

## PRESS RELEASE

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## CHICAGO IRISH FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR 27TH YEAR WITH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE SCREENINGS

*Festival opens February 26 with the Midwest premiere of BÁITE, plus award-winning features, documentaries, and a robust shorts program*

**CHICAGO (Jan. 25, 2026)** — The Chicago Irish Film Festival (CIFF) returns for its 27th year with a lineup of feature films, documentaries, and shorts that capture the evolving voice of Irish storytelling. The festival takes place in person at AMC New City from February 26 through March 1. An exclusive online edition runs concurrently from February 26 through March 8.

Anchored by the theme *One Heart, Many Homes*, this year's festival presents 20 feature films and documentaries alongside a curated selection of short films chosen from more than 300 submissions. It spans genres from intimate dramas and dark comedies to political documentaries and experimental work. These films offer a snapshot of contemporary Irish cinema, spanning both English- and Irish-language work.

CIFF opens on February 26 with the Midwest premiere of *Báite*, directed by Irish Film and Television Award (IFTA) nominee Ruán Magan and starring IFTA nominee Eleanor O'Brien, alongside Moe Dunford and Oisín Mistéil. Winner of Best Irish Language Film at the 2025 Galway Film Fleadh, *Báite* unfolds over a sweltering weekend in 1970s Ireland, blending intimate family tensions with a murder mystery that reveals unspoken truths.

Highlights from this year's program include:

**Aontas:** An IFTA nominee for Best Film with six total nominations. The film follows three unlikely thieves attempting to rob a rural Irish credit union.

**Sanatorium:** Ireland's official submission for the 98th Academy Awards and winner of Best Irish Feature Documentary at the 2025 Galway Film Fleadh. Set inside a fading Ukrainian health resort, the film captures moments of tenderness and resilience under the shadow of war.

**Saipan:** The top nominee at the Irish Film and Television Awards with 12 nominations, it is one of the most anticipated Irish releases of the year. The film dramatizes Roy Keane's explosive clash with Republic of Ireland manager Mick McCarthy on the eve of the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

**Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man:** Winner of Best International Documentary at the 2025 Galway Film Fleadh. The film reflects on more than six decades of political life through one of Northern Ireland's most complex figures.

**BP Fallon: Rock 'n' Roll Wizard:** The film traces the life of the legendary Irish tastemaker whose career placed him alongside artists from The Beatles and Led Zeppelin to U2.

**A Quiet Love:** An intimate documentary told entirely through Irish Sign Language. The film follows three Deaf couples as they navigate love, family, and profound personal choice.

The festival's shorts program features nearly 50 films organized around the overarching theme *Life, In Motion*, presented across five narrative strands and a dedicated documentary showcase. Highlighted shorts in this year's programs include Academy Award short listed animated film *Eiru* from Cartoon Saloon about the smallest child of an Iron-Age clan who wants to be a mighty warrior, IFTA nominated *Three Keenings* set across the rural funeral circuit of Northern Ireland and the award winning documentary *John Gunning: Big in Japan*, the story of Ireland's most successful sumo wrestler.

Some of CIFF's most quietly powerful offerings live in its **Online Festival** program, where films about memory, labor, and migration widen the festival's emotional map. Discover the history of young Irish nurses working for Britain's NHS in *Emerald Nightingales* who crossed the Irish Sea in the mid-20th century after being denied nursing training at home. Marvel at a man named "Tip" a early 20<sup>th</sup> century Irish-Argentinian ballad writer who once travelled across the pampas in *The Trackless Wild*, applaud the determination and resilience of Bernard Phelan, and Irish-French man, who survived eight months in Iran's "Satan Block" in his memoir documentary *You Will Die in Prison*. And the festival is delighted to be presenting *All Our Yesterdays* which traces 250 years of Irish history through Swinford. The Online Festival will also include two curated shorts programs and additional feature films

Audiences will have opportunities throughout the festival to connect with filmmakers through post-screening Q&As and special appearances. These conversations remain a core part of CIFF's mission and atmosphere.

## **Ticketing Information:**

Passes and tickets for the 2026 Chicago Irish Film Festival are currently available through the Chicago Irish Film Festival website. Single ticket sales begin February 1, 2026

**In-Theater Festival Pass:** \$135

**Online Festival Pass:** \$45

**Opening Night (*Báite* – Midwest Premiere):** \$60 (Feb. 1–15); \$75 (beginning Feb. 16)

**Individual In-Person Tickets:** \$14 adults, \$12 seniors, \$8 students ages 13+, \$5 children ages 6–12

All In Theatre screenings will take place at AMC New City, Suite C301, located at 1500 N. Clybourn Avenue in Chicago. All **Online Festival** screenings will take place on Elevent. Full program details and ticket information are available at [www.chicagoirishfilmfestival.com](http://www.chicagoirishfilmfestival.com).

Presenting sponsors of the 2026 festival include the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme, Culture Ireland, the Consulate General of Ireland - Chicago, Screen Ireland and the Irish Film Institute.

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## **About the Chicago Irish Film Festival**

Founded in 1999, the Chicago Irish Film Festival is dedicated to presenting the work of Irish filmmakers and opening a window onto contemporary Irish life. The festival showcases films that draw on a long artistic tradition while engaging directly with social, cultural, and political realities.

CIFF presents both English and Irish-language films while seeking out voices from across Ireland and the global Irish community. Now in its 27th year, the festival continues to connect filmmakers and audiences in Chicago and beyond through stories that linger long after the screen goes dark.