

retirement plan

OSCAR® NOMINEE

BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM

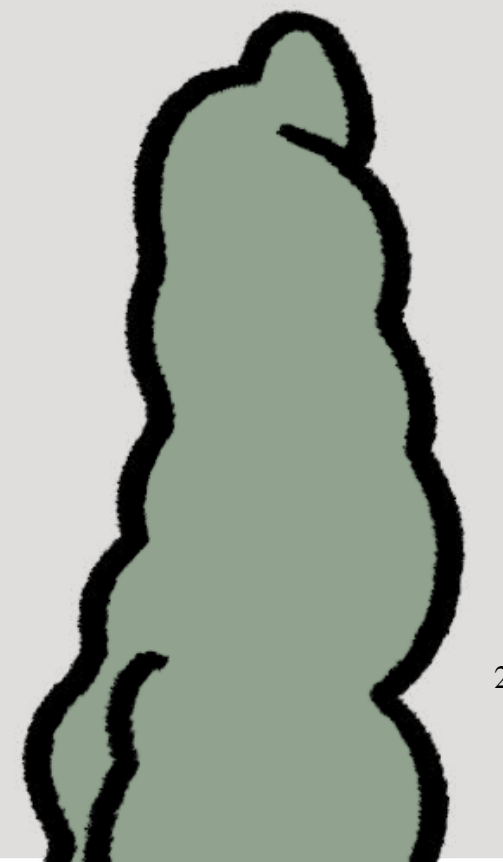
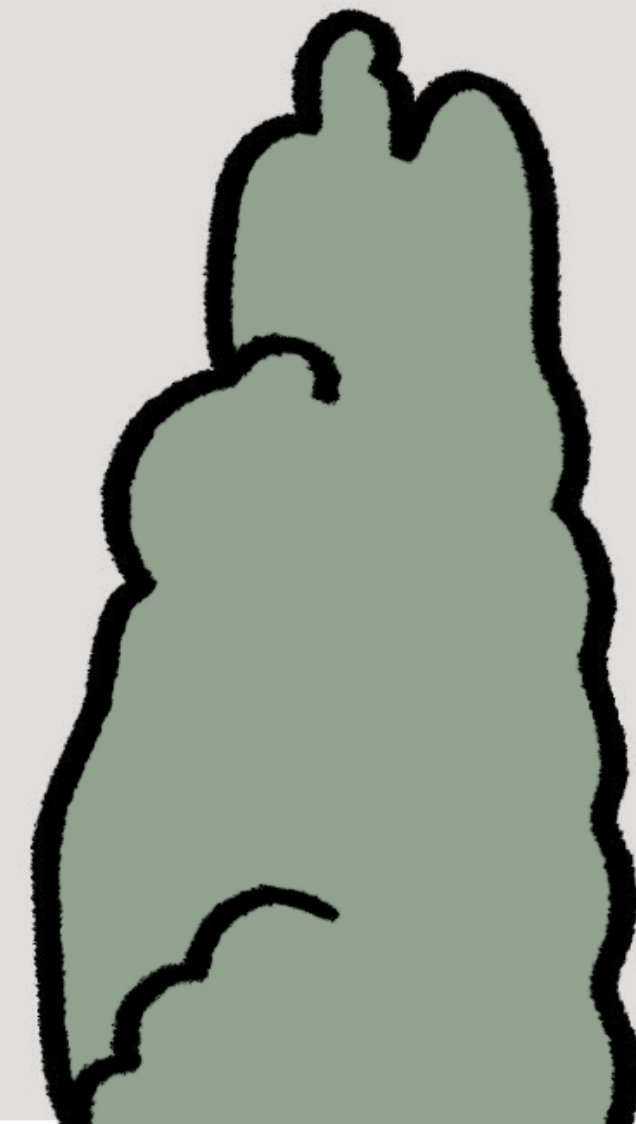
SHORT FILM

— PRESS KIT v20





5x Oscar-Qualifying Awards
31x Oscar-Qualifying Selections
22x International Awards



Letterboxd



Watched by **jonnyharmon**

I want Domhnall Gleeson to narrate my death

♥ 1 like



★★★★½ ♥ Watched by **Jake**

Crying at the passage of time again

♥ 7 likes



★★★★★ Watched by **Vektor**

Insanely wonderful and charming and worth every minute

♥ No likes yet



★★★★½ ♥ Watched by **FrankZufelt**

MFF 2025 #10: ANIMATED SHORTS

Dont let the exhaustion of daily life prevent you from trying new things!

♥ 2 likes



★★★★½ ♥ Watched by **Milo Taquito**

Wholesome. Both funny and a tear jerker.



Review by **oakley** ★★★★★ ♥ 2

made me weep like a baby. there's so much left to learn, see, and do in our lives. i love when films make me remember life is beautiful!!!! the world is beautiful and i need to keep getting out of bed (even if i don't want to!!!)

♥ 11 likes



Review by **cady_preston** ★★★★★ ♥

so beautiful and perfect and funny and sad and perfect

♥ No likes yet



★★★★★ ♥ Watched by **poisonedcoffee**

man i love the irish

♥ 2 likes



★★★★½ ♥ Watched by **Mitchell Davey**

90/100

Remember the first 10 minutes of "Up"? This is that, but in short film form. And 10x more existential. I am a wreck.



Watched by **ren scateni**

v sad it takes retirement and old age for the average man to finally get therapy

♥ 4 likes



★★★★★ ♥ Watched by **iljabertrand**

Cried and laughed and felt a lot



★★★★★ ♥ Watched by **milesHADLEY**

what an unbelievable thing that was

♥ 2 likes

Watch Now

US/Canada:

Available to watch via The New Yorker along with an introduction by acclaimed author David Sedaris.

Links:

[The New Yorker](#)
[YouTube](#)

UK/Europe:

Available to watch on Disney+.

Links:

[Disney+](#)

Ireland:

Available to watch on the RTÉ Player.

Links:

[RTÉ Player](#)



SPEC

Length 7min 17sec
Aspect Ratio 16:9 (pillarboxed 4:3)
Language English
Audio Format dolby 5.1



LOGLINE

At apathy with his life, Ray (Domhnall Gleeson) dreams of the beauty and joy he will find in retirement.

SYNOPSIS

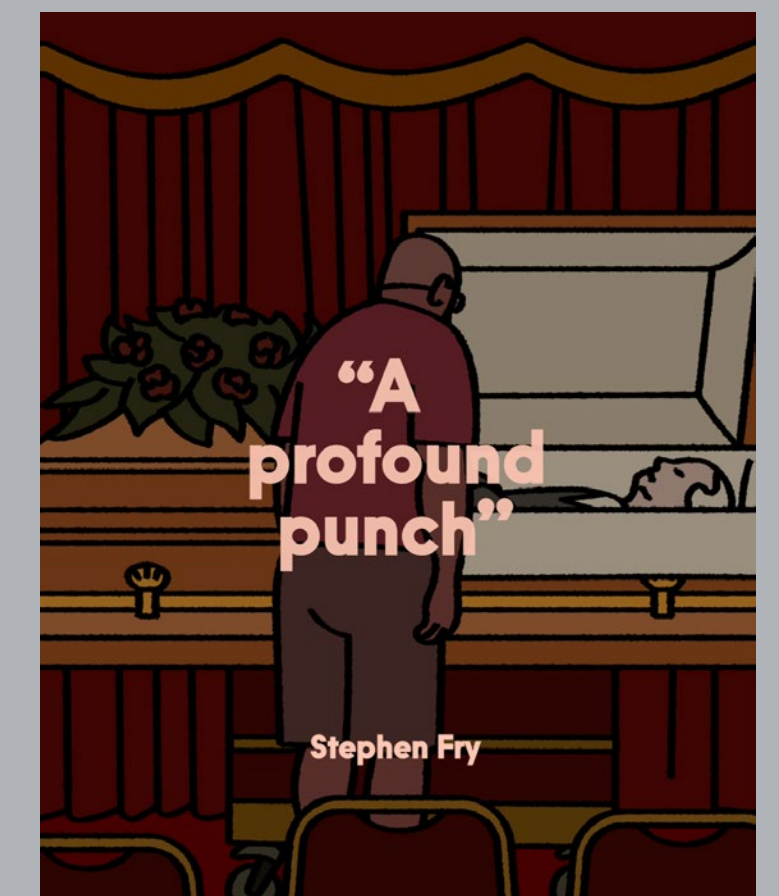
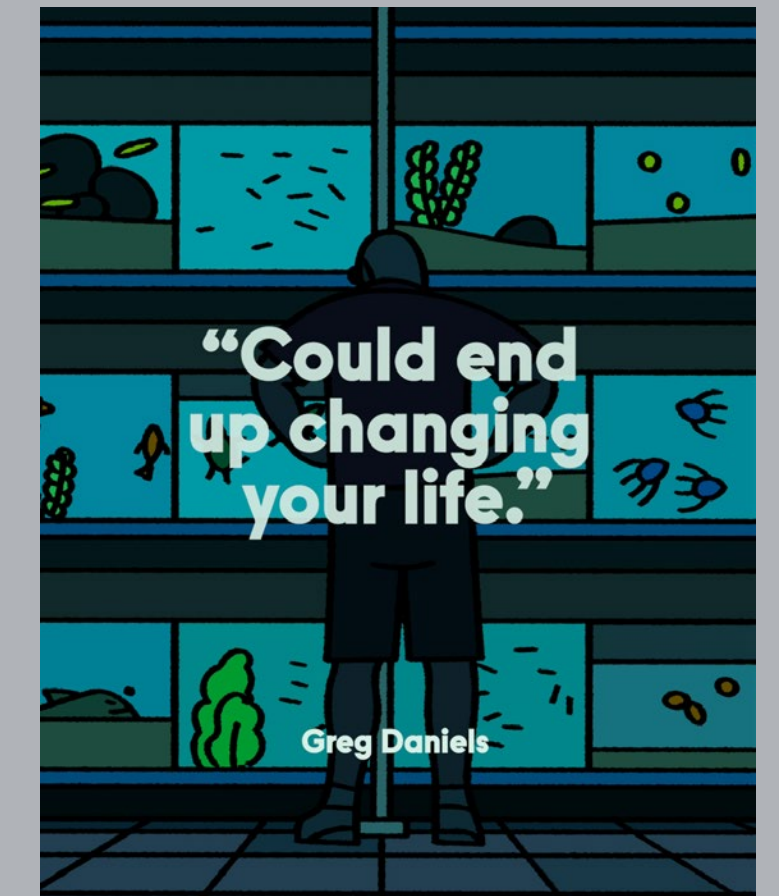
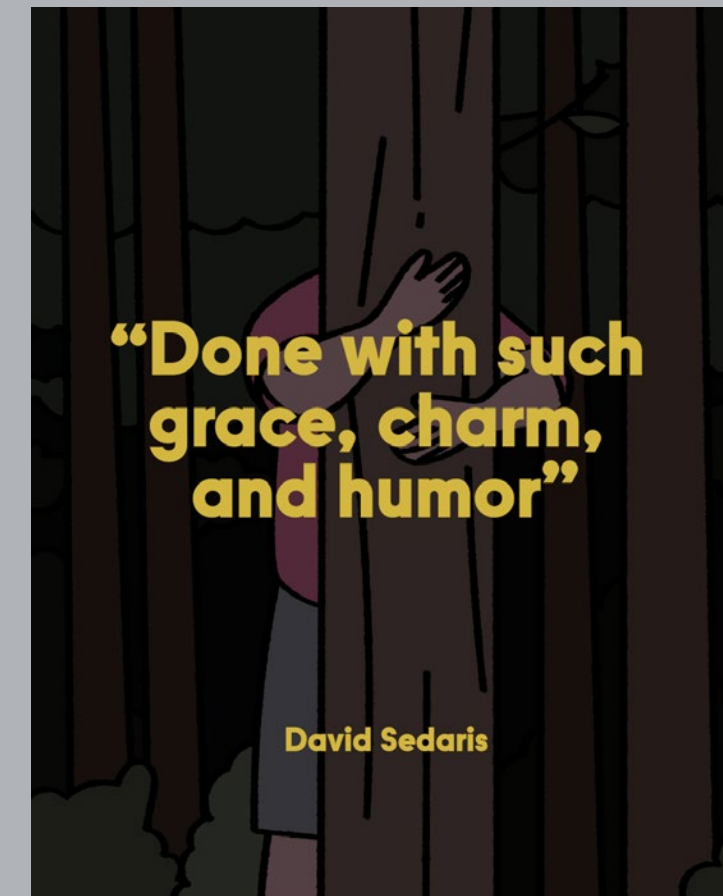
In the throes of his overstimulated, energy poor midlife, Ray (Domhnall Gleeson) fantasises about everything he'd love to do in retirement, once he finally has the "time."

Trailer



[Watch / Download](#)

Trailer Quotes



[Download](#)

CAST



Domhnall Gleeson as Ray

Domhnall Gleeson is an Irish actor and writer. He is best known for his portrayal of Bill Weasley in the Harry Potter film franchise (2010-2011), About Time (2013), Ex Machina (2015) and The Revenant (2015).

Gleeson starred in Anna Karenina (2012), Frank (2014), Goodbye Christopher Robin (2017). He also portrayed the First Order's General Hux in Star Wars: The Force Awakens (2015) and Star Wars: The Last Jedi (2017).



CREW



John Kelly

Director / Co-Writer



John Kelly is a filmmaker specialising in animation. He studied at the Royal College of Art in London, and lives and works in Dublin, Ireland. His film RETIREMENT PLAN Won the Jury Prize for Best Animated Short at SXSW 2025. He's currently developing a feature-length animated documentary, alongside too many other things.

Tara Lawall

Co-Writer



Tara Lawall is a writer in New York City. She has two published humor books, “Too Many Milks” and “This Little Piggy Went to Market in the City.” She is also an Executive Creative Director in Advertising at Rethink NY. This is her first short film.

Andrew Freedman

Producer



Andrew is a producer and co-founder of Venom Films and Antidote Films, with a strong track record in both drama and documentary. With a diverse range of projects and international recognition, Andrew has built a reputation for producing engaging, high-quality films.

Julie Murnaghan

Producer



Julie Murnaghan is a freelance producer. She lived in London for 10 years and worked with some of the world's finest animation talent. Returning to her hometown of Dublin, she has continued to work with some remarkable directors.

Marah Curran

Animator



Marah Curran and I'm a freelance animator and illustrator living in Wicklow, Ireland.

Marah has worked in the animation industry for over ten years, on a variety of children's TV series and commercials. Some clients of hers include Netflix, Nickelodeon, BBC, McDonalds and the New York Times.

Eamonn O'Neill

Animator



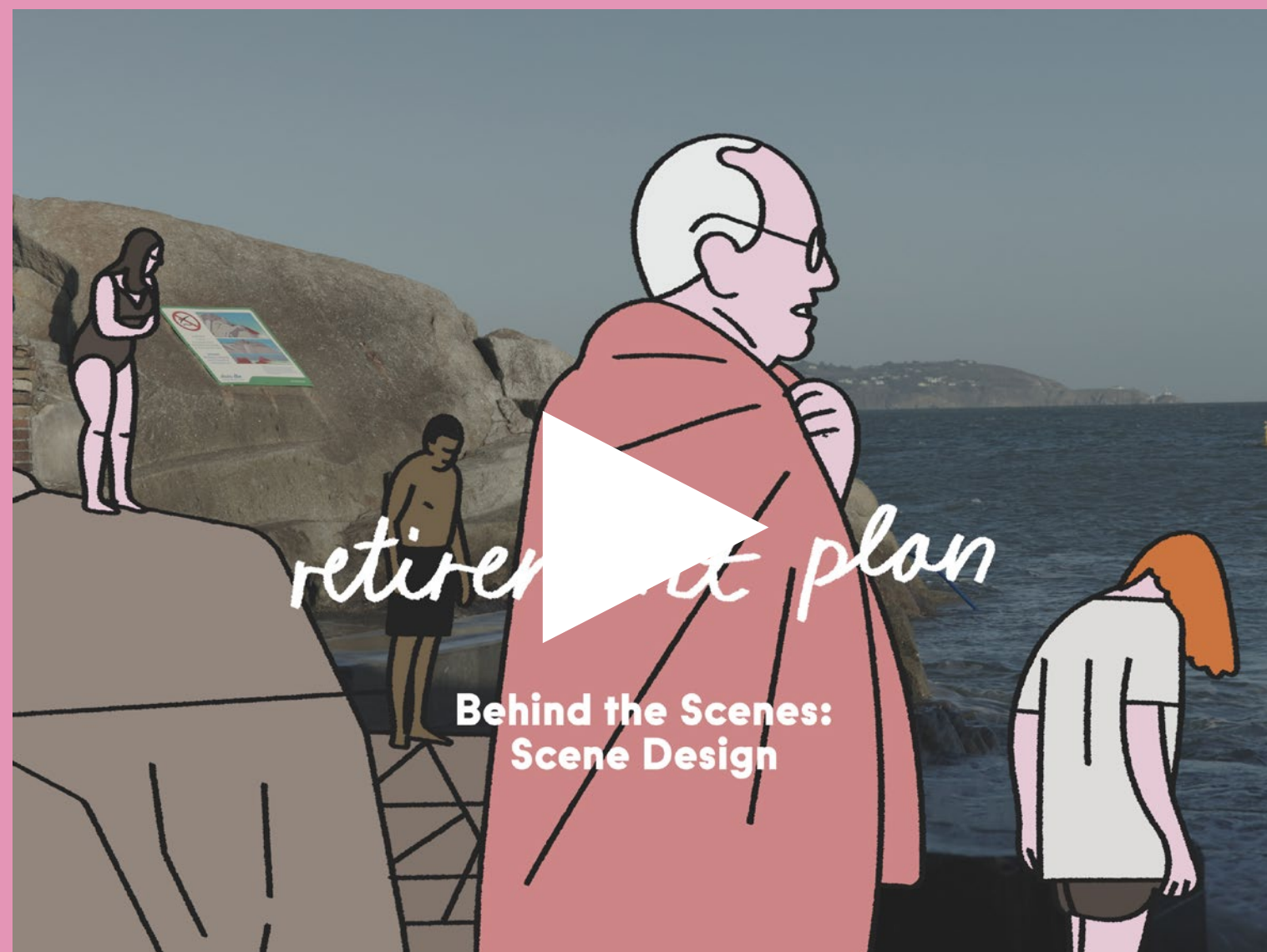
Eamonn studied at the National Film School in Dublin and at the Royal College of Art in London.

He began working professionally in 2009. Since then, his work has won several awards including a BAFTA nomination and an Art Director's Club Young Gun.

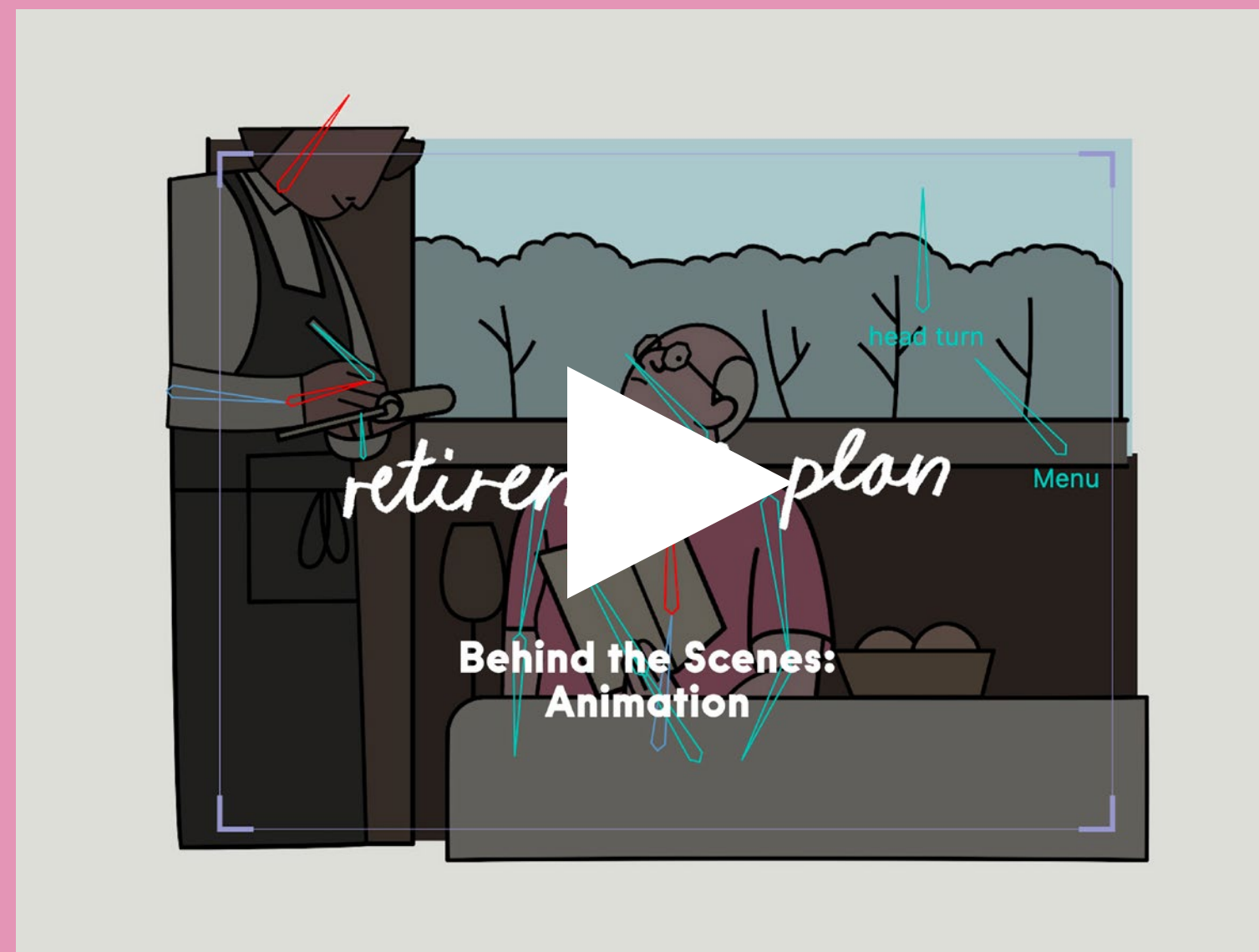
He lives and works in Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

Behind the Scenes

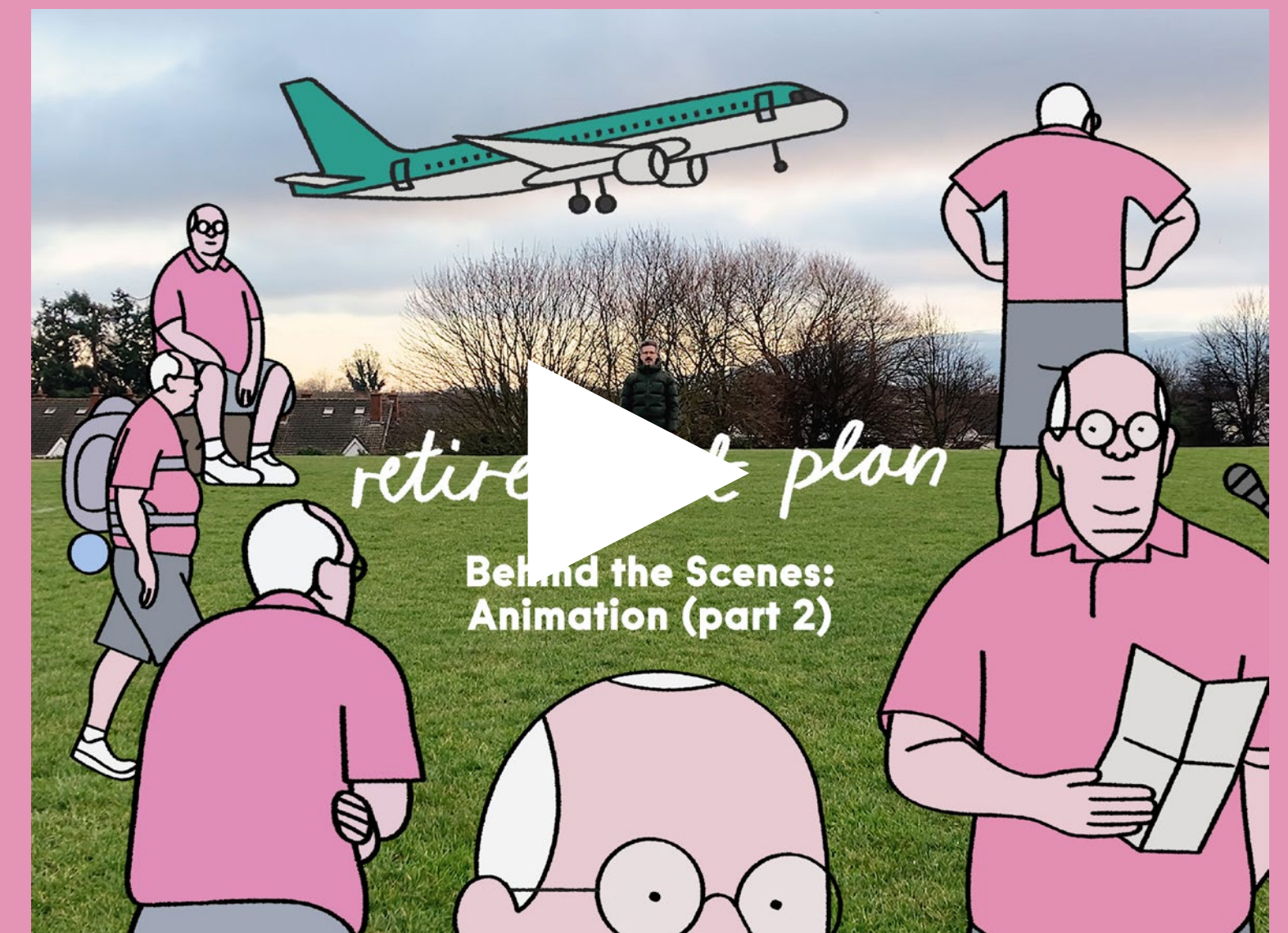
Click to watch short behind the scenes films explaining the process behind Retirement Plan:



Scene Design



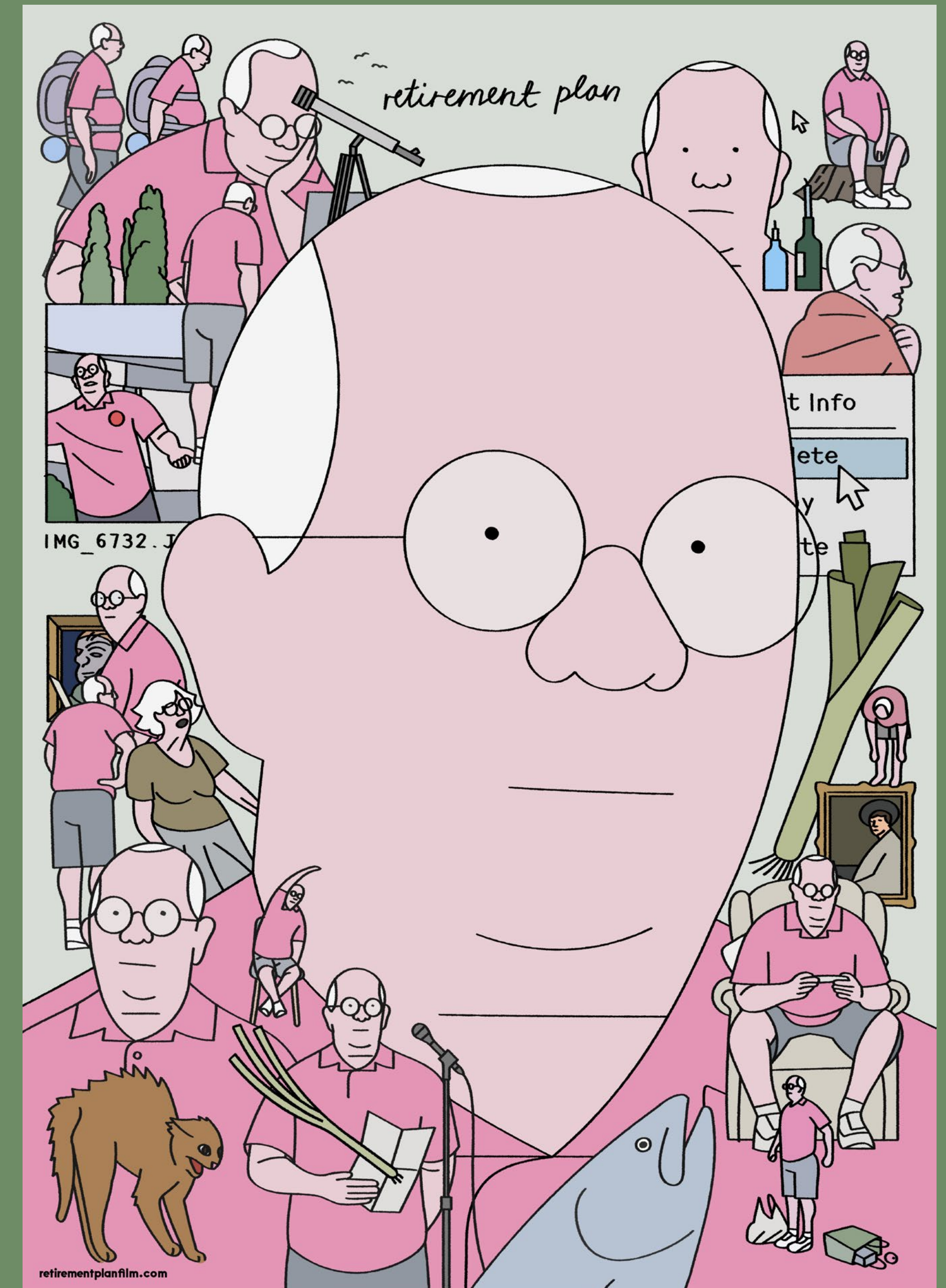
Animation (pt1)



Animation (pt2)

SELECTED AWARDS

- 🏆 SXSW Grand Jury Award — Animated Short Competition (OSCAR Qualifier)
- 🏆 SXSW Audience Award — Animated Short Competition
- 🏆 Animation Dingle, March 2025, Best Irish Professional Short (OSCAR Qualifier)
- 🏆 Irish Film Festa, March 2025, Best Short Film
- 🏆 Irish Film Festa, March 2025, Student Jury Award
- 🏆 Athens Int. Film + Video Festival, April 2025, Special Jury Mention
- 🏆 Irish Animation Awards, May 2025, Best Animated Short
- 🏆 Bali International Film Festival, May 2025, Best Animated Short (OSCAR Qualifier)
- 🏆 Guadalajara International Film Festival, June 2025, Honorable Mention
- 🏆 Palm Springs Int. Shortfest, June 2025, USA, Best of the Festival Award (OSCAR Qualifier)
- 🏆 Indy Shorts International Film Festival, July 2025, USA, Comedy Award
- 🏆 Rhode Island Int. Film Festival, August 2025, Audience Choice Award Animation
- 🏆 Calgary Int. Film Festival, September 2025, Best Animated Short Film
- 🏆 Calgary Int. Film Festival, September 2025, Audience Award Winner, Best Animated Short
- 🏆 Short Com Int. Comedy Film and Animation Festival, September 2025, Best Animation
- 🏆 Newport Beach Film Festival, October 2025, Outstanding Animated Short
- 🏆 Bucheon International Animation Festival, October 2025, Jury Special Mention
- 🏆 Dublin Animation Film Festival, November 2025, Best Storytelling
- 🏆 Dublin Animation Film Festival, November 2025, Audience Award
- 🏆 San Jose International Short Film Festival, November 2025, Audience Choice Award



SCREENINGS

- Galway Film Fleadh, July 2024, Ireland (World Premiere)
- Dublin International Film Festival, February 2025, Ireland
- SXSW, March 2025, USA (International Premiere)
- Kaboom Animation Festival, March 2025, Netherlands
- Animation Dingle, March 2025, Ireland
- Irish Film Festa Rome, March 2025, Italy
- Aspen Shortsfest, March 2025, USA
- The Los Angeles Festival of Movies, April 2025, USA
- Athens International Film And Video Festival, April 2025, USA
- RiverRun International Film Festival, April 2025, USA
- San Francisco International Film Festival, April 2025, USA
- Atlanta Film Festival, April 2025, USA
- Pictoplasma, April 2025, Germany
- Flatpack Festival, May 2025, UK
- Seattle International Film Festival, May 2025, USA
- Irish Animation Awards, May 2025, Ireland
- Fastnet Film Festival, May 2025, Ireland
- Balinale, June 2025, Indonesia
- SXSW London, June 2025, UK
- Animafest Zagreb, June 2025, Croatia
- Lighthouse International Film Festival, June 2025, USA
- Guadalajara International Film Festival, June 2025, Mexico
- Southside Film Festival, June 2025, USA
- Norwegian Short Film Festival, June 2025, Norway
- Palm Springs Shortfest, June 2025, USA
- Psarokokalo International Short Film Festival, July 2025, Greece
- Prescott Film Festival, July 2025, USA
- Indy Shorts International Film Festival, July 2025, USA
- Melbourne International Film Festival, August, 2025, Australia
- Hollyshorts, August, 2025, USA
- Vashon Film Festival, August, 2025, USA
- Indie Street Film Festival, August, 2025, USA
- Fantoche, September 2025, Switzerland
- Lake County Film Festival, September 2025, USA
- Viborg Animation Festival, September 2025, Denmark
- Atlantic International Film Festival, September 2025, Canada
- Calgary International Film Festival, September 2025, Canada
- Nashville Film Festival, September 2025, USA
- Charlotte Film Festival, September 2025, USA
- Funcinema, September 2025, Argentina
- Encounters Film Festival, September 2025, UK
- Cordillera International Film Festival, September 2025, USA
- Short Com Int Comedy Film and Animation Festival, September 2025, UK
- Weird Market & Festival, September 2025, Spain
- Dinard British & Irish Film Festival, October 2025, France
- Bolton Film Festival, October 2025, UK
- OFFline Film Festival, October 2025, Ireland
- Bend Film Festival, October 2025, USA

SCREENINGS (cont.)

- Heartland international film festival, October 2025, USA
- Sapporo Short Film Festival, October 2025, Japan
- Santa Fe International Film Festival, October 2025, USA
- San Jose International Short Film Festival, October 2025, USA
- Chicago International Film Festival, October 2025, USA
- Newport Beach Film Festival, October 2025, USA
- Philadelphia Film Festival, October 2025, USA
- Animation is Film, October 2025, USA
- The Chilliwack Independent Film Festival, October 2025, Canada
- Naples International Film Festival, October 2025, USA
- Bucheon International Animation Festival, October 2025, Korea
- SCAD Savannah Film Festival, October 2025, USA
- Bitbang, October 2025, Argentina
- Norwich Film Festival, November 2025, UK
- Aesthetica Short Film Festival, November 2025, UK
- Coronado Island Film Festival, November 2025,
- Leeds International Film Festival, November 2025,
- Sulmona International Film Festival, November 2025,
- Dublin Animation Film Festival, November 2025,
- Cinanima, November 2025, Portugal
- Linea D'Ombra Festival, November 2025, Italy
- Manchester Animation Festival, November 2025, UK
- Key West Film Festival, November 2025, USA
- Foyle Film Festival, November 2025, UK

- Three Rivers Film Festival, November 2025, USA
- New York City Short Film Festival, November 2025, USA
- Leuven International Short Film Festival, November 2025, Belgium
- London International Animation Festival, November 2025, UK
- Glas Animation Festival, November 2025, USA

Press

- **Deadline — Domhnall Gleeson On Giving Voice To Oscar Hopeful ‘Retirement Plan’**
- **The New Yorker — The Dream of Finishing One’s To-Do List in “Retirement Plan”**
- **Deadline — The ‘Panic Attack’ Inspired Domhnall Gleeson Animated Short ‘Retirement Plan’**
- **Animation World Network - Shorts in Focus: John Kelly’s ‘Retirement Plan’**
- **Cartoon Brew — 2026 Oscars Short Film Contenders: ‘Retirement Plan’ Director John Kelly**
- **Animation Magazine — How John Kelly Made His Award-Winning, ‘Retirement Plan’**
- **Variety — Palm Springs International ShortFest Winners**
- **RTÉ — Irish Animation Awards 2025 Winners announced in Galway**
- **The Michigan Daily — SXSW 2025: Animated Shorts Highlights**
- **Animation Obsessive — Dreaming of Retirement**
- **Film & TV Business — A Delicate Animated Short Blending Humour and Heartfelt Depth**
- **Overly Honest Reviews— How Long Can You Put Off Your Dreams?**
- **Movie Jawn — In under seven minutes RETIREMENT PLAN makes one feel all the feels**
- **Horror Buzz — Retirement Plan SXSW Review**
- **Image Magazine — My Life in Culture: John Kelly Interview**
- **The Oscar Project Podcast— Filmmaker Interview with John Kelly**

Film Festival Diary

- [Youtube](#)
- [Instagram](#)



Behind the Scenes: Inspiration

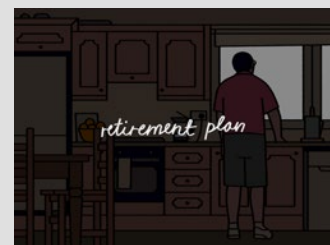
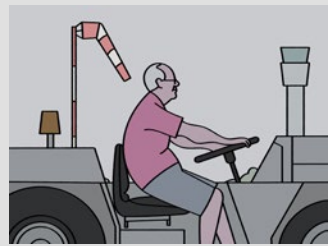
- [Youtube](#)
- [Instagram](#)



Download Assets

Download Visual Assets

- 5x stills
- Teaser
- Poster
- Director Photo



Download Text Assets

- Film info
- Credits
- Biographies
- Screening Info



A stylized illustration of a room. On the left, there is a lamp with a white shade and a wooden base. In the center, there is a simple wooden chair with a curved back. On the right, there is a radiator with vertical slats. The background is a light grey color with vertical lines suggesting curtains or a wall.

PR: cls@londonflairpr.com

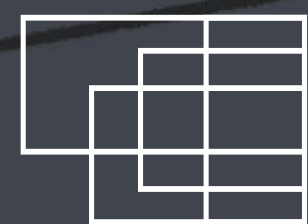
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Fís Éireann
Screen Ireland

RTÉ

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