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IE ANNOUNCING THE IRISH FILM FESTIVAL LOS ANGELES 2026 IE

A Celebration of Irish Film

March 20th–22nd, 2026

Laemmle Monica Film Center

1332 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401

The **Irish Film Festival Los Angeles**, presented by CIACLA, returns this March for a three-day celebration of **contemporary Irish cinema**, bringing bold storytelling, award-winning films, and visiting filmmakers to the heart of Santa Monica. Across one packed weekend, IrishFFLA26 presents a diverse programme of **feature films, documentaries, vertical cinema, and Oscar-nominated short films**, showcasing both established voices and exciting emerging talent.

Tickets on sale now : www.ciacla.com/film

PACKED PROGRAMME

This year's festival showcases **nine feature films**, including **three feature documentaries**, reflecting the breadth, ambition, and international reach of Irish filmmaking today. Short-form cinema sits at the heart of the festival, with **30 short films** screening across **four carefully curated programmes**, celebrating narrative, documentary, and hybrid storytelling. The programme also includes a **vertical film presentation**, responding to the evolving ways audiences experience film today.

Irish-Language Cinema

The 2026 programme proudly celebrates **Irish-language (Gaeilge) cinema**, with several

Irish-language films featured across both feature and short selections, reaffirming the festival's commitment to cultural and linguistic diversity.

Women & Diverse Voices

This year's lineup includes **14 women directors**, alongside a wide range of voices and perspectives, including **LGBTQ+ stories**, Irish-language films, documentaries, and work from both emerging and established filmmakers.

FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS & VISITING FILMMAKERS

The festival opens on **Friday, March 20th** with the award-winning **Horseshoe**, followed by a Q&A with actor **Neill Fleming**. Later that evening, audiences will hear from director **Donncha Gilmore** following his award-winning debut feature **Girls & Boys**.

On **Saturday, March 21st**, director **Ronan McCloskey** joins us for a discussion after **Éire agus na Chéad Náisiúin (Ireland and the First Nations)**. The day also features **Craig Stuart Garfinkle**, attending as director of *The Unsinkable Entrepreneur* and composer on the Irish-language feature **Báite**.

On **Sunday, March 22nd**, a special screening of **I Hope We Can Still Be Friends** is followed by a Q&A with director **Aisha Tyler**, actor **Caroline Morahan**, and producer **Jordan Lee McGrath**. The festival closes with **Christy**, featuring a discussion led by writer **Alan O'Gorman**.

The festival also proudly presents the award-winning documentary **Listen to the Land Speak**, featuring the late **Manchán Magan**, alongside **The Reckoning of Erin Morrigan** and the vertical short **Pizza Guys vs Vampires**, with writer **Mat Raney** in attendance.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMMES

Across four curated shorts programmes, IrishFFLA26 celebrates over **30 short films** with attending filmmakers and creatives throughout the weekend.

- **New Voices** includes the Oscar-nominated **Retirement Plan**, with a Q&A featuring **Joe Conlon** (*Dive*) and **Enda Gallery** (*Anxiety*).
- **The Auteurs** features **Kevin Ryan**, **Richie Stephens**, and **David Golden** from *Divorce Roulette*.
- **The Futures** welcomes **Joseph Jones** and **Patrick Sheldon** (*I Do*), alongside **George Hutton**, **Nathan Ward**, and **Chris McKenna** (*Scáth*).
- **The Contemporaries** includes a Q&A with **Alan O'Gorman** (*Mouse*) and **John Christopher** (*The Axe Forgets*).


PANELS & INDUSTRY CONVERSATIONS

The festival hosts three panel discussions across the weekend:

- **Friday 20th** – AI: The Future of Filmmaking? with **Ben Hansford** and **Gavin Kelly**, moderated by **Mat Raney**.
- **Saturday 21st** – Vertical Format Film: Just Hitting America – Is It Here to Stay? with **Dana Protsyshak**, **Daniel Cotroneo**, and **Paige Compton**, moderated by **Kristin Matthews**.
- **Sunday 22nd** – Stunts in Film with **Quartay DeNaya**, **Josh Mabie**, and **Kendall Wells**, moderated by **Zegan Doyle**.


BEYOND THE SCREENINGS

Alongside screenings, Q&As, and panels, **pass holders are invited to evening social events**, offering relaxed spaces to connect, talk film, and celebrate Irish cinema together.

 **Festival Director Matthew Nevin says:** “From powerful dramas to bold new voices and standout short films, this year’s Irish Film Festival Los Angeles celebrates the range, ambition, and creativity of contemporary Irish cinema. We’re really looking forward to welcoming audiences for a few great days of film, conversation, and celebration.”

Festival Team & Support

IrishFFLA26 is directed by Matthew Nevin, managed by Jenny Minniti Shippey, and coordinated by Jenn McGuirk. Kindly supported by The Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, Screen Ireland, ELMA, TG4, MART Gallery & Studios, LA County Arts & Culture, and The Irish Film Institute’s IFI International programme in connection with Culture Ireland and Arts Council Ireland.

 **Community** - Senior and unemployed discounts are available. Please email info@ciacla.com for details.

 **Full Details and Tickets available now – www.ciacla.com/film**

Contact: info@ciacla.com

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Executive Director @ CIACLA

Contemporary Irish Arts Center Los Angeles

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