

CIACLA

CONTEMPORARY IRISH ARTS CENTER
LOS ANGELES

FEATURES

SHORTS

ANIMATION

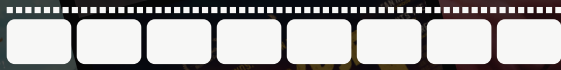
EXPERIMENTAL

GAEILGE



THE IRISH FILM FESTIVAL LOS ANGELES

2024



CELEBRATING IRISH FILM

MARCH 16 & 17TH 2024

LAEMMLE, SANTA MONICA

WWW.CIACLA.COM/FILM

TG 4



Irish Film Institute



Cultúr Éireann
Culture Ireland



funding
the art of film



Fis Éireann
Screen Ireland



Government of Ireland
European Support Programme

CIACLA

CIACLA is a non profit 501(c)(3) arts organization that promotes Contemporary Irish Culture and supports local communities in Los Angeles County through a multidisciplinary diverse programme, in collaboration with local and international cultural partnerships.

CIACLA currently partners with existing venues to facilitate this program. CIACLA aims to develop a creative platform to support and challenge artists, as a means of promoting creative innovation and collaborative initiatives, fostering collaboration between Ireland, Los Angeles, and the United States.

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CIACLA'S IRISH & FRIENDS

Creative Network

Monthly In Person Get Togethers

www.ciacla.com/creative-network



The CIACLA Creative Network is a monthly, in-person networking get together for Irish & Irish Americans--and their friends--who are Artists, Actors, Filmmakers, Dancers, Writers, and anyone working in the Creative Industries in California.

RSVP to our next meet up at www.ciacla.com/creative-network

THE IRISH FILM FESTIVAL LOS ANGELES 2024

March 16 & 17 2024 | Laemmle Monica Film Center

A CELEBRATION OF IRISH FILM

This two-day festival is an immersive journey into Ireland's rich storytelling tradition, featuring an impressive lineup of 8 feature films, including critically acclaimed titles and innovative works by emerging talent. The festival shines a spotlight on the range of voices in the industry, including award winning documentaries, authored experimental film, and an Irish language feature film. Additionally, 3 curated short film screenings present 23 short films by exciting Irish filmmakers, highlighting 9 female directors and 11 female writers, 2 Irish language shorts, enchanting animation shorts, 2 experimental shorts and a selection of short documentaries.

Beyond the screenings, the Irish Film Festival Los Angeles 2024 will be an exciting time to bring together a community of film enthusiasts and industry professionals and the wider public through engaging Q&As with filmmakers, insightful panel discussions, and networking events, particularly spotlighting Irish talent in Los Angeles and Women in Film & TV.

OFFICIAL SELECTION OF #IFFLA24

FEATURE FILMS

APOCALYPSE CLOWN | DOUBLE BLIND
IN THE SHADOW OF BEIRUT
MUCH A DO ABOUT DYING | VERDIGRIS
ONE NIGHT IN MILLSTREET | TARRAC
THE DISEMBODIED ADVENTURES OF ALICE

SHORT FILMS

CANTATA | CROÍ (HEART) | FAR AWAY
FROM DAY TO DAY / Ó LÁ GO LÁ | HEDY
HOMESTEAD | LAMB | LETTER TO LIA
MOVERS AND SHAPERS | MUD QUEEN
PORTALOO | RED LAKE | SOUND & COLOUR
THE FINE LINE | THE LIFE OF LESTER WINK
THE SEARCH | THE STAIRS | THIS LAND
TWO FOR THE ROAD | VENUS RISING
WHALE | WORRY WORLD | YOU ASK HIM

FESTIVAL TEAM:

Director: Matthew Nevin
Manager: Jenny Minniti- Shippey
Coordinator: Jenn McGuirk
Box Office: Sarah Nevin & Delmar Conklin
Q&As: Rachel Rath & Kevin Marron
Program Judging Panel:
Ciara Scanlan, Jenny Minniti- Shippey
Marcus Fox, Rachel Rath
Katriona Woods, Alan Smyth
Kevin Marron & Terence Erraught

WITH THANKS TO:

Consul General Marcella Smyth
Cultural Officer Síobhra Quinlan
Pascal Ladreyt / ELMA
Steven Davenport & Screen Ireland
Culture Ireland, IFI, TG4, MART Dublin
Government of Ireland Emigrant Support
Programme, CIACLA's Board of Directors

FEATURES



TARRAC

ICE BOX FILMS | 96 Minutes

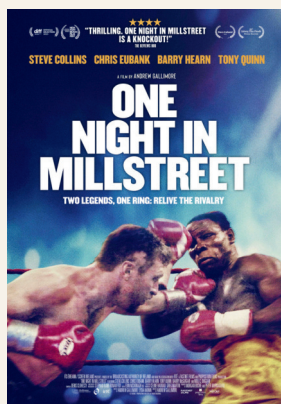
Tarrac is a life-affirming story set in the stunning West Coast of Ireland in Kerry Gaeltacht.

Cast: Kelly Gough, Lorcan Cranitch, Kate Nic Chonaonaigh, Kate Finegan.

Director Declan Recks,

Writer: Eugene O'Brien,

Producer: Cliona Ní Bhuachalla.



ONE NIGHT IN MILLSTREET

FASTNET FILMS | 80 Minutes

A prizefight between underdog Steve "The Celtic Warrior" Collins and champion Chris "Simply the Best" Eubank grips and encapsulates an entire nation as it emerges from depression towards previously unimagined prosperity.

Cast: Steve Collins, Chris Eubank, Barry Hearn and Tony Quinn.

Writer / Director: Andrew Gallimore

Producer: Morgan Bushe

Producer: Peter Murnaghan

Writer: Lydia Monin



VERDIGRIS

MnáMná Films | 94 Minutes

A retired, middle-class census taker's world turns upside down when an unlikely friendship with a teen sex worker teaches her to live life on her own terms, no matter the cost.

Cast: Geraldine McAlinden, Maya O'Shea

Writer/Director: Patricia Kelly

Producer: Paul Fitzsimons

DOUBLE BLIND

FAILSAFE FILMS | 90 Minutes

After an experimental drug trial goes awry, the test subjects face a terrifying side effect: if you fall asleep you die. Trapped in an isolated facility, panic ensues as they try to escape and somehow stay awake.

Cast: Millie Brady, Pollyanna McIntosh

Director: Ian Hunt-Duffy,

Writer: Darach McGarrigle



APOCALYPSE CLOWN

FASTNET FILMS | 102 Minutes

A troupe of failed clowns and an intrepid reporter embark on a chaotic road trip of self-discovery after a mysterious solar event plunges the world into anarchy.

Cast: David Earl, Natalie Palamides, Amy De Bhrún, Ivan Kaye, Fionn Foley,

CoWriter / Director: George Kane

Producers: Morgan Bushe, James Dean

Writers: Shane O'Brien, James Walmsley, Demain Fox



MUCH ADO ABOUT DYING

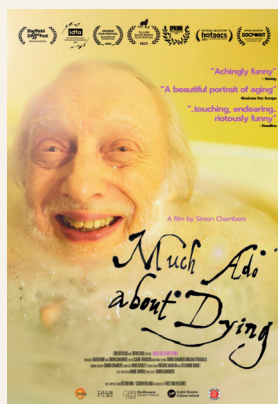
Soilsiú Films | 84 Minutes

Dying is like going on a wonderful holiday without the bother of packing" says exuberant gay Uncle David when he forces nephew Simon back to London to care for him.

Director/Cinematographer/Editor: Simon Chambers

Producer: David Rane,

Editor: Claire Ferguson



THE AUTEURS

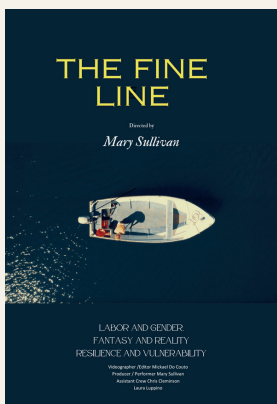


VENUS RISING

8 Minutes

Venus Rising is a video and sound work exploring the dismantling of patriarchal systems and a call back to Earth-centered feminine wisdom.

Filmmaker / Artist: Colleen Keough



THE FINE LINE

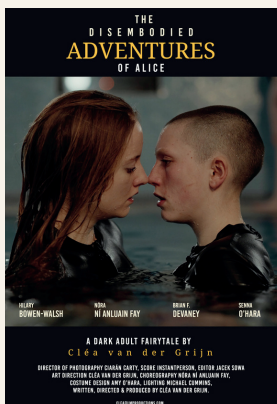
4 Minutes

Shifting perspectives and vantage points and a concrete understanding of our shared proximities

Performing Artist: Mary Sullivan

Videographer: Mickael Do Couto

Crew: Chris Cleminson and Laura Luppino



THE DISEMBODIED ADVENTURES OF ALICE

CleaFILMPRODUCTIONS | 78 Minutes

A dark adult fairytale

Filmmaker: Cléa van der Grijn

Cinematography: Ciaran Carty

Featuring: Hilary Bowen-Walsh, Senna O Hara, Brian F. Devany, Nóra Fay

www.cleafilmproductions.com

THE DOCS

LETTER TO LIA

14 MINUTES

A creative rumination on the identity of children growing up in a changing Northern Ireland from the starting point of the filmmaker's own daughter.

Filmmaker: Nicky Larkin



MOVERS AND SHAPERS

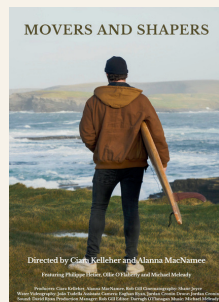
10 MINUTES

A short documentary about the ways a new wave of surfers and shapers on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way are transforming their industry to make it more sustainable.

Produced by: Rob Gill, Ciara Kelleher & Alanna MacNamee

Directors: Ciara Kelleher and Alanna MacNamee

Featuring: Ollie O'Flaherty, Michael Meleady & Philippe Hetier



THIS LAND

20 MINUTES

A film exploring cultural identity in Ireland. The film explores different ways of experiencing Irishness, via discussions with chefs, artists, musicians, entrepreneurs, journalists and activists.

Filmmaker: Zithelo Bobby Mthombeni

Produced by: The Tenth Man, Eric Davidson & Ellen Bennett

Director of Photography: James Clarke

Original Score and Mixing by: Brian Mc Namara



IN THE SHADOW OF BEIRUT

93 MINUTES

From the makers of GAZA (Sundance 2019), comes a new cinematic odyssey that penetrates deep below the surface of Beirut, a still beautiful, yet deeply troubled city on the brink of financial collapse. In the Shadow of Beirut weaves four compelling storylines together in a searing portrait of a people and a city struggling to survive amidst some of the most difficult living conditions imaginable. In this failing state, it is the vulnerable who suffer most. Through intimate, character driven and cinematic storytelling, the stark reality of life for the protagonists of the film is symbolic of the hundreds of thousands of others who fight for survival in the most diverse country in the Middle East.

Directors: Garry Keane and Stephen Gerard Kelly

Producers: Brendan J. Byrne, Myriam Sassine



WOMEN IN FILM & TV PANEL

KIRSTEN SHERIDAN

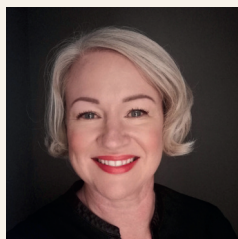
Kirsten Sheridan is an Irish film director and screenwriter. She is best known for co-writing the semi-autobiographical film *In America* for which she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and a Golden Globe Award for Best Screenplay, and as the director of films *Disco Pigs* and *August Rush*.



PATRICIA KELLY

Writer/Director of *Verdigris*

Patricia Kelly is a writer and director and the founder of MnáMná Films. Her debut feature film, *VERDIGRIS*, won Best Independent Film at the Galway Film Fleadh, the audience award for Best Irish Film at the Newport Beach Film Festival, Best Narrative Feature at the Kerry International Film Festival and Best Feature Film at the Irish Film Festival London.



CLÉA VAN DER GRIJN

Writer Director of *The Disembodied Adventures of Alice*

Cléa van der Grijn is an award winning visual artist and filmmaker. *The Disembodied Adventures of Alice* won best feature film at The New Jersey film festival. Her film *JUMP* and painting are part of the Irish museum of modern art national permanent collection. Cléa was recipient of the prestigious Arts Council / Irish Film institute AUTHORED works award to make a feature length artist led film.



CASSIDY HARRISON

Writer/Director of *The Life of Lester Wink*

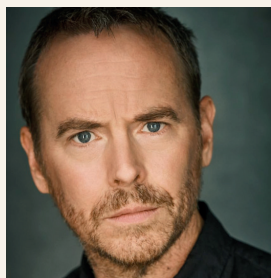
Both writer and director, recent works include the award-winning short film she wrote and directed, *"The Life of Lester Wink"*. Cassidy's prior experiences include a two-year stint with Anthony LaPaglia's company at Warner Brothers, developing a spy show based on her original script, developing a female Western optioned by Sony, and producing a documentary about serial killer Dennis Rader.



IRISH IN LA PANEL

ALAN SMYTH

Alan Smyth is an actor and writer, known for The Outfield and Poor Behavior. He is best known as 'Eoghan Healy' in RTÉ's Fair City which he appeared in for five years and for his work at The Gate Theatre and in The Gaiety Theatre annual Pantomime where he appeared six times and co-wrote several of the scripts. He has also worked with BBC, Paramount Films, Showtime Productions.



SONYA MACARI

Sonya Macari is the founder of Creative Acting Studios, offering online Masterclasses with renowned Casting Directors and industry experts from LA. Sonya started acting in Dublin commercials at 18, debuting in 'The Clinic' before joining Showtime's 'The Tudors'. She has starred in roles from 'It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia' to 'The Artist'. Recognized for her versatile acting, she won Best Actress at The 8 & Hallfilm Awards at Cannes for 'Skylark'. Sonya also narrates books for Penguin Random House and is the author of 'The Actors Passport'.



JOHNNY O'CALLAGHAN

Johnny O'Callaghan's Who's Your Daddy? played to Sold Out houses in LA, New York's Irish Rep Theatre, and The Edinburgh Festival. He premiered Conor McPherson's Rum and Vodka in NYC, he joined the sci-fi world as Niam on Startgate Atlantis. Johnny was also named Irish man of the year in 2016 and is one of LA's most sought after therapists.



KEVIN RYAN

Kevin Ryan achieved international fame with BBC America's "Copper," hitting the highest debut rating for the network. His roles in "Sons of Liberty," "Crossbones" with John Malkovich, "Guilt," and "The Blacklist" highlight his versatility. In Ireland, he starred in "The Southwesterlies" and "Harry Wild," earning critical acclaim. Kevin's directorial debut, "The Quarry," follows his award-winning short film "Bad Suns," showcasing his talents in acting, writing, and directing, continuing to captivate audiences globally.



NEW VOICES



TWO FOR THE ROAD

18 Minutes

Amidst spontaneous travels around 1990s Ireland, Oscar, a young boy, finds himself navigating the true essence of adventure and chaos with his father, one spirited weekend away at a time.

Cast: Steve Wall, Ewan Morris

Writer/Director: Lochlainn McKenna

Producers: Natalie Britton & Gráinne Dwyer

DP: Eoin McLoughlin



PORTALOO

9 Minutes

In the queue for portalooos at a music festival, two young women discover that the electric feelings between them could be more than just friendship.

Cast: Ella Maria Carmen, Cara Bradley, Lisa Frisby

Director: Michael David McKernan

Writer: Ella Maria Carmen

Producer: Norma Howard

Cinematographer: Jass Foley



MUD QUEEN

18 Minutes

Ryan is determined to celebrate his 12th birthday with glamour and style. But will Mam's erratic behaviour derail the night?

Cast: Clare Dunne, Senan Jennings, Emmy Nolan, Helen Behan

Directors: Nathan Fagan & Luke Daly

Writer: Nathan Fagan:

Producer: Séamus Waters

Director of Photography: Miguel Angel Vinas

Editor: Nathan Nugent

Composer: Gareth Averill

9 Minutes

A young professional inherits a picturesque Irish cottage from her grandfather and finds herself resisting powerful urges to stay there forever.

Cast: Aoife Corry, James Cecil Raleigh, Martin Corry, Bren Holmes

Writer/Director: Tom Jorgensen

Producer: Aoife Corry

Editor: Kevin Cappiello

Music by: Dónal Rafferty



15 Minutes

Having returned home after her attempted suicide, Hannah must face her dysfunctional and emotionally repressed Irish family. Believing that her relationship ending is the root cause of her depression, the family avoids talking about the “incident” at all costs.

Cast: Alison Oliver

Writer / Director: Emma Foley

Producer: Tamryn Reinecke

Cinematography: Colm Hogan

Editor: Allyn Quigley

Associate Producer: Norma Howard



15 Minutes

Rose, a child of Irish and Italian immigrants in 1968 Brooklyn, attempts to fit in with the boys by joining the game her brother plays with his friend. Their tenement building super and local Deacon starts preying on Rose, until Mrs. Teruli, an old-world Italian healer breaks his hold.

Cast: Briella Guiza, Guy Nardulli, Jayne Taini, Natalia Abelleira.

Writer/Director: Jessica Aquila Cymerman

Producers: Kate Hamilton & Natalie Britton

DP: Allie Shultz

Editor: Jack Lawrence Mayer

Production Design: Adrian Wittenberg

Music Composition: Rob Gokee

Sound Mixing/Editing: Alex Reeves



THE FUTURES



THE LIFE OF LESTER WINK

17 Minutes

Lester Wink is a pet insurance salesman with a phobia of talking with strangers. He needs to bring in a sale by 5pm or get fired. Going door to door he meets Sammy, a widow who is afraid to leave her house.

Cast: Pat Shortt, Clelia Murphy, Ronan Leahy

Writer / Director: Cassidy C. Harrison

Producers: Gregory Burrowes, Ronan Cassidy

Cinematographer: Shane Serrano

Sound Designer: David Hughes | **Editor:** Mark Gilleece

Composer: A. Patrick Rose | **Music Supervisor:** Steve Ferrone

Production Design: James Donnelly



THE SEARCH

7 Minutes

As the local community search for her sons remains, Catherine also searches for answers to questions she doesn't want to ask.

Cast: Maria Connelly, Steven Cooke, Conan Hamilton

Writer/Director : Gavin Kelly

Producers: Adam Wilkinson, Lisa Service

Cinematographer: Angus Mitchell



FAR AWAY

15 Minutes

A 12-year-old girl traumatised by her father's neglect seeks solace in a relationship with her loving grandfather, and her favourite fairy tale, The Cattle Raid of Cooley. Her grandfather's sudden death becomes the catalyst for her to run away and escape the pain of her childhood.

Cast: Seamus O'Hara, James Doran, Lucy Donnelly

Director: Nathaniel McCullagh

Producer: Maeve McLoughlin

Writer: Zoe Lewis,

Composer: Patrick Kirst

WORRY WORLD

9 Minutes

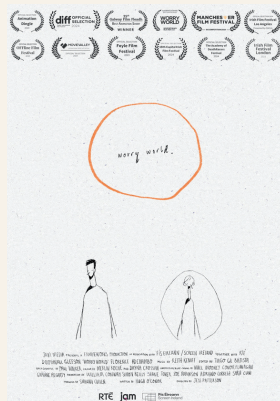
In a regimented world of black-and-white, where all thought is on display, a rebellious young factory worker who dreams in colour makes an unexpected connection

Cast: Florence Adebambo & Domhnall Gleeson

Writer: Hugh O'Connor

Director: Jessica Patterson

Producer: Shauna Cullen



Ó Lá Go Lá (From Day to Day)

10 Minutes

Mick, a local trawlerman, has alienated people all around him, but when lockdown hits Ireland he faces extreme loneliness and the torture of a tin whistle learning kid next door.

Cast: Paddy C Courtney

Director: Stu Teehan,

Producer & Editor: Úna Spillane,

Writer: Amy Tierney,

DOP: Carol Tormey,

Sound: Ross Carew



CANTATA

12 Minutes

Darren embarks on a journey to overcome operatic hallucinations and re-connect with his inner child.

Cast: Fionn Foley, Bryan Quinn, Hannah Mamalis, Morgan C Jones, Faye O'Rourke, Rory Musgrave

Director: Dave Fox, Writer, Composer,

Producers: Rob Earley & Mark Griffin,

Cinematographer: Ronan Nissenbaum,

Editor: Dara McKeagney



THE CONTEMPORARIES



Croí / Heart

16 Minutes

Two explorers from an ill-fated expedition in the Antarctic find shelter as they face one last, impossible leg of their journey to safety and the reveal of the truth of what happened out on the ice.

Cast: Aaron Monaghan, Clare Monnelly, Barry McKiernan

Writer/Director: Mícheál Fleming.

Producers: Mícheál Fleming, Norma Howard.

DOP: Burschi Wojnar.



RED LAKE

14 Minutes

Estranged sisters Jess and Maddie return to Red Lake, mourning their father's death.

Cast: Claire Bermingham & Hazel Doupe

Written by: Claire Bermingham & Dani Alvarado

Directed by: Shaun Dunne



YOU ASK HIM

PICK ME UP PICTURES | 9 Minutes

A casual encounter in the Hollywood Hills raises the question is anyone living their best life in LA?

Cast: Johnny O'Callaghan, Jenn McGuirk, Aron Cobb, Rian Sheehy Kelly, Susanna Basden.

Written & Directed by: Matthew Nevin.

DOP: Neil Watson

Camera 2: Veronica Smith

Sound: Jose Gallo

Editor / Colourist: Oliver Kelly

Sound Supervisor: Terry Grew

Producers: Katriona Woods, Jenny Minniti- Shippey

11 Minutes

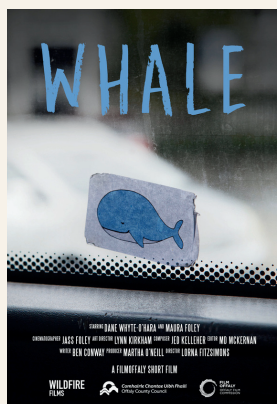
Cast: Sophie Clarke, Oscar Clarke, Megan Day, Patser Murray

Written & Directed by: Andy Clarke



7 Minutes

Cast: Dane Whyte O'Hara, Maura Foley.
Writer: Ben Conway.
Director: Lorna Fitzsimons.
DOP: Jass Foley.
Producer: Martha O'Neil.



Copper Alley Productions | 15 Minutes

Cast: Aoife Duffin & Éanna Hardwicke

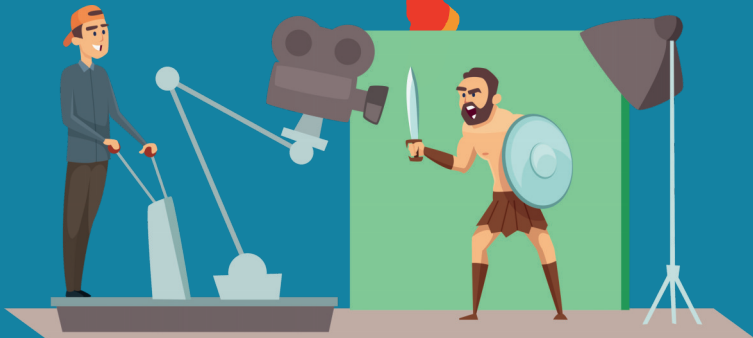
Writer & Director: Sinéad O'Loughlin,
Producer: Lara Hickey
Cinematography: Dan Keane
Edited by: Kilian Waters
Sound Design & Composition by: Die Hexen



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MEET SOME OF THE TEAM



MATTHEW NEVIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
matthew@ciaccla.com

Matthew Nevin is a Cultural Producer with over 20 years of experience working in film, television and the arts throughout the US, Ireland, UK and Europe. He is Co-Director of The MART Gallery & Studios Dublin where he oversees the running of over 100 artist studios and a Contemporary Art Gallery, and serves as Executive Director of CIACLA – The Contemporary Irish Art Center Los Angeles – a non profit which produces contemporary Irish cultural events in California.



JENNIFER MINNITI- SHIPPEY

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
jenny@ciaccla.com

Jennifer Minniti- Shippey is the Director of Development for CIACLA, Editor at Calypso Editions, and Director of the Coyote Creek Writer's Residency. She served as the Managing Editor of Poetry International literary journal and the Director of Poetic Youth programs in San Diego from 2009-2019. She is the author of 2018 San Diego Book Award finalist, *After the Tour*, from Calypso Editions; *Done Dating DJs*, winner of the 2009 Fool for Poetry Chapbook Competition, presented by the Munster Literature Centre; and *Earth's Horses & Boys*, from Finishing Line Press.



JENN MCGUIRK

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING
jenn@ciaccla.com

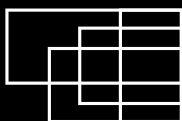
Jenn McGuirk is an Irish actor, filmmaker, voice artist and singer. In 2017 she relocated to LA to study and work at Stella Adler Academy of Acting and Theatre. At Stella she was proudly appointed Head of Outreach, coordinating the delivery of acting for camera and drama to those without the means to access training at: local high schools, communities and middle school children. Since 2019 Jenn worked as an Events Manager at CIACLA and in 2022 will continue her work with the organisation now serving as Director of Programming at CIACLA The Contemporary Irish Arts Center Los Angeles.

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ÉALÚ

A series of
Exhibitions &
Events
Celebrating
Contemporary
Irish Culture

CIACLA'S
2024
PROGRAM

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CIACLA
CONTEMPORARY IRISH ARTS CENTER
LOS ANGELES

A Non Profit showcasing Irish Culture Across Los Angeles County

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