

London's annual Irish Film Festival and Awards have been moved from their traditional November dates to early next year.

The next festival, the 15th, will be held between 27 and 31 January with festival's Irish Film Awards on 1 February.

The festival's red-carpet gala opening night will be at the Vue Cinema, Leicester Square, on 27 January.

The awards will be at the Century Club in Soho.

The organisers, Irish Film and Television UK (IFTUK), said: "We have been discussing moving the date of the Irish Film Festival & Irish Film Awards for the past couple of years now because November is such busy time and is so close to other festivals.

"January-February is the perfect time for the festival and awards; we can combine the festival with our St Brigid's Day celebrations.

"Ahead of the festival in November, we will host a series of special preview screenings and events with the Irish Cultural Centre in Hammersmith and the Century Club in Soho."

We are delighted that Derek will join us as our year round Festival Director and having Una as our Guest Curator/Director with her impressive track record is a great combination."



London's Irish Film Festival and awards moves from November to January



Una Langlois added: "I am delighted to join the 15th Irish Film Festival London and look forward to working with the team towards an exciting and vibrant festival. IFFL has excelled at showcasing the best of Irish cinema to London and UK audiences. The festival is a unique and invaluable celebration of Irish stories and imagination, a celebration to which everyone is invited."

The festival will be curated by Una Langlois who has more than three decades of experience directing and programming film festivals and related events.

She curated international festivals in the US, France, Algeria, Italy, Germany and the UK and has been a jury member at film festivals in Hamburg, Uppsala, Nijmegen, Galway, and Foyle, as well as the Irish Film and Television Awards (IFTAs).

She co-founded and programmed the IndieCork Film Festival and programmed the Kino Art-house Cinema in Cork for ten years. From 1995 to 2013, she was the programmer for the Cork Film Festival.

Natasha Orlando Kappler will continue to programme the short film collections and Derek Murphy will be festival director.

● *Submissions can be made via FilmFreeway. See iftuk.com*