

Press Pack



The Quiet Girl

IRELAND'S OFFICIAL ENTRY
BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM
95TH ACADEMY AWARDS

An Cailín Ciúin





“*The Quiet Girl* is a triumph, including the acting in the rarely-heard Irish language that I learned as a child.”

Fiona Shaw

“What a tender jewel of a film. What exquisite Ozu-like images and performances. I cried at the end.”

—
Mark Cousins





“This achingly beautiful Irish-language film beguiles and surprises at every turn. At once an elegy for a lost child and a beacon of hope for a future generation, it speaks of poverty, family, and the power of silence like few other films around these days.”

Noah Cowan



World Premiere

Berlin International Film Festival
Generation Kplus

11 February 2022

Irish Premiere

Dublin International Film Festival

23 February 2022

UK Premiere

Glasgow Film Festival

4 March 2022

Australian Premiere

Sydney Film Festival

16 June 2022

Asian Premiere

Taipei Film Festival, Taiwan

23 June 2022

Hong Kong Premiere

Hong Kong International Film Festival

20 August 2022

RURAL IRELAND. 1981.

A quiet, neglected girl is sent away from her overcrowded, dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer. She blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one painful truth.

Synopsis

Cáit is a nine year-old girl from an over-crowded, dysfunctional and impoverished family. Quietly struggling at school and at home, she has learnt to hide in plain sight from those around her.

As summer arrives and her pregnant mother's due date approaches, Cáit (Catherine Clinch) is sent to live with distant relatives. Without knowing when she will return home, she is left at the strangers' house with only the clothes she is wearing. The Kinsellas, a middle-aged couple she has never met, dress the girl in what clothes they have.

They are farming people, like her own, but hard-working and wanting for nothing, it seems. Despite a warm reception from the woman, Eibhlín (Carrie Crowley), the man of the house, Seán (Andrew Bennett), keeps his distance from Cáit and she from him, but over time, their strained relationship begins to deepen.

Slowly, in the care of the Kinsellas, Cáit blossoms and discovers a new way of living. But in this house where affection grows and there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one painful truth.



The Quiet Girl (An Cailín Ciúin) is a complex and delicate coming-of-age drama that explores questions of family, neglect and grief through the eyes of its young protagonist.



Director's Note

The Quiet Girl (An Cailín Ciúin) is an Irish-language adaptation of the acclaimed story, *Foster*, written by Claire Keegan. First published in the *New Yorker* and declared “Best of the Year” by the magazine, the story was expanded and published as a standalone book by Faber & Faber in 2010. Writer/director Colm Bairéad first read *Foster* in the summer of 2018 and was immediately captured by the idea of adapting it as a film.

“Thematically, it touched upon so many areas of concern for me, things that had been present in my short drama work up to that point — the complex bonds of family, the question of emotional and psychological growth and, crucially, the phenomenon of grief and its capacity to shape us.





From a formal perspective, the telling itself was immediately compelling — a first-person, present tense narrative told through the eyes of a young girl. It felt utterly immersive and empathetic and innately visual — so much of it, is what this girl is seeing and feeling moment to moment. The narrative tension of the story is completely derived from the girl’s experience, rather than from any over-reliance on plot. And that felt like an appealing challenge from a film-making perspective. The idea of shaping this girl’s experience and this being the overriding concern of the film, where the exploration of character and relationship dynamics was completely to the fore. But it was also the “smallness” of the story that I believed in. There’s a quote by Mark Cousins where he says that art shows us again and again that if we look closely and openly at a small thing, we can see a great deal in it.

I'm very much drawn to this notion, that something quite expansive and profound can be found in small places, in a kind of narrative humility. More than anything else, however, it was the emotional undertow of the story that convinced me of its potential as a film. Its restraint — and its eventual cathartic release — mesmerised me and I could envision a film adaptation that might produce that same response in its audience. ”

The Quiet Girl (An Cailín Ciúin) was financed through the Irish feature film initiative, Cine4, which promotes the production of indigenous cinema in the Irish language. Cine4 is a joint initiative between Screen Ireland, TG4 and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.



Director's Biography

Colm Bairéad

Writer/Director

Colm was born in Dublin and raised bilingually through both Irish and English. He developed a fascination with film at a young age, which was cultivated by his father who introduced him to silent cinema, early Hollywood musicals and 40s noir once the household invested in a VCR player.

Following an adolescence experimenting in the production of short films, Colm went on to study film at the Dublin Institute of Technology. His first commissioned short film after college was *Mac an Athar (His Father's Son)*, a semi-autobiographical film about an Irish-speaking family in Dublin, which enjoyed success on the international festival circuit.

His documentary output has earned him numerous international and Irish Film & Television Academy award nominations and wins. In 2012, Colm received a distinction from the Screen Directors' Guild of Ireland for his "outstanding work as a director in the Irish language". In 2022, Colm was the recipient of the Aer Lingus Discovery Award and the Screen Ireland-IFTA Rising Star Award. *The Quiet Girl (An Cailín Ciúin)* is Colm's narrative feature film debut. It is the highest grossing Irish-language film of all time and one of the most critically and commercially successful Irish films of recent years. *The Quiet Girl* is Ireland's official entry for Best International Feature Film at the 95th Academy Awards.





Cleona Ní Chrualaoi
Producer

Much of Cleona's early work focussed on documentary film before she migrated to the world of narrative feature film. As a freelance producer, she produced many flagship programmes for Irish broadcasters which won numerous Irish Film and Television Academy awards. She produced the ground-breaking IFTA-nominated documentary series, *The Joy* and the feature documentary, *Lorg na gCos* (Finding the Footprints), which won a FOCAL international award. Cleona set up the production company, Inscéal, with writer/director, Colm Bairéad in 2012 and in recent years, they have focussed on the production of feature films. Cleona was selected as one of Screen International's Stars of Tomorrow 2022.



Kate McCullough
Cinematographer

Following her work on the globally successful TV series, *Normal People*, Kate was listed in Screen International's "Stars of Tomorrow 2020". She received the Golden Frog for "Best Cinematography" for the docudrama *I Dolours* at Camerimage 2018. In the same year, she was nominated for an Emmy for her work on *The Farthest*. The Hollywood Reporter listed Kate among the Top 10 to watch in the Irish Film Industry in 2017. Upon completing her studies at The National Film School, Lodz, Poland, Kate shot the Irish box office hit, *His and Hers*. This film went on to win the "World Cinematography Award in Documentary", Sundance 2010. Kate is a member of the Irish Society of Cinematographers.



Stephen Rennicks
Composer

Stephen has been writing music to picture for over 20 years and in that time has built an international reputation for his work in independent film and in particular, for his scoring of all of Lenny Abrahamson's feature films including the 2016 Oscar-winning *Room*. Rennicks and Abrahamson reunited for the adaptation of Sally Rooney's *Normal People*. Other recent work by Stephen includes the feature film, *Death of a Ladies Man* starring Gabriel Byrne.



Inscéal The Production Company

Established in 2012 by producer, Cleona Ní Chruaí and writer/director, Colm Bairéad, Inscéal was originally formed as a vehicle for passion projects in documentary film-making. It was nominated for several Irish Film and Television Academy awards for its lead series, *An Ceoldráma (The Musical)* for broadcaster TG4. Twice shortlisted for the Cine4 feature film development scheme, *The Quiet Girl (An Cailín Ciúin)* is the debut feature film produced by the company.

Press Reviews



The Guardian



The Observer



The Irish Times



Little White Lies



Daily Mail



Irish Independent

“It is a jewel...deeply moving tale of rural Ireland already feels like a classic”

The Guardian

“The Quiet Girl is an artfully muted masterpiece... where else could you find this kind of experience, but at the cinema?”

The New Statesman

“One of the most exquisitely realised films of the year”

The Observer

“A beautiful assembly of narrative, image and sound... should be seen as a classic of its kind”

Screen Daily

“A heartfelt, beautifully homespun tale... remarkably moving”

Variety

“A truly remarkable new Irish film”

The Irish Times

“Grips you, rips you apart, before putting you back together and making you whole again”

Little White Lies

“It is an absolutely beautiful film, so profoundly moving...rush out and see it”

Mark Kermode

“A beautifully realised adaptation of Claire Keegan’s novella Foster”

Sight and Sound

“Could be the best Irish film ever made”

Irish Independent

Awards

- The Grand Prix of the Generation Kplus International Jury for Best Film, Berlinale 2022
- Special Mention from the Children's Jury, Berlinale 2022
- Best Irish Film, Dublin Film Critics' Circle Awards 2022
- Audience Award, Dublin International Film Festival 2022
- 7 Irish Film & Television Academy Awards 2022
 - *Best Film*
 - *Best Director*
 - *Best Actress*
 - *Best Cinematography*
 - *Best Editor*
 - *Best Production Design*
 - *Best Original Music*
- Audience Choice Award, International New Talent Competition, Taipei Film Festival 2022



Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland, TG4 and
The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland *present*

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An Inscéal Production

A Film by Colm Bairéad
“The Quiet Girl / An Cailín Ciúin”
Based on the story “Foster” by Claire Keegan

Carrie Crowley
Andrew Bennett
Introducing Catherine Clinch as “Cáit”

Michael Patric
Kate Nic Chonaonaigh

Music by Stephen Rennicks
Costume Designer Louise Stanton
Production Designer Emma Lowney

Edited by John Murphy
Director of Photography Kate McCullough ISC

Executive Producer for TG4 Máire Ní Chonláin
Executive Producer for Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland Dearbhla Regan
Produced by Cleona Ní Chruaí
Written & Directed by Colm Bairéad

Completed: 2022
Duration: 95 minutes
Country of Origin: Ireland
Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1
Sound: 5.1 Surround Sound
Colour
Language: Irish/English
Screening Format: DCP Unencrypted 2K

[View official trailer here](#)
[High res stills available here](#)



The Quiet Girl

An Cailín Ciúin

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