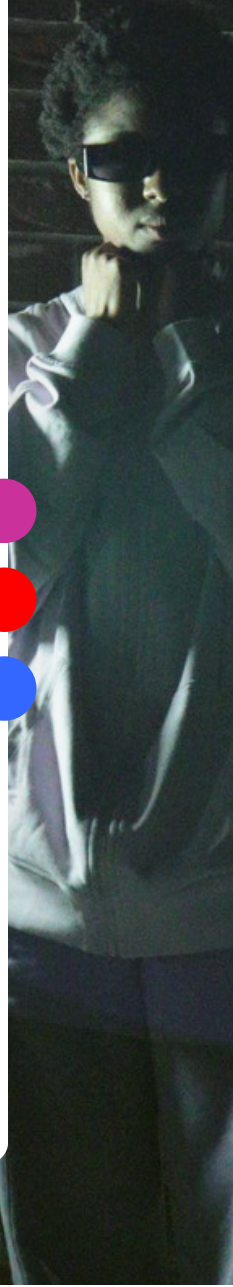




Event Report 2023

30th March to 1st April 2023
THE BELLTABLE
NO 1 PERY SQUARE
ENGINE, LIMERICK CITY



At a Glance

Catalyst 2023 exceeded all expectations. We welcomed students, emerging and established screenwriters and filmmakers, members of the Ukrainian community, film enthusiasts, and those who relish critical debate. We had screenings and panel discussions, workshops and script labs and industry presentations. And we had one of the most accomplished directors Ireland has ever produced – the incomparable Aisling Walsh! Besides all that, there was a lot of fun and great laughs along the way. I'm more convinced than ever that Catalyst International Film Festival has a long and trailblazing future ahead.

Dr Susan Liddy, Founder and Director



"It swells the heart to welcome everybody back and to growing our Shannon side film festival, Catalyst International Film Festival and celebrating the many different faces of our film industry and its future. As our industry experiences a resurgence of exciting attention, it has become increasingly clear that Ireland has extraordinary talent. Let's nurture and support it so we can continue to explore our ever-evolving identity and culture through the collective in film by encouraging and supporting all Irish voices! Join us for Catalyst International Film Festival, 2023!"

Ruth Negga, Catalyst International Film Festival Ambassador.





Attendee Feedback

I loved how included I felt as a writer at this festival. Being offered a chance to do a workshop with Aisling Walsh was a particular highlight.

The festival offered great options of masterclasses with experienced people from the industry and a great way to network.

Professional and diverse panel of speakers with a lot of experience.

Well organised, friendly, welcoming, inclusive and felt everyone was encouraged to believe in themselves, their stories and abilities within the filmmaking world!

The generosity of the guest speaker Aisling Walsh and the NFA coffee meeting. The award ceremony was welcoming and Fun!

Warm, welcoming inclusive atmosphere. The values of the festival in action.



Runner Up Best Irish Short Award Director Derek Ugochukwu
(You're Not Home)



2023 Programme

28 Short Films

From North America to South America, from Europe to Oceania and Ireland, our Short Film Programmes featured characters that have often been overlooked on screen or whose perspective is rarely captured with authenticity.

Exclusive Irish Preview and Director Q+A

Through the stories of everyday citizens resisting the status quo, **PRAY FOR OUR SINNERS** the new documentary from filmmaker and journalist, Sinéad O'Shea confronts Ireland's recent history of brutality against children and women from corporal punishment to state-sanctioned mother and baby homes. The film went on general release in April 2023 and has received rave reviews to date.

Its power lies in its intimacy and, ultimately, in its cautious hopefulness. - **Donald Clarke, The Irish Times**

Ukrainian Film Event

Catalyst was honoured to screen Ukraine's entry to the 95th Academy Awards, **KLONDIKE**, 2022, Ukraine, Turkey Director Maryna Er Gorbach. A huge contingent of Ukrainians living in Limerick attended the film and pre-recorded interview with Director Maryna Er Gorbach and Award Winning Irish Cinematographer Kate McCullough, (*An Cailín Ciúin*).

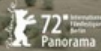
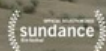
Er Gorbach's potent film, shot in unbroken, unblinking takes that observe obscene violence and destruction with cold candor, Irka's resistance to warfare is at once fierce and futile. - **Variety**

A Film by
Sinéad O'Shea

PRAY FOR OUR SINNERS

There is always a way to resist

©2020 BOUTIQUE FILMS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. COLUMBIAN/SONEN PRODUCTIONS "PRAY FOR OUR SINNERS"
STORY BY LAUREN CRAWFORD. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL LINDLEY. EDITOR: ANDREW BROWN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: COLIN TINKLER, SINÉAD O'SHEA. PRODUCED BY: JESSIE WYMAN AND SINÉAD O'SHEA
CASTING: MARGA SÁEZ. MUSIC BY: JACQUELINE HOGAN. COSTUME DESIGNER: PENELOPE O'SHEA
COURTESY: BOUTIQUE FILMS



KLONDIKE

a film by
MARYNA ER GORBACH

PRODUCED BY: MARYNA ER GORBACH. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: MARYNA ER GORBACH. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: SVATOSLAV BULANOVSKIY
CAST: SVATOSLAV BULANOVSKIY, OLGA DAVYDENKOVA, SERGEY SVETLANOV, TATYANA SHEREMETOVA, OLEG SHEVCHUK, ANASTASIA RAMANKINA, YEVGENIY PEREMOV
COSTUME DESIGNER: TETIANA SYMON. MUSIC BY: MARYNA ER GORBACH & MARIYA AGONKINA. JAPLIN. EDITOR: VICTORIA PERLOVA. BASED UPON: KSENIA HALCHENKO
SCREENPLAY: SERGIY KUPCHENKO. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ZVAD MEZERY

TRT

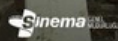


UKRAINIAN STATE
FILM AGENCY

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FILM




REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM





Ukrainian Film Event - Screening of Klondike with Director Q+A



2023 Programme

Panels

New Voices: New Industry Panel

Filmmaker and Catalyst Programme Assistant Aisha Bolaji moderated this panel of up-and-coming creatives within the Irish film industry.

The lineup included Actor Martin Mahon, Director Rehan Ali, Writer/Director Elizabeth Adewusi and Director Nell Hensey.

Putting the Screenwriter into the Picture Panel

In association with the Writers Guild of Ireland, this event highlighted the importance of the short film script as a calling card and how writers can break through into longer forms.

The importance of having writers from diverse backgrounds was also debated by the panel.


With Jennifer Davidson Chair WGI (Fair City; Waiting for Tom), Ken Harmon (Fair City, Legend, The Clinic), Sinead Collopy (Smother, Hidden Assets), Aisling Walsh Screenwriter/Director (Song for a Raggy Boy; Maudie; Elizabeth is Missing), Robert Higgins Screenwriter, Director, Producer (Lakeland; Angels Guard Thee).

Meet the Film Critics Panel

This panel, comprised of respected film critics working nationally, reflected on whether critics are drawn from too small a pool. Internationally, they are primarily white, middle-class men. Is that true in Ireland? And does it impact the films reviewed and the perspective and taste of the reviewer?

Organised by WFT in partnership.

Moderated by Gemma Creagh (Film Ireland/Arena) with Ruth Barton (Arena); Roe McDermott (Hotpress); Mohamed, Tarek (Egyptian Film Critics Association); Chris Wasser (Sunday Independent & Irish Examiner).



2023 Programme

Script Lab

Finalists for our 2023 Short Script Award finalists and promising new voices were invited to an intimate 2 hour Script Lab with Aisling Walsh in Engine, Limerick. Over 2 sessions, Aisling was able to give each writer the time to discuss their own work amongst their peers. Every writer gained invaluable insight from Aisling's own extraordinary career as a screenwriter and director.

Masterclass

Cinematographer Jaro Waldeck in conversation with award-winning director Aisling Walsh traversed the visual storytelling behind her two films Maudie and Song for a Raggy Boy. Together, they explored the themes of these films and offered an insight into the process of creating the visual concepts for each story. We welcomed students from the National Film School Dublin as well as most of our filmmakers and students from the area.

National Talent Academies Coffee Morning

Filmmakers were given the opportunity to meet and discuss their work with National Talent Academies Manager Eibh Collins at an informal Coffee Morning in The Belltable Cafe. Kindly sponsored by National Talent Academy.

Student Programme

Catalyst's 2023 Student Programme doubled its capacity on 2022. We began an extensive outreach campaign in December 2022 to ensure all Second Level Schools in the Munster area were made aware of the programme. Students attended our Interactive Masterclasses and the Shorts Programme, engagement was strong and all voted for 2023's Young Audience Award Winner (*Highs* by Louis Chan)



Special Mention Breakthrough Award Winners Director Aisling Byrne and Actor Mark Smith (Headspace)

General

Catalyst increased its audience attendance from 2022 to 2023 by selecting a range of different venues and increasing its total events and screenings to 15. 2023 was the 4th year of the festival and only the 2nd time we've had an in-person festival due to Covid. With an overall increase in attendance from it is clear that there are audiences in the locally in the region and nationally. With secured infrastructure (*in particular with regard to Outreach*), Catalyst can further promote under-represented filmmaking and reach new audiences in the future.

Increase in Overall Attendance

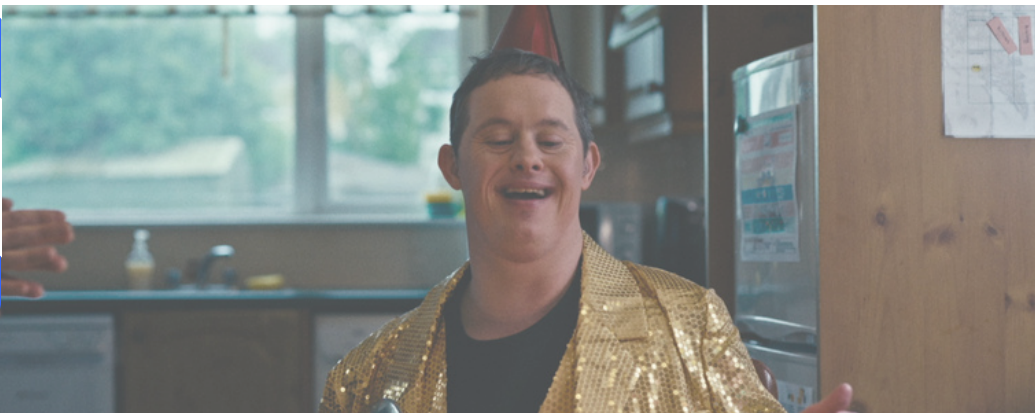


Increase Student Attendance



Students

We welcomed both 2nd and 3rd level students to our Interactive Masterclass and Short Film Screening. Attendees included students from John The Baptist Secondary School, Crescent Comprehensive and Limerick & Clare ETBs and students from the National Film School.



Social Media Campaign

All Applications:

Tiktok, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube



2023 Campaign Total Reach
December 2022 - April 2023



320,072

Reach



2,295

Clicks



17,007

Engaged



739

Comments



2023 Judges



Rachael Moriarty



Paddy Breathnach

**BEST
IRISH
SHORT**



Dr Zéile Asava



Dogg Mosesdottir

**BEST
INTERNATIONAL
SHORT**



Frank Berry



Ursula Rani Sarma

**SHORT
SCREENPLAY**



Jade Jordan



Paddy Slattery

**EMERGING
FILMMAKER**

2023 Award Winners

Breakthrough Award

Winner: Try and Touch - Nell Hensey
Runner Up: Vonnie: Ireland's Forgotten Fashion Icon - Renata Lima
Special Mention: Headspace - Aisling Byrne

Best International Short

Winner: Big Bang - Carlos Segundo, Brazil
Runner Up: Highs - Louis Chan, UK
Special Mention : Culicidae - Greg Moran, Australia

Best Irish Short

Winner: Wednesday's Child - Laura O Shea
Runner Up: You're Not Home- Derek Ugochukwu
Special Mention: Safe as Houses -Mia Mullarkey

Best Short Documentary

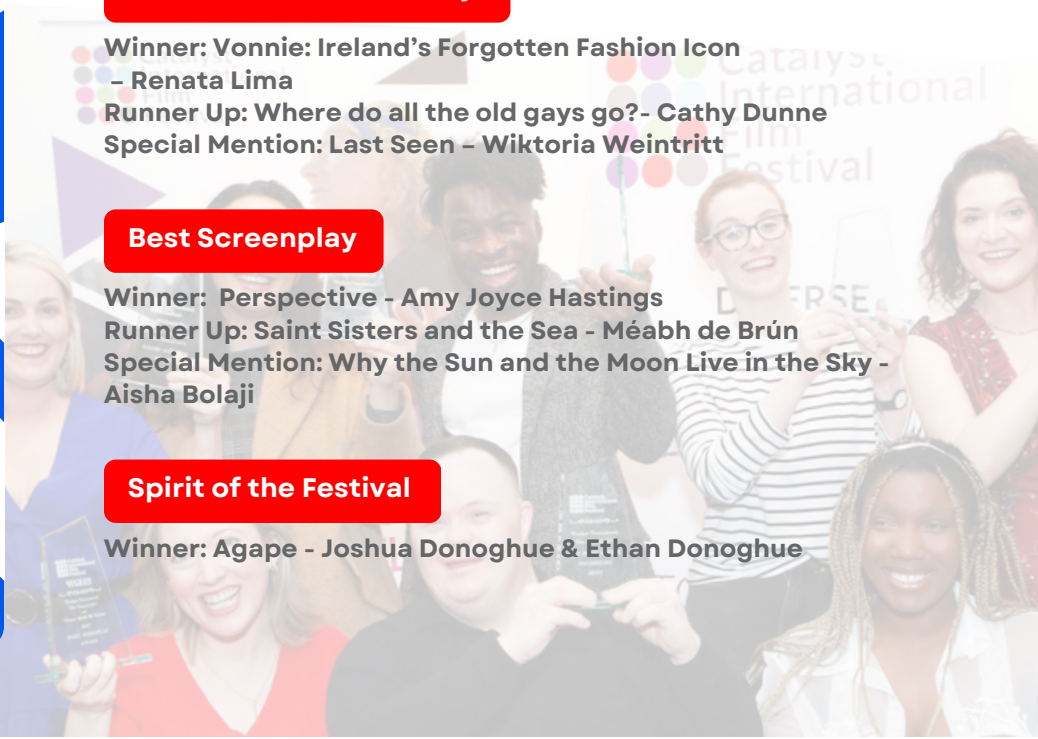
Winner: Vonnie: Ireland's Forgotten Fashion Icon - Renata Lima
Runner Up: Where do all the old gays go?- Cathy Dunne
Special Mention: Last Seen - Wiktorija Weintritt

Best Screenplay

Winner: Perspective - Amy Joyce Hastings
Runner Up: Saint Sisters and the Sea - Méabh de Brún
Special Mention: Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky - Aisha Bolaji

Spirit of the Festival

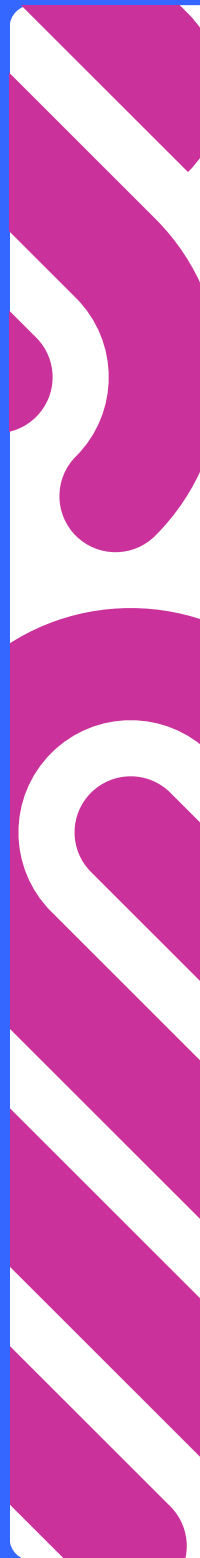
Winner: Agape - Joshua Donoghue & Ethan Donoghue



Gallery



Gallery



Filmmakers Feedback

Winning the Breakthrough Talent Award has been one of the absolute highlights of my career as a writer-director so far. Awards such as these really help to validate an artist's work, especially at such a critical and early stage in their careers. The Catalyst International Film Festival's approach to embracing and championing new voices is crucial and plays a key role in creating a more inclusive Irish film industry. Thank you so much to Susan, Aoife and all the team at Catalyst - not just for this award, but for providing a platform for film artists of all backgrounds to express themselves authentically and take pride in their own stories.

Nell Hensey **- Winner Breakthrough Award 2023**

It's an immense honour to have our film 'YOU'RE NOT HOME' win Runner Up for Best Irish Short Film at this year's Catalyst International Film Festival. We filmed in Mungret College in Limerick over a year ago and to see our hard work recognised here by a festival that champions diverse storytelling is a lovely full circle to say the least.

Derek Ugochukwu **- Runner Up Best Irish Short Award 2023**

We were thrilled to have our film Culicidae screened at the 2023 Catalyst International film Festival and to receive a 'Jury Special Mention Award.' It's extremely satisfying to win awards like this and to learn that our film was well received. We were disappointed that we couldn't be there in person but hope to get there one year.

Greg Moran **- Jury Special Mention International Short Award 2023**

Gallery



Filmmakers Feedback

I am thrilled beyond measure that my script 'Perspective' won the Best Short Screenplay Award for the 2023 Catalyst International Film Festival in association with the Writer's Guild of Ireland. It's a huge honour and means so much to me, as ultimately the goal is to take this story from the page to the screen, and I feel confident this award will help me do that.

I had a fantastic two days at the festival once again - it has quickly become a highlight on the Irish festival calendar. I believe Catalyst are blazing a trail at the forefront of an industry-wide and societal move towards inclusivity and are opening doors for exciting talent by championing diverse, new and underrepresented voices. I met so many cool creatives and attended a rake of interesting panels. The calibre of panelists attracted to speak at the festival is very high. I am truly inspired.

My sincere thanks go to Dr Susan Liddy, Aoife and the whole team behind Catalyst. I look forward to next year's edition.

Amy Joyce Hastings **- Winner Best Screenplay Award 2023**

We were delighted to be featured in this year's programme featuring a high calibre of films and masterclasses! Catalyst International Film Festival has proven to be committed to bring a programme of great quality to Limerick and to promote diverse voices on screen. I hope the festival has the chance to grow even more reflecting all the potential Limerick has to offer to the Irish filmmaking industry and helping promote the local filmmakers and stories. We are also very thankful for the award of 'Best Short Documentary' given to 'Vonnie - Ireland's Forgotten Fashion Icon', a true Limerick story, and also a Runner-Up Breakthrough Award for director Renata Lima.

Renata Lima **- Winner Best Short Documentary Award 2023**

PR and Media Coverage



RTE ARENA
Interview with Director Maryna Er Gorbach



RTE ARENA
Interview with Director Aisling Walsh



95FM Limerick Live
Radio Interview with Dr Susan Liddy and Programmer Céline Rouston



Clare FM Radio
Interview with Catalyst Panellist Filmmaker Nell Hensey

PR and Media Coverage

Movies

Aisling Walsh: 'I first saw Taxi Driver at The Savoy in Dublin. I sneaked in and sat through it three times'

My Cultural Life



Bafta, Emmy and Royal Television Society award-winning director Aisling Walsh

Dublin-born, London-based Aisling Walsh is the Emmy and Bafta winning director of *Song for a Raggy Boy*, *Maudie* and *Room* at the Top. She's hosting a masterclass at Catalyst International Film Festival in Limerick city, running March 30 until April 1.

Entertainment

11 documentaries to come in 2023 that you won't want to miss

Pray For Our Sinners



From Break Out Pictures (An Cailín Ciúin) and director Sinéad O'Shea comes the compelling and challenging *Pray For Our Sinners*.

Sinéad examines the role of Catholicism in Irish life and its association with silence and repression, visiting her hometown of Navan in search of those who fought the Catholic Church and pushed back against its hold on society.

It includes previously untold testimonies from mother and baby homes, and stories from within school classrooms about corporal punishment. *Pray For Our Sinners* is released in Irish cinemas on April 21.



Actors	Crew	Distribution	Equipment	Finance	Locations Ireland	Production
TV	Digital	Education / Training	Festivals / Markets	Legal	Post Production	Rep Bodies
JOBS	FILMOGRAPHY	NEWS	WHO'S WHO	DIARY	GALLERY	IFTA

Catalyst International Film Festival returns for its 4th edition

08 Mar 2023 - News Desk

Catalyst Film Festival

The Festival will run from 31st March - 1st April 2023 across Limerick City.

Based in Limerick, Catalyst International Film Festival will host the 4th edition of the festival presenting films, panel discussions, workshops and networking events in venues across the city.

Pray For Our Sinners, a new documentary from Sinéad O'Shea, and Klondike directed by Maryna

RELATED NEWS

Catalyst International Film Festival returns for its 4th edition
08 Mar 2023

"We could really be a Poster Girl for Change": Dr. Susan Liddy on her appointment as president of Women in Film and Television International
25 Nov 2022

Dr. Susan Liddy appointed as new President of Women in Film and Television International
21 Nov 2022

Submissions now open for fourth edition of Limerick-based Catalyst International Film Festival
28 Sep 2022

Fr Garbhach will lead a festival programme where diverse stories and storytellers are

PR and Media Coverage



Home > Lifestyle > Entertainment > Catalyst International Film Festival this weekend: An audience friendly festival with an...

Limerick Entertainment

Catalyst International Film Festival this weekend: An audience friendly festival with an exciting and inclusive programme that will challenge and inspire

By Eric Fitzgerald March 26, 2023

26



Still from Irish short film Uprooted. Catalyst International Film Festival features Film Screenings, Panel Discussions, Workshops, Masterclasses, Industry Events and Special Guests.

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WATCH: Catalyst International Film Festival launch in Limerick



By Manon Gilbert
09 Mar 2023 11:20 AM

PR and Media Coverage

Catalyst festival to 'put Limerick on the map'

MANON GILBERT

[E. manon.gilbert@journal.ie](mailto:m.gilbert@journal.ie)

AN INTERNATIONAL film festival "will put Limerick on the map" while addressing under-representation in the film industry.

Based in Limerick, Catalyst International Film Festival will host its fourth edition in venues across the city.

As more productions are attracted to the South West, the festival aims to prioritise stories and storytellers currently under-represented on screen and behind the camera.

A "powerful force" in Limerick, the festival intends on promoting gender equality, diversity and inclusion whether in content, key creative roles or crew.

Launched at No.1 Pery Square on March 7, the festival presented an "exciting and inclusive" programme.

From an interactive masterclass to a selection of short films to lively discussions from a panel of critics, Catalyst International Film Festival will have something to offer everyone.

This year, the Award's categories are Best Irish Film, Best Short Screenplay, Breakthrough Filmmaker, Best International Short, Best Short Documentary, Audience Award, as well as Spirit of the Festival.

Festival Founder and



Oscar-nominated actress Ruth Negga who grew up in Limerick is an ambassador for the festival

Director, Dr Susan Liddy, commented: "Catalyst is going from strength to strength as we move into 2023, our fourth year. We have an exciting and inclusive programme from a diverse range of filmmakers; panels that will challenge and inspire; workshops and masterclasses for emerging and established talent and networking events to help build your tribe."

Festival ambassador and actress, Ruth Negga, said: "I feel that the Catalyst International Film Festival can and will act as a compass, a beacon, a buoyant celebration of the multitude of exciting stories that are brimming in modern Ireland. And I am thrilled, of course, that this is all to take place in Limerick."

"A city of determination, of grit and resilience, of

uncowed beauty with a modern and multicultural identity, that has a diverse and supportive artistic community. It's the perfect place for a meeting of all these waters."

From March 30 to April 1, the festival will run in The Belltable, No.1 Pery Square and Engine, Limerick.

Further information via the Catalyst International Film Festival website.

[J SCOVE](#)
LIMERICK

PHOTOS Catalyst International Film Festival returns for its 4th edition



Published 3 weeks ago on April 3, 2023
By Richard Lynch

2023 Catalyst International Film Festival will return to Limerick for the 4th edition of the festival, presenting films, panel discussions and networking events in venues across the city from Thursday 20th March – Saturday 1st April

Catalyst International Film Festival will return to Limerick for the 4th edition of the festival this March 30 to April 1

NEWS UPDATE APRIL 3, 2023

Festival founder and director Dr Susan Liddy said, "Catalyst 2023 exceeded all my expectations. We welcomed students, emerging and established screenwriters and filmmakers, members of the Ukrainian community, film enthusiasts, and those who relish critical debate. We had screenings and panel discussions, workshops and script labs and industry

LATEST POPULAR

08 APRIL 3 7:56 AM

Sports giant **Deception** to open second Irish store in Limerick on Friday, 12th May

08 APRIL 2023 11:55 AM

EU scholarships support about 100 students accessing education

08 APRIL 2023 11:55 AM

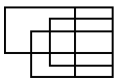
Irish National Opera bring **Macbeth's Weather** to the Lim on Tue Theatre (on April 23)

08 APRIL 2023 11:55 AM

Excitement building in the lead-up to Limerick's premier **Irish weekend**, Eastered

08 APRIL 2023 11:55 AM

WATCH Limerick and Clare



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Screen Ireland

Coimisiún
na Meán



Bord Oideachais & Oiliúna
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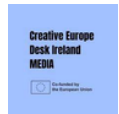


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HOTEL SAVOY

HOTEL GEORGE

**Thank you to our
2023 Funders & Supporters!**

FESTIVAL TEAM

Director

Production Manager

Administrator

Live Action Shorts Programmer

Documentary Programmer

Programme Assistant

Social Media Manager

Screener Team

DCP Technician

Dr Susan Liddy

Aoife O'Toole

Manuela Hartlep

Céline Roustan

Vanessa Gildea

Aisha Bolaji

Édaein O'Connell

David M.S. (Mwamba Smith) Chisanga, Innocent

Umezuruike Iroaganachi, Effie Veremi, Lisa

Dempsey, John Joe Horan, Iryna Yasyrova

Kieran Fitzgerald



