CONTEMPORARY

IRISH CINEMA

SELECTED FILMS

An Annotated Filmography
With the international successes of Irish filmmakers Neil Jordan and Jim Sheridan in the 1980s and the economic recovery of Ireland in the 1990s, a new Irish cinema has emerged. The new films by both seasoned and rising Irish filmmakers have broadened the range of discourse on Irish history and culture and indigenous images of Ireland abound. The rise of the Irish film industry has also given way for many new Irish women filmmakers.

The titles in this list are all award-winning films and each had numerous nominations. All films are available in DVD format.

**Bloody Sunday**

Based on facts as reported in Don Mullan's politically influential book, *Eyewitness Bloody Sunday*, this film recreates the events that took place in 1972 in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, when British paratroopers opened fire on a peaceful demonstration, and 14 Irish Catholic civil rights protesters died.

**Breakfast on Pluto**

Adapted from the novel by Patrick McCabe, the film tells the tale of Patrick "Kitten" Braden, who is a trans-gendered individual coming of age in 1970's Ireland. He heads to London in search of his mother leaving his small town that does not accept him.
The Boys & Girl from County Clare
(aka “The Boys from County Clare,” 2003)
2005, color, 94 min. Directed by John Irvin.

Among the rival Ceili competitors at the All-Ireland Traditional Music Competition during the 1960s are estranged brothers Jimmy and John Joe. Jimmy left for Liverpool thirty years prior and has not been heard from since by his brother John Joe whose band has won the competition for the last two years.

In America

Relates the story of an Irish actor who illegally emigrates with his family to the U.S. in search of theatrical opportunities. They settle in New York’s Hell’s Kitchen where the family struggles and finds hope and faith to live and love again.

In Bruges
2007, color, 107 min. Directed by Martin McDonagh.

When a job back home in London goes sour, two Irish hit men are sent by their mobster boss to lay low in Bruges, Belgium. With the beauty and art of this medieval city as the backdrop for the story, the two begin to have some unusual encounters with the locals, tourists and other sordid characters.

Intermission
2003, color, 105 min. Directed by John Crowley.

Based on Mark O’Rowe's screenplay, Howie the Rookie, this is an urban love story set in 1990s Dublin. After a couple’s break-up sets off a chain of events, the stories and lives of the ensemble cast of characters intersect as they go about their daily lives.
**Kings**  
2008, color, 89 min. Directed by Tom Collins.  
Six young men sailed away from Ireland in 1977 with dreams of a better life. Thirty years later, they reunite at the wake after one of them suddenly dies. Hardened by years of disappointment and drink, they quickly realize that their bonds of friendship have weakened, provoking regret, jealousy and tension.

**The Magdalene Sisters**  
2002, color, 119 min. Directed by Peter Mullan.  
Based on a true story, this film tells of three young women who maintain their spirit despite being abused as inmates in the Magdalene Sisters asylum. The nuns work their charges believing that hard labor alleviates the sins of the world.

**Once**  
2006, color, 85 min. Directed by John Carney.  
Set in Dublin, this musical is a modern day love story between an aspiring Irish street musician who meets a Czech girl with similar dreams.

**Rory O'Shea Was Here**  
(aka “Inside I’m Dancing”)  
2004, color, 104 min. Directed by Damien O Donnell.  
The arrival of Rory at the Carrigmore Residential Home for the Disabled affects the lives of its patients. He builds friendships and encourages another patient, Michael, who has cerebral palsy.
Veronica Guerin
(aka “Chasing the Dragon: The Veronica Guerin Story”)
2003, color, 98 min. Directed by Joel Schumacher.
Based on the true story of the courageous journalist, Veronica Guerin, who as a writer for The Sunday Independent, covered the crime beat in 1990s Dublin. The drug lords that she exposed in her writing gunned her down in 1996.

The Wind That Shakes the Barley
2006, color, 127 min. Directed by Ken Loach.
Two Irish brothers join the resistance in 1920s Ireland to fight the Black and Tan squads sent by Britain to block Ireland’s bid for Independence, and loyalties are put to the test.

Films by Irish Women Filmmakers

Nora
2000, color, 106 min. Directed by Pat Murphy.
Follows the famous lovers, James Joyce and Nora Barnacle, a hotel maid, from the dark streets of Dublin to the sun-kissed Italian coast.
**Disco Pigs**
2001, color, 93 min. Directed by Kirsten Sheridan.

 Adapted from the 1996 play by Enda Walsh. This film revolves around the intense relationship of the two teenage protagonists, Darren and Sinead, nicknamed "Pig" and "Runt". They were born at the same hospital on the same day and are inseparable from birth, but their friendship unravels as they approach adulthood.

**The Last September**
2000, color, 103 min. Directed by Deborah Warner.

 Adapted from the novel, *The Last September*, by Elizabeth Bowen. Set in County Cork, Ireland in 1920, the drama unfolds at Danielstown, the home of Anglo-Irish aristocrats Sir Richard Naylor and his wife Lady Myra. As the Irish war for independence escalates around them, Sir Richard's 19-year-old niece, Lois, struggles with her longings for love & freedom.

**Song for a Raggy Boy**
2003, color, 100 min. Directed by Aisling Walsh.

 Based on the true story of a single teacher’s courage to stand up against an untouchable prefect's sadistic disciplinary regime and other abuse in a Catholic Reformatory and Industrial School in 1939 Ireland.