

From: WordPress <wordpress@npf.ie>
Sent: 18 October 2017 21:25
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040 Submission from Frank Kelly
Attachments: drogheda-on-film.docx

Name: Frank
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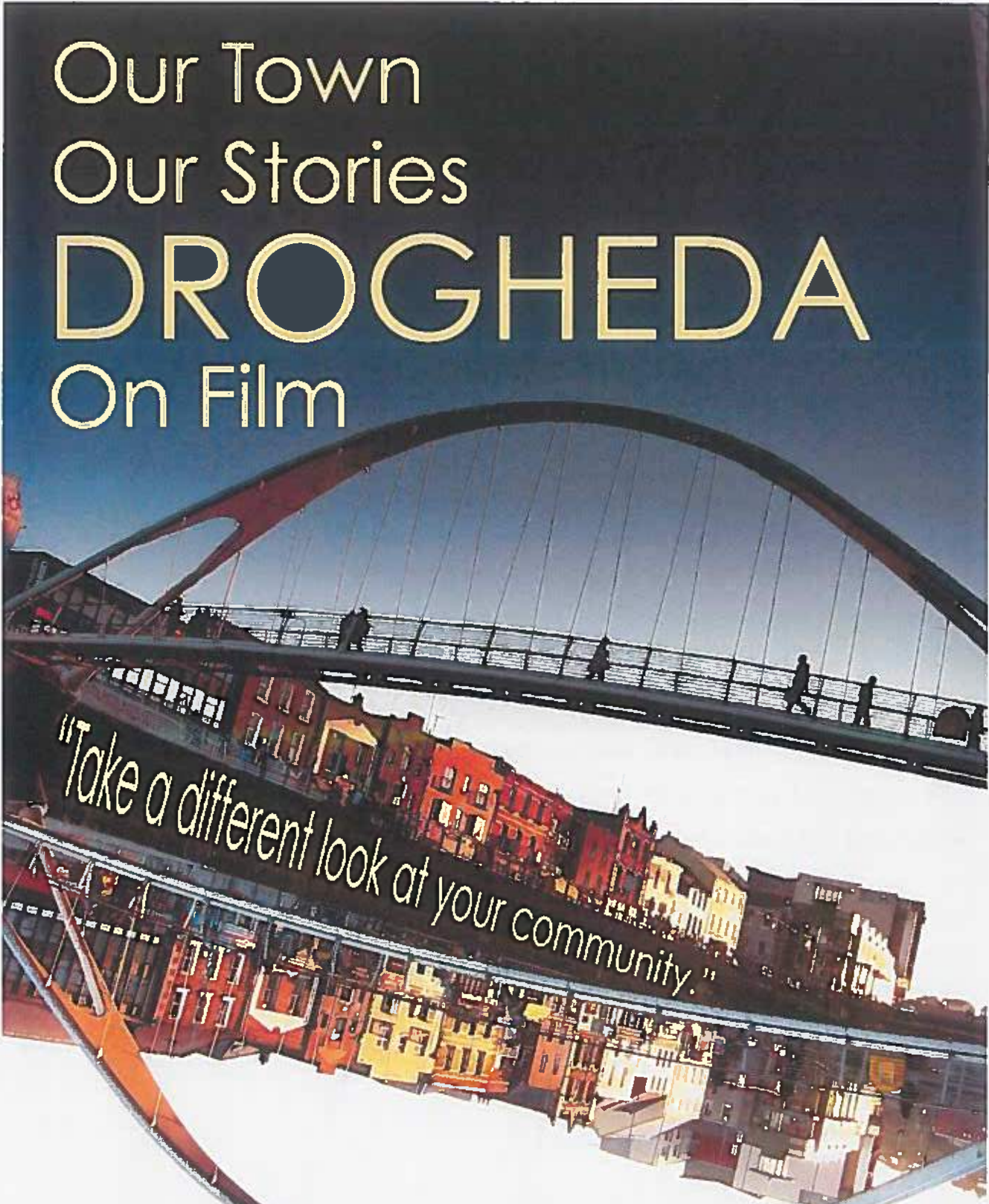


Message:

I was extremely saddened to hear that Drogheda was not included AT ALL in this plan. Here's my proposal for my hometown, a town that is full of Potential and worthy of investment. Drogheda On Film.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on National Planning Framework (<http://npf.ie>)



Our Town
Our Stories
DROGHEDA
On Film

"Take a different look at your community."

A proposal for community based filmmaking.
Films by the community, for the community.

By Frank Kelly

DROGHEDA ON FILM

A Manifesto for Drogheda as a Hub for Filmmaking

by

Frank W. Kelly

A program for community-based filmmaking, mentorship for filmmakers and a new film festival in the town of Drogheda.

This manifesto is the beginning of what will be a year long process, which will include the production of my eighth film, 10 Days in December, as well as the creation of 4 separate proposals.

This "Movement" is in effect the forming of a new company that focuses on the cultivation of new films and storytelling. I will develop and produce my own work, but also create a platform for others to do the same. Making Drogheda a creative hub for film, filmmaking and film community.

4 Step Plan

1. **Film**
2. **Community Filmmaking Project**
3. **Film Festival**
4. **Filmmaking Mentorship and Exchange**

I am an Award-Winning filmmaker. I've made 7 films and I'm currently in pre-production on my eight. All my films have been shot in Drogheda, and while I am currently living in the United States, my next film is set in Drogheda, in fact I return to Drogheda in December 2016 to shoot a proof of concept. My films have screen at over a hundred film festivals around the world, won award and sold to RTE, Channel 4 and Bright House in the USA. They've also been featured on Best-of-fest boxset and some continue to screen to this day.

I truly believe Drogheda is a fantastic location of film, and I've proved that over the last 15 years. I also believe Drogheda as untapped potential as a creative hub. We are located in the heart of the ancient and mythical Boyne Valley. Surrounded by stunning natural Beauty. Practically speaking we are close to Dublin Airport, with main rail links to Dublin and Belfast. We are perfectly located. And with all the amities of a modern living city, this is the place to be.

Film

My Films:

Made (shot in Drogheda):

1. Emily's Song
2. Bill, For Short
3. Slan Agus Beannacht
4. 140
5. Raise My Hands
6. Derelict
7. Joe & Sarah

Future Films:

Features - Written:

1. 10 Days in December
2. Float
3. The Wolf of Nevermore
4. Bad Moon
5. Ghoster
6. The Race
7. Iscariot

Development:

Features:

1. Pipe Dream
2. Esperanza
3. I Am Ireland
4. 6 Past the Hour
5. I'm Not Him
6. Indiana Nights

Shorts:

1. The Perfect Word
2. Puca
3. Angelina
4. A Queit One
5. The Beekeepers Wife
6. The Painter
7. Bless me Brother

This section is about making my own films. Coming back to Drogheda to pick up where I left off and tap Drogheda's wonderful potential as a film location. With it's infrastructure, amenities, surrounding natural beauty and good will, the community in Drogheda have always been welcoming, supportive and encouraging to me and my work.

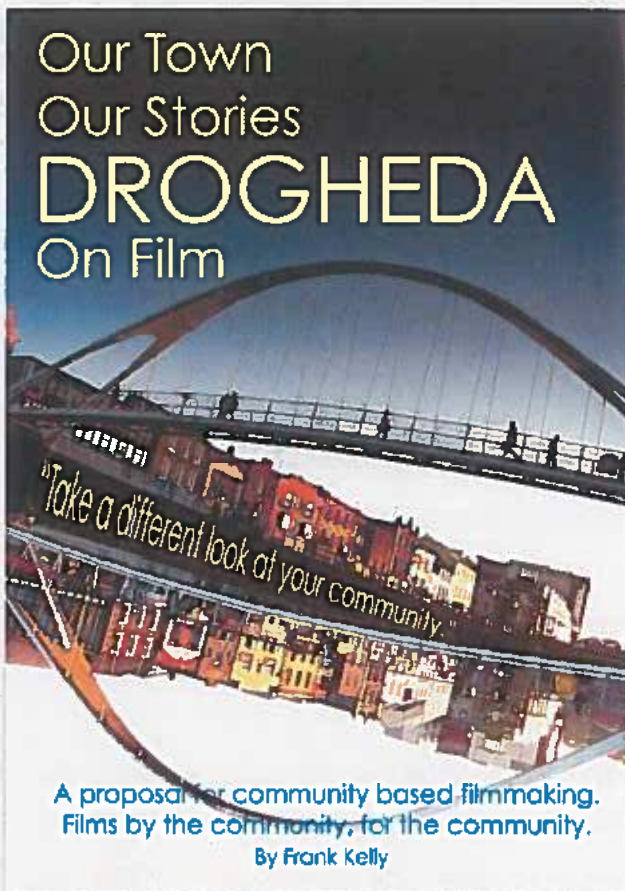
Starting with *10 Days in December*, which has already begun pre-production. I then plan to put Pipe Dream into production and grow my career and the industry in town from there. I'm so excited and enthusiastic about this opportunity I'm going to give up a six figure a year corporate job at Apple headquarters in California.

By the time we're in production with 10 Days I should have another script waiting, while we're in post with 10 Days I should be prepping and planning the next film, by the time I'm on the festival circuit with 10 Days I should be casting and well into pre-production with the next film. I'd like that next film to be Pipe Dream. I think Pipe Dream has a lot of commercial potential, it has skateboarding, it's nostalgia, family orientated, full of humour, action, a heartfelt drama.

The key here is to make sure 10 Days is good, and Pipe Dream is better and continue to build and grow as I move forward. I got into films because of films like Back to the Future, Indiana Jones, Jaws... Those ere the kinds of films I wanted to make. And I don't see why these kinds of films can't be made in Ireland, and more specifically, out of Drogheda.

Community Filmmaking

Films about the community, by the community, for the community.



These are films that can be made by anyone and are about anything, whether they be documentaries about a local sportsperson, business owner, historical event. Or complete fiction. The only stipulation is that they are made in the town with local people.

There is also scope to do a community group film project, where a filmmaker could go into a community group, whether it be a youth group, a group of people with disabilities, a elderly group etc. And over an 8 week period meet with the group and guide toward and through making a short film. I did this with Ablevision Ireland and our film, *Joe &*

Sarah.

A filmmaker can offer their services to guide a group through the filmmaking process. First, meet with them, get to know them, discover what they are about, what their likes and dislikes are, and from conversations find a theme that a story can be built upon. Develop the story and the script. Give roles to individuals, form a crew and a cast. Prep the shoot, find a week, or weekend, to shoot the film. Then enter post and then hold a premiere from friends, family and community members.

But we also encourage and help young filmmakers, aspiring filmmakers, and non-filmmakers to seek out stories and make films. To go out on there own and using whatever gear they have, even their phones, and making a film. Of course the idea is to encourage good storytelling, so advice and guidance will be given.

This will tie into a film festival and film mentorship programme. We'll get to those in a moment. But the festival is where we will screen the films that have been made over the

year. We'll start out small, just get in there and do it, it'll be rough and ready, but it'll be a start - with an aim to have it properly up and running at a high standard within 3 to 5 years.

Film Festival

The Boyne Valley International Film festival

Starting as a 3 day International Film Festival based in the Heart of the Boyne Valley, in the the ancient east, home of myth and legend. Our plan is to create an inclusive film festival that celebrates films and filmmakers. My wife Maryann Koopman and I will run it. I have 15 years experience as a filmmaker, I also program the short films for the San Francisco Irish Film Festival and my wife was the film researcher and coordinator for the Heartland Film Festival in America, she also reviews films for Paste Magazine.

We will have a special opening event, the screening of a large film with special guest. We will open the community filmmaking section with a local celebrity, and screen the films that were made over the year, awarding the best film of the year. We will also screen features and short film from around the world, films that celebrate great storytelling. Thats the key. They must be great stories, that stir the soul, invigorate the senses, the kinds of films that make you want to get out an make films.

On the final night we have a closing film with special guest and an award ceremony, where the best Feature, Short film and Local film will be awarded.

I have already registered this festival and I want to start this soon. The idea is to start it small, get it up and running with an aim to be well established by year 5, solid film festival that is a celebration of story, film and the filmmakers.

Mentorship

This is a program to help disenfranchised filmmakers get back on their feet. Filmmakers like me, who are older, show promise, have talent, may have had some success, but for one reason or another never got any further, their careers never took off and have perhaps have fallen by the weigh-side. I think young filmmakers will be fine, they have time, energy, less commitments, but it's filmmakers who've tried and tried and tried, and face rejection after rejection and have been beaten down, perhaps lost their energy, and direction.

Why these filmmakers?

Because of their skill, the passion, their experience. They grown up. They have a unique perspective on the world and wisdom to share. They are storytellers, even if they've forgotten, it's still there and they have important, moving, effecting stories to tell. We're going to help them tell those stories.

We will give them a week of intense learning, reeducation, reinvigoration, inspiration and new ways of thinking about things. We'll look at their habits, their methods, their thinking, their life and structure a plan to get them back on their feet and getting them making films for their lives now. Maybe they can't commit all their time to making a big feature, but what can they do now, how can we help them carve out some time, find an avenue, and share their stories on a scale that fits their lives.

After the week there will be continued mentorship and guidance, they wont just be cast adrift. They will also be part of a community of filmmakers and in the week, the hope is that relationships will be formed. We'll tie this into the festival too, do a presentation, invite the filmmakers to be part of the festival.

Exchange:

I would like to offer and exchange programme, so perhaps their intensive week is abroad, perhaps here in America, so they get completely out of their environment and comfort zone to gain a new perspective. And perhaps somewhere like San Francisco, so they can tap into something cool. And get spoiled a bit, go to screenings, to nice restaurants, maybe meet and learn from a famous filmmaker like Francis Ford Coppola or George Lucas for example, who are based here. Even take a rest day and do a tour, go to the locations of *Bullit*, *Vertigo*, *The Birds*, *The Fog* and dozens of other film shot here.

The trick is to keep that excitement up there. Have a package they can take home, something to look at and remind them. Continued emailed newsletters, a youtube channel with updates, tutorials and words of advice and encouragement. Encourage them to stay in touch and work together.

All of this is to build something new, to create something good, to tell stories, make films, both my own and those of others.

I've wanted to make film as long as I can remember. But as I've gotten older I've found I have a new passion, something that fills me with as much joy and excitement as making films - - Helping people!

The world has become something of a dark place lately, war, threats of greater wars, politics, global warming, storms and fire - we need some light, some hope, we need good stories, stories inspire, encourage, even change. A great film can change the way people think. Not to mention the community experience of making a film, and gathering to watch a film.

HOW? WHERE? & WHEN?

HOW?

How do we get something like this up and running? Making my own films has always been a challenge. My hope would be to finally have the Irish Film Board step up and help at least go some way to funding my films. But that's not something I can rely upon. We will have to see how 10 Days goes, which is why this is more of a long term outlook. Over the next year I will plan this. I will write detailed proposals for each aspect of this idea. This is more of a manifesto right now, the seed of the idea.

But we need funding, for each aspect.

Films: Individual Budgets for cast, crew, post, marketing.

Film Festival: Staffing - Administration - Submissions - Travel - Accommodation etc.

Community Film: Budgets for films - Production - Post-Production.

Mentorship: Intensive week of training - Travel - Accommodation - Tutors - Extras: (Tours, Screenings, Meals.)

The trick here is to build all of these things one at a time, and start small. Do the festival on the cheap. Hold screening, test the waters, even give awards. After all, it will build our name and give a filmmaker a laurel wreath for the film. The mentorship program is a ways out. That's a couple of years down the line. My own films is just something I have to keep working at and building myself. And I need to work at it, not just write and push films, but educate myself, get better, have a greater understanding of how film and writing works and not just rely on my passion for filmmaking.

A Five Year Timeline.

Year One: 10 Days in December

Year Two: Promoting 10 Days, Developing Pipe Dream, Host first (small scale) Film Festival

Year Three: Production on *Pipe Dream*, Pre-prod on next film, Festival in Year Two, Community Filmmaking program up and running with 5 individual filmmakers on board and perhaps one group.

Year Four: All of the above - By now two films out, looking at next film but also buying larger properties, i.e. Books by well known authors. The festival has grown. Community filmmaking program is up and running and several films have been made. We begin building the mentorship program, and partner with someone on this side of the water to host our filmmakers.

Year Five: We are up and running with everything. We are a well oiled machine. We have broken through as filmmakers, the festival is in year five and getting well known. The community filmmaking program is working and has now been ruled out to 10 towns around the country with more interested. The mentorship program has had it's first successful week and we are now beginning the ongoing mentorship of new filmmakers, and are looking for the next batch.

WHERE?

Drogheda. My hometown, it's where I'm from, it's where my community is based, it's where I established myself and where I had a good support system for my films. And as mentioned before it is perfect equipped and located to meet the demands of such an enterprise.

WHEN?

Return to Ireland: Mid-2018.

10 Days in December Production: Autumn/Winter 2018.

First *Boyne Valley International Film Festival*: Autumn 2019.

Community Filmmaking Project and Mentorship Program: 2020.