British Pathé’s Forbidden Irish Film

Revolution in Colour

Finally Produced and Available on British Pathé TV

- New 90-minute documentary telling the complete story of Irish independence
- Shows the Irish Revolution in colour for the first time
- Never-Before-Seen and exclusive to British Pathé TV
- Narrated by Allen Leech from Downton Abbey

Revolution in Colour
1 x 90 minute

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. London, October 2016 – It has been more than 80 years in the making, but world-famous newsreel archive and factual creator British Pathé has finally produced its epic feature-length documentary charting the entire course of Irish independence from Home Rule to Civil War, Revolution in Colour.

The project, which The Sunday Times revealed last week had been quashed by the Irish government when it was first attempted in 1935 (British Pathé’s film reels were even confiscated), is the result of a major collaboration between the archive and Zampano Productions, the acclaimed producers of Seven Women, TK Whitaker – Seirbhíseach an Stáit and The People’s Tenor. It makes use of duplicates of the lost film reels which British Pathé had saved for posterity.

In telling this important story at last, the producers have done something which the Irish government of 1935 could never have imagined. The BAFTA-nominated team behind WW2 in HD Colour has painstakingly colourised the original footage so that the events of that tumultuous period can be seen, for the first time, as they were witnessed by those who lived through them – in full colour.

“When you watch black and white, you are detached from the personalities and the history,” says director Martin Dwan. “There is something about colour that triggers empathy with people.”

Viewers can see such personalities as Eamon de Valera, Michael Collins and Lloyd George; such critical events as the signing of the Ulster Covenant and the funeral of revered IRB leader O’Donovan...
Rossa; and such dramatic scenes as the destruction of Limerick. Guerrilla warfare in the countryside, the fighting in the streets and British reprisals are all featured in fascinating original footage, along with rarely-seen footage of pre-independence Ireland – all in full colour.

And it is fitting that the documentary has been completed in 2016, the centenary year of the Irish Easter Rising that is so central to the saga of the revolutionary period.

Revolution in Colour is the exclusive and never-before-seen flagship programme of the new online on-demand channel, British Pathé TV. The General Manager of British Pathé, Alastair White, explains: “The archive looks amazing in colour and this programme fits in perfectly with our aim at British Pathé TV, which is to offer a wide range of programming that provides a genuine alternative to mainstream television and tailors to specialist interests.”

The 90-minute film is written by respected Trinity College Dublin historian Eunan O’Halpin and is narrated by Allen Leech, known for his work as Tom Branson in the hit TV series Downton Abbey and as the Soviet double-agent John Cairncross in the Oscar-winning The Imitation Game.

Watch and embed a TRAILER for Revolution in Colour here.

Visit the page for the FULL DOCUMENTARY on British Pathé TV here.

Note to Editors:

British Pathé is one of the oldest media companies in the world. It recorded every aspect of global culture and news for the cinema. With their unique combination of information and entertainment, British Pathé documentaries, newsreels, serials and films changed the way the world saw itself forever. Decades after newsreels have left our screens, the company continues as a pioneer of filmed entertainment, launching British Pathé TV. This new online on-demand channel offers an extensive range of full-length documentaries, interviews, and classic movies.

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A selection of images for journalistic use and clips for broadcast are available on request.