

'Wake' premier hailed a success  
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Writer and director, Chris Baugh with family and friends who attended last week's local premier of his 15-minute film, Crashing the Wake.



Chris Baugh (centre) with writer and co-director Arnstein Dybvik, Jean Brennan of Omagh District Council, producer Chee Keong Cheung and Council Chairman Gerry O'Doherty.



Actors Fintan Gallagher and Fynn McKay at the premier.

## 'Wake' premier hailed a success

BY JOHN McCUSKER

FIRST impressions are decisive. And the cast members who first viewed *Crashing the Wake* last week all agreed the production authentically reflected the foibles and dark humour of an Irish wake.

The 15-minute locally-produced short film got its first airing at a viewing in Omagh Library last Wednesday night. The event - which was co-hosted by the makers, Intense Productions and Omagh Arts Committee - brought together all those who had been involved in the film that was shot at Tullyrush and Tattyreagh last October.

Writers and directors, Chris Baugh from Omagh and Norwegian Arnstein Dybvik were joined on the night by producer Chee Keong Cheung as they introduced the screening to a local audience.

### Film Scene

The film stars Armagh actor Philip Campbell as the downtrodden son of the deceased Frank McCabe, played by Paddy Montague. Other cast members include Helen (the deceased's daughter, played by Briège Roche; Chris McMahon, as the dead man's employee, Jerry; and Belfast-born Fynn McKay as the dead man's grandson, Matty.

Other cast members include Fintan Gallagher (as Seamus) and Frank McGillion (as the priest), both from Newtown Stewart and both well known through their work with local amateur drama groups.

Although a 15-minute production presents the difficulty of developing individual characters, those behind the film managed to underline the storyline and scenes, drawing the viewer through an emotional and humorous script.

### RESPONSE

Speaking after viewing the finished product, Fintan Gallagher said he thought the film came across exceptionally well on screen. "There was a great response locally to the filming and the entire experience was enjoyable and fun to make," he added.

Actress Briège Roche, a member of Lifford Players and whose recent work includes a part in the film of the Omagh bomb, thought the tensions and relationships were excellently portrayed on screen. "It was very true to life and was like being at an Irish wake," she added.

Omagh Council Vice-Chairman Gerry O'Doherty wished those involved well with their finished product. "The involvement of people as extras in the film means that there was huge local involvement. We wish every success to the cast and crew and hope that the film will travel all over the world, bringing a little of Omagh with it," he added.