January 2025 Newsletter

Hi everybody,

I’m very proud to present Rough and Ready Film’s next newsletter. Our group continues to grow and develop. Our meetup page has grown to nearly 250 members, with a group of active regular attendees taking part in our creative endeavors.I am very thankful for each person who has attended so far and for the enthusiasm you all put into every event.

As we have committed more time to the group, we have become more adventurous and have taken on bigger projects. Our main focus has been shooting drama but this newsletter marks our first steps into the art of videography and documentary. It is great to expand on our abilities and also to cater to more interests in the film - making space. The following is a summary of the work we have done since our last newsletter in June 2024.

Workshops

Kramer Vs Kramer






In this session, we recreated a scene from the movie ‘Kramer Vs Kramer’. A classic drama starring Meryl Streep as a woman in the process of divorcing her husband.

There was a lot of thought and practice put into the performance, which gave the scene gravitas. Behind the camera, there were group discussions on how to block the shots which is always fascinating. As always, time has the final say on what can be done, which is an important lesson.

Clerks






In this shoot, we used the video rental scene from the movie ‘Clerks’ directed by Kevin Smith. A woman requesting advice on her film choice is interpreted as a means of control over our jaded shop clerk. This was the first scene of the movie put to paper by Smith during his college days.

We had a great juxtaposition of shooting methods with one group going for a traditional 3 point shoot, while the other relied on a free camera and POV . There is a great jump from the mundane to adversarial, which the actors carried out with great results.

A Subtle Story








We tried the new concept of shooting a subtle scene. The challenge was to convey a situation without directly stating it. The scenarios included job cuts at a company, a supporting friend and the surprise appearance of an unknown family member.

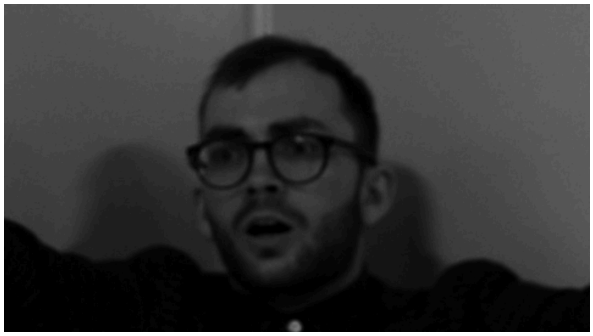
This workshop gave a lot of responsibility to each group to invent a short production to convey their message. There was a lot of work put into developing characters and blocking shots to create a story arc.

There were technical challenges to overcome in the process such as out of focus shots, but it is useful to face these issues in practice rather than in a professional setting. It is great that we can offer time to each other and throw ideas onto the screen. If you invoke a sense of ‘play’, it becomes that much more engaging.

A Scene of Horror





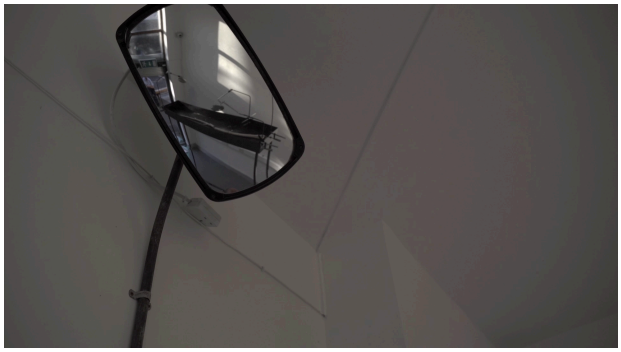



For this workshop we had the task of creating an original scene in the horror genre. We looked at the attributes of the villain as opposed to the victim, and discussed how their motivations and character engage the audience.

We then reviewed common shots used in horror, such as low angle, close ups and dutch angles.

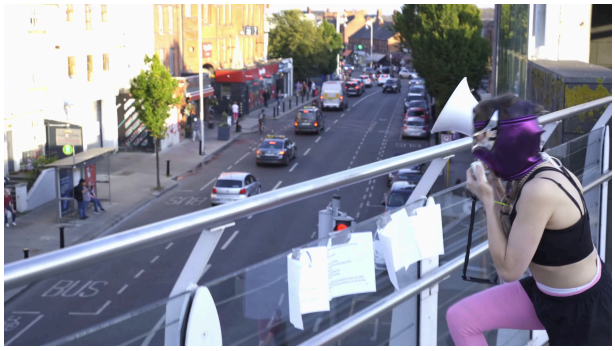
We had 3 industrious groups planning out their shots and performances. Each one was a pleasure to edit as the shots had a clear logical flow. Horror always reminds me of the power of sound and music in a film. In a tense and vulnerable state, the music plays along with the imagination of the viewer.

Videography









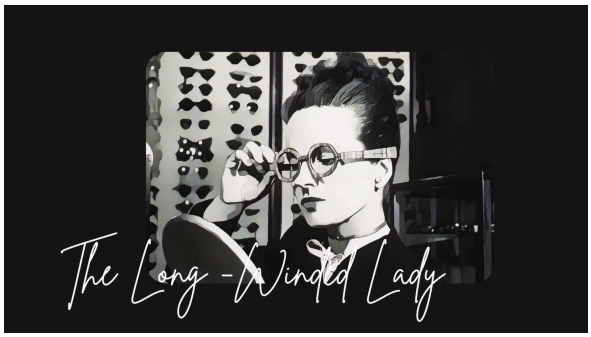
Our group was invited to document an art performance at the Ranelagh Arts gallery.

Two of us attended the event and recorded the performance.

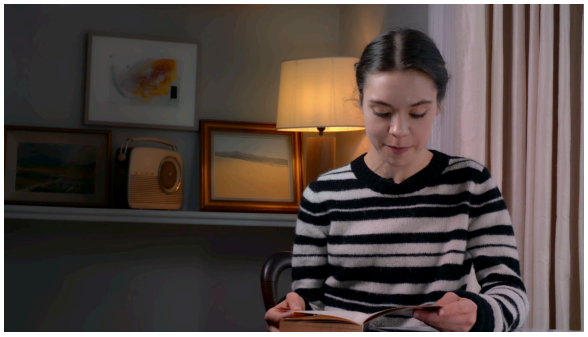
It was a great opportunity to gain experience in shooting at an event where the camera crew had very little control over the direction. We had to prepare equipment to suit the performance and also take into account last minute changes or issues that can occur at live events.

It was a pleasure to help out a local artist and it is a chance to build a portfolio of videography work. This can lead to further opportunities to develop our craft.

Documentary






I have been working on a documentary presenting the life and work of Maeve Brennan, a writer who grew up in the Ranelagh area and went on to have an illustrious career at the New Yorker magazine.While her father walked the halls of power as Ireland's representative in the United States, Maeve walked the halls of modern culture. She wrote on fashion and lifestyle for some of the most famous publications, influenced and being influenced by the cultural magnates of her time.

This was more of a personal project with the Ranelagh Arts group, but I do want to open up future documentary projects to the Rough and Ready group. It is a very different medium of film, as it is often more information dense and requires a stricter structure to accurately document the subject matter. There is still a lot of room for creative direction in how the shots are created and also in the added photos and infographics that can add context and style.

I'm looking forward to creating more documentaries in the future, with the goal of enlisting the support of our members.

Next Steps

There has been a healthy level of growth and activity in the group and this will allow us to push on with other achievable goals in the near future.

The following are a few of our active goals:

- Our new festival project is going forward. We have set up our submission review panel and will soon have a curated list of films to present. We will now be planning the format of the actual event.
- We are currently scheduling our next short film. The film script was submitted by a group member which is in line with our plan to allow more participation in film-making.
- Our Youtube channel has been set up. The goal is to continue to upload content and present our progress. Have a look at our work so far:

  Rough and Ready Film Shorts - YouTube

- Workshops will continue to be held. It's a great way to welcome new members and gives us all a chance to experiment in a relaxed environment
- We are open to member-led projects within the group. Even though film-making can often appear top-down in organisation, we want to allow all members the opportunity to take the lead when they are motivated to.

It's great to have active goals to work towards throughout the year. If we can show a healthy routine of activity and achievement, it will open up further possibilities for the group.

Script Submissions from the Community

More ambitious projects will require some ambitious script writers.It would be an honour to work with local writers to help them realise their stories. If you are a writer and have an interest in collaborating with the community please contact me either through meetup or my personal email: oisincregan@gmail.com. I understand that sharing a script can be a sensitive and personal matter. It would be great to discuss the possibility of working together where everyone can develop and benefit.

Thank you

It has been a pleasure to develop and reach further goals with you all. We continue to have a friendly and supportive group of regulars, and thanks to this team we are taking on bigger projects which allow us to play and experiment in the world of film-making

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for the group please get in contact.

All the best,

Oisin