

Irish Film Festival London announces new curating team and new date



(left to right - Carey Fitzgerald, Úna Langlois, Derek Murphy)

27 January-1 February

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The **Irish Film & Television UK (IFTUK)** is delighted to announce a new curating team and a new date for the **Irish Film Festival London**. Highly respected and experienced festival programmer **Úna Langlois** will lead the programming team as **Guest Director** and **Curator**.

Úna has over three decades' experience directing and programming film festivals and cultural events. She co-founded and programmed the **IndieCork Film Festival** in Ireland (2013 - 2025), and co-founded the **13th Parish Jersey International Film Festival** where she is Co-Director and Programmer. She was also Programmer for the **Cork Film Festival** (1995 - 2013), and promoted Irish film to international festivals through the **Green Ray Film Agency**. Úna has curated international festivals in the U.S.A., France, Algeria, Italy, Germany and the U.K. She has participated regularly as a jury member including at **Galway Film Fleadh**, **Foyle Film Festival**, and the **Irish Film and Television Awards (IFTAs)**.

Úna Langlois said: *"I am delighted to join the superb team at Irish Film Festival London, and look forward to working with them towards an exciting and vibrant festival in 2027. The Irish Film Festival London 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 that welcomes everyone."*

IFTUK has also appointed **Derek Murphy** as year-round **Festival Director**. An actor, producer and broadcaster, Derek has been Festival Director of the IFTUK Pride Film Festival for the past two years and has programmed the IFTUK Masters At Work events as well as heading Q-IFTUK, the LGBTQ+ division of IFTUK. Derek was also the Presenter and MC at last year's Irish Film Festival London Film Awards.

Irish Film & Television UK has scheduled a new date for the 15th Irish Film Festival London with the main festival moving from its traditional November slot to 27-31 January 2027, followed by the Irish Film Awards on 1 February.

The board of IFTUK made the decision due to an increasingly busy autumn festival calendar and the crowded pre-Christmas period. The new dates will also allow IFTUK to bring its St Brigid's Day Festival together with the Irish Film Festival London, with more details to be announced.

IFTUK's Chair, Carey Fitzgerald, commented on the news: *"We have been discussing moving the date of the Irish Film Festival & Irish Film Awards for the past couple of years now, as November is such a busy time of the year and is so close to other festivals. The Board and Team of IFTUK agreed that January/February is the perfect time for the Festival & Awards and we can also combine our St Brigid's Day celebrations with the Festival. We are delighted that Derek will join us as our year-round Festival Director and having Úna as our Guest Curator/Director with her impressive track record is a great combination."*

While the main festival will take place in January 2027, IFTUK will continue its presence in November 2026, hosting a series of preview screenings and events in partnership with the Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith and The Century Club.

The 15th Irish Film Festival London will officially open with its traditional red carpet Opening Gala at the Vue Leicester Square on 27 January. With a view to reaching the wider Irish diaspora as well as the general public, screenings will then take place across a range of London cinemas, alongside workshops and events at the Century Club and the Irish Cultural Centre. The festival will culminate in the Irish Film Awards at the Century Club on 1 February.

The festival has long combined a platform for emerging Irish talent with a celebration of some of the most significant figures in Irish cinema. Niamh McCormack, one of Ireland's most exciting new acting talents, became an IFTUK patron earlier this year after receiving the Ros Hubbard Award for Acting at the 2025 Irish Film Awards.

Last year the festival also honoured the late Brenda Fricker with the Suile Eile Award for her contribution to Irish film. The tribute recognised her long career and her powerful final screen performance in *The Swallow*.

Submissions for the 15th Irish Film Festival London will open via FilmFreeway on 2 September 2026, with further details of the programme and November preview events to be announced.

About Úna Langlois

Úna Langlois has more than three decades' experience directing and programming film festivals and cultural events. She **co-founded** and programmed **IndieCork Film Festival** in Ireland which ran from 2013 to 2025. She also co-founded the **13th Parish Jersey International Film Festival (Channel Islands)** in 2018 where she is Co-Director and Programmer. She programmed the **Kino Arthouse Cinema** in Cork for ten years, and from 1995 – 2013, she was **Programmer** for the **Cork Film Festival**. At the **Green Ray Film Agency**, she promoted Irish film

to international festivals 2020- 2025. She also served at the Irish stand at **Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival** for many years promoting Irish film.

Úna has curated international festivals in the U.S.A., **France, Algeria, Italy, Germany** and the U.K. She has participated regularly as a jury member including at **Hamburg Short Film Festival, Uppsala International short Film Festival, Go Short Nijmegen, Galway Film Fleadh, Foyle Film Festival**, and the **Irish Film and Television Awards (IFTAs)**.

About

Formerly known as Irish Film London, Irish Film & Television UK (IFTUK) showcases and celebrates the best of Irish culture through world-class Irish film, television and animation throughout the UK. With festivals and year-round activities. IFTUK ensures Irish filmmakers have a credible platform in the UK, be they established voices or young artists taking their first steps into film production. The organisation also encourages collaboration and supports Irish filmmakers living and working in the UK, as well as holding workshops and seminars throughout the year to inform, educate and engage with the Irish diaspora and those interested in Irish culture.

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