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## ***Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council announces dlr First Frames Short Film Awards***

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is pleased to announce the short films which have recently been awarded funding under the dlr First Frames Scheme - **Simon** and **Soulmate Wanted**.

Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Cllr. Lettie McCarthy: “We’re delighted to announce these dlr First Frames awards. We are very pleased to support the emerging talent in filmmaking in the County and would like to congratulate both of the creative teams behind the awarded films.”

**Simon** is a film about a self-destructive man who finds himself desperately trying to persuade his brother not to take his own life and that of his child's, all told over the phone and in real time. The creative team consists of director/writer Peter McCarthy; director/writer Ben Conway and writer Moe Dunford. They have teamed with Take Ten Productions - an award-winning production company formed by Rob Earley and Mark Griffin in 2019 - to produce Simon.

**Soulmate Wanted** is the story of Gwen, a pedantic believer in all things mystical, who has just received a sketch of her soulmate. Determined to find love and hope in a pandemic, she launches her own personal search campaign. The creative team behind Soulmate Wanted is writer Mary Kirwan, director Zoë Brennan-Whitmore and producer Gráinne Dwyer. The production company is Stori Creative.

Speaking about the dlr First Frames Award, the directors of Simon said: “Receiving the DLR First Frames short film scheme funding will enable us to create an extremely tense film that addresses the complexities of the devastating impact mental health issues have on our society today. The team behind 'Simon' would like to acknowledge the incredible support everyone at Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office and Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology has offered throughout this process.”

dlr First Frames is fully funded by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council’s Arts Office and Economic Development Unit, and managed by IADT. Mentoring support and additional equipment and facilities is provided by the National Film School, IADT. The films are due for completion in Autumn 2022.

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