SOS – The Titanic Inquiry
New drama tells of the Westminster Inquiry into the sinking of the Titanic and its investigation into the role of the SS Californian
Programme Information

**Ulster Rugby Live** Saturday, April 14, BBC Two NI, 5pm
Connacht v Ulster
Stephen Watson rounds up the latest Irish League action before presenting live coverage of the Rabo Direct Pro 12 game between Connacht and Ulster from the Sports Grounds in Limerick. Every result is crucial now as Brian McLaughlin’s side remain in contention for a play-off spot in the Pro 12 semi-finals.

New this week

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**Ryan Versus The White Star Line - The Courtroom Drama** Page 15
The story of how a poor elderly farmer from a small Irish village took an historic legal case against the might and power of the company that built Titanic
In the early hours of April 15, 1912, after colliding with an iceberg, RMS Titanic broke in two and sank into the depths of the Atlantic. The ship took with her 1,500 lives.

Nearby steamship the Carpathia made its way through the treacherous fields of ice and arrived at the scene of the tragedy soon after the Titanic sank rescuing more than 700 survivors from the ocean’s icy waters.

The SS Californian, en route from Boston to London that same night, saved none.

SOS - The Titanic Inquiry, on BBC One NI on Monday, April 16 at 9pm, tells a lesser known side to the Titanic story.

Made for BBC Northern Ireland by the Hole In The Wall Gang Ltd with funding from Northern Ireland Screen, SOS – The Titanic Inquiry is based on the transcripts from the official British Inquiry into the sinking of the Titanic.

Set in Westminster in 1912, this tense courtroom drama centres on the Inquiry’s investigation into whether or not the SS...
Portraying the crew of the Californian are, l-r, Iain Robertson, Sam Holland, Owen McDonnell and Stuart Graham

California was in close enough proximity to the doomed Titanic to help save some of the 1,500 passengers and crew who lost their lives.

The Inquiry is headed by Lord Mersey (Tom Chadbon) with Sir Rufus Isaacs (Paul McGann) representing the Board of Trade. The drama shows Isaacs attempt to uncover the truth behind the SS Californian’s activities on the night the Titanic sank as he brings the Captain of the Californian, Captain Stanley Lord (Stuart Graham) to the stand for questioning, along with Lord’s crew of Herbert Stone (Owen McDonnell), Charles Groves (Iain Robertson) and James Gibson (Sam Holland).

Frayed tempers, growing nerves and heated arguments ensue as each crew member of the Californian takes to the stand.

Did the Californian witness distress signals from the Titanic? What happened to the missing scrap log book which detailed the ship’s co-ordinates on April 14, 1912? And above all else, did the Californian fail in its duty to assist the Titanic?

The drama was filmed in Belfast by the Hole In The Wall Gang Ltd (Scapegoat and Brendan Smyth: Betrayal Of Trust) with the screenplay written by director Michael McDowell, producer Damon Quinn and the Executive Producer for HITWG Ltd Tim McGarry.

Michael McDowell says: “We were delighted to be able bring acting talent of the calibre of Paul McGann, Terence Harvey and many more to Belfast. The whole cast was a joy to direct. They successfully brought the drama to life and perfectly captured the tensions, the stress and the conflicts between the crew members of the Californian.”

Damon Quinn says: “Belfast built the Titanic so we thought it was important that Belfast should mark the centenary with its own locally produced drama. Thanks to BBCNI, and with funding from Northern Ireland Screen, SOS – The Titanic Inquiry was shot entirely in Belfast with a fabulous cast of local and national acting talent. We have a unique Titanic story to tell and are sure audiences will be enthralled.”

Tim McGarry says: “SOS - The Titanic Inquiry tells the little known true story of the Californian incident. It is different from all the other Titanic dramas as it is the only programme that asks the question, could all the passengers on the Titanic actually have been saved? The fascinating tale of
the Californian incident is based on transcripts of the Inquiry and other evidence and suggests that the ship may have been a lot closer to the ill-fated liner than it said. The crew of the Californian were under huge pressure to explain their actions to the Inquiry. Would their evidence reveal what really happened?"

SOS – The Titanic Inquiry also stars Terence Harvey, Richard Clements, Charlotte Mc- Curry and Chris Patrick Simpson.
Titanic A Commemoration In Music And Film

Katie Melua, Maverick Sabre, Lisa Hannigan and Mica Paris added to the line up for special Titanic commemoration event

BBC Two and BBC Two NI, Saturday, April 14 at 8.30pm

Katie Melua, Lisa Hannigan, Mica Paris and Maverick Sabre have been added to the line up for Titanic A Commemoration in Music and Film.

Confirming the announcement Katie says: “Belfast will always have a special place in my heart so it is an honour to return to the birthplace of the Titanic, a city I once called home, for this special commemoration. I’m really looking forward to performing at what I’m sure will be a very memorable and moving event.”

They join a line up which includes Bryan Ferry, Joss Stone, Nicola Benedetti, Charlie Siem, the Ulster Orchestra, Alfie Boe and the Irish Harp Orchestra, with award-winning broadcaster John Humphrys hosting the event.

The event which broadcasts live on BBC Two at 8.30pm from Belfast’s Waterfront on April 14, is a unique mix of live music and film. The films tell the story of the RMS Titanic, those who made her and those who sailed and worked on her including the band members who carried on playing while the ship was sinking.

Janice Hadlow, Controller BBC Two said: “We are delighted to bring Titanic A Commemoration in Music and Film to audiences across the UK live on BBC 2 from the Waterfront in Belfast, where the world’s most famous ship was built. “The concert will be a dignified commemoration of those who died and a celebration of the craftsmanship and endeavour it took to build this iconic ship. The talent line-up includes local, national and international stars who will bring the story of Titanic to
life in a fitting tribute 100 years after the ship’s sinking in the North Atlantic.”

Jamie Cullum, who talks about the importance of music on board the Titanic in the programme, said: “The Titanic tells us so much about the social history of the time - the separation of classes and the way the music acts like a window on this era. The musicians in particular still touch people today because they were normal people who acted in an extraordinary way when they played the instruments they loved, to calm the passengers and no doubt themselves.”

The documentary also features contributions from Belfast-born Kenneth Branagh, Imelda Staunton and Simon Callow who will be reading accounts written at the time of the disaster.

This commemorative event also features readings read by Northern Ireland actors Bronagh Gallagher, Merlin’s Colin Morgan, Ian McElhinney and British actress and writer Alexis Zegerman.

On her contribution Bronagh Gallagher said: “I am looking forward to being part of this unique event, to honour all the men and woman who built such an incredible ship on our home soil. To pay the utmost respect to the people who lost their lives in such an terrible tragedy and to honour the survivors. It will be a privilege to retell their personal stories, their experiences on board the Titanic and dreams for their future through their letters to their loved ones.”

Colin Morgan says: “I feel truly honoured to be coming home for the Titanic Commemoration. For what was both a colossal feat of shipbuilding achievement and an unimaginable tragedy and to honour all those who lived, worked and lost their lives in the time of Titanic and for the families who were left
behind. Everything that Titanic stands for - its splendour, its crew, its passengers, its only voyage and ultimate destruction - is remembered at this time and I know that all us Northern Irelanders will do everyone and everything associated with the Titanic proud by joining in and making this historic event truly special.”

The show will also feature the world premiere of Titanic Drums, an original composition by John Anderson featuring 100 traditional drummers from across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, massed choir, soloist Peter Corry and six times World Champion drummer Mark Wilson.

Details of the programme: bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/proginfo/2012/16/titanic-commemoration.html

There was heavy demand for complimentary tickets to this event. Applications for tickets have now closed.
This is the story the owners of Titanic didn’t want you to know. A David and Goliath tale revealing how the negligence of the White Star Line led to the deaths of 1500 people and how a court case following the disaster led to changes in consumer law that are still relevant to travellers to this day.

The story centres on an elderly farmer from rural Ireland, Thomas Ryan, whose single ambition was to sue the White Star Line for damages on account of the death of his son, Patrick, in the disaster. Thomas’s story has been lost beneath the sea of myth and folklore surrounding Titanic but this forgotten court case led to humiliation for the company and resulted in the changes to consumer law.

In a BBC Newsline Special, Ryan Versus The White Star Line, reporter Julie McCullough tracks down the relatives of Thomas to the village in County Limerick where the family still lives. His grandson, Michael, gives his only ever interview to BBC Northern Ireland about the family’s important place in the Titanic story. Continuing the journey, Julie accompanies his son and daughter, Fiona and Cormac, as they retrace the final steps taken by their ancestor on his last night in Ireland in Cobh before boarding the ship for a new life across the Atlantic.

Fiona and Cormac’s investigations take them to the court reports of the day and a startling new revelation – that the White Star Line’s tickets for the liner were illegal.

To complete the journey, Julie brings Fiona and Cormac back to the place where it all began – to the Titanic site in Belfast to see where a new Titanic legacy is being built.

BBC Newsline Special: Ryan Versus The White Star Line is on Tuesday, April 17 on BBC One Northern Ireland at 10.35pm.

A new BBC Radio Ulster dramatization of the events in the courtroom also accompanies the BBC Newsline Special. Ryan Versus The White Star Line-The Courtroom Drama is on BBC Radio Ulster on Sunday, April 22 at 1.30pm.
BBC News NI Titanic Coverage

Titanic Centenary starts on BBC Two Northern Ireland on Sunday, April 15 from 6.20am. The BBC Newsline Special: A Journey To Remember is on BBC One Northern Ireland on Wednesday, April 18 at 10.45pm.

Titanic Centenary
BBC News NI will broadcast live from the remembrance service at Belfast City Hall on Sunday, April 15 as part of a special programme starting at 6.20am that morning on BBC Two Northern Ireland. The programme will have an exclusive live report from on board a ship in the Atlantic - from the spot above the wreck site of the Titanic. Chris Buckler will be reporting from a special commemoration service being held there that morning on board a ship as part of a memorial Titanic voyage.
In the Titanic Centenary programme, Donna Traynor, Sarah Travers and Mark Simpson will be exploring some of the many aspects of the Titanic legacy with special guests while also reflecting the other events, and places, connected to the Titanic story. Highlights of this programme will be on Sunday night on BBC One Northern Ireland at 10.25pm. Much of BBC News NI’s coverage will also be broadcast simultaneously in conjunction with the BBC News Channel.

Titanic Centenary starts on BBC Two Northern Ireland on Sunday, April 15 from 6.20am.

BBC Newsline Special: A Journey to Remember
In 2005, an expedition made the journey to the bottom of the Atlantic to lay a plaque on the wreck of Titanic. As part of BBC Northern Ireland’s coverage to mark the Titanic centenary viewers will get another chance to see an updated version of the BBC Newsline Special: A Journey to Remember in which reporter Mike McKimm filmed that expedition.
Mike, with professional diver Rory Golden from Dublin, made a dive in one of the two mini subs called Mir 1 and Mir 2 from the deck of the Russian-owned research vessel, the Keldysh.
Mike’s footage gave BBC Newsline viewers a close-up tour of the great ship nearly 13,000ft below the surface of the Atlantic. And the story had a final twist for one Belfast family who discovered from Mike’s visit to the Titanic graveyard in Halifax, Canada, that their grandfather’s body wasn’t lost at sea but had in fact been found and brought ashore.

The BBC Newsline Special: A Journey To Remember is on BBC One Northern Ireland on Wednesday, April 18 at 10.45pm.
The Titanic Hymn

Believed by many to be the band’s swansong on the sinking Titanic, BBC Radio Ulster charts the life of the hymn, Nearer My God To Thee

BBC Radio Ulster, Saturday, April 14 at 8pm, repeated Sunday, April 15 at 1.30pm and Thursday, April 19 at 7.30pm. bbc.co.uk/radioulster

Few hymns have been sung in as tragic a circumstance as the sinking of the Titanic. Thought by many to be the final song played by the band on board the sinking liner 100 years ago, Nearer My God To Thee has gone on to become forever associated with the ill-fated ship.

In the new BBC Radio Ulster documentary Titanic Hymn, on Saturday, April 14 at 8pm, presenter Cherrie McIlwaine looks at the heritage of the famous hymn, charting its creation more than 70 years before the Titanic sank and its many incarnations thereafter.

While made famous for many by its appearances in Hollywood’s accounts of the Titanic story, Cherrie traces the hymn’s roots back to more humble beginnings. The lyrics were written by British actress, poet and Unitarian hymn writer Sarah Fuller Flower Adams in 1841. Unitarian pastor The Rev William Johnson Fox had told Sarah he was having trouble finding a hymn to compliment his sermon on the story of Jacob’s dream, when she volunteered to write one for him. The original music was then composed by Sarah’s sister, Eliza, some weeks later and Nearer My God To Thee was born.

Over the years, the hymn has been used as a symbol of strength and hope, both publicly and intimately, and has been performed by artists as diverse as Pat Boone and Elvis Presley to Daniel O’Donnell and John McCormack.

The Titanic Hymn sees Cherrie join UK hymn expert and broadcaster Professor Jeremy Dibble to look back on the life of the hymn’s author, admired by many including John Keats and Robert Browning and she reflects on the words of the hymn with Father Martin O’Hagan from The Priests.

As well as featuring tributes from personalities who have performed or found comfort in the hymn, the programme will also feature some of the many recordings of it over the years.
Cherrie McIlwaine says: “I think it’s both remarkable and moving that this simple and unassuming hymn, written by Victorian actress and writer Sarah Flower Adams should have come to represent the essence of selflessness and courage as the musicians on the Titanic strove to bring calm and reassurance to their fellow passengers, and in so doing lost their own lives.”

Programme producer Richard Yarr says: “In the course of making this programme I’ve been struck by the number of people this Victorian hymn continues to touch, from celebrated musicians across all genres, to ordinary people in difficult places. It’s a bit of an emotional rollercoaster really, but a fitting way to commemorate the courage of the Titanic musicians on that fateful night in April 1912.”

The Titanic Hymn can be heard on BBC Radio Ulster on Saturday, April 14 at 8pm and is repeated on Sunday, April 15 at 1.30pm and Thursday, April 19 at 7.30pm.

92–95FM & DAB digital radio, digital TV and online at bbc.co.uk/radioulster
Titanic Town

Gerry Anderson explores how Belfast has reclaimed the ship it once tried to bury in the BBC Radio Ulster documentary Titanic Town

**BBC Radio Ulster, Monday, April 16 at 6.30pm. bbc.co.uk/radioulster**

Marking the centenary of the Titanic sinking, Gerry Anderson explores how Belfast has reclaimed the ship it once tried to bury in the BBC Radio Ulster documentary Titanic Town on Monday, April 16 on BBC Radio Ulster at 6.30pm.

Visiting Belfast’s Titanic landmarks, joining tourists as they take to Belfast Lough for the Titanic Tour and chatting to Titanic experts, Gerry considers the complex journey that has brought the great Titanic back to the heart of her native city.

In the documentary Gerry visits the Titanic Quarter on Belfast’s Queen’s Island, once home to the sprawling Harland and Wolff shipyard and now a totem of a regenerating city and the starting point for his exploration of the meaning of Titanic in the city of her birth. Gerry examines a famous photograph from 1911 which showed workers streaming out of the shipyard with the half-built Titanic towering above the terraced streets behind them. It’s a reminder that this global icon has roots in a real place amongst real people.

He meets Susie Millar who treasures two pennies, minted in 1912 and passed down to her from her great grandfather Thomas Millar, an engineer on the ship. Today, Susie guides tourists around Belfast’s Titanic landmarks, including the drawing office where

Gerry Anderson in the Harland & Wolff drawing room
the draughtsmen worked, on behalf of the city’s thriving Titanic Society.

Gerry also uncovers a contemporary newspaper report which documented that the great and the good turned out in force for the ‘awe-inspiring sight’ of the liner’s launch in Belfast on May 31, 1911. However, once an official memorial was erected in the city centre in 1920, Gerry learns Belfast tried to forget all about her.

The programme discovers that in 1947, when the BBC in London announced plans for a programme about the ship, Harland and Wolff pressurised both the Northern Ireland government and the local BBC to lobby against the idea. NI Prime Minister Sir Basil Brooke sent telegrams to the Home Secretary and the BBC Chairman to request the programme’s cancellation.

Gerry also hears from William McQuitty, a Belfast-born film-maker who had witnessed the liner’s launch as a boy. He worked on the first major feature film about the ship, 1957’s A Night To Remember. He recalls being refused permission to film at the shipyard or to use any footage of the launch.

The documentary also features Robert Ballard’s discovery of the wreck in 1985 which was met with calls to let Titanic rest in peace. But James Cameron’s 1997 blockbuster changed everything and with tourists flocking to see where the Titanic was born, Belfast has had to hurry to catch up.

Presenter, Gerry Anderson says: “This programme isn’t specifically about the Titanic sinking but about the people of Belfast’s attitude towards this famous ship. We’re looking into how the unmentionable turned to the admirable and how that happened. It’s an intriguing turn of events and I suppose one of the questions we’re asking is whether a sprinkling of Hollywood stardust in the 1990s with the James Cameron movie could really have swept away much of the negativity towards the ship.”
The story of how a poor elderly farmer from a small Irish village took an historic legal case against the might and power of the company that built Titanic – and won – is featured in a new courtroom drama on BBC Radio Ulster.

Thomas Ryan lost his son Patrick on Titanic’s fateful maiden voyage. In a largely forgotten legal case, the cattle farmer from County Limerick took one of the world’s biggest companies to the highest court in England to get justice for his son and prove that The Oceanic Steam Navigation Company was responsible for his death.

Ryan Versus The White Star Line – The Courtroom Drama on Sunday, April 22 at 1.30pm is a dramatization of the events in London’s High Court as witnessed by a London Evening News reporter, John Moore.

The period dramatization takes listeners inside the courtroom to hear the arguments put forward by Prosecutor and Defence. Was speed a factor in hitting the iceberg and could two little words on a ticket be enough to defeat the might of the White Star Line?

The BBC Radio Ulster drama accompanies a BBC Newsline Special: Ryan Versus The White Star Line, which is broadcast on BBC One Northern Ireland on Tuesday, April 17 at 10.35pm. In the programme, reporter Julie McCullough tracks down Thomas Ryan’s relatives and goes in search of the facts surrounding the largely forgotten court case.

The cast for the drama includes: Thomas Ryan, Frankie McCafferty; Thomas Scanlon, Declan Conlon; John Moore, Patrick Fitzsymons and Henry Duke, Miche Doherty. It was written by Laura McDaid and produced and directed by Grania McFadden.
Summary of Titanic output on BBC Northern Ireland

Saturday, April 14

Titanic Letters
BBC Radio Ulster, 8.55am, 11.55am and 6.05pm; Sunday, April 15 at 9.45am, 11.55am and 6.05pm; Monday, April 16-Friday, April 20 at 8.55am, 11.55am and 4.55pm; Saturday, April 21 at 8.55am, 11.55am and 6.05pm; and Sunday, April 22 at 8.25am, 11.55am and 6.05pm. 92–95FM & DAB digital radio, digital TV and online at bbc.co.uk/radioulster
To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, Ciaran Hinds (pictured) introduces a series of letters written, one hundred years to the day, by people on-board. Each will be read by a different famous person.

Titanic A Commemoration in Music and Film
BBC Two, 8.30pm
Live from Belfast’s Waterfront John Humphrys hosts this commemorative event to mark the centenary of the sinking of RMS Titanic. A unique blend of music and documentary the show features special performances from Bryan Ferry (pictured), Joss Stone, Nicola Benedetti, Alfie Boe, Charlie Siem, Maverick Sabre and the Ulster Orchestra.

Titanic Hymn
BBC Radio Ulster, 8pm Repeated on Sunday, April 14 at 1.30pm
Cherrie McIlwaine (pictured) charts the life of the hymn Nearer My God To Thee, believed by many to have been the band’s swansong on board the sinking Titanic, and its evolution across a broad range of musical styles.

Titanic Requiem
BBC Radio Ulster, 8.30pm
On the centenary of the Titanic disaster, John Toal (pictured) presents the World Premiere of Belfast composer Philip Hammond’s Requiem For The Lost Souls of the Titanic, live from St. Anne’s Cathedral in Belfast.
Sunday, April 15

**Titanic With Len Goodman (repeat)**
BBC One NI, 6.05pm
In the final episode of the series, Len (pictured) explores Titanic's legacy. He discovers how the press created heroes and went looking for villains, and discovers how the disaster changed sea travel forever.

**Songs of Praise (repeat)**
BBC Two NI, 8pm
As Northern Ireland and the wider world commemorates the centenary of Titanic, Songs of Praise visits Belfast ahead of the Titanic Festival to reflect on the world’s most famous ocean liner, those who lost their lives and the legacy that survives today. The programme is presented by regular Songs Of Praise host Eamonn Holmes (pictured) who incidentally has been a lifelong Titanic enthusiast.

**Titanic 100**
BBC Radio Ulster, 6.30am
In this special programme BBC Radio Ulster remembers the tragedy of Titanic and celebrates the creativity of the community which built it. The anniversary will be marked by a live link up to memorial services at the site of the wreck in the north Atlantic and at Belfast City Hall. Along the way presenter Seamus McKee (pictured) will be joined by guests from locations associated with the ship including the Titanic Quarter, Cobh in County Cork and Southampton.

**Sounds Classical Special – The Titanic Songbook**
BBC Radio Ulster, 8pm
On Sunday, April 15, BBC Broadcasting House will be filled with the music performed on board the Titanic as Sounds Classical recreates the Titanic Band for one night only. In this special Sounds Classical, Ulster String Quartet and Belfast pianist Frank King, complete with tails and candelabras, will premiere a series of specially-commissioned arrangements by local composer Neil Martin (pictured) taken from the Titanic Songbook - a band’s on-board playlist. Presenter John Toal will also be talking to a number of Titanic music specialists including Author Steve Turner, the world’s leading Titanic memorabilia auctioneer Andrew Aldridge and actor Jonathan Evans-Jones who played the part of the Titanic bandmaster Wallace Hartley in the 1997 movie, Titanic.
Monday, April 16

**SOS - The Titanic Enquiry**
BBC One NI, 9pm
The true story of the official Inquiry into the Titanic disaster. Was a ship called ‘The Californian’ close enough to have saved them? Starring Paul McGann (pictured).

**Titanic Town**
BBC Radio Ulster, 6.30pm
On the centenary of her sinking in April 1912, Gerry Anderson explores how Belfast has reclaimed the unsinkable ship it once tried to forget. Visiting the city’s Titanic landmarks, meeting relatives of the men who built her, and with reference to revealing print and sound archive, Gerry considers the complex journey that has brought the great liner back to the heart of her native city.

Tuesday, April 17

**Ryan Versus The White Star Line**
BBC One NI, 10.35pm
On the June 20, 1913 a sensational court case opened in London. It pitted an ordinary farmer from County Limerick against the White Star Line. Heartbroken father Thomas Ryan’s single ambition was to hold the company to account for the death of his son Patrick. BBC Northern Ireland uncovers the truth with the help of Thomas’s descendants. Reporter Julie McCullough tracks down Thomas’s grandson and follows the family’s journey of discovery as they learn more about their ancestor’s place in the story of Titanic.

Wednesday, April 18

**BBC Newsline Special: A Journey To Remember**
BBC One NI, 10.45am
BBC Newsline’s Mike McKimm (pictured) journeyed to the wreck of Titanic in 2005. Containing some of the footage of the ship, remarkable pictures, taken from a Russian submarine, show Titanic’s startling deterioration. The film captures the unique experience of visiting the world’s most famous shipwreck - more people have been into space than down to Titanic.