

23rd June 2021

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Report : Recommendations from the Assessment Panel : ENGINE Short Film Bursaries 2021

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Enclosed is a report and recommendations from the Assessment Panel of the ENGINE Film Bursaries Scheme 2021.

The ENGINE Short Film Scheme is a new partnership between Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Tipperary County Council, Innovate Limerick / Film in Limerick and the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Limerick City and County Council has allocated €20,000 to this scheme.

Purpose of the scheme:

- To support emerging Mid-West based film makers in the development and production of up to six short films.
- To support film skills and talent development in the region by providing industry training to a wide local audience as well as tailored support and practical experience for those crews commissioned.
- To develop the careers of crews commissioned by providing training and mentoring support and production experience opportunities, as well as international experience for producers and directors on the festival circuit.
- To promote the Mid-West region as a place to develop and produce film projects.
- To provide a regional economic stimulus both in the production of the short films at locations in the region and also in the skills development and future projects developed.

This initiative is intended to encourage emerging creative talent primarily based in any part of Clare, Limerick or Tipperary. The scheme and training are focused on the development of live-action short film drama in all genres. Projects must be creatively lead by individuals living in the Mid-West region. The scheme is designed to support emerging filmmakers committed to developing their careers in the Mid-West. All films must be filmed in the region.

Application Procedure and Selection Panel:

Applications to the scheme were accepted from Wednesday 6th January to Friday 29th January. From these applications, after reference to the selection criteria, a shortlist was decided comprising 15 projects.

Shortlisted projects received training for further development before being invited to pitch their ideas to an industry panel. This panel, which took place over the weekend of June 20th/21st, chose the six projects for production across Limerick, Clare and Tipperary.

Six films were selected for production. Each of these will receive production funding of €12,500 to produce their short film. Two of these are from Limerick.

Sour Milk

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Title: | Sour Milk |
| Director: | Mark Keane |
| Producer: | Miriam Garcia Mortell |
| Location of Filming: | Southill, Limerick |

Simple Sheamy

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Title: | Simple Sheamy |
| Director: | Rachel McGill |
| Producer: | Ronan Cassidy |
| Location of Filming: | King's Island, Limerick. |

The Council is requested to approve the awarding of the allocations outlined above.

Is Mise le Meas,

Dr. Pippa Little

Arts Officer,

Limerick City and County Council

ENGINE Short Film Bursaries 2021

Run by Innovate Limerick through Film in Limerick, Engine Shorts is a partnership between the Local Authorities in Tipperary, Limerick and Clare, and the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. This new scheme aims to inspire and support up-and-coming filmmakers to create world-class short films that resonate with a wide international audience.

In addition, it will also offer the opportunity for emerging local crew to gain real-world experience on funded productions and to receive industry guidance. Shortlisted teams receive training to develop their project ideas, and up to six teams will be awarded production funding of €12,500 each to produce a short film on the following basis; Two from Limerick, two from Tipperary, one from Clare with the final place to be decided on by an industry panel.

This scheme supports Objective One of the Limerick Cultural Strategy 2016-2030, *“To grow Limerick’s cultural capacity by retaining and attracting creative practitioners to live and work in Limerick.”*

The Assessment Process

The initial stage of the scheme was an Open Call for applications, which took place from Wednesday 6th January to Friday 29th January. There was great interest in the scheme with many applications received from Limerick. From these initial submissions, a shortlist of 15 of the most promising projects was decided.

Shortlisted projects received training (three 1 hour sessions with a script editor and a 2 day screenwriting session) for further development, and were then invited to pitch their ideas to an industry panel. This panel, which took place over the weekend of June 20/21, chose the final six projects to be produced across Limerick, Clare and Tipperary.

The Industry Panel

Clare Dunne

Clare is a writer and actress based in Ireland and the UK. Chosen as one of Variety’s Top Ten Screenwriters to watch in 2020, Clare’s first feature, “Herself”, premiered to rave reviews at the Sundance Film Festival. Clare is much in demand as a writer and collaborator and is currently developing new TV and film projects alongside her acting career.

Juliette Bonass

Juliette Bonass has worked in production for a number of years. As line producer on *The Savage Eye*, production coordinator on *Your Bad Self* and producer of the series of charitable sketches *Immaturity For Charity*, Juliette cultivated a body of work alongside the likes of David McSavage, Amy Huberman, Brendan, Brian and Domhnall Gleeson.

Ruth Negga

Brought up in Limerick, actress Ruth has received multiple Industry award nominations, including nominations in the Academy Awards for Best Actress, the Golden Globe Awards for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama, and the BAFTA’s Rising Star Award.

Information on successful applications:

Sour Milk

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Title: | Sour Milk |
| Director: | Mark Keane |
| Producer: | Miriam Garcia Mortell |
| Location of Filming: | Southill, Limerick |

A coming of age film that explores a defining moment between two teenage boys. How the central event of the story colours the boys' relationship, changing the way they see each other forever, is at the very heart of this film.

Simple Sheamy

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Title: | Simple Sheamy |
| Director: | Rachel McGill |
| Producer: | Ronan Cassidy |
| Location of Filming: | King's Island, Limerick. |

Set in inner city Limerick, the film concerns the relationship between a young autistic boy named Sheamy and his best friend Mikey. Simple Sheamy is a unique look at the uncertainty and surreal nature of childhood. Told through the eyes of Sheamy, at the heart of this film is the unbreakable bond of friendship between Sheamy and Mikey.