

“Imagining Ireland: Exile and Cultural Mythology in the Films of John Ford”



John Ford on location in Ireland during the filming of “The Quiet Man” with actress Maureen O’Hara. (1951)

Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Knights of St. Patrick Hall; 1533 State Street; New Haven, CT

A Free Public Lecture Sponsored by the Irish History Round Table

Considered one of the greatest “mythmakers” in American history, John Ford (1894–1973) was one of the most celebrated and influential directors in American filmmaking. His career spanning just three decades, Ford made 136 films, pioneered the Western genre, and shaped American cultural mythology through epic and enduring pictures. His infamously gruff, no-nonsense persona belied the soul of a romantic within, yielding an astonishingly mournful, sublime, and poetic oeuvre, filled with classics like *Young Mr. Lincoln* (1939), *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940), *How Green was My Valley* (1941), and *The Quiet Man* (1952).

Sarah Churchill, our speaker, is an administrator at Quinnipiac University. She writes and researches on the topics of Irish art history and the history of Irish dance costume. Her chapter entitled, “Emerging from the Shamrock: Gender and Post-Nationalism in the Irish Step Dancing Costume” is currently under review for the forthcoming *Visible Lives in Material Things: Visual and Material Culture and Irish Cultural History*, to be published by Manchester University Press. Come join us for this lecture on the “Irishness” of Ford’s films.