



## **DAN IRELAND: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE**



### **HOLLYWOOD PACKS THEATER FOR DAN IRELAND'S CELEBRATORY MEMORIAL**

**May 14th, 2016 (Hollywood, CA) -**

**On Saturday, over 400 people gathered at the Ahrya Fine Arts Theater in Beverly Hills followed by a reception at Nirvana to celebrate the extraordinary life of Dan Ireland, acclaimed Film Director (*Jolene, Whole Wide World*), Co-Founder of the Seattle International Film Festival, Artistic Director of the Louisiana International Film Festival & Mentorship Program, and beloved friend.**

**Friends, family and fans gathered from all over the world, many of whom spoke in tribute to Dan and all of whom were deeply impacted by the life of Dan Ireland.**

**His family from Canada attended including his siblings Judy Ireland, Mike Ireland and Tim Ireland, their children, and extended family.**



Vincent D'Onofrio in Audience at Memorial

Dan Ireland is widely lauded for helping launch the careers of several acclaimed Hollywood talent, many of whom were in attendance: Actress Renée Zellweger (*Whole Wide World, Jerry Maguire*), Actor Vincent D'Onofrio (*Whole Wide World, Full Metal Jacket*), Actress Jessica Chastain (*Jolene, The Martian*), Actress Francis Fisher (*Jolene, Titanic*), Actress Olivia D'abo (*A Most Peculiar Man, The Wonder Years*), Actress Sofia Milos (*Passionada, CSI: Miami*), Film Composer Harry Gregson-Williams (*Jolene, Whole Wide World, A Most Peculiar Man*), and Director Bernard Rose (*Immortal Beloved, Candyman*).

Renée Zellweger stated, "A friend of mind said the highest form of compliment is to call someone an original, and Dan Ireland was an original. I think as we go forward telling stories about him, there are no shortage of graces to point to when describing him. In front of each of them, we can say he was pure. Dan was purely good and purely kind and thoughtful and generous and unconditionally loving."

Chesley Heymsfield, Executive Director of the Louisiana International Film Festival said, "Dan was not afraid to be an outlier, an impetus for social change, and a voice for equality. Dan was there to make change in the world, to make it a positive place and to truly help other people."

Dan's sister, Judy Ireland stated: "I will remember our Dear brother Dan for the color he brought into our lives. He was so incredibly funny and entertaining with his endless collection of voices and antics that would make us scream with laughter. He was generous with his love. Dan was sensitive and easily bruised, yet strong enough to lead a cast of characters."

**Actress Sally Kirkland (*Anna*, *Paint It Black*, *JFK*) could not attend but sent a letter that was read by Dan's brother, Mike Ireland: "Dear Dan, when I heard the news I went to my church and shared about how you started my film career in such a big way. I can't imagine my life without you discovering me in *Anna* and pushing for its distribution, getting me all the way to the Oscars, winning the Golden Globe Award, the Independent Spirit Award and the L.A. Film Critics Awards. You produced me in *Paint It Black*, and last year you gave me the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Louisiana International Film Festival in Baton Rouge. You were always there for me, for years and years and years. There will never be another Dan Ireland."**



Alex Heumann, Renée Zellweger, Tristen Cutler, Jeff "The Dude" Dowd (Photo credit: Alex Heumann)



Jessica Chastain and Sofia Milos (Photo credit: Sofia Milos)



An Official Statement from the Governor of Louisiana, John Bel Edwards, was presented to the family in honor of Dan Ireland and his legacy.

**[Official Statement from John Bel Edwards](#)**

**Daniel Frederick Ireland passed away from natural causes at his home in Los**

Angeles, California on April 14th 2016 at the age of 57.

[DAN IRELAND MEMORIAL PHOTO GALLERY](#)

**LIFF Photos of Dan Ireland:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n8wb7bydil7im2f/AADE3aoXvFlvnK9jSg07-M-qa?dl=0>

**LIFF Video of Closing Night Memorial to Dan Ireland:**



**PRESS CONTACT:**

Chesley Heymsfield (Executive Director)

Cell: 917.622.8800

Email: [chesley@lifilmfest.org](mailto:chesley@lifilmfest.org)

Louisiana International Film Festival & Mentorship Program

7117 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806

[www.lifilmfest.org](http://www.lifilmfest.org)

"LIFF is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of Louisiana's film, digital media and innovation talent and representation of that talent to the world via the annual Louisiana International Film Festival (LIFF), Louisiana Film Society and Mentorship Program. LIFF aims to provide a forum where talent may obtain skills and relationships that enable them to play a central role in the industry and for the community to be involved in the movement."

- Chesley Heymsfield, Executive Director, LIFF