

press notes



an irish
goodbye

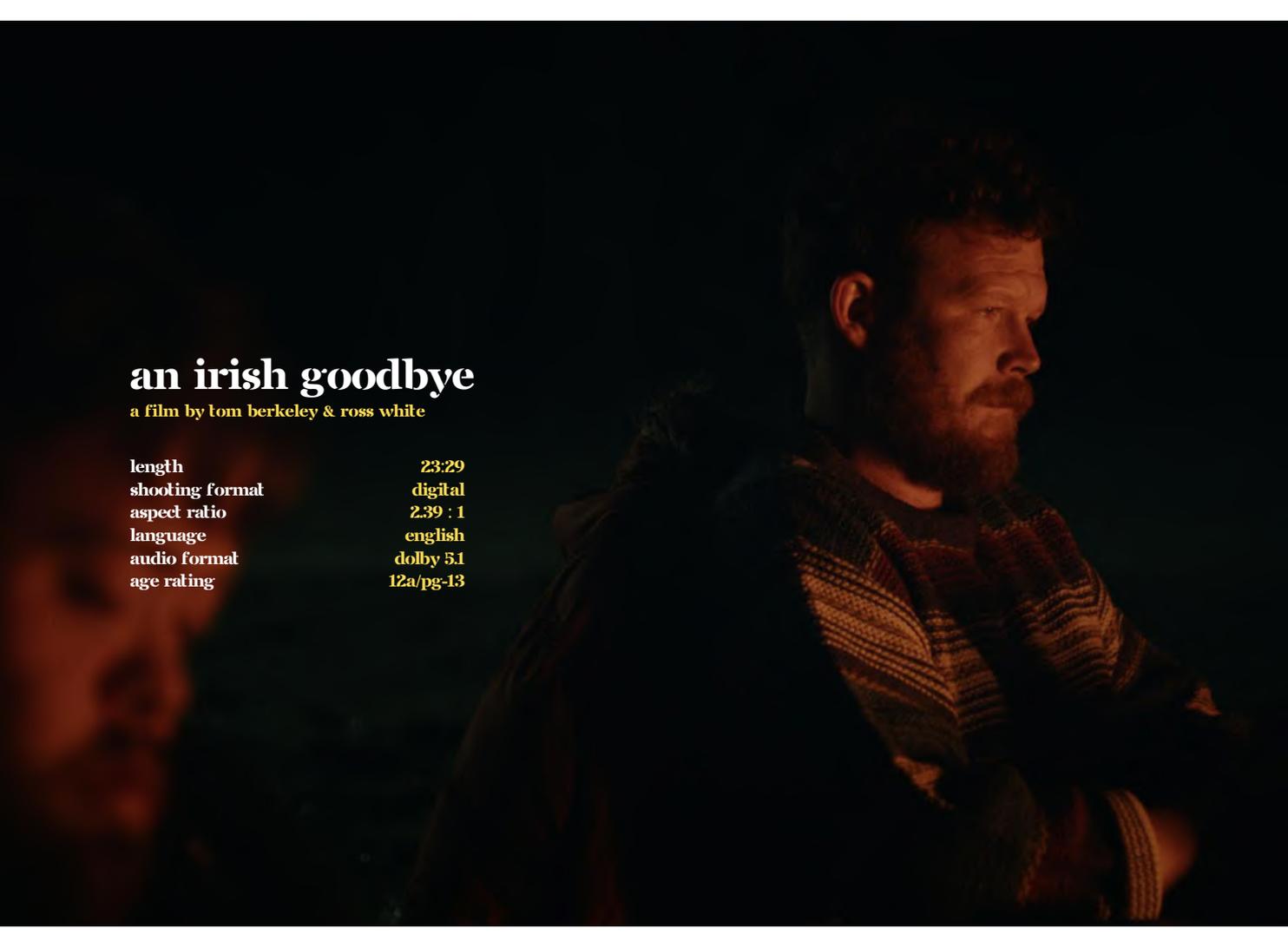
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM | 95TH ACADEMY AWARDS®

press notes

an irish goodbye

a film by tom berkeley & ross white

length	23:29
shooting format	digital
aspect ratio	2.39 : 1
language	english
audio format	dolby 5.1
age rating	12a/pg-13





60+

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS

ACROSS 6 CONTINENTS

16

ACADEMY AWARD QUALIFYING SELECTIONS

SELECTED FOR 11

BAFTA & IFTA QUALIFYING FESTIVALS

OVER 20

MAJOR AWARDS



synopsis

Set against the backdrop of a working farm in rural Northern Ireland, **AN IRISH GOODBYE** is a black comedy following the reunion of estranged brothers **Turlough** and **Lorcan** following the untimely death of their mother.

Under the watchful eye of odd-ball parish priest **Father O'Shea**, the brothers' pained reunion is worsened by the fact Turlough must now make new care arrangements for Lorcan, who has Down Syndrome. A robust and dedicated farmer, Lorcan's dream of continuing to work the land he grew up on is thwarted when Turlough decides he's sending him to live with their Aunt on the other side of Ireland.

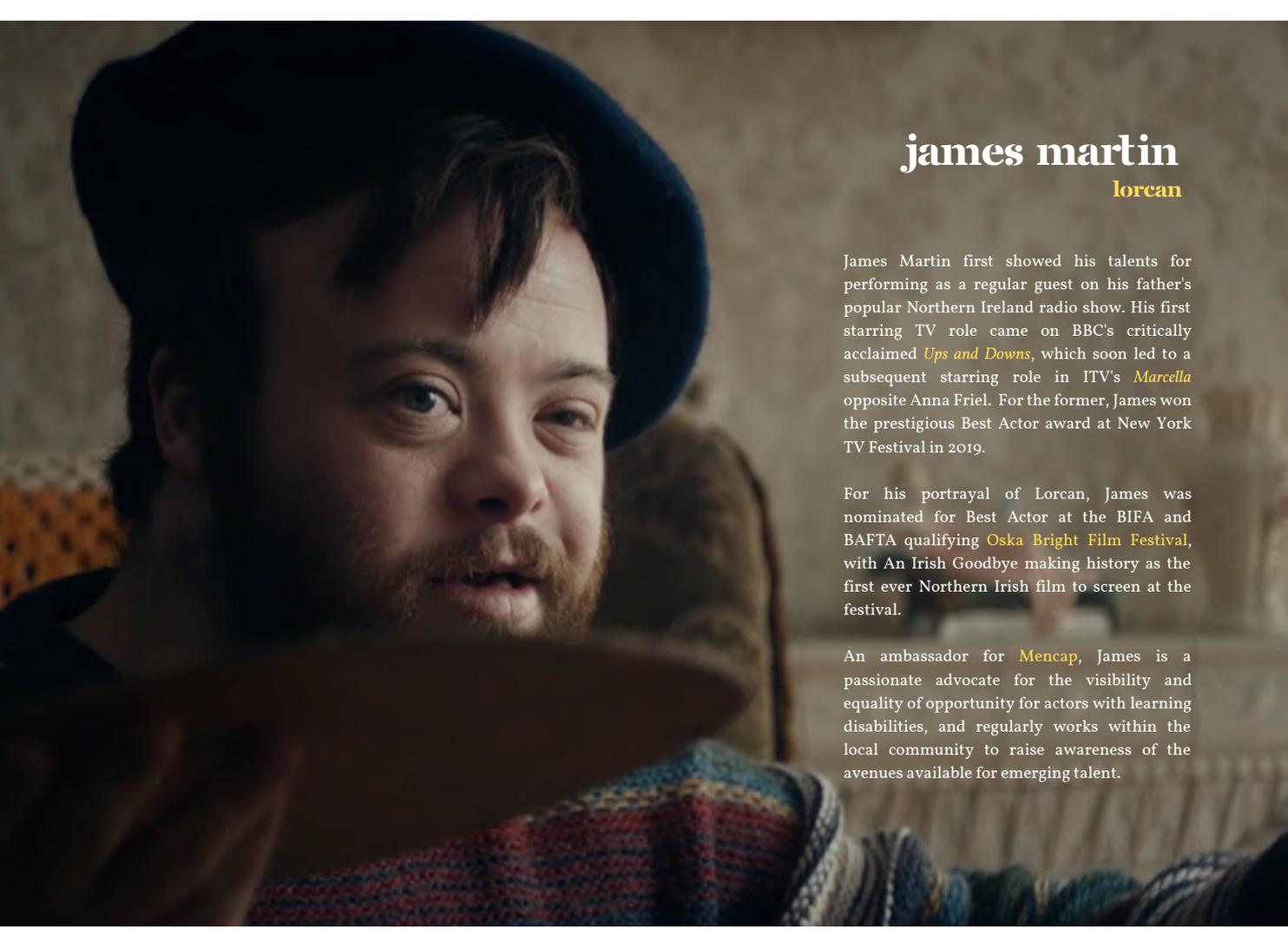
But when the brothers discover an unfulfilled bucket list belonging to their late mother, Lorcan senses an opportunity: he'll only agree to leave the farm once he and Turlough have themselves completed every single wish on their mother's list...

... all one-hundred of them.


official trailer

A photograph of two men sitting on a dark, ornate couch in a room with patterned wallpaper. The man on the left is older, with a beard, wearing a dark blue sweater. The man on the right is younger, with a beard and curly hair, wearing a brown sweater and blue jeans. A framed picture of flowers hangs on the wall behind them. The word "cast" is overlaid in large, yellow, lowercase letters in the center of the image.

cast



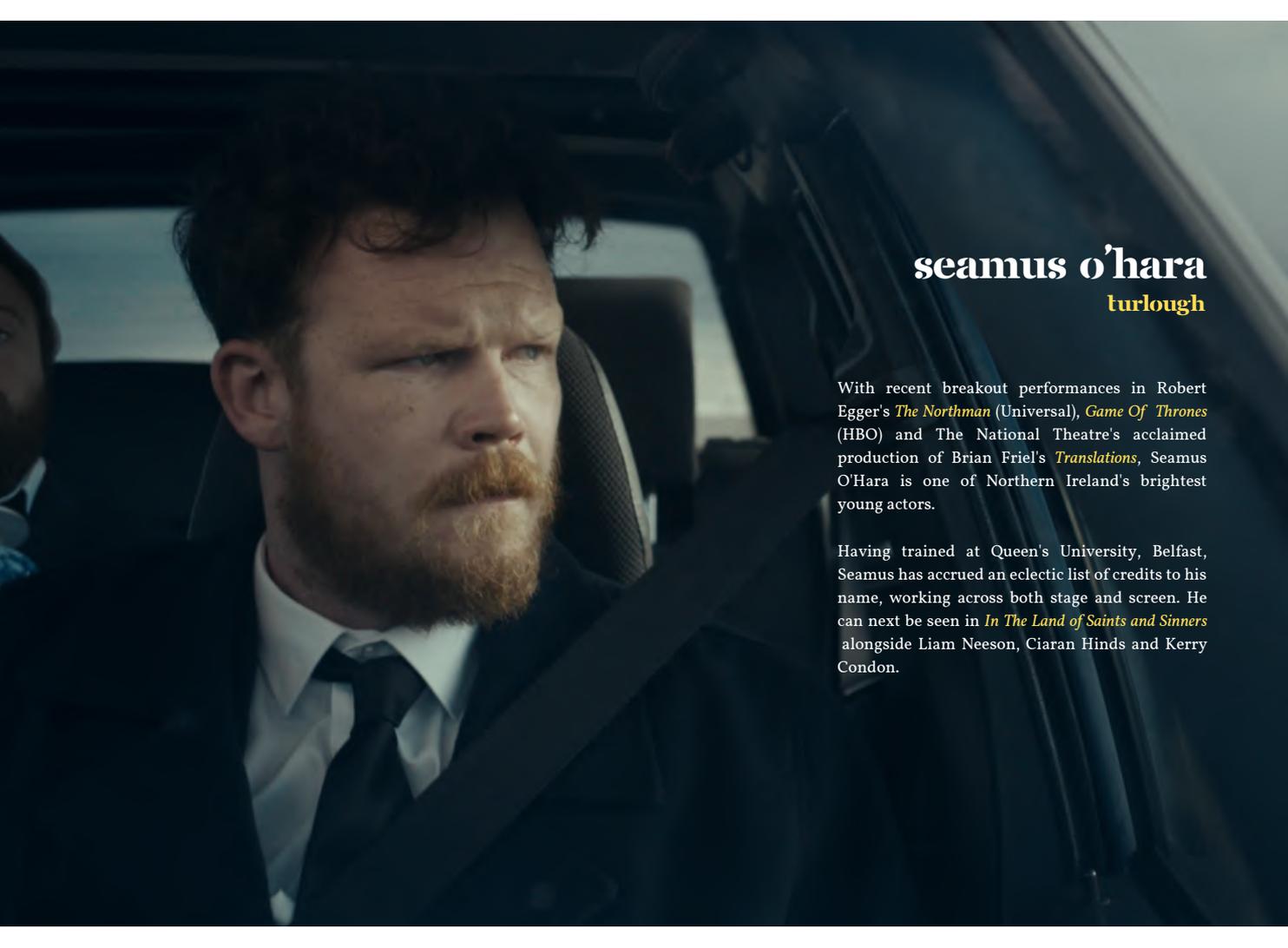
james martin

lorcan

James Martin first showed his talents for performing as a regular guest on his father's popular Northern Ireland radio show. His first starring TV role came on BBC's critically acclaimed *Ups and Downs*, which soon led to a subsequent starring role in ITV's *Marcella* opposite Anna Friel. For the former, James won the prestigious Best Actor award at New York TV Festival in 2019.

For his portrayal of Lorcan, James was nominated for Best Actor at the BIFA and BAFTA qualifying *Oska Bright Film Festival*, with *An Irish Goodbye* making history as the first ever Northern Irish film to screen at the festival.

An ambassador for *Mencap*, James is a passionate advocate for the visibility and equality of opportunity for actors with learning disabilities, and regularly works within the local community to raise awareness of the avenues available for emerging talent.



seamus o'hara

turlough

With recent breakout performances in Robert Egger's *The Northman* (Universal), *Game Of Thrones* (HBO) and The National Theatre's acclaimed production of Brian Friel's *Translations*, Seamus O'Hara is one of Northern Ireland's brightest young actors.

Having trained at Queen's University, Belfast, Seamus has accrued an eclectic list of credits to his name, working across both stage and screen. He can next be seen in *In The Land of Saints and Sinners* alongside Liam Neeson, Ciaran Hinds and Kerry Condon.

michelle fairley

grainne

Emmy and Olivier Award nominee Michelle Fairley joins the cast of *An Irish Goodbye* with a distinguished list of credits to her name across both stage and screen. Best known for playing Catelyn Stark in HBO's global phenomenon *Game of Thrones*, her work across three series earned her an IFTA Award for Best Actress in a Television Drama.

Among her other work includes critically-acclaimed performances as Mrs Granger in *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows*, Ava Hessington in USA Network's *Suits* and Cassius in The Bridge Theatre's production of *Julius Caesar* opposite Ben Wishaw and David Morrissey.





paddy jenkins

father o'shea

One of Northern Ireland's most decorated and beloved character actors, Paddy Jenkins is known to many as Pastor Begbie in the long-running sitcom *Give My Head Peace*. Paddy joins An Irish Goodbye after recent appearances in *Blue Lights* (BBC), *Into The Badlands* (AMC) and David Ireland's critically acclaimed play *Sadie* (Lyric Theatre Belfast).



crew

tom berkeley & ross white

writer/directors

An Irish Goodbye is the second collaboration from writer-director duo Tom Berkeley and Ross White, following their breakout debut **ROY** which was shortlisted for **Best British Short** at the 75th BAFTA Awards.

Hailing from Gloucester and Belfast respectively, their journey began initially writing for theatre, with their early plays recognised as finalists in the **Bruntwood Prize**, **Papatango Prize** and **The Kenneth Branagh Award** for New Drama Writing.

Turning their focus to co-writing & directing for screen, the pair founded the Belfast-based **Floodlight Pictures** in 2019 as a vehicle through which to produce their work. They were recently selected for **BBC Writersroom** 'Belfast Voices' and the **BFI Shorts2Features** cohort of 2022.



narayan van maele **cinematographer**

Born in Luxembourg, Narayan Van Maele moved to the West of Ireland at the age of 16, and following his training at the Irish National Film School has gone on to become one of the most exciting cinematographers of his generation.

Narayan was recently IFTA nominated for Best Cinematography on the critically acclaimed feature film *You Are Not My Mother*, which currently streams on Netflix. His other credits include the 6 x IFTA nominated *Broken Law* and the Academy Award shortlisted feature *Gutland*.

Known for his beautiful portraiture and relaxed, collaborative aura, Narayan brought great experience and innovation to *An Irish Goodbye*, capturing both the stunning landscapes of rural Northern Ireland and maintaining the visual language for an off-beat black comedy.



key official selections

Galway Film Fleadh
Indy Shorts International Film Festival
Austin Film Festival
Leeds International Film Festival
Odense International Film Festival
Leuven International Film Festival
British Short Film Awards
19th In The Palace International Film Festival
Calgary International Film Festival
Norwich Film Festival
Bengaluru International Film Festival
San Diego International Film Festival
Oska Bright Film Festival
Santa Barbara International Film Festival
Edmonton International Film Festival
Cambridge Film Festival
Bend International Film Festival
Kerry International Film Festival
PÖFF Shorts
Heartland International Film Festival
Izmir International Film Festival
Irish Film London
Cambridge Film Festival
Toronto Irish Film Festival
Brisbane International Film Festival
Chicago Irish Film Festival



key awards

Grand Jury Prize for Best Live Action Short
Edmonton International Film Festival

Jury Prize for Best Comedy
Audience Award for Best Comedy
Indy Shorts International Film Festival

Grand Prize for Best Short Film
Jury Award for Best British Short Film
British Short Film Awards

Artistic Director's Award
San Diego International Film Festival

Best British Short Film
Norwich Film Festival

Best Short Film
Best Director
Discover Film Awards

Best Drama Short Film
Irish Film Festa

European Audience Award
Leuven International Film Festival

Norma Houston Award for Best Short Film
Capital Irish Film Festival

Best Short Film
Chicago Irish Film Festival

Best Live Action Short Film
Pittsburgh Shorts Film Festival

Best Short Film
Festival Inclus

Best Short Film
Suffolk Shorts

Best Short Film - "Let's Include"
Bengaluru International Film Festival

Best Actor - James Martin
Short Com International Film Festival

Q&A

with filmmakers
tom berkeley & ross white

Where did the inspiration for An Irish Goodbye come from?

TOM | After living and writing in London together for some years, in 2019 Ross and I decided to move back to our respective hometowns (Gloucester & Belfast) to focus on our filmmaking. Because of this, I think themes of leaving home, returning home, and the idiosyncrasies of the family unit were on our mind. We were also speaking a lot about grief back then, something we were both navigating in various ways.

I then remember going to a football match with my Dad and spotting two brothers watching the game a few rows ahead of me. The younger brother had Down syndrome, with the older brother acting as his carer. Despite the element of responsibility that existed between them, these two men were bickering, fighting, laughing and hugging in the way all brothers do. I found that really compelling. So did Ross, when we talked about it the next day. We became quickly fascinated by that relationship and wrote the script for *An Irish Goodbye* soon after.

How did the casting process come together?

ROSS | Not long after we began writing the script, Tom and I happened to watch the BBC Northern Ireland TV movie *Ups & Downs*, starring James Martin, a wonderful up-and-coming Northern Irish actor with Down syndrome. James was a revelation; expertly navigating comedy and tragedy that would turn on a sixpence, and with a natural charisma that was really exciting.

From that moment on, we sort of engineered the project around James and his availability. We were extremely fortunate to secure the fantastic Seamus O'Hara to play Turlough - fresh off the back of a brilliant performance in Robert Eggers' *The Northman*.

Our brother pairing complete, it was then more great fortune to attract the services of industry veterans Paddy Jenkins and Michelle Fairley to complete the cast. I don't think we could have dreamt up a better quartet that those four wonderful actors.

Short films are always challenging projects to mount - how did the shoot go?

TOM | We were blessed with a small but mighty crew who fully committed to the scope and ambition of this story. Our cinematographer, Narayan Van Maele, really harnessed the visual tone for achieving dark



comedy, whilst also allowing the imposing landscapes of rural Ireland to speak for themselves.

From erecting a four-hundred-strong helium balloon contraption to fly an urn over the Sperrin mountains, to rattling through a jam-packed script in five days, the strength of this film really rests upon the efforts of all our collaborators who went above and beyond to deliver something really special. Sometimes it's those budgetary restrictions, time pressures and technical limitations which force a creativity and ingenuity that brings out the best in everyone. I think back on it so fondly.

The film has enjoyed a very positive festival circuit - what are some highlights?

ROSS | To think a wee film we shot on a farm in Templepatrick has gone on to play at some of our favourite film festivals is crazy. We were very lucky to get to travel with the film to some amazing places, with particular highlights being our Irish premiere at Galway Film Fleadh, our US premiere in at Santa Barbara International Film Festival in California, and getting to visit Washington D.C to pick up the inaugural Norman Houston Award at the Capital Irish Film Festival.

There were so many amazing festivals we couldn't attend, spanning India, Australia, Turkey, Denmark, Canada, Estonia... it's the

biggest joy of all to know that our story has reached such a wide and appreciative audience.

You are the only English-language film shortlisted for Best Live Action Short Film the 2023 Oscars - how does that feel?

TOM | It will take a while for an honour like that to truly sink in. We have been lucky enough to watch some incredible short films during our travels over the last 18-months, so to be recognised in this way by the Academy Awards is incredibly heartening.

In what is shaping up to be a really exciting awards season for Irish cinema (*The Banshees of Inisherin*, *The Quiet Girl*) we are extremely proud to be rubbing shoulders with some incredible filmmakers. Whatever happens from here, it has been an incredible journey and I hope *An Irish Goodbye* will continue to be found by audiences for many years to come.



FILM CARNAGE



Review: An Irish Goodbye
Written and directed by Tom Berkeley and Ross White, in rural Northern Ireland, a pair of estranged brothers reunite following their mother's untimely death. Starring: James Martin, Seamus...

© FilmCarnage.com - Dec 5, 2022

VARIETY



Oscar Predictions: Live Action Short - Alfonso Cuarón and Disney are Early...
2023 Oscars predictions for best live action short include "An Irish Goodbye," "Le Puppille," "Nekam" and

ITV NEWS



Star tells aspiring actors with Down's Syndrome 'don't let people say you can't'
Belfast actor James Martin is receiving glowing praise for his starring role in new award-winning black

IRISH FILM LONDON



Martin McDonagh Retrospective: In Bruges (+ short film An Irish Goodbye)
Celebrating the release of Martin McDonagh's new film The Banshees of Inisherin, which reunites Brendan Gleeson with festival patron Colin Farrell...

SUNDAY WORLD



Actor James Martin speaks of new comedy An Irish Goodbye ahead of premiere
James Martin could be saying hello to another award with his latest film, An Irish Goodbye.

BELFAST TELEGRAPH



Northern Ireland short film An Irish Goodbye takes one step closer to Oscar award
A Northern Irish short film starring Game of Thrones' Michelle Fairley is in the running for an Academy Award

a floodlight pictures film | with support from



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