

terent events, and every time we meet up we have so much fun. It's just great craic," she said.

Prior to arriving in Tralee, Kayleigh will embark on a three-day tour taking in some of Ireland's top landmarks in County Kildare, including the Irish National Stud, the Japanese Gardens, the K Club, Lullymore and Kildare Village.

In Dublin, the Roses will visit Ireland's top visitor attraction, the Guinness Storehouse, as well as Malahide Castle.

When the Roses arrive in the Kingdom, they will sample some of the most famous scenery and tourist attractions in

on the bus to Tralee, and her local supporters are hoping to give her a boost on the way.

The bus will be passing Adare at approximately 2.45pm, and all are welcome to a gathering at the Lantern Lodge at that time to shout her on.

The next Rose of Tralee will wear a splendid new tiara featuring the Rose motif as the central framework, adorned in glistening crystals and the exquisitely crafted Crystal Perpetual Trophy. She will also win a plethora of prizes, including a new car and travel vouchers.



Kilcormac's Kayleigh Maher is 'not nervous' ahead of the Rose of Tralee festival PICTURE: MICHAEL COWHEY

## Actress Ruth Negga to star alongside Brad Pitt in new sci-fi film

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LIMERICK raised actress and Oscar nominee Ruth Negga is to star in a new film alongside actor Brad Pitt.

They are set to feature in *Ad Astra*, James Gray's upcoming sci-fi epic, which is being financed by New Regency, 20th Century Fox and Bona Film Group.

Tommy Lee Jones also is attached to the project, which is described as an adventure film about one man's journey across an unforgiving solar system to find his missing father, a renegade scientist who poses a threat to all of mankind.

Negga's role in the film is being kept under wraps for now.

A star of the AMC series *Preacher*, she received a Golden Globe and Oscar nomination for her work in Jeff Nichols' film *Loving*.

Represented by agencies ICM, Principal Entertainment and Markham Froggatt and Irwin, Negga went to national school in Roxborough, and later spent part of her secondary school at Scoil Carmel on O'Connell Avenue, before moving to London and completing her drama studies at Trinity College Dublin.

The former *Love Hate* star counts a



Limerick raised actress Ruth Negga's trajectory is on the up and up

large family in Limerick, where she grew up after moving to the city from her birthplace in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where she lived until she was four.

Her mother was working in Ethiopia as a nurse when she met Ruth's father, who died in a car accident when she was just seven.

Her breakout role was in Neil Jordan's 2004 film *Breakfast on Pluto*, followed by *Ophelia* at the National Theatre, the *Misfits* TV series on E4, and she also played Shirley Bassey in the BBC2 production *Shirley*.

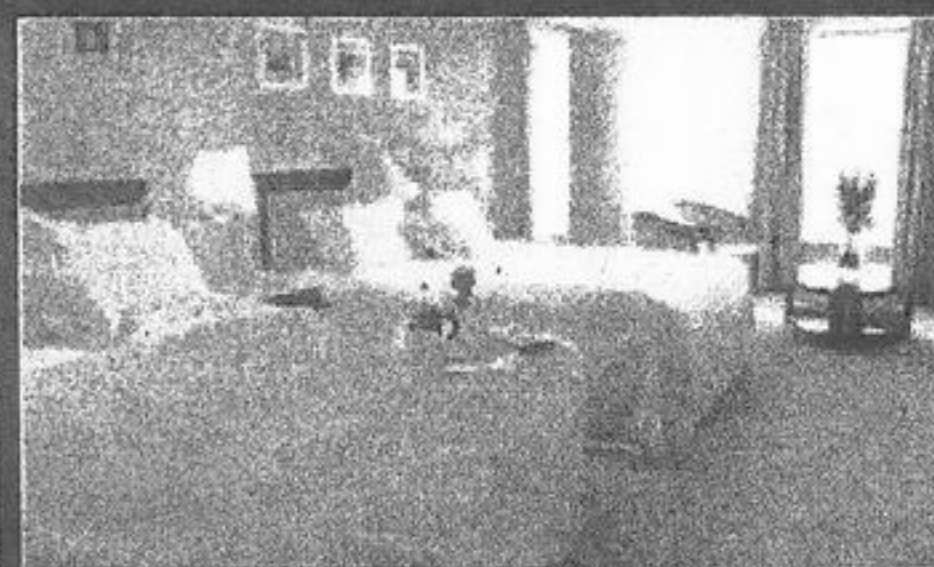
Hollywood star Natalie Portman also recently praised Negga, describing her as a "rare, powerful talent".

Nominated for Best Actress Oscar this February, which was claimed by Emma Stone for *La La Land*, she's the first thespian to reach Hollywood stardom since Richard Harris was nominated for an Oscar in 1990 for *The Field*.

In addition to her on-screen performances, she is also becoming a favoured fashionista amongst her growing fanbase, and has graced the covers of *US Vogue* and *The New York Times Magazine* in the past year. She has been signed for a new animated film based on author Frank McCourt's final work and his only children's book, *Angela and the Baby Jesus*.

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