



Irish Film Institute

# IFI STRANGER THAN FICTION

**Documentary  
Film Festival**

September 26th-29th  
2013



the arts  
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[www.ifi.ie/stf](http://www.ifi.ie/stf)



## THE GREAT HIP HOP HOAX

Thursday 26th 8pm **IRISH PREMIERE**

When Scottish rap hopefuls Billy and Gavin were branded the “rapping Proclaimers” and laughed out of London by bemused music execs, they hatched a plan. They would reinvent themselves as audacious Californian duo Sillibil 'n' Brains and take the music world by storm. Amazingly their ruse worked, but only up to a point. This hilarious, at times astonishing, and ultimately moving film uncovers the reality of living a lie.

**There will be a post-screening Q&A with Director Jeanie Finlay**

DIRECTOR: JEANIE FINLAY • 93 MINUTES • UK 2013 • COLOUR • D-CINEMA



## SALMA

Friday 27th 6.30pm **DUBLIN PREMIERE**

Throughout her extraordinary career, Kim Longinotto has given a voice to strong female characters and *Salma* is no different. Respected Tamil poet Salma returns to her village where as a child, she was locked up by her parents and given up to an arranged marriage. Her poetry was her salvation and a means to challenge the oppressive customs of her home. Despite this exceptional resilience, it's clear that traditions change slowly.

DIRECTOR: KIM LONGINOTTO • 90 MINUTES UK/INDIA • 2013 • COLOUR • D-CINEMA



## SMASH & GRAB: THE STORY OF THE PINK PANTHERS

Friday 27th 8.40pm **IRISH PREMIERE**

Havana Marking (director of award-winning *Afghan Star*) gains unprecedented access to the Pink Panthers, the international crime gang that pulls off heists so astonishing, their crimes would not be out of place in a Hollywood movie. Interviewing members of the Panthers and those that sought to catch them, Marking tells the incredible story of this network of thieves born out of the chaos of the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia.

**There will be a post-screening Q&A with Director Havana Marking**

DIRECTOR: HAVANA MARKING • 75 MINUTES UK/USA/SERBIA/MONTENEGRO • 2013 • COLOUR D-CINEMA



## DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Saturday 28th, 2pm

From the plight of the bald headed man to the battles between boxing couples in the ring, this shorts competition, curated by *Eat My Shorts*, has it all. Featuring pensive poets, families and forgiveness, and varied views of Dublin City, this programme contains something for everyone to enjoy. Films include *Gordie* by Traolach Ó Murchú, *Missing Green* by Anne Maree Barry and *Notes on Blindness* by Peter Middleton and James Spinney.

TOTAL DURATION: 90 MINUTES (APPROX.)

Full programme available on [www.ifi.ie/stf](http://www.ifi.ie/stf)



## AFTER TILLER

Saturday 28th, 4pm **IRISH PREMIERE**

Since the assassination of Dr. George Tiller, America's best known late term abortion medic, only four surviving doctors continue this work under regular pressure and threat. While protestors picket outside their clinics, inside these doctors meet couples and listen with compassion as they make agonizing decisions. An understated yet incredibly moving film, *After Tiller* is full of compassion for its subjects and the hard choices they must make.

**There will be a post-screening Q&A hosted by RTÉ's Keelin Shanley, with one of the surviving doctors working at Dr. Tiller's Wichita Clinic, Dr Shelly Sella.**

DIRECTORS: MARTHA SHANE, LANA WILSON 85 MINUTES • USA • 2013 • COLOUR • D-CINEMA



## REALITY BITES DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Saturday 28th, 6pm **WORLD PREMIERE**

IFI Stranger than Fiction is delighted to present the World Premiere of the Reality Bites short documentary scheme funded by the Irish Film Board/Bord Scannán na hÉireann. This programme features *Rebirth*, directed by Émile Dineen, which explores the memories of a war photographer; *Analogue People In A Digital Age*, by Keith Walsh, about eight pub-going men battling to stay relevant in a digital age; and *There's No Charge For The Hat*, by Tom Burke, which tells the story of a 187 year-old hat that is believed to cure headaches.

**There will be a post-screening Q&A**

TOTAL DURATION: 55 MINUTES (APPROX.)

Full programme available on [www.ifi.ie/stf](http://www.ifi.ie/stf)



## MUSCLE SHOALS

Saturday 28th, 8pm **IRISH PREMIERE**

The sleepy landscape of small Alabama town Muscle Shoals is steeped against the extraordinary backdrop of cotton fields, plantation songs, and racial segregation. Founded in the 1960s, the Fame Recording Studios saw producer Rick Hall cut some of the biggest R'n'B records of the decade, bringing black and white musicians together to create music that would last for generations. Featuring star-studded interviews with Aretha Franklin, Mick Jagger, Alicia Keys, and Candi Staton amongst others, director Greg "Freddy" Camalier guides us through a magical time and place for American music.

DIRECTOR: GREG 'FREDDY' CAMALIER

111 MINUTES • USA • 2013 • COLOUR • D-CINEMA



## WHERE THE BLUE FLOWERS GROW

Saturday 28th, 7.30 pm **WORLD PREMIERE**

This intimate behind-the-scenes portrait chronicles the trials and triumphs of Wicklow band The Cujo Family, as they duke it out to win the exhilarating King Kong Club competition and travel to New York for a whirlwind of gigs. Difficult times are faced and tough decisions are made in this touching look at the friendship, passion and creative collaboration of a band aiming for the top.

**This film will be preceded by the short *The End of The Counter* (13 mins).**

**There will be a FREE live performance from The Cujo Family in the IFI Foyer after this screening**

DIRECTOR: ISOLDA HEAVEY • 40 MINUTES

IRELAND • 2013 • COLOUR • D-CINEMA



## CLOSE TO EVIL

Sunday 29th, 1.30pm **DUBLIN PREMIERE**

In 1945 Tomi Reichental was a nine-year-old boy in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. SS woman Hilde Lisiewicz was one of the Nazi guards that kept Tomi and his family in brutal captivity. In 2013, Tomi goes in search of Hilde, a devout ninety-one-year-old Roman Catholic living quietly alone in Hamburg, and uncovers a dark secret that Hilde has long hidden. Tomi seeks neither to accuse nor to avenge but will his quest end in rejection or redemption?

**This film will be preceded by the short *Home* (15 minutes).**

**There will be a post-screening Q&A with Director Gerry Gregg and Tomi Reichental**

DIRECTOR: GERRY GREGG • 70 MINUTES • IRELAND

2013 • COLOUR/BLACK & WHITE • D-CINEMA



## JON BANG CARLSEN PROGRAMME

Sunday 29th, 2pm **DUBLIN PREMIERE**

As part of our Archive programme, we are honoured to welcome one of Denmark's most celebrated and provocative documentarians, Jon Bang Carlsen, who for decades, has explored and subverted documentary form to present staged realities. This presentation will screen two of his short films *It's Now or Never* (44 minutes, 1996), and *How to Invent Reality* (31 minutes, 1996), demonstrating the scale and invention of his work.

**There will be a post-screening Q&A with Director Jon Bang Carlsen**  
*Kindly supported by the Danish Embassy, Dublin and the Danish Film Institute.*

TOTAL DURATION: 71 MINUTES



## AISSLING GHEAL

Sunday 29th, 4pm **DUBLIN PREMIERE**

Sean-nós is considered to be the holy grail of Irish traditional music and the Sean-nós singer is the living embodiment of this tradition. Aisling Gheal is a team of women passionately keeping Sean-nós alive, attracting young protégés like ten-year-old Shahira Apraku, who embodies an entirely new generation of Irish speakers. The womens' struggles, and the songs of the Sean-nós yield insights into Irish culture, challenging some of our key contemporary notions of 'Irishness'.

**There will be a post-screening Q&A with Director Dónal Ó Céilleachair**

*Kindly supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland*

DIRECTOR: DÓNAL Ó CÉILLEACHAIR • 80 MINUTES

IRELAND • 2013 • COLOUR • D-CINEMA.



## LEVIATHAN

Sunday 29th, 6pm **IRISH PREMIERE**

A recent winner of the prestigious Michael Powell Award for Best Feature at the Edinburgh Film Festival, *Leviathan* was the film on everyone's lips as the festival came to a close. This stunning documentary immerses the audience in the sights and sounds of a voyage of a battered old Atlantic Ocean fishing trawler, detailing the cycle of violent encounters of men, fish, birds, and machines. Eschewing interviews, narration or typical narrative devices, this is an assault on the senses that will leave no viewer unaffected.

DIRECTORS: LUCIEN CASTAING-TAYLOR, VERENA PARAVEL • 87 MINUTES • FRANCE/UK/USA • 2012  
COLOUR • D-CINEMA



## HERE WAS CUBA

Sunday 29th, 6.15pm **DUBLIN PREMIERE**

In October 1962, the discovery that Soviet mid-range missiles were being secretly installed in Cuba, sent President Kennedy into a strategic panic. With Fidel Castro and a slew of unfortunate military miscalculations complicating an already nail-bitingly cumbersome negotiation process, the world was teetering on the brink of a nuclear holocaust. *Here was Cuba* weaves never-before-released recordings of Kennedy's tense advisory sessions, personal recollections with Khrushchev's son, and interviews with those who stood "eyeball to eyeball" with the end of the world.

**There will be a post-screening Q&A with Directors Emer Reynolds and John Murray**

**DIRECTORS: EMER REYNOLDS, JOHN MURRAY**  
77 MINUTES • IRELAND • 2013 • COLOUR/BLACK AND WHITE • D-CINEMA



## DRAGON GIRLS/ DRACHENMÄDCHEN

Sunday 29th, 8pm **IRISH PREMIERE**

Winner of Best International Film at the prestigious Hot Docs film festival, *Dragon Girls* is both a formal masterpiece and a film of great tenderness. Set at the Shaolin Tagou Kung Fu School (the birthplace of Kung Fu), the camera is trained on three young female students amongst 27,000 male counterparts, as they sacrifice the normalities of childhood in pursuit of the honour and respect that they will gain from succeeding at this prestigious institute.

**There will be a post-screening Q&A with Director Inigo Westmeier**

*Kindly supported by the Goethe-Institut Irland*  
**DIRECTOR: INIGO WESTMEIER • 89 MINUTES**  
GERMANY • 2013 • SUBTITLED • COLOUR  
D-CINEMA

## TICKETS

- ▶ **Tickets** cost €9 except for the opening film which includes a post-screening reception and costs €12.
- ▶ **Special Events** are free except for *Connecting with Modern Audiences* and *Building an International Documentary Company* which cost €5.
- ▶ Please note that **Membership** is required for all films. Daily Membership costs €1 and annual Membership just €25.
- ▶ **Special Package Price** 5 films for €40. Available in person at the IFI Box Office only.

### Booking:

IFI Box Office 01 679 3477 / [www.ifi.ie/stf](http://www.ifi.ie/stf) / 6 Eustace St, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

## IFI STRANGER THAN FICTION SPECIAL EVENTS

*In partnership with Irish Film Board/  
Bord Scannán na hÉireann*

### Connecting with Modern Audiences

Friday Sept 27th, 10.30am

More than ever, filmmakers must interact directly with their audience and build a fanbase for themselves and their films. This session explores the strategies filmmakers can employ, and includes special guest Jeanie Finlay (*The Great Hip Hop Hoax*) whose 2011 film, *Sound It Out*, employed clever strategies to create strong bonds with viewers throughout production and distribution.

### Building an International Documentary Company

Friday Sept 27th, 12pm

In tough times, filmmakers must form partnerships beyond their own country to fund films – but how can you break into the competitive international market? Special guest Havana Marking of Sundance-winning *Roast Beef* Television joins a panel that includes Oscar-nominated animator Cathal Gaffney (*Give Up Yer Aul Sins*) to discuss the strategies required to thrive internationally.

### Breaking into Documentary

Saturday Sept 28th, 11am

A session with filmmakers about making the first steps in a documentary career. This session, featuring leading professional Irish filmmakers, will explore key points including the best sources of funding, the important technical skills to learn, finding your creative voice, the benefits of making a short, and learning about festival strategies.

### Creating with Archive

Saturday Sept 28th, 12.30pm

Films like *Senna* and *Searching For Sugarman* show how archive and found footage can be intertwined with other elements to amazing storytelling effect. This session will explore the use of archive with providers, including the IFI Archive, and filmmakers including Nick Ryan (*The Summit*) and Andrew Gallimore (*In Sunshine or in Shadow*) to give insights into how best to approach this area of filmmaking.



BROADCASTING  
AUTHORITY  
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# THE SUNDAY TIMES