

Information sheet

Masterclass with Tomm Moore & Ross Stewart

About the film *The Secret of Kells*

Wednesday 28 April
10:00-11:30 AM CET

Description

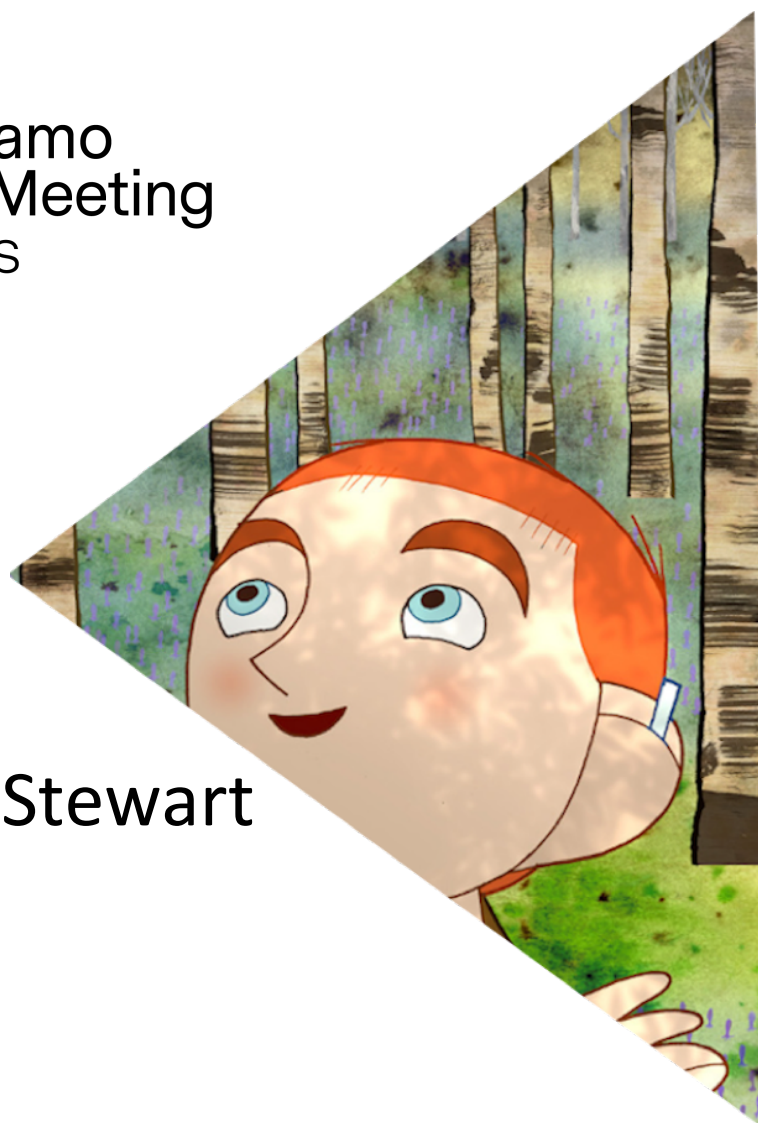
The [Kino Club of the Bergamo Film Meeting](#) and [European Film Factory](#) are proud to present a masterclass held by ones of the most influential authors in the field of animation cinema, Tomm Moore and art director Ross Stewart.

Irish director Tomm Moore and art director Ross Stewart will discuss with students their film *The Secret of Kells* (2009), which is available on the European Film Factory platform. The film is a unique work of animation that celebrates Celtic art and the beauty of nature.

The masterclass will be held in English with Italian translation available and will be recorded.

Teachers can join as:

- o **Main participants.** 6 classes will be selected as main participants to the



masterclass and interact with Tomm Moore & Ross Stewart.

o **Voluntary participants.** Classes that are willing to follow the masterclass online as observers.

Selection criteria for classes participating to the masterclass:

o **Main participants**

Classes applying (represented by their teachers) need to:

- Be allowed to use the Zoom app
- Have a good internet connection
- Be available for a short meeting with the organisation team between 1-12 April
- Provide parental authorisation for students to be filmed (a pre-filled document will be provided by the organisers)
- Teachers and students shall have a sufficient level of English to ask questions to Tomm Moore & Ross Stewart and to follow the masterclass
- NB: Italian classes will be able to follow the masterclass in Italian via simultaneous translation. However, they are strongly invited to ask questions in English
- Teachers and students shall have watched the film *The Secret of Kells* and studied it before the masterclass
- Students shall prepare and ask questions to Tomm Moore & Ross Stewart during the masterclass (5 questions maximum)

o **Voluntary classes** - For classes willing only to follow the masterclass:

- Have a good internet connection
- Students must have a sufficient level of English to follow the masterclass in English
- NB: Italian classes will be able to follow the masterclass in Italian
- Students must have watched *The Secret of Kells*

About Tomm Moore & Ross Stewart

The film, which is set in the early ninth-century monastic settlement of Kells, is based on a concept which **Tomm Moore** had been exploring a decade earlier while a student of animation at Ballyfermot Senior College in Dublin in 1999. Over Cartoon Saloon Studio's history, Tomm has worked as Director, Art Director, Storyboarder, Animator and Illustrator on a range of projects from commercials to service work for feature films and TV series, as well as a number of short films projects. Tomm has directed two universally successful feature films. Both were nominated for Best Animated Feature at the ACADEMY AWARD® *The Secret of Kells* in 2010 and the spiritual follow-up, *Song of the Sea* in 2015. Tomm also co-directed (with Ross Stewart) the "On Love" segment for *The Prophet*, a feature animation produced by Salma Hayek based on one of the best-selling books of all time. Tomm Moore received the Directors Guild of Ireland and America's Finder's Series Award in 2008 and European Director of the year at Cartoon Movie in 2009.

Ross Stewart has been painting, illustrating, designing and working in animation for over 20 years. Earlier in his career, Ross worked primarily in Visual Development and Art Direction including roles on 3 Oscar-nominated movies – Art Director and Concept Artist for *The Secret of Kells* and *Song of the Sea* Respectively, both for Cartoon Saloon, and Visual Development on *ParaNorman* with Laika Studios. More recently he has moved from art direction into directing, working with Tomm Moore on *The Prophet* and now the latest Cartoon Saloon feature, *Wolfwalkers*. As a freelance conceptual artist he has worked for many animation and film studios worldwide on award winning projects and has illustrated books and literature for a variety of publishers. His paintings are exhibited throughout Ireland and the UK and held in collections worldwide. He is a nature lover and would gladly sit under an oak tree all day long.

About *The Secret of Kells*

Synopsis: Young Brendan lives in the Abbey of Kells, a remote medieval outpost under siege from raiding barbarians. One day a celebrated master illuminator arrives from foreign lands carrying an ancient but unfinished book, brimming with secret wisdom and powers. To help complete the magical book, Brendan has to

overcome his deepest fears on a dangerous quest that takes him into the enchanted forest, where mythical creatures hide. It is here that he meets the fairy Aisling, a mysterious young wolf-girl, who helps him along the way. But with the barbarians closing in, will Brendan's determination and artistic vision illuminate the darkness and show that enlightenment is the best defence against evil? An animation gem about onirism, mythology and the art of illumination.

Themes: Adventure, Environment, Fantasy, Friendship, Literature

Age recommendation: from 11 years old

Recommendations to teachers for preparing the masterclass:

- Watch *The Secret of Kells* with your students on European Film Factory (**75 min**): you can screen the film in class or your students can watch it on their own via their own EFF account
The film is subtitled in 8 languages
To watch the film, you need to register on European Film Factory:
<https://www.europeanfilmfactory.eu/registration/teacher>
You can then create a class and have your students register so they can watch the film on their own:
[Tutorial for creating a class and helping your students to register](#)
[Tutorial: Come creare una classe sulla European Film Factory](#)
- Read the educational kit of [The Secret of Kells](#) which analyses and offers activities to implement in class: the educational kit is available in the 8 languages of EFF on *The Secret of Kells* film page on the platform, under the education kit section (**30 min**) (*optional*)
- Debrief the film with students (**30 min**)
- Ask students to research on Tomm Moore, Ross Stewart and Cartoon Saloon Studio (**30 min**)
 - Biography of Tomm Moore on the educational kit (p.3)
 - Videos of Tomm Moore:

- [Tomm Moore's favourite films](#)
- [Tomm Moore about *The Secret of Kells*](#)
- Suggested activities on the film to implement in class (*optional*):
 - **Starter Activity** (p.10): In this activity students will learn to analyse critically the film's characters and narrative.
 - **Animated Colours and Shapes** (p.13): In this activity students will actively learn how an animation film is created, in order to appreciate what is specific and distinctive in this art form.
- Have your students prepare questions to Tomm Moore & Ross Stewart (for main participants only):
 - List of 5 questions to send to EFF team by **April 23** the latest
 - During the masterclass, the class will have 10 minutes to ask question to Tomm Moore & Ross Stewart

Contact

For any inquiries, please contact european.film.factory@institutfrancais.com