

## Press release

**liverpool biennial**

international festival  
of contemporary art

[www.biennial.com](http://www.biennial.com)  
16 sept - 26 nov 06

### desperate optimists premiere *Daydream* in Liverpool

Award winning artists and filmmakers Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor (desperate optimists) have created a major new film *Daydream* as part of *Made In Liverpool 06*.

The world premiere of *Daydream* will take place at Cineworld, Edge Lane, Liverpool on 5 October 2006 and will tour the city's neighborhoods during Liverpool Biennial 2006 from 10 - 13 October.

*Daydream* involves 150 people from Liverpool, largely non-professional actors, who are portrayed as people contemplating their lives at a particularly vulnerable juncture, caught between past and future, amidst a sea of transformation.

In a village hall a rehearsal is underway with a local youth orchestra for an evening event to celebrate a new international business partnership. In the city's spectacular St. Georges Hall, a rock band's performance brings about a strange misfortune, and later outside, a woman meets for the very first time the stranger who found her abandoned as a baby at that very site. Meanwhile, three teenagers have lost their way in the woods, and after extensive attempts are underway to find them, they begin to reflect upon their situation and have their fortunes told by twins living in the deepest part of the woods.

The film is a highly poetic and meditative work that traces the connection between a city at a specific moment of change, and how this moment can be reflected in the emotional world of its citizens. *Daydream* is 30 minutes in length, shot in 10 scenes across the city and reveals in all its glory desperate optimists' characteristically long and daring single takes in 35mm cinemascope, resulting in a beautiful and arresting film. Images from

#### Notes to editors:

- Following on from the success of *Made in Liverpool 04*, Liverpool Biennial and Liverpool Culture Company have developed *Made in Liverpool 06*, which this year has the theme *Beneath the Skin of the City*. Desperate Optimists were commissioned to make a film for *Made In Liverpool 06* in response to *Around the City in 80 Days*, a series of projects that took place around Liverpool's neighborhoods in 2006.

- *Made In Liverpool 06* was funded by the Liverpool Culture Company, as part of The Creative Communities Programme, the Millennium Commission's Urban Cultural Programme.
- Liverpool's Creative Communities initiative is the largest programme of public and community art in the UK and is being held up by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as an example of how other cities should use culture and creativity for regenerating a city.
- Christine Molloy & Joe Lawlor (desperate optimists)  
*Daydream* follows Molloy and Lawlor's recent and highly successful *Civic Life* series of 7 short films, and desperate optimists' continue their commitment in exploring peoples' emotional relationship with their home turf. The stakes are high in making these films, and particularly so in *Daydream*. It is this very risk taking that determines the look and feel of their films - the desire for glamour and the production quality of shooting on 35mm film, jarring with the rawness of performances by a largely non-professional cast. Their films, despite being undeniably fictive, have also succeeded in creating arresting documents of places and communities at pivotal times in their history, and ultimately this could be seen as their accidental legacy. In 2004, their film 'Who Killed Brown Owl' won the award for Best British Short Film at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

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