



DISAPPEAR HERE FILM FESTIVAL 2020

The festival like many others has had to migrate to an online space this year. This increasingly popular 3-day event has been steadily making a name for itself on the film festival circuit over the last four years and it seems the organisers weren't going to let the inconvenience of a world-wide pandemic interfere with their plans to bring an impressive array of new films to their loyal audience in Ballyliffin, and now across the world.

Festival Director Michael McLaughlin talks us through this year's event. "The pandemic has been devastating for the film industry, particularly in production, for actors and crew etc. While it is now starting to creep back into action, festivals like ours have relied on the presence of an audience to witness this work on the big screen. Life is constantly throwing us curveballs and we simply have to adapt. Human beings are great at that!

"Our team at the festival believe strongly in the value of culture and creativity, and we see our event as an important culture component locally, and as a continuing platform for filmmakers. We had to pull our physical event in September with less than 24 hours' notice and we've spent the last few weeks trying to source a virtual partner to bring our programme to our audience in an on-line space.

"Our opening film is Ken Loach's powerful family drama 'Sorry we Missed You.' It is a very human look at the consequences of the gig economy on a family trying to claw its way out of debt after the 2008 financial crash"

We have excellent work from first-time Irish feature film Director - Tim Hanon with his romantic comedy, 'Justice for One' which is screening at our online festival.

'Our documentary strands this year contain "The Ring that Tied the Room Together", a look at the sometimes comical yet fiercely competent professional wrestling circuit in Ireland. Anyone with an interest in GAA needs to check out 'Who the FxxK is Charlotte?' - A Gaelic Football Story in America, following a team of American women competing at very highest level against Irish All-Stars in Ireland's national sport."

With most festivals going on-line this year, Disappear Here Film Festival has had time to fine tune this online element that will give audiences a thought-provoking alternative to the standard fare of Christmas films on television each year.

“Add to these our always impressive collection of short films, some shot during the first lockdown in March and all dealing with important topics like rural isolation, domestic abuse and climate change. It was also great to see so much student work submitted from colleges here in Donegal and Derry, and further afield from the National Film School in IADT.”

With many festivals postponing or cancelling this year, Michael says they were determined to proceed as long as there was a solution open to them. “We just need people to get involved now and join us for our virtual event. What we promise is a host of great films fully curated for your enjoyment, all from the comfort of your armchair. Without our audience, this event simply won’t survive. From an organisational point of view, creativity always finds a way, even when the odds are stacked against it. We were determined to encourage and support that as it’s needed now, more than ever.”