

WATERFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dermot H. Breen: Founder of the Cork International Film Festival

Born in Waterford on the 18th of August 1924, Dermot H. Breen was educated at the Presentation Brothers College and the Provincial College in Cork. In 1956 he became the manager of the Palace Theatre in Cork, where live entertainment and film were showcased. He founded and became the managing director of *Dermot Breen Public Relations Consultants Ltd*, the first firm of its kind in Cork. He was elected to the *British Institute of Public Relations* in 1965 as well as its Irish equivalent some time later. An avid supporter and producer, he staged many successful plays and was a co-founder of the *Presentation Theatre Guild*, Cork. He was a founding member and Hon. Secretary of the *Cork Tostal Council* and organised its events. His crowning achievement was the *Cork International Festival*, of which he was a founder, and its Director from 1956 to 1978. Breen was vocal in his support and promotion of the medium of film, particularly short films. He became a member of the film censorship board in 1970, and took the post of film censor in 1972. He was the first occupant of the position to have any experience with film. During his time as film censor there was increasing liberalisation of censorship with an increase in certificates of age restriction. Breen held the position till his death on 4 October 1978 in Dublin.

Cian Manning