

A young boy is seen from behind, wearing dark overalls and holding a long rifle. He stands in a field with a sunset in the background. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light. In the distance, there is a body of water and a small stone tower on a hill.

**A young boy grows up in
1950's Cavan. He lives on
wit and love, dodges his
father's fists and for the first
time experiences that touch
of flesh that melts us all.**

A BORDER STATION

A Border Station is the story of a young boy's relationship with his mother and father and is set in the 1950s, along the Ulster border where his father is a village Police Sergeant.

Miles from Belfast or Dublin the village is cut off from the rest of the world by hills, lakes and politics. It is a land inhabited by smugglers, soldiers, Anglo-Irish gentry, tinkers, religious preachers, and dominated by the boy's father who is violently frustrated by his wife and the petty crimes he has to deal with. An only child, the boy is adored by his mother but terrified of his father with whom he has a love-hate relationship forever bordering on panic. Night and day he sees and is bruised by the struggles of his parents, the divisions in the lives of men and women and the pounding puzzles in his own heart and brain.

In the green, black and watery land of the Cavan-Fermanagh border the boy grows to sexual awareness and understanding of the people around him. He lives on wit and love, dodges his father's fists, learns the lies of the land and for the first time experiences that touch of flesh that melts all rock and dogma and at last gives shelter to his soul.

Though firmly rooted in its particular time and place, this is not a quaint Irish story of days gone by. There are powerful dynamics at work – supernatural forces in the form of religion, an Oedipal clash resulting in the young boy's violent expulsion from the paradise of his mother's bed, repressed sexuality and jealousy which erupts and threatens to destroy everything good, the mystery and strangeness of a first sexual encounter, a journey whose final purpose is betrayal and a spectacle intended to test God. All these powerful states and events are seen through the innocent eyes of a boy. In the film, we will experience them as urgent, vivid, dangerous and sometimes hilariously funny.

Every action the boy takes must be out of necessity as he struggles to cope with dangerous passions he can barely comprehend. The boy and his mother find their lives dominated by the erratic actions and reactions of his policeman father, a man filled paradoxically with rancour, frustration and love. The only refuge the boy has is the comfort of his mother and the bed he shares with her, the bed from which his father has been exiled. The story weaves a time bomb, which we absolutely expect to detonate.

Financing to budget of £2.25 million
Filming late 2009 / early 2010

Director: **Gillies MacKinnon**

Writer: **Shane Connaughton**

Producers: **Malcolm Craddock, Jackie Larkin**



A Picture Palace/Newgrange production

GILLIES MACKINNON

PURE winner European Production Award at Berlin Film Festival 2003, LAST OF THE BLONDE BOMBSHELLS Judi Dench won GOLDEN GLOBE 2001 and BAFTA 2001 for Best Actress, HIDEOUS KINKY, REGENERATION, TROJAN EDDIE, SMALL FACES, THE PLAYBOYS, THE GRASS ARENA Nominated Best Single Drama BAFTA 1992, NEEDLE

MALCOLM CRADDOCK

Recent TV films include SHARPE (16 TV movies for ITV, starring Sean Bean) A LIFE FOR A LIFE (ITV, starring Olympia Dukakis), which was nominated for the PRIX ITALIA and BAFTA, and won the RTS Awards for Best Writer and Best Newcomer, and REBEL HEART for the BBC and the film PING PONG.

JACKIE LARKIN

KINGS with Colm Meaney

SHANE CONNAUGHTON

MY LEFT FOOT nominated for Best Screenplay, Academy Awards TARA ROAD, THE RUN OF THE COUNTRY, THE PLAYBOYS, EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY, DOLLAR BOTTOM Academy award for Best Live Action Short Film

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