

**CITIZEN LANE**

A Portrait of Hugh Lane:

*Aesthete, Collector, Dealer, Philanthropist*



**RELEASED ARPIL 2021**

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Certificate: TBC / Running time: 80 minutes

**LOGLINE**

An innovative mix of documentary and drama, *Citizen* Lane delivers a vivid and compelling portrait of art dealer and collector Hugh Lane: one of the most fascinating and enigmatic figures in modern Irish history.

**SYNOPSIS**

*“I am Lady Gregory’s nephew and I must be doing something for Ireland”* - Hugh Lane

Combining documentary and drama, *Citizen Lane* delivers a vivid and compelling portrait of Hugh Lane, one of the most fascinating and enigmatic figures in Irish art history. A man of multiple contradictions, by turns infuriatingly parsimonious and extraordinarily generous, a professed nationalist and a knight of the realm, Lane campaigned fearlessly to establish a modern art gallery for the people in Dublin.

Directed by Thaddeus O’Sullivan, written by Mark O’Halloran and starring Tom Vaughan-Lawlor as Hugh Lane, *Citizen Lane* features interviews with contemporary contributors, including Professors Roy Foster and Paul Rouse and Art Historian Morna O’Neill, to shine a light on this significant cultural figure and the long-running campaign to recover for Ireland Lane’s Bequest of 39 great Impressionist paintings from the National Gallery in London.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

The middle child of five, Hugh Lane was born to Adelaide Persse (sister to Lady Gregory) and her clergyman husband, James Lane, in Cork in 1875. At the age of 18, penniless and unpromising, he made his way to London where Lady Gregory had arranged an apprenticeship with an established art dealer. Lane surprised many with aptitude, energy and an instinctive eye for quality, and by February 1898, had opened his own gallery at No. 2 Pall Mall Place and amassed an enormous fortune through the buying, restoring and selling-on of Old Masters.

Yet Hugh had not forgotten Ireland. In 1900 he began making regular trips home to spend time in the company of his aunt and her Celtic Revival set. Lane’s whirlwind personality transformed Dublin’s cultural landscape: he was now a curator, a benefactor and a collector of works by contemporary, living artists; especially the Impressionists. Looking to celebrate Ireland’s unique artistic identity, Lane set about staging significant exhibitions of Old Masters in Dublin (1902-03) and a large retrospective of Irish Art at the Guildhall in London (1904). He also commissioned Irish artists such as William Orpen and John Yeats to paint portraits of friends, colleagues and the leaders of the emerging Nationalist movement. It was alongside these endeavours that Lane formulated his most ambitious plan: the establishment of a permanent museum of modern art in Dublin.

Lane’s initial campaign was successful and a temporary gallery on Harcourt Street opened in January 1908. On Lane’s request, entry was free of charge and the exhibition drew huge crowds. But the struggle to secure a permanent home for his collection continued. Lane hired English architect Edwin Lutyens to design a new building and proposed an audacious gallery spanning the Liffey in place of the Ha’penny Bridge. The project’s opposition was led by William Martin Murphy, a newspaper magnate and industrialist, whose smear campaign reached its climax in September 1913 when the Council voted down all of Lane’s proposals. In bitterness, Lane sent his French paintings to England and changed his Will, leaving his hugely valuable collection to the National Gallery in London. In the aftermath of this defeat, Lane was appointed Director of the National Gallery of Ireland in 1914 and added an unwitnessed codicil to his Will reversing to his original decision, leaving his French paintings to Dublin (a patronage dispute that continues to this day).

The advent of World War One had a devastating effect on the art market. In 1915, Lane travelled to New York to secure his finances. His return passage was on the ill-fated Lusitania. Torpedoed and sunk off the Cork coast on 7th May 1915, his body was never recovered. He was 39 years of age. Hugh Lane was a man­ of multiple contradictions: a professed nationalist and a knight of the realm; a monumental snob and a fearless campaigner for access to the arts; a man of great energy and drive that suffered numerous nervous breakdowns. A singular individual that changed Irish cultural history, Hugh Lane’s dream was finally realised in 1933 with the opening of the Municipal Galley of Modern Art, now known as The Hugh Lane.

**DIRECTORS STATEMENT**

To create a fully rounded portrait of this extraordinary man, I decided to utilise several different visual approaches in telling his story. In this way, I could present the complexity of the man and his contribution to the cultural history of Ireland in a dynamic and entertaining way.

Hugh Lane was a man who was difficult to know, someone who antagonised and infuriated as many as he delighted and intrigued. Altogether a man who was difficult to understand, but just as difficult to avoid (especially those from whom he wanted something). This drama documentary uses multiple techniques to analyse and describe his life and a style that will respect the man himself, creating a film which I hope is full of ideas, exuding energy, a passion for art and a campaigning desire to return the paintings to their rightful owner – the people of Dublin - and complete Hugh Lane’s vision.

Thaddeus O’Sullivan

**CAST**

**Tom Vaughan-Lawlor – Hugh Lane**

Tom graduated with a degree in Drama Studies at the Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College, Dublin and continued his training at RADA.

His recent films include: *Avengers: Infinity Wars*; *The Infiltrator* opposite Bryan Cranston; Jim Sheridan’s feature *The Secret Scripture*, *Daphne* and *Rialto*, both directed by Peter Mackie Burns. He played the lead Larry Marley in critically-acclaimed and biggest grossing Irish Box Office film *Maze*.

For TV, Tom he has played Padraig Pearse in *Trial of the Century* directed by Maurice Sweeney and appeared as the role of PJ Mara opposite Aidan Gillen as Charles Haughey in the RTE drama *Charlie*.

He won wide acclaim playing the central character Nidge in all four seasons of the drama series *Love/Hate* (produced by Octagon Film, written by Stuart Carolan and directed by David Caffrey) winning him both a Best Supporting Actor IFTA in 2010 and a Best Actor IFTA in 2013. Other notable film work includes *The Tiger’s Tail* opposite Brendan Gleeson directed by John Boorman, and as Robert Fowle opposite Maggie Smith and Anne Hathaway in *Becoming Jane* directed by Julian Jarrold for Miramax Films.

In theatre, Tom appeared in a remount of an epic one man performance of *Howie The Rookie* directed and written by Mark O’Rowe which he performed at the Projects Art Centre and Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The show also played in Dublin, London and New York. He also appeared in a sold-out run of *Our Few and Evil Days*, in the Abbey Theatre opposite Ciaran Hinds and Sinead Cusack.

**Michael Gambon – Lord Ardilaun**

Michael Gambon has a distinguished, award-winning career in theatre, television and film. He made his film debut in Laurence Olivier’s *Othello* in 1965. He then played romantic leads, notably in the BBC television series, *The Borderers* (1968–70). His craggy looks soon made him into a character actor, although he won critical acclaim as Galileo in John Dexter's production of *The Life of Galileo* by Brecht at the National Theatre in 1980. But it wasn’t until Dennis Potter's *The Singing Detective* in 1986 that he became a household name. His film and TV work includes *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife & Her Lover*, *Maigret*, *A Man Of No Importance*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Nothing Personal*, *Wives and Daughters*, *Endgame*, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, *Layer Cake*, *Being Julia*, *The King’s Speech* and playing Professor. Albus Dumbledore in six of the *Harry Potter* films.

**Marty Rae – William Orpen**

Marty Rea studied at RADA and has starred in Othello at The Abbey, *Waiting For Godot*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *King of the Castle* for Druid Theatre Company and *The Great Gatsby* at The Gate, for which he won Best Supporting Actor at the Irish Times Theatre Awards 2018. His film credits include *Barbarians Rising*, *The Man Inside* and *The Devil’s Pool*.

**Derbhle Crotty – Lady Augusta Gregory**

Derbhle Crotty was a member of the Abbey Theatre from 1994 - 2009 where she was involved in many productions. Amongst her earliest jobs at the Abbey was a role in Marina Carr's breakthrough play *The Mai* in 1994,and later the lead in Carr's *Portia Coughlan* for Gary Hynes, she also played the title role in a long neglected play from the 1930s by Irish playwright Teresa Deevy called *Katie Roche*, directed by Judy Friel.

Derbhle has worked extensively in London and has appeared in many National Theatre and RSC productions. In 2008 she was awarded the Irish Times Theatre Awards for Best Actress in the Abbey production of *Three Sisters* where she played the part of Masha. She won it for a second time in 2015 for her portrayal of King Henry IV for Druid Theatre Company's production *DruidShakespeare*. Derbhle’s credits also extend to TV and film, including *Notes on a Scandal*, *Stella Days*, *Noble* and *Paula*.

**Lesley Conroy – Sarah Cecilia Harrison**

Lesley Conroy’s notable TV credits include the role of Detective Sharon Kelly in *Mattie* staring alongside Pat Shortt (RTÉ), the award winning political drama *The Running Mate* and *Fir Bolg* (TG4), *School Run* (TV3), *The Clinic* and *The Big Bow Wow* (RTÉ).

Films include – *An Créatúr*, *Strength and Honour*, *Angela Mooney Dies Again*, *The Hideaways* and *Love Rosie*. She received an IFTA nomination for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Eilish Moore in the film version of Eugene’s O’Brien’s *Eden*.

She played Annie in *Life’s a Breeze*, alongside Fionnula Flanagan and Pat Shortt, directed by Lance Daly. She was nominated for Best Actress in Helen Flanagan’s short film *The Drive* in the Underwire Film Festival, London.

Theatre credits include *Snake Eaters* (The New Theatre, Dublin), *Eden* (Decadent theatre company), *King Lear* (Second Age), *Top Girls* (Gallowglass), *The Duchess of Malfi* and *The Spanish Tragedy* (Loose Canon) *Animal Farm* and *A Clockwork Orange* (Corcadorca). She has also appeared in many Irish language productions with Belfast based Theatre Company Aisling Ghéar. Her work for the Abbey Theatre includes *En Suite*, *Something’s in the Way*, *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche* and *Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire*. Lesley’s radio work includes the title role in John B. Keane’s *Sive* for RTÉ Radio. She was recently seen in *Fair City* as Aoife O’Neil and in cinemas in *The Cured*.

**Gemma-Leah Devereux – Ruth Shine**

Gemma-Leah Devereux made her theatrical appearance in *The Dreamers of Inishdara* at the Jermyn Street Theatre. However, she is best known for her role as Lady Elizabeth Fitzgerald in historical fiction television series *The Tudors* and nurse Aoife O’Reilly in *Casualty*. She has starred in *Stitches* directed by Conor McMahon and *Comedown*, an urban horror-thriller film directed by Menhaj Huda. Gemma has recently featured in the TV series *Striking Out* played the role of Judy Garland’s iconic daughter Liza Minelli in BBC Films’ biopic *Judy*.

**Bosco Hogan – Reverend James Lane**

Bosco Hogan is one of Ireland’s best-known and most respected actors. He was most recently cast in the role of Mendel in the feature film *Mirage* directed by Sil can der Woerd.

Recent credits include the role of Charlie Tobin in Eugene McCabe's *King of the Castle*, directed by Garry Hynes for Druid, the role of Father Sheridan in *Jimmy’s Hall* directed by Graham McLaren for The Abbey Theatre and Stacie Passon's feature film *We Have Always Lived In The Castle*, in which he played the role of Ol' Ned alongside Sebastian Stan, Taissa Farmiga and Alexandra Daddario.

Other recent screen appearances include season five of the History Channel's *Vikings*, the role of *Flint in The Flag*, a feature directed by Declan Recks, the role of Dr. Louie Byrne in TV3's *Trial Of The Century* directed by Maurice Sweeney and Esras Film's *The Inquiry*, in which he played the role of William Martin Murphy. He would also be familiar to many from his role a Bishop Piccolomini in Neil Jordan’s *The Borgias*.

Theatre credits include the role of Old Pyper in *Observe The Sons Of Ulster Marching Towards The Somme* by Frank McGuinness, directed by Jeremy Herrin at the Abbey Theatre, the role of Alfieri in *A View From The Bridge* directed by Joe Dowling for the Gate Theatre, the role of Lane in *The Importance Of Being Earnest* directed by Patrick Mason, also with the Gate Theatre (with performances at the Spoleto Festival, USA) the lead role of Séamus in Druid Theatre Company’s production of Tom Murphy’s play *Brigit* and the acclaimed *DruidShakespeare* project.

**Barry McGovern – Reverend James Lane**

Barry McGovern is one of Ireland's most skilled and experienced actors, who has had a long career in theatre, film, television and radio. He is regarded by many as one of the leading exponents of the work of Samuel Beckett. His one-man Beckett show, *I'll Go On*, produced by Dublin's Gate Theatre, has played worldwide and he has toured with the Gate productions of *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame* *and Happy Days*. His film credits include *Joe Versus The Volcano*, *Braveheart* and *The General*. He also appears in the television series *The Tudors*, *Game of Thrones*, *Rebellion* and *Vikings*.

**Ned Dennehy – George Moore**

Ned Dennehy’s film credits include *Blitz*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1*, *Tyrannosaur* and the independent British feature film *Downhill*. His television work includes RTÉ's *Damo and Ivor*, *Glitch* and the BBC dramas *Parade's End*, *Luther*, *Banished* and *Dickensian*.

He also appears as Charlie Strong in *Peaky Blinders* and in the major TV productions *Versailles* and *Broken* and won an IFTA Award for his supporting role as Irish Pat in TG4's *An Klondike*.

**Peter Campion – W.B. Yeats**

Peter Campion’s film credits include *Sing Street* and *Brooklyn*. His television work includes *LOVE/HATE* and *Can’t Cope Won’t Cope* (RTE), *Redwater* (BBC) and *London/Irish* and *Derry Girls* (Channel Four). Peter’s theatre includes Autumn Royal which will play in the Everyman in Cork and Project followed by an Irish tour, for director Catriona McLaughlin.

**FILMMAKERS**

**Thaddeus O’Sullivan – Writer, Director, Producer**

Thaddeus O'Sullivan received his early film training in the UK at the Ealing School of Art and the Royal College of Art. In the late 1970s he made two influential experimental films about the life of the Irish immigrant in London: the short film A Pint of Plain and the feature-length On a Paving Stone Mounted.

During the 1980s, he directed a documentary on the painter Jack B. Yeats and a critically-acclaimed short fiction film, The Woman Who Married Clark Gable, which received a BAFTA nomination. In 1991, he directed the feature film December Bride (winner of the Jury Prize at the European Film Awards), an adaptation of Sam Hanna Bell's Northern Irish novel about a scandalous ménage-à-trois set in a rural Presbyterian community in Ulster. It was an important film in the development of contemporary Irish cinema, notable for its exploration of an aspect of Irish rural life far removed from the romantic whimsy of Hollywood.

O'Sullivan subsequently tackled contemporary urban Ireland in two contrasting films, exploring Loyalist paramilitaries in Northern Ireland in the stylish but sombre political thriller Nothing Personal, and a more light-hearted version of the Michael Cahill story, Ordinary Decent Criminal. The Heart of Me marked a break: a costume film set in the 1930s about an upper-middle-class English love triangle. O'Sullivan's patient, low-key exploration of sibling rivalry and doomed love gives The Heart of Me a genuine poignancy. He directed the opening episodes of Granada's Island at War and more recently the TV series Shetland and Silent Witness. In the HBO biopic Into the Storm, he improbably cast Brendan Gleeson to play Winston Churchill – giving an Emmy Award winning performance among the film’s 14 Primetime Emmy nominations.

**Mark O’Halloran – Writer**

Mark O’Halloran is best known for his award winning screenplays, Adam and Paul and Garage, both closely worked character studies directed by Lenny Abrahamson. O’Halloran’s recent film Viva, an exuberant celebration of a very different character, was listed for Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film.

**James Mitchell – Producer**

James Mitchell founded production company Soho Moon to make television drama series and feature documentaries. Recent notable successes include Dreams of a Life, directed by Carol Morley (“Nothing has lingered in my mind like this” Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian); and the drama thriller series Acceptable Risk (6 x 1 hours, a co-production with Canadian producer Facet4, aired on RTE (Ireland), Acorn TV (US) and Super Channel (Canada) Fall 2017).

Mitchell began his career in entertainment law, specialising in structured finance film transactions and the setting up of international co-productions, notably the classic Don’t Look Now, directed by Nic Roeg, starring Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland and Force 10 From Navarone, directed by Guy Hamilton, starring Harrison Ford and Robert Shaw. He founded Little Bird and, with business partner Jonathan Cavendish, built one of the most successful independent production companies in Europe. Over the course of some 25 years, Little Bird, based in Dublin, London and Johannesburg, developed and produced some 50 movies, feature documentaries and television dramas.

Successful TV series include The Irish R.M., a classic period series (Channel Four/Masterpiece Theater) over three seasons; The Writing On The Wall, thriller mini-series (BBC/WDR) starring Denis Haysbert and William H. Macy; The Hanging Gale, Irish Famine mini-series (BBC), Golden FIPA Biarritz, and No Tears, State of the Nation mini-series (RTE), starring Academy Award winner Brenda Fricker. Movie highlights are December Bride, directed by Thaddeus O’Sullivan; Into The West, written by Jim Sheridan, directed by Mike Newell, starring Gabriel Byrne and Ellen Barkin and indie US box office hit Croupier, directed by Mike Hodges, starring Clive Owen. Notable documentaries include King of Communism, directed by Ben Lewis, Grierson Award; The Klaus Kinski story Mein Liebster Feind, directed by Werner Herzog, Special Presentation Cannes Film Festival and documusical Sophiatown, directed by Pascale Lamche, Best Documentary Cape Town World Cinema Festival.

**Jane Doolan – Producer**

Jane Doolan began her career as TV and radio producer for Saatchi and Saatchi advertising. In 1989 she joined Little Bird and set up what became Ireland’s largest TV commercial operation. From 1992 to 1996 she was co-producer of Into the West director Mike Newell writer Jim Sheridan, producer of The Brother a one man show based on the works of Flann O’Brien, associate producer of In the Border Country director Thaddeus O Sullivan, associate producer Moondance director Dagmar Hertz. In 1996 she founded Ireland’s first independent theatrical and video distribution company Clarence Pictures which distributed over 200 films including The Usual Suspects, Secrets and Lies, and Trainspotting on behalf of PolyGram, Film4, Icon and other independent distributors as well as releasing many indigenous Irish films.

In April 2002 she founded Mammoth Films, she was Executive producer on Spin The Bottle for Grand pictures and Happy Ever Afters (2009) director Stephen Burke, producer Lesley McKimm. She held the position of Film Specialist for the Arts Council of Ireland for two years where amongst her policy work she developed and implemented a number of new schemes for film and documentary most notably the Documenting the Arts and Dance On The Box film schemes. Mammoth Films currently has several projects in active development, The Good Italian, a drama set in 1930’s Eritrea written by Stephen Burke published as a novel by Hodder and Stoughton and Choosing Sides a satirical comedy set in Neutral Ireland of the 1940’s and FANGO an Italian language thriller set in Sardinia. Recent credits include L’Accabadora, an Italian co-production, director Enrico Pau. The film stars Barry Ward (Jimmy’s Hall) and received support from IFB from its co-production fund.

Mammoth’s most recent production is MAZE, an Irish-Swedish co-production starring Tom Vaughan-Lawlor and Barry Ward which tells the story of the 1983 mass breakout from HMP MAZE. Funded by IFB, BAI and Film Vast, the film was released by LionsGate International in Ireland and the UK in September 2017 and is still running in cinemas where it has passed US$1,000,000 at the box office. Citizen Lane, marks a first step into documentary production for the company.

**Sheila Ahern – Producer**

Sheila Ahern is a television researcher and producer specialising is historical and current affairs documentary. She worked in RTE television and radio from 1987 until 2000. Her final programme with RTE was as researcher/reporter on States of Fear a three-part documentary series examining the experience of children who were in institutional care in Ireland (winner of numerous Irish and International television awards). Since then, she has worked on many productions including the Prime Time: Making Them Pay investigation about children who were sexually abused in day school and outside the remit of the State redress scheme (tx March 2007, Misha Productions - Interviewer/Researcher, winner of Justice Media Award), Whistleblower, a two-part drama about the case of Dr. Michael Neary in the Lourdes Hospital Drogheda (tx Sept 2008 for RTÉ/Saffron Pictures - Researcher, winner Best TV Drama IFTA) and Behind the Walls, two-part documentary series about the history of psychiatric institutions in Ireland (tx Sept 2011 for RTÉ, Misha Productions.

DIRECTED by

**Thaddeus O’Sullivan**

WRITTEN by

**Mark O’Halloran**

CAST (in alphabetical order)

**Peter Campion** as WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

**Lesley Conroy** as SARAH CECILIA HARRISON

**Derbhle Crotty** as LADY AUGUSTA GREGORY

**Ned Dennehy** as GEORGE MOORE

**Gemma-Leah Devereux** as RUTH SHINE

**Alavaro Lucchesi** as ANTONIO MANCINI

**Barry McGovern** as WILLIAM MARTIN MURPHY

**Chris McHallum** as TAILOR

**Gertrude Montgomery** as MAUD GONNE

**Frank Prendergast** as JOHN MILLINGTON SYNGE

**Marty Rea** as WILLIAM ORPEN

**Tom Vaughan-Lawlor** as HUGH LANE

and

**Michael Gambon** as LORD ARDILAUN

PRODUCED by

**James Mitchell**

**Jane Doolan**

**Shiela Ahearn**

CONSULTANT

**Ray Foster**

EDITOR

**Mick Mahon**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**Kate McCullough**

CASTING

**Maureen Hughes**

MUSIC COMPOSER AND ARRANGER

**Steve Willaert**

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

**Sophia Stocco**

PRODUCTION DESIGN

**Mark Kelly**

MAKE-UP DESIGN

**Rosie Blackmore**

HAIR DESIGN

**Anne Dunne**

LINE PRODUCER

**Annie Barclay**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCED by

**Adrien Politowski**

**Tatjana Kozar**