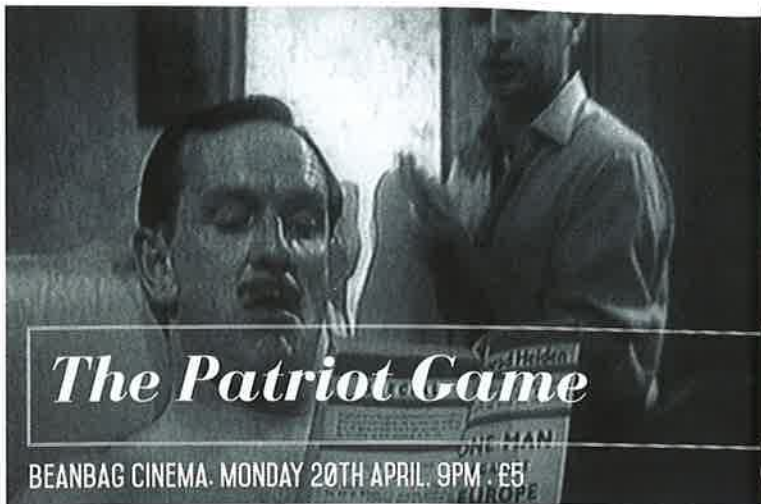


Dominic Behan
On Screen Curated by John Hill.



The Patriot Game

BEANBAG CINEMA. MONDAY 20TH APRIL. 9PM. £5

Dominic Behan is probably best-remembered as a singer and songwriter, responsible for such songs as 'The Patriot Game' (which inspired Bob Dylan's 'With God on our Side') and 'Liverpool Lou' (which became a hit for The Scaffold). However, he was also a writer of some distinction, enjoying a degree of success with his play 'Posterity Be Damned' (1959) and the biography of his brother, 'My Brother Brendan' (1965). From the late 1960s to the mid-1970s, he was also the author of a number of plays for television, many of which dealt - at times controversially - with Irish history and politics. Most of these have not been seen since their first transmission and

two - The Patriot Game (Thames, 1969), and Ireland, Mother Ireland (ITV, 1971) - were never broadcast in Northern Ireland. This mini-season of Dominic Behan TV plays, therefore, provides a rare opportunity to see some of the first drama to be made about Irish politics in the modern era of the 'troubles' and to discover the inventive televisual approach developed by Dominic Behan and his collaborator, the director Piers Haggard.

JOHN HILL IS PROFESSOR OF MEDIA AT ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND AUTHOR OF 'CINEMA AND NORTHERN IRELAND'.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AHRC-FUNDED HISTORY OF FORGOTTEN TELEVISION DRAMA PROJECT AT ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Even though it deals with historical events - the IRA's bombing campaign in London in 1939 - The Patriot Game is probably the first television play of the modern era of 'the troubles'.

While Thames TV claimed the play told 'of how fanatical patriotism puts innocent people into danger', Behan's more immediate concern was to retrieve the socialist components of the Irish republican project (at a time when republicans had been prepared to form alliances with the Nazis).

The production, however, still proved too inflammatory for Ulster Television who refused to show it. Newly restored (with the help of the BFI and Kaleidoscope) as part of the History of Forgotten TV Drama project at the University of London, this will be the first time the play has been seen in Northern Ireland.

WRITTEN BY DOMINIC BEHAN.
 PRODUCED BY JOHN KERSHAW.
 DIRECTED BY PIERS HAGGARD.
 WITH PATRICK O'CONNELL (MARTIN STEWART), RODDY MCMILLAN (SCOT O'BRIEN), ELIZABETH BEGLEY (MRS. MCKIERNAN), DONAL COX (FRANCIS O'NEIL).
 DURATION: 72 MINUTES.
 1972

**Dom
amb
tele
Unio
Hom
Lord
the
foste**

Clear
natur
work,
fact a
and c
and t
unsur
finis
and d
mont



Carson Country

QUEENS FILM THEATRE. SATURDAY 18TH APRIL. 3PM . £5

Dominic Behan's most ambitious work for television dealing with Unionist opposition to Home Rule in 1912 (led by Lord Edward Carson) and the class divisions that it fostered.

Clearly revealing the anti-naturalist tendencies in Behan's work, the play imaginatively mixes fact and fiction, black-and-white and colour, social observation and theatricality. The BBC was unsure what to do with the finished product, demanding cuts and delaying transmission for six months (until ITV's production

of *The Folk Singer* eventually shamed them into showing it).

WRITTEN BY DOMINIC BEHAN.
A THAMES TELEVISION PRODUCTION.
DURATION: 50 MINUTES.
1969.



The Folk Singer

BEANBAG CINEMA. SATURDAY 25TH APRIL. 1PM . £5

Behan's most raucous and entertaining work in which Tom Bell plays a folk singer (with some degree of resemblance to Behan himself) trapped in a Belfast hotel during the 'troubles'.

Mixing political allegory, Brechtian commentary and the theatre of the absurd, the play sets out to expose the idiocies of sectarianism and hypocritical religious belief. The IBA was sufficiently nervous to view the programme ahead of broadcast while the play itself was shown by UTV at a later than normal time slot.

WRITTEN BY DOMINIC BEHAN;
PRODUCED BY KIM MILLS
DIRECTED BY PIERS HAGGARD.

WITH J. G. DEVLIN (TOM CURDIE),
ELIZABETH BEGLEY (SARAH CURDIE),
SAM KYDD (TOM BRANNIGAN), PATRICK
MCALINNEY (REVEREND WILLIAM PIGGOT),
HARRY TOWB (FIRST WORKMAN).
DURATION: 50 MINUTES.
1972.