

PRESS RELEASE

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IRELAND COMES TO BATON ROUGE
THE BATON ROUGE IRISH CLUB PRESENTS
THE 8TH ANNUAL IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

The 8th Annual Baton Rouge Irish Film Festival will be held on Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30, 2016, at the Manship Theatre in downtown Baton Rouge; Sunday, July 31 at Celtic Studios and Monday night, August 1 at Phil Brady's Bar and Grill. This film festival continues to address the mission of the Irish Club to promote, encourage and support Irish culture, especially in the Greater Baton Rouge area. This year's festival will show a total of 10 full-length films and 14 shorts.

The extremely popular event, **WEE IRISH SHORT NIGHT**, will be held on Friday night, July 29, with a showing of ten short films. Included in the shorts line-up are ***Violet, The Way Back, Mullins Fair, The Immaculate Misconception, The Guru, Unhinged, City of Roses, Blight, They Shoot People and More Thank God.***

Irish Music by the Celtic Band, "Wild Irish Roots", featuring Kate Laborde, Brian Breen, Pete Dawson and Frank Bladen, will be on hand during intermission playing traditional tunes and songs of Ireland and Scotland as well as original creations. Laborde (6 & 12 string guitars, Bodhran, vocals) singing both traditional and non-traditional songs, forms the thread found throughout the band's ability to please with riveting vocals. Brian Breen (guitar, mandolin and vocals) brings a multitude of lively tunes and songs he learned from his father (who came from Northern Ireland) as well as offering wonderful lead and accompaniments. Pete Dawson (flute, penny whistle and vocals) has been playing since the age of six and has garnered high acclaim from a multitude of his peers including members of the Chieftains! His highly infectious style of playing will keep you "dancing." Frank Bladen (Bodhran, vocals and various other percussion instruments) is a driving force behind the group's unique rhythm and percussion.

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Refreshments with a cash bar will be available during intermission. Audience members will be asked to vote on their favorite shorts at the conclusion of the night and an award will be announced for the Director of the Best Short Film. Admission for Wee Irish Film Night is \$8.50. Immediately after **Wee Irish Short Night**, a separately ticketed (\$8.50) full-length **LATE NIGHT FEATURE, *Traders***, will begin at 10:30 pm with the short, ***Any Last Words***, shown prior to the full-length feature.

On **FESTIVAL DAY**, July 30, audiences will enjoy a **free Irish Classic film** at 10:00 am.

This year's classic film will be ***The Quiet Man*** starring John Wayne. The remainder of the day will offer five full-length films including ***You're Ugly Too, The Truth Commissioner, An Klondike, Sing Street and a*** documentary, ***Name Your Poison***.

The incomparable **Beth Patterson** will be the featured entertainer for this year's festival.

Beth Patterson is an Irish Folk and Celtic musician. She combines traditional Irish, Celtic and folk ballads with Cajun, world-beat and progressive rock influences and her own creative song-writing. She began her professional career in her teens as a classical oboist and Cajun bass player. Beth spent a year studying traditional Irish music and ethnomusicology at University College Cork in Ireland. She later finished her bachelor's degree in Music Therapy from Loyola University New Orleans. Today her preferred instrument is the Irish bouzouki, a tear-shaped eight-string instrument of Greek origin that became popular in Irish music in the 1960s. She plays a 1-string version as well.

During the intermissions on Saturday, refreshments with a cash bar will be offered and the Irish band "Wild Irish Roots" and Irish Dancers from the Ryan School of Irish Dance will perform in the **Hartley-Vey space** in the Manship Theatre. Admission for each full-length film is \$8.50 while there is no charge for the documentary or the musical performance by Beth Patterson.

Hotel Indigo, at 200 Convention Street in downtown Baton Rouge, will host an **AFTER PARTY** in the King Bar immediately following the showing of the last film on Saturday. Beth Patterson and the

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Band Wild Irish Roots” will entertain the crowd. The After Party is free with a cash bar and open to the public.

On Sunday, July 31, several films will be shown at Celtic Studios, 10000 Celtic Drive, in Baton Rouge, in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising. Films to be shown include the documentary **1916: An Irish Rebellion**, the dramatic musical **Bloody Irish** and a selection of the IFB-curated **“AFTER 16”** short films. The event begins at noon and is free and open to the public with light refreshments by **Splendid** served.

More films will be shown at **PHIL BRADY’S PUB NIGHT**, 4848 Government Street on Monday, August 1. Two shorts, **Big Bird** and **Teacher’s Pet** will precede the full-length feature **On the Nose**. Pub Night is free and open to the public with \$1 burgers, drink specials and a cash bar.

The Irish Film Festival helps to bring the rich Irish culture to the public where audiences will enjoy a wide variety of films with music and dance. To purchase individual tickets or a festival pass, contact the Manship Theatre at 225-344-0334 or visit their web site at manshiptheatre.org or for more information visit BRIrishClub.com. Tickets go on sale on July 11 at the Manship Theatre.

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