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For Immediate Release



VIRGIN MEDIA DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES WORLD PREMIERE OF A GIRL FROM MOGADISHU

Ben Is Back & The Wedding Guest Also Added To Programme

Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival, Ireland's premier film event (February 20th – March 3rd), is marking the United Nations International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), today February 6th, by announcing that it will host the World Premiere of ***A Girl from Mogadishu*** at a gala screening at Odeon Point Village (Feb 22nd, 8.30pm). This inspiring true story of female empowerment based on the testimony of **Ifrac Ahmed** written and directed by **Mary McGuckian**, tells of Ifrah's astonishing and powerful journey as a refugee from Somalia who emerges as one of the world's foremost activists for the eradication of FGM/C. Fleeing war-torn Somalia in 2006, she is trafficked to Ireland where she undergoes a traumatic medical examination which reveals the extent of her mutilation as a child. Traumatized by the memory, she turns her experiences into a force for good, emerging as one of the world's most foremost global activists against FGM/C.

Also announced today is ***Ben Is Back*** at Odeon Point Village (Feb 28th, 6.15 pm) which stars **Julia Roberts** and **Lucas Hedges** (*Manchester by the Sea, Ladybird, Boy Erased*) and deals with the difficult issue of drug addiction. Lucas plays Ben, a drug addicted teenager who unexpectedly returns home one Christmas Eve. His mother Holly (Julia Roberts) is thrilled to be reunited with her son but wary about his ability to stay clean, while Ben's distrustful sister Ivy (Kathryn Newton) and common-sense stepfather Neal (Courtney B. Vance) fear he will wreak havoc on their lives as he's done so many times before. After Ben launches a charm offensive that wins over his young half-siblings, Holly agrees to let him stay for the holiday on one condition. For the next 24 hours, she will personally monitor his every move.

A third film added to the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival programme is ***The Wedding Guest*** at Odeon Point Village (Feb 24th, 4pm), the latest film from English director Michael Winterbottom. The tense thriller starring Dev Patel (*Slumdog Millionaire, Lion*) centres on a mysterious British Muslim man on his journey across Pakistan and India.

The 17th Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival, Ireland's premier film event, returns to the capital from February 20th to March 3rd. The packed programme features over 125 events across 12 days including the finest local and international feature films, short films and documentaries, along with a dedicated children's and young people's programme and a host of special events featuring industry leaders.

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Virgin Media DIFF season tickets and gift vouchers are also available

For more information visit and to purchase tickets visit www.diff.ie

- Ends -

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About the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival

The Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival was founded in 2003 and sets the agenda of the year with its programme of outstanding Irish and international film talent. Featuring a red carpet line-up of on-screen talent and guest filmmakers, the festival offers unique access to a plethora of filmmaking talent and transforms Dublin into a hub of glamour, creativity and film appreciation. The festival enjoys an international reputation and is considered a vital launch-pad for Irish titles and an important showcase of world cinema for discerning audiences.

Over the past 16 years, Dublin International Film Festival has screened world cinema from 52 different countries, a total of almost 1,500 films, of which 300 were Irish features including Irish premieres of *Sing Street*, *Once*, *Ondine*, *In Bruges*, *Calvary*, *The Stag* and *The Secret of Kells*. The Festival has hosted over 600 major guests, including Al Pacino, Angela Lansbury, Brendan Gleeson, Daniel Day-Lewis, Danny DeVito, Ennio Morricone, Joss Whedon, Julie Andrews, Kristin Scott Thomas, Stanley Tucci, and Stellan Skarsgård.

This year the Dublin International Film Festival is sponsored by Virgin Media, with principal funding from The Arts Council. Key partners and funders include Screen Ireland, Dublin City Council, hotel partner The Merrion Hotel, print transport partner Wells Cargo, post-production partner Windmill Lane, social listening partner Olyrico and media partners Orb Screen, Wide Eye Media, the Sunday Independent, 98FM and Entertainment.ie.

About Virgin Media

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Through Virgin Media Business, we support entrepreneurs, businesses and the public sector, delivering the fastest speeds and tailor-made services.

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