

# Cinemagic



A production trainee on set



Behind the scenes at Grace and Goliath



With help from The Ireland Funds, Cinemagic is educating, motivating and inspiring young people from all backgrounds to explore the joy of film.

Cinemagic is a film festival for children and young people and an award-winning film charity. Established and headquartered in Belfast, delivering programs and activities locally, nationally and internationally, the organization is committed to maximizing the impact and reach of film to educate, motivate and inspire children and young people from all backgrounds. Cinemagic is widely-recognized for its global outreach activity which engages with young people from various communities, religions, abilities and ethnic backgrounds and encourages them to learn and work together within our innovative and educational projects.

Designed for and by young people, Cinemagic has established a worldwide reputation for excellence in children's programming and in its creative and innovative approach to tackling social exclusion through the medium of film. The organization believes that film provides inclusive and accessible ways to promote learning, motivation, skills development and cross-community engagement among young people.

Cinemagic has delivered highly successful initiatives in Northern Ireland with conflicting community groups over the last number of years with the aim to educate young people in filmmaking while developing positive attitudes to the importance of Good Relations and Improving Communities. Cinemagic have developed projects of this nature in Dublin, London, Los Angeles and New York and are regarded as a catalyst which brings young people together where they develop individually, socially and culturally. Cinemagic film projects bring young people from different and sometimes conflicting backgrounds together to educate them but to also give them a common goal to work towards as a group. On completion our young people have a positive visual piece of work which represents their own achievement and development while also breaking down barriers of conflict resulting in dialogue between communities and life-long friendships being created.

Cinemagic engages with 40,000 people on an annual basis and support from The Ireland Funds enables the organization to develop and deepen its reach, changing lives and transforming young people's outlook.

Cinemagic is supported by a host of film and television professionals, with patrons including Liam Neeson, Pierce Brosnan, Saoirse Ronan, and Dermot O'Leary

who share the charity's ethos to educate, motivate and inspire by offering creative industries opportunities for young people from all backgrounds.

### THREE DECADES OF CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

Over the last three decades the festival has progressed in relation to audience scope and reach, this is evident in the continuous yearly increase in audience numbers and participation. The geographical reach continues to extend outside of Belfast to meet the cultural demands of young people living in hard to reach and disadvantaged areas. Each year Cinemagic strives to provide the audience with a cultural program that demonstrates flair, quality and ambition.

Today, the Cinemagic Film Festival is the leading youth film festival in the UK in relation to film choice, film heritage and practical film education activities. The annual festival promotes, strengthens and nurtures a strong film culture in Northern Ireland by providing greater audience choice for all young people. Each film activity program is devised to provide children and young people with opportunities to engage with film culture and film literacy within the school framework (school education program) and outside of formal education (public screening program, outreach film program, family events, young filmmaker, CineSeeker and CineFocus festival juries and industry master classes).

In the last 10 years Cinemagic's international growth has led to annual film education activities in Dublin, London, New York, Los Angeles and Castres (France) and Cinemagic film production projects have received international acclaim for their ambition and innovation.



## GRACE AND GOLIATH:

### TAKING BIG STEPS FROM LA TO BELFAST

46 young trainee filmmakers completed filming in Belfast in June, 2017 on Cinemagic's second feature film *Grace and Goliath*. The young people from Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and USA had the unique chance to earn their first credit on a feature and train alongside industry professionals led by director Tony Mitchell (*The Bible*, *AD The Bible Continues*, *Primeval*, *Supervolcano* and *Flood*) and actors Ciarán McMenamin (*Paula*, *Saving The Titanic*), Emy Aneke (*The Predator* and *Star Trek: Beyond*) and Aoibhinn McGinnity (*Quarry*, *Love/Hate*).

*Grace and Goliath* follows the success of Cinemagic's first feature film, *A Christmas Star*, made in 2014-15, which gave 40 young filmmakers an invaluable opportunity to learn from top industry professionals and earn their first credit on a feature production. *A Christmas Star* premiered in Belfast, New York and Los Angeles; it was screened in Ireland on UTV and BBC on Christmas Day and was distributed across numerous territories including platforms such as Netflix USA and Australia and BBC iPlayer.

With the experience from this Cinemagic opportunity, trainees have gone on to secure work with various film and television companies in the last two years including BBC, HBO, Disney, Sky Atlantic, RTE, and Bedlam Productions.



*Funding from The Ireland Funds enabled 11 teenagers from LA to embark on this unique creative and cultural experience in Northern Ireland for ten days, taking up trainee film positions such as directing, production, make-up, costume, camera, locations.*

"We were delighted to welcome the LA teenagers to Belfast as they joined Cinemagic's second feature film production. We have a long-running partnership with the schools in Los Angeles that the young people attend—New Roads School, David Starr Jordan High School and Hamilton High School and this project will enhance our relationship further by offering a unique skills development program for the participating students. With support from The Ireland Funds, Belfast City Council, British Council and The Irish American Partnership we have been able to offer special training to the LA students to develop their talents and skills."

—Joan Burney Keatings MBE, Cinemagic Chief Executive

11 teenagers from Los Angeles joined 36 other young filmmakers from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in this innovative, multi-cultural initiative.

Photo: Jonny Collins @ Ulster Image

