

AT A GLANCE

Wednesday

10am	From Me To You	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
12pm	Mini Movies	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
8pm	Made in Midlands	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Thursday

10am	Educational Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
1pm	Educational Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
8pm	Housewife of The Year	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
9pm	Trad Thursday	Kelly's

Friday

10am	Educational Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
12.30pm	Primary School Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
4pm	Animation Shorts	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
5.30pm	Meet the Filmmakers	Craughwell's Pub
7.30pm	Fright Night	Departing from Emmet Square

Saturday

10am	Children's Workshop	John's Hall
10am	Non Competition Shorts	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
11.30am	Children's Workshop	John's Hall
1pm	Children's Workshop	John's Hall
1.30pm	Competition Shorts	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
4.30pm	Verdigris Masterclass	John's Hall
6pm	In Wolf Country	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
8.15pm	Verdigris	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
10pm	Wrap Party	Craughwell's Pub

Sunday

10.30am	Coffee Wind Down	Tin Jug Studio
11am	Family Film - Fantastic Mr Fox	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
1pm	Awards Ceremony	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

BOOKING INFO

offlinefilmfestival.com

BOX OFFICE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Oxmantown Mall,
Birr, Co. Offaly
+353 57 91 22911

TICKET PRICES

General Screenings | €12
Family Film | Child €5, Adults
FREE
Educational Screenings | €3
Fright Night | €22.50
Shorts | €10

Ticket prices include bookings fees.

Please note: Tickets are non-refundable



15th Annual OFFLINE FILM FESTIVAL

9-13 October 2024
offlinefilmfestival.com

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Welcome to OFFline 2024

And just like that, OFFline Film Festival turns 15! We are celebrating 15 years of bringing stories from far and near to the heart of the Midlands. As Gary Hoctor steps away from his role as Festival Director, we would like to thank him and all those who have been part of the festival for all they have done for filmmakers and film lovers, and for bringing OFFline to Birr.

Whether you have travelled across counties or seas to be here, or simply stepped outside your doorstep, we welcome you, and we hope you find something to watch that will make you smile, laugh or bend your world just that little bit. From Fright Night in Kinnitty Castle, to Made in Midlands, our shorts programmes, feature screenings and Masterclass with filmmakers Patricia Kelly and Paul FitzSimons, we are sure you will find that something. And thanks to you, our funders, patrons, advertisers and audiences, without whom this would not be possible. Welcome to the 15th OFFline Film Festival.

David Cotter and Rachel Alexander
Co-Directors



Festival Co-Directors

David Cotter & Rachel Alexander

Meet The New Festival Team!



Design Co-Ordinator
Andrea Moore



Festival Manager
Cha Cahill



Secretary/Technician
Christy Keaveny



Festival Technician
Connor Keaveny



Guest Co-Ordinator
Emma Hanley

Interim Board | Fiona Breen, Gary Hoctor, Bill Larkin, Maeve O'Donovan, Petra Ross McDonald

Animation Selection Committee | Jack O'Shea, Cliona Noonan, Keith Kavanagh

Hon. President | Marcella Corcoran Kennedy

Special Thanks | Gary Hoctor, Rebecca Kelly, Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Seamus Bradley, Dennis Madden, Stuart Smith, Nigel & Sinead Craughwell, Bronagh Tully, Birr LOETB, all of our amazing volunteers.

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OFFLINE EDUCATIONAL SCREENINGS

Presented in association with the Goethe-Institut Irland, the French Embassy in Ireland and Institut Français.

Our Educational Film Programme presents a selection of subtitled contemporary world cinema which explores themes and issues relatable to a secondary school audience.

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



Man Up!

French
Thursday 10 October @ 10am

Tom, an introverted teenager, struggles to adjust at his new school but finds support from Leo, his elder brother, who mentors him to adapt to his new setting. However, Leo's popularity is a problem.

Director Benjamin Parent

Running Time / 1 hr 28 mins
Rating / 12+



Divertimento

French
Thursday 10 October @ 1pm

For Zahia Ziouani and her twin sister, Fettouma, music is everything. Raised in an underprivileged Parisian suburb with an Algerian background, they overcome challenges to create their own orchestra. DIVERTIMENTO is inspired by Zahia Ziouani's life.

Director
Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar

Running Time / 1 hr 50 mins
Rating / 12+



The Ordinaries

German
Friday 11 October @ 10am

In an oppressive film universe, divided into Outtake, Extra, and Lead persons, an Extra girl who wants to be a Lead, searches data about her dead father, and in her adventure she discovers many truths about freedom, identity and love.

Director Sophie Linnenbaum

Running Time / 2hrs
Rating / 12+

WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

From Me to You

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 10am €3

Timeless Lessons and Generational Stories from Life in Offaly

A heart-warming documentary that celebrates the rich tapestry of life in Offaly, Ireland.

Through intimate conversations, this film takes you on a journey across generations, exploring the treasured memories and life lessons from communities across Offaly. "From Me to You" showcases how the wisdom of the past continues to inspire the present and is a powerful tribute to the enduring spirit of community, connection and belonging. In partnership with Offaly Local Development Company.

Director / Nicky Larkin
Running Time / 35 mins



Mini Movies

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 12pm

Offaly County Council Arts Office is delighted to present Mini Movies. A series of live-action short films by the students of St Brendan's Boys School, Mercy Primary School, and St Brendan's Community School.

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



 Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

Made in Midlands

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 8pm (Reception from 7.30pm) | €12

This impressive collection includes live-action & animation 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.



Bishop Cox
Directed by
Nicky Larkin



From Me to You
Directed by
Nicky Larkin



A Simple Killing
Directed by
Jason Branagan



Wrecker
Directed by
Martina McGlynn



Eldritch Karaoke
Directed by
Joe Loftus



Whale Fall
Directed by
Patrick Hough



Sights & Sounds of Edenderry
Directed by Shane Hynan
Commissioned by
Creative places: Edenderry.

THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER

Housewife of the Year

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre / 8pm / e12

Housewife of the Year tells the story of Ireland's treatment of women through the prism of a unique, surreal, live-televised competition that has to be seen to be believed. A generation of Irish women competed in front of a live audience for the title of "Housewife of the Year".

The former contestants share their direct experiences of marriage bars, lack of contraception, Magdalene laundries, financial vulnerability, boredom and shame, and of course, of being contestants in the competition. It is a poignant, often hilarious, uplifting story of a resilient generation of women, and how they changed a country.

The film had its Irish Premiere at the Galway Film Fleadh 2024 and took home the prize of Best Irish Feature Documentary.

Director / Ciaran Cassidy
Ireland / 1hr 17 mins



Trad Thursday
Kelly's
9pm



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FRIDAY 11th OCTOBER

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS
in Association with Access Cinema

access > CINEMA



Puffin Rock and the New Friends
Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 12.30pm
€3 per students, Teachers FREE

Based on the award-winning TV series, Puffin Rock and the New Friends follows Oona and her friends as they race to find a missing Little Egg before a storm endangers their island. This action-packed adventure celebrates the natural environment and explores themes of belonging, courage, and friendship.

Running Time | 1hr 20mins
Rating | U

Animation Shorts

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 4pm | €10

We love all things animation here at OFFline, so join us for a range of hilarious, weird and heartwarming shorts from some of the best animators out there. Featuring Irish and International animation shorts.

The Final Nail In The Coffin	Mont Noir
Garrano	Eldritch Karaoke
Every Other Weekend	TADHANA
The Looking Game	Nun or Never!
Lucifer, Is That You?	Heading Home
Papillon (Butterfly)	Éire Job?
The Adventures of Egg Boy	Galaxy Shapes

Meet The Filmmakers

Craughwell's Pub | 5.30pm | FREE

This year, we received hundreds of short film submissions for consideration. Some of this year's selected 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!



FRIGHT NIGHT

KINNITTY CASTLE

BUS DEPARTURE FROM EMMET SQUARE AT 7.30PM
€22.50 INCLUDING BOOKING FEE

DARE TO JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF SPINE-TINGLING THRILLS!

THIS POPULAR AND FRIGHTFULLY FUN EVENT SELLS OUT EVERY YEAR, SO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EARLY! OUR FESTIVAL BUS DEPARTS FROM EMMET SQUARE AT 7:30 PM, BOUND FOR THE HISTORIC KINNITTY CASTLE. ONCE THERE, ENJOY A HAUNTING COLLECTION OF SHORT FILMS, CAREFULLY SELECTED FOR THIS CAN'T-MISS OCCASION. THE SCREENING BEGINS AT 8:30 PM.

FULL-PRICE TICKET INCLUDES BUS TRANSPORTATION, FOOD ON ARRIVAL AT KINNITTY CASTLE & SCREENING TICKET.

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

John's Hall €5 per workshop

Workshops with Artist Cian Laffey

Optical Toys | 10 am

For ages 7-12. Learn the building blocks of film and animation in this fun workshop. The workshop is aimed at young children with a love for arts and crafts. Each participant will be guided to create their own toys which they can bring home.

Storyboarding Made Easy | 11.30am

For ages 9-13. Learn to tell a story through storyboarding! In this group workshop you'll create a story with everyone and learn how to create a storyboard. If you love to tell stories, read comics and draw then this is suited for you!



Stop-Motion Animation with Alex Moloney | 1pm

For ages 12 -16 . Creative workshop through Irish to learn how to design characters and create stop motion animations. Smart phone required.

Ceardlann "Bheochan Íomhá ar Íomhá" Oiriúnach do pháistí atá ? d'aois. Ceardlann chruthaitheach trí mheán na Gaeilge chun foghlaim conas carachtair a dhearadh agus scannáin a chruthú. Guthán soghluaiste ag teastáil.



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Non-Competition Shorts

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre / 10am
€10

Skewered / Nick Rutter / [UK](#)
On the Edge (Am Grat) / Matteo Sanders / [Austria](#)
VENOUS RETURNS / Laura Sheeran / [Ireland](#)
The Boat / Luke Morgan / [Ireland](#)
Puffling / Jessica Bishopp / [UK](#)
Maraschino Cherries / Vincent Paquette / [Canada](#)

Competition Shorts

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre / 1.30pm
€10

Cantata / Dave Fox / [Ireland](#)
Piece by Piece / Reza Rasouli / [Austria](#)
Barry vs The Binman / Craig Moore / [Ireland](#)
Mijo / Mazdey / [Mexico](#)
PANTO / Kate Stanley Brennan / [Ireland](#)
Findlater / Allyn Quigley / [Ireland](#)
Why did you leave the Horse alone? / Faouzi Bensaïdi / [France](#)
The Last Straw / Andrias Høgenni / [Faroe Islands](#)
Sound & Colour / Emma Foley / [Ireland](#)
A Summer's End Poem / Lam Can-zhao / [China](#)
Friends On The Outside / Annabel Moodie / [UK](#)
All That's Carried / Rosie Barrett / [Ireland](#)
Wrecker / Martina McGlynn / [Ireland](#)



In Wolf Country

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 6.00pm
€12

Saturday 12th OCTOBER

A TALE FROM A WORLD ABOUT WHICH MANY HAVE A STRONG OPINION, BUT WHICH FEW REALLY KNOW: THE WORLD OF WOLVES.

The big bad wolf from fairy tales has long been a symbol of fear, but this image is far from reality. With wolves returning to Germany, their comeback is being met with challenges due to lingering fears and occasional attacks on livestock. This documentary follows the efforts of scientists, conservationists, and shepherds who are closely monitoring the wolves. It captures scenes of lab work, shepherds tending their flocks, and heated discussions at political hearings. The film shows that wolves are not fearsome predators but simply animals sharing the landscape, even as misinformation fuels public debate and resistance to their presence.

Directed by Ralf Bücheler
1hr 42mins

Wrap Up Party
10pm
Craughwell's
Pub



VERDIGRIS

VERDIGRIS

Saturday 12th OCTOBER

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 8.15pm | €12

Shabby and unfulfilled, middle-aged middle-class Marian finds that her recent retirement only serves to shine a light on her deep unhappiness as her cruel and tight-fisted husband Nigel controls her life. She stumbles upon a job as a census enumerator and, on her challenging inner-city route, encounters Jewel, a teenage girl who has been living her life as a prostitute since her mother abandoned her.

The two become reluctant friends and Marian comes to admire the girl's independence and strength, as she realises the extent of her abusive marriage. Jewel helps Marian find the strength to break free and she realises that, with her new friend by her side, she has everything she needs to forge a new and empowering future.

Winner of Best Independent Film at the 35th Galway Film Fleadh and Best Narrative Feature at the 2023 Kerry International Film Festival.

Followed by Q&A with Patricia Kelly and producer Paul Fitzsimons.

Written & directed by Patricia Kelly
Ireland | 92 mins

Verdigris Masterclass

Johns Hall | 4.30pm | Free

Up to 20 lucky people will get the opportunity to attend this intimate Masterclass, hosted by the powerhouses behind the award-winning independent film Verdigris. Writer and director Patricia Kelly and producer Paul Fitzsimons from Prelude Content will offer a rare insight into the makings of Verdigris and what it takes to get a feature film off the ground.



Sunday 13th October
Fantastic Mr. Fox

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

In Wes Anderson's stunning adaptation, our foxy hero (voiced by George Clooney) is torn between his past as a chicken poaching ne'er-do-well and his current life as a family man, complete with loving wife (Meryl Streep) and sullen son (Jason Schwartzman). The lure of illicit adventure proves too much, however, until Fox places his entire community in the firing line. But in the end, it's all about growing up. Isn't it always?

Director | Wes Anderson
U.S.A. | 87 minutes
Rating | PG

OFFline Awards Ceremony

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 1pm
FREE

After screening of our specially selected Irish and International live-action and animation shorts, we will announce our 2024 OFFline winners. Awards presented include Best Irish Short, Best International Short, the Audience Award and Best Animation.

Our Competition Shorts Programme is kindly sponsored by Windmill Lane, Ireland's leading picture and sound post-production, VFX and content creation studio.



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