



## **'THE QUEEN OF IRELAND' DOC TO PREMIERE AT IRISH SCREEN AMERICA**

The documentary charting the success of the Irish same-sex marriage campaign, led by the drag queen turned activist Panti Bliss, *The Queen of Ireland* will premiere in New York and LA as part of the Irish Screen America festival. Ireland's historic referendum was started by the incisive performer when she called out the systemic homophobia prevalent in Irish media. *The Queen of Ireland* documents the ensuing 'panti-gate' and the rise of Panti Bliss from drag performer to national figurehead for LGBTQ rights.

Part glamorous aunt, part Jessica Rabbit, Panti Bliss is a wittily incisive performer who is widely regarded as one of the best drag queens in the world. Created by Rory O' Neill, Panti is in her own words 'a court jester, whose role is to say the un-sayable' and in recent years, has become a figurehead for LGBT rights in Ireland and was a figurehead in Ireland's same-sex marriage referendum of last year.

*The Queen of Ireland* is the first feature documentary from director Conor Horgan, whose feature debut *One Hundred Mornings* was met with critical acclaim and the Special Mention Award at Slamdance 2010.

Director of Irish Screen America, Niall McKay said: "The current boom in the Irish film industry comes from a real desire from Irish storytellers and the Irish people to see real and accurate images of ourselves and our society on screen. There is perhaps no greater document, to illustrate to the world-at-large, the changes Ireland has undergone than this intimately funny and engaging documentary."

The **Irish Screen America** festival is supported by **Glucksman Ireland House**, the center for Irish and Irish-American Studies at New York University, with courses in history, Irish language, literature, music, and politics. The premiere of the *Queen of Ireland* will be co-hosted by the **Irish Arts Center**, the New York based arts and cultural center dedicated to projecting a dynamic image of Ireland and Irish America for the 21st century and preserving the evolving stories and traditions of Irish culture for generations to come.

**Panti Bliss and director Conor Horgan will be in attendance** for the New York premiere of *The Queen of Ireland*, Friday **September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm** in NYU's Cantor Film Center 36 E 8th Street.

The film will premiere in LA on **Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> at Laemmle's NoHo 7at 8pm.**

For further information on this year's festival, including ticket info and further program announcements, see [www.irishscreenamerica.com](http://www.irishscreenamerica.com).

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For further press information regarding **Irish Screen America**, please contact William Fitzgerald on 646 416 0918 or email [fitzgerald.william@gmail.com](mailto:fitzgerald.william@gmail.com).

For press requests or information regarding ***The Queen of Ireland***, please contact Blinder Films on [www.blinderfilms.com](http://www.blinderfilms.com)