

PRESS RELEASE
25 May 2026**Aidan Gillen, star of *Game of Thrones* and *Peaky Blinders*,
is coming to Zlín. He will personally present *TRAD* at the
66th Zlín Film Festival**

Zlín – One of Ireland’s most distinctive contemporary actors, the charismatic Aidan Gillen, will be among the major stars of this year’s Zlín Film Festival. Audiences know him as the calculating Petyr “Littlefinger” Baelish from the iconic series *Game of Thrones*, the ambitious politician Tommy Carcetti in *The Wire*, and from acclaimed films including *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Sing Street* and *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*. He will travel to Zlín in person to present the award-winning film *TRAD*, which the festival will screen as an international premiere.

Aidan Gillen is already looking forward to visiting the festival in Zlín. *“Attending film festivals has always been one of my favourite parts of the entire journey connected with making films, especially with films like this one, which to some extent rely on festivals to reach audiences. It’s always a wonderful opportunity to experience other cultures and to see how a film resonates in their own environment,”* said Aidan Gillen, adding that he has visited the Czech Republic before. He spent three months in Prague in 2002 while filming Shanghai Knights alongside Jackie Chan. *“I’m really looking forward to discovering Zlín,”* the actor added.

“Aidan Gillen is a highly respected figure in international cinema, renowned for his masterful portrayals of psychologically complex, intelligent and layered characters. His visit to Zlín will offer our audiences a unique opportunity to meet a global film icon in person,” said Markéta Pášmová, Artistic Director of Zlín Film Festival. She also added that the Irish actor is bringing *TRAD* to Zlín – a film that delivers a powerful audience experience while also highlighting Gillen’s commitment to independent and auteur filmmaking. The film combines deep emotion with the distinctive atmosphere for which Irish cinema is so highly regarded.

Director Lance Daly also praised working with Gillen: *“Working with Aidan on this project was extraordinary. He has an incredible ability to bring remarkable inner energy and a subtle sense of irony to every scene, giving the whole story an entirely new dimension.”*

Festival organisers have scheduled *TRAD* on Saturday, 30 May at 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM, and again on Monday, 1 June at 6:00 PM at Golden Apple Cinema in Golden Apple Shopping Centre. The screenings will be attended by actors Aidan Gillen and Dallán Woods, as well as director Lance Daly.

Visitors to the 66th Zlín Film Festival will also have the opportunity to see Aidan Gillen on the Red Carpet on Sunday, 31 May at 6:00 PM.

Aidan Gillen is an Irish actor known for his charismatic and often intriguingly ambiguous screen presence. Born in Dublin, he has established himself as one of the leading figures of contemporary Irish acting. Audiences and critics alike admire his ability to portray intelligent, complex and psychologically layered characters.

He first gained international attention for his role as Stuart Alan Jones in the groundbreaking series *Queer as Folk*, which earned him a BAFTA nomination. Worldwide fame followed with his role as the manipulative and brilliantly calculating Petyr “Littlefinger” Baelish in the acclaimed series *Game of Thrones*. His portrayal of the master strategist behind the scenes of political power became one of the show’s most memorable performances. He also played a major role in the cult series *The Wire* as Tommy Carcetti.

Aidan Gillen is the recipient of three Irish Film & Television Academy Awards and numerous other nominations. Alongside major Hollywood productions, he has remained a dedicated supporter of Irish and independent filmmaking.

Selected filmography

From 1999–2000, he starred in *Queer as Folk*. This was followed by the acclaimed *The Wire* from 2004–2008. Global recognition came with *Game of Thrones* between 2011–2017. On the big screen he appeared in blockbusters including *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012) and *Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials* (2015). Other notable roles include *Sing Street* (2016), *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* (2017) and the Oscar-winning *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018). Television audiences have also enjoyed his performances in *Peaky Blinders* (2019) and *Kin* (2021–2023).

About *TRAD*

Directed by: Lance Daly

Country of origin: Ireland

Year: 2026

Runtime: 90 min

International premiere

Delegace: Lance Daly (director), Dallán Woods (actor), Aidan Gillen (actor)

Gifted violinist Shóna grows up in the remote west of Ireland, where traditional music both shapes and confines her world. Under pressure from her strict mother and burdened by her own doubts, she begins to lose sight of what music truly means to her. When she encounters a free-spirited group of travelling musicians, she decides to set out on an adventure with her younger brother. Music becomes both a language of freedom and a way to find her own voice beyond the expectations placed upon her. Gradually, Shóna discovers that tradition does not have to be a limitation – it can also become a source of strength, if embraced on her own terms. Lance Daly’s energetic film combines the poetry of coming of age with the vibrant force of Irish folk music. With both warmth and emotional depth, it tells a story about breaking beyond imposed boundaries and finding one’s own path. The screen debut of Megan Nic Fhionnghaile brings authenticity and emotional

urgency to the film, transforming it into a joyful, music-filled celebration of freedom, identity and the courage to go against the current.

Link for the [trailer](#)

Link for downloading [photos](#)

More information at www.zlinfest.cz

Media Contact

Ing. Kateřina Martykánová

PR manager

tel.: +420 602 576 870

email: katerina.martykanova@zlinfest.cz