



ULSTER ALIEN SHORT

Directed by Corey Gallagher

The Foyle Pride Committee and Corey Gallagher invite you and guests to attend the premiere of 'Ulster Alien' in The Alley Theatre, Strabane, at 7-30pm on Tuesday 20th August 2019.



The event is generously sponsored by the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane, Councillor Michaela Boyle.

Corey Gallagher, Stephen Birkett and some of the actors in the film will take part in a question and answer session after the showing. Copies of Stephen's first three novels will be on sale at the event at £10 each.

Admission is free but please let Martin McConnellogue on the The Foyle Pride committee on bonabona@aol.com know if you are attending, with numbers, so they can organise sufficient seating.

JOURNEYS

There is a second Strabane event for Foyle Pride from 11am to 1pm on Friday 23rd August at The Alley Theatre. This is called 'Journeys' and it will be an informal gathering at which LGBTQ people, mostly from Strabane, will talk about their coming out journeys. Entry is free.

ABOUT THE ULSTER ALIEN SHORT

Strabane native, Corey Gallagher graduated from film school at Screenology, Bristol in 2019. For his final year he had to make a short film and he decided to base it on 'Ulster Alien', a novel written by his former teacher at Strabane Grammar School, Stephen Birkett.

Published in 1999, 'Ulster Alien' is the first of five novels each covering one of the last five decades of gay life in the north west of Ireland. 'Ulster Alien' tells of Matt, a young gay man in the Unionist community in the 1970s. Stephen used his experiences working on the gay help-line in Derry and living as a gay teacher in Strabane to craft his novels.

The half-hour film takes one small strand of a multilayered novel and weaves it into a poignant coming out story. To link the narrative and contrast the situation today to forty years ago, Corey employed characters from the fifth novel which is set in the current decade. The screenplay was written before the vote in Westminster to introduce equal marriage here.

The film was made with a minimal budget and all the actors were unpaid. Most of the locations were in Strabane and Lifford and local people were very generous in loaning props and allowing Corey free run to film in their homes and businesses: The Central Bar, Dicey Riley's, The Farmers Home and the Fir Trees Hotel were used.

There is some bad language and sexual content in the film, nothing explicit, but it may not be suitable for young children. The novel was on the recommended reading list for young LGBT in Manchester libraries.