

Tuesday, May 27 2008

Independent.ie

Internet vengeance
Is it worth it?
Ex-Sweetie online?
See Relationships

Film & Cinema

Advanced Search

14° Dublin Hi 14°C / Lo 12°C



• News

• Business

• Sport

• Entertainment

• Health

• Lifestyle

• Education

• Travel

• Jobs

• Property

• Cars

• PlaceMyAd

• More Services

◦ News & Gossip

◦ Film & Cinema

◦ Music

◦ Going Out

◦ Books

◦ Arts

◦ TV & Radio

◦ Crosswords

◦ Horoscopes

◦ Lotto

◦ Competitions

◦ Day and Night

from the Irish Independent & Sunday Independent

You are here: [Home](#) > [Entertainment](#) > [Film & Cinema](#)

Film cements 'enduring legacy' of Sands, says hunger striker

Unison

1 comment

Share • Print • Email

By

Also in Film & Cinema

- [Indiana Jones and the raiders of the lost box office](#)
- [TONGUE TIED: Michelle tops poll of bad American accents](#)
- [New York glory for small Irish drama](#)
- [Irish film feted at Cannes](#)
- [The enmity of all ages](#)

Film & Cinema Home

Shane Hickey
Tuesday May 27 2008

[Shane Hickey](#)

PRAISE has been heaped on the makers of a film about hunger striker [Bobby Sands](#) which won a major award at the [Cannes film festival](#).

Among those who congratulated the people behind 'Hunger' was former hunger striker [Raymond McCartney](#), who took part in the first protest in 1980.

Michael Fassbender as Bobby Sands in the film 'Hunger', which has won the Camera d'Or award at Cannes

The film won the [Camera d'Or](#) award at the closing ceremony of the festival de Cannes on Sunday night. It is a prize which is given to the director of the best first-time feature film in the festival.

By director [Steve McQueen](#), the film star actors [Liam Cunningham](#) and [Michael Fassbender](#), who takes on the role of Sands.

In a statement last night, Raymond McCartney, now a [Sinn Fein Assembly](#) member, said he welcomed the award that was given to the film.

Mr McCartney took part in the first Maze hunger strike of 1980 and spent 53 days without food.

Legacy

"This award for first-time film-makers, which was given to Steve McQueen by [US](#) actor [Dennis Hopper](#), confirms the huge interest in the hunger strikes and the enduring legacy Bobby Sands and his comrades have left," he said.

"This is an important subject and I look forward to the film being screened in [Ireland](#)."

A spokesman for the film said Mr McQueen had been overwhelmed at receiving the award.

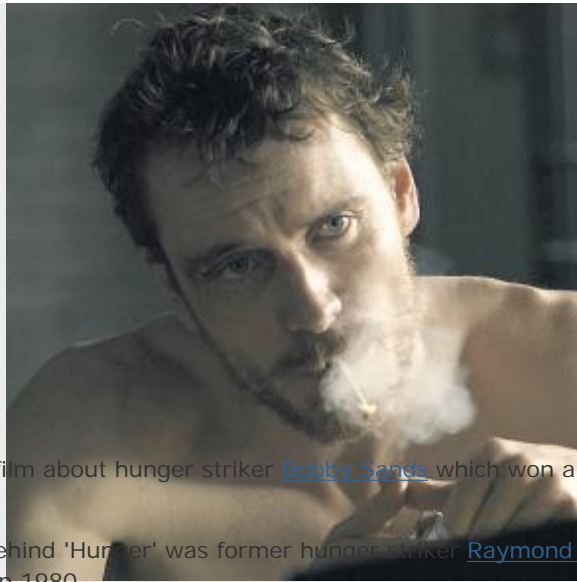
"It was a delightful surprise and something which Steve McQueen was very humbled by and not something that he was expecting -- it is a very positive thing for him," said the spokesman. "It was very much a great surprise and he said himself he was very honoured to have been recognised in this way for his work."

The film is a portrayal of the last six weeks of the life of the [IRA](#) hunger striker and is co-written by award-winning playwright [Enda Walsh](#) ('Disco Pigs') and Steve McQueen.

It was the opening film for [Cannes](#)' Un Certain Regard, a sidebar to the main festival competition, where it received a five-minute standing ovation.

An Irish and [UK](#) co-production, it was funded by Channel 4, [Northern Ireland](#) Screen and the [Broadcasting Commission of Ireland](#).

Congratulated



Yesterday, a spokesperson for the [Irish Film Board](#) congratulated the makers and said they were delighted at the result.



It has not yet been decided when the film will open in Irish cinemas -- a date has not yet been set by the distributors, Pathe.

'Hunger' has secured sales deals with distributors in the US, UK, [France](#), [Belgium](#), [Portugal](#), [Greece](#), [Australia](#) and [New Zealand](#).

[Arts Minister Martin Cullen](#) also paid tribute when news of the award came through, saying it illustrated how far the country had moved in the past 25 years.

This is the third year in a row that Ireland has been honoured at Cannes, with the [Ken Loach](#) film 'The Wind that Shakes The Barley' and 'Garage' having received awards previously.

- *Shane Hickey*

Share  

Comments

Unfortunately the sad Ireland's history.

- Sort by:
- Newest First |
- Oldest First

Posted by Joseph | 27.05.08, 09:46 GMT

- Sort by:
- Newest First |
- Oldest First



Post a comment

Limit: 1000 characters

* Name

* Email

* Town/City

* Country/State

Comments are moderated by our editors, so there may be a delay between submission and publication of your comment. Offensive or abusive comments will not be published. Please note that your IP address (92.40.77.195) will be logged to prevent abuse of this feature. In submitting a comment to the site, you agree to be bound by our [Terms and Conditions](#)

* Required field

Remember Me

