



Irish Film Institute

IFI

Documentary

Festival

September 27– October 1
2017

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OPENING FILM –
IRISH PREMIERE

Nothingwood

September 27th (20.20)

F
RATED

A rousing tribute to the Ed Wood of Afghan filmmaking, Sonia Kronlund's delightful *Nothingwood* (the title being a wry spin on a more resourced filmmaking community) follows the gonzo efforts of Afghan actor/producer/director Salim Shaheen and his ramshackle repertory group as they embark upon the auteur's 110th no-budget action feature, leading the increasingly anxious Kronlund deep into Taliban-controlled territory. Though undeniably schlocky, Shaheen's movies provide some measure of levity to a nation that has been mired in one conflict or another for decades. **DOM**

DIRECTOR: SONIA KRONLUND • 85 MINS • 2017 • FRANCE/GERMANY • DIGITAL • SUBTITLED

This screening will be followed by a wine reception in the IFI foyer.



Loving Lorna

September 28th (18.20)

F
RATED

Caring for horses gives purpose and joy to Lorna, a 17-year-old living in the Dublin suburb of Ballymun. A fiercely capable and determined young woman, she has her heart set on becoming a farrier, a traditionally male preserve. Her unemployed father, who shares her love of horses, and her sick mother support her every step of the way. But her constant back pain threatens to scupper her plans. This tender coming-of-age story is a quietly respectful portrait of a young woman with a dream. **SOF**

DIR: ANNIKA KARLSSON & JESSICA KARLSSON
60 MINS • 2017 • SWEDEN • DIGITAL



The Good Postman

September 28th (20.30)

The inhabitants of Great Derwent, a scenic yet economically depressed Bulgarian village on the Turkish border, are split by opposing responses to the Syrian refugee crisis; some are threatened by the prospect of migrants, others - such as Ivan, the titular postman and town mayoral candidate - see the welcoming of refugees as their best chance for rejuvenation. Ivan faces stiff competition in the electoral race from a younger campaigner espousing traditional values and isolationism in a battle that serves as a microcosm of tensions simmering across Europe. **DOM**

DIRECTOR: TONISLAV HRISTOV • 80 MINS • 2016
FINLAND/BULGARIA • DIGITAL • SUBTITLED



Whose Streets?

September 29th (18.30)

F
RATED

The shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown by police in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014 triggered mass demonstrations and rioting; the incendiary *Whose Streets?* captures the escalating situation with an in-the-moment immediacy, incorporating the perspectives of both newly-radicalised protestors and ordinary residents unintentionally caught up in an international news story. The film chronicles how the Ferguson flashpoint informed the nascent Black Lives Matter activist movement and exposes the deep-seeded tensions between the US police and the African American community. **DOM**

DIRECTORS: SABA AH FOLAYAN/DAMON DAVIS
90 MINS 2017 • USA • DIGITAL



Chavela

September 29th (20.30)

Chavela Vargas revolutionised Mexican traditional singing in the 1950s whilst challenging heterocultural norms in the process. An unabashedly out, trouser-wearing lesbian singing ranchero music typically reserved for men, she was an iconic, hugely successful figure. With a wealth of archival and concert footage, directors Gund and Kyi navigate the peaks and troughs of her astonishing life, from initial fame to the alcoholic wilderness years, to her rediscovery by Pedro Almodóvar in the 1990s when she was selling out stadiums until her death at the age of 93 in 2012. **DOM**

DIRECTORS: CATHERINE GUND/DARESHA KYI
91 MINS • 2017 • USA/MEXICO/SPAIN
DIGITAL • SUBTITLED



Shorts Programme

September 30th (12.30)

A selection of contemporary short-form Irish documentary films, including: Mia Mullarkey's *Throwline*, a portrait of late-night taxi drivers whose mission is suicide prevention; Deirdre O'Toole's *Faraway Land*; Mairéad Ní Thréinir's *Tit for Tatt*, a portrait of breast cancer survivors reclaiming their identity; Mike Hannon's *The Cloud of Unknowing*; Bob Gallagher's *The Impossible Flight of the Stone*; Maurice Gunning's *Sekar Arum*; and Kristin Vollset's *No Plan*, the story of a young Norwegian street musician who finds herself immersed in the world of Dublin's horse-riding youths. **DK**

DIRECTORS: VARIOUS • 85 MINS • 2016-2017
IRELAND • DIGITAL



Butterfly City

September 30th (13.00)

The Lithuanian town of Visaginas is just forty years old but already it faces an uncertain future. Created to service a nuclear power plant which showcased the wonders of Soviet technology to the West, the city floundered with its closure following the disintegration of the USSR. The inhabitants, who came from across the USSR to work and live in this utopian city, now face hardship and political hostility, but work gamely to maintain their culture and their morale. **SOF**

DIRECTOR: OLGA ČERNOVAITĖ • 95 MINS
2017 • IRELAND/BELGIUM/DENMARK • DIGITAL
SUBTITLED



Motherland

September 30th (15.15)

A fly-on-the-wall portrait of the Jose Fabella Hospital in Manila, an overcrowded and underfunded facility that boasts the world's busiest maternity ward; poor education and distrust for contraception accounts for the cycle of pregnancy and childbirth the young mothers find themselves caught in. Although economic deprivation is part of her thesis, Diaz's approach is empathetic, foregrounding the tireless work of doctors and nurses and the unique experiences of their patients in the seemingly chaotic wards where a spirit of camaraderie prevails. **DOM**

DIRECTOR: RAMONA S. DIAZ • 94 MINS • 2017
PHILIPPINES/USA • DIGITAL • SUBTITLED

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Ramona S. Diaz.



Rocky Ros Muc

September 30th (16.00)

Seán Mannon, a talented boxer from the quiet Gaeltacht village of Ros Muc, Co Galway, left Ireland for Boston in the 1970s and rose to the heights of New York's Madison Square Gardens where, in October 1984, he fought for the WBA light middleweight crown. This is the story of his life inside and outside the ring. It is a story about the complexity of exile, about survival, honour, and community which he shares with thousands of emigrants like him. **SOF**

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL FANNING • 92 MINS • 2017
IRELAND/UK/USA • DIGITAL • SUBTITLED

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Michael Fanning and producer Máire Bhreathnach.



Jaha's Promise

September 30th (18.10)

Jaha is a young woman who returns home from the US to the Gambia to lead a campaign against female genital mutilation (FGM), the brutal procedure that she suffered as a baby and which almost destroyed her life. Jaha doesn't seek sympathy: she demands respect for the rights of girls and women no matter what society they live in. This film is the story of her relentless struggle and the stunning victory that brought radical change to her society. **SOF**

DIRECTORS: PATRICK FARRELLY/KATE O'CALLAGHAN • 80 MINS • 2017 • IRELAND/USA • DIGITAL

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with directors Patrick Farrelly and Kate O'Callaghan, and Jaha Dukureh.





Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked The World

F
RATED

September 30th (20.40)

Jimi Hendrix and Robbie Robertson are just two of the legends featured in this film that sheds welcome light onto the role played by Native Americans in the history of popular music. Presented as a series of vignettes, with terrific archival footage and interviews from luminaries such as Iggy Pop, Buddy Guy and Martin Scorsese, *Rumble* covers nearly one hundred years of music encompassing Delta Blues and jazz to contemporary hip hop by way of rock'n'roll, taking 'Link' Wray Jr.'s seminal guitar instrumental 'Rumble' as a point of departure. **DOM**
DIRECTORS: CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE/
ALFONSO MAIORANA • 103 MINS • 2017 • USA
DIGITAL



It Tolls For Thee

F
RATED

October 1st (13.00)

Irishwoman Mary Elmes (1908-2002) is a remarkable unsung heroine who saved hundreds of children from the horrors of the Spanish Civil War and from the concentration camps of World War II. In a film narrated by Winona Ryder, Andrew Gallimore pieces together the jigsaw of her life from compelling archives and from the contributions of those who escaped the death camps thanks to her efforts. This is a story of unadulterated goodness set in a world of seemingly all-consuming darkness. **SOF**
DIRECTOR: ANDREW GALLIMORE • 74 MINS
2017 • IRELAND • DIGITAL



Makala

October 1st (13.20)

The arduous journey of a rural Congolese charcoal maker (*makala* means coal in Swahili) as he first prepares and then transports his precarious burden on top of a bicycle to sell in town is the unlikely subject of Emmanuel Gras's profoundly moving, experiential film, a deserving winner of Best Film at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival's Critics' Week. The director shadows his subject – twenty-eight-year-old Kabwita Kasongo – on his lengthy and gruelling trek without engaging in or resorting to sentiment, and as such *Makala* is an extraordinary piece of documentary observation. **DOM**
DIRECTOR: EMMANUEL GRAS • 96 MINS • 2017
FRANCE • DIGITAL • SUBTITLED



Spettacolo

October 1st (15.00)

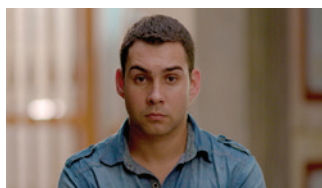
For over fifty years the amateur theatre group of Monticchiello, a tiny hilltop village in Tuscany, has staged original productions inspired by the lives of the villagers themselves. The tradition began after WWII as the townsfolk sought to engage creatively with the collective trauma of the conflict; nowadays the focus has become the ongoing financial crisis. This elegiac film captures the theatre at a time of flux as funding has become scarce and the original players, now elderly consider the future of the 'town that played itself'. **DOM**
DIRECTORS: JEFF MALMBERG/CHRIS SHELLEN
91 MINS • 2017 • USA/ITALY • DIGITAL
SUBTITLED



A Cambodian Spring

October 1st (15.30)

An intimate portrait of three people caught up in the chaotic and often violent developments shaping modern-day Cambodia. Shot by Irish director Chris Kelly over six years, the film charts the gradual politicisation of two young mothers and one Buddhist monk, the growing wave of land-rights protests that led to the 'Cambodian Spring', and the tragic events that followed. Winner at Toronto Hot Docs for Best International Feature, the film is about the complexities, both political and personal, of fighting for what you believe in. **SOF**
DIRECTOR: CHRIS KELLY • 126 MINS • 2017
UK/IRELAND/CAMBODIA • DIGITAL • SUBTITLED
The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Chris Kelly.



Elián

October 1st (17.10)

Three miles off the coast of Florida a five-year-old Cuban boy, Elián González, is rescued from a sinking boat. 11 other passengers, including the boy's mother, have drowned. The film plots how the custody battle between the boy's Cuban father and his Miami-based relatives was a microcosm of turbulent relations between US and Cuba. Based on an exciting story with unprecedented access to Elián, his family, and key players in the saga, this is documentary story-telling at its best. **SOF**
DIRECTORS: TIM GOLDEN/ROSS MCDONNELL
108 MINS • 2017 • IRELAND/USA • DIGITAL
SUBTITLED
The screening will be followed by a Q&A with producer Trevor Birney.

WORLD PREMIERE

Kevin Roche: The Quiet Architect

October 1st (20.20)

Still working at the age of 95, Pritzker Prize winning Irish-American architect Kevin Roche has reached the top of his profession, but has not sought fame and little is known about him outside architectural circles. He has worked to ensure people's well-being by bringing nature into the buildings they inhabit. His philosophies can be seen in his glorious buildings throughout the US – from the Oakland Museum in California to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. His only Irish work is the Convention Centre, Dublin. **SOF**

DIRECTOR: MARK NOONAN • 82 MINS • 2017 • IRELAND/US • DIGITAL

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Mark Noonan and producer John Flahive.

Festival Guests

**Mark Noonan and
John Flahive**



Mark is an Irish film director working in documentary and drama. His feature film *You're Ugly Too* premiered at the 2015 Berlinale and was the winner of Best Debut Feature at the 2015 Galway Film Fleadh. *Kevin Roche: The Quiet Architect* is his follow-up and documentary feature debut. John Flahive is an Irish producer who also makes his debut with *Kevin Roche: The Quiet Architect*. Before this he worked for many years as a sales agent representing films at markets and festivals worldwide.

Tickets

- **Tickets** cost €11 except for the opening film which includes a post-screening reception (€15). Free list suspended.
- **Daily Membership** costs €1.50 (which will be added to the individual ticket price).
- **Become an IFI Member!**
Membership is required for all festival films. Day membership of €1.50 will be added to the price of your ticket if you are not a member, so why not become an IFI Member for only €35 (€20 for concessions) per annum! Enjoy fascinating and award-winning cinema all year round for less and a host of other benefits. Sign up at the IFI Box Office or online.
- **Special Package Price** 5 films for €45. Available in person at the IFI Box Office only.
- **IFI Café Bar** Enjoy a delicious meal in the intimate surrounds of our fully licensed IFI Café Bar. Reservations: (01) 679 8712.

Booking

www.ifi.ie/docfest

IFI Box Office
01 679 3477

6 Eustace Street
Temple Bar, Dublin 2

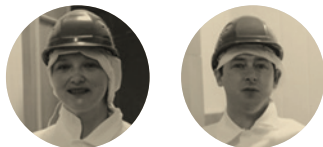


Any film that is directed by a woman, and/or is written by a woman, and/or features significant women on screen in their own right will receive an F-rating.

Programme notes by:
David O'Mahony (DOM)
Sunniva O'Flynn (SOF)
Dean Kavanagh (DK)

Festival Guests

**Olga Černovaitė and
Jeremiah Cullinane**



Olga Černovaitė initially studied chemistry at Vilnius University before studying Film at the Baltic Film & Media School in Estonia. She has been living in Ireland for the past five years, and *Butterfly City* is her second documentary film. Jeremiah Cullinane studied film at Concordia University, Montreal, and ESEC, Paris. In 2005 he co-founded Dublin-based production company Planet Korda Pictures through which he directs and produces mainly creative feature documentaries for the international market.

**Michael Fanning and
Máire Bhreathnach**



Michael Fanning is an award-winning producer and director who has produced a range of current affairs and factual programmes for both network and regional broadcasters. He is Managing Director of Below the Radar. Máire Bhreathnach is originally from the Donegal Gaeltacht of Gort a Choire. She is a respected broadcaster and producer and has presented a number of TV series for both TG4 and BBC NI.

**Patrick Farrelly and
Kate O'Callaghan**



Patrick Farrelly and Kate O'Callaghan worked with Michael Moore in the 1990s on his award-winning satirical series, *TV Nation* and the *Awful Truth*. Their HBO documentary *Left of the Dial* was Emmy nominated. *Nuala*, a film they made about Nuala O'Faolain, won Best Irish Film at the Dublin Film Festival, and *Voices from the Grave*, a film about the IRA's Brendan Hughes and the UVF's David Ervine, won an IFTA for Best Documentary.

Ramona S Diaz



Ramona S Diaz is an award-winning Asian-American filmmaker best known for her compelling character-driven documentaries that combine a profound appreciation for cinematic aesthetics and potent storytelling. Her films include *Spirits Rising*, *Imelda*, *The Learning*, and *Don't Stop Believin': Everyman's Journey*. *Motherland*, screening at the IFI Documentary Festival, won the Best Editing award in the World Cinema Documentary category at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival.

Chris Kelly



Chris Kelly is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and the founder of Little Ease Films. He has spent the last nine years making his first feature documentary 'A Cambodian Spring' which recently won the Special Jury Prize for International Feature Documentary at Hot Docs 2017 and Best Documentary at the Brooklyn Film Festival 2017. He is a regular contributor to the Guardian newspaper and is currently developing an animated feature film about slavery in the Thai fishing industry.

Jaha Dukureh



Jaha Dukureh was born in the Gambia in West Africa. She underwent female genital mutilation as a baby and, at 15, Jaha was taken to New York to marry a man she'd never met before. In 2014 she launched a successful Gambian campaign against FGM and child marriage. In 2016 Time named her one of the 100 Most Influential People. She is a leader of continent-wide campaign against FGM and child marriage in Africa.



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