

# Irish Movies (About Ireland or Filmed in Ireland)

## **Angela's Ashes**

Based on the novel of the same name by Frank McCourt, this story tells of his poverty-stricken childhood in Limerick in the 1930s and 1940s.

## **Barry Lyndon**

This 1975 Stanley Kubrick classic tells the story of an Irish rogue who goes off and joins the British Army. All is not exactly what you might think in this film though. When you think you're seeing a German military encampment what you're actually seeing is Cahir Castle, County Tipperary. Again, when you are watching the British Redcoats what you're actually seeing is Kells, County Meath.

## **Braveheart**

Following this Mel Gibson Hollywood blockbuster, the tourism industry of Scotland recorded a boost of over 100 percent. Little did the tourists know that most of the battle scenes were filmed in Ireland. All scenes depicting London were shot at Bective Abbey, County Meath. The Battle of Stirling Bridge was filmed on the Curragh Plains, County Kildare and the scenes set in York were actually filmed at Trim Castle, County Meath. The Wicklow Mountains are also part of the 'Braveheart Trail'.

## **Brooklyn**

2015 An Irish immigrant lands in 1950s Brooklyn, where she quickly falls into a romance with a local. When her past catches up with her, however, she must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within. Romantic drama film starring Saoirse Ronan. The film was nominated for three Academy Awards and won the BAFTA Award for Best British Film.

## **Brylcreem Boys**

A film about American POWs in Ireland during WW2.

## **Cal**

1984. This complicated love story centres on a widow who must cope when her lover is hunted by the Irish Republican Army.

## **Circle of Friends**

Based on a novel by Maeve Binchy. Set in 1950s Ireland, this is a story of three girls who pledge everlasting friendship and how their lives evolve.

## **Commitments, The**

1991. Legendary Irish film about a group of down-and-out working class Dubliners who form a soul band. Jimmy Rabbitte has dreams of creating the ultimate soul group, and succeeds in bringing together a bunch of talented, eclectic characters. But eventually personalities clash, and the survival of the band is threatened. This adaptation of the Roddy Doyle novel featured a relatively unknown cast at the time, but was welcomed with critical acclaim and a successful box office run. Other film adaptations of Doyle's books include *The Snapper* (1993) and *The Van* (1996).

## **Crying Game, The**

The controversial film that put Irish director/screenwriter Neil Jordan on the map. Set in rural Ireland and bustling London, IRA member Fergus (Stephen Rea) develops a friendship with his captive, a British soldier, Jody (Forest Whitaker), and the kidnapping goes horribly wrong. Fergus then flees to London, where he seeks out Jody's girlfriend, Dil. An intense and thorny plot ensues. 1993 Oscar Best Screenplay.

## **Dancing at Lughnasa**

1998. This drama is set in Donegal in 1930s rural Ireland is based on a play that first opened in Dublin and then on Broadway. It observes the lives of five sisters and the hopelessness of their daily lives. Starring Meryl Streep.

### **Evelyn**

2002. Single dad Pierce Brosnan must fight the Irish courts to keep his kids after being abandoned by his wife.

### **Far and Away**

Joseph (Tom Cruise) and his landlord's daughter, Shannon (Nicole Kidman), travel from Ireland to America in hopes of claiming free land in Oklahoma. The pair get sidetracked in Boston, where Joseph takes up boxing to support himself. When he loses a pivotal fight, the two are left penniless. Now faced with poverty, the two must find new ways to scrape by. As their affection for each other grows, Joseph questions whether he is truly what Shannon needs in her life. Filmed in County Kerry on Dingle Peninsula with Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

### **Field, The**

Written by John B Keane, a playwright from County Kerry. This film, directed by Jim Sheridan, depicts the importance of land to the Irish people. Bull McCabe (played by Oscar-nominated Richard Harris) is a farmer in Ireland's rural west. When his field is threatened to be sold to an outsider, Bull will do anything in his power to stop it from happening. An unforgettable film about the conflict between "old" and "new" Ireland. Also featuring John Hurt and Sean Bean.

### **Fifty Dead Men Walking**

2008. Director Kari Skogland's crime thriller features an IRA informer navigating a brutal world during The Troubles.

### **Freeze Frame**

This is a terrifying psychological thriller starring amazing British comic, Lee Evans. It tells the tale of man who has served a jail sentence for three murders he did not commit and has decided to live underground. The entire movie was shot in the Crumlin Road prison just outside Belfast City.

### **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**

In this number six of the eight films there's a dramatic scene when Harry Potter and Professor Dumbledore are battling with evil. The camera swoops in towards some cliffs (the Cliffs of Moher, County Clare) and then we spot our two heroes standing on a rock (Lemon Rock, County Kerry).x

### **In the Name of the Father**

1993. Oscar-nominated film based on the real-life experiences of Gerry Conlon, the alleged leader of the Guildford Four. Set during the Northern Ireland 'Troubles,' Daniel Day-Lewis stars as Conlon, a Belfast man wrongly imprisoned for the 1974 IRA bombing of a pub in the UK. Nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, In the Name of the Father shows one man's 15-year struggle for his innocence and for truth. It also stars Emma Thompson and Pete Postlethwaite.

### **Intermission**

A dark comedy with an Irish star-studded cast. Intermission follows the lives of a handful of dysfunctional characters whose choices all unwittingly affect each other's lives. Set in Dublin, the film takes on the grand themes of life, love and the law. Starring Cillian Murphy and Colin Farrell.

### **Into The West**

1992. A settled traveller is living with his two young sons in Dublin. The boys form an attachment to a white horse and set off across the country on the horse with the entire travelling community tracking them down. The end of the story takes place on the seafront in the west of Ireland. Written by Jim Sheridan, director of *My Left Foot*.

### **Italian Job, The**

In this 1969 classic, starring a very young Michael Caine, all of the jail scenes were actually filmed in Kilmainham Jail, in Dublin. This is a hugely historically important location for Ireland. This is where many leaders of Irish rebellions were imprisoned and some executed in the prison by the British and latterly in 1923 by the Irish Free State.

### **King Arthur (2004)**

This 2004 incarnation of the legendary tale of King Arthur and round table was mostly filmed in Ireland. The movie starred Clive Owen, Ioan Gruffudd, Ray Winstone and Keira Knightley. Britain's beautiful old buildings and structures were in fact mostly filmed in Ardmore Studios, County Wicklow. What might have seemed to be Hadrian's Wall was in fact Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare and the Luggala and Powerscourt Estates in County Wicklow were also used.

### **Leap Year**

2009. In this movie set in Dingle but filmed on the island of Inishmore, Amy Adams plays a woman who travels to Dublin to propose to her boyfriend.

### **Magdalene Sisters, The**

2003. Peter Mullan directs this harrowing film about three unwed and pregnant young girls sent to work in the Irish laundries to atone for their 'sin' in Catholic 1960s Ireland.

### **Man of Aran**

1934. Directed by Robert J Flaherty, this haunting, near-silent documentary about life on the Aran Islands in the early 20th century is a classic.

### **Michael Collins**

1996. Directed by Neil Jordan, this is the story of one of Ireland's greatest leaders and the prominent role he played in Ireland's War of Independence. This film illustrates how the civil war tore the country apart, with friends and family who fought shoulder-to-shoulder in the War of Independence becoming mortal enemies during the Civil War. Liam Neeson and Julia Roberts star as Michael Collins and Kitty Kiernan.

### **My Left Foot**

1989. A true story about an Irishman who overcomes his disability to become an amazing painter, poet and writer. Directed by Jim Sheridan, it documents the extraordinary life of Christy Brown (Daniel Day-Lewis), a working-class Irishman born with crippling cerebral palsy. With the encouragement of his mother, played by Brenda Fricker, Christy learns to write and draw with his only functional limb - his left foot. Both Day-Lewis and Fricker won Academy Awards for their roles.

### **Odd Man Out**

1947. This British film noir, about the early IRA, is set in Northern Ireland with a great scene filmed in Belfast's Crown Bar.

### **Omagh**

2004. "Best Drama" winner of the 2005 British Academy of Film and Television Awards, 'Omagh' recounts the deadly 1998 IRA bombing that killed 29 people in Northern Ireland.

### **Once**

2006. A beautiful, romantic, original musical set in the streets of Dublin. Glen Hansard of The Frames plays an Irish street musician who meets fellow musician and Czech immigrant (Marketa Irglova). Together they work through pain, the past and new love through captivating music in a

sensitive tale set in the gritty modern city. Hansard and Irglova won the Oscar for Best Original Song (2007).

### **Philomena**

2013. A controversial, poignant and clear-eyed movie based on the true story of an Irish mother's search for the son she had to give up for adoption; and the barriers and lack of co-operation she encounters. A powerful performance by Judi Dench.

### **Princess Bride, The**

This 1987 fairy tale tells the story of heroes whose goal is to rescue a beautiful princess, Buttercup. They are followed by a masked man in black across the sea and up the Cliffs of Insanity (again the Cliffs of Moher, County Clare). This film is a childhood favourite of many with a star-studded cast including Mandy Patinkin, Cary Elwes, Andre the Giant, Peter Cook, Billy Crystal and many others.

### **PS I Love You**

2007. When she loses her beloved husband to a brain tumor, grieving widow Holly Kennedy learns that he left a series of letters behind to help her cope. Starring Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Lisa Kudrow and based on the 2004 novel of the same name by Cecelia Ahern. The film was shot on locations in New York City and County Wicklow, Ireland.

### **Quiet Man, The**

A beloved classic starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. This romantic drama from director John Ford, 1961, tells the story of Sean Thornton, a retired American boxer who relocates to Ireland to reclaim his family's farm but falls in love with a fiery Irish woman, Mary Kate Danaher. It has lots of romance, fighting and drinking - not necessarily in that order. Filmed in beautiful Connemara, County Galway

### **Ryan's Daughter**

1970. David Lean's epic WW1 love-story, filmed in the Dingle Peninsula against a backdrop of the 1916 Rising when Ireland was making a bid for independence. A historical romance of forbidden love between a young, married Irish woman and a British soldier. Starring Robert Mitchum and Sarah Miles.

### **Saving Private Ryan**

The famous opening twenty minutes of "Saving Private Ryan", which is set on D-Day on Omaha beach, were actually filmed in County Wexford. Filming lasted for two months and took place on Ballinesker Beach, Curracloe Strand. The Irish Défense Forces supplied 2,500 men to act as extras.

### **Secret of Roan Inish, The**

1995. This whimsical and sensitive film explores the Irish and Orcadian folklores of selkies - seals that can shed their skins to become human.

### **Seventy-One**

2015. In this true story, a solitary British Army soldier flees on foot through hostile IRA-controlled territory at the height of the Troubles in 1971.

### **Some Mother's Son**

1996. The story of two mothers whose sons are jailed during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. This powerful drama is set against the backdrop of a very violent political period, and stars Helen Mirren.

### **Song for a Raggy Boy**

2003. The film is set in 1939, on the brink of World War II, in the St. Judes Reformatory School, a ruthless Irish school for boys. Grey, gloomy and ruled by the sadistic Brother John (Iain Glen), the school prefers punishment to rehabilitation. But new lay teacher William Franklin (Aidan Quinn), fresh from the frontline of the Spanish Civil War, fights to liberate the boys from their oppressors.

### **Snapper, The**

Endearing Roddy Doyle novel-turned-screenplay. An unwed 20-year-old named Sharon Curly shakes up a working class Irish community when she becomes pregnant and refuses to name the father. Though full of quick wit and sarcastic banter, the dramedy has its touching, "family values" moments. Starring Colm Meaney and Tina Kellegher.

### **Spy Who Came in from the Cold, The**

Based on a John le Carré novel this is a brilliant spy movie starring Richard Burton and filmed in Berlin, or so they would have you think. Though you might think you're looking at Checkpoint Charlie, in Berlin what you're actually looking is Ardmore Studios in County Wicklow.

### **Titanic Town**

1998. A brave mother tries to protect her family while living on the bleak front lines of sectarian Belfast during The Troubles.

### **Tudors, The**

Though it might not count as a movie it might surprise you to know that every little scrap of the, tv series, "The Tudors" starring Irish actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers as a young Henry VIII, is shot in Ireland. Locations they've used include Ardmore Studios and Powerscourt Estate, County Wicklow and Dublin Castle, Kilmainham Jail and the People's Gardens in Dublin.

### **Veronica Guerin**

2003. Cate Blanchett stars as Veronica, an Irish journalist who exposes Dublin's drug lords and pays the price.

### **Waking Ned Devine**

1998. A heart-warming comedy about a villager from a tiny Irish rural town who wins the Lottery - but when Ned Devine is found dead - lottery ticket in hand and all - the townsfolk band together to fool the authorities into thinking Ned is alive, so they can receive the cash and share it. Guaranteed to make you laugh, this is Irish humour at its best with an outstanding performance by David Kelly and also starring Ian Bannen and Fionnula Flanagan.

### **"When Brendan Met Trudy"**

Yet another great product of Roddy Doyle's writing. Quirky, charming film about a teacher who meets and subsequently falls for a woman in a pub who turns out to be a burglar.

### **Wind that Shakes the Barley, The**

This film gives an overview of the conflict in Ireland in the 1920s. Ken Loach has received huge acclaim for this movie which is violent in places due to the nature of its story. Starring Cillian Murphy and Liam Cunningham.

## HONORABLE MENTIONS:

### "In America"

A touching film starring Samantha Morton and Djimon Hounsou, among others. Documents the adventures, struggles, and triumphs of a family of Irish immigrants living in a rough neighbourhood in New York City.

1916

Ballykissangel

Bells of St Mary's, The

Black 47

Bloody Sunday

Brooklyn (Saoirse Ronan (nominated for Oscar)

Dead, The

Derby O'Gill and the Little People

Dracula, The Untold Story

Father Ted (Ailwee Caves)

Frankenstein Chronicles (Armagh, Sean Bean)

Game of Thrones

General, The

Great Hunger, The

Guard, The

Hanging Gale, The

Hunger (about Bobby Sands, Michael Fassbender)

Islandman, The

King of the Gypsies, The

Moby Dick (Gregory Peck)

Rebellion (NetFlix with Liam Neeson)

Scarlet and the Black, The

Shackleton

Siege at Jadotville, The

Sing Street

Snatch (Brad Pitt)

Star Wars (Skellig, Dingle)

Three Billboards - Irish roots, director, Connemara

Vikings (Cable TV, filmed at Glendalough. Kategat was Wicklow)