



a public program of the



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**7th ANNUAL IRISH AMERICAN MOVIE
HOOLEY
ANNOUNCES FILMS FOR 2021**

*When a party gets rowdy, the Irish call it a
“hooley.”*

Rebecca Fons, Director of Programming for The Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago, and Hibernian Media Chairman Mike Houlihan announce their three selections for the upcoming seventh annual “Irish American Movie Hooley” at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., coming up September 24, 25, and 26, 2021.

Hibernian Media presents the Movie Hooley, which this year unveils a trinity of Chicago premieres of the best from Ireland and Irish American cinema.

The Hooley will open Friday night, September 24th at 8PM with the World Premiere of Mike Houlihan's charming personal documentary **IN SEARCH OF WEEPING JIM**, about the late Chicago Alderman James Ambrose Kearns, who emigrated from County Mayo in 1884 at the age of 13 and went on to a storied political career, culminating in his introduction of legislation in 1915 directing Chicago to undertake plans for a municipal flag, which came about in 1917 earning Kearns the moniker "father of the Chicago flag". The film features music from legendary Irish performers The Saw Doctors, Gaelic Storm, The Wolfe Tones, Liam Durkin, Eimear Arkins and Jimmy Cloonan. Houlihan says, "With this film we are claiming the Chicago flag for the Irish Diaspora. From now and forever more the Chicago flag is "an Irish thing".

Saturday night September 25th at 8pm, the Hooley will present the Chicago premiere of **A BEND IN THE RIVER** by filmmaker Colin Broderick who premiered his film **EMERALD CITY** at the 2017 Movie Hooley and now has collaborated with the filmmakers he met back then in Chicago, to bring us the autobiographical **BEND**. It's the story of a writer who returns to Ireland, after spending twenty-five years in New York, to confront the ghosts of his past. Several of the stars of **BEND** will personally appear

at the Hooley, including Irish boxing legend John Duddy, Grainne Duddy, Nicola Boyle, and the one and only John Connors, who was last seen starring at the Hooley in CARDBOARD GANGSTERS.

Sunday afternoon September 26th at 5:00pm, the Hooley screens the American premiere of ENDLESS SUNSHINE ON A CLOUDY DAY. John Connors directs this sensitive and empathetic documentary that follows the final journey of popular Instagrammer, Jade McCann, and her father Anthony. An audience favorite at the Dublin Film Festival this inspirational story is a reminder about the toxic nature of social media and the enduring truth in every soul as, "A family comes together to fight the ultimate fight and learn that love is more powerful than death." Connors and film producer Tiernan Williams will appear in person at the screening.

The Movie Hooley offers audiences the unique opportunity to meet the directors and stars of all three films in person and share "the craic" with them after each screening.

Paddy's Irish Whiskey is scheduled to offer a sampling station in the lobby of the Gene Siskel Film

Center before each screening, and also hold a free “whiskey raffle” after each screening.

Hooley producer Mike Houlihan says, “Once again we’re thrilled to present three distinctive stories that capture and evoke our Irish culture.”

“Now that the Gene Siskel Film Center has reopened, we are happy to bring back some of our beloved, long-running and yearly traditions like the Hooley. Now celebrating its seventh year, the Hooley is a celebration of Irish American talent and voices, and patrons who experience the films and the energy of the event - whether returning year after year or experiencing the festival for the first time - are always delighted,” said Film Center Director of Programming Rebecca Fons.

Now in its 49th year of public programming, the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) has presented world-class independent, international, and classic cinema. Renamed in honor of the late film critic in 2000, the Gene Siskel Film Center presents approximately 1,600 screenings and 200 guest artist appearances each year to over 100,000 film enthusiasts at its unique, sophisticated, modern facilities, which have

been operating since June 2001 at 164 N. State Street in Chicago.

Hibernian Transmedia gratefully acknowledges financial support for the 7th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley from The Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, the Irish Consulate of Chicago's Emigrant Support Programme and Culture Ireland as well as sponsorship of Paddy's Irish Whiskey, Hilton Chicago, and especially "The Dearborn" restaurant around the corner from the Siskel Center at 145 North Dearborn Street.

For more information about the Movie Hooley, visit:
<http://moviehooley.org>



All screenings and events are at the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, located at 164 N. State St.

Tickets to each screening--unless stated otherwise—are \$12/general admission, \$7/students, \$6/Film Center members, and \$5/Art Institute of Chicago (AIC) staff and School of the Art Institute of Chicago

(SAIC) faculty, staff, and students. Both general admission and Film Center member tickets are available on www.siskelfilmcenter.org. There is a surcharge of \$1.50 per ticket. The Film Center and its box office are open 5:00 to 8:30 pm, Monday through Thursday; 1:00 to 8:30 pm, Friday; 2:00 to 8:30 pm, Saturday; and 2:00 to 5:30 pm, Sunday.

Discounted parking is available for 24 hours at the InterPark SELF-PARK at 20 E. Randolph St. A rebate ticket can be obtained from the Film Center Box Office.

The Film Center is located near CTA trains and buses. Nearest CTA L stations are Lake (Red line); State/Lake (Brown, Green, Orange, Pink, Purple lines); and Washington (Blue line). CTA bus lines serving State St.: 2, 6, 10, 29, 36, 62, 144, and 146.

For more information about the Film Center, call 312-846-2800 (24-hour movie hotline) or 312-846-2600 (general information, 9:00 am-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday), or visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

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