



Two For The Road

a film by
Lochlainn McKenna

FÍS ÉIREANN/SCREEN IRELAND & HERITAGE
PRESENTS A FILM BY LOCHLAINN MCKENNA
STEVE WALL INTRODUCING EWAN MORRIS
"TWO FOR THE ROAD"
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: EDIN MCLOUGHLIN
SCENE DESIGNER: DEAN JONES EDITOR: DAN SHERWEN
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: CLARA O'DONOVAN
COSTUME DESIGNER: SARAH FLANNIGAN DIRECTOR OF CASTING: JOE ROBBINS
MAKE UP DESIGNER: ORLAITH SHORE
PRODUCTION OFFICER: NATALIE BRITTON LINE PRODUCER:
GRÁINNE DWYER EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY EMMA SCOTT
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY LOCHLAINN MCKENNA
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.TWOFORROADS.CO.UK
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ELEMENT      

Two For The Road
writer/director – Lochlainn McKenna
drama, 18mins – IRELAND



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Original Title
TWO FOR THE ROAD

Original Language
English

Film Type
Narrative

Running Time
18 minutes, 31 seconds

Aspect Ratio
1:77:1 / 16:9

Image Format
16mm / Colour

Sound Format
Dolby 5.1

Completed
2023

Country of Origin
Ireland

Age Rating
12A / PG13

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LOGLINE

Amidst spontaneous travels around 1990s Ireland, Oscar, a young boy, finds himself navigating the true essence of adventure and chaos with his father, one spirited weekend away at a time.

SYNOPSIS

OSCAR (10) and HUGH (46) wake up in the middle of nowhere sleeping in a dirty car. They agree that they're going to head to an island to camp for the weekend, Oscar pesters his Dad to play football with him, which he agrees to, in passing. They have fun around the island and eat crisp sandwiches, then Hugh suggests they go to the pub to play pool and that they'll pitch their tent later. The night progresses and Oscar runs out of pool companions, Hugh gets drunk. Oscar pleads with his father to leave but to no avail. He finds a corner of the bar to lie down in and falls asleep. When he wakes his father is still at the bar, drinking and smoking. Hugh is criticised for his parental skills and engages in a melee. They get kicked out of the bar leaving Oscar to mind his now extremely inebriated father. Oscar attempts to pitch their tent in the dark, he gets it into some shape and rolls his father into it... where he then vomits. Oscar has no choice but to sleep outside the tent as the sun rises. The following day they head back to the mainland. Whilst driving home Hugh decides to surprise Oscar by pulling up to a field where they play football, Hugh hurts himself and they laugh. Oscar is satisfied with his comeuppance. Hugh insists Oscar doesn't mention anything negative about their trip to his mother, he groggily agrees. He tells his mother about their weekend in vaguenesses and watches his father drive away. He sits in his room listlessly as Hugh drives in to the night, alone.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film only exists thanks to the pandemic.

As someone who traditionally never took the time to sit down and write I was finally forced to put pen to paper through sheer boredom and ennui. I decide to start jotting down anecdotes from my atypical upbringing and realised that this was as good a place as any to start. 3 years on and with the film finally finished I can say that this first foray into personal filmmaking has been one of the most dizzying rollercoasters I've ever ridden.

My weekends with my father were packed to the brim with adventures, strangers, chaos, endless car-journeys, a superabundance of illegalities and to be honest, an awful lot of fun!

And, as I've slowly metamorphosed into a proper filmmaker I can finally see with some perspective the abnormality of it all and I understood now the importance of turning it into a film.

Not just for my own catharsis but also because the film itself is a vessel for people to ponder their own relationships with their parents. To look at the scenarios that have maybe enveloped them through their lives. The trauma that has perhaps shaped them as adults and, in fact, made them into people they should, actually, be quite proud of.



'Two For The Road' I think was as important for me to make as it might be for you to see. I think it explores the malleability of children and the influence our parents have on us and that love really can triumph... and that that, perhaps, isn't always a good thing.

We shot the film on glorious 16mm Kodak stock on the Beara Peninsula in West Cork and for me the whole film looks and feels like a 90s memory. When you watch it, I hope that you can experience this memory with me but I also hope it invokes some memory in you and, who knows, you too might find yourself healing unexpectedly.



WRITER / DIRECTOR — **LOCHLAINN MCKENNA**

Lochlainn McKenna is a director and writer from Cork City, Ireland. He is currently living and working out of London. McKenna works predominantly in advertising and has directed TV ads for brands such as Specsavers, Tesco, Guinness and Sky amongst many others. He has shot in several countries across the world including Ethiopia and Ukraine and has directed commercials for the US, UK and Irish markets. He's also directed music videos for the likes of Westlife and Keane and his music video work for Daithí was nominated for a UKMVA as well as winning him the 'Best New Director' Award at the prestigious Kinsale Shark Awards.

Narratively, he's directed 3 short films. The last of which was a one shot break-up film called *Boxed Up* - told from the perspective of a box as it traded hands between a couple as they parted ways for the final time.

In 2020 McKenna wrote a short story entitled 'Guinness & Coke' which was nominated for the RTÉ Francis McManus Short Story competition. The story was picked up by the Department of Education and placed on the Irish Junior Certificate Curriculum as a comprehension, before now being converted into a film. The film, now entitled, *Two For The Road*, is his 3rd short film and is based on his own tumultuous weekends as a child with his alcoholic, vagabond father.

He's currently working on developing that story into a book and, furthermore, a feature film.

McKenna is one of only a few hundred filmmakers to be chosen by Filmsupply to be one of their premium supply partners.

PRODUCER — **GRÁINNE DWYER**

Gráinne Dwyer is an award winning producer for commercials, film and music videos. Gráinne began her career in 2017 setting up her company [Heritage](#) with her co-founder Fiona Dwyer in rural Skibbereen, West Cork. Heritage is now one of the leading female led and net zero production companies in Ireland specialising in film, commercials and music videos. The company has created commercials for brands like Microsoft, Heineken, GQ Magazine, FreeNow, Visa, SumUp, Irish Examiner and international campaigns for US based Codex Beauty, Bird, Cisco and including films throughout Europe and the Middle East. Gráinne has also worked creating campaign work for world renowned Wieden+Kennedy Amsterdam, Eyeforce in Cape Town (SA), and many US productions here in Ireland including working with Partizan (LA), Alpheus (Texas), & Atlantic Records (LA). Gráinne has also produced music videos for international artists such as Ed Sheeran, Burna Boy, Rudimental, Jonasu, & Pillow Queens.

In terms of filmography, Gráinne directed her first funded short for RTÉ Storyland (2019), with her and her team going on to work on a number of short films including Beggin (2020), Virgin Media's - Unhinged (2022), Soulmate Wanted (2022) and finally Screen Ireland funded Two for the Road in 2023.

Documentary work includes: Aurelia (2019) filmed in Romania & Ireland. Gráinne also worked as a local producer for the award winning Red Bull docu-series "Way of the Wildcard" S1 E4 produced by JustSo London which was awarded by Brand Storytelling at Sundance, Realscreen, Kinsale Sharks and received a coveted Grierson British Documentary nomination.

PRODUCER — **NATALIE BRITTON**

Natalie is a multi award winning independent film producer & actor. She has been producing narrative content in Los Angeles since 2016 and has produced over 30 short films.

In 2018, she won the Irish Screen America Rising Star Producer Award and went on to found her own production company Queen's Gambit Films with partner Kate Hamilton. QGF focuses on giving a platform to underserved voices and telling stories that matter while having an inclusive mandate guaranteeing 75% of their crew come from under-represented groups. In 2022, they won the audience award at SXSW for short film "Aspirational Slut".

Natalie currently splits her time between Ireland & L.A. Upcoming producing projects include an LGBTQIA+ short film starring Allison Janney set to shoot in October. As an actor she has appeared in many movies & network TV series including NCIS:LA, Maxine & Quantum Leap and will be recurring in the next season of a popular HBO show this Autumn.







EWAN MORRIS — OSCAR

Two For The Road is Ewan Morris' screen acting debut. At the age of 13 Ewan found a love for drama through his theatre classes in his home town of Tralee, Co. Kerry.

STEVE WALL — HUGH

Steve Wall is a musician, singer, songwriter and actor. He is a founding member of the multi-platinum selling Irish band 'The Stunning' and also 'The Walls'.

As an actor Steve is known for roles in the western mini TV series 'The English' (2022); Ridley Scott's 'Raised by Wolves' (2020); 'The Witcher' (2020); 'Vikings'; 'Moone Boy'; 'The South Westerlies' (2020); and also 'Rebellion' (2016). He played the jazz musician Chet Baker in 'My Foolish Heart' (2018), a Dutch feature film about the trumpeter's last days in Amsterdam.





KEY CREW

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
EOIN MCLOUGHLIN

PRODUCTION DESIGN
CIARA O'DONOVAN

COSTUME
SARAH FLANAGAN

MAKE-UP / HAIR
ORLAITH SHORE

SOUND
MATTHOMPSON

EDITOR
DAN SHERWEN

COLOURIST
LEANDRO AROUCA

COMPOSER
JOE ROBBINS

1ST AD
CIARA MCILRAITH

STILL PHOTOGRAPHER
LIAM MURPHY



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FESTIVALS

Galway Film Fleadh, Ireland – July 2023
WINNER – BEST SHORT DRAMA
WINNER – BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

PRESS / DISTRIBUTION INQUIRIES

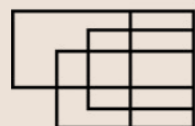
Gráinne Dwyer – grainne@onheritage.com / +353 (0) 86 083 9550

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

[Two For The Road Website](#)
[Two For The Road Trailer](#)
[Original Story \('Guinness & Coke'\)](#)
[BTS Stills](#)
[Heritage \(Production Company\) Website](#)
[Director's Website](#)



HERITAGE



Fís Éireann
Screen Ireland

KODAK
FILM



WILTON
MINTCRISP
BAR

WILTON
MINTCRISP
BAR

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EGIN MCLOUGHLIN 9-3-23