A documentary television series, "1916: The Irish Rebellion," produced by the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, will be broadcast worldwide during the centenary of Ireland’s 1916 Easter Rising.

The series memorializes the events in Dublin on Easter Week a century ago, when an insurrection started a process that culminated in an independent Irish state and accelerated the disintegration of the British Empire.

The three-episode TV series, directed by award-winning Irish documentary filmmakers Ruán Magan and Pat Collins; written by Bríona Nic Dhiarmada, the Thomas J. and Kathleen M. O’Donnell Professor of Irish Studies; and narrated by Oscar-nominated actor Liam Neeson, will follow a chronological narrative while presenting the historical, political and cultural events of the uprising and the new and lasting relationships among the United States, Ireland and Britain that it brought about.

The series will air on public television stations in the U.S. and RTE and the BBC in Ireland. The series is also anticipated to air in 60 countries, including Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, India and Canada. A 86-minute film version of "1916" will be screened globally to the world’s Irish embassies during the centenary celebrations as part of the Irish government's outreach to the 70 million people of the Irish diaspora.

"1916" will be featured in a series of international academic events sponsored by Notre Dame in cooperation with Irish embassies and consular services during Ireland’s centenary celebration. Collectively titled "Reframing 1916," the series will bring several Notre Dame faculty to speak at universities worldwide, screening and discussing the documentary.

Christopher Fox, director of the Keough-Naughton Institute and executive producer, says "1916" is an unprecedented attempt to present the Easter Rising as a pivotal event in world history before a global audience.

"We look forward to being an integral partner in Ireland’s celebration of the centenary," Fox says. "With the world’s leading program of Irish studies, and Notre Dame’s global connections and network, we can help Ireland reach and educate her diaspora.

"At the same time, we expand Notre Dame’s reputation as a global university at the point where we are establishing a new Keough School of Global Affairs."

Oscar-nominated actor Liam Neeson narrates the documentary television series "1916: The Irish Rebellion."
It highlights the ramifications of the proclamation in a delicated manner, human, powerful and profound way.

—Liam Neeson

**Documentary book and academic events detail the "Crazy Rebellion" of 1916**

**BY STEWIE, FOR NDWORKS**

**Documentary filmmaker Brían Díbhalla** is preparing to launch a show that will capture the story of 1916 — America’s point of departure in the Easter Rising in Ireland. The documentary will be titled "Reframing 1916," that will include a selection of international academic events, “Reframing 1916,” that will include the participation of international speakers and authors.

The exhibition, curated by Audrey Clennets, Notre Dame’s Irish Studies librarian, features exhibits that bring to life the events during the Easter Rising. The exhibit is housed at the Hesburgh Library and contains photographs, rare books, and other artifacts.

**Notre Dame Press publishes an anniversary companion volume**

A companion volume to the documentary, “The 1916 Irish Rebellion,” has been published by the University of Notre Dame Press. The book is a companion to the documentary, “Reframing 1916,” that will include a selection of academic events, “Reframing 1916,” that will include the participation of international speakers and authors.

**Easter, 1916: The Irish Rebellion**

Leaders of the Easter Rising, left to right: Thomas Clarke, Conal MacManus, Patrick K. Pearse, Roger Casement and James Connolly.
An early connection to the ‘Irish Republic’

BY ROBERT SCHUMHL ’70

The eight-column banner headline running across the front page of the South Bend News-Times spelled out for local readers and those at Notre Dame the big news then reverberating around the globe: TWELVE KILLED IN ANTI-BRITISH RIOTS IN DUBLIN. Underneath the large streamer, two articles carrying London datelines began to tell the story of what’s now known as the Easter Rising.

The date was April 25, 1916, one day after a hand of Irish rebels stormed the General Post Office in downtown Dublin and boldly declared the establishment of the “Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State.”

The bloody fighting between these combative nationalists and the British military didn’t escape the attention of students and faculty on the Notre Dame campus. On April 29, the day P.H. Pearse, the president of the “Pro-Visional Government,” surrendered, the University’s student-run Scholastic magazine published an editorial titled “The Rift in the Empire.”

Referring to the “Stirrings” outbreak in Dublin and the “Irish troubles,” the anonymous writer commented that, “an Irish rebellion—even if it took place at once and along the lines of a trained and formidable armed onslaught on British power—would do little beyond achieving a martyrdom.”

The prediction of “martyrdom” proved prescient. Rebellion-minded combatants killed during the five-day Rising or subsequently executed by English firing squads were, indeed, celebrated as martyrs in journalistic accounts at the time.

To emphasize the religious companion, small commemorative cards, similar to prayer cards today, circulated widely among the Irish hoping for independence and also among partisan Irish Americans.

Those 1916 events in Ireland occurred near the end of Notre Dame’s academic year, when final exams took precedence. Yet what had happened across the Atlantic planted seeds in the campus soil that took root and developed as the Great War was being waged in Europe.

Indeed, just three months after the Armistice was signed in November of 1918, a campus chapter of Friends of Irish Freedom (FOIF) officially was formed. The group took its work seriously, with some student members attending the national meeting of FOIF in Philadelphia that year.

Scholastic devoted nearly 12 pages of its March 15, 1919, issue to a series of articles and poems prepared by the FOIF chapter, which celebrated the Rising’s leaders and the cause they championed. The editors of Scholastic went so far as to give their extensive coverage of Irish affairs, a daring, look-at-what-we’ve-done quality. “Much of the matter published here is not allowed circulation in Ireland; to print or quote some of it there would result in imprisonment. The British censors did not permit the publication of any addresses by de Valera himself or any leading figures in the Rising. According to the anonymous writer, some 1,600 students, standing in formation to spell out UNI, greeted de Valera, who was at the center of Civil War chaplain (and former Notre Dame president) Rev. William Corley, C.S.C., to lay a wreath that carried this inscription: “In loving tribute to Father Corley, who gave general absolution to the Irish Brigade at Gettysburg.”

Of course, “the Irish Republic” was still a dream at that point.—proclaimed at the Rising; it didn’t formally exist until 1949 and, in fact, president of Dáil Éireann. That revolutionary and rival assembly to the parliament of the United Kingdom had been declared illegal by British authorities a month before de Valera arrived in Indiana.

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An overflow crowd crammed into Washington Hall to hear de Valera proclaim, “Our rising was not really a rebellion but simply another battle in a long-continued fight which has never been given up.”

His language became more pointed as he delivered the heart of his message: “Anyone who says that we have been oppressed and defeated, but her will to be independent is stronger than ever.”

H. Walsh, C.S.C., then president of Notre Dame, said, “University authorities are in no way adverse to the reading of the Rising as applied to our athletic teams.”

The nickname, Father Walsh explained, “is a convenient term that allows us to see the kind of spirit that we like to see come into effect by the various organizations that represent us on the athletic field. In a single sentence hope that we may always be worthy of the ideals embodied in the term Fighting Irish.”

In other words, Notre Dame teams would play hard and with courage, “what though the odds be great or small.”

This formal christening occurred a decade after the Easter Rising — an event whose reverberations were felt throughout the past century in Ireland and, in W.B. Yeats’s phrase, “wherever green is worn.”

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