

FEATURE FILM BACK STORY - LAGOON PICTURES

The following are a list of the main points of the story behind the imminent production of the feature film *Darkness On The Edge Of Town*, to be produced by Kerry based Lagoon Pictures, the production company of Patrick Ryan and Tommy Fitzgerald.

- Patrick and Tommy met in the National Film School IADT in Dublin in 2006. They are both from Kerry, Patrick from Kenmare and Tommy from Lixnaw.
- They formed the independent production company Lagoon Pictures in 2008. Since then they have amassed five years of constant experience working on all different types of projects.
- Their previous projects include their two graduation films from IADT - *Glassjaw* and *The Shed*, both shot in Kerry. *Glassjaw* was nominated for the Grand Off World Editing Award and RTS Award for Best Drama. Both achieved 1st Class Honours when they graduated in 2010, with Patrick specialising in Directing and Tommy in Cinematography.
- Their previous projects include the short films *For The Kids*, *Nemesis*, *Unexpected*, *Cut Me Deep* and *All Her Children Fought*, which will premiere in April at the Belfast Film Festival.
- Tommy previously worked as an actor, featured in *The Clinic* and Lenny Abrahamson's *Garage*.
- Lagoon's next project is the feature film *Darkness On The Edge Of Town*. A contemporary Western set in County Kerry, it tells the story of Cleo Callahan, a teenage sharpshooter who decides to avenge the death of her estranged sister after she is found murdered in a public bathroom. Patrick is the writer/director, and Tommy will shoot and light the film. Both will co-produce.
- Patrick wrote the script during the MA Screenwriting course. Eight drafts later, it won several international awards; it was selected for the BBC Writersroom, won Second Place in the Screenwriting Goldmine International Competition, and was awarded twice at the ENGAGE pitching forum.
- For the ENGAGE pitch, Lagoon produced a trailer, shot in Kerry, that went on to win a separate award.
- Off the back of the awards, interest in the script grew, and Patrick had the opportunity to sell it (by optioning the rights) on a number of occasions to both international and national production companies.
- However, he decided not to as it would not allow him the chance to direct the film himself. Instead, he opted to produce it with Tommy independently under Lagoon Pictures, and shoot it the way it was envisioned, in County Kerry.

100% of the film will be shot here, and while the budget will be much smaller than an official production, the creative aspect will remain intact.

- The film will be unlike any other film produced in Ireland as of yet - it is a modern western set in contemporary rural Kerry.

- Tommy and Patrick are co-producing the film together. In order to make it themselves, they are launching a funding campaign on the popular international crowd funding website, Indiegogo.com. They aim to raise €20,000 over a 45 day period, starting on March 23rd.

- The film will be shot during the month of August, utilising many different areas of Kerry. The crew will be comprised of around fifteen different members, all young professional filmmakers.

- The lead role of Cleo Callahan will be played by one of Ireland's newest rising stars, Emma Eliza Regan, who is currently making major waves both here and abroad.

- The second lead role of Robin O'Riley will be played by Emma Willis. Emma is an up and coming young actress currently studying drama in the Cork School of Music and has been involved with the project for some time.

- Casting for the rest of the film is currently underway, and will use a selection of local talent.

- Some other key members of the crew are from the county; the film's score will be provided by Alex Ryan and Chief Grip and Associate Producer is JJ Sullivan, producer of the recent successful comedy play *The Dairy Milk Chronicles*, and also the upcoming *Just Continental Breakfast*.

- The funding campaign is an international scheme. But we need the support of our home county. If a quarter of Kerry gave us one euro each, we'd have our budget, and we could make something that promotes both the county itself, and the filmmaking talent and potential to be found in it.

- Equally important is just getting the word out there, and letting people know about what we're doing. We're totally committed to this film and have been working towards it for the past few years.

- The campaign works on a perk basis - we offer a number of rewards in return for people's kindness with donations. For example, we offer t shirts, the soundtrack, posters, signed printed stills, invitations to the wrap party and the premiere etc.

- The campaign will have an online link, which is the lynchpin of the whole thing. People are able to donate safely through the Indiegogo website using paypal or a credit card.

- Once the film is wrapped in August, it will move to post production in Dublin,

where it will be edited and scored. Our plan then is to send it out to a number of festivals both nationally and internationally and secure a distributor to get it into cinemas.

- Once the campaign is launched, we will host two evenings of our previous work, where we will screen a number of our shorts. We will also be there to answer any questions and to meet anyone interested in our film. These will take place in the Carnegie Arts Centre in Kenmare on the 18th April, and St. John's Theatre in Listowel on the 25th April.

- We will constantly updating our facebook page with our progress. We can be found online at www.facebook.com/darktown.film.