**Kildare County Council/Short Grass Films Film commission 2017**

**Briefing Document**

**INTRODUCTION**

As part of its ongoing support for film, Kildare County Council wishes to commission two original films to be made on location in County Kildare.

**COMMISSION CONTEXT**

*In '(Continue to) Make Inroads : An Arts Development Plan for Kildare Local Authorities 2012-2016,* [*http://www.kildare.ie/artsservice/policiesandpublications/*](http://www.kildare.ie/artsservice/policiesandpublications/) *the Arts Service identified five key ways of working with the arts community through its arts programmes - to curate, mentor, broker, respond and inspire Having identified a need for training and professional development of local film makers, the Arts Service has developed a number of initiatives in recent years*

\* The establishment of the Film Bursary Award, an annual grant aid opportunity for filmmakers from Kildare

\* A Film Lab and 'How to get your short film funded' seminars

\* 'Maynooth Film for All' film club, in association with Maynooth University features talks with guest directors, writers, etc

\* 'Maynooth Experimental' launched by Maynooth Film for All, on Culture Night, Sept 2014, to promote experimental short film.

\* Support for www.mexindex.ie, a resource website for information on Irish artists' moving image.

\* Support for Athy and Naas Film clubs and the film club in Riverbank Arts Centre

**\*** 'Create your own film' course for young people, introducing them to script writing, directing, camera and sound operation, lighting, acting for camera and set design.

\* Final Cut Pro training - The Platform4 Digital Media Studio, Leixlip offers accredited and non-accredited Apple training in Final Cut Pro.

\* 'All About Eva' was commissioned through the Per Cent for Art scheme. This feature film was shot on location in Athy in May 2014. Directed by Ferdia Mac Anna and produced by Kildare County Council, the film was written by local writers and featured local cast and crew. The film premiered at the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival 2015.

\* Launch of www.shortgrassfilms.com in November 2015. This website is dedicated to showcasing and promoting Kildare as a location for film makers and film making.

\* Kildare Young Filmmakers group established in North Kildare

\* Screenwriter in residence programmes. A joint initiative between the Media Studies Dept, Maynooth University and Kildare County Council. Residencies were offered to Hugh Travers 2015/16 and to Lindsay J Sedgwick 2016/17

\* Grant aid and supports were provided for a number of film projects for local film makers.

\* Commissioning of films that were shot on location in Co Kildare.

Three films received a Short Grass Films film commission award in 2104. Funding was secured under the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Per Cent for Art scheme for Castlewarden to Ballygoran Water Supply project, coordinated by Kildare County Council.

**'JFK The Badgeman Conspiracy'** was written and directed by John Sheridan and co-directed by Paul Valentine. The film was shot on location in Leixlip Manor Hotel, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth University, St Mary's Church of Ireland, Leixlip and Weston Airport in February 2015. It is a drama, using original Zupruder footage of the JFK assassination.

*An ageing CIA assassin holds his former shadowy employers to ransom with classified documents in his possession exposing the death plot and public execution.*

The film starred Nick Dunning (*Quirke, The* *Tudors, Alexander, In America*), Clelia Murphy (*Fair City*), Paul Ronan (*The Devil's Own, How I Live Now*), Tommy O'Neill, Mark Tankersly. Susan Walsh, Colin Walsh, Margaret Rowe and introducing Jack Valentine.

**'Talker',** written by Adam Cullen is an animated short film. Adam is a writer, producer, composer and comedian from Naas, Co Kildare. Talker is set in the conditions of a silent movie and the story begins with the birth of a girl who has the ability to speak ‘out loud’. She is shunned by her family and community and raised by a travelling group of mime artists.

The creative team includes award-winning artists such as Art Director Stephen McNally (*Forgot*, *Meanwhile*), Previs artist and animator Brendan Carroll (*The Monk and the Monkey*,Dreamworks) and Naas-born Owen Morrison (*Lifeboat Luke*, *Schrödinger’s Cat and the Raiders of the Lost Quark*) who will be the chief animator for the film. It features an original score by Adam Cullen.

‘**Gridlock**’ is set amidst the chaos of an intense traffic jam. When a little girl goes missing from one of the cars, her father forms a desperate search party to find her, and soon everyone is a suspect. The film was written by Darach Mc Garrigle and Ian Hunt Duffy. shot on location Coillte's Donadea Forest Park

It was directed by Ian Hunt Duffy with an all-star cast including IFTA winner Moe Dunford (Vikings, Patrick’s Day), Peter Coonan (Love/Hate), Amy De Bhrún (The Stag), Joe Mullins (Pilgrim Hill), Ronan Leahy (Amber) and Steve Wall (Vikings, Moone Boy). It was produced by Simon Doyle.

In 2016, two awards were made for two short films **'Away with the Fairies'** was written and will be directed by Helen Flanagan and produced by Sarah Gunn, Treasure Films.

According to Helen, 'at its heart is a drama about depression and how it isolates us, and makes us question ourselves. The film will tend towards the realm of psychological horror'.

'By the time unhappy new mother Maura realises that there are supernatural forces haunting her and her baby, it's too late' . The lead actor was Aoibhinn Mc Ginnity

**'Clondorca**' was written and directed by Ged Murray and produced by David Lester Mooney. The script explores a fathers dilemma, amidst his darkest fears
'A lonely road. A dark night. A father is faced with a choice straight from a horror movie. He chooses to flee with his family. Afterwards, this choice eats away at him and his son thinks he's a coward. Soon, against his better judgement, he’s drawn back to Clondorca to prove something'. Lead roles were played by Mark O'Halloran and Nathan O'Toole

**FILM COMMISSION SPECIFICATION**

Kildare County Council/Short Grass Films wishes to further develop its support for film production in the county, by commissioning two original films to be shot in County Kildare in 2016/17

Under this commission scheme, two awards of **€12,500** will be made. The awards will be made towards the cost of the film production

Short film, feature film, documentary, animation, experimental and artist films will all be considered

Applications are invited for original script ideas from filmmakers at all stages of their development.

**STAGE ONE**

* Complete an application form and return with …
* CV's of the lead creative team (Producer, Director, Writer or other members of the team that the applicants wish to include)
* three hard copies of the script/treatment
* a one page synopsis and
* visual support material.

\*\* Note. The visual support material should give us a sense of your project and may include images (A4 only, max 6 sheets), a trailer, a video link, interviews, a storyboard, scrapbook, etc. Please keep all video material below 3 minutes in duration and send to us in a password protected Vimeo link.

More than one submission can be made by an applicant, but each submission must have a separate application form.

**\* Please do not put applications in folders. A4 sheets, stapled or paper clipped is preferred**

Short listing of applications may take place. Short listing will be based on

* the quality and originality of the script idea
* the collective track record and skills of the leading creative team
* the methodology and ability to deliver a film project

**STAGE TWO**

Applicants who are shortlisted will be invited to attend for interview. It is expected that a presentation will be made to …

* introduce the lead creative team (Producer, Director, Writer or other members of the team that the applicants would like to attend)
* provide a detailed project proposal, with time schedule
* discuss their ideas for making a film
* discuss how their proposal will consider Co Kildare as a film location and if/how local cast and crew may be involved
* demonstrate budget clarity and deliverability. The budget presented must include all aspects of the film making process. If additional funding has been secured, evidence of this should be provided.
* discuss health and safety, insurances, copyright, etc

**STAGE TWO ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

A series of qualitative award criteria are set out below. Marks are allocated for each of the award criteria. Applicants must provide information in response to all award criteria

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* The originality and creativity of the proposal (55%)
* The ability to deliver the proposal with resources available (25%)
* The consideration of Co Kildare as a film location (10%)
* The consideration of the inclusion of Kildare based cast and crew, including opportunities for shadowing, training or mentoring of cast and crew (10%)

**SUPPORTS OFFERED BY KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

(By advance agreement, production supports *may* be provided)

* + Administrative support
	+ Assistance to source locations for filming
	+ Assistance with sourcing technical crew and casting
	+ Promotion and publicity including coordinating a local launch event
	+ Post production facilities offered in Platform4 Digital Media Studio

 <http://www.kildare.ie/platform4/>

**TIME SCHEDULE**

The intended timeframe for the competition is as follows:

Submission deadline:

STAGE 1 Application form should be submitted no later than 12noon Monday 20th March 2017.

STAGE 2 Interviews will take place on Tuesday 25th April 2017 in Newbridge, Co Kildare

Successful candidates who be called for interview will be advised by Wed 12th April 2017.

It is envisaged that the filming will be complete within a calendar year of the award.

Completed application forms for Stage 1 should be marked 'Film Commission' and must be submitted to the

Arts Service, Kildare County Council, Riverbank, Main Street, Newbridge, Co Kildare

**\*\* Please note that there is no letter box in the building, so please ensure the building is open to the public, should you wish to hand deliver your application form.**

**KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Kildare County Council/Short Grass Films Film commission 2017**

**Name of applicant(s) :**

**Address :**

**Tel : Email:**

**Website :**

**Project description 🞏** Short film  **🞏** Feature film  **🞏** Documentary  **🞏** Experimental **🞏** Artist film  **🞏** Other ………………………………………..

**Film Title** ……...………………………………………………………………………………

**Name of writer(s)** ……...……………………………………………………………………

**Project overview**

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**Please submit (in hard copy only)**

🞏 3 x copies of script or treatment, as appropriate

🞏 3 X one A4 synopsis

🞏 1 x visual support material (max 6 sheets x A4)

🞏 Production company information / creative team CV's

🞏 A production schedule, with completion date

🞏 An outline budget

**\* Please do not put applications in folders. A4 sheets, stapled or paper clipped is preferred**

Application form should be submitted **no later than** 12noon, Monday 20th March 2017