



shoot
the
crow



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Logline

No one warned you there'd be days like these.

Synopsis

When Tommy Molloy is fingered as a drug dealer and ordered out of the country by local “community activists”, his friend Gerry is branded guilty by association. But Tommy postpones telling Gerry the bad news and instead makes him an unwitting accomplice in a plan to raise funds for their new life abroad by scamming a local criminal, Nicky Delaney.

Elsewhere in the city young Patrick McCauley is recovering from an impetuous suicide bid. But his resolve to forget his ex-girlfriend, Lisa, fades on learning that re-instated old flame Decky Morrison (a petty crook and Nicky Delaney lackey) has developed violent tendencies towards her. Despite doctor's orders and his better judgement Patrick sets out to save Lisa from herself.

Shoot the Crow is an unconventional coming-of-age story following several young people living on the edge. Over 24 hours in Belfast they negotiate a course through their shambolic, often perilous existences. For some their paths fleetingly cross, until finally they converge in a poignant climax that will mark them forever.

Colm McManus, Writer-Director

Background

Whatever Pictures have been working with Colm McManus for over seven years. We produced his short film **Don't Walk** which played regularly on FilmFour and Channel 4 for five years. Colm then directed the short film **Stumped** as a co-production for Whatever Pictures and BBC Northern Ireland. **Stumped** was the opening film of the Belfast Film Festival and screened on BBC2. Colm has many shorts to his name and all of these films have been screened at film festivals around the world.

During this time Colm has also been writing and developing feature scripts, as well as directing promos & commercials. The first draft of **Shoot the Crow**, a coming-of-age thriller, appeared in 2003. Colm had been developing the idea for a couple of months with the help of Walter Donohue who is Head of Film at Faber&Faber and a respected script editor. Walter has acted as a creative consultant on numerous films including UK hit **28 Days Later** and he has continued to assist Colm with each new draft of the script.

Whatever Pictures immediately optioned the script and committed its resources to developing it with Colm. One of the first visits for **Shoot the Crow** was to a MEDIA funded Sources2 course in Italy. The course tutor, Gaby Prekop, long-time script-editor for legendary Hungarian-Jewish director Istvan Zsabo loved Colm's work and has provided regular advice, support and encouragement for him ever since.

We have continued to develop the script and both the Irish Film Board and the Northern Ireland Film and Television Commission have contributed creatively and financially to the writing of the current draft.

Colm has since attended the Moonstone International Filmmakers' Lab where he shot scenes from the film under the watchful eye of mentors such as Neil Jordan, John Irvin and Les Blair. The project

was extremely well received on the course and a DVD with edited scenes is available.

Finally, the project was granted additional development financing through the European Union's MEDIA New Talent fund. We've used this money to complete the packaging and casting for the project, looking to take the film into pre-production. Hubbard's Casting has worked on attaching some top talent and actors have responded very positively both to Colm and the script (see list below).

We have produced budget and schedule proposals for **Shoot the Crow** and the resulting financial plan is to raise a total of 1 Million Euros and produce the film in Belfast with investment from both the IFB and the NIFTC. We also intend utilise the new UK tax credit. All rights are currently available.

Shoot the Crow is a smart and entertaining script written by a uniquely talented film-maker. Colm has worked tirelessly to fulfil his ambition to direct the film and we are now seeking to use his gifts to attract the right elements to the project. If we achieve this aim, then we feel confident that Shoot the Crow can attain critical success in combination with a strong commercial appeal to a late teen/early adult audience.

Alex Lewis, Producer, Whatever Pictures
(alex@whateverpictures.com)



GERRY

LAURENCE KINLAN



TOMMY

DARREN HEALY



PATRICK

MARTIN COMPSTON



LISA

ELAINE CASSIDY



.....more overleaf

NICKY

STEPHEN GRAHAM



DAVEY

DEAN LENNOX KELLY



BOBBY

GARY LEWIS



(All subject to availability)