**Press Release**

**Irish Screen America Awards 2016**

On Sunday, October 2nd the 2016 edition of Irish Screen America came to a close, following another successful year of debuting Irish media to U.S. audiences. As part of its mission statement to support Irish talent in the U.S., the festival bestowed its Rising Star Awards to emerging Irish talents who featured in this year’s programme.

Rising Star Director:  **TOM RYAN** (Twice Shy)

Rising Star Actor: **ISEULT CASEY** (Twice Shy)

Rising Star Actor: **NIKA MCGUIGAN** (Can’t Cope Won’t Cope)

Rising Star Writer: **STEFANIE PREISSNER** (Can’t Cope Won’t Cope)

Rising Star Actor: **FIONN O’SHEA** (Handsome Devil)

Rising Star Short Filmmaker: **LINDA BHREATHNACH** (Adulting)

The Irish Screen America festival hosted New York and Los Angeles premieres of Irish features *Mammal* (starring previous ISA award winner Barry Keoghan*), Tiger Raid* and *The Queen of Ireland*, as well as the North American premiere of RTE’s new darkly comic sensation, *Can’t Cope Won’t Cope*, directed by last year’s ISA award winner, Cathy Brady.

The bi-coastal festival takes place in September of each year to support and guide Irish media-makers by showcasing their work and fostering partnerships in the two largest cities for the entertainment industry in the United States.

[www.irishscreenamerica.com](http://www.irishscreenamerica.com)

-ENDS-

Caption for photos:

1. Q+A at the New York premiere of Queen of Ireland as part of Irish Screen America.
2. L to R: Queen of Ireland director Conor Horgan with ISA Director Niall McKay and Rory O’Neill aka Panti Bliss.
3. L to R: ISA Director Niall McKay with cast and crew of Can’t Cope Won’t Cope - director Cathy Brady, star Seana Kerslake, star Nika McGuigan, producer Ailish McElmeel.
4. Actor Chris O’Dowd and comedian Aisling Bea at Opening Night of ISA LA.
5. Actress Fionnula Flanagan and Bernadette O’Neill at Opening Night of ISA LA.

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