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# *14th Annual Ball*

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# WELCOME TO IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO'S 2017 ANNUAL BALL

Welcome to the Ireland Network Chicago Annual Ball 2017. It gives me tremendous pride to lead the Ireland Network into a new direction in 2017. It is a new year and with that we bring a new look to the Ireland Network.

In this current climate, it is important now more than ever for associations like ours to be able to thrive, continue to move forward and not merely exist. We are a link to the New Irish traveling to these shores, it is up to us to make sure this generation is helped establish a foothold in Chicago, because without them all this falls away.

Since our 13th Annual Ball we have hosted many great events. Chief amongst these being hosting the Off the Ball team from Newstalk at a luncheon a day prior to the Ireland v All Blacks game. It was a tremendous event and ended up being a kickoff party for the match itself.

We have started to Co-Chair our First Friday events with the most recent ones being with National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) and the Chicago Irish Film Festival. We have other co-chaired events in the works and this helps create awareness of our brand along with forging new friendships. The First Fridays are only going to get better. Look out for the Celtic Cruise revival in August, as we sail up and down the Chicago river with other friends of the Network.

In 2017, we wish to continue raising funds for our charities of choice. Both Concern Worldwide and Chicago Irish Immigrant Support continue to do stellar work and need all

of our generosity to keep doing what they do best.

I would like to welcome our new Consul General of Ireland, Brian O'Brien, to his post. Already he has shown commitment to the IN and we wish him all the best for his 4 years of tenure. I cannot fail to mention the Vice Consul, Ragnar Almquist, who helped the Network a great deal during the time from when Orla Mc Breen left, to Brian's arrival.



A massive thanks to my colleagues on the IN Committee. They work tirelessly to bring you great events and without them none of this would be possible. Please take an interest in their bios and thank them for their commitment.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for digging deep and supporting. The sponsorship raised tonight goes a long way in subsidizing our great events, please do not forget to support their businesses whenever the opportunity arises.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank you, our members and guests alike, for joining us in what will be a night to remember. Have a great evening!

Sincerely,  
James Sheehan  
President, Ireland Network Chicago



*The Drake congratulates  
The Ireland Network on their  
14th Anniversary*

**SLÁINTE!**



COLLIN PIERSON PHOTOGRAPHY | MICHELLE DURPETTI EVENTS | YANNI DESIGN STUDIO

## ORDER OF THE EVENING

- 6:30 P.M. CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION
- 7:45 P.M. IRISH AND AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEMS - PADDY HOMAN
- 7:50 P.M. WELCOME ADDRESS  
Ireland Network Chicago President, James Sheehan
- 8:00 P.M. DINNER SERVED  
See Menu Below
- 9:00 P.M. CONSUL GENERAL OF IRELAND, BRIAN O'BRIEN
- 9:15 P.M. 2017 RAFFLE DRAWINGS
- 9:30 P.M. THE "TIME CHICAGO" BAND
- 12:30 A.M. AFTER PARTY: FARMHOUSE CHICAGO  
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## MENU OF THE EVENING

- SOUP Parsnip Soup, Pear Compote
- SALAD Watercress Salad with Manchego Cheese, Almonds, Roasted Asparagus and Arumato Oil
- ENTRÉE Filet Mignon with Brussels Sprout Leaves, Chestnuts, Sliced Zucchini/Squash, Heirloom Carrots  
Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes and Cauliflower Gratin
- DESSERT *Alternating:*  
Opera Cake with Raspberry Coulis and fresh Raspberries  
Almond Olive Oil Cake with Mandarins and Vanilla Chantilly
- WINE SERVICE Canyon Road, Pinot Grigio  
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1. Dinner for ten at Ocean Cut (value \$3000)
  2. Two tickets to Chicago Cubs game, Dinner for two at Farmhouse and Overnight for two with breakfast at the Princess Diana Suite at The Drake
  3. Dinner for two at The Dearborn, Two tickets to Lyric Opera House 2016/7 season performance and Two tickets to Irish Fest at Gaelic Park
  4. 5-course dinner for four with wine at The Beacon and Four passes to the Art Institute of Chicago and commemorative book
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  8. Two \$50 gift cards to Kaiser Tiger, Two tickets to Chicago from the Lake architectural tour and Four tickets to Irish Fest at Gaelic Park
  9. Two nights with breakfast at The Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin, Basket of Kilbeggan whiskey and Four tickets to Irish Fest at Gaelic Park
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CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND  
CHICAGO

**Message from Consul General Brian O'Brien,  
22<sup>nd</sup> Consul General of Ireland to Chicago and the US Midwest**

A Chairde, Dear Friends,

Since taking office as Consul General in December, I've had the privilege of attending a number of Ireland Network Chicago events and seeing first-hand the outstanding work you do to deepen connections between our global island and this great global city.

I arrived in Chicago at the end of what was a historic year for the Irish community here. Last May, the city was honoured by the appointment of Chicago resident Billy Lawless as Ireland's first Senator for the Diaspora. In August, Beverley born Maggie McEldowney was crowned the 57th Rose of Tralee, the first time a Chicago Rose to claim the award in three decades. And on 5th November, in front of a record-breaking crowd at Soldier Field, Ireland's senior men's rugby team defeated the All Blacks for the first time in 111 years of trying, a losing streak even the Cubs couldn't match.

IN-Chicago played a significant role in marking these historic achievements. And you were also at the heart of local commemorations of the Easter Rising of 1916, partnering with the Consulate, the Irish Fellowship, the Irish Georgian Society and others to host a major event at the Cultural Centre in June. Through events like this, and through the excellent *IN Conversation*, grant aided by our Government's Emigrant Support Programme, IN-Chicago continues to connect Irish and Irish-American professionals across this city. This matters hugely, because, whether political, in the arts or in business, the ties between Ireland and Chicago are ultimately developed, refreshed and sustained by people.

Nurturing these personal relationships, ensuring that Chicagoans' attachment to and understanding of Ireland is passed from one generation to the next, has been a priority of our Consulate since we opened our doors in 1933. It will remain so throughout my time as Consul General. Indeed, in the months and years ahead, as we seek to promote our nation's values and protect our people's interests, such communication will be more important than ever.

In this endeavour, our small team at the Consulate looks forward to further deepening our cooperation with IN-Chicago, under the stewardship of your new President, James Sheehan, and his Committee. We are grateful to you, and to all those who have devoted their time and effort to make this organisation what it is today. Maith sibh.

Le gach dea-guí,

Brian O'Brien  
Consul General of Ireland





## PADDY HOMAN

Traditional Irish Tenor Paddy Homan, is a native of Cork city, now based in Chicago. A proud Chicagoan, Homan is seen as one of Ireland's premier Irish Tenors living abroad. Locally he is seen as the 'go-to' person for Corporate Music Events. Homan is the founder of the dedicated Irish Wedding Music Website, [www.myirishweddingmusic.com](http://www.myirishweddingmusic.com), catering for ceremonies and cocktail hours. For Bookings Call 312.884.9102. Also [www.paddyhoman.com](http://www.paddyhoman.com)



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## Making Connections

*Irish Network USA congratulates  
President, James Sheehan  
and Irish Network Chicago  
on a successful 2017 Ball.*

*-Steve Lenox, President INUSA*

## Across the United States

Irish Network USA is proud to support chapters and their members across the United States. INUSA helps Irish and Irish-American professionals across the United States to connect with their peers and to develop relationships that will foster success in their business, economic and social ventures.

### Connect With Us

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Thank you to the members of the Ireland Network who work with me as their trusted advisor when purchasing and selling their real estate assets.



A Cháirde,

Greetings to the Ireland Network Chicago's Annual Ball, which I trust will be a great success. Unfortunately, I cannot be with you in person, as I am currently in Dublin. As you may know, I was recently appointed by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD to the Irish Senate to represent the Irish living overseas.

My appointment is an official and long overdue nod to Ireland's 70 million strong Diaspora and an acknowledgement that the people of our proud and ancient island desire a modern and mature relationship with their fellow Irishmen and women living abroad. It is also a testament to the hard work, leadership and dedication of many of you who seek to strengthen the ties between Ireland and the 40 million people in America who proudly claim Irish heritage.

I want each of you to know that I am committed to making your voice heard in An Seanad Éireann and in the highest chambers of government. If we as a nation are to live up to the virtues of the Proclamation of 1916 in '*cherishing all the children of the nation equally*' then we must approach our Diaspora with respect and sincerity. And so, in my maiden speech to An Seanad Éireann, I respectfully challenged the chamber to ask itself "*What can you do for your diaspora, rather than what can your diaspora do for you?*"

I commit to working on issues that matter to you, such as the recent Seanad Reform Bill that includes a provision for voting rights for Irish citizens living abroad. I commend the Taoiseach for his willingness to engage on this matter but if 25 of the 28 countries in the EU can do it, then so can we.

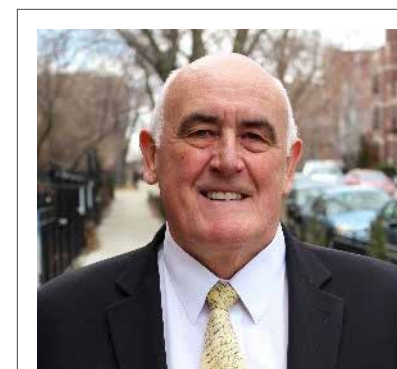
Ireland is currently entering uncharted territory with the recent Brexit vote, which threatens peace at home and trade with our closest neighbour, not to mention the fate of 1 million Irish nationals living in Britain. Recent immigration executive orders and anti-immigrant rhetoric in the USA also present major challenges for the 50,000 Irish undocumented living in the shadows. I will not shy away from these difficult issues and will continue to advocate for all Irish citizens overseas, especially the most vulnerable.

I would like to thank the Ireland Network Chicago for its continued support of front line Irish service agencies and congratulate you on your great success.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

*Billy Lawless*

Senator Billy Lawless





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The Kerryman would like to  
congratulate the Ireland Network  
Chicago on their 14th annual ball.

# A Look Back at Ireland Network Chicago Events in 2016

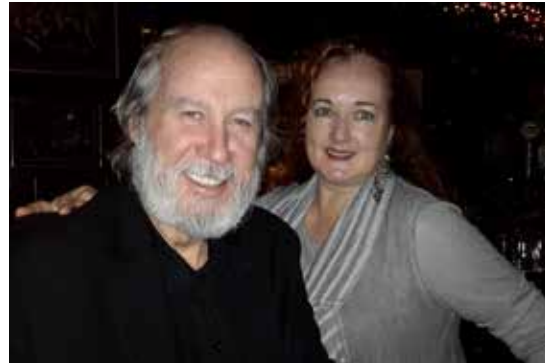
IN-Chicago is continually grateful for the support of the Irish Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs for their generous grant which makes many of our events possible! Our First Friday (sometimes Thursday!) gatherings are always enjoyable and have continued their robust attendance. We have begun to partner with different groups to host these so look for more interesting partnerships! As always, we continue to let our members know about events we think may interest them through our IN-Chicago Supported event emails and promotions.



## FIRST FRIDAYS/MONTHLY NETWORK GATHERINGS

Informal gatherings of members and friends each month

- 08 JAN** Celtic Crossings
- 05 FEB** Fadó Irish Pub
- 04 MAR** The Pepper Canister
- 01 APR** First Friday Gathering/IN-Chicago Annual Members' Meeting - The Drake Hotel
- 05 MAY** First Thursday: "Cuig de Mayo"–Farmhouse
- 03 JUN** The Dawson
- 05 AUG** Kaiser Tiger
- 07 OCT** The Dearborn
- 01 DEC** Christmas Gathering in partnership with NUIG–Emerald Loop



## SPECIAL EVENTS THIS YEAR

- 14 JAN** Networking with Neighbors: IN-Chicago & British American Business Council
- 20 FEB** 2016 Ireland Network Chicago Ball–The Drake Hotel
- 30 JUN** IN-Conversation: 1916 Commemorative Cultural Event
- 15 SEP** INUSA 2016 National Conference–San Francisco
- 04 NOV** Ireland Network Chicago presents 'Off The Ball'



## IN-CHICAGO SUPPORTED EVENTS

Events and Performances we promote and attend with our members

- 26 FEB** The Sinatra Century–IAHC Fundraising Concert Series
- 11 MAR** Irish American Partnership's Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast
- 28 APR** 1916–A Commemoration
- 06 MAY** Global Connections–Ireland: concert performance showcasing contemporary Irish composers
- 26 MAY** Spinning by Deirdre Kinahan–The Den Theatre
- 10 JUN** Older Than Ireland, Chicago screening premiere
- 15 SEP** Lunch with Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland
- 30 SEP** Discounted tickets for Mundy Live at the IAHC
- 15 OCT** I AM IRELAND show with Paddy Homan at IBAM Cultural Festival
- 02 NOV** American Ireland Fund's 32nd Annual Chicago Dinner Gala



# Rugby event with 'Off The Ball'–Nov 2016

## IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO PRESENTS 'OFF THE BALL'

2016 was a historic year for Irish Rugby and Chicago was the center of all the action. Last November, in an unexpected victory at Soldier Field, Ireland posted their first win in 29 matches spanning 111 years over the current rugby world champions, the New Zealand All Blacks. In doing so, they also ended the All Blacks' record run of 18 straight test wins.

The day before this historic victory, Ireland Network Chicago were proud to have hosted a key event that kicked off this rugby weekend. In collaboration with the Irish radio station, Newstalk, Ireland Network Chicago brought the award winning radio sports show, Off The Ball, to Chicago to host a daytime recording of their famous rugby roadshow. A dedicated audience battled their way to The Gage through a sea of Chicago Cubs fans on Michigan Avenue to hear a lively discussion with rugby and sporting stars hosted by Joe Molloy and Ger Gilroy from Newstalk.

The event was kicked off with some comedy from Après match's Ristead Cooper, who warmed up the crowd with some of his hilarious stand-up. This was followed by a panel of guests that included Brent Pope (RTÉ rugby analyst), Dan Payne (CEO of USA Rugby), Shane Ross (Irish Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport), Tony Rice (Notre Dame Quarterback), Paul Manion (Dublin GAA team member) and Gerry Thornley (Irish times journalist). Our special guest, Keith Wood (Former Captain of Ireland and Munster), delighted fans with his insights on the upcoming match. Overall, the event was a huge success and the Ireland Network Chicago is proud to have participated in this memorable weekend.



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# IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**BARBARA ANDREWS**  
Treasurer  
barbaraandrews@gmail.com

A proud Dubliner, Barbara has lived in her beloved adopted city of Chicago for 21 years. She graduated with a BSc from University College Dublin and a HDipIT from St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. She has made her career in the field of Software Quality Assurance and has worked in several different industries in Chicago and its suburbs. When not working she pursues hobbies in Theatre (as both an audience member and a performer!), crafts and home improvement. She has been a member of Ireland Network Chicago since its inception and is currently enjoying her second year on the committee.



**GARRETT DIAMOND**  
garrettdiamond78@gmail.com

Originally from Co. Meath, Garrett is a recent addition to the IN Committee. Garrett has lived in Chicago on and off for nearly 15 years. A DIT Hospitality and Tourism Graduate, Garrett initially spent a number of years in the hotel and bar business in Chicago. He is now working as a Sales and Business Development Representative for Stuart Dean Company in Facilities Services.

Garrett spends his time living in Oak Park with his wife Katie and three children, Ciara, Liam and Fiona. He also is a member of the local AOH Chicago Branch.



**FERDIA DOHERTY**  
ferdia@farmhousechicago.com

Ferdia is a proud Gaothdobhair Co. Donegal man married to Nora Gainer with three children, Bebhinn (8) Aonghus (6) and Maude (3). He is Owner/Partner in Farmheads Restaurant Group, which owns Farmhouse Chicago and Evanston and Farm Bar in Lakeview. He is a board member of the Chicago Irish Film Festival and a Founding member of the Ireland Network Chicago. He has spent 21 Years in America and will become a citizen this year because he talks way too much politics and has no voting record to show for it.



**KATIE FITZPATRICK**  
katiemhamilton@gmail.com

Katie Fitzpatrick is a Director at FTI Consulting in Chicago. Most recently, Katie was the Executive Director of Programs at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, where she oversaw small business, middle market, and international business initiatives. Prior to joining the Chamber in 2013, Katie served as Public Affairs Officer for the Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago. Katie holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as a Master's degree in International Policy and Business from the University College Cork, Ireland. She is a certified Irish Dance instructor and teaches for the McNulty School of Irish Dance.



**IMELDA GALLAGHER**  
imeldagallagher@gmail.com

Imelda grew up in Galway and lived in Dublin before returning to her native Chicago. She was a Barrister in Ireland and also worked in Belgium with the College of Europe in Bruges and the European Commission in Brussels. Since returning to Chicago, Imelda worked with St. Xavier University before working in the wireless industry for 9 years specializing in leasing/licensing and zoning/permitting for major wireless network carriers in several States. She is a Senior Manager, Quality Control and Training in Mobilitie, designing programs and systems nationwide for the wireless infrastructure company. Imelda has served on the Committee for over seven years.



**DIARMUID MORAN**  
diamuidmoran@gmail.com

Diarmuid hails from Castlebar, Co. Mayo and has lived in Chicago for over 10 years. He is currently a Director in Oncology Drug Development at Astellas, a Japanese pharmaceutical company. Diarmuid holds a B.Sc. in Biotechnology and Ph.D. in Cancer Cell Biology from Dublin City University, and is an adjunct professor in the Dept. of Pharmacology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also a co-owner of a scientific skincare startup company, Biocosmeceuticals LLC and is the prior co-founder of a personalized medicine oncology company, Targeted Cancer Treatment, LLC.



**JAMES SHEEHAN**  
jsheehan@conlonrealestate.com

James hails from Dublin where he studied Economics in University College of Dublin and has been living in Chicago since the summer of 2000. He hangs his Real Estate License at Conlon Real Estate where he works with developers and first time home buyers alike. Prior to real estate, James traded equity options for 10 years in the Chicago Board of Trade. He lives in Lincoln Park with his wife, Adrianna and are expecting their first child any day now.

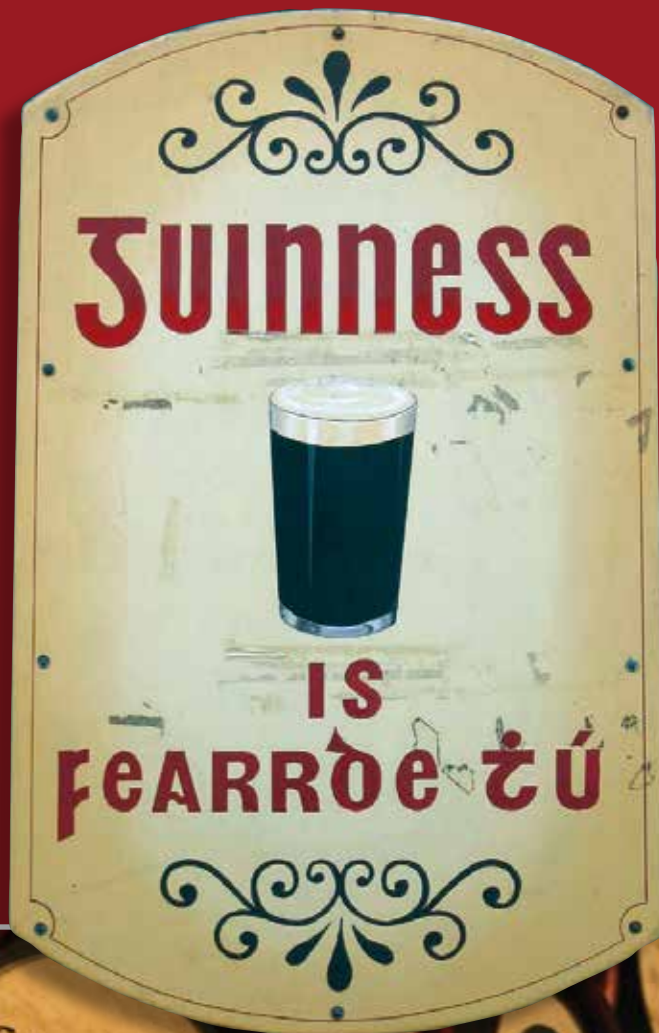


**VALERIE WALL**  
Vice President  
vmwall@hotmail.com

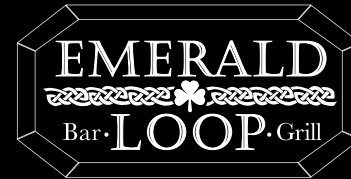
Valerie was born and raised in Dublin and has lived in Chicago since 1998. She graduated from University College Dublin with a BSc and PhD in Chemistry. She began her career in the pharmaceutical industry as a Senior Research Scientist for NSC Technologies, A Monsanto Company. She recently began a new role as Associate Director, Business Development with Regis Technologies, a custom manufacturing and pharmaceutical company located in Morton Grove. She has been an IN committee member for the past seven years, currently serving as Vice-President. She also serves as Vice-President on the board of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support.

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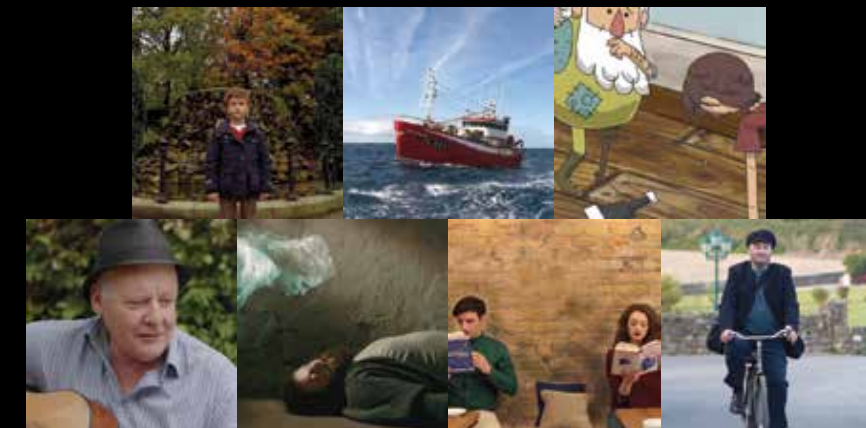
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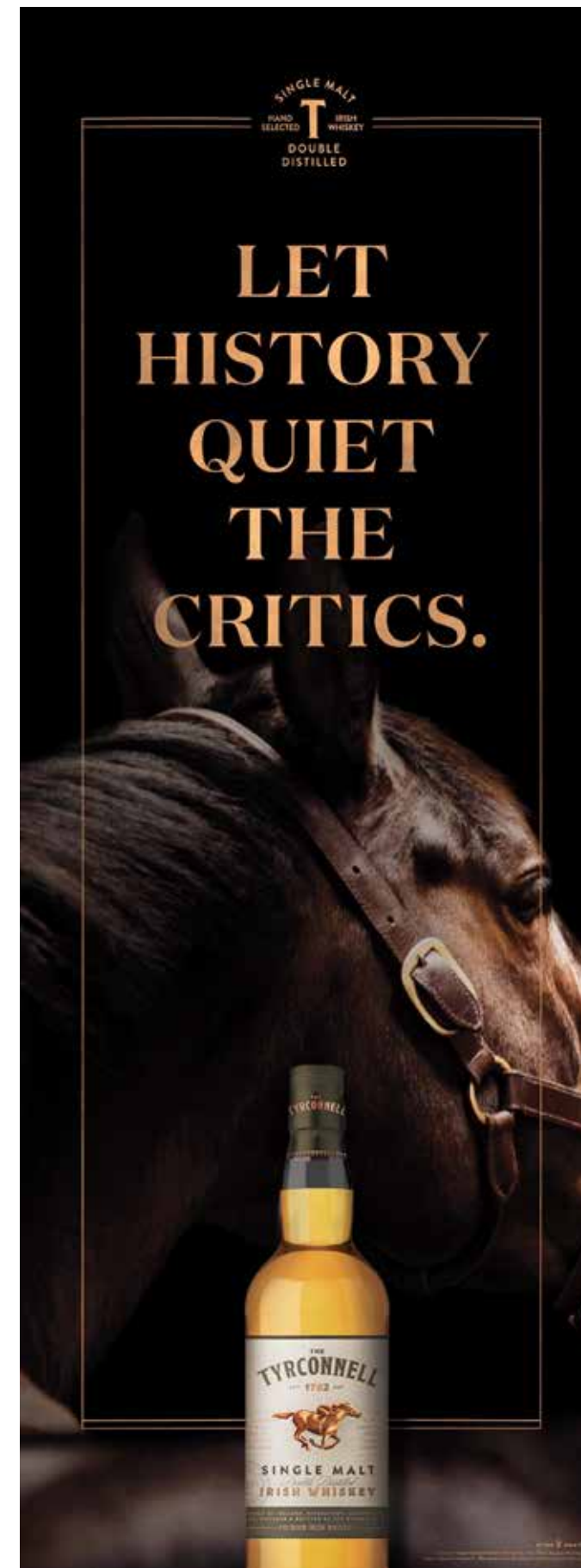
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