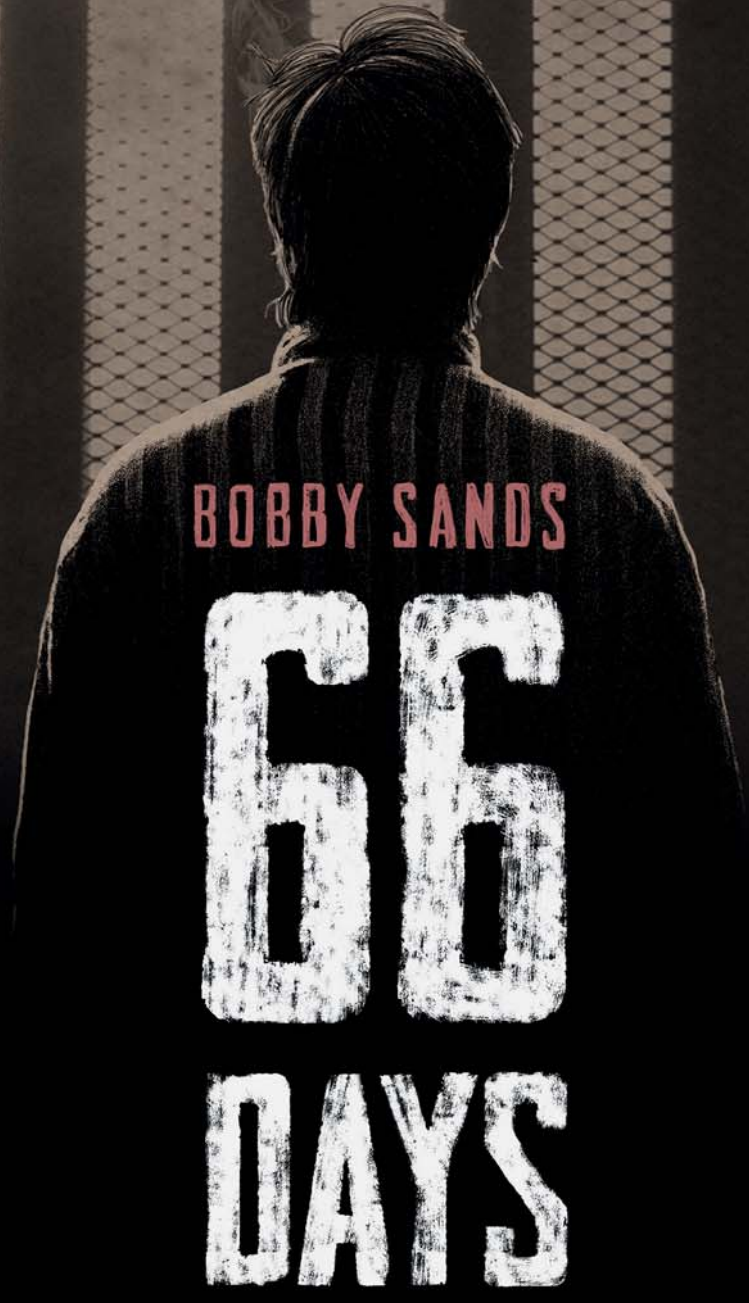


SUSTAINED BY BELIEF. DESTINED TO DIE.



BOBBY SANDS

66

DAYS

A FILM BY BRENDAN J BYRNE

FINE POINT FILMS AND CYPRUS AVENUE FILMS PRESENTS BOBBY SANDS: 66 DAYS ORIGINAL MUSIC BY EDITH PROGUE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NICK FRASER RORY GILMARTIN ANDREW REID SUSAN LOVELL JUSTIN BINDING
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID BARKER EDITOR PAUL DEVLIN CONSULTING PRODUCER ALEX GIBNEY PRODUCERS TREVOR BIRNEY BRENDAN J BYRNE DIRECTED BY BRENDAN J BYRNE

Fine Point Films Ltd

CYPRUS AVENUE FILMS



BBC STORYVILLE



CONTENT FILM TELEVISION DIGITAL



BBC Northern Ireland and BBC Storyville Present
A Fine Point Films and Cyprus Avenue Films Production
In Association with Northern Ireland Screen
With the participation of
Bord Scannán Na hÉireann/the Irish Film Board
Sveriges Television and Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR)

BOBBY SANDS

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INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 1981, Irish Republican Bobby Sands' 66-day hunger strike brought the attention of the world to his cause.

Drawing on an Irish Republican tradition of martyrdom, Sands' emotive, non-violent protest to be classified as a political prisoner became a defining moment in 20th century Irish history.

Sands' death after 66 days marked a key turning point in the relationship between Britain and Ireland, and brought a global spotlight to the Northern Irish conflict which eventually triggered international efforts to resolve it.

66 DAYS is a major feature length documentary exploring Sands' remarkable life and death, 35 years on from his ultimate sacrifice. The spine of the film is comprised of Sands' own words, drawn from his hunger strike diary, a unique insight into the man and his beliefs as he embarked on his final journey.

Directed by award winning filmmaker Brendan J. Byrne and produced by Trevor Birney of Fine Point Films, this landmark non-fiction feature film will have its US premiere at DOC NYC on Friday 11th November IFC Center, Greenwich Village, 9.30pm.

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SYNOPSIS

'I am standing on the threshold of another trembling world. May God have mercy on my soul.'

With these words, IRA volunteer Bobby Sands began his hunger strike on March 1st 1981. Sands' undoubted act of personal bravery brought Ireland to a standstill as the outside world looked on to see an intense battle unfold between an unseen prisoner and the might of the British Government.

66 DAYS tells the factual story of Bobby Sands' life for the first time on film. As we step through the day-specific narrative, we reveal the man at the centre of these tumultuous events, in a probing personal portrait that separates man from myth, and fact from fiction.

Seeing himself as a soldier in a conflict, Bobby Sands died for the right to be recognised as a political prisoner. Against the wishes of his movement's leadership, Sands chose hunger strike as his weapon, in the full knowledge it would bring the attention of the world to his fight.

Using eye-witness testimony, unseen archive, reconstructions and animation, this cinematic odyssey serves as both the definitive account of a self-created Irish martyr and a seismic moment in 20th century Irish history, the legacy of which we continue to live with today.

In 66 DAYS we document an ordinary life lived at the epicentre of a turbulent and tragic conflict, which then became extraordinary as a young idealist starved himself to death to preserve the integrity of the republican movement he loyally served. The film charts how Sands became the architect of his own destiny, and saw him ascend into the ranks of international icon status.

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Sands' own words, form the heart of the film, through his many poems, letters and 'comms' all penned inside prison, and in particular, his personal diary which he kept for the first 17 days of his hunger strike. Sands' collected writings provide an invaluable window into his beliefs, feelings and aspirations. They serve to place his voice at the centre of the film and take us inside his head, the place where Sands eventually found freedom.

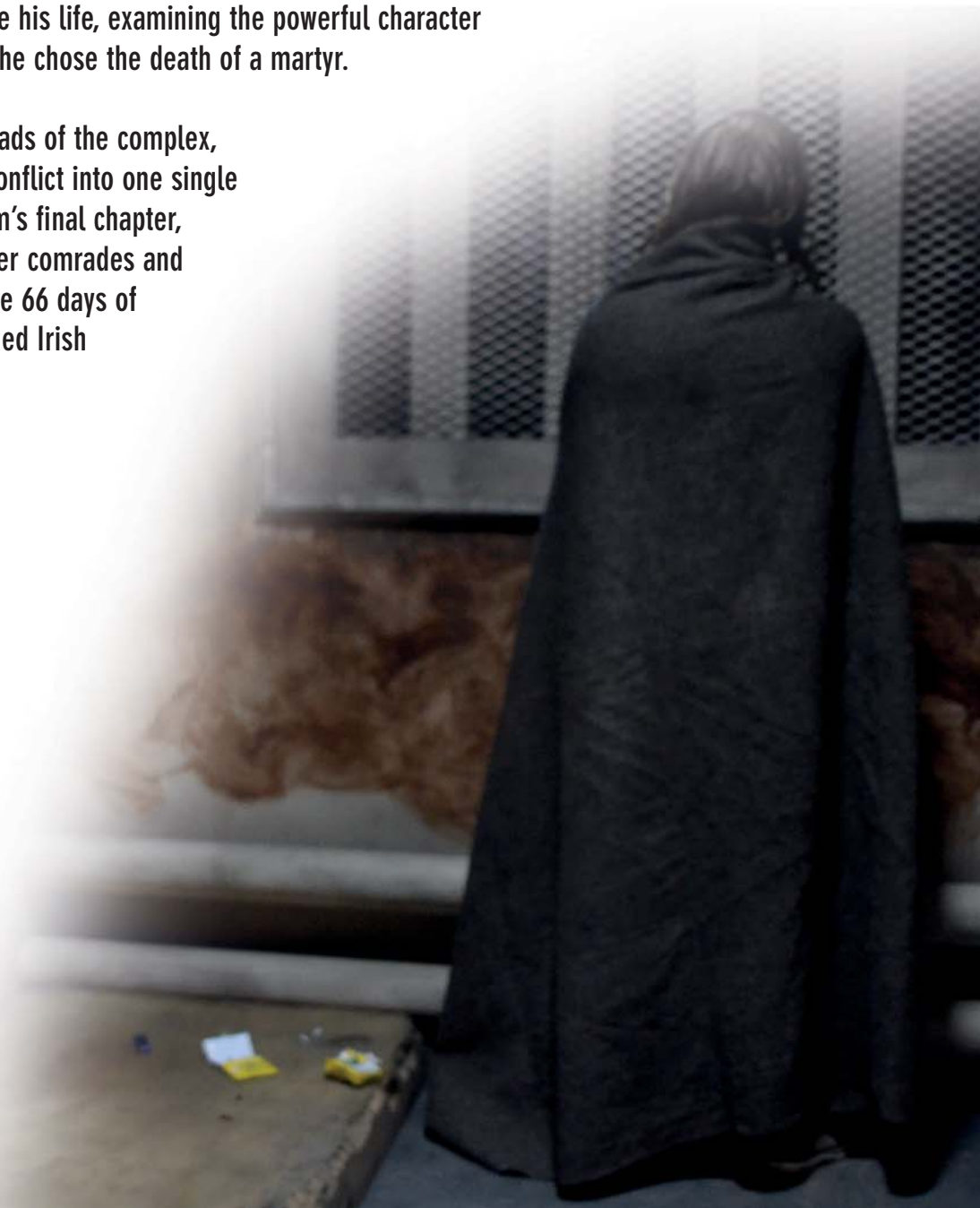
Sands' prison diary is perhaps the most unique historical document in existence of one man's articulation of his beliefs while on hunger strike. This powerful handwritten diary has never been seen before in public, and we have secured exclusive access to this historical treasure trove, which forms the spine of the film's narrative.

Threaded through Sands' personal biography we bring our audience on a parallel journey of understanding to reveal the events that first politicised the young Sands and the influences of Irish Republican history on Sands' actions which he learned during his imprisonment. In this regard, the film is as interested in the WHY of Bobby Sands' story as it is the WHAT.

Sands died on May 5th 1981, aged 27, and parliaments across the world stopped for a minute's silence in his honour. While Sands came to prominence in death, this film aims for the first time to explore his life, examining the powerful character he was as it charts the reasons he chose the death of a martyr.

66 DAYS unifies the myriad threads of the complex, 30 year long Northern Ireland conflict into one single overarching narrative. In the film's final chapter, we capture Sands' legacy. Former comrades and commentators reflect on how the 66 days of Sands' 1981 hunger strike changed Irish history forever.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



As a filmmaker I am often drawn to exploring the violent conflict which engulfed Northern Ireland for 25 years and into which I was born. I was a 15 year-old Belfast schoolboy when Bobby Sands went on hunger strike in 1981, a seismic year which left an indelible mark on my consciousness.

Bobby Sands' hunger strike is one of the few events from the Northern Irish conflict whose myriad threads weave together to give us the bigger picture. As a storyteller first and foremost, this is what drew me in, as well as the desire to delve into Sands' character and beliefs, an intriguing figure, but someone we know little about beyond the iconic photographs and gable wall murals of the hunger striker.

Several narrative fiction films have examined Sands' hunger strike, but they have largely concerned themselves with their director's own artistic impressions of him. In 66 DAYS I've focused my attention on the real Bobby Sands through an exploration of his ideology, his writings and the foundations of his Irish Republican heritage; who was he, where did he come from, what politicised him, and what eventually drove a young 27-year-old father of one to pursue the ultimate sacrifice.

Sands' hunger strike diary, both evocative and revealing, provides the beating heart of the film's narrative. In it, he draws unmistakable parallels between himself and Republican leaders from earlier phases of the Irish struggle who also became martyrs. Through Sands' words, the film is very much an exploration of militant Irish Republicanism and its recurrent appeal in 20th century Ireland. It's also a film about the tragedy of Ireland, its bloody past, and its enduring power to evoke a section of its people to fight and dream to remove Britain's rule forever.

For these reasons, Bobby Sands remains a divisive figure in his home country, both hero and villain in equal measure dependent on which religion and nationality you claim. Few can argue, however, about the courage and conviction it takes for someone to offer their life in this way for something they believe in. This form of self-inflicted suffering has the power to move people, even those with no affiliation to his struggle.

1981 marked the darkest, most intense chapter in Northern Ireland's recent conflict. But from its ashes rose the peace process, and the relative harmony we enjoy today. I hope audiences will be moved by this deeply human story, as they consider the deeper questions which lie at the heart of identity and idealism. I expect they will experience exasperation and anger too at the collective failure of everyone involved to end a hunger strike which eventually claimed the lives of 10 young men.

BRENDAN J. BYRNE

KEY PRODUCTION TEAM



DIRECTOR/PRODUCER — BRENDAN J BYRNE

Brendan is an experienced filmmaker, specialising in documentary and feature films. He has been making high end documentaries for UK and Irish broadcasters for over 20 years, including his Royal Television Society winning documentary **BREAKING THE SILENCE** about families coping in the aftermath of suicide, and **MEN OF ARLINGTON** which won the Critics Choice award at the Dublin International Film Festival in 2011 (Producer). His first feature film as a Producer **JUMP** was selected for the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival in 2012. At Hot Docs 2015, Brendan and his colleague Trevor Birney won the **BEST PITCH** prize for upcoming feature-documentary **MERCURY 13**, about America's first female space pioneers.

In a career spanning 25 years, Brendan ran production company Hotshot Films between 1992 and 2013 before joining Fine Point Films as Creative Director in 2014. Other significant credits include: **BEING JAMES GALWAY** BBC 4 (2015), **IMAGINING ULSTER** BBC 1 (2015), **AN INDEPENDENT PEOPLE** BBC 1 (2014) **BOMB SQUAD MEN**, **The Long Walk** BBC 1 (2012), **BALLYBRANDO** RTE (2009) and **BREAKOUT** BBC 1 (2008).



PRODUCER — TREVOR BIRNEY

Award-winning producer / director Trevor Birney has a strong track record as a producer of quality documentaries and series for Irish, UK and international broadcasters. He is a co-producer on the Oscar shortlisted, Alex Gibney feature-documentary, '**MEA MAXIMA CULPA: SILENCE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD**', for which he received an Irish Film & Television Award in February, 2013. Trevor founded Fine Point Films to build on that success by focusing on further international collaborations. In 2006, Trevor founded Belfast-based production company **Below The Radar** where he produced a range of English and Irish language programming, from award-winning political biographies to landmark history series to live, weekly magazine shows. Prior to that, he was editor of current affairs at Ulster Television where, in a career spanning two decades, he won a Justice Media Award, two Royal Television Society awards, was nominated for three others and was named NI Broadcaster of the Year in 2002. In 2015, along with colleague Brendan Byrne, Trevor won the Cuban Hat Best Pitch award at Hot Docs with **Mercury 13**.



PAUL DEVLIN – FILM EDITOR

Paul Devlin has been a documentary film editor since 1997, when he joined one of Ireland's leading creative editing companies, Yellowmoon Post Production. In the course of those 18 years he has cut more than 60 films, many of which have been very, very challenging, but all of which are testament to Paul's intellect and creativity. Some of these highlights include **BOBBY SANDS: 66 DAYS**, **THE BEAUTY OF ANATOMY**, **BOMB SQUAD MEN: THE LONG WALK**, **CITY OF FAITH**, **SUPER 8 STORIES** and **BEST – MADE IN BELFAST**. These works bear witness to Paul's ability to bring the light and shade of everyday life into his professional craft. In the words of his long time colleague, Yellowmoon founder Greg Darby; 'Paul is without doubt one of the most intelligent people I have ever worked with, a man who clearly understands the alchemy of the cutting room, and who is in my opinion one of Ireland's finest documentary editors.'



DAVID BARKER

For over 40 years David Barker has been shooting documentaries for independent producers and national broadcasters which have been shown at film festivals and on TV across the world. He and director Brendan J. Byrne have collaborated on many documentary projects.

He founded DBA Television, Northern Ireland's first independent production company, in Belfast in 1982 which went on to make over 50 films, including many award winning documentaries for BBC, Channel Four and RTE (Ireland). In 1981 he was a cameraman at the funeral of Bobby Sands and at many other events during the Maze Prison hunger strikes, as well as having shot in every continent on the globe.

He has been responsible for the photography of many significant and often controversial films including 'Enemies Within' (1990) filming with Republican and Loyalist prisoners in the Maze prison, and 'At the Edge of the Union' with Martin McGuinness and Gregory Campbell in Derry in 1985.

He lives in Belfast and Co. Fermanagh and recently became a proud grandfather.



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EDITH PROGUE – COMPOSER

Lives & works in Paris

Bernard Swell, aka Edith Progue has produced albums and written a string of top hit songs for French star Veronique Sanson, contributing to three platinum albums for Warner Brothers.

Three electro-pop albums, under the stage name of izdatso, released in 2000-2003 on Nettwerk America/ EMI have included tracks that were featured on CSI Miami TV series as well as Levi's and LG advertisement campaigns.

In 2007, under the stage name Edith Progue, he composed, performed & produced "Timeline". Released on the legendary Mille Plateaux label, Timeline has received the Best Electronic Album Award at the Quartz Electronic Music Awards 4 (April 4th 2008).

Working with world famous dj Paul Ritch and teaming up with French artists collective Supernova Project has brought Edith Progue's music to a new level of minimal techno influenced sound, leading to live performances such as the concert featured on the "Live at Eglise St Merri" album (Editions Swellito 2015).

Film music: Eating Out by American director Alan Brocka (2004), Rose, c'est Paris by Bettina Rheims (2010), Calvet (2011) by UK director Dominic Allan, Jump (2012) by Irish director Kieron J. Walsh, and Bobby Sands: 66 Days (2016) by Irish director Brendan J. Byrne.

Edith Progue's music is featured on art videos for fashion designers Christopher Kane, Alexander Wang & Karl Lagerfeld.

COMPLETE PRODUCTION CREDITS

BBC NORTHERN IRELAND and BBC STORYVILLE Present

A FINE POINT FILMS and CYPRUS AVENUE FILMS Production

In Association with NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN

With The Participation Of BORD SCANNÁN NA HÉIREANN/THE IRISH FILM BOARD

and SVERIGES TELEVISION AND DANISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (DR)

A Film By BRENDAN J. BYRNE

-----end credits -----

**DIRECTOR
BRENDAN J. BYRNE**

**PRODUCERS
TREVOR BIRNEY
BRENDAN J. BYRNE**

**CONSULTING PRODUCER
ALEX GIBNEY**

**FILM EDITOR
PAUL DEVLIN**

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
DAVID BARKER**

**ORIGINAL MUSIC
EDITH PROGUE**

**ANIMATION
PETER STRAIN
RYAN KANE**

BOBBY SANDS

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DAYS

A FILM BY BRENDAN J BYRNE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FOR THE BBC

NICK FRASER

SUSAN LOVELL

JUSTIN BINDING

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR BORD SCANNÁN NA hÉIREANN/THE IRISH FILM BOARD

RORY GILMARTIN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN

ANDREW REID

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS FOR CONTENT MEDIA CORP

JONATHAN FORD

GREG PHILLIPS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR SVT

AXEL ARNO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR DR

METTE HOFFMANN MEYER

---end roller ----

VOICE OF BOBBY SANDS

MARTIN McCANN

ASSISTANT PRODUCERS

OISIN KEARNEY

EIMHEAR O'NEILL

RESEARCHER

DAVID FLEMING

ARCHIVE PRODUCER

FRANK ROWLATT-McCORMICK

ARCHIVE ASSISTANT

ALEC LIDDLE

BBC MEDIA MANAGER

PAUL QUINN

HD TELECINE

RMC MEDIA PARTNERSHIP

BOBBY SANDS

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DAYS

A FILM BY **BRENDAN J BYRNE**

ADDITIONAL CAMERA
MICHAEL QUINN
GERARD STRATTON
STEVE McCARTHY
ANDREW CUMMINS
OISIN KEARNEY
NIALL McCRACKEN

FOR FINE POINT FILMS

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT
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PRODUCTION MANAGER
CAROL MURPHY

PRODUCTION TEAM
ANDREW TULLY
MAEVE McLOUGHLIN

PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANT
SABINA CHEREK

TRANSCRIPTIONS
SHEILA BIRNEY

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
DAVID CRAIG

CELL CONSTRUCTION
JIM CARSON

ART DIRECTOR
CHRIS HUNTER

SCENIC PAINTER
SARAH GORDON

GRIPS
CONOR KILPATRICK
IAN McGURRELL

SUPER 8 CAMERA SUPPLIER
ANDREW GARDNER
JULIE GARDNER

BOBBY SANDS

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YOUNG BOBBY SANDS
CARL CROOKS

ADULT BOBBY SANDS
EMMET BYRNE

OTHER PRISONERS
PAUL MULLIN
JIM O'HAGAN

SOUND MIXER
PAUL MAYNES
AARON O'NEILL

COLOURIST
GARY CURRAN

ON LINE EDITOR
JONATHAN FETHERSTON

TITLES DESIGN
PETER STRAIN

FOR YELLOW MOON POST PRODUCTION

MANAGING DIRECTOR
GREG DARBY

POST PRODUCTION MANAGER
CLARE CAMPBELL

ASSISTANT EDITORS
CLAIRE O'NEILL
KYLE VAUGHAN
RORY CALDWELL

MUSIC SPOTTING
STUART PEARSON

ASSISTANT COLOURIST
SCOTT FERGUSON

CONFORM / ROSTRUM
PAUL DEVLIN

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AARON O'NEILL

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FOR BBC STORYVILLE

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KATE TOWNSEND

TEAM ASSISTANT
ALEXANDRA PARNWELL

SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE BOBBY SANDS TRUST
THE AMERICAN IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THANKS TO

Dr SONdra Crosby
RAMSEY CLARK
PILIB ROONEY
MARTIN MANSERGH
KEN MAGINNIS
ROY GREENSLADE
PADRAIG O'MALLEY
KIERON J. WALSH
GREG DARBY
GITTE HANSEN
OLIVIA BYRNE
KIM CHRISTIANSEN
DAVID HOLMES
TATE BRITAIN
ARMAGH CITY COUNCIL

CLIVE STAFFORD SMITH
MARTIN GALVIN
SEAN AYLWARD
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DIXIE ELLIOT
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MIKAEL OSTRUP
ANDERS BRUUS
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VICTOR PATTERSON

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BOBBY SANDS' WRITINGS
COURTESY OF THE BOBBY SANDS TRUST

ORIGINAL MUSIC SCORE
ALL INSTRUMENTATION BY EDITH PROGUE
RECORDED IN PARIS

"PRISONER'S CHORUS"
PERFORMED BY
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
ATMOSPHERE MUSIC LTD
UNIVERSAL PUBLISHING PRODUCTION MUSIC

"BE THE SONG"
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY
FOY VANCE
COURTESY OF COMMUNION RECORDS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH SECRET ROAD MUSIC SERVICES, INC.

BOBBY SANDS
66
DAYS
A FILM BY BRENDAN J BYRNE

DEVELOPED AND MADE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF



Fine Point Films Ltd

CYPRUS AVENUE FILMS

INTERNATIONAL SALES BY CONTENT MEDIA CORPORATION





BOBBY SANDS

66 DAYS

A FILM BY BRENDAN J BYRNE




Galway Film Fleadh

COMPANY PROFILES



Fine Point Films Ltd

Fine Point Films was established in Feb 2013 in Belfast, Northern Ireland by producer / director and journalist Trevor Birney. In 2012, Birney co-produced the Oscar shortlisted, Emmy-winning HBO feature-documentary, *MEA MAXIMA CULPA: SILENCE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD*, directed by Alex Gibney. He founded Fine Point Films to build on the success of that collaboration with the development, production and co-production of further high-end feature documentaries for the international market. The company's core strength is journalism with its mission to produce films that change perspectives and narratives.

Completed productions include *DOCKLANDS: EXECUTING PEACE*, a BBC documentary about the 1996 Dockland's bombing, *CEASEFIRE MASSACRE* for ESPN's 30 for 30 series, telling the story of a shooting rampage in an Irish pub and *INEZ: A CHALLENGING WOMAN*, a BBC NI film exploring the legacy of an Irish human rights campaigner. The film won best short at the Galway Film Fleadh in 2014.

In 2015, Fine Point Films won the best pitch award at Hot Docs for *MERCURY 13*, the little known story of NASA's secret woman in space programme.

Our current production slate includes a new Alex Gibney-directed BBC film called *NO STONE UNTURNED*, an ESPN / BBC feature-documentary about footballer George Best directed by Daniel Gordon, a film exploring US /Cuba relations for CNN Films and a collaboration with New York based Fork Films for their latest *Women, War and Peace* series.

CYPRUS AVENUE FILMS

Cyprus Avenue Films Limited was set up by Brendan J Byrne in 2010. The company specializes in quality factual output for BBC and C4. More recently, it has diversified into feature film production, both in the fiction and non-fiction arenas.

JUMP, directed by Kieron J Walsh, was the company's first feature film and was selected for TIFF 2012 and won the Cinema Without Borders award at the Palm Springs International Film Festival in January 2013. The film was financed by Northern Ireland Screen, the Irish Film Board, Limelight Media, Benticco Trading Company and BBC Northern Ireland.

The company is now concentrating on bringing films based on gripping true stories to the big screen, drawing on its factual foundations. Our next planned movie *MAZE* is such a project, based on the true story of the biggest prison since Colditz, the 1983 escape from the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland escape by 38 IRA men. *MAZE* wraps principal photography in Ireland on May 10, 2016 (Writer/Director Stephen Burke).

Other projects in development include *THE POET'S BONES* (about WB Yeats) and *THE LONGEST ROAD*, both based on true stories. *BOBBY SANDS: 66 DAYS* is Brendan's feature length documentary debut.

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