

Edmonton Irish Film Fest counts its lucky charms

A few Gateway film critics grabbed a can of Guinness and reviewed some of Irish Film Fest movies showing at the Metro Cinema this weekend. Here are the results:

Breakfast On Pluto

Directed by Neil Jordan
Starring Cillian Murphy, Liam Neeson, Stephen Rea, Ruth Negga, Laurence Kinlan, Gavin Friday, Bryan Ferry and Brendan Gleeson
Plays Sunday, 4 March at 7pm
Metro Cinema

Poor Pluto. It never did anything wrong, and suddenly, it's no longer a planet. Okay, so all of this happened after the wonderful film *Breakfast On Pluto* was filmed, but that doesn't mean that the parallel isn't there between the little planet and Patrick "Kitten" Braden.

Patrick is a foster child who's been abandoned by his mother and has no idea who his father is. As a little boy, he enjoys wearing dresses and makeup, behaviours that aren't exactly accepted in the small Irish-Catholic town where he grows up. He knows he's different, and only the other kids in the neighbourhood who are somehow "different" can identify with him and accept him. Perhaps because of this, it's heart-warming to watch the kids embrace one another, especially because few other people do. Patrick's friendships are portrayed beautifully throughout the film, especially his friendship with a young woman named Charlie (Ruth Negga).

Breakfast On Pluto is a captivating movie, telling the story of a transgendered individual trying to fit into a world that doesn't seem to have a place

for him. Cillian Murphy is terrific as Patrick, his large blue eyes expressive and vulnerable. The soundtrack, ranging from rock-and-roll to disco, is awesome, each song matching Braden's emotions to a T. One thing that doesn't really work in this film, though, is the very superficial portrayal of the fighting between the Irish nationalists and the English. The film illustrates the violence and bombings that occurred during the '60s and '70s, but unfortunately does little to integrate this subplot into the rest of the movie in a believable way.

In the end, *Breakfast On Pluto* reminds us that the desire to be loved is universal, even for those who are outside the norm. Just like poor Pluto.

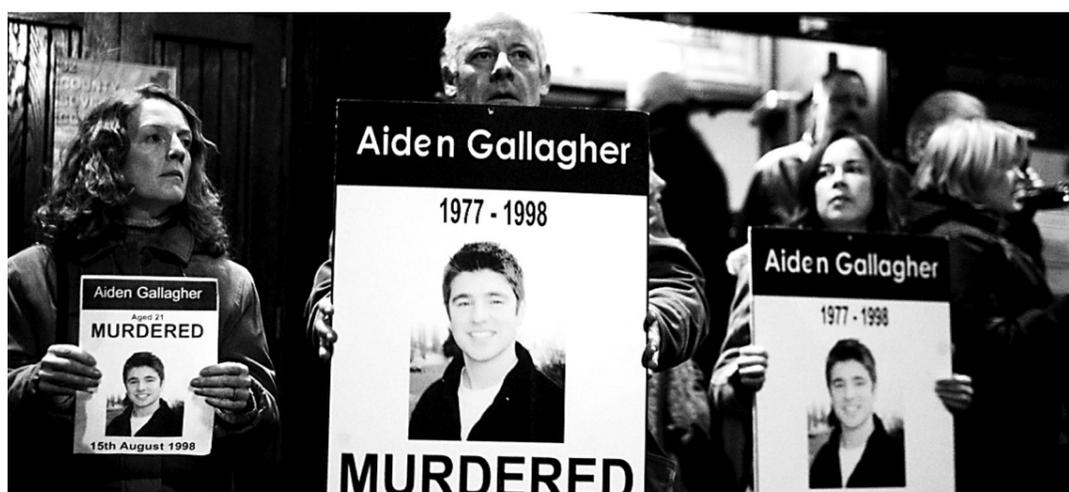
Maria Kotovych

Omagh

Directed by Pete Travis
Starring Gerard McSorley
Plays Saturday, 3 March at 9pm
Metro Cinema

On 15 August, 1998, a group calling themselves the Real IRA exploded a bomb on a crowded Omagh street in an attempt to halt the signing of the Good Friday Accord—which would end almost 30 years of sectarian violence in that region.

The film *Omagh* follows this event and the family of Michael Gallagher (Gerard McSorley) a mechanic whose son is killed in the bombing. The families of the victims become frustrated by the government's inability to bring the men behind the bombing to justice, and with Gallagher as their leader form the Omagh Support Group to try and find the truth behind



the death of their loved ones.

Omagh's director Pete Travis' portrayal of a grieving town provides a very thorough insight into the hardships of the victims' families. The first third of the movie is spent attempting to make the audience sympathize and understand this peaceful community. For the most part he succeeds, and while the film can be a little slow at times, the characters are all rich and passionate enough to keep watching. Gerard McSorley is brilliant in his role, as his character progresses from a shy griever to a passionate leader searching for closure.

But the heart of *Omagh* is the true-life story of a people who felt abandoned and betrayed by their government. The film brings up some interesting questions about fighting for peace and the lengths we should go to in order to maintain it, leaving your mind whirling long after the film is over.

Ramin Ostad

Beckett On Film: A Selection

Directors, cast varies
Plays Sunday, 4 March at 9pm

Somebody once had the idea to take every single one of Samuel Beckett's plays and adapt them for film, all while staying loyal to the original scripts. Then, somebody else had the idea to select just seven of the shorter films to create a collection called *Beckett On Film: A Selection*.

The first play selected for this collection is not-so-creatively entitled *Play*. But it's not at all fun and games. *Play* is cruelly stretched to 16 minutes by looping the same four minute sequence four times in a row. While quite interesting the first time round, it loses its novelty halfway during the second lap.

The next two, *Act Without Words I* and *Act Without Words II*, straddle the line between clever and pretentious. However, they're also poetic, inspired and truly wonderful examples

of Beckett's genius and unique style. In contrast, *Rough for Theater* is a lacklustre piece about a crippled man, and really, the story surrounding him isn't that astounding.

The next play, *Ohio Impromptu*, is artsy but in a way that will leave one seeing double. Highlighting Beckett's mastery of the written word, *Ohio Impromptu* also illustrates Beckett's expert use of stage and lighting directions in his scripts, while the 45-second *Breath* will leave you breathless—or screaming, "What. The. Fuck."

The last play, *Catastrophe*, is a sarcastic political commentary lost on everyone but Samuel Beckett himself, revealing the reality that Beckett's works are hit-or-miss in nature, and this selection of films proves it. So, while parts of the collection are original and provocative, bring your own entertainment for the other parts or be prepared to suffer.

Bryan Saunders

GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on **General Faculties Council (GFC)** Standing Committees and Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2007.

Undergraduate and graduate students (except as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2007, and ending April 30, 2008. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm/2nd & 4th Wednesdays
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC): GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and examination policies and other related issues.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am/3rd Thursday
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	TWO STUDENTS (undergraduate and/or graduate)	9:30 am/4th Thursday
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes an optimal learning environment in alignment with guiding documents of the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm/1st Wednesday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings and parking and transportation facilities.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am/3rd Friday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility criteria.	TWO undergraduates	2:00 pm/2nd Tuesday in October, January, March and June
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate	Normally three times a year (October, March and May)
ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides appeals regarding disciplinary decisions of the Discipline Officer and/or Dean as made under the Code of Student Behaviour.	AAC: THREE undergraduates & TWO graduates UAB: NINE undergraduates & FOUR graduates	Hearings are normally scheduled from 4:30 pm onward and last from 3-5 hours. Student members normally participate in 1-3 hearings in a calendar year, therefore some evening flexibility over the calendar year is needed (including summer months). Training is provided.
COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA): The aim of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	Afternoons/normally 3rd Monday (September to March)

Application forms and committee information are available on the University Governance website: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/secretariat/>, or in Room 2-5 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to the University Governance by **Wednesday, March 7, 2007**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms Vanessa Ogilvy, Secretary to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 492-4715, or by e-mail: vanessa.ogilvy@ualberta.ca.

NOTE: There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member. Expressions of interest should be directed to Mr. Garry Bodnar, garry.bodnar@ualberta.ca Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee, University Governance.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & PUBLISHER

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2007/2008 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008 and pays \$1859.40/mo*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2006/2007 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.** Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 2 March 2007**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

LINE EDITORS

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the following line editor positions** for the 2007/2008 publishing year:

MANAGING EDITOR
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR
OPINION EDITOR
SPORTS EDITOR
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
PHOTO EDITOR
DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR

All terms run from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Six issues of the *Gateway* will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1549.50* per month; all other line editors will receive \$1222.00* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 9 March 2007**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gjs

