

## APPENDIX 1



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice

[Customer Charter](#) | [FAQ](#) | [FOI](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Contact](#)

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [GUIDELINES](#) [NEWS](#) [DISTRIBUTORS](#) [TITLE SEARCH](#)

16 Certificate - Guidelines

You are here: [Home](#) / [Main Menu](#) / [Guidelines](#) / [16 Certificate - Guidelines](#)

### 16 16 Certificate - Guidelines

Films classified in this category are suitable for persons of sixteen or over. Those under sixteen will not be admitted to cinemas and it is the responsibility of each cinema, under law, to ensure that this is the case.

The 16 certificate recognizes the ability of today's teenagers to digest and understand mature themes and complex material. Many films that would previously have been classified 18 are now classified in this category.

#### THEME/CONTENT

Most themes/content will be acceptable with classification decided by the way the subject is treated.

#### VIOLENCE/THREAT

Violence might be intensely depicted and may include some gory imagery. We take particular account of the way in which sexual violence is portrayed. The portrayal of such content in this category should not be explicit and must have clear contextual justification.

Strong horror and sustained threat may be acceptable but will not include the strongest images of sadism and torture.

#### SEXUAL CONTENT/NUDITY

Strong sexual themes and content may be permissible provided it is not gratuitous.

#### LANGUAGE

Strong language is acceptable within this category.

#### DRUGS

Films at this category might feature themes and scenes relating to hard drug use. However, any instructional or glamorised drug use, particularly involving teen protagonists, is unlikely to be acceptable.

#### NOTE:

Some films released on DVD with a 15 cert may have a cinema release certificate 16 due to the difference in cinema/DVD classification structure. It is illegal for a retailer to sell or rent a film classified 15 to any person below that age.



Genre	Drama
Director	Sean Breathnach
Cast	Dónall Ó Héalaí, Fionnuala Flaherty, Cillian O'Gairbhi
Distributor	Eclipse Pictures
Release Date	(as supplied by Distributor)
Date Classified	15th Nov 2021
Duration	93' 24"
Website	<a href="http://www.imdb.com/title/tt13448084/">www.imdb.com/title/tt13448084/</a>

	None	Mild	Moderate	Strong
Violence				✓
Drugs		✓		
Sex / Nudity				✓
Language				✓
Other / Comments	Strong sex, violence and language.			

# Foscadh

2021 · 1h 33m

IMDb RATING **7.2**/10  
45 ★ YOUR RATING ☆ [Rate](#)

[Cast & crew](#) · [IMDbPro](#) [All topics](#)



**Drama**

When his over-protective parents pass away, friendless recluse John Cunliffe discovers their land to be extremely valuable, and he is forced to navigate the choppy waters of trust, vengeance and romance for the first time.

Director [Sean Breathnach](#)

Writers [Sean Breathnach](#) · [Donal Ryan](#) (novel "The Thing about December")

Stars [Dónall Ó Héalaí](#) · [Fionnuala Flaherty](#) · [Cillian O'Gairbhi](#) >

**IMDbPro** See production, box office & company info

**COMING SOON**  
Releases March 11, 2022

+ Add to Watchlist

IRISH FILM REVIEWS / REVIEWS

## Foscadh – Review of Irish Film at Galway Film Fleadh 2021

15TH SEPTEMBER 2021 - 4 MINS READ

This year's Galway Film Fleadh featured the latest feature to emerge from Cine4 (a TG4/IFB/BAI initiative to develop original feature films in the Irish language), *Foscadh* ("Shelter"), a raw, emotionally wrought and at times excruciating excavation of loneliness and human vulnerability. Based on Donal Ryan's acclaimed novel *The Thing About December*, Ryan has been rightly celebrated for his ability to capture in his work the distinctive English vernacular of the north Tipperary region in which he grew up. Seán Breathnach (who both wrote the screenplay and directed the film) therefore took a courageous decision to set his adaptation among Irish speakers in the Connemara Gaeltacht. However, his own familiarity with this locale, and the casting of a range of local Irish-speaking actors, ensures that the film has its own integrity to its setting and the people who inhabit it. Nonetheless, this is at times not an easy film to watch. The themes examined here delve deep into the darker regions of both personal and social dysfunction. *Foscadh* opens with the return of lead protagonist John Cunliffe (impressively realised by Dónall Ó Héalaí) to his home to discover the body of his mother on the sitting room floor. Unsure how to deal with this traumatic event, he sits for a while on the couch, seemingly helpless. We learn as the film develops that Cunliffe has limited social skills after growing up in an overprotective environment, largely isolated from the rest of the community. The wealth he inherits on his mother's passing is resented by some local people and he is attacked and seriously injured on a night out. Following his admission to hospital he begins to open up and develop – it seems for the first time – human relationships outside his family context, including with fellow patient Dave (Cillian O'Gairbhi) who occupies the next bed, and particularly Siobhán (Fionnuala Flaherty), the nurse who cares for him. Following his release from hospital, he continues to maintain contact with both Dave and in time with Siobhán, with whom he eventually and tentatively attempts to develop his first romantic relationship. However, Cunliffe's ability to engage with his fellow human beings is much less developed and in contrast to his relationship with his natural environment, beautifully depicted in several sequences and evocatively suggested by his repeated recitation of the placenames (as Gaeilge) of the land he inherited, part of which is sought by a local developer. *Foscadh* is a further impressive Cine4 production; following the success and critical acclaim accorded to Tomás Ó Súilleabháin's *Arracht* (2020) (also featuring Ó Héalaí in the lead role and reviewed here after its screening at last year's Fleadh), *Foscadh* was very positively received at the Fleadh and was recipient of this year's Best Irish First Feature award. Though set in entirely different time periods, both films also share similarities beyond their Connemara setting in their excavations of human vulnerability and the suffering human beings can inflict on each other. *Foscadh* doesn't quite come together in its entirety as a fully realised and cohesive text; pacing is occasionally uneven or uncertain in the development of characters and their relationships. Nonetheless, this is an auspicious debut feature from Breathnach, assisted by Icelandic composer Sindri Már Sigfússon's poignant soundtrack and Colm Hogan's superb cinematography which employs the sublime landscape and natural world of Connemara to complement the emotional intensity evident throughout this moving production.