

Ciné Gael's 25th: This Season is No Quarter-Life Crisis

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Ciné Gael turns 25 this year! We've decided to celebrate their silver anniversary with an interview with the organization's program director, Timothy Hine, to find out more about what's in store for this year's festival.



Ciné Gael's program director Timothy Hine with co-founder and director Lynn Doyle. Photo Source: Courtesy of The Montreal Gazette.

Tim is originally from London, England, and has always enjoyed Irish literature and films.

Throughout recent years, he's been applying his passion for cinema as Ciné Gael's program director while helping co-founder Lynn Doyle administer the festival's events.

A Montreal Festival Like No Other

The non-profit organization features multiple evenings of Irish cinema with films that are either directed by Irish directors, starring Irish actors, or set in Ireland itself. It is the largest Irish film festival in North America and takes place from January to May every year. Ciné Gael has also developed a very loyal audience throughout the years, thanks in part to the appearance of several high profile guests, such as the late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

When we asked Tim how the committee decides which films to screen at the festival, he explains that most are from the Galway Film Fleadh that takes place in Ireland every July. This is Ireland's "leading film festival" according to their website, and this year will mark their 29th run. The Galway Film Fleadh screens about twenty to thirty films, and later, members of Ciné Gael will create a list of potential films to screen here in Montreal, based on the directors they've worked with before.

This method has proven to be the easiest, as directors will often send links of their films with no trouble at all. However, Ciné Gael has had their share of troubles trying to acquire certain titles. According to Tim, the problem with some of the distributors is that they want money in exchange for their films. This can be problematic for an organization that operates on a shoestring budget. In those cases, a lot of convincing has to be made through e-mails and telephone calls.

But for the films that do make the cut, Ciné Gael often asks directors to tune in through Skype for a Q&A session with the audience. For Tim, these sessions tend to be like a continuation of the screening while audience members ask a lot of insightful questions.

Mark your Calendars for this Season's Lineup

Ciné Gael opened its 25th year to a sold-out crowd with the comedy film *Young Offenders*, winner of Best Irish Feature at the Galway Film Fleadh and, according to Tim, a fabulous film at that. The members of Ciné Gael were delighted that the crowd included people of all ages.

On February 17 Ciné Gael will feature *We Are Moving—Memories of Miss Moriarty*. This is a documentary that depicts the controversial dance choreographer, Joan Denise Moriarty, who introduced Irish dance and folklore elements into ballet. The evening's main feature will then be followed by a series of short films that all tie into the theme of sisterhood, dance and, of course, Ireland.

Tim has also been able to fill us in with what to expect for some of the 2017 season. On Saturday March 4, Ciné Gael will be hosting A Film from the Archives. This year's pick is *The Luck Of Ginger Coffey* (1964), shown in the first, 1993 season of Ciné Gael.

March will end with an Evening of Short Irish Films that includes a balance of films both in the English and Irish languages (with English subtitles for those who haven't brushed up on their Gaeilge). According to Tim, you never know what films you're going to see; some may have you in stitches while others may leave you feeling melancholic. In addition, An Evening of Short Irish Films is Ciné Gael's most popular event during the festival so make sure to get your tickets in advance, or you may be sadly turned away.

Other films to look forward to later on in the season are *Handsome Devil*, a coming of age comedy directed by John Butler, and Ciné Gael's Closing Gala's *A Date for Mad Mary*, a film that won Best Irish Feature at Galway Film Fleadh.

Of course, we don't want to give away too many spoilers with regard to these upcoming features and short films. So find out more about Ciné Gael's future showings yourself by calling 514-481-3503 to book your ticket, or visit their official website: www.cinegaelmontreal.com

Fee information: Season membership, including all films and entrance to the opening and closing receptions is \$75.00. Individual films (which does not include the opening or closing films): are \$12. The opening film and reception is \$20. The closing film and reception is \$25.