

# A CUILLIN RISING

A SHORT FILM BY CATRIONA MACINNES



20mins | 4K Digital | UK | 2011

Writer/Director:	Catriona MacInnes
Producer:	Martyn Robertson
Cinematography:	Taina Galis
Editor & Associate Producer:	Ian Waugh
Sound:	Dougie Fairgrieve John Lemke Robert Walker
Music:	P.G. Six
Production:	DigiCult Urbancroft Films
Cast	Lorne MacFadyen Annie Macleod Robin Thomson



UK FILM COUNCIL  
LOTTERY FUNDED



A **Cuillin Rising** is a **DigiCult** Production made in association with **Urbancroft Films**, commissioned through **Scottish Digital Shorts**, supported by **Creative Scotland** and the **UK Film Council**.

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## **SYNOPSIS**

*An samhla a chunnaic an t-anam, Cuilitheann ag èirigh thar mara*  
*A ghost seen by the soul, a Cuillin rising over the sea – Sorley MacLean*

In a shadowy caravan on the Isle of Skye, teenage lovers, Sorley and Maggie spend time awkwardly, stalked by the haunting presence of Sorley's father, Hector. Arrested by this and by their feelings for each other, the couple seek escape.

A Cuillin Rising is emblematic of the space between tradition and modernity, the souls of youth growing up in an old country where ghosts lie athwart with new life. Maggie and her Mum are from an old traveling community but have now settled as tenants on Hector's land. Maggie speaks freely with her Gaelic tongue and can comfort herself by humming an old tune, whilst her troubled lover Sorley fears the roots which he sees as his father's and not his own. In their shared sorrow and solitude, rage and fear have erupted between Father and Son and after a period of withdrawal, Hector has now come to seek his son out. Sorley cannot bear this intrusion or the emotion that Maggie is now innocently compounding and absorbing. In the aftermath it is Maggie who is left alone with her soul and what it has seen.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

In a shadowy caravan on a Scottish Island, teenage lovers, Sorley and Maggie spend time awkwardly, stalked by the haunting presence of Sorley's father. Arrested by this and by their feelings for each other, the couple seek escape, where a Cuillin\* rises over of the sea.

*\*The Cuillins are a mountain range on the Isle of Skye.*

## **DIRECTORS NOTE**

I embarked on writing *A Cuillin Rising* to examine the draw of my heritage, but also my disassociation with it. I wanted to try and capture the space between tradition and modernity; the isolation of being young compounded by living in a remote place, with its ancient landscape, rising above.

Much inspired by the work of late Gaelic poet Sorley MacLean, to whom I owe the film's title, I spent a long time building up a sense of atmosphere and poetry in the screenplay, From the interior first half, contained and intimate; to the exterior second half, vast and exposed, it was my intention that these elements resonated through the realisation of the film.

Shooting on the Isle of Skye, and making some use of the Scots Gaelic language, it was important to me that the story, the characters and the location should be experienced beyond the common portrayals of a Highland Scotland. Along with mixing wide static shots with a much closer handheld approach, a huge part of achieving this came down to casting. Annie MacLeod and Lorne MacFadyen are both natives of Skye, Annie with Gaelic and Lorne without. I hope their naturalism and personal relationship with the island deromanticises the landscape in some way, bringing focus to their characters' existence within, and connection to their environment.

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## BIOGRAPHIES



### **LORNE MACFADYEN** **SORLEY**

Lorne MacFadyen, (born 1990) is a young actor from the Isle Of Skye. Lorne's interest in acting began when he was at high school, where he performed in various productions with the Isle Of Skye Youth Theatre. 'A Cuillin Rising' is Lorne's first professional credit in a leading role. Other recent credit include a leading role in another Scottish Digital short called 'Foxy and Marina' directed by Zack Coping, and a role in Ken Loach new feature 'The Angel's Share'



### **ANNIE MACLEOD** **MAGGIE**

Annie Macleod was born in 1990 on the Isle of Skye and is a fluent Gaelic speaker. Annie started acting in drama productions with the Isle of Skye Youth Theatre. At 15 she had her first film role in the Gaelic Feature Film 'Seachd'. Following this she moved to Glasgow and was offered her first television role in Ch 4's 'The Smallest Game In Town'. Annie plays Maggie, the female lead in 'A Cuillin Rising'.



**ROBIN THOMSON**  
**HECTOR**

Born in Edinburgh, Robin trained in the 1960s at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. He spent 12 years in exploration geology before returning to acting. He has had a very successful acting career spanning television, film and theatre. He was critically acclaimed for his last role as Sorin in *The Seagull* with Theatre Alba.



**CATRIONA MACINNES**  
**WRITER / DIRECTOR**

Catriona was born in Inverness, Scotland in 1978. She first trained in performance and theatre making at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, then graduated with a Masters of Fine Arts in Advanced Film Practice as a writer/director from Edinburgh Napier's screen academy. Her graduation film *I'M IN AWAY FROM HERE* premiered in competition at the 65<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film festival in 2008; was nominated for a BAFTA emerging Talent Award the following year, and has been screened at festivals throughout the world. *A Cuillin rising* is her second short film, commissioned through the Scottish Digital Shorts Scheme and supported by UK Film Council, Creative Scotland and BBC Scotland. Catriona is currently developing her first feature script.

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**TAINA GALIS**  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Taina Galis is a cinematographer who works in fiction and documentary. Her film MINERVA won second prize out of 5000 at the first London International Creative Competition (LICC 2008). Taina is mentored by Peter Suschitzky through the Guiding Lights programme.

The last two shorts she worked on before *A Cuillin Rising* were with Director with Fyzal Boulifa; BURN MY BODY which premiered at the London Film Festival and WHORE, which was awarded the Grand Jury Prize at Angers Premiers Plans, both funded through B3 Media/Quark Films/UK Film Council. She is currently working on FULLL FIREARMS directed by Emily Wardill [City Projects/ FLAMIN/ Serpentine Gallery).



**MARTYN ROBERTSON**  
**PRODUCER**

Martyn trained in theatre direction and facilitation at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama. From 2002-2007 he took up the post as Director of arts organisation Fablevision, leading over 50 large scale arts and film projects in communities across the UK, The UAE & France. In 2007 he decided to concentrate on a career in film and television and formed new company Urbancroft based at Film City Glasgow. Having created a solid sustainable business model for the company he is now developing his own documentary and drama work as a producer and director.

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**IAN WAUGH**

**EDITOR / ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**

Ian is a writer, director and editor. He studied Photography and Film in Edinburgh, graduating with a Master of Fine Art in Advanced Film Practice from Screen Academy Scotland. Twice nominated for the Jim Poole Short Film Award, his films have screened at festivals at home and abroad, and his short feature LEAVES was nominated for Best UK Debut Feature at the 2010 East End Film Festival.



**P.G SIX**

**COMPOSER**

Pat Gubler, a.k.a P.G. Six, came on the scene in 1994, as a member of Memphis Luxure, a noise/rock band from Port Chester, NY. That band morphed into Tower Recordings, a musically omnivorous ensemble that released several albums on the Siltbreeze and Communion labels over the past decade. Pat's first solo album, "Parlor Tricks and Porch Favorites" saw the light of day in 2001, followed by "The Well of Memory" in 2004. "Music From the Sherman Box Series", a collection of instrumentals arrived in Fall 2006. His music fuses an unlikely range of influences, including 60s British folk, country rock, & experimental music. P.G. Six has shared the stage with a variety of performers including: Ghost, Slint, Yo La Tengo, Michael Hurley, & The Incredible String Band. His 4th album, Slightly Sorry was released Feb 2007 on the Drag City Label.

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## **DIGICULT**

Based in Glasgow, DigiCult's producers and creative associates have made over 50 short and feature length films over the last ten years, many of them prize-winners for first and second time filmmakers who continue to light-up the UK scene. Recent productions include Fixing Luka (animation, Limelight Film Award 2011), Rite (Rushes Soho Shorts, Best Long Form Drama 2011), The Tannery (animation, Celtic Film and TV Festival, Best Animation 2011) and Paris/Sexy (UK Film Council Award for Best Short, LSFF 2011).

For more information on DigiCult, please visit  
[www.digicult.co.uk](http://www.digicult.co.uk)

All sales or distribution enquiries, contact  
Paul Welsh (Executive Producer, DigiCult):  
Email: [paul@digicult.co.uk](mailto:paul@digicult.co.uk)  
Office: +44 141 221 5290

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