

Rose Plays Julie

Review By Mike Houlihan

For those looking for artistic descendants of Alfred Hitchcock and his unique style, building suspense and sometimes horror, check out Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor's Irish film ROSE PLAYS JULIE. The film is now running virtually as part of the Gene Siskel Film Center's "From Your Sofa" series.

Ann Skelly delivers an astonishing performance as "Rose", a college student in Dublin studying to be a veterinarian. We don't know how long Rose has known she was adopted, but her inner monologues reveal her overwhelming yearning and frightening resolve to find her birth mother.

The filmmaking here is precise and perfectly sets up the suspense in this psychological thriller that will have you climbing the walls of your living room. It works, big time.

We follow Rose on her mission of discovery, while studying "Euthanasia and the healthy animal". Her friend recounts putting down dogs, cats, and even horses



as she reassures Rose, "Trust me, you'll get used to it." Rose knows her birth mother is an actress in her mid-fifties. Rose somehow finds her phone number and starts stalking Ellen, her mother, played engagingly by Orla Brady.

We're not sure of Rose's intentions. After an awkward

ploy to view her mother's home for sale, she and Ellen finally retreat to a wooded area by her home to "talk". The filmmakers have trusted their actors to convey so much of this story without dialogue, which adds to the

suspense. We're not sure where it's going and violence seems imminent until Ellen blurts out, "I was raped."

ROSE PLAYS JULIE is very much a woman's film. Mother and daughter form a strange alliance. Rose dons a variety of disguises to play "Julie" and seeks out and meets the father, a creepy archeologist named Peter Doyle.

The rest I won't give away, only to say that this is a psychological thriller that will give the hair on the back of your neck a great workout. It's eerie, creepy, and scary as hell; taking you on an adventure in identity and revenge that seems almost supernatural, particularly in the performance of Ann Skelly as Rose/Julie. Her face can take you in a hundred different directions all at once with no dialogue necessary.

ROSE PLAYS JULIE is available online at <https://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/rose-plays-julie> until April 15th and could potentially be extended beyond that date. Do yourself a favor, get some popcorn, prop up the cushions and hunker down for one helluva ride from your sofa.

MEMOIR: Now 70, I Recall Visiting My Ancestral Homeland, Ireland, as A Young Artist/Designer

By Patrick Michael Redmond, M.A.

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April 1971. Fifty years ago. My design for a commemorative Waterford® Crystal celebrating the first trade fair between Ireland and Minnesota had been selected earlier, in 1970, as the prize winner in a competition. The competition had only been open to Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD, Minneapolis College of Art & Design) students. I was a student there for my first two years of college, 1968-1970, honored and grateful to have received a scholarship to attend the school. Of note, Nancy Rice, Joe Duffy, and others who would also go on to become leaders in the field, were among the talented students at the Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD) around that time.

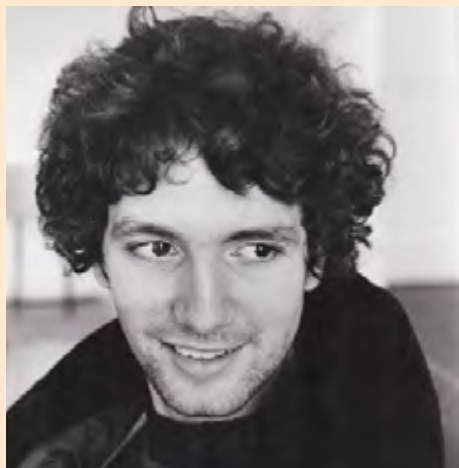
The prize was an all-expense-paid trip to Ireland mainly to visit the Waterford® Crystal factory in Waterford, Ireland, to meet with the Chief Designer and engravers there, to see how Waterford® Crystal was made, and, to experience Ireland as an honored visitor. The competition was co-sponsored by the Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD, Minneapolis College of Art & Design), Powers Department Store, and Ireland's C oras Tr acht ala, Trade Board in Irish, now known as Enterprise Ireland.

I was, of course, very grateful and proud to have been selected for this prize. This would be my first travel outside the United States, and it would be to my ancestral homeland. My dear father's side of the family is of Irish Catholic descent. (Parenthetically, I had come from an ethnically "mixed marriage" since my dear mother's side of the family is of Italian, specifically Sicilian, Catholic descent.) Travel - expenses paid - to Ireland was a dream prize in itself for a young artist/designer.

And what a wonderful trip to Ireland it was! I recall being awe-struck at the first sight of Ireland's brilliant green countryside as my Aer Lingus® flight descended through the clouds while approaching Shannon Airport after crossing the Atlantic, having left behind still-cold, snow-covered Minnesota and the Midwest.

Flying on from Shannon to Dublin, I was welcomed at the airport by a distinguished looking gentleman in a bowler hat and black three-piece-suit, Percy Lovegrove, from C oras Tr acht ala, accompanied by a uniformed chauffeur, a chauffeur who, as it turned out, I was told, was Ireland's leading chauffeur, who would drive me through the south of Ireland - in a Mercedes-Benz® limousine!

The visit to the Waterford® Crystal factory and offices was fascinating and the Kilkenny Design Workshops, inspiring, as were so many other places in Ireland, including, Dublin; Trinity College (where I saw the unforgettable "Book of Kells"); Dun Laoghaire; Glengarriff (where I



had my first poached salmon); Limerick area (home to some of my ancestors, such as the O'Brien's); Wexford (where I crossed the "Redmond" bridge); Bunratty Castle (where I tasted mead for the first time and enjoyed a medieval feast); the countryside where on a beautiful, gusty, sunny-and-cloudy spring day, I watched a thundering horse race across the fields and around a festival-capped hillock; and, toward the end of my visit, the Ring of Kerry and Valentia Island, where looking off from atop a seaside cliff I could see the Skellig Islands (long before the latter were the major tourist attractions that they have become in recent years).

It was truly an honor to be awarded this prize for my artistic and design talent and, as a result, that I was able to have such a wonderful, memorable experience, an experience for which I will always be grateful. My family

was proud.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and raised in West Allis, Wisconsin, I was fortunate to have attended [Pope] Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee, with its excellent art program, and classes in the Children's Art Program at the then Eero Saarinen-designed Milwaukee War Memorial-based Milwaukee Art Center (later known as the Milwaukee Art Museum), a mid-century modernist building overlooking Lake Michigan. I believe, these foundations - also including my education at the Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD) - and the support of my family and friends, in significant part, combined with my God-given talents, helped to make my achievements possible. I will be forever grateful.

Epilogue: The commemorative Waterford® Crystal I had provided the winning design for was donated to the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and, it was truly an honor to see, years later, in the collection catalog identification cards: "Glass", "Crystal", "Ireland", and my name, "Patrick Michael Redmond."

I will always remember this visit to Ireland, the trip and the first stunning sight of my verdant ancestral homeland as my flight came through the clouds.

Notes: "Gift," The Minneapolis Star, Minneapolis, Vol. XCII, No. 261, September 25, 1970, p. 4b. Note: Minneapolis Star photo by Charles Bjorgen of "the winning Waterford Crystal design" ... "by P.M. Redmond"; caption also includes statement that the crystal "has been donated to the Minneapolis Art Institute by Powers Department Store."

"The Irish Make a Clear-Cut Case for Crystal," The Minneapolis Tribune, Minneapolis, Vol. CIV, No. 130, October 1, 1970, p. 17. Note: Article makes reference to Powers Department Store's "Irish festival" citing "Pat Redmond" as the creator of the design including "an outline of the state [of Minnesota] and the state seal and flower" for a (commemorative Waterford Crystal) "apothecary jar made for Powers." Article also states that "the piece is to become part of the permanent collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Art."

1970 photo of Patrick Michael Redmond, age 20, by his Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD, Minneapolis College of Art & Design) Photographic Design professor, Joseph "Joe" Zimbrott. Copyright © Patrick M. Redmond. All rights reserved. Used with permission.