

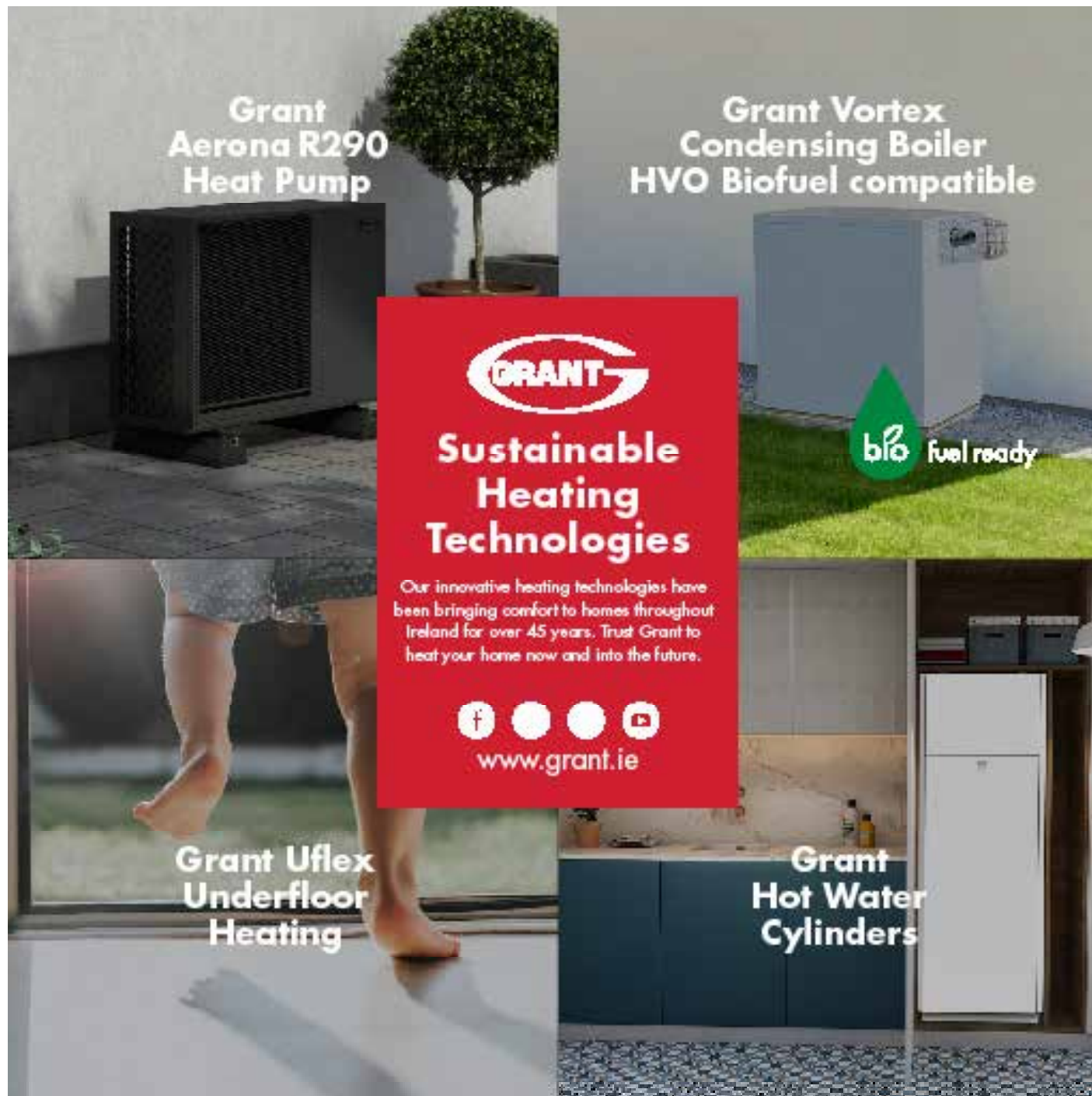
16th Annual

# OFFLINE

FILM 8 - 12 th  
FESTIVAL October

[offlinefilmfestival.com](http://offlinefilmfestival.com) 2025





## We welcome you all to the 16th OFFline Film Festival!

This year sees OFFline's expansion into Tullamore and Banagher as we strive to bring more movie magic across the heart of the Midlands.

We hope that you can find something to make you smile in this programme - from Fright Night to our selection of feature films and short films, masterclasses and workshops. Thank you to our local friends, regulars and first-time visitors alike, for taking the time to join us. Thank you to our funders, patrons, advertisers and audiences, without whom this would not be possible. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

- The 2025 OFFline Team

### Festival Team & Special Thanks

#### **The Committee**

**Festival Manager** | Cha Cahill

**Design Coordinator** | Andrea Moore

**Technician/Secretary** | Christy Keaveny

**Festival Technician** | Connor Keaveny

**Guest Coordinator** | Emma Hanley

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

**Short Film Selection Committee** | Áine Ryan, Andrea Moore, Bill Larkin, Christy Keaveny, Connor Keaveny, David Cotter, Lee Hamill, Maeve O'Donovan, Petra Ross-McDonald, Rachel Alexander

**Hon. President** | Marcella Corcoran Kennedy

**Special Thanks** | Karen Alexander, Rachel Alexander, Seamus Bradley, Shanna May Breen, Nigel & Sinead Craughwell, David Cotter, Gary Hctor, Irene & David Maxwell, Stuart Smith and all our amazing volunteers.

**A further thanks** to Birr Library, Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Esker Arts, Jj Houghs, The Space Above and The Spot.



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We always welcome new Patrons to the Festival!

If you're interested, contact [offlinefilmfest@gmail.com](mailto:offlinefilmfest@gmail.com)

## OFFline Educational Screenings

€5 per student | Teachers Free

Presented by OFFline Film Festival, the Goethe-Institut Irland, the French Embassy in Ireland and Institut français, our Educational Film Programme features a selection of subtitled contemporary world cinema which explores themes and issues relatable to a secondary school audience. *Films rated 12+*

To book: [offlinefilmschools@gmail.com](mailto:offlinefilmschools@gmail.com)

### Fidil Ghorm Irish

8th Oct | 2pm Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Fidil Ghorm tells the story of 10-year-old girl Molly, whose father is in a coma. She believes that if she learns to play the fiddle like her dad did and win an All Ireland contest that she can wake him up. When her Dad is moved to a rehab centre, Molly befriends an elderly grumpy man named Malachy whom she hears playing the fiddle beautifully. Along the way, she is told that he has "magic in his hands" and learns that he had been a champion fiddler once upon a time. She coaxes him to teach her to play the fiddle, and together they go in search of the magic that only music can bring.

Directed by Anne McCabe  
1 hr 25 mins

### Josep French

9th Oct | 10am Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

February 1939. Overwhelmed by the flood of Republicans fleeing the Franco dictatorship, the French government parked them in camps. Two men separated by the barbed wire will become friends. One is a gendarme, the other a cartoonist. From Barcelona to New York, the true story of Joseph Bartolí, anti-Franco fighter and exceptional artist.

Directed by Aurel  
1 hr 14 mins

### Au Revoir Les Enfants French

9th Oct | 10am Esker Arts / 1.30pm Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

1944, Julien is a boarder at a Catholic college. He discovers Jean, a proud and secret newcomer. Julien and Jean become friends little by little. However, this bond will never be able to blossom. One day, the Gestapo arrives at the school and arrests Father Jean and the three Jewish children he had hidden among his Catholic children.

Directed by Louis Malle  
1 hr 35 mins

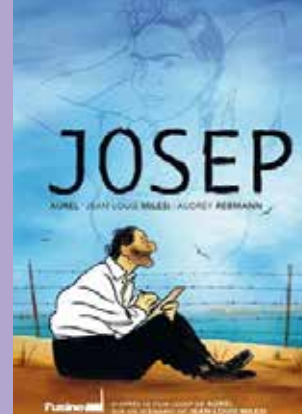
### When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit German

9th Oct | 1.30pm Esker Arts

10th Oct | 10am Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

1933: The young Jewish girl Anna is repeatedly forced to flee the Nazis with her family. A captivating watch on the experience of becoming a refugee, based on the semi-autobiographical novel by Judith Kerr.

Directed by Caroline Link  
1 hr 59 mins



## FilmOffaly Short Film Award Exhibition

**Birr Library** | Exhibition launch & Reception | 6pm | FREE

Join us in **Birr Library** for a special exhibition celebrating the winners of the FilmOffaly Short Film Award through the years.

Since 2008, FilmOffaly has supported writers and filmmakers with distinctive voices, offering funding and mentorship to help bring unique stories to the screen. The award is open to short film screenplays of any genre or style, with just one rule: the finished film must be shot entirely in County Offaly.

As part of this year's OFFline Film Festival, we're delighted to team up with FilmOffaly and Offaly Libraries to present an exhibition of stills from the many remarkable films that have been made thanks to the bursary.

*All are welcome!*



**Wednesday 8th**

## Made in Midlands

**Wednesday 8th** Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | Reception from 7.30pm | €12

**Thursday 9th** Esker Arts | Doors From 7.30pm | €12

This year, OFFline is delighted to bring its opening night programme, **Made in Midlands**, to Esker Arts in Tullamore for a special screening on Thursday.

Showcasing an exciting selection of films from the region, this programme shines a spotlight on the wealth of talent working right here in the Midlands. These films deserve to be seen on the big screen by as many people as possible — so join us, along with a number of the featured filmmakers, for this special event in Tullamore.

A Q&A with the filmmakers follows both screenings.

## Exploring Careers in the Film Industry with Brendan Phelan

**Birr Theatre & Arts Centre** | 10am



A premiere screening for two new short films, written, produced and directed by the Transition Year of St Mary's CBS and Scoil Chríost Rí in Portlaoise. The films were made as part of an 'Introduction to Filmmaking Course for Transition Year Students', run by training provider Video Nation and funded by Screen Ireland.

The screening event will also include various industry guest speakers, talking about the potential of gaining a career in the film industry, specifically in the Midlands.

*The screening is only open to students of the programme.*

## Mini Movies

**Birr Theatre & Arts Centre** | 12pm

Mini Movies will return to OFFline again this year with thanks to Offaly County Council Arts Office. This year Dillon Cleary and Stephen Kavanagh facilitated a series of live-action short films with the students of SN Seosamh, Blueball, Coláiste Naomh Cormac and Geashill NS.

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



### Shorts to be screened:

**Punt** Nicky Larkin

**Save Me From Heaven** Séan Treacy

**I Think I Hate My Son** Jonny Farrelly

**For the Cure** Conor McCormick

**Dance of the Cranes** Padraig J Dunne

**Standing on the Shoulders** Liam Hall Walshe

**Memories of a Signwriter** David Cotter





## Tipperary on Film

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 5.30pm | €10

OFFline is proud to present Tipperary on Film, a showcase of new work made by filmmakers and artists born in — or living and working in — Tipperary. Previously shown at the Source Arts Centre in Thurles, this special selection brings a number of standout films from that programme to our festival. Join us for an inspiring evening of film, followed by discussion with some of the filmmakers themselves.

### **Shorts to be screened:**

**Scenes from a Tipperary Landscape** Dr. Denis G. Marnane, Caleb Barrett, Mary Alice O'Connor

**First Love** Jack Reardon

**Morality** Davin O'Meara

**Blossom and Bloom** Eoin Ryan Anthony

**Dairy Babes** Patrick Fogarty

**Holy Waters** Patrick Fleming

**#Bog** Lorna Fitzsimons

Thursday 9th



## Beat the Lotto

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 8pm | €12

A rip-roaring tale about the mathematician who, along with a ragtag syndicate, plotted to fix Ireland's National Lottery in 1992, captivating the nation and sparking rabid debate.

In Ireland, the public became obsessed when the National Lottery arrived, none more so than mathematician and avid stamp-collector Stefan Klinecicz. Using mathematical analysis, he reckoned the system could be beaten if he could just gather enough people to form a syndicate to buy every single ticket combination – and front up all the cash, of course. Director Ross Whitaker fashions this unbelievable true story into a gripping thriller, mirroring the tension felt by the public as the lottery authorities caught wind of the plan. With insightful interviews and fantastic archival footage, the film is a look back at Ireland in the 1990s and a compelling tale of one man's attempt to outsmart the system.

Director Ross Whitaker  
Ireland  
1hr 25mins



# Birr Lions Club

## For Primary Schools

### Matilda

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 12.30pm  
€5 per student | Teachers FREE

This film adaptation of a Roald Dahl work tells the story of Matilda Wormwood (Mara Wilson), a gifted girl forced to put up with a crude, distant father (Danny DeVito) and mother (Rhea Perlman). Worse, Agatha Trunchbull (Pam Ferris), the evil principal at Matilda's school, is a terrifyingly strict bully. However, when Matilda realizes she has the power of telekinesis, she begins to defend her friends from Trunchbull's wrath and fight back against her unkind parents.

Directed by Danny DeVito  
1 hr 38 mins  
PG

## Friday 10th



## Meet The Filmmakers + Exquisite Corpse

Craughwell's Pub | 5pm | FREE

Filmmakers from across Ireland, Europe and beyond will gather in Birr throughout the festival, this is the perfect chance to meet new friends and familiar faces. This year at Meet the Filmmakers, we'll be introducing **Exquisite Corpse**, a playful, interactive drawing game that anyone can join.

The best part? No drawing skills required, just grab a seat at the table and add your own twist to the collective artwork. Or, if you prefer, simply relax, mingle, and soak up the atmosphere in **Craughwell's Pub**.

## KinoD Filmmaking Challenge



Day 1 | **The Spot** | Friday 10th | 6.30pm  
**Screening** | Sunday 12th | 7.30pm

KinoD's Weekend Filmmaking Festival comes to Birr this October in association with Film Offaly. Over three days, participants will pitch, shoot, and screen short films — all culminating in a public screening at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre. Whether you're an experienced filmmaker or a complete beginner, KinoD is about collaboration, creativity, and seeing your work on the big screen. No preparation needed, just bring your ideas and energy!

*Sign up / book via @kinodkabaret on Instagram*

## Buried Alive! *Beo Faoin Bhfód*

Jj Houghs Banagher | 3pm | €12

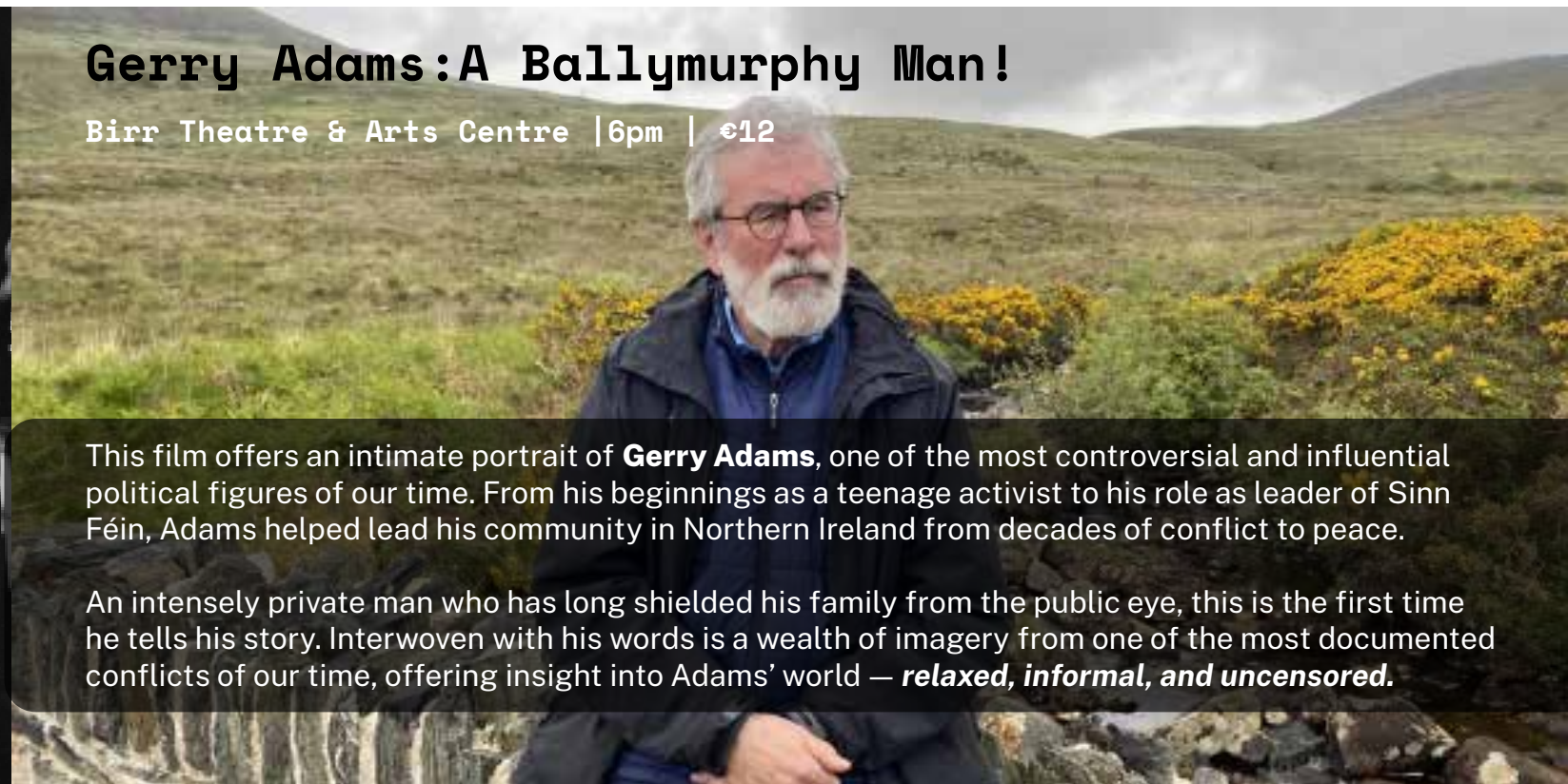
Michael Meaney lifts a glass in salute from inside his coffin,



just hours before being sealed underground for 61 days in Kilburn, London, 1968.

## Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man!

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 6pm | €12



This film offers an intimate portrait of **Gerry Adams**, one of the most controversial and influential political figures of our time. From his beginnings as a teenage activist to his role as leader of Sinn Féin, Adams helped lead his community in Northern Ireland from decades of conflict to peace.

An intensely private man who has long shielded his family from the public eye, this is the first time he tells his story. Interwoven with his words is a wealth of imagery from one of the most documented conflicts of our time, offering insight into Adams' world — **relaxed, informal, and uncensored**.



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# FRIGHT NIGHT

Ballincard House | 7.45PM | €17.50

Bus departing Emmet Square, Birr at 7:45pm  
Screening begins at 8.30pm

**OFFline's spookiest sell-out event returns!**

Join us for a terrifying night of thrills in an exciting new venue, Ballincard House.

This carefully curated programme of horror shorts promises to frighten and entertain in equal measures.

*Capacity is limited so early booking is advised.  
Ticket includes transportation, drink on arrival, films & booking fees.*

**JOIN US IF YOU DARE!**

# Film Camp

Saturday 11th

**VENUE TBA | €20** Join us for a magical morning of hands-on workshops, perfect for young creators and film fans alike! (Recommended for ages 8-12)

**10:00 - 11:00** We kick things off with the ever-popular **Optical Toys Workshop**, as Cian Laffey returns after last year's sold-out class. In this fun and interactive session, Cian will explore the building blocks of film and animation, guiding participants as they design and make their very own optical toys to take home.

**11:10 - 12:10** Next up is **Claymation with Alex Moloney**. If you love creating characters and making movies, this workshop is for you. Alex will show us how to create a character using clay and will then bring them to life in your very own stop motion animation. **Smart phone required.**

**1:10 - 2:00** After a lunch break, we round off the day with a **very special guest**: Luke Taylor is a Birr native and at just 17 years old, Luke has already built a YouTube following of almost 300,000 subscribers. In this session, he'll share insights into how he grew his channel and what it takes to connect with such a huge online audience. **Find Luke over on YouTube @Fnafboi127**

*Please note lunch is not provided*

## Breaking into the Industry **Dooly's Hotel | 10am | FREE**

Thinking about a career in animation? This panel will dig into the different routes into the industry and what to expect along the way.

Moderated by **Ronan O'Toole**, our panel includes **Seán Hogan** (storyboard artist and cartoonist), **Nicky Gogan** (Piranha Bar) and **Róisín Sinai Kelly** (animator). Together they'll chat about their own paths into the world of animation, the skills and supports that helped them get there, and some of the challenges they faced starting out.



*This event is in collaboration with The National Talent Academy for Animation.*

## Masterclass with Seán Hogan *The Art of Storyboarding*

**The Space Above | 1.30pm | €17.50**

Join us for a special masterclass with animation professional Seán Hogan, as he shares how to bring any story to life through the craft of storyboarding.

Seán is a cartoonist and storyboard artist whose credits include work the likes of for Disney, Warner Bros., Nickelodeon, and Apple TV. He has also released three graphic novels, most recently the acclaimed Brotherhood. Now based in Helsinki, Seán continues to work in the heart of the international animation industry while pursuing his own creative projects.

*Limited availability*



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# Animation Shorts

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 11.30 am | €10

Saturday 11th

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 both Irish and International animation shorts.



### Shorts to be screened:

Boglach

Dewdge Center

Unanimated Strangers

Beast inside

Lipstick

ReRooted

I Found a Box

Retirement Plan

Supersilly

Mary Coughlin - Is That

All There Is?

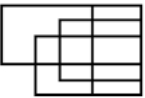
Big Yeti

It All Comes Down

## From Pocket to Premiere

### Smartphone Filmmaking Course Showcase

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 1.30pm | Free



National  
Talent  
Academies

In June, the National Talent Academy for Film & TV Drama, in partnership with FilmOffaly, hosted a Smartphone Filmmaking Course in Offaly. Under the expert guidance of Póca Productions, new and emerging filmmakers from across the Midlands learned the skills of storytelling, shooting, and editing, creating their own short films over several days using their very own smartphones. Now it's time to see the results! Join us for a free special screening of the short films produced during the course.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with some of the filmmakers, alongside representatives from Póca Productions, FilmOffaly, and the NTA all in attendance. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate local talent, gain insights into the smartphone filmmaking process, and find out more about upcoming courses.

The National Talent Academy for Film & TV Drama is an initiative of Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland and is managed by Ardán. Film Offaly is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027.

## Competition Shorts 1

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 3pm | €10

**Sauna Day** | Anna Hints | Estonia

**I do** | Joseph Jones | Ireland

**Un deux trois** | Brooke Dooley | US

**Forbidden Pond** | Eric Jenkins - Sahlin | US

**Amarela** | André Hayato Saito | Brazil

**A Little Bird Told Me** | Sophie Meehan | Ireland

**CURA SANA** | Lucía G. Romero | Spain

## Awards Ceremony

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

Sunday 6pm | Free

After screening of our specially-selected shorts, we'll announce our 2025 OFFline winners.

## Competition Shorts 2

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 5pm | €10

**Boobs** | Nicola Leddy | Ireland

**NADA DE TODO ESTO** | Patricio Martínez, Francisco Cantón | Argentina

**Punter** | Jason Adam Maselle | US

**Early Risers** | George Itzhak, Leila Basma | Czech Republic

**The Ghosts You Draw On My Back** | Nikola Stojanović | Serbia

**Trasna Na Líne** | Niamh Bryson | Ireland

**Home** | Sara Mokhavat | Iran





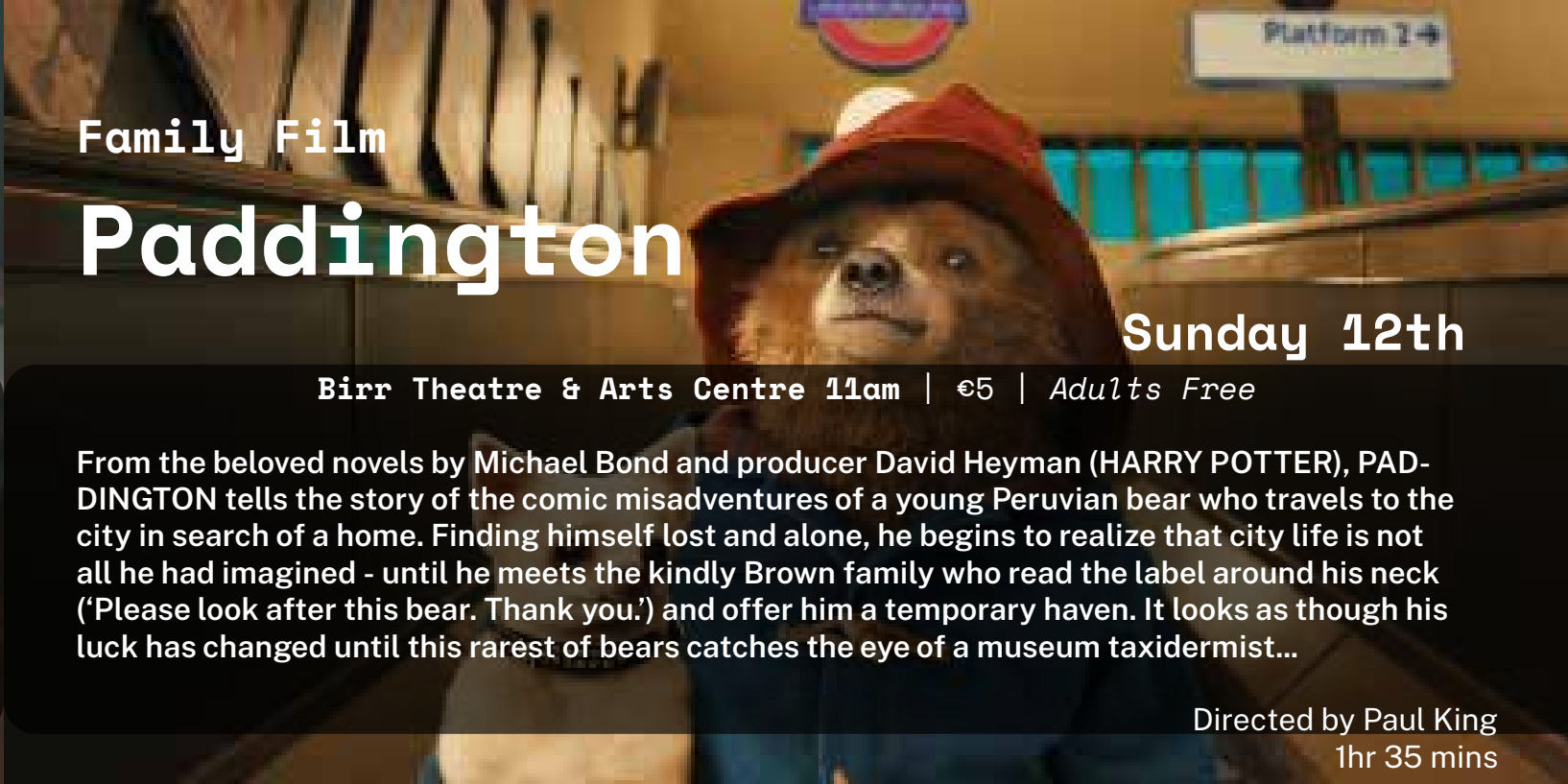
# Spilt Milk

**Saturday 11th**  
 Birr Theatre & Arts Centre | 7.30pm | €12

BOBBY O'BRIEN is an energetic 11 year old boy who dreams of becoming a great detective like his TV hero KOJAK. Bobbys' home is inner-city Dublin in 1984 - a place where Bobby and his best pal NELL CASEY torment their family and friends as they set up their own private investigation enterprise but when his older brother disappears Bobby and Nell have a real case and set out to find him..

SPILT MILK is a deeply moving film which tracks the end of innocence as Bobby unravels the mystery of his missing brother and comes to understand the strength within his family and community and the love of his friends...

Directed by Brian Durnin  
 1hr 31 mins



Family Film

# Paddington

**Sunday 12th**  
 Birr Theatre & Arts Centre 11am | €5 | Adults Free

From the beloved novels by Michael Bond and producer David Heyman (HARRY POTTER), PAD-DINGTON tells the story of the comic misadventures of a young Peruvian bear who travels to the city in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone, he begins to realize that city life is not all he had imagined - until he meets the kindly Brown family who read the label around his neck ('Please look after this bear. Thank you.') and offer him a temporary haven. It looks as though his luck has changed until this rarest of bears catches the eye of a museum taxidermist...

Directed by Paul King  
 1hr 35 mins



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## From Ground Zero €12

**Birr Theatre & Arts Centre** | 1:30pm | Charity Screening

From Ground Zero, Palestine's 2025 Oscars entry, is a powerful anthology of short films showcasing emerging Palestinian artists. Curated by filmmaker Rashid Masharawi and executive produced by Michael Moore, the project offers raw, diverse glimpses into life in Gaza—blending fiction, documentary, animation, and experimental film.

Heartbreaking yet hopeful, the collection captures resilience amid catastrophe, giving voice to people too often reduced to statistics. Once accepted, then pulled from the 2024 Cannes lineup for political reasons, \*From Ground Zero\* stands as both an artistic testament and urgent cry for humanity from a people under siege. 1h 52mins

*All proceeds going to*



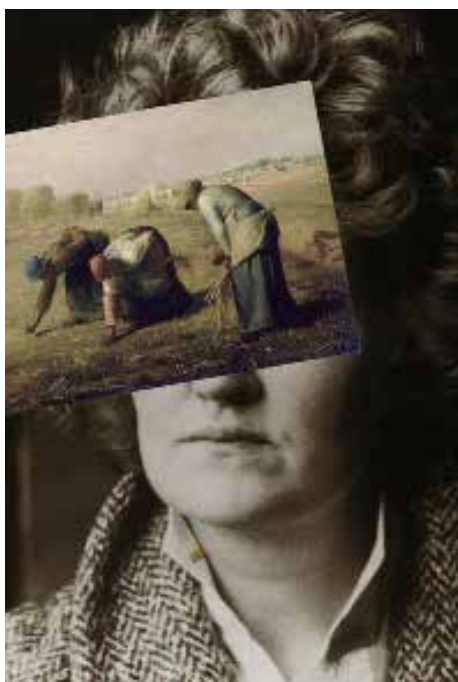
## The Swallow

**Birr Theatre & Arts Centre**  
4pm | €12

An artist (*Brenda Fricker*), isolated from the world but not from her memories, unpacks the remnants of a life long-lived and tries to make sense of her own unwillingness to let go.

Directed by Tadhg O' Sullivan  
1hr 11mins

Feature film funded by The Arts Council.



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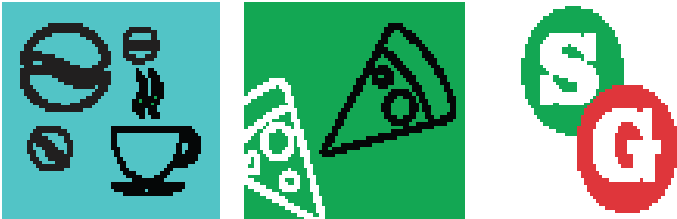
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# Upcoming Festivals

29th October -  
1st November 2025

30th April -  
4th May 2026

31st July - 8th August  
2026

[www.filmoffaly.ie](http://www.filmoffaly.ie)

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## At a Glance

### Wednesday 8th

10am	Careers in Film	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
12pm	Mini Movies	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
2pm	Educational Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
6pm	Exhibition Launch	Birr Library (Open all Week)
7.30pm	Made in Midlands	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

### Thursday 9th

10am 1.30pm	Educational Screenings	Birr Theatre / Esker Arts
5.30pm	Tipperary on Film	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
7.30pm	Made in Midlands	Esker Arts
8pm	Beat the Lotto	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

### Friday 10th

10am	Educational Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
12.30pm	Primary School Film	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
3pm	Buried Alive!	JJ Houghs, Banagher
5pm	Meet the Filmmakers	Craughwell's Pub
6pm	Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
6.30pm	KinoD Challenge	The Spot
7.45pm	Fright Night	From Emmet Square

### Saturday 11th

10am - 2pm	Children's Film Camp	Venue TBA
10am	Breaking into the Industry	Dooly's Hotel
11.30am	Animation Shorts	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
1.30pm	From Pocket to Premiere	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
1.30pm	Seán Hogan Masterclass	The Space Above
3pm 5pm	Competition Shorts 1 & 2	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
7.30pm	Spilt Milk	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
10pm	Wrap Party	Craughwell's Pub

### Sunday 12th

11am	Family Film	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
1.30pm	From Ground Zero	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
4pm	The Swallow	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
6pm	Awards Ceremony	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
7.30pm	KinoD Screening	Birr Theatre & Arts Centre

### ONLINE

[offlinefilmfestival.com](http://offlinefilmfestival.com)

### BOX OFFICE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre  
Oxmantown Mall,  
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### TICKET PRICES

Film Camp | €20

Fright Night | €17.50

Masterclass | €17.50

General Screenings | €12

Charity Screening | €12

Family Film | Child €5

Adults FREE

Educational Screenings | €5

Teachers FREE

Shorts | €10

*Ticket prices include  
bookings fees.*

*Tickets are  
non-refundable*

*Enjoy the Festival!*