

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: PATRICIA COMEAUX, B.R. IRISH CLUB BUSINESS MANAGER
225-271-4187 (not for publication)

fax 225 - 330 - 4143

IRELAND COMES TO BATON ROUGE
THE BATON ROUGE IRISH CLUB PRESENTS
THE 7TH ANNUAL IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

The 7th Annual Baton Rouge Irish Film Festival will be held on Friday, July 31 and Saturday, August 1, 2015 at the Manship Theatre in downtown Baton Rouge; on Sunday, August 2 at Celtic Studios; and at Phil Brady's Bar and Grill on Monday night, August 3. This event has grown in scope since the first one held in 2009 and serves to address the mission of the Irish Club to promote, encourage and support Irish culture, especially in the Greater Baton Rouge area.

FRIDAY:

The first event, the wildly popular **Wee Irish Film Night**, will be held on Friday night, July 31, with a showing of nine short films: *Cead Ghra'*; *Cutting Grass*; *Deadly*; *Land Is God*; *Under Open Skies*; *Rockmount*; *Tea With the Dead*; *The Weather Report* and *Rince*. Irish Music by the Celtic Band, "Wild Irish Roots", featuring Kate Laborde, Brian Breen, Frank Bladen, and Pete Dawson, will also be featured.

After years of friendship and countless hours of sessions, the "Wild Irish Roots" band members united their talents to play traditional tunes and songs of Ireland and Scotland as well offer original creations. Laborde (6 & 12 string guitars, Bodhrán, vocals) singing both traditional and non-traditional songs forms the thread found throughout the band's ability to lead dance tunes and please with riveting vocals. Brian Breen, new band member (guitar,

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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 rhythm accompaniments. Pete Dawson (Flute, Penny Whistle and vocals) has been playing since the age of 6 years old 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 (Bodhrán, vocals, various other percussions) is a driving force behind the groups' unique rhythm and percussion.

Light refreshments with a cash bar will be available during the intermission. Audience members will be asked to vote on their favorite shorts at the conclusion of the night and an award will be presented to the Director for Best Short Irish Film. Admission for Wee Irish Film Night is \$8.50 plus fees.

A "Late Night Horror Feature", ***The Hallow***, will be shown on Friday night at 10:30 PM. This is a separate ticketed film, not a part of Short Night.

SATURDAY:

On **Festival Day**, Saturday, August 1, audiences will enjoy several feature films beginning with ***A Love Divided***, the first offering of the **Irish Classic Series**, which will be a part of the Film Festival each year. The featured films of the Festival include, ***The Legend of Longwood***, ***'71***, ***One Millions Dubliners*** (a full-length documentary) with Q and A with the Director of the film, and ***Poison Pen*** as the final film of the day. Popular Irish Entertainer, Danny O'Flaherty, will be the highlight of the day when he performs in the Manship Theatre.

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Danny O'Flaherty, Celtic Balladeer, originally from the Aran Islands of the west coast of Ireland, left Ireland at 17 years old and has been entertaining audiences around the world ever since with a lifelong dream to pass on rich Irish histories through music, songs and stories. He has performed for Popes and Presidents and at other special events such as the Pan Celtic Festival in Ireland, The Tulsa Philharmonic, The National Theatre in Washington, D.C. and many others. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors through his career including the an award from the Irish Cultural Society, the Round Table Certificate of Appreciation and the Scoil Chroi Iosa Award. In 2014 Danny was nominated by the Irish Music Association for a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Tommy Maken Award. He currently serves as Ambassador for The Emigrants and Diaspora Centre in Carna and Cill Chiarain which serves to foster bonds between people of those communities and their descendants at home and across the world.

Also, during the intermissions on Saturday, catering by Abigail's plus a cash bar will be offered and the Irish band "Wild Irish Roots" will perform in the **Harley-Vey** space at the Manship and Irish dancers will be on hand to entertain.

Tickets for the festival at the Manship Theatre will remain \$8.50 per person plus fees for each feature film and \$30 for a festival pass per person plus fees. There is no ticket charge for the Irish Classic Series.

Hotel Indigo, at 200 Convention Street in downtown Baton Rouge, will host an **After-Party** immediately following the showing of the last film on Saturday. Music and songs will be provided by the band "Wild Irish Roots" and balladeer Danny O'Flaherty. The After-Party is free and opened to the public with a cash bar.

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SUNDAY:

On Sunday, August 2, **Military Day** will present the feature film, ***A Terrible Beauty***, at Celtic Studios, 10000 Celtic Drive in Baton Rouge. This event is free and open to the public with light refreshments served. Bagpiper, Wil Brian, will perform during the Welcome and Flag Ceremony. An exhibit featuring "Stories from 1916" will be open during the event.

MONDAY:

The Yank will be the feature film at **Phil Brady's Pub Night**, 4848 Government, on Monday, August 3. Pub Night is free and open to the public offering \$1 burgers with a cash bar and drink specials.

Over 40 million Americans consider themselves Irish or of Irish descent and in recent years this has brought about a revival of genealogy and the study and enjoyment of rich Irish culture, including works of literature, film, music and art. The Irish Film Festival helps to bring this culture to the public where audiences will enjoy a wide variety of films along with music and dance. The films this year and in the past six years have been provided to the Irish Film Festival through the Irish Film Institute which has worked hand in hand with the Festival committee in choosing a wide variety of films each year.

To purchase tickets, contact the Manship Theatre at 225-344-0334 or visit their web site at manshiptheatre.org. or for more information about the Festival visit brishfilmfestival.com or batonrougeirishclub.com

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