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The Welfare of Tomás Ó Hallissy

Duncan Campbell

2016, black/white, 31 min., English. **Producer** Patrick Campbell, Aoife McGonigal, Morgan Bushe. **Production companies** Nakba FilmWorks (London, UK), Fastnet Docs (Dublin, Ireland). **Written and directed by** Duncan Campbell. **Director of photography** Rina Yang. **Production design** Til Frohlich. **Costumes** Sarah Yeoman. **Make-up** Patsy Giles. **Sound** Alex O'Brien. **Sound design** Pete Smith. **Editor** Duncan Campbell. **Production manager** Lisa Kelly. **With** John O'Sullivan, David Murray, Frank Bourke, Lesa Thurman, Luke Pierucci, Noel O'Donnovan, Calum Heath, Áine Ní Mhuirí.

Films

2004: *Fall Burns Malone Fiddles* (33 min.). 2006: *Oh Joan, No* (12 min.). 2008: *Bernadetta* (37 min.). 2009: *Make It New John* (50 min.). 2011: *Arbeit* (39 min., Forum Expanded 2012). 2012: *It For Others* (54 min.). 2016: *The Welfare of Tomás Ó Hallissy*.

Contact: <http://nakbafilmworks.com/>

Inspired by anthropological studies into the huge incidence of mental illness in rural Ireland in the 1960s and 1970s, *The Welfare of Tomás Ó Hallissy* revisits Paul Hocking and Mark McCarty's 1968 production *The Village*. Seen through the eyes of two American anthropologists who arrive at Dún Chaoin, a small village in the west of Ireland, to study its dying culture, the film is a portrait of a society on the brink of irreversible change. It revolves around the protagonist, Tomás, a speechless 10-year-old boy, whose life spans the cusp of the old world and the new. Meanwhile the anthropologists question their own methodology as they struggle to get beyond the opaque and ritualistic social relations that define this place as the local community mistrusts and misconstrues their intentions.

Duncan Campbell, born in 1972 in Dublin, Ireland, is a video artist based in Glasgow, UK. He trained at the University of Ulster and the Glasgow School of Art. His work has been awarded and showcased in solo and exhibitions at venues worldwide. After *Arbeit* (2011) in 2012, this is his second participation at *Forum Expanded*.