

## Production Notes On The Feature Film

# "8.5 HOURS"



# INSTIGATOR

Films & Media

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## INTRODUCTION

### Outline

*8.5 Hours* is an intense, sexually charged drama set in modern Dublin about one day in the lives of four people who work together in a small software company during the final stages of Ireland's boom years. On one particular Monday, each of the characters finds their lives descending in turmoil and each experiences a series of startling, life-changing events which unfolds throughout their working day of 9 am to 5.30 pm, the 8.5 hours of the title.



It is the first feature of Irish filmmaker Brian Lally and has a large cast of both established and emerging actors.

### Production Details



*8.5 Hours* was shot throughout 2007 entirely on location in Dublin. The film was totally independently financed and shot on High Definition.

An early version was screened as a work in progress at the Galway Film Fleadh in July 2008. This same version was also screened at the Waterford Film Festival in November 2008 where it came 2nd in the Best Feature category. In May 2009, the film screened at the Mid-Ulster Film Festival in Northern Ireland and shortly afterwards, the final completed version was shown at the film market in the Cannes Film Festival. In August, Lynette Callaghan won the Best Actress award for her role as Rachel at the Yellow Fever Independent Film Festival in Belfast. Recently, the film won the Award for Best Irish Feature at the International Film Festival Ireland in Clonmel. An Irish cinema release is planned for later this year.

## SCRIPT SYNOPSIS

*8.5 Hours* is a complex portrayal of a working day that has extraordinary implications for the four characters whose lives are linked by sharing an office together in a small software company. Focusing on the pressures of these characters on one day, the film also aims to chronicle the winding down of Ireland's boom years, a period of extraordinary opportunity for many but also a time of lost opportunities for some and an undercurrent of regret permeates throughout the film.

Each of the characters experiences a series of events that changes their lives, some events influenced by the other characters where their paths intersect, others occurring almost independently and lived out in the character's own private thoughts as they recall events in their past which still haunt them. Each of the four characters has a story, all of which are ultimately resolved by the end of the day.

## CAST

### RACHEL



Rachel, played by Lynette Callaghan is an attractive ambitious young marketing executive just turned 30. Life should be good for her but instead it is a series of disappointments as she constantly strives to live a life that is beyond her means. Her story begins on Sunday evening with a startlingly harsh encounter with her pompous boyfriend where he brutally ends their relationship and her dreams of buying an apartment in a good area of Dublin. However, first thing Monday morning armed with an unbreakable resolve, she ensures she gets that apartment by whatever means necessary even if it involves blackmailing her boss to get a pay rise she doesn't deserve. Her goal of the dream apartment finally becomes achievable but in her final shocking scene, it comes at a very high personal cost.

Lynette Callaghan trained at the Manchester Metropolitan School of Theatre and has a BA(hons) in acting. Film and Television work includes *Next* (Grand Pictures), *The Tudors* (HBO), *The Clinic* (Elixer Productions), *Cold Feet* (Granada TV) and *Emmerdale* (Yorkshire TV). Theatre includes *Look Back in Anger* (Andrews Lane), *An Evening with Proust* (Bewleys Café Theatre), *The Glory of Living* (The Project) and *Volta* (SpiegelTent).

## EOIN

Eoin, played by Victor Burke, appears to have everything going for him. He's got looks, he makes a good living working as a computer programmer and he has a lovely fiancée who can't wait to get married and has become obsessed with organising the perfect wedding. However, Eoin is far from certain about the marriage, largely because of an encounter with Simon, a handsome man he once met at a party.



Eoin appears to have consigned this incident to his past but a phone call at work from Simon puts it right back on the agenda. Simon wants to meet him again today and asks Eoin the question that has been haunting him for a long time, does he prefer girls or boys?

Dublin born actor Victor Burke made his stage debut with the Abbey Theatre. His stage credits include *The Last Apache Reunion* and *The Plough & The Stars*. TV work includes seven series of RTE's *Fair City*.

## FRANK



Frank, played by Art Kearns is a burly, reliable, team leader. He's a man's man. Someone who enjoys a few beers and a round of golf with his mates, particularly his best friend since college, David. However, Frank has been troubled during the past few months as he has become increasingly suspicious of his friend's uncomfortably close friendship with his wife Ruth.

Is it harmless friendliness or something else? Something too treacherous to contemplate. For a man for which friendship, loyalty and marriage are everything, on Monday morning he remains shaken after the shocking events of the weekend which turned his world upside down.

Art Kearns trained with the Focus Theatre in Dublin. Theatre work includes: *Confusions* by Alan Ayckbourn (St. Anthony's Theatre), *Lone Star* by James McLure (Focus Theatre), and *Bug* by Tracy Letts (New Theatre). TV work includes *The Clinic* (2008) and numerous commercials.

## TONY

Tony, played by Jonathan Byrne is an unpleasant product of Celtic Tiger Ireland. He is very good at his job, attractive, charismatic, the owner of a penthouse apartment and a flash car but he treats women badly. He's a serial womaniser with little real affection for his many conquests. However, his hedonistic lifestyle of parties and one night stands quickly grinds to a halt when he is confronted during the day by the mother of Rosemary, a vulnerable 19 year old student that he seduced the previous year. A sensitive girl, quickly forgotten by Tony, Rosemary later took her own life. Her eccentric mother, Maggie (played by Geraldine Plunkett) holds Tony to blame for her death and is determined he should be accountable.



Jonathan Byrne has appeared in a number of leading Irish TV dramas including *On Home Ground*, *The Clinic* and most recently, *Fair City*. Other feature film work includes lead roles in the acclaimed feature film *The Honeymooners* and *Little Foxes*.

## MAGGIE

Maggie played by well known Irish actress Geraldine Plunkett, is one of the most striking characters in the film. At the end of the film, when all other stories are resolved, the final resolution occurs in Tony's apartment when Maggie pays him an unexpected visit and carries out a deranged and haunting act of retribution.



Geraldine Plunkett started her acting career in the Abbey Theatre. Her favourite theatre roles include *Famine* by Tom Murphy and *Juno and the Paycock*. She is best known for playing the character Mary McDermot for well over a decade in RTE's long-running TV series *Glenroe*.

## IAN

Ian, the estate agent is played by Gary Egan. He appears in just one scene but it is the climax of Rachel's story and one of the most controversial endings. He is a ruthless and callous character who skillfully manipulates Rachel's fragile emotional state when she will do anything to secure the apartment she has become obsessed with.



Gary was born in Clapham, south London and performed in the Old Vic theatre, London in the new voices season in 2001. Recent work includes, *Runners*, a short film directed by Ronan and Rob Burke, *Prosperity* for RTE television for which he received a best actor nomination at the Monte Carlo Television awards in 2008 and a major part in the critically acclaimed Irish feature film *Adam and Paul*.

## Other Cast

“8.5 Hours” has a large cast of both established and emerging actors, featuring actors from Ireland as well as France (Fred Ledoux), Holland (Martha Van Der Bly) and Canada (Erica Carroll). Headshots and biographies of all cast members are available on request.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

### Brian Lally: Writer/Director/Producer



Brian Lally has worked in the film and television industry for over 11 years. Working mainly as a writer, he has written several feature length screenplays, short films and two novels. He has studied film in many places including London, Germany and Rome. One of his early screenplays, *Boys and Men* was produced as a critically acclaimed 40 minute film in 1996. It is a dark psychological thriller about two adult males who are traumatised by an episode of bullying in their childhood.



*"Boys and Men"*

The Irish Times voted *Boys and Men* the best short Irish film of the year. It was screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival and numerous festivals around the world. It has been broadcast on many channels including FilmFour and RTE. One of Brian's feature length thrillers, *Soul Mate* was awarded Irish Film Board funding and was selected for the prestigious Moonstone Screenwriters Labs in Germany in 2006.

In 2004, Brian founded Instigator Films to produce digital features, corporate video and music videos. Brian has since directed several music videos, including one for 2006 Choice music award winner Julie Feeney. In 2005, Brian wrote and directed *Aftermath*, an experimental short film, set to a stunning piece of music by the Irish composer Roger Doyle. This led to Brian being awarded a scholarship to study video art in Rome.



*"Aftermath"*



*Julie Feeney in "Judas" music video*

*Aftermath* was screened in many festivals including the Boston Underground Film Festival and the Britspotting festival in Berlin, Zurich and Stuttgart. As a result, the Arts Council awarded Brian a bursary to develop his film and video projects.

*8.5 Hours* is Brian's first feature and he has several new feature projects in development.

## **Maria Hylton, Liam Moran: Executive Producers**

Maria Hylton is an executive producer and acted as line producer during the shoot. Originally from Hackney, North London, Maria trained as an actress at the E15 acting school in London and is a member of British Equity.

Liam Moran is the executive producer and locations manager on *8.5 Hours*. He produced the 2005 short film *The Couple* which was directed by Maria Hylton and was shortlisted for best Irish short of the year at the Cork Film Festival.

## **Richard Callaghan: Executive Producer**

Richard Callaghan's postproduction company, Tangerine provides a full range of postproduction facilities for the film and broadcast sectors including feature, documentary and television series. Working as a colourist and facility manager, Richard has over 12 years experience in broadcast and motion graphics. He recently handled the post-production for the Irish feature *Ghostwood*. On *8.5 Hours*, Richard acted as executive producer, colourist and post-production supervisor.

*For more information visit [www.tangerine.ie](http://www.tangerine.ie)*

## **Karim Elmahoudi: Composer**



The composer is Los Angeles based composer Karim Elmahoudi. Karim's recent credits include scoring the hit TV series *Lost* and the American feature *David and Fatima* starring Martin Landau.

In 2006, Karim gained a place on a prestigious composer internship programme in Paramount Studios, Los Angeles and studied under the renowned composer Hans Zimmer.

Karim Elmahoudi has written numerous compositions ranging in style and size from solo piano pieces to large-scale symphonic works. His music is lavish, evocative, beguiling and has the epic sweep of any Hollywood blockbuster. He finds musical influence and inspiration from some of his favourite composers such as Shostakovich, Ravel, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, Vaughan Williams, John Williams, Elliot Goldenthal, and Bernard Herrmann.

*To hear samples of his music visit his website: [www.karelm.com](http://www.karelm.com)*

## **SALES INQUIRIES FOR "8.5 HOURS"**

### **Ireland**

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