

- Skip
- Skip
- Skip
- Skip
- Skip



- COMPETITION
Win a year's supply of Tayto Cheese & Onion crisps

News

- [Home](#)
- [Local](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Other Topics](#)

- [Music & Gigs](#)
- [Film & TV](#)
- [Eating Out](#)
- [Theatre & Arts](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Crosswords](#)
- [Events Planner](#)

Services

• The digital gateway to Northern Ireland news, sport, business, entertainment and opinion

[Home](#) > [Entertainment](#) > [Film & TV](#) > [News](#)

Bobby Sands movie sets new world record

By Lesley-Anne Henry
Thursday, 16 October 2008

Two Irish actors have told how they made history in a record breaking scene in a new film about IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands, which premieres in Belfast tonight.

The scene involving Michael Fassbender and Liam Cunningham in the movie Hunger is the longest single shot on film.

Michael Fassbender (31) and Liam Cunningham (47) star in the marathon 17-and-a-half-minute shot in Hunger.

The scene is set in the Maze prison meeting room, in 1981, just hours before the 66-day fast that would ultimately kill Sands, played by Fassbender.

Print Email

Search

Bookmark & Share

Digg It

del.icio.us

Facebook

It features dialogue and ideological debate between the movie's central protagonist, the IRA hunger striker and Belfast priest, Father Moran (Liam Cunningham), with both actors sitting opposite each other, separated by a prison table.



What are these?

According to the Guinness Book of Records the previous record holder for a single shot on film (rather than video), was an eight-minute scene in The Player.

Provided by Filmtrailer.com

The controversial film, directed by Turner Prize winner Steve McQueen, was premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and received world-wide acclaim.

It debuts in the UK at the Moviehouse cinema on Belfast's Dublin Road tonight and goes on general release across the UK at the end of this month.

Fassbender and Cunningham told of how they first met in a Belfast bar and bonded by nipping outside to smoke a cigarette.

Dublin-based Liam Cunningham, who appeared in First Knight, Dog Soldiers and The Mummy 3, said he had been daunted by the prospect of filming such a lengthy scene.

"I remember Steve [McQueen] on that first day saying: 'I'm thinking of shooting this scene in one shot.' And my immediate reaction was, 'Are you out of your mind?'

"So every morning, we get up, he puts on the porridge and we start running the scene. We go on till six or seven o'clock until Steve turns up, looks at our progress, gives us some notes, and then off we go again. Running this scene 15 or 20 times a day for five days."

Fassbender admitted that the filming had been very arduous at times.

"So, when we arrived on set we just went straight into it: Take one, 23 minutes, right through. We did four takes, and they used the fourth," he said.

The young actor starved himself for three months during filming, even while he flew to Los Angeles, and lived on berries and nuts for 10 weeks to drop more than 50lbs.

"The nutritionist said I shouldn't eat less than 900 calories a day," he said.

"But the weight wasn't coming off, so for the last four weeks I went down to 600 a day" (a couple of cartons of blackberries and a sardine).

It has also emerged that Fassbender refused offers to meet the surviving Sands family.



Post a comment

Limit: 500 characters

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article

* Name (only this field displayed)

* Email

* Town/City

* Country/State

Offensive or abusive comments will be removed and your IP address logged and may be used to prevent further submissions. In submitting a comment to the site, you agree to be bound by BelfastTelegraph.co.uk's [Terms of Use](#)

* Required field

Remember Me

Comments

26 Comments

Mickey, tell me, did you live in northern ireland, do you know anything about the history?? From your comments i wouldnt think so..so i really do not think you warrant a right to comment as you are. The film reflects on how the Irish were treated on there own grounds. you mention how sf/ira used this man as an instrument?? what is that about?Bobby sands chose to do what he done for what he believed in, and will always be looked on as a very brave man. British were cowards and bulllys, what did they sacrafice??finally i ask if you keep your stupid comments to yourself, if you dont like the film, the content, thats fine, im sure after reading your comments you will not be a big loss!

• [First](#) |
• [Previous](#)
• [1](#)
• [2](#)
• [Next](#)
• [Last](#)

Posted by *mary* | 20.10.08, 09:24 GMT

When can we look forward to Hollywood's romantic portrayal of Michael Stone?

Will everyone "give it a chance"?

Posted by *mickey* | 17.10.08, 19:11 GMT

Mickey I know nothing of Politics. My degree is in Drama and I have been a fan of the work of McQueen for some time now. The acting, subject matter and direction have recieved rave reviews. The context in Art is always and has always been secondary. As for the comments about the soldiers I apologise, I understand that you where responding to a generalised comment by another reader. Of course it is a British Army and Britain does contain Wales and Scotland. The point I am making is that a good film is a good film regardless of what it is about. I have seen some terribly acted films, in recent memory Meet the Spartans and Scary Movie spring to mind. They are terribly acted and directed. I would like to know your opinions of them. My point also is that you can not criticism a film you have not seen. You might not be specifically connected with that point in history but you haven't seen it, therefore you are ignorant regarding it's relevance. Just as I am. I however will give it a chance.

Posted by *dojo* | 17.10.08, 16:46 GMT

dojo, people probably left because of the boring subject matter. Also, didn't SF/IRA use the human body as an instrument - wasn't Sands their political puppet? I'd say so.

My point about the Scots and Welsh concerned someone on here writing about "England's occupation". I questioned why the contributors disdain was solely aimed at the English. Maybe you know...

That is all

Posted by *mickey* | 17.10.08, 15:05 GMT

Mickey claims "the movie will portray the main character as a lovable rogue in a romantic battle" and that "the many Scots and Welsh soldiers in the British Army" must warrant mention. It seems to me Mickey is straying into a genre he knows little or nothing about. Tell me what you know of Turner Prize winning artist McQueen Mickey? Tell me what you know about events in Abi Ghrabi or Guantanamo Mickey? Tell me what you know about the body politic and using the human body as an instrument? It would seem your criticisms are centred politically, and what McQueen has stressed through out his direction is that this is an analogous story as much as it is a historical one. During it's debut in Cannes people left not because of the politics but because of the graphic detail. Blinding yourself to a film, and I must stress at this point that this is a film, because of your views on alligence merely strengthens the arguement that me still live in a bi-polar society.

Posted by *dojo* | 17.10.08, 13:40 GMT

You claim it was an "english occupation". What about the many Scots and Welsh soldiers in the British Army or does your hatred only extend to the English? Seems a bit selective if you ask me.

Posted by *mickey* | 17.10.08, 11:27 GMT

Especially in this country, the adage of "one mans terrorist is another mans freedom fighter" holds true!
This is a film which will no doubt cause at the least emotions in anyone who views it or hears about it. Either love or hate it.....it's been made and on view-fact! It's not the first film to cause offence to some people and it won't be the last.

Posted by *Davy* | 17.10.08, 10:10 GMT

Bobby Sands choose to do this, he also chose to fight not only the english occupation of Ireland but the sicking system that they put into Long Kesh.
The hunger strike did work as all demands from them were met in some way.

This also gave the loyalist who sat on their laurels political status.
It is history it is part of us! Enjoy

Posted by BF | 17.10.08, 09:34 GMT

I suspect the movie will portray the main character as a lovable rogue in a "romantic " battle, yadda-yadda. Think I'll give it a miss.

Posted by mickey | 17.10.08, 09:32 GMT

Well said Anton. He and the others who died fought for our freedom. We would not be where we are now had it not been for them. Its history, its a good way for all people to understand what happened in the country they live in, and for the world as the media is controlled by an uneducated government worldwide of our history.

Posted by KS | 17.10.08, 00:27 GMT

Well, there is Hitchcock's Rope which is continuous over 90 minutes, though because of film limitations of the time it is really 10 minute shots. Then there's the next-to-the-last shot in Antonioni's The Passenger, about 14 minutes long.

Posted by Ira Socol | 16.10.08, 22:42 GMT

The reality is that this young man died for nothing. Today, Britain and Ireland are the best of friends. Northern Ireland is still in the UK. Bobby was just one of over 3000 deaths that changed nothing. A waste.

Posted by jonathan | 16.10.08, 21:53 GMT

Bobby Sands wrote some truly woeful poetry. Does anyone know if that is mentioned in the film?

Posted by Steve | 16.10.08, 20:57 GMT

Despite the unionist drivel, Bobby Sands remains a hero to many Irish. A well-done movie about his sacrifice is welcome.

Posted by JerryF | 16.10.08, 18:09 GMT

Once again, people seem to have difficulty with the history of N.Ireland. It's just that, history. just because one does not like the subject it still happened. Get over yourselves

Posted by PDWhistle | 16.10.08, 16:23 GMT

Art should always be separate from Politics and History. If you were familiar with McQueen's work you would see that parallels can be drawn between his content within Hunger and modern day police detention standards, civil rights movements and ideological belief systems. If we shied away from telling the story of what is controversial then we stare blindly at a blank canvas. We do not live in a state run regime, so in the meantime individual expression of Art should be respected and regarded merely as that, Art.

Posted by dojo | 16.10.08, 16:21 GMT

To all the morons spouting off about terrorists, sympathy, decency etc, I don't think I can make this any clearer. IT'S A FILM! To Dave C in particular, I think you need to see a therapist.

Posted by Billy | 16.10.08, 15:44 GMT

WOW!! Just goes to show even on the silver Screen and the hype that Surround this mountain of a movie there is still the die hard Bigots that still can't get over the past troubles!!! Move on you lot! its pretty sickening to read your comments- this is the 21st Century is it not?

Posted by Ryan | 16.10.08, 15:40 GMT

Legend...

Posted by ... | 16.10.08, 15:18 GMT

Dave C, whatever you think of their cause, to starve yourself to death is an EXTRAORDINARY thing to do. That's what the film-maker is homing in on. I read an interview with him. He has no axe to grind, he's just making a film. And, from all accounts, it's an amazing film and that's what's being lauded, not the IRA.

Posted by Yip | 16.10.08, 15:13 GMT

26 Comments

- [first](#) |
- [Previous](#)
- [1](#)
- [2](#)

- [Next](#)
- [| Last](#)

Also in this section

- [Mamma Mia! to topple Star Wars as biggest selling DVD](#)
- [Tony Benn: 'Newsnight would have treated suffragettes as troublemakers'](#)
- [Christine Bleakley's samba sizzles in Strictly Come Dancing](#)
- [Peter Kay creation Tyrone Geraldine wins X Factor chart battle](#)
- [Emmerdale star Freeman is cleared of rape](#)

