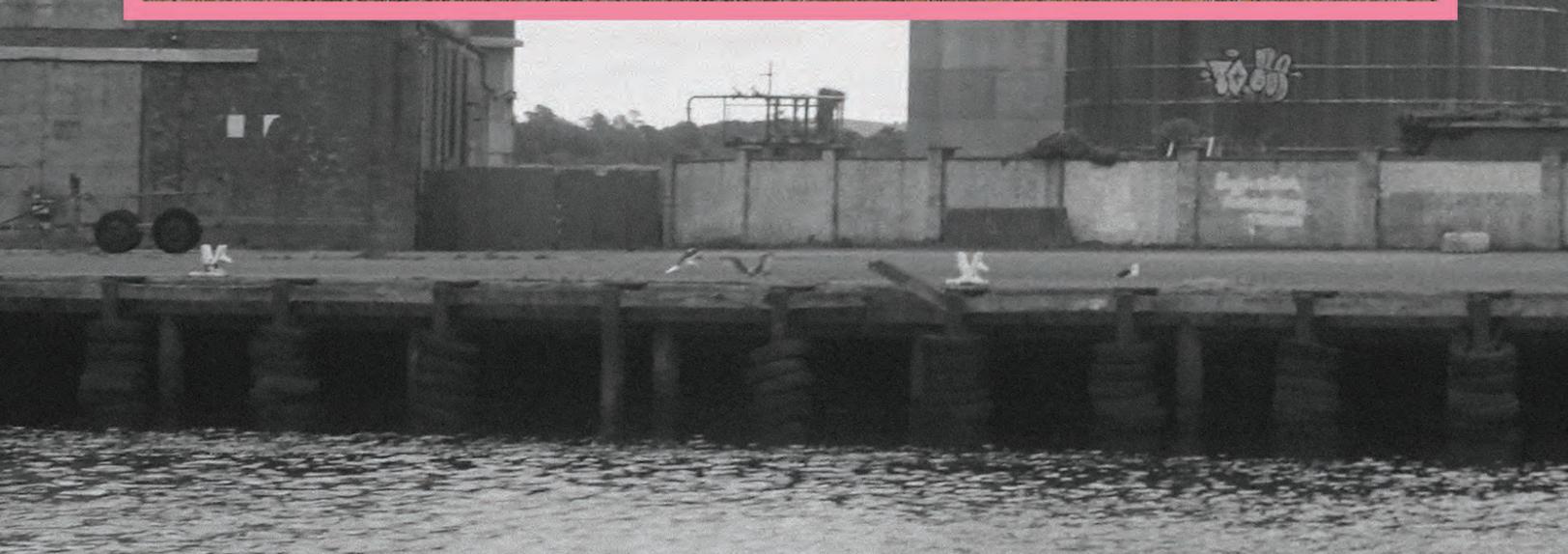


HOLY ISLAND

A Film by
Robert Manson



SAMSON FILMS & BALLYROGAN FILMS PRESENT HOLY ISLAND FUNDED BY THE ARTS COUNCIL / AN CHOMHAIRLE EALAÍON
A SAMSON FILMS / BALLYROGAN FILMS PRODUCTION A ROBERT MANSON FILM JEANNE NICOLE NÍ AINLE CONOR MADDEN DERMOT MURPHY MARIA OXLEY BOARDMAN LEVI O'SULLIVAN & MARK DOHERTY "HOLY ISLAND"
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY EVAN BARRY COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER JAMES LATIMER CASTING BY BARRY COYLE PRODUCTION DESIGNER NOELLE SLACKE COSTUME DESIGNER SARAH HERAUGHTY MAKEUP DESIGNER HANNAH SULLIVAN EDITOR DAVID BYRNE
LINE PRODUCER FIONA KINSELLA PRODUCED BY CLAIRE MC CABE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DAVID COLLINS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ROBERT MANSON



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Starring

Rosa	JEANNE NICOLE NÍ ÁINLE
David	CONOR MADDEN
Young David	DERMOT MURPHY
Carly	MARIA OXLEY BOARDMAN
Les	MARK DOHERTY
Jason	LEVI O' SULLIVAN

Key Credits

Executive Producer	DAVID COLLINS
Producer	CLAIRE McCABE
Line Producer	FIONA KINSELLA
Written & Directed by	ROBERT MANSON
Director of Photography	EVAN BARRY
Production Designer	NOELLE SLACKE
Costume Designer	SARAH HERAUGHTY
Make Up Designer	HANNAH O'SULLIVAN

Technical Specification

Runtime	89 MINUTES
Colour	BLACK & WHITE + COLOUR
Aspect Ratio	2.39 - Cinema DCP 2K - Scope
Shooting Format	5K, S16mm, S8mm
Camera	RED EPIC DRAGON STEREO
Sound	& 5.1
Language	ENGLISH

This film was funded under the Authored Works Scheme
by the Arts Council of Ireland



Tagline

Rosa and David, two lost souls, try to escape a desolate purgatory town. They must find a rare ticket, and overcome their own personal struggles, before becoming stuck in this limbo forever.

Synopsis (short)

Holy Island is a story about two lost souls, Rosa and David, trapped in purgatory in the form of a run-down port town. They meet awaiting a boat to leave the island, both longing to return home. Together they are forced to traverse an abnormal maze, piecing together their past lives through shared conversations and memories. In the end, only one of them can be saved. The other must fall.



Synopsis (longer)

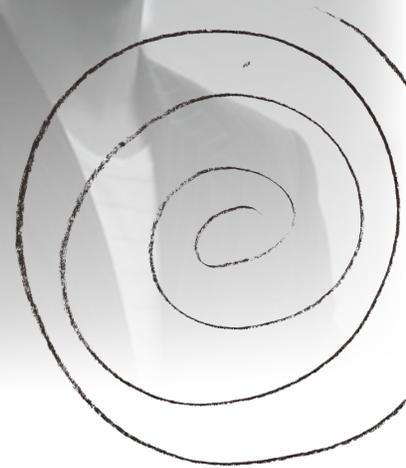
David (40's) is stuck in a run-down port town, waiting for a boat which will take him home. When all boats are suspended indefinitely, he is left in a state of limbo. David is unsure what to do until he meets fellow traveller Rosa (31), who seems to understand the inner workings of the town.

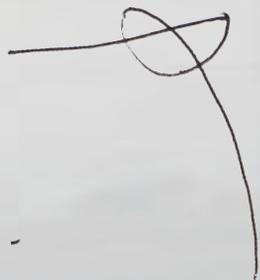
They make an unlikely pair, with Rosa full of fiery exuberance and David desperately burnt-out, but both are intent on leaving the island and returning to their lives. Rosa doesn't have a ticket for the boat and she's determined to find one before it departs.

Rosa leads David further into the town and, together, they traverse this strange form of purgatory. They meet the inhabitants of the island and piece together their past lives through shared conversations and memories. David is subjected to visions of his past, revisiting people and places he thought were lost.

When David is confronted by another version of himself, he's forced to make a decision. With time running out to find a ticket, Rosa will have to face her own past before she can attempt to escape the island. Both David and Rosa must try to regain their souls, piece by piece, before the boat finally sets sail.

In the end, only one of them can be saved. The other must fall.





The Characters





David

(Conor Madden + Dermot Murphy)

David 'Oisín' Moore is a burnt out case on an ill-fated trip home. He wants to rest but has a thorn in his side. His poison is family guilt and abandonment issues from youth and critically, he missed his mother's funeral. David needs to heal himself before passing on. The visions he sees when closing his eyes are memories, not directly his own, but universal. These are guiding lights in a collective process of dying and passing on. Young David is introduced in the middle section of the film. A young and revitalised self is realised. He's wearing an ill-fitting pinstriped suit - a funeral suit. His eyes are turning to lands beyond as he decides to enjoy his last moments. He revels in antiquity, as he pours a drink and listens to a song on the jukebox. These are his memories - a catalog for future revisions. He is bearing silent witness and testing the authenticity and worth of things in his past.



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Rosa (Jeanne Nicole Ní Áinle)

Rosa is the fiery young protagonist of this story. She's young to the eye but has an ancient soul. She's lived an infinite amount of lives within a suspended reality. She knows the players and places inside out. She wants to re-enter the world with her past knowledge. Her world is a cyclical limbo where the days repeat endlessly in the same order.

Rosa is collecting moments and objects from her many cycles of the same day, cards found on the ground and batteries. A full deck of found cards grants her completion. That is her main objective. Her life force has slowly drained away over time, therefore she lives in a black and white reality. She yearns for life and performs certain actions to inspire the life spring within; including a hummed litany and dancing. The returning life essence is seen on screen in dots and splashes of colour that supersede the black & white imagery. Rosa tests boundaries to the point of punishment. She has a vast reservoir of emotions, bursting to be freed. Her words are the wind and her thoughts are the radiating light. Rosa needs three cards to complete her mysterious deck and find completion. She also needs to find a ticket for the boat and escape limbo forever.



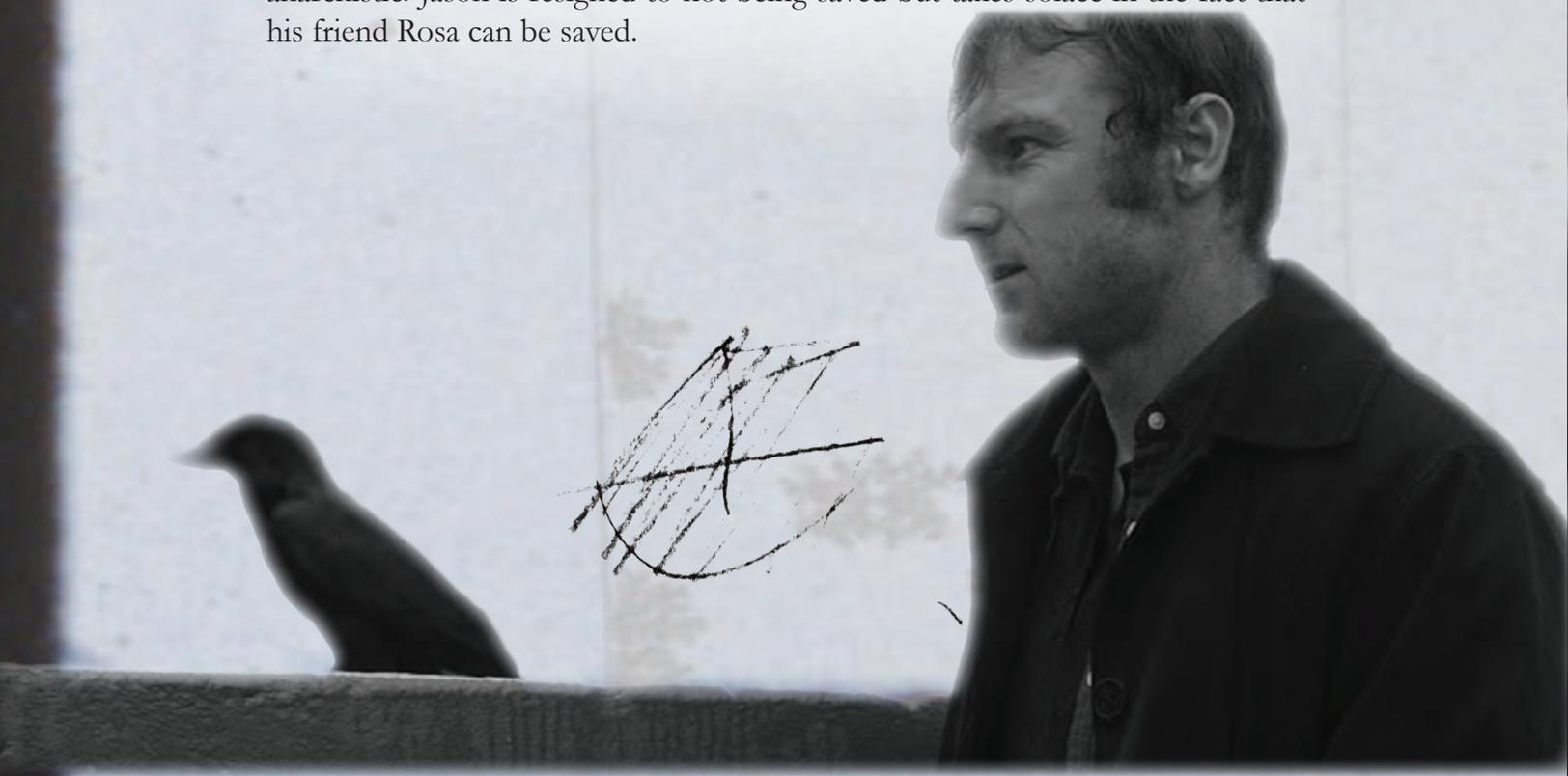




JASON

(Levi O'Sullivan)

Jason is a street kid with tourette's syndrome. He is constantly fixing items or re-laying messages. Apart from Rosa, his only companion in the world is his pet crow Casper. Jason is the time keeper, he has the only working clock, an ornate pocket watch. He and Rosa have difficulty communicating with one another. Jason is trying to warn Rosa to get out while she still can as he is acutely aware that the end is near. Jason leaves chalked messages as a reminder for Rosa. He is a character who has forgotten how to forget. He is similar to Rosa in that he is cognitive and a little anarchistic. Jason is resigned to not being saved but takes solace in the fact that his friend Rosa can be saved.



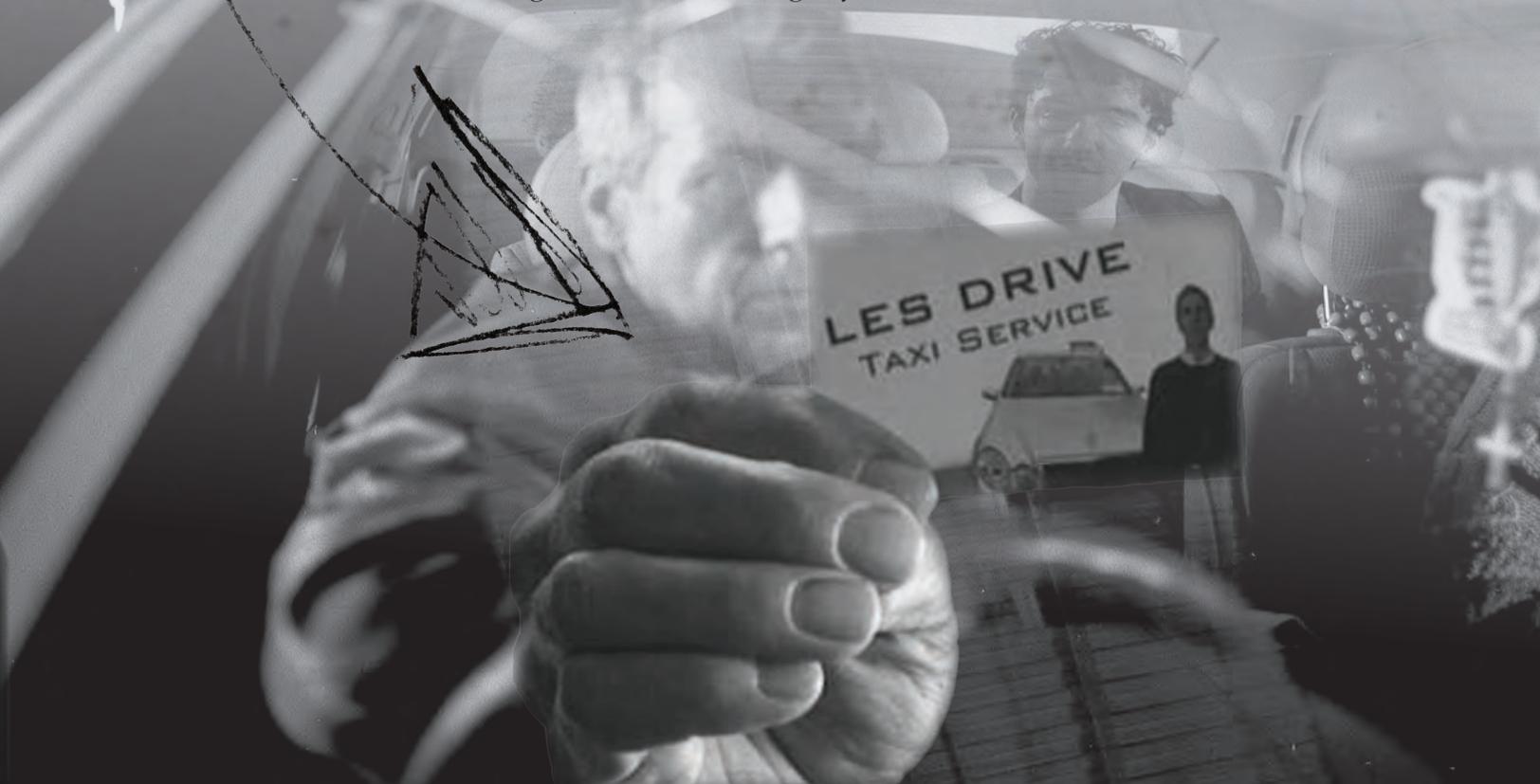
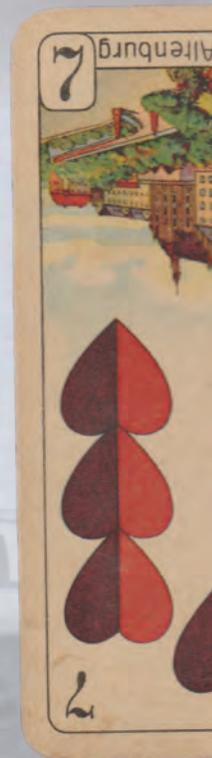


CARLY (Maria Oxley Boardman)

Carly is an earlier manifestation of Rosa that exists concurrently. She's louder, brasher and wilder, testing her surroundings, like a child or teenager. Carly looks older and more mature than Rosa but is far from it. It's over the process of many life cycles, living the same day and existence endlessly that Rosa has become more refined. Carly is at the start of her journey. Like a newcomer to lucid dreaming, her first instincts are for chaos and mischief. She plays people for her own gain, to exert her prowess. Unlike Rosa, Carly hasn't yet learned the consequences from this misbehaviour. She pushes harder than most. Her harsh exuberance is refreshing in a way and a much needed distraction for David.

Les (Mark Doherty)

Les is the local taxi man. He has vanity issues and owns a personal 'master copy' of the Bible in his car, which he recites to customers. Les has a thinly veiled maliciousness that is sometimes lost in his dogmatic common speech. His vessel is his white Mercedes in which he cruises the town. His car radio relays his objectives, usually consisting of picking up certain lost individuals and sending them back to the terminal or to the hotel. He has his own personal demons and vices, which include smoking and blasphemy. David is his errand, his fare. However there are two Davids. A mix-up that throws Les' world into a tailspin. The cracks are forming in Les as the identity of Rosa, Jason and Carly are later revealed to him. It's damage limitation at the closing of the never ending day.





Director's Statement

Switching the lead actors

The lead role of David will be played by two actors, an idea borrowed from Bunuel's "That Obscure Object of Desire". The first half is played by one actor, a darker and more melancholic performance. Then a switch occurs and a younger actor takes over the role for the middle and later sections of the film, this character is softer, more vulnerable and compassionate. The psychological shift and development in the character of David will be visual punctuated by this actor switch. The actors playing the role of David are not identical looking, however they are from the same part of the world and have had similar upbringings. The distinction between the two relates to what elements might have curbed a distinction and change in one character - one character twice removed. This concept highlights an investigation in the concept of duality in the self.

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Format & Aesthetic

The film's aesthetic for 'limbo' the port town, black and white, lifeless, is a reference to Michael Powell's, "A Matter of Life and Death" in which the question is asked, why is heaven in black and white? The answer - because there is no life there. 4k black and white imagery is seen in the majority on screen. Flickering spots of colour are introduced in key sections of the film to portray moments in which a richness and vitality return to screen, locations and actors. Super 8mm will represent past memories seen in the healing moments where the characters close their eyes and their lives pass before their eyes. It is not their lives or their direct memories but the transplanted images of a collective conscious. Archive super 8mm footage, from my dad's archive, has been collected for these segments of the film. This bridges the visual gaps between the past, the present and the future, we shot sections on standard 16mm to link all the formats together, 4K, 16mm and 8mm.

Themes

This film explores the themes of death, loss, home, love, emigration, family, survival, redemption and loneliness. Recent archetypes and stereotypes of Irishness and National identity are also explored through intergenerational encounters within this story.



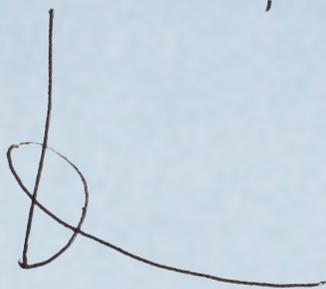


The Makers

Robert Manson

Writer / Director

Writer / Director Robert Manson is an Irish filmmaker with 15 years experience working in contemporary art-cinema. An NFS / IADT graduate (2008) Founder of Ballyrogan Films in 2015. *LOST IN THE LIVING*, his debut feature film was developed through MEDIA funded ENGAGE, filmed in Dublin & Berlin; screened at 15+ festivals internationally including the 60th Cork film festival & 34th International film festival Uruguay and released theatrically by UCM.ONE (2018) in Germany & Spain + VOD in 2019 (Amazon Prime) *HOLY ISLAND* is Robert's second feature film, an Authored Works by the Art Council of Ireland.





Producer

Claire McCabe

Claire is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and an alumnus of the Rotterdam Film Lab 2020. Claire has recently produced her first feature HOLY ISLAND, by writer/director Robert Manson for the Arts Council and Samson Films. She has produced a number of shorts for Screen Ireland including AN ENCOUNTER, written by Mark O'Halloran and directed by Kelly Campbell, BREAK US by writer/director Rioghnach Ni Ghrioghair and PROCESSION by writer/director Jeda de Brí.

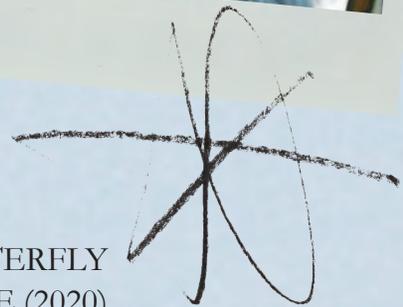


As well as producing, she has worked in Samson Films for over 5 years as Production Executive and has worked on films like FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY, ROSE PLAYS JULIE and WILDFIRE. She was Assistant Producer on END OF SENTENCE, directed by Elfar Adalsteins starring John Hawkes & Logan Lerman.

David Collins

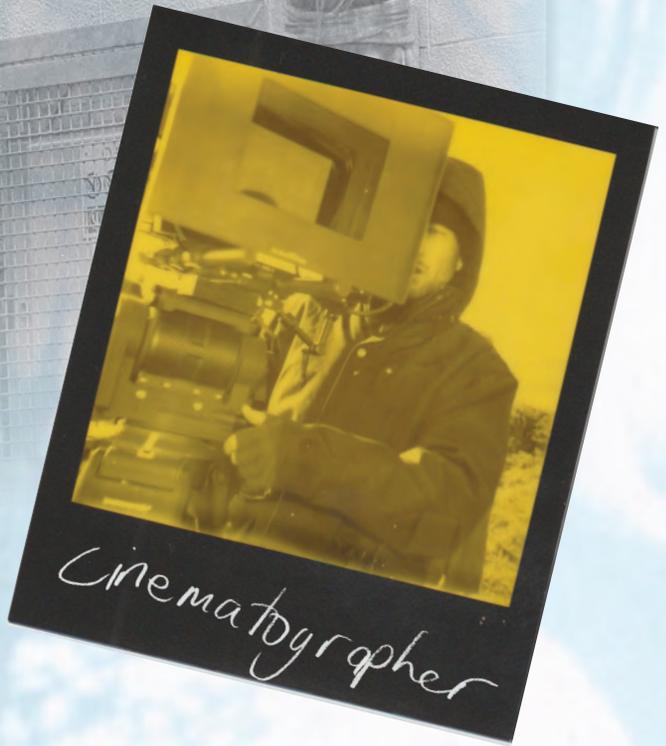
Executive Producer

Producer and Managing Director, David Collins is an active member of Screen Producers Ireland, the European Film Academy and ACE Producers. Notable past feature film credits include the Oscar-winning musical ONCE (2006) and EDEN (2007), which won Eileen Walsh the best actress award at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2007. His TV credits include BATCHELOR'S WALK, PURE MULE, DAN & BECS and most recently the THE TRUTH COMMISSIONER for BBC.



David's most recently produced films include FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY (2018), ROSE PLAYS JULIE (2019), THE CASTLE (2019) and WILDFIRE (2020) the feature film debut of Writer/Director Cathy Brady, which premiered at Toronto International Film Festival.





Evan Barry

Evan Barry is an Irish based cinematographer. He received his undergraduate degree from The National Film School of Ireland, IADT and an MFA in Cinematography from FAMU, the Academy of Performing Arts, Prague. In his work, Evan brings a balance of evocative cinematic visuals, accompanied by an emotional sensitivity to the universality of the human struggle. He is looking to serve the story and its characters in harmony with the director's vision. Evan's work has spanned an array of narrative fiction, documentary, music videos and commercials. With his work winning the Best Foreign Film at the LA shorts Fest, the Grand Prix Prize at the International Cork Film Festival along with the "Made in Cork" award twice. He has also won the Tiernan McBride award at the Galway Film Fleadh and the Audience Choice Award at the Dublin Documentary "Stranger Than Fiction" Film Festival. Evan has currently just completed filming his debut feature film, Holy Island produced by Samson Films, and has been nominated as part of the DIFF emerging talent awards 2021.







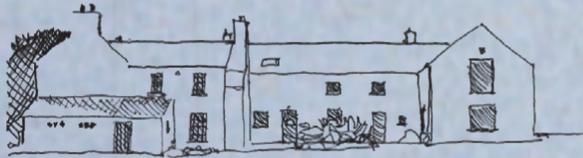
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SAMSON

SAMSON FILMS is one of Ireland's leading feature film production companies. In addition to developing its own film and TV drama material, Samson also acts as a co-producer and executive producer on a wide range of Irish, European and International feature film projects. The company has been awarded slate funding from Screen Ireland and the EU MEDIA programme, amongst others. Managing director David Collins is on the executive board of the Screen Producers Ireland and is a member of the European Film Academy. Samson also has a sister company, ACCOMPLICE TELEVISION, which specialises in original drama for television.



BALLYROGAN FILMS

BALLYROGAN FILMS is an artist lead film production company based in Co. Wicklow Ireland. The company was formed in 2015 by resident director Robert Manson to house his first feature film - Lost in the Living developed through MEDIA funded ENGAGE. Holy Island is the second feature film to be produced in recent years, an Arts Council of Ireland funded Authored Works production. This is the second part in the 'Lost and Found' trilogy of films.



HOLY ISLAND

Written and Directed by Robert Manson

Produced by Claire McCabe

Executive Producer David Collins

Line Producer Fiona Kinsella

Director of Photography Evan Barry

Editor David Byrne

Composer & Sound Designer: James Lattimer

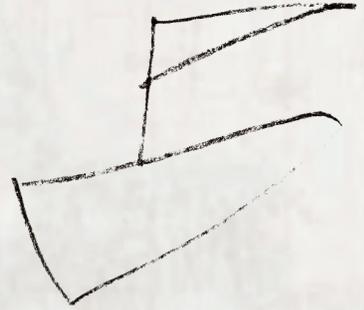
Production Designer Noelle Slacke

Costume Designer Sarah Heraughty

Make Up Designer Hannah O'Sullivan

Casting Director Barry Coyle

Story developed by Robert Manson and Frank Wasser



CAST

(in order of appearance)

Rosa Jeanne Nicole Ní Áinle

Casper Soot

Jason Levi O'Sullivan

David Conor Madden

Information Lady Fiona Lucia McGarry

Mammon Arthur Riordan

Les Mark Doherty

Young David Dermot Murphy

Marie Lesley Conroy

Mourner 1 Pauline Merry

Mourner 2 Walter Merry

Henry Bryan Quinn

Barman Conor Donelan

Carly Maria Oxley Boardman

Frank Áindrias de Staic

Priest Manchán Magan



EXTRAS

Sorcha O'Neill Marie Murphy Luke Byrne

Norah Corr James Burke Johnathan Tennant

Andrew Sharkey Fiona McStay Sarah Heraughty

Daire Fitzgerald Paula Burke Donal Sinnott

Lecluse Marie Andrew Manson Colin Farrell



Production Executive Kathleen Horan
Development Executive David Deignan
Script Editor Lina-M. Schulz

Additional Writing Material
Frank Wasser, Manchán Magan, Bryan Quinn

Co-Producer Robert Manson
Production Coordinator
Leeona Duff, Zoë Brennan-Whitmore,
(Daily) Colman Mac Cionnaith
Production Assistant Conor Walsh
Covid Compliance Officer Sorcha McCauley
Locations Manager Colin Farrell
Location Scout Taissa Grissi
Locations Assistant Leigh Reilly



First Assistant Director Drew Maitland
Second Assistant Director Tom Lenihan
Trainee Assistant Director Orlagh Kenny
Art Director Andrew Manson
Set Decorator/Props Buyer Magda Halada
Standby Props Donal Sinnott
Art Department Trainee (Daily) Antonio Martínez Dotor
Artistic Consultant Attracta Manson, Frank Wasser
First Assistant Camera Laurent Murray
Second Assistant Camera Ivan Moloney
Third Assistant Camera/DIT Fia Wren
Trainee Killian Dove
Steadicam (Dailies) Greg McGuinness
DOP (Daily) Rua Meegan
Grip (Daily) Richard O'Connor
Sound Recordist Dean Murray
Boom Operator Kevin Moore
Gaffer Greg Savage, Noel Green
Best Boy Paul Grace
SFX Team FX
Hair & Makeup Assistant (Daily) Niamh Macken
Costume Assistant (Daily) Sarah Bradley
Stills Photographer Andrew Manson
Action Vehicles Michael O'Reilly
Choreography Jessica Kennedy
Stunt Coordinator Paul Thompson
Stunt Driver Dave Byrne





Animal Wrangler Eddie Drew
First Aid Responder Megan Pender
Paramedics & Covid Testing Event Medical Services
Water Safety Brian Breathnach
Catering Sidewalk Catering
Super 8 footage Andrew Manson
Post-Production Facility Element Pictures
Post Production Supervisor Chriona O'Sullivan
Colourist Leandro Arouca
Re-Recording Mixer James Lattimer
Assistant Sound Editor Shane Flynn
ADR Mary Kirwan, Jackie Mills
Insurance MIB Insurance Services Ltd.
John O'Sullivan
Production Auditors Brophy Gillespie
Lighting Equipment Cine Electric
Camera Equipment Vast Valley

SPECIAL THANKS TO

David Tarrant, Fionnuala Sweeney, Audrey Keane
Attracta & Andrew Manson, Rosemarie Ryan, Nina Hannah Kornatz

THANKS TO

Joanna Banks, Ryan Burke, McCabe Family, Sarah Manson, Pat Breen, Eric Hendy, Jennifer Costello, John Leahy, Ely Solan, Gerold & Anne Kornatz, Thomas Scheffler, Dren Zherka, Rev. Jack Kinkead, Linda Healy, Gerard Byrne, Michael O'Reilly, Lewis Brophy, Quintin Ahern, Anna Harrison, Andrew King, Paul Meagher, Sylvester Bourke, Enda Baker, Niall Ryan, Donal Earls, Riognach Ni Ghrioghair, Raphael King, Nick's Coffee Company, Anthony Remedy, Brendan Condren, Mark Burnett & Maciek Nowrocki, Galahad Goulet

FILMED ON LOCATION IN WICKLOW AND DUBLIN

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by the Arts Council of Ireland

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