

THREE MEN GO TO IRELAND

An Englishman, an Irishman, and a Welshman are on a ferry headed for Dublin... GRIFF RHYS JONES, DARA O'BRIAIN and RORY MCGRATH are back on BBC TWO this Christmas for the fourth voyage in their hit Three Men In A Boat series. Previous nautical outings have seen the trio venture up the Thames, out to the Scilly Isles, and deep into the wilds of Cornwall, and this time around the plan is to cross Ireland via canal and river, taking in the sights on the way to the famous Limerick Poetry Festival.

With Irishman DARA understandably nervous that GRIFF and RORY'S behaviour (and in particular their terrible Irish jokes) will embarrass him on home turf: "*Just be yourselves, but less so*" his two companions are in their element, seeing the trip as a perfect opportunity to wind DARA up while travelling along Dublin's grand canals to the stunning Aran Islands via the River Shannon.

The Three Men start their trip on Ireland's last original Guinness barge (sadly, for RORY and DARA anyway, without its famous cargo) only slightly hampered by the fact that it's over 80 years old, very heavy, somewhat difficult to start and even more difficult to stop. When it becomes clear that the barge isn't going to get them to Limerick in time for their gig the trio abandon it in favour of speedier transport which involves – shock horror – at least some time traversing dry land, though they're soon back on the water and back to normal, or as RORY puts it "*Griff will be doing all the work...and we're making snide comments.*"

Produced by Liberty Bell, this two part series sees the three comedians: encounter a haunted castle; indulge in a spot of fencing – DARA to GRIFF "*There were bits where I skewered you and I felt really happy inside.*"; meet a very special greyhound; spend some time on a Galway hooker (no, not that kind); take part in a street parade complete with marching band; and, true to form, navigate an awful lot of locks.

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The first episode of Three Men Go To Ireland will transmit on Wednesday 30th December on BBC TWO

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LIBERTY BELL PRODUCTIONS

Liberty Bell Productions, which was formed in autumn 2002, is based in Newcastle and London, and specialises in the production of television documentaries and features, factual entertainment, current affairs, drama-documentary and youth programming. Recent productions include: Grumpy Guide To Christmas (BBC TWO), Grouchy Young Men (Comedy Central), Life and Death on the NHS (ITV1), Portillo on Thatcher: The Lady's Not For Spurning (BBC FOUR), The Alastair Campbell Diaries (BBC TWO), Three Men In Another Boat (BBC TWO), Grumpy Old Men (BBC TWO), Grumpy Old Women (BBC TWO), Why We Went to War (More 4), Don't Get Me Started (Five), Real Life: Beating Breast Cancer (ITV1), The Meaning of Life (BBC ONE), and The Widow's Tale (BBC TWO).

WHAT THE PRESS HAVE SAID ABOUT PREVIOUS LIBERTY BELL PRODUCTIONS:

Life and Death on the NHS

"A startling, beautiful documentary following the experiences of a clutch of patients in hospital: a simple idea related with colour and subtlety and it was incredibly moving without ever exploiting its subjects... This wasn't a political documentary and it wasn't a feather-brained concocted set-up. It was sober and tightly edited documentary making. It didn't patronise you, it simply showed three diverse experiences of patients and the professionalism and skill of those doctors and nurses who helped care for them – and O'Brien directed it with the brevity and sensitivity of whatever the television equivalent of fine short storytelling."

Tim Teeman, The Times

Portillo on Thatcher: The Lady's Not For Spurning

"Gordon Brown and David Cameron should watch it. Tony Blair should get a hold of a tape and reflect on what might have been. Media bosses who only commission films if they portray politicians as corrupt and mad should take note also... I know people with only a passing interest in politics who were gripped."

Steve Richards, The Independent

The Alastair Campbell Diaries

"Just as DVD extras allow you to see the human fallibility that lies behind the polished exterior of the finished film, Campbell's diary fills in the engrossing trivia of off-stage politics... it is completely engrossing."

Thomas Sutcliffe, The Independent

The Widow's Tale

"This complex and moving film is one of the television highlights of the year so far."

Andrew Male, The Sunday Times

Grumpy Old Men

"The whole programme put me into an uncharacteristically, seethingly good mood... Wonderful stuff"

A.A. Gill, The Sunday Times