

# VHS TRACKING



moViE ReComMendATions

ISSUE 11



## **SILENCE (2012)**

**Directed by: Pat Collins**

Eoghan is a sound recordist returning to Ireland for the first time in 15 years, being employed to find and record silence in places away from man-made sound. He is as quiet as the places he seeks (sound recordists must learn to breathe softly). As he journeys across Ireland, characters are content to appear, share a few moments of dialogue, and disappear. The ephemerality of their presence throughout the film *Silence* denies the development of a character driven narrative (except perhaps Eoghan's own development, though his introverted nature makes that, too, undramatic in a nice kind of way).

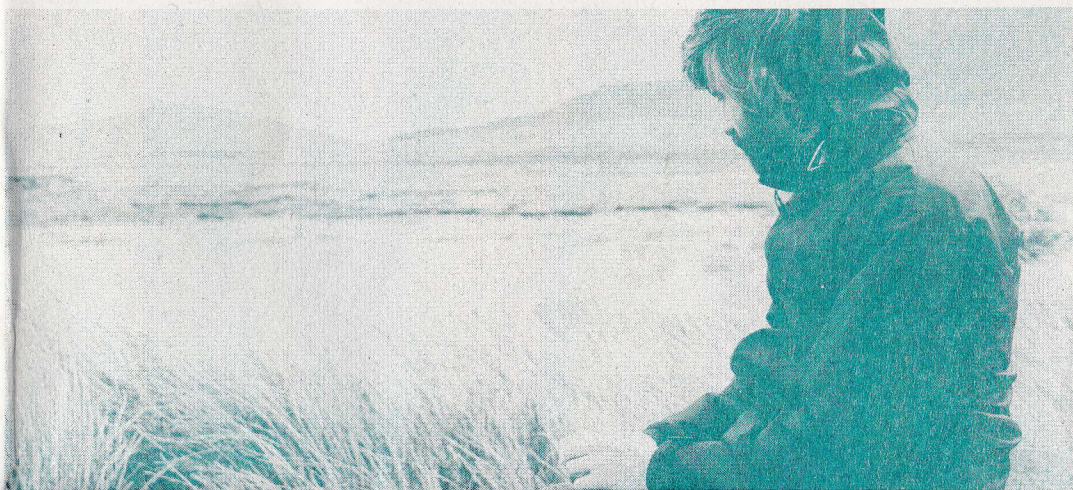
The sound design is curious and shifting. All sound arrives to us with a sense of place, but whether they belong to the place we see or from someplace elsewhere is uncertain. Muffled voices and windy murmurs disguise themselves as diegetic sound only to continue when the scene changes, or fade away as the protagonist leaves the shot. The film

is heavy with sonic remnants of memories that we are not privy to.

Alongside the quietly exceptional sound design, the cinematography is also stunning. Long, still frame shots of windy Irish moors, overgrown woods and lonely harbours are unassumingly beautiful.

My favourite aspect of the film is the gentle questioning of the relationship between place, sound, and time. The sound of Eoghan's past and present are seemingly at once, the playback of the places he's recorded are relocated and remembered, archival audio is revived, the sounds of our own realities are heightened (impossible to ignore the chatter of White Gum Valley suburbia while I watch the near silent film in the living room), and the beauty of these mundane murmurs are reaffirmed in the quiet of it all. This is a film for those who like to listen.

**- Annika Moses**





## **VHS TRACKING**

**Nov - Dec 2019 / ISSUE #11**

**Theme: "MUSIC MOVIES"**

**Edited by:** Tristan Fidler

**Design/Layout by:** Sally Hall

**Editorial:** We've been busy since our last issue. We hosted **VHS Tracking - Live!** at The Blue Room Theatre as part of their Winter Nights program in July. Four special guests - comedian Tor Snyder, artist Nathan Beard, musician Eduardo Cossio and critic Janice Loreck - shared their personal movie recommendations with the audience. Special thanks to Harriet Roberts and The Blue Room staff for helping to organise that first-time show!

We also started a series of screenings called #TrashClassics at Luna Leederville with a showing of 'best worst movie' *Troll 2* (1990) to a sold-out audience in August. Then we had a fun night screening the hilarious martial arts mayhem of *Miami Connection* (1987). Special thanks to Jess Braine and everyone at Luna Palace Cinemas for their help. Stay tuned for more upcoming #TrashClassics!

**Follow us:** @vhstracking (Instagram), @vhstracking (on facebook) and [vhstracking.wordpress.com](http://vhstracking.wordpress.com) (online).

**Thank You:** Neighbourhood Press for their amazing Riso printing skills, Sally for being awesome, Diabolik Books & Records, Paper Mountain, Sticky Institute (VIC), Chicho Gelato, Ruck Rover, Fremantle Arts Centre, Rhubarb Records Vinyl Cafe, Bench Press, Perth Comics Art Festival, Xerox Days Zine Market, and anywhere else that stocks this zine.

**Cover Artist:** Ashley Ramsey is an excellent illustrator whose work can be found under the alias Ashley Ack (@ashleyackartist on Facebook). Check out Ashley's shop for prints and zines: <https://ackleyack.bigcartel.com>

**Music Video Characters Fold-Out:** Artist Ben Yaxley illustrated this wonderful piece.

***Printed on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk Noongar people  
and we pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.***

Riso printing by [neighbourhoodpress.net](http://neighbourhoodpress.net)