

PRESS RELEASE

DATE [Date]

CONTACT [Event Contact, name, cell phone, email]

***Photos & videos available at LostChildrenoftheCarricks.com**

New documentary reveals the hidden history of Canada's Irish Legacy

***Lost Children of the Carricks* exclusive screening on [DATE] at the [LOCATION]**

*"A film through the eyes of a single family to help people understand that history ties us all together.
The experience of the Irish in 1847 mirrors the experience of displaced people today."*

A 70 minute documentary of exodus and reunion spanning 168 years, *Lost Children of the Carricks* tells the story of Patrick Kaveney, Sarah McDonald and their 6 children, an Irish-speaking family evicted from the Irish estates of British Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston at the height of the Great Famine in 1847. The only Irish famine movie with a happy ending.

Lost Children of the Carricks will screen at on [DATE] at the [LOCATION]

"I wanted to make a film through the eyes of a single family to help people understand that history ties us all together. And I wanted to show the interconnectedness of events through a broader context," says writer/ director Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin.

A Journey of Survival

Filmed on location in Ireland and Canada, the film tells the extraordinary story of the Kaveney's and 28 families aboard the ill-fated ship *Carricks of Whitehaven* which wrecked off the coast of Quebec in May 1847, the fate of the survivors and the journey to reunite descendants with long lost cousins in Ireland 168 years later.

Only 48 of the *Carricks of Whitehaven's* 173 famine passengers survived the shipwreck. Over 80 victims were buried in a mass grave near where they washed up along the shore. Five of Kaveney's young daughters were swept away in the raging storm and never recovered.

Among the few who miraculously survived, Patrick Kaveney, Sarah MacDonald and their teenage son Martin started their life anew on the isolated icebound Gaspé peninsula. The film follows Québécois-Irish historian Georges Kavanagh as he walks in the footsteps of Patrick Kaveney, his 'grandfather's grandfather'— finally down the narrow country road to his ancestral village to meet a community of cousins who had assumed that their relatives had all perished in the wreck of the *Carricks*.

Timeless Story with Modern Implications

"Most people don't realize how many Irish people transitioned directly from a Gaelic-speaking life in rural Ireland into a francophone rural culture and foreign language upon arriving in Canada," says Ó hAllmhuráin.

“The experience of the Irish in 1847 mirrors the experience of displaced people in our own times: cultural cleansing, inability to return home, prejudice and xenophobia, loss of identity through name change, stark landscape and environmental changes, break-up of families separated in quarantine stations and orphanages worldwide,” Ó hAllmhuráin insists.

Ireland is forever tied to emigration and displacement

“For a tiny country living for hundreds of years in the tailwind of Great Britain, Ireland understands intimately what it means for a nation’s food source to dry up, to be dislocated from land, family and community, to be unwelcome in new countries, to be feared and chastised for wanting to preserve their language, religion and heritage.

“We understand what it means to have your country is stripped of its natural resources to feed the engine of an insatiable global power. Ireland’s history echoes the experience of dislocation and deportation that continues to mark the lives of countless thousands today. The 70 million strong Irish diaspora scattered around the world testifies to this reality.”

HOW TO BUY TICKETS: [*YOUR DETAILS HERE*]

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

“Hosting the premiere of *Lost Children of the Carricks* was an honour, a pleasure and a coup!! People loved the film and no wonder!” says Lynn Doyle, president, [Cine Gael Montreal](#)

“What a magnificent achievement! A beautiful narrative woven with a gorgeous soundtrack – powerfully resonant in today’s world” says Michael Kenneally, [Consul General of Ireland \(Montreal\)](#)

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ABOUT PROFESSOR GEAROID O HALLMHURAIN

Filmmaker Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin is one of Ireland’s leading cultural historians, an Oxford University Press author and specialist in Irish emigration, traditional music, memory and global diaspora. Since 2009, he has held the Johnson Chair in Québec and Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University, Montréal, Québec. As a fifth generation musician born in the West of Ireland, he has presented over 1000 concerts on four continents during the past thirty years.

MORE INFORMATION

- Director | Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin | DrGearoid.com | <mailto:gearoid.ohallmhurain@concordia.ca>
- Producer | Cecilia McDonnell | Celtic Crossings Productions | CelticCrossings.com
- Film Website | LostChildrenoftheCarricks.com
- Film Trailer | YouTube | <https://youtu.be/w10CwXGrnls>
- FilmFreeway Festival Profile: <https://filmfreeway.com/LostChildrenoftheCarricks>