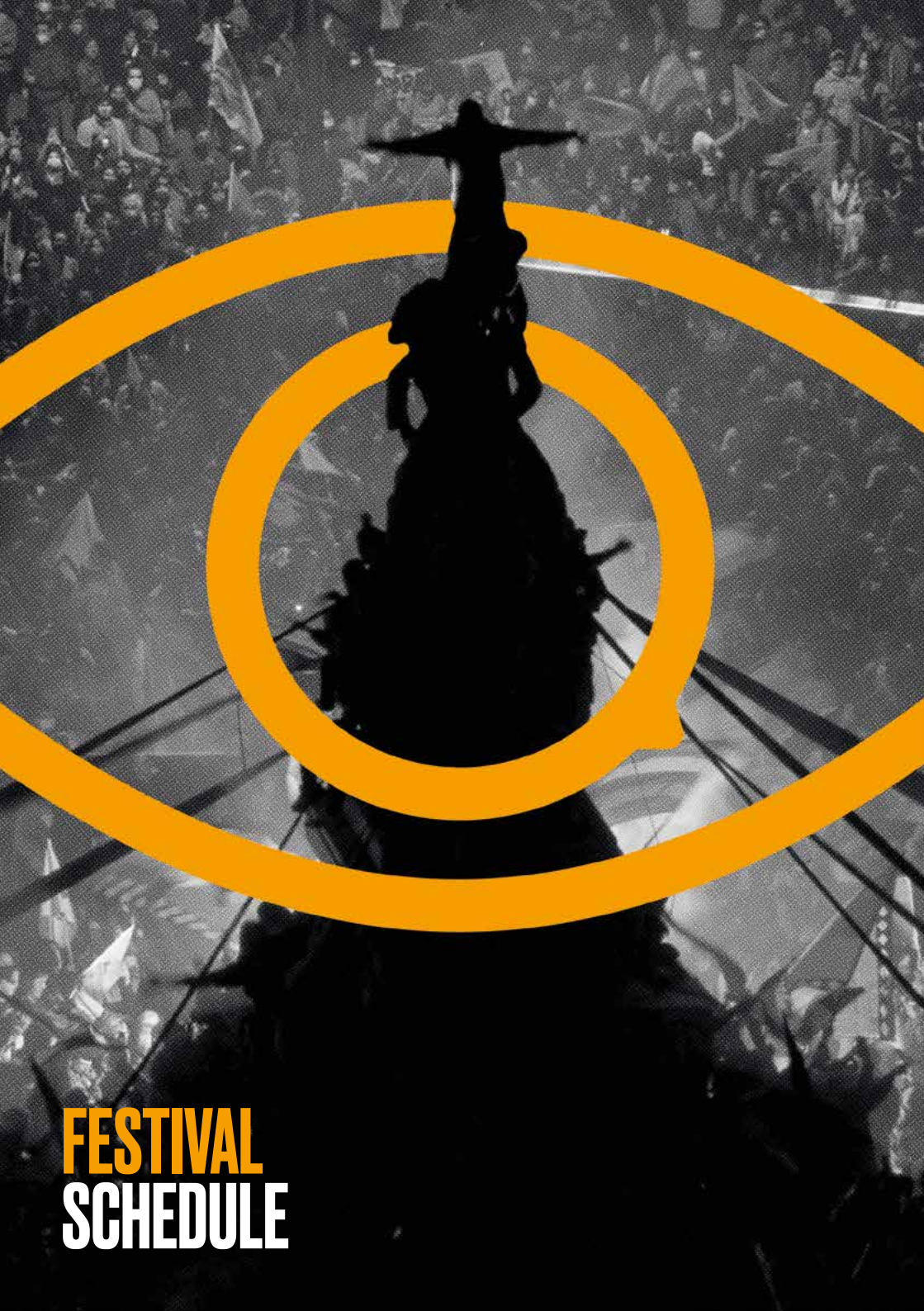
from £75 B&B per person\*

\* Single room supplements apply

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[www.grandcentralhotelbelfast.com](http://www.grandcentralhotelbelfast.com) and  
enter **PROMOCODE: BELFASTFILM**





**FESTIVAL**  
**SCHEDULE**

# TUESDAY 13 JUNE

6.15pm	Film	Alison Millar Retrospective: The Men Who Won't Stop Marching	QFT	Page 22
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# WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

6.15pm	Film	Alison Millar: The Father, The Son & The Housekeeper	QFT	Page 22
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# TUESDAY 20 JUNE

7.00pm	Opening Night	Let the Canary Sing	Cineworld	Page 10
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# WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE

2.30pm	Film	I Must Away	Ulster Museum	Page 18
6.00pm	Film	Stolen	QFT	Page 15
6.15pm	Film	Atomic Hope	QFT	Page 16
6.30pm	Film	Mysterious Object At Noon	Beanbag Cinema	Page 43
7.00pm	Film	Bobbi Wine: The People's President	Odeon	Page 33
7.00pm	Film	Ulster University Student Documentary Showcase	University Of Ulster	Page 45
7.00pm	Film	The Devil's Drivers	James Connolly Centre	Page 32
8.30pm	Film	Afghanistan	QFT	Page 17

# THURSDAY 22 JUNE

1.00pm	Industry	Emerging Filmmakers Day	QFT	Page 53
2.30pm	Film	The Artist & The Wall Of Death	Ulster Museum	Page 18
5.00pm	Industry	Networking Drinks	QFT	Page 53
6.00pm	Film	In the Shadow of Beirut	QFT	Page 14
6.15pm	Film	Tish	QFT	Page 27
6.30pm	Industry	Celebrating The Gains, Addressing The Gaps	Grand Central Hotel	Page 54
6.30pm	Film	Smoke Sauna Sisterhood	Beanbag Cinema	Page 34
7.00pm	Film	My Imaginary Country	Odeon	Page 29
7.15pm	Film	Lost Boys: Belfast's Missing Children	Odeon	Page 19
8.45pm	Film	All Of Our Heartbeats Are Connected Through Exploding Stars	QFT	Page 37

## FRIDAY 23 JUNE

10am	Industry	Engaging Audiences Morning	2 Royal Avenue	Page 56
2.00pm	Industry	Meet The Broadcasters	2 Royal Avenue	Page 57
3.00pm	Film	Crows Are White	QFT	Page 31
3.30pm	Industry	Festival Programmers Session	2 Royal Avenue	Page 57
4.45pm	Industry	The Place Of Markets In The Documentary Landscape	2 Royal Avenue	Page 57
6.00pm	Film	The Future Tense	QFT	Page 17
6.00pm	Special Event	The Computer Accent	SARC	Page 39
6.15pm	Film	Ó Bhéal	QFT	Page 20
6.30pm	Film	Girl Gang	Beanbag Cinema	Page 31
7.00pm	Film	Dalton's Dream	Odeon	Page 28
8.30pm	Film	De Humani Corporis Fabrica	QFT	Page 36

## SATURDAY 24 JUNE

10.30am	Industry	Northern Ireland Screen Pitch	Ulster Museum	Page 58
1.00pm	Film	Much Ado About Dying	QFT	Page 27
1.30pm	Industry	Once Upon A Time In Northern Ireland	Ulster Museum	Page 59
1.30pm	Film	Short Irish Documentary Competition: Programme 1	QFT	Page 48
3.00pm	Film	Amazing Grace	Belfast Stories	Page 41
3.15pm	Film	Short Irish Documentary Competition: Programme 2	QFT	Page 49
3.45pm	Industry	Developing and Pitching for TV Docs	Ulster Museum	Page 59
5.15pm	Film	The Crack in Everything	QFT	Page 45
6.00pm	Film	The Decline of Western Civilization Part II	Belfast Stories	Page 41
6.00pm	Film	Notes from Sheepland	QFT	Page 16
6.15pm	Film	I Dream In Photos	QFT	Page 13
6.30pm	Film	A Golden Life	Beanbag Cinema	Page 32
7.00pm	Special Event	Back To The Archive	Strand Arts Centre	Page 40
8.30pm	Film	Anhell69	QFT	Page 37
9.00pm	Film	Monterey Pop	Belfast Stories	Page 41

## SUNDAY 25 JUNE

12.00pm	Film	Herb and Dorothy	Ulster Museum	Page 43
12.30pm	Film	Reel Border Shorts	The Black Box	Page 44
1.30pm	Film	The Secret Army	QFT	Page 23
2.00pm	Film	AEMI & Docs Ireland: Voice Recognition	QFT	Page 36
2.00pm	Film	Short Irish Documentary Official Selection: Programme 1	The Black Box	Page 50
2.30pm	Film	Nature's Keepers	Ulster Museum	Page 44
3.30pm	Film	The Last Rider	QFT	Page 25
3.45pm	Film	Short Irish Documentary Official Selection: Programme 2	The Black Box	Page 51
3.45pm	Film	Confessions of a Good Samaritan	QFT	Page 26
4.30pm	Film	The Devil's Driver	Beanbag Cinema	Page 32
7.00pm	Closing Night	Frampton vs Kielty	Cineworld	Page 11

# VENUE INFORMATION

## 2 ROYAL AVENUE



2 Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1DA

**w.** [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/2royalavenue](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/2royalavenue)

## BEANBAG CINEMA



5 Exchange Place, Belfast BT1 2NA

**t.** 028 9032 5913

**w.** [www.belfastfilmfestival.org](http://www.belfastfilmfestival.org)

## THE BLACK BOX



18-22 Hill Street,  
Belfast, BT1 2LA

**t.** 028 9024 4400

**w.** [www.blackboxbelfast.com](http://www.blackboxbelfast.com)

## CINeworld



SSE Arena Belfast, The Odyssey Arena,  
2 Queens Quay, Belfast BT3 9QQ

**t.** 0330 333 4444

**w.** [www.cineworld.co.uk](http://www.cineworld.co.uk)

## GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL



9-15 Bedford Street,  
Belfast BT2 7FF

**t.** 028 9023 1066

**w.** [www.grandcentralhotelbelfast.com](http://www.grandcentralhotelbelfast.com)

## ÁRAS UÍ CHONGHAILE / JAMES CONNOLLY VISITOR CENTRE



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**w.** [www.arasuichonghaile.com](http://www.arasuichonghaile.com)

## ODEON



1 Victoria Square,  
Belfast BT1 4QG

**t.** 0333 014 4501

**w.** [www.odeon.co.uk](http://www.odeon.co.uk)

## QFT / QFT FILM STUDIO



Queen's University,  
20 University Square, Belfast BT7 1PA

**t.** 028 9097 1097

**w.** [www.queensfilmtheatre.com](http://www.queensfilmtheatre.com)

## SARC



Queen's University,  
Cloreen Park, Belfast BT9 5HN

**t.** 028 9097 4829

**w.** [www.qub.ac.uk/sarc](http://www.qub.ac.uk/sarc)

## STRAND ARTS CENTRE



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Belfast BT4 1NY

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**w.** [www.strandartscentre.com](http://www.strandartscentre.com)

## ULSTER MUSEUM



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Belfast BT9 5AB

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