

RATHMULLAN

FILM FEST

2026

18th - 22nd
February

Rathmullan I
Co. Donegal



Welcome to the 9th Rathmullan Film Festival!

Established in 2017, our vibrant festival takes place during the February mid-term break in the heart of Rathmullan, Co. Donegal. The festival celebrates creativity and showcases the talent of filmmakers, from local schools and university students to seasoned professionals.

Join us from 18-22 February for our biggest programme yet, featuring workshops for all ages, panel discussions, and a rich selection of films including documentaries, animations, Irish shorts, new releases, and much-loved classics. There's truly something for everyone!

Book your tickets now at rathmullan.ie/filmfest

WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

An Out-of-this-World Gala Night

Ray Community Centre | 6-8pm | €5 (Child), €7 (Adult), €20 (Family)

This year's Gala Night celebrates out-of-this-world films made by pupils from St Joseph's and St Garvan's! Come in your best space-inspired costume for free treats, a fun Oscars-style ceremony and activities, and the launch of our new Local Film Hero Award.

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Collage Workshop

St. Joseph's N.S. | 10am - 12pm | Ages 6-9 | €7

Join Print Barn Folk for a fun, hands-on collage adventure! Explore colour, texture, and pattern while cutting, layering, and glueing your own creative masterpiece. All materials are provided, just bring your creativity!

SFX Make Up Workshop

St. Joseph's N.S. | 10am-12pm | Ages 10-15 | €7

Learn the art of special effects makeup with Anna Czajak and transform your imagination into movie magic.



THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

Donegal History On Screen

SVP | 2-3.30pm | Free

1. Rathmullan Pier Opening (Arthur Lynch) The film takes us back to 1957 to celebrate the opening of the Rathmullan Pier.

2. Innistrahull (Arthur Lynch) In memory of an island almost forgotten in Ireland (except for the people of north Inishowen).

3. Patsy: Man of Stone (Michael McMonagle) This film, as seen through the eyes of nine year old Sarah McInaw, highlights the remarkable dedication, skills and insights of her grandfather, Patsy McInaw - who has built over 2 miles of dry stone wall on his farm.

Youth Club Movie & Pizza Night

RDRC | 7-10pm | Ages 12-17 | €4

Join the Youth Club for a fun evening of *Sing Street* (John Carney, 16, 2016, 12A), a coming-of-age story set in 1980s Dublin about a boy forming a band to impress a girl, plus music and pizza!

Sea Angling Festival (1972)

White Harte | 7-8pm | Free

Take a trip down memory lane and explore local history with Arthur Lynch's film on the 1972 Sea Angling Festival - showing again for those who missed it last year. No booking required - arrive early as space is limited.

FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Foley Sound Workshop

St. Joseph's N.S | 10am-12pm | Ages 6-9 | €7

Discover the secret world of work behind the little (or big) sounds that bring stories to life and create some foley sounds with musician James McCabe. Sponsored by Northern Ireland Screen.

Stunt Acting Workshop

St. Joseph's N.S | 10am-12pm | Ages 10-15 | €7

Learn the secrets of screen action with stunt performer Edward Mohan. Discover how to safely perform stage combat, falls, and dramatic reactions. Sponsored by the National Youth Film and Animation Network.



FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Cosy Classic: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (Stanley Kramer, 1967)

SVP | 4-6pm | €7

We are pairing *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* with a comforting bowl of homemade soup in a relaxed, cosy atmosphere. The film follows Joanna, a young woman raised with liberal values, who brings home her fiancé John, a widowed, black physician.

Kickboxing

Ray Community Centre | 6-7pm | €7 (Adult) €5 (Child)

Take a break from watching films and join Mayhem Martial Arts for one hour of kickboxing fun for children (5+) and adults.

Night Photography Workshop

Beachcomber Beergarden | 6-8pm | €7

Back by popular demand! Discover the magic of night photography with John Harding (Ulster University). Learn long exposures and light painting to create stunning images under Rathmullan's night sky.

This is a family-friendly outdoor event and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Equipment is provided. Wear high-visibility clothing for short walks between locations. Weather-dependent (check your email for updates).

Dogspiracy (Paul Crompton, 2025) + Q&A

SVP | 8-10pm | €7

The documentary follows Dr. Marc Abraham OBE as he fights puppy mills, smuggling, and US pet stores selling puppies, traveling from Wales to Washington DC while uncovering conspiracies in Britain and America. Post-screening Q&A with the director.

Tapas & Movie Karaoke

An Stad | 7.30-9.30pm | €15

A fun night of veggie tapas paired with movie-themed karaoke. Sing your heart out to iconic movie tunes. A perfect blend of food, fun, and film!

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Prop Making & Film: The Wild Robot (Chris Sanders, 2024, PG)

St. Joseph's N.S | 10am-12.15pm | Ages 3+ | Free

Make your own mini prop with Aimee Mckee-Heany before watching *The Wild Robot*, a beautiful film about a stranded robot who befriends island animals and cares for an orphaned goose.

This event is in fond memory of Amelie O'Sullivan, who loved Rathmullan and the Film Festival. Pre-booking is required and donations will go to Concern.

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Stopmotion Workshop

St. Joseph's N.S | 10am-12pm | Ages 10-15 | €7

Explore storytelling, character movement, and creative techniques to make your own short animations with artists Dylan Butter and Matthew Donnelly. Sponsored by the National Youth Film and Animation Network.

Mobile Filmmaking for Adults

St. Joseph's N.S | 10am-12pm | €7

Turn your smartphone into a filmmaking tool in this practical workshop with filmmaker TJ Harvey Kelly. Explore filming and editing techniques to create professional-looking videos.

Youth Film Showcase Event

Rathmullan House | 10.30am -12pm | Free

Join us for a showcase of films by young filmmakers from Loreto Letterkenny and PCC Falcarragh, made during workshops with Carol Wilson and Póca Productions and supported by The Tomar Trust.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the young filmmakers and emerging filmmakers Jessica Buchanan and Rose Sheridan, who will also screen their films *Profile of an Artist* and *The Wake*, and share career advice and filmmaking tips.

Profile of an Artist - a short documentary about artist and activist Devin Kane.

The Wake - a short dark comedy about a young man attending his first Irish wake.

Rathmullan Makers Market

Pier Sheds | 12-4pm | Free

Pop in to check out the diverse range of local handmade arts/crafts and delicious food and meet the talented Makers themselves.

Inspire: Short Films & Panel Discussion

Rathmullan House | 12.30-4pm | Free

Step into the world of filmmaking at our inspiring industry event which includes:

Panel 1 - Paul Crompton (Director/ Executive Producer), Sara Gunn-Smith (Filmmaker and Marketing and Audiences Officer, Film Hub NI) and Dorothy Duffy (Actress/Writer/Director) will explore how filmmakers can develop, fund, and distribute their work in Ireland and the UK.

Screenings - Short films by animation and film students from Atlantic Technological University and Ulster University's Cinematic Arts.

Panel 2 - The student filmmakers and industry guests will discuss current trends, production experiences, and advice for Northwest creatives.

Networking lunch included. Pre-booking is essential.

The event is sponsored by Screen Ireland.

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Made in Donegal 1 - Films and Q&A

Rathmullan House | 4.30-6.30pm | €7

Celebrate Donegal's filmmaking scene with a selection of short films and Q&A with the filmmakers. This event is sponsored by the Donegal Film Office

Galar (Niall Duffy): Based on real-life events affecting homeowners in Donegal, the story follows Michael Gallagher, a rural homeowner whose life is upended by the discovery of defective building blocks in his house. As Michael grapples with the physical decay of his home and battles institutional bureaucracy, he also faces a personal health crisis.

Battle of Assaroe (Emer O'Shea): The film explores the history of Assaroe Lake, its performance as a habitat for wildlife and the impact of the electric power plant on the landscape of Ballyshannon and the river Erne.

Morning After (Dorothy Duffy): A young Donegal woman's experience of getting the morning after pill in 2001.

The Wait (Fergus Friel): A man retreats to a remote cabin in search of peace and absolution. As the days count down, his mind and convictions begin to fracture under the weight of what he has done.

The White Lobster (Shaun Doogan and Ciaran McCann): When a young lobster fisherman hauls up a white lobster from the deep, he ignores the curse his great-uncle swears it carries. He brings the creature ashore and soon begins to feel the weight of something unnatural.

Betânia (Marcelo Botta, 2024)

SVP | 4-6pm | €7

This award-winning film follows 65-year-old midwife Betânia, who, after losing her husband, is persuaded by her daughters to leave her remote village and start a new life near the sand dunes of Lençóis Maranhenses in northern Brazil.

The film offers a rare glimpse into a little-seen region of Brazil, showcasing its landscapes, folk music, and nomadic communities.

Movie Music & Family Quiz Night

Beachcomber Beergarden | 6-8.30pm | Free

Enjoy live performances of iconic movie songs by the talented teenagers of the town and a family-friendly quiz with Joe Thompson that's just as fun for kids as it is for grown-ups.

No pre-booking is required, but a €2 per person fee for the quiz will be collected on the night.

Live Soundtrack: Sunrise : A Song of Two Humans (F.W. Murnau, 1927)

Presbyterian Church | 8.30-10pm | €7

The talented Vincent O'Callaghan will present a live score to give this cornerstone of German cinema a new breath of life.

The film follows a young city woman on vacation who falls for a villager and tries, unsuccessfully, to convince him to kill his wife. A revitalised screening of an old classic not to be missed!

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Photo Heritage tour with Donegal Heritage Trails

Beachcomber Beergarden | 12pm-1.30pm | €5 (Adult) €3 (Child)

Take part in a guided walking tour with local guide Deirdra Friel. Discover the town's history as you walk, snap photos and help us create a shared online map. An event for all ages. Weather-dependent (check your email for updates).

Spotlight on Sudan and Palestine

SVP | 2-4.15pm | €5

In partnership with the Disappear Here Film Club, an initiative by ChangeMakers Donegal at the Inishowen Development Partnership, the Disappear Here Film Festival and Concern Worldwide.

Khartoum (2205): Winner at Berlinale and the Vancouver Film Festival, *Khartoum* is directed by Anas Saeed, Rawia Alhag, Ibrahim Snoopy Ahmad, Timeea Mohamed Ahmed, with Philip Cox. The documentary follows five people navigating life in war-torn Sudan as their intertwined stories unfold amid conflict, hope, and resilience.

A Day in the Tent (2024): This short film portrays a Gaza family's daily life in a tent, made with children in Deir al-Balah and produced with Palestinian groups.

A discussion will follow, featuring Thoiba Ahmed (Sudan) and Fadl Mustapha (Palestine), chaired by Michael McLaughlin.

Box office proceeds will support the Disappear Here Film Club's Donegal Short Documentary Bursary, with donations encouraged on the day for humanitarian campaigns in Sudan and Palestine.

Made in Donegal 2 - Films and Q&A

SVP | 4.45-6.45pm | €7

Celebrate Donegal's filmmaking scene with a selection of films and Q&A with the filmmakers. This event is sponsored by the Donegal Film Office

Be The One (Matt McDonagh): A man is drawn inexorably to a confrontation with his doppelganger.

Rathmullan Makers Market (Jessica Buchanan and Bonnie Hegarty): The film celebrates our vibrant makers market and the passionate people behind it.

Leading the Way Forward (Connor Bond): The film captures the spirit of the 2025 University Sailing Northern Championships and the work of the Rathmullan Sailing Watersports Club.

Still He Waits (Paul McGuckin): A former tea planter returns to his ancestral homeland to build Donegal's first legal whiskey distillery in 200 years.

Reel Inspirations: Storytelling & Music

Mary Macs | 7-9pm | €7

Our closing event celebrates Ireland's rich storytelling and music traditions. Over the years, our Film Challenge, in partnership with Northern Ireland Screen, has opened up the Digital Film Archive to inspire Donegal and Derry creatives.

This year, writers created short stories inspired by the archives. Join us to hear their work, enjoy Irish music with Noel Lenaghan & Martin McGinley, and celebrate cross-border creativity. Event sponsored by Northern Ireland Screen.

2026 Partners

An Bonnan Bui B&B
An Stad
Atlantic Technological University
Change Makers Donegal
Concern Worldwide
Disappear Here Film Festival
Donegal Film Office
Donegal Heritage Trails
Éan Eile Cafe
Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland
Kinnegar Brewing
Loreto Letterkenny
Mary Mac's Bar
Mayhem Martial Arts
McHugh's Loft
National Youth Film and Animation Network
Northern Ireland Screen
Perfectly Thrifted Interiors
Pobalscoil Chloich Cheannfhaola

Print Barn Folk
Rathmullan Cottages
Rathmullan House
Rathmullan Presbyterian Church
Rathmullan Youth Club
Rathmullan the Way Forward
Ray Community Centre
Revive Sports & Injury Clinic
RDRC
Rockets Ice Cream
RTE Supporting the Arts
St Garvan's N.S.
St Joseph's N.S.
SVP
Póca Productions
The Beachcomber Bar
The Mixing Bowl
Tomar Trust Foundation
Ulster University
White Harte

**Thank you all for the generosity, support and
for enabling us to offer an engaging, affordable
and inclusive film festival experience.**

