

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Choice Joyce: Hit documentary returns

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It's been a hit in Dublin and in other cities across Europe where people are mad about James Joyce. And now it's coming back to Buffalo.

This is your chance — if you missed the premiere in June — to catch a new documentary production about Joyce that features Buffalo in a prominent way, thanks to the fact that Buffalo is the repository of a huge collection of the Irish writer's archives.

The hourlong documentary, called "Following James Joyce . . . Dublin to Buffalo," will play today through Thursday in the Market Arcade Film and Arts Center, 639 Main St. Admission is \$5.

The documentary — which features scenes of the cities Joyce

lived in, vintage photographs and manuscripts and expert testimony — has far exceeded its makers' expectations.

"Following James Joyce" is currently playing as one of the main film features at the huge "Ulysses" exhibition in Dublin, at the National Library of Ireland. That means about 2,000 to 3,000 people a week are being exposed to the Buffalo-made production.

Plus, the film has been shown in other places — Italy, Croatia, France, Switzerland and Germany among them. Joyce experts and scholars are saying good things about the film, too.

"We didn't know what to expect," said Patrick Martin, the Buffalo attorney who produced the documentary. "We just came out of the darkroom and put it on the screen. But it's done better

and better and better."

Michael Clement, head of the Dipson Theatre chain, which operates the Market Arcade for a nonprofit ownership group, said that the Joyce film seemed like a natural fit for the theater.

"It's a good collaboration," Clement said. "It fits with what the Market Arcade has been doing for the past couple of years — bringing in alternative films, films that are different than you'll find anywhere else."

Buffalo has a strong Joyce connection because the University at Buffalo houses a very large collection of Joyce's papers, including many of his notebooks used during the composition of "Finnegans Wake." UB also possesses artifacts from Joyce's life — his glasses and his cane, for example.

The items are in UB's Poetry and Rare Books Room.

The "Following James Joyce" documentary appears headed for another distinction, as well: Ireland is supplying copies to its Irish embassies around the world so the embassies can show the film to their guests.

"They see Joyce as sort of their quintessential international figure — he lived abroad, wrote abroad and has very strong standing abroad," said Martin.

Proceeds from the showings of the film at the Market Arcade will go to UB's Poetry and Rare Books Room to help cover the costs of attracting a major international conference on Joyce to Buffalo in 2007, said Clement and Martin.

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