

IN THE QUEST FOR STARDOM... THREE STRANGERS MUST CREATE

THE **GREATEST CHRISTMAS SONG** EVER WRITTEN



59



Inspired by true events

Featuring 'A CHRISTMAS NIGHT' – the Greatest Christmas Song of All Time

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO REACH FOR YOUR DREAM

Sallybrook Productions Limited presents 59 starring Girish Patel Carmel Barrett John Brett Niamh Murphy

Music by Girish Patel Executive Producer Carmel Barrett Screenplay by Girish Patel

Produced by Carmel Barrett & Girish Patel Directed by Girish Patel

See the TRAILER at [www.59themovie.com](http://www.59themovie.com)

# 59

## KEY INFORMATION

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Production Company	Sallybrook Productions Limited
Registered Address	2 Malthouse Lane, Wolverhampton WV69PB, England, UK
Marketing Lead	Girish Patel
E-Mail	girishpaul@ymail.com
Tel:	Ireland 00353 21 4858985 UK 0044 1902 751464

### FILM MARKETING INFORMATION

Movie Website	<a href="http://www.59themovie.com">www.59themovie.com</a>
Company Website	<a href="http://www.sallybrookproductions.com">www.sallybrookproductions.com</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/59themovie">www.facebook.com/59themovie</a>
Twitter	<a href="http://www.Twitter.com/59themovie.com">www.Twitter.com/59themovie.com</a>

**PRODUCTION DETAILS**

Production Company	Sallybrook Productions Limited, UK
Film Title	59
Director & Writer	Girish Patel
Producers	Carmel Barrett, Girish Patel
Executive Producer	Carmel Barrett
Cast	Girish Patel, Carmel Barrett, John Brett, Kevin Dolan Niamh Murphy, William Barrett, Christine Murphy, Joan Fitzgerald, Alan Clayton, Elizabeth Delany Patrick Murphy, Dolores Barrett
Director of Photography	Girish Patel
Editors	Carmel Barrett, Girish Patel
Composer & Songwriter	Girish Patel
Story based on	Original Screenplay
Genre	Music/Romantic Drama
Country of Origin	England, UK
Locations	Cork and Clare, Ireland and London, England
Running time	98 min 55 sec
Shoot Format	HD (Canon 600D)
Sound Mix	LCR Stereo
B/W Colour	Colour with B/W flashback
Aspect Ratio	16 : 9
Screening Formats	QuicktimeMov.file, HD Ext. Hard drive, Standard Def DVD
Frames Per Second	24
Language	English
Subtitles	No
Status	First cut complete
Sales Agent	Not yet acquired
Website	<a href="http://www.59themovie.com">www.59themovie.com</a>
Promo Trailer	<a href="http://www.59themovie.com">www.59themovie.com</a>
Company Website	<a href="http://www.sallybrookproductions.com">www.sallybrookproductions.com</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://www.Facebook.com/59themovie">www.Facebook.com/59themovie</a>
Twitter	<a href="http://www.Twitter.com/59themovie">www.Twitter.com/59themovie</a>

**TAGLINE**

*It's never too late to reach for your dream.*

**LOGLINE**

*In rural Ireland an Indian teacher, an Irish pensioner and a feisty veterinary surgeon hatch an audacious plan to conquer the music world – and create the greatest Christmas song of all time, aided by a Guardian Angel.*

**SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Gary is 59, an inspirational but washed up teacher. When a drug-fuelled bully threatens his students, Gary fights back and loses everything. Lost and lonely, Gary hits the bottle, until a Guardian Angel helps him unearth his other long lost talent – music. Gary dusts off his old guitar and heads off to stay with old friends in rural Ireland where he meets Kathleen, a feisty, middle-aged vet cum frustrated drummer, and Jack, a penniless pensioner and one-time record producer. Down on their luck, the trio hatch a plan to record an album with the best Christmas song ever written and thus win a prestigious song contest with a top prize of £1 million. But can this loveable, ageing trio really pull it off against today's young talent?

**LONG SYNOPSIS**

## Act 1

Gary, 59, has dreamt of becoming a rockstar, and writing the greatest Christmas song of all time, ever since his birth in the presence of a beautiful Guardian Angel, but as he nears the end of a brilliant teaching career he knows that his dream will remain a fantasy – albeit one that gets him through each monotonous day. When Gary's humdrum existence is suddenly plunged into chaos by a violent druggie who threatens his students' work, he fights back and loses his job, pension and self-esteem. Unable to find work with a criminal record, Gary spirals into depression and alcoholism, until his Guardian Angel inspires him to revive a long lost talent – music. Gary dusts off his old guitar and sets sail for rural Ireland with his faithful dog.

## Act 2

In a rural Irish village, Gary meets Kathleen, a feisty veterinary surgeon and talented rock drummer, and a romance soon develops. A sequence of events leads Gary to the home of Jack, a penniless old age pensioner who Gary discovers had produced one of rock's classic albums back in the sixties, and when Jack dares him to enter a prestigious song contest worth £1 million and a record deal, Gary re-examines his lifelong dream of rock stardom. Gary, Kathleen and Jack get to work recording in a cramped old cottage, until Gary suffers writer's block as he attempts to write the final song of the album, the holy grail of music - a hit Christmas song. But trouble lies ahead in the shape of local farmer Seamus, a sadistic ex-Army psycho who blasts Gary's faithful dog away when it strays onto his land. Gary is despondent until he is inspired to complete the Christmas Song by the appearance of his Guardian Angel, and at the Awards Ceremony in London, Gary wins the contest. But fate deals him another cruel blow when Seamus sets fire to the cottage with Jack inside. When Gary receives news of Jack's death, he turns his back on the record deal and heads back to Ireland with Kathleen.

## Act 3

Gary, drinking heavily, tracks down Seamus to a derelict factory. Fuelled by alcohol, Gary holds an armed Seamus to account for the death of Jack and his dog, only to receive a bullet in his heart at point blank range. As Gary lies dead, his Guardian Angel summons up the Celestial Gods and pleads for Gary's life. At the eleventh hour she pulls it off, and Gary is revived. Seamus's life is spared by Gary's forgiveness. Gary gives up the drink, signs the record deal, and is transformed, and with Kathleen at his side, rockstar Gary, and his magical Christmas song, rise to become the huge success he had dreamt of all those years ago.

59 is inspired by true events, and is a heartwarming Christmas story of friendship, angels, music, compassion and the power of love.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

59 is about never giving up, whatever your age.

The movie not only entertains, but challenges society's assumption that at a certain age we are washed up. It overturns the notion that striving for a dream is somehow the prerogative of the young, yet deemed embarrassing and foolish when attempted by the elderly. Society urges us to retire gracefully, to abandon our crazy dreams of stardom and success, and to instead accept the inevitable downward spiral of ageing and decay. After all, the dizzy heights of stardom in today's music business is strictly for the young and beautiful people right?

I say different. I say anything is possible.

The film is inspired by true events. As a science teacher, and singer-songwriter of over twenty-five years standing, I have constantly made it my business to challenge those societal or cultural assumptions that often serve to dissuade people from reaching for their dreams.

I have been told throughout my career that I have been immensely successful in helping to inspire young people through my own creative achievements. I now want to extend this mantra to those persons out there who are middle-aged and beyond, and this film sends out the message loud and clear: 'It's never too late to follow your dream'.

At 59, Gary had given up on his dream of stardom, until he was inspired to try, and he got there in the end. If he can do it, so can you.

59 is about never giving up. It is about seizing the moment, whatever your age, and reaching out for your dream, whatever may stand in your way. Because nothing is impossible.

Girish Patel  
2015

## GIRISH PATEL, DIRECTOR AND SCREENWRITER



### DIRECTOR

59 is GIRISH PATEL'S first feature film as director. Girish made his theatrical debut as a director with his 2006 musical theatre production of *Frankenstein – The New Musical* at the Firkin Crane Theatre in Cork, Ireland. He went on to direct the 2009 showcase of *Gandhi – The New Musical* in London's West End. Following a training period at the Cork Film Centre, he produced the short film *Murphy's Nails* (2009) and directed his short film 'Cigarettes and Coffee' (2010). Girish directed 59 on location in County Cork and County Clare in Ireland, and in London's West End in 2013/2014. The movie was completed on time and notably well under budget.

Girish currently divides his time between driving the ongoing marketing of the film, and the pre-production planning of two further feature films, a present day drama set in England, and a period drama horror movie.

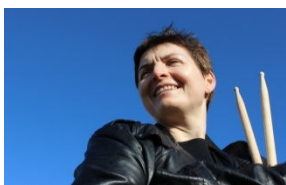
### SCREENWRITER

Girish studied screenwriting at the Cork Film Centre, and via publications by Hollywood screenwriting legend Robert McKee, and has subsequently written three completed scripts, one of which, *Mahatma*, was endorsed by Ms Ela Gandhi, the Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, who described it as being 'an excellent piece of work'. Girish has also written two complete musical theatre scripts. *Frankenstein – The New Musical* (2006) was performed at the Firkin Crane Theatre in Ireland and *Gandhi – The New Musical* (2009) enjoyed a high profile showcase in London's West End on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

## LEAD CAST



GIRISH PATEL studied acting at Cork's Actor's Vision Academy. He made his debut on stage as Victor Frankenstein in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein – The New Musical* (2006), and followed up with the role of Raj in *Gandhi – The New Musical* (2009). In *59*, Girish takes on the role as protagonist Gary, an Indian science teacher who is urged to follow his lifelong dream of stardom as a rockstar by his Guardian Angel. Girish puts his real-life experience as a science teacher and as a performing singer-songwriter to tremendous use in this, his debut feature film.

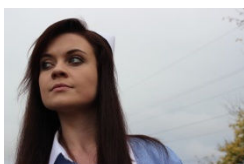


CARMEL BARRETT studied acting at the Firkin Crane Theatre in Ireland. She made her theatrical debut as Justine Moritz, De Lacey and Caroline Beaufort in *Frankenstein – The New Musical*. In *59*, Carmel plays feisty Kathleen, an Irish veterinary surgeon who teams up with Gary to record the greatest Christmas song ever written.

## SUPPORTING CAST



JOHN BRETT is a veteran stage actor. He trained at the Triskel Arts Theatre in Cork. His passion for Shakespeare landed him the role of Brutus in *Julius Caesar* (1996), and thereafter followed roles in *Hamlet* (1998), *King Lear* (2000), *Twelfth Night* (2002), *Romeo and Juliet* (2003), *The Taming of the Shrew* (2005), *Macbeth* (2008) and the *Merry Wives of Windsor* (2012). In *59* John is cast as the hero's spiritual mentor Jack, a penniless pensioner with a background in record producing back in the sixties. Jack's guidance leads our hero to reach for stardom.



NIAMH MUPRHY performs the role of Gary's Guardian Angel in *59*. She is present at his birth, and keeps a watchful eye on his ups and downs, until she is called upon to plead for his life when he is gunned down. Niamh is a graduate of the University of Cork in Ireland.



KEVIN DOLAN plays the role of antagonist Seamus, a psychotic, ruthless ex-Army veteran who terrorises Gary, Jack, and even his own sister Maeve. *59* is Kevin's first feature film, and in real life he served as a soldier in the Irish Army's peacekeeping force in the Middle East during the 1990's.

## COMPOSER & SINGER-SONGWRITER

Girish Patel is a composer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, and has written the orchestral score and several key songs for *59*. His previous credits include his winning music for the BBC's *Wedding Bells* (1986) that marked the Royal Wedding of that year, and *'If You Just Listen'* (1988) which he performed on ITV's *Here and Now*, taken from his audio-dramatisation of Mary Sherman Hilbert's *A Sandpiper To Bring You Joy*. Girish's composition for the BBC's international coverage of *The World Cup Italia (1990)* was eventually pipped to the post by a single vote in favour of Luciano Pavarotti's *Nessun Dorma*. After a decade of touring, Girish cut his first solo album *'A Hundred Miles To Go'* at London's Abbey Road Studios in 2002. He subsequently scored two orchestral stage musicals, *Frankenstein – The New Musical* (2006) and *Gandhi – The New Musical* (2009) which showcased in London's West End on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

## LEAD PRODUCER

SALLYBROOK PRODUCTIONS LIMITED was founded by British producer Girish Patel in 2010 as a vehicle for the production of independent films. The Company develops its own in-house screenplays as IP for a slate of films intended for film festivals, sales and exploitation internationally. The Company is committed to building long-term relationships with sales agents, financiers and distributors in order to maximise potential profits from its films. The heart of the Company's ethos involves keeping production budgets low in order to reduce risk for investors and stakeholders, and thus ensure that the films get made whatever the economic situation within the film industry.

## BRITISH PRODUCER

Girish Patel was born in the State of Gujarat in India. He was educated at an English grammar school, and graduated as a science teacher via courses at the Universities of Leicester and Cambridge. Girish attended courses in Film Production, Screenwriting and Directing at Cork Film Centre in Ireland, and subsequently produced the short film *Murphy's Nails* (2009), and wrote and directed *Cigarettes and Coffee* (2010). Girish has produced two stage musicals in collaboration with Carmel Barrett, *Frankenstein – The New Musical* (2006) and *Gandhi – The New Musical* (2009) that showcased in London's West End in 2009. *59* is Girish's debut feature film as Producer.

## IRISH PRODUCER

Carmel Barrett was born in Cork, Ireland. She made her theatrical debut as producer at the Firkin Crane Theatre in *Frankenstein – The New Musical* (2006) in which she also played the roles of Justine Moritz, Caroline Beaufort and De Lacey. Carmel co-produced the West End showcase of *Gandhi – The New Musical* (2009). *59* is Carmel's first feature film as producer.



## Q&A WITH DIRECTOR GIRISH PATEL

**Q: What is the premise of the film?**

It's never too late to reach for your dream. When all hope seems to be lost, life gives us a second chance. These powerful themes do appear to have resonated with audiences who were invited to a test screening of the film, particularly people over thirty, who agreed that, as life speeds past, there is often the ever present internal notion that maybe it's too late to do x, y and z, whatever they may be. This film says different!

**Q: The film is inspired by true events. Can you tell us about this?**

Many of the experiences of central character Gary are taken from my own personal experiences. For example, I was a teacher at one of the UK's top sixth form colleges who helped students reach university, whilst also inspiring troubled, disaffected students in some tough inner city British schools. Like Gary, I did experience the traumatic effects of being caught up in the 1991 Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, and had to calm gas-masked students as scud missiles exploded overhead; and like Gary, I also left steady employment as a teacher to travel to Ireland where I eked out a living by busking and gigging in rural pubs, quite a wonderful experience. Of course, like Gary, I also wrote the movie's songs, including the 'greatest Christmas song ever written'. (lol)

**Q: Tell us about the locations and shooting in Ireland.**

I wanted to capture both the essence of Ireland's natural beauty whilst simultaneously depicting it's vibrancy and dynamism. So we included shots of the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, the tranquil Garryvoe beach, and views of Cork City that included the wonderful Shandon Bells tower, street art, pubs and the amazing English Market. We also flew to London to shoot at Big Ben, Oxford Street and the world famous Abbey Road Studios zebra crossing.

**Q: How would you describe the genre of the film?**

The film is a drama with a spiritual edge that tells the story of the transformation of a teacher who loses everything into a rockstar. The film's original songs are a key element of the storyline, together with romance, conflict and relationships. In short, 59 is a romantic music drama.

**Q: What can you tell us about the dynamic between the three main characters?**

What separates the three key characters, that is teacher Gary, veterinary surgeon Kathleen and penniless pensioner Jack, is twenty years as Gary is 59, Kathleen 39 and Jack 79. What unites them is a singular passion – music. Gary gave up performing with his guitar years ago for a settled life as a teacher, whilst Kathleen, also a talented rock drummer, lives a rural life working with sick animals. Jack an ex-record producer from back in the sixties, is penniless. In a sense, all three have given up on their musical dreams – until the arrival of a stranger to Ireland. Gary is the catalyst of change, and the desires of three characters whose lives become intertwined are triggered by his arrival. When the feisty Kathleen joins the team, the chemistry between these three loveable characters really gels together quite beautifully.

**Q: How did the idea of penning the so called ‘greatest Christmas song ever written’ in the film come about?**

The film originally featured a few of my own songs, but as the movie tells the story over a year from one Christmas to another, I decided that Gary needed to write a Christmas song that would not come easily to him. It is the writing of the Christmas song in the film that halts his progress, causes him antagonism. He experiences writer’s block just when the Christmas song is needed as the final song to finish off the album before the trio can submit the album to the contest, with it’s top prize of £1 million and a record deal. So I wrote ‘A Christmas Night’ for the film. Is it the greatest Christmas song ever written? Let’s just wait and see.

**Q: How did the idea of Gary’s Guardian Angel come about?**

I talk to people. So many, myself included, are able to look back on their lives and pinpoint specific moments when, with their backs seemingly against the wall, somehow they came through it, without really knowing how it happened. For some it may have been financial problems, for others ill health or the loss of a loved one. Somehow, against all odds, they survived when at their lowest ebb. I’ve often wondered over the years looking back whether there must be some power, some reason, something out there that helped me through those moments – a Guardian Angel perhaps, who knows. It was whilst contemplating my own past that I decided to integrate the idea of a Guardian Angel, who appears at Gary’s birth and subsequently watches over his journey without his knowledge at any time in the movie. Of course one of my favourite Christmas movies is ‘It’s A Wonderful Life’, so the idea isn’t new, but I wanted to ensure, unlike James Stewart’s angel, that Gary is oblivious to his Angel’s existence throughout the film. Even the fact that his faithful dog, a beautiful border collie called Angel, is in fact an avatar of his Guardian Angel is hidden from him. It is after Gary is shot and killed following a showdown with Seamus that his faithful dog is seen to morph into Gary’s Guardian Angel as she prepares to plead with the heavenly Gods for his life. The idea of a watchful Guardian Angel is a central theme of the Christmas song.

**Q: Who are your influences and how have they influenced you as the film’s director?**

The two directors I have admired for a long time now are Steven Spielberg and Clint Eastwood. I admire the way Spielberg catches us by surprise with clever camera shots at specific points in his movies, like the close-ups of Indiana Jones in Raiders. I once saw a documentary in which the manner in which Clint Eastwood directs his movies was described, and I feel most comfortable doing it his way – get in, set up fast, make sure you’re in focus, shoot twice only, pack up and move onto the next scene.

**Q: What do you think will be the appeal of this movie?**

I believe that 59 will resonate with mature audiences over thirty on so many levels. It has a Christmas feel to it, and the songs in the film are both exciting and poignant, and will appeal to that age range. It’s about ordinary, everyday folk with jobs audiences can relate to, it’s about relationships, it’s about the power of music, about working as a team to overcome life’s hurdles. It’s about believing that even when we lose all hope, help will come from somewhere when you least expect it; and the film is about never giving up, because however fast the years may pass by, and whatever the odds, it’s never too late to reach for your dream.

## Music

Original score, songs and additional music by Girish Patel

All tracks (except 'A Christmas Night') mastered at Abbey Road Studios, London

"Born To Love You"  
Written and Performed by Girish Patel

"Rain"  
Written and Performed by Girish Patel

"Nothing Without You"  
Written and Performed by Girish Patel

'Journey To The Centre Of Your Heart'  
Written and Performed by Girish Patel

"A Hundred Miles To Go"  
Written and Performed by Girish Patel

"Set Me Free"  
Written and Performed by Girish Patel

"Midnight Lover"  
Written and Performed by Girish Patel

'O Come All Ye Faithful' (Traditional)  
Arranged and Performed by Girish Patel

'A Christmas Night'  
Written and Performed by Girish Patel

All tracks © 2014 All rights reserved

## CAST

Gary	Girish Patel
Kathleen	Carmel Barrett
Jack	John Brett
Finbarr	William Barrett
Mary	Christine Murphy
Mick	Patrick Murphy
Sinead	Joan Fitzgerald
Maeve	Elizabeth Delany
David	Alan Clayton
Seamus	Kevin Dolan
Companion	Niamh Murphy
Celestial Guardian 1	Diarmuid Quinlan
Celestial Guardian 2	Dolores Barrett
Carol	Lorraine O'Neill
Carol's Mother	Sarah Sheehan
Magistrate 1	Susan McLaughlin
Magistrate 2	Donal Delany
Barrister	Patrick Aherne
Ferry Captain	Oliver O'Neill
Student	John Canty

(cont.)

Liver Doctor	Joe Organ
Rock Musician	Richard Lynch
Nurse	Valerie Wall
Nurse	Marie O'Brien
Consultant	John Potter
College Principal	Suzanne Creed-Quinlan
Garda in Photograph	Brendan Troy
Chef	Anne Dolan
Man in Window	James Mellis
Street Artist	Gerard Barry
Shop Owner	Dan Linehan
Market Trader	Pat O'Connell
Narrator	Pat Mahony
Angel	Sally, our Border Collie
Journalists	Tanya Billington
	Anne Maire Cronin
	Margaret Cotter
	Joy O'Donoghue
	Margaret Kiely
	Niamh McKeown

### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Directed by Girish Patel  
 Produced by Carmel Barrett & Girish Patel  
 Executive Producer Carmel Barrett  
 Director of Photography Girish Patel  
 Sound Carmel Barrett  
 Principal Camera Carmel Barrett  
 Assistant Camera (Ireland) William Barrett  
 Assistant Camera (UK) Carol Davies  
 Editor Girish Patel  
 Assistant Editor Carmel Barrett  
 Story & Original Screenplay by Girish Patel  
 Music Composed by Girish Patel  
 Original Songs and Lyrics by Girish Patel

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 St. Anne's Church, Shandon  
 Opus II Music, Cork City  
 Pat Buckley's Pub, Cork  
 Glanmire Hardware  
 Fermoy Youth Theatre  
 Joe Organ Auctioneers  
 Magpies, Fermoy  
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