



BRITISH & IRISH FILM FESTIVAL LUXEMBOURG

AUTUMN
Edition

14-21
SEPTEMBER
2025



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WELCOME

We are delighted to be back with another festival edition of wonderful contemporary storytelling on the big screen.

As this festival is curated (as distinct from attracting submissions), I have again attended the **Galway Film Fleadh** in the west of Ireland in the summer, arguably the best community film festival there is; and this year I was in London to attend the **London Screenings** for the first time – an industry-only event involving both screenings and networking. Attending these events has not only allowed me to watch a number of film premiers with a view of possibly bringing them over to the Grand Duchy, but also to meet industry professionals from both in front of, and behind, the camera.

Documentaries have traditionally score very highly with our audiences and for this edition we have no less than five feature films in this genre, including **"Mrs Robinson"** telling the story of Mary Robinson, human rights advocate and Ireland's first female president, **"The Negotiator"** about George Mitchell, the US envoy who brokered the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, **"A Sip of Irish"** which presents a fascinating insight into leading Irish involvement in many of the world's finest drinks, **"We Only Want the Earth"**, an in-depth historical look at James Connolly, a socialist at the heart of the 1916 Easter Rising, and **"Flight 149: Hostage of War"**, with investigative journalism and first-hand accounts recalling the extraordinary story of the 1990 BA hostage crisis in Kuwait.

But we kick off with an Avant Premier of the final chapter in the Downton Abbey period drama with a **BIFFL Presents...** of **"Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale"** set in the 1930s, and we will have another **BIFFL Presents...** screening on October with **"Plainclothes"**, a novel scripted drama.

In between we have a wonderful selection of dramas, from **"Signs of Life"** and **"Sunphlowers"** both addressing storylines about people rebuilding their lives following grief/loss, and **"Dragonfly"** exploring inter-generational friendships with tremendous acting performances. We are also delighted to include in our festival line-up **"Fran the Man"**, a great contemporary Irish comedy, **"Spilt Milk"**, a strong drama with an original script set at the same time as The Commitments (1991) and addressing similar themes, and **"Aontas"**, an Irish-language heist told in reverse.

We will open on Sunday 14 September with the Welsh-produced **"Brides"**, the compelling story of two teenage girls who decide to flee their dysfunctional home and school life, travelling to Syria; and will close with the Luxembourgish-Irish co-production **"Re-Creation"** co-directed by Jim Sheridan and David Merriman, and starring Luxembourg's Vicky Krieps, about jury deliberations during a fictional trial about the infamous murder of French film-maker, Sophie Toscan Du Plantier.

In similar fashion to our previous collaboration with the Luxembourg City Film Festival for the screening of the Luxembourgish-English-Dutch co-production **"Poison"**, we are delighted to now collaborate with CinEast for the screening of **"Sanatorium"**, an Irish-Ukrainian-French co-production recently announced as Ireland's entry into the 2026 Academy Awards Best International Feature Film category.

We also have a **Shorts Evening** at which the winners of the **Young Filmmakers Competition 2024-25** will present their follow-up documentary filmed in Galway this summer (**World Premier!**), and at which we will launch the 2025-26 competition, including new categories... The evening will include no less than seven short films, including 2 animated shorts and 2 Irish-language shorts.

Our **Volunteers** are the heartbeat of our festival; we are saddened to learn of the recent passing of Michael Dubrule whose commitment and infectious enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

Dates for your Diary: the British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg 2026 Spring Edition will be held between Thursday 19 and Sunday 22 March 2026.

Enjoy!

Geoff THOMPSON

Organiser of the British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg (BIFFL)
President of Festival Events Asbl





We ensure that everyone in our community becomes inspired, resilient and passionate about achieving what matters, anywhere in the world.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

16th Annual Festival

In 2025 we are celebrating the 16th annual festival in which are following the same successful format as in 2023 and in 2024, namely having a Spring Edition (22-29 March) and an Autumn Edition (14-21 September). The programming includes films of various genres from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Gaelic Language Film

We try to include one or more Gaelic-language films, and have screened films in Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh and Manx Gaelic in previous editions: this time round we are delighted to include AONTAS in Irish Gaelic (with EN sub-titles).

Short Films

Our **Shorts Evening** will take place on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at Ciné Utopia; this will include a number of different drama, comedy and animation short films, and will also include the follow-up documentary by the winners of the **2024-25 Young Filmmakers Competition** in addition to the launch of the **2025-26 Young Filmmakers Competition** including news about the new categories.

Win Tickets on Social Media

Win tickets to our future screenings - follow us on Facebook and Instagram to find our upcoming competitions

Win tickets to the closing night - review us
(see voting slip or request a card from our wonderful volunteers)

Win tickets to our future screenings - follow us on Facebook and Instagram to find out about our upcoming competitions and our upcoming festivals and the awesome films we screen between them.



@BIFFLux and #Bifflux

Linktree



SOCIAL MEDIA

The festival's Autumn Edition will be active throughout the festival on social media, specifically Facebook ("British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg"), Twitter (@BIFFLux, #BIFFLUX) and Instagram (@BIFFLux), so start liking, following, tweeting, tagging, sharing and more!




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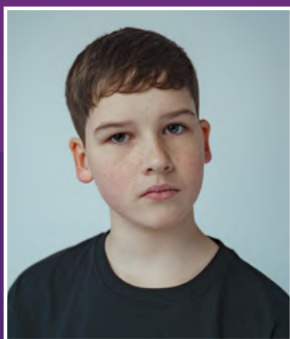
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SPECIAL GUESTS

Our Special Guests make our screenings special - we're delighted to have those below attend the screenings of the their films and take part in Q&As involving audience members.



Cillian Sullivan

Actor, Spilt Milk



Charles Kristiansson

Actor, Flight 149: Hostage of War



Claire Johnston

Actor, Re-Creation



Gilbert Johnston

Actor, Re-Creation

OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS WILL BE CONFIRMED
AND COMMUNICATED ABOUT IN DUE COURSE.

The British Ladies Club of Luxembourg presents

Gala Night

Saturday 11th of October

Parc Alvisse

Dinner, drinks and dance floor...



Open to members and non-members - Registration and info: events@blc.lu

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Community highlights

AWARDS & COMPETITIONS

Critics' Award

The Association Luxembourgeoise de la Presse Cinématographie (ALPC) will once again oversee the Critics' Award voted by Luxembourg Film Critics. The eligible films this year include **Brides, Dragonfly, Signs of Life, Fran the Man, Spilt Milk, Aontas and Sunphlowers** (dramas), and **A Sip of Irish, We Only Want the Earth, The Negotiator, Flight 149: Hostage of War and Mrs Robinson** (documentaries).

Audience Award

The **Audience Award** is an opportunity for you to be directly involved in the event, by becoming a judge and vote on the films you see. All the above films (for the **Critics' Award**), are eligible as well as the **BIFFL Presents...** screening of **Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale**. The most popular (winning) film announced at the **Closing Screening** on Sunday 21 September.

Audience Prize

Two of the voting slips used in the Audience Award above will be drawn after the last screening on Saturday 20 September, with the winners invited to attend the festival's **Spring Edition Awards** held prior to the **Closing Screening** on Sunday 21 September, at which they will be presented with a Magnum of Crémant from Bernard-Massard and a Hamper from Home from Home.*

* If the winner drawn is unable to attend the Awards and Closing Screening in person, another winner will be drawn in their place.



Ireland Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce

Established in 2013, the Ireland Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce (ILCC) has entered its second decade as a dynamic bilateral chamber connecting two small, open economies—Ireland and Luxembourg. As a business association, our mission is to foster meaningful connections between individuals and companies across the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Ireland.

Whether you're new to the ILCC or considering joining, we invite you to attend one of our events, expand your network, and discover how we can help you build bridges across borders. Join us. Be informed. Get connected.

info@ILCC.lu



ACCESSIBILITY, SUSTAINABILITY, DIGNITY CODE

ACCESSIBILITY

We try to use screening rooms in commercial cinemas with wheelchair access (e.g. #1, #2 at Ciné Utopia, Kinoler). Re the Cinémathèque, they plan to incorporate wheelchair access when renovations start in 2025



Hearing impaired ?

We include films with subtitles whenever possible

SUSTAINABILITY

Travel

We encourage use of public transport (/train, tram, bus) to all venues (Cinémathèque, Ciné Utopia, Kinoler) with Kinoler accessible via train to Kleinbettingen, then a 15-minute walk.

Plastics

Since 2020 we no longer use single-use plastics (straws, cutlery, cups) at post-screening receptions. We also use glass bottles for all drinks at receptions.

For completing voting slips, we have acquired a supply of branded bamboo pens and we no longer use plastic tube pens. We re-use these wherever possible and encourage our audiences to return them after use.

Printing

We are reducing the number of brochures printed to reduce waste; while we also have full details online, replacing printed brochures is not the answer yet as many of our audience members still prefer printed brochures.

Other festivals have experienced a significant drop in votes when changing from paper voting slips to digital means; we are examining ways to avoid printing these.

Film delivery

The vast majority of films are delivered digitally to the venues to eliminate waste and unnecessary production and transport.

DIGNITY CODE

Everyone working for, volunteering for and attending screenings and other events within the festival should always feel safe and comfortable. Should this not be the case, please contact the festival director, Geoff THOMPSON, or another board member - see <https://festivalevents.lu/about-us>



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INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
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*Congratulations to Aisling Guilfoyle,
2025 Luxembourg Rose*



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AND PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL EVENTS?

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<https://irishclub.lu/join/>





NEW YEAR AT **GOERES HOTELS**



NEW YEAR'S EVE AT PARC BELAIR HOTEL

Experience an unforgettable New Year's Eve in a chic and welcoming setting. On December 31, 2025, celebrate the arrival of the New Year in a festive atmosphere blending elegance, fine dining, and live music.

Live Music & Festive Ambiance

Starting at 6:30 PM, enjoy a magical atmosphere enhanced by a live concert. Joy, conviviality, and sophistication will set the tone for your evening.

Two Packages for a Tailored Experience

"Silver Package" – A gourmet menu crafted by our Chef, paired with a refined wine selection.

"Gold Package" – Includes the menu, wine pairing, overnight stay in a double room, and breakfast.

Event Details

December 31, 2025

Parc Belair Hotel - III, Avenue du Dix Septembre, L-2551 Luxembourg

Reservations: +352 44 23 23 24 12

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT PARC BELLE-VUE HOTEL

Welcome 2026 in style with an exclusive evening in the heart of Luxembourg. Join us on December 31 for a grand celebration at Parc Belle-Vue Hotel - Plaza Hotel. A night of festive energy, great food, and live music.

Live Music & Vibrant Atmosphere

Dance your way into the New Year with a German live band performing throughout the evening.

Festive Dinner & Celebration Highlights

- Welcome cocktail to start the night
- Gourmet buffet dinner
- Champagne toast at midnight
- Traditional goulash soup

Event Details

December 31, 2025

Parc Belle-Vue Hotel - 5, avenue Marie-Thérèse, L-2132 Luxembourg

Reservations: +352 44 23 23 24 11



PROGRAMME

| FILMS | COUNTRY | GENRE | Mon 9/9 | Sun 14/9 | Mon 15/9 | Tue 16/9 | Wed 17/9 | Thu 18/9 | Fri 19/9 | Sat 20/9 | Sun 21/9 | Tue 7/10 | Fri 10/10 |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale | EN, US | period drama | 19:00 #2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brides <i>OPENING</i> | WA | drama | | 19:00 #2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Dragonfly | EN | drama | | | 19:00 #3 | | | | | | | | |
| Signs of Life | EN | drama | | | 21:15 #3 | | | | | | | | |
| SHORTS | / | / | | | | 19:00 #5 | | | | | | | |
| A Sip of Irish | IE | documentary | | | | 20:45 #5 | | | | | | | |
| Fran the Man | IE | comedy drama | | | | | 19:00 #5 | | | | | | |
| We Only Want the Earth | IE | documentary | | | | | 21:15 #5 | | | | | | |
| The Negotiator | NI | documentary | | | | | | 19:00 #5 | | | | | |
| Flight 149: Hostage of War | EN | documentary | | | | | | 21:15 #5 | | | | | |
| Spilt Milk | IE | drama | | | | | | | 19:00 #3 | | | | |
| Aontas | NI | thriller | | | | | | | 21:30 #3 | | | | |
| Mrs Robinson | IE | documentary | | | | | | | | 19:00 #3 | | | |
| Sunphlowers | IE | drama | | | | | | | | 21:30 #3 | | | |
| Re-Creation <i>CLOSING</i> | LU, IE | drama | | | | | | | | | 19:00 #2 | | |
| Plainclothes | IE | drama | | | | | | | | | | 19:00 #1 | |
| Sanatorium | IE, UA, FR | documentary | | | | | | | | | | | 19:00 #2 |

ALL SCREENINGS AT :



Kinepolis Kirchberg 45 Ave John F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg-Kirchberg



Ciné Utopia 16 avenue de la Faiencerie L-1510 Luxembourg-Limpertsberg

TICKETS



Ticketing:

Adults: €10.00 Children (U16s): €7 (selected screenings)

Season Special: (excl Shorts & BIFFL Presents...)

€35.00 for any 5 films / For more info Tel. 470895-1

Documentary Double Bill:

€15 *The Negotiator & Flight 149: Hostage of War*
on Thursday 18 September

Tickets from: www.luxembourg-ticket.lu / Tel: 470895-1

(* For BIFFL Presents screenings, see www.kinepolis.lu/en)

Availability

Some tickets may be available on the day (cash only) for individual screenings but cannot be guaranteed – online reservations guarantee seats. **NOTE: Luxembourg-ticket.lu sales STOP at 17:00 each day.**

Screening Rooms (#n):

While every effort has been made to confirm specific screening rooms in advance, these are subject to change.



Volunteers

The **British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg** would not be possible without the sterling work of a group of volunteers, both in the lead-up as well as throughout the festival itself. Anyone interested in volunteering at the festival in the future should contact the organisers by email: geoff@festivalevents.lu with “BIFFL Volunteers” in the subject line.

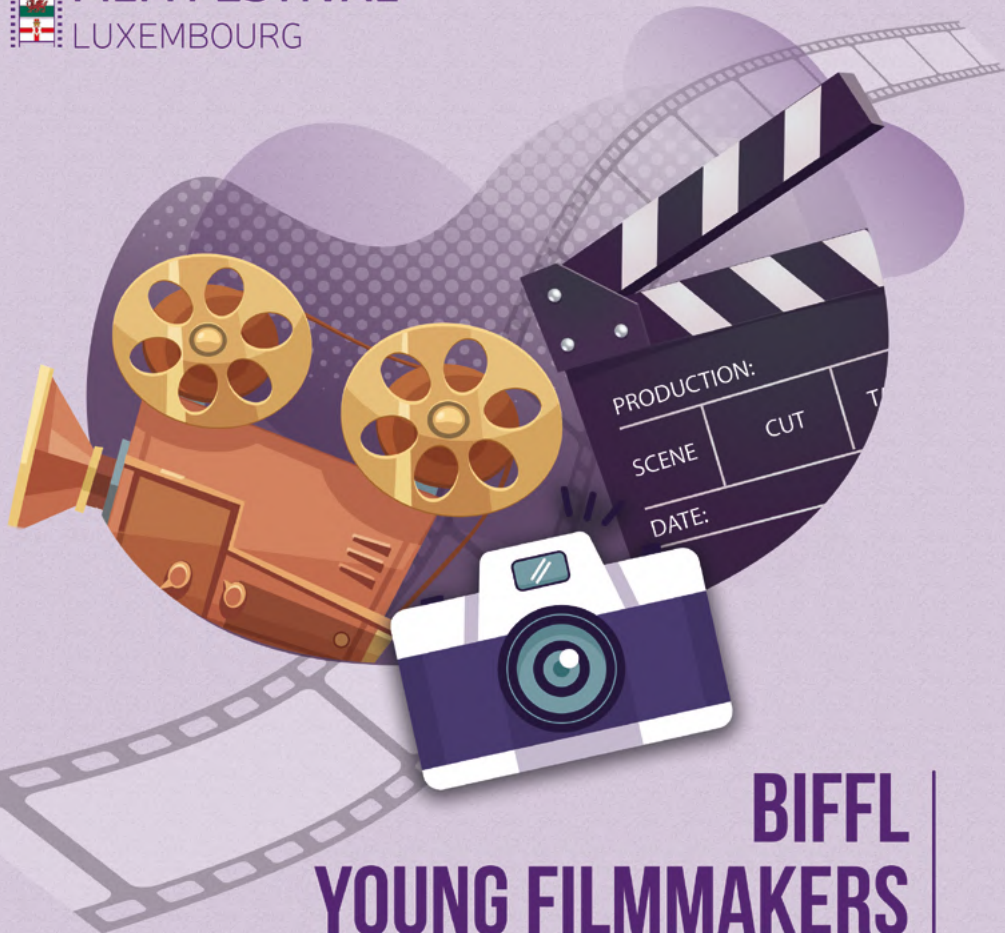




BRITISH & IRISH FILM FESTIVAL LUXEMBOURG



CEUVRE
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BIFFL YOUNG FILMMAKERS COMPETITION

WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT
BIFFL 2026 SPRING EDITION



Following on from the previous success of the **BIFFL Young Journalist Competition**, we are now encouraging young filmmakers to write, direct, shoot and edit short films. Whether using specialist equipment or simply mobile phones, students in 2nd and 3rd level education are encouraged to participate in the **BIFFL 2025-2026 Young Filmmakers Competition**. Full details available online at www.festivalevents.lu or by email: geoff@festivalevents.lu



YOUNG FILMMAKERS COMPETITION GUIDELINES

The **British & Irish Film Festival Luxembourg (BIFFL)** is launching its **3rd Young Filmmakers Competition** at its 2025 Autumn with winning entries to be screened at the **BIFFL 2026 Spring Edition** in March next year.

The competition is open to anyone in second or third level education in/from Luxembourg, or who is aged under 25 years on 1 March 2026. Films must be 2 - 5 minutes in length, including credits, and can be a drama / live action or a documentary; it need not have a British or Irish connection; the technical equipment used is not important; in fact, we expect some submissions taken & edited on smartphones / tablets.

Submissions will open on 1 December 2025 and will close on 31 January 2026, with the following information (for further details, scan the QR code or see <https://festivalevents.lu>):

- a link to the film uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo (or other streaming platform) with relevant password, plus
- relevant details including:
 - title,
 - 1- or 2-sentence synopsis,
 - list of cast & crew,
 - technical details

Categories:

- Schools, Under 15s
- Schools, Over 15s
- University

Topics:

- Environment
- Cultural Heritage

Genres:

- Drama
- Documentary
- Animation

Criteria:

- Storytelling
- Artistic (in front of the camera)
- Technical (behind the camera)

APPLICATIONS: OPEN 1 DECEMBER 2025 - CLOSE 31 JANUARY 2026

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THE GALWAY FILM FLEADH BEING HELD IN JULY 2026.**





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NOVEMBER 2025

Thu 13th, Fri 14th, & Sat 15th
@ 19:30
Sat 15th & Sun 16th
@ 15:00

FILMS



Aontas(NI) *EN sub-titles*

Genre: Thriller | **Duration:** 91 mins | **Director:** Damian McCann

Starring: Carrie Crowley, Brid Brennan, Eva-Jane Gaffney, Seán T. Ó Meallaigh

Synopsis: Three unlikely thieves, led by a woman on the verge of a breakdown, rob a rural Irish Credit Union. Opening in the tragic aftermath of the heist-gone-wrong, the story uses reverse chronology to unravel the events that led to this point. What starts as a poorly executed robbery becomes a portrait of a wilful woman trapped in her own past.



A Sip of Irish (IE)

Genre: Documentary | **Duration:** 90 mins | **Director:** Frank Mannion

Synopsis: A Sip of Irish celebrates the incredible story of Ireland's contribution to the culinary and drinks world with some unexpected discoveries. It features Rory Guinness (great-grandson of the Guinness founder), Bo Barrett of Chateau Montelena (played by Chris Pine in Bottle Shock), Deirdre O'Carroll (the blender of Jameson whiskey), wine writer Oz Clarke, dancer Michael Flatley (founder of Flatley Whiskey), actor Sam Neill (who grew up in Ireland) and Russell Crowe who is a proud investor in the Donegal-based Muff Liquor Co. A Sip of Irish tells a fascinating story that will surprise viewers who think of Ireland as just the home of Guinness and Irish stew.



Brides (WA)

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 93 mins | **Director:** Nadia Fall

Starring: Ebada Hassan, Safiyya Ingar, Yusra Warsama, Leo Bill, Fiona Helen Armstrong

Synopsis: Two teenage girls in search of freedom, friendship, and belonging run away from their lives in the UK with a dangerous plan of travelling to Syria. Quiet, watchful Doe hasn't gone anywhere since arriving in the UK as a refugee at the age of three from Somalia. Badass Muna, of Pakistani heritage, is the dominant force. As she leads Doe through airport security, the girls are giddy and hysterical but their mood changes as soon as their flight is announced. These girls are not going on holiday, but to Istanbul, to be met by a stranger who will take them to the border to start a new life in Syria. Disaster strikes when their chaperone doesn't show up, but they form a new plan to continue their journey alone, testing their resolve, their faith and their friendship. As we discover their back stories that led them here, the girls get ever closer to their destination, so must confront the reality of their futures.

FILMS



Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale (EN, US) *FR/NL sub-titles*

Genre: Period Drama | **Duration:** 123 mins | **Director:** Simon Curtis

Starring: Michelle Dockery, Joanne Froggatt, Joley Richardson, Paul Giamatti, Elizabeth McGovern, Dominic West, Hugh Bonneville, Jim Carter, Allen Leech, Penelope Wilton, Brendan Coyle, Robert James-Collier

Synopsis: When Mary finds herself in a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future.



Dragonfly (EN)

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 98 mins | **Director:** Paul Andrew Williams

Starring: Brenda Blethyn, Andrea Riseborough, Jason Watkins

Synopsis: The story of two neighbours who strike up an unlikely friendship, not always to the approval of others around them. Seeing the impersonal care that her elderly neighbour Elsie is receiving from professionals, Coleen takes it upon herself to care for her, finally finding meaning and purpose in life. When her motivations are brought into question, a tragic sequence of events leads to a shocking and devastating end. A heartbreaking, tense and atmospheric feature that will unsettle and make you challenge your preconceptions. It's narrative unflinchingly shines a light on the universal issue of social care, and caring for the elderly and marginalised. Both lead actors won acting awards at Tribeca in June 2025, and the film won Best International Feature Film at the Galway Film Fleadh in July 2025.



Flight 149: Hostage of War (EN)

Genre: Documentary | **Duration:** 90 mins | **Director:** Charles Kristiansson

Starring: Edith Lawlor, Barry McGovern, Siobhan O'Kelly, Ruadhán Flatharta, Sarah Jane Scott, Marcus Lamb

Synopsis: A documentary film that explores the 1990 British Airways Flight 149 hostage crisis, featuring interviews with hostages, politicians, Kuwaiti resistance members and people who knew Saddam Hussein. Flight 149 was permitted to land in Kuwait for refueling during the Gulf War. Iraqi forces seized the plane and took the passengers and crew hostage for five months; they were used as human shields in military and chemical plants, and endured mock executions, rape and near starvation. Developed by Sky Arts.

FILMS



Fran the Man (IE)

Genre: Comedy drama | **Duration:** 89 mins | **Director:** Stephen Bradley
Starring: Darragh Humphreys, Ardal O'Hanlon, Amy Huberman, Deirdre O'Kane, Ristead Cooper

Synopsis: The new feature-length mockumentary sees Fran, the assistant manager of non-league side St Peter's Celtic, try to engineer an upset over Shamrock Rovers in the first round of the FAI Cup. When an Irish football club becomes embroiled in an international match-fixing scandal, their hapless assistant manager, Fran Costello, finds himself way out of his league. Competing in the FAI Cup for the first time is a dream come true for Fran and his beloved amateur club St. Peter's Celtic, but when Fran learns that some of his players have taken a bribe to fix the match, he turns detective in the hope of catching the rats. Everyone is a suspect in this hilarious whodunnit and Fran's life is further complicated by a slow-burning romance with Jackie Charlton - one of his player's mothers. For someone who has used football to shy away from life, Fran is being catapulted headfirst into all it has to offer. before family archives from the Chaplin estate.



Mrs Robinson (IE) *FR sub-titles*

Genre: Documentary | **Duration:** 94 mins | **Director:** Aoife Kelleher
Starring: Mary Robinson

Synopsis : Mrs Robinson tells Mary's story, in her own words, illuminating battles for justice and equality over half a century, on the streets, in the courts, at the ballot box, and in backroom corridors of power. A reforming constitutional lawyer and senator in her early career, Mary Robinson detonated an electoral earthquake by winning the Irish Presidential vote in 1990. Later, as a crusading UN High Commissioner, she built a lasting legacy, fearlessly challenging perpetrators of human rights abuses all over the world. To this day, she exerts power and leadership as the Chair of The Elders: the independent group of global leaders (founded by Nelson Mandela) who work for peace, justice and human rights. As an influential global voice, Mary Robinson is also spearheading Project Dandelion: a women-led climate justice campaign.



Plainclothes (EN, US)

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 95 mins | **Director:** Carmen Emmi | **Starring:** Tom Blyth, Russell Tovey, Maria Dizzia, christian cooke

Synopsis: A promising undercover agent assigned to lure and arrest gay men defies professional orders when he falls in love with a target.

11
OCT

6
PM

LEAPA QUIZ NIGHT

TEAMS OF 4,
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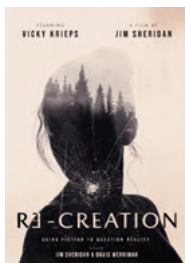
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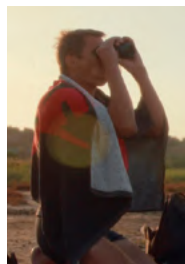
FILMS



Re-Creation (LU, IE)

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 89 mins | **Director:** Jim Sheridan, David Merriman
Starring: Vicky Krieps, Jim Sheridan, John Connors, Aidan Gillen, Colm Meaney, Claire Johnston, Gilbert Johnston

Synopsis: Based on a fictional court case of Ian Bailey, a man who was in real life accused of the murder of French film-maker, Sophie Toscan Du Plantier. 12 jurors must analyse the real-life evidence against him and decide his fate. Juror 8, played by Vicky Krieps, represents the voice of Sophie. She and Juror 1, played by Jim Sheridan, interrogate the case to find fact from fiction. They are out after the truth, no matter where that leads.



Sanatorium (IE, UA, FR) In Ukrainian with EN sub-titles

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 90 mins | **Director:** Gar O'Rourke

Synopsis : On the outskirts of Odesa, stands Kuyalnyk Sanatorium. Each summer, thousands of Ukrainians come here, drawn by Soviet-era therapies and the chance to relax beside the salt lake. The biggest attraction though, is the mysterious black mud, said to cure infertility, physical disabilities and other ailments. *In collaboration with CinEast. Confirmed as Ireland's entry into the 2026 Academy Awards Best International Feature Film.*



Signs of Life(EN) NL sub-titles

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 88 mins | **Director:** Joseph Millson
Starring: Sarah-Jane Potts, David Ganly, Jessica Millson, Ben Redman, Helen Grady, Sharon Duce

Synopsis : After a traumatic experience, Anne attempts to reset her life by taking herself alone on holiday to a Spanish coastal resort. However, on arrival, she meets with an unexpected and unpleasant situation, leading her to not know which way to turn. A subsequent chance encounter with another solo traveller offers her an unexpected solution and a chain of surprising events unfold between the two strangers which will either save or destroy them completely.



Spilt Milk (NI)

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 91 mins | **Director:** Brian Durnin
Starring: Cillian Sullivan, Danielle Galligan, Laurence O'Fuarain, Lewis Brophy

Synopsis: Set in the mid-1980 in inner city Dublin of uncertainty, economic crisis and gangs: an 11 year-old boy dreams of becoming a great detective like his TV hero Kojak. Bobby sets up a private investigation with his best friend Nell; however, when his older brother Oisín disappears, the young detectives get their first case. A film for teenagers and adults alike (12+ due to themes of drug dealing, also an open casket). A comparable setting to The Commitments.

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FILMS



Sunflowers (IE)

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 81 mins | **Director:** Dave Byrne

Starring: Anne McCruden, Patrick Bergin, Abigail O'Regan, Jerry Fish

Synopsis: In the days that follow her husband's death, Catherine confronts some daunting challenges, including the realities of rural isolation, the threat of organised crime targeting her home, and the looming prospect of financial ruin. Initially, she finds herself overwhelmed by the weight of these responsibilities, all while trying to provide emotional support for her three adult children. However, through a combination of pride and determination, Catherine taps into a reservoir of strength she never knew she possessed. She tackles each issue head-on with resilience and empowerment, illustrating how, even in the face of profound adversity, it is possible to reclaim one's life, and find a path to healing.

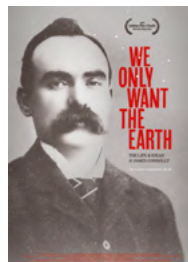


The Negotiator (NI)

Genre: Documentary | **Duration:** 92 mins | **Director:** Trevor Birney

Starring: George Mitchell

Synopsis: Thirty years ago, Waterville-born Senator George J. Mitchell first arrived in Northern Ireland as President Clinton's special economic envoy. In time his role grew: he chaired the peace negotiations that led to the historic Good Friday Agreement in 1998. In The Negotiator Birney profiles George Mitchell, weaving between Northern Ireland, Washington, D.C., and Maine to explore the art of negotiation, compromise, and lasting peace. This timely, contemporary, and deeply personal film poses provocative questions about positive United States engagement with the wider world, and how Senator Mitchell – with his inexhaustible patience – turned the apparently impossible into the possible. In a world rife with conflict, The Negotiator considers what is needed to turn war into peace, how to find enduring political settlements, and the role the United States can play in reaching agreements.

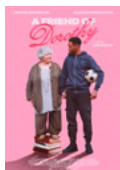


We Only Want the Earth (IE)

Genre: Documentary | **Duration:** 86 mins | **Director:** Alan Gilsenan

Synopsis: An iconic presence in the landscape of Irish socialism and republicanism, the name of James Connolly looms large in the trade union movement, and wherever radical left-wing politics are espoused. This film brings Connolly's many achievements in the field of workers' and women's rights into the fore, alongside his role in the 1916 Easter Rising. As well as many distinguished commentators and historians, the film also features Connolly's and other famous songs and poems – spoken and sung by contemporary artists. An intellectual insight into James Connolly's life, also touching on his living for times in Scotland, New York and Belfast, as well as in Dublin where he grew up in abject poverty.

SHORTS



A Friend of Dorothy (EN)

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 22 mins | **Director:** Lee Knight

Starring: Stephen Fry, Miriam Margolyes, Oscar Lloyd, Alistair Nwachukwu

Synopsis: A lonely widow's quiet life is upended when a teenage boy accidentally kicks his football into her garden. It had its world premiere at the Raindance Film Festival in London in June

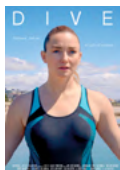


Cogar (IE) *EN sub-titles*

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 16 mins | **Director:** Elaine Kennedy

Starring: Amy-Joyce Hastings, Ally Ni Chiarain, Pádraig Ó Se, Gearoid Kavanagh

Synopsis: A woman returns to a family funeral to find out the truth about her father.



Dive (IE)

Genre: Drama | **Duration:** 7 mins | **Director:** Amy-Joyce Hastings

Starring: Alison McGirr, Faye Kinsella, Amy-Joyce Hastings

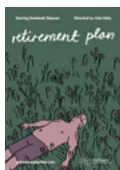
Synopsis: High above the Atlantic, Jess stands at a precipice between memory and momentum - where the past and future crash like the waves below. While contemplating a high dive, see reflects on her journeys of loss, grief and life.



Echoes of Galway (LU)

Genre: documentary | **Duration:** 15 mins | **Director:** Nina Zimmer & Salomé-Ange Wilk

Synopsis: We dismantled the omnipresence, importance and magic of music through conversations with strangers and wander around the city. *World Premier!*



Retirement Plan (IE)

Genre: Animation | **Duration:** 7 mins | **Director:** John Kelly

Starring: Domhnall Gleeson

Synopsis: In the throes of his overstimulated, energy poor midlife, Ray fantasises about everything he'd love to do in retirement, once he finally has the "time."



Trasna na Líne (IE) *EN sub-titles*

Genre: Ctomedy | **Duration:** 17 mins | **Director:** Niamh Bryson

Starring: Heather O'Sullivan, Siobhán O'Kelly, Brid Ní Chumhaill

Synopsis: A mockumentary comedy documenting the first day of term at Dublin's "best" gaelscoil. New student teacher Emma reveals her secret; she lied on her CV and can't speak any Irish at all. *Winner of Best Irish short film at the Dublin International Film Festival 2025.*



Vinny (EN)

Genre: Animation | **Duration:** 3 mins | **Director:** Declan Boyle

Synopsis: An old vinyl record is dejected after being discarded, only to wait for the "golden age" to be rediscovered.

BIFFL Presents ...

The festival is delighted to partner with Ciné Utopia for two screenings for this Autumn Edition, offering you the chance to be the some of the first to see a new British / Irish film in the Grand Duchy. We plan to announce the details of another couple of such screenings later in the year.



Downton Abbey: the Grand Finale

9 September @ 20:00



Plainclothes

7 October @ 19:00

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