13th Annual OFFILIE 2022

FILM FESTIVAL 12th - 16th October













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Welcome to FFLIE Céad míle fáilte

For 5 days in October, we will be treated to a variety of visual storytelling that will sweep our thoughts and emotions along from one event to the next. From the Irish language Tarrac and An Cailín Ciúin to international documentaries The Hermit of Treig and The Territory, the viewer will be treated to challenging and uplifting stories from around the world.

Our Shorts Programme continues to go from strength to strength; 2022 saw our largest number of short films ever submitted for consideration at OFFline. Our seven stalwart short film selectors spent much of the past year sifting through those films to bring you select highlights. We are proud to welcome filmmakers this year from Argentina, Bulgaria, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, the United Kingdom and right across Ireland.

Special Events this year see the return of the Fright Night with a trip to Kinnitty and on the same night as part of our Film & Food event, we screen the much-talked about Blackbird from Michael Flatley in The Chestnut Garden.

Eoin O'Kane & Joe Loftus are our two Animation Residents this year and you'll get a chance to meet them at our annual Show & Tell where they'll show their progress over the past 6 months in Birr.

Mini Movies and the IFI Junior Cycle screenings cater for our younger audiences where the mechanics and language of film are explored with the help of industry professionals and study guides respectively.

Keep an eye out for a pop-up event at The Courthouse Yard during the festival.

A very sincere thank you to all the crew-volunteers and paid-who make OFFline happen each year. The funders, patrons, sponsors and advertisers are invaluable to the Festival and we would not exist without you. Thank you.

Sit back, relax and enjoy OFFline 2022.

Gary Hoctor | OFFline Film Festival Director

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OFFline Film Festival Team

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Shorts Selection Committee | Rachel Alexander, Fiona Breen, Nathan Campion, William Larkin, Maeve O'Donovan and Petra Ross-McDonald

Guest Liaison | Jill Kenny

Special Thanks | Emma Nee Haslam, Gildas le Pallec, Anne Coughlan, Mary O'Dwyer, Ger Nolan, Connor Keaveny & all the volunteers at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre



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ANIMATION RESIDENCY PARTNERS





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MINI MOVIES

TUESDAY 11 October | 12pm Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Offaly County Council Arts Office are delighted to present Mini Movies. A series of short stop-motion animations by the students of Banagher College, St Rynaghs National School and St Mary's National School Cloghan. Many thanks to all the students and to facilitator Julie Forrester.



The screening is only open to students of the Mini Movies programme.



OFFline's Educational Film Programme presents a selection of subtitled contemporary world cinema which explores themes and issues relatable to a secondary school audience. These screenings are in collaboration with Irish Film Institute (IFI) Schools. €3 per student | Teachers Free

To book | info@birrtheatre.com Box Office | (057) 91 22911

WEDNESDAY 12 October | 10:30am Birr Theatre & Arts Centre



King 12+

When King, a trafficked lion cub, escapes from the airport in mid-transit, the frightened animal ends up in the home of Inès and Alex. Instant friends, the siblings come up with a plan to bring King back to a nature reserve in Africa. With the customs agents on their tail, the pair enlist the help of their quirky grandfather Max to join their unconventional road trip.

2022 · France Running time | 105 mins Rating | 12+

THURSDAY 13 October | 10:30am Birr Theatre & Arts Centre



The Path/Der Pfad

Based on the novel by Rüdiger Bertram and inspired by true events, Der Pfad follows 12-year old Rolf, as he flees Nazi terror alongside his father and dog in 1940. Assisted by young Núria, their route to freedom is the Pyrenees Mountain Range across France and Spain. What follows is a gripping yet heartwarming tale that speaks on ever-relevant issues of fleeing war and persecution, as two young people learn to support and rely on one another for help.

2022 · Germany Running time | 96 minutes Rating | IFI Age recommendation 15+







JUNIOR FILM FLEADH Galway Film Fleadh 13-15 November 2022 f 💆 😇















BOOKING & INFORMATION

www.galwayfilmfleadh.com | junior@filmfleadh.ie | 091 562 200

OPENING NIGHT

TARRAC

WEDNESDAY 12 October Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 8.30pm | €10 Written by Eugene O'Brien Director | Declan Recks

Aoife Ní Bhraoin returns home to help her father Brendán 'The Bear' Ó Briain recover from a heart attack. Day to day they get along just fine. But as we dig deeper we find that much that has been left unsaid about the loss of her Mother. Over this summer Aoife gets pulled back into the competitive world of rowing in Naomhóg boats, traditional to the area. She lets herself becomes close to the three women in her crew but, as the big race approaches Aoife feels an unbearable strain - years of suppressed grief and sadness - that could seriously wreck their chances of success.

TARRAC is an intimate character study and exciting sports drama set against the stunning landscapes and seas of the Kerry Gaelteacht.

Running Time | 1hr 36







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MADE IN THE MIDLANDS

THURSDAY 13 October
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 6.30pm | €10

Made in the Midlands will be played again on a loop on Saturday 15 October at The Tin Jug Studio from 1pm-5pm

Its events like this night of screenings that help remind us who we are. Back in 2019, we opened the Festival with a Made in the Midlands compilation and it has now become a firm fixture on our programme.

This impressive collection includes live-action shorts made in Offaly and those made elsewhere by Offaly film-makers. Join us as we celebrate them at the town's newest cultural venue.



7
Director | Jackie Lynch
9 minutes



Personal Space
Director | Garret Daly
12 minutes
FilmOffaly Award Bursary Winner



The Dinner Club
Director | Rowena Keaveny
8 minutes



Whale
Director | Lorna Fitzsimons
7 minutes
World Premiere
& FilmOffaly Award Bursary Winner



The Discovery of the Bronte Family Portrait in Banagher in 1914

Director | Maebh Bernadette O'Regan 15 minutes



Spiral Nebula
Director | Fiona Breen
7 minutes

AN CAILÍN CIÚIN

THURSDAY 13 October Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 8.00pm | €10

Nine-year-old Cáit (Catherine Clinch) is sent by her dysfunctional family to spend the summer with an Aunt and Uncle she has never met before. Through the tender care of her aunt Eibhlín (Carrie Crowley) Cáit finally feels loved and safe. Despite himself, her uncle Sean (Andrew Bennett) forges a bond and for the first time, Cáit experiences the warmth of a loving home. The once quiet Cáit blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one.

Wonderfully recreating the feel of a country home in 1980s Ireland, An Cailín Ciúin, adapted from Claire Keegan's acclaimed short story, Foster, is a genuine, deeply felt portrait of the bonds that sustain us.

2022 | Ireland Running Time | 94 mins







FRIDAY 14 October

The Chestnut | 5.00pm | FREE

IRISH



Some Days

Director | Jessie II Lopez 4 minutes

Some Days explores a non-linear narrative about facing ourselves and our memories through the use of various mixed media styles and techniques.



Sunride

Director | Deither Kirby Jay 4 minutes

Sunride is a linear narrative, short. animated film, that contemplates freedom from the perspective of cycling.



PORK

Director | Gareth Lyons 5 minutes

An omniscient Pig narrates a doomed relationship between the man who kills them and the woman who serves them as an in-flight meal.



Fall of the Ibis King

Directors | Mikai Geronimo, Josh O'Caoimh 10 minutes

The antagonist of a dark opera becomes increasingly unsettled following the unlikely return of the former lead actor.



Cost of Curiosity

Director | Rachel Fitzgerald 2 minutes

Helpless insects fall victim to a child in pursuit of answers.



Last Of The Season

Director | Hannah Levingstone 5 minutes

Inspired by the oblivious joys of childhood, ignorant of time passing. This film is an attempt to capture the melancholy of nature following its cyclical course, through a woman's fondly held memories. Autumn turns to winter as she revisits her vounger self.



Red Rabbit

Director | Rory Kerr

5 minutes

An anthropomorphic rabbit struggles to find peace and relaxation at home. These attempts are thwarted by a destructive shoulder devil, who takes glee in ruining any chance of tranquility.



Empty Little People

Directors | Josh O'Caoimh, Mikai Geronimo 2 minutes

Empty Little People, with an insatiable thirst for tea... begin running out of tea. on All Hallows' Eve.



Still Up There

Director | Joe Loftus

4 minutes

A mortally wounded Astronaut awakens in the upper atmosphere after a catastrophic event. He struggles to remember how he got there and latches himself on to the only familiar thing to him, his own severed arm.

ANIMATION SHORTS

INTERNATIONAL



Curiosa

UK

Director | Tessa Moult-Milewska 9 minutes

Curiosa tells the story of overly curious Mary, who visits her boyfriend's flat for the first time, just to discover it's been stripped bare of all personal belongings. After being denied an explanation, she climbs into his head.



Out of Pasture

USA

Director | Jared D. Weiss

1 minute

A beast at sea yearns for more.



Only Human

USA

Director | Nolan J Downs

4 minutes

A parasitic slug bites off more than is chewable.



Into Animated Poetry

South Korea

Director | Leeseul Oh

5 minutes

Into Animated Poetry series based on three contemporary poems with the voices of poets.



Om Nom Nom...

lanai

Directors | Minato Matsuda, Haruna Ueno, Tomoko Taiga

3 minutes

One day, a hungry dinosaur came across a weird jumping egg in the forest. He swallowed it, and then felt some strange rumblings in his tummy. Well, well, well...



Canary

Greece

Director | Chrysoula Korovesi, Marios Gampierakis

6 minutes

A canary is born in captivity amongst other caged birds. A coal miner is experiencing the hardships and risk of everyday labour. The two of them will meet and form a special bond of companionship and solidarity.



Golden Margarite

Israel

Director | Keren Sofi Karasik

6 minutes

The film follows the day of three young teens living in a neglected ghost town in Post-Soviet Europe.



Old Hag

France
Directors | Julie Rembauville, Nicolas
Bianco-Levrin
7 minutes



MEET THE FILMMAKERS

FRIDAY 14 October | The Chestnut | 7pm | FREE

This year, we received our highest number of short film submissions to OFFline EVER! Don't think we have mentioned that enough....

40+ filmmakers will be joining us in Birr for the festival from all over Ireland, Argentina, Bulgaria, Poland, Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Our Festival Pub The Chestnut is hosting this official Meet & Greet, so come along and give them a big Birr welcome!





FRIGHT NIGHT

FRIDAY 14 October Kinnitty Castle | From 7pm | €20

It's back for the first time since 2019!

Our festival bus departs Emmet Square at 7pm for a prosecco and finger food reception at 7.15pm at Giltraps Pub Townhouse Glamping Kinnitty, at the foot of the Slieve Blooms.

Once fed and watered we depart for the historical, and very spooky Kinnitty Castle, for a selection of terror-ific short films. specially curated for YOU!

Bus will return to our festival pub The Chestnut in Birr about 10.30pm.

This spook-tacular and acclaimed event has SOLD OUT each year to date. Limited capacity so early booking advised!



Food & Film

BLACKBIRD

Doors 8.30 Film starts at 9.30

FRIDAY 14 October | The Chestnut | 8.30pm | €30

Ticket includes supper by Pig on a Spit, glass of prosecco and your film ticket.

An MI6 operative named Victor Blackley (Flatley) turns his back on the agency after his fiancée is killed on a mission gone wrong. Sometime later, he finds himself as the owner of 'The Blue Moon', a prestigious hotel in Barbados that acts as a safe haven for international criminals to complete under the table dealings. After years of turning his head to his guest's business, he is pulled back in to the world he left when a former agent connected to his past turns up as part of a small party, who have come to conduct business on his grounds.

What begins as a chance encounter that reignites an old flame quickly becomes a life or death struggle to save not only those closest to him, but also the potential lives of millions throughout the world.

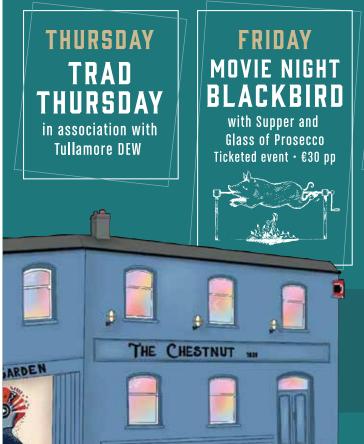
Starring Michael Flatley (Lord of the Dance) along with Eric Roberts (The Dark Knight, The Expendables). Patrick Bergin (Sleeping With The Enemy, Patriot Games), Nicole Evans (Captain America) and Ian Beattie (Game of Thrones).

Produced by Glen Kirby and Jed Tune (Off Piste, The Pugilist) for Dancelord Pictures and West One Entertainment and co-produced by Five Knight Films (Cardboard Gangsters) and Parachute Film Studios.



THE CHESTNUT

OFFICAL FESTIVAL PUB OFFLINE FILM FESTIVAL 2022



SATURDAY

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SUNDAY

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LIVE ACTION

SATURDAY 15 October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | FREE 10:00a.m.



Desmond's Not Here Anymore Director | Mmabatho Montsho USA | 16 minutes

Abigail battles moving her elderly mother with dementia out from the family home. When her mother unconsciously haunts her by continually questioning Desmond's whereabouts it forces her to finally face the question.



Jackdaw Director | Mac Nixon UK | 17 minutes

A troubled vagabond who ends the suffering of strangers must make an impossible choice when the time comes to keep an old promise.



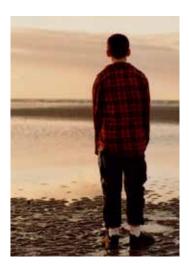
The Last Cuckoo: Dennis Gould Director | Mark Chaudoir UK | 16 minutes

An intimate portraval that welcomes us into the world of Dennis Gould; Poet, Activist, Letterpress Artist, Cyclist, and Lover of the Beautiful Game.



Spirit Level Director | Eoin Heaney Ireland | 21 minutes

A sensorial and immersive trip into a young woman's psyche, Spirit Level, boldly dissects the emotional manipulation of reenactment cinema as an unreliable historian and the vampiric relationship between identity and performance.



An Encounter Director | Kelly Campbell Ireland | 20 minutes

Freely adapted from the James Jovce short story. An Encounter. follows Stephen and Jay as they take a day mitching from school. Nervous of being detected, the pair stick to the margins along the roval canal. As they lay hidden, a strange man approaches.

COMPETITION SHORTS I

11:45a.m.



Kathleen Was Here Director | Eva Birthistle Ireland | 10 minutes

This visually arresting and emotionally taught tale depicts the ongoing problems surrounding young adults who age out of care and their struggle to 'fit in'.



Let It Burn Director | Adam Starsmark Sweden | 8 minutes

Teenage couple Arabella and David have just broken up. Not yet grounded in the decision, they take on the next question: how should they tell their classmates about it to avoid awkward situations at school?



Andrew is an isolated person in his mid-30's living a fantastical existence in a European city; in his apartment-on his own. With a zest for life far greater than the four walls that surround him, he curates his days.



Nursery Rhymes Director | Michael Kam Singapore | 10 minutes

Drawing inspiration from memories of his grandmothers, a Singapore filmmaker imagines their childhood spent under different imperialist rule.



The Road Director | Sergiy Luchyshyn Ukraine | 11 minutes

When, at a critical moment in life, a person stops, he revises his past.





Peggy Director | Luke Morgan Ireland | 8 minutes

Peggy (89) gets a visit from the Grim Reaper, Little does she know, it's her late husband Gerry, who has come back to take her into the next life.



Monico Perseus Director | Alfie Stewart UK | 7 minutes

When Ash escapes from a juvenile detention centre, he clambers through the marshes in an attempt to rescue his older brother from their abusive alcoholic father.



Conversations with my Dead Father Director | Maurice O'Carroll Ireland | 15 minutes

A film about memories, some bitter, some sweet, it s about fights, diets, it's about missing the ones you love.



Double Yellow Director | Ruairí Heading Ireland | 7 minutes

A nervous getaway driver waits while his impulsive brother holds up a bank.





With captivating performances, from both Aisling Franciosi and Chris Walley, we are brought on a journey through the all too relatable downward spiral of a relationship that should have ended long ago.

COMPETITION SHORTS II

2:30p.m.



Fat Kathy Director | Julia Pelka Poland | 14 minutes

Clams are the new canaries in the coal mine in this strangerthan-fiction peek at how humans create problems for the planet and then use living organisms to protect themselves... from themselves.



A Stone Place Director | James Skerritt Ireland | 9 minutes

A visual journey showcasing a unique rock that is quarried on the side of the biggest cliffs in Europe and that has created the aesthetic of a small rural town in the west of Ireland.

Personal Space

Director | Garret Daly Ireland | 12 minutes FilmOffaly Award Bursary Winner 2021

The connection between physical and personal space is explored in this poetic short documentary. Four emerging Offaly filmmakers present captivating vignettes of intriguing local contributors.



The Trouble Generator Director | Gerard Walsh Ireland | 10 minutes

As Louise struggles to bring Grace to an assessment, she is forced to face the realities of parenting and accepting Grace's individuality.



We Know A Better Word Than Happy Director | Helen McCrorie UK | 5 minutes

Following lockdown, children from Maryhill in Glasgow express their rights to outdoor play and learning, as they explore a green space that was established through 10 years of community activism.



Waiting | Young People's Experience of Direct Provision Director | Róisín Buckley Ireland | 9 minutes

Young people tell the story of their experiences of living in the Direct Provision system.



Task
Director | Deyan Angelov
Bulgaria | 9 minutes

A mother tries to prepare her young daughter for the consequences of the tragedy that has befallen them.



Truth and Dignity
Directors | Will Truettner,
Nick Nelson
USA | 7 Minutes



Wednesday's Child Director | Laura O'Shea Ireland | 10 minutes

Marie faces her first day on the job as a Social Care worker. Despite her optimism, a house call to a family in crisis quickly brings her down to reality.



Halted
Director | Robert Tyrrell
Ireland | 13 minutes

Halted focuses on four ordinary Traveller people and lets them tell their stories in their own ways. The film weaves their stories and personalities together to show an honest and personable view of Traveller culture that is far too often overlooked.

Mystery of Art Director | Mateo Padula Argentina | 4 minutes

A meditation on how adding a little mystery can help your life.

COMPETITION SHORTS III

4:30p.m.



My Boyfriend
Director | Ella-Hope
Higginson
New Zealand | 3 minutes

A short comedy about waking up next to a long-term partner and thinking "Who the hell is this?".



Therefore, Socrates Is Mortal
Director | Alexandre Isabelle

Canada | 13 minutes

Facing the climate crisis, Louise, a philosophy teacher, turns words into action



LEAVE TO REMAINDirector | Rémy Bazerque
UK | 11 minutes

Things get wild at the VISA and immigration services when Karim, a young Iranian father living in the UK is mistakenly threatened with deportation.



LAMMDirector | Pollyanna
Popermâjer
Sweden | 13 minutes

When Linda gets a phone call about her little brother, their relationship is changed forever. What happens when we have to choose between those we love, and what we believe is right?



Candle Cops Director | Tony Collingwood UK | 13 minutes

When a gold candle stick goes missing from the convent, all hell breaks loose. But no-one seems to care about the snuffed out candle left behind. Until Detective Joe arrives on the scene.



Bus Girl
Director | Jessica Henwick
USA | 11 minutes

An aspiring young female chef navigates the cut-throat world of high end cooking.



Snooze
Director | Adam Collins
Ireland | 5 minutes

A couple struggle to get out of their comfy bed.



Milk Director | Adam Etheridge UK | 9 minutes

A single Mum collects her teenage son from hospital following a suicide attempt, but quickly finds herself trapped between the medical advice she receives, and her fundamental instincts as a parent.



Fellow Creatures

Directors | Jamie Glover, Jason Merrells UK | 13 minutes

Whilst tackling the stresses of weekend parenting, Tom opens the door to a mysterious stranger who presents an opportunity to play an intriguing game with escalating consequences.



In partnership with Access Cinema, we are delighted to screen two fascinating eco-documentaries; The Territory and the Irish Premiere of The Hermit of Treig at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre.

THE TERRITORY

In the Brazilian rainforest, the indigenous Uru-eu-wau-wau tribe has lived in balance with nature for millennia. First contact from outsiders in the early 1980s brought disease and death, until just under 200 people remained, prompting the then Brazilian government to establish the Uru-eu-wauwau Indigenous Territory. Forty years on and the tribe, led by their young leader Bitaté, must fight to protect their land against the illegal deforestation being carried out by government-backed farmers.

Filmed over a 3-year period by cinematographer turned director Alex Pritz, The Territory follows the struggle of one community, where the result is important for the future of us all. This gripping award-winning film is both a moving tale of courage and a stirring call to action.

SATURDAY 15 October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 7pm | €10



SATURDAY 15 October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 9pm | €10



IRISH PREMIERE THE HERMIT OF TREIG

Ken Smith has lived alone for four decades in a basic selfmade log cabin near Loch Treig in Scotland. It is a 27 mile walk to the nearest post-box, but this does not faze Ken. He survives off the land by fishing and chopping wood. In a modern era where constantly being "connected" is the requirement for most people, and as he faces the challenges of growing older, what makes Ken continue to choose this life of isolation and remain "off-grid"?

Director Lizzie MacKenzie spent 10 years building up a rapport and trust with Ken, during which he finally allowed her to film him. She has crafted a life-affirming, heartwarming film, which is part eco-documentary, part intimate character-study. Essential viewing.

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FAMILY FILM | HOCUS POCUS

SUNDAY 16 October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 11am | €5 per child Adults FREE

Rating | PG Runtime | 1 hour 36 mins

A curious youngster moves to Salem, where he struggles to fit in before awakening a trio of diabolical witches that were executed in the 17th century.

Be put under the spell of this beloved spooky classic starring Bette Midler and Sarah Jessica Parker just before the next installment is released this Halloween.



OFFLINE AWARDS CEREMONY

SUNDAY 16 October Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 2.30pm | FREE

ANIMATION SHOW & TELL



After two bumper days of screenings of over 50 Irish and International live-action and animation shorts, join us as we present the awards for Best Irish Short, Best International Short, the Audience Award and Best Animation.

Our 2022 OFFline Animation Residents Joe Loftus and Eoin O'Kane will also present some of the work they have been focused on during their stay in Birr over the last six months.







THE WIND DOWN

SUNDAY 16 October The Chestnut | 4.00pm | FREE

After a whirlwind few days, come rest your bones at our Festival pub and fill up on a bit of grub before we all go our separate ways.





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FESTIVAL DATES 2023

Birr Festival of Music 27 April - 1 May 2023

Birr Vintage Week and Arts Festival 4-12 August 2023

OFFline Film Festival 11-15 October 2023















OFFline 2022 | At a Glance

TUESDAY 11TH		
12:00 p.m.	Mini Movies	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
WEDNESDAY	12TH	
10:30 a.m.	King	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
8:30 p.m.	Tarrac	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
THURSDAY	13TH	
10:30 a.m.	The Path	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
6:30 p.m.	Made in the Midlands	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
8:00 p.m.	An Cailín Ciúin	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
9:00 p.m.	Trad Thursday	The Chestnut
FRIDAY 14	тн	
5:00 p.m.	Animation Shorts	The Chestnut
7:00 p.m.	Fright Night	Kinnitty Castle
7:00 p.m.	Meet the Filmmakers	The Chestnut
8:30 p.m.	Food & Film	The Chestnut
SATURDAY	15TH	
10:00 a.m.	Live-Action Shorts	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
11:45 a.m.	Competition Shorts I	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
1:00 p.m.	Made in the Midlands	Tin Jug Studio
2:30 p.m.	Competition Shorts II	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
4:30 p.m.	Competition Shorts III	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
7:00 p.m.	The Territory	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
9:00 p.m.	The Hermit of Treig	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
10:00 p.m.	Wrap Party	The Chestnut
SUNDAY 16	TH	
11:00 a.m.	Family Film Hocus Pocus	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
2:30 p.m.	Awards Ceremony/ Animation Show & Tell	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
4:00 p.m.	The Wind Down	The Chestnut

OFFLINE

INFO

The Edit Shed, Green Street, Birr, Co.Offaly + 353 (0)85 238 9416

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Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Oxmantown Mall, Birr, Co. Offaly +353 (0)57 91 22911 info@birrtheatre.com

BOOK NOW

www.offlinefilmfestival.com



TICKET PRICES

General Screenings | €10

Family Film | €5

Educational Screenings | €3

Food & Film | €30

Fright Night | €20

Shorts | FREE