

Class level

Third class upwards

Learning objectives

The child will be enabled to:

- talk about people working in film in Ireland
- recognise some Irish films
- talk about stories in Irish films

Methodologies

Whole-class work

Resources

- Television, VCR, DVD player
- Map of Ireland
- Pictures of Irish actors and directors

Time

One class session

Curriculum links

English

History

Geography

Gaeilge

Suggested films

Into the West, The Secret of Roan Inish, Under the Hawthorn Tree, The War of the Buttons

Film portfolio

- Newspaper cuttings on the Irish film industry, Irish films, reviews by Irish critics
- Map showing the locations for different films



Introduction

Discuss:

- Do you know any films that were made in Ireland?
- Do you know the names of any Irish film-makers?
- Do you know the names of any Irish actors who have appeared in films?





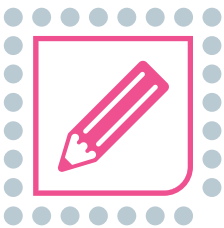
Development

Films have been made in Ireland for more than a hundred years. Certain stories are very common in Irish films, for example, history (*Michael Collins*), religion (*The Magdalene Sisters*), and the Northern conflict (*Bloody Sunday*). Many American and English film-makers have come to Ireland to make films, such as *Saving Private Ryan* (Steven Spielberg) and *The Quiet Man* (John Ford).

Certain places in Ireland have become popular locations for films. Curracloe, County Wexford, was the location for *Saving Private Ryan*, while *King Arthur* was shot in Glenmalure and Ballymore Eustace, County Wicklow.

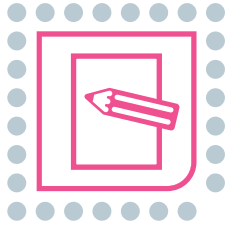
Martin Duffy is a film-maker who makes films for young audiences. His best-known film is *The Boy from Mercury* (see Lesson 7), which is set in Dublin. He also made *The Testimony of Taliesin Jones*, set in Wales, and *The Bumblebee Flies Anyway*, set in America. Martin says that he went to the cinema a lot while growing up in Drimnagh, Dublin, and enjoyed it so much that he wanted to work in films when he grew up.

Jim Sheridan is probably the best-known film-maker in Ireland. Can you name any film he has made? Have you seen any of his films? His two daughters, Kirsten and Naomi, are also working in the film industry.



Activity

1. If you were making a film in Ireland, what kind of story would you tell?
 - Which actors would you have in your film?
 - What locations would you use?
2. Here are the names of some well-known Irish actors: Brenda Fricker, Colin Farrell, Colm Meaney.
 - Look on the internet to find out some of the films they have been in.
 - Have you seen any of these films?
3. Ardmore Film Studios are in Bray, County Wicklow. Many big films have been made there.
 - Can you name any of them?
 - Find out more on their web site (www.ardmore.ie).
4. Many short films are made in Irish. They are often shown on TG4 and RTÉ TWO.
 - Have you seen any of these films?



Further extension work

1. Map of Ireland's film locations

- Get a map of Ireland.
- Make a list of some big films that were made here.
- Design a locations map, marking the location and including some pictures from the film or the actors.

2. Promoting Ireland to film-makers

- Why would a film-maker come to Ireland to make a film?
- Imagine your job was to get film-makers to come here. How would you advertise Ireland? Would they come for the weather? The scenery?
- Draw a poster advertising Ireland as an ideal film location.

3. Very few films for young people are made in Ireland.

- Imagine you were asked to advise a team of writers on making films for young people. What storylines would you suggest? Who would act in the film? Where would it be set?

4. Find out about the work of the Irish Film Board.

