

HARRIS FESTIVAL: 16 PORTRAIT ARTISTS ARE IN THE RUNNING

Judges are 'blown away' by portraits

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A STUNNING selection of 16 diverse portraits of legendary Limerick actor Richard Harris have been shortlisted for the first portrait competition under the upcoming film festival.

In advance of the third film festival in his name next week, the judges now have the tough task of selecting the winning image, which will be used in promotional material for the coming year.

Hundreds of entries from artists across the world, including of course his native city, as well as Poland and Scotland, were received for the inaugural competition.

With entries now closed, it is up to artist Thomas Delohery, from Clare, actor Jared Harris, Richard's son, Irish fashion designer Natalie B. Coleman and Billy O'Reilly, Richard's life long friend, and the directors of the festival to select the image most befitting a man of his stature.

Mr Delohery said the winner will be informed before the gala night on October 23.

"Frankly the judging committee were blown away by the standard. There has been a lot of debate and long distance phone calls between the judges," he said.

He said one of the most unusual entries they received was by Lee Stain, a tattoo artist from Melbourne with an



Harris defined: A portrait of the famous actor, with a pint and a cigarette, by Ralf McMahon

Irish/Italian background. Others drew inspiration from his performance as the Bull McCabe in John B. Keane's *The Field*; others captured him in a Munster rugby jersey,

smoking, with a pint in hand, or standing proudly overlooking the River Shannon.

Artists were asked to submit an original portrait, in

black and white or colour, "to represent Richard's powerful presence, both in person and on screen". The winning artist will also receive an award next week.



Some of the 16 shortlisted portraits of Richard Harris by, from left, Gearoid Arthur Hayes, Rosanne Hayes, David Dalton, and Dave Cassidy. The winner will be announced next week during the film festival