Hands on Devil Leads LGBT Fest

BY CAINH O'DOHERTY

THE New York premiere of the buzzed about new Irish feature film 
Hands on Devil will occur at the 
sixth annual Craic LGBT Fest scheduled for Thursday, May 11 at the Irish 
Arts Center in New York.

Already dubbed the Irish Moonlight, it's the critically acclaimed new comedy directed by John Butler and starring gifted Irish actor Moe Dunford (best known for Vikings, Patrick's Day and Graddock) in a full threathed celebration of friendship, courage and being true to yourself in a society that often wants you to be anything but.

When artistic teenager 'Ned' (Tieron O'Shea) and rugby star play-
er Conor (Nicholas Galitzineaire) are forced to share a bedroom at their boarding school, tensions quickly emerge.

To everyone's surprise though, the quiet loner and the star athlete at the rugby mad school quickly form a deep and unlikely friendship, until it's tested by one of the school's authorities.

Dunford plays the rugby coach Pascual O'Keefe, who bitterly resents the life changing doors that Ned and his inspiring English teacher Dan Sherry (Ar-drew Scott) are opening for star player Conor, which he feels are distracting him from the school's first final match in a decade.

O'Keefe sets about breaking up the friendship, and Ned, tired of putting back into the social parish he was born to be he and scoring some points against his own professional rival in the process. (Dunford will attend the screening and take part in a discussion about the film afterward.)

In Hands on Devil, director Hughes is working with some pretty potent elements - betrayal, homophobia and violence for a start - but he keeps things moving with a lightness of touch that allows the winning performances greater scope to tell the tale.

Hands on Devil has all the knowing charm of John Hughes' 1980s teen films, though undercut though with genuine feeling and with unforgettable life lessons about standing up for yourself and others that are sometimes Beecher.

At root though, Hands on Devil is a celebration of the sheer transformative joy of a genuine friendship, whether gay or straight, and O'Shees and Galitzineaire's performances convey every nuance of that discovery in a film that already seems certain to become an Irish classic.

Meanwhile, the Craic LGBT Fest special guest this year will be award winning director Ken Wardrop. He will show two of his quirky shorts, Hard and Deadass Dog.

In Unsullied Dog we meet Trevor Wardrop, a dirty furry sheep farmer in Ireland, who introduces us to his useless dog Gunnerus. Trevor lists her many faults. She's a mongrel sheep dog who's looey of actual sheep. She's 49 years old in dog years and so completely set in her ways.

She's also cowardly and narcoleptic. He tells us. But she's delightful company and one of the family too, as this film outlines

In Hard, Wardrop's best known for his first film and Fierce Packets of Ten films Trevor again, this time after he has discovered that a young deer has befriended his herd of cattle.

What will become of this unexpected friendship? Will it endure since the deer understands it's not a cow too?

Wardrop's works are famous for finding beauty in the mundane and for exploring the perennial Irish themes of family and relationships, and these two shorts underline his growing talent.

In Craic LGBT Fest is presented by Stella Artois and Clontarf Irish Whiskey. Terence Mulligan festival producer told the Irish Voice: "We are delighted to be working with the IAC and excited to host the New York premiere of Hands on Devil."

The event is support by the Cultural Immigrant Initiative and the Irish Caucus (City Council of New York) and it is already sold out. But fear not - a wait list is being taken by the Irish Arts Center, so you can still call and see if there's an opportunity to attend.

The night kicks off with a pre-reception at 6 p.m., courtesy of Stella Artois, Clontarf Irish Whiskey and Boru Vodka. The films run from 7:30 p.m. There will be a question and answer session after the films. The after reception will run from 9:30 p.m.

RSVP to theticket@thecraicfest.com to attend. For further information call 917-278-7530 or visit www.the craicfest.com.

Scott knows how to create an atmosphere of growing menace, and you'll be on the edge of your seat as the tension builds.

One of the missing crew members from the previous journeys in this series is a good script editor. Plot holes you could drive trucks through and coincidences that were too good to be true set the air out of previous go-arounds, but that problem is resolved here.

From the opening moments and for the first time in decades, Alien: Cov-

enant picks up the gauntlet thrown down by the classic series and contains some significant new shocks of its own.

Passbender literally carries the film again as the two warring sides of a de-
bate about who has the right to decide the fate of others. David has weaponized an already fearsome alien race, and he believes that they represent the future.

But Walter doesn't think he has the right to decide who should live or die, and he stands in his way. Who will win and who will lose is the troubling ques-
tion that Alien: Covenant asks.

Along the way you'll be riveted to your seat.

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Allen: Covenant asks some pretty deep questions in other words, but unlike Prometheus it never forgets to scare the pants off you in a film that is two parts roller coaster to one part mo-
rality play.

After a disaster on board brings the space ship to an uncharted but life sustaining planet, the ship's human captain Oram (Billy Crudup) decides to split the odds and make it their new colonial outpost.

His second in command is resistant to the idea though, insisting that the op-
portunility is just a little too perfect and that the distress beacon that led there might be a set up.

Scott's money is on Daniels, the sec-
ond in command (played by Katherine Waterston, most famous for last year's Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them). She steps into the badass Sig-

curse Weaver-style role with author-
ity from the opening scene.

No sooner have they put down a shut-
ter but they come under sustained and terrifying attack from a threat the likes of which they have never seen before.