

Community News

SHORT ANIMATION TO OPEN IN DERRY

'Two Balloons' for Foyle Film Festival

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One of the men behind a magical animated short film which will premiere as part of the Foyle Film Festival on Saturday coming says he hopes the film which capture the public's attention.

Peter Broderick, a celebrated American composer, wrote the music which inspired the nine minute masterpiece.

Peter is currently based in Galway and will travel to Derry this weekend for the premiere.

"I've never been to the

Festival before but I've heard great things and am looking forward to getting to Derry."

The film 'Two Balloons' was four years in the making and tells the story of two adventurous lemurs travelling the skies in their wondrous airships. One night they meet by chance and forge a bond which sees them through a calamity and cements their friendship.

Peter has collaborated with Philip Glass, Efterklang, Yann Tiersen, M. Ward and Dustin O' Halloran amongst many others, as well as composing his own music and film scores.

When director Mark Smith heard Broderick's 'More of a Composition' he knew in-

stantly that he wanted to work with him.

Originally the film was envisaged as a live action short and the plan was to build two real airships, but the production ran into problems when filmmakers couldn't secure an aircraft hangar for the required length of time.

So instead Mark decided to create the film as a stop-motion animated film despite the fact that he had no prior experience of stop-motion animation.

Mark and his crew spent sixteen months storyboarding and building a stage to encompass the sets of the half-scale lemur world.

Only then did they begin

to shoot which was a time-consuming process: shots which were only 10 seconds long took two months to shoot.

The result is the nine-minute long Two Balloons, an exceptional and heart-warming film which was a labour of love for all involved.

The Foyle Film Festival celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and will mark this with more screenings than ever before.

The crew from Two Balloons are thrilled that the film will receive its world premiere at such an important milestone event.

NI OPERA PRESENT COSI FAN TUTTE THIS THURSDAY

Elaine returns to Forum stage for Opera performance

NI Opera returns to the Millennium Forum this Thursday with a new production of Mozart's great comedy of love, temptation and partner-swapping *Così fan tutte*.

Derry born opera singer Elaine McDaid spoke to the 'Journal' ahead of Thursday's performance, and said she can't wait to perform in front of a Derry audience again.

"I cannot wait. I haven't sung in the Forum in around 10 years. I was in the first youth group production of *Les Mierables*, and I think that was the last time I was there.

"I always like the support from a home audience," she said.

Twenty-eight-year-old Elaine is a former Thornhill College student, who initially studied French and Law in Dublin, before following her passion and completed a masters in Music.

"I wasn't enjoying working in the legal profession, it wasn't for me.

"I threw caution to the wind and did a masters in Music.

"It was always in the back of my head. I wanted to sing," she said.

Elaine has also just re-



Sam Furness (Ferrando), Samuel Dale Johnson (Guglielmo), Aoife Miskelly (Despina), John Molloy (Don Alfonso), Kiandra Howarth (Fiordiligi) & Heather Lowe (Dorabella)

turned to Dublin after playing one of the lead roles during a nine-date tour of 'La Bohème' in England.

Così fan tutte is Elaine's third role with NI Opera, since first becoming involved with them in 2015.

Earlier this year she was also a finalist in the NI Opera

Festival of Voice competition, with singers from across Ireland.

"I'm in the chorus of this production, and there's 12 of us in total. It's predominantly young professionals from the North who are at the start of their careers.

"NI Opera are so good at

looking after locals," she added.

NI Opera, along with the Ulster Orchestra, presents *Così fan tutte* this Thursday, November 23 in the Millennium Forum. Tickets are now available from the Millennium Forum Box Office on 02871264455.

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