



Dir Juho Kuosmanen  
Finland/Germany 2016  
92 mins

Sunday 19th March / 8.00pm

## THE HAPPIEST DAY IN THE LIFE OF OLLI MAKI

Funny, forlorn, and irresistibly charming, Juho Kuosmanen's assured debut feature **The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki**, which won the top prize in the Un Certain Regard section at this year's Cannes, is inspired by the true story of Finland's most successful boxer of the 1960s. Shot in black and white with scrupulous attention to period detail, the film centres on the prelude to Mäki's historic fight in Helsinki with American Davey Moore, the bantamweight champion. Olli is a small-town boy who is just as happy baking bread as he is in the ring — and he's even happier when he's with Raija (Oona Aiolola), the level-headed beauty he finds himself falling for. Elis, Olli's manager, is the exact opposite of his fighter, a hyperbolic showman who promises a world-historic event worthy of the Americans. A rueful yet delightfully disarming ode to lost innocence, **The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki** is also one of the most indelible romances you will see this year.

## ADULTING

This award winning short film was shot in Galway City and Connemara, 'a poem of a film'. *Irish Times Pól Ó Muirí.*



Dirs. Linda Bhreathnach and Justin Davey

Sunday 26th March / 8.00pm

## THE OLIVE TREE

From the pen of Paul Laverty, comes a heartfelt and warm family drama about reconciliation and hope. Lena's family, from austerity-hit Castellón region of Spain, is struggling. Her grandfather once the proud owner of an olive farm has withdrawn into himself. Her father and uncles fight among themselves about what the future could hold. Impulsively Lena sets forth on a journey to recover her grandfather's thousand year old olive tree, which has been encased in the headquarters of a soulless German multinational. Lena's journey is a spiritual quest to reconcile her families past and to provide light to her grieving grandfather. Uplifting, passionate and delightful, **The Olive Tree** is a film about hope and honouring past generations and a belief in the strength of familial bonds.

*"universally appealing, grafting gentle comedy with bristling social consciousness tragedy"* - Variety  
Won major awards at Santa Fe, Seattle and Los Angeles Film Festivals.



Dir. Iciar Bollain  
Spain 2016 / 100mins

Sunday 2nd April / 8.00pm

## THE SEASON WILL CONCLUDE WITH A SURPRISE FILM



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# GFS WINTER/SPRING SEASON 2017

Sunday 22nd January – Sunday 2nd April 2017

All films are subtitled in English.



Dir. Klaus Haro

Finland / Estonia 2015 / 99 mins

Sunday 22nd Jan / 8.00pm

## THE FENCER

In the early 1950's, champion fencer Endel Nelis, takes up a teaching position in a remote Estonian School. Initially standoffish and unwilling to engage, he eventually warms to the traumatised children of the school, many of whom have been left orphaned by the war or the Soviet occupation. Realising that the children need an outlet for hope and self expression he decides to teach them how to fence and in doing so becomes a father figure for them. But Endel harbours a secret, he is on the run from the Soviet Police and he eventually has to make a decision to keep teaching and risk everything or to keep running. Based on actual events, this touching and redemptive drama has universal appeal.

Academy Awards 2016 Shortlisted Best Foreign Language Film.  
Nominated Golden Globes 2016, Best Motion Picture in a Foreign Language  
Winner Estonian Film Award, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2015.



Dir. Anne Fontaine

France/Poland 2016

115 mins

Sunday 29th Jan / 8.00pm

## THE INNOCENTS

Set at the end of the Second World War in Poland, this sensitive and emotionally resonate drama is centered on Mathilde, a young French Red Cross doctor, who comes to the aid of a group of nuns, many of whom have been violated by rampaging Soviet soldiers. Based on real events, Fontaine explores this fraught situation with humanity and sensitivity. Mathilde protects the nuns not only from further attacks but also from the convents hierarchy who wish to conceal the scandal at all costs. **The Innocents** is an emotionally layered, tender and insightful drama. The complexities of trauma and shame are deftly and sensitively handled through the prism of faith, humanism, compassion and acceptance. *"A restrained but cumulatively powerful French-Polish drama about the various crises of faith that emerge when a house of God is ravaged by war - Variety*

Awards: Los Angeles ColCoa Audience Award Best French Film  
FIPRESCI Prize Valladolid International Film Festival 2016  
Andreas Award Norwegian International Film Festival 2016



Dir. Jim Jarmusch

USA 2016 / 113 mins

Sunday 5th Feb / 8.00pm

## PATERSON

The dependably distinctive and rewarding Jim Jarmusch returns with a lovely, characteristically episodic fable about the fragile, fruitful and just occasionally fraught relationship between creativity and everyday life. Chronicling a week in the life of Paterson, a bus-driver and amateur poet whose home happens to be Paterson, New Jersey – home to William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg and Lou Costello, among others. The film depicts his banal but unexpectedly engrossing routine: waking up with his designer/baker/would-be singer partner Laura; walking English bulldog Marvin; taking a beer at a bar proud of its local history. And at any time, but usually while walking or driving, if things go smoothly he's thinking up verse rooted in his everyday experience. There's so very much to enjoy here: Jarmusch's wry script and beautifully becalmed direction, Fred Elmes's quietly glowing photography, and utterly winning performances. It's another wise, wonderful Jarmusch movie about the importance, in this sad and beautiful world, of friendship and love.

Sunday 12th Feb

**NO FILM (THT NOT AVAILABLE)**



Dir. Brady Corbet

UK/France 2015 / 115mins

Sunday 19th Feb / 8.00pm.

## THE CHILDHOOD OF A LEADER

1918, US Diplomat (Liam Cunningham) is in France for the negotiations leading to the Treaty of Versailles. His wife (Bérénice Bejo), is repressed and unhappy and alarmed by their sons increasingly destructive behaviours. Divided into three chapters, each dealing with the continually aggressive and manipulative tantrums of the boy, it is a study of processes that suggest the development of a fascist future. Rich in symbolism, with an oppressive, engulfing score by Scott Walker, we know from the outset that something is very, very wrong. Brady Corbet's directorial debut feature is an ambitious and accomplished European drama and a case study in domestic and political crisis and in the hypocrisy and cruelty of adults. Tom Sweets performance as the young aggressor is chilling, menacing and brilliant.

Winner Luigi De Laurentiis Award, Brady Corbet, Venice Film Festival 2015  
Winner Venice Horizons Award, Best Director, Venice Film Festival 2015



Dir. Mia Hansen Love

France/Germany 2016

102 mins

Sunday 26th Feb / 8.00pm

## THINGS TO COME

Mia Hansen Love (**Father of My Children**) and Isabelle Huppert, combine to craft one of the most intriguing French Films of the year. Winner of the Golden Bear for Best Director at 2016 Berlin Film Festival. A subtle and emotionally resonate drama about philosophy teacher Nathalie who suddenly finds herself alone and socially isolated. In one of Isabelle Huppert's finest performances, Nathalie must draw on the reserves of strength she has accumulated over years of contemplation to deal with an existential crises of a life caught in sudden change. With enormous emotional clarity, Huppert crafts a performance of measured brilliance. With a cumulative power, **Things To Come**, is gently and subtly absorbing. *"Isabelle Huppert further stakes her claim as our greatest living actress" - Variety. "a rich, beautiful, oblique drama" - Donald Clarke, The Irish Times.*

Best Director - Silver Bear, Berlin International Film Festival 2016.



Dir: Damien Chazelle

USA 2016 / 128 mins

Sunday 5th March / 8.00pm

## LA LA LAND

An ambitious jazz pianist (Ryan Gosling) and an aspiring actress (Emma Stone) fall in love while pursuing their dreams of stardom, in this dazzlingly stylized homage to the classic Hollywood musical from **Whiplash** director Damien Chazelle. Drawing upon studio-era spectacle, **La La Land** ushers the musical into the 21st century in all its brightly coloured, anamorphic splendour, telling the story of two star-crossed young dreamers determined to make it big on the silver screen. Chazelle tips his hat to some of the enduring classics of Hollywood whilst revelling in the sheer joy and pleasures of a genre that continues to put a smile on our faces. As Gosling and Stone seductively sing and dance their way through the tumult of life and love, they sprinkle stardust on a movie that will put a twinkle in every eye. *"La La Land at front of Oscar pack after win at Toronto" - Donald Clarke The Irish Times*

People's Choice Award at the TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2016



Dir. Maren Ade

German 2016 / 160 mins

Sunday 12th March / 8.00pm

## TONI ERDMANN

The third feature film by German director Maren Ade is an almost unbearably intense comedy that was one of the most talked-about films at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Winfried (Peter Simonischek) is a retired piano teacher, a divorcee who delights in persistent pranks and impersonations that alienate (and occasionally alarm) everyone in his German suburb. His daughter Ines, (Sandra Hüller), is a high-ranking management consultant in Bucharest who is as controlled and rigid as her father is impish. The cringe-inducing clash of opposites that takes place, when Winifred visits her for a weekend, would be enough to fill a conventional comedy. But **Toni Erdmann** is just getting started. Running beneath the humour is an increasingly disturbing undercurrent of dysfunction, one that threatens to sweep both Winfried and Ines away. One can easily imagine this premise turning into a tale of redemption but in Ade's hands, it becomes something wholly original and altogether more affecting. *"An instant classic of embarrassment comedy (it has an excruciating "team-building exercise" to rival anything in The Office), Toni Erdmann takes its time in drawing us closer and closer to its beautifully conceived characters, and we're with it every captivating step of the way." - Toronto International Film Festival 2016*

Toni Erdman has won numerous awards including the FIPRESCI Prize Cannes 2016.

**GFS50**  
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€48/44 (concession)

€9/7 (concession)

INFORMATION/BOOKING: Town Hall Theatre / Tel 091-569777 / www.tht.ie