

Liverpool Family Ties: The Irish Connection

NB Don't miss notes to Editors on page 2.

A new documentary style short film featuring Liverpool's Irish dual-heritage women is being shown at *Bluecoat* to celebrate St Brigid's Day (1 Feb 2020). Bridging 2019's Festival theme of "unique stories, creatively told" and 2020's theme "exchange", the documentary asks interviewees to consider their heritage, Irish migration and lived-experience of Liverpool.

Commissioned by the Irish Embassy to deliver an event as part of their national programme of St Brigid's Day events ([see online brochure here](#)), the Festival has worked with grassroots documentarists, historians and artists *The Sound Agents* to create the film. Interviewing community members, they have unearthed fascinating stories about Liverpool, how families came to live here and what they have experienced as a result of their combined -and sometimes conflicting- dual-heritage.

The Sound Agents comprise of John J. Campbell and Moira Kenny; known recording seldom heard stories of everyday life, including The Liverpool Chinatown Oral History, the Chinese Labour Corps, social housing and the domestic effects of World War I on Liverpool.

Using Irish Embassy funding, the *Liverpool Irish Festival* commissioned *The Sound Agents* to document dual-heritage stories from women living in Liverpool, identified at the Festival's dual-heritage day, held at *Tate Liverpool* (14 Oct 2019). *Liverpool Live's* interview, recorded then, is available here: [facebook.com/watch/?v=780575865694692](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=780575865694692) *The Sound Agents* are currently funded by the *National Lottery Heritage Fund* to make a pilot documentary film *Then Along Came Lennon: A First Hand Account of Art School Bands*.

The Festival developed the day to involve and learn about Black and Irish, Chinese and Irish and Irish diaspora experiences of Liverpool. It was formed by inviting group leaders to participate and invite their networks. Doing so revealed stories of empowerment, race and identity divisions and tales of family, domestic life and celebrations. The documentary collects some of the stories, serving as a stepping stone to future work with these communities. If you are interested in speaking to the Festival about this, please email info@liverpoolirishfestival.com who continue to work on this subject and are open to additional individuals and groups becoming involved.

Liverpool Family Ties: The Irish Connection continues the Festival's commitment to work about *In:Visible Women*, with St Brigid's Day presenting an opportunity to celebrate and empower women. Respected as Ireland's 'second saint' for compassion towards the young, sailors, watermen, scholars and travellers, St Brigid is a 'talismant' for modern concerns, making her a relevant role model now.

Tickets to *Liverpool Family Ties: An Irish Connection* are free, but registration is necessary. Click here to book yours: liverpoolirishfestival.com/events/family-ties/

For more about *The Sound Agents*: thesoundagents.com/

NB. The image used to promote this event is of Mr Kwok Fong and Mrs Elizabeth Fong (nee Gannon), provided by a family member during the filming of the documentary. It features their first-born grandchild, Roma.

Funders



LÁ FHÉILE BRÍDE
Ag Ceiliúradh Cruthaitheachta na mBan
ST BRIGID'S DAY
Celebrating the Creativity of Women



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Boinn Goitúal Eacetracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Notes to Editors

The most diverse celebration of Irish culture in the UK, *Liverpool Irish Festival* began in 2003. Established to bring Liverpool and Ireland closer together using arts and culture, the festival has grown into a ten day festival of music, art, performance, culture, food, drink and film. Key artists to have performed at the festival include Roisin O, *Kila*, Ciaran Lavery, Fearghus O'Conchuir, Lisa O'Neill, Terri Hooley, Ailis Ni Rhian, Lisa Hannigan, Jinx Lennon, Orla Guerin and Dennis Connolly and Anne Cleary (2015's *Meta Perceptual Helmets*). *Liverpool Irish Festival* works with partners across the city and Ireland including the *Liverpool Irish Centre*, *Liverpool Everyman* and *Playhouse*, *Royal Court*, *National Museums Liverpool*, *Liverpool Philharmonic* and the Irish Embassy along with independent social spaces such as *Kelly's Dispensary*, *Peter Kavanagh's* and *The Edinburgh*.

Liverpool Irish Festival is funded by Liverpool City Council's *Cultural Arts Investment Programme*, the Irish Government's *Department for Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Programme* and sponsored by *Tourism Ireland* and Irish language broadcaster *TG4*.

Visit www.liverpoolirishfestival.com for more information.

For images, information and interviews please contact Laura Brown at laura@lauramarielbrown.com, +44 (0) 7739321279.