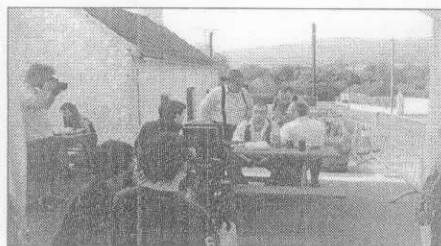


**Limerick Local Heroes**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR LIMERICK

RTE



### Limerick representation at Chicago Film Festival

Irish short 'Vanner' has been selected to screen at the Chicago Irish Film Festival. Filmed entirely on location in Co. Limerick, 'Vanner' follows the return of Francie Flanagan back to his halting site in Limerick after a tragic event at a fair. This is the story of the fallout from this unexpected start to his married life. It was directed by Colm Higgins and produced by Maeve McGrath and Colm Higgins for Sidhe. The Chicago Irish Film Festival will take place in Chicago from March 1st-6th.

### Redemptorist Church – celebrating 150 years

Fr Adrian Egan has been in contact to remind everyone that the recently restored Redemptorist Church at Mount St. Alphonsus is celebrating its 150th birthday. It's interior is one of the treasures of Limerick and many have referred to it as one of the most beautiful churches in Ireland. Boasting a ten-bell belltower and a crypt where almost 100 Redemptorists are buried the church is open 12 hours a day. Visitors can admire the beauty of its frescos, mosaics, altars and stained glass windows. For more information visit [www.redemptoristslimerick.ie](http://www.redemptoristslimerick.ie)

### Irish Festival of Speed at Greenmount

It was great to meet with Jack Kingston from the Irish Festival of Speed who informed us

## News

### MOUNTAINEERING

# Ger's heroism finds world audience with big film deal

AN IRISH documentary chronicling the K2 climbing tragedy that claimed the life of heroic Limerickman Ger McDonnell has been snapped up by a major US distributor at Sundance International Film Festival.

'The Summit', which is produced and directed by Nick Ryan of Image Now Films, tells the story of what has now become the deadliest day in modern mountain climbing history.

The documentary will now will be available in approximately 40 million homes after it won the distribution deal with Sundance Selects, a new theatrical and video-on-demand film label that provides a national platform in the US for independent films and documentaries.

The film will also be in line for the top documentary award at the festival when the results will be announced on Saturday, January 26.

Sundance Selects, a subsidiary of IFC which is owned by American media giant AMC, secured the US distribution rights over the weekend.

"Sundance Selects are the perfect partners and home for our film – I am genuinely happy to be a part of the IFC family," said Nick Ryan.

Jonathan Sehring, president of Sundance Selects/IFC Films, commented: "The Summit' is a thrilling, beautiful documentary that kept us on the edge of our seats. We're thrilled to work with Nick Ryan and producers John Battsek, Pat Falvey, Darrell Kavanagh, and John McDonnell."

'The Summit' includes never-before-seen footage of the climb and interviews with

Sherpa Pemba Gyalje, who was awarded the National Geographic Adventurer of the Year for his heroic deeds on K2; Norit team leader Wilco van Rooijen, who survived three days in the death zone and Marco Confortola, the last man to speak to Ger McDonnell.

A group of 24 climbers from several international expeditions set off from the High Camp of K2, the last stop before the summit of the most dangerous mountain on earth, but within 48 hours, 11 had been killed or had vanished, making it the worst K2 climbing disaster in history.

"To be selected for competition at Sundance is one of the highest levels of recognition for any film and it is a real honour for all those who worked so hard to bring 'The Summit' to the screen. But then to be signed by Sundance Selects and IFC is fantastic," stated Darrell Kavanagh, managing director of Image Now Films.

'The Summit' was produced by Image Now Films and Pat Falvey Irish and Worldwide Productions, in association with Passion Pictures, Diamond Docs and Fantastic Films. It is funded by the Irish Film Board, RTE, BAI and the BBC.



**Heroic Limerickman Ger McDonnell who lost his life on Mount Everest**

### FIRST IRISH CLIMBER TO REACH K2 SUMMIT

Ger McDonnell, an engineer and mountaineer from Kilcoonan, Co. Limerick was the first Irish person to reach the summit of K2, the second highest mountain on Earth.

He lost his life along with ten other

mountaineers following an avalanche during the descent in the worst single accident in the history of K2 mountaineering on August 2, 2008.

He was 37-years-old.

### EMPLOYMENT

## Union warning over employment



Barbara Hackett