



## Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival Gives Sneak Peek at 2019 Programme

***Ireland's Premier Film Event returns to Dublin 20<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019***

The 17<sup>th</sup> **Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival**, Ireland's premier film event, will literally paint the town red when it returns to Dublin on the 20<sup>th</sup> February with an extraordinary red carpet line-up of local and international on-screen talent and filmmakers. With many details still under wraps, the Festival today announced a few programme pieces as they encouraged film buffs to take advantage of their pre-Christmas early bird season tickets and gift vouchers - <https://www.diff.ie/attend/tickets>

Every year, the Festival showcases 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.

A special event confirmed today is **Music on Film: David Shire Tribute**. Acclaimed composer David Shire (*The Taking of Pelham 123 (1974)*, *The Conversation*, *Short Circuit*, *Zodiac*) will come to the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival to take part in a Q&A hosted by Lyric FM's Movies and Musical Presenter, Aedín Gormley. Six of his films will be screened in Light House Cinema as part of the tribute. These include: *The Taking of Pelham 123 (1974)*, *Return to Oz*, *The Conversation*, *Short Circuit*, *Zodiac*, *Monkey Shines* (dates below).

Australian comedy drama ***The Merger***, will have also have its Irish premiere at the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival. Director Mark Grentell and writer and actor Damian Callinan will attend the festival for the premiere. The film will then tour to six other Irish venues around the country (dates/venues below) in partnership with access>CINEMA and with support from the Australian Embassy. The film tells the story of a former star Aussie Rules footballer who returns to his home town & helps his old local footy team survive by recruiting refugees.

Speaking to the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival 2019 programme, **Grainne Humphreys, Festival Director** said: "The Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival is honoured to present the best in Irish and International film – hosting world class Irish premieres as well as the world's finest local and international filmmakers and on-screen talent. With 1200 submissions from 83 countries & an extraordinary red carpet line-up already confirmed for the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival 2019, the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of Ireland's premier film event will be one to remember."

**Niamh O'Driscoll, Senior Manager of Brand, Marketing and Communications at Virgin Media said:**

“We’re extremely proud to be the new title sponsor of the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival. Virgin Media’s sponsorship of the festival underlines our commitment to foster creativity in film production and television content as Ireland’s leading connected entertainment provider. We’re delighted to jointly unveil the first glimpse of what audiences will discover as part of a lively and surprising 2019 programme of Irish and International cinema.”

Founded in 2003, the Festival sets the agenda of the year with its programme of outstanding Irish and international film. 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, the Dublin International Film Festival has screened 1500 films from 52 countries as well as showcasing the work of Ireland’s very talented producers, directors, screenwriters and actors. 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.

The 2019 Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival will bring the world’s best films to Dublin in its spectacular 17<sup>th</sup> edition that will include world premieres, a total of over 110 features and an all-star line-up. The full festival programme will be revealed in January along with a very special surprise film event. Watch this space!

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dublinfilmfestival](http://www.facebook.com/dublinfilmfestival)

**#VMDIFF19**

For more information visit [www.diff.ie](http://www.diff.ie)

**- Ends -**

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**Notes to Editor:**

### **Tour: The Merger**

- February 25<sup>th</sup> – Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin
- February 26<sup>th</sup> – Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda, Louth
- February 27<sup>th</sup> – Solstice, Arts Centre, Navan, Co Meath
- February 28<sup>th</sup> – Sligo Arts Centre, Sligo
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – Waterford Arts Centre, Waterford
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, Kildare
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Virgin Media DIFF screening at The Light House, Smithfield, Dublin

### **Music on Film: David Shire Tribute at Light House Cinema**

- Monkey Shines – January 18th 10.45pm
- The Taking of Pelham 123 (1974) – January 19th 3.00pm
- Zodiac – January 24th 8.30pm
- Return to Oz – February 3rd 1.00pm
- Short Circuit – February 9th 1.00pm
- The Conversation – February 17<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm

### **About Dublin International Film Festival**

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's young people's programme Fantastic Flix is expanding each year, engaging schools and families and building a new generation of film fans

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

### **About Virgin Media**

Virgin Media is known for challenging the status quo – taking on industry giants, championing people and simply delivering extraordinary products and services.

We help create a digital world that makes good things happen: for our customers and the communities in which we operate.

In Ireland our cable business delivers multi award-winning services: broadband, TV, mobile and home phone connect thousands of people across the country. But we're not finished, we're extending our network reach through Project Lightning so that more communities can enjoy the benefits of the fastest, widely available broadband speeds from Virgin Media.

Our broadcast division, Virgin Media Television is Ireland's number one commercial broadcaster operating three free-to-air channels (Virgin Media One, Virgin Media Two and Virgin Media Three, plus the Virgin Media Player) and is a significant investor in home produced content across news, current affairs, drama and sports.

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

Virgin Media is part of Liberty Global, the world's largest international TV and broadband company, with operations in 11 European countries. The company invests in the infrastructure and digital

platforms that empower customers to make the most of the video, internet and communications revolution.

For further information please visit: [www.virginmedia.ie](http://www.virginmedia.ie)