

SILENCE

a film by
Pat Collins



**WINNER OF THE MICHAEL DWYER DISCOVERY AWARD
DUBLIN FILM FESTIVAL 2012**

Ireland 2012 - 84 mins Cert tbc

Opens August 9th 2013

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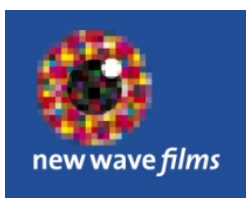
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CREW

Director

Pat Collins

Producer

Tina Moran

Written By

Pat Collins

Eoghan Mac Giolla Bhríde

Sharon Whooley

Film Editor

Tadhg O'Sullivan

Director Of Photography

Richard Kendrick

Location Sound

John Brennan, Éamon Little

Research & Casting

Anna Rodgers, Sharon Whooley

Production Manager

Eimear O'Kane

Location Manager

Paddy Cahill

Additional Camera (Tory Island)

Colm Hogan

Location Sound (Berlin)

John Brennan, Chris Watson

Production Manager (Berlin)

Donogh McCabe

Set Design / Props

Brien Vahey,

Owen Mac Carthaigh (Glenveagh)

Script Editor

Mark McIlrath

Post Production Co-ordinator

Ciara Baker

Special Effects

Michael Regan

Quiet Areas Acoustic and

Environment Consultant

Declan Waugh

Online Editor

Cillian Duffy

Sound Mix

Ken Galvin

Sound and Music Editor

Tadhg O'Sullivan

Production Executive

Alan Maher

Produced with the support of

Investment incentives for the Irish Film Industry provided by the Government of Ireland. Developed with the support of the MEDIA Programme of the European Union.

Developed with the assistance of

Bord Scannán na hÉireann / The Irish Film Board.

Filmed on location in Ireland.

By Resound Films Ltd. With the co-operation of The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

**A South Wind Blows/Harvest Films production.
Made with the support of the
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
in association with Raidió Teilifís Éireann
And with the participation of
Bord Scannán na hÉireann / Irish Film Board**

CAST

**Eoghan Mac Giolla Bhríde
Hilary O'Shaughnessy
Andrew Bennett
Jens K. Müller
Patrick O'Connor
Michael Harding
Tommy Fahy
Tim Robinson
Peter Lacey
Marie Coyne
Jordan Shiels
Paul Rodgers**

SYNOPSIS

The Cork-based documentarian Pat Collins has made his feature debut with this widely praised and almost unclassifiable film which is both an essay and a journey through the Irish landscape and folklore.

A sound-recordist, played by the writer and co-scenarist Eoghan Mac Giolla Bhríde, leaves Berlin and returns to his native Donegal to record landscapes free from man-made noise. But throughout his journey, he is drawn into a series of encounters and conversations which gradually divert his attention towards a more intangible silence, bound up with the sounds of the life he had left behind, until eventually he returns to his childhood home on Tory Island off the Donegal coast.

Navigating a path between fiction and documentary, the film is a haunting and absorbing meditation on sound and silence, history, memory and exile, a deeply immersive experience from a major Irish filmmaker.

More details and music credits at www.newwavefilms.co.uk

Photos at : www.newwavefilms.co.uk/press

Pat Collins

Pat Collins has directed over 25 documentaries. His first film *Michael Hartnett, Necklace of Wrens* won the Jury Award at the Celtic Film Festival in 1999 and *Oileán Thoraí* won Best Irish Documentary at the Irish Film and Television Awards in 2003. *Abbas Kiarostami - The Art of Living* (codirected with Fergus Daly) was picked up for international distribution in 2004 by the French company MK2. *Rebel County* used the shooting of Ken Loach's *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* to explore the War of Independence in West Cork. He has directed documentaries on the Irish writer Frank O' Connor, the poet Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and the Connemara based writer and cartographer Tim Robinson. His film *John McGahern: A Private World* won 'Best Documentary' at the Irish Film and Television Awards in 2005. The feature documentary *Gabriel Byrne: Stories from Home* was completed in 2009 and the film essay *What We Leave in Our Wake* in 2011. *Silence* is his first fictional film.

Filmography

- 2012 **FATHOM** (short) co director Sharon Whooley
- WHAT REMAINS** (short) co director Tadhg O'Sullivan
- 2012 **SILENCE**
- 2011 **INTO THE LIGHT: NETTLE COAT** (short) co director Sharon Whooley
- 2011 **TIM ROBINSON: CONNEMARA**
- 2010 **WHAT WE LEAVE IN OUR WAKE**
- 2009 **FAMINE IN IRELAND: REMEMBER SKIBBEREEN**
- LOUGH HYNE** (short)
- 2008 **GABRIEL BYRNE: STORIES FROM HOME**
- LOCH DEARG** (short) co director Eoghan Mac Giolla Bhríde
- PILGRIM** (short)
- 2007 **NUALA NÍ DHOMHNAILL -TAIBHSÍ I MBÉAL NA GAOITHE**
- AR THÓIR LOGAINMEACHA** (short)
- NA DUGANNA** (short)
- 2006 **DAVID MARCUS: A CONVERSATION WITH DERMOT BOLGER** (short)
- 2005 **REBEL COUNTY**
- CATHAIR COREAIGH**
- BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN** (short)
- DOMHNACH IN ÉIREANN** (episode)
- 2004 **JOHN MCGAHERN – A PRIVATE WORLD**
- MAROONED**
- 2003 **FRANK O'CONNOR – THE LONELY VOICE**
- ABBAS KIAROSTAMI – THE ACT OF LIVING** co director Fergus Daly
- 2002 **OILEÁN THORAÍ** (Tory Island)
- 2001 **IDIR NA LÍNTE** (short)
- 2000 **TALKING TO THE DEAD**
- 1999 **MICHAEL HARTNETT – A NECKLACE OF WRENS**

More details on these films at: <http://www.harvestfilms.ie/silence>

Pat Collins – director’s statement

The idea for the film started as a story about a folklore collector.

“I was always fascinated by the people who went around in the 1930s and 1940s - people like Seamus Ennis and Seán ÓhEochaidh, who travelled from house to house and collected stories and songs and folklore. People like Alan Lomax and Studs Terkel too and even Robert Frank’s book ‘The Americans’. It’s a romantic notion I suppose. I wanted to make a film about someone travelling around the country meeting people but I wanted it to be set in a contemporary context, so it evolved from being a folklore collector to being a sound-recordist.

Though our character Eoghan is trying to get away from man-made noise and away from people, he always seems to meet someone so he’s still hearing stories. The people that Eoghan meets as he travels through Ireland are mostly real characters playing themselves. People we had read about, or people we had met previously or people we had heard about. Eoghan meets a human geographer, a farmer, a barman, a museum owner, a fisherman, a writer. It’s one of the great things about making documentaries – the houses you get invited into, the people you meet out and about in odd places. These encounters give the film a documentary sensibility but it is clearly fiction in my mind. This mixture of fact and fiction is not in any way trying to mislead people or fool people.



In many ways ‘Silence’ is about transience ...that we need to pay attention because things are going to pass. Even some of the birdsong, the corncrakes and the curlew reflect that. But in the way that a reader completes a novel, I think Silence has this notion too. We wanted the audience to be included rather than be shut out by an already completed story. Because the script wasn’t sealed off from the beginning and it changed as we shot and then it changed as we edited, it still is open to what people can bring to it themselves. We wanted to film in genuinely remote areas in keeping with the locations where Eoghan would be recording - in locations that were genuinely free from man-made sound and this meant we had to get away from roads. The Irish landscape is incredibly varied. There is no end to it. There is something truly mesmerising about sitting down in a remote area and just listening.

EXTRACT:

EXT. BURREN COUNTRYSIDE – DUSK

PAT O'CONNOR V/O

"The mind turns upon silence. Such an old humanised country that we have you know. Two way transmission between people and places. Legends heaped upon legends, lore heaped upon lore, names heaped upon names.

What great diviners of land they were. Solitude. Silence. No human voice to rent the air. Nothing but birds"

'Whenever you sing a song, the first note comes out of silence, and the last note, when you finish the song, falls back away down into silence again. And they say that no matter how many tunes you play, no matter how many songs you sing, there's no cure for silence.' The same can be said about a human life... being born... when you push yourself into existence it's like the first note of a song, it comes out of silence and your last breath will be followed by silence"

