



WORKING TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH AN IRISH CULTURAL CENTER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Irish Center of Southern California Inc., is a 501 c (3) Not for Profit Corporation Tax ID No. is 95-4442397

We are a fundraising group with no “paid” staff. Our primary aim is to acquire a multi- purpose facility including a theater, library, social hall, meeting rooms, etc. Please send news re graduations, births, weddings, deaths, relocating, etc., to eirebt@yahoo.com Our new mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91011.

You will find the newsletter and updated information on our website at www.irishcenter.org It is not always possible to distribute information regarding death notices and events timely. However, if you have access to a computer chances are you can find the website. Check it a few times a week for updates and for the newsletter.

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter and who does not have a computer we will send a copy by U.S. mail. Let us know. This distribution is over 2800 e-mail addresses. We would like to thank those people who donated to the Irish Center to help us with expenses (including ink and postage for this newsletter)

MONTHLY EVENTS

IRISH CENTER OF SO. CALIFORNIA “get-together” (first Sunday of the month) at 1 p.m. lunch at Hill Street Café, 3301 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank. Easy to find, between Hollywood Way and Buena

Vista on Glenoaks (right next to St. Leon’s Cathedral). Hill Street Café telephone number is 818-845-0046.

Order what you want – a cup of coffee to full breakfast or lunch – and pay separately. November **MEETING CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

FRIENDS OF IRELAND BREAKFAST MEETING (1st Tuesday of the month) , at 9:00 a.m. at Katella Restaurant, 4470 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720. RSVP (Pete Walsh, 714-200-7365) pbeireanua@att.net CA. Call Pete Walsh to confirm the meeting.

ST. CORNELIUS CHURCH HALL, IRISH SOCIAL, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach, CA 90808. ” CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

DRAWING FOR TRIP TO IRELAND FOR TWO OR \$2,000

The Drawing for the Trip to Ireland for two, or \$2,000, will be held at a public event later in the year.

An announcement will be distributed regarding the event.

REST IN PEACE

Nick Moran (see page 4)

On their facebook page

Andy Cooney Live Concert **Andy Cooney and his Band** FB page.:

<http://Facebook.com/Andy.cooney.band/>

Patrick D'Arcy

John Whelan, Irish Button Accordion
(facebook Mondays)

Ken O'Malley, facebook Sundays at 2 p.m. .
<http://kenomalley.com>

John McKenna, Accordion

Terry Casey (The Fenians)

Dennis McNeil, facebook
and others

You can support your favorite musicians/artists' online facebook concerts. Remember that they lost their March through July income due to the Coronavirus.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

KEN O'MALLEY

calendar:<https://kenomalley.com/shows>

WEBSITE:

The home page <http://kenomalley.com> shows all performances in a convenient monthly calendar format. information. **For last minute schedule updates, "Like" Ken O'Malley's Artist Page** <https://www.facebook.com/kenomalleyirishmusic>

Contact John McNally at
mcnally.realtor@gmail.com

(805) 804-7558 More great online events coming our way!



LA Cougars GAA Irish Community COVID-19 Support



With a relatively young, fit and healthy community, the Cougars are in a privileged position of being at low risk to COVID-19. In line with the GAA's and our own club's culture, we are committed to being a force for good during this extraordinary (and stressful) time!

If you are a vulnerable member of the Irish in LA community, Cougars GAA is here for you! With members spread out all over Los Angeles, we will work to match anyone who needs help with one of our volunteer members who can support you.

We can:

- Do grocery runs for you helping you stay safely isolated at home
- Pick up any prescriptions and run other essential errands
- Make a socially distant visit to your home just to give you some company
- Help you connect with family back in Ireland via video technology
- Connect you with other Irish community members for more social support

And we'll consider helping in other ways just let us know!

How to Contact Us:

(Make sure to tell us your name, contact info, what you need and whereabouts in LA you're located!)

 : Call or Text Eoghan on +14243547967  : Call or Text Eoghan on +1424354  :

hello@cougars.la  :

www.facebook.com/CougarsGFC7967

To: tomirishhour@msn.com

Mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012 --Vol.126, JANUARY 2021

REST IN PEACE

Nick I. Moran

November 13, 1929 – November 2, 2020



Nick passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side. The celebration of his life has been postponed until next year when we can all gather together to celebrate.

He was born in the small hillside town of Jerome, Arizona to Isadore and Mae Moran. His dad was a safety officer in the copper mines so the family moved around a bit his first few years. They would eventually settle in Stockton, California after a short stint in Jackson, California. His dad was a teamster truck driver for Hobbs & Parsons produce and his mom was a housewife.

Nick graduated from Stockton High School class of 1948. He then went on to serve in the United States Navy from November 1950 and received an Honorable Discharge September 1954 with rank of Teleman Third Class. While in the Navy he served aboard the USS Corregidor and the USS Enoree. He went to several

countries including Japan, Antarctica, and Korea. He had endless stories and slides to share with family and friends about his time in the Navy.

During that time, he frequently landed in port at the Brooklyn Naval yard. During one of those stops he met the love of his life Ita Healy at an Irish dance hall. They were married in Bronx, New York at the Church of the Holy Family, Castle Hill Ave, on September 25, 1954. For their honeymoon they traveled across country in their new black Buick to Stockton, California where they stayed a short time with his parents before settling down in Los Angeles.

He started college with a goal of becoming a civil engineer for the State Highway system. At the same time, he went to bartending school to become a bartender. He bartended at night and went to school during the day. While bartending he met several people that would bring their check in for him to cash. He wanted to know what they did because the checks were so large. They were IBEW Local 11 electricians. With that he changed careers and became an electrician.

Nick's true passion was his career with the IBEW. He was in the IBEW from 1958 – 2010. He was one of the few high voltage cable splicers in Local 11. One of his roles in the local was as an instructor of high voltage cable splicing. He would teach future splicers at night and work in the field during the day. After several years with Local 11 he transferred to Local 40. He worked for several years throughout the

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many motion picture studios in the area and loved telling everyone he was a “40 man”. He also taught new apprentices while at Local 40.

In his free time, he was involved with the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He held many positions in the many years he was with both organizations. He also enjoyed traveling with his family. There were many trips to Mammoth Mountain to ski in the winter and Yosemite to hike in the summer. There were also trips to the beach for scuba diving and snorkeling. There wasn't much he wouldn't try at least once including skydiving. But the one place in the entire world that held his heart was Ireland. He would have moved there if he could have only convinced Ita! He had a large family and many close friends that made his trips so memorable. So memorable in fact that he requested his ashes be placed at the family cemetery in Newcastle, Atherny. The family plans on granting his request next summer.

Nick leaves behind his loving wife of 66 years Ita, daughters Cyndie and Kym, son in law Tony, grandchildren Brendan, Mathew, Tayler, Samantha and Cade and brother Oliver.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

You can shed tears because they are gone, or you can smile because they lived.

You can close your eyes and pray they will come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all that they left for you.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see them,
or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember only that they are gone,
or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind and feel empty,
or you can do what they would want.

SMILE, OPEN YOUR HEART, LOVE . . . and go on.

--Elizabeth Ammons



LETTERS

Date: December 28, 2020 at 2:01:28 PM PST

To: Mary Cox <eiremary@aol.com>



Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of my Irish and American friends for sending me a birthday card in December. I had the best time reading all 102 cards and letters. You made my **89th birthday** special during this pandemic.

Mary Cox



HAPPY NEW YEAR

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From: [Andy Rawn](#)

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:12 AM

Subject: Hello TOM & IRISH CENTER from classical singer ANDY in West L.A.

Seeking a friendly professional IRISH SONGS instrumental player to be paid as Accompanist for two St. Pat's Concerts in March 2021 with our shared hope the Corona Crisis is controlled & audiences can gather safely by the start of the New Year.

E-mail: AmericanSongwriters@yahoo.com Or Phone Songs Of Many Lands: (310) 459-2326.

From: Matthew Nevin <matthew@mart.ie>

Subject: Press Release - Irish Short Reel Series Returns to CIACLA Los Angeles

Date: December 23, 2020 at 1:13:50 PM PST

To: Info <info@irishcenter.org>

CIACLA's Irish Short Reel Series returns with 21 films for a brighter 2021

CIACLA's Irish Short Reel Series returns with 21 films for a brighter 2021

Streaming on 1st - 21st January at ciacla.com/film

After a successful first run in 2019, The Irish Short Reel Series returns to [CIACLA](#) - The Contemporary Irish Arts Center Los Angeles for a second year; showcasing 21 films for a brighter 2021. Through a series of online screenings we are highlighting a curated selection of contemporary Irish Short Films, with thanks to Screen Ireland, MART Gallery Dublin & Emigrant Support Programme.

This series of 21 short films range from drama, comedy, documentary, animation, sci-fi and contemporary storytelling; produced by some of Ireland's most exciting filmmakers. As the Irish film industry is currently enjoying a surge in output and success, with many Irish films, cast and crew gaining international recognition and winning major awards, we are delighted to provide a platform to showcase exciting new stories and talent.

The series will run online for 21 days from January 1st to 21st via www.ciacla.com, where viewers can engage with all films and are encouraged to access this great opportunity for a bit of daily escapism and insight into contemporary Ireland and our creative industries.

Series Line Up: A Better You, A Death in the Family, A Different Kind of Day, At Present, Bending Glass, Break Us, Cúl an Tí, Dam, The First Was A Boy, Gustav, Hazardous Materials, Johnny, Maya, Miss & Missus, The Bird & The Whale, The Grass Ceiling, The Last Miner, The Tattoo, The Vasectomy Doctor, The Wiremen, and Wrath.

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Full info on the series and films can be found at www.ciacla.com/film {**PRESS NOTE FILMS WILL GO LIVE ON 1ST JANUARY**}

Across a three week run will highlight the creative talent that produced each film across our social networks:

<https://www.facebook.com/CIACLA/> fb: @ciacla

https://twitter.com/ciac_la/ Tw: @ciac_la

https://www.instagram.com/ciac_la/ Insta: @[ciac_la](https://www.instagram.com/ciac_la/)

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ciacla>

Contact: matthew@ciacla.com | Tel +1 3105945094 / +353 861654610

About CIACLA:

CIACLA is a non profit 501(c)(3) arts organisation that promotes Contemporary Irish Culture and supports local diverse communities in Los Angeles through a multidisciplinary programme in collaboration with local and international cultural partnerships.

CIACLA is focused on developing a creative platform to support and challenge artists as a means of promoting creative innovation and collaborative initiatives in Los Angeles and across the USA.

www.ciacla.com

The series is running as part of CIACLA's 'Between You and Me' 2020/2021 [Program](#) which has been kindly supported by Screen Ireland, Emigrant Support Programme and MART Gallery & Studios.

Co Director @ MART / CIACLA

www.mart.ie | www.ciacla.com

Irish Care Packages

Dec 29 at 3:11 PM

Stehanie McCrory <steph@fromoverthere.com>

To: eirebt@yahoo.com

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well and that you had a wonderful and healthy Holiday season.

My name is Steph and my brother Gerard and I wanted to personally reach out to introduce ourselves to your Theater Company. We are based in NYC and unfortunately being in the Hospitality industry, we lost our jobs in March due to the Pandemic. It has been a trying year to say the least and we were trying to figure out our next step. We were born and raised in Ireland so we put our heads together and came up with the idea of spreading a little bit of Irish Charm during these tough times. The result was curating Care Packages with an Irish twist. We put the wheels of our business in motion in August and have thoroughly enjoyed each and every step. One of the highlights of our Holiday Season was providing Care Packages for the Irish Repertory Theater here in NYC.

They organized a large (virtual of course) viewing of "Meet Me in St. Louis" and each audience member received a specially tailored Care Package. It was a wonderful experience for us and we were humbled by their positive feedback. Most importantly though, we were truly touched by how they are managing to keep their members engaged through this whole Pandemic. A lot of our extended family and friends work on Broadway and we

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understand how hard this industry has also been hit this year. Their ongoing work has definitely injected some positivity and distraction into many people's lives. Entertainment is certainly a way for all of us to escape the difficulties of 2020, even just for an hour or two.

Being Irish born and bred, we genuinely appreciate how hard your theater works to bring Irish Culture to the States. It is a true joy to see. For this reason, we would love if you would keep us in mind for any events you may have in the pipeline that would call for some Irish goodies. We would love to be the ones to provide some Irish Culture in a Box for you. With St. Patrick's Day fast approaching, we have already received a few orders for virtual Parade Parties. Please feel free to take a look at our website to get a better idea of what we are up to (www.fromovertheire.com). Each of the packages you see are all interchangeable and customizable to fit your needs.

This year has been very difficult and unpredictable so we understand that get-togethers (even virtually) can be tricky. However, if there is ever anything we can do to facilitate that please do not hesitate to ask.

If you have any questions please let us know.
Thank you so much for your time and consideration,

We both hope to talk to you in the near future.

All the best,

Steph & Gerard



The Cox Family at the Irish Center Dinner Dance

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Time for New Year's Financial Resolutions

Article 1 – Dec.28, 2020

Many of us probably felt that 2020 lasted a very long time. But now that 2021 is upon us, we can make a fresh start – and one way to do that is to make some New Year's resolutions. Of course, you can make these resolutions for all parts of your life – physical, emotional, intellectual – but have you ever considered some *financial* resolutions? Here are a few such resolutions to consider:

- **Don't overreact to events.** When the coronavirus pandemic hit in mid-February, the financial markets took a big hit. Many people, convinced that we were in for a prolonged slump, decided to take a "time out" and headed to the investment sidelines. But it didn't take long for the markets to rally, rewarding those patient investors who stayed the course. Nothing is a certainty in the investment world, but the events of 2020 followed a familiar historical pattern: major crisis followed by market drop followed by strong recovery. The lesson for investors? Don't overreact to today's news – because tomorrow may look quite different.
 - **Be prepared.** At the beginning of 2020, nobody was anticipating a worldwide pandemic and its terrible consequences, both to individuals' health and to their economic well-being. None of us can foretell the future, either, but we can be prepared, and one way to do so is by building an emergency fund. Ideally, such a fund should be kept in liquid, low-risk vehicles and contain at least six months' worth of living expenses.
 - **Focus on moves you can control.** In response to pandemic-related economic pressures, some employers cut their matching contributions to 401(k) plans in 2020. Will some future event cause another such reduction? No one knows – and even if it happens, there's probably nothing you can do about it. Instead of worrying about things you *can't* control, focus on those you *can*. When it comes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, put in as much as you can afford this year, and if your salary goes up, increase your contribution.
 - **Recognize your ability to build savings.** During the pandemic, the personal savings rate shot up, hitting a record of 33% in April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economy Analysis. It fell over the next several months, but still remained about twice as high as the rate of the past few years. Of course, much of this surge in Americans' proclivity to save money was due to our lack of options for spending it, as the coronavirus caused either complete or partial shutdowns in physical retail establishments, as well as dining and entertainment venues. But if you did manage to boost your own personal savings when your spending was constrained, is it possible to remain a good saver when restrictions are lifted? Probably. And the greater your savings, the greater your financial freedoms – including the freedom to invest and freedom from excessive debt. When we reach a post-pandemic world, see if you can continue saving more than you did in previous years – and use your savings wisely.
- These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop habits that could benefit you in 2021 and beyond.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC** Edward Jones is a licensed insurance producer in all states and Washington, D.C., through Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P., and in California, New Mexico and Massachusetts through Edward Jones Insurance Agency of California, L.L.C.; Edward Jones Insurance Agency of New Mexico, L.L.C.; and Edward Jones Insurance Agency of Massachusetts, L.L.C.
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Wells of Life Headquarters
200 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 300
Irvine, CA. 92618

URGENT APPEAL TO FUND SR. ALICIA McNALLY'S WELL

Dear Friends,

As we begin this New Year, we take this opportunity to wish each of you a blessed and healthy New Year, free of Covid-19. May 2021 be rich in special graces and true peace and happiness for all.

As you see by the heading, John McKeagney and I are asking you to help us honor Sr. Alicia McNally, SSL, by drilling a clean water well in Uganda, East Africa.

Sister coordinated the Irish Social at St. Cornelius, Long Beach and she knew all about Wells of Life ((WOL) firsthand. For this reason we are reaching out to all our friends in Southern California, Irish and non Irish to show our love and gratitude to Sister, while at the same time saving lives in the poorest and most Christian area of southeast Uganda. Water is essential for life and where wells have been drilled the mortality rate is reduced by 50%. This Appeal is urgent! As we write, an average of three children die per minute from lack of clean water, so we have no time to lose. All we need is for each person to donate YOUR best. Already, WOL have started with \$500 and since then different amounts have been dribbling in.

In the past 10 years, WOL have drilled 500 +wells and have restored over 70 broken wells, wells drilled by a different Company from ours. As you know, it is the drilling that costs and after 10 years, the prices have increased for the first time. Beginning on January 1, 2021, the cost of a new well increases from \$6,000 to \$8,000 and a repaired well from \$3,500 to \$4,000. Because we have this well in the planning, the CEO, will give us the original price through the month of January.

Can we all "take a run " at this challenge and this great need and maybe we can fund one new well or two restored wells? I really can see this happen! Your Group Name will be on this well as the donor and Alicia will be properly honored.

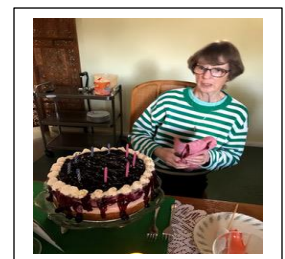
Your donation can be made on line at wellsoflife.com or by check to Wells of Life, and annotated at the bottom left, Alicia's Well. Then it can be properly traced.

May God direct you to be as generous as you can to this great cause, a Living Memorial Well, bringing life to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Gratefully Yours in Christ,

Sr. Joan Hogan, CHF and John McKeagney
(Ambassadors for Wells of Life)

For questions call:
Sr. Joan at 562 363 3295 or 562 212 6708



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Michael Flatley just couldn't part with his beautiful Cork estate

"Castlehyde was for sale. The price was dropped and, in the end, I pulled it from the market."

[Debbie McGoldrick](#)

[@IrishCentral](#)

Dec 23, 2020



Michael Flatley got an offer that was too good to refuse, but when it came time to close the deal Michael Flatley couldn't part with his beloved Castlehyde estate in Fermoy, Co. Cork.

The once-grand Castlehyde was in total disrepair when Michael Flatley bought it in 2001 for €3 million. He poured many millions more into renovations and created a spectacular home for himself and his family, but as he was spending most of his time in London he put it up for sale a few years ago.

It's been on and off the market since, but now it's off for good as Michael dumped his London abode and instead will base himself in Cork and Monaco.

"Castlehyde was for sale. The price was dropped and, in the end, I pulled it from the market," Flatley told the [Sunday World](#).

READ MORE

- [Michael Flatley launches social media dance fundraiser for the homeless](#)
- [Kenneth Branagh's Belfast biopic gets backing for worldwide distribution](#)
- [Is Maureen O'Hara's Miracle on 34th Street the greatest Christmas movie ever?](#)

"Then, out of nowhere, I got an offer and it was better than I had ever hoped for. The next thing the contract came through and I looked at my wife Niamh and son and I realized I just couldn't do it.

"I think I am too emotionally attached to Castlehyde. I just cannot leave Cork. My wife and I just love it too much.

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"We liquidated our properties in the U.K. so we are living in Monte Carlo and Cork."

Michael and Niamh had a fabulous wedding at Castlehyde in 2006. And his beloved dad Michael Senior loved spending time in the estate when he visited from Chicago, so it's not surprising that he nixed the sale.

To help spread a bit of holiday cheer in this grim 2020, Michael is working with an Irish charity battling homelessness, Depaul, to raise some money with what he's calling #FlatleysTapForTen. He's asking people to make donations and post social media videos of themselves dancing or having fun for 10 seconds.

"I travel a lot around the world and I see homeless people everywhere I go," he said of his involvement. "It's just heartbreaking. I was in Cork one day in the rain and the cold and as I was running to my car I saw this older woman settling down in a doorway with two suitcases, and pulling plastic over herself to shield from the rain.

"I thought, 'Good God almighty this is horrific.' It wasn't just that lady, there were homeless people everywhere.

"If there's a way we can all pull together we can at least make a difference for some people."

Sign up to IrishCentral's newsletter to stay up-to-date with everything Irish!

Farm Struck: Director John Patrick Shanley talks Wild Mountain Thyme

Director John Patrick Shanley, the "Platonic ideal of an Irish American," discusses his latest film "Wild Mountain Thyme."

Cahir O'Doherty
@randomirish



When you win an Oscar for the screenplay of Moonstruck, one of the most delightful films ever made, it's a pretty tough act to follow.

But playwright, screenwriter, and now director John Patrick Shanley followed up with acclaimed shows that set Broadway alight. Now he's back with the screen version of his last Broadway smash, this time titled Wild Mountain Thyme.

Jamie Dornan and Emily Blunt star in Wild Mountain Thyme
Wild Mountain Thyme director defends questionable Irish accents

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Unless you live under a gorse bush in County Mayo, you must have caught [the intense Irish public reaction](#) to the recently unveiled trailer. When clips from the Oscar-winning Shanley's new film hit the web, all Ireland erupted. Or more precisely, Irish social media did.

“This is worse than the Famine,” wrote one wag. Some got even snarkier and called it “the best film since Cats,” the notorious 2019 bomb. “Did all the Irish actors die or something,” wrote someone else, pointedly noting that the top tier cast includes famous British and American screen actors, rather than Irish ones.

But Shanley, 70, is unperturbed by all the hand wringing. This is not at his first rodeo with the Irish. He watched his friend Frank McCourt's reception over Angela's Ashes and the memory hasn't left him. He's seen on many occasions how the Irish can revolt at what they consider unfavorable portraits that show them up.

Lovestruck farmers is not a theme that is going to win instant support in the old sod, but it's exactly the kind of thing that can play well elsewhere. Having already watched the film by the time the public was loudly reacting to the trailer, I was in a better place to judge *Wild Mountain Thyme* on its merits. The structure reminded me of *The Winter's Tale* by Shakespeare, and when I spoke to Shanley this week I told him so.

“I think you've actually just helped me to understand the structure of the storytelling, by saying that,” Shanley tells IrishCentral. “This film has a very unusual structure because by one measure the purported story finishes in the middle, and the real story continues through to the end, because the purported story is about real estate, but the real story is about love.”

“I try to come up with organic structures rather than contrived ones you know. Some of my screenplays are taught in film school and I have often thought I'd like to go and sit in on a class and find out what it was I did,” he laughs



Director John Patrick Shanley.

Irish relative slams criticism of *Wild Mountain Thyme* accents
Shanley is, it has to be said, the Platonic ideal of an Irish American. Blessed with a booming laugh that speaks to his indulgence, he's able to access his deepest emotions with such a head-spinning facility that it can catch you off guard in his plays and life. He simply is his characters, and his own rich experience gives them their unique vitality.

In *Wild Mountain Thyme* Jamie Dornan, 38, plays Anthony Reilly, a shy and clearly on the spectrum young farmer who is shouldering a secret burden that makes him hard to get to know. Unbeknownst to him, he is secretly worshipped by Rosemary Muldoon (Emily Blunt, 37) the girl from the neighboring farm who has loved him since they were children.

This asymmetric relationship goes about as badly as it can, with one side (Dornan) clueless and the other (Blunt) mystified. The humor and the ache of the film are contained in the audience's realization that they are perfect for each other but keep missing the opportunity to really connect.

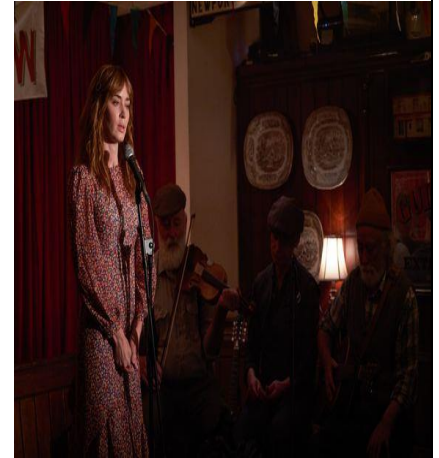
The trouble with people on the spectrum is that you often have to interpret their actions to have any chance of understanding going on with them. Shanley agrees: “I mean we're all trapped by our sensibilities and our behaviors, and the boundary between what can be said and what cannot be said.

It's different for every person but Jamie's character simply feels that if he tells the world his secret that no one will ever love him. No one will want to speak to him again, because it's too outrageous and inexplicable to other people.” (This is the film's twist ending that is truly bonkers but also truly delightful).

“The theme of this film is that everybody thinks there's something they're not.

Rosemary thinks she's a ballet dancing swan. Anthony thinks he's a bee. Funnily enough until now nobody I've talked to thinks it's odd that she thinks she's a swan, they just think it's odd that he thinks he's a bee. Well, what the hell's the difference?” he laughs.

Emily Blunt in Wild Mountain Thyme.



Not that he's judging either. “Rosemary's expanded as a person by thinking she's a swan. I think that that's the best that we could hope for, that our delusions help us rather than hinder us.”

The Irish, I say, love to police each other about what can be said and what can't. It's a national pastime and a bit of a blood sport. On one level, it's actually even hilarious. I mean how do you prove what's authentically Irish? What's Shanley's take on that as the most famous Irish American writer currently working?

“I told Emily Blunt when she called me up and said she wanted to do the part that we are not doing this movie for the Irish, because if you chase their love, you will end in failure. If you don't care, whether they like you or not, they may end up liking you. That's the only way. So we have to go our own way and not worry about that.



Emily Blunt and John Hamm in Wild Mountain Thyme.

- Jon Hamm says the Irish will "begrudgingly love" Wild Mountain Thyme

“You know, for myself, I'm an Irish American man. And that means that I'm a kind of mermaid, half this and half that. I'm a kind of cultural bridge. I have two children and when they were little, one of them, whenever someone would say something about him would say, don't talk about me. I would think, 'Now that's kids Irish,' don't name me, don't reduce me.”

“It's a very primal thing,” he continues. “You know in shamanism, once you know the name of a thing you have power over it. I have no particular interest in having power over the people. Nor do I have the delusion that I have power. Ireland is an island where they rush to defend the borders, the boundaries, you know.”



Jamie Dornan in Wild Mountain Thyme

Wild Mountain Thyme is about the fate of love, the best subject that there is for theater or film, and when people actually watch it I think they'll get that, I say.

“Well you know, back when I did 'Moonstruck' and also very much in 'Wild Mountain Thyme,' death is the perimeter around love on every side because once you step out of that perimeter, it's over and that awareness of mortality is part of what makes love so sweet. Those are the moments that you're really alive.”

Dornan is particularly well cast in the film, having an angelic face that can darken unexpectedly, making his character the most beguiling and mysterious (he easily holds his own against romantic rival John Hamm).

It's a welcome change of role and pace for the Irish actor who has most famously played sadists and serial killers. In Shanley's film, he plays the most beguiling character of all, the misunderstood romantic hero who finds true happiness in the final reel. What's better than that?

"Wild Mountain Thyme" is now [available to watch on streaming platforms](#).

READ MORE [Wild Mountain Thyme: Ireland as Americans want it to be, rather than Ireland as it is.](#)



Dec 23 at 5:16 AM

Mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012 --Vol.126, JANUARY 2021

Deoraí Music <info@deorai.com>

To: Irish Cultural Center South California <eirebt@yahoo.com>



Nollaig Shona Dhaoibh a chairde!
The world is a strange place at the moment no?
They say that the world has changed forever..

In the world of Deoraí, the music never stops and we have been working day and night to bring the next release to you. There have been a few setbacks with some of those lockdowns we have been through, as this made certain things like video shoots impossible.

We have actually released 3 songs during various forms of lockdown now and one of the videos, 'Digiteach' was a creative piece made during the full lockdown (remember when you could only be out 30 mins per day?). If you missed it, check it out on our youtube channel at the bottom of the email.

We planned to release the next song around the Christmas period but we were unable to complete the work due to the restrictions, so instead of compromising, we decided to wait. Rest assured though, it will be worth the wait. Look out for this next instalment of music and film in January.

In the meantime, have a great time whatever you get up to this Christmas and don't forget to subscribe to/follow Deoraí's social media channels.

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A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



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