



MY NAME IS EMILY

A FILM BY SIMON FITZMAURICE

2015 / Ireland / English / Drama

94 min / HD / 16:9 / Dolby 5.1

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LOGLINE

On her 16th birthday, Emily and her new friend Arden set out to break her troubled biological father out of a psychiatric institution.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

After her mother dies and her father is institutionalized, Emily is placed in a foster home and in a new school where she is ostracized. When her father's annual card fails to arrive on her 16th birthday, Emily knows something's wrong. She decides to take matters into her own hands and, enlisting her only friend at school, Arden, sets off on a road trip to break her father out of the psych ward. As their journey progresses Emily and Arden become close, and both come to realize important truths about the nature of relationships, both to their parents and to each other.

TECH SPECS

Run Time:	94 min
Aspect Ratio:	16:9
Shooting Format:	HD
Sound:	Dolby 5.1
Country:	Ireland
Language:	English

WORLD PREMIERE

Galway Film Fleadh Opening Film – 7th July 2015

Winner of the Best Cinematography Award for an Irish Feature

PRESS

"Life-affirming and truly extraordinary (...) Big thumbs up." - Film Ireland

*"An impressively intimate portrait (...) full of stunning imagery and even more poignant poetry."
- Under the Radar Magazine*

*"[Evanna Lynch] gives Emily a lightness and ethereal quality (...) a commanding lead."
-Galway Advertiser*

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My wife wants me to be a novelist. An easier life. But I'm not a novelist. I'm a film maker. A writer and director. And once you find out what it is that moves and shakes you, you don't want to do or be anything else. Every profession is inconvenient to ALS (except perhaps a novelist or a mathematician...). But we don't choose what moves us, what drives us. It chooses us. Just like ALS chose me. You are what you are. It's up to you what you choose to do about it.

There is a certain sickness to always wanting a happy ending, if the desire for it is driven by a fear of seeing things as they are. Popular media is rife with that desire. But there is another impulse, much deeper than fear. The will to live. To live with the sadness, loss and love that is this life. To navigate it. To not give up. That is Emily's story.

Emily fascinates me. Because I believe in redemption. I believe in the power to take what life throws at you and to slowly come back, to take all you have and not be crushed to death by sadness and loss. This is a story of redemption. People are crushed every day by sadness and loss. This is not an attempt to say otherwise. This is just a story where that doesn't happen.

The genesis of this story was a single line that I wrote on a piece of paper: "Life happens quickly, like mountains in the background, and you wake up one day..." Robert's, Emily's father, story began for me when one day I heard my wife's friend tell Ruth about her Uncle, who on the birth of his first child, immediately left the hospital and went to the library, driven by the fear that when confronted with his baby and being a father, he knew nothing.

The third angle of the story is Arden, who is driven by love. The quest for love shapes his life. And he will find it.

Simon Fitzmaurice
Writer and Director

MORE FROM THE DIRECTOR

On working with Evanna Lynch

Emily was the absolute key to this film so we spent the longest time looking for the right person. We held auditions all over Ireland. Dublin, Cork, Galway and Belfast. And I thank my lucky stars that somehow the script made it to Evanna Lynch. And luckily Evanna fell in love with the character of Emily, deeply and personally. Evanna made self tape auditions from America and her passion for the character was crystal clear. Evanna draws from deep personal experience and rigorous research and reflection in creating her character. We talked so much that Evanna knew Emily better than me. Working with Evanna was an education for me. Evanna disappeared into Emily. So directing her was a process of having a dialogue directly with the character, which made for a very smooth dynamic on set. I could not have asked or hoped for a better lead for our film.

On working with George Webster

I wanted someone very specific for the role of Arden in *My Name is Emily*.

We looked for a long time. And then I saw George. Straight away I knew he was Arden.

We were looking for someone who was vulnerable in their confidence. Confusing? Absolutely. We needed someone completely natural, someone at ease and embarrassed simultaneously. Tall order. George Webster had that perfect paradox to bring our character to life. Working with George, and I mean this most sincerely, was just wonderful. Nothing is a problem just an exciting challenge to George. My direction, I think, is subtle enough, just a nudge in a different angle. And George responds in delicate nuance. Again and again, tirelessly passionate and creative

On working with Michael Smiley

Michael has so much experience he brought a lovely presence to the set. He was hugely passionate about the script and about playing the role of Robert. Michael brought that passion to the shoot, giving every scene everything he had. Working with that level of intensity was a joy for me.



SIMON FITZMAURICE

Writer, Director

Simon Fitzmaurice is an award-winning writer and film director. His films have screened at film festivals all over the world and won prizes at home and abroad, including Best Short Film at The Cork Film Festival and The Belfast Film Festival (twice), the Grand Jury Prize at the Opalcine Film Festival, Paris, The Jimmy Stewart Memorial Award at The Heartland Film Festival and Jury Award at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. His short film *The Sound of People* was selected to screen at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in 2008.

Simon holds Honours Masters Degrees in both Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, and Film Theory and Production. His short fiction has been shortlisted for the Hennessy Literary Award and his poetry has appeared in the quarterly publication *West 47*. Simon's most recent work is a non-fiction memoir called *It is Not Yet Dark*, which is currently No.1 in the Hardback Nonfiction Bestseller list in Ireland.

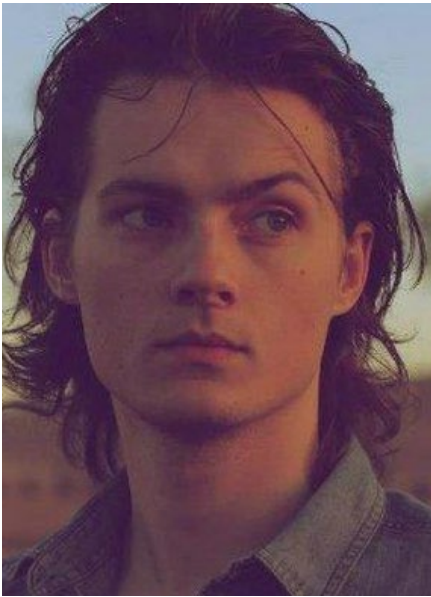
He lives in Greystones with his wife Ruth, their five children, Jack, Raife, Arden, Sadie and Hunter and their Bassett Hound, Pappy.

Shortly after his second short film *The Sound of People* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2008, director Simon Fitzmaurice was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease (ALS), the debilitating disease for which was the viral ice-bucket challenge raised awareness for in September 2014. Now completely paralysed, Fitzmaurice typed the script for the film, through the movement of his eyes and iris recognition software, *Eye Gaze*. This is also how he communicated to direct the film across its six week shoot in August and September 2015.



EVANNA LYNCH - Emily

Evanna Lynch is an Irish actress. Her acting career began in 2007 when she competed in an open audition against nearly 15,000 girls, and won the coveted role of Luna Lovegood in the 'Harry Potter' movie franchise. She appeared in four Harry Potter films and became a main character in the final two films in 2010 and 2011. She also voiced her character in their tie-in video games. She continues to act and does charity work for organizations such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland and The Harry Potter Alliance, of which she is a member of the Board of Advisors



GEORGE WEBSTER - Arden

George Webster is a talented up and coming British actor. After completing filming on My Name is Emily, he went immediately to shoot Versailles, a major new series for Canal + and is currently filming the leading role of Milo with Blake Harrison in E4's new series Tripped.



MICHAEL SMILEY - Robert

Actor, writer and comedian Michael Smiley is well known for his 2011 role as hit man Gal, in Ben Wheatley's Kill List (for which he won Best Supporting Actor at the British Independent Film Awards and Best Actor at the Total Film Frightfest), and cycle courier Tyres, in cult TV series Spaced. Other roles include the devilish O'Neill in A Field in England (2013), computer expert Benny, in BBC 1's multi award winning Luther, George Lusk in the BBC's Ripper Street and Baxter in Channel 4's Black Mirror's White Bear. In 2014 he appeared as Reynolds with Jude Law and Ben Mendelsohn in Kevin McDonald's Black Sea, and as Shannon alongside Stephen Graham in David Leon's Orthodox.

STILLS



CREW

LESLEY MCKIMM

Producer

Lesley McKimm has been working in film and television since 1991. She is co-managing director of Newgrange Pictures, which she runs with fellow producer Jackie Larkin, together they produce feature films, documentaries and tv drama for the international marketplace.

Feature films produced at Newgrange include the upcoming *My Name is Emily* (starring Evanna Lynch and Michael Smiley), *Stella Days* (starring Martin Sheen, Stephen Rea, Marcella Plunkett, directed by Thaddeus O'Sullivan) which was nominated for 9 IFTAS, *Happy Ever Afters*, starring Golden Globe winner Sally Hawkins & Tom Riley which was released theatrically by Disney in Ireland, Verve in the UK, *Haut et Court* in France, *Lucky Red* in Italy & *Senator* in Germany, and *Kings* starring Colm Meaney, dir Tom Collins which was Ireland's first ever submission to the foreign language Academy Awards.

Newgrange also acts as co-producers on a number of European films – including the upcoming *Absolution* (Dir Petri Kotwica, starring Laura Birn), *A Thousand Times Goodnight*, with Paradox Films in Norway and starring Juliette Binoche and Nikolai Koster Waldau., *Call Girl* (director Mikael Marcimain, producer Mimmi Spang) for Garage Film in Sweden which won the Fipresci prize in Toronto in 2012, and the German-Austrian film *Kill Daddy, Goodnight* (directed by the late Michael Glawogger) which had it's world premier at the Berlin Film Festival in 2009. They are currently co-producing two more films with Paradox, *The Last King* (Dir Nils Gaup) and *The King's Choice* (dir Erik Poppe). She is graduate of EAVE 1998 and the Media Business School 2002 and served on the board of the Irish Film Board from 2005 to the end of 2012.

KATHRYN KENNEDY

Producer

Winner of the Bingham Ray New Talent award 2015, Kathryn Kennedy is an up an coming Irish Producer with her company, Kennedy Films. Kennedy's first feature film *My Name is Emily* premiered as the opening film at the Galway Film Festival 2015. Kathryn Kennedy has a BA (Hons) in Film Production and an MA in Screenwriting, she launched Kennedy Films in December 2012 with a short film *Just Saying* by director Dave Tynan, which was an instant viral sensation, achieving over 440,000 hits to date. Kennedy Films' first feature film is with director Simon Fitzmaurice, *My name is Emily*, producing together with Newgrange Pictures Ltd, and co-producing with Garage Films in Sweden, Paradox in Norway. *My Name is Emily* is financed by the Irish Film Board, the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, Section 481, TV3, Film iVast and SVT and is due for release in 2015. Kennedy Films are producing two documentary features, *It's Not Yet Dark* and *The Good Reactor* with director Frankie Fenton, both projects due for completion in 2015. Kennedy is also developing a sci-fi feature film *Prescience* with writer/director Kevin Lehane (*Grabbers* 2012) in conjunction with the Irish Film Board.

CREDITS

CAST

Emily	Evanna Lynch
Arden	George Webster
Robert	Michael Smiley
Dr. Golding	Barry McGovern
Swimming Teacher	Martin McCann
Granny	Stella McCusker
Young Emily	Sarah Minto
Emily's Mother	Deirdre Mullins
June	Ally Ní Chiaráin
Arden's Father	Declan Conlon
Arden's Mother	Ali White
Teacher	Cathy Belton
Bearded Teacher	Michael Hough
Young Policeman	Dónall Ó'Héalaí
Squarehead	John Travers
Nurse	Catherine Walsh

CREW

Written and Directed by	Simon Fitzmaurice
Produced by	Lesley McKimm Kathryn Kennedy
Executive Producer	Jackie Larkin
Support Director	Liz Gill
Director of Photography	Seamus Deasy
Production Designer	John Hand
Edited by	Emer Reynolds
Costume Designer	Judith Williams
Original Music by	Stephen McKeon
Casting Director	Amy Rowan
Co-Producers	Mimmy Spang Rebecka Lafrenz Finn Gjerdrum Stein B. Kvae

In Association With

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and the Irish Film Board