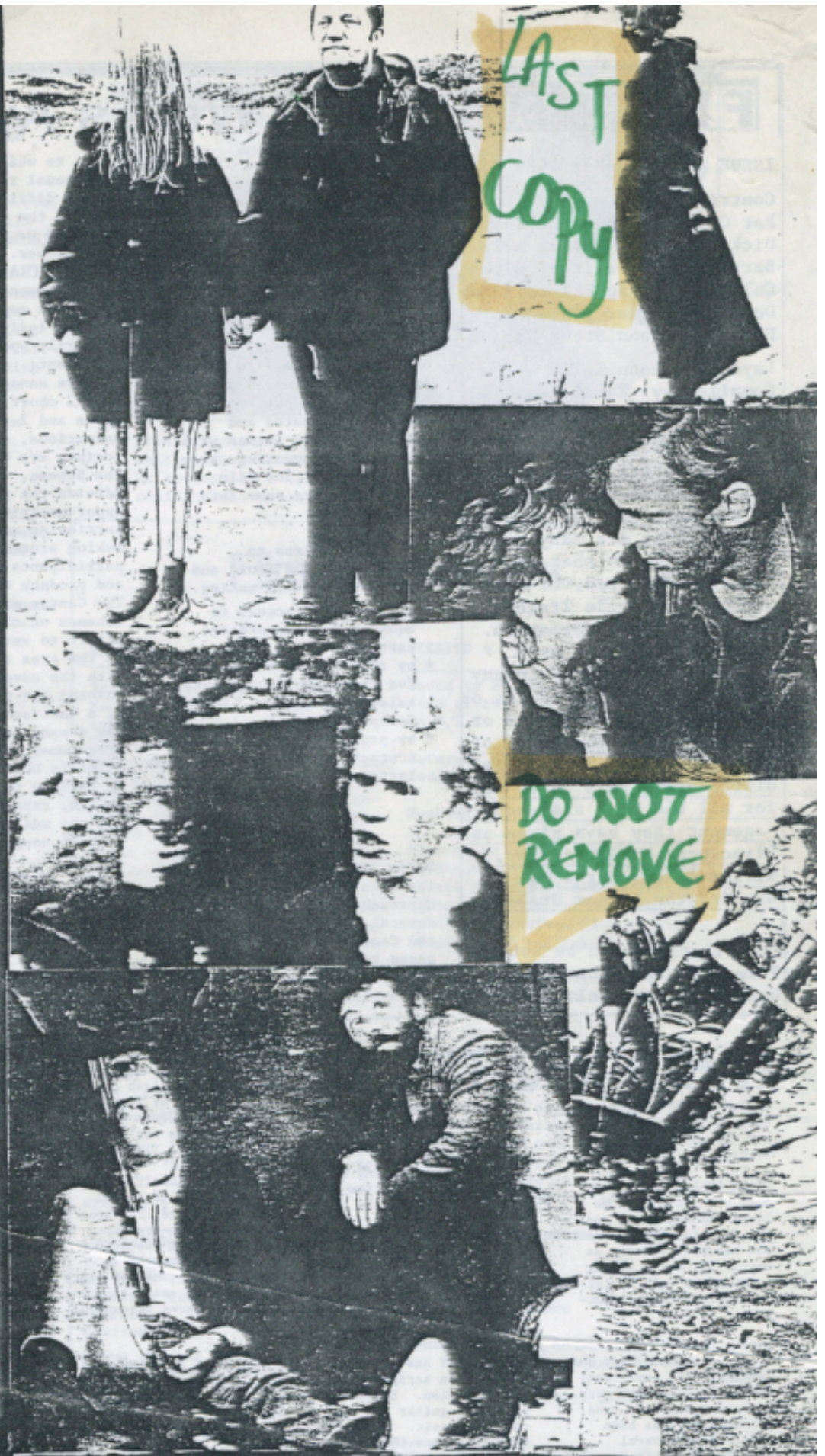


# FILMTEST



ISSUE NO: 1  
Jan-Mar 1989

FILM RESOURCE CENTRE 4 NEW DOCKS, GALWAY Tel.(091)66744.

# FILMWEST

ISSUE No:1 Jan-Mar 1989

## Contributions:

Pat Comer, Jacqueline Keane, Dick Donaghue, Miriam Allen, Barra de Bhaldraithe, Ciara Cullen, Aisling Prior, Kate Duignan, Dagmar Drabent, Declan Gibbons, Steve Woods.

Layout: Eamonn Kelly

Compiled by: Eamonn Kelly.

Welcome to the 1st issue of FILMWEST. In compiling the newsletter we found a healthy level of activity in the west and we are confident there are many groups and individuals that we have not yet contacted. Our main aim is to provide Training, Resources and Information. For our next issue we invite contributions in any language from individuals or groups working with Film or Video. We thank the Board of Filmbase for their help in distributing this issue and for all the help and encouragement they have given us.

Directors: Aisling Prior, Miriam Allen, Barra de Bhaldraithe, Dagmar Drabent.

Contributions can be sent to Film Resource Centre, 4 New Docks, Galway. Tel:091-66744

# The West's Awake

Galway is a thriving City, particularly in respect to the Arts. Theatre, music and the visual arts are well represented through the success of Druid, The Arts Festival et al. Film at a grassroots level has not however been as fully explored and developed this side of the Shannon. This could be because Film has long been considered a very costly medium, but, moreover a very complicated and intricate one. It was with a view to surmounting these obstacles that The Film Resource Centre came into being.

The group aspires to demystifying the tools and technology of film-making.

- \* by providing access to equipment to interested parties,
- \* by running weekend workshops for those who have a latent talent for Camera, Lighting, Scriptwriting etc.,
- \* by providing an information/contact service and Newsletter,

## F A S

So in January '88 the seeds of the idea were sown. FAS were approached and finally after several months deliberation the Centre was given the go-ahead to commence a Social Employment Scheme, employing 12 people. Interviews were

held, to which there was a phenomenal response, and after a very difficult selection process the 12 were decided upon and we went into action in Mid-October.

## TRAINING

Our premises are modest and our equipment mostly lent to us by private individuals. We are primarily working with 16mm equipment;

we have managed to shoot and edit 2 short (3 min) training films and 2 experimental animations, several other short scripts are being worked on. The Scheme, which lasts a year, affords the participants the opportunity to specialize in particular areas of the film-making process and encourages participants to script, direct and produce their own films. The Centre will continue to run Schemes of this nature in an effort to encourage activity in the area of film-making. With the advent of a 3rd t.v. channel and the possibility of a Gaeltacht based station, the demand for home produced programmes, documentaries and films is bound to increase. We believe therefore, that skills, experience and ideas for the medium of Film will be much sought after.



## PARTICIPANTS

**BRIDIE COOLEY** - Bridie is working as our book-keeper and has an interest in writing.

**CIARA CULLEN** - Ciara has been running a farm on Clare Island, Mayo, for the last few years, where she has been writing as well. She has a strong interest in both script-writing and film production.

**DAGMAR DRABENT** worked on films in both Germany and Ireland. Her experience includes continuity work, assistant Director, and production. Has been involved in several film workshops in Germany.

**DECLAN GIBBONS** is interested in sound. Has composed music for a short film. Declan is a talented musician and has played guitar with the Mary Coughlan band.

**BILLY KEADY** has experience with film and video. He made a film in Nepal titled "White Water". Billy is also involved in Television Production in Connemara and is a native Irish speaker.

**EAMONN KELLY** has a strong interest in scriptwriting and animation. Eamonn plays the guitar and composes music. He also has experience in lighting.

**MIRIAM ALLEN** has worked on various films, including Bob Quinn's Budawanny, on production in "Clash of the Ash" directed by Fergus Tighe and a German production which has not yet been released.

**BARRA DE BHALDRAITHE** co-founder of The Film Resource Centre. Previous to this, he co-organised the Irish Film Festival at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, which took two years to mount and ran over a period of three successful weeks.

**PAT COMER** has made several short videos of various characters in Galway City. He was also responsible for many of the paintings within the City Centre. Pat is particularly interested in animation.

**JACQUELINE MCCARTHY** plays traditional Irish music on the concertina, played and toured with Ballet Rambert for two years, she also played music in a film titled "Three Wishes for Jamie", shot in Clifden, Connemara, and Gloucestershire, England.

**PAT O'CONNOR** previous to working for The Film Resource Centre, Pat owned a Video Library. He was also involved in videorecording weddings and other occasions.

**AISLING PRIOR** - Aisling is Project Organiser of The Film Resource Centre. Along with Barra de Bhaldraithe organised the Irish Film Festival in Paris. A keen photographer, is interested in camera work.

## Film Centre Opening

On Friday 16th December, The Film Resource Centre had its official launching party. The opening speech was delivered by that famous actor of stage and screen, Donal McCann, who kindly agreed to open the centre and lend credence to this initiative, the first of its kind outside Dublin.

The launch was well attended by people involved in the various aspects of film in the West, such as Bob Quinn, Lelia Doolan, Fergus Tighe, Steve Woods, Joe McMahon and former Hollywood stunt man Steve Donoghue.

Politicians such as Fintan Coogan and Michael D. Higgins and members of the business community also attended, showing growing support and awareness of The Film Resource Centre and the work it is attempting to do in the West of Ireland.



Donal Mc Cann and Bob Quinn at the Film Resource Centre Launch.

## Film Workshops

The Film Resource Centre is now taking bookings for its series of workshops on film-making. There will be five workshops in all, the first beginning on the 4th/5th February and continuing for four consecutive weekends.

For details see page 7.



Ba mhaith liom ár mbuíochas ó chroí a ghabháil leis an Galway Film Resource Centre, as an méad cúnamh a tugadh dhúinn agus muid i mbun claracha aréiteach le haghaidh craoladh na Nollag. D'eirigh linn pacáiste 2½ uaire a chur le chéile, ina raibh éagsúlacht claracha - clár ambáin déanta i scoil náisiúnta sa Ghaeltacht, clár eile déanta i London i measc na nimirceach óg as Chonamara thall, clár faoi Josie Ó Loideáin ón gCeathru Rua agus clár faoi fheile mhór bád traidisiúnta a reachtaileadh mí Lúnasa seo caite i mBritáin na Fraince.

Chraolamar na cláracha 3 oíche i ndiadh a chéile le linn saoire na Nollag agus fuairamar tuairiscí ar ais ó dhaoine sna Forbacha chomh fada siar le Cill Chiarain, go raibh pictiúr agus fuaim soiléir acu agus gur thaithin na cláracha go mór leo. Chruthaigh se seo dhúinn go bhféadfaí cláracha suimiúla a dhéanamh sa Ghaeltacht ar bheagán costais ach an chur chuige a bheith ann. Tá aúil againn gur é an toradh a bhéas ar ár gcuid oibre, go mbeidh Teilifís Ghaeltachta ann gan mórán achair agus go leanfaidh ceantracha eile ár sampla. Tá ré an teilifís phobail linn.

Le buíochas agus meas,

Donncha O hEallaithe

THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW WITH DONNCHA O'HEALLAITHE, ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF MEITHEAL OIBRE TELEFIS NA GAELTACHTA, IN WHICH HE DISCUSSES THE HISTORY, THE REASON, AND THE NEED FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY TELEVISION IN GAELTACHT AREAS.



DONNCHA O'HEALLAITHE

"The idea that the Gaeltacht, being a unique linguistic community, should have a television service in its own language, has existed for some time. R.T.E.'s efforts in this area fall down for two reasons; (1) there are very few programmes in Irish and (2) R.T.E. in general is very Dublin/East coast orientated and hence its coverage of Gaeltachts, particularly in the West of Ireland, presents an image which is very coloured by a 'Dublin media' perspective. This distorted perspective of the rural community is ultimately very dangerous and misrepresentative.

Although the idea, and the need, for community television in Irish has been talked about frequently, the technical capacity to initiate this idea has not been available until recently. With the advent of video it is now possible to produce good quality programmes cheaply, and to build transmitters to broadcast them at a reasonable cost, over a radius of 20 to 25 miles.

In the summer of '87 a few of us made a trip to the Faroe Islands where we saw a television station, which serviced a community of 45,000 people spread over 18 islands half way between Scotland and Iceland, probably the most isolated community in Europe. The station broadcast in their own language, not spoken anywhere else in the world, and averaged 25 hours a week. A quarter of these programmes they made themselves and the whole operation cost in the region of £1M annually. This inspired us to try the same ourselves and during a "Bob Quinn Retrospective" in the Galway Arts Festival 1987 we made contact with Norbet Payne, who said that he could build an appropriate transmitter and that it wouldn't cost a lot of money. And so we convinced the people of Connemara to invest money in the project and in the space of about three weeks the money was collected and a transmitter built for £4,000.

#### Gaeltacht tunes in

The first broadcast experiment was in October '87 at a festival in Rosmuc when 18 hours of television were transmitted. Although the material wasn't great the experiment was more concerned with the transmission of a picture from A to B, and to observe the community's reaction. The local reaction was very favourable and not only did we convince the community that it could be done but we also convinced ourselves.

Up to this time the Irish Language Movement was pressing for an all-Irish National Channel along the lines of S4C in Wales; an idea which was ridiculed because of the high cost of such a venture. Now the whole agenda changed with the idea of Gaeltacht Community Television which could be done fairly cheaply.

We began to make contact with similar operations in other countries, with some of us going along to a conference in Newcastle, where we realized we were not the only people thinking small with regard to television. On returning, we convinced Udaras that there was money available, from Europe, for funding a community television station. Subsequently, Udaras submitted a proposal to the E.E.C. for the development of such a station. Gradually the people with the power and money began to think in terms of community television rather than more Irish programmes on R.T.E.

In the next year we found people coming to us, such as Udaras Na Gaeltachta (the State founded body set up to look after the interests of the Gaeltacht) and getting ideas from us, as a result of which 'Telegael', the facilities house, was set up.

### Community TV

Basically, we are less interested in television than we are in the Gaeltacht community and due to the influence that t.v. has on children, we feel that this community is in jeopardy since most programmes of interest are in English. Irish, therefore, is seen as a language spoken purely at school and at home, but not adequate for use in the media, particularly television. A Gaeltacht television service would consequently go a long way in keeping the language alive; if children could see themselves and other children speaking Irish on television, then they would feel that Irish is not, after all, a backward language. With this in mind, Telefis na Gaeltachta would aim about half of the programmes at a young audience. Such programmes could be made locally and cost effectively. In our last transmission, this Christmas, we proved this by broadcasting a half hour programme, which had been filmed in a local primary school, which was enthusiastically received by young children and adults alike.

### Finance

The first broadcast from Rosmuc, proved that technically a quality picture

could be transmitted from A to B. It also proved that the programme content was sufficiently high to attract a wide audience. Although the experts may claim that the technical quality must match R.T.E. and the B.B.C.'s standards, this very much a professional's point of view, which the average viewer wouldn't generally ascribe to. In fact, audience reaction to the post Christmas broadcast production was that the picture quality was as good as anything they had seen on national t.v. This broadcast also proved our initial suspicion that good local-interest programmes can be made economically. We transmitted 2½ hours of television, for which the entire production crew worked voluntarily. If we were to calculate the cost of labour and equipment hire, the whole operation would have cost in the region of £5,000. This corresponds to £2,000 per hour, which is still, relatively speaking, cheap television. A Gaeltacht community station, producing most of its own programmes and buying and dubbing foreign ones, could, therefore, be set up to transmit 10 hours a week at a cost of £20,000 per week, i.e. £1,000,000 per annum.

The next step is to convince the powers that be, that they should believe in this and demonstrate this confidence by committing resources to it and thereby putting it into operation.

For further information Donncha can be contacted at:

Aille,  
Indreabhan,  
Co na Gaillimhe. Ph. (091) 93185.

### MEMBERSHIP

The Film Resource Centre is now enrolling new Members for 1989.  
Subscription is Waged £10  
Unwaged £5

Members can avail of

- 1) Reductions to Film Screenings and Workshops.
- 2) Quarterly newsletter posted
- 3) First preference participation on all workshops and access to information on media related courses in Ireland and abroad.

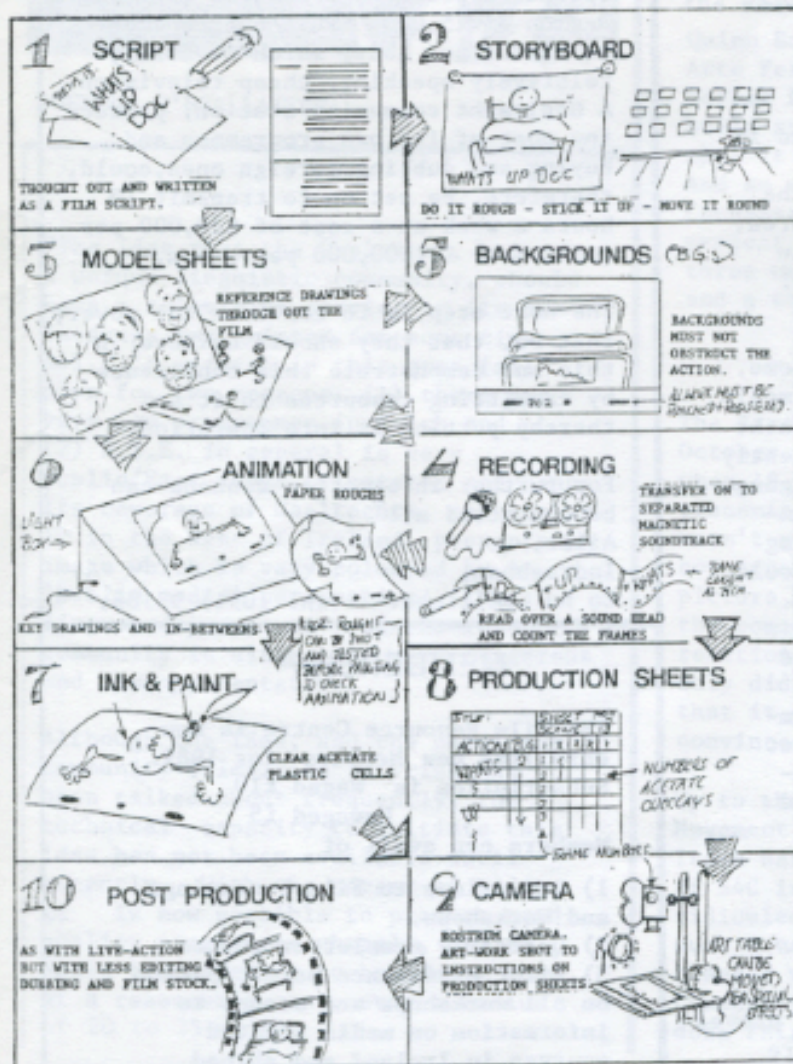
# Animation

Steve Woods is an animator, living and working in Galway and here he describes key parts in the process of animation. An animated cartoon can be made in various ways including;

- \* Cut-out animation - where puppet like cut-out characters are moved under the camera. This is the easiest way to start because less drawings are needed which results in less effort and expense.
- \* Paper animation is where all the drawings are drawn on single sheets of paper and shot one after the other.
- \* Cell animation - this has wider possibilities because the artwork is rendered on

clear plastic cells which means you achieve different levels of action and complicated backgrounds need not be redrawn.

Animation works on a flip book idea and someone interested in it should start by concentrating on a movement rather than fancy drawings. When you consider that drawings are passing through the projector at 12 per second you realise it adds up to a lot of work and therefore it is best to start with simple drawings and experiment with achieving fluid movement. The animation chart is a simple guide to the overall steps in animation. The most important equipment you need at the beginning is a light-box which can be built at home using simple materials. The key drawings are the extreme drawings and the in-betweens are the drawings you do on the light box to fill out the movement.



# Tall Tale Films

Probably better known as Galway Film and Video Collective. Tall Tale Films are a group of eight people who have spent the last year researching Video and Film use at a local level. The group have a wide range of experience and come from a diverse set of backgrounds.

The group met at a media studies course given by Lelia Doolan at the Peadar O'Donnell Unemployed Centre, Galway.

Projects to-date include; two promotional videos on the Peadar O'Donnell Centre, a training film with Red Flannel Films (Wales), a 2 hour video of a live show featuring the singer/songwriter Johnny Duhan, and a 60 minute Video on the work of the Simon Community in Galway.

At present Tall Tale Films are in production on two mini documentaries as part of a training course at Galway Arts Centre.

For further information they can be contacted through The Peadar O'Donnell Centre, 19 Upper Dominick Street, Galway.

# Fools on the Bog

D.M. Films - alias Dick Donaghue and Monica Ennis have been filming in the mountains and bogs in Connemara on their first production; "The Fools on the Bog", a humorous drama involving two characters and a car. It will run for approx. 5 minutes. They are shooting silent on super 8 sound; the sound track will be dubbed on in the post production stage. D.M. are shooting at 18FPS. But the final film will be projected at 24FPS to give it a silent movie type style.

"Filming in this weather up around Choill Doire Fhada can be frustrating - squishy bogs everywhere to sink your tripod into - and just as you line up that special shot, a big mist blows in from the sea" said Monica.

"But all in all its our first venture in film said Dick, and coping with the weather conditions is something you get used to - after all we all can't move to California".

## Screenings

On Sunday 22 Jan 1989, at 8.p.m. the Film Resource Centre will present a double bill of Cathal Black's Our Boys and Figs.

Our Boys is a Drama-Documentary on the Christian Brothers in Ireland. Apart from narrative, the Film uses archive material and interviews, interwoven with "story" to reflect a flavour of Irish Catholicism and Catholic education-Christian Brothers style.  
Starring Mick Lally. 39min

### Figs

Dublin's Inner City is falling down. An old once elegant house stands waiting to be squatted. The squatters arrive one by one and petty quarrels and jealousies break out in the house followed by mindless violence. The dream of refuge becomes a nightmare.

Camera: Thaddeus O Sullivan.  
With Jimmy Brennan & Johnny Murphy. 90 mins Colour

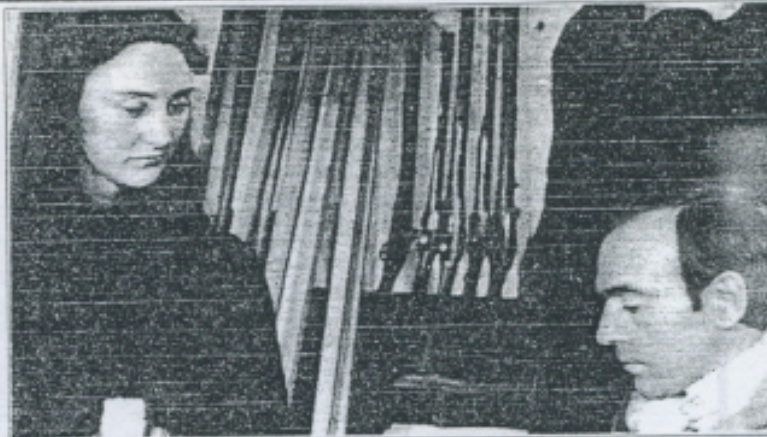
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SCREENING IN NUN'S ISLAND  
ARTS CENTRE 8.p.m 22 JAN

ADMISSION Members £2  
Non Members £1.50

## Central Film Agency

As an interested party in the development of an indigenous Film industry, the Film Resource Centre recognises the need for a Central Film Agency to be established in Ireland to co-ordinate Film activity. The necessity for such a Central body has long been recognised by our European neighbours and their economies are reaping the benefits as a result of their foresight. It is crucial to prepare seriously for 1992 and an open European market, the Government cannot continue to ignore an industry that can do their balance of payments a lot of good.



Brid Brennan and Bosco Hogan in a scene from Anne Devlin which was screened recently in Nun's Island Arts Centre. We apologise to Pat Murphy, who was present, and the audience who attended, for the poor quality of projection.

## Film Workshops

### WEEKEND 1

Scriptwriting, to be given by Martin Duffy, well known television writer. Credits include "Your Favourite Funnyman", "Men of Consequence", "Dubliner's Dublin" and "A Splice of Life", which he wrote, directed and edited himself. He is currently script editor of R.T.E.'s new urban drama to be shown in the near future.

Saturday 4 February 12.30-6.00  
Sunday 5 February 11.30-4.00

### WEEKEND 2

Film Theory and Production, to be given by Lelia Doolan, who produced the award winning film "Reefer and the Model" and has worked in the capacity of executive producer on many other Irish films.

Saturday 11 February 12.30-6.00  
Sunday 12 February 11.30-6.00

### WEEKEND 3

Camera/Lighting - this workshop is designed to give the participants an introduction to basic lighting techniques and camera operation. Instructors to be confirmed.

Saturday 18 February 12.30-6.00  
Sunday 19 February 11.30-4.00

### WEEKEND 4

Sound to be given by Tony O'Connor, head of the Film Sound Department in R.T.E. for many years.

Saturday 25 February 12.30-6.00  
Sunday 26 February 11.30-4.00

### Weekend 5

Editing to be given by Emir Reynolds who has been involved in the editing of many Irish films. Credits include the television series, "It's my Life", "Budawanny" and "Pobal".

Saturday 4 March 12.30-6.00  
Sunday 5 March 11.30-4.00

These workshops are designed to give an overall introduction to film-making. Enrolment is thus for the entire series, and as the number of places is limited to sixteen, early booking is advisable and only booking secures a place. Members of The Film Resource Centre will be given first preference for places.

Price for the series of five workshops:

£65 - members  
£80 - non-members

Contact : Film Resource Centre  
4 New Docks,  
Galway  
Ph. (091) 66744

Closing date for enrolment  
Tuesday 31st January, 1989

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3 x Betacam SP and 1 x 1" C Format VPR 6 & TBC 6  
ACE Editing system, Vista Vision Mixer  
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For further information contact **Paul Cummins** or **Des Bennett** at:

**TELEGAEL, Spiddal, Galway.**

**Tel. 091 - 83460**

**Fax 091 - 83464**

**RÉ NUA TEILIFÍSE**