

OFFLINE FILM FESTIVAL

11-15 OCTOBER 2023
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offlinefilmfestival.com



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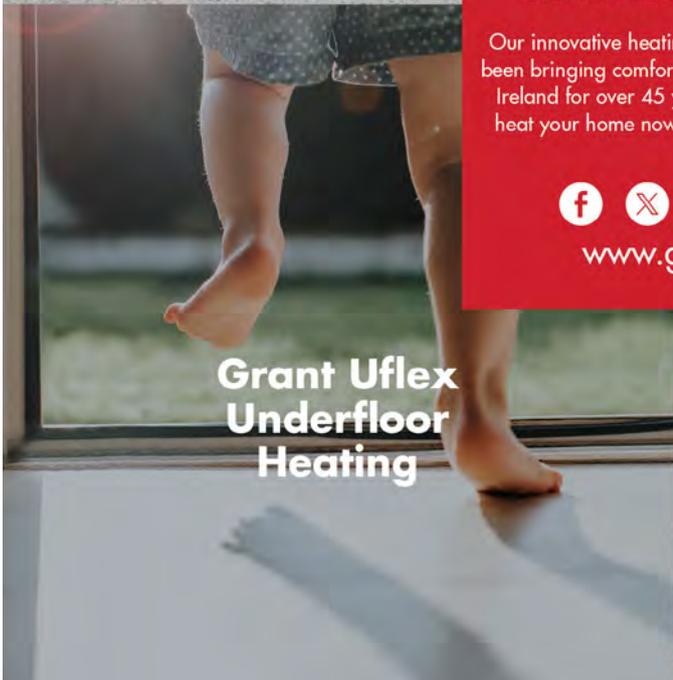
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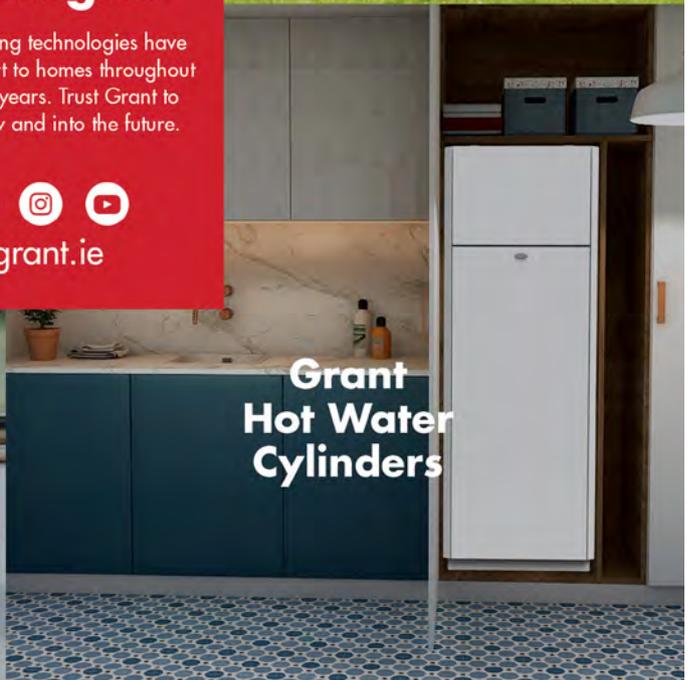


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Welcome to OFFline

First things first; on our Opening Night this year, we are absolutely thrilled to welcome the elder statesman of Irish cinema to Birr - Jim Sheridan. Come and listen to the man himself where he'll talk about his illustrious career to date in a special In Career Retrospective. For local filmmakers, there'll also be a unique chance to partake in a Directing Masterclass with the Master himself. Don't miss this rare opportunity to learn from the best in the business.

A warm welcome this year to the National Talent Academy Film & TV who'll be brunching with us on Sunday 15 October. Emerging filmmakers are invited along to hear how best to progress from shorts to features from some well-versed industry figures. We're also very excited to announce the progress of several initiatives that OFFline has been part of: the Five-Year Review of our Animation Residency; our Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit with Offaly Local Development Company; recent funding from the Our Rural Future programme; a new sponsorship partnership with Windmill Lane and finally, an update from Irish Film Berlin! Hear more about all of these on Friday 13 October.

On the subject of Berlin, we extend a hearty Willkommen to a group of filmmakers from the German capital who bring a specially-curated programme from Interfilm of their short films to Ireland. We'll also have our Fright Night in Kinnitty Castle, Educational Screenings & Made in Midlands along with our Movies with Live Music in collaboration with Sophie & Gregory from Birr School of Music, following its huge success during Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival. As well as all that, filmmakers from home and away will descend on Birr over 5 days; they'll get a chance to meet and mix with the people who make all this happen -you -our funders, patrons, advertisers and audiences.

Thank you, one and all!

Gary Hocter,
Festival Director

Festival Team

Director | Gary Hocter

Festival Coordinator | Cha Cahill

Festival Assistant | David Cotter

Marketing Manager | Rebecca Kelly

Guest Coordinator | Emma Hanley

Technicians | Alan Cassidy & Connor Keaveny

Committee | Maria Hewson, Bill Larkin,

David Cotter, Gary Hocter & Connor Keaveny

Shorts Selection Committee | Rachel Alexander,

Fiona Breen, Nathan Campion, William Larkin,

Maeve O'Donovan & Petra Ross-McDonald

Animation Selection Committee | Keith Kavanagh,

Cliona Noonan, Jack O'Shea

Hon. President | Marcella Corcoran Kennedy

Special Thanks | Emma Nee Haslam,

Gildas le Pallec, Anne Coughlan, Ger Nolan,

all the volunteers at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre,

Denis Madden, Christy Keaveny, Stuart Keaveny,

Kinnitty Castle, Nigel Craughwell & Designedly.



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Joanne & Seán Loughnane
Dr PJ McAuliffe
Amanda & Iain Martin
Niall & Gillian O'Brien

School Screenings



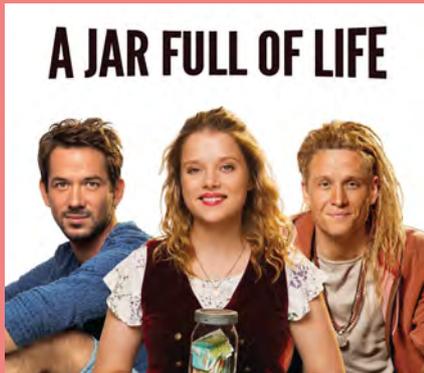
OFFline's Educational Film Programme presents a selection of subtitled contemporary world cinema which explores themes and issues relatable to a secondary school audience. Two of these screenings are in collaboration with Irish Film Institute Schools.

€3 per student | Teachers Free | To book: info@birrtheatre.com or call Box Office on (057) 91 22911

Wednesday | 11th October
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 10am

Thursday | 12th October
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 10am

Friday | 13th October
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 10am



A JAR FULL OF LIFE

A Jar Full of Life

Marleen is 20, but can't decide what to do with her life. Her older brother has traveled the world for years but has never been to the Antarctic. Just before he dies in a car crash, Marleen must promise him to start enjoying life and adventures. While her family mourns his death, Marleen decides to fulfill her brother's last wish and takes his trip to the Antarctic, with no money in her pocket-and soon with a little goat at her side.

2018 | Germany
Running time | 1hr 29 mins
Rating | 12+



Balloon

East Germany, 1979. After initially failing to flee from the East to the West in a self-built hot-air balloon, two families struggle to make a second attempt, while the East German State Police are chasing them.

2018 | Germany
Running Time | 2hrs 5mins
Rating | 12+



Dancing Queen

Mina gets her world turned upside down when the famous dancer ED Win moves to her town. She falls head over heels in love, and when he invites everyone to an audition for his new dance crew, Mina sees her chance and signs up. Intoxicated by love she throws herself into the excitement. But there is one essential thing she has forgotten: She can't dance!

2023 | Norway
Running time | 1hr 30 mins
Rating | 12+

For Primary Schools

access > CINEMA

Thursday 12th October | 12.30pm (English)
Friday 13th October | 12.30pm (Ukrainian)
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre



Mavka: The Forest Song

In association with access>Cinema, we are delighted to screen this beautiful animation for younger students. Our Thursday screening will be in English, while on Friday it will be screened in Ukrainian for the newest members of our community who now call Birr home.

Young and naive forest spirit Mavka, develops feelings for a human musician, Lukas. As they grow closer to each other, an inevitable situation forces Mavka to choose between her love and her duty as a guardian of the forest.

Rating | PG
Running Time | 1hr 30mins

€3 per student | Teachers Free
To book: info@birrtheatre.com or
call Box Office on (057) 91 22911

Meeting of Young Minds

Wednesday 11th October
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 12pm-1.30pm

In an exciting collaboration, Young Irish Filmmakers will host a consultation with young people in Offaly at Offline Film Festival, examining the opportunities for the growth of the Mini Movies programme in the county. If you/your school have been part of the Mini Movies programme and you'd like to share your voice, please come along.

To reserve your slot please email aryanwhyte@offalycoco.ie or text/call (086) 136 4048.



Opening Night

Jim Sheridan | Career Retrospective

Wednesday 11th October

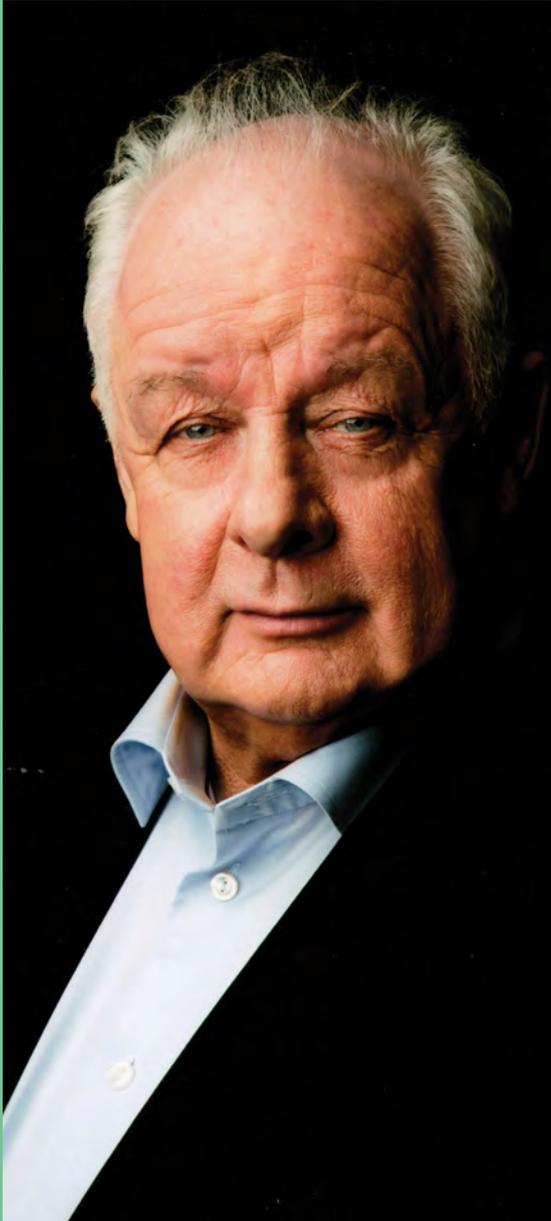
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 8pm | €22.50

What a night in prospect as we welcome one of Ireland's most successful and revered film directors to Birr; Jim Sheridan.

From his definitive *My Left Foot* and *In The Name of The Father*, to the beloved classic *Into The West*, the semi-autobiographical *In America* to his more recent ventures, Jim Sheridan's work is known and loved around the globe.

Come meet and listen to the man himself where he'll talk about his illustrious career to date in this very-special Career Retrospective. We'll delve into a number of scenes from his incredible catalogue of work on the night with our guest moderator. There'll also be a chance for you, the audience, to pose your own burning questions!

Drinks Reception from 7.30pm



Jim Sheridan | Directing Masterclass

Wednesday 11th October

John's Hall | 2:30pm | Free

Around a dozen lucky filmmakers will be selected for this special masterclass with one of Ireland's screen masters. Mr. Sheridan will take the selected filmmakers through some key scenes, delve into the writer's motivation behind each scene and display how he might motivate actors to deliver a convincing performance.

(Priority will be given to local and regional filmmakers selected with the assistance of the local Film commission FilmOffaly).

Apply via OFFline website offlinefilmfestival.com

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Made in the Midlands

Thursday 12th October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 8pm (Reception from 7:30pm) | €12

Its events like this night of shorts that help remind us who we are. Back in 2019, we opened our Festival with a Made in Midlands compilation and it has now become a firm fixture on our programme. This impressive collection includes live-action shorts made in the Midlands and those made elsewhere by Midlands filmmakers.

Join us as we celebrate our region's rich filmmaking talent.

Followed by a short Q&A with the filmmakers. Shorts screening include:



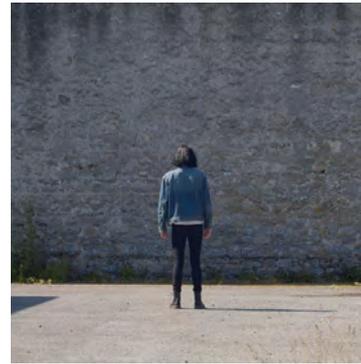
Missing

Director | Maura Foley
(FilmOffaly Award Winner 2022)



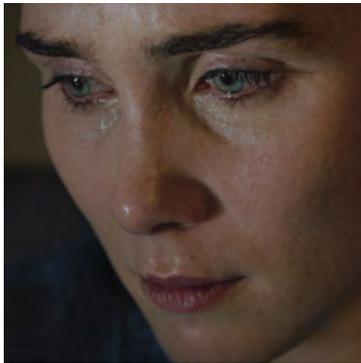
Millie's Maxol Magic

Directors | Conor English
& Ethan Scally



For The Love of It

Directors | Christor & Caoimhe
Glennon



Stable

Director | Aisling O' Regan
Sargent



Duffle Bag Boy

Director | Chris Higgins

**Trad
Thursday
in Kellys
9pm**

Apocalypse Clown

Don't miss your chance to see the only screening in Offaly this Autumn.

The sudden death of international clown master Jean DuCoque brings together our motley trio: Bobo (David Earl) a hobo clown who has hit rock bottom... Pepe (Fionn Foley) a talentless mime ... and Funzo (Natalie Palamides) an inadvertently terrifying "street clown". After a mass brawl at the funeral with some vengeful human statues earns them a night in jail, the group emerges to find a country suddenly plunged into overnight anarchy by a major solar flare.

No power. No internet. No one is safe.

Director | George Kane

Thursday 12th October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 5:30pm | €12



Smoke Sauna Sisterhood

Director | Anna Hintis

Thursday 12th October

Tin Jug Studio | 10pm | €12

Tucked in a lush green forest in southern Estonia, a group of women gather in the safe darkness of a smoke sauna to share their innermost thoughts and secrets. Enveloped by a warm, dense heat, they bare all to expel fears and shame trapped in their bodies and regain their strength. This "small, smoky, steamy miracle" (Variety) of a documentary won the Directing Award: World Cinema Documentary at Sundance Film Festival.

OFFline 360°

Friday 13th October

Old (New) Cinema, Brendan Street | 1pm | Free

Join us for lunch as we take you on a journey through the many exciting projects we've been developing and nurturing over the last 12 months. This event includes:

- The official launch of the Five-Year Review of our OFFline Animation Residency.
- A presentation on the progress of our new Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit in partnership with Offaly Local Development Company and supported by the Arts Council's Capacity Building Support Scheme.
- An update on our new collaboration with Irish Film Berlin.
- New funding from Our Rural Future and a new collaboration with Windmill Lane.

For more info: offlinefilmfestival.com



Animation Shorts

Friday 13th October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 4pm | €5

Irish

Hermit | Sarah Benson

Small Hours | Marta Snizek & Christian Spurling

WATERPARK | Ross Malo

Nightpay | Rachel Fitzgerald

BOG | Éabha Bortolozzo & Jack Kirwan

2% BABY | Róisín Sinai Kelly

Nana Dee | Marta Snizek & Maura Willet

Worry World | Jessica Patterson

Regular Rabbit | Eoin Duffy

International

SCALE | James Pierce | France

From the Corner of my Eye | Domonkos Erhardt | Hungary

Assemblage | Cecily Russo | USA

Teacups | Alec Green & Finbar Watson | Australia

Eeva | Lucija Mrzljak & Morten Tšinakov | Estonia

Aaaah! | Osman Cerfon | France

Friday the 13th Fright Night

Friday 13th October

Kinnitty Castle | 7pm | €22

Join us if you dare on Friday the 13th in October.

This spook-tacular and acclaimed event has SOLD OUT each year to date. Limited capacity so early booking advised! Our festival bus departs Emmet Square at 7pm for a prosecco and finger food reception at 7.15pm at Giltraps 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!

The event starts at Kinnitty Castle at 8.30pm.

Short films screening include:

All Alone Here | Callum Patrick O'Brien

Family Night | Alan Dunne

Bean Feasa | Daniel Butler

Demon Box | Seán Wainsteim

Nude | Olivier Labonté LeMoyné

Lamb | Sinéad O'Loughlin

Uroboros | Diarmuid Donohoe

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Meet the Filmmakers

Friday 13th October

Craughwell's Pub | 6pm | Free

This year, we received nearly 400 short film submissions for consideration. Filmmakers will be joining us in Birr for the festival from all over Ireland, Europe and even further afield. So, come along to one of Birr's most-popular spots for our Meet & Greet and give them all a big Birr welcome!



Mincéir

Director | Teresa Lavina

Friday 13th October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 7:30pm | €12

Mincéir is a very important and unique documentary that brings the audience on a journey across the Irish Traveller's tradition exploring the strong connections with art in their past traditions, present transitions and future views. It portrays how their culture has evolved through the collaborations of various members of the community from very different backgrounds including story tellers, wagon makers, singers, hair and makeup artists, writers, actors, flower makers, tinsmiths, cooks and recyclers.

Followed by Q&A with director.

A Bunch of Amateurs

Award-winning documentary about the enduring amateur filmmaking club of Bradford, where the members grow old together over a shared passion for film and filmmaking.

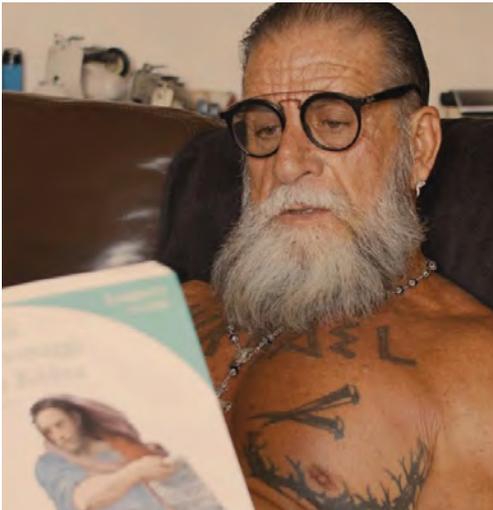
With endless cups of tea and weekly meetings, the Bradford Movie Makers keep themselves and their love of cinema alive, as they go to endless lengths to recreate famous film scenes for their amateur films.

Followed by Q&A with some of the cast.

Director | Kim Higgins

Friday 13th October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 9pm | €12



The Last Playboy

Director | Mauro Russo Rouge

Friday 13th October

Tin Jug Studio | 10pm | €12

70-year-old Maurizio Candidi is an old-style playboy who claims to have had more than one thousand women. Despite his age, he is in excellent physical shape, he still approaches women and provides his gigolo services. He loves the high life and good fun. While he shares his tricks of seduction and satisfying women, without any restriction, between myth and reality, the figure of a melancholic seducer emerges.

Live-Action Shorts

This year, we received nearly 400 shorts from all over the world. Join us for a bumper day of non-competition and competition live-action shorts. You'll also have the chance to vote for our OFFline Audience Award on the day. This year's Best Irish Short Award is in association with Windmill Lane & access>Cinema. For more info on our selected films: offlinefilmfestival.com

Schedule

Non-Competition Shorts | 9am

Competition Shorts Programme I | 11.30am

Competition Shorts Programme II | 2.15pm

Competition Shorts Programme III | 4.25pm

Saturday 14th October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | From 9am | €5



Berlin Shorts & German Beers

Saturday 14th October

Old (New) Cinema, Brendan Street | 6pm | €5

OFFline was very proud to curate the programme for the first-ever Irish Film Berlin back in May. As a follow on from that event, we've invited a number of Berlin-based filmmakers to screen their shorts at one of Birr's most intriguing events.

Join us for this beautiful celebration of the new links between Birr and Berlin as well as sampling some German beers!

Curated by Ilana Glizer and in association with Interfilm.



Movies with Live Music

In collaboration with Birr School of Music. A huge hit during Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival in August, we are delighted to host this gorgeous event again for OFFline!

Take a trip back in time for this magical night of short silent films with live musical accompaniment, featuring:
A Trip to the Moon (1902) | *George Méliès*
One Week (1920) | *Buster Keaton*

Plus two films by award-winning Irish director Andrew Legge:
The Unusual Inventions of Henry Cavendish (2005)
The Girl with the Mechanical Maiden (2013) filmed in Birr Castle.

Music by Sophie Ward, Gregory Ward & Nick Ward.

Saturday 14th October
John's Hall | 7pm | €20
(including wine & cheese)



Hungry Hill

Directors | Mieke Vanmechelen & Michael Holly
Saturday 14th October
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 9pm | €12

Hungry Hill documents the daily struggle of a community of sheep farmers in a mountainous region of Ireland, against the backdrop of an historical warning of ecological catastrophe from another part of Europe. Filmed on the highest point on the Beara Peninsula in the southwest of Ireland, *Hungry Hill* follows the day-to-day lives of a community of sheep farmers who are in perpetual negotiation with the demands of the terrain, changing societal attitudes, and the impact of globalisation.

Followed by Q&A with directors.

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12TH

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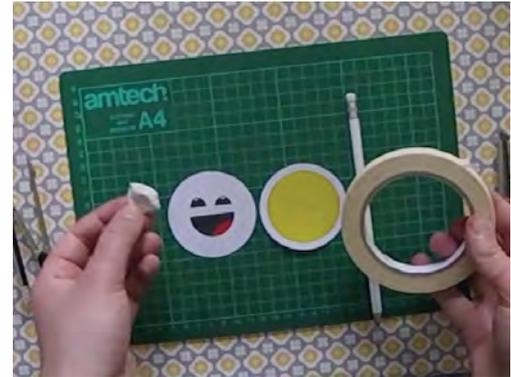
Children's Workshop

Optical Toys with Cian Laffey

This is a fun, hands-on introduction to the moving image and a gentle filmmaking workshop for children aged 7-12. All materials will be supplied. Limited spaces, advance booking advised.

Cian is an illustrator and designer based in Limerick. Having studied animation and motion design (BA), and a level 9 diploma in art direction for film and television, he has used his broad knowledge to deliver workshops to young people interested in film production.

Saturday 14 October | John's Hall | €5
10am-11am, 11:30am-12:30pm, & 2pm-3pm



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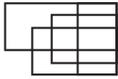
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Birr Lions Club

Industry Masterclass

The Collaborative Art of Producing for Film & TV
Sunday 15th October
Dooly's Hotel | 11:30am | Free



National Talent Academy
Film & Television Drama

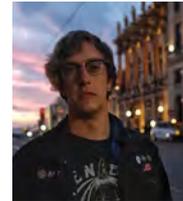
Join us for an exciting talk that discusses the role of a producer, where creativity meets innovation. We will be hearing from established producers across multiple platforms within Film & TV Production, including documentary, animation and drama.

Joining us will be Garret Daly and Martina McGlynn from Mixed Bag Media, Greg Burrowes and Ronan Cassidy from Carbonated Comet and producer Lena Byrne.

There will be a brunch networking event as part of this Masterclass. Applicants must apply by completing a quick online RSVP form on offlinefilmfestival.com



Garret Daly



Greg Burrowes



Martina McGlynn



Ronan Cassidy



Lena Byrne

OFFline Award Ceremony

After three bumper days of screenings of nearly 50 specially-selected Irish and International live-action and animation shorts, we'll announce our 2023 OFFline winners. Awards presented include Best Irish Short, Best International Short, our Audience Award and Best Animation.

The winner of the **Best Irish Short Award** this year wins a guaranteed distribution deal to over 80 official film clubs across Ireland through access>Cinema and post production and sound for their next short at Windmill Lane.

Best Irish Short Award / Partners

Windmill Lane is Ireland's longest running Post Production facility. This year, Windmill Lane celebrates 45 years working across; Film, TV, VFX, Commercials & Animation in Ireland and around the world. Their services cover Audio, Colour, Editing, Delivery & Full Post while some of their notable clients include (among others); Netflix, Disney+, BBC, Paramount and HBO.

access>CINEMA is the resource organisation for regional cultural cinema exhibitions in Ireland providing audiences throughout the country with access to the best of Irish, world and independent cinema, via their national network of non-profit and voluntary organisations.



Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory

Sunday 15th October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 11am | €5, Adults Free

Ahead of the highly-anticipated release of Wonka starring Timothée Chalamet this December, acquaint yourself with the beloved 1970's original. From the classic Roald Dahl story comes a lip-smacking delight with jolly tunes, among them The Candy Man and Pure Imagination. **You'll also be in with a chance of winning a Golden Ticket at the screening too!**

Running time | 1hr 35 mins

Rating | U



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Closing Film

**Down Memory Lane with Mabel Wallace:
100 Years of Change**

Director Nicholas Purcell Ryan

Sunday 15th October

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 3pm | €12

Mabel Wallace was born into the Kenny family in Shinrone. As a child, she was pampered by her governess and riding instructor. She married into the Wallace family of Ballincor. In the year that sees her one hundredth birthday, a local filmmaker (Nicholas Ryan Purcell) decided to document her life well-lived and create a new feature-length documentary dedicated to her.

The movie deals with Mabel's journey through life and is also a testimonial on a rapidly changing country: Ireland. Prepare to be utterly enchanted as we embark on '100 Years of Change,' the latest opus from this award-winning filmmaker. At its heart is Mabel Wallace, who has just crossed the remarkable milestone of a century of life.

Followed by Q&A with director.



HULLABALOO!

OFFALY'S CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

Wed 1 - Sat 4
November 2023



Birr Festival of Music

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[TULLAMOREDEW.COM](https://www.tullamoredeew.com)



OFFline at a Glance

Wednesday

10am	Educational Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
12pm	Meeting of Young Minds	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
2.30pm	Jim Sheridan Directing Masterclass	John's Hall
8pm	Jim Sheridan Career Retrospective	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Thursday

10am	Educational Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
12.30pm	Mavka: The Forest Song(English)	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
5.30pm	Apocalypse Clown	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
8pm	Made in Midlands	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
9pm	Trad Thursday	Kelly's
10pm	Smoke Sauna Sisterhood	Tin Jug Studio

Friday

10am	Educational Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
12.30pm	Mavka: The Forest Song(Ukrainian)	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
1pm	OFFline 360°	Old [New] Cinema
4pm	Animation Competition Shorts	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
6pm	Meet the Filmmakers	Craughwell's Pub
7pm	Fright Night	Departing from Emmet Square
7.30pm	Mincéir	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
9pm	A Bunch of Amateurs	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
10pm	The Last Playboy	Tin Jug Studio

Saturday

9am	Non-Competition Shorts	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
10am	Optical Toys	John's Hall
11.30am	Competition Shorts I	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
11.30am	Optical Toys	John's Hall
2pm	Optical Toys	John's Hall
2.15pm	Competition Shorts II	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
4.25pm	Competition Shorts III	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
6pm	Berlin Shorts & German Beers	Old [New] Cinema
7pm	Movies with Live Music	John's Hall
9pm	Hungry Hill	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
10pm	Wrap Party with DJ TIME	The Chestnut

Sunday

11am	Family Film	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
11.30am	Industry Masterclass followed by OFFline Awards Ceremony	Dooly's Hotel
3pm	100 Years of Change	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Booking Details

INFO

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

BOX OFFICE

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

BOOK NOW

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TICKET PRICES

General Screenings | €12
Family Film | €5
Children's Workshops | €5
School Screenings | €3
Animation Shorts | €5
Fright Night | €22.50
Movies with Live Music | €20
Jim Sheridan | €22.50
Live-Action Shorts | €5

Ticket prices include
bookings fees.
Please note: Tickets are
non-refundable



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