

Margo Harkin

'Stolen' Director

Margo Harkin has been an award-winning filmmaker since 1984 when she started out with the Channel 4 Workshop 'Derry Film & Video'. Her work has spanned many genres from documentary to feature film. After producing the banned documentary 'Mother Ireland' (1988), Harkin co-wrote and directed her first drama, 'Hush-a-Bye Baby' (1990), which won The Ecumenical Jury Award at the Locarno Film Festival 1990, the first of several international awards. She formed Besom Productions Ltd. in 1992 and produced a series of award-winning titles chronicling aspects of the 'Troubles'. They included '12 Days in July' (C4 1997) a critically acclaimed account of the Drumcree dispute, 'The Hunger Strike', (BBCNI 2006) which broadcast to record viewing figures in the 25th anniversary year of the 1981 Irish Hunger Strike, and 'Bloody Sunday-A Derry Diary' (RTE & ZDF/Arte 2010) a deeply personal documentary made over a twelve-year stretch from 1998 to 2010 following the Tribunal of Inquiry into Bloody Sunday from the perspective of local people in addition to addressing Harkin's own experiences on Bloody Sunday. In a change of direction Harkin produced the feature documentary 'Waveriders' (2008) directed by Joel Conroy about surfing in Ireland. Harkin's documentary 'Eamonn McCann, A Long March' (2018) is about the election of the iconic civil rights activist to Stormont and a look back at what motivated him to engage with politics 50 years ago. Margo's latest feature documentary, 'Stolen' (2023), highlights the testimony of survivors of the mother and baby institutions scandal in Ireland where unmarried women were brutally separated from their babies in an Ireland that was heavily influenced by the Catholic Church. Harkin's work has been taught in media courses in Ireland and abroad and has been widely anthologised. She received the inaugural award for '**Outstanding Contribution to Documentary Filmmaking**' from the Docs Ireland Festival in Belfast on 15 June 2019. Her films, 'Hush-A-Bye Baby' and 'Waveriders' were named among the 50 Best Irish films ever made by Irish Times critics Tara Brady and Donald Clarke in 2020 – also the year that Margo was elected to Aosdána.