

Local filmmaker wins a novel International award

A LOCAL film director has scooped a top award at a prestigious international movie festival. David Gleeson, Cappamore wrote and directed *The Front Line* which won the Jury Award for Best Feature Film at the Salerno Festival.

The film has been met with both critical and industry acclaim and it was no different at the festival in Italy. The festival director, Peppe D'Antoni, heaped praise on the film and David Gleeson.

He said that emotion is the essence of cinema and that the film affected him deeply. He added that the skill with which David Gleeson brings his film to the screen is

hugely impressive.

The film centres around the unique and individual fates of a family of Congolese refugees, a Garda and a psychopath.

"It's an edge of your seat thriller. There hasn't been a film like *The Front Line* made in Ireland before. It's a film that engages and thrills you and when you walk out of the cinema and go to your car you don't just forget about it, you take something of the film home with you," said Mr Gleeson.

He says there are some dark elements in the film and one of the themes is loss but another is redemption.

Mr Gleeson got the idea for the film when he was making the well known *Cowboys And Angels*. He saw an African security guard dressed in an ill fitting uniform but still looking as proud as punch.

"I then got the idea of an African immigrant being coerced by criminals and the immigrant not being who he seems, says Mr Gleeson.

He reveals that he gets at least two film ideas a month and there is a simple test if he is going to follow them up or not.

"If you wake up the next morning and it still seems like a good idea. And this one just stayed with me," says Mr Gleeson.

Mr Gleeson's success in the film business can be traced back through the generation.

His grandfather opened up a theatre in Cappamore in the early 1940s and his father and Uncle carried on in the same vein, opening up several more screens in County Limerick.

Mr Gleeson is married to Nathalie Lichtenthaeler and she produced the film.



Director David Gleeson, at the premiere of his prize winning film - *The Front Line* - in Limerick. The film won the Jury Award for Best Feature Film at the Salerno Festival in Italy.