



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

**MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS**

Tá fás agus forbairt taghta ar Féile Idirnáisiúnta Scannán an Daingin ón am a bunaíodh í sa bhliain 2007, agus tá sí, sa lá atá inniu ann, ina dlúthchuid de fhéilire chultúrtha na hÉireann. Tá cáil idirnáisiúnta ar an Féile, agus bliain in ndiaidh bliana cuirtear fáilte roimh scannánóirí agus roimh bheochantóirí a thagann ón iasacht le páirt a ghlacadh san ócáid speisialta seo.

The Dingle International Film Festival has, since its establishment in 2007, become a landmark event in Ireland's cultural calendar. Its repute, of course, extends far beyond Irish shores, and every year Dingle plays host to filmmakers and animators who have travelled from countries across the globe to participate in this special event.

Here in Ireland we are enjoying a growing international reputation for film making. We have a rich history associated with Irish film and a talented and ever heroic film community who bravely innovate and push the boundaries as they create increasingly diverse and exciting pieces of work. Initiatives like the Dingle International Film Festival are critical to the nurturing of the continued production of such compelling and influential films. They not only allow for the showcasing of independently produced and brilliant work – from Ireland and from around the world – but also challenge any erroneous assumption that the arts are something apart, peripheral, and belonging on the fringes of society.

The provision, by a small but so vibrant town in West Kerry, of such a significant platform for original, startling, thought-provoking, and even groundbreaking, film, reminds us of how the Arts thrive and grow when they are brought right into the heart of society, into the space of the everyday.

Although an international event, the Dingle Festival remains strongly rooted in Irish soil and has been a vital and energising force in the creation of new films in our own vernacular. The introduction in 2011 of the Fisin prize, the first Irish language script competition, has encouraged many filmmakers to develop their films in our beautiful national language, ensuring that it remains a living source of inspiration for this and future generations, and fostering its ongoing relevance in an artistic environment that continuously evolves and innovates.

It is also greatly inspiring to know that this year's Festival will be presenting screenings of four Irish films directed by talented women through whose imagination we are introduced to the historical and cultural traditions of the Dingle community. *Uisce Beatha, Life is Short, Do Mharagadh Déanta, and A Tragedy in Kerry*, do not just open a rich world for us; they also remind us of the many remarkable women working in the Irish film industry and the need to embrace the many diverse voices and viewpoints which must comprise a truly inclusive artistic community.

Today, the Dingle International Film Festival attracts an impressive roll call of widely acclaimed actors and filmmakers, who join the many enthusiastic film lovers who travel to Dingle annually to take part in the imaginatively curated programme of events which forms the heart of this Festival. As a nation we owe a great debt of gratitude to those who work so hard to ensure the success, year after year, of this event, ensuring it remains true to its Irish roots while also growing its international dimension.

Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann is mian liom mo bhuíochas a chur in iúl le lucht eagraithe Féile Idirnáisiúnta Scannán an Daingin dá gcuid dtiomantais do na scannáin áille, misniúla a chuirtear chun cinn anseo, scannáin a chothaíonn smaointe agus féidearthachtaí nua sa lucht féachana. Is mian liom, chomh maith, buíochas a ghabháil leis na cuairteoirí ar fad, idir Éireannaigh agus eachtrannaigh, a thugann tacaíocht d'Fhéile Idirnáisiúnta Scannán an Daingin agus a chuireann a gcuid rannpháirtíocht go mór lena dinimiceas agus lena tionchar.

As President of Ireland I would like to thank the organisers of the Dingle International Film Festival for their dedication to the promotion of the beautiful and courageous films which cause us to examine new thoughts and new possibilities. I also thank the many visitors, from home and abroad, whose support and participation are critical to the dynamism and influence of the Dingle International Film Festival.

**Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.**

**Michael D. Higgins  
Uachtarán na hÉireann  
President of Ireland**