

Road to Croker
Dance floor clears for Kerry and Tyrone

Going Ferrell
Funnyman Will Ferrell on his love-life
relationship with the public

- Ireland
- Events
- In Depth
- Other
- Today's Paper

Home » Ireland » Other Stories »

- Email to a friend
- Email to Author
- Print
- RSS
- Text Size: A A A

Thursday, August 28, 2008

IRA film to be premiered despite threat of legal action



Ben Kingsley: plays an RUC Special Branch agent

MICHAEL DWYER, Film Correspondent

THE PRODUCERS of a new film on a British intelligence operative who infiltrated the IRA say that its world premiere will go ahead as planned at next month's Toronto International Film Festival, despite a threat of legal action from Martin McGartland, on whose experiences it is based.

The film *Fifty Dead Men Walking* shares its title with the book by McGartland and Nicholas Davies.

McGartland gave it that title because he believes his undercover activities saved that many lives between 1987 and 1991.

The screenplay is by the film's Canadian director, Kari Skogland, and the credits state that her screenplay was "inspired by" the book.

Rising British actor Jim Sturgess plays the character based on McGartland. The Toronto festival programme notes say that the character is introduced as "a small-time Belfast hustler" who becomes "a prime target for British intelligence".

Oscar-winning actor Sir Ben Kingsley plays the RUC Special Branch agent who recruits him as a mole.

The film is scheduled for a high-profile gala screening at the Toronto event, which ranks with Cannes and Venice among the world's three most important film festivals.

ADVERTISEMENT

Latest »

- 11:06 Barrier-free M50 'performing beautifully'
- 11:04 US-led coalition kills 220 Taliban in Afghanistan
- 11:01 Arab group claims Man City takeover
- 10:51 Shankill Road loyalist murals to be painted over
- 10:49 Belfast attack leaves woman critically injured
- 10:42 Spurs confirm Pavlyuchenko, Corluka deals
- 10:36 Third body found in search of UK mansion
- 10:22 Berbabov expected to join United tonight

Popular Stories

Most Read

- Kerry and Tyrone to meet in final
- Barry shows Benitez what he is missing
- Eileen's tanked up for a rumble with the Romans and Vikings
- Clarke misses out on wild card pick
- Ugly finish leaves Harrington rock bottom

The Toronto programme notes describes the film as "a sweeping political thriller that gives a face to what Northern Ireland . . . calls the Troubles". But the film's Canadian distributor TVA Films cancelled a Toronto press screening of the film last Friday, citing "a print problem".

McGartland has threatened legal action to stop the festival screening going ahead. He said he and his solicitor had seen "a version of the film" at a private screening.

He told the trade publication *Screen International* that the version of the film he saw misrepresented his life and showed him participating in murderous bomb attacks and torture, both of which he denies.

"I definitely have a case in terms of infringement of my moral rights, not only in the UK but all around the world," McGartland said.

"If my solicitor tells me it damages my reputation, I will seek an injunction to see that the film is pulled and the DVD doesn't see the light of day."

However, in a statement yesterday, the film's producers said due process had been followed throughout the production, including the licensing of rights to the source material.

The statement continued: "Mr McGartland was consulted by the filmmakers during the production, read the script, and watched the film in advance of any public screening. He was also given the opportunity to have the name of the lead character replaced with a fictional character name, which he declined."

© 2008 The Irish Times



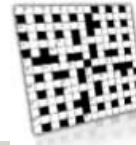
This article appears in the print edition of the Irish Times

Your Vote »

Do you think the European Union
should impose sanctions on Russia
over its actions in Georgia?

« Yes | No »
Results

Crossword Club »



Today's Interactive Irish Times
Crosaire and Simplex crosswords,
plus 10 years of crossword archive.

ADVERTISEMENT

Sudoku »



Download and print the daily
Irish Times sudoku grid

ADVERTISEMENT

CLASSIFIED

304 Morell Grove, Naas Price: €390,000

Homes



Bedrooms: 4 See More »

Select your categories

Next »



Renault chooses the softest options for its entry to the SUV market

Find »



I am a

Looking for a

Located

Only with photos:

Next »

© 2008 irishtimes.com