**Press Release**

**You are invited to the screening of the new Wexford short film**

**The Lady on the Hill**

**Followed by a post- screen discussion**

**Venue: The National Opera House- Jerome Hynes Theatre**

**Date: Thurs 12 Dec 2019**

**Time: 7.00pm – 8.00 pm**

**Followed by food and refreshments**

**FREE: All welcome**

Wexford County Council and Bodecii film Wexford, in partnership with Zanzibar Films is delighted to present a screening of a new short film ‘ The Lady of the Hill’ ( 2019) directed by Brian Rossney and based on an original screenplay by Wexford writer Hannah McNiven

This 12 minute short film was shot on location in County Wexford in 2019 was the recipient of the inaugural Wexford Film Fund Award, which was established by the Arts office in partnership with Wexford Production Company ‘Bodecii Film’ in 2018. The aim of this new Film Fund is to provide funding and support to film making teams seeking to develop ambitious and creative short films based in County Wexford. The award consisted of €10,000, an additional €1,800 in equipment/lighting hire from *Teach Solais*, Ireland’s leading Film/TV lighting and generator Hire Company well as project management support from *Bodecii Film*

The focus of this inaugural Film Fund Award was on writer/ director/ producer collaborations and the winning Film Production team consisted of Film Director Brian Rossney, Producer Edwina Forkin (Zanzibar Productions) and Wexford writer Hannah McNiven. This collaboration came about as a result of a *Wexford Screen Writers Programme* initiated by Wexford Arts Office in partnership with Bodeccii film in 2018.

10 Wexford based writers were selected to take part in this free screen writing programme which took place over the course of 12 months in the National Opera House.

The writers were mentored over the course of the year by leading film industry professionals including writer Eugene O Brien (Eden, PureMule)/Writer/Producer Paul Walker (Red Rock, EastEnders), Writer/Director Ian Power (The Runaway, The Guarantee, The Tattoo) and pitching workshops with David Kavanagh.

As an outcome, six Wexford writers teamed up with national Directors and Producers and presented their short film proposal to a selection panel in Wexford County Council in October 2018.

The successful team were Wexford writer Hannah McNiven, director Brian Rossney, and Producer Edwina Forkin (Zanzibar Productions) for their short film proposal which was shot on location in Wexford in 2019.

**Brian Rossney** Born in Dublin, Brian has been involved in film and acting from a very young age. He borrowed a camera from RTE and made his short film at the age of 12 while at the same time studying acting after school for the purpose of directing.

With a slight detour of music production, architecture, graphic design, and animation/visual effects, he landed his first live action commercial directing gig, a corporate video for Guinness in 2007. This paved the way for a host of commercial directing work until he wrote, produced and directed his first short film. ***‘In the Valley of the Moon’*** in 2014 which went on to win multiple awards for best script and best film and was nominated for a Zebbie Award for best screenplay.

Continuing with writing, Brian has written many short and feature screenplays which have been shortlisted for funding and are currently in development. He continues to work in Visual Effects and Animation and is currently working as a VFX artist and VFX producer on a Sci-Fi feature starting Nicolas Cage due for theatrical release in March 2020.

Brian holds a 1st Class Masters Degree from IADT in Screen Finance and Creative Production supported by Screen Ireland. He lives in Dublin and is married with two children.

**Edwina Forkin** has over twenty years’ experience in Film and Television production.  Currently the creative producer and CEO of Zanzibar Films, Edwina is an award winning producer/ line producer and has a solid track record in film, digital and online media.  She has extensive experience in identifying exciting and innovative projects, raising finance, planning and delivering projects, from Oscar nominated shorts to ground-breaking documentaries.

In 2011, Zanzibar Films/Edwina Forkin was nominated for "***Best Film***" for four different films at the Irish Film and TV Awards (The IFTA's). Her film, "***Sanctuary***" won 'Best Film' at Galway Film Fleadh and 'Best Director' at Newport Beach Film Festival as well as The Michael Dwyer Discovery Award at Dublin International Film Festival.

Edwina Forkin is also a partner of Nantosuelta Entertainment Films, founded in 2017- an Irish Production Company offering finance to foreign filmmakers. She also works on a freelance basis as a Producer / Service Producer and Line Producer / Production Manager with a solid track record in Feature Films, as well as TV and Print commercials. Her recent clients include Kilbeggan Whiskey, Workday, and Tourism Ireland, with both digital and online media campaigns. She is working is currently in pre-production “***Luck in Love***” and “***Queens of Clew***”.

**Hannah McNiven** is a Wexford based writer who gained a postgraduate degree in Drama and Theatre from NUI Galway in 2015. In 2017 she was long-listed for the Colm Tóibín International Short Story Award and was on the short-list of twelve for the same award in 2018. She has written for *The Irish Times*and has also had two plays performed onstage. ***The Lady on the Hill*** is her first screenplay.

**Bodecii Film** is a Wexford based Production Company developing original indigenous TV and Film and was founded by award winning writer/director Laura Way. In 2016 and 2017 Way was nominated and received an honourable mention at the ICADS Young Director Awards for her promo of***Changeling*** (original TV series currently in development) and *The* ***Journey Home***, a Bodecii Brand Film for Focus Ireland which went on to be a national Christmas TV campaign. She is co-creator/director of Rising and ***Changeling****,* drama series currently in development. Laura was a director on the third season of TV3 drama series ***Red Rock****,* on Amazon and BBC and directing BBC continuing drama, ***EastEnders****.*

This screening is **FREE** but pre booking is required. To book please email: arts@wexfordcoco.ie For general enquiries please call Arts Department: Tel 053 9196369