

PHOTOS TO SEND

USA 2002

88 mins

Crew and Cast

Director Dierdre Lynch
 Screenplay Dierdre Lynch
 Cinematography Dierdre Lynch

The people and places of County Clare.

Synopsis

In 1954 celebrated photographer Dorothea Lange traveled to rural County Claire in Western Ireland on an assignment for Life Magazine. The photos she took there captured a way of life fast vanishing and a people hardened, but not broken, by poverty and grueling labor. 44 years later filmmaker Dierdre Lynch returned to Lange's subjects and found that the world of Lynch's photographs had changed, but that the people, more fragile now and weathered by age, still maintained their vitality and spirit. This loving and sensitive portrait of humanity, by times tragic and bittersweet, yet life affirming, took four years to edit, and the final cut is worth the effort.



Photos To Send Tea: Two teabags, three to make it heavy. -- Mrs. Devitt, County Clare

Reviews



In September 1954 Dorothea Lange collaborated with her son Daniel Dixon on a second photographic essay for Life magazine, traveling to Ireland to do a piece on its rural people. The idea was inspired by her enthusiasm for a book by anthropologist Conrad N. Arensberg, *Irish Countryman* (1937), which studied the customs and beliefs of the Irish who

still followed the old ways, particularly those living in

County Clare, in the western region of the island. Twenty-one photographs were reproduced in the 21 March 1955 issue of Life in a nine-page article titled *Irish Country People*. In a rich selection of images that capture the atmosphere and texture of Irish life--a farmer, a shoemaker, a priest, cattle day in a small village, Catholic worshipers on a rainy day--Lange evoked the vigor, warmth, and good humor of these hearty country folk living in a stubborn land.

Photos to Send is a wonderful cinematic sequel to Dorothea Lange's famous photographs of the people and land of County Clare, Ireland. Nearly a half-century after Lange, Irish-American filmmaker Dierdre Lynch herself travels to County Clare. She seeks out many of the same people and places that Lange had photographed. In meetings with those people, Lynch learns about the circumstances behind the original photographs, and what has happened since the photographs were taken. She also recreates many of Lange's famous photographs with the same participants, and shoots other nearby places in a somewhat similar style. Later, she molded the footage into this sublime and beautiful film. *Photos to Send* is simultaneously a unique chronicle of Ireland and a subtle meditation on the ability of photographs and films to represent time.

Chicago International Film Festival Programme

Dierdre Lynch is an accomplished news photographer for stations in Manchester, New Hampshire and the San Francisco Bay area. *Photos to Send* is the first film she has directed. It premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh in Ireland, where it won Best Documentary. It has since screened at 20 festivals worldwide, capturing a number of additional awards.