

SYNOPSES OF FILMS
BATON ROUGE IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY:

Ireland, 1920.

Workers from field and country unite to form volunteer guerilla armies to face the ruthless "Black and Tan" squads that are being shipped from Britain to back Ireland's bid for independence. Driven by a deep sense of duty and love for their country, brothers, Teddy and Damien, join in the dangerous and violent fight for freedom. As the freedom fighters bold tactics bring the British to a breaking point, both sides finally agree to end the bloodshed. Peace is short-lived and when one faction of the freedom-fighters accepts a treaty with the British that is regarded as unfair by the other faction, a civil war ensues and families, who fought side by side, find themselves pitted against one another as sworn enemies, putting their loyalties to the ultimate test.

Nominated for numerous awards

Recipient of:

Golden Palm Award at the Cannes Film Festival 2006

European Film Award 2006 for Best Cinematographer

Irish Film and Television Awards 2007 for Best Film and Best Actor

Audience Award 2007 for Best Irish Film

Official Selection for Toronto Film Festival and BAFTA

Genres: Art/Foreign, Drama and War

Rating: R

IN AMERICA:

Modern-Day Manhattan

To begin all over again is a classic American dream. But it's remarkably hard to do as an Irish emigrant family find when they hit the streets of modern-day Manhattan with children in tow. They emerge into a realm as comical and adventure-filled as it is strange and terrifying. The family faces a dizzying new future - but first they must face down a past that haunts every single one of them. They settle in a chaotic New York tenement and attempt to turn the dilapidated setting into a true home. Nothing comes without a fight for the family. While the couple sees America as rife with challenges, dangers and weirdness, their daughters see it as a magical place where anything can happen, a place that might release them all from the anguish of what has come before. Then, on Halloween, Christy and Ariel dare to knock on the door of their reclusive neighbors, Mateo, and everything changes. As the family heads for a crisis, Mateo becomes their unlikely ally in the territory where hope, faith and even magic hold sway.

Nominated for numerous awards

Recipient of:

- AFI Fest Audience Award 2002 for best feature film
- Golden Kinnaree Award 2004 for best director
- Black Reel Award 2004 for best supporting actor
- Critics Choice Award 2003 for best writer
- Flanders International Film Festival 2003 Grand Prix Award
- Independent Spirit Award 2004 for best cinematography and best supporting actor
- National Board of Review Award 2003 for best original screenplay
- Stanley Kramer Award 2004
- Phoenix Film Critics Society Award 2004 for best original song, best original screenplay and best performance by a youth
- San Diego Film Critics Society Award 2003 for best supporting actor
- Golden Satellite Award 2004 for best actor, best motion picture drama, best performance by an actor
- Young Artist Award 2004 for best performance in a feature film

Genre: Drama and Romance

Rating: PG-13 for sexuality, drug references, brief violence and language

RAT:

Irish Fable

Hubert Flynn from Dublin loves his pint of Guinness, his bet on the horses and his wife Conchita, in that order. So when he comes home from the pub one evening and changes into a rat, she is slow to forgive. His children have differing views. His loving daughter Marietta wants to give him the special care and attention a small rodent requires, but she is engaged to be married and wonders how he will cope as father of the bride. His son Pius, destined for the religious life, wants to put him in the oven. Conchita resists, but when Phelim Spratt, an opportunistic ghost-writer, knocks on the door and proposes telling Hubert's story in a book, then a film of the book, then maybe a book of the film.....she is tempted. But in this Irish fable of family values and little furry folk there are lessons to be learned for everyone before love triumphs and the rats come home to roost.

Nominated for numerous awards

Genre: Comedy

Rating: PG