



WINNER OF THE SOUND ON SCREEN
AWARD AT THIN LINE FEST 2023,
THE AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHER
AWARD AT SALEM FILM FEST 2023
& THE GRAND PRIX AT FIPADOC 2023

#northcircular
www.northcircularfilm.com

WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

“A love letter to hard-scrabble North Dublin”

- Will Hermes, The New York Times

“Resonant, vivid and beautifully shot... pregnant with images and ideas... a film made with real artistry”

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian.

"Insightful, exquisite...beautifully observed and evocative.”

John Maguire, Business Post

“A fascinating psychogeography... captivating, positively operatic ”, Donald Clarke, Irish Times

“A glorious documentary... brilliant... told with beautiful photography and glorious music... I love this film! ...A gorgeous, beautiful, important story... a glorious trip!”, John Fardy, Newstalk

“A time-capsule charmer...beguiling...If ever a film was a rallying cry against isolation, it's this one., Harry Guerin, RTÉ

“Beautiful, elegant” Ryan Tubridy, RTÉ

“Artful... evocative... fascinating”, Chris Wasser, Sunday Independent

“Exceptional”, Paul Whittington, The Independent

"Conjures ghosts & memories... articulate, sombre, Rembrandtesque", David Katz, CineEuropa

"Beautiful, visually and sonically striking...A heartfelt love letter to Dublin.", Leo Barraclough, Variety

“A film full of astonishing imagery...a remarkable contemporary document of places, people, lives and times”,
Luke Maxwell, Dublin Inquirer

“North Circular truly is a special love letter to the areas found along the road - the great, the good, the bad, and the ugly... beautiful depiction of a complex area of Dublin... brilliant...”

Eoin Harrington, Balls.ie

“A kaleidoscopic array of moods...Highly recommended”,

Lane Shipsey, Scannain.

“Warm and engaging...Equal parts sensitive and celebratory, the film’s 85 minutes flies by in a comprehensive view of a variety of lives”,

Luke Dunne, Film In Dublin

“Absolutely gorgeous... beautiful film”, Gemma Creagh, Film Ireland

“Moving, poetic, visceral, thoughtful and funny in equal parts”, Film Network Ireland

THEATRICAL RELEASE (IRELAND)

Released Dec 2nd 2022

Still screening in Irish cinemas as of 22nd June 2023

WINNER

BEST SOUND ON SCREEN

AT THIN LINE FILM FEST 2023

WINNER

AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHER AWARD

AT SALEM FILM FEST 2023

WINNER

GRAND PRIX: MUSICAL DOCUMENTARY

AT FIPADOC 2023

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL

FILM FESTIVAL 2023

WINNER
BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD
Louth International Film Festival 2022

WINNER
The Spirit of IndieCork
IndieCork Film Festival 2022

SPECIAL MENTION
BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD
Dublin International Film Festival 2022

SPECIAL MENTION
BEST FEATURE FILM
BLOOMSDAY FILM FESTIVAL 2023

SPECIAL MENTION
Best Documentary Award
IndieCork Film Festival 2022

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
Sheffield DocFest 2022

OFFICAL SELECTION
Galway Film Fleadh 2022

Screening format: 4K DCP, B&W 4:3, 5.1 surround sound

LOGLINE

A musical trip through inner city Dublin.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A multiple award-winning documentary musical travelling the length of Dublin's fabled North Circular Road, where local characters share their powerful and emotive stories, accompanied by traditional ballads and folk music that add to the narrative. North Circular conjures the ghosts of the past while engaging with the conflicts and celebrations of today, with a little bit of Dublin humour thrown in.

LONG SYNOPSIS

North Circular is a documentary musical that travels the length of Dublin's North Circular Road, from the Phoenix Park to Dublin Port, exploring the history, music and streetscapes of a street that links some of the country's most beloved and infamous places.

Told in black and white 4:3 Academy ratio, the film evokes many narratives from the history of the city and nation, from colonialism, to mental health, to the struggle for women's liberation while also engaging with urgent issues of today, including the battle to save the legendary Cobblestone Pub, centre of Dublin's recent folk revival, from destruction at the hands of cynical property developers. The film also includes musical performances from artists local to the North Circular, including John Francis Flynn, Séan Ó Túama, Eoghan O'Ceannabháin, Ian Lynch & Gemma Dunleavy.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Luke McManus is a filmmaker based in Grangegorman, just off the North Circular Road.

Luke has produced and directed award-winning documentary projects for NBC, Netflix, RTÉ, Virgin Media Television, TG4, NDR/ARD, Al Jazeera and Channel 4, winning four IFTAs, one Celtic Media Award and the Radharc Award in the process.

His debut feature as producer was *The Lonely Battle of Thomas Reid*, which premiered in the Main Competition at IDFA in 2018, won the George Morrison Award for Best

Feature Documentary at the Irish Film & Television Awards and the Best Irish Film Award at the Dublin International Film Festival.

North Circular is his debut feature documentary as a director.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

North Circular is a personal film. I have lived just off the road itself for two decades and remain fascinated by its variety, by its contradictions, by the competing tensions that it finds within itself.

North Circular is a film in a tradition of the great documentaries of urban place, such as Gianfranco Rosi's, *Sacro GRA* and Zed Nelson's *The Street*, choosing a physically proximate geography to be the thread connecting a diverse collection of narratives and characters.

The use of music as a specific technique of storytelling is both an aesthetic and a editorial decision - to make a documentary which combines the musical and the factual film in a way that isn't simply a documentary about music but is more a documentary musical. This narrative form reflects the traditional of musical storytelling and narrative in Dublin that began with Peadar Kearney and Dominic Behan and that continues with Lankum, John Francis Flynn and Gemma Dunleavy today.

The use of black & white imagery reiterates the connection between the values and culture of the past and those of today - there is a timeless quality to the challenges that face our characters with yesterday reflecting in their eyes as they live their present lives.

There are numerous themes, characters and issues bubbling beneath the surface of the North Circular Road when you walk along it. A certain darkness at times, a celebratory energy at others: this single road encompasses so much diversity of human experience. This film will only ever be a glimpse of life on a couple of moments in the the complex history of this multi-faceted place.



CONTACT

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SELECTED MUSICIAN'S BIOGRAPHIES

John Francis Flynn is a singer and multi-instrumentalist whose work centres around traditional and folk material from Ireland. He is a founding member of the band, Skipper's Alley, and was recently crowned "Best Singer" and "Best Emerging Artist" at the RTE Folk Awards. While supporting Lankum on their 2019 UK tour he caught the eye of Geoff Travis and Jeanette Lee who quickly signed John to Rough Trade imprint label, River Lea. Recent live shows have witnessed Flynn and band expand upon the critically acclaimed debut "I Would Not Live Always" with lush, expansive soundscapes and pulsating versions of fan favourites "My Son Tim" and "Lovely Joan".

Ian Lynch is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist best known for his work with the band Lankum. Since 2019 he has been producing and presenting the podcast Fire Draw Near which investigates all aspects of Irish traditional music and song. A folklorist by profession, Ian lectured in UCD for a number of years. He has experience working for the Irish Traditional Music Archive, the National Folklore Collection and the archive of Na Píobairí Uilleann.

Over the years **Lisa O'Neill** has quietly built a reputation for herself on the Irish and international scenes and now has a growing following with her unique folk sound, strong song-writing and distinctive voice. She has released 4 albums to date and her last release on the Rough Trade imprint River Lea, 'Heard A Long Gone Song' has garnered huge acclaim both at home and abroad. It was Choice Nominated has a 5/5 star review from the Guardian on release and a coveted 'Best Folk Album of 2019' from the same publication. She was also been nominated in 4 categories at the 2019 UK Folk awards and 5 categories at the 2019 Irish Folk awards, winning one for best original folk song. Just as lockdown hit, Lisa signed a new album deal with Rough Trade and has been working on new material which will see the light of day in the Autumn of this year.

Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin is a Dublin-based singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist with his musical roots in sean-nós singing. He has recorded and performed with various bands including Skipper's Alley, Aon Teanga:Un Chengey and Jiggy. His album with fiddle & viola player Ultan O'Brien won Best Folk Album at the RTÉ Folk Awards in 2021. His debut solo album will be released on November 10th.

CREDITS

X

A Reel Art Film

Funded by the Arts Council/An Comhairle Ealaíon

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY

LUKE MCMANUS

EDITED BY

JOHN MURPHY

PRODUCED BY

LUKE MCMANUS & ELAINE GALLAGHER

THE MUSICIANS

ANNIE HUGHES

CIAN MURRAY & SEAMUS PEADAR ONG

ANTO BYRNE & THE IUNVA PIPERS

IAN LYNCH

FIACHRA MEEK & RYAN MACAULEY

EOGHAN Ó CEANNABHÁIN

SÉAN Ó TÚAMA

JERRY O'REILLY

BARRY "BOHS" LENIHAN & THE JODI STAND

JOHN FRANCIS FLYNN

ADRIAN, DINAR & MANIX ŞERBAN

JULIE KAVANAGH

LOUIS YOUNGE

DYLAN LYNCH

ANTOINETTE DUNLEAVY

ROISÍN BERKLEY

GEMMA DUNLEAVY

& LISA O'NEILL

THE VOICES

PAUL ROUSE

CATRIONA CROWE

EAMON DELANEY

ANTO BYRNE

GREGORY DUNN

ANNA MANNING

JOHN FRANCIS FLYNN

SHANE O'BRIEN

MAEBH MULLIGAN

DARAGH LYNCH

SEÁN Ó TUAMA

BRENDAN KELLY

WILLA WHITE

ELLEN ROWLEY

& GEMMA DUNLEAVY

CAMERA

PADDY JORDAN

RICHARD KENDRICK
EVAN BARRY
JAMIE GOLDRICK
LUKE MCMANUS

LOCATION SOUND RECORDISTS

ROSS CAREW
GREGORY DUNN
HUGH FOX
STEVE POWER
TONY CROSSE

BOOM OPERATOR

DAVE HARRIS

ADDITIONAL CAMERA

THOMAS BEUG
ALEX SAPIENZA

CONSULTING PRODUCER

SORCHA GLACKIN

GAFFER

TIM FLETCHER

SET DRESSER

MAISIE HOURIHANE

LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

CINELECTRIC

BEST BOY

IARLA Ó MUIRGHEASA

RIGGERS

NIALL GREENE
SHANE FOGARTY

PICTURE POST-PRODUCTION

WINDMILL LANE

COLOURIST

DAVID HUGHES

AUDIO POST-PRODUCTION

AVATAR POST

SOUND MIXER

KILLIAN FITZGERALD

CAMERA ASSISTANTS

FIA WREN

ELENA LARIONOVA

SUZANNE EVERS

NEAVE D'SOUZA

CAMERA TRAINEE

DARRAGH FLOOD

STILLS

MAEBH MCMANUS

INTERN

KIM STEWART

MUSIC SUPERVISOR

JOHN MCCALLION

MUSIC COMPOSERS

KEVIN MURPHY

THOMAS HAUGH

COSTUME

JACKIE DUNLEAVY

STYLIST

ZOE REDMOND

THANK YOU

AARON CONNOLLY

AGATA STOINSKA

AILEEN O'CARROLL

AISLING REDDIN

ALAN WOODS

ANNE MCLOUGHLIN

CARL HAND

CATHERINE DE COURCY

CIAN CLANCY

CIAN LAWLESS

CLAIRE LEADBITTER

CLLR JANET HORNER

COLM BAIRÉAD

CORMAC DERMODY

DANIEL LAMBERT

DENNIS HARVEY

DOMINIC, NAEEM & ADAM AT THE COBBLESTONE

DONAL FALLON

DONNACHA WALSH

EAMONN DE BARRA

EDEL WHELAN

FEARGAL WARD

GARY DUNNE

GARY GANNON TD

GENTS OF DUBLIN BARBERSHOP

GERRY O'CARROLL

HUGH MCGUINNESS

JIM BEATLEY

JOHN MCMAHON

JULIANA EDELMAN

LARKIN FEENEY

LISA SAPUTO

LORI KEEVE

MACDARA YEATES

MANCHÁN MAGAN

MARTIN MALONEY

MICHAEL HALPENNY

MIRANDA DRISCOLL

PAUL DUANE
PROF. JOHN HILL
RADIE PEAT
RAYCHEL COYLE
RONNIE DALY
SARAH SMYTH
SINÉAD KENNEDY
SUNNIVA O'FLYNN
THE ACADEMY
THE LYNCH FAMILY
THOMAS HYNES
TOM MULLIGAN
TOMÁS MULLIGAN
TROUBADOUR STUDIOS
URSULA DONNELLAN
ZLATA FILIPOVIĆ

THE FILMMAKERS WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE
D-LIGHT STUDIO'S CREATIVE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

Provided in partnership with
The North East Inner City Initiative & Dublin City Council

SPECIAL THANKS
GRÁINNE HUMPHRIES
FIONNUALA SWEENEY
JULIE HUNTSINGER
ELIZABETH COGAN
DANNY MCMANUS

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DEREK CRONIN 1972-2022

“Those in power write the history, those who struggle write the songs”

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