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## Director apologises for Rose McGowan's IRA comments

Friday, 19 September 2008

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A director has distanced herself from comments about supporting the IRA made by an actress who stars in her latest film.

Rose McGowan sparked controversy with comments made at the world premiere of *Fifty Dead Men Walking*, a film based on the memoirs of Martin McGartland, an RUC Special Branch agent who infiltrated the IRA in the 1980s.

The 35-year-old American actress, whose father is Irish, said at a press conference at the Toronto Film Festival last week: "I imagine, had I grown up in Belfast, I would 100% have been in the IRA."

"My heart just broke for the cause," she told a news conference before the film's world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival. "I imagine, had I grown up in Belfast, I would 100 per cent have been in the IRA," she said. "Violence is not to be played out daily and provide an answer to problems, but I understand it."

McGowan plays an IRA operative in the film, which stars Sir Ben Kingsley and Jim Sturgess.

The producers and director of the film attempted to limit the damage caused by her comments by publicly expressing their disapproval.

There are concerns that the comments could damage the film, presently being sold around the world and to be released in the UK next month.

In a statement, they said they regret any "distress that this (the comments) may have caused to people of Northern Ireland and particularly those who were victims of or caught up in the shocking events that existed during the Troubles."

The comments "were not shared, nor endorsed, by anybody associated with the production or creative elements of the film", they said.

Director Kari Skogland said: "Rose's personal opinions of Northern Ireland do not reflect the perspective of the film in any way."

"Our goal was to present an even, non-judgmental point of view so the audience could follow the path of an informer with empathy no matter what the politics."

"We are all very proud of this thought-provoking film and are deeply indebted to the city of Belfast and Northern Ireland for giving us such a warm welcome whilst filming."

Unionist politicians have criticised McGowan for her "foolish and offensive" comments.

McGowan has appeared in Quentin Tarantino's *Death Proof* and the horror film *Scream*, and was previously engaged to Marilyn Manson.

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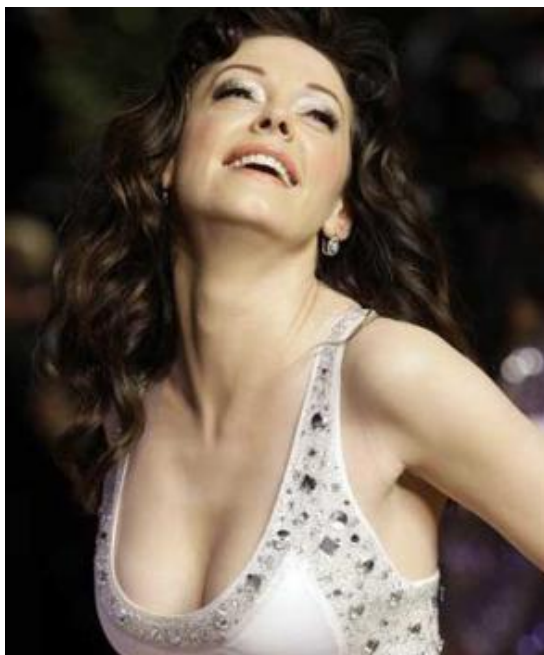
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Billy for the Truth: If you can remember a Blue Peter presenter "gushing her love for a loyalist" then there's something seriously wrong with your memory.

John: I guess you're not a Black American then?!? And I guess you're not one of those "assimilated" at Guantanamo Bay!!

*Posted by Steve | 22.09.08, 15:35 GMT*

America does have a culture, derived from where its people have descended from. It's a tolerant country that assimilates others. Yeah, we're naive stupid if you will, but I didn't realize genocide was exactly a sign of a superior 'culture'.

I guess hating one another based on ones religion is really smart ;)

*Posted by John | 21.09.08, 11:12 GMT*

Isn't it funny the double standards played out by unionist and their journalists friends in the media? I seem to recall a Blue Peter presenter gushing her love for a loyalist, and not one wee peep out of all those mouthing now about Rosie and her right to free speech. I think the problem that most unionists have - and that includes all their buddies in the media - is that the days of pre-69 are well and truly over, and that Catholics and Nationalists will no longer allow themselves to be censored or oppressed.

*Posted by Billy for the Truth | 21.09.08, 10:57 GMT*

Liam really needs to get his facts correct before posting rather than being obsessed in blaming everything on Protestants and the British.

One reason that he was so oppressed is that his schools, in the past, were too busy teaching outdated subjects like Religion and Irish. Even in the nineteen sixties one reputable Catholic Grammar school, that I'm aware of, was not even teaching Biology so denying Catholic students an opening to many careers.

Perhaps Liam should ask the Bishops why this was!

It's also interesting that Liam, and other Republicans, want to join with the Irish Republic, a country where many of the citizens are more English than the English!

*Posted by robbo | 19.09.08, 17:49 GMT*

If she had been brought up in Ireland, she would not have such a "smart mouthed" attitude.

*Posted by Yvonne Holland | 19.09.08, 17:17 GMT*

NthBfast: There was no right or wrong side in the troubles!

*Posted by Flim | 19.09.08, 15:56 GMT*

Yes, it was wrong and offensive but in the grand scheme of things should we really be paying such credence and attention to such a throwaway comment said by someone with no direct experience or understanding of Northern Ireland and the troubles? We are moving into a new era here which we can be very proud of and the way to prove her, and everyone else wrong, is to make it work and not dwell on the past. I want to see my younger siblings and my children grow up in a country where the people are great, the education system is great and the quality of life is great.....and we are moving ever closer to this.

Posted by David | 19.09.08, 15:31 GMT

oh dear, its back to who was right and wrong, nationalists and unionists. To sum up. Me from London. Me raised by catholic and protestant parentage. The reason why one side feels bitter towards the other is because of the people in power. Anyone in power does not give a monkeys about the little people. Do you really think they care about your petty bickering? About who killed who, when and why? errr nope. As long as they can tax you to death without you rising up against them they are quite happy in their high towers. Unionists and nationalists, turn your hate and despair on the people in power, those idiots who have done nothing but sit on their plump derriers since June who cant even agree to meet and discuss the real problems we are having at the minute.

Geez you lot baffle me. I mean how far back in history do you have to go to justify your hatred of each other? when caveman ug bashed caveman oogs mrs over the head and dragged her back to his cave?

Posted by john stuart | 19.09.08, 15:28 GMT

Liam,  
get out of the bunker, the wars over. To paraphrase something your mate Gerry once said, 'we have not gone/will not go away you know'.

Maybe you should have a wee think about what an inclusive society will entail.... accepting we ALL have to live here, including Protestants. Just as the failings of the Unionist community have to be acknowledged, so must the suffering and feelings of those who paid the price for all our mistakes.

The Nationalist community DO NOT have an exclusive right to be offended or to cause offence....

Of course, If you do not want a fully inclusive society.....

Posted by Chucky our Lad | 19.09.08, 15:12 GMT

Liam,

you know your talking tripe and not playing devils advocate, just spoutting tripe.....give over and get back to your work!

Posted by Michael | 19.09.08, 15:10 GMT

Typical american.. They have so little culture or history, they latch onto anyone elses and invariably pick the wrong side.. Luckily she is an "F" list celeb and no-one will ever notice her.. This might even wipe her from public radar..

Posted by NthBfast | 19.09.08, 14:16 GMT

Liam, no offence intended but I really don't see how Hitler and the UK government can be compared like that. People are justified in saying they would have joined the British army to fight Hitler because he was systematically exterminating the Jews and minorities in Germany, he threatened invasion and a radical New World Order. Whilst it is true the British didn't run a fair state in Northern Ireland (human rights abuses, discrimination, internment etc), they certainly didn't throw millions of Catholics into the gas chambers. The amount of justification a person could take from either situation is quite different.

Posted by Michael | 19.09.08, 14:05 GMT

She is a silly woman who is caught up in the mystic dream of Ireland like most Irish Americans, Let her be witness to Omagh , La Mon House and see if she feels the same way , She needs a Reality check!!!! She is a very sad Woman!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Posted by Carol | 19.09.08, 13:51 GMT

Al Qaeda and IRA no difference just murder - all terrorists believe they are right! Rose is so out of touch with present day - I wonder what she thought about 9/11!

Posted by Fiona | 19.09.08, 13:45 GMT

Liam

You talk about what the neutrals would think of what the "Irish people and Nationalists in the North had to put up with" you forget that they never hear about what those that considered themselves to be neither had to endure. 30 years of husbands and sons being shot on their doorstep in front of their families, car bombs being attached to their cars, and forcing them out of the border regions to create practically an ethnic mono-culture. The Nationalists in Omagh council can't even admit that it was people from their persuasion that planted the bomb there. Stop living in a bigoted one eyed view of the world and take a look around. There's more than just you here.

Posted by Niall | 19.09.08, 13:45 GMT

to "billy for the truth",

So what truth is this you speak?

The truth about burning alive and murdering pensioners at La mon?

The truth about murdering children at Warrenpoint?

The truth about abducting a mother in front of her children and murdering her for daring to help a British soldier in pain?

The truth about the massacre of the innocent in Eniskillen and many other towns throughout Northern Ireland?

Those kind of truths Billy?

*Posted by Gary | 19.09.08, 13:04 GMT*

Typical stupid american opening her mouth before thinking, yet another reason why people around the world dislike american's.

*Posted by Brian Coburn | 19.09.08, 12:25 GMT*

What she said is no different to someone saying they would have joined the British army to fight Hitlers mob.

Violence is violence but I would hazard a guess that many loyalists/unionists wouldn't bat an eyelid if she said she would have joined the British army to fight Germany.

Hypocritical? I think so!

*Posted by Liam | 19.09.08, 11:33 GMT*

It just shows how secular and narrow minded the Republican community in this island is, if the comments on this article are indicative of it, that they cannot comprehend how someone declaring support for an organization that committed sectarian murder for 30 yrs couldnt be construed as offensive by the people they dictated that campaign against. It takes someone from the outside (the director in this case) with this apology to show who was right and who was wrong in the instance.

Keep the bile filled comments coming lads - let the world see your true colours.....

*Posted by Ian | 19.09.08, 11:19 GMT*

Well as a protestant that has never taken particularly unionist or nationalist views, my early memories of Belfast and Northern Ireland was security checks, low investment due to security situation, murder of friends father at school, because his job was in the RUC and bomb scares and general chaos. So to combat those things above, generally brought about by the IRA, and holding back this part of the UK, would I be fair to say, I wish I'd joined a murdering loyalist group, to rid NI of those causes again those things listed above

Born in 1980, I was never brought up to be bitter and with a chip on my shoulder, thinking as was hard done by. Born in the UK, raised all my life in the UK but unable to live like a normal UK situation, so did the IRA take away my human rights, of those of all the murdered families???

*Posted by STA | 19.09.08, 11:15 GMT*



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