

Writer Eve O'Mahony speaks to Róisín Hahessy, who moved to Brazil in 2015

Episode Description: *This episode unfolds like a warm conversation between friends as Roisin and Eve journey from Porto to childhood memories in Clonmel, on to Dublin and Brazil, and back again. Roisin shares perceptive reflections on family, social and cultural life across two very different Portuguese-speaking societies, drawing thoughtful connections between the places she has called home.*

She also pays tribute to a treasured fleece blanket from Clonmel's Clintons store that has travelled the world with her - a touching reminder of home, belonging and continuity wherever life takes her.

The Clonmel Exchanges Podcast Project is a partnership project with the Tipperary Museum of Hidden History.

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Hello and welcome to *Loving and Leaving Clonmel*. In this series, we share the stories of Clonmel natives who have moved away and are now living all over the world. We'll hear about their roots, what they miss most, and what life is like for them now.

In this episode, writer Eve O'Mahony speaks to Róisín Hahessy, who moved to Brazil in 2015 and is now based in Portugal.

[Music]

Róisín: Tell me when we're going recording.

Eve: Right. Well, I just pressed record there.

Róisín: Okay. [laughter]

Eve: That's me talking to Róisín Hahessy. And that's her husband, Filipe's, music. Róisín is an illustrator and a burgeoning writer. I'm an actress, writer, producer, and burgeoning podcaster. What do we have in common? We're both from Clonmel.

Eve: If you wouldn't mind introducing yourself.

Róisín: So, my name is Róisín. I'm from Clonmel, and I'm living in Portugal the last five years. Actually, five years today. We arrived in Portugal five years ago today.

Eve: How did you get from Clonmel to Portugal?

Róisín: It's a bit of a long story. I'll do a quick summary and if you want to go into more detail after, we can.

I left Clonmel, I think I was about 19 or 20. I went to college in Dublin. I studied animation in Dublin and then I ended up staying in Dublin for 12 years. I met my, who's now my husband, my boyfriend at the time. I met Filipe in Dublin. He's from Brazil and we moved to Brazil in 2015.

We said we'd go for one year. We ended up staying for six. And after a few years, I loved Brazil. I loved it. It was a really, really nice place to live, but it was so far from Ireland and from Europe and, yeah, the rest of the world.

So we decided to move back in 2021, and Ireland wasn't too appealing, mainly because of the weather. [laughter]

So we ended up, we started looking at lots of countries in Europe and in the end Portugal made so much sense between the language and a lot of different things.

So we came to Portugal. We said if we don't like it, we could try somewhere else, but we loved it. We came to the city of Porto and we've been here since.

[Music, airport sound effects]

Róisín: It was a whole adventure in itself getting here. It was right in the middle of the pandemic. Well, it was 2021, so I think everyone thought the pandemic was ending, and then it was, you remember, it was kind of finishing and coming back, and then it ended up going on for years.

But when we eventually came, it was still... We had to go. We nearly got in trouble in the airport because they were like, "How did you get here from Brazil?" They weren't allowing

people to fly from Brazil unless you were special circumstances, but we were basically told, "If you don't go, you're going to lose your ticket."

So we said, "Let's just go." So we managed to get here. We don't know how, we got as far as Portugal, and in the airport they were a little bit annoyed with us, but they sent us into quarantine for two weeks.

Luckily, it was the Airbnb that we had booked. We didn't have to do... We were afraid of being sent to Ireland because they were doing the hotel quarantines, do you remember? It was really, it was €2000 per person or something. It was really expensive. So we were lucky. We had our Airbnb booked here.

After two weeks in quarantine, we looked for a place to rent long-term and we were just really lucky. We found a lovely little house for rent for a good price in a nice location. It's like a half an hour walk to the city centre and it's right beside the river, close to the sea.

[Sea waves sound effects]

Róisín: So we're kind of in the middle of the city centre and the sea. And I think we were just lucky when we came because it was pandemic times. It wasn't the real Porto. Everywhere was lovely and calm and quiet, and so we kind of thought it didn't really matter where we'd live.

We nearly took a place in the city centre, but we're delighted that we didn't because it's just hectic. It's just always busy, always full, especially in the summer with the tourists.

So where we're living now is very local, all Portuguese people around. And yeah, we're still here five years later, renting the same house.

So I think we kind of struck gold. And as well, as soon as the pandemic, not ended, but we came at a good time price-wise and stuff. The house we're in now would be double the price. Like, the prices have shot up since we got here.

And there's very... It's kind of similar to Ireland. There's not enough for the demand. There's so many Airbnbs around that there's not enough long-term rentals going as well.

So I really think we were very lucky. A lot of people come to Porto and they end up moving to another city because it's just too hard to find somewhere to rent.

Eve: Can you tell me about your typical day in Porto? Do you work from home? Are you a remote worker?

Róisín: I am, yeah. So I'm an illustrator. I illustrate picture books, and yeah, I work from home. All my clients, it's all done online.

So really lucky like that. That allowed us as well to be able to move to Portugal, because for both me and my husband to move to a new country and both look for work would be really scary. I wouldn't have had the... I wouldn't be brave enough to just do that, I don't think.

So it definitely made the transition easier knowing that I had work lined up and I just needed my computer and a desk.

So yeah, my typical day is just like anywhere else. That's something, when I moved to Brazil first, you think it's going, everything's going to be different, but after the novelty wears off you realise people were the same everywhere. We all live for the weekend. We look forward to our dinners in the evening, relaxing, going to work in the morning.

But yeah, my typical day is just - get up. I like routine as well. A lot of freelancers or illustrators even that I would be in touch with, they'll work all hours of the day, or some people work better at night or weekends.

But for me, I really stick to a routine. It's Monday to Friday, 10 to 6. Take my lunch at 1 o'clock on the dot every day. And it's just what works for me. I can't work at night. I mean, if I had to, I could, but I just love the evenings to chill out, relax, go out, whatever.

But no, I'm very much office hours. And as well, because my clients, I have an agent and she works 9 to 5. My clients would work the same, so it just makes sense to kind of stick to more normal hours.

And then I take the weekends off, relax, have lots of hobbies. Not enough time in the day to do everything, but yeah.

Eve: It's lovely, because whenever I've been to Portugal, the evenings, you know, you have people outside in the park playing. You've got children playing. You've got everybody just hanging out in the park. It's very social.

Róisín: That's something we love. Living in Porto, there's always something to do and you don't need to spend much money, you know, to enjoy yourself.

There's, yeah, between the parks, just wandering around the city, having an ice cream, or just going to the beach, walking along the river. And yeah, people are very social.

I think I kind of forget, but I know in Ireland, especially kids, you wouldn't see them out late at night as much. I think, I know in Brazil as well and here, even in a restaurant, the place could be running with kids at 9, 10 o'clock at night and it's totally normal.

But yeah, very social.

[Sound of children playing]

Róisín: I remember telling my Brazilian friends, like, in Ireland, if someone's making a wedding invitation, often it will say, like, "No children," and they really cannot believe it. Like, actually disgusted. [Laughs]

Oh my God. Like, they would not go. You just could not say no children. No. It just... No. It's crazy. I don't know in Portugal if it's the same.

But no, it's so funny. Yeah. You know, kids go to everything. Everything. Even a lot of restaurants that would be, you know, kind of aimed towards adults, they'll have a little play area for the kids.

It's, yeah, everything is very family-orientated.

Eve: Can you tell me about your earliest memories that you have from Clonmel?

Róisín: I don't have any really specific early memories, but it was... It was a lovely childhood. I grew up in Morton Street, right in the centre of the town. Moved to Cherrymount when I was 12.

So my earliest memories are very much in Morton Street, playing with rollerskates, bicycles. We used to be allowed go around the block, not cross the road. So just stay on the block.

But yeah, it was fun. You know, I think we had a lot more freedom back in the '80s and '90s as kids. We... I remember even running up and down the town because it's in the town, but, you know, being able to run up to the shops and stuff.

Eve: Do you remember any kind of festivals? Like, I remember the Fleadh Cheoil—

Róisín: Yeah, I used to love the Fleadh Cheoil. Yeah, because we were in the town centre as well.

I remember they'd be literally playing music on our doorstep. Little bands would be set up all along the street and we'd be outside. We would have photos of us enjoying the music. It was great, great fun.

I think it happened a few years in a row when I was a kid, and then it took a break. But when I was in college, I would have been probably 20, 21. I was in Dublin and it came back to Clonmel for maybe one or two years, and I brought down friends from Dublin. They all stayed in my house. My Mam let us all sleep on the floor and they absolutely loved it because a lot of people from Dublin, they never leave Dublin.

I'm talking about my friends anyway. One of them brought down footballs and Frisbees, and I was like, "What are you doing with them?"

And he was like, "But sure, don't you live in those fields?" [Laughs]

I was like, "We live in a housing estate." And they were like, "There's housing estates in Clonmel?"

It's like, yeah.

Eve: So, what school did you go to?

Róisín: I went to the Sisters of Charity. It was right around the corner from the house, so really handy. My parents didn't have to do drop-offs or anything like that. We were able to run up and down ourselves, and we'd come home for lunch every day.

So yeah, that's where I was, yeah, primary school. And then went to the Loreto in secondary school.

Eve: Did you do art competitions in Clonmel?

Róisín: Oh yeah, I was mad for the art competitions. I probably entered every competition I could enter. I always loved art. I was obsessed. I just loved drawing. I'd say painting, not as much.

I did every kind of art, painting and pastels, but always, and still is today, having a pencil in my hand is what I'm most comfortable with.

But yeah, I loved art competitions. I entered a good few. I won a good few as well. Not to be bragging, but I was lucky enough. I won.

I remember I won a... Again, Clinton's, I won a lovely jumper from Clinton's one year. I won a few trophies.

And the best was when Superquinn opened. They did an art competition to win a bicycle. And I didn't think I was going to win at all because I think I forgot about it. I remember leaving it 'til last minute.

And everyone else, all the other entries I saw, were very elaborate and beautiful. They were so good, very detailed. And I just threw together a little apple kind of jumping up in the air with his arms and legs, smiling, and I came first. [Laughs]

And I won the bicycle. I was delighted. A yellow bicycle. I think, though, it was a really... My mum still reminds me of that. Remember that simplicity?

But it's true. I think it really showed me that, okay, it's good to have the skills and everything, but it's more about getting a message across, or simplicity as well has a lot to say. It can be very strong. It doesn't need to be... Sometimes, of course, it's good, but not always.

And it's something I still... I mean, I illustrate books for children, so I still have a very simplistic style.

But no, definitely, it was a good kind of eye-opener that, you know, you don't... You can have cute little simple little illustrations and it can say a lot.

Eve: So you were nurtured? Like, your talent was nurtured from a very early age.

Róisín: Ah, totally, yeah. And my parents always... They love, they always love all of us doing anything artistic: drawing, painting, music, singing. They always encouraged it. So they definitely helped as well.

Eve: So can you give me a couple of books you illustrated and what they're about?

Róisín: Yes, yeah. So, I started animation in college and then I went on to work in TV. I worked at TV3 for a few years.

But I always missed drawing. Not always, but I got to a point where I was like, "Gosh, I really just would love to get back to drawing." So I decided I wanted to look into illustration as a career. I never even thought about it as a career before.

And moving to Brazil actually kind of gave me the chance to start afresh. So it was only when I went to Brazil that I really started working as an illustrator.

The first few years were just making a portfolio. In 2018, I signed with an agency in London, the Bright Agency, and that's when I started illustrating books straight away.

So I did loads of books when I was with them. It was full-on. Loved it. A great experience.

I think my first, my very first books were with Little Tiger Press in the UK, board books for babies. Then I did some for Futa Fata in Galway. They're a lovely publisher. I'm still working with them on a series at the moment.

The first book I did with them was called *Beag Bídeach*, written by Sadhbh Devlin. And then we did a second book a few years later called *Geansaí Ottó*, which is currently being in the process of being published in English. I'm not sure when it's going to come out, but it'll be called *Otto's Jumper*.

And then a lot more books. I did a lot of books with Usborne Publishing in the UK. And my most recent book just actually launched last month with the O'Brien Press, and it's called *That's it! Said the Dandelion* written by Nicola Reddy.

[Music]

Róisín: "A dandelion seed fell on the soft grass. "Tell me", said she, "just what can I be?".

The sun shone, and the rain fell, and the dandelion began to grow. Her roots were strong and deep. "That's it!", said the dandelion, "I must be a tree!".

Her leaves were jagged and toothy. "That's it!", said the dandelion, "I must be a lion!"

Her woody stem grew up, and up, and up."

Eve: So, you married a Brazilian man. Of course, the cultures are different, but they're similar. Brazilians and Irish, I think, are quite similar in their attitude to life, I feel.

Róisín: They're very... I have lots of friends as well who are married to Brazilians, and I feel like, yeah, we just get on. Very similar sense of humour.

I've never felt... I mean, me and Filipe, we were 25 when we met, but we never felt much difference, you know, or haven't explained things to him to understand why that was a joke. We just... We get each other very well.

Like, I know a lot of other cultures, even closer, you know, even European cultures, often wouldn't be as similar. I think even Portuguese, I'd feel like Irish and Brazilian, in a way, would be much more similar in sense of humour than Portuguese and Ireland, even though Portugal is much closer.

Yeah, but there's definitely differences as well.

I think it was more probably when I moved to Brazil, when I met Filipe as well, in 2009, there wasn't many Brazilians in Ireland as much. I think he was the first Brazilian I ever knew or ever met. I was like, "Oh, wow, is Brazil big?" You know, I had no idea.

Whereas now we know Brazilians a lot more.

So when we moved to Brazil, I had been there twice on holidays, but I think it was only when I moved that I really saw the differences in culture. Like, they're definitely more open. They're very family-orientated. They're so social.

I'm very introverted. I need my own space. I love just being alone, being by myself. But most Brazilians are not at all. It's like, the more the merrier.

Even I have friends living in Ireland or Portugal who have Brazilian friends. They'd have the family, they'd have the family coming over.

And it's so normal. Like, you know, a guy I know actually only recently, he had the grandparents, his parents, his aunts and uncles and a couple of cousins. They were all coming over to visit for a month and they were all staying in his house. And his house is tiny.

And, like, no bother, they'd be delighted. They'd all be sleeping on the floors and then they'd just, they're in their element.

And I was like, "Is it okay, you don't mind?"

And he said, "Why would you mind?"

And I said, "Oh, you're very different to the Irish." I was like, "There's no way. Imagine."

[Laughs] All in the one room. They love it.

And they're very touchy-feely, Brazil. That's something I found a bit hard. It's always greeted with a kiss. They hug all the time. They're just very... They love hugging and sitting right side by side and rubbing your hair.

So I think we're very different in that sense.

Eve: Irish people would be like, "What are you doing? What's wrong? Is there something on me?"

Róisín: [Laughs] Yeah, yeah, yeah. But no, I definitely got used to it after a while.

But it is weird. I remember, you know, going to occasions like weddings or even a funeral once, and this is in Brazil, and you'd have to go, every single person that you would see. You'd have to give them a kiss on the cheeks.

And yeah, it's still, for me, it's just weird, especially people I don't know. But I think I did get used to it after a while.

And then it depends on different parts of Brazil. Sometimes it's one kiss on one cheek, sometimes it's two, sometimes it's three. In Portugal it's two kisses.

So now when I go back to Brazil, I start to give people two kisses and then they're like, "What are you doing? It's one kiss."

[Laughs] It's really hard.

Well, even here, like often the doctors as well, they give you a little kiss on the cheek when you go in and meet them.

Yeah. Not always. It depends. But I'll always, because I'm the foreigner, I'll always let them make the first move. I'll never go give someone a kiss first.

[Music]

Róisín: Yeah. Just the cultural differences. I'm talking more about Brazil because I feel like I know the culture more in Brazil. Because in Portugal there's so many nationalities here and we're not very much immersed in the culture, if you get me.

Whereas in Brazil, I was... It was 100%. Nobody even spoke English except for Filipe. So I was totally immersed in the culture.

But the Brazilians, they love the cleaning as well. Oh my God. I don't know if you're aware of that, but cleaning... They have days. So, like, once a week at least, it would be a full day of scrub the house from top to bottom.

Furniture would be outside the front of the house, everything would be washed. They'll wash their cars, they valet their own cars once a month. Absolutely everything is spotless.

When I would tell them, "Oh yeah, you know, in Ireland we do a spring clean."

They're like, "What's a spring clean? What do you mean? What do you mean spring? You only clean in spring?"

They have no... Yeah. Very, very, very, very clean.

And Christmas, yeah.

But no, absolutely so clean. And it's... You go into a house, it's rare you would see a mark or dirt or anything. Everything is spotless.

Eve: Do men clean as well?

Róisín: Everyone cleans. Yeah.

Oh yeah. I mean, I think everyone cleans. Yeah, definitely. It's a bit more old-fashioned in some senses. The women definitely do a lot more housework and cooking and stuff, but I think everyone just loves everything to be cleaned.

You rarely see a pair of runners that have a mark on them even.

Eve: Do they take their shoes off outside their house?

Róisín: I think, yeah, often they do. Yeah. And it's because it's so warm as well. You'd be mostly going around in flip-flops anyway.

But, and again, Brazil is so big. I'm talking about specifically where I was. I was in the south, in Santa Catarina, the state. So, you know, different parts of Brazil have different cultures as well.

That was another big culture difference. I was shocked when I got there because we stayed... We lived with Filipe's mother for the first two years.

And yeah, I was thinking weekends, ready to relax, and it wasn't at all. It was like, clean, clean, everyone— [Laughs] Everyone cleaning. You'd be cleaning a spotless house, like.

Eve: Yeah.

Róisín: But it's good. I learned. I definitely brought some of that back with me now. We clean now every Saturday morning for an hour.

Actually, I remember the first time I brought Filipe down to Clonmel and we went out. It was probably O'Keeffe's, I think we went to. You know, just the town was just wild.

And he'd come out at two or half two in the morning and then we went up to the chipper on Narrow Street and we were walking by and Filipe had never seen anything like it in his life.

There was a bouncer outside the chipper. It was the Mayfair, and it was so tiny, but it was packed. There was probably 50 people squeezed in and everyone trying to squeeze their way up to the counter.

And we ended up going in. He just wanted to go in to experience it. So we went in and ordered, I don't know, battered sausages or something. But just crazy.

And then everyone would be out in the streets eating their chips until four o'clock in the morning.

Eve: Nothing like a bag of chips at the end of the night.

Róisín: Yes. I love the chips, though. That's one of my biggest things that I miss.

Obviously my mother's cooking as well. I know she's going to be listening, but yeah, there's no... You can't get a good chip like chips.

Even you can get chips and burgers here, but it's fancier, you know? You go in and it's like a burger and chips. It's not the same as just a chipper where you go in and get a bag of chips.

Eve: And what does your husband do?

Róisín: So, he went to Ireland to learn English. I mean, he spoke English when we met.

He's always been very good at English. But he was... In order to get a visa, he had to study something.

So he was studying English and then, with the terms of his visa, he could only work part-time, so he couldn't get a full-time job. So he used to work in restaurants when we first met. He was a waiter in lots of different restaurants.

And he loved that. He used to love the high energy that you need to be running around a restaurant all night.

But then, I think when his visa had to be renewed, he reached his limit maybe or something with the English. I'm not sure what happened. Or probably because he was fluent in English, he couldn't keep studying English.

So he decided to study music.

[Music]

Róisín: He always loved music. So he did a degree in jazz performance in Dublin.

I can't remember, Newpark was the name of the college. That was four years.

And it was basically when he finished that, that's when we kind of... We always kind of said, "Oh, maybe someday we'll move to Brazil."

And I was like, "Yeah, that'd be fun."

It was kind of always coming to the end of that. I think he kind of said, "Will we do it?"

And I was like, "Oh, for real? Really?"

And then we moved to Brazil.

And then he really started focusing on the music. So that's what he does now. He plays lots of different instruments. He plays gigs, plays at events, different things.

So yeah.

Eve: And you speak Portuguese.

Róisín: I do, yeah.

I learned in Brazil. But I remember I always kind of wanted... I was like, it'd be so cool to learn Spanish or something more Latino. And then when I met Filipe, I was like, "Oh, maybe Portuguese. I could give that a go."

So I tried to learn a little bit when we first met, doing apps. And then when we were moving to Brazil, I did maybe six classes in Dublin, which was actually great. It was very short. It wasn't enough at all to have a conversation, but it was enough. It was great for the grammar.

Just the Portuguese grammar is super complicated. I didn't even know what grammar was before I started to learn Portuguese.

It's also... We don't really learn much of it in English, I think, in school, grammar. But Portuguese grammar is super complicated.

So I got basics there and I kind of thought I was half ready to go to Brazil if we got there.

And I didn't understand a word for the first few months. So it was really hard.

But I think being thrown in the deep end, living with Filipe's family, and just... People don't speak English where we were. In the bigger cities they do, but.. We were living, in a big city, but it's just they don't have many foreign people there.

Maybe now it's changing a little bit, but at the time, even for them to see a foreign person, they'd be fascinated. Like, "Oh my God," they want to know everything about me.

So people just didn't speak English. So I had to... If I was going into a shop, I'd have to know the basics to ask for something.

Some people think you move to a foreign country and you just pick up the language, easy-peasy, and it's so not like that.

I was always writing down new words, trying to memorise them, and putting yourself in really awkward situations, going out with groups that don't speak English.

I feel like it was about probably two or three years after I was there that I started to feel more comfortable with it.

And then after the six years, when we decided to move to Portugal, I was feeling very happy with my Portuguese in Brazil.

Came to Portugal and didn't understand a word that anyone was saying because they have a completely different accent.

It's absolutely... I still struggle a lot more with Portuguese people than Brazilian.

But yeah, no, in my ears it was like... I think it took me about two years here in Portugal. I remember one day saying to Filipe, "I feel like everyone is suddenly speaking more clearly or something," and I think it was just my ears had suddenly just kind of got used to the accent.

Learning a language, I feel like I'll always want to know to speak better. I'm always nervous going into certain situations, or phone calls are still a little bit hard, or, you know, and I'm always still learning new words or asking, "How do you say this?" Checking Google Translate.

But no, I can totally hold conversation and do everything in Portuguese if I have to.

[Music]

Rósín: I definitely stood out, especially... My friends joked with me. I think at the beginning you have this look about you when you're in a new country, like this innocence. You know, you're looking around, "Oh, what's this? What's that?"

Because I remember after a couple of years there, my friends were like, "Oh, you don't have that anymore. You look Brazilian now."

And I think it's just, you kind of adapt to the culture and the way they move and the way they talk and everything.

So I think I stood out more in that sense, that I was just different. But physically, I definitely was physically different. People knew.

But yeah, I did see a few freckled faces and a few whiter-skinned people there.

When they would hear one thing, like if they heard us speak in English... I mean, Filipe would always try and speak Portuguese in public because if we... If people heard us speak in English, literally they would kind of run over and be like, "Oh my God, is that English? Where are you from?"

They were just so fascinated. They'd never met a native English person before.

And yeah, they'd be just fascinated by that.

Yeah, much more than my looks, your hair and your eyes.

Yeah, that's another thing. We think we're so famous and everyone knows Ireland, but they wouldn't know exactly. Like, someone asked me what state is that? They thought it was in the United States.

A lot of people... It's a bit annoying, but yeah, one of the things most people know is, "Ah, that's the country where everybody drinks."

Even there, they don't know on a map where we are, but they know about that.

I'd say half and half. Some people knew where it was, but not exactly. You'd have to kind of say it's in Europe and it's beside the UK, and then they kind of have an idea where it was.

But it's so funny. Like, when I was living in Ireland, I'd feel like Italy or Portugal is so far away, so exotic. When I was living in Brazil, if the odd time I might meet someone from, say, Italy, I would be like, "Oh my God, I'm from Ireland," and we'd click off straight away.

Do you know? So it'd feel like home.

Eve: Did you bring any object with you from Clonmel through your travels through Brazil to Portugal, or were you just like, "What fits in my rucksack?"

Róisín: When I went to Brazil, there was one thing that I really wanted to bring, and it was massive.

Now, we only had one suitcase each, but I added an extra suitcase because I wanted to bring my computer. Electronics are really expensive in Brazil, so I said, "I'll bring my Mac with me."

But it was also an excuse to be able to bring my... A few years ago, my mother bought me a lovely thick fleece blanket from Clinton's in Clonmel, and I absolutely love it. I just couldn't part with it.

So yeah, I used that to wrap up my computer in a suitcase and then got it over to Brazil.

And it was... I mean, I know Brazil is roasting, so most of the year it was away in the cupboard, but also in Brazil in winter it gets cold, so definitely got good use out of the fleece blanket.

And I think coming... My computer didn't last. That didn't last that long at all.

But coming back to Portugal then, I had to... I think I had to... Yeah, the fleece blanket came back, but it took up a good half of one of the suitcases, definitely.

But delighted to have it here now, still with me.

Eve: It's quality. Quality of Clinton's, they say. [Laughs]

Róisín: The quality! I do, I give it a wash. I bring up o the laundrette every now and then and give it a wash, and it's like new. It's lovely.

Eve: Fair play. Yeah. Well done, Clinton's.

Thanks very much to Róisín and her husband, Filipe. I had a lovely time interviewing her, and I'm already planning a journey to Porto where I'll hopefully meet up with her for a glass or two of port.

That was an episode of 'Loving and Leaving Clonmel'. A project by the Clonmel Junction Arts Festival in partnership with the Tipperary Museum of Hidden History.

It was created by Artistic Director Rebecca Lenehan, with podcast consultant Siobhán McHugh and Tipperary Museum curator Marie McMahon.

Technical production is by Michal Durik, with original music composed by Eamon O'Malley.

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