Week 9
February 23 - March 1 2013

Dan Cruickshank’s Written in Stone
Programme Information

New this week

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James Nesbitt is the first of three local high profile actors to join Marie-Louise Muir, In Conversation
In a new four-part series, expert Dan Cruickshank takes us on a personal journey to explore some of Ulster's most remarkable buildings and discover what they tell us about our past.

The series, 'Dan Cruickshank's Written in Stone', begins on BBC One Northern Ireland on Sunday, February 24 at 6.05pm.

Produced for BBC Northern Ireland by DoubleBand Films, it features four themed episodes, Forts and Castles, Country Houses, Sacred Spaces, and City of Industry.

In each episode Dan examines how a particular style and form of building evolved through the influence of invasion, wealth, religion, and industry.

In programme one, Forts and Castles, Dan considers how invasion and conflict shaped the landscape of Ulster up until the end of the 17th Century, while in programme two he explores the rise of the country house in 18th century Ulster.

Programme three sees Dan looking at how the history of Ulster has shaped our religious buildings. And in the final programme in the series, Dan examines how Belfast's development as an industrial city in the 19th century shaped its buildings.

Dan said: "The story of the buildings of Ulster is the story of the people who have lived on this land and left their mark on its history. And here history has left us with a remarkable legacy of buildings from ancient forts and mighty castles to prestigious public buildings and grand country houses.

"In this series I am going on a journey to examine some of the most remarkable examples of Ulster's architectural heritage, tell the stories of the people who created these buildings, and explore how they shaped this place and its remarkable landscape."

Clare McParland, Producer of the series with DoubleBand Films added: "We were delighted to have Dan Cruickshank present our series which explores the fascinating stories that lie behind some of Ulster's finest historic buildings."

Sean McGuire, Director of the series said: "This is a series that celebrates the rich architectural heritage that we have here in Ulster, and we hope that the programmes encourage viewers to visit these fascinating buildings that tell us so much about our history."

Dan Cruickshank's Written in Stone is a DoubleBand Films production for BBC Northern Ireland with support from Northern Ireland Screen's Ulster Scots Broadcast Fund.
The Arts Show: In Conversation

James Nesbitt is the first of three local high profile actors to join Marie-Louise Muir, In Conversation

James Nesbitt is the first of three local high profile actors to join Marie-Louise Muir in a new series on BBC Two Northern Ireland – The Arts Show: In Conversation.

The spin-off series, from the monthly The Arts Show, features a 30-minute interview with a range of special guests – celebrating the work of some of Northern Ireland’s finest actors, writers, musicians and artists.

In the first three programmes of In Conversation, James Nesbitt joins Marie-Louise on Thursday, February 28 at 10pm for programme one; programme two features Bronagh Gallagher and Adrian Dunbar in programme three.

In the first programme James Nesbitt shares his stories and inspirations about his career - from his early days on stage to the blockbuster success with The Hobbit. He talks to Marie-Louise about one of his first acting roles as the Artful Dodger and he gives his opinion on his performance as a fifteen-year-old in a summer stage show in archive footage from 1980. He tells us about his role in the television series Cold Feet; how playing civil rights leader, Ivan Cooper, in the film Bloody Sunday marked a turning point in his acting career and what it was like sharing a fight scene with Liam Neeson in Five Minutes of Heaven. James also tells Marie-Louise what he misses about Northern Ireland when he’s away.

On Thursday, March 7 Bronagh Gallagher joins Marie-Louise in the second programme of The Arts Show: In Conversation with Adrian Dunbar featuring the following week.

The Arts Show: In Conversation, presented by Marie-Louise Muir, starts on BBC Two Northern Ireland on Thursday, February 28 at 10pm.