



presents

## Glassland

A film by Gerard Barrett

*"...this is the real deal, the best Irish film in years..." – Trevor Johnston, **Sight & Sound***

*"Melancholic beauty... enthralling cinematography... utterly intense performances"*  
- **Indiewire**



**Ireland / 2014 / Drama / English**  
**93 min / 2.31:1 / 5.1 Sound**

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## Select Press for Glassland

“Transcendent, full of hope, fear, forgiveness” – *The Guardian*

“Observing his characters’ challenging reality as if hiding behind door frames, Barrett and his cinematographer Piers McGrail construct a visually poetic maze out of this family’s mistrust and disappointment...Visual storytelling at its best.” – Carlos Aguilar, *Indiewire*

“Gerard Barrett’s sensitive and subtle drama, GLASSLAND, takes a haunting look at what happens when a child is forced to parent his parent ... Jack Reynor (“What Richard Did”) and Toni Collette (“About a Boy”) give terrific performances.” – Alex Heeney, *Seventh Row*

“Incredible. Wonderful.” – *The Daily Buzz*

“Brutal but beautiful...” – *KCRW*

“Toni Collette’s blistering performance as the alternately enraged and uncaring mother, [compliments] exceptional work from Transformers: Age of Extinction’s Jack Reynor as her good-hearted son who’s conflicted about what to do with his unreasonable and clearly sick mother.” – Boyd van Hoeij, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“It’s a film of few frills or flourishes, which never tries to dress up its subject or soften its blows. Yet in its rage and its pain, in the wire-brush scrub it gives to the movies’ woozily romantic notions of alcoholism, GLASSLAND feels wholly honest and true.” – Mike McCahill, *The Telegraph*

“Knockout performances, almost flawless drama.” – Leslie Felperin, *The Guardian*

“Thoughtful study of a family struggling with alcoholism is harrowing but ultimately uplifting...This is a keenly thought-out film about unintentional emotional abuse. It is also a muddy enigma.” – Donald Clarke, *The Irish Times*



## **FULL SYNOPSIS**

John (Jack Reynor) is a poor taxi driver barely scraping by in his rickety Dublin home that he shares with his alcoholic mother Jean (Toni Collette). John returns home one morning to find his mother unconscious from an alcohol overdose – and this was not the first time. After another night of binge drinking, doctors break the news: she won't live much longer at the rate she's going, but Jean violently rejects John's attempts to help as well as his intentions to unite their family. When Jean is offered an opportunity to recover, John, with no savings or insurance, becomes tangled in the risky world of human trafficking in order to afford Jean's costly rehab at a private clinic, while also bearing responsibility for his younger brother in a care facility with Down Syndrome. John is subsequently faced with a life-changing task that may affect him and his family's lives forever. These heartbreakingly rendered characters bravely show the bleaker side of love.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

John (Jack Reynor) lives with his mother, Jean (Toni Collette), in a social housing suburb and ekes out a meager living as a nocturnal taxi driver. John returns home one morning to find his mother unconscious from an alcohol overdose – and this was not the first time. When Jean is offered an opportunity to recover, John, with no savings or insurance, is subsequently faced with a life-changing task that may affect him and his family's lives forever.

## **LOGLINE**

A young man desperate to save his mother from addiction and reunite his broken family, is forced to take a job, entangling him in the criminal world, which pushes him and his relationships to the limits.

## **ASSETS**

Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLTgwNvakiw>

Downloadable hi-res images:

<http://www.filmmovement.com/libraries/index.asp?MerchandiseID=459>

## Credits

### PRINCIPAL CAST

<b>John</b>	Jack Reynor
<b>Jean</b>	Toni Collette
<b>Shane</b>	Will Poulter
<b>Jim</b>	Michael Smiley
<b>Kit</b>	Harry Nagle

### CREW

<b>Director</b>	Gerard Barrett
<b>Producer</b>	Ed Guiney Juliette Bonass
<b>Screenwriter</b>	Gerard Barrett
<b>Executive Producer</b>	Gerard Barrett Andrew Lowe
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Piers McGrail
<b>Editor</b>	Nathan Nugent
<b>Production Designer</b>	Stephanie Clerkin
<b>Art Director</b>	Patricia Douglas
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Leonie Prendergast
<b>Casting Director</b>	Louise Kiely
<b>Line Producer</b>	Catherine Dunne



## BIOGRAPHIES

### Gerard Barrett, Director

Writer/Director Gerard Barrett is a 28-year-old writer/director from Ireland. In 2012, Barrett's debut feature film, *Pilgrim Hill*, a low-budget study of a farmer living a lonely life filmed over seven days in rural Ireland, premiered at the Irish Galway Film Fleadh and immediately garnered critical acclaim. Donald Clarke of the *Irish Times* proclaimed; "this is a masterful debut" and crowned it as his film of the festival. Barrett, who wrote, directed, edited and produced the feature, went on to win The Bingham Ray Best New Irish Talent Award at the festival as well as the Irish Times Award for Best Film.

*Pilgrim Hill* was then personally selected by Tom Luddy for the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado where it made its North American premiere. Barrett was also selected as the Great Expectation at the festival. *Pilgrim Hill* then screened in competition at the London BFI Film Festival, where Barrett was selected as one of the festival's Rising Stars. The film was released in Ireland in 2013 and became one of the most successful Irish films of the decade at the box office. In February 2013 Barrett won the IFTA Rising Star Award at the Irish Film and Television Awards in Dublin. Previous winners of the award include Michael Fassbender and Saoirse Ronan.



## FILMOGRAPHY

GLASSLAND - 2014

PILGRIM HILL - 2013

### Director's Interview (excerpts)

#### ***How did the concept and story come to you? Is the story based off any truth?***

"I wouldn't say the film is based off a specific true story, but mainly on observation. I am from rural Ireland, and after university I moved to Dublin. The first thing that struck me was kids parenting their own parents. Mothers and fathers were depending on their kids to pick up the pieces and to parent them – a complete reversal of roles. I found it absolutely fascinating. I saw teenagers and even older children dragging their parents home, some battling drug and alcohol addictions. These kids have seen and experienced more than they should have to at their young ages, and been forced to grow up so quickly. I could see the freshness of youth wearing away from their faces. Put yourself in their shoes, waking up every morning, not knowing what the day was going to throw at you and if your parent was going to come home or not or in what physical state? And it was not just in Dublin, I saw this in London, New York, Los Angeles and everywhere I traveled. Where I come from in rural Ireland, this would not be that common. So I put myself into that world, and that is when GLASSLAND was born."

#### ***Did Jack Reynor and Toni Collette work with you on further developing their characters during production, or did they change any aspects of their characters?***

"Jack and I flew to New York where we spent a day with Toni and dissected the story and script. I gave them as much freedom as they wanted to build their characters. I am handing a character that I created over to them, so that they can develop it into their own. My job as a filmmaker is to facilitate the actors and build the world for them to bring our characters to life. So we spoke about a few things, personal and what not, to see what we could bring to it. We were only ever interested in finding the truth. Nothing else. And when you work with actors like them, they bring the truth."

## John – Jack Reynor

Jack recently starred in Michael Bay's *Transformers: Age of Extinction* in which he plays the young male lead opposite Mark Wahlberg. Days after wrapping the tour, Jack traveled to London to shoot Andy Serkis' Warner Bros. feature *The Jungle Book* alongside Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, and Benedict Cumberbatch. Jack is currently shooting John Carney's latest project *Sing Street*. Later this year, he will star opposite Rooney Mara and alongside Eric Bana, Theo James, and Vanessa Redgrave in Jim Sheridan's *The Secret Scripture*, based on the award-winning novel of the same name. Next year, Jack is set to star as the prodigal, substance-abusing baseball star Josh Hamilton in Casey Affleck's film *Miracle Shot*.

Jack, who was born in Colorado, but grew up in Ireland, made his breakout into the motion picture space via his depiction of Richard Karlsen in Lenny Abrahamson's feature *What Richard Did*, which screened at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival. Jack earned the Irish Film and Television Academy (IFTA) award for best actor in 2013 for his performance, which paved the way for his booking of the DreamWorks picture *Delivery Man* opposite Vince Vaughn. He then starred in *GLASSLAND* and has shot Justin Kurzel's *Macbeth* for The Weinstein Company opposite Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard, as well as Julian Jarrold's *Girl's Night Out* opposite Sarah Gadon.

## Jean – Toni Collette

Emmy and Golden Globe award-winner Toni Collette made an indelible impression on Hollywood with her beautiful portrayal as the hopeless and desperate 'Muriel Heslp' in P.J Hogan's film *Muriel's Wedding*. Proving her amazing ability to transform into the characters in which she plays, Collette has since starred in a variety of intriguingly diverse roles both in television and feature films throughout the last two decades.

Upcoming productions include *A Long Way Down*, a film adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel of the same title. In April 2014, she made her much anticipated return to Broadway in Will Eno's *The Realistic Joneses* also starring Michael C. Hall, Marisa Tomei and Tracy Letts. She recently starred alongside Thomas Haden Church in *Lucky Them*. The film is directed by Megan Griffiths and premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2013 to rave reviews.

In 2013, she starred on CBS's high-octane drama series "Hostages" from Executive Producer Jerry Bruckheimer, as well as *Enough Said*, the Nicole Holofcener-directed comedy along with the late James Gandolfini, and in *The Way Way Back* with her Little Miss Sunshine co-star Steve Carrell and Sam Rockwell, and *Friday Night* opposite Colin Farrell.

Other past productions include *Hitchcock* with Anthony Hopkins, *Jesus Henry Christ* with Julia Roberts, and Showtime's hit series "The United States of Tara." This garnered Ms. Collette an Emmy and Golden Globe award for 'Best Actress in a Comedy Series' as well as two Screen Actors Guild Award nominations.

Collette, who was born and raised in Australia and studied at Australia's prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), earned an Academy Award nomination for her performance in M. Night Shyamalan's psychological drama *The Sixth Sense* playing a mother who must cope with physical and emotional distress surrounding her young son's paranormal power and delivered an unforgettable performance in the 1996 adaptation of Jane Austen's *Emma* and in the Miramax film *The Velvet Goldmine* in 1998.

Some of Collette's other projects that have shown her versatility as an actress include *In Her Shoes* with Cameron Diaz and Shirley MacLaine, *Changing Lanes* with Samuel L. Jackson, Nick Hornby's adaptation *About a Boy*, the independent Australian film *Dirty Deeds* and the Oscar winning production *The Hours* alongside Nicole Kidman and Julianne Moore.

### **Shane – Will Poulter**

Will Poulter's feature film debut was in Garth Jennings' nostalgic hit comedy *Son of Rambow* in 2008 for which he received a nomination at the British Independent Film Awards for Most Promising Newcomer. This story of friendship and adventure centers on two young boys, 'Lee Carter' (Poulter) and 'Will Proudfoot', played by Bill Milner, as they spend a long and hot summer making a home movie inspired by *First Blood*.

In 2011 Will starred in Dexter Fletcher's BAFTA nominated directorial debut *Wild Bill*. The film saw Will's transition from child star to adult actor, tackling the role of 'Dean', a young man abandoned by his mother and forced to care for his young brother until his father's return from a long stint in prison. Will was nominated for Young British Performer of The Year at the Critics' Circle Awards for this breakout performance.

In the summer of 2013 Will was in Rawson Marshall Thurber's *We're the Millers* opposite Jennifer Anniston, Jason Sudeikis and Emma Roberts. He is also one of the lead characters 'Gally' in the adaptation of James Dashner's New York Times bestselling YA trilogy *The Maze Runner*. Other films credits include the blockbuster adaptation of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* where Will played 'Eustace Clarence Scrubb' opposite Tilda Swinton, Liam Neeson and Simon Pegg. His dramatization of one of the best-known characters in children's literature won him award nominations and rave reviews commending his stellar performance and heralding him as a name to watch.

Will also played and developed a string of satirical characters on C4/E4 comedy sketch show "School of Comedy," an adult TV show performed by a cast of talented British young comedic actors.

### **Jim – Michael Smiley**

Michael, who recently starred in Giorgos Lanthimos' *The Lobster* with Colin Farrell and Rachel Weisz, became well known for his role as Tyres O'Flaherty the bicycle riding raver in two episodes of the Channel 4 sitcom "Spaced" with Nick Frost and Simon Pegg. He also became well known for his appearances at the Edinburgh Fringe and the Melbourne Comedy Festival. In 2003, he guest starred in the Doctor Who audio drama "Creatures of Beauty" and in season 2 of "Hustle" as Max the forger.

In 2004 he made the zombie film *Shaun of the Dead* again with creative partners Frost and Pegg. In 2010, he had a major role in the film *Burke & Hare* alongside his Spaced co-stars Pegg and Jessica Hynes, and in 2011, he starred in British horror film *Kill List* directed by Ben Wheatley. The film received critical acclaim, and earned him the "Best Supporting Actor" Award at the 2011 British Independent Film Awards.

He has appeared on acclaimed television shows on BBC One and Two and Channel 4, and teamed up again with Ben Wheatley in *A Field in England* and with Pegg and Nick Frost for the sci-fi action comedy *The World's End*.



### **Festivals and Awards**

Winner – Special Jury Acting Award for Jack Reynor – Sundance Film Festival 2015

Winner – Best Feature – Galway Film Festival 2015

Official Selection – Seattle International Film Festival

San Francisco Irish Film Festival

Irish Film Festival Los Angeles

Irish Film Festival New York

Official Selection – Scottsdale Intl Film Festival

Official Selection – 3 Rivers Film Festival (Pittsburgh)

### **About Film Movement**

Launched in 2002, Film Movement is a full-service North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films, based in New York City. Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts from 50 countries on six continents, including top prize winners from Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, Tribeca and other prestigious festivals. Film Movement releases its films through numerous distribution channels, including thousands of art-house cinemas, universities and libraries; home video; television outlets; cable video on demand; digital platforms; and in-flight entertainment. For more information, please visit [www.filmmovement.com](http://www.filmmovement.com).