

Festival Overview

It's lights, camera, action for First Cut! Youth Film Festival

Day 1 (Wed 6th March):

The event will open with screenings of animated films created by more than 200 children from 7 local primary schools. This will be followed with a presentation on the art of animation and a much-anticipated screening of the academy award nominated animated short 'The Breadwinner', directed by Nora Twomey of Irish animation studio Cartoon Saloon.

Day 2 and 3 (Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March)

On Thursday the programme will screen a selection of the best short films submitted through the Open Call. These young people are from youth groups and secondary schools throughout Ireland. Friday's programme will showcase short films made by secondary school students involved in the Cork Young Filmmakers Project in the Mall Art's Centre. It's always incredibly exciting for the students to see the final edits of their creative efforts on a big screen. They come by the busload from all over the county!

On Thursday evening a family Animation screening will take place. It is free and as seating is limited tickets will be booked in advance on a first come basis. This will take place on the big screen of the Regal Cinema and is a highlight of the festival for our younger audiences. It promises to be a great night out for local families.

Day 4 (Saturday 9th March) – open to the public

Saturdays exciting all day programme is Free and Open to the public!

Screenings of the selected national and international open call entries will take place in both the Mall Arts Centre and the Regal Cinema. The general public, alongside the filmmakers, are invited to attend this day of the festival where they will see a wonderful range of inspiring shorts by filmmakers up to age 24.

The festival continues its focus on Women in Film & TV with a special panel bringing together talented female filmmakers, well known and experienced and young new talent. Guests to be announced.

First Cut! turns the spotlight on emerging filmmakers in their early twenties in the early afternoon on the big screen at the beautiful Mall Arts Centre. Spotlight is the First Cut! open call programme dedicated to filmmakers in their early twenties either in film school or working independently. These are 'Ones to Watch' and will feature ten short films by gifted emerging directors.

The final day will culminate in an awards ceremony. Particularly important to the festival is the Youth Council Award, which is selected by a panel of young filmmakers who help act as advisors and festival ambassadors ensuring that First Cut! remains 'on track' in meeting the needs of young filmmakers.

The incredibly popular Youth Music Video Competition (YMVC) Screening and Awards will take place in the early evening at the Regal. According to mentors from 'Feel Good Lost', Brendan Canty & David Lester Mooney, this year's YMVC yielded the highest quality applicants yet! Six finalists were chosen to take part in a day long workshop in December and subsequently were assigned music tracks, a brief from the band such as Kobina, True Tides and Laoise. The competition has gone from strength to strength each year – the quality of the work is nothing short of remarkable. We can't wait to see the final six videos!

The YMVC screening closes the festival at the Regal Cinema, and following a discussion panel with the participants, the Best Music Video award will be presented

The closing of the festival is marked with a live music performance by one of the bands involved in the 2019 Youth Music Video Competition, this year's artist will be announced shortly, and in true First Cut! style this event is free and open to all festival goers, friends and volunteers.

Commenting on this year's programme Festival Director Mary McGrath said "We are thrilled to launch our 2019 Festival Programme which we believe provides a dynamic, innovative and entertaining programme of film screenings, mentoring sessions, panel discussions and workshops that offer youths a platform to express themselves creatively through the medium of film. By bringing young filmmakers together in a vibrant festival atmosphere, to celebrate, network and showcase their work we hope to inspire a love of film and filmmaking which lasts a lifetime."

"The films submitted never fail to astonish with a remarkable variety of styles and subject matter.", Ms. McGrath continued. "We are delighted with our growing audience of young people, who are passionate about making film. We are honoured this year to be screening a whole range of shorts from right across Ireland and the world. As in previous years we continue to enjoy the support of professional filmmakers and we will be announcing a number of exciting special guests and events to Festival 2019 over the coming weeks!"

For more information see www.firstcutfilmfestival.com or to stay connected on social media follow @firstcutfilmfestival on Facebook/ Instagram

First Cut! Youth Film Festival receives core funding from the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon and Cork County Council and is supported by the business community in Youghal and by Cork Film Centre.

~ Exciting Festival programme launched ~

~ Youghal Festival inspires youths (12-24 year olds) to get behind the camera ~

~ Unprecedented international interest in this year's event ~