



undefined

## Sections

1. [The Irish Times](#)
  2. [Breaking News](#)
  3. [Sport](#)
  4. [Business](#)
  5. [Technology](#)
  6. [Weather](#)
  7. [In Focus](#)
  8. [Blogs](#)
  9. [Archive Search](#)
  10. [Family Notices](#)
- [Editions](#)

## Search for

- [Jobs](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)

## Services

- [Premium Email](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Frontpage Sales](#)
- [Photosales](#)

- [Ancestors](#)
- [Irish Times Training](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Reader Offers](#)

 [RSS Feeds](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

# THE IRISH TIMES

[◀ Previous Day](#)

Monday, May 26, 2008

[Next Day ▶](#)

- [Front Page](#) |
- [Ireland](#) |
- [World](#) |
- [Finance](#) |
- [Features](#) |
- [Sport](#) |
- [Opinion](#) |
- [Letters](#) |
- [Price Watch](#) |
- [Innovation](#)

## **Bobby Sands film wins prestigious award at Cannes**

[MICHAEL DWYER, Film Correspondent](#)



British artist Steve McQueen, who directed *Hunger*

THE FILM *Hunger*, dealing with the death of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands, received the Camera d'Or award at the closing ceremony of the Festival de Cannes last night.

The award, one of the most prestigious at Cannes, is given to the director of the best first-time feature film in any section of the festival. It was presented by the jury chairman, French director Bruno Dumont, and US actor Dennis Hopper.

The prize was accepted by director Steve McQueen, the British artist who won the Turner Prize in 1999. "I'm very proud for myself and the marvellous cast and crew I had on this film," McQueen told *The Irish Times* after the awards ceremony. "As we worked on it, I knew that we were making something special. Michael Fassbender [who plays Sands] is a star, as are Liam Cunningham and Stuart Graham, and our young actors, Liam McMahan and Brian Milligan. They are the weight, heart and soul of the film."

McQueen said last night that he identified with both sides of the political divide as he made the film.

"I'm a human being," he said. "I understand one side as much as the other. Sides don't matter to me. It is all about human beings, people in an extraordinary situation."

An Irish-UK co-production, *Hunger* was written by McQueen and Irish playwright Enda Walsh. It was funded by Channel 4, Northern Ireland Screen and the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland.

*Hunger* was not eligible for the Palme d'Or award because it was screened outside of the main festival competition. It was the opening presentation of the official Cannes sidebar section, Un Certain Regard, and it received a five-minute standing ovation.

*Hunger* became the subject of many bidding battles at Cannes. Before the festival closed last night, the rights had been sold to distributors in the US, UK, Ireland, France, Belgium, Portugal, Greece, Australia and New Zealand. The film is likely to go on cinema release in the autumn.

*Hunger* employs minimal dialogue for its extended final sequence as it observes the physical deterioration of Sands, who died after 66 days on hunger strike. This is a harrowing, deliberately disturbing sequence in which the performance of German-born, Killarney-raised actor Fassbender is astonishing.

## Related links

### From The Irish Times

- **26/05/2008** [French film about school a class apart](#)
- **15/05/2008** [Bobby Sands film gets first showing at Cannes](#)
- **30/04/2008** [Film on Bobby Sands to be shown at Cannes](#)

 [Email to a Friend](#) |  [Email to Author](#) |  [Print this Page](#)

[BACK TO TOP](#) 

#### Article Tools

 [Email to a Friend](#)

 [Print this Page](#)

 [Email to Author](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

## Most popular stories

- [Most Read](#)
- [Most Emailed](#)

1. [Dame St reopens to traffic after fire](#)
2. [Government to invest extra EUR 400m in third-level research](#)
3. [Thousands pay tribute to O'Donnell](#)
4. [Irishman drowns in Spanish resort](#)
5. [Gormley hints at Coalition strain on same-sex legislation](#)

Based on usage over last 24 hours

## Weekly Index

- M [Price Watch](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- T [Health](#)
- W [Commercial Property](#)
- [Motors](#)
- [An Teanga Bheo](#)
- T [Property](#)
- [Science Today](#)
- F [The Ticket](#)
- S [Magazine](#)
- [News Features](#)
- [Weekend](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Travel](#)

## Archive

Click a date to view the paper on that day

M	T	W	T	F	S	S

## [Breaking News](#)

## Article Index

[Mon](#) | [Tue](#) | [Wed](#) | [Thu](#) | [Fri](#) | [Sat](#)

[© 2008 ireland.com](#)

- [About us](#) |
- [Privacy policy](#) |
- [Help](#) |
- [Contact us](#) |
- [Advertise](#) |
- [Terms & conditions](#) |
- [Site map](#)