

A number of other women work independently in Derry. Siobhan Twomey has been living in Derry for the past 2 years. Originally from Dublin, Siobhan has already written and directed a successful independent film 'Boom Babies'. She is currently working on another film and in between times she has worked as the Foyle Film Festival administrator.

Mary Wilson works within Northlands Films, who have completed a number of productions for N. I. Television companies, they also have completed a commissioned tape on Cervical Cancer. Again a number of women work within this group.

Elaine Farthing has worked within the Foyle Film Festival but in a more technical role. Elaine owns her own video equipment and has a background in photography and the visual arts in general. At

present she is editing her video on Derry/Barcelona Women's Exchange.

The opportunities for women in independent video/film are limited as each group is competing for funding from the same bodies. However there is an E.E.C. script - writing fund available for script ideas. Each grant in the region of £27,000 will be awarded to producer/writer teams to develop script ideas and go into production. The awards are given again at the end of this year or early next year. It is awards such as these are ideal opportunities for independent groups.

For further information write to:

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European Script Fund  
21 Stephen Street  
London W1P 1P2



## Hush - A - Bye - Baby

### *Derry Film & Video*

The project was sparked off by the tragic death of Anne Lovett several years ago in Granard, Co. Roscommon. Anne was a fifteen year old school girl who died giving birth in a field next to a grotto of the Virgin Mary. Her baby also died. Six weeks later, in the aftermath of guilt and shock which swept the country, her fourteen year old sister committed suicide.

Since this initial tragedy a series of shocking scandals has been surfaced by the media. These revelations have had a disturbing effect on the national consciousness and we personally believe they have contributed to the phenomenon of the moving statue sightings in the 26 counties of Ireland. In a country where both religious traditions are an important foundation of social behaviour there has undoubtedly been a reluctance to deal with the responses of young people to sexuality. We believe that each of us has a responsibility for the deaths of Anne Lovett and the Cahirciveen baby and the making of this film is an effort to make a contribution to a way forward.

We have already conducted a highly successful drama workshop called 'No Sex Please, We're Irish' (in 1986) which involved young people from

all over Derry. In December, 1986 we completed a pilot shoot with some of these same young people and generated intense community involvement in the project.

The film script has been co-written by two workshop members out of discussion, research, interviews and workshops with young people. It attempts to focus on the lives of the young in Northern Ireland and in particular on the story of one young Catholic woman who becomes pregnant at the age of fifteen. It attempts to capture her isolation and desperation at her situation against the background of her Catholic upbringing and deep seated religious/cultural values albeit in a modern world of disco dancing and apparent sexual licence.

The aim of the film is to stimulate a basis for debate and discussions and it is hoped that it will have a wide distribution among youth and community groups etc. as an aid in discussion.

The process of making the film, in all its stages from writing to the final production shoot, will include local young people for whom this subject is a very real issue. We believe this involvement is also a vital part of the educative process which we are aiming to contribute to.