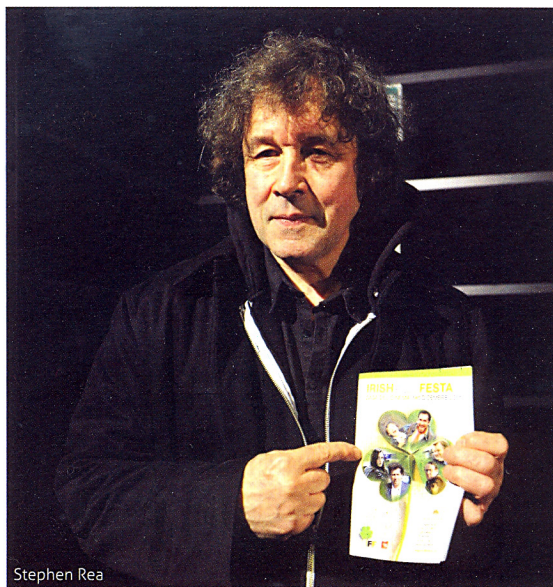


## Irish Film Festa

The 5th Irish Film Festa  
(1–5 December 2011, Rome)

Irish Film Festa's increasing range is emblematic of how this wonderful annual event has grown since 2007 under the guidance of its innovative founder and creative director, Susanna Pellis. In 2011, it once again demonstrated everything that is vital for the healthy exposure of a national cinema: an enthusiastic celebration and projection of creativity, on-going lively discussions between passionate participants, and a rich forum of cultural interaction. In this year's programme, several feature-length productions by some new Irish filmmakers were scheduled. These included James Fair's *The Ballad of Des & Mo*, Ian Power's *The Runway*, and Gerard Hurley's *The Pier*. Running in parallel with the main events was a series of new short films. Of these, Peter McDonald's Oscar®-nominated *Pentecost* came out as jury favourite, winning the Best Short prize in a festival that otherwise deliberately avoids the awards-format. In all



Stephen Rea

of this, and among rich panel discussions and informative master classes, the highlight of the fifth Irish Film Festa was the screening of Neil Jordan's *The Butcher Boy*, followed by an interview with the event's highly-respected special guest, Stephen Rea.

**Barry Monahan**  
[www.irishfilmfesta.org](http://www.irishfilmfesta.org)