

## **An Irish Goodbye**

### **English Audio Description Pre-show Notes**

Welcome to 2025 “No Limits” ***An Irish Goodbye***, by Ross White and Tom Berkeley. This programme is co-presented by the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust with strategic supporting partner Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong. I am Mandy Petty, the audio describer.

The programme will be screened at Laundry Steps, Tai Kwun on 8th March, 2025 at 4.00pm and on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3:15pm; and on the “No Limits” website, from 24th March 10am to 19th May, 2025, 10pm. Admission and screening are for free.

The film is approximately 23 minutes long, with original dialogue in English. For in-venue live screening, there will be subtitles in Chinese and English, dubbing in Cantonese, audio description in Cantonese, house programme in audio format available. Guide dogs are welcome and there is no age restriction. For Online Screening, subtitles and accessible captions in Chinese and English, dubbing in Cantonese and English, audio description in Cantonese and English with a house programme in audio format available. The programme is a Class IIB film and contains strong language.

The following introduction will take about **4.5 minutes** to listen to and includes information about the landscape, environment, characters and costumes.

The 23-minute short black comedy, ***An Irish Goodbye*** is written and directed by award-winning duo Tom Berkeley and Ross White, produced by Floodlight Pictures (their own company) in association with First Flights and Northern Ireland Screen. It has been screened at over 60 film festivals worldwide and in 2023, the film won an Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film at the 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards, in addition to Best British Short Film at the 76<sup>th</sup> EE BAFTA Awards and Best Live Action Short Film at the 20<sup>th</sup> Irish Film and Television Awards.

Set against the backdrop of a working farm in rural Northern Ireland, ***An Irish Goodbye*** is a black comedy about the reunion of estranged brothers, ***Turlough*** and ***Lorcan***, following the untimely death of their mother. The brothers' pained reunion is over-shadowed by the fact that Turlough (who lives and works in London) needs to make new care arrangements for his brother Lorcan, who has Down's Syndrome. A robust and dedicated farmer, Lorcan wants to remain and work on the farm where he grew up, whereas Turlough wants to send Lorcan to live with their aunt on the other side of Ireland, whilst Turlough returns to his life in London. Lorcan decides that he will only leave the farm once he and his brother have completed every task on their Mother's bucket list.

Lorcan is a short (5'3"), stocky Caucasian male with rakish dark hair that almost falls into his eye, and he has an auburn full beard. In contrast, his brother Turlough is a tall (over 6') Caucasian male of slim, athletic build. His red hair is cut short around his ears, but full and curly on top. He wears a small gold hoop ear-ring in his left ear, and he also sports a full red beard. At the beginning of the film, the brothers are dressed in black lounge suits, with white shirts and black ties, as they return from their mother's funeral, but for the rest of the film, they wear country attire suitable for a working farm environment, including plaid shirts, colourful Fairisle jumpers, hoodies, jeans, coveralls and wellington boots.

Father O'Shea (the local parish priest) is a short Caucasian who wears black, with the traditional white collar of a priest. He sometimes wears a navy blue cabled jumper and a casual jacket.

The deceased mother does not appear in the film, we only hear her voice.

The film is set on a working farm in Northern Ireland in the Winter. There are winding narrow roads that traverse the rolling hills, dotted with low dry-stone walls, barbed wire fences and a combination of wooden and metal gates. The landscape

is quite barren with trees bare and the mist rolling in. The 150 acre farm is built up of dilapidated outbuildings, fields, pastures and paddocks. The farm house is a large white 2 storey building, with a sloping roof and two chimneys. A central black door is surrounded by numerous black framed windows on both levels; those on the lower level being much larger than those on the top level and there are 4 bedrooms. There is a gravel drive and courtyard leading up to the house, with ample parking space.

The interior of the farmhouse is quite old-fashioned with Dado rails, flowered and flock wallpaper, dark wood furnishings, vertical white blinds covering the windows with additional curtains. The working kitchen has a window over the sink, with red checked curtains. The fitted cupboard units are dark brown wood littered with coffee mugs, tea-pots, oven-gloves and other everyday kitchen utensils. The table is covered with a flowered tablecloth, whilst the floor is tiled. The dining-room is quite stately, with high backed antique chairs, a solid long table, panelled walls, heavy red curtains and a dresser, with leaded glass. A significant feature throughout the whole film is the blue and white patterned ceramic urn with lid, which holds the ashes of their dead mother.

## PERFORMERS

Lorcan is played by James Martin

Turlough is played by Seamus O'Hara

Father O'Shea is played by Paddy Jenkins and

Grainne (the deceased mother) is played by Michelle Fairley

The Writers and Directors are Ross White and Tom Berkeley

The Producer is Floodlight Pictures

The Cinematographer is Narayan van Maele

This is the end of the audio description pre-show notes of ***An Irish Goodbye***.  
Please enjoy the film!