



RHL Documentary Press Release

Chicago Filmmaker Raises Support for Affordable Housing, Documentary about Dublin Housing Activists

Leo Monts, a Chicago filmmaker, is raising support for his new documentary about an unconventional solution to the housing crisis: breaking and entering. Leo and his production company, Foma Films, are in the final stages of editing on a documentary about housing activists that was shot while Leo was living abroad in Dublin, Ireland for six months. The film follows the Revolutionary Housing League, a Dublin-based activist group who occupy empty buildings in the city in order to keep their homeless neighbors off the street, in a housing crisis that has a lot in common with what many people stateside are going through. Now, Leo and his team are organizing a fundraising party and more events to bring this film home to Chicago.

The documentary covers Leo's story of going to live in Dublin, Ireland with hopes of learning about his heritage, and coming face-to-face with the city's housing crisis, which caused him to spend a month living in hostels, and introduced him to the Revolutionary Housing League. The documentary crew got exclusive footage inside the RHL's illegally occupied shelters, including activists taking a buzzsaw to the door of an empty building. The RHL's methods have caused controversy in Ireland, and their organizers have been arrested and gone to court, but they consider their work both a necessary way to save lives on the street, and a protest against the failures of the Irish housing system. Sabrina, one of the shelter residents interviewed in the film says, “

The documentary team are bringing this story to Chicago to seek support for post-production and distribution, but also to advance the conversation around housing, by offering a cautionary story about what could happen to Chicago if we do not prioritize housing justice. “Dublin was the first place I had ever lived where even middle class people were struggling to find housing.”, Monts says in the documentary. “There's not much difference between Chicago and Dublin. All that stand between them is a few years of not building enough homes.” The fundraising campaign, set to span the month of March, includes livestreams, perks for supporters, and a party on March 8th, called Rock for a Right to Housing, which will include music, a silent auction, and a screening of a portion of the documentary. The fundraising will also directly benefit affordable housing; 10% of everything raised will go to Mercy Housing, a nonprofit building affordable homes on Chicago's north side.

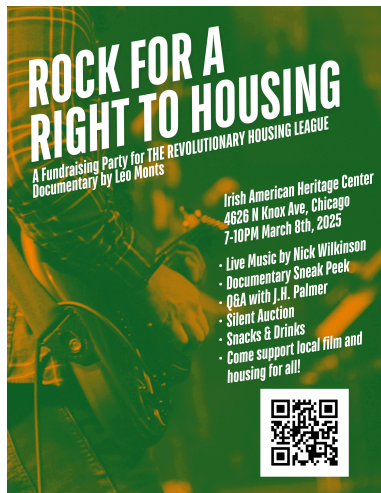
The crowdfunding campaign begins March 1st on Indiegogo. Rock for a Right to Housing is Saturday, March 8th, 7-10pm at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago. You can learn more at leomonts.com, or follow the campaign @rhldoc on Instagram.

Leo Monts is a Chicago filmmaker from Indianapolis, Indiana. Since graduating from Purdue University in 2019, he has created short films, a webseries, his own visual album, and now his first feature documentary, THE REVOLUTIONARY HOUSING LEAGUE. He is trying to answer the question, “How can we build a better world, while living well in this one?”

Indiegogo: <https://www.indiegogo.com/project/preview/0253c6cb>

Event page:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rock-for-a-right-to-housing-a-party-with-a-purpose-tickets-1215636685049?aff=oddtcreator>



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