

## FILM LIST

The films shown tonight are from **the Digital Film Archive**. These films are thanks to the generosity of the people who give us permission to share them. If you recognise anywhere or anyone in the footage we'd love to know.

**Wee Blue Blossom** (1933), by the Irish Linen Guild, the story of the Irish linen industry from the fields to the factories and into our homes. Many people may remember this film from when it was shown before the main feature at the cinema.

**Royal Victoria Hospital** (1938), from the British Film Institute, from diagnosis to treatment, this curious film allows us to see the everyday life of the hospital and provides a glimpse into what was, at the time, the height of medical science. It is believed these are earliest moving images of the hospital.

**Irish Interlude** (1948), by the Irish Linen Guild, Post WWII film, starring Joseph Tomelty to encourage girls to work in the linen mills by showing improved working conditions and good pay.

**Land of Ulster** (1950), by the Central Office of Information, poetic words transform government policy and the harsh realities of farming into a rousing tale of good-humoured resilience. Find out how the great problems of collection are overcome in a land littered with little roads running through one another like "a bag of weasels".

**Scenes from a Governor's Notebook** (1955), by Lord Wakehurst, Get a glimpse of life for the Governor of Northern Ireland and his wife as they go about their duties. In a darkened factory, raw flax is transformed into the iconic Irish linens which are inspected in the sunlight.

**York Street Linen Mill** (1957), from NMNI, This footage allows us to witness one of Belfast's largest mills at work in its final years. Delight in the rhythm of the weavers at work. Soak in the vibrant colours of the linen roving before joining the production line in its silent song.

**Northern Ireland Agriculture and Industry** (1957), by Boulton Hawker, this educational film shows working life - from traditional rural jobs to the newfangled occupations spawned by the industrial boom.

**Forging New Links** (1963), by Rank, This film with its stunning photography gives a British perspective on local industrial problems and progress. Take a whistle stop tour of local industries from the glowing furnaces of Belfast's shipyards to the kilns of Wade Pottery in Portadown.

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**Ulster To-day** (1967), by the Central Office of Information, The film shows our towns as an industrial hub to attract foreign investors, from hand-painted damask to state-of-the-art computer production - that proves "Ulster is not just yesterday, it is also tomorrow".

**Seven Degrees West** (1969), by Ulster Television, Leslie Dawes talks to the people of Drumaness about how their lives will change when the mill closes down.

**Ulster Television News** (From 1960s-80s), by Ulster Television, UTV filmed lots of footage in local factories, sometimes to show new ideas and other times to report factory closures and job losses. This event shows some of the highlights of the flax mills and linen factories filmed over three decades.

**The Quiet Land** (1974), by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, the Quiet Land might seem an unlikely name for this place in the seventies. In contrast to media images experience a timeless mystical and mythical vision. Travel from dawn until dusk and delight in the rhythms of nature and traditional crafts.

**Let's Look at Ulster, Making Cloth** (1970s), by Ulster Television, a schools programme about our industrial history. This episode takes you on a journey as plant fibres are spun into threads and woven into fabric.

**Ulster Landscapes, Industrial Villages** (1981) by Ulster Television, a history programme made for schools. This episode is about the villages built for workers around the linen mills and factories.

**Medicine Matters** (1985) by Ulster Television, this medical documentary looks at what employers are doing to improve working conditions and the health of their staff. In this episode we visit a Flax Factory to see its new dust extractors.

Footage of the active Linen Industry was filmed by Sinéad Bhreathnach-Cashell during 2018:

**William Clarke & Sons**, established 1736, Road Engines Beetling Mill, Flax Visitors Centre, Upperlands Maghera. The Beetling Mill is being operated by Sam Anderson.

**Thomas Ferguson Irish Linen**, established 1854, Banbridge.

**Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum**, Market Square, Lisburn, Alison McNamee is creating punch cards for the jacquard loom.