



burren girl

a film by Rita Davern



BURREN GIRL FILMS AND RITA DAVERN PRESENT "BURREN GIRL"
EDITOR MILES PAINTER CINEMATOGRAPHER KEVIN KOENIG ANIMATION BY SQUAWK
COMPOSER CHARLIE MCCARRON WRITER MILES PAINTER PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY RITA DAVERN

2020

INFORMATION

Film Title	Burren Girl
Length	53 min
Date of Completion	October 22, 2020
World Premiere	October 2020, Twin Cities Film Fest
Website	www.burrengirl.doc.com
Email	ritadavern@yahoo.com
IMDB	Burren Girl
Trailer	https://vimeo.com/446597655
Twitter	@burrengirlmovie
Facebook	facebook.com/burrengirldocumentary/
Instagram	instagram.com/burrengirlmovie/
Exhibition Format	H.264 (1920x1080)
Frame Rate	24fps
Aspect Ratio	16:9
Audio	Stereo 44.1 kHz
Original Language	English
Subtitles	English
Country of Origin	United States
Countries of Filming	United States, Ireland
Official Stills	burrengirl.doc.com/press

Logline:

The search for an Irish clan and it's legacy

Synopsis

Our ancestors never looked back. Is it time we did? The granddaughter of an Irish immigrant to the U.S. sets out to find out who her grandma was and why she left Ireland. She discovers a place and people and stories that open her eyes about herself, her people and their lives throughout some of the most difficult centuries in Irish history.

Long Synopsis

Who am I? Where do I come from? These questions lead a Minnesota woman on a 40-year search to reconnect a family that was scattered to the winds during some of the most difficult centuries in Irish history. From a small farm high in the hills northeast of Lahinch, County Clare, 19-year-old Anne Davoren left home and country in 1887. It was a time of drought, land wars and evictions in the west of Ireland. Like tens of thousands of European emigrants, Anne and her sisters made a 3700-mile journey to the U.S. They came to build a new life and to send money home - so their family could stay on the land. Two generations later, Anne's story was forgotten.

Determined to find the place and people her grandmother left behind, Rita Davern heads for the Burren, a region of harsh beauty, bright-hued wildflowers and ancient stone forts. There, she finds descendants of a traditional Gaelic clan who have farmed in the Burren for 1,200 years. She also finds traces of their legacy, a medieval document lost in the devastation of Cromwell's 16th century invasion.

Burren Girl uncovers the distant past by exploring the vibrant, present-day community of activist farmers, writers, musicians and archaeologists in the Burren. It is not the Ireland of gravestones and faded records that this film offers, but the thrill that comes with reknitting centuries-old connections among the living. It's a journey home

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

What impact does immigration have on descendants four generations later? Is there a benefit to searching for answers from the past when memories have faded, and stories are lost? I grew up knowing little family history beyond that of my settler great-grandparents. A decision to find out more about their lives in Ireland led ultimately to this film project. I wanted to tell this story about the Davoren farmers who have inhabited this region for 1200+ years.

The search for my own past brought both innumerable gifts - and a hard reckoning with history and its traumas. Best of all, I found people who share both my name and a medieval legacy. Thanks to archaeologists, historians, researchers and family members studying the stories buried under stone in north Clare, we know now that members of our clan played a small but significant part in the preservation of Gaelic culture when it was under vicious attack by invaders.

I came away with new insights about myself and my family, new friends, and a deeper understanding of the culture my Irish grandmother left behind. The newfound relatives and I are now reconnecting branches of our family scattered to the winds by forces of conquest and colonization.

Those of us who uncover our own deep history will find both heroes and villains. Finding and facing it all is a great - and ultimately healing - adventure. These important stories of the past must be preserved and passed on. They hold insights that can help us deal with the challenges of our own times, especially regarding respect for indigenous peoples, for their culture and language, and a rejection of imperialism. Family history research is worth doing!

- Rita Davern

CREW



Rita Davern | Director | Producer | [IMDB](#)

Over the past 40 years, Rita Davern (originally Davoren) has traveled the Burren, birthplace of her grandmother's people in County Clare, Ireland. She will most often be found in the kitchen drinking tea with friends and distant relations. The conversation often turns to those who stayed and those who left, as the devastation of colonization, hunger and emigration took its toll. Rita knows first hand that, for U.S. people with European heritage, reconnecting to our homeland and our cultural history adds huge richness to our lives. A community engagement artist in her work and in her life, Rita believes the greatest find of genealogy is the living relatives.

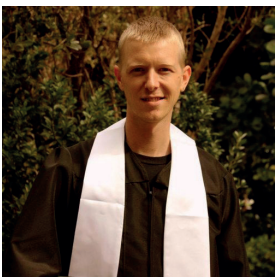
Rita worked as a communication and leadership consultant to corporate America for twenty years. When her adopted Korean son became ill, she discovered — and now teaches — Parenting-by-Connection, an approach to parenting that builds deep, strong, healing relationships with children through play. She is an experienced project manager, seminar leader, consultant and coach. Rita and colleague Jane Powers were awarded a Forecast Public Art research and development grant in 2009 to work with Indigenous artists to find ways to “map” the history of Dakota people” onto the present day landscape of Minneapolis and St. Paul.”

The theme of connection through history takes center stage in Rita's life. Time at home in her beloved Minnesota also matters deeply to Rita. She can be found dogsledding in the north woods or walking the land her great grandfather farmed with her husband, Bob.



Miles Painter | Editor | Writer | [IMDB](#)

Miles Painter is an editor and cinematographer with a strong passion for documentary. He previously collaborated with Melody Gilbert as the lead editor of “Silicone Soul,” and has also worked as assistant editor on the Netflix doc-series “Making a Murderer” and editor on the feature documentaries “Eating Up Easter,” “Not in My Lifetime,” and “Circle the Wagen.” His current work in documentary film combines years of experience in the entertainment industry with an MSJ from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.



Kevin Koenig | Cinematographer

Kevin Koenig attended film school at the University of Miami, graduating with a degree in Motion Pictures in 2012. He worked at UMTV for three years, where he also served as a member of the board of directors. He produced, directed and edited two full feature documentaries, directed a sports television show for the Northwoods League (summer collegiate baseball) and worked as production assistant at North Metro TV sports department. The Burren Girl documentary has inspired Kevin to begin researching his own Irish heritage. He is thrilled to be part of this hometown, St. Paul, Minnesota, film production.



Charlie McCarron | Composer | [IMDB](#)

Charlie McCarron is a film composer, video producer, visual artist, and board game designer in Minnesota. He is the executive director of Film Score Fest and producer of the podcast Composer Quest. Charlie has composed for the Emmy-nominated short documentary BENEATH THE INK, STARZ documentary SILICONE SOUL, and Kare 11's LOVE THEM FIRST: LESSONS FROM LUCY LANEY ELEMENTARY (2020 Alfred I. duPont award), the best-selling film in the history of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Film Festival. Charlie writes in a variety of styles, but he specializes in subtle, emotional scoring and fun, quirky scoring. Find more about his work here: www.charliemccarron.com



SQUAWK | Animation

Sam Thompson and Caitlin Hargarten are SQUAWK - a motion graphics and design studio that specializes in hand-drawn illustration and movement. With a background in filmmaking and art-event production, SQUAWK works for TV, film, education and advertising clients.



Chris Chiabotti | Colorist | [IMDB](#)

Chris Chiabotti has been working in TV and film for 20 years in Minneapolis. Edit and Color for award-winning commercials and documentaries fill his days - raising kids and turning wrenches fill his nights and weekends. Recently, Chris has started his own production services company called Finnish Tin House and you can find more of his work here: www.chrischiabotti.com



Jesse Marks | Sound Mixing | [IMDB](#)

For well over a decade Jesse has been dedicated to a career in sound production for video. He composes original music compositions, creates realistic sound design for film, and delivers your mix to your final specifications within your deadlines and budget. In his own words: As a sound engineer, I have been trained to critically listen. This set of skills has changed the way I experience each day. As a result I pay closer attention to my everyday surroundings. Whether it be a voice, a musical tone, or a natural environment, the experience of sound is universal. As I discover more about the world by listening, I am able to reflect on my own life. I wouldn't see the world in the way I do today without sound. Find Jesse's work here: www.jessemarksmusic.com



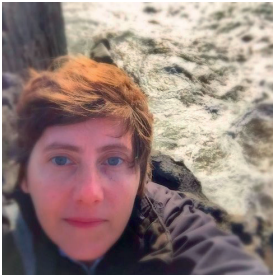
Dumitrita Pacicovschi | Associate Producer | [IMDB](#)

Dumitrita is a film festival programmer and producer who has worked on several documentaries, including “Silicone Soul” (producer), “Beneath the Ink” (associate producer) “The Summer Help” (associate producer) and “Women Outward Bound” (production assistant). She is also the producer of “Minka,” a documentary directed by Igor Myakotin. Dumitrita worked for film festivals around Europe (Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival, Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival, Cheap Cuts Short Documentary Film Festival) in various roles and is on screening committees for many other festivals including AFI DOCS. She graduated with a MSc in Film Studies from the University of Edinburgh and currently heads the industry side at Moldox International Documentary Film Festival for Social Change and organizes the advanced documentary workshop and pitch at the festival.



Alicia Hathaway | Graphics/Media

Alicia Hathaway recently graduated from film school in Minneapolis. She worked as a camera assistant for the Twin Cities Film Fest in 2016 and was also a part of the editing team. Post-production is her favorite part of the filmmaking process. Along with a passion for filmmaking, she enjoys creating and writing music. Alicia edits and manages media, publications and event planning for Burren Girl. Alicia had the amazing opportunity to grow up as an army brat. This has given her the opportunity to see the world and understand cultures other than her own. She loves being back in Minnesota after years away. She says, “Its like a breath of fresh air.”



Maria Schoeller | Photography, Ireland 2015

Maria Schoeller, born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, is a fourth generation Irish-American. She studied Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, lived and worked in the south of France, and has held a lifelong passion for photography, film, culture, and finding our roots. Maria has always been curious about why she holds such a deep pride in being of Irish descent and hopes to investigate her seemingly mysterious connection to Ireland further while helping to make this film with her aunt, Rita Davern.

SCREENINGS

2020 - 2021

TWIN CITIES FILM FEST I Minnesota, US (September, 2020)
Audience Award, Non-Fiction

NATURE WITHOUT BORDERS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL I CA US (Fall, 2020)
Winner: Excellence in Research

BELOIT International FF Year Round I Wisconsin US (December, 2020)

BELOIT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL I Beloit, WI, USA (Winter 2020)

SPRING GROVE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL I Spring Grove, MN, USA (July, 2021)
Winner Best MN Doc

SPRING GROVE FEST I Wisconsin, USA (September, 2021)
Winner: Best Family History Doc

International Genealogical Society International Webinar MN USA (June, 2021)

IRISH FILM FROM HOME Film Fest I London, UK (December 2021)

2022:

IRELAND PREMIERE in Doolin, County Clare, Ireland (May 4, 2022)

Community Screening, Muinteras, County Galway, Ireland (May 13)

ARCHAEOLOGY CHANNEL INTERNATIONAL Film Fest I Portland, Oregon (May 14, 2022)

ACHILL ISLAND FILM FEST I Achill Island, Ireland (May 20-22, 2022)

STILLS



More at : www.burrengirl.doc.com