

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...TUBBER NATIONAL SCHOOL

County Clare, IRELAND, Thursday 21st June 07

While it may not have featured blockbuster Hollywood movies or the glamour of the Oscar's red carpet, the screening of five films produced by Clare schools contained plenty of drama when it took place in the Temple Gate Hotel Ennis last evening.

A five-minute production by Tubber National School staved off the challenge of four other Clare schools to be selected to take part in the national final of the 5th annual FIS Primary Schools Film Project.



A still taken from the winning film "A Lesson Learned" by Tubber National School

Hosted by Clare Education Centre, in association with the Department of Education and the National Film School, the FÍS Project presents teachers and their students with the challenge of using the medium of film and DV technology to explore the primary curriculum.

For the first time ever, County Clare had 5 schools participating in the Project; Holy Family Senior - Ennis, Tubber National School, Scoil Chríost Rí - Ennis, Kilrush National School and Barefield National School. The West Clare Railway, television's 'Pop Idol' and primary education in the 20th century were among the issues explored by the students in their 5-minute films, premiered in front of a large audience in Ennis last night.

"The films produced by the children demonstrate what can be achieved when creativity and modern technology are combined", explained Brid Talty, Regional Schools ICT Advisor, Clare Education Centre.

Ms. Talty, "The FIS Project has clearly shown how effective technology can be in mediating the curriculum and how capable the children are in dealing with it. It also has helped develop the relationship between teachers and their students, therefore contributing to a healthy learning environment."

Since the initiative commenced in February 2007, local children and teachers have been involved in set design, music composition, storyboarding, camera work, editing and directing.

Tubber National School's film production 'A Lesson Learned', about education in the early 20th century, earned it the honour of going forward to the National FÍS Film Awards at the HELIX, Dublin City University in October 2007. 'Are You Right There Michael', a historical drama documentary on the West Clare Railway by Kilrush N.S., and 'Dear Mr Examiner', an adaptation of a sixth class poem by Scoil Chríost Rí in Cloughleigh were named joint first runners up.

Principal of Tubber N.S., Ann Comyn said, "The students have managed to produce a wonderfully creative piece of work that should be a source of pride for them and their parents."

"They thoroughly enjoyed the whole learning experience and in most cases have realised that there is a lot of hard work and planning involved in film-making. This week's screenings provided them with an opportunity to come together to celebrate and share the work they had engaged in since February", added Ms. Comyn.

The panel of judges that selected the winner included Tom Clohessy, Principal of Ennis CBS and video editing tutor for Clare Education Centre; Laura Kearney, a Communications graduate of Clare Education Centre and formerly of TG4; Ciaran McCormack of the National Film School at the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology; and Ann White, Project Officer, National Council for Technology Education.

According to Ms. White, "As part of the FÍS process, schools participate in regional screenings of their films towards the end of the school year. Regional screenings take place in the public arena adding an element of drama to the occasion while students also see their work on the big screen. For Tubber National School the journey is just beginning and they could be in with a chance of winning of the overall prize this October."

FÍS, literally translated as 'vision', is an initiative from the Department of Education and Science in the Republic of Ireland. Managed and delivered by The National Film School at the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology the initiative is designed to introduce the medium of film as a support to the Revised Primary School Curriculum. Since 2004, the number of participating schools has more than doubled. All schools are supported at local level by their Education Centres and the ICT Advisory Service through the provision of training, support and equipment.

Clare Education Centre, formerly known as Ennis Teachers' Centre, has, since 1972, supported the in-service needs of Clare teachers. Since August 2000, the Centre has been located in a new purpose-built complex on the Kilrush Road, Ennis. The main functions of Clare Education Centre include a requirement to support the in-service needs of the state and to identify and support locally identified needs.

Clare Education Centre has, in recent years, been involved in Intercultural Projects with Centres in European Union countries. The Centre is also heavily involved in promoting the use of technology in education at primary school level. It continues to co-ordinate the popular Clare Website Quiz, held monthly in association with Clare Museum.

See www.fis.ie for more on the FIS Project.

For more on Clare Education Centre

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www.clare-education-centre.ie.